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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

This year we have recorded our 33rd year of consecutive growth. We are practicing what Representative Montgomery was talking about; we are sending a clear message to Congress that veterans are interested ... and that we are continuing to grow in numbers and in strength.

## AMERICANISM

Americanism is our way of life. It is based on freedom, democracy and respect for the rights of the individual. In service, we fought to preserve this way of life on many battlefields, and now as Veterans of Foreign Wars, we continue to fight for our way of life through support of our democratic institutions.

Loyalty Day is one of the highlights of the Americanism program. Celebrated since the early 1930's as a rebuttal to the Communists' May Day celebrations, Loyalty Day is now a national day on which we reaffirm our allegiance to America and the ideals for which it stands. Through parades, speeches and other events, we have made Loyalty Day a day on which Americans say to the world, "I'm Proud To Be An American."

VFW Posts that participate in Loyalty Day events can enter the Loyalty Day Recordbook Contest conducted by National Headquarters. The winning recordbooks are displayed at the annual National Convention.

The Americanism program also fosters an understanding and appreciation of our American way of life through the distribution of Americanism Kits. These kits contain information on our Flag, our government, and the major events which have shaped our history. Each year thousands of people get to know America through these kits, and through such knowledge they make America a better and stronger place in which to live.

## BUDDY POPPY

VFW Buddy Poppy sales bloomed to record proportions this year. Across America and around the world, VFW members sold over 17 million Buddy Poppies. Proceeds from the sale came to approximately 12 million dollars.

Since 1922, when the first Buddy Poppy sale was held, this program has raised millions of dollars to support our National Veterans Service, our Department service programs and the National Home. Of all our programs, Buddy Poppy best fulfills the VFW goal of honoring the dead by helping the living. Our National Home is a haven to the homeless and a place where a shining future begins.

## SAFETY

The old saying "Better Safe Than Sorry" certainly keynotes this program. Working closely with the Ladies Auxiliary, we have instituted safety programs which benefit members and non-members alike.

**HOME PROTECTION:** This program encompasses Fire Prevention and Home Security.

**DRIVE TO SURVIVE:** The automobile is a very efficient means of transportation and one available to almost everyone, but it is also a very dangerous instrument if not handled properly. This program teaches drivers of all ages how to DRIVE TO SURVIVE.

**HUNTER SAFETY:** This program promotes responsible, ethical hunter conduct, emphasizes the importance of wildlife management laws and regulations, and teaches safe handling of hunting equipment.

**BICYCLE SAFETY:** LITE-A-BIKE is one of the most successful programs ever undertaken by your VFW. Through it, millions of bicycle riders have taken to the road under the motto: "Be Safe - Be Seen."

**DRUG ABUSE:** The VFW is launching a strong attack on this enemy that comes into the workplace, the school and the home. Through educational materials, we are teaching people of all ages the perils of using drugs.

**RECOGNITION AND PUBLIC COMMENDING:** In this program, we say "Thanks" to those who do so much to make our communities better and safer places in which to live.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Across our nation and in our Departments overseas, the VFW supports activities which make our communities better and safer places in which to live.

Members give their time, effort and money to support disaster relief, charitable, safety and community improvement projects. People realize that we honor our commitment to honor the dead by helping the living through thought and deed.

Working side by side with the Ladies Auxiliary, VFW members promote community activities which fulfill the following objectives:

1. Assistance to others in the community.
2. Taking the initiative in leading the way for projects and programs of service to the community.
3. Improvement on the projects and programs the Post or Auxiliary conducted in the past.
4. Selection and development of new projects and programs to include established community service projects.
5. To develop a good public image for the VFW by informing people of what the VFW does in its Community Service Program.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

This year we are promoting the construction of a memorial to those who served in the Korean War. Under the auspices of the American Battle Monuments Commission, the \$6 million monument will be erected in Washington, D.C.

Checks for the Korean War Memorial should be made payable to: VFW - Korean Memorial Fund, and mailed to VFW National Headquarters, 34th & Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64111.

We are also endorsing congressional efforts to build a memorial and museum in the nation's capital honoring veterans of World War II.



# VFW IN ACTION



Compliments of  
**Larry W. Rivers**  
Commander-in-Chief  
1988-89

Through its programs and projects the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States honors the dead by helping the living. With over 10,000 Posts and over 2 million members, the VFW is a major force in representing America's 28 million veterans and their families.

Founded in 1899 by veterans of the Spanish-American War, the VFW now has members in its ranks from the First World War, the Second World War, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Lebanon, the Berlin Brigade and other actions in which membership eligibility was established. Together these veterans of wars and conflicts over almost a century bring a wealth of knowledge and dedication to this organization. Veteran and active duty member alike, their interests and their needs are the interests and needs of America, and when you listen to the veteran ... you hear the voice of America.

The VFW has 10 National programs, each one designed to serve the needs of the members and the communities in which they live. Together these programs are the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Let's take a look at them:

## **NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE**

The VFW maintains a nationwide service program that provides assistance to veterans and their families seeking, or attempting to determine eligibility for, state and federal veterans benefits. This great pyramid of service starts with the Post Service Officer who, in turn, directs claimants to the trained and professional Department Service Officers in each of the 58 Veterans Administration Regional Offices around the country, and are the focal point for any claim for entitlement.

This network is supported by Claims and Appeals Consultants, as well as Field Representatives and other staff in the VFW Washington Office and National Headquarters. This core professional staff focuses on matters concerning the full range of services or entitlements available to veterans and their families which includes, but is not limited to, military records correction, discharge upgrades, education benefits, disability compensation, and pension eligibility. Those on that staff designated as Field Representatives make regular visits to VA Medical Centers, Regional Offices and National Cemeteries to ensure that the apparatus established by the nation, to care for its veterans population, is responsive to the need.

There is no fee of any kind for this representation and the VFW stands ready to assist any veteran or dependent requiring assistance. This service, provided without reservation, constitutes the VFW's commitment to "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living".

## **NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE**

The many veterans' entitlements and programs earned by America's nearly 28 million veterans and their families are the direct result of years of legislative effort in the United States Congress. Since its founding in 1899, your VFW has stood in the forefront of those efforts and has proudly led the fight for better treatment for all our nation's veterans.

Each year new challenges arise and the VFW is prepared to meet these challenges. We have been successful in fighting cutbacks in veterans' entitlements mandated by the "Gramm-

Rudman-Hollings Deficit Reduction Act" by having many VA programs exempted from cuts. The VFW National Legislative Service played a pivotal role in the enactment of the Veterans Benefits and Services Act of 1988, a major milestone in veterans affairs. Not only were the VFW's efforts essential to the enactment of the original GI Bill, we were also instrumental in advancing legislation to make it a permanent program.

Your VFW legislative team continually spearheads the drive to have veterans' entitlements not only improved but expanded. Our victories are the result of working with you—the members. Over two million strong, you provide our legislative team with the strength and clout we need to win on Capitol Hill.

## **NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

So long as there are serious challenges to the United States and our national security interests, the VFW is committed to working for a strong national defense and firm foreign policy. Our nation is more secure today than yesterday, but the security of today may disappear by tomorrow if our defense and foreign policy are not equal to the challenges we will face.

The national security resolutions adopted at our annual conventions represent the VFW's national security platform. We oppose military inferiority and call for modern weapons and a well-trained military force. We support arms reductions which protect our security and reduce the risk of conflict.

Our foreign policy resolutions support the need for bipartisan foreign policy that places our national interest above all else. We urge the support of our allies and friendly countries to advance our common goals and to defend our vital interests.

## **NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYMENT**

Using the premise that any veteran who desires to work should be provided the opportunity, the VFW maintains a national network of Volunteer Employment Officers. These individuals identify veteran employment issues at the local level. They participate on various state and community councils to voice veterans employment needs to local leaders and employers. First and foremost, they refer veterans to the appropriate agency to assist in gaining employment or resolving a particular issue.

As a member of the VFW Washington Office staff, the Special Assistant for Employment is tasked with the responsibility to design and administer the VFW's National Veterans Employment and Training Program. He represents the membership before various National Committees and public/private sector agencies to articulate the VFW National Employment Policy. He monitors veterans employment programs to ensure their adequacy and provide recommendations as appropriate. Direct assistance is provided to the membership by assisting in clarifying employment issues and aiding veterans with their claims.

Annually a National Employment Awards Program is conducted by the VFW to recognize individuals, groups, and employers who excel in providing employment services to veterans.

## **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY**

The Voice of Democracy is a broadcast scriptwriting program conducted annually in the nation's high schools by the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary. Tenth through twelfth grade students tape record a prepared script on a patriotic theme. The recording is then judged on all levels of competition.

Each state winner receives an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., where they witness our government in action and visit national shrines and monuments.

The final judging is held and nine national winners are announced. The First Place winner receives a \$16,000 scholarship. The other eight winners share \$26,500 in scholarship funds.

The youth of the country are our future and the Voice of Democracy helps them to obtain the knowledge they will need to fulfill their commitments as American citizens by giving them the opportunity to think, write and speak out for freedom and democracy.

## **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

Knowing that the future of America rests with our nation's youth, the VFW is actively involved in the promotion and sponsorship of a wide range of youth programs.

Sons of the VFW is a program designed to develop the parent-son relationship as well as provide opportunities to participate in activities benefitting the entire family.

The VFW sponsors all sorts of youth sports from baseball to ice hockey as well as providing matches for individuals and teams involved in rifle competitions. High school and college students participating in ROTC have an opportunity to be awarded the VFW medal pendant and citation presented annually to outstanding cadets.

In addition to endorsing Special Olympics and the Jr. Olympics programs, the VFW is also one of the largest sponsors of Boy Scout troops in the country.

These are just a few of the ways the VFW follows its commitment to "Serving youth, that youth may serve."

## **MEMBERSHIP**

When it comes to membership, Representative G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery of Mississippi, Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, put it in no uncertain terms when he said,

"It is now more crucial than ever that veterans rally, get into the thick of things, write, make phone calls, and resist attacks on their programs, especially those made through the budget process. The most important thing I can say to any veterans right now is 'join a service organization and get active; if you're already a member, stay active. It's the most effective tool you've got to help yourself and your fellow veteran, and it's essential to those of us on Capitol Hill who need to carry your input and your concerns through the halls of Congress.'"

Our success this year and in all the years past would not have been possible without our large ... and ever growing membership. Membership gives us strength, power and influence, from home town to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.



VFW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
VFW BUILDING  
BROADWAY AT 34TH ST.  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64111



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



## LEGISLATIVE AND SECURITY PRIORITY GOALS FOR 1989

LARRY W. RIVERS  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

which permits overseas deployment of guard units for training purposes) to ensure the National Guard remains a vital part of our national defense. We oppose any cuts in the strength of the National Guard and Reserve Forces and urge Congress to provide new incentives for medical professionals in the National Guard and Reserves.

## NATO

The VFW reaffirms its support for NATO and urges NATO members to increase their annual defense budgets to ensure that NATO's forces are fully capable of overcoming conventional force vulnerability. We support the continued deployment of adequate U.S. forces under NATO and deployment of such nuclear munitions to assure continued deterrence.

## PACIFIC ALLIES

The VFW urges that political, economic and military assistance be provided to the Philippines on a reasonable and equitable basis so long as there is a fair agreement of the lease of bases to America's forces. We urge the U.S. to continue its support for the Republic of Korea and bring pressure on Communist North Korea to cease work on the Kum Kang Dam. The VFW continues its vigorous support for the immediate sale of modern aircraft to the Republic of China on Taiwan to replace its obsolete air force.

## TERRORISM

The VFW continues to urge a full range of measures be adopted to deter, guard against and combat terrorists wherever they are located. We urge that other countries be reminded "there are no neutrals in the war against terrorists."

# PRIORITY NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM 1989



## PREAMBLE

For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Chuck him out, the brute!"  
But it's "Saviour of 'is country" when the guns begin to shoot...

— Rudyard Kipling

**WE REMEMBER** so others will not forget. One group that we must never allow to forget is the United States Congress. Years ago, Congress had many wartime veterans. They reflected America's military experience at that point in time. They were us! They shared our hopes and fears; they shared our successes and losses as we achieved whatever our nation demanded of us.

Today, with fewer veterans in Congress, we must help them remember the veteran. We must ensure that all our elected officials who deal with setting national priorities are made to see that veterans' programs are not a luxury but that veterans' programs are absolutely essential. We can obtain their consent — not by coercion but by clearly, factually and repeatedly presenting our case in a determined manner. Only in this way can we achieve the congressional belief that the veteran is a very special segment of American society worthy of a very high priority.

First and foremost, we must prevail upon the Congress to provide an adequate budget for the Veterans Administration that will maintain the integrity of the entire VA entitlement and health-care system. Not only must we meet existing needs but we must not forget our obligation to provide for the

future needs of our aging veteran population. This commitment is not just limited to direct hands-on health care. The infrastructure of hospitals and clinics are in dire need of modernization, renovation or replacement. For too many years, our VA health-care professionals have been forced to work in aging facilities. The VA must be allowed to modernize in order to meet the increased demand for more sophisticated care tomorrow.

We must also remind our legislators of the many veterans who live on marginally fixed incomes. These are the disabled who sustained wounds or injuries on active duty and that small group of professionals who made a career of serving 20 or more years in the armed forces. They and their families receive VA disability compensation; some others may also receive a military retirement pension. In order to allow these veterans to maintain their modest degree of economic independence, Congress must appropriate a cost-of-living adjustment that is at least equal to the change in the Consumer Price Index each year.

For too many years, questions concerning herbicide exposure have gone unanswered. In the meantime, veterans suffering from a variety of disabilities repeatedly request compensation only to be told that the "studies" are not in. How long must they wait? Action should be taken now to resolve this issue by placing the burden of proof on the VA and not on the veteran as to whether the effects of herbicide exposure should be a compensable disability.

As a matter of dignity and pride, it is our the goal to achieve an open national cemetery in every state. The entitlement of a veteran of a foreign war to be buried with military honors in a national cemetery may soon be denied to many simply because there is no more available space. Our goal is to ensure that a veteran may be interred in a national cemetery close to surviving family and friends.

Veterans are generated as a result of their national military service, thus, the Department of Defense agencies must initiate the process of transitioning

bring maximum economic and diplomatic pressure and to fly the POW/MIA flag at all its installations, while the VFW continues its public awareness pressure on those countries of Southeast Asia who fail to recognize the firm resolve of the U.S. Government and the VFW in this humanitarian issue. We further urge all Posts to display the POW/MIA flag as a reminder of our determination to keep this issue a non-negotiable matter of American honor. The VFW position will continue to be based upon our own evaluation of the best possible information available on this issue.

## STRATEGIC DEFENSE

The VFW supports the current program of research in strategic defense which offers the possibility of protecting the United States and our allies from ballistic missile attacks. Such a program, we believe, is essential to maintain our lead in certain space related technologies and to prevent a Soviet breakthrough in anti-missile defenses. In conjunction with the ongoing technological research program, the VFW urges that companion studies be conducted into the modernization needs of our almost non-existent air defenses to protect against the bomber and cruise missile threat and the underfunded and totally ignored civil defense needs of our country and its citizens. We also recognize the deployment of a strategic defense system may have a radical effect on our national defense policy and our military strategy. Therefore, we urge study of the implications of a shift in our policy and strategy from deterrence to defense.

## THE ARMED FORCES

In recognizing that the military profession is a calling, not a job, the VFW remains fully committed to enhancing such service to the nation. The VFW pledges its support to the National Guard and Reserves and encourages employers to support the men and women who serve in these vital components of the total force. We support the continuing applicability of the Montgomery Amendment (current law

We sustain our support for arms reduction negotiations which will lead to mutual, balanced and verifiable reductions in nuclear weapons and we support arms agreements which will enhance our national security, our security interests abroad and reduce the risk of nuclear conflict.

## CENTRAL AMERICA

Since the dangers represented by the Communist Sandinistas in Nicaragua and the military dictatorship in Panama are mounting, the VFW urges our government to face up to the expanding threat to our security and the stability of Central America. We urge the government to take action to secure the Panama Canal and safeguard our security interests from Panama's military dictator. We urge a new long-term, bipartisan foreign policy that will provide political, economic, humanitarian and military aid to friendly Central American governments and to the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters. Recognizing the client state role Communist Cuba plays for the Soviet Union, we urge the government to maintain close surveillance of Cuban activities throughout Central America.

## PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION

The unresolved status of our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia remains a high priority goal of the VFW. We support the continuing appointment of a Presidential Emissary empowered to receive full information and to resolve the status of those still missing and urge all those concerned to unite in support of these efforts. We also urge the government to appoint a POW/MIA advisor in our embassy in Laos. We expect the government to use its full resources at maximum capacity to provide the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIA's at the earliest opportunity. We urge the government to

service personnel — in particular, the disabled — into the civilian labor force. Increased emphasis must be placed upon translating military occupational skills into civilian occupation codes. Technical military skills must be recognized for labor union apprenticeship purposes.

As we enter a new era of competitiveness, we recognize that the National Employment Security System must operate in a broader decentralized context of public and private sector employment systems — providing assessment, placement assistance and referral that is closely linked to training and vocational rehabilitation resource programs with no user fees charged and providing preferential services to veterans in all employment service programs. We oppose any and all attempts to weaken or destroy the nation's employment service.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training and its assigned field staff play a vital role in the provision of employment services to our nation's veterans. We call upon Congress to ensure that this critical ingredient in the employment service chain is provided adequate funding and staffing. It is imperative that the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training be included in the decision-making process in all Department of Labor programs that affect employment and training of veterans. Furthermore, the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training must be provided the mandated tools to assure compliance with the Federal Contract Compliance Program and the Veterans Reappointment Rights Program.

We support legislation to permanently authorize the "Veterans' Job Training Act" (VJTA). We call upon Congress to strengthen and expand this program so that all unemployed veterans are eligible, that current program deadlines be extended or eliminated, that a portion of the funding be set aside for a national advertising campaign and the current ten-week unemployment waiting period be eliminated. This program must be administered solely by the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Employment

and Training, and we urge Congress to appropriate sufficient funding at no less than \$75 million per year to fund this vital program.

We call upon the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to ensure that implementing regulations for all new federal hiring programs stress the merit of hiring veterans — in particular, recently separated and disabled veterans — and that veterans preference be assured and applied at each level of the selection process. We call for a review of existing federal agencies employment programs to ensure adequacy of application and practice of veterans preference and disabled veterans affirmative action programs.

We recognize that the Ready Reserve forces are a major source of manpower augmentation for the active military forces and approximately one-third of the individuals in uniforms serving our country are in the Ready Reserve and National Guard. Therefore, we call upon the Secretary of Labor to issue regulations to include members of the Ready Reserve and National Guard in the definition of preferential services within the employment service. We petition the Congress to enact legislation to provide up to 30 days of military leave for all members of the Ready Reserve so that they may fulfill their training and defense obligations.

# **PRIORITY SECURITY GOALS 1988-89**

## **NATIONAL DEFENSE**

Our National Security Program for 1988-89 reaffirms our firm commitment to a strong national defense. The wide range of threats to our security and that of our allies and the vigorous challenges posed by the Soviet leadership requires a national defense that is fully capable of deterring these threats to peace. A strong national defense, in common with strong and supportive allies, is the foundation of a foreign policy able to respond successfully to the global challenge of communism.

### **MILITARY STRENGTH AND ARMS REDUCTIONS**

The VFW supports a national defense that provides fully for our security requirements at home and abroad. We continue to urge a comprehensive modernization and research program for our conventional and strategic forces. Our conventional forces must be expanded to keep pace with an ever increasing range of threats.

The Army should be filled and maintained at 28 divisions to more adequately accomplish its missions. Our Naval forces should be expanded to 15 aircraft carriers while our Marine Corps should be fully maintained at 4 divisions and 4 air wings. The Air Force should move forward to produce the new C-17 transport aircraft and our Merchant Marines should be rebuilt to ensure our forces have the mobility to fulfill their global commitments. The modernization of our strategic arsenal must continue with deployment of the MX "PEACEKEEPER" missile while proceeding with development of the MIDGETMAN small missile system. We maintain our support for production of the TRIDENT submarine, the B1-B Bomber and for such weapons system testing as is required to complete the modernization of our strategic arsenal.

While our nation is more secure today than several years ago, the spectrum of conflicts and the range of world hot spots that endanger our security seem to increase every year.

In Central America, the communist expansion, begun in Cuba now extended to Nicaragua, remains unchecked. The new military dictator of Panama has resisted half-hearted attempts to remove him and now seems poised to directly threaten our vital security interest in the Panama Canal.

In the Persian Gulf, an uneasy truce still threatens the United States and the free world's energy supplies. In Europe, a new apathy towards NATO's commitment to the common defense seems to be growing. In the United States, isolationism is re-emerging as suspicions about the Soviet Union's intentions diminish and concerns for budget deficits increase.

Some isolationists have the fashionable opinion that defense is an all too expensive burden. They argue that a reduced Soviet threat to the United States and the free world justifies a severe reduction in defense.

Those who would be fashionable do not want to be confused by the facts. It is a fact that the Soviet Union's only claim to being a world power rests on its military arsenal. It is a fact that the Soviet Union continues its military buildup unabated. It is a fact that, despite the intermediate range nuclear missile treaty, the Soviet Union and its surrogates have almost continuously used subversion, intimidation, terrorism and aggression to advance

These facts are not and can never be ignored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They formed the basis for our long-standing commitment to a strong national defense and a bipartisan foreign policy to protect our nation and our national security interests.

**WE REMEMBER** that we must continue to express our determination to defend our freedoms if our message is to be understood. Our goal this year is to show others by our firm commitment to a strong and secure America that in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, "**WE REMEMBER.**"

## PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE GOALS 1989

### ELEVATE THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

We fully support elevating the Veterans Administration to an executive department and specifying the Administrator of Veterans Affairs as a member of the President's cabinet.

### AN ADEQUATE VA BUDGET

We prevail upon the Congress of the United States to completely fund those portions of the Veterans Administration budget as required to maintain the integrity of the entire VA benefit and health-care system and to completely support efforts for future health-care needs.

### COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT

Full cost-of-living adjustments at least equal to the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) be provided annually for all recipients of VA compensation and for all military retirees.

### HERBICIDE EXPOSURE

We actively support liberalizing the criteria to establish as service connected any disability associated with herbicide exposure.

### VETERANS ADMINISTRATION CONSTRUCTION BUDGET

We call upon the Congress of the United States to provide an adequate annual funding level to allow the VA to now plan and initiate new construction efforts to meet the immediate future needs of our veterans.

### HOME LOAN GUARANTY

We strongly encourage the Congress to maintain the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program as the most viable and desirable means of home financing for veterans.

## AN OPEN NATIONAL CEMETERY

Actively support necessary legislation to provide our nation's veterans with an open national cemetery in every state.

## VETERANS EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Revitalize veterans educational programs to provide assistance on a recurring basis to those veterans who are educationally disadvantaged — in particular, those who are dislocated workers — by capitalizing upon cooperative education programs, private learning centers and Title IV of the “Higher Education Amendment Act of 1986.”

## VETERANS VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND RETRAINING

Establish a National Veterans Vocational Training and Retraining Program, administered by the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training, that will assist veterans to avoid obsolescence in the work place through recurring vocational skills training, relocation incentives and income support while in training.

## VETERANS FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Implement a Veterans Federal Employment Non-competitive Appointment Program for which all veterans are eligible regardless of ERA, and that implementing regulations stress the merit of hiring veterans — in particular, recently separated and disabled veterans.

## VETERANS PREFERENCE

Call upon the Congress to repeal Section 702, Public Law 94-502, and to re-establish veterans preference for those veterans who were separated under honorable conditions from active duty in the armed forces after having served more than 180 consecutive days, other than for training. Urge that veterans preference be assured and applied at each level of the federal selection process and that a distinct veteran's program staff element be established in all OPM offices.

# PRIORITY NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROGRAM



## Preamble

“The most important lesson is that the preservation of peace and freedom is costly, but that peacetime cost is only in dollars. Recovering peace and freedom once they are lost is far more costly, and that greater cost is not just in dollars, it is in the far more precious commodity, the blood of our citizens. We do not want the country to have to pay that price again. Steadiness and vision are required by the American people and by the people we choose for public office.”

— General John W. Vessey, Jr.  
Former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

“The defense policy of this country rests in our hands. With our votes and through our continuing involvement, we can and must send a clear and convincing message to both friend and foe; a message that reaffirms our commitment to peace and conveys our resolve to remain the greatest military force on earth. Those of us who cherish freedom remain determined never to be duped into reducing our defenses either by false claims about the defense ‘burden’ or false hopes about Soviet intentions.”

— Larry W. Rivers, Commander-in-Chief  
From Acceptance Speech

Since its founding in 1899, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has been committed to a strong national defense. Over the past 90 years, our country has faced, and continues to face, serious military challenges. These challenges to our national security will not diminish because of our national budget deficits. Indeed, the risks and dangers to our national security and our security interests abroad are more likely to grow if our defense should be weakened because of budget concerns.



*"The members of our organization have always believed that for a democracy to work, its citizens must participate. It is our duty to register to vote, study the issues and then cast our votes. The right to vote by secret ballot is symbolic of our freedom — and for 75 years the Ladies Auxiliary has worked to preserve that freedom."*

*Mona Longly, National President*

### Join the VFW Auxiliary if you are a...

- Mother, wife, widow, sister, half-sister, daughter, foster daughter or stepdaughter (prior to age 16), grandmother, granddaughter, foster mother or stepmother who have performed the duties of a parent to a child of another prior to the child reaching the age of 16, foster sister or stepsister (prior to age 16) of a veteran of honorable service in the U.S. Armed Forces who is authorized to receive a campaign medal or ribbon for overseas service. Authorization is shown on the veteran's separation document.
- Woman veteran authorized to receive a campaign medal or ribbon for overseas service or a mother, sister, or daughter of a qualifying woman veteran.
- U.S. citizen and at least 16 years old. (Widows who remarry and divorcees may not base eligibility on the service record of a former husband.)

### Junior Girls Unit Members are...

- Daughters, foster daughters, stepdaughters, granddaughters, sisters, half-sisters, foster sisters, or stepsisters of men or women eligible for VFW membership.
- Unmarried and between the ages of 6 and 16.

*Obtain membership applications from VFW Auxiliary or Post members.*

### 1988-89 VFW Auxiliary National Officers

President . . . . . Mrs. Ronald (Mona) Longly, Lexington, Nebraska  
 Senior Vice-President . . . . . Mrs. David (Alice) Hutto, Swansea, South Carolina  
 Junior Vice-President . . . . . Mrs. Robert (Frances) Booth, Cape Elizabeth, Maine  
 Secretary-Treasurer . . . . . Mrs. John (Glenn) Grossman, Kansas City, Missouri  
 Chaplain . . . . . Mrs. D.E. (Mary) Sears, Sr., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho  
 Conductress . . . . . Mrs. Edward (Maye) Vontin, Virginia, Minnesota  
 Chief of Staff . . . . . Mrs. Albert (Sharon) Reidinger, Aberdeen, South Dakota

### National Headquarters

Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111  
 Telephone: (816) 561-8655

**75 YEARS**



This is the 75th year that the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars has served America! During that time, the organization has donated \$5,572,002 for cancer research, raised \$50,000 for the American Museum of Immigration located at the base of the Statue of Liberty, and donated over \$219,000 for the renovation of Miss Liberty.

Today there are 750,014 members donating 20 million hours and 28 million dollars a year in community service and patriotic programs.

Founded in 1914 with 7 Auxiliaries, today there are 7,110 Auxiliaries throughout the country including every state, the District of Columbia, France, Germany, Guam, Panama and the Republic of China.

• 1987-88 marked the 33rd consecutive year of membership growth. 4,804 new members joined.

• For 51 consecutive years the Auxiliary has held a patriotic program and donated a gift to mark the Statue of Liberty's birthday. The most recent gift was \$2,500 for American Flags.

• Together with the VFW, Auxiliaries set a new record, previously set in 1947, by selling 17,121,670 Buddy Poppies this past year.

• The Cancer Aid and Research program began in 1947 to raise funds for research and to provide assistance to members who suffer from cancer. During the past year \$2,968,474.70 was raised, \$501,772 was donated for research, \$10,000 was given for educational purposes, and \$1,763,200 was given as grants to members.

• 49 state entries were judged in

the 10th Annual National Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest with the 5 national winners receiving prizes from \$200 — \$1,500.

• Two girls were named Outstanding Representatives of the Junior Girls Units and received scholarships in the amount of \$3,000 and \$2,000.

• Nine college scholarships from \$16,000 to \$1,000 were awarded to the national winners of the Voice of Democracy Competition.

• Special Contributions in the amount of \$10,000 to the National Kidney Foundation and \$5,000 each to the Kansas City Ronald McDonald House and the 8th National Veterans Wheelchair Games were made to help fellow Americans this past year.

### HUMANITARIAN AWARDS:

Eddie Albert — BETTER WORLD AWARD for fighting hunger and poverty; Martha Smith — SERVE AMERICA AWARD for her work with the American Cancer Society; Mother Clara Hale — UNSUNG HEROINE AWARD for helping children born to drug addicts; and Mary Frann — CARING AMERICAN AWARD for her work with Easter Seals.

# FOR 75 YEARS, WE'VE HAD A STAKE IN AMERICA

## Highlights of the 1987-88 National Programs

### AMERICANISM/LOYALTY DAY

In recognition of the **Bicentennial of the Constitution**, Auxiliaries sponsored **2,273** special programs. **3,224** Auxiliaries held special POW/MIA programs and **3,643** Loyalty Day programs were conducted. Other Americanism activities included the presentation of **622,690** American Flags and the distribution of **5,313,001** pieces of patriotic literature to schools and other groups.

### BUDDY POPPY

**7,590,580** Buddy Poppies were sold by Auxiliaries helping us achieve the record **VFW/Auxiliary sales of 17,121,670!** Auxiliaries collected **\$3,776,886** for this valuable program which helps provide support for the VFW National Home as well as providing for needy veterans. Hospitalized veterans who assemble the poppies receive compensation in incentive therapy programs. **2,903** Auxiliaries participated in the Buddy Poppy Display Contest using a total of **971,215** Buddy Poppies.

### CANCER AID AND RESEARCH

Topping **2.5 million dollars for the fourth** consecutive year and **\$2 million** for the seventh year the Auxiliary raised **\$2,968,474.70** for the Cancer Aid and Research Fund. In 1987-88, **5,681 grants totaling \$1,763,200** were given to cancer-stricken members and **\$387,772.69** was returned to State Auxiliaries to be given to research institutions. **\$60,000** was given nationally for research to: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Jackson Laboratory, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Providence Hospital in Anchorage, Alaska. **\$10,000** was donated to the American Cancer Society for its educational program. **Three \$18,000 postdoctoral fellowships** were awarded to cancer researchers at Johns Hopkins Oncology Center in Baltimore, Md.; Comprehensive Cancer Center at the Univer-

sity of Alabama in Birmingham; and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Mass. Low-cost, cancer-dread disease insurance is available to members through local Auxiliaries.

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

**7,036** Auxiliaries conducted Community Service projects helping Americans in many ways. **Six** Auxiliaries received the **National Distinguished Community Service Award** for excellence by conducting the following projects: **Senior Citizens Party, Christmas in July, Neighborhood Watch**, fund-raiser for the **Mississippi Memorial Burn Center**, providing toys and fruit for **needy children** at Christmas, and a **Drug Abuse prevention program**. **23** Auxiliaries received the **Certificate of Commendation** for their activities such as: **Operation Idletime, Promoting Safety Belt Usage, and Help for Fire Victims.**

### HOSPITAL AND VAVS

**151,054** Volunteers served **3,863,884 hours** at nursing homes, VA Medical Centers and other hospitals during the past year. Hospitalized veterans and other patients were cheered by volunteers who read mail or books to them, helped write letters, played games or simply provided companionship and a friendly smile. In addition, numerous gifts such as baked goods and handcrafted items were donated. **Contributions totaled \$6,231,245.** Service pins were awarded to **1,749** volunteers who had served from 150 to 59,000 hours. **10,557** hours were volunteered by Junior Girls and **89** pins were awarded to them for 50 to 400 hours.

### JUNIOR GIRLS UNITS

**Junior Girls** are ages 6 to 16 and are related to men or women who are eligible for the VFW (complete list on back). There are currently **340** Junior Girls Units with a total of **4,225** members who participate in Buddy Poppy sales, parades, community activities, and many other activities. Each year two girls are selected to receive college scholarships as recognition of their scholastic achievement, outstanding com-

munity service and Junior Girls Unit participation. The scholarships are held in trust until the girls are ready to attend college. In 1987-88, Denise Cushman of Bensenville, Illinois won the **\$3,000** scholarship and Tracie Cutbirth of Paris, Texas won the **\$2,000** scholarship. In addition, **11** girls won **\$100** for representing their states in the national competition.

### LEGISLATIVE

Every year elected officials are invited to attend various Auxiliary functions. During the past year, a total of **10,754** legislators or public officials spoke at or attended Auxiliary events. **176,505** personal contacts were made with federal representatives through letters, phone calls or visits, and **157,231** contacts were made on the state level. Through these activities the representatives learn about the VFW/Auxiliary's viewpoint on legislation for the handicapped, changes in the VA budget, Agent Orange, and other issues relating to veterans and their families.

### REHABILITATION

During the past year, **2,578,890** hours were volunteered and **\$8,350,500** were spent to help veterans and their families. Auxiliary members are concerned not only with hospitalized veterans but also with those who are not hospitalized and yet need special assistance. Food, clothing, household goods, utilities, child care and transportation are some of the needs of veterans that the Auxiliaries try to meet. Also, **274,257** bulletins on veterans' entitlements and **2,044** seminars on those benefits were sponsored throughout the country.

### SAFETY

The six-part Safety program is designed to help Americans protect themselves and their property. Some of the activities conducted during the past year include: **3,544** Drug Abuse prevention seminars, **1,227** Drive to Survive courses, **distribution of 553,337** pamphlets on **fire prevention and/or home security,**

marking **172,962** bikes with reflective tape, **1,906** hunter safety classes, and the presentation of **8,293** Certificates of Appreciation to firemen, policemen and others who save lives. Auxiliaries also sponsored several other Safety programs such as CPR, safe boating classes, and child identification fingerprinting.

### VFW NATIONAL HOME

Located in Eaton Rapids, Mich., the VFW National Home was organized over 60 years ago by the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary to help children of deceased or disabled veterans. The Home gives these children the opportunity to live in homes with their natural parent or house-parents, provides them with an education at a nearby school, and offers guidance for their future as responsible citizens. In 1987-88 members contributed **\$195,869.90** to the **Health and Happiness Christmas Cheer Fund;** **\$18,457.78** to the **Scholarship Fund;** **\$530,128.22** through the purchase of **National Home Seals.** Gifts were given to graduating seniors as well as Christmas presents for all the residents.


### YOUTH ACTIVITIES/ VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Helping young people learn the responsibilities of good citizenship is the purpose of this program. Auxiliaries sponsored **5,542** youth groups expending a total of **\$914,786.** **25,286** special youth projects were sponsored including poster contests; child identification; and the presentation of coloring books to schools. **3,883** high school students participated in the **10th Annual Young American Creative Patriotic Art Competition.** Local and state winners received awards and incentives totaling **\$37,070.** Nationally, **49** state winners competed for five prizes from **\$200** to **\$1,500.** In the jointly-sponsored **VFW/Auxiliary Voice of Democracy Broadcast Scriptwriting Competition,** **150,000** students participated in the opportunity to win a total of **\$150,383** local and state prizes and nine scholarships from **\$16,000** to **\$1,000** nationally.

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**  
***SPEAKER'S GUIDE***



## SPEAKING OUT FOR THE VFW IN YOUR COMMUNITY



You can serve the VFW and the community in which you live in many ways. One way is by offering your services as a speaker to local clubs, civic organizations and educational institutions. These groups are always on the lookout for speakers who can talk on issues of importance to the community and, as a VFW member, you have an important story to tell. Contact the chairmen of the local groups and let them know that you are available to talk about the VFW and how our organization fits into and benefits the local community. They will appreciate your offer.

This Speaker's Guide is prepared to assist you by providing facts about each of our many VFW programs. Select one — or all — of the subjects enclosed to use in your presentation. When possible, include in your talk statements about how these programs benefit your local community. This will give impact to your speech and will bring home to your audience the fact that the VFW is a community service organization.

The Speaker's Guide gives you the facts — you write and deliver the speech. One important consideration in preparing a speech is to key it to the group that is going to hear it. If you are speaking to business leaders stress the number of veterans in the community and their economic contributions. On the other hand, if you are speaking to a group of families

to the efforts of the VFW, the Veterans Dioxin and Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act was passed in 1984.

When a recent Administration tried to revise the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities, the VFW fought to save the one in effect. By doing this, they saved compensation benefits which would have been lost by the younger veterans, particularly those from the Vietnam War.

The VFW has repeatedly supported legislation to improve the compensation and pension programs. And it has insisted that the benefits paid under those programs be adjusted for increases in the cost of living. While we have been successful in those battles, the fight still goes on for pensions that provide an adequate standard of living — and one with dignity and respect — for our veterans and their survivors.

The veterans of World War One fought long and hard, and won. Yet they have never received all the benefits enjoyed by veterans of succeeding wars. The VFW fought for a WWI bonus, and won. Now it is fighting for a WWI pension.

Employment is important to everyone, and in this area the VFW works especially hard. We work through our Employment Program in the National Veterans Service and through the veterans' committees in the Congress. The VFW fought for and won a Veterans' Preference Act which gave our veterans preference in federal civil service. Today, we work closely with the Department of Labor to promote legislation which gives veterans priority in employment in the private sector. The VFW philosophy on employment is that a veteran who fought for his country deserves a job in that country.

And what about our comrades who have passed away, is the VFW concerned about them? Yes, it is. For years we have fought for a national cemetery system with an open cemetery in each state, so that our comrades can be buried near their loved ones. We have been successful in this quest, in that the cemetery system has been taken from the jurisdiction of the Army and placed under that of the Veterans Administration. The national cemeteries have been planned in areas with high veteran populations. Though this does not fulfill the VFW's resolution, it is a move in the right direction, and we will continue to press for a nationwide cemetery system.

When it comes to representing you in the Congress, your Legislative team takes a lot of knowledge and experience with it to Capitol Hill, but the one thing that really helps it win battles there is you — the VFW member. When the Congressmen know that we represent over two million veterans, they listen to us. And when they realize that those two million and their dependents represent almost ten million votes at election time, they really listen to us, and more, they put our ideas into their legislation — and that is what this National Legislative Service is all about — getting your ideas into the laws of the land.

## NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE



The veterans' benefits and entitlements enjoyed by America's 28 million veterans and their dependents are the results of years of legislative efforts in the Congress of the United States. Much of that effort was directed by your VFW. From its founding in 1899, the VFW has spearheaded the fight for better treatment for America's veterans. It has consistently argued that those who were first in war should not be last in peace.

The milestones along the way to what we have today are many and each was reached only after a hard battle in the halls of the Congress. As far back as the VFW 25th National Convention in August of 1924, your organization adopted a resolution calling for the establishment of a Veterans' Affairs Committee in the United States Senate. Forty-six years later in October of 1970, Public Law 91-510 was passed, authorizing the creation of such a committee. The battles are not only hard, they are often very long, but the VFW never gave up, and victory was finally ours. In recent years, our Legislative team has had to go back to Congress to fight for that committee against those who wanted to dissolve it. Again we won.

The GI Bill, that piece of legislation giving education benefits to millions of service people, was another benefit that the VFW fought for on Capitol Hill. And again we won. In 1974 when the President tried to veto the Vietnam Era educational benefits under this bill, the VFW led the fight to get the Congress to over-ride that veto. And again we won. And we went on to win an extension in the delimiting date on veterans' educational benefits, thereby allowing millions of veterans ten years in which to use their education benefits rather than just eight. And when the GI Bill was finally terminated, the VFW led the fight to have a peacetime veterans' education bill approved in the Congress.

The Veterans Administration hospital system has 172 hospitals, 227 out-patient clinics, 110 nursing homes and 16 domiciliaries. The VFW was instrumental in putting that system together and in fighting attempts to tear it apart. Veterans quite often suffer from wounds and diseases unknown to the rest of the country's population and they therefore require a unique hospital system with specially trained medical personnel. Today, thanks to the efforts of the VFW's Legislative team, we have such a system. Now the fight is directed toward maintaining it in the face of indifference and staggering budget cuts.

Faced with a veteran population that is living longer, thanks to modern medicine, the VFW saw the need for geriatric care by the VA hospital system. Now there is a geriatric care program in effect, and Geriatric Research, Education and Evaluation Centers have been established.

When the VFW sees a need for a law, it will fight for that legislation even if it means standing alone without the support of any other veterans' group. It did this recently when it came out alone in support of compensation and medical care for those veterans who have been exposed to ionizing radiation or the herbicide Agent Orange. Due solely

stress the VFW family oriented programs. In all cases, key the speech to the interests of the people who will hear it. Remember, when you speak in your community, you are the voice of the VFW.

The enclosed guide for a good speech is designed to enable you to organize your material and present it in an easy to understand manner. All good speeches have an introduction, a body and an ending. One good rule of thumb is that the last thing you tell the audience should be the first thing they remember about the speech; therefore a strong ending is essential. If you use pictures, graphs or slides incorporate them in such a way that they enhance the speech, not detract from it. The same rule applies to any showmanship that you might use; hold the audience's attention with it, but do not let it detract from their understanding of what you are telling them.

When you accept an invitation to speak before a group, you should prepare a brief, typed news release for their use. This release should include when and where the speech will be given and what the subject will be. A brief paragraph on your background and a photo, if available, will also be useful. Such information will enable the chairman of the group to arrange publicity for the speech, and it can also be used by the news media in reporting the speech. Also, you might prepare a brief summary of the speech covering the major points. Again, this information will be useful to the group as well as the news media. All of these factors will contribute toward good public relations and good coverage of the VFW story.

Giving a speech is as easy as One, Two, Three. And here are the three things you need to know:

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Attention Step - Here is where you introduce yourself, address the guest of honor or tell a joke. In short, you get the audience's attention.
- B. Speech Objective - Here you tell the audience what you are going to speak on.
- C. Motivation
  - 1. Appeal - Here you appeal to the audience's interest in your subject.
  - 2. Support - Here you tell them how they will benefit from taking action on what you are going to speak on.

II. EXPLANATION:

- A. First Main Point

The Veterans Administration Hospital system is comprised of 172 Hospitals, 227 out-patient clinics, 110 nursing homes and 16 domiciliaries. The VFW's National Veterans Service visits these facilities to insure that veterans are receiving proper care and also sits in on several medical committees at the VA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure describes the Duty of Employment Officer as: "It shall be the duty of the Post Employment Officer to faithfully and diligently work for the accomplishment of the employment programs adopted by the National and Department Conventions or his own Post, to promote the employment of veterans and to make such records and reports as may be required."

The key word in that paragraph is "employment," and your VFW is actively engaged in promoting employment for veterans. Their staff works closely with the Veterans Administration, the Department of Labor, the Office of Personnel Management and many other agencies in developing employment programs for veterans, and the results have been impressive.

Veterans preference in Federal employment was something the VFW fought for, and now this practice helps thousands of veterans to be employed. The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 authorized special hiring consideration for veterans 30 percent or more disabled; now over 4,000 veterans in this group have been employed.

The Job Training Partnership Act has placed 38,000 veterans; the Emergency Veterans Job Training Act, 37,000; the Targeted Job Tax Credit program, 26,000. And through programs of the Veterans Administration and other government agencies many more thousands of veterans have found employment in the government or in the private sector. In each of these programs, your VFW has been instrumental in formulating the program and in promoting it before the Congress.

When the Post Employment Officers have questions about veterans employment, they have only to call the National Veterans Service for answers and assistance.

The VFW National Veterans Service is the agency to which veterans and their dependents should direct all questions regarding VA benefits, military matters and employment assistance. This staff is also able to answer questions regarding state veterans' benefits. Its Claims Consultants and Service Officers are trained and ready to "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living."

The National Veterans Service also has consultants in Washington who present claims' appeals to the VA's Board of Veterans Appeals. This office handles those claims which have been denied at the Regional level and are then forwarded to Washington on appeal. This staff routinely handles about 13,000 cases each year.



## NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE



The Veterans of Foreign Wars maintains a nationwide veterans service to provide assistance to veterans and their dependents in obtaining benefits. The staff is comprised of Department Service Officers at the state level and Claims Consultants and Field Representatives in the VFW Washington Office.

These staff members are available to take care of matters concerning military records corrections, discharge upgrades, retirement benefits, disability compensation, pension, and employment. The Field Representatives make regular visits to VA Hospitals, VA Regional Offices and National Cemeteries to insure that veterans' affairs are being properly taken care of. In short, the National Veterans Service staff is available to assist in all matters pertaining to veterans. There is no charge for these services, and all veterans are welcome.

The benefits most frequently sought by veterans and their dependents are: Disability Compensation, Pension and dependents' benefits.

COMPENSATION is paid to those veterans with service connected disabilities. Compensation payments are based on the percentage of disability. The most current payment schedule begins at \$68 per month for a ten percent disability and goes up to \$3,660 for a hundred percent rating with additional allowances. For those veterans rated 30 percent or more, there are allowances paid for dependents.

PENSION is payable for non-service connected disabilities that prevent a wartime veteran from maintaining gainful employment. Pension eligibility is based on income and number of dependents. The current schedule of payments goes from \$5 to \$642 per month.

DEPENDENTS' BENEFITS include Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Compensation and Non-Service Connected Death Pension. The Dependency and Indemnity Compensation is based on the veteran's active duty rank. Death Compensation is currently paid at the rate of \$87 for a surviving spouse, with additional amounts for children. The Non-Service Connected Death Pension is payable to those survivors of a veteran who had at least 90 days of service during a time of war. The current schedule of payments for this benefit goes from \$5 to \$328 per month. Surviving parents are eligible under the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation and the Death Compensation benefits.

This brief description of some of the benefit programs does not go into enough detail for anyone to determine if they are eligible, but what it does do is give an idea of what is available. Anyone who wants more information on any VA Program can contact a VFW Department Service Officer. There is a Department Service Officer in each VA Regional Office.

Other benefits and programs available to veterans include prosthetics, special automobiles for disabled veterans, allowances for aid and attendance, housebound allowances, rehabilitation treatment, vocational rehabilitation, job training, home loans, educational assistance and employment assistance. The Veterans Service staff is well-briefed on all benefits available and the eligibility requirements.

1. Support - Here you are just giving facts to support your argument.

2. Support - Remember, the more support you give an argument the stronger it is.

B. Second Main Point

1. Support - There is no rule on how many main points you have, but be sure to support each one.

2. Support - Don't forget about the VFW Public Relations Office. We can give you a lot of help in preparing a speech.

### III. SUMMARY

A. Recap the Main Points

B. Re-emphasize the Motivation part

C. Forceful Conclusion - Make it short but make it memorable. When people think back to your speech, the first thing they should remember is the last thing you said.

## VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program is conducted every fall in the nation's secondary schools by the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary. Leaders in government and education have high praise for this program because it encourages our nation's youth to think, write and speak up about freedom and democracy.

The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program has gained widespread acceptance by the public, private and parochial schools of this country, since its beginning in 1958. Each year more schools and students participate. Most recently, nearly 300,000 young men and women from over 8,000 schools presented their ideas — and feelings — on freedom, democracy and the American way of life.



Scholarships totaling \$42,000 are awarded to the top nine finalists in the annual Voice of Democracy competition. The First place winner receives \$16,000. The other awards are: Second place, \$9,000; Third place, \$6,000; Fourth place, \$4,000; Fifth place, \$3,000; Sixth place, \$1,000; Seventh place, \$1,000; Eighth place, \$1,000 and Ninth place, \$1,000. Additionally, scholarships and awards presented at the Post, County, District and Department levels amount to over \$500,000.

The safe bicycling program is designed for elementary school children. The areas covered are bicycle selection criteria, proper bicycle maintenance and development of safe bicycling techniques. Local traffic rules and regulations are also taught.

The basic instruction is contained in three filmstrips. A Teacher's Manual is included which provides a narration to accompany the filmstrips, along with a course outline listing objectives, discussion topics and guidelines to develop bicycling skills. This instruction course is available from National Headquarters.

The Lite-A-Bike project was begun in 1963 and since that time the Posts and Auxiliaries have applied reflective tape to over 29 million bicycles. "Be Safe — Be Seen" is the motto of this project. With the upsurge in bicycle use in recent years, this program has certainly contributed to saving a lot of lives. The Scotchlite reflective tape is available from National Headquarters in packages containing enough pre-cut strips to tape 50 bicycles. Instructions are included on where to apply the tape so that it will be seen by motorists.

**DRUG ABUSE:** Shocked by the growth of drug addiction in recent years, the VFW decided to promote a program designed to educate people on the dangers of drug abuse. Posts and Auxiliaries participate in "getting the word out" in their communities on what people can do to combat this near epidemic problem. Special emphasis is placed on the growth of drug abuse in elementary schools. The VFW sponsors seminars aimed at making parents and students aware of the symptoms of drug abuse, and how a victim may obtain assistance.

Along with the Posts and Auxiliaries, the Departments and Districts are also engaged in this program; in short, every echelon of the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary is fighting the national problem of drug abuse. The U.S. Government offers assistance in drug abuse education through the Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Agency. Specially trained officers of state and municipal law enforcement agencies are available to provide information pertinent to each community.

**RECOGNITION AND PUBLICLY COMMENDING:** Throughout America, firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical technicians serve around the clock to safeguard the lives and property of others. Their outstanding contributions, frequently above and beyond the call of duty, often go unnoticed or, at best, are taken for granted. Now the VFW has begun a program that recognizes these individuals and their unique contributions to their communities. Public recognition in the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation honors those individuals who have made their communities safer and better places in which to live. The certificates are available from National Headquarters and can be presented by the Post or Auxiliary. By recognizing those who serve us, we can fulfill the VFW commitment to make America stronger by making its communities stronger.



## SAFETY

The VFW sponsors six Safety programs which are designed to make our communities across the nation and overseas safer places in which to live. These programs are promoted by the Posts and the Auxiliaries and benefit members and non-members alike.



**HOME PROTECTION:** This program encompasses Fire Prevention and Home Security. Each year some \$874 million worth of residential property is lost to fire. Fire claims one residence every minute - 365 days a year. These residential fires claim 6,600 lives each year, or 18 lives each day.

Faced with such statistics, the VFW saw the need to sponsor a safety program aimed at preventing home fires and saving lives when fires did occur. This program consists of Posts and Auxiliaries working in conjunction with their local fire departments to sponsor seminars on fire prevention. In addition, National Headquarters has published a fire prevention checklist which is available to Posts and Auxiliaries for distribution in their communities.

Home Security is a program designed to make homes safe from burglaries. Each year more than six million burglaries are committed in the United States, resulting in the loss of millions of dollars worth of property and in many cases loss of life. The Home Security program provides homeowners with information on how to inspect their homes to see if they are secure. A checklist is available from National Headquarters which outlines the steps of a home security inspection. Further guidance can be obtained through coordination with local law enforcement agencies.

**DRIVE TO SURVIVE:** This free three-hour course of instruction is designed to assist drivers to become better drivers. Safe driving requires the adoption of an attitude and a determination to take every reasonable precaution, over and above those required by law, to prevent traffic accidents.

In this course, the vehicle operator learns what is required to "Drive to Survive," how and why various types of accidents occur and what knowledge is required to prevent them.

**HUNTER SAFETY:** This program promotes responsible, ethical hunter conduct, emphasizes the importance of wildlife management laws and regulations, and teaches safe handling of hunting equipment.

VFW Safety Chairmen are encouraged to coordinate with their State Game and Fish Commissions or Conservation Departments to insure that their instructions are in accordance with local rules and regulations.

**BICYCLE SAFETY:** This program teaches safe bicycling techniques and also includes the Lite-A-Bike project which provides Scotchlite tape to illuminate bicycles during the hours of darkness.

The selection of the finalists takes place in conjunction with the annual VFW Washington Conference. Each state winner as well as those from Departments overseas receives an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. While they are in Washington, these winners have an opportunity to visit national shrines and monuments, and observe firsthand the workings of the federal government. In meetings with Congressional delegates and high Administration officials, the students get to participate in discussions on freedom, democracy and representative government. Highlighting their week in Washington is the competition in which the top six winners are selected. The First place winner then gets to deliver his or her presentation at the banquet that concludes the Washington Conference.

The success of the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program is due in large part to the support given it by the National and State Associations of Secondary School Principals and the National and State Associations of Broadcasters. The educators lend their expertise to the formulation of the presentations, while the broadcasters contribute to the script-writing and the recording of the material. Together, educators and broadcasters have made the program a success through their enthusiastic support.

As veterans, we have a commitment to create a better world for ourselves and our children. The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program provides young Americans the opportunity to discuss, to understand and to speak up for freedom, democracy and the American way of life.

## NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Hardly a day goes by that the newspaper headlines do not call our attention to the subject of national security. For example, here are some recent ones:

- "MORE SPIES ON TRIAL FOR ESPIONAGE THAN EVER BEFORE IN OUR HISTORY"
- "AMERICAN TOURISTS HELD HOSTAGE BY TERRORISTS"
- "AMERICANS GUNNED DOWN BY TERRORISTS AT AIRPORTS"
- "NICARAGUA RECEIVES NEW CUBAN AND SOVIET ARMS DELIVERIES"
- "SOVIET LEADER DEMANDS U.S. GIVE UP STAR WARS OR FACE MORE MISSILES"



Americans cannot find comfort in such headlines and well they should not, for when we start feeling comfortable about such news, we start to forget about national security.

Since its founding in 1899, the VFW has consistently called for a strong national defense to insure our national security. Annually it re-affirms this belief in Resolutions at its National Convention, in which it calls upon our national leaders to maintain a strong defense and to meet all challenges to our national security. Daily it reaffirms this belief in its support of our government and its military forces.

We are experiencing a significant expansion of our National Junior Rifle Program which provides the opportunity for both boys and girls to receive training in gun safety and to experience the fellowship and competition of a rifle club activity. Of primary importance in the VFW Junior Rifle Program is the Post sponsored Junior Rifle Club. A complete program is provided for clubs affiliated with the National Rifle Association. All it takes to get a Junior Rifle Club started is 10 youngsters under age 19 who are interested in learning about shooting and an adult leader who is willing to take an interest in their welfare. The basis of the work of the Junior Rifle Program is gun safety, but many opportunities are available in self-improvement in handling a gun. Brochures and kits are available at no cost, explaining in detail how to start a Junior Rifle Club and how to enter the NRA-VFW Junior Rifle matches conducted annually.

No activity has swept the American scene to the extent that bowling has in the last twenty years. Thousands of new, ultra-modern bowling lanes have been built all over the country. Through the youth bowling program, the VFW is introducing thousands of youngsters to one of our principal lifetime sports — a fun activity that keeps its participants physically fit. Over 1,000 Posts sponsor youth bowling teams in accordance with the rules for competition established by the Young American Bowling Alliance.

VFW Teener Baseball provides competitive amateur baseball participation for 13 - 15 year old youngsters in local league play. Departments with Teener Baseball Leagues conduct State Teener Baseball Tournaments.

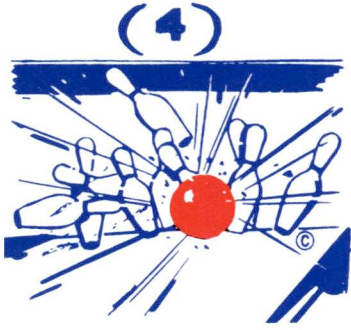
Hundreds of miscellaneous youth activity programs sponsored by VFW Posts have been documented on National Programs reports. These are in addition to the major National program and include all kinds of youth activities: football, basketball, swimming, wrestling, golf, tennis, hockey, and Junior Olympics. A large number of Posts sponsoring junior drill teams and musical units are reflected in these reports and an increasing number of VFW Posts support and sponsor Civil Air Patrol, Army, Navy and Air Force Junior ROTC and Boys' Clubs of America.

The work of the National Youth Activities Committee is directed toward encouraging more Posts and individual members to join the VFW Youth Activities Team. The need for more and better youth programs all over the country requires an increased effort on the part of the VFW.

If we are to meet the challenge of developing tomorrow's leaders today, our VFW Team must be ever alert to provide more and better programs for youth.



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES



The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shares the growing concerns of government leaders and educators in their search for character building and leadership training opportunities for today's action oriented youth.

We recognize the youth of America as our nation's greatest asset. The increased emphasis on youth programs conducted at every level of our organization reflects the high regard we in the VFW hold for the leaders of the future. We believe in American youth and their ability to meet the challenges and accept the responsibilities of citizenship, now and in the years ahead.

The National Youth Activities Committee of the VFW has stepped up its continuing efforts to promote more and better youth activity programs. The main efforts of the committee are directed towards strengthening and expanding the major youth programs sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars: Sons of the VFW, Scouting, youth bowling, junior rifle, Special Olympics, youth soccer, youth sports, including Teener Baseball, and the Navy Model Contest.

Over 900 Posts have organized Sons of the VFW Units since the reactivation of this program in 1961. These units are made up of boys between the ages of 8 and 16 whose parents/grandparents are eligible for membership in the VFW. They provide sponsoring Posts with an ideal base for implementing a variety of youth activity program.

The VFW has maintained a steady gain in the number of cub packs, scout troops and explorer units sponsored by VFW Posts. Currently, there are approximately 1,500 sponsored Scout units. Sensing the growing need throughout the country for the organization of Scout units — especially at the explorer level for boys of high school age — more and more Posts are joining the VFW/Scouting partnership.

To provide additional recognition and incentive for VFW Scout Leaders, the VFW awards Wood Badge Training Scholarships each year to outstanding VFW Scouters. The recipients are selected from each of the Scout Regions and are given scholarships to attend Scout Leadership Training Conferences within their Regions.

Communist subversion threatens many governments around the world. Many times over the past years American forces have gone to the aid of governments in such distress. In many cases, we have maintained free and democratic governments in the face of communist domination. To do so is the policy of our government, and the VFW endorses this policy which espouses freedom and democracy.

Internal subversion is no less a threat than that from without. Those Americans who spy for the enemy constitute a great threat to national security and national defense. They sell the technologies and tactics that have been developed to protect our country and then sit here on our shores enjoying all the benefits of the American way of life. These morally bankrupt people deserve the highest justice when they are caught.

National Security and Foreign Affairs go hand in hand. To complement a strong defense at home, the VFW has urged a strong bi-partisan foreign policy abroad. We oppose communist intrusions everywhere, and in particular here in our own hemisphere. We support our government's action in Central America and feel that if such subversion is not halted there, it will soon cross our own borders.

National Security and Foreign Affairs have but one goal and that is peace...peace at home and peace throughout the world. The most important element in this peace initiative is you...the American citizen. Knowing what America is and what it stands for, pledging allegiance to it and respecting its flag and, if the need arises, fighting for it, are the foundations of freedom, democracy and peace.



## BUDDY POPPY PROGRAM



Article I of the VFW Constitution reads: "The objects of this association are fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism, to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever."

All of the VFW programs are designed to support the commitments laid down in this Article. Of them the Buddy Poppy Program is specifically designed to "...assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans..." This assistance is provided through the VFW National Veterans Service and the National Home.

This program was begun in 1922 when the first Buddy Poppy sale was held to provide funds to assist disabled veterans, the needy, and the National Home. This first sale was such a success — 1.5 million Buddy Poppies were sold — that it was then made an annual event. At the same time the foundation was laid for the VFW Veterans Service Offices, a program offering aid and assistance to veterans and their widows and orphans.

Section 178 of the VFW's By-Laws stipulates that the Director and the Treasurer shall be appointed annually by the Commander-In-Chief. Further, the VFW-PAC shall have custody of and authority to expend all monies contributed to it for the advancement of the purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in elections to federal office in the United States. The VFW-PAC is also required to report annually to the National Convention and periodically to the National Council of Administration, at its request, detailing all receipts and expenditures.

In speaking of VFW-PAC funds, it is important to remember that all funds used by the VFW-PAC in support of candidates come from the contributions of VFW-PAC members, and not from VFW dues. There are three types of funds which the PAC can accept:

1. INDIVIDUAL - contributions, in the form of checks, money orders or cash to the VFW-PAC.
2. FUND RAISERS - contributions, received from Post, Auxiliary, District or Department fund-raising events.
3. ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS - contributions, received from Post, Auxiliary, District or Department and conveyed by unit check. Such funds will be deposited in an administrative expense account and will be used solely for such purposes.

In selecting candidates, the VFW-PAC reviews the voting record of incumbents, and requires non-incumbents to submit position papers on veterans' interests and national security issues. Upon review of all the available information, along with that from VFW-PAC Coordinators in each state, the Board makes its endorsements.

Success to date has been outstanding. Since its creation, the VFW-PAC has received over \$1,000,000 in contributions. During the 1980 elections, the VFW-PAC had an 89 percent success rate; of 251 candidates endorsed, 223 won election. In 1982, the success rate climbed to 91 percent; of 306 candidates endorsed, 277 won election. In 1984, the success rate climbed again, to 92.3 percent; of 380 candidates endorsed, 358 won election. These high success rates prove that the VFW-PAC can play a vital part in putting our friends into Congress, and promoting the kind of government we deserve.

## POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE



Political Action Committees are groups of citizens with shared interests and goals. Their major function is to amass resources to be used in achieving the political aims of the association. Authorized by federal law as an extension of the First Amendment guarantee for free expression, the Political Action Committee (PAC) provides a simple yet direct method for individuals to participate more directly in the political process, beyond what they could do on their own.

The VFW-PAC was created by the delegates to the VFW's 80th National Convention. This PAC was established for the VFW, the Ladies Auxiliary and their immediate families. Its goal is to address the real problems of this country's veterans and their dependents as well as those of national security.

As conscientious citizens, we are concerned with these issues, and we want our views to be heard. Quite often, we feel that our voices are not heard in the Congress. But the foundations of our democracy allow us to express our convictions, make changes in our government and promote our beliefs through political action. By contributing our resources to the candidates of our choice, and by voting for them in national elections, we can have the government we want. In forming a PAC, the VFW has organized tens of thousands of our members to speak with one voice, and that voice is heard in the Congress.

Our unsolicited support of candidates is based on their demonstrated support of veterans' programs and national security, and not on their political affiliation. In representing our veterans and their dependents through support of candidates for federal office, the VFW-PAC is one among many special interest groups in our nation's capital. Unfortunately, some of these other groups are in opposition to the issues we favor. To some, there is nothing special about those of us who answered our country's call in time of need. And some favor a weak national security posture, as a sign to our enemies that we do not threaten them in any way. The work of the VFW-PAC, therefore, is twofold; to promote veterans' interest and national security, and to counter anti-veteran and anti-defense trends.

To conduct its program, the VFW-PAC has a staff of eight: Director, Treasurer, and a six (6) member Board of Directors. Each member of the Board is appointed by the Commander-In-Chief; two (2) each for terms of one, two and three years respectively, with their successors to be appointed for staggered terms of three years each.

The Buddy Poppy is patterned on the red poppies that bloomed on the battlefields of Europe during the First World War and symbolizes the sacrifices of the veterans of that war and in turn veterans of all wars. It is as meaningful today as it was in 1922 because in honoring human sacrifice, we honor the best of what we can be.

A question frequently asked is where does the money from the Buddy Poppy sale go? This is an important question, and each member of the VFW and the Auxiliary should know the answer. Section 711-Buddy Poppy, of the VFW Manual of Procedure states: "A tax of three and one-half cents shall be assessed against each and every VFW Buddy Poppy sold under the provisions of this section. Such tax shall be in addition to the cost of producing the Poppy and shall be payable to the National Headquarters and be distributed as follows: One and one-half (1½) cents to the Veterans Service Fund of the Department having jurisdiction; one (1) cent to the Veterans Service Fund of the National Headquarters"...Proceeds are also used to pay for the costs of producing the Buddy Poppies and promoting their sale.

The purchase of the small, red Buddy Poppy does more than just recognize the sacrifices of our veterans, it provides relief for them and their families in times of need, it provides a veterans service that aids them in claiming benefits, and it provides a home for those who do not have a home. When you buy a Buddy Poppy, you help millions of veterans and their families.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The VFW is more than just a veterans organization, it is a community service organization providing vital projects and programs to the communities in which its members live. Through such service the VFW shows the care and concern it has for our country and its citizens. The voluntary efforts put forth form the VFW image, and it is an image which each member can be proud of.

Worthy efforts lead to a good image and that image identifies the organization to the community. After many decades of such community participation, the VFW is now accepted throughout this great land of ours. Such recognition is a powerful factor in attracting new members and in retaining present ones. People want to belong to an organization with community impact, and that is what the VFW has. Also, by maintaining its image, the VFW identifies itself as an organization to which the community can turn in time of need.



Each year the VFW sponsors dozens of community programs which benefit members and non-members alike. The objectives of a community service program are five in number:

1. Assistance to others in the community
2. Taking the initiative in leading the way for projects and programs of service to the community
3. Improvement upon the projects and programs the Post or Auxiliary conducted in the past
4. Selection and development of new projects and programs to include established community service projects

colleges and other organizations. Through these presentations, the VFW's Americanism Program is brought to thousands of people each year.

One of the highlights of the Americanism Program is the yearly celebration of Loyalty Day. This event has been held each May 1 since the early 1930s. At the VFW Golden Jubilee National Convention in 1949, a resolution was adopted which called for national recognition of this day. The legislation to do this was introduced in Congress in 1954, by Rep. James E. Van Zandt (PA.), a Past Commander-In-Chief of the VFW. The bill was finally passed in 1958, as Public Law 529.

Loyalty Day provides an occasion when Americans can reaffirm their loyalty to country and their allegiance to its Flag, in spirit and action. VFW Posts across the country and overseas sponsor parades, beauty contests and celebrations stressing Americanism. Essay contests on the Americanism theme are promoted in the schools, and VFW Posts present Flags to worthy organizations. Some Posts hold open houses on this day and others sponsor billboards in their communities carrying the message of Loyalty Day — the message of what Americanism means.

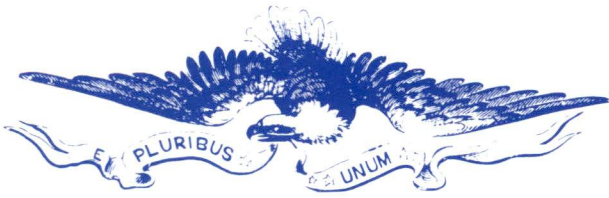
The VFW pays particular attention to recognizing the efforts of its members and of others in promoting this most worthy cause. The VFW National Headquarters sponsors a Loyalty Day Recordbook contest which awards those recordbooks best depicting Loyalty Day activities. The competition is held on the Post, District, County Council and Department (State) levels. The winning recordbooks are displayed at the annual National Convention.

Local groups and organizations who participate in Loyalty Day activities are recognized by the VFW with Loyalty Day Citations, available from the National Headquarters.

Through its Americanism Program, the VFW really makes everyday Loyalty Day, and every raising of the Flag a celebration of freedom, democracy and the American way of life.



## AMERICANISM



Americanism is our way of life. It is based on freedom, democracy, and respect for the rights of the individual. In service, we fought to preserve this way of life on many battlefields, and now as Veterans of Foreign Wars, we continue to fight for our way of life through support of our democratic institutions.

In the fight to preserve Americanism, the best weapon is knowledge. Knowing what we have and what we stand for gives purpose and strength to our efforts. Only through education on what Americanism is can we recognize a threat to this way of life. The VFW promotes Americanism through example and through education programs.

Throughout the VFW, from National Headquarters to the 10,000 Posts, members participate in functions and ceremonies celebrating the American way of life. Support is also given in the form of contributions of time and money. By such participation, the VFW helps to promote an appreciation of the American way of life and the institutions upon which it is based.

VFW Posts and Ladies Auxiliaries frequently provide speakers to local service clubs, schools and other organizations. These people carry the message of Americanism to their audiences. Speakers are also available for radio and TV interviews. A monthly public service announcement called "Speak Up For Democracy" is made available to radio stations.

The VFW also produces many written materials to promote Americanism. One of the most popular is the booklet entitled *Etiquette Of The Stars and Stripes*, in which the history of our country's Flag is told, along with information on how to display it and show respect for it. Pledge of Allegiance cards are available for schools and youth groups.

The Americanism Kit produced by the VFW contains flag information, radio and TV scripts on the Americanism theme and articles pertaining to patriotic holidays and events in history. This kit is available to VFW organizations. Another kit, the Teacher's Kit, contains similar information and is made available to teachers, librarians, universities,

5. To develop a good public image for the VFW by informing people of what the VFW does in its Community Service Program

These objectives are met through the dozens of projects and programs the VFW promotes each year. Community involvement includes projects in beautification, renovation, health care and environmental concerns. Cooperation includes projects with schools, churches and other community organizations. Aid to others extends the helping hands of Post and Auxiliary members to local hospitals, the needy, the handicapped and the senior citizens. In addition to these there are the programs devised by Posts and Auxiliaries to meet the needs of their particular communities.

National Headquarters promotes Safety programs which provide education and assistance in the areas of driver education, bicycle safety, fire prevention and home security, and hunter safety. It also recognizes outstanding contributions of firefighters, law enforcement personnel and emergency medical technicians through the Recognition and Public Commending Program.

Americanism and Loyalty Day projects stress the understanding and appreciation of the American way of life, and celebrate its history and honor its heroes who have gone forth to defend the country. Under this program honor guards are provided for military funerals and for patriotic celebrations. Flags are presented to community organizations, and a flag appreciation program teaches people how to present and care for the American Flag.

National Headquarters, through all the echelons of the VFW, promotes youth activities. Scouting, baseball, soccer, bowling and junior rifle teams are the areas served by this program. Realizing that the youth of the nation are the future of the nation, the VFW stresses programs which develop an appreciation of the American way of life, a sense of individual accomplishment and fulfillment, team effort and patriotism.



## MEMBERSHIP



Section 101 of the Manual of Procedure sets out the three requirements for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. These requirements are:

1. Citizenship
2. Honorable service outside the continental limits of the United States with the armed forces of the United States
3. Service entitling the applicant to the award of a recognized campaign medal

Membership dues are set and assessed at the Post level. Life memberships are also available.

Once a veteran joins the VFW, what does membership in the organization offer?

The answer to this question lies in the VFW Constitution, Article I-Objects: "The objects of this association are fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism, to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever."

Fulfilling these commitments is the fulltime work of the Posts, County Councils, Districts, Departments (State) and National Headquarters. Through these offices the projects and programs of the VFW are put into effect and maintained.

Membership in the VFW provides many benefits and services. Of particular interest are those projects and programs which benefit other members as well as the local community. In supporting such activities as safety programs, sports programs, and programs which celebrate freedom and democracy, the VFW strives to make America strong by building a solid foundation at the community level.

The VFW also provides its members with a National Veterans Service. This organization, operating out of the Washington, D.C. office, works through the Post Service Officers and the Department (State) Service Officers to provide assistance to veterans and their families in making claims for state or federal government veterans' benefits. The Washington staff also represents veterans or their families in appeals to the Veterans Administration's Board of Veterans Appeals. The National Veterans Service also provides assistance to those veterans who wish to have a change made to their military records or to those who need guidance in seeking employment.

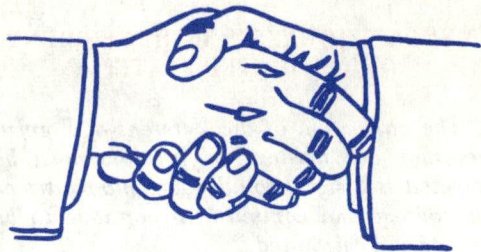
Two other benefits of VFW membership are the Legislative Program and the National Security and Foreign Affairs program.

The Legislative staff represents the VFW on Capitol Hill in Washington. All Legislation affecting veterans is reviewed by this staff and presentations are made to the Congress reflecting the VFW view.

Membership is an important factor in our success on Capitol Hill. When our Legislative team speaks, the senators and representatives know that they are speaking for over two million VFW members, and they know too that those members and their families represent well over two million votes at election time. Membership gives us the strength we need to defend and promote veteran's interests on Capitol Hill.

The National Security and Foreign Affairs staff monitors our defense programs and reviews our foreign policy positions. Through statements and position papers, the VFW viewpoint is expressed on these areas of vital interest to each and every American. And the VFW viewpoint in these areas is that of the men and women who have gone to foreign lands to defend the freedoms of our great country.

In summary, membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States provides veterans an opportunity to continue to serve their country through positive action community service programs, and to receive assistance in securing those benefits made available to them through their service to their country.



**"The V.F.W. is a  
Good Outfit"**

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.  
34TH AND BROADWAY  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64111**



# **THE V.F.W. STORY**

- **WHO** are its members
- **WHY** is it needed
- **WHAT** does it do
- **HOW** does it operate
- **WHEN** was it organized
- **WHERE** are its offices



**REVISED EDITION**





From Congressional charter granted to the Veterans of Foreign Wars:

*“The purpose of this corporation shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory of our dead and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the government of the United States of America and fidelity to its constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institution of American freedom and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies whomsoever.”*

## FOUR PRESIDENTS' OPINIONS

### LYNDON B. JOHNSON, 36TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

*“The conviction of the Veterans of Foreign Wars that our heritage of freedom must be protected is a signal to all your fellow citizens that courage and commitment continue to be honored and celebrated.”*

### JOHN F. KENNEDY, 35TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

*“By your magnificent wartime service you have defended America's freedom and security. Today, as veterans, you serve with equal tenacity, devoting brain and heart to the task of keeping our country strong.”*

### DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, 34TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

*“The record of the V.F.W., working today on behalf of our National Security, adds honor to your proud tradition of military service in all parts of the world. As strong defenders of peace, you exemplify the highest quality of American citizenship.”*

### HARRY S. TRUMAN, 33RD PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

*“My membership in the V.F.W. has long been a source of pride and personal satisfaction because of the high ideals that have been exemplified throughout the lifetime of the V.F.W. I am sure I speak for all our fellow Americans in voicing my confident expectation that the V.F.W. will ever stand in the forefront in selfless devotion to our Nation.”*

country overseas in time of emergency. Eligibility cannot be purchased with money, power or influence.

*Service to disabled and needy veterans* and their dependents is rendered by the V.F.W. on a nationwide scale by its Veterans Service. Each year it gains millions of dollars in benefits for veterans by pressing their claims before the Veterans Administration.

*The band of comradeship* is outstretched to members no matter in what part of the country they may be, by Posts which are always ready to assist their comrades and families in times of distress.

*Community betterment* is a keystone in the total V.F.W. structure. Working for the good of all citizens, V.F.W. members use this method for putting into action the precept of the Golden Rule.

*Patriotic sentiments* are given expression through action programs aimed at stimulating love of country and more meaningful appreciation of our national heritage.

*Sentry Duty* is performed day in and day out by the V.F.W. Legislative Service as it stands guard over veterans rights and benefits. This Service also presses for new laws that will liberalize compensation for the disabled, preserve VA hospitals for veterans only and promote the security of our country.

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

### WHO



**T**HE MEMBERSHIP of the V.F.W. is made up of men and women who have served their country honorably in overseas engagements for which a campaign badge or medal has been authorized by the U.S. Government. No others may join. There are no honorary memberships.

The V.F.W. believes the veteran is something special — that the fact they were selected by their country and committed to fight to death if necessary, has put them in a special class. Only the best physically, mentally and morally of the nation's citizens are selected for this commitment. It is only natural that members of this elite group with a common bond of experience forged in sacrifice and danger should band together in an organization that provides them a forum for comradeship, a voice for their aspirations and a tool for their chosen undertakings.

The V.F.W. is the fastest growing major veteran organization. Its membership has increased by more than a quarter million members in the past 15 years and stands at nearly two million. Most of its 10,000 Posts are located in the United States but others are in such places as Germany, Thailand, Okinawa, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Puerto Rico and one of the oldest is located in Paris, France.

## WHY

By enacting a generous package of benefits for veterans, the U.S. Congress has proven the nation's gratitude to those who have defended her. But these benefits didn't come about automatically. The V.F.W. worked for them. Among its accomplishments are the enactment of compensation, pension, hospital and bonus benefits for World War I veterans; the GI Bill of Rights for veterans of World War II, Korea and now Vietnam. In fact, the V.F.W. has either initiated or strongly supported every major veterans' law now on the books.

While the nation has demonstrated its gratitude to veterans, it is an unhappy fact that, as the memory of war dims there is always a faction working continuously to undermine veterans' benefits. They are alert to any sign of inattention so they can make their move. Time and time again they have tried. Each time, the V.F.W. has fought them back. But the organization's only source of strength is its membership. Every eligible veteran should help protect their rights by joining the V.F.W.

## WHAT

Aside from its legislative activities, the V.F.W. maintains a nationwide *Veterans Service* staffed with medical, legal and claims experts. It aids all veterans (not members only) in filing claims for benefits. Through its *Community Activities*, V.F.W. Posts bring to life their slogan, "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living." This may take the form of preparing Christmas baskets, conducting safety seminars, building swimming pools or irrigating entire farm regions.

dealing with both state and national organization policy. Those passed by the Department Convention are introduced for consideration by the National Convention.

*District Conventions*—are held to promote liaison between Posts within the District.

## MONTHLY PUBLICATIONS

*V.F.W. Magazine*—Goes to every member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars as one of the privileges of membership. It is a first-class magazine featuring factual articles of general interest and has won many prizes for content, make-up and appearance. The magazine is considered by those in the publishing trade to be in a class with the best appearing on newsstands.

*Washington Action Reporter*—Its subscription list includes all members of Congress and Administration and other government officials concerned with veterans affairs. It consists of legislative news, national security and foreign affairs material and reports on veterans service, employment and similar issues, as well as a monthly commentary by the Commander-in-Chief. Capsulized, its contents appear each month in V.F.W. Magazine.

## BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION

*PX*—Distributed to all Posts, it reports news of Post activities and provides a medium for an exchange of ideas between them. It includes a report from each National Program Director.

## WHY MEN AND WOMEN JOIN THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

*Membership is a coveted honor.* It is restricted to those who served their

usually in the latter part of August. The location is rotated geographically so the burden of participation can be equally distributed among members in different parts of the country. Here National officers are elected and policy for the entire organization is written by the adoption of resolutions. Top leaders from government, industry and education appear as speakers at these conventions and take part in the business sessions. Many of the nation's leaders are bona fide members of the organization.

*The Washington Conference* of National Officers and Department Commanders—attracts an attendance running into the thousands each year. State and District leaders of the organization visit their Congressmen and accompany the Commander-in-Chief in annual appearances before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees to outline V.F.W. legislative goals. The annual Congressional Banquet of the V.F.W. is held during this conference and top officials, from the President on down, attend.

*Regional Conferences*—are also held at least once each year. These regions are made up of the East, West, South and the Big Ten. Here Department officers discuss mutual problems and search for their solutions. These Conferences are unofficial cradles of leadership for the national organization. It is during these meetings that the members with the capability and drive to become national leaders begin to attract the following that is necessary to elevate them into positions of leadership.

*Department Conventions*—are held to elect state officers and to map out programs for the year ahead. Rank and file members may introduce resolutions

By *Americanism* activities, the organization seeks to strengthen good citizenship and an appreciation of the nation's heritage. Educational materials are distributed to schools. Loyalty Day and Veterans Day observances are organized, radio programs stressing patriotism are sponsored and subversive influences are combated. The V.F.W.'s many *Youth Activities* are aimed at inculcating in young people a sense of fair play and appreciation for their democratic heritage. Among these youth programs are the *Voice of Democracy*, sponsorships of Teener baseball teams, Junior Rifle teams, Boy Scout troops, Junior Bowling teams and Sons of the V.F.W. *Buddy Poppy* sales have been conducted every year since Memorial Day, 1922, to provide local Post relief funds, to help defray the cost of operating a nationwide rehabilitation service, and to support a National Home for widows and orphans of members. The *National Home* at Eaton Rapids, Mich., has been maintained since 1925 to care for the children of deceased or disabled members of the V.F.W. The Home is a combination village and farm where children live in cottages, each supervised by a house-mother. Through Lite-A-Bike the *Safety* program makes millions of bicycles safer by application of reflective tape.

## HOW

The work of the V.F.W. is carried out within the framework of an organization that is democratic from top to bottom. It includes five different levels: Posts, County, District, Department and National. The supreme authority is vested in the National Convention which is held annually. Officers are elected for a one year term and, traditionally, do not

succeed themselves.

Between conventions a National Council of Administration governs the organization. It is made up of 10 national officers and representatives from 25 regional districts.

## WHEN

Veterans of the Spanish American War, the Philippine Insurrection of 1899 and the China Relief Expedition of 1900 returned home to a public that had grown indifferent after cheering them into battle in 1898. Feeling estranged from the society they had left as boys to join the army, as men they drew together into organizations to preserve ties of comradeship that had been forged in mutual hardship and danger.

One such group was the American Veterans of Foreign Service, formed in Columbus, Ohio on September 29, 1899. Also in 1899 an organization which called itself "The Colorado Society, Army of the Philippines" was founded. Then, during 1901-1902 in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Altoona, Pa., three other veterans groups were formed. These three merged in 1903 and also took the name of the "American Veterans of Foreign Service" although there was no formal connection between them and the Ohio organization. Such a connection was made, however, in 1905 when the Ohio and Pennsylvania organizations met at Altoona and drew up an agreement of merger.

During the years that followed, the Army of the Philippines in the West and the American Veterans of Foreign Service in the East expanded rapidly.

It became apparent to the leadership of both organizations that what they could do separately they could do more

effectively and on a broader scale together. They agreed to hold their National Encampments together in Denver, Colo. in 1913. There another merger took place and the resulting organization was named "Army of the Philippines, Cuba and Puerto Rico."

This name was changed to "Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States" at the 1914 National Encampment in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

## WHERE

The National Headquarters of the V.F.W. is located at 34th & Broadway in Kansas City, Mo., midway between downtown and the city's elegant Plaza area. The organization owns the 12-story building which it occupies, and its 150 employees use one-third of the space. The rest of the building is leased by a variety of business and professional groups.

The Legislative, Veterans Service, and National Security and Foreign Affairs departments maintain offices in the V.F.W.'s Washington Memorial Building located on Capitol Hill directly behind the Supreme Court building within a few blocks of the Capitol and the House and Senate Office buildings.

## CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES

The Ties that Bind

With 10,000 Posts scattered around the world, the Veterans of Foreign Wars maintains its character as a national organization through a variety of meetings on different levels.

*National Conventions*—are held each year in one of the major U.S. cities,

Cooper T. Holt, Executive Director  
VFW Washington Office  
Past Commander-in-Chief  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States



Cooper T. Holt, of Silver Spring, Maryland, was appointed Executive Director of the VFW Washington Office in August, 1963, at the National Convention held in Seattle, Washington.

The World War II veteran joined VFW Post 1289, Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1945, after having been a member-at-large for a year. He served as Adjutant of his Post, Senior Vice Commander and Post Commander. Holt became Commander of the Third District, Department of Tennessee and successively Department Junior Vice, Senior Vice and Department Commander. In 1954 he was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief; in 1955, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief; and in 1956, at the National Convention in Dallas, Texas, became Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. At 32, Holt was the youngest Commander-in-Chief in the history of the organization.

Born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Holt was educated in the schools of that city and later graduated from the Edmondson School of Business. He joined the Army in 1943 and served overseas with Company L of the 164th Infantry. He earned the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre ribbon, the Solomon Islands campaign battle star the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Bronze Star.

He is a member of several civic and fraternal organizations. Mr. and Mrs. Holt, the former Betty Sivley, of Chattanooga, have one daughter, Mrs. Gus (Cynthia) Pappas and one grandson.

Staff members of the National Legislative, National Veterans Service, National Security and Foreign Affairs, and other offices of the VFW which require contact with government officials operate out of the VFW National Memorial Building, located on Capitol Hill.

-vfw-

*from the desk of .....*

*Memo*

COOPER T. HOLT

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February 23, 1989

Stephanie, after looking over  
the enclosed material, and if  
you are able to absorb it, you  
will know as much about the  
VFW as I do.

*Cooper T. Holt*

July 14, 1988

COOPER HOLT HONORED BY  
MARINE CORPS

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 1988*

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, on July 8, Cooper T. Holt, the executive director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a well-known veterans' advocate here on Capitol Hill, was honored by the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, Lt. Gen. Joseph J. Went, with a reception at the Washington Navy Yard and an evening parade at the Marine Barracks. It is a rarity for someone to be so honored, and it is certainly fitting in this case. The evening parade at the Marine Barracks is a very impressive and moving ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to bring this event in Cooper's honor to the attention of my colleagues, and it is an opportunity for me to pay personal tribute to a gentleman who has worked closely with the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Congress over the years.

The veterans of this Nation have no more loyal friend and advocate than Cooper Holt. His integrity, his expertise, his easygoing manner, his advice, and his ability to get the job done are emblazoned in both the doctrines of the organization he leads administratively and in the Federal programs for veterans that have been established over the past four decades.

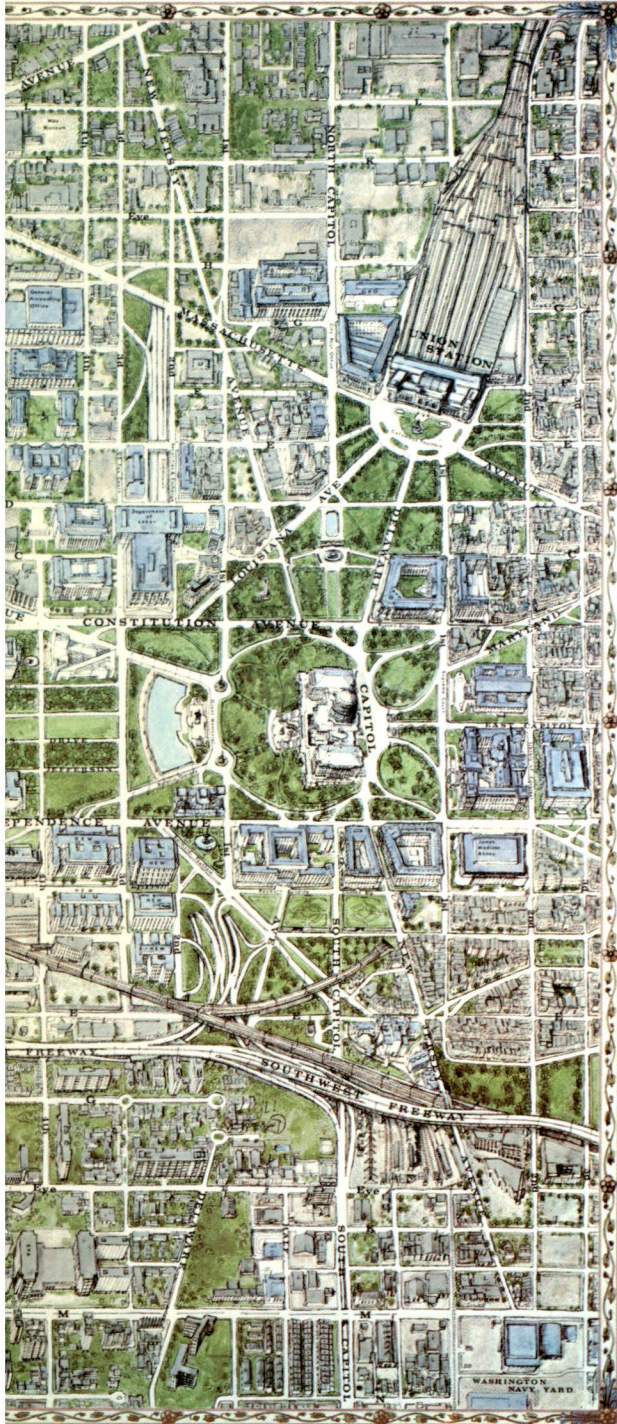
Cooper is a decorated veteran of World War II. A member of the VFW since 1944, he held a series of local, State, and national offices in the organization. In 1956, at the age of 32, he became the youngest commander in chief the VFW ever elected. That distinction still holds true. He was appointed executive director of the VFW Washington office in 1963.

Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues know Cooper Holt as a trusted and respected friend and adviser on matters of importance to the Nation's veterans and their families. The Congress could not ask for a stronger nor more beneficial working relationship with the VFW.

I congratulate Cooper on this latest honor from the Marine Corps and on a lifetime of good works and good will.

# WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

1988



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VETERANS OF  
FOREIGN WARS  
OF THE  
UNITED  
STATES

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# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## FRIDAY MARCH 4

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9:00 a.m.	By-Law, Manual of Procedure and Ritual Review Committee . . . . .	Warren Room
9:00 a.m.	National Council of Administration Time & Place Committee . . . . .	Thomas Paine Room
9:00 a.m.	National Veterans Service Committee . . . . .	Nathan Hale Room
12:00 noon	Registration . . . . .	Convention Registration Lobby
12:00 noon	Conference Office . . . . .	Colorado Room
12:00 noon	Adjutant General's Office and Press Headquarters . . . . .	Idaho Room

## SATURDAY MARCH 5

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8:00 a.m.	PAC — Board of Directors . . . . .	Nathan Hale Room
9:00 a.m.	Registration . . . . .	Convention Registration Lobby
9:00 a.m.	Conference Office . . . . .	Colorado Room
9:00 a.m.	Adjutant General's Office and Press Headquarters . . . . .	Idaho Room
9:00 a.m.	National Veterans Service Committee . . . . .	Wisconsin Room
10:30 a.m.	Budget and Finance Committee . . . . .	Kansas Room
12:00 noon	National Awards & Citation Committee . . . . .	Vermont Room
2:00 p.m.	National Council of Administration . . . . .	Maryland Suite
5:00 p.m.	Catholic Mass . . . . .	Maryland Suite

## SUNDAY MARCH 6

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8:00 a.m.	Catholic Mass . . . . .	Washington Room
8:00 a.m.	Church Service — Protestant . . . . .	Rockville Room
9:00 a.m.	Registration . . . . .	Convention Registration Lobby
9:00 a.m.	Conference Office . . . . .	Colorado Room
9:00 a.m.	Adjutant General's Office and Press Headquarters . . . . .	Idaho Room
9:00 a.m.	Americanism Committee . . . . .	Baltimore Room
9:00 a.m.	Civil Service & Employment Committee . . . . .	Annapolis Room
9:00 a.m.	Life Member Committee . . . . .	Kennedy Room
9:00 a.m.	National Hospital Committee . . . . .	Wisconsin Room
9:00 a.m.	National Security & Foreign Affairs Committee . . . . .	Virginia Suite
9:00 a.m.	Youth Activities Committee . . . . .	North Cotillion Room
1:30 p.m.	Buddy Poppy Committee . . . . .	Calvert Room
1:30 p.m.	Community Activities Committee . . . . .	Baltimore Room
1:30 p.m.	National Legislative Committee . . . . .	Virginia Suite
1:30 p.m.	POW/MIA Committee . . . . .	Washington Room
1:30 p.m.	Safety Committee . . . . .	Annapolis Room
1:30 p.m.	Voice of Democracy Committee . . . . .	North Cotillion Room
2:00 p.m.	Public Relations Seminar . . . . .	Warren Room
5:00 p.m.	State Commanders — Voice of Democracy Winners Assemble . . . . .	Baltimore Room
5:45 p.m.	Voice of Democracy Reception . . . . .	Cotillion

**MONDAY MARCH 7**

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7:30 a.m.	Department Junior & Senior Vice Commanders Breakfast . . . . .	Baltimore/Annapolis Room
7:30 a.m.	National Council of Administration members, Department Commanders', Adjutants' and Quartermasters' Breakfast . . . . .	Richmond/Arlington Room
8:45 a.m.	General Session . . . . .	Sheraton Hall
9:00 a.m.	Registration . . . . .	Convention Registration Lobby
9:00 a.m.	Conference Office . . . . .	Colorado Room
9:00 a.m.	Adjutant General's Office and Press Headquarters . . . . .	Idaho Room
2:00 p.m.	VFW PAC Department Chairmen . . . . .	North Cotillion Room

**TUESDAY MARCH 8**

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8:45 a.m.	NATIONAL AND DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WILL BOARD BUSES AT THE 24TH STREET ENTRANCE OF HOTEL TO ATTEND JOINT HEARING BEFORE SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES ON VETERANS AFFAIRS.	
9:00 a.m.	Registration . . . . .	Convention Registration Lobby
9:00 a.m.	Conference Office . . . . .	Colorado Room
9:00 a.m.	Adjutant General's Office and Press Headquarters . . . . .	Idaho Room
9:30 a.m.	COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF STOCK WILL PRESENT VFW LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM TO HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES ON VETERANS AFFAIRS, ROOM 106, DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING	
6:00 p.m.	Reception — General . . . . .	Exhibit Hall A
7:00 p.m.	Congressional Banquet . . . . .	Sheraton Washington Ballroom
	Photo session . . . . .	Virginia State
	with Voice of Democracy winners immediately following the Congressional Banquet	

ROLL CALLS will be held at the various committee meetings as well as the General Session, Monday morning. Members receiving expenses to attend the National Conference will be expected to attend their respective committee meetings and the General Session, Monday, March 7, 1988. Failure to answer roll call will result in a request to return expense allowance advanced by the National Organization.

# COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

**A**ll of us in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States who are attending this Mid-Winter Conference in Washington have a singular opportunity to strike a blow for our nation's veterans and its defense.

By this I mean that all of us should make every effort to visit the offices of our Senators and Representatives to make sure they are aware of just how we feel on the issues that affect each one of us as veterans and as men and women concerned with protecting the nation all of us served so honorably.

Do not hesitate to buttonhole them wherever you see them, whether in their offices, in the corridors of public buildings here or even in a Washington restaurant.

In a sense, we are all missionaries spreading the gospel of veterans' entitlements and a strong national defense. We should never lose sight of this responsibility each one of us agreed to assume when we became members of the VFW and when our comrades charged us with the duties attached to leadership.

Remember, we fought for the right to belong to the VFW, and we owe it to those we left behind on some foreign shore to do the best we can. They would want it that way, and none of us would betray that confidence.

EARL L. STOCK, JR.

Overall, this has been a good year so far. But it is up to each one of us to make it a better one, even better than last year, so that all of us can say when we pass the cup to our successors that we have expended our full measure of energy, vitality and effort.

Throughout the United States and overseas where I have visited, I have seen with my own eyes the high esteem in which the Veterans of Foreign Wars is held. This is a tribute to each of you comrades and sisters of the Ladies Auxiliary. By your deeds,

you have brought our great organization to the very summit of honor.

There is no doubt about it. You comrades and sisters are the very salt of the earth, and I just wish I could thank each one of you personally for the kindnesses you have shown in this first half of my year.

We have much to be proud of on all fronts at this mid-point in membership, program participation and in legislative achievements.

It has been my privilege to represent you in meetings with President Reagan, to whom I presented a copy of all the resolutions delegates to our 88th National Convention in New Orleans adopted.

In carrying out my responsibility as your Commander-in-Chief, I also made certain that Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger were aware of our positions on a wide variety of foreign affairs and defense issues.

From Gen. John Vessey, President Reagan's emissary to Vietnam for prisoners and missing-in-action, I was fully informed of the progress being made on this issue, so sensitive to all of us.

When the Chinese Communists brutally-suppressed Tibetans demanding freedom for their country, I spoke out against the reluctance of our own government to protest this blatant suppression of human rights. I contrasted this official silence with the outrage that was expressed when the South Koreans broke up anti-government mobs.

Nevertheless, the leaders of our government know that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States can be counted on to support actions they have taken in far-flung parts of the globe to protect our country and

its vital interests.

Certainly, the positive reaction of this organization to the Navy's role in the Persian Gulf in protecting the freedom of navigation there is a case in point.

One of the most heartening experiences I have had so far was to meet with President Reagan and VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage on the subject of Cabinet status for the Veterans Administration.

Shortly after that conference, at which I fully apprised the President of the VFW's longstanding demand that the veterans of this nation be represented at Cabinet meetings, just as are all the other constituent elements of our national life, it was most gratifying that he came out fully in support of legislation that would honor veterans in this manner.

With President Reagan's blessing, this legislation passed the House of Representatives with only 17 dissenting votes.

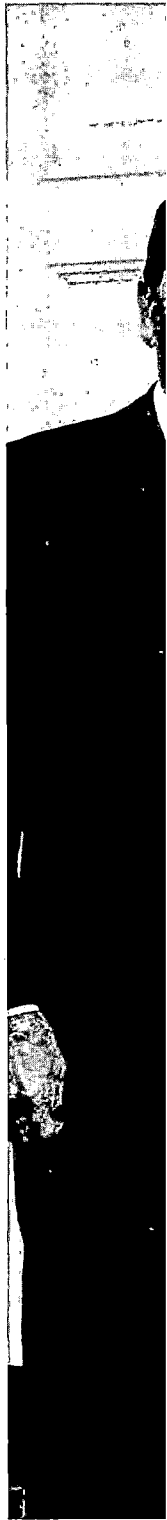
Since then, the VFW has been in the forefront of battling for passage of the bill in the Senate and beating back some of the most outrageous attacks it has been my misfortune to read in so many of the nation's leading newspapers.

Almost simultaneously, all the bile some of the nation's leading editorial writers are capable of rose to the surface. It was apparent from many of their comments that the target was not an individual bill but veterans and their entitlements themselves.

For years we have been warning against anti-veteran elements in our nation's public life. Some may have thought we exaggerated. If anyone would take even a cursory look at this Niagara of bilge, he would realize we have been telling it like it really is.

Let there be no doubt. The big business interests that influence much of the editorial opinion in this country would just as soon see the Veterans Administration wiped out and its functions taken over by private, profit-making companies.

Well, we will not let that happen, because we are more than 2 million strong. When we get stirred up,





nothing can stop us.

But never forget that membership is still the name of the game, and if ever there were a time when even more and more eligible veterans must be recruited into the VFW, it is now. Without continuing, solid growth, we may in the future be hard-pressed to defeat these anti-veteran forces.

So we do have our work cut out for us from now to the time when we meet again in Chicago for the 89th National Convention. I have every confidence that each one of you and all our other members will rise to the occasion to demonstrate that we have done our best "For America, Whatever It Takes."

As I mentioned, this year so far has been a thrilling and inspiring experience. For making my task easier, I must thank Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers; Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Wally Hogan; Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.; Quartermaster Gen. Herb Irwin and Washington Office Executive Director Cooper T. Holt and their staffs in Kansas City and Washington.

A few days after visiting in the Oval Office with Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock and Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office, President Reagan announced his support for legislation that would elevate the Veterans Administration to cabinet level.

## ADJUTANT GENERAL

**W**elcome to our Washington Conference of Department Commanders and National Officers. Once again we have come to our nation's capital to deliver a message from and in support of America's defenders, both past and present.

Our Commander-in-Chief, Earl L. Stock, Jr., will deliver that message in strong terms to the joint U.S. Senate and House of Representatives Veterans Affairs Committees. This year's appearance is especially vital because it will address the pending elevation of the VA Administrator to Cabinet status, thus ensuring that the development of national policy and the delivery of federal programs achieve the highest possible coordination, efficiency and priority for veterans and their dependents.

Although your National Headquarters, located in the the middle of metropolitan Kansas City, Mo., in America's Heartland, is a house of divided responsibility, it has but a single mission—to serve the needs of America's defenders. Through selfless sacrifice, they preserved the nation. They are the veterans and their families.

Our 12-story brick and steel building, constructed circa 1925, was remodeled and modernized in the early 1970s and has kept pace with the newer structures that now dot the Kansas City skyline. We—you and I and all of us who make up the VFW's

has full authority over fiscal and accounting functions.

The office of the Adjutant General oversees the day-to-day administration, the implementation of our nationally-sponsored community and youth-oriented programs, our annual Buddy Poppy sale, Membership and Post Development and monitors the operation of the Washington Office with all its highly complex lobbying activities and its interface with agencies of the federal government.

With 32 consecutive years of membership growth behind us (a record unmatched by any other major veterans' organization) and with a rapidly dwindling veteran population ahead of us, membership recruiting has become highly sophisticated. While other veterans' organizations have been enjoying unencumbered success with direct-mail solicitation without requiring documentation of eligibility, we, on the other hand, have continued our membership campaigns by adhering strictly to our National By-Laws. They require proof of honorable service and award of an acceptable campaign medal. Thus, we have maintained a high level of credibility.

The credibility of our recruiting efforts has protected the integrity of our wartime overseas service veteran memberships. That integrity has translated into our legislative triumphs over the years on issues such as educational and employment advantages for members of the U.S. Armed Services who have performed honorably. Testimony delivered before Congress by our National Officers and professional staff in support of veteran entitlement legislation, military pay and benefits and issues affecting the national security and common defense of the United States

has been commonplace throughout our 89 years of existence.

What is needed now, if we are to

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HOWARD E. VANDER CLUTE, JR.

2.1 million members—own that real estate, as well as our gleaming white marble five-story building on Capitol Hill here in Washington. Over 60% of the available office space in both locations is devoted to the VFW.

Our staff division refers to the two distinctly different responsibilities addressed at our headquarters. The Quartermaster General, whose report appears elsewhere in this publication, along with his staff, administers VFW Insurance Programs and the Emblem and Supply Department and



continue our growth, is a longrange membership marketing strategy that should include a study and revision of

our By-Laws (currently under way), a reassessment of parts of our membership criteria, establishment of such

demographics of our organization as will serve to assist us in determining precisely what is appealing about membership in our organization and the launching of a comprehensive many-faceted public relations program.

We have the resources. We have a membership of men and women who have pride in their service. We have a proud record of accomplishment, not only in serving the veteran and his family, but in serving the needs of the communities where Posts and Auxiliaries are located. Yes, we have the human and financial resources to dedicate to future expansion, and we have the determination as well.

That determination is represented by our leadership. Our Commander-in-Chief, Earl L. Stock, Jr., is a man of integrity. He has a farming, business and public administration background and was an airborne infantryman with a combat service record. He is dedicated to leading our organization in 1987-88. Larry Rivers, our Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, was a Marine Corps officer with combat service in Vietnam and is a successful attorney. He is devoted to serving his Commander-in-Chief to ensure our 33rd consecutive year of growth. Wally Hogan, our Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and a Korean veteran amputee, completes the supporting cast of National Officers who have been called upon to serve and to lead by and through the admiration and respect of their comrades and the democratic selection procedure of our National Conventions.

As I continue to serve this great and wonderful organization, please permit me to acknowledge the excellent working relationship that I enjoy with Quartermaster Gen. Herb Irwin, our chief fiscal and accounting officer, and all our staff, both in our Washington Office and our Kansas City National Headquarters.

Enjoy your Washington Conference and put to good use all the insights associated with it when you return home.



# QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

**I**n October 1987, the income and expense budget was adopted by the National Council of Administration. Total income is projected at \$19,674,311 and expenses at \$19,672,687.

Income for this year is expected to be only about \$100,000 higher than actual income last year. Interest affecting VFW investments continues to be unpredictable. Interest rates are expected to remain at a lower level than past years, which could result in income from this source showing little increase. Membership dues income continues to be the largest source of income for the National Headquarters with a budget of \$8,982,558 for the current year. The Emblem and Supply Department net income and VFW Magazine advertising income are budgeted at approximately last year's actual. It is anticipated that the Insurance Programs net income will realize an approximate 2.5% increase.

On the expense side, most increases are due to inflation. However, this year, partially due to the increasingly difficult challenge of maintaining the trend of over three decades of continuous membership growth, the Membership Department's budget has been increased over last year's actual by 48% to approximately 2.5 million dollars. Other programs, such as Post Development that deal directly with membership growth, have similarly

HERBERT W. IRWIN

proportioned budget increases.

The VFW continues to serve our nation's veterans. New ideas and methods are constantly being instituted which, simply stated, cost money. If we finish this year with a surplus, and I think that we will, it will be the 26th consecutive year that we have met the demands of growth and inflation and still had a surplus.

Cost increases over the past years have normally caused a dues increase every four years. If we do not have a dues increase at the 1988 Convention, and none is being proposed at

this time, next year will be our eleventh consecutive year without a dues increase. Since our last increase in 1978 of \$1.00 amounted to about 28%, this means that over the eleven-year period, the increase has amounted to only 2.5% a year. Thus, by prudent management of our income and expense, we are operating well below the inflation rate during these years. In 1978, our National dues represented 74% of our total income; presently they are only 46%. This demonstrates the importance of our outside income (Supply Department, interest, Insurance Programs and other sources) to our overall financial operations.

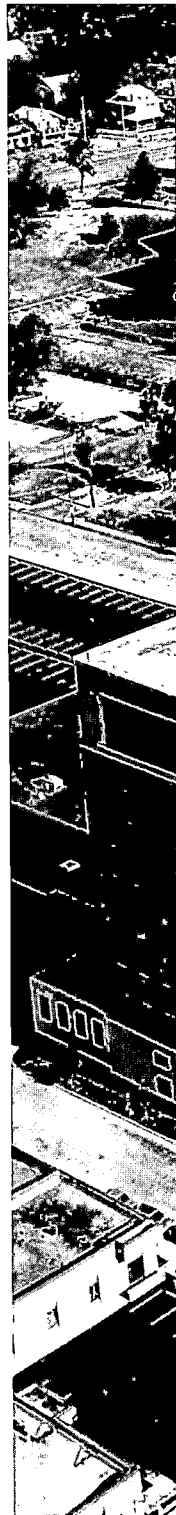
One of our major goals is to offer "member benefits" to our members at a reasonable and attractive cost and give them something that will make it advantageous to be a member. We now have nine VFW group insurance programs, a prescription drug program, a discount buying service and a travel program available to our members. Details of these programs are available in the Commander's Guidebook. We urge you to acquaint yourselves with these programs but do not expect you to know all the answers. In your guidebook, you will find toll-free numbers which you may call or to which you may refer your members for information. Our member benefit programs have been carefully selected. It is our hope that they will enhance the image of the VFW to our members and provide an attractive benefit to retain members and to get new members. Please help us pass the word that these programs are optional and cost the members nothing unless they elect to participate. If an individual member can find a more attractive value some place else, of course, we encourage him or her to do so. We have never asked our members to support our "member

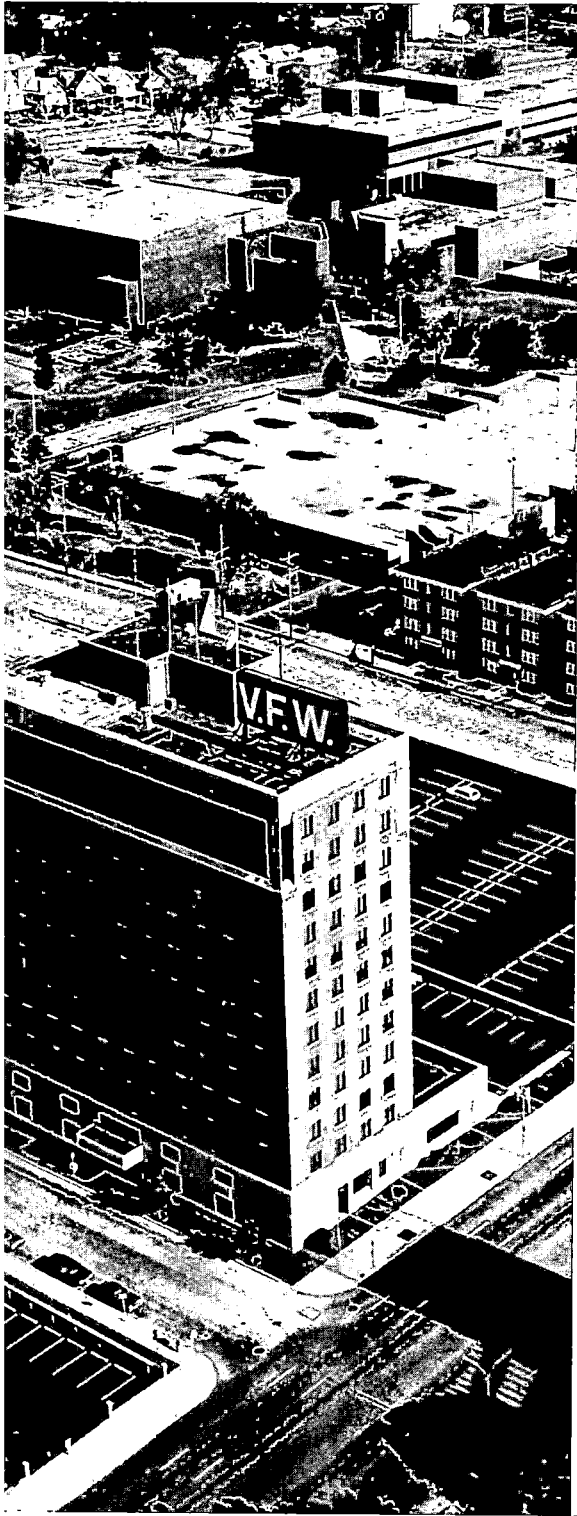
benefit" program in order to support the VFW, and no cost of these programs is involved in our dues structure.

The underwriter of our insurance programs is North American Life and Casualty and its subsidiary, Preferred Life Insurance Company of New York. NALAC presently furnishes to members in good standing (provided the member fills out and returns his or her beneficiary form) a \$1,000 No-Cost Accident Insurance Plan. Last year, we added an additional \$1,500 No-Cost coverage which is paid in the event of a loss due to a covered accident that occurs while a member is a fare-paying passenger on any public conveyance while traveling to or from, or while attending, any VFW-sponsored event—whether it's a Post, District, Department or National event. Members who have the coverage are then offered an opportunity to add additional accident insurance at an attractive rate. Presently, nearly eight of every ten members (over 1.6 million) have elected to take advantage of the No-Cost insurance by simply mailing the beneficiary form to National Headquarters.

Most Commanders are exerting their very best efforts to set new records in each of their programs: membership, new Posts, and service to veterans and the community. These programs are all of utmost importance to the continued growth and success of the organization. Gains in these areas are better accomplished if you operate from a sound financial base; making your year a financial success should also be one of your most important goals.

The prospects for 1987-88 are that we will have another good financial year. The success of our many programs and projects reflects enthusiasm and hard work throughout the VFW. We are all grateful to those who have contributed to our progress by prudent handling of the fiscal activities of their units at all levels.





### Life Membership

Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars continues to be a popular option for those who are already annual members of the organization and new members as well. A by-law amendment adopted at the 1986 National Convention allows for new members to be signed up as Life Members without first having to be a paid-up annual member. The enactment of this amendment eliminated the member in good-standing requirement which had been a part of the Life Member Program since inception.

Also in 1986 the option of paying the Life Member fee by charge card was introduced. Visa and Mastercard are now accepted as a payment method for the Life Member fees which range from \$50 to \$200, depending on age. More than 3,000 veterans have selected this convenient payment alternative in order to become Life Members of the VFW.

Even though Life Memberships have been available for 37 years, more than 200,000, or a third of the

total, have been processed in the last five years alone. It is now simpler than ever before to become a Life Member. The fee structure is such that in most cases the Life Member benefits financially. Overall, the VFW is better off with Life Members so more time can be devoted to community programs and our other goals.

Not only is Life Membership the "bargain of a lifetime" for the individual, VFW Posts and Departments are also enthusiastic about the program. The annual dues paid from the Life Member fund have been increased in recent years to provide benefit to all levels of the organization. The increased dues payout since 1982 has resulted in an additional \$10 million paid to Posts, Departments and the National Organization over and above that amount required by the by-laws. These additional funds are available because of prudent management by the Board of Trustees and favorable investment experience.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND Cash Receipts and Disbursements January 1, 1951—December 31, 1987

Fees Collected .....	\$ 76,639,649
Income From Investments .....	54,775,228
Total .....	<u>\$131,414,877</u>
Investment and Cash in Bank .....	\$ 76,457,977
Disbursements:	
Admin. Exp. ....	\$ 2,121,359
Dues Paid .....	52,835,541
	\$54,956,900 .....
Total .....	<u>\$131,414,877</u>

Since 1951, fees have been collected on 678,837 Life Members. There are now 106,458 deceased and inactive, leaving a total of 572,379 active Life Members. In 1987 Life Members increased by 50,163, compared with 44,471 in 1986, and 44,387 in 1985. Fees collected in 1987 amounted to \$6,301,427.

## WASHINGTON OFFICE

**W**elcome to your nation's capital. I hope your stay will be a pleasant and productive one.

While at the Washington Conference, you should visit with your Representatives and Senators. Only through such visits will your elected officials know where you and the VFW stand on issues of concern to our veterans and their families.

When you visit Capitol Hill, you should emphasize to your Representatives and Senators the information contained in the 1988 Legislative and Security Priority Goals for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, of which each of us is a proud part, has a vital role to play in the maintenance of proper veteran programs. It is one of seeing to it that our nation does all that it should properly do for that group of citizenry called veterans. I believe the VFW and Congress have a clear mandate from the people in that regard.

Your VFW does not and will not forget those who labored mightily in this nation's cause, who suffered in its defense and who became disabled in its preservation.

I wish to confine my remarks in this report to a subject that should be of particular concern to all VFW members. I speak of veterans' programs. We who work in veterans' affairs need to remind ourselves of

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COOPER T. HOLT

our special responsibilities.

Simply stated, we assure that this nation always goes an extra mile to assist veterans who need a helping hand, as well as their widows and their orphans.

In my opinion, veterans have been uppermost in the minds of our friends in Congress during the 100th Session.

They have tried to maintain a steady vigil over veterans' programs while at the same time meeting their fiscal responsibilities to the nation.

Let's see what Congress has accomplished with the strong support

of our VFW.

First and foremost, we are now closer than ever before in realizing the VFW's longtime priority goal of elevating the Veterans Administration to a federal department. Through our tireless efforts, the House of Representatives has overwhelmingly passed legislation which would make the VA Administrator a member of the President's Cabinet; similar legislation has been introduced in the United States Senate. Already, we have been successful in persuading the Senate to hold a hearing on this key issue, and we will be intensifying our efforts to advance this long overdue legislation.

Twice in the 100th Congress, the VFW and its friends in the Congress rescued the Veterans Administration Home Loan Guaranty Program from being shut down. On both occasions, this popular program had reached its mandatory funding limit and legislation was needed to raise the cap so the VA could continue to guarantee loans. Well, we were successful and the funding cap was raised. Veterans were able to realize the American dream of homeownership. The VFW also was crucial in staving off an attempt to increase the home loan origination fee and, in fact, was instrumental in assuring that the fee would not be increased over the next two years. At the VFW's urging, the Congress also revised the formula used by the Veterans Administration to guarantee loans. This new formula should afford more lower-income veterans the opportunity of homeownership and allow a greater number of veterans to purchase homes in high cost-of-living areas.

Your VFW is proud of its efforts in supporting legislation which made permanent the peacetime GI Bill. This veterans' educational and readjustment program is also touted as being dollar for dollar the Armed Forces' best recruitment and retention device in existence today. This

outstanding program, now known as the Montgomery GI Bill, was renamed in tribute to its author, House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery. Recognizing the program's unquestionable merit, the VFW was relentless in pursuing enactment of this legislation.

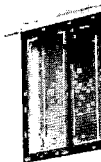
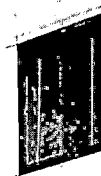
Your VFW continued to chip away at Gramm-Rudman-Hollings by urging the Congress to exempt the Veterans Administration Home Loan Guaranty Program from automatic across-the-board budget cuts. Our friends in Congress listened to us when we explained this action was only logical inasmuch as the loan guaranty program does not require direct federal outlays.

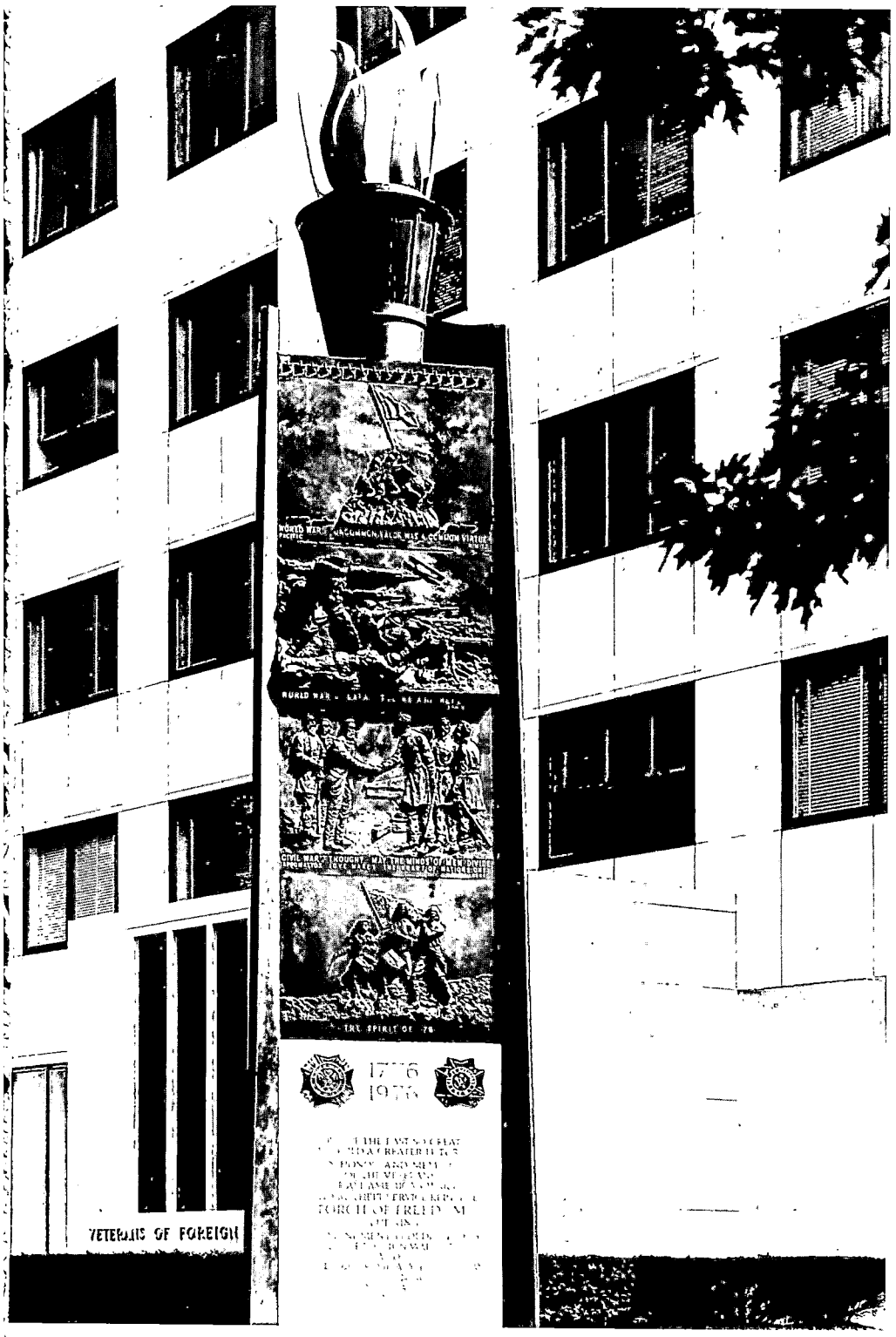
In the closing weeks of the first session of the 100th Congress, legislation was sent to the President providing for a 4.2% cost-of-living adjustment for veterans drawing compensation for service-connected disabilities. This increase was effective Dec. 1, 1987, and reflected in monthly checks in March of 1988.

The final days of the first session of the 100th Congress also found the Congress having approved and the President having signed into law legislation which significantly amends and improves the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program. The new law, the Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Program Improvement Act of 1982, revises the formula used by the Veterans Administration to guarantee loans, as well as providing a variety of other features designed to continue and improve this popular ongoing program.

Finally, legislation was sent to the President which extends for six months the application deadline for the Veterans' Job Training Act. This program has placed more than 57,000 veterans in jobs.

In working with the Congress during the first session of the 100th Congress, your VFW was able to get many of its objectives passed by the House and Senate. As the second session convened, however, the bulk of these victories was still tied up in the conference committee awaiting the





House and Senate to iron out their differences. Your VFW will be monitoring closely the conferees' actions on legislation to compensate veterans exposed to radiation during nuclear-weapons testing and during the U.S. occupation of Nagasaki and Hiroshima as a result of World War II, as well as legislation providing for continuing efforts to resolve the Agent Orange controversy. The House and Senate have passed bills which would add several new diseases to the list of presumptive disabilities associated with the prisoner-of-war experience and legislation which would provide in varying degrees drug and AIDS testing within the Veterans Administration.

Still pending action by either the House or Senate are several bills of particular interest to the VFW. We will be doing whatever it takes to see the placement of the Congressionally approved Korean War Memorial near the Mall area where it so rightly belongs. We also will be laboring to see a statue of a woman Vietnam veteran placed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to complete this most revered site. The VFW also will be urging swift action by the Congress to increase the burial allowance for certain veterans, increase payments to state-run veterans' homes and provide increased funding for adaptive housing.

Of course, as the Congress starts deliberation on the FY '89 budget, the VFW will be in the forefront promoting a realistic funding level which will not only provide the VA with the resources to continue its high level of health care but allow the VA to prepare for the ever-increasing demand on the total VA system.

Many challenges still lie ahead, but with the continued help and hard work of the VFW, we will meet them head on and emerge victorious because as Earl Stock, our great Commander-in-Chief, has said on so many occasions: "We in the VFW will do whatever it takes for America's veterans."

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**T**he 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 the most important historical documents of a Post is its official 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 paper work 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

DIRECTOR JOHN J. SENK JR.

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 actions taken during periods of suspension to return the Post to good working order.

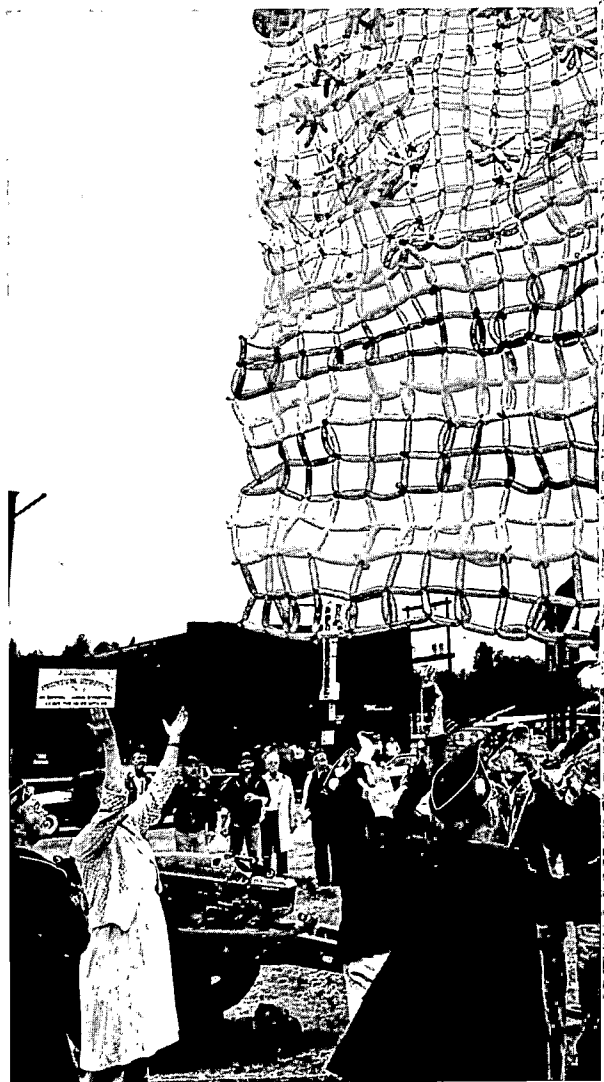
The complexity of doing business in today's society is ever-expanding, and the realities of ever-increasing litigiousness of people today call for steps to be taken to protect the individual members of Posts. In order to accomplish this, we strongly urge each and every Post to incorporate in compliance 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 consideration by the Commander-in-Chief. After Articles of Incorporation have been reviewed 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 handle properly individual problems that arise. The National By-Laws provide that the Commander-in-Chief must review 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 no conflict with National By-Laws exists, and the documents are in proper form for review by the Commander-in-Chief.

A travel department was established at National Headquarters, ad-

ministered 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 to enable 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 continue "For America ... Whatever It Takes".



## AMERICANISM

**W**ould you like to help your country and help yourself at the same time? Of course you would. The United States government has provided you with a nearly perfect way to do just that by helping it pay its bills and at the same time give a good return on your money.

This miraculous, magical money management method isn't magical at all. It is the U.S. Savings Bonds program. And it's available to you. You may make over-the-counter purchases of these bonds at most banks and

other savings institutions.

One of the most painless ways to save money and get involved in this program is through the U.S. Savings Bonds Payroll Savings Plan. If you are employed by a company, firm or organization with a payroll savings plan, and you are enrolled, you have taken a major step toward financial security. If not, join as soon as possible or you will be missing out on an excellent opportunity to give assistance to your country and provide for your future financial security.

U.S. Savings Bonds are the most secure way for average Americans to save money. After all, the complete weight of the United States of America stands behind each and every bond.

In addition to the security provided by the U.S. Savings Bonds, they earn a highly competitive interest rate. Currently the yield is 7.17%. This makes them painless, secure and profitable. Not a bad combination.

That they are well thought of is evidenced by the \$10.3 billion worth of Savings Bonds purchased by Americans last year. That, plus the fact that as of last Nov. 30, the value of Savings Bonds held by Americans was more than \$100 billion dollars, the most ever, makes their popularity quite clear.

As of this writing, we are not doing so well in the Americanism program as I had hoped we would. Only three Departments have reached the 100% plateau. All indications are favorable, however, and I expect the situation to be improved vastly before the end of the administrative year. We must congratulate the District of Columbia, South Dakota and Utah for being the first to reach this coveted goal.

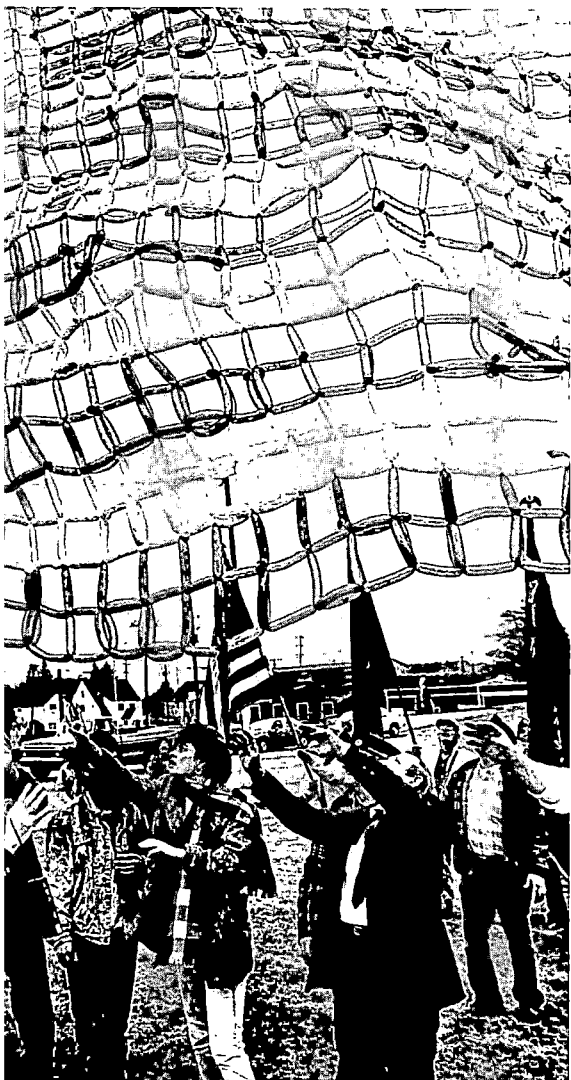
In the conference race, the Big Ten leads by nearly nine percentage points. The West is just a little over four percentage points ahead of the South, and the East, firmly entrenched in fourth place, is providing a strong foundation.

The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary must continue their good works in Americanism, because there is still a need for strong patriotic thinking in this nation. And, as usual, the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary must continue to provide Americans of all ages with the tools, education and guidance necessary to keep America free. We must and we shall meet the challenge issued by our Commander-in-Chief through his theme FOR AMERICA, WHATEVER IT TAKES.

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CHAIRMAN PAUL R. PHILLIPS, JR.  
DIRECTOR RAYMOND N. PRICE

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# BUDDY POPPY

**T**he Veterans of Foreign Wars has a proud record of being "For America, Whatever It Takes" through service to the disabled, needy veterans and their families. Without that service, we would no longer be able to justify our existence.

Whether it be assistance offered through Department Service Officers, or just a Christmas basket in a small town, the Buddy Poppy looms large in the service work of the VFW.

The first nationwide sale of Buddy Poppies in 1922 was established as "a means of providing a relief fund for local Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts to meet distress cases among disabled soldiers" and as "a means of extending the machinery of the VFW for national relief service to returned soldiers."

After more than 65 years, the sale of Buddy Poppies continues to enjoy public support and respect. Very few fund-raising activities can match that record, and almost none has survived without a change in its basic purpose or form of solicitation.

The continuous success of these sales has not been accidental. Even with increased veterans' entitlements expanded public charities and a more affluent society, areas of service to disabled and needy veterans remain which can and must be provided through the efforts of dedicated and

sales which have provided millions of dollars for specific purposes that assist disabled and needy veterans, their families and widows and veterans' orphans.

Your main source of assistance in Department Buddy Poppy promotion is your VFW and Auxiliary District and County Chairmen. They are the people who can make the personal contacts and give individual aid to the Posts and Auxiliaries. They can do the job for you, but they must be given guidance and instructions. They must be kept informed of the sale's progress.

Your Department Quartermaster or Poppy Chairman can help keep the District or County Chairmen working by providing them with current information about Post orders for Poppies as they are received. Where orders have not been received or appear to be small, the District Chairman can make a personal contact.

Work with your Auxiliary. Its members are full partners in the Buddy Poppy effort and should be treated as such.

If you have confidence in your own leadership and a strong feeling of pride in your own Department, we suggest the following goals:

- The biggest Poppy sale in the history of your Department;
- A sale by every Post and Auxiliary in your Department, and
- The greatest percentage gain of any Department in the VFW.

If there is a secret to our success, it is in the proper organizing and planning of the sale, the enthusiasm of our Poppy workers and the careful handling of the proceeds of the sale.

The members of the National Buddy Poppy Committee and the National Buddy Poppy Department stand ready to help in every way

possible.

The present network of VFW Veterans Service Offices in every state and the National Veterans Service in Washington, D.C., is a direct outgrowth of the Buddy Poppy program and the sale of Buddy Poppies. Today it is still the largest source of revenue for this activity. In addition, the memory and history of our dead is perpetuated through the wearing of the Buddy Poppy.

Our achievements over the past 65 years have justified our Poppy sales to us and to an informed public. The 1986-87 sale totaled more than 16.5 million, but we have not yet reached enough people. Only a fraction of the general public has been informed of the value of its contributions to the Buddy Poppy program, and only a portion has been given the opportunity to buy a Poppy. Your help is needed to expand this important project.

Each year, during February and March, the National Buddy Poppy Department mails to each Post Commander and Auxiliary President a Buddy Poppy Promotional Kit which contains information needed to carry out a successful sale. We can provide the material to work with, but we cannot supply the spark that makes it work. This is the job of the Department, District and County Council.

You are their chosen leader and presumably command their confidence. Your Department Chairman has been selected by you for his leadership, interest in the program and ability to communicate. The results in your Department depend more than anything else upon efforts within the Department.

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CHAIRMAN DOMINIC ROMANO  
DIRECTOR THOMAS L. KISSELL

concerned volunteers. The income derived from the sale of Buddy Poppies makes it possible to fund and carry out some of those sorely needed projects.

During this more than a half-century, our VFW Comrades and Sisters of the Ladies Auxiliary, working in their Posts and at other levels, have purchased for resale more than a half billion Buddy Poppies. Vast numbers of manhours of volunteer work—so vast they cannot be estimated—have been contributed to the

## CIVIL SERVICE & EMPLOYMENT

**T**he character of our nation's work force is projected to undergo dramatic changes within the next ten years. Widespread urbanization and universal education will add 600 million new job seekers to the world labor force. These workers will travel across international boundaries seeking employment. The envisioned migration of better-educated, foreign job seekers has led the Department of Labor to estimate that 80% of the net addition to our future labor force will be immigrants. Increased participation of women and minorities in the labor force is also predicted. Workers may expect to change jobs five to six times during their working career.

Service-producing industries generated almost all of the economy's new jobs in the last 25 years. The shift to services has led to smaller industries creating the majority of these new jobs and a greater demand for part-time workers. The work week of the future will average approximately 35 hours and the average age of the work force will increase to 39 years. Wages will be less equally distributed.

The job shift to the service sector also will require a higher level of education with a premium on analytical, conjunctive and reasoning skills. The average worker-required education is predicted to rise to 13.5 years.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, in response to Department of Labor work force projections, adopted at the 88th National Convention Resolution 790 entitled Veterans' Vocational Training and Retraining Program. The Civil Service and Employment Committee, in coordination with the Legislative Committee, has designated the development of this program as a Priority Legislative Goal for Fiscal Year 88.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars' Washington Office staff has vigor-

ously pursued establishing a national forum to discuss the employment and training needs of veterans now and in the future. As of this writing, the Secretary of Labor Employment Committee has directed that this forum be conducted in Washington, D.C., during April, 1988. It is hoped that this program will produce the necessary program modifications and legislative action to fulfill our veterans' employment needs.

With the changes that are occurring within the labor force, we also find increased pressure being exerted upon continuation of veterans' preference. The Civil Service and Employment Committee conducted an informal survey of state veterans' preference laws. Of the 30 responses only one replied that veterans' preference was nonapplicable within that state. Thirteen states indicated that serious consideration is being given to modification or elimination of veterans' preference.

Nationally, we continue to defend aggressively veterans' preference in all federal agencies, their programs and policies. In accordance with Resolution 699, the Commander-in-Chief has written to several federal agency heads, including the federal executive

boards, concerning federal veterans' programs. When the Air Force director of civilian personnel implied during an interview that "veterans' preference impeded his ability to recruit the best and the brightest," he expressed a feeling that is becoming predominant in today's federal government. In response to this inappropriate comment, the Commander-in-Chief called for an immediate retraction of the statement. The director responded to the Commander-in-Chief by saying that he "will strictly adhere to veterans' preference law."

The Office of Personnel Management again has expressed its commitment to "enforcing the veterans' preference laws of the civil service." Our effort must be to ensure that the intent of veterans' preference is understood and that the law is complied with.

The discussion of veterans' preference is never complete without a comment concerning the Validity Generalization (VG) concept utilized by the United States Employment Service. Veterans of Foreign Wars Resolution 611 opposes implementation of VG and calls for an in-depth review of how this program affects veterans, particularly disabled veterans. The Department of Labor has entered into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct such an analysis. NAS is to

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CHAIRMAN NORMAN G. STAAB  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR EMPLOYMENT  
ROBERT L. JONES

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render an interim report in the near future with a final report due the end of the 1988 calendar year.

The Assistant Secretary, Veterans Employment and Training, believes current VG program guidelines are "sufficient to ensure veterans' preference is applied in public employment service programs and, therefore, there is no need to suspend VG testing." The National Civil Service and Employment Committee in the absence of scientific proof that veterans continue to receive preferential service,

personal observation of the program and input from our Department employment officers cannot accept VG as an Employment Service referral tool.

The United States Postal Service, in a response to a Veterans of Foreign Wars inquiry concerning Open Testing Experiment (OPTEX), assured that OPTEX does not abrogate existing rights under present employment procedures. An analysis of veterans' preference requirements was conducted to ensure that the system appropriately complied with those requirements.

All individuals entitled to 10-point preference are scheduled for testing in accordance with the law. In the Postal Service, the custodial positions of cleaner, custodian and laborer are filed in accordance with the law. The other reserved positions no longer exist in the Postal Service.

OPTEX was designed to ensure that it would not result in any loss of hiring opportunities for five-point veterans and other groups. The Postal Service fully expects that the number of five-point veterans hired pursuant to OPTEX will mirror the results which would have been obtained under existing procedures. The Postal Service fully intends to monitor OPTEX to ensure that it lives up to expectations. The Washington Office staff will continue to monitor this program.

In addition, the USPS is developing regulations to implement a new program for hiring of severely handicapped individuals and will issue instructions within the near future to reinstate their non-competitive appointment program for individuals with disabilities and develop a program of targeted disabilities that will be automatically eligible for plan.

In addition, the instructions will contain a provision that State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies and the Veterans Administration Vocational Rehabilitation Office will be able to certify that severely handicapped individuals cannot take the standard USPS entrance examination. Certified individuals with disabilities

may then be appointed directly to a suitable job in the USPS.

Also individuals will be paid a standard wage, and, like all postal employees, be on a 90-day probationary period. If performance is satisfactory, the individual will be converted to career status.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has worked closely with the Office of Personnel Management to overcome shortcomings in the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Veterans Affirmative Action Program.

TVA, at the urging of the VFW, has made significant advancement in implementing activities to achieve Disabled Veterans Affirmative Action Program plan objectives. These successes were highlighted by the Government Accounting Office in a report (GAO/HRD-87-17 Dec. 31, 1986) to the chairman, Subcommittee on Education, Training and Employment, of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. This report also outlined deficiencies in increasing the numbers of disabled veterans on TVA employment registers and providing increased disabled veterans career advancement opportunities.

TVA, in preparation for an Annual Wage Conference, prepared a set of proposals which, in the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief, detracted from our successes to date and only served to perpetuate the employment deficiencies targeted for elimination. The recommendation to delete "any and all references to 'veterans' in the General Agreement covering schedule A and B employees will prove to be extremely detrimental, not only to the veteran population within your region but to the public image of the Tennessee Valley Authority."

The Commander-in-Chief called upon the TVA chairman to retract this proposal and requested that the chairman continue to exercise support for veterans' preference within TVA.

Resolution 674 calls upon the Congress of the United States to modify Chapter 41, 38 United States Code, to stabilize Local Veterans' Employment

Representative staffing levels. Resolution 772 calls for the establishment of Regional Administrators within law, and Resolution 634 supports extension of the Veterans Job Training Act. The intent of these resolutions was included in legislation that, as of this writing, is in conference. These resolutions along with other proposals submitted by the Civil Service and Employment Committee to the legislative staff in Washington, when signed into law, will greatly enhance services to veterans through the employment service.

The House of Representatives has introduced legislation that will amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the Targeted Job Tax Credit (TJTC) Program. This proposal, if adopted, will in part satisfy the intent of Resolution 786 to extend TJTC and expand veteran eligibility.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has actively supported the establishment of the National Veterans Training Institute (NVTI). This program recently celebrated its first birthday after having trained 1,200 LVERs, DVOPs and Local Office Managers. The success and popularity of this program is demonstrated by the 2,900 applications for training received from across the nation. An NVTI spokesman estimates that at least 2,400 of these applicants will be trained in the coming year. The Veterans of Foreign Wars has testified in support of NVTI as a permanent veterans' training/resource center.

Veterans' programs at both the national and local levels have increasingly come under assault. The continued vigilance of our Department Employment Officers is essential. In the coming year, our employment efforts and concerns must be aggressively pursued and publicized.

Veterans' preference earned on the battlefield must not be lost in a compromise at the conference table.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

**F**ifty years ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt founded the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, whose sole purpose was to find, as quickly as possible, a workable, economic and reliable cure for epidemic polio. A victim of it himself, he was well aware of the need.

Americans were asked to donate as much money as they could to support this new cause. The name this organization became known by was coined by the famous comedian Eddie Cantor. While attending an organizational meeting for the new foundation, Cantor suggested that the money be sent directly to the White House and said, "We could call it the March of Dimes." After Presidential approval, the March of Dimes got under way and that first year, 2,630,000 dimes were collected. And, in 1938, \$263,000 was quite a lot of money.

The VFW became affiliated with the March of Dimes in those early years and has always been proud of being a part of the only organization of its kind to have defeated the disease it was founded to fight. For, in less than two decades, the March of Dimes had developed a vaccine to prevent what was in its day, the most dreaded, crippling and killing disease known to man: polio.

Then, in 1958, the March of Dimes directed its vast resources, its tremendous partnership of volunteers, health professionals and research scientists toward the challenge of a broader and more complex national health problem — the prevention of birth defects.

The VFW has been a partner of the March of Dimes for most, if not all of MOD's 50 years of existence. The VFW was a major source of fundraising during the polio years because polio was a threat to all Americans. Well, most of us are parents and grandparents, and believe me, birth defects are a threat to all Americans yet unborn and to an extremely large percentage of those already born. We need to organize our resources and become a more overt part of the

March of Dimes team. We owe it to our children, our children's children and every generation of American still to come.

Contact your local chapter of the March of Dimes and ask how your Post and/or Auxiliary can be of assistance. America's communities look to the VFW as a sort of good neighbor, one dedicated to enhancing the quality of life, so let's put that reputation to work for the March of Dimes.

The VFW Community Activities Program is working as well as it ever has. Already six Departments are 100% at this writing, and, by the time the Washington Conference arrives, there will be at least three times that many.

In the conference race, the Big Ten leads with nearly 90% accreditation. The West is second by a good margin over the third place South. Although the East is in fourth place, it leads with three 100% Departments.

I would be remiss if I didn't congratulate the six 100% Departments. They are Arizona, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, South Dakota and Utah. Congratulations! You have done well.

It is a fact that throughout the nation, VFW Posts and Auxiliaries are considered a valuable and highly desirable part of the community. Why? Because they are truly interested in and take an active part in the affairs of their communities.

The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary raise the consciousness of the community in such vital areas as patriotism, safety and concern for youth through their involvement in VFW National Programs and because we firmly believe in our Commander-in-Chief's theme: FOR AMERICA: WHATEVER IT TAKES!

CHAIRMAN AL GORDON  
DIRECTOR RAYMOND N. PRICE

## MEMBERSHIP

**“F**or America . . . Whatever It Takes.” This theme was chosen by Commander-in-Chief Earl Stock as the cornerstone of his membership year and is reflective of his attitude about the goals and objectives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars during this 1987-88 membership year.

The Commander-in-Chief has visited a great many Departments and participated in membership round-ups enabling him to meet literally hundreds of VFW members and officers. He has taken his message to the troops, and it has paid off with a membership numerical gain for each of the first four months.

Through necessity, this report is prepared well in advance of the Washington Conference, and it is impossible to present the latest statistical information. A current membership report will be available at the conference, however, so that all concerned can see just where we stand as compared to the previous year.

The 1987-88 membership year started as usual with the Senior Vice Commander/Adjutant-Quartermasters' Conference last April. Details about our programs, membership and new Posts for 1988 were unveiled and met with a very positive response.

District, County Council Commanders and Department Officers were briefed on details of the 1988 Membership Program at a series of Flying

was intended.

Our first new and reinstated report showed a sizable decline in this area while life membership showed a sharp climb upwards.

The October membership report began a downward movement in our numerical gain, but it still showed 20,317 plus, while recruitment of new and reinstated members fell further behind the result of a year ago.

The third month of the 1987-88 membership year put the VFW 18,175 members ahead, and our new and reinstated total now is behind the 1987 pace and brought about concerns that a high retention rate will not sustain our growth in the second half of this membership year.

The end of December marked the fourth membership reporting month with VFW 4,423 members behind. The new and reinstated report was not available at the time this report was prepared.

Dues notices for 1987-88 have been mailed from National Headquarters on four different occasions. The effectiveness of these dues notices continues to contribute over 80% of our annual members.

Follow-up contact efforts such as telephone and personal contact campaigns must now be planned to get every unpaid member reported as soon as possible.

You and I know, however, that the ultimate success of our 1988 membership campaign will be determined by the number of new and reinstated members we are able to recruit. We must continually remind ourselves that the dues notices accomplish just exactly what they were designed to do. We must devote our time and efforts to recruiting and reinstating

members.

For 32 consecutive years, the VFW has had a membership increase. Yet for the last eight years, the VFW has seen a decline in new and reinstated totals, and our drop-off is approaching 30,000 fewer members each year.

Just to show how important the new and reinstated members are to any degree of success we may enjoy, consider this:

We will lose a minimum of 70,000 members through death this year. In addition to this, let's assume that as many as 100,000 may go out the back door. This amounts to approximately 170,000 members to be replaced before we get the campaign underway.

With the increasing age of World War II and Korean members, these statistics take on added importance. The number of deaths is rising each year, and this has to be a factor in anticipating our future membership growth. We must call upon the members to develop a pattern of recruiting which will make it easy and attractive for any eligible VFW recruit to join our ranks.

Recognizing that this problem must be dealt with, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has expanded the Shotgun direct-mail solicitation.

The 1987 calendar year saw more than 600 VFW Posts in 35 Departments send out more than 1 million letters to prospective members. Our September-October special price promotion had 343 VFW Posts ordering more than 480,000 names.

In November, we announced a new veterans' list that is now available. This new list is helping get more and better responses to this appeal, and it is our hope that more Posts will take advantage of this unique lead-generating program.

There is a buzz in the air over the VFW Campaign Map of the World. Every member and VFW Post would like to have this specially designed map for display. The map was designed as an incentive for Posts to organize a recruiting campaign and a premium offer for members to join. Details about ways to win and earn this map soon will be available.

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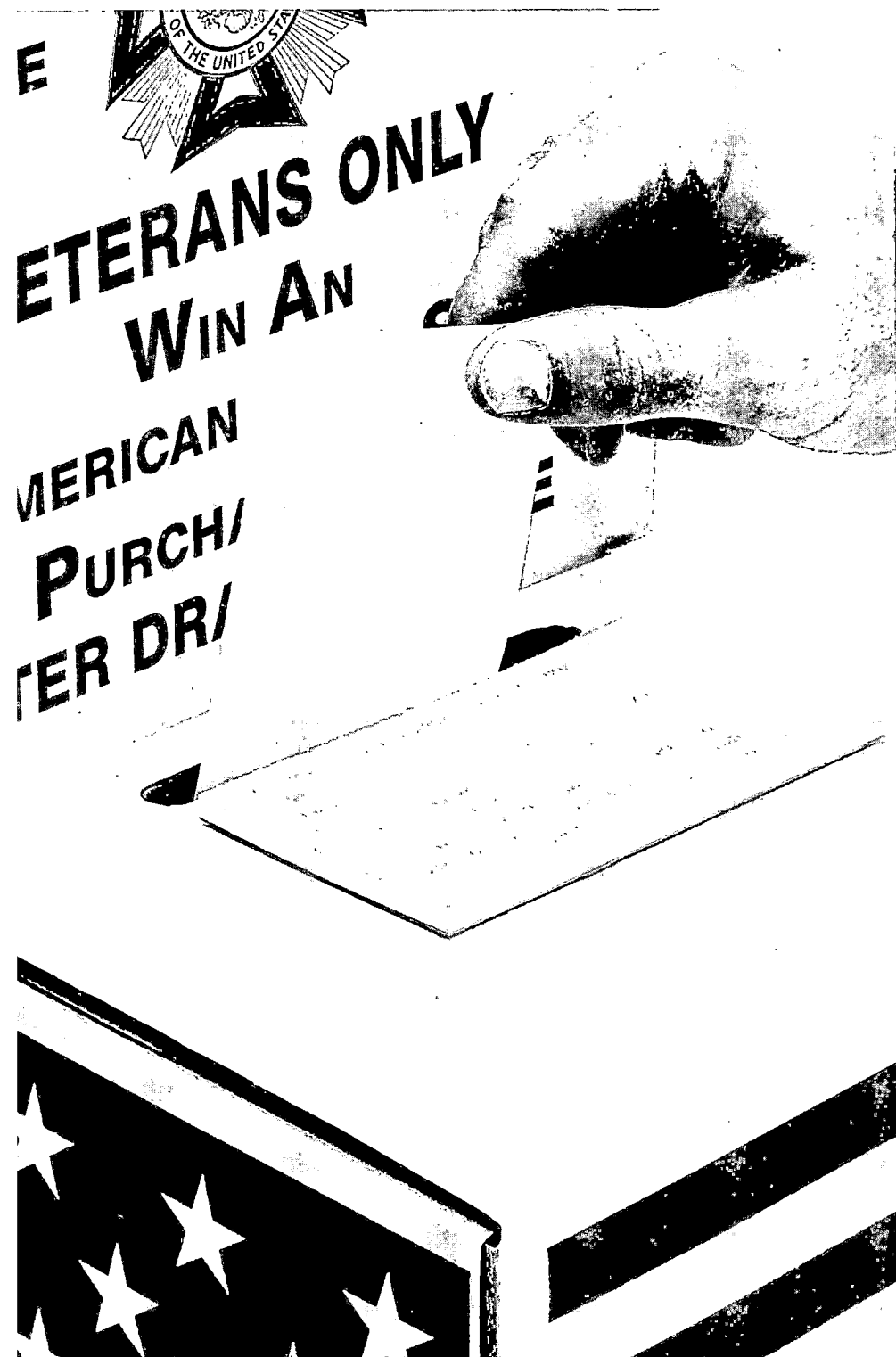
DIRECTOR W. BENNY BACHAND

Squadron meetings in July.

Every Commander was informed of our Project 60 program to get every Post, District and County Council to report a minimum of 60% by Sept. 30, 1987, and details of the year-long Win Stock in Membership were explained.

Our first membership report in September showed a 30,674 gain in membership. The Project 60 award program showed an increase in the number of Posts, Districts, County Councils and Departments surpassing 60% as of this date as the program





Many veterans in our communities are eligible for VFW membership but do not now belong. Strangely enough, the same old tune is still being heard when you ask a veteran why he hasn't joined sooner. "Nobody ever asked me." Doesn't that sound familiar? It is your job and mine to bring the message that the VFW is working hard in the area of veteran affairs and that they are invited to join and lend their numerical strength to our cause.

We must be flexible enough to accept new ways to bolster our ranks and increase our effectiveness to the veterans of this country. The Shotgun Mailer and Silent Recruiter are just two ways to accomplish this goal.

It is impossible to predict what our membership status will be on Feb. 29, but it is certain that much work will remain before we can register our 33rd year of membership growth.

Every comrade present for this conference must leave here determined that he or she will do something personally and immediately to help the membership growth of his or her Department. Check with your Post officers, and if your Post is not well ahead of last year's total membership, help organize a campaign to realize this goal.

If your Post is failing, first things first. Put your own Post over the top. After making sure that your own Post is in good condition, offer your assistance to your County Council, District and Department.

Your present status in the VFW is proof positive that you possess the qualifications and ingredients so necessary to leadership. You have the knowledge and desire to be of service. These attributes will ensure complete success for our organization.

In closing, let me remind you again that much still remains to be done in the field of membership recruiting and retention between now and June 30. Time is on our side, and what we do with this time will determine the final success of our 1988 membership year.

# NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE

The first session of the historic 100th Congress convened Jan. 6, 1987, and adjourned Dec. 22, 1987. The first few months of the first session were devoted almost exclusively 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 last year's level, the VFW was quick to point out this increase will 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 Veterans' Affairs Committees listened to the VFW's suggestions and recommendations and arrived at a more realistic funding level for the Veterans Administration. At our urging, the Congress did endorse the Administration's proposal for an estimated 4.2% increase in dis-

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 provide specifically 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. In the box below is the line item breakdown of the \$27.024 billion Fiscal Year 1988 VA Appropriation.

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. That was making the New GI Bill a permanent program. While there have been four previous programs of educational entitlements 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

CHAIRMAN CLYDE A. LEWIS  
DIRECTOR JAMES N. MAGILL

ability compensation and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) to be effective Dec. 1, 1987. Our voice was also heard when the Congress rejected proposals which would automatically index compensation to the Consumer Price Index, change VA health-care eligibility by removing Category C patients from the rolls, increase the GI home loan funding fee to 2.5% and create more stringent eligibility requirements for the cemetery plot allowance.

## 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 to the Republic of the Philippines .....	480,000
Loan Guaranty Revolving Fund .....	389,800,000

their 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 (P.L. 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.

The new law also contains a variety of other provisions designed to continue and improve the ongoing program.

It exempts the home-loan program from automatic across-the-board budget cuts under Gramm-Rudman-Hollings sequestration inasmuch as the loan guarantees do not require direct federal outlays.

It ensures that the 1% user fee on

all loans guaranteed, insured or made by the Veterans Administration will not be increased during the next two years.

The VA will now be required to provide counseling to veterans who have fallen behind on their mortgage payments, as well as providing veterans with information on possible options and obligations.

A veteran homeowner will receive extra protection should his loan be assumed and go into default. The new law requires credit underwriting on prospective purchasers who wish to assume the original loan. It provides the veteran with automatic release from liability so long as the lender is advised and the purchaser agrees by contract to assume full responsibility for the loan. Purchasers will be required to pay a .5% loan fee.

The new law alters occupancy requirements by allowing a veteran, military service member or spouse to refinance a loan whether or not any of them reside in the home.

Prefabricated houses will require a 5% down payment. The mortgage on these houses can be guaranteed up to 40% of the loan or \$20,000, whichever is less.

P.L. 100-198 authorizes non-profit organizations to help homeless veterans and their families by purchasing homes foreclosed by the VA at a discount. These homes would then be utilized as shelters for unfortunate homeless veterans and their families.

It authorizes lenders to determine the reasonable value of a property for the purpose of determining the amount of the VA guaranty, if the lender is approved by the VA to make such loans.

Congress also approved and sent to the President legislation, H.R. 2945, which provides for a 4.2% cost-of-living adjustment 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 Com-

ensation (DIC) paid to spouses and children of veterans who have died of service-related causes.

In addition, the bill extends for six months the application deadline for the Veterans' Job Training Act from Dec. 31 through June 30. The Veterans' Job Training Act partly reimburses employers who train and hire longterm unemployed Korean War and Vietnam Era veterans. Since it became operational in November, 1983, this veterans' employment program placed more than 57,000 veterans in jobs.

H.R. 2945 also increases from 2,500 to 3,500 the cap on the number of vocational-training evaluations which the Veterans Administration may provide to veterans under 50 who receive new awards of VA nonservice-connected disability pension.

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 mentioned already affecting veterans employment so as to achieve enactment during the first session of the 100th Congress. The committees will continue their negotiations on the remaining provisions of H.R. 2945 at the outset of the second session of the 100th Congress.

As the second session of the 100th Congress progresses, we expect our lawmakers again to focus their efforts on improving VA entitlement programs and health-care services. Important legislation is already pending to:

- Compensate veterans exposed to radiation during nuclear-weapons testing and during U.S. occupation of Nagasaki and Hiroshima as a result of World War II. (The VFW has a resolution supporting this action.)

- Resolve finally the Agent Orange controversy continued. (A bill now pending would require the VA to establish a scientific review

of the health effects of the herbicide and report the results to Congress.)

■ Add several new diseases to the list of presumptive disabilities associated with the prisoner-of-war experience. (It is thought that compensation should be paid to former POWs who suffer from peripheral neuropathy, peptic ulcers, irritable bowel syndrome and systemic lupus erythematosus.)

Also to be addressed in the second session of the 100th Congress is legislation to provide some form of testing for drug use within the Veterans Administration which would fall in line with testing at all other federal agencies.

It would provide voluntary AIDS tests to VA patients under 40, patients being treated for intravenous drug use and patients receiving treatment for any disease associated with the AIDS virus. This bill also would increase the number of mobile health-care clinics operated by the VA to serve veterans living in rural areas better.

Several other bills of particular concern to the VFW are awaiting further action in the second session of the 100th Congress. One would ensure that the Korean War Memorial be placed in a prominent location within the border of Washington, D.C. During the 99th Congress, legislation was enacted which placed strict guidelines as to where monuments and memorials may be erected in and around our nation's capital. Under this 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. To place the Korean War Memorial within the more prominent Area I, Congress must grant an exemption to P.L. 99-652.

The VFW was the only veterans' organization to testify before a con-

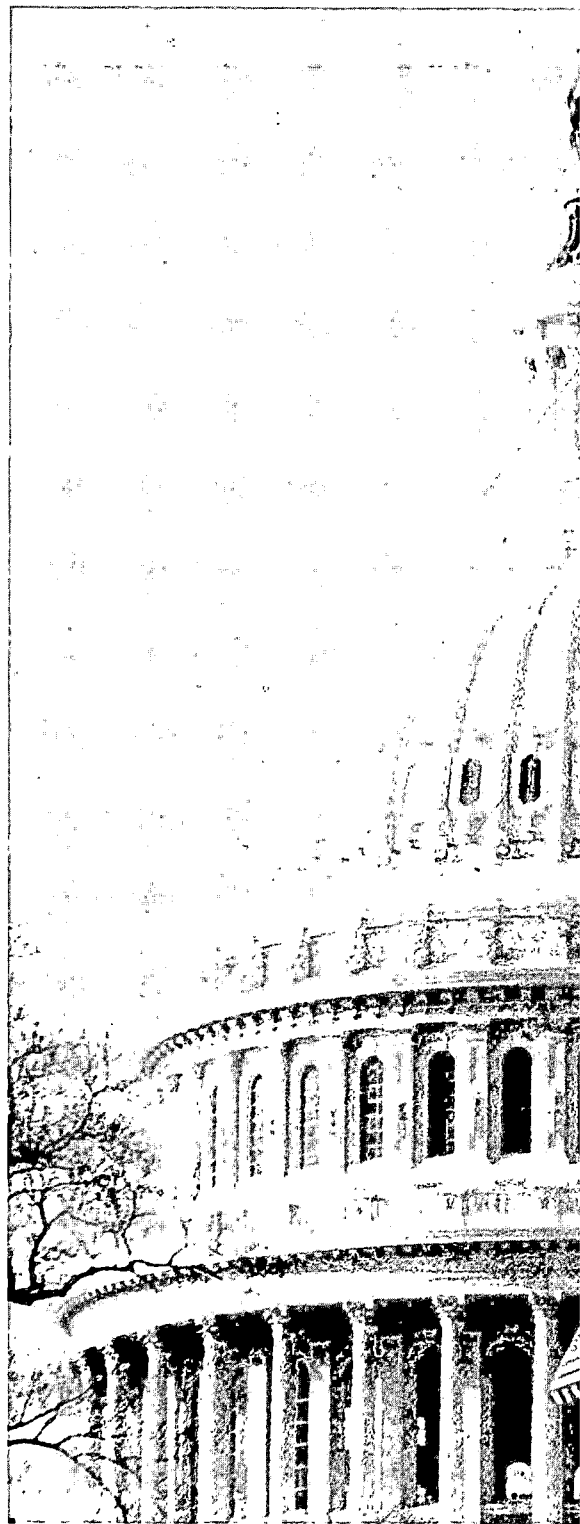
cerned subcommittee of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs when a hearing was held on this crucial step in the realization of the Korean War Memorial.

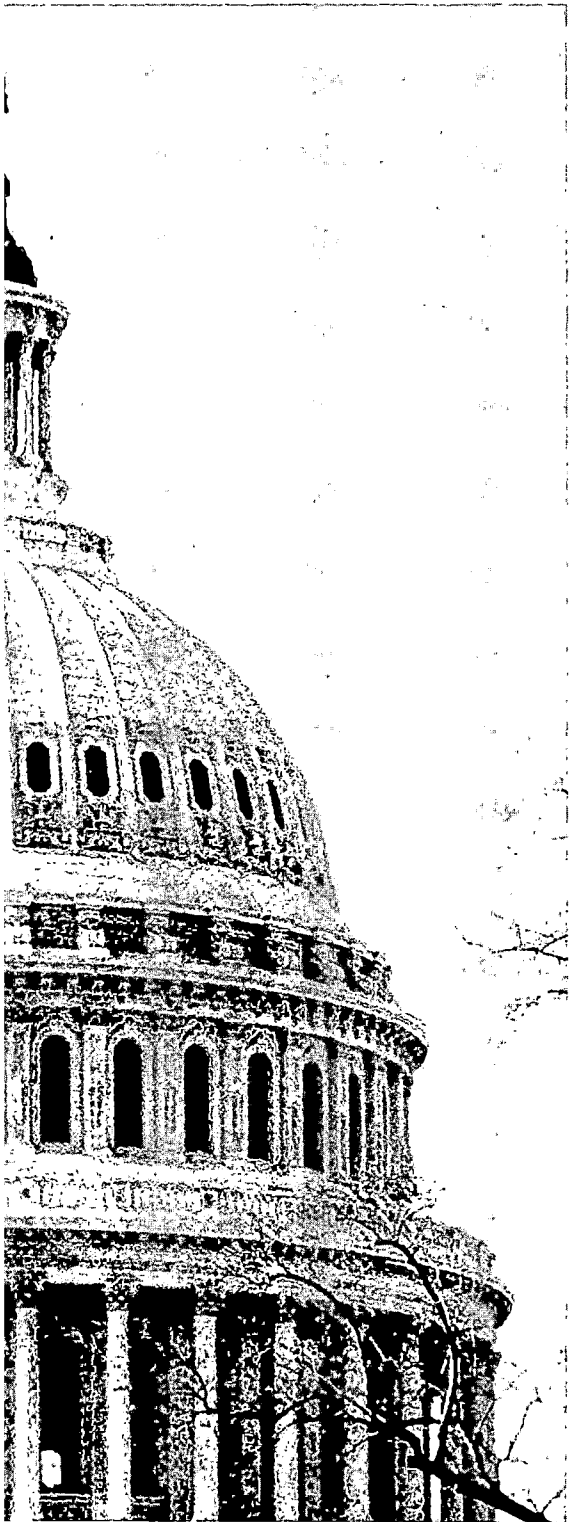
Unfortunately, the close of the first session of the 100th Congress saw a setback for the Vietnam Women's Memorial. In a surprise move, the Fine Arts Commission rejected the placement of a statue of a woman Vietnam veteran at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. This action came after the project was endorsed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, as well as all the other major veterans' organizations, Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and many members of Congress.

As a result of this deeply disappointing decision by the commission, Sens. David Durenberger and Alan Cranston, as well as Rep. Sam Gejdenson, have 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 of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, has indicated he will hold a hearing on the Durenberger and Cranston bills early in the second session of the 100th Congress. While these two pieces of legislation differ, a compromise agreement has been reached, and legislation will emerge from the committee reflecting this agreement.

Other bills pending would increase the burial allowance for certain veterans, increase payments to state-run veterans homes, give increased funds for adaptive housing and eliminate the offset of military retired pay for VA compensation.

Aside from the FY '89 budget, the most important piece of veterans' legislation facing the second session of the 100th Congress will be the establishment of the Veterans Administration as a federal department. Never have we





been as close as we are today to achieving this longstanding VFW priority goal.

While legislation has been introduced during the last 12 Congresses to elevate the VA to a Cabinet-level executive department, only in the first session of the 100th Congress has it advanced. After a monumental and successful effort by the VFW to convince a majority of the House of Representatives to cosponsor this historical legislation, the bill was reported out of committee and overwhelmingly approved by the full House. Just prior to House passage, President Reagan summoned veteran's organization leaders to the White House where he congratulated them and enthusiastically endorsed the proposal.

The United States Senate has similar legislation pending. Just prior to the adjournment of the first session of the 100th Congress, the Senate Committee on Government Affairs conducted an oversight hearing on elevating the VA to a federal department. At this hearing, the committee chairman made a commitment to continue the hearing early in the second session of the 100th Congress. With over half of the Senate cosponsoring the legislation, it appears the VA will finally receive the recognition and status it so richly deserves.

Even though there is strong agreement in the Administration, the Congress, the Veterans' Administration, the VFW and all the other major veterans' service organizations to designate the VA as an executive department, there has now suddenly come upon the scene a group of people who are as vehement in their opposition to the proposal as they are misinformed and misguided in their thinking. These instant experts are voicing their distorted views in the form of commentaries and editorials in newspapers throughout the nation. As incredible as it may seem, they are arguing that veterans do not deserve or need to be represented at the highest level of government. In

every point they make in opposition to elevating the Veterans Administration to a Cabinet-level department, a counterpoint is clearly superior and more rational.

The VFW will continue to work with our friends in Congress to bring the truth forward in that the VA, veterans and, in fact, the entire nation will be better served with the Veterans Administration being a federal department.

# NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**“T**wo 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.

“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 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-in-Chief 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.

CHAIRMAN FR. ALBERT SALMON  
DIRECTOR KENNETH A. STEADMAN

Chief Stock met with members of Congress when he outlined our veterans' and national security positions. The Chief went on record soon afterward in urging a stronger Coast Guard:

“A short-term solution to this year's budgetary problem will impose a long-term problem that is without easy solution on one of the nation's most valuable services. 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, the Chief discussed the U.S. role and mission in the Persian Gulf. The discussion led him to urge the Pentagon to recognize the contribution of our servicemen and women:

Later, 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.

As Secretary of Defense, Weinberger earned and enjoyed the support of the VFW for his leadership in a strong national defense. It was fitting that when he announced his resignation, the VFW's Commander-in-Chief praised him for his work.

Stock said: “In an era of ever-increasing challenges to our security, Mr. Weinberger has worked hard to meet these challenges. He has improved the morale, readiness and capability of our Armed Forces and earned the respect and thanks of all Americans for his energy and determination...Mr. Weinberger has our sincere appreciation for a job well-done.”

This year, Commander-in-Chief Stock has committed himself to working closely with members of Congress on the POW/MIA issue. Following the mandates of the resolutions passed at the 88th National Convention, Commander-in-Chief Stock wrote members of Congress to outline the VFW position and to encourage their continued efforts.

“As Commander-in-Chief of the more than 2 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I want to commend you and the members of your subcommittee for your determination to pursue our goal of the fullest possible accounting of our comrades still missing in action.

“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 General 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.”

Stock also was encouraged by U.S. action to bring a foreign terrorist suspect to the United States for trial. When the FBI captured a suspected terrorist in territorial waters, Chief Stock supported the action by reminding that “the Veterans of Foreign Wars has been pushing our government to take the offensive against these terrorists who haunted 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.”

But the Commander-in-Chief was critical when the U.S. government was inactive in responding to another foreign affairs concern. When both the State Department and Congress failed to speak out against the repression of Tibetans' freedom demonstrations by the Chinese Communists, Stock urged action. In letters to

Secretary of State George Shultz and Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Claiborne Pell, he noted, what he considered 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," he wrote. "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.

"I urge you to get our government solidly behind the effort to stop this genocide and help secure freedom for the people of Tibet."

When Soviet Party Chief Mikhail Gorbachev was invited to address a joint session of Congress, the Commander-in-Chief called on President Reagan to maintain his firm stance against Communism and not provide the dictator of an oppressive regime the distinction of being the first Communist leader to address a joint session of Congress.

He also urged the Administration and the Congress to come to terms on the proper speaking forum for General Secretary Gorbachev's visit so that it does not become a shameful global embarrassment because of differences between the White House and Congressional leaders.

"Mr. Gorbachev is coming here to sign an arms control agreement," he said. "Let's not get wrapped up in the euphoria of *glasnost*. Certainly, there are other alternatives for him to give a message to the American people rather than 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."

The Washington Reagan-Gorbachev Summit was closely watched by the VFW's Commander-in-Chief. After he examined the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty 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 always will 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.

"I am pleased to inform you the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States endorses the proposed INF Treaty and urges the Senate to ratify this agreement."

As the issue of Communism in Central America was renewed during the end of year budget debate, Chief

Stock threw his support behind continuing aid to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters. After discussing the issue with Central American leaders and U.S. officials, the Commander-in-Chief had this to say: "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 Central America.

"Costa Rica, with only 8,000 civil guardsmen, and Honduras, with only 23,000 military, are not a threat 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 noted 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.

"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."

Commander-in-Chief Stock has made new headway in our efforts to reach the goals set forth in our 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

**Y**our National Veterans Service last reported to you at the National Convention. Since then we have continued to focus our collective staff attention on a variety of challenges and events directly affecting veterans. Our skills have been particularly tested since our Commander-in-Chief has a personal background in service work and a solid commitment to looking out for the interests of our veterans and dependents in need. Therefore, his call For America . . . Whatever It Takes! has a particular relevance for those of us on your National Veterans Service staff.

The VFW has been particularly concerned with the quality and timeliness of decisions rendered by the Veterans Administration Department of Veterans Benefits (DVB). That agency, which determines any entitlement to benefits administered by the VA, has been significantly and progressively reduced in numbers over the last decade. There has been no similar falling off of numbers of veteran claimants. To compensate for these personnel shortages, the DVB has committed itself to increased training and computer modernization in an effort to prevent a deterioration in quality of

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CHAIRMAN CLIFFORD G. OLSON JR.  
DIRECTOR FREDERICO JUARBE JR.

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decisions made and timeliness in terms of notification to the veteran. The VFW feels that, barring unusual circumstances, 90 days from date of filing to notification of a benefit decision ought to be standard. Unhappily, 120 days seems to be the norm in most VA Regional Offices.

This variance from the desirable goal has been made known to the Congress by the VFW. The substance of that testimony was obtained through a survey of our

nationwide network of Department Service Officers. Each was asked to comment on the training, knowledge and adequacy of strength levels of adjudication personnel with whom they interacted. The DSOs were also polled regarding timeliness of decisions on claims filed by them on behalf of a veteran claimant. We have reiterated our concerns regarding training and timeliness both in letters and in personal meetings with the Chief Benefits Director and the Director of Compensation and Pension. This is an issue which you can expect the VFW to keep on the front burner as long as is necessary.

In that same vein, although we have long been promised computer modernization and sophistication, DVB has so far not shown us much. The antiquated system now in use is unable to take up the slack in terms of compensating for significant adjudication personnel reductions. We have patiently listened to a number of rosy scenarios describing computer modernization planning which will bring DVB up to par. However, we have not seen much action. We are not letting go of this issue and are reminding the VA of the action portion of the Commander-in-Chief's motto, ". . . Whatever It Takes!"

We have reported our disappointment in other of our VFW publications on the matter of the current standstill regarding Agent Orange. The VFW remains committed to resolve this issue one way or another. However long it takes!

We share the understandable disappointments of those veterans exposed to dioxins in view of the so far seemingly impossible task of establishing a scientific relationship between exposure and physical problems. A particular blow to the research effort was the announcement last fall by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that there was no discernable difference in dioxin levels in the blood serum of veterans exposed to herbicides in Vietnam and veterans who had served elsewhere.

The VFW is not going to let the matter rest. We have once again taken the initiative to keep this issue at the forefront. In a letter to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, the VFW urged the VA take up where the CDC left off. Since some 250,000 veterans submitted themselves for examination to the VA claiming exposure to Agent Orange, we feel they deserve another look. Therefore, the VFW has recommended that the VA test those veterans on its Agent Orange Registry to determine dioxin levels in their blood serum as did the CDC. If there are those among them with high dioxin levels, they can be monitored medically to determine any commonality of medical conditions affecting them. At the very least, those electing to be tested will have a record of exposure should the Congress enact legislation establishing presumptive service connection for certain conditions due to exposure. The VFW has taken this action to reassure our Vietnam veterans that we still agonize with them in the search for a solution to this problem which has been so troubling for many.

As was the case last year, four of the major veterans' service organizations have jointly prepared an alternate proposal for a Fiscal Year

1989 Veterans Administration budget. It was based on need as we saw it and still took into account realistic fiscal constraints. The first effort, last year, devoted itself exclusively to VA Department of Medicine and Surgery appropriations. This year the Veterans' Service Organization Independent Budget encompassed all areas of the Veterans Administration. Under the guidance of the Executive Director of the VFW Washington Office, your National Veterans Service staff had devoted substantial time and effort in the development of that alternative budget proposal. Release of the document was timed to coincide with the issuance of the President's budget.

The Veterans' Service Organization Independent Budget is as closely reasoned as possible and forms the basis for our collective judgment of the adequacy of the President's budget for the VA. Although we cannot precisely qualify the impact of this Independent Budget on Capitol Hill, we know that it is considered to be a serious and thoughtful commentary on the needs of the Veterans Administration, if that agency is to provide for our veterans. The results of that effort already have been distributed, and its impact, it is hoped, will be felt prior to the Washington Conference.

Your National Veterans Service has finally achieved a long-sought goal to have six Field Representatives in place and trained to upgrade the VFW's capability to survey the 172 VA Medical Centers and other VA facilities nationwide.

Training of the newest addition to the Field Representative staff was completed in January, 1988, and we are off and running. This increased capability gives us the flexibility to reduce the time length between our survey visits and ensure a highly visible VFW presence in the field.

Of particular interest to our Field Representatives is the level and quality of geriatric care provided to the aging veteran population, whose

numbers are growing. As a followup to our constant pressure on the Chief Medical Director and the Administrator to prepare to meet the demand of aging veterans, our Field Representatives serve as watchdogs on the scene. During their visits to the various medical centers they examine in detail the provisions made by the facility to accommodate the special needs of aging veterans. We are especially interested in actions being taken to obviate the need for inpatient hospital care. They are particularly sensitive to any hint of early discharge from care without adequate supportive measures to maintain a reasonable quality of life in the home setting, for example. The VFW is encouraging the VA to explore a variety of means to identify early on those afflictions to which the aged are particularly vulnerable, provide for the necessary treatment and return the veteran to as high a level of function as is practicable. The heretofore elusive good quality of life for the aged is very much possible for most in these final years of the 20th century. The VFW intends to see that a combination of technology, research, commitment and compassion are brought to bear by the VA to deliver this great promise.

We have learned from a Veterans Administration statistical analysis that the number of volunteers serving our nation's veterans is decreasing along with the number of hours they provide that service. We are pleased to report to you that those same statistics indicated a slight increase in the participation of the VFW in the Veterans Administration Voluntary Service (VAVS) which runs counter to the national trend. This selfless program, coordinated by your National Veterans Service staff, is a major component of our organization's effort to serve the needs of veterans. During this past year, we have instituted a VAVS Newsletter, prepared in our Washington Office and distributed widely among our VFW volunteers. This publication is another step in

our continuing outreach to these dedicated people. Central to its purpose is recognition of a job well done and cementing the sense of camaraderie among those who serve their fellows so well. Those among you at this Conference who wear VFW pins, recognizing hours of voluntary service, deserve a special nod of recognition. The need for volunteers is still great, and we encourage one and all to contact the VFW VAVS Representative at the nearest VA Medical Center and make a commitment to join the team. That would truly be doing For America . . . Whatever It Takes!

The National Veterans Service Proficiency Training Conferences continue to bring together our VFW Department Service Officers semi-annually. The most recent training conference was held in Nashville, Tenn., from Sept. 28 through Oct. 2, 1987. These intensive sessions, designed to hone the skills of your National Veterans Service staff and VFW Department Service Officers, will enhance the level of professional representation accorded to our veterans. It is always difficult to quantify a training program in terms of results. Almost by accident, however, we were privy to the VA's recognition of the value of increased training. In a letter from the Administrator last fall to Rep. G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery, Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, a higher level of Veterans Service Officers training was singled out as significantly impacting on decisions made by the Board of Veterans Appeals. In part that letter stated, "Improved training and resource and staffing changes (on the part of Service Officers) clearly have resulted in enhanced representational services to veterans and their dependents." It is always nice to know that the agency with which we interact in the veterans' claims process acknowledges improved effort. Your Department Service Officers are unanimous in their agreement that this training is preparing them better to represent you, or someone like you.

## POST DEVELOPMENT

**T**he Annual VFW Mid-Winter Conference in Washington brings the leaders of our organization together to evaluate our current policies and programs, as well as formulate plans to insure success in our future endeavors.

Webster's New World Dictionary defines development as "a step or stage in growth." Applied to the VFW's new Post Development Program, no other definition could be more appropriate. To a large degree, the growth of our organization depends on new Post Development. Just as major businesses follow population trends, so must the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The national organization has available to assist Departments two most effective recruiting aids for use in the formulation of new Posts: the "Shotgun Mailer" and "Silent Recruiter." Both are available from National Headquarters and are proven to be the easiest methods of attracting new veterans into the ranks of the VFW. As of Dec. 21, 1987, National Headquarters received 177 new Post Charters for the current year. These new VFW Posts have contributed 4,464 members, of whom 4,327 are new and reinstated.

Chartering new Posts is a high priority and a major factor in accom-

plish the desired results for the VFW. When the Post Development Program was started Sept. 1, 1965, it was then known as Post Extension. Since the birth of this vital program, 5,135 new Posts have been chartered and the retention rate is 76.57% for these Posts.

provide a local point of contact for many disabled veterans, widows and dependents who need assistance in filing Veterans Service claims. These VFW Posts act as a center of influ-

ence for veterans who have no knowledge of the rights and entitlements the government provides for them or of the day-to-day changes in these benefits.

Another important factor in new Post formation is the increase in overall VFW membership. This clearly indicates to political leaders on all levels that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is expanding and working for America's veterans, no matter what it takes!

NATIONAL CHIEF OF STAFF  
PAUL E. WAMPLER, JR.  
DIRECTOR JOSEPH D. ROSS

lishing the desired results for the VFW. When the Post Development Program was started Sept. 1, 1965, it was then known as Post Extension. Since the birth of this vital program, 5,135 new Posts have been chartered and the retention rate is 76.57% for these Posts.

These new Posts represent 5,135 more communities and areas where we can promote and provide our Americanism, Youth, Voice of Democracy, Safety, Buddy Poppy and Community Activities Programs. They



# POST SERVICES

**T**he office of Post Services is charged with the responsibility for the collection, recording, maintenance and storage of the official records of our nearly 10,000 Posts.

The annual Post Election Report is the primary source of information from which the roster 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 nearly 10,000 Posts.

The importance of the Post Election Report in the maintenance of the Officer file is paramount. Without the information provided in this 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 ongoing 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.

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DIRECTOR THOMAS L. KISSELL

# PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

**T**he VFW Magazine continues to be a leader among all fraternal and civic organizations' publications in terms of advertising lineage, and last fiscal year it set a new record in ad revenues. As of this writing, ad revenues are up approximately \$70,000 over last year's record.

The advertising representative for the magazine, PABCO, Inc., has been attempting to interest clients in defense- and travel-related industries with noticeable success.

This past October, a one-year printing contract for the magazine was signed with Maxwell, Inc. (formerly Webb Co.), of St. Paul, Minn., after spirited bidding by many of the nation's largest printing firms. For the past five years, Maxwell, Inc., has played a key role in the continuing upgrade of your magazine, a process that has earned praise from the magazine industry.

The publications office continues to produce the Communicator (nine times yearly) and edit the Washington Action Reporter (monthly), in addition to revising a number of other organizational pamphlets and brochures.

Comrades, the publications distributed, not only from the National Headquarters and Washington Office but from various levels of the organization, represent one of the

CHAIRMAN HOWARD SILBER  
DIRECTOR WADE LADUE

foremost means of communicating with the membership-at-large.

A determined effort is made to maintain subject balance so that all may stay apprised of issues concerning veterans, national security, membership, legislation, youth activities and all the other aspects of VFW activity. Pass these publications around; post them on bulletin boards where appropriate; leave them in waiting rooms and send them to VA and military facilities. By doing these extra things, we can enlarge our audience and let

other veterans know what the VFW does.

Finally, notifications have been sent announcing the 1988 VFW Publications Competition. Entries must be sent to the respective Department first for screening and consolidation in order to arrive at National Headquarters by April 4. An advance word of appreciation is extended to the many editors throughout the organization who have noticeably improved their publications this year for the ultimate benefit of the reader.

Following the 88th National Convention in New Orleans, the public relations operations in both Kansas City and Washington, D.C., have focused on the momentum generated in the Crescent City and an outstanding membership year.

Initiatives taken since last August have included the reissue of a national TV public service announcement focused on Thanksgiving; videotaping of the Convention slide production; purchase of added videotape equipment for internal productions; continued production of articles for the North American Precis Syndicate for distribution to 7,000 newspapers and 5,000 broadcasters.

Other actions include:

- Organization highlight tape
- Preparation of more than 80 speeches for specific events and individuals
- Responses to a substantial number of media queries
- Travel with chair officers
- Producing 1988 Flying Squadron and National Convention video programs
- Coordination of several special

events in Washington, D.C.

- Distribution of more than 100 releases on organizational issues, events and appointments

This partial list of actions on the part of your Kansas City Headquarters and Washington Office shows how the P & PR Department contributes toward furthering every aspect of the organization. Public relations plays a major role in this. But what is the overall game plan?

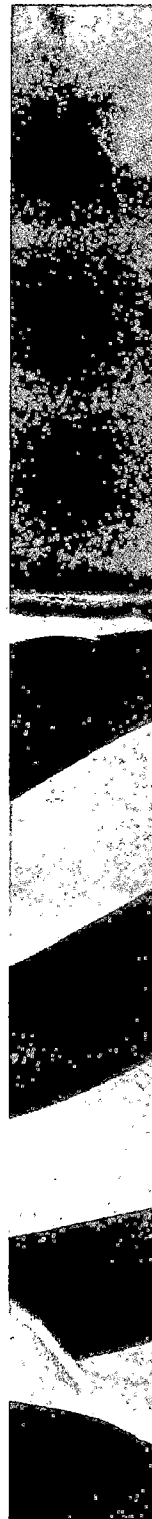
The public relations office serves two main audiences. First is the membership. Second are the general public and eligible non-member. Internal publications such as the VFW Magazine, Communicator, Washington Action Reporter, brochures and various mailings help keep the membership informed, as do personal appearances by the chair officers, speeches, meetings, conventions and the like.

Externally, news releases, public service announcements, media appearances and speeches to outside groups help keep the public informed. Of course, news generated by Posts, Districts, County Councils and Departments on the local and regional level is extremely important in "telling the VFW story."

Comrades, every program we have, be it membership, youth activities, veterans service, legislation and so on, has a very decided public relations impact. In other words, everything we do is designed to inform or influence public opinion so that all may understand what the VFW is, what it does, and why it supports the issues it does. All of us have a story to tell, no matter at what level of the organization. Let's do it.

For it is only by telling the VFW story the way it really is that the organization will continue to grow in membership, prestige and importance in such a way as to bring honor to the men and women who have served this country.

Remember also that the success of every VFW endeavor, whether it is on behalf of our communities, our nation or our veterans, begins with



# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

OCTOBER 1987

FOR  
**AMERICA,**  
WHATEVER  
IT TAKES

you. As the individual member, your contribution, added to those of the more than 2 million men and women who wear the Cross of Malta emblem, is what makes this organization great.

Tell the story, for it is a great one — one of dedication, achievement and devotion.

Two reminders: All who are involved with publications and public relations are encouraged to attend and participate in the P&PR seminar during this conference.

Finally, once again the VFW press room will be located with the office of the Adjutant General in the Idaho Room of the Sheraton Washington Hotel. The office will be publishing daily summaries of meeting activities and distributing available speeches. All are reminded, however, that a complete set of this material will be mailed to every Department following the conference.

# SAFETY

**T**his Washington Conference marks the 39th consecutive year the National and Department leadership of our great organization has assembled in the nation's capital. It is a time when our leaders gather to examine and evaluate our accomplishments and shortcomings, as well as to formulate plans that insure the continued success of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

We are proud of the safety-oriented community services provided by the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary. At the Post level, we are actively conducting and participating in six major Safety Programs by presenting or sponsoring these programs, making communities across the nation and overseas safer places in which to live.

**Drug Abuse:** Combatting drug abuse in this nation is a task which requires and is worth the attention of every American. The VFW is eager to do its part to encourage each member to become aware of the problem, its causes and ways to control it.

Departments, Districts, Posts and their Ladies Auxiliaries have heeded the call to diminish and control the abuse of drugs in our society through education and communication with citizens of their respective areas.

CHAIRMAN PAUL R. FLEURDELYS  
DIRECTOR JOSEPH D. ROSS

Drug misuse or abuse is found in every sector of society. Nationwide, it is reaching into suburban communities and small towns. It is also becoming a tragic commonplace in schools across the country. It is particularly important that responsible people throughout the communities, especially parents, teachers, guardians and law enforcement officials, know basic facts about the drug problem so they can be alert to the signs of possible drug misuse and thus know when to seek expert help for the victims.

Special agents of the U.S. Department of Justice (Drug Enforcement) and specially-trained officers of state and municipal police agencies are eager to assist and share relevant information that is beneficial in each community.

**Bicycle Safety:** Safe Bicycling and Lite-A-Bike have joined to become Bicycle Safety.

The Lite-A-Bike project was established to increase safety among youths and adults who ride during dusk and darkness. Lite-A-Bike tape is a way of illuminating bicycles to make them visible to motorists and therefore save countless lives and prevent untold numbers of injuries.

Pre-cut strips of Scotchlite tape, sufficient to tape 50 bicycles, are now packaged in boxes that contain detailed instructions on how to apply the adhesive. To date, the VFW has taped over 30 million bicycles, and more than 9,000 VFW Posts have participated.

The VFW also is helping to reduce the number of bicycle accidents by bringing the safety program into the classrooms of local elementary schools to teach children the essentials of bicycle safety. The main areas covered are bicycle selection criteria and proper maintenance and development of the skills involved in riding a bicycle correctly. Knowledge and understanding of traffic rules and regulations are included.

Basic instruction is provided in three sound filmstrips which show children facing a variety of bicycling situations. The comprehensive teach-

er's manual contains the narration of each filmstrip and includes objectives, discussion, guidelines and suggestions for student activities. You will find this program easy to use. No previous experience is needed.

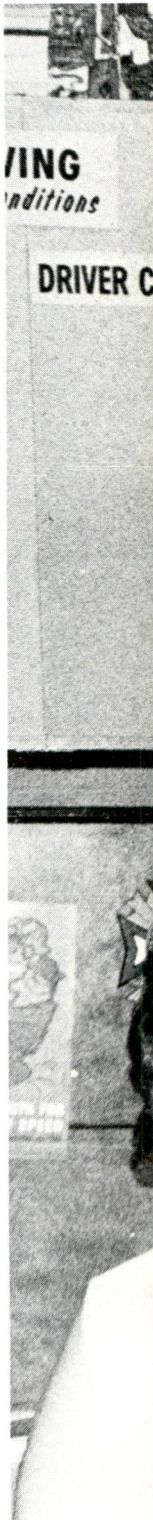
**Home Protection:** The Home Protection Program, consisting of fire prevention and home security, provides checklists for distribution in your community.

The home security checklist is designed to help you make a security check of your home. Every year more than 6 million burglaries are committed in American homes. The purpose of such an inspection is to identify features in your home or in the daily routine of your family which might make your home an easy target for a burglar. You should start at your front door and inspect all your doors and windows, garages, locks, lights and landscaping. Call your local law enforcement agency if you would like professional advice and assistance in carrying out a thorough home security inspection.

The intent of the fire prevention checklist is to reduce the possibility of a fire starting in your home. Be sure to inspect your home several times a year by beginning in the basement and working your way up. Fire destroys more than \$900 million worth of property each year. If you discover a fire in your home, notify the fire department immediately, even though it may seem minor when you first detect it. Remember that fires in homes kill more than 6,600 people a year, or an average of 18 a day.

National Headquarters has fire prevention checklists and home security checklists available for a nominal cost. These checklists can be distributed to residences or at meetings and seminars.

**Drive To Survive:** With the death and injury rate continuing to increase each year in nearly every community of the nation, it becomes apparent that the only way to reverse this trend is to seek the cooperation of all motor vehicle drivers and provide them with information that makes good drivers become better drivers.





This abbreviated three-hour course of instruction is a VFW Safety Program offered free of charge to all citizens. Its purpose is to increase the knowledge and improve the attitudes of drivers to reduce the number of motor vehicle accidents and how and why various types of accidents occur. Safe driving requires the adoption of an attitude and determination to take every reasonable precaution, over and above those which are required by law, to prevent traffic mishaps. Use of law enforcement officers as instructors is suggested and recommended.

**Public Recognition And Commendation:** Throughout America, fire fighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical technicians serve around the clock to safeguard the lives and property of others as they unselfishly risk their lives by combatting innumerable obstacles and all types of weather conditions while performing their duties.

Their outstanding contributions above and beyond the call of duty frequently go unnoticed or often are taken for granted. These prominent individuals deserve public acclaim for their unselfish endeavors. Let's pay tribute to each of these valuable men and women who endure constant danger and display high personal courage by presenting each one a Certificate of Appreciation. The standard text citations are available through the VFW Emblem and Supply Department at a minimum cost.

This year let us place emphasis on expanding this project by suggesting and recommending participation by Posts in each community.

**Hunter Safety:** The educational approach is the best method of reducing the number of firearm accidents. The Hunter Safety Program is designed to benefit hunters by emphasizing the importance of wildlife management laws and regulations and to learn safe handling of hunting equipment.

# VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

## The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program is conducted annually in the nation's secondary schools during the fall term of the school year by the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary.

"America's Liberty—Our Heritage," this year's theme, focused the attention of our youth on their obligation to strengthen and build upon the foundations of freedom started by the nation's Founding Fathers.

Leaders in government and education have been loud in their praise of the Voice of Democracy, for it encourages our nation's youth to think, write and speak up for freedom and democracy.

The Voice of Democracy Program has gained widespread acceptance by the public, private and parochial schools of this country. This year more than 300,000 young men and women from more than 6,000 secondary schools took time to reflect on their heritage and liberty and prepare and deliver a script on what they feel is "America's Liberty—Our Heritage."

Large numbers of Voice of Democracy winners have gone on to successful careers in a wide variety of fields. They are doctors, lawyers, military and naval officers, clergymen and government officials, and some have made their marks in broadcasting, radio and television. This is not

CHAIRMAN JACK MCISAAC  
DIRECTOR LAWRENCE LEFEBVRE

to be unexpected, however, for the Voice of Democracy has afforded them wide opportunities to realize their fullest potential.

National scholarships have been increased this year to \$42,000 with the first place winner receiving a \$16,000 scholarship to the college of his or her choice. The other awards are \$9,000 second place; \$6,000 third place; \$4,000 fourth place; \$3,000 fifth place; \$1,000 sixth place; and \$1,000 seventh place. The sixth place award of \$1,000 is donated by the Tallman Insurance Agency in memory

of Francis J. Tallman. The seventh place award is donated by Joseph O. Hansen, Past Department Commander of Maryland.

In addition to the increase in the monetary awards of scholarships, two more \$1,000 perpetual scholarships have been instituted. An eighth place award of \$1,000 to be known as the Robert A. Stock Memorial Scholarship has been donated by Commander-in-Chief Earl Stock in memory of his brother killed during World War II.

The ninth place award of \$1,000 is donated by Mrs. Doris Marshall in the name of her late husband, Walter. Both Doris and Walter have supported the Voice of Democracy for years in Montana, and Walter chaired the National Committee on three occasions.

Additionally, the monetary value of scholarships and awards presented at Post, County, District and Department levels amounted to more than \$1 million this year.

Each state winner receives an all-expense paid trip to the nation's capital during the VFW Washington Conference. The trip itself is an important lesson in democracy.

While in Washington, these winners have an opportunity to visit national shrines and monuments and observe firsthand the workings of the federal government. Getting to know their fellow contestants and dining with top ranking Administration officials add to an unforgettable experience for these young Americans.

Contributing to the success and growth of the Voice of Democracy Program has been the continuing support of the National and State Associations of Broadcasters. The expertise of educators and broadcasters has given a professional touch to this broadcast scriptwriting program. Broadcasters, school principals and

thousands of classroom teachers have been enthusiastic in their endorsement of the Voice of Democracy Program for providing a platform for the youth.

Voice of Democracy demonstrates the concern VFW members have for the creation of a better world for future generations. This program goes far towards its realization by encouraging young people to learn more about American democracy and the promise it holds for all mankind.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

**T**he VFW recognizes the youth of America as the nation's greatest asset and knows this country's future is dependent on the youth. The VFW realizes it has a responsibility during the young people's formative years to help them develop positive attitudes toward freedom and democracy. For more than two decades, the VFW National Youth Activities Committee has been engaged in the promotion of programs for youth. Each year it is committed to the development of more and better youth programs.

The committee's goal during 1988 is to strengthen and expand the major youth programs sponsored by the VFW: Sons of the VFW; Scouting; Youth Bowling; Junior Rifle; Youth Baseball; all other youth sports; ROTC; Child Identification; Special Olympics; Junior Olympics, and Youth Soccer.

**Sons of the VFW:** More than 500 Posts have organized Sons of the VFW Units since reactivation of this program in 1961. More than 300 Units have been formed during the last nine years. Posts in all 53 Departments sponsor Sons of the VFW Units. They provide sponsoring Posts with an ideal base for implementing a variety of youth activity programs. Membership comprises upwards of 20,000 boys.

**VFW and Scouting:** More than 1,500 VFW Posts sponsor Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Explorer units, and hundreds more support the VFW-BSA partnership program. Nearly 30,000 boys are currently enrolled in VFW-sponsored Scout units.

The VFW awards Woodbadge Training scholarships annually to 12 VFW members who are outstanding Scouters in each of the six Scout regions. These much sought after scholarships are a continuing incentive for VFW Scout leaders to stay active in the VFW-BSA partnership.

**Junior Rifle Program:** The VFW National Junior Rifle Program

enables boys and girls to receive training in gun safety and to experience the fellowship and competition of a rifle club activity.

Brochures and kits are available from National Headquarters explaining in detail how to start a Junior Rifle Club and how to enter the NRA-VFW Junior Rifle Postal Matches conducted annually. These matches provide individual and team competition.

**Youth Baseball:** More than 2,000 VFW Posts sponsor, support or participate in local, state or national youth baseball programs for varying age groups.

**Child Identification:** The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary have joined forces with Purolator Products, Inc., in promoting public awareness to combat the terrible crimes committed against missing and exploited children. By fingerprinting the nation's children and making parents aware of steps they can take to safeguard their children, the VFW is making the future secure by protecting America's greatest natural resources.

**Youth Bowling:** Youth Bowling programs sponsored by the VFW are designed to provide instruction for boys and girls in one of our principal lifetime sports and fun activities, as well as competition for youngsters in local league play. Hundreds of Posts sponsor youth bowling leagues.

**Special Olympics:** This is sport in its truest sense. The goal is not to win, but to try; to experience, not to conquer. No time is too slow, no distance too small to earn a ribbon, a hug, a cheer or a sincere "well done." No records are broken in Special Olympics, except those for courage, determination and sportsmanship.

**Junior Olympics:** This largest amateur sports program in the U.S. is open to every boy and girl from 8 to 18 who is interested in competing in any of 28 sports, regardless of skill, experience or formal training.

**American Youth Soccer Organization:** This is the largest independent organization in its field in the country with more than 250,000 players between 5 and 18 participating on more than 18,000 teams across the nation.

**Other Youth Programs:** Thousands of individual youth activity programs sponsored by VFW Posts have been documented in National Program Activity Reports.

In sponsorship, in promotion and in participation, when it comes to youth programs the VFW is for America — whatever it takes.

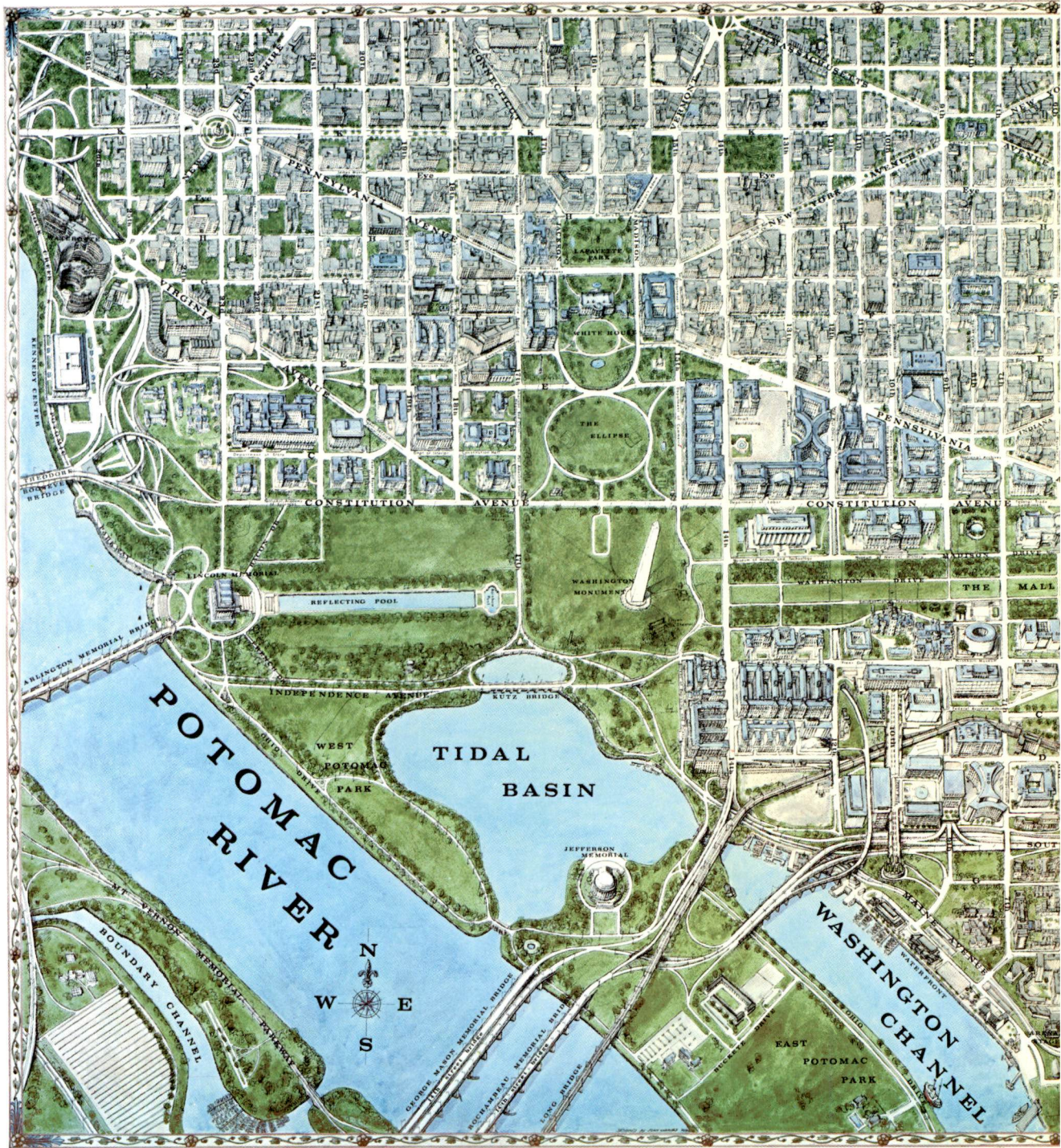
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CHAIRMAN GEORGE T. KELLEY  
DIRECTOR LAWRENCE LEFEBVRE

FOR  
**AMERICA,**  
WHATEVER  
IT TAKES

•





VFW SETS PRIORITY GOALS

DECEMBER 1988

# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

M A G A Z I N E

**DEC. 7, 1941**

**A DATE  
WHICH WILL  
LIVE IN  
INFAMY**

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TOP GRAIN LEATHER BELT		8.95	for sizes: 30 32 34 36 38 40 42 44	
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715	BELT COLOR	SIZE?	QTY?	PRICE
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SLACKS TOTAL	\$
*BIG MENS SLACKS ADD \$2.50 FOR EACH	
BELT TOTAL	
Postage & Handling	\$ 2.45
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$

# REMARKABLE NEW BANDAGE GIVES BLESSED RELIEF FROM PAIN IN HOURS AND DAYS!

**AMAZING NEW MEDICALLY APPROVED BANDAGE ELIMINATES PAIN AND RESTORES MOVEMENT THROUGH ELECTROSTATIC ACTION! RELIEVES AND ELIMINATES PAIN FROM ARTHRITIS ... RHEUMATISM ... BACKACHE ... SPORTS INJURIES ... SPINAL AND TENDON DISCOMFORT — AND MANY OTHER CAUSES! READ THE THRILLING DETAILS AND END YOUR PAIN WITHIN DAYS.**

Now at last one of the most fascinating medical stories of the 20th century can be told - for the benefit of those who suffer needlessly from pain and physical discomfort. In the 1960s medical scientists discovered that the application of an electrical "field" to painful areas of the body actually resulted in decrease or elimination of pain.

Using this information, Dr. W. Seuss of West Germany designed a series of bandages contoured to various body parts in which the synthetic foam interior was exposed to polarized electricity. The inventor patented the process under the name of MEDIPOLAN Bandages.

The bandages were then tested clinically under controlled scientific conditions by physicians who reported an absolutely amazing success rate. MEDIPOLAN Bandages are now available for the first time in the U.S.

## SPACE-AGE FABRIC

MEDIPOLAN Bandage is a lightweight, contour-shaped synthetic cloth material containing a thin foam center with a built-in, permanent electrostatic field activated by contact with the skin. There are NO batteries or wires, and the bandage is COMPLETELY safe - with NO side effects as in the case of many medications.

Test results show that easing of pain is obtained within an average of 12 hours after application of the bandage. Physicians report that "the bandages are pleasant to wear, fit well, and are much more hygienic than other remedies since they are washable." Bandages are adjustable to fit any size. Average weight of bandages is less than 3 ounces.

## How MEDIPOLAN Is Used -

MEDIPOLAN Bandages are permanently shaped to fit that part of the body where pain is felt. You apply the correct bandage, which remains in place without slipping or irritation. The electrical "field" goes to work at once, reducing the sensitivity of nerve endings and thus decreasing and eliminating pain.

This miracle is accomplished NOT by heat but by the amazing effect of an electrical "field" on the human body. Inflammation disappears, pain is eliminated and the affected area is useful again. And all this results within days or even hours!

## Continue Your Routine

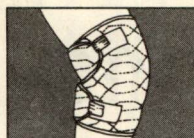
Wear the bandage while at work, play, leisure or sleeping. The electrical "field" remains constant and cannot be destroyed by washing. When pain disappears, discontinue the bandage. Use it again for some future problem - it will still work!

You carry your own medical equipment treatment with you wherever you are - right on the area that is paining you. Bandage is form-fitting and is virtually unnoticeable under clothing.

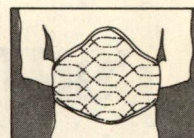
Now you can replace expensive medicinal and physical treatments with a simple, tested bandage that can be worn comfortably for hours, so that you can reduce your medicinal dosage and its side effects. Excellent for thermal comfort too!

## Many Applications

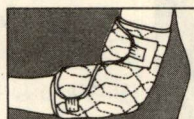
MEDIPOLAN banishes pain in UPPER ANKLES...KNEE and ELBOW JOINTS... LIGAMENT DISORDERS...TENDON and MUSCLE...RHEUMATIC DISEASES... ARTHRITIS...SPORTS INJURIES...SPINAL and BACK PAIN...SPRAINS...POOR POSTURE.



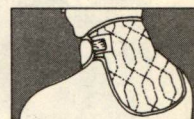
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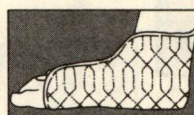
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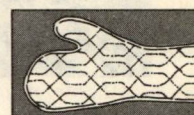
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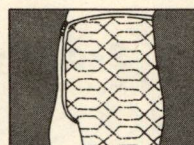
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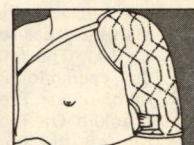
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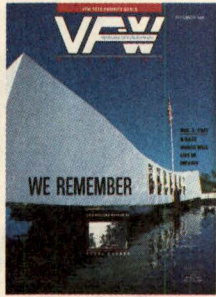
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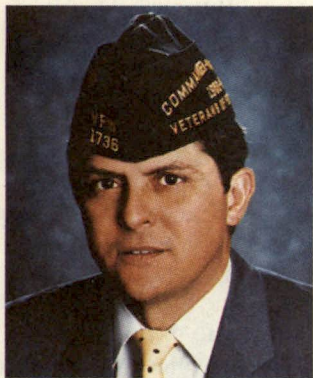
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# Cabinet-Status at Last



Photo By William G. Smith

With Rep. Gerald Solomon, ranking minority member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in the foreground, President Reagan signs the bill creating a Cabinet-level department out of the VA. Standing behind them are Rep. Bob McEwen, a HVAC member; VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage; Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery, HVAC chairman; Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt, HVAC member, and Rep. Frank Horton, ranking minority member of House Government Operations Committee. VFW official representatives at the ceremony at Fort McNair were Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James L. Kimery and Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office.



By Larry W. Rivers  
VFW Commander-in-Chief

**W**hen President Reagan signed the bill that will make the Veterans Administration a Cabinet-level department and the Administrator of Veterans Affairs a member of the President's Cabinet, he said:

"This bill does not give Cabinet rank to just a government agency, it gives Cabinet rank to every veteran."

To this, all of us in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States who have worked so hard and so long to achieve this Priority Goal reply with a more than 2 million-strong, lusty and heartfelt Amen.

It was appropriate that the President sign the bill on the campus of the National Defense University at Fort Lesley J. McNair. Lt. Gen. McNair was the highest ranking American officer killed in action. He and several hundred men of the 9th, 4th and 30th Divisions were killed at the outset of the St. Lo breakthrough in Normandy on July 25, 1944, by American bombs that fell short.

In his remarks before signing the bill on Oct. 25, the President said his words referring to the Cabinet-level Department of Veterans Affairs were "near and dear to my heart."

"It's been 13 years since Army veteran Senator Strom Thurmond introduced the bill," he said. "We

have it this year because Marine veteran Congressman Gerry Solomon worked to make sure the job would be completed before Congress adjourned. And, of course, Army veteran Congressman Sonny Montgomery was one of the leaders in the fight for the legislation. Others in Congress — especially on the veterans' and government operations' committees — helped lead the way.

"This bill gives those who have borne America's battles, who have defended the borders of freedom, who have protected our nation's security in war and in peace — it gives them what they have deserved for so long, a seat at the table in our national affairs.

"I've said before that America's debt to those who would fight for her defense doesn't end the day the uniform comes off. For the security of our nation, it must not end. Every time a man or woman enlists in the

Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard, he or she is ready to lay down his or her life for our nation. We must be ready to show that America appreciates what that means.

"I like to think that this bill gives Cabinet rank, not just to an agency within the government, but to every single veteran. And so in signing this bill, I'm saying to all our veterans what I say to new Cabinet members. Welcome aboard."

For years, the VFW has had elevation of the VA to the Cabinet as a Priority Goal. This action was long overdue. The VA serves a veteran population of 27.3 million. When 53 million dependents and deceased veterans' survivors are added in, the total comes to more than 80 million persons who are touched by the VA.

The VA administers many programs that contribute directly to the nation's economy. For example, its 245,000 employees make it the federal government's second largest employer. Over 95% of its \$28.1 billion 1989 fiscal year budget goes for direct benefits and services. VA facilities are in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. It operates the nation's largest medical system, with 172 hospitals, 231 outpatient clinics, 117 nursing homes, 27 domiciliaries and 188 centers for Vietnam veteran counseling. Besides the economic impact of its compensation, pension and educational and vocational training programs, the VA has guaranteed more than 12 million home loans. It also operates the nation's fifth largest insurance program.

More than half the nation's practicing physicians have trained in VA facilities. More than 160 medical and dental schools are VA-affiliated. The VA also has pioneered in many medical accomplishments: hypertension; CAT-scan; organ transplants; prosthetics research, and tuberculosis treatment. Two Nobel laureates were VA physicians.

In the area of education, the VA has enabled millions to go to college. Recently, the 20 millionth veteran to



Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers awards President Reagan the VFW Gold Medal of Merit during the Chief's recent visit to Washington.

"There were several of us over there at the White House, and we came prepared to make a case. But when he [President Reagan] came in, he apparently had decided against some of his advisers, and he said he wanted to do it."

What kind of a person should President-elect Bush choose as the first Secretary of Veterans' Affairs?

As I set forth in my acceptance speech at the conclusion of the 89th National Convention, this new department must be headed by a true veterans' advocate. This individual must recognize and appreciate the special service rendered by the veterans of this country.

Further, I said, "Our secretary must understand not only our fears; he must understand also the unique problems commonplace among veterans and their families. This first Secretary of Veterans' Affairs must understand the needs of our aging veteran population. Veterans will measure the depth of that understanding with the vigor with which he joins with us in our fight to fund fully a quality and meaningful geriatric care program.

"If this first Secretary of Veterans' Affairs understands the suffering caused by herbicide exposure, and indeed he must, he will move quickly and deal fairly with this important issue. Agent Orange victims must be compensated. Useless rhetoric must be replaced by meaningful action."

The new law does not become effective until March 15, so President-elect Bush will have ample time to select the person to head this new department. Meanwhile, your VFW will be watching developments closely. ■

take advantage of VA educational entitlements was identified.

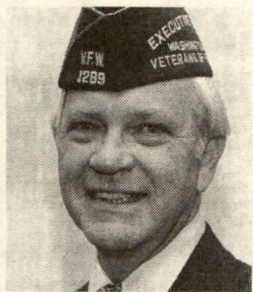
Establishment of Cabinet-status for veterans is the result of hard work by the VFW and Congress. It is a recognition long deserved of the VA's important role in serving all Americans and a tribute to the nation's veterans as well.

This new law is the first major reorganization of federal responsibilities toward veterans since the VA was formed with vigorous VFW support in 1930 when several agencies were consolidated to administer health-care, insurance, benefit payments and vocational training. With the return of 16 million WWII veterans, the VA's growth was rapid and enormous.

It was Nov. 10 of last year that President Reagan announced his support for Cabinet status for the VA after meeting with, among others, Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office, and then Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr.

In a published telephone interview with the Associated Press, Holt recalled the occasion:

# An Activist Congress



By Cooper T. Holt  
Executive Director,  
VFW Washington Office

**T**he 100th Congress was one of the most active since the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson in the mid-1960s.

It distinguished itself especially in several areas relating to veterans' issues. Of primary importance to veterans was the enactment of the VA Cabinet bill. In this, the Veterans of Foreign Wars played a pivotal role and won a major victory for this organization and this nation's veterans.

Each and every VFW member should derive a great deal of satisfaction and pride from this landmark legislative accomplishment.

Creation of the VA as a Cabinet department formally and publicly acknowledges the very special patriotic service rendered the nation by its military veterans.

Another major legislative victory for the VFW and the nation's veterans was passage of the bill providing for judicial review of VA benefit determinations. It has long been a VFW conviction that the nation's veterans have a greater claim to access to the judicial system than any other segment of the population when it comes to their entitlements and benefits.

On the other hand, it has been the VFW's opinion that flooding federal courts with veterans' cases ultimately would harm veterans and fundamentally alter the VA's own appellate system to the veterans' detriment.

The legislation passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan was a compromise that should give us all a strong sense of accomplishment.

It establishes a new three- to seven-member federal court to hear appeals from decisions rendered by the VA Board of Veterans Appeals, which will remain intact but strengthened because it will be given a significant degree of independence from the VA since the President will now appoint its chairman.

The new Court of Veterans Appeals will have exclusive jurisdiction over factual, legal and Constitutional questions on benefit claims under VA-administered laws. The \$10 attorney fee will be replaced with a reasonable charge once the case has come before the independent court. This conforms to a current VFW Resolution.

The judicial review law also contains a provision for a 4.1% cost-of-living adjustment for veterans receiving VA compensation. It also increases by the same amount Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Both became effective the first of this month. Veterans' education, rehabilitation, health-care and other programs are improved by this new law also.

Another accomplishment of the 100th Congress for veterans was the New GI Bill Continuation Act, making the New GI Bill permanent. It provides educational assistance of \$300 a month for up to 36 months in return for a three-year commitment to active duty service and a \$1,200 reduction in basic pay over the first 12 months of service; \$250 monthly for a two-year commitment. Guard and Reserve personnel can receive \$140 a month for up to 36 months in return for a six-year enlistment or reenlistment. The new law renames the program the Montgomery GI Bill.

The Veterans Home Loan Program Improvements and Property Rehabil-

itation Act provides for major VA home loan program reforms. The Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act authorizes the VA to pay compensation to certain veterans exposed to ionizing radiation while they were in service. The Veterans' Benefits and Services Act reinstates the travel allowance to VA medical facilities for certain veterans who have been denied the benefit because of VA-imposed eligibility restrictions, establishes entitlement to VA outpatient care for veterans for their service-connected disabilities and veterans 50% or more disabled for treatment of any disability, improves benefits for former POWs and calls for a national plan for the future of Vet Centers. It includes several other provisions.

The Veterans' Employment, Training and Counseling Amendments of 1988 extends the Veterans' Job Training Act for two years, through March, 1990, and authorizes an additional \$120 million for the program as well as the establishment of a National Veterans' Employment and Training Services Institute for those who will provide job-related services to veterans.

Among the many provisions of the Veterans' Benefits and Programs Improvements Act of 1988 is one that will give certain military personnel a second chance to take part in the Montgomery GI Bill if they have opted out of it.

The 100th Congress accomplishes much in veterans' legislation, and the VFW thanks and congratulates these friends of veterans in the Senate and House for what they have done, but many problems and shortcomings still must be disposed of through continued and positive action.

Despite the hard work by the VFW and other veterans' advocates on Capitol Hill, the VA budget is woe-

*continued on page 43*

# WASHINGTON WIRE

## LEGISLATIVE

### 100th Congress Adjourns

On Oct. 22, the historic 100th Congress adjourned. With respect to veterans' legislation, the 100th Congress will in all likelihood be remembered as one of the most effective Congresses in recent history.

#### ● Cabinet Level For VA

First and foremost of all the bills enacted into law during the 100th Congress was HR 3471, a bill upgrading the Veterans Administration to a Cabinet department. Signed into law on Oct. 25, the Department of Veterans Affairs Act will become effective next March 15, but a secretary to head the Cabinet department could be named by the new President as early as Jan. 21, 1989.

The new law designates the VA Administrator as the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs and provides for a Deputy Secretary, Chief Medical Director, Chief Benefits Director, up to six Inspectors General — all appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Up to 18 Deputy Assistant Secretaries will be appointed by the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs.

The Department of Medicine and Surgery will become the Veterans Health Services and Research Administration of the Department of Veterans' Affairs; the VA Department of Veterans Benefits will be redesignated the Veterans Benefits Administration, and the Department of Memorial Affairs will now be known as the National Cemetery System.

The enactment of this landmark piece of legislation was the culmination of many years of hard work by the VFW. Even though a vast majority of the Congress supported the measure, many obstacles had to be overcome. Through perseverance by the membership of the VFW in contacting their representatives in Congress, those obstacles were overcome and this longstanding VFW Priority Goal is now a reality.

#### ● Judicial Review

In addition to the Cabinet-level bill, Congress also sent to the President legislation providing for judicial review of Veterans Administration benefit determinations, effective next Sept. 1. After over a decade of controversy, a compromise was achieved in resolving this issue.

Under the new law, a new three-to-seven member federal court will be established to hear appeals of adverse decisions rendered by the VA's Board of Veterans Appeals. Veterans will now be able to protest denials of benefits after they have exhausted all avenues with the BVA. The new court will be an Article I court. This means veterans' service organization representatives still will be allowed to represent veterans in appealing a claim. If a veteran

prefers to be represented by an attorney at this level, however, the \$10 cap on fees that lawyers may charge will be replaced by a "reasonable" fee schedule. Finally, veterans can appeal cases denied by the Court of Veterans Appeals to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit but only in cases challenging laws and regulation — not individual questions of fact.

The VA's BVA will remain intact. The President will now appoint its chairman, thus providing independence to the BVA, however.

#### ● COLA

Also included in legislation providing for judicial review was a provision granting a 4.1% cost-of-living increase for veterans receiving service-connected disability compensation and for survivors receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. This increase will be effective the first of this month.

Along with the provisions addressing judicial review and the cost-of-living adjustment, the new law also has numerous other provisions affecting veterans.

#### ● Agent Orange

The new law increases the authorization level to \$4 million for the Ranch Hand Study Blood Testing program and an independent survey of the scientific evidence, studies and literature on the health effects of possible exposure to toxic chemicals contained in herbicides used in Vietnam. The new law extends, by 15 months — from Sept. 30, 1989 to Dec. 31, 1990 — VA health-care eligibility for Vietnam veterans who may have been exposed to dioxin (and certain veterans exposed to ionizing radiation). With respect to the Agent Orange litigation settlement, the law provides that payments received in connection with the settlement are to be treated as reimbursement for prior unreimbursed medical expenses and shall not be counted as income for purposes of VA-administered laws. Finally, updates on any health risks be provided to veterans as they become known, rather than on an annual basis.

#### ● Rehabilitation Provisions

The new law extends for three years, through Jan. 31, 1992, the temporary programs of trial work periods and vocational rehabilitation evaluations for service-connected disabled veterans rated totally disabled based on a determination of individual employability and removes the requirement that these veterans undergo vocational rehabilitation evaluations to determine their rehabilitation potential. Also extended for three years, from Jan. 31, 1989 to Jan. 31, 1992, are the temporary programs

of vocational training for certain nonservice-disabled veterans newly awarded need-based pension, and of three-years protection of veteran pensioners' VA health-care eligibility if they lose pension entitlement as a result of work income.

#### ● **Health Care**

The law provides a technical correction so that outpatient contract care authority may be made

available to veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at 30% or 40% and who have incomes at or below the VA pension standard, are former prisoners of war, World War I veterans or are in receipt of compensation or pension aid-and-attendance or housebound benefits.

..... **James N. Magill**

Director of National Legislative Service

## **SERVICE**

.....

### **VA Budget Crunch Is On**

Many who have been receiving discretionary care from the VA may no longer get it. This is care given veterans who have no clearly established eligibility. Often this is provided at VA medical centers where the pressure of a large veteran population is not so heavy as at others.

The VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery already has issued instructions to correct the amount of such care available to veterans. This will be done by removing resources from one facility to others where discretionary care was limited. On the surface, this sounds fair, but this care will be reduced to a marginal level as funds become less.

Upshot is that many used to getting this care are being turned away. This will have an impact on transplant services, veterans' prescriptions, community nursing-home care and contract hospitalization.

VFW National Veterans Service field reps are monitoring the situation. The VFW will continue to

insist that VA health-care delivery system be funded adequately.

The President's budget request for FY 89 for the Department of Medicine and Surgery was \$10.3 billion; Congress appropriated \$10.5 billion. Of this, \$6.758 billion was mandated for 194,720 fulltime employees, a figure increased by 2,362 last year. "All other" expenses are competing for the balance.

### **Beneficiary Travel**

The VA has now decided that veterans living within a 27-mile radius of their homes will be subject to a deductible of \$6 per roundtrip for each visit, not to exceed \$18 per calendar month. This means that veterans who make more than three roundtrips per month on scheduled visits to a VA medical center will be reimbursed for mileage for any additional travel after roundtrips have satisfied the \$18 deductible per calendar month.

..... **Frederico Juarbe Jr.**

Director of National Veterans Service

## **SECURITY**

.....

### **VFW Speaks, House Listens**

Acting on Resolution 452 opposing a requirement that the President notify Congress of all covert actions within 48 hours, Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers expressed VFW objections to HR 3822 because of its 48-hour provision in letters to each House member.

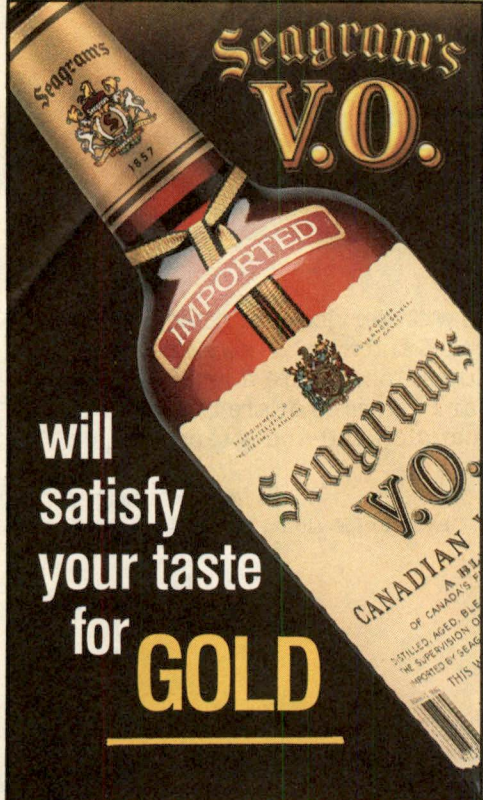
"Such a provision, we feel, would prevent the President from taking decisive action in emergencies and limit allied cooperation and assistance in covert operations," he wrote. "This restraint on the President is opposed by every former national security adviser and director of Central Intelligence. We believe that instead of placing constraints on the

President, Congress should strive to build better cooperation and trust between and among the branches of government." Result was that the 48-hour provision was deleted from HR 2833, the Intelligence Oversight Act of 1988.

Praising the VFW's role, Rep. Gerald Solomon (N.Y.) wrote Rivers that the bill would have "seriously undermined our country's ability to conduct effective intelligence operations. Clearly, it was the national grassroots opposition generated by the VFW which provided the margin needed to prevent Congressional passage of this dangerous legislation."

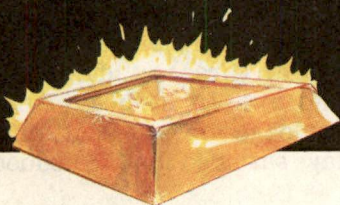
..... **Kenneth A. Steadman**

Director of National Security & Foreign Affairs



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### CHAMPUS Bill

All CHAMPUS-eligible members are urged to ask their Representatives in Congress to support H.R. 2934. This bill would allow CHAMPUS eligibility to continue past age 65 as a second pay or supplemental health policy to Medicare.

Presently we lose CHAMPUS at age 65 and must purchase a private insurance plan at substantial cost to cover expenses left over after Medicare. Congressmen should be reminded that the military retiree loses CHAMPUS at age 65. The Civil Service retirees, however, have over half of their health insurance paid for by Uncle Sam for their lifetime. Why the discrimination between the military and civilian employee? — *John R. Perry, 7908 Juniper St., Miramar, Fla. 33023.*

Editor's note: For those members not eligible for CHAMPUS, consider the VFW-sponsored Supplemental Medicare Insurance outlined in the Member Benefits section on page 34.

### Death to Pushers

The death penalty for the mass killer drug pushers has already passed the Senate and it now comes before the House of Representatives. However it turns out, there is one more hill to climb. The individual sovereign states can and must pass the death penalty for drug pushers which would be far stronger than the federal simply because local law enforcement people are much more knowledgeable on the needs of their own locale. The federals check with the locals first to find out what's going on. Give the locals the power of the death penalty then. When they arrest these killers, they will be brought before an elected judge as opposed to an appointed federal judge. We the people, and rightfully so, will have the last word as to whether the elected judge will be reelected. The states that do not want the death penalty will most assuredly give notice to the pushers where to relocate their operations without fear of being prosecuted. — *Jeff Carden, PO Box 5022, Mobile, Ala. 36605.*

### Likes Magazine Articles

Compliments to you on the quality of the articles appearing in the VFW Magazine this year. Although I was not in on D-Day (invasion of Normandy, June 6, 1944), I arrived in France two months later and saw the beaches and the battles to St. Lo. I am a member of Post 588 but I am not very active because of my health and try to support the Post in its local projects. Particularly interesting to me in the October issue was the one about John Philip Sousa ("The Official March King") and his band. I am an ardent circus fan, and several of his compositions are played by circus bands. — *John L. Sullivan, P.O. Box 492, Concordia, Kans. 66901.*

### Boycott Toshiba, He Says

I was disappointed to learn from a local newscast that the final result of the Toshiba conspiracy, which enabled the Soviet Union to purchase advanced technology for building quiet submarines that could elude detection by our Navy, was only a slap on the wrist. According to the newscast the only punishment that our government selected was that Toshiba would be ineligible for government contracts. Yet, in our VA hospital canteen, Toshiba is being featured as a leading sales item. Shouldn't we lead our countrymen in a boycott of Toshiba? — *Dr. John K. Baldwin, 303 Raintree Pl., Pineville, La. 71360.*

### More on Combat Pay

Regarding Korean War combat pay (Mail Call, June), in 1952, I was discharged at Fort Devens, Mass., after serving with the 24th Division signals in Korea. I submitted a claim at that time upon advice of the separation personnel and was told on the final day of separation that I was not qualified for combat pay. Years later, I met another member of my unit, who told me that he received his combat pay and that we were qualified. I wrote to the Army's Finances through the President of the United

*continued on page 11*

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Published monthly except July

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- To assist the widows and orphans and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans
- To promote Americanism through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live

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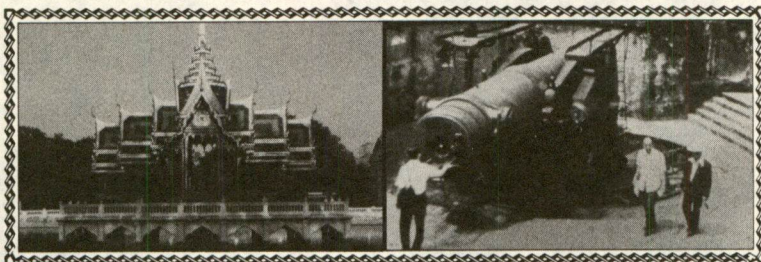
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Forward address changes to: Circulation Department, VFW Magazine, Broadway at 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111. Be sure to furnish your old address, also your Post number, when requesting change to new address. To insure accuracy, please clip and enclose your present address as printed on a recent copy of VFW Magazine.



MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION 454  
(ISSN 0161-8598)

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## MAIL CALL

continued from page 8

States and received a letter which cited the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 to the effect that all claims after ten years will not be paid, even if you are qualified and entitled to combat pay. Talk about a forgotten war. We are all forgotten after you serve and do your duty. All they want to hear is what you owe them, not what they owe you. — *John J. Quinn, 186 Temple Hill Rd.-U1601, New Windsor, N.Y. 12550.*

### Liked Korea Stories

Quite by chance I came across a June, 1988, issue of VFW Magazine and was pleasantly surprised by the excellent articles on the Korean War. I especially enjoyed "The First Moral Crusade" by Richard Kolb and the story by Phillip F. Van Pelt. I myself served in Korea with the 1st Cavalry Division (5th Cav. Regt., I Co.). I also have the privilege of being included in Don Knox's "Oral History of the Korean War," both Volumes I and II. Once again, many thanks for the excellent articles on Korea. — *Jerry Emer, 200 Southtowne Dr., S. Milwaukee, Wis. 53172.*

### Has Dogtags

During my period of Army active duty, from September, 1946 to November, 1952, I found three sets of dogtags. I am not sure, but I think they were found in Korea in 1947. These tags have been sitting in an old cigar box in my home for the past 40 years. The names are BROWN, Vernon D., RA17197100; PAGE, William H., RA17220371, and SZCZYPTA, Ted R., RA13248730. If any of them reads this, or a reader knows of these men, the tags may be obtained from me. — *M/Sgt. William Gordon, Camp Smith, Peekskill, N.Y. 10566.*

Letters should be of no more than 100 words and deal with only one subject. Editing for space, clarity and good taste may be necessary. Published letters include the sender's name and address to enable readers to reply directly. Anonymous mail is not considered for publication. Space limitations preclude use of all the letters received. Because of their volume, it is impossible to reply to or to acknowledge Mail Call submissions.

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### Van Zandt Museum Needs

The James E. Van Zandt Museum at VFW National Headquarters is seeking copies of Foreign Service Magazine (predecessor of VFW Magazine) from September, 1913, through September, 1914; September, 1915, through September, 1916, and January, 1923, through July, 1923. Also being sought are 1945 and 1951 National Convention badges, an Air Force Class A uniform, a Spanish-American War uniform and pictures of World Wars I and II and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Anyone interested may contact Curator Elmer Rafiner, VFW National Headquarters, VFW Building, 34th and Broadway, Kansas City, Mo. 64111.

### VA Denies Post Story

The chief of the Veterans Administration medical system has labeled as "grossly inaccurate" an Oct. 11 Washington Post story that accused him of ordering changes in a hospital mortality study because the results would make the VA look bad.

Dr. John A. Gronvall said the results of a highly sophisticated statistical analysis whose methods were praised by the General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress, "were and are intact." The first phase of the VA-initiated study, completed last February, examined mortality rates at the agency's 172 hospitals, and the results are now being validated before their expected release in February.

GAO also praised the VA for including a review of hospital records as part of its study. The VA's approach differed from a recent government study of community hospital mortality which GAO had criticized. The agency is conducting an intensive records review at the hospitals identified in its initial analysis.

In a statement, Gronvall said, "The Post accuses me of 'directing researchers to produce a smaller number of questionable hospitals.' That is not only grossly inaccurate but is a totally outrageous accusation. I personally initiated this study so that if we found problems in VA's

quality of care we could correct them."

"When the study is finished and we have verified results, we will make it public," Gronvall added. "That process, not the initial data, will provide the validation we think is essential to a thorough and meaningful quality assurance study."

### PBS Programs

Two PBS television series that might be of interest to veterans will begin airing in January. They are "War and Peace in the Nuclear Age" and "Ethics in America." The first is a 13-part documentary highlighting the development of nuclear weapons and nuclear issues and how they have influenced international relations and contemporary thought. The second, in ten parts, will feature U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, Jeane Kirkpatrick, Surgeon Gen. C. Everett Koop and, among others, U.S. Attorney Rudolph W. Giuliani and Sen. Alan K. Simpson. Check your newspaper for time and station in your area.

### Croix de Guerre Organization

Veterans who were awarded the French or Belgian Croix de Guerre are eligible for active membership in the American Order of the French Croix de Guerre. Veterans whose units received either of these medals and were serving with their units during the time of the action for which their units were honored are eligible for associate membership. For further information, write Steven F. Kovach, 325 Spring St., New York, N.Y. 10013. He is president of the organization.

### Korean Monument Contest

The American Battle Monuments Commission has announced a national design competition for the Korean War Veterans Memorial to be erected in Washington, D.C., near the Lincoln Memorial. It is open to all U.S. citizens 18 or older. In the announcement, the commission also says the competition will be judged

by the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board established by law for that purpose. For further information write before Dec. 16 to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Design Competition, P.O. Box 17045, Baltimore, Md. 21203-7045.

### VA Seeking Volunteers

The Veterans Administration is currently conducting a multi-hospital cooperative study of stroke prevention in patients with nonvalvular atrial fibrillation. The study is being sponsored by the Cooperative Studies Program of the Medical Research Service, directed by Dr. Daniel Deykin.

Approximately 1,100 patients will be entered into the study over a three-year period. Medical treatment and the study medication will be provided at no charge to the patient. Veterans do not have to be service connected to enter the study. Patients will be followed closely by a medical research team.

Veterans will be entered by 16 participating VA Medical Centers: Ann Arbor, Mich.; Baltimore, Md.; Boston, Mass.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Hines, Ill.; Little Rock, Ark.; Long Beach, Calif.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Newington, Conn.; Northport, N.Y.; Roseburg, Ore.; San Diego, Calif.; Seattle, Wash.; Tampa, Fla.; Washington, D.C., and West Haven, Conn.

Any veteran of service in the U.S. Armed Forces who has nonvalvular atrial fibrillation and is interested in being considered as a candidate to participate in the study should write Dr. Kenneth E. James, Chief, VA Cooperative Studies Program Coordinating Center 151-K0, VA Medical Center, 3801 Miranda Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94304.

### VA Exonerated

A General Accounting Office (GAO) investigation has cleared the VA of charges of willfully destroying records sought by parties to a major court case involving claims for radiation exposure.

The GAO concluded that VA rec-

ords were not "intentionally purged, destroyed, or withheld" during the lengthy and far-reaching discovery process of a suit filed in a U.S. District Court by the National Association of Radiation Survivors (NARS). The court has not yet issued its decision in the case, which involves a challenge to the constitutionality of attorney-fee limits in complex veterans' claims proceedings.

GAO, the investigative arm of Congress, initiated its review following allegations that the VA had impeded NARS requests for vast numbers of agency records. GAO found that, while some records were destroyed, this was the inadvertent result of a normal purging of VA files. The GAO also revealed that information obtained from the FBI, the Department of Justice's Public Integrity Section and the VA Inspector General did not contradict GAO's findings.

The NARS action was filed in April, 1983, and sought relief from a law that places a \$10 limit on fees veterans may pay attorneys representing them in claims for VA death and disability benefits. NARS contended the complex nature of claims for radiation-related conditions necessitated legal counsel. The basic constitutionality of the fee limit has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

During the trial, which concluded in November, 1987, the VA was required by the court to produce more than 1 million pages of records and documents sought by NARS. VA offices nationwide were affected and remain under a protective order issued in September, 1986.

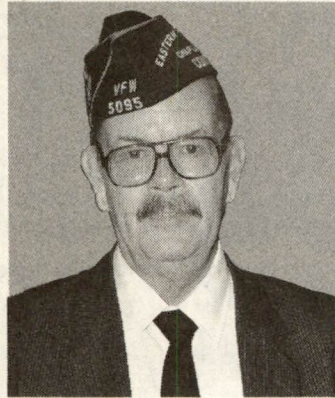
### **VA Lowers Interest Rates**

WASHINGTON—The Veterans Administration lowered its maximum interest rate for federally backed VA home loan mortgages by one-half percentage point to 10%.

The VA said it made the change, effective Nov. 1, to reflect recent declines in interest rates in financial markets.

Fixed-rate mortgages for conven-

## **The Chaplain's Corner**



By Rev. John W. Hosmer  
National Chaplain

**W**e are in the midst of another holiday season. For many it means special church services, family gatherings, banquets and parties. VFW members visit VA hospitals and sponsor parties for children. It is a happy time of celebrating peace and goodwill.

But for thousands of our comrades, the suffering of war is not over. Peace did not restore sight to

tional home loans, those not backed by a government guarantee, dropped to a nationwide average of 10.22% last week, according to a survey by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. This rate had been 10.42% at the end of September.

It marked the fourth change in the VA rate this year and the first drop since rates fell by a full percentage point, to 9.5%, on Feb. 1.

### **More POW/MIA Remains**

According to an Associated Press report from Bangkok, Thailand, on Nov. 2, Vietnam will turn over to the U.S. at least 21 sets of remains that may be those of Americans missing

the blind or limbs to the crippled or sanity to those who had seen too much agony. Some of us who were spared wonder why we were lucky enough to avoid a life in a hospital ward or a grave on a distant battlefield. Were we spared so we could work a 40-hour week and retire to a rocking chair at 65? Were we given these precious years so we could relax, watch TV and have another beer? I doubt it. I believe God expects more of us than just looking out for our own needs and desires. I believe He expects us to use our minds, our strength and our resources to help the distressed, to protect the weak and to promote peace on this earth. These are services good VFW members do provide through their VFW Posts, their churches and individually.

Eddie Cantor said, "Service is the rent we pay for our room on earth." There are 365 days in the year ahead. I believe our rent is due.

Best wishes for happy holidays and a meaningful New Year. ■

in action from the war in Southeast Asia.

Two sets recovered by U.S.-Vietnamese teams that made investigations in northern Vietnam last month are included in the remains.

Unnamed sources said Vietnam has given the U.S. at least nine names associated with the remains.

The Vietnamese said 23 sets would be returned Nov. 3, but a U.S. official in Bangkok said the number would be 21.

From Hanoi, the remains were to be flown to Honolulu for study at the Army's Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii.

## 4-H Flourishing

When the 1988 Eaton County (Mich.) 4-H Fair got underway, 34 VFW National Home children were among the participants with entries competing for awards in the poultry and livestock division.

When the competition ended, the 4-H program here added 38 new ribbons to its growing list of accomplishments. Three residents, Robert Keckler, Connie Stout and Nikki Wilbur, topped the National Home's winners' list with third-place showmanship ribbons in rabbit, goat and swine competition.

Keckler, an eighth grader sponsored by Post 443, North Attleboro, Mass., Wilbur, a 16-year-old high school junior sponsored by Michigan's Thornapple Valley Post 8260, and Stout, a senior sponsored by Missouri's Odessa Memorial Post 5675, all live at the Home under the National Family Program.

Children in that single-parent program live in one of 36 campus homes with their own families. Children residing at the VFW National Home under the Residential Program have hired child care workers as houseparents.

The National Home 4-H program, once popular when children here actively worked on the Montana Farmstead, is again flourishing. That is due to many factors, according to Nancy Bowers, National Home 4-H specialist.



Goat-raising is the 4-H Club project of these National Home children.

"We've seen the program grow as interest in 4-H has grown," said Bowers, a recreation specialist who coordinates the 4-H program. "Our population has steadily grown during the 16 months I've been here."

The growing number of 9-year-olds, the minimum age for 4-H participants, also assures the National Home of future successes. To win in the animal competition, children have to dedicate themselves to working with their rabbits, goats or pigs on a regular basis, Bowers added. "Part of the judging, particularly in the showmanship competition, is based on what the owner knows and how the animal acts. The top competitors are the ones who've worked with their animals over the years," she said.

Overall, in the recent county competition, the National Home captured 35 third through ninth place ribbons. The remaining three ribbons were for tenth, 11th and 12th place finishes.

The 4-H program now moves into its fall and winter phases, Bowers continued, as projects are geared toward indoor activities during the colder months. Some changes are expected in the National Home's 4-H program during the next year, Bowers said, but those involve an increase in opportunities.

"We hope to offer some new programs during the winter, like crafts, woodworking and pottery, and by next year's animal competition we'd like to have some sheep and poultry entries in the fair." ■

## 40 Flags From Texas

VFW Post and Auxiliary 3892, of Harker Heights, Texas, have shipped 40 U.S. Flags to the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Mich.

The Flags were purchased after C.W. (Buck) Buchanan toured the child care facility last August and decided that new colors were needed to help display the Home's patriotism.

Each house on campus has a flagpole, and with daily flying, the Flags need replacing occasionally. The \$500

worth of Flags assures that each house will have a new one as needed.

The National Home is supported solely by contributions from the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary. Although many miles away, concerned members such as Buchanan and Commander A. J. Demone, of Post 3892, and President Maria Spann are instrumental in maintaining VFW National Home and its quality programs.

## First 500-Member Life Membership

The first 500-Member Life Membership Plaque was presented Sept. 6 to Post and Auxiliary 4012 of Northville, Mich., by District 7 Trustee Paul M. Savage. At the Michigan Department Convention, the organization presented a \$1,700 check for 68 National Home Life Memberships that brought its total to the required 500.

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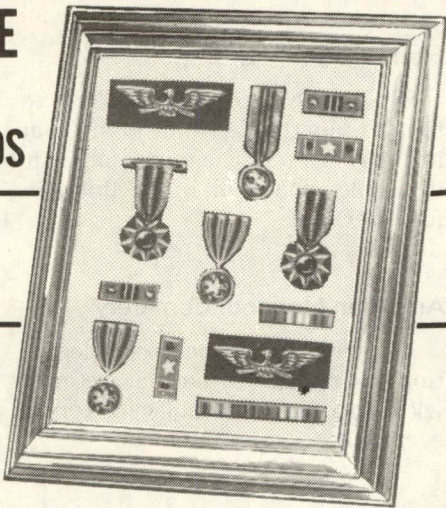
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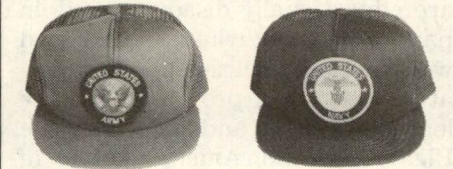
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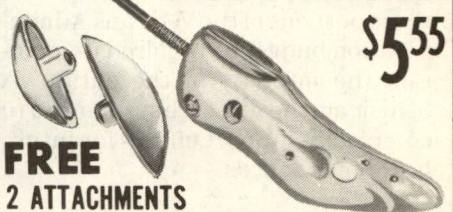
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# 1988-1989 PRIORITY GOALS

Shortly after the 89th National Convention in Chicago, National committees met in Kansas City and Washington to establish priorities for the 1988-89 year, based on the resolutions adopted by the delegates in Chicago.

## LEGISLATIVE GOALS

### Elevate the VA

We fully support elevating the Veterans Administration to an executive department and specifying the Administrator of Veterans Affairs as a member of the President's Cabinet.

[On October 25, President Reagan signed the appropriate legislation elevating the VA to the Department of Veterans Affairs.]

### An Adequate VA Budget

We prevail upon the Congress of the United States to completely fund those portions of the Veterans Administration budget as required to maintain the integrity of the entire VA benefit and health-care system and to completely support efforts for future health-care needs.

### COLAs

Full cost-of-living adjustments at least equal to the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) be provided annually for all recipients of VA compensation and for all military retirees.

### Herbicide Exposure

We actively support liberalizing the criteria to establish as service connected any disability associated with herbicide exposure.

### VA Construction Budget

We call upon the Congress of the United States to provide an adequate annual funding level to allow the VA to plan now and initiate new construction efforts to meet the immediate future needs of our veterans.

### Home Loan Guaranty

We strongly encourage the Congress to maintain the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program as the most viable and desirable means of home financing for veterans.

### An Open National Cemetery

Actively support necessary legislation to provide our nation's veterans with an open national cemetery in every state.

### Veterans' Education

Revitalize veterans' educational programs to provide assistance on a recurring basis to those veterans who are educationally disadvantaged, in particular, those who are dislocated workers by capitalizing upon cooperative education programs, private learning centers and Title IV of the Higher Education Amendment Act of 1986.

### Veterans' Vocational Training and Retraining

Establish a National Veterans Vocational Training and Retraining Program, administered by the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training, that will assist veterans to avoid obsolescence in the work place through recurring vocational skills training, relocation incentives and income support while in training.

### Veterans' Federal Employment Opportunities

Implement a Veterans Federal Employment Noncompetitive Appointment Program for which all veterans are eligible regardless of ERA, and that implementing regulations stress the merit of hiring veterans — in particular, recently separated and disabled veterans.

### Veterans' Preference

Call upon the Congress to repeal Section 702, Public Law 94-502, and to reestablish veterans' preference for veterans separated under honorable conditions from active duty in the Armed Forces after having served more than 180 consecutive days, other than for training. That veterans' preference be assured and applied at each level of the federal selection process and that a distinct veterans' program staff element be established in all OPM offices.

## SECURITY GOALS

### National Defense

Our National Security Program for 1988-1989 reaffirms our firm commitment to a strong national defense. The wide range of threats to our security and that of our allies and the vigorous challenges posed by the Soviet leadership require a national defense fully capable of deterring these threats to peace. A strong na-

tional defense, in common with strong and supportive allies, is the foundation of a foreign policy able to respond successfully to the global challenge of Communism.

### Military Strength and Arms Reductions

The VFW supports a national defense that provides fully for our security requirements at home and abroad. We continue to urge a comprehensive

modernization and research program for our conventional and strategic forces. Our conventional forces must be expanded to keep pace with an ever-increasing range of threats.

The Army should be filled and maintained at 28 divisions to more adequately accomplish its missions. The Naval forces should be expanded to 15 aircraft carriers, while the Marine Corps should be fully main-

tained at four divisions and four air wings. The Air Force should move forward to produce the new C-17 transport aircraft, and the Merchant Marine should be rebuilt to ensure our forces have the mobility to fulfill their global commitments. The modernization of our strategic arsenal must continue with deployment of the MX Peacekeeper missile while proceeding with development of the Midgetman small-missile system. We maintain our support for production of the Trident submarine, the B1-B Bomber and for such weapons system testing as is required to complete the modernization of our strategic arsenal.

We sustain our support for arms reduction negotiations which will lead to mutual, balanced and verifiable reductions in nuclear weapons, and we support arms agreements which will enhance our national security, our national security interests and reduce the risk of nuclear conflict.

### **Central America**

Since the dangers, represented by the Communist Sandinistas in Nicaragua and the military dictatorship in Panama, are mounting, the VFW urges our government to face up to the expanding threat to our security and the stability of Central America. We urge the government to take action to secure the Panama Canal and safeguard our security interests from Panama's military dictator. We urge a new longterm, bipartisan foreign policy that will provide political, economic, humanitarian and military aid to friendly Central American governments and to the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters. Recognizing the client-state role Communist Cuba plays for the Soviet Union, we urge the government to maintain close surveillance of Cuban activities throughout Central America.

### **POW/MIAs**

The unresolved status of our prisoners of war and missing in action in Southeast Asia remains a high priority goal of the VFW. We support the continuing appointment of a Presidential emissary empowered to receive full information and to resolve the status of those still missing and urge

all those concerned to unite in support of these efforts. We also urge the government to appoint a POW/MIA adviser in our embassy in Laos. We expect the government to use its full resources at maximum capacity to provide the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIAs at the earliest opportunity. We urge the government to bring maximum economic and diplomatic pressure and to fly the POW/MIA flag at all its installations, while the VFW continues its public-awareness pressure on those countries of Southeast Asia which fail to recognize the firm resolve of the U.S. government and the VFW in this humanitarian issue. We further urge all Posts to display the POW/MIA flag as a reminder of our determination to keep this issue a non-negotiable matter of American honor. The VFW position will continue to be based upon our own evaluation of the best possible information available on this issue.

### **Strategic Defense**

The VFW supports the current program of research in strategic defense which offers the possibility of protecting the United States and its allies from ballistic-missile attacks. Such a program, we believe, is essential to maintain our lead in certain space-related technologies and to prevent a Soviet breakthrough in anti-missile defenses. In conjunction with the ongoing technological research program, the VFW urges that companion studies be conducted into the modernization needs of our almost non-existent air defenses to protect against the bomber and cruise missile threat and the underfunded and totally ignored civil defense needs of our country and its citizens. We also recognize the deployment of a strategic defense system may have a radical effect on our national-defense policy and our military strength. Therefore, we urge study of the implications of a shift in our policy and strategy from deterrence to defense.

### **The Armed Forces**

In recognizing that the military profession is a calling not a job, the

VFW remains fully committed to enhancing such service to the nation. The VFW pledges its support to the National Guard and Reserves and encourages employers to support the men and women who serve in these vital components of the Total Force. We support the continuing applicability of the Montgomery Amendment (current law which permits overseas deployment of Guard units for training purposes) to ensure the National Guard remains a vital part of our national defense. We oppose any cuts in the strength of the National Guard and Reserve Forces and urge Congress to provide new incentives for medical professionals in the National Guard and Reserves.

### **NATO**

The VFW reaffirms its support for NATO and urges NATO members to increase their annual defense budgets to ensure that NATO's forces are fully capable of overcoming conventional-force vulnerability. We support the continued deployment of adequate U.S. forces under NATO and deployment of such nuclear munitions to assure continued deterrence.

### **Pacific Allies**

The VFW urges that political, economic and military assistance be provided to the Philippines on a reasonable and equitable basis so long as there is a fair agreement of the lease of bases to America's forces. We urge the U.S. to continue its support for the Republic of Korea and bring pressure on Communist North Korea to cease work on the Kum Kang Dam. The VFW continues its vigorous support for the immediate sale of modern aircraft to the Republic of China on Taiwan to replace its obsolete air force.

### **Terrorism**

The VFW continues to urge that a full range of measures be adopted to deter, guard against and combat terrorists wherever they are located. We urge that other countries be reminded "there are no neutrals in the war against terrorists."

## Committees Develop Goals, Complete 1988-89 Plans

Committee chairmen and vice chairmen and National Officers attended meetings in Kansas City and Washington to establish the 1988-89 Priority Goals listed on the previous pages.

### National Civil Service and Employment



First row: Inspector Gen. Kenneth Hartman, Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office; Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan, Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James L. Kimery and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. Second row: Chairman R.D. (Bulldog) Smith, Vice Chairmen Al Feher, Harley V. Taylor, M. Dean Kruger and Benito Russo and Special Asst. Robert L. Jones.

### National Legislative



First row: Inspector Gen. Kenneth Hartman, Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office; Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan, Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James L. Kimery and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. Second row: Asst. Director Dennis Cullinan, Vice Chairman Ernest Melendez, Special Asst. Bob Manhan, Vice Chairmen Paul Wampler, Jr., and William Tarrell, Ladies Auxiliary Legislative Director Diana Stout, Chairman J.P. Cockrill and Director James Magill.

### National Security and National POW/MIA Subcommittee



First row: Inspector Gen. Kenneth Hartman, Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office; Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan, Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James L. Kimery and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. Second row: Director Kenneth A. Steadman, NSC Vice Chairman Albert G. Salmon, POW/MIA Chairman Billy Ray Cameron, POW/MIA Vice Chairmen John E. Hamilton and Raymond G. Hanley, NSC Vice Chairman Allen F. Kent, POW/MIA Vice Chairman James A. Bonito and NSC Chairman David L. Stein and NSC Vice Chairmen Richard L. Jordan and Otha M. Kerr.

## Americanism



First row: Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.; Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan, Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James L. Kimery and Inspector Gen. Kenneth L. Hartman. Second row: Vice Chairmen Jerry Parenti and Frank Borrello, Chairman John Harrow, Ladies Auxiliary National Americanism Director Linda Meader, Vice Chairmen Clifford Williford and Russell Truax and Assistant Adjutant Gen. W. Benny Bachand.

## Buddy Poppy



First row: Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.; Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan, Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James L. Kimery and Inspector Gen. Kenneth Hartman. Second row: Director Thomas L. Kissell, Vice Chairmen Dewaine Wilson and Kelly Goddard, Ladies Auxiliary National Buddy Poppy Director Joyce Wimer, Vice Chairmen Ray Stelmachuk and Dominic Romano, Chairman Eugene George and Assistant Adjutant Gen. W. Benny Bachand.

## Community Activities



First row: Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.; Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan, Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James L. Kimery and Inspector Gen. Kenneth L. Hartman. Second row: Vice Chairmen Robert Howell and Peter Miesburger, Ladies Auxiliary National Community Activities Director Anna Sharik, Chairman James Booth, Vice Chairmen Ray Prentice and Edward Marzec and Assistant Adjutant Gen. W. Benny Bachand.

## Safety



First row: Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.; Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan, Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James L. Kimery and Inspector Gen. Kenneth L. Hartman. Second row: Director Joseph D. Ross, Post Development and Safety; Vice Chairmen S.H. Parsons and Glenn Phillips, Ladies Auxiliary National Safety Director Doris Laferriere, Chairman George Smith and Vice Chairman Donald Ruby and Assistant Adjutant Gen. W. Benny Bachand.

## Voice of Democracy



First row: Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.; Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan, Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James L. Kimery and Inspector Gen. Kenneth L. Hartman. Second row: Director Jefferson D. Lawson, Vice Chairmen John T. Mclsaac and Antonio B. Grijalva, Ladies Auxiliary National Voice of Democracy Director Ann Buechler, Chairman Fred Y. Sigmon, Vice Chairmen Frank N. Brown and William P. Beane and Assistant Adjutant Gen. W. Benny Bachand.

## Youth Activities



First row: Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.; Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan, Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James L. Kimery and Inspector Gen. Kenneth L. Hartman. Second row: Director Jefferson D. Lawson, Vice Chairmen Odis Ward and Michael J. Imbrascio, Ladies Auxiliary National Youth Activities Director Ann Buechler, Chairman Don A. Nikkel and Vice Chairmen Benny Dean and Glen A. Rohr and Assistant Adjutant Gen. W. Benny Bachand.

# 'WE'RE STRONGER THAN WE THINK'

Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Alfred Gray

**A**s the world moves into the 21st century, Gen. Alfred M. Gray, Jr., commandant of the Marine Corps, calls this era one of "interesting, challenging and dangerous times."

He made his views known to several hundred VFW, Navy League and International Relations Council members in Kansas City a few weeks ago.

"The world is getting smaller in the speed of travel and communications," he said. "It is becoming more complex because for the first time it is multi-polar and not bi-polar."

"Therefore, a great deal of influence is being exerted by smaller countries through the use of terrorism, and it is tough to get a handle on what is going on," he said.

At present there is a lessening of tensions, he continued, and voiced his approval of superpower dialogue aimed at further reduction of mutual hostility.

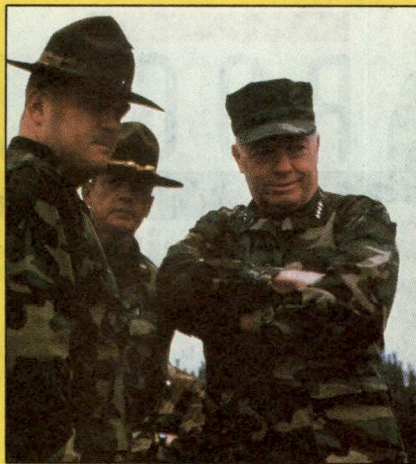
"Within the Soviet Union, we are seeing a milestone being reached; almost a complete change in thought processes is going on in the USSR . . .

"When we ask what are the factors in glasnost and perestroika, all we can say is that we are not sure. The USSR is a military superpower, but there is sheer chaos in the economic sense."

The current Soviet party leader and now president, Mikhail Gorbachev, "is trying to change things, and he is very, very persuasive. He has almost mesmerized many in Europe and the Far East."

Even so, Gray reminded his listeners, "the Soviet military, controlled by the Supreme Soviet, is flexible and remains the Soviets' vanguard and spearhead."

Recalling last summer's visit to the U.S. of Soviet Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, Gray said the Soviet military's



Gen. Gray spends time in the field.

top man is "an oldtimer from World War II who knows what war can do and has a real appreciation for the tragedy it leaves in its wake. He started out as a marine."

From talks Gray and other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff had with Akhromeyev during his visit to the U.S., the Marine Corps commandant concluded that the Soviet marshal "is totally behind Gorbachev and what he is attempting to achieve," but visitors to the USSR report the country has a long way to go before improvements can be made.

"Several generations of people there have been taught, trained and edu-

catory doctrine.

But Gray said he has found no sign of a Soviet shift to a defensive military doctrine: "There is no change in doctrine, training or exercise."

"Our people made an enormous impression on our Soviet military visitors," Gray said. "Our Marines and sailors made things happen. After talking to them, Akhromeyev said he could see they were brought up in a democratic atmosphere."

"We are stronger than we think we are," he added.

Gray laughed at the Soviet charge that NATO is an offensive alliance, and NATO is planning to attack the USSR.

"If NATO is going to attack, it would take a century to get it approved because NATO is a political as well as a military pact," he said.

Gray warned that the Soviets' top expert on the U.S. and Canada,

*continued on page 42*

***'If NATO is going to attack [the Soviets], it would take a century to get it approved because NATO is a political as well as a military pact,' he said.***



**GM CHAIRMAN**

# ROGER SMITH:

*"By your magnificent wartime service you have defended America's freedom and security. Today, as veterans, you serve with equal tenacity, devoting brain and heart to the task of keeping our country strong."*

—President John F. Kennedy

By Roger B. Smith

**P**robably more than any other people, America's veterans understand and appreciate security. It is a commodity that often came at the expense of great personal sacrifice. That is why I think that veterans also know that to gain security, you have to take risks.

But many Americans don't understand this relationship. Risk is one of those four-letter words that make most of us at least a bit uncomfortable. But it is central to the future success of our nation. And I don't think enough people understand how important risk has been in getting us to where we are or how critical it is in moving us forward, into the 21st century.

In our society at large, there's a very strong save-me, protect-me, insulate-me-from-every-contingency-or-I'll-sue mentality. We see it in the malpractice and product-liability mania. We see it in some of the regulations that attempt to abolish risk (sure, some regulation is necessary, but all of it has to be paid for somehow). That's why I think a lot of people in America need a little refresher course in the nature, purpose — and benefits — of taking risks.

## Security Means Risk-Taking

This is not to say a lot of good old American risk-taking is not still out there. We're still number one in the world in Nobel prizes, new business startups and probably also in new fads and trends, which is another way to measure risk-taking. The willingness of some people to take risks tells you something about the enduring promise of American society.

It is also true that our country's economy has been performing extraordinarily well, probably better than we have any reason to expect: For more than six years now, our economy has continued to roll along. Expanded foreign trade by American companies is helping fuel growth in U.S. manufacturing.

The American economy has many underlying strengths. It has demonstrated those strengths over and over again. It has continued to grow and create jobs, even when many of the experts thought it was going to falter.

That is not to say that everything is great for our economy, either. It's imperative that we take steps to reduce the twin deficits — the federal budget deficit and the trade deficit. Facing the difficult choices inherent in those tasks has proven difficult in an election year. But the longer we put it off, the greater the danger to the economy.

But even amidst all of this healthy risk-taking — even amidst a reasonably encouraging set of economic

**'It is well to remember that risk is fundamental to the ideal — and the reality — of America. It's practically woven into the fabric of the original 13 Stars and Stripes.'**

In fact, some people are worried that things are going too well. They warn us that the economy is overheating. Capacity utilization is approaching its limits in some industries. Employment has been so good that there might be shortages of workers.

circumstances — I see a very disturbing trend. I believe we as a nation are running away from risk and toward security. Entirely too many people believe the way to preserve our past successes is to avoid taking risks. To me, that is a false idea. In fact, it's just the other way around: I'm convinced

## **'The third thing that accompanies risk-taking is that you learn patience. Immediate payoffs are typically not forthcoming. Everything takes longer than you expect.'**

that if we don't continue to take risks, then we'll actually destroy our past successes — and the new risk-takers of the world will pass us by.

I see us facing a critical set of choices: either we marshal our national will to build upon these favorable conditions to improve America's productivity and thus its performance in world markets or we endure a long-run erosion in our standard of living.

It is well to remember that risk is fundamental to the ideal — and the reality — of America. It's practically woven into the fabric of the original 13 Stars and Stripes.

The very founding of this country was an enormous risk. Our Founding Fathers knew that, and they signed a document in which they backed their cause with their "lives . . . fortunes . . . and . . . sacred honor." Imagine the audacity of people who dared to cut their ties with and then challenge on the battlefield the richest and most powerful empire in the world! But it soon became apparent that the new nation, as a confederation of states, wasn't going to work. The states were starting to go their separate ways; by the time of the Constitutional Convention, nine of them still had their own navies. Alexander Hamilton worried that they were on the verge of becoming just like Europe. And that led to another risk: the creation of a new form of government, with shared and balanced power. But the Constitution not only was a risk, it also established risk-taking as one of the primary forces behind the growth of the new nation. It strongly endorsed the concept of private property. By doing that, and by giving Congress — not the individual states — the power to regulate commerce and coin money, among other things, it laid the founda-

tion for a truly national market — a commercial framework within which entrepreneurship could occur and business risks could be taken. In other words, it did, 200 years ago, what Europe is just thinking about doing today. Since that time, if there is one thing that has been peculiar to our national ethos, it is the willingness to forsake secure predictability and to strike out in search of something better.

Since the beginning of the '80s, we at GM have made friends with risk. It hasn't been an easy courtship. But I would like to sum up our experience, because I think it demonstrates the importance and benefits of daring to make the future different from the past.

One thing that happens when you take risks is that you face reality. In fact, the world of risk is the world of reality. If you weren't aware of what's really going on, you wouldn't be taking the risk in the first place.

As you face reality, you form a vision of what you want to be. That's what gives direction and meaning to your risk-taking. And such a vision is essential in securing the commitment of the whole organization: if we don't know where we're going — or if the future's going to be the same as the present — why bother?

At GM, in the early '80s, we faced the realities of the times. Outside our organization, we saw global competition, rapid technology transfer, rising customer expectations, shifting and segmenting markets and weakening brand loyalty. Within our organization, there was the tremendous untapped potential of technology and people. And out of that came our vision: to respond to the new realities by reorganizing our vehicle operations and by fully utilizing our people

through massive new investments in technology and training. The result would be a newly productive, flexible and responsive GM, a GM better able to compete in the '90s and beyond.

The third thing that accompanies risk-taking is that you learn patience. Immediate payoffs are typically not forthcoming. Everything takes longer than you expect.

And the larger the organization, the harder it is to change it. Let's never forget that plenty of people have a vested interest in not changing, people who believe their importance is measured solely by the number of heads in their headcount, people who believe the strongest reason for doing anything is that "that is the way we've always done it." It's very important to get to these people and pry their fingers loose from the rock of security and cajole them to swim across the river of change. It can be done, but it takes time.

Next: when you take risks, you will have problems; you will have setbacks; you will make mistakes. Those are the natural consequences of stepping into the unknown and encountering events and factors you don't control. To assume risk is by definition to abandon predictability. When you make changes, you draw criticism. There is practically no human endeavor that has not been greeted with snickers and sneers, no invention or discovery whose usefulness has not been questioned and often by the leading authorities of the day. But you can't let that stop you from seeking and taking risks. The moment you do, you are, in effect, no longer a business enterprise.

GM has bitten off a lot in the 1980s. We have built eight new assembly plants and refurbished 19 old ones. We have invested over \$50 billion — more than any other manufacturer — in new facilities and technology to revitalize our corporation. We have downsized our product line; then, when consumer demand went the other way, we made some of our cars bigger but still highly fuel-efficient. And we have shifted virtually all our cars to front-wheel drive — an enormous investment in engineering and

*continued on page 30*

By Corlis Holt

**O**n Christmas Eve, veterans of the U.S. 66th (Panther) Infantry Division recall that cold night when they survived the sinking of the troopship Leopoldville 44 years ago.

Every one of those veterans, myself included, can remember buddies who didn't survive.

More than 750 were lost when a torpedo fired at the command of 1st Lt. Gerhard Meyer in U-486 found its mark a little abaft of midship on the starboard side. The powerful missile, which struck at 5:50 p.m., blasted a big hole in the ship's hull and killed about 300 in two troop compartments. The other fatalities primarily were those who went into the water and were not rescued when the ship sank a little more than two hours later.

Those who lost their lives in this disaster, plus subsequent action when the division faced 48,000 Germans in the Lorient and St. Nazaire pockets in Brittany, were honored by the dedication of a handsome memorial at Fort Rucker, Ala., last May 11. I was privileged to witness the dedication ceremony, a truly memorable occasion because I saw buddies whom I hadn't seen since 1945.

Among those at Rucker were several in my old unit, Co. D, one of the three heavy weapons companies in the 264th Regiment.

I saw Martin Browning, my old company commander, and George Watson, who was first sergeant and later was given a battlefield commission. E. Arthur (Doc) Gillespie and Charles McCartney were other former members of Co. D who were present.

McCartney is a member of a VFW Post, in Coffeyville, Kans. There were quite a few VFW members present, including Lloyd Huger, a Life Member and Commander of Post 6132 of Dade City, Fla.

About 120 Panther veterans, many accompanied by their wives, were bussed about 15 miles from Dothan to Fort Rucker. After the memorial dedication, the busses took us on a sightseeing tour of the base, which is

now occupied by U.S. Army air units, mainly helicopters.

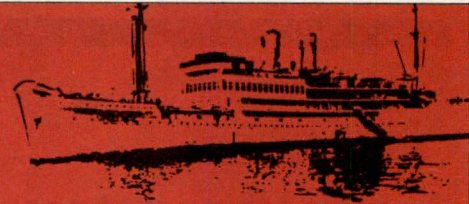
In the dedicatory speech, post commander Col. E. Kirby Lawson III commented, "It is significant that we pause and reflect on the Panther soldiers who served so gallantly, and especially to those who paid the supreme price. Freedom is not free."

The 66th was unique for several reasons: it was sent into its initial action considerably below full strength; it suffered more dead (about 800) than wounded (about 650), an almost unheard of statistic in modern warfare, and it suffered the worst blow ever dealt U.S. ground forces by enemy naval action in the sinking of the Leopoldville.

Of course, the Leopoldville's loss was the reason for the 66th's unusual situation. Not only did the division lose about 760 men, but those who were saved had no weapons. Thus, one German torpedo severely handicapped the effectiveness of an entire division for a time.

Meyer's submarine did its job well. Not only did it sink the Leopoldville, but it sank two British escort vessels on Dec. 26. The sub, a new snorkel type, had been ordered to its position near Cherbourg to prevent Allied ships from carrying reinforcements to the European mainland, where German ground forces were in a last-ditch struggle in the action later called the Battle of the Bulge.

Everybody who survived the Leopoldville has his own story to tell. On the bus ride from Dothan, I sat next



# WHEN DISASTER STRUCK

*Almost three years to the day after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and a week after the Germans began their assault that became known as the Battle of the Bulge, more than 750 men of the 66th Division were lost on Christmas Eve, 1944, when a German submarine torpedoed their troopship in the English Channel. The writer was one of the survivors.*

to a gentleman whose story illustrates the vagaries of war.

Walter Brown, of Lynn, Mass., who was a 60mm mortar section leader, is alive today because he got seasick.

"I began feeling sick," he recalled. "I took the steel outer shell of my helmet loose from the liner. I intended to use the steel shell in case I didn't get as far as the latrine or the rail, whichever I could get to first. I climbed out of the compartment where my Company F of the 262nd was quartered. And that's when the torpedo hit, and it hit right where my company was. I am one of only five F Co. men on that ship who survived."

Brown believes he was the last man to leave the ship without getting wet.

"A Coast Guard vessel pulled alongside," he said. "I jumped and caught its rail, and they pulled me aboard." Then he helped the crew pull others aboard. In doing so, he witnessed a heroic deed by one of the Coast Guardsmen.

"We got hold of one big fellow we just couldn't pull up, so a crewman stripped to his pants and T-shirt and jumped in the cold water. He lifted the man up just enough to allow us to get a better hold so we could pull him in. I don't know whether he got a medal for that, but he should have."

For me, the saga began about mid-afternoon on Dec. 23. I was in a detail working in the company supply room at Camp Pindleinton near Dorchester, England. An officer opened the door and shouted, "Pack up everything and get ready to move at 1900!"

Sometime after midnight, we shouldered our barracks bags and struggled up the gangplanks of the Leopoldville. There was no advance planning as to which units would be assigned which compartments. It was just first come, first served as crewmen led us to compartments. As it turned out, my company was fortunate. We were put close to the bow on the starboard side and well above the water line.

The Leopoldville was a 501-foot, 11,509 gross ton vessel built at Hoboken, Belgium, in 1929. Named for the capital of the old Belgian Congo, she was used as a luxury liner between Antwerp and Africa. At one time, she had been fairly fancy. Her three weather decks were covered in teakwood. Early in the war, the ship had been taken over by the British and refitted as a troop transport.

The ship pulled out of harbor soon after dawn of a cold, clear Christmas Eve. The English Channel was rough, a common situation.

After a few hours, we heard exploding depth charges dropped by our escorts, two English destroyers and a French frigate. The explosions really didn't worry us. After all, we had recently crossed the Atlantic and heard many depth charges,

but our huge convoy had not lost a single ship.

Early in the afternoon came mess call. I got in line, but when I saw what was being served, greasy gray stew prepared by the Leopoldville crew, my stomach did flip-flops, and I quickly made my way back to my hammock.

Many felt as queasy as I did, so we spent the afternoon lying in our hammocks, thinking of Christmas at home and of the perils which lay ahead. Would we be equal to the task?

I was about half asleep when the torpedo hit. The ship lurched and our hammocks rocked. My first thought was, "The boiler must have blown up." And then I wondered if we had hit a mine. The idea that we had been torpedoed never occurred to me.

Everybody made sure life preservers were on and secure. Then we filed up the narrow steps and went to the positions we'd been assigned at an earlier boat drill.

The ship was dead in the water, but from our vantage point on the foredeck to starboard it didn't appear in imminent danger of sinking.

In a few minutes, we could see that a smaller ship had pulled alongside to starboard. When the bow of the vessel was at its zenith, I could see it was the HMS Brilliant, a British destroyer. The 1,360-ton vessel was launched Sept. 10, 1930, and was commanded by John Pringle.

Pringle had ordered the Leopoldville to drop anchor, and then he pulled alongside to evacuate wounded. But that proved to be a ticklish, virtually impossible, task. Crewmen aboard the destroyer started calling to soldiers on the Leopoldville to jump aboard. Some did, but others went to the rail, took a look and decided it was too dangerous to jump. Both vessels were heaving in the swells, and a poor jump might cause you to fall between the ships — certain death.

I moved to the rail and climbed on it. After a few seconds, I felt I could make the jump. It was obvious that the best time to jump

was when the destroyer's deck was at its nearest point and just starting its downward plunge.

An officer on the foredeck of the destroyer raised both arms and shouted, "Jump, lads, jump! Ye may never have another chance like this!"

## Not only did the German U-boat sink the Leopoldville, but it sank two British escort vessels on Dec. 26.

His encouragement gave me confidence, so I jumped with no problem.

I quickly went below, and soon the destroyer put us ashore at a dock in Cherbourg harbor.

About two hours and ten minutes after being hit, the ship sank stern-first. In the water, there was panic among men who feared they would drown, but it was the only panic seen during the entire episode.

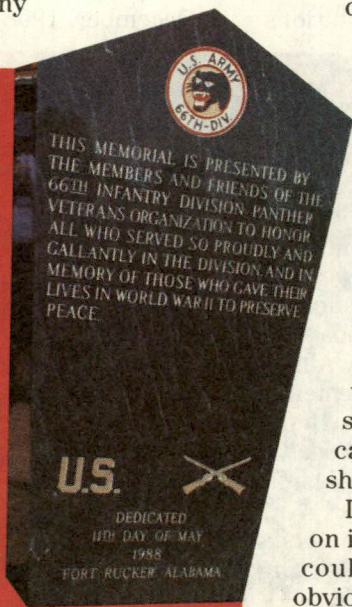
On Christmas Day, I was assigned KP duty in an officers' mess, but I didn't really mind. I was just happy to be alive to enjoy the turkey and trimmings. That night, many of us gathered around a Christmas tree in the corner of the warehouse and sang carols.

The next day, we were taken to a tent city near Cherbourg, where we were re-equipped. In about 10 days we were trucked to Brittany where, with Free French forces, we kept Germans penned up in the St. Nazaire and Lorient pockets until they surrendered on May 8, 1945. The surrender ceremony occurred at St. Nazaire on May 11 at 10:30 a.m., 43 years to the minute before the dedication of the 66th's memorial.

The 66th moved into the Koblenz area of Germany for a time as part of the Army of Occupation. Then the division was dispatched to Marseilles for personnel processing duties. In September, I and many others in the 66th were transferred to the 42nd Division in Austria for further occupation duties.

Many Panthermen wound up wearing another division's patch, but pride in their initial unit always burned brightly. ■

**The 66th Division dead, most of them killed when their troopship was torpedoed on Christmas Eve, 1944, are remembered by this memorial dedicated last May 11 at Fort Rucker, Ala.**



# 'WE RULED THE NIGHT'

## Indiana Rangers in Vietnam

By Mick Smith

**T**hey called their base camp "Camp Atterbury East" in honor of their Indiana field training site. But their missions were not training exercises, nor their enemy imaginary.

When the men of the Indiana National Guard's 151st Infantry, Company D (Ranger) went out on patrol, they faced Viet Cong and North Vietnamese regulars in a deadly game of cat-and-mouse in the jungles and mountains of central Vietnam. By the end of their tour in November, 1969, they had compiled one of the most remarkable combat records of any company of the Vietnam War.

In December, 1967, elements of the Indiana Guard's 1st Battalion (Airborne), 151st Infantry, were redesignated as Company D (Long Range Patrol). Each member of Company D was already airborne-qualified, but the LRP designation carried with it an even more demanding mission.

To prepare for this new mission, Company D underwent two weeks of intensive training in Panama at the Jungle Warfare School in March, 1968. At the end of the training, 97% of the Guardsmen had earned the Jungle Expert patch.

This represented the highest percentage ever attained by any reserve component unit in the school's history and brought the unit considerable recognition within the military establishment. As a result, when units were selected the following month to

fill President Johnson's call for 24,000 Guardsmen and Reservists for service in Vietnam, Company D would be among them.

The activation of Company D was unique in two respects. First, Company D was the only ground combat maneuver unit selected. Second, thanks to a direct appeal to Army Secretary Stanley Resor, Company D was allowed to deploy as a unit, rather than being broken up with individuals infused into other units. This no-infusion policy had a positive impact on morale and was a significant factor in the unit's combat performance in Vietnam.

Following activation, the Guardsmen moved from their home stations

at Evansville and Greenfield, Ind., to Ft. Benning, Ga., for 23 weeks of additional training. Twenty-six of the Guardsmen completed the rigorous Ranger school, and the entire company was put through a modified mini-Ranger course.

Regular Army and Reserve fillers brought the unit up to full strength. As the unit prepared to deploy, Capt. Ken Himsel, commanding officer and one of the organizers of the company, was promoted to major and ordered to Vietnam as an individual replacement within the 4th Division. He was replaced as commander by the unit's executive officer, his brother Ron.

Company D arrived in country late in December, 1968. The Guard unit



MORT KUNSTLER

was attached to the 199th Light Infantry Brigade for a short training period, then phased into its combat mission under the guidance of the regular Army's Company F (Ranger), 51st Infantry. The two units were practically merged, with Maj. George Heckman taking over as commander, Ron Himsel continuing as his executive officer.

Operating out of Camp Atterbury East near Bien Hoa, Company D (now designated as a Ranger company) took on an increasingly greater role in the support of II Field Force operations. The Rangers' mission was primarily to conduct reconnaissance and gather information on Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army activities in an area that would eventually run from the Cambodian border northwest of Saigon all the way to the Central Highlands.

With the additional assets inherited from Company F, the Guardsmen's mission was expanded to include engagement of small enemy units with their organic weapons; engagement of large enemy units with gunships, artillery and tactical air support; planned ambushes along supply and communications routes, and the rescue of downed pilots.

The Rangers' baptism of fire came quickly. On the second day Company D was operational in AO Indiana (its area of operations), a mixed team of Guardsmen and Regulars made contact with a VC patrol. Four VC were killed and a number of AK-47 rifles and mortar rounds captured. According to team leader S/Sgt. Franklin Robinson, a Company F veteran, the Guardsmen acquitted themselves well in their first firefight. The reactions of Spec. 4 Tom Lilly and Pfc. Don Blevins and Bill Faulks were almost instinctive. "You always wonder whether men are going to open fire their first time out," Robinson later recalled. "These guys fired up a storm!"

Missions usually ran five or six days, with about half the company in the field at any given time. As a result, Company D was to gain the distinction of being the only Guard or Re-

serve unit in Vietnam to maintain day-to-day contact with the enemy. In less than 11 months the Rangers conducted 975 team insertions in their AO, making more than 200 separate enemy sightings and nearly 150 contacts.

Typically, the Rangers would be

powerful testimony to the dangers inherent in their missions. Surprisingly, the unit lost only two men to hostile action.

Spec. 4 Charles Larkins was the Rangers' first combat fatality, killed Feb. 11, 1969, while maintaining ground-to-air communications under



Then Mayor Richard Lugar presents the Key to the City of Indianapolis to Ranger Company D at 'welcome home' ceremonies in November, 1969.

inserted by helicopter deep into hostile territory. Once their position was established they would monitor enemy activity along trails or in specified areas and report back on what they saw. Often they would predict VC or NVA attacks based on the troop or supply movements they had observed. As Lt. Gen. Walter Kerwin, II Field Force commander, described them, the Rangers became "my eyes and ears... providing me with information that is vital to the success of our tactical operations."

Although they usually tried not to make contact with the enemy, the nature of the Rangers' missions was such that in many cases it could not be avoided. When this happened, they often found themselves facing vastly larger VC or NVA forces. Air or artillery support would be called in to destroy the enemy force or to cover the Rangers' extraction.

Still, in the conduct of such hazardous missions, it was inevitable that casualties would be suffered. The 110 Purple Hearts awarded to the Rangers of Company D stand as

heavy fire, an action for which he was awarded the Bronze Star.

Sgt. Robert Smith had already received the Bronze Star when he was killed two months after Larkins. Smith was walking point after a firefight when he was hit by enemy fire. Though mortally wounded, he managed to suppress the enemy fire, giving the rest of the team time to reach cover. For his actions Smith was awarded one of the 19 Silver Stars received by the men of Company D.

Platoon Sgt. Bill Butler, a veteran of both Korea and Vietnam and another of Company D's Silver Star recipients, maintains that the unique nature of a National Guard unit gave the Rangers an edge in combat.

"The Regular Army in no way, shape or form could have a unit with the cohesion that we had," he said. "Some of the guys went to school together. We had seven sets of brothers — we had cousins, we had nephews in the unit. After we got our first man killed, the unit just got tighter than hell. The

*continued on page 42*

# A PURPLE HEART MUSEUM

By Robert D. Chadbourne

In Coram, N.Y., on Long Island in the fall of 1780, the British Army had stored tons of hay inside three blockhouses to feed its horses through the winter. Heavy fortifications protected the strategic supply post.

A freezing November storm raged across the icy waters as a little raiding party bobbed toward the fort in a four-hour whaleboat river crossing. Led by Sgt. Elijah Churchill, 2nd Regiment, Light Dragoons, the little American party approached with ambitious orders: destroy the hay.

As the whaleboat eased to within 50 feet of the stockade, a British sentry spotted the group and opened fire. The band of raiders plunged into the icy water, scrambled up a bank and crashed into the main building before the British could defend themselves.

Within minutes, Sgt. Churchill's party had set fire to the hay, destroyed the fort, burned a British supply schooner anchored nearby and taken more than 50 prisoners. The raiding party

suffered one wounded.

Surprise attacks on British installations was the specialty of the Enfield, Conn., carpenter, who seemed tremendously skilled in the basics of intelligence work. Less than a year later, Churchill did it again, this time taking Fort Slongo, 40 miles northeast of Brooklyn, in less than a day without the loss of a single man.

For his exploits, Sgt. Churchill was the first recipient of the Badge of Military Merit, known by all today as the Purple Heart.

Now, in honor of Sgt. Elijah Churchill, his hometown of Enfield plans to become home to a new National Purple Heart museum.

**Authorized by George Washington, this is the Badge of Military Merit awarded Sgt. Elijah Churchill, the medal's first honoree.**



New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site.

## The Purple Heart Medal as it existed since 1932.

The Enfield Purple Heart Committee is successfully moving ahead step by step to establish a National Purple Heart Museum. Committee Chairman Anthony Porto, a retired tool design analyst and a Navy machinist's mate in World War II, says, "It will honor men who received the Purple Heart through all wars, and it will honor Enfield for its high percentage of total population that have served in the military over the years."

Establishment of a National Purple Heart Museum got no argument from the Pentagon. "The Department of Defense fully supports this and all efforts to honor the members of the armed forces who have served the nation so ably," wrote Charles W. Groover, deputy assistant secretary of defense for program integration, signalling a go-ahead that made no mention of financial help. The town of Enfield has provided \$13,000, and the committee has held a number of fund-raising events.

The committee has learned you do not simply erect a sign and declare yourself a national museum. The state legislature took the first step, moving a bill through the 1987 session which Gov. O'Neill has since signed. "We then went to our Congressional delegation asking that we be given a national designation. We had a better shot at it since the state had adopted it," reports State Rep. Frederick Gelsi of Enfield.

"It is my desire that every possible recognition be given to these men and women, and I shall proceed in whatever manner that will bring accomplishment of the Purple Heart Museum as a national museum," assures Connecticut's Rep. Nancy L. Johnson. In June, the House passed the Enfield Museum Bill. The Senate passed it Oct. 20.

At present the biggest order of business is to find a permanent Enfield home for the museum. Collections of related memorabilia are displayed in a section of the town's historical commission. "We want an active museum, not a stuffy old place," says Eileen Axenroth, chairman of the site search committee seeking either land or a suitable existing building.

One exhibit the new museum probably will not be able to offer is Sgt. Churchill's medal, now on display at New Windsor



Cantonment in Vail Gate, N.Y., site of the last encampment of George Washington's army.

"The Badge of Military Merit is one of our most cherished objects," says Manager E. Jane Townsend, adding, "I think I can speak for all involved in saying it is not up for sale."

Nor does Mrs. Grace Oppenheimer, a retired hairdresser from Chester, Mass., Churchill's great-great-granddaughter, feel the medal should be permanently disturbed from its temperature-controlled pressurized display case in New York. "I would support a loan," says Mrs. Oppenheimer, who has visited New Windsor Cantonment several times to view the display which includes Churchill's sword. The Cantonment at Vail Gate does have an application procedure allowing museums to request temporary loans of exhibits.

"We've talked about trying to obtain the medal, but that's not really our goal," says former Enfield Mayor Frank Mancuso, an active committee member, who adds, "We just feel Churchill was from Enfield and we should honor him. We're asking people with medals and papers in attics and cellars to donate them to let visitors know a lot of people gave up a lot in time of need." ■

## **'The world of risk is the world of reality. If you weren't aware of what's really going on, you wouldn't be taking the risk in the first place.'**

tooling but one that allowed substantial improvements in the design and performance of our products. We made acquisitions that would bring us new expertise in computer services and defense electronics, with great possibilities for technology transfer to cars and trucks. Right now, we are working on about 90 joint projects with Hughes Aircraft.

And do you know what? Not everything has panned out the way we expected it would.

But risk, of course, has an upside, which is what makes it worth it in the first place. You get tougher. And you start to see the payoffs. That is what has happened at GM: we started solving the problems (which can't be done immediately, because it takes three to four years to bring a new automotive product to market). We learned to roll with the criticism. We became more determined than ever to stay the course, especially since our efforts are really starting to pay off in technological achievements, in manufacturing processes, in management systems that make the very best use of our human talent and most of all in new products. That old bromide about the crucible and the fire is true: GM is a stronger, more effective organization, a company ready for the future.

Which brings me to the last item in my list of things that happen when you take risks: you acquire a healthy respect for the future. Unfortunately, in our age of short attention spans and instant gratification, we tend to get a little too hung up on "now." We forget how quickly things can change; how, just beyond our view, the road can take a sharp turn.

Now, a great many people don't want to go through all of that. Maybe they aren't aware of the critical importance of risk in our nation's past

— and future. Maybe they are frightened by the kinds of risks we will have to take as we become a post-industrial, world-competitive society. Nevertheless, we need to let it be known that risk-taking has helped make this country what it is and that risk is not all bad. These two ideas are very important to remember, because we are faced with having to take more risks and probably soon.

You don't have to be a futurist to see it coming. You don't have to be a great thinker to see the risks.

In education, we must insist on quality, excellence and accountability at every level. We must set and stick to standards for teacher and student competence. If we do that, we are bound to disturb many parents and educators. But that may be a risk we will have to take.

In macroeconomic policy, we must face the fact that our country cannot go on overconsuming and borrowing the difference from overseas. Facing this fact will make a lot of politicians uncomfortable since it means that we may have to endure a phasing back in the growth rate of our consumption. But it is something we have to do if we don't want to face the shock of a severe downward adjustment to our living standard later.

In regulatory policy, we must admit that no amount of regulation can abolish uncertainty and ensure a perfectly safe life for everyone. In fact, regulation that decreases some risks may actually increase others. We must recognize that whatever regulation we enact comes at a cost: it makes industries less competitive. If we do that, we may antagonize those people — and there are a lot of them — who disagree with these truths. But it may be a risk we'll have to take.

In business, we must insist on

more participatory management. As we do, we're bound to threaten the comfortable environment on both sides of the labor fence, because now managers must lead, not boss, and employees are expected to take responsibility, not only for their own quality and productivity, but also for that of their group and even their plant. That can be exciting for some but not for everybody. And it is a risk we will have to take.

That is only a very short list; virtually everything that we need to do to become more productive and more competitive will rock somebody's boat. But fear of the unknown has never stymied us before, and there is no reason why it should now.

I believe the American people must understand the challenges and the choices they face. Before that can happen, however, they must grasp the real nature of the risk-taking process, not only the uncertainty but also the tremendous opportunities that come from understanding change and managing it to your advantage. They must understand that in turning from risk and seeking security, it is not security you will find but disaster. They must understand that, as contradictory as it may seem, the fundamental truth is that there is no security without risk. They must understand that in a risk-free society, you cannot thrive and grow; you can only vegetate and die.

And when they understand all of that, we'll have that national consensus, that galvanizing of the national will, that has served us so well in the past and can serve us again in the future.

A wonderful Danish proverb says, "He who would leap high must take a long run." Indeed, America must build momentum for a very great leap. The sooner we start our run, the better. ■

### **About the Author:**

*Roger B. Smith is chairman of the General Motors Corp. and a veteran of Navy service in World War II.*

# Plan Now for Retirement

By Mildred Jailer

**R**etirement. Even the word makes most active working people shudder and mutter "I'd rather drop dead."

But although it may be difficult to believe, there really can be life in retirement. And, now, more and more corporate groups, realizing the importance of this phase of living, are beginning to reinforce the positive side of the concept with the idea that a chunk of retirement money may be fine, but it is only one of many factors that added together can make the difference between years of desperation and the good life.

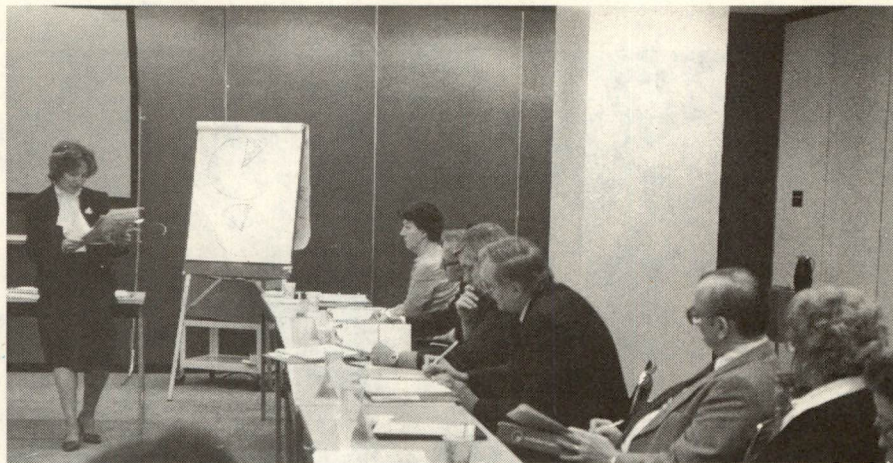
As a non-material yet valuable benefit, businesses have designed special programs in which employees learn about and discuss subjects that are good sense for anyone with retirement somewhere in the future.

Plan ahead. Be moneywise. Find a new identity. One or all of these three areas is regarded as critical for a successful retirement by such prestigious firms as The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, J. C. Penney, Inc., and CBS, Inc.

## Burn No Bridges

"It is not only what you have but what you are going to do that will determine how much money you will need. So planning ahead is absolutely essential," underscored Jane Cooper, management consultant and manager of the Planning for Future Retirement Program at Equitable. Planning ahead, Cooper explained, means searching into every aspect of your life and making decisions about how you want to use your time, where you want to live and what may come up with regard to health concerns.

The sensible plan will be flexible. Fact is, she noted, "The reason for a plan is so there will be something to change." An ideal plan, for example, might be to stay in the house where you have lived for years and then



Jane Cooper (left) conducting Equitable's Planning for Future Retirement Program.

discover you will also have enough retirement money to buy a second retirement home in, say, Arizona.

Unfortunately, the more usual plan is to sell the family home, retire to Florida and fish or golf every day, Cooper said. "A lot of people think this is ideal. They have their hearts set on it. Then they arrive in Florida. They may discover people they like and a lot of things that make them happy. But, within the first year, they also learn the climate in the non-peak season is not what they expected. They are bored with a daily regimen of fishing or golfing. And, in general, there aren't enough things for them to do.

"They are trapped in a situation difficult to change because there wasn't any preliminary flexibility in their planning. They sold their home and can't go back. There is a psychological reluctance to admit defeat after telling family and friends they are never coming back.

"So they find themselves with one or the other of the couple either miserably unhappy or becoming ill. And now they experience the lack of support systems they had at home of family and old friends, familiar medical services and all the kinds of things they knew where to turn to when they needed help."

Of course VFW members have a

ready-made support group in a Post if they have moved to a community where one is located. Check this out before relocating.

## Bank On It

According to the results of an evaluation questionnaire submitted to attendees at the close of one of the 2½-day programs, sessions devoted to company benefits were among the three most highly rated among the subjects included in the pre-retirement seminars at J. C. Penney, Inc.

The clear view of benefits also dovetails with further financial planning, a subject that also ranked high in the questionnaire results. The awareness "makes it easier to rethink an entire financial plan that may or may not be completely company oriented," said Joan Schoenberger, the company's project manager for the pre-retirement program.

"One of the most important things that happens in the financial planning session is that 99% of the attendees lose their fear of retirement," she observed. "They are now more emotionally comfortable with the concept of retirement and are looking forward to it."

## A New You

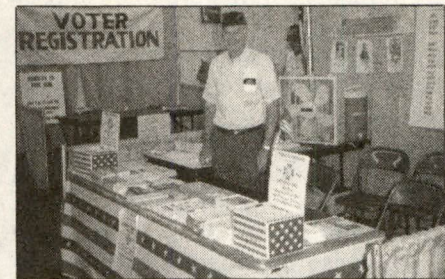
A third key area to be reckoned with is discovering a new and satisfying identity.

*continued on page 43*

## Helping and Honoring



The range of VFW activities in communities in all parts of the country is readily demonstrated in these pictures.



**J**ohn Coffman, Missouri's 14th District Past Commander, the subject of a recent feature in the Springfield, Mo., News-Leader, mans the VFW voter registration booth at the Ozark Empire Fair, which attracted 222,327 visitors.

**C**elebrating his 100th birthday, Asa Crum, a World War I veteran, receives a Life Membership in Post 49, Mobile, Ala., from Post Quartermaster Ben Minshew and a U.S. Flag from Post Sr. Vice Commander Jack Eason as Auxiliary President Peggy J. Odom looks on. Not shown, Commander Robert A. Bosarge, a two-time All American Post Commander. Post 49 has 2,316 members. (Mobile Post Register Photo)



**S**haron Driver, daughter of Maj. Clarence N. Driver, a World War II POW "missing or presumed dead" since his plane was shot down over Laos in 1973, and then Commander Richard D. Cole, Sr., of Post 9793, Los Angeles, display a picture of Maj. Driver following "vacant chair" ceremonies in his honor at the Post.



**T**his is the float Post 8850, Ironton, Ohio, designated the "Parade Commander's Award" in the Ironton-Lawrence County Memorial Day Parade. The Post also provides the color guard, firing squad and meeting place for the Memorial Day Parade committee. Before the Memorial Day parade, Post and Auxiliary members decorate the graves in the city cemetery. The parade has taken place since 1868. It draws 10,000 participants and 40,000 spectators.

**T**his flag-raising ceremony is conducted at Hawthorne School in Salt Lake City by Post 4355. The school was recently built on the site of a former school. But it lacked a flag. This one that had flown over the Capitol was supplied by Sen. Orrin Hatch after the Post told him of the need. Twenty-seven other flags were obtained by the Post for the school. Three other area Posts participated in the ceremony.



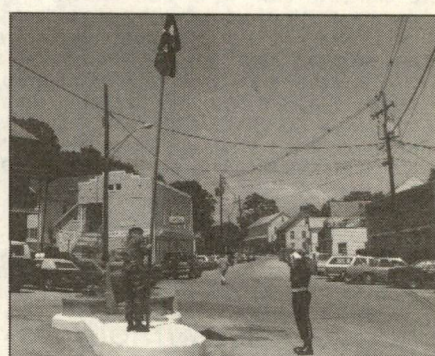
**A** \$4,100 contribution from Post 8586, Perrysville, Ohio, helped make possible the lighting surrounding the helipad for this helicopter at the Kettering-Mohican Area Medical Center. With it are Commander John Stepp and Past Commander Harold Zody. The check was presented to Claudia Matuszewski, center administrator, by then Commander Ken Kasse.



**A** Life Member of Post 996, North Adams, Mass., Frank M. Casuscelli, presents a Life Member pin to another Life Member, David Girard, a World War I veteran, on his 90th birthday.



**M**emorial services marking the end of the Korean War are conducted by Auxiliary President Bev Taylor and Commander Larry Scudder, of Post 1273, Rapid City, S.D.



**C**eremonies honoring Vietnam War POW/MIAs are held by Post 8441, Vernon, N.J., District 21 and the Sussex County Council. Eight POW/MIA flags were awarded eight area towns to increase awareness of the POW/MIA issue.

## Medigap Protection for 1989: A Smart Buy for Medicare Recipients

**W**hen President Reagan signed the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 into law on July 1, it was good news for 32 million Medicare recipients. Good news, because it means new help in coping with the staggering cost of a catastrophic illness or injury. For example, beginning January 1, 1989, Medicare will pay for 365 days of hospitalization after you pay a one-time, yearly deductible, estimated to be \$564. There's new help in paying for skilled nursing facility care, also. In 1989, Medicare will pay for 150 days of confinement per year, subject to a co-insurance charge.

These are meaningful and important changes, and there are more changes of varying degrees of importance that will be phased in between now and 1993. But, because the Act of 1988 focuses on improving catas-

trophic coverage, your exposure to other, uncovered costs can still add up to thousands of dollars.

In addition to the new Part A deductible and skilled nursing co-insurance costs, you'll still have to pay for 100% of the cost of skilled nursing facility confinements from day 151 through 365 in any calendar year; the \$75 Part B deductible; 20% of covered ambulance service; 20% of in-hospital surgery, doctors' visits and related charges; and 20% of out-patient hospital and doctors' expense benefits.

Then, too, Medicare pays benefits up to the "usual and customary" charges, as determined by Medicare. If a provider of health-care services charges more, you'll still be liable for the difference. Moreover, Medicare pays for confinements in Medicare approved skilled nursing facilities only (less than half of the more than

18,000 nursing facilities in the U.S. are Medicare approved).

The important point to remember is this: It never was, isn't now, and probably never will be the intent or purpose of the Federal Medicare Program to pay for every health-care cost you're likely to encounter.

That's why almost as soon as there was Medicare, there was "Medigap" insurance. Today, of the 32 million Americans eligible for Medicare, it's estimated that 70% — more than 22 million people — have some kind of extra, supplemental Medicare insurance, including thousands of comrades insured under the VFW-sponsored Medicare Supplement Insurance Plan.

Supplemental Medicare Insurance will be as important in 1989 and beyond as it is now because it's the only way most people have to take the financial risk out of an illness or injury serious enough to require health-care services.

If you don't have Medigap protection, but agree that you should, which plan is the one best plan for you? You could spend days poring over hundreds of plans, comparing benefits, features, exclusions, costs and dozens of other important factors. But unless you have expertise in such matters, that one best plan is going to be hard to choose.

On the other hand, you can do what thousands of comrades have already done. You can enroll yourself in the VFW-sponsored Medicare Supplement Insurance Plan designed and developed by National Headquarters in cooperation with the insurance company. In short, the VFW Insurance Department has done the necessary homework for you. And, in our view, we've come up with the one best plan for every VFW member eligible for Medicare.

If you'd like more information, just pick up the telephone and call toll-free: 1-800-821-2606. In Missouri, call toll-free: 1-800-237-1765. In Kansas City, Mo. and environs, call: 561-2338. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Central Time, any business day. ■

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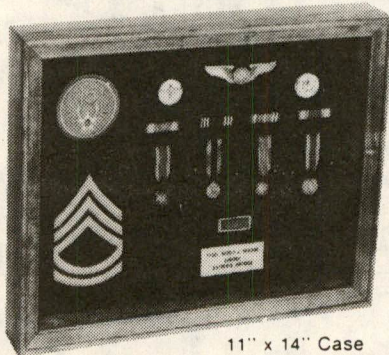
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**Post Member Honored**

A charter member of **Post 9749**, Hilo, Hawaii, has been chosen as volunteer amateur coach of the year by the United States Baseball Federation and presented with its Golden Diamond award. He has been coaching since 1942-43 when he was in the Solomons with the Army. From 1955 to 1986, he coached St. Joseph High School and led the team to the Big Island Inter-scholastic Federation championship in 1959 and 1965. He brought the Hilo Chiefs in 1981 to the Colt World Series championship in Lafayette, Ind., and state Colt titles in 1962 and 1963 and regional in 1982. He retired from coaching in 1986, but he remains active in umpiring. He is patriotic instructor of Post 9749.

**Proud Post**

**Post 5857**, Onaway, Mich., has five members who are brothers, not too common among VFW units, but one of them is District 13 Commander Bud Dunn, and another is Post Commander Del Dunn. The others are Arnold, Richard and Jim Dunn. All but Jim live in Onaway. His home is in Mesa, Ariz. Post 5857 is emphasizing Life Membership this year. Appropriately all five Dunns are Life Members.

**Gold Star Mothers Rembered**

On POW/MIA Recognition Day, **Post 1505**, Keeseville, N.Y., honored nine Gold Star Mothers with presentations of plants of their choice, following ceremonies that recalled the loss of each mother's son. Post Commander Roger Douglas presided. Also a blue spruce tree was dedicated by the Post on its home's grounds in honor of the

POW/MIAs, and Commander Douglas received a VFW All State Post award from District 4 Commander Ed Davis.

**Donates Flags**

**Post and Auxiliary 9943**, Mansfield, Ohio, has donated 205 U.S. Flags to the Madison school systems. On hand for the ceremonies were Post Americanism Chairman Jim Wells, Joy Wells, his Auxiliary counterpart, School Board President John Luedy, Sr.; Superintendent Fred Slater, Commander Ray DePue and other Post, Auxiliary and District officers.

**Post 4061 Member Protests**

A member of **Post 4061**, Canon City, Colo., Domenico Quilico, has prepared a personal resolution urging the federal government not to send a representative to the funeral of Japan's Emperor Hirohito because he "authorized the infamous attack on the United

States at Pearl Harbor." Further the emperor in 1931 "authorized the invasion of Manchuria and the genocide that followed; in 1937, the invasion of China and the genocide that followed, the sinking of the USS Panay, and in collaboration with the French Vichy government authorized the invasion of Indo-China and the genocide that followed."

**Proud of Honor Guard**

Members of **Post 1859**, Carrollton, Mich., have reason to be proud of their honor guard. Under Russell Rousseau, it has taken part in 55 funerals, 18 Flag-raising, four parades, and Veterans and Memorial Day activities in the past year. In addition, it has presented 11 Flags to various organizations in Saginaw County.

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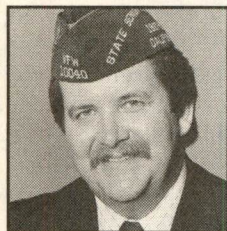
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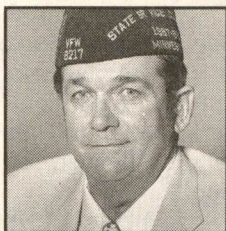
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# October Commanders-of-the-Month

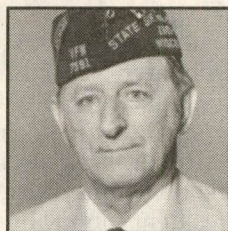
## Department



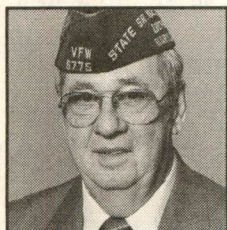
DIV. I  
California  
**James R. Rowoldt** (2)



DIV. II  
Minnesota  
**Richard Carroll**



DIV. III  
Wisconsin  
**Donald Cunningham** (2)



DIV. IV  
Maryland  
**James M. McGuire** (2)



DIV. V  
Iowa  
**Roger Schwieso** (2)



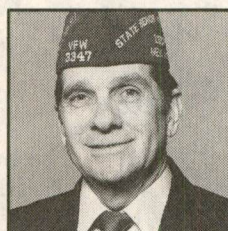
DIV. VI  
Louisiana  
**Ashton J. Dronet** (2)



DIV. VII  
Colorado  
**George Palmateer** (2)



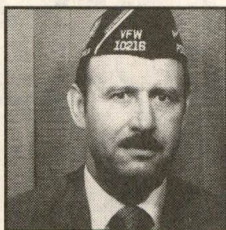
DIV. VIII  
Maine  
**John A. Roode** (2)



DIV. IX  
New Mexico  
**Clyde R. Birkla**



DIV. X  
Wyoming  
**David L. Shoup** (2)



DIV. XI  
Pacific Areas  
**Gerald L. Kraus** (2)

## Post

DIV. I  
Post 1114  
Indiana  
**Calvin Ashley** (2)

DIV. II  
Post 1736  
Louisiana  
**James A. Johnson** (2)

DIV. III  
Post 6694  
Maryland  
**Edgar J. Woolfenden**

DIV. IV  
Post 2947  
Ohio  
**Craig Swartz**

DIV. V  
Post 194  
Maryland  
**William D. McCallum**

DIV. VI  
Post 3388  
Iowa  
**Joseph Steil** (2)

DIV. VII  
Post 8510  
Minnesota  
**John Purkat**

DIV. VIII  
Post 246  
Minnesota  
**E. Gordon Hoar**

DIV. IX  
Post 4206  
Florida  
**John N. Fabbro**

DIV. X  
Post 5032  
Georgia  
**J. E. Land** (2)

DIV. XI  
Post 3064  
Florida  
**Dillard Akers** (2)

DIV. XII  
Post 3735  
Michigan  
**Marvin E. Dahl**

DIV. XIII  
Post 3839  
Minnesota  
**Clarence Fyhrlund**

DIV. XIV  
Post 10081  
Maryland  
**George E. Clark**

DIV. XV  
Post 6732  
South Carolina  
**Hilliard E. Hartman** (2)

DIV. XVI  
Post 4606  
Tennessee  
**Floyd G. Durbin**

DIV. XVII  
Post 1410  
Kentucky  
**Walter Goodman** (2)

DIV. XVIII  
Post 10102  
Iowa  
**Robert E. Carroll** (2)

DIV. XIX  
Post 9985  
Pacific Areas  
**J. Tyson Dees**

DIV. XX  
Post 7322  
Oklahoma  
**Larry Mills** (2)

## County Council

DIV. I  
Erie  
New York  
**Gerred J. Snyder** (2)

DIV. II  
Firelands  
Ohio  
**Craig Swartz** (2)

DIV. III  
Champlain  
New York  
**Glenn Peoples**

DIV. IV  
Kossuth-Emmet  
Iowa  
**Paul G. Stebritz** (2)

(Number in parentheses indicates number of times Commander has won this honor.)

## District

DIV. I District 7 Minnesota <b>Dan Bartholomew</b>	DIV. II District 6 Minnesota <b>Edward Evenski</b>	DIV. III District 14 Maryland <b>John J. Gistedt (2)</b>	DIV. IV District 2 Kansas <b>Jeff Lawson</b>	DIV. V District 1 Indiana <b>Roger Baker</b>	DIV. VI District 9 Kansas <b>Marlin Musil (2)</b>
DIV. VII District 10 Iowa <b>William E. Berven</b>	DIV. VIII District 10 Louisiana <b>Richard Burgess</b>	DIV. IX District 17 Maryland <b>Steve Mason (2)</b>	DIV. X District 5 Vermont <b>Richard LeMay</b>	DIV. XI District 3 Delaware <b>Charles McGuire</b>	DIV. XII District 6 Washington <b>Francis Z. Blair (2)</b>

## Order of Parade

NATIONAL AVERAGE — 70.31%

1 MARYLAND . . . . . 80.57	15 New York . . . . . 71.43	29 North Dakota . . . . . 69.77	43 Mississippi . . . . . 65.36
2 Wisconsin . . . . . 77.79	16 Maine . . . . . 71.35	30 Delaware . . . . . 69.71	44 Arkansas . . . . . 65.33
3 Kansas . . . . . 77.61	17 Washington . . . . . 71.27	31 Arizona . . . . . 69.42	45 Texas . . . . . 64.36
4 Louisiana . . . . . 77.43	18 Kentucky . . . . . 71.24	32 New Jersey . . . . . 69.12	46 Georgia . . . . . 64.31
5 Pacific Areas . . . . . 77.18	19 New Mexico . . . . . 71.22	33 Missouri . . . . . 68.91	47 Tennessee . . . . . 64.28
6 Minnesota . . . . . 76.14	20 Ohio . . . . . 71.11	34 Oregon . . . . . 68.46	48 District of Columbia . . . . . 64.24
7 Michigan . . . . . 75.92	21 Massachusetts . . . . . 70.94	35 Rhode Island . . . . . 68.28	49 Oklahoma . . . . . 64.04
8 California . . . . . 73.95	22 Montana . . . . . 70.90	36 Vermont . . . . . 67.96	50 Utah . . . . . 63.50
9 Iowa . . . . . 73.67	23 Illinois . . . . . 70.75	37 New Hampshire . . . . . 67.85	51 Europe . . . . . 60.62
10 Wyoming . . . . . 72.52	24 Alaska . . . . . 70.42	38 Panama Canal . . . . . 67.38	52 South Carolina . . . . . 60.30
11 Indiana . . . . . 72.46	25 Colorado . . . . . 70.02	39 Idaho . . . . . 67.17	53 Alabama . . . . . 58.65
12 Connecticut . . . . . 72.14	26 Florida . . . . . 69.86	40 North Carolina . . . . . 66.48	54 Hawaii . . . . . 55.36
13 Virginia . . . . . 72.06	27 South Dakota . . . . . 69.85	41 West Virginia . . . . . 66.38	
14 Nebraska . . . . . 72.03	28 Nevada . . . . . 69.80	42 Pennsylvania . . . . . 66.03	

Standings are based on per capita tax transmittals received at National Headquarters through October 31, 1988.

## Posts of 1,000 Members or More

Recorded as of November 8, 1988

Post Place No.	Location	1988-89 Membership
1	1114 Evansville, IN	3609
2	628 Sioux Falls, SD	2044
3	3579 Park Ridge, IL	2007
4	5555 Richfield, MN	1964
5	6506 Rosedale, MD	1876
6	1146 St. Clair Shores, MI	1873
7	360 Mishawaka, IN	1835
8	131 Lincoln, NE	1692
9	1736 Alexandria, LA	1664
10	1308 Alton, IL	1634
11	1273 Rapid City, SD	1581
11	47 Uniontown, PA	1581
13	1296 Bloomington, MN	1491
14	49 Mobile, AL	1484
15	1599 Chambersburg, PA	1421
16	1064 Huntington, WV	1382
17	2940 W. Seneca, NY	1375
18	1275 Lima, OH	1370
19	969 Tacoma, WA	1369
20	1079 Elyria, OH	1351
21	401 Albuquerque, NM	1343
22	2290 Manville, NJ	1322
23	6896 Detroit, MI	1294
24	367 Joliet, IL	1292
25	6694 Dundalk, MD	1284
26	379 Yakima, WA	1282
27	549 Tucson, AZ	1278
28	1989 Indiana, PA	1277
29	6251 Cheektowaga, NY	1273
30	9619 Morningside, MD	1252
31	6704 Mechanicsburg, PA	1251
32	2503 Omaha, NE	1242
33	249 Butler, PA	1236
34	6796 Dallas, TX	1227
35	972 Terre Haute, IN	1222
36	6975 Bristol, VA	1214
37	6640 Metairie, LA	1214
38	112 Wichita, KS	1210
39	6874 Lemon Grove, CA	1207
40	1621 Janesville, WI	1202
40	4087 Davison, MI	1202
42	3382 Kingsport, TN	1197
43	2704 South Omaha, NE	1187
44	7330 Oakville, CT	1181
45	641 Columbia, SC	1178
46	2529 Sandusky, OH	1174
47	2100 Everett, WA	1173
48	10209 Spring Hill, FL	1169
49	5632 St. Louis Park, MN	1164
50	1650 Topeka, KS	1156
51	1810 Brentwood, PA	1147
52	8541 San Antonio, TX	1126
52	9083 Baltimore, MD	1126
54	428 Saint Cloud, MN	1121
55	447 Albert Lea, MN	1119
55	6240 Russell, KS	1119
57	283 Kingston, PA	1117
58	1865 Kenosha, WI	1102
59	2199 Joliet, IL	1087
60	3790 Logansport, IN	1078
61	1432 Salina, KS	1077
62	295 South Saint Paul, MN	1062
63	891 Asheville, NC	1055
64	733 Mason City, IA	1048
65	5263 Fort Sill, OK	1042
66	1000 Independence, MO	1040
67	4051 Colorado Spgs., CO	1029
68	2947 Fremont, OH	1022
69	2539 Gulfport, MS	1013
70	1326 Bismarck, ND	1012
71	501 Denver, CO	1011
72	2743 Norwalk, OH	1009
73	305 Eau Claire, WI	1008
74	9223 Arlington, CA	1005

## National Aides-de-Camp 1987-88

The following VFW member has distinguished himself by qualifying for the National Aide-de-Camp, Recruiting Class award. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 50 new and/or reinstated members. Donald Casey, Post 530, Brookfield, Mass.

### 1988-89

Harry M. Faris, Post 6732, Clover, S.C.; J. Tyson Dees, Post 9985, Tongduchon-Up, Korea; James K. Ander-

son, Post 2513, Warrensburg, Mo.; James A. Glenn, Post 4294, Charleston, Mo.; Terry L. Miller, Post 1655, Newton, Iowa; Don P. Black, Post 10302, Springfield, Ill.; Tony A. Wasinger, Post 9644, Fort Logan, Colo.; David Huerta, Post 2001, Porterville, Calif.; Michael Salome, Post 3982, Santa Clara, Calif.; John Best, Post 891, Asheville, N.C.; Maurice Hale, Post 989, Bartlesville, Okla.; Stanley Gertner, Post 1118, Cushing, Okla.; Frank W. Boroz, Post 9520, Brunswick, Ohio; G. William Marks, Post 352, Cleveland, Ohio, and Paul Strickland, Post 1098, McAlester, Okla.

## Century Award 1988-89

The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by qualifying for the Century Award. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 100 new and/or reinstated members. Tony A. Wasinger, Post 9644, Fort Logan, Colo.; George William Marks, Post 352, Cleveland, Ohio, and Stanley Gertner, Post 1118, Cushing, Okla.

## 90th Anniversary Life Membership Drawing

Following are the names of the winners of 90 Life Memberships awarded as part of the Early Bird Recognition membership promotion: Glenn L. Amis, Andrew R. Bardshaw Jr., Samuel J. Bartolotti, Haywood Bowen, Robert S. Brague, William W. Brochi, Elmer Butler, James W. Chavis, John J. Ciavarra, Thomas F. Clarke, Dom Consiglio, Otho L. Craft, Ronald P. Creel, Frank M. D'Amato, Roy B. Davis, Kenneth R. DeVore Jr., Richard A. Deison, Richard E. Doyle, Charles R. Earman, Donald Ray Edsall, Robert E. Ends, Joe Farmer Sr., Frank C. Faust, Walter Fedchin, Harold V. Felton, Elton C. Gamble, James O.

Gee, Kenneth Goodpastor, Delbert I. Groenke, Jewell W. Halley, Joseph E. Henson, William R. Hickson, Cal J. Holecko, Joel S. Horn, William J. Hyndman, Ed Johnson, G.A. Johnson, Frank Jones, Terry J. Kessler, Robert N. Kimura, George W. Klein, John J. Lally, R.P. Lamoreaux, Ralph G. Lanham, Robert E. Leckrone, Joseph M. Limuti, Donald D. Lindberg, Zenon Lochmayer, Roy H. Maston, Thomas M. McAllister, Joseph S. McRae Jr., Harry J. Olson, Donald J. Paine, Richard Palmisciano, Raymond W. Pata, Carlos J. Perez, Edwin S. Phillips, Walter A. Pinkas, Otto E. Price, James C. Pugh, James B. Revoir, Earl K. Reynolds,

Charles A. Robbins, Ralph C. Rodriguez, Robert E. Rogers, Leslie Sande, James K. Scheihamer, Michael Schleicher, Marion O. Scotten, Robert E. Shaw, James N. Sipes, Joseph F. Slattery, Harry A. Snyder, Charles F. Sprafka, Thomas M. Stanley, Daniel, Stefanski, Ellis W. Stewart, Robert E. Swart, James E. Tate, Gene H. Tester, Roy W. Thomas, Charles E. Tyler, William M. Venable, Raymond Von Rueden, G. Wagner, Warren R. Wallin, Gary Lee Waterman, Wilbur W. Watts, Vernell N. Zachariah and William Zenko.

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

1988-89 Series General Orders No. 3

1. The following appointments are hereby announced: NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMITTEE: Members: James Abbott, Post 4108, Redmond, Ore.; Muriel E. Allan, Post 3633, Maquoketa, Iowa; Jerome R. Berg, Post 4221, Mayville, N.D.; C.C. Blankenship, Post 2280, Bellevue, Neb.; Mike Bokan, Post 1771, Lafayette, Colo.; Sanford R. Boles, Post 7099, W. Covington, Ky.; Paul B. Brown, Post 733, Mason City, Iowa; C.W. Buchanan, Post 3892, Harker Heights, Texas; Paul A. Calhoun, Jr., Post 4287, Orlando, Fla.; Frank A. Candalisa, Post 10276, Honolulu, Hawaii; William M. Chapman, Post 5996, Anderson, S.C.; Emmett G. Cherne, Post 2179, Middletown Township, N.J.; Gary L. Clark, Post 7398, Magna, Utah; Judd L. Clemens, Post 9785, Eagle River, Alaska; James E. Coad, Post 401, Albuquerque, N.M.; Chet Coons, Post 7885, Ekalaka, Montana; Raul G. Cox, Post 3359, Garland, Texas; George W. Davis, Post 8276, Delmar, Md.; Ralph O. DeMarco, Post 885, College Point, N.Y.; Lee D. Finley, Post 6734, Greenville, S.C.; Joseph Gauthier, Post 544, Charleston, Mass.; Gerald W. Gilgenbach, Post 8847, New Bavaria, Ohio; Louis Greco, Post 4653, Monaca, Pa.; Ronald P. Green, Post 5631, Sanford, N.C.; Al H. Hall, Post 628, Sioux Falls, S.D.; William Hawk, Post 9381, Ada, Ohio; Eugene L. Hoeltge, Post 5077, OFallon, Mo.; Dennis P. Horton, Post 8583, Gardnerville, Nev.; Miles Irvine, Post 379, Yakima, Wash.; Lawrence Jack, Post 9021, Warren, Mich.; Sam Jacobson, Post 141, Kenyon, Minn.; R.L. Johanningsmeier, Post 1257, Martinsville, Ind.; Robert L. Jones, Post 9951, Bangkok, Thailand; Edward Kaopuiki, Post 1540, Honolulu, Hawaii; T. George Kotros, Post 1526, Medway, Mass.; Robert W. Lacey, Post 720,

Phoenix, Ariz.; William G. Lessard, Post 9955, Pittsfield, Maine; Jon Lough, Post 1254, Arkansas City, Kans.; Acie T. Marksberry, Jr., Post 5865, York, Pa.; Robert Martin, Jr., Post 2571, White River Junction, Vt.; Michael J. Mason, Sr., Post 3026, Baltimore, Md.; Willis G. Meers, Post 2866, St. Charles, Mo.; W. Jack Niland, Post 799, Kenne, N.H.; Joe Panell, Post 8600, East Gadsden, Ala.; Edward Papantonio, Post 271, Bronx, N.Y.; George Pfeilsticker, Post 305, Eau Claire, Wis.; Webster Pidgeon, Post 45, Providence, R.I.; Harold Prochaska, Post 1980, Emporia, Kans.; Robert J. Provost, Post 8214, Manchester, N.H.; George Reed, Post 2673, Cody, Wyo.; Daryl C. Reeder, Post 3449, Wakeeney, Kans.; Norman Rettig, Post 249, Butler, Pa.; Jay W. Ritchie, Post 1022, Coffeyville, Kans.; Bill Robertson, Post 382, El Reno, Okla.; Clarence Schumacher, Post 3946, Rockford, Mich.; Donald G. Shaw, Post 2863, Richardson Park, Del.; J.B. Smith, Post 6688, Summerville, Ga.; R. Frank Sprinkle, Post 6975, Bristol, Va.; Americo J. Tancredi, Post 9929, West Hartford, Conn.; Max M. Tank, Jr., Post 3664, Milwaukee, Wis.; Ted Theodorsen, Post 6320, Duluth, Minn.; Carl N. Thomas, Post 8950, Lanham, Md.; Arthur W. Triplett, Sr., Post 2539, Gulfport, Miss.; John C. Walters, Post 10040, Sun Valley, Calif.; Lenas G. Weisheit, Post 1114, Evansville, Ind.; John Wojtowicz, Post 4789, North East, Pa., and Elliott Zeller, Post 5852, Litcher, La. NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE: Members: Larry J. Bender, Post 788, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; William P. Bennett, Post 7573, New Baltimore, Mich.; George L. Berthiaume, Post 969, Tacoma, Wash.; John Best, Post 891, Asheville, N.C.; George A. Bopp, Post 3142, Charleston Heights, S.C.; James B. Brown, Post 4396, Philadelphia, Miss.; James R. Burkhardt, Post 10177, Crescent City, Fla.; Charles H. Cloud, Jr., Post 3544, Winfield, Kans.; T.D. Culppepper, Post 5032, Macon, Ga.; John Curatolo, Post 916, Peace Dale, R.I.; Lester W. Davis, Post 10093, Safety Harbor, Fla.; Albert Dittman, Post 2118, Brookings, S.D.; Manuel Evaro, Post 4384, Anthony, N.M.; Ernest Fender, Post 3628, Riverton, Wyo.; James C. Gates,

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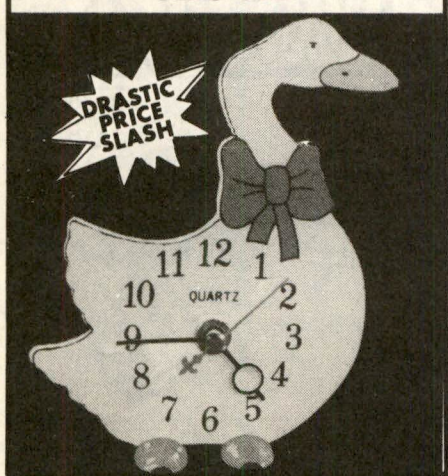
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2. Annual members are reminded that their membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States expires December 31, 1988, unless their 1989 dues are paid and reported to Department and National Headquarters. Every effort should be made to renew the membership of continuous members and also sign up new and reinstated members prior to January 1, 1989.

3. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day on December 7th. Posts should plan programs of suitable observance in commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day. (See VFW Ritual)

4. The Annual Washington Conference of Department Commanders and National Officers will be held in Washington, D.C., March 3-7, 1989. The Congressional Dinner will be held on Tuesday evening, March 7, 1989.

5. The 90th National Convention, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 18-25, 1989.

6. Reference is made to paragraph 20, General Orders No. 1, 1988-89 Series, which should have read as follows:

It is held to be objectionable and contrary to accepted rules of order and proper decorum implicit in the ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to permit alcoholic beverages in Post, County Council, District and Department meeting rooms during official meetings. Accordingly, the presence, dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages in the meeting room during Post, County Council, District and Department meetings is unacceptable and shall be terminated immediately.

7. Post Commanders are reminded that entries for Community Activities Single Outstanding Project recognition may be submitted at any time during the year. This Community Activities National Awards Program is a continuing one, with the panel of judges convening every

two months. Details of the program are set forth in the Awards brochure in the Community Activities kit which has been sent to all Post Commanders.

8. Post Commanders are reminded that January 1 is one of the official days when the Flag of the United States is to be displayed by all Americans.

9. Paragraph (d), Section 222 of the National Constitution and By-Laws provides "each" Post shall register, in advance, at least one delegate to the National Convention by the payment of a fee in the amount of six dollars (\$6.00). Posts that did not pay the advance registration fee for the 89th National Convention held in Chicago, Illinois, are reminded that they are delinquent and in arrears. Any such delinquent Post is directed to pay the late registration fee which is \$8.00 forthwith. Post check should be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters immediately.

10. Certificates of charters evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts: Posts 8180 and 2054 consolidated as Post 8180, Seoul, Korea; Posts 4124 and 9697 consolidated as Post 9697, Davie, Fla.

11. Announcement is made of a change of location for the following Post: Post 85 from Broderick to Sacramento, Calif.

12. Charters for the following Posts have been authorized: Post 317, Coal Township, Pa.; Post 1035, Munday, Texas; Post 1183, Longview, Texas; Post 5441, Cambridge, Wis.; Post 5461, Belleville, Wis.; Post 5576, St. Croix Falls, Wis.; Post 5728, Frederic, Wis.; Post 6118, Pomeroy, Ohio; Post 6136, Pickerington, Ohio; Post 6170, Perrysburg, Ohio; Post 7351, Port Gibson, Miss.; Post 7425, Cleveland, Miss.; Post 7533, Minden, La.; Post 7848, Milton, Vt.; Post 7855, Baltimore, Md.; Post 7930, Raeford, N.C.; Post 7962, Baltimore, Md.; Post 7968, Gilbert, Ariz.; Post 8029, Carolina Beach, N.C.; Post 8035, Kokoma, Ind.; Post 8250, Warm Springs, Arkansas; Post 8252, Gloucester, Va.; Post 8630, Bixby, Okla.; Post 8633, Kendall, Fla., and Post 10523, Canal Winchester, Ohio

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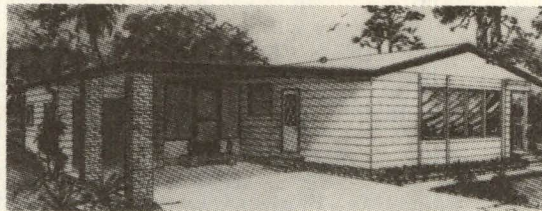
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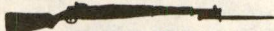


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Caps are \$12.00 each or \$14.00 each with scrambled eggs. Add \$2.50 for  
shipping. CA residents add 6%. Allow eight weeks for delivery. No CODs.

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**GEN. GRAY**

*continued from page 21*

Georgi Arbatov, said his country is  
going to create the perception that it  
is no longer a threat to the U.S.

"Already people are believing that  
way," he said. "Americans are normal-  
ly optimistic and are willing to see the  
bright side, but the Joint Chiefs of  
Staff and the commandant of the  
Marine Corps are not."

He cautioned against repeating the  
mistakes of the 1970s of allowing a  
"drastic decline in readiness" to set in  
after the period of the 1980s in which  
all the Armed Forces made substan-  
tial gains in the quality of their people  
and equipment.

"We are in good shape and above  
all in the young Marines, who have an  
unprecedented potential for great-  
ness," he said.

"We are now having infantry train-  
ing for all Marines," he continued.  
"This is being institutionalized, and it  
is not going to change. It is most  
important to assure that the Corps of  
Marines remains the elite organiza-  
tion you want."

**RANGERS**

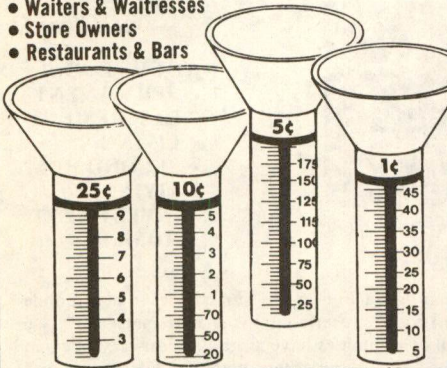
*continued from page 27*

more people we got hurt, the tighter  
we got."

But more than friendship went  
into making the Rangers of Company  
D so successful. Their pride and deter-  
mination were evident even before the

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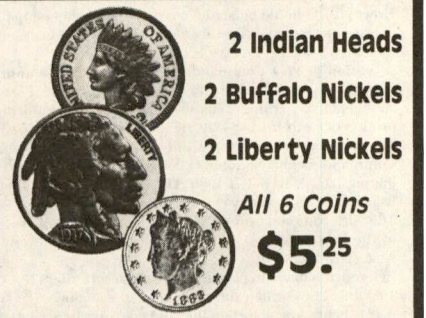
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unit was called up. "We trained because we thought we would be called," Butler explains. And that same pride and determination carried over into the jungles of Vietnam. "We knew what we were doing. We were good at it. We knew that we were going to get hurt. But most of us felt that, if we were good at it, we weren't going to get killed. We let the Viet Cong know that the woods didn't belong to them — or that the night didn't belong to them either."

In November, 1969, Company D came home to Indiana and a hero's welcome, one of the few units that served in Vietnam to be so honored. Indiana Gov. Edgar D. Whitcomb declared Nov. 27 "Unity Day" and then Mayor Richard Lugar, of Indianapolis, presented the unit the Key to the City.

After fewer than 11 months' service in Vietnam, the Rangers had earned 19 Silver Stars, 175 Bronze Stars, 86 Army Commendation Medals, 120 Air Medals and 110 Purple Hearts, making the unit one of the most highly decorated single companies of the entire war.

In addition, with 98% of the Rangers having received Combat Infantryman Badges, the unit also held the distinction of being the first Army National Guard company since Korea to be awarded a Combat Infantry Company streamer.

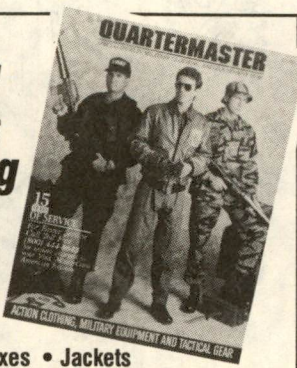
On Nov. 27, 1969, the 151st Infantry, Company D (Ranger) reverted to state control. The men of Company D returned to their homes and families, having answered their country's call, having served with honor and distinction in the finest tradition of America's citizen-soldiers. ■

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## FROM THE HILL

*continued from page 5*

fully inadequate to the task of caring for this nation's veterans.

For example, the VA Department of Medicine and Surgery alone is facing a budget shortfall of almost \$700 million in fiscal year 1989 below what is needed to provide even a current services level of care to its veteran patients. Further, system-wide shortages in nurses and other essential health-care professionals are due to budget constraints and other economic factors.

Health-care funding is slated now to increase only by less than 2% over the 1988 level, and funding for discretionary items in the VA budget is raised by only 1.8%, though inflation is expected to increase by twice that amount.

The VFW intends to press for legislation that will give veterans suffering from Agent Orange-related disabilities the compassionate care and assistance that is their due. Another VFW goal is an open national cemetery in every state. ■

## VITAL SIGNS

*continued from page 31*

People tend to become so identified with their jobs that after retirement the retiree can only stand there and, with a sinking feeling, mumble that he or she is retired whenever someone asks what he or she does.

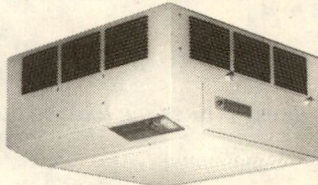
It is possible and it can be completely gratifying to establish a fresh identity, reassured Doris Reardon, director of the CBS Pre-Retirement Education Program. "Become interested in and identified with other groups by way of a pastime or service to the community," she said. "Choose something that has special meaning for you. Start to do this as early as possible; even before retirement becomes a remote idea," she suggested.

Finally, it is important to remember that when the non-work part of life is neglected, we may never learn to play in retirement. Throughout our lives, we should try to maintain a balance between work and play. The transition from full workdays to full retirement days will be that much easier. ■

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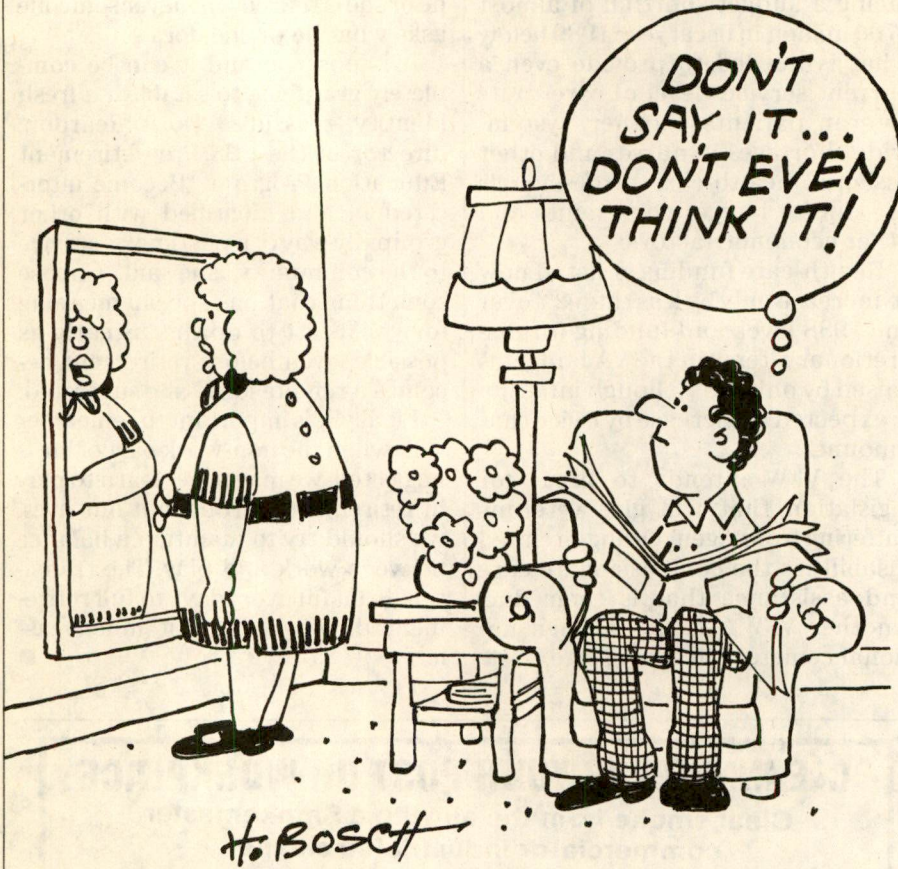
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**My husband** wants to go camping so he can hear the call of the wild. I told him he could hear it for free if he'd just stay home sometime with the kids.

**When** we put our best foot forward, the other one had better be good enough to stand on.

**I was** listening to a boring talk by a podiatrist and my foot fell asleep.

**The paratrooper** was almost out of the plane on his first jump when he lost his nerve. The jump master tried everything to get him out of the plane, and finally began calling the young man every name in the book.

"Hey," the trooper said, "You can't talk to me that way!"

"Oh yeah?" said the grizzled sergeant. "You wanna step outside and discuss it?"

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**In today's economy**, the man with liquid assets is usually the local bartender.

**My mother** had a large family for religious reasons. The more kids in our family, the better our chances of winning at bingo.

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A lady in the waiting room was complaining bitterly about having to wait so long for the doctor. Seems he took so much time with some patients that he was always behind schedule.

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# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

1243



THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

January 23, 1989

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I am highly honored to request your participation in the 1989 VFW Annual Washington Conference to be held in our nation's capital in early March.

National and state officials of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will convene at the Sheraton Washington Hotel on Monday, March 6, 1989, for the Opening Session of our Conference. We cordially invite you, Mr. President, to keynote this session at 11 AM.

Our Conference attracts approximately two thousand individuals from throughout our great nation with those in attendance comprising the top leadership from each of the individual states. We feel this would be an excellent opportunity for our leadership to receive an appropriate message from you relative to the subject of your choosing.

I would be most grateful for your favorable consideration of this invitation as your presence would add much to this important occasion. I can assure you, Mr. President, that our entire membership would benefit from your attendance and what I am sure would be an inspiring message.

We are looking forward to receiving an early affirmative reply. If you or your staff should have any questions relative to this invitation, please feel free to contact Cooper T. Holt, Executive Director of our VFW Washington Office, at 543-2239.

Respectfully yours,

LARRY W. RIVERS  
National Commander-in-Chief

# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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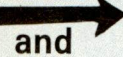
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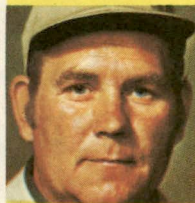
Gives you time to relax, since it needs little water and cuts mowing two-thirds.



# Two Grown Men Can't Pull It Apart! Zoysia Saves Time, Work & Money

Amazoy is the Trade Mark Registered U.S. Patent Office for our Meyer Z-52 Zoysia Grass

By John T. Jackson



Every year I see people pour more and more money into their lawns. They dig, fertilize and lime. They rake it all in. They scatter their seed and roll and water it.

Birds love it! Seeds which aren't washed away by rain give them a

feast. But some seed grows, and soon it's time to weed, water and mow, mow...until summer comes to burn the lawn into hay, or crabgrass and diseases infest it.

That's what happens to ordinary grass, but not to Amazoy Zoysia Grass.

## "MOWED IT 2 TIMES," WRITES WOMAN

For example, Mrs. M. R. Mitter writes me how her lawn "...is the envy of all who see it. When everybody's lawns around here are brown from drought ours just stays as green as ever. I've never watered it, only when I put the plugs in...Last summer we had it mowed (2) times. Another thing, we never have to pull any weeds — it's just wonderful!"

And from Iowa came word that the state's largest Men's Garden Club picked a Zoysia lawn as the "top lawn — nearly perfect" in its area. Yet this lawn had been watered only once all summer up to August!

## CHOKES OUT CRABGRASS

Thick, rich, luxurious, established Amazoy grows into a carpet of grass that chokes out crabgrass and weeds all summer long. It will NOT winter kill. Goes off its green color after killing frosts. Begins regaining its green color at the time when the temperature in the spring is consistently warm. This, of course, varies with climate.

## FOR SLOPES, PLAY AREAS, BARE SPOTS

If slopes are a problem, plug in Amazoy to establish grass that ends erosion. Plug it into hard-to-cover spots, play-worn areas, etc.

## NO NEED TO RIP OUT PRESENT GRASS PLUG AMAZOY INTO OLD LAWN, NEW GROUND OR NURSERY AREA

Just set Amazoy plugs into holes in ground like a cork in a bottle. Plant 1 foot apart, checkerboard style.

When planted in existing lawn areas plugs will spread to drive out old, unwanted growth, including weeds. Easy planting instructions with order.

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## NO SEED, NO SOD!

There's no seed that produces winter-hardy Meyer Zoysia. Sod of ordinary grass brings with it the problems of seed, like weeds, diseases, burning out, other ills.

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- **WON'T WINTER KILL** — has survived temperatures 30° below zero!
- **WON'T HEAT KILL** — When other grasses burn out, Amazoy remains green & lovely!

Your plugs are shipped to you not cut all the way through, so as to insure maximum freshness and viability. To plant, separate all plugs completely with grass shears or a knife. Any plug failing to grow in 45 days replaced FREE.

Order now for your FREE Bonus Plugs.

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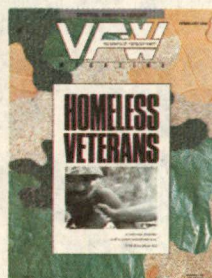
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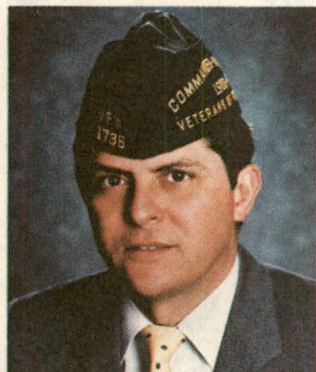
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# Is Greece Supporting Terrorists?



By Larry W. Rivers  
VFW Commander-in-Chief

**O**ne of the most dreadful crimes of this modern era is terrorism, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States again went squarely on record at the 89th National Convention denouncing it.

"Decisive Action Needed to Prevent Terrorism" is the title of Resolution 415 that concludes: "Openly reminding those countries who have been unwilling to assist our counterterrorist efforts that 'there are no neutrals in the war against terrorists.'"

The horror of Dec. 21, when 259 passengers on Pan Am Flight 103 and at least 11 persons on the ground were killed when the jet exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, on its way to the United States, clearly highlights the position on terrorism this organization firmly believes the President of the United States should take.

All the evidence points to this tragedy as being the work of terrorists. It is not known which faction of Middle Eastern terrorists is responsible. Some contend Iranian or Libyan; others point to Syrian or Palestine Liberation Organization splinter groups.

As disgusting as the crime committed on Dec. 21 is, just as gross is the attitude of Greece, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally of the United States.

Two recent events in Greece may have a direct bearing on the destruction of the plane and the murder of

the 270 persons, observers believe.

In early December, the Greek government released a suspected terrorist, Abdel Osama al-Zumar, thought to be a member of the lethal Abu Nidal gang, and flew him to Libya.

Al-Zumar was wanted by the government of Italy, another NATO ally, for the 1982 bombing of a Rome synagogue that killed a boy, 2, and injured 37 persons. Italy had asked for al-Zumar's extradition before his release from a Greek prison for gun-smuggling. The Greek Supreme Court had approved Italy's request, but Justice Minister Vassilis Rotis overturned the court's decision. He said al-Zumar was fighting for the freedom of his homeland.

Then there is the case of Mohamed Rashid, held by Greece and wanted by the U.S. for questioning in the Flight 103 outrage and in connection with the 1982 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner as it flew from Tokyo to Hawaii.

The Greek Supreme Court indefinitely postponed its decision extraditing Rashid on Nov. 15. Explanation was that "key documents" had not been supplied. The U.S. embassy, however, said they have been. U.S. Atty. Gen. Richard Thornburgh went to Greece to protest al-Zumar's release and to present the evidence against Rashid.

*continued on page 6*



WASHINGTON, JAN. 5 — Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers met with then-President-elect George Bush and Secretary of Veterans Affairs-designate Edwin Derwinski and others to discuss veterans' issues in the Old Executive Office Building. Washington Office Executive Director Cooper T. Holt was also on hand.

Wide World Photo

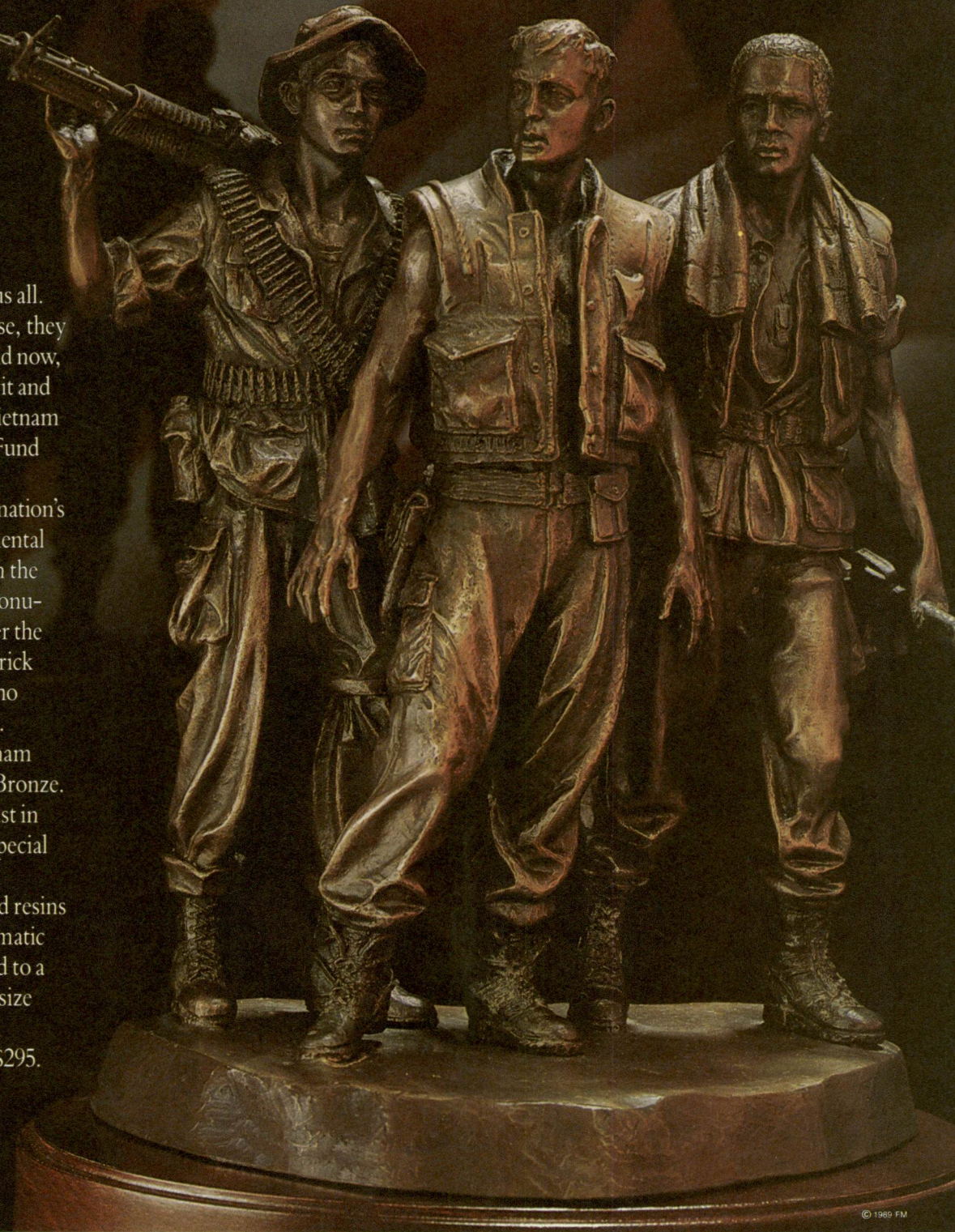
# Our sons...our brothers...our friends.

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Sculpture © F. E. Hart and V.V.M.F. 1984.



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## THE OFFICIAL VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL BRONZE

Last May 29, Rashid was arrested at Athens Airport on a tip from U.S. officials and sentenced to seven months in jail for entering Greece with a false passport. The U.S. says Rashid and his May 15 organization (named for the date in 1948 when the Israeli War of Independence began) also were involved in a 1986 bombing of a TWA jetliner over southern Greece that killed four Americans.

Expressing the VFW's indignation over this action by the Greek government of Andreas Papandreou, I sent the following letter to George D. Papoulias, Greek ambassador to the United States:

"The recent action of the Greek Government to release a suspected member of the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and to fly him to Libya is outrageous. Your government has released a terrorist to kill and maim the innocent and to tear at the very fabric of democratic societies.

**At our National Convention in Chicago this past August, the delegates passed a strong resolution against terrorism. It calls for us to remind countries who are unwilling to assist our counterterrorist efforts that there are no neutrals in the war against terrorists.**

"I hope this action is not a precedent for the release of another suspected terrorist wanted by the United States government. Mohammed Rashid, a convicted terrorist, is wanted for the mid-air bombing of a Pan Am aircraft in 1982. Our government has requested his extradition to stand trial for that terrorist act and we expect the Greek government

to honor the request.

"At our National Convention in Chicago this past August, the delegates passed a strong resolution against terrorism. It calls for us to remind countries who are unwilling to assist our counterterrorist efforts that there are no neutrals in the war against terrorists. It also urges the President to quarantine outlaw countries who harbor or aid terrorists.

"If the Greek government should go beyond the moral outrage already committed and release the suspect Mohammed Rashid, I am certain the over 2 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will demand the President take decisive action to hold the Greek government accountable."

**No Health-Care Fees For Military Retirees**

But there was good news at the end of the year. Your Commander-in-Chief protested a plan by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to charge military dependents and retirees fees for health care at military facilities.

No sooner had the objection been made public than the Defense Department announced that such a proposal would not go into effect.

Under this OMB plan, a military hospital visit would cost \$50 and prescription \$3, among other costs that were proposed for the 1990 budget.

This plan would break faith with our service people and would only undermine efforts to retain quality personnel. Under the present arrangement, military dependents and retirees are allowed to use military hospitals on a space available basis. They pay only a nominal fee for food while hospitalized. Active duty personnel have priority.

In 1987, OMB tried a similar ploy, but opposition was so intense from the VFW and so vigorous that Congress passed a two-year prohibition on medical-service fees of any kind. You may be sure we will continue to watch this situation closely. ■



Official publication of the  
**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

Published monthly except July

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- To insure the national security through maximum military strength
- To speed the rehabilitation of the nation's disabled and needy veterans
- To assist the widows and orphans and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans
- To promote Americanism through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live

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### **No Korean Combat Pay**

Although the Combat Duty Act of 1952 authorized payment of combat pay, the Barring Act, 31 United States Code, Section 71, states that unless claims are received within six years from the date the claim first accrued, they are barred from consideration. Therefore, payment of any claim for combat pay accrued during the Korean conflict would be disallowed because of the Barring Act. — *Mary L. Harden, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Army Finance and Accounting Center, Indianapolis, Ind. 46249-0001.*

### **'War and Remembrance'**

Every veteran should boycott the remaining 12 hours of the ABC television network's "War and Remembrance" when shown in the spring. The \$110 million mini-series reminds everyone of the horrible Holocaust while portraying the U.S. Navy as criminals in the Pacific who gun down Japs swimming in the water. A more accurate story could have shown the death marches on Bataan and Corregidor. — *Gene Cordes, 1213 Las Brisas Dr., Daytona Beach, Fla. 32019.*

### **Post Named for 66th Victim**

Regarding "When Disaster Struck" (Dec.): My Post 5896 in Farmington, Mo., is named after Norman L. Rigdon, a man killed on the troopship Leopoldville and a member of the 66th Infantry Division. — *Rusty Carmichael, Double Star Ranch, RR 3, P.O. Box 3743, Farmington, Mo. 63640.*

### **Polish Mission Recalled**

In reference to "Memory Stronger Than Death" (Nov.), I find it necessary to comment because it touched me deeply and stirred my memories of that mission of so long ago. I didn't know Marcus Shook or James Christy or the rest of his crew. By researching some of my old records, I find Marcus Shook and James Christy were assigned to the 568th Bomb Sqdn., 390th Bomb Group (H). I was assigned to the 570th Bomb Sqdn., 390th Bomb Group at Station 153, Framlingham, England. Somewhere in that same

briefing room, Marcus Shook and James Christy and his crew were being briefed on that mission to Poland to drop much needed supplies to help fight off the German forces that were plaguing the anti-Communist and anti-Nazi Polish Home Army Forces in their struggle to hold their ground during that critical time on Sept. 18, 1944. This mission was, according to the Polish Home Army Forces, a success. For the efforts of these brave flying crews, the Polish Home Army Cross was awarded to the fliers of that mission. I feel proud to have been a part of that effort. Your article was good writing. My congratulations to Marcus Shook on the VFW's Certificate of Appreciation. — *Wm. B. (Bill) Foraker, 3834 Drexel Dr., Toledo, Ohio 43612.*

### **Illegal Aliens**

I'm disappointed that the VFW 1988-1989 priority and security goals, as shown in December magazine, did not include the adopted resolution on "Illegal aliens continue to enter the United States." If we can't stop illegal aliens by the thousands from entering the USA, especially along our southern border, why give priority to Central America, SDI, NATO, Pacific allies, terrorism, national defense. We cannot handle all the refugees of the world, and unless these illegal entries are stopped, it could be our downfall. — *Commander Richard W. Fenzel (Post 6376), 817 Browns Lane, Louisville, Ky. 40207.*

### **Wants Papers**

I need your help to be on the lookout for valuable documents I missed after displaying them in this fair city. They are my honorable discharge papers, U.S. Army, World War II; baptismal papers, Social Security card, of 1937 vintage; birth certificate, 1915, and marriage certificate. My wish is to find them while I'm still alive. Reward of \$500 for this sure information, paid to your favorite charity. — *Edward M. Staniszewski, 1604 W. Willow Run Drive, Willow Run, Wilmington, Del. 19805-1222.*

### **True Christmas Spirit**

On the Tuesday following Christmas, 1988, a gentleman in an electric wheelchair came wheeling into my office. He said he was cold and needed help.

It wasn't easy for him relating that he had recently lost his house; his wife had left, and most of his possessions had been stolen. All he had left was the van he now lived in, some bedding, and the electric wheelchair he relied on because of muscular dystrophy. His last few meals were purchased with money he obtained by pawning his manual wheelchair.

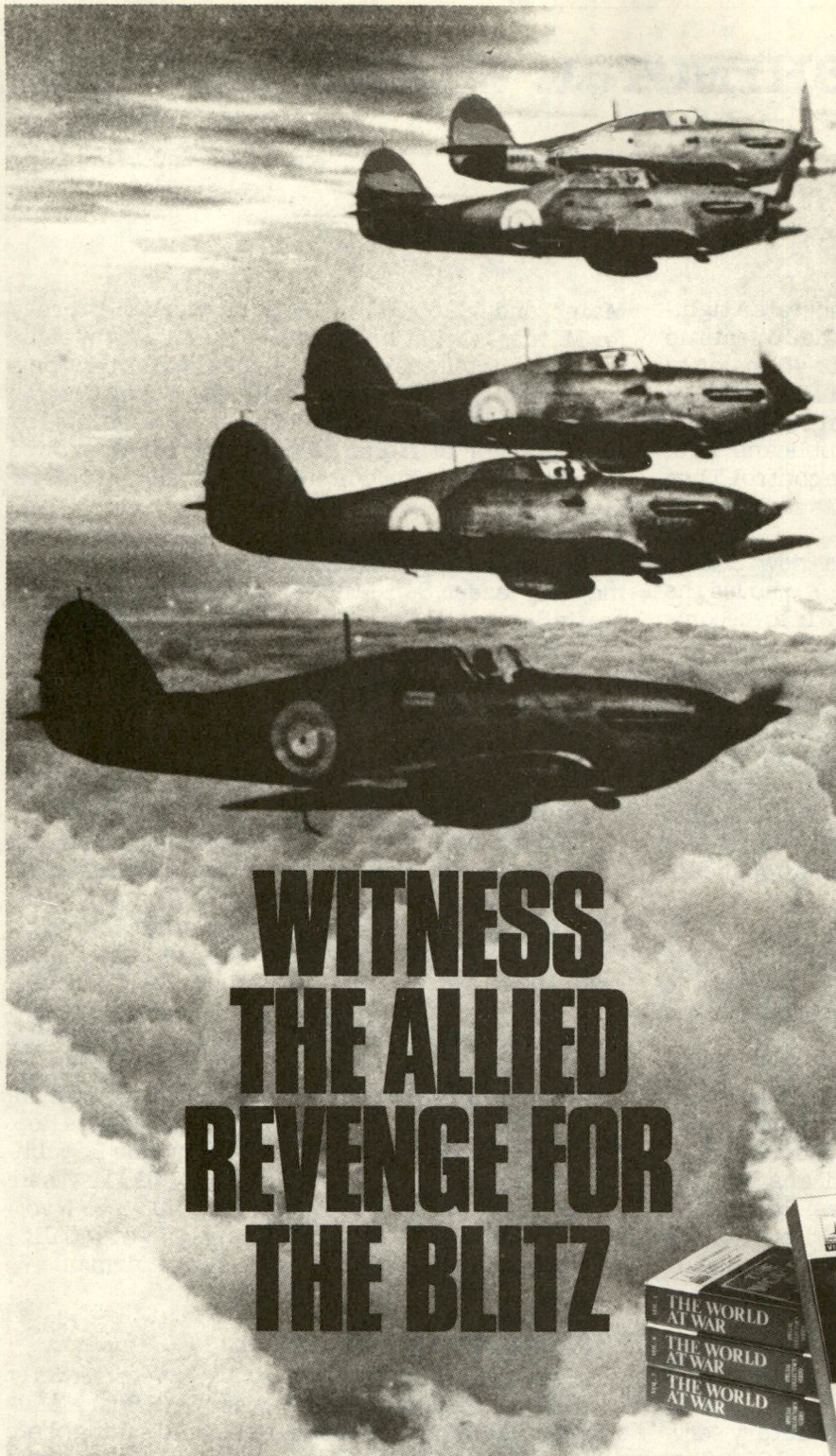
He was hungry and cold and needed gas so he could return to the Midwest where he would live with his daughter, who was expecting a baby any day now. As a Vietnam Era veteran, he was hoping someone here could help.

If anyone had been a non-believer in the Spirit of Christmas, that would have changed on that Tuesday. By the day's end, area veterans' organizations rallied to reach out and help.

The first to do so were VFW Post 992 and its Auxiliary. Food, gas and money were made available so this gentleman could rejoin his family and be on hand as a first-time grandpa. Thanks to this support, he was also able to get his manual wheelchair back. Most of all, the cold nights spent alone in the van would now be over.

As a true Christmas story taking place here in Walla Walla, this story has more than one happy ending. It shows how the efforts of organizations like the VFW go beyond just veterans' issues. Because of these efforts, we are thankful for the year-round spirit of giving that VFW members represent in this community. — *Daniel J. Sullivan, Office of Public Affairs, VA Medical Center, Walla Walla, Wash.*

Letters should be of no more than 100 words and deal with only one subject. Editing for space, clarity and good taste may be necessary. Published letters include the sender's name and address to enable readers to reply directly. Anonymous mail is not considered for publication. Space limitations preclude use of all the letters received. Because of their volume, it is impossible to reply to or to acknowledge Mail Call submissions.



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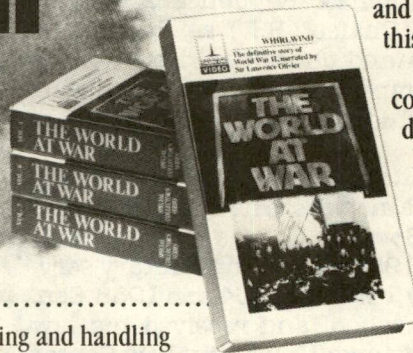
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# WASHINGTON WIRE

## LEGISLATIVE

### The 101st Congress

#### ● U.S. Senate

The November elections gave Democrats a tighter hold on the Senate. They won 19 of the 33 seats up for re-election. This gives them a 55 to 45 majority over Republicans. Democrats retained 15 of their 18 seats and captured Republican seats in Connecticut, Virginia, Nebraska and Nevada. Republicans were not optimistic about reclaiming Senate control. They did capture three Democratic-held seats and kept 11 of their own.

The 101st Congress will have a new Senate majority leader. Robert C. Byrd (W. Va.), who led the Senate for 12 years, has stepped down to become chairman of the Appropriations Committee and Senate president pro tem, making him the third in line for succession to the U.S. Presidency. With Sen. Byrd's announcement, Sens. George Mitchell (Maine), J. Bennett Johnston (La.) and Daniel K. Inouye (Hawaii) threw their hats into the ring to succeed him. Johnston and Inouye conceded after the first ballot when Mitchell won 27 votes, one short of a majority and nearly twice the number his opponents received. They were tied at 14 each.

Democrats rounded out their leadership team by re-electing Sen. Alan Cranston (Calif.) as Democratic whip and chose Sen. David Pryor (Ark.) for the number three position as secretary of the Democratic Conference.

Republicans, as expected, returned their leadership team to the 101st Congress. Sen. Robert Dole (Kans.) was re-elected minority leader without opposition, as was Assistant Minority Leader Alan K. Simpson (Wyo.). The Senate Republicans also returned Sen. John H. Chafee (R.I.) as Republican Conference chairman and chose Sen. Don Nickles (Okla.) as its new Campaign Committee chairman. Following is a biographical sketch of the new Senate majority leader.

Sen. George J. Mitchell was born on Aug. 20, 1933, in Waterville, Maine, where he attended public schools. He attended Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, graduating in 1954. Following military service in Berlin, Germany, between 1954 and 1956, Sen. Mitchell returned to school and received his law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1960. From 1960 to 1962, Sen. Mitchell was a trial lawyer in the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice. From 1962 to 1965, he was executive assistant to Sen. Edmund S. Muskie. From 1965 to 1977, he was in private law practice in Portland, Maine.

In 1971, Sen. Mitchell entered public service as assistant county attorney for Cumberland County,

Maine, and from 1977 to 1979, he was U.S. attorney for Maine. In what he describes as a highlight of his career, Sen. Mitchell accepted an appointment as a federal district court judge in Portland. However, he left the bench a year later when he was appointed by the governor of Maine to complete the unexpired term of Sen. Muskie who resigned to become secretary of state.

In 1982, Sen. Mitchell was elected to a full six-year term in the Senate. Prior to being named Senate majority leader, Sen. Mitchell has chaired the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and has held the office of deputy president pro tem of the Senate.

The new majority leader sits on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and is a member of the VFW.

#### ● U.S. House of Representatives

More than 98% of the members of the House of Representatives seeking re-election were returned to the Congress with 95% of them winning by more than ten percentage points. Democrats increased their House control by a net gain of three seats, resulting in a House membership of 260 Democrats and 175 Republicans. As was expected, the two parties re-elected the same leadership teams they had the last Congress. Rep. Jim Wright (Texas) returns as speaker of the House and Rep. Thomas Foley (Wash.) returns as majority leader as does Rep. Tony Coelho (Calif.) as majority whip. The Republicans re-elected Rep. Robert Michel (Ill.) as their minority leader and chose Rep. Dick Cheney (Wyo.) as new minority whip with Rep. Jerry Lewis (Calif.) to be the new Republican Conference chairman.

### Fight to Eliminate Offset

Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers recently received the following letter from Sen. Spark Matsunaga and Rep. Michael Bilirakis confirming their plan to reintroduce legislation in the 101st Congress that would eliminate the offset of military retired pay for those who are in receipt of VA disability compensation.

The VFW has long supported the elimination of this grossly unfair offset and will continue to fight for its repeal in the 101st Congress.

"As House and Senate sponsors of legislation to eliminate the offset between military retired pay and VA disability compensation, we wish to thank you and your membership for your successful work on

behalf of this equitable proposal. Through your unwavering support, H.R. 303 received 245 cosponsors in the House and S. 2120 received 11 sponsors in the Senate.

"Because we are committed to the elimination of the statutory offset, we plan to once more introduce the offset legislation in the 101st Congress. We would again appreciate the endorsement of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for the offset legislation and specifically would request its inclusion in your organization's legislative agenda. If all of the veterans

organizations present this as an important legislative priority to the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs, then members will most certainly recognize its vast support among veterans.

"On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of disabled career-military retirees, we thank you for your long-standing support for the concurrent receipt legislation."

..... **James N. Magill**

Director of National Legislative Service

## SERVICE

.....

### VFW Service Program Looks to Future

Changes such as judicial review and establishment of the U.S. Court of Veterans' Appeals demand that VFW representation of veteran-claimants be evaluated. The Veterans Service staff is working with the National leadership to determine how best to take advantage of this expanded opportunity for due process.

Another challenge is the increasing complexity of claims by WWII, Korean and Vietnam War veterans. Reason is the length of time since those wars. In addition, many veterans, dependents or survivors have not taken advantage of their entitlements. Issues of radiation and dioxin exposure are placing demands on VFW resources.

Funding of Department Service Office programs — some by the Department, some by the Department and National and others exclusively by states — has resulted in a patchwork system that is not without merit, and an effective partnership has developed. The VFW established a three-year experimental program to see whether better service could be given by increasing the role of the National Organization. This began in 1986 and will end next September. Eight Departments and the National Organization have been involved. The three-year pilot program will be reviewed next month at the annual Mid-Winter Conference in Washington.

..... **Frederico Juarbe, Jr.**

Director of National Veterans Service

## SECURITY

.....

### Gorbachev's Surprise

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev proposed, in his UN speech last Dec. 7, unilateral cuts in Soviet military power.

Gorbachev declared "the use or threat of force no longer can or must be an instrument of foreign policy." He then announced a cut of 500,000 men from the Soviet armed forces stationed in Europe and the Far East. Among the reductions he described were:

- Withdrawal of six Soviet tank divisions from East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary (330 tanks per division)
- Withdrawal of assault landing troops, engineer bridging units and their equipment.
- Withdrawal of 5,000 tanks, 8,500 pieces of artillery and 800 combat aircraft.

These reductions are significant, underscoring Gorbachev's pledge to renounce military force as an instrument of foreign policy before a world audience.

But as significant as these cuts are, they do not reduce the imbalance of conventional military power between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. According to latest estimates, the current imbalance looks like this (the 500,000 man cut comes out of a total Soviet troop strength of 5.1 million):

At present NATO has 2.3 million troops, 16,500 tanks, 14,500 artillery pieces and 4,000 aircraft. They compare with 2.1 million Warsaw Pact troops or 2 million after the cuts, 52,000 tanks or 42,000 after the cuts, 43,400 artillery pieces or 34,900 after the cuts and 8,250 aircraft or 7,400 after the cuts.

These reductions are also significant because they raise new uncertainties and risks. Because of the conventional-force imbalances that exist now and will continue to exist after the Soviet cuts, this Soviet action will have a significant effect on NATO policy and strategy.

..... **Kenneth A. Steadman**

Director of National Security and Foreign Affairs

# Bush's Security Challenges



By Ike Skelton

*Rep. Skelton's analysis of challenges ahead supports several VFW resolutions adopted by the 89th National Convention.*

Upon coming into office in January, 1981, the Reagan Administration convinced Congress that cuts in defense spending in the 1970s, under both the Nixon-Ford Administrations and the Carter Administration, had left the United States exposed. The humiliation of Iran holding U.S. diplomats hostage for 444 days, along with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, convinced the American public that a change was required.

## Reagan's Security Strategy

The chief elements of the Reagan Administration security strategy, broadly supported by the Congress, included an impressive military buildup of both nuclear and conventional forces, the latter symbolized by the 600-ship Navy; a tough position on strategic-arms negotiations; an effort to confront the Soviet Union with superior American technology through the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI); and the willingness to support local resistance forces fighting the Soviets or their proxies in the Third World — in Afghanistan,

*Rep. Skelton is a longtime member of the House Armed Services Committee and four of its subcommittees. He is chairman of the committee's Military Education Panel.*

Angola, Nicaragua and Cambodia.

President George Bush will put together the national-security policy of the United States for the next four years. He will encounter many of the same challenges the United States has faced over the past 40 years and new ones under very changed circumstances.

## U.S.-Soviet Relations

The most important piece of old business consists of managing with patience and skill the U.S.-Soviet relationship. The challenge here is much the same as it has been over the past 40 years: avoiding nuclear war; turning away Soviet thrusts in the developing world; and attempting to transform the competition between the two countries into more peaceful venues.

The dramatic changes taking place in the Soviet Union today hold the promise that we might be watching, if not the end of the Cold War, at least the beginning of the end. Even if true, it will probably take the next 40 years to work out a post-Cold War security arrangement. Now is not the time to become impatient, to try to settle all our outstanding issues with the Soviets in the shortest time possible. We came to regret the overselling of détente in the early 1970s later in that decade.

If dealing with the Soviet Union continues to be the most important item of old business, equally important is managing our relationships with Japan and Europe. The three, Japan, Europe and the Soviet Union, are interrelated. Security concerns predominated 40 years ago. Now trade and economic matters with our allies compete with security issues.

Both Japan and Europe are success stories of postwar American foreign policy. We helped friends as well as former enemies to rebuild their shattered economies after World War II. Thus, our overwhelming economic and military domi-

nance was bound to diminish. Our task now is to manage security and economic relations with both of these world power centers. Budget and trade deficits have put the United States in difficult economic circumstances. A shifting of the military burdens will have to take place to allow us to put our economic house back in order.

## A New Definition of Security

The Bush Administration first must adopt a broader definition of national security, one that includes economic as well as political-military considerations. Too often economic and security decisions move on separate tracks. While we are stronger militarily today than we were eight years ago, economically we are weaker. Much greater coordination will be required in the future.

## Establishing Objectives

Second, in putting together a national security strategy for the 1990s the President must be clear about objectives and priorities. Militarily, the United States has as its three broad objectives to deter nuclear war, to contribute to the defense of Western Europe and Korea where American troops are stationed and to be able to intervene in areas of the Third World where American interests may require such action.

While overriding consideration should be given to deterring nuclear war, we have a very robust capacity to deter such a conflict. Our ballistic-missile submarine force, the deployment of thousands of cruise missiles on Navy attack subs and B-52s, the procurement of B-1 bombers and future procurement of Stealth bombers, and the improved command and control capabilities that we bought during this decade, will stand us in good stead for years to come.

*continued on page 15*

# REMARKABLE NEW BANDAGE GIVES BLESSED RELIEF FROM PAIN IN HOURS AND DAYS!

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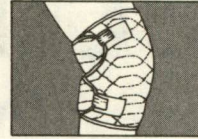
Wear the bandage while at work, play, leisure or sleeping. The electrical "field" remains constant and cannot be destroyed by washing. When pain disappears, discontinue the bandage. Use it again for some future problem - it will still work!

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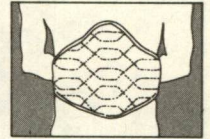
Now you can replace expensive medicinal and physical treatments with a simple, tested bandage that can be worn comfortably for hours, so that you can reduce your medicinal dosage and its side effects. Excellent for thermal comfort too!

## Many Applications

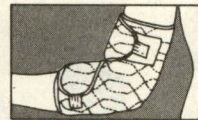
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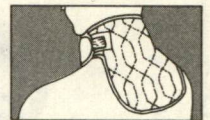
**KNEE**



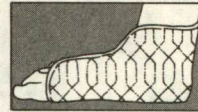
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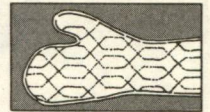
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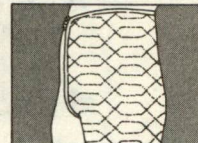
**NECK**



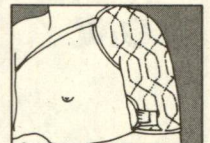
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## FROM THE HILL

continued from page 12

In Europe, the military balance is not so comfortable as we would like it to be. An imbalance of forces exists between the Warsaw Pact and NATO. Yet until our allies are willing to make a greater contribution to correcting this imbalance, we simply do not have the budgetary resources to correct a problem they appear unwilling to correct.

The highest defense priority should be assigned to those capabilities required for intervention in the Third World. We are most likely to see the commitment of U.S. combat forces to emergencies in the developing world before either nuclear war or general war in Europe. Since World War II, American forces have been committed to a number of such Third World situations. Unfortunately, we are ill-prepared for this type of warfare as underscored by our performance in Vietnam, the Mayaguez incident and the Iranian rescue mission. Vietnam still haunts us. It was Congress, not the services, that had to promote the establishment of the Special Operations Command.

### Defense Budgets

Third, U.S. security policies will be put together under far more stringent budgetary constraints. Defense spending should be kept at approximately 5% of GNP. Allies will have to provide more assistance, as noted earlier, but we may also have to re-evaluate policies here. For example, one idea that should be considered is a return to the draft. This may be necessary because of the decreasing pool of young Americans of military age. The all-volunteer force has been a success in the Reagan years, but its costs are significant. A return to a draft in which recruits are paid minimum wages but offered the generous provisions of a GI bill should be an option to consider.

### Latin America

Finally, the one area of the world that will require more attention, creative thought and greater investment by the United States is Latin America. It is here where many of

continued on page 16

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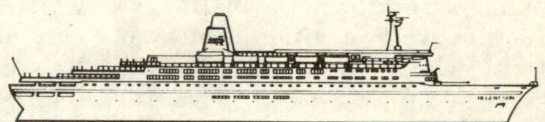
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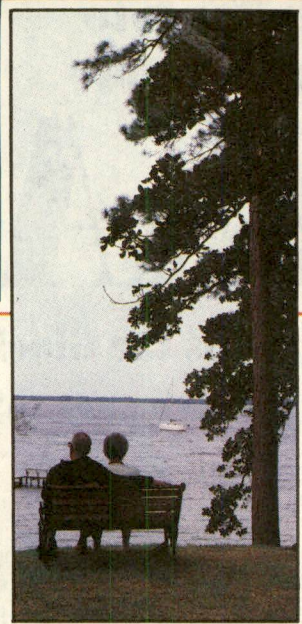
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## The Chaplain's Corner

By the Rev. John W. Hosmer  
 National Chaplain

In February, we celebrate the birthdays of two of our great Presidents, Washington and Lincoln. But there are other events to be remembered. On Feb. 15, 1898, the USS Maine was blown up in Havana Harbor. We honor the memory of those who served in the Spanish American War, especially those who formed the Veterans of Foreign Wars 90 years ago.

Some also remember to honor the memory of the four courageous chaplains aboard the USS Dorchester, when it was torpedoed in the frigid waters of the North Atlantic in 1943. As the ship began to sink, the chaplains gave their life jackets to those who had none. Then they linked arms and silently prayed as they

prepared to go to God and to glory. Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends."

War brings out the best and the worst in human nature. VFW members, having seen both, have chosen to give their best to their communities, to the nation, and the world. They have long promoted youth activities, care for orphans, sick and needy veterans, safety programs and, in general, made the world better than it might have been. May God continue to guide and strengthen you in your service to God and country. ■

## FROM THE HILL

*continued from page 15*

the world's problems can be seen all together: overpopulation; critical international debt; the international drug cartel; environmental destruction; energy; immigration; and, finally, guerrilla wars in a number of countries.

Over the past 40 years, except for the Kennedy Administration's Alliance for Progress, the United States has neglected this region of the world. Yes, the Reagan Administration and Congress have devoted more time, effort and money to Latin America, but compared to resources devoted to Europe, Japan and the Middle East, Latin America comes in a distant fourth. We could offset our defense expenditures for Japan, for example, by having that country provide \$40 billion in grant aid to the region.

These are the challenges for the immediate future. ■

# Dial Donates a Vanful

The VFW National Home received an early Christmas present Dec. 1 when Howard Stillman, adjutant and service officer of Post 7452, Montgomery, Ill., drove 320 miles with a truckload of Dial Corp. products totaling \$1,000.

In addition to countless bars of Dial soap, the Home grocery store is now stocked with a variety of household detergents and laundry supplies.

This was the second consecutive year Dial has made such a donation. Peter Sobel, Dial's director of manufacturing, is a member of Post 7452, as well.

Because the VFW National Home relies solely on contributions, generous gifts like these from Dial and Comrade Stillman are greatly appreciated.



Montgomery, Ill., Post 7452 and Dial Corp. donated \$1,000 worth of Dial products to the VFW National Home grocery. Howard Stillman, adjutant and service officer for Post 7452, and National Home Executive Director Maryjane Peck, pose with the van laden with Dial's gift.

## Home Reaches 83 Total

The VFW National Home's Executive Director since October, Maryjane Peck, characterizes her administration as a progressive one.

"We're moving ahead," she said. "There is a definite need for our services here, and seeing warm,

*continued on page 18*

## THE "LOST" SILVER COIN



*Shown larger than actual size.*

YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY NOW to acquire an important WWII silver dollar-size coin struck for one year only at the U.S. Mint in San Francisco. This is a remarkable coin that has been virtually forgotten for nearly 40 years.

Now, Calhoun's Collectors Society has found only a very limited number of these coins in California, and is making them available to collectors at a special price of only \$39.50!

This "war" coin was struck in 80% silver at the U.S. Mint in San Francisco for use in and by the Philippines. The big silver coin honored America's great war hero, General Douglas MacArthur.

### Low Mintage = Value

Normally, when a new silver coin is struck at a U.S. Mint, it is minted in the millions...and produced for 25 to 35 years!

But since there was still a shortage of silver because of the war, the 1947

MacArthur coin was *only struck for one year...and only 100 thousand were ever struck.* And even this low mintage was reduced even further for the vast majority of these are believed to have been melted down when silver bullion soared to \$50 an ounce.

### Prime Uncirculated Condition

A real plus for collectors...each of these silver dollar-size coins was found in choice, uncirculated (MS-60) condition—one of the conditions most desired by collectors. Truly, a gem from an important era in American history. Scarce, historic, really beautiful...this coin is a perfect heirloom for your family.

### No risk, whatsoever

You must be 100% satisfied with your silver dollar-size MacArthur coin, or you may return it within 30 days for a complete refund or charge card credit. No questions. Please send in your order today.

Struck by the U.S. Mint for only one year in honor of the WWII hero General Douglas MacArthur

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**\$39.50**  
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### ORDER FORM

Mail to: Calhoun's Collectors Society, 7401 Cahill Road, Minneapolis, MN 55435

Limit: 1 per customer

Please send me the Lost Silver Coin struck at a U.S. Mint in 1947 in honor of General Douglas MacArthur. I enclose  Check or  Money Order in the amount of \$39.50, plus \$2.50 postage and handling. MN residents add 6% sales tax. 307-328

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(to expedite your order)

(Must be signed to be valid)

All orders subject to acceptance.

9384

*continued from page 17*

healthy children that otherwise could have been homeless and destitute says it all.

"The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary are supporting a tremendous project for our country's future. I wish everyone in the organization could come to Eaton Rapids and see the good they are doing."

With the January addition of a family, plus some children in the residential program, the number residing on campus is 83. Other children and single-parent families are close to being admitted to the program, so "the referral picture looks good," according to Sue Shoultz, Assistant Director, Programs.

**Facilities**

Architects have been signed to begin renovation of the Home's Community Center and Nursery. These projects were approved for funding by the VFW Ladies Auxiliary National Council of Administration last August.

Another project to be completed early this year is the renovation of the swimming pool, as approved by the MOC.

A new phone system will replace the antiquated operation currently being used at the National Home. Installation should be completed this month.

**Seals Donations Lagging**

A full-file mailing of National Home Seals last fall has resulted in fair success, according to Secretary-Treasurer Joe Epling. Every VFW and Ladies Auxiliary member received a Seals packet as the National Office of the VFW worked closely with the Home's Board of Trustees in printing and mailing them. This combined effort will add to the needed funding of the Home, it is hoped.

**Board Meeting**

The National Home Board of Trustees held its meeting Jan. 6-7 in Kansas City, Mo. This governing body, which includes the VFW Commander-in-Chief, Adjutant General and Quartermaster General and Auxiliary National President and Secretary-Treasurer as well as 12 elected Trustees, meets as a whole four times each year. ■

The Lovable, Laughable Singer of Songs!

**Phil Harris**

America's No. 1 Good Time Singer! with "That's What I Like About The South" and 23 More of His Very Best!



That's What I Like About Phil Harris



His Exclusive New Double Album

Nobody but nobody delivers a song like Phil Harris. This happy-go-lucky star performer has been brightening our spirits for 50 years and all America gets happy when he starts to sing. (Will you ever forget his side-splitting antics on the Jack Benny Radio Show?)

Phil Harris is the reigning master of the patter song... and now in this exclusive new double-length collection you can hear all his famous hits — the original classic recordings to enjoy all over again... including **THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT THE SOUTH... THE THING... CHATTANOOGIE SHOE SHINE BOY... DECK OF CARDS... DING DONG DADDY FROM**

**DUMAS... MUSKRAT RAMBLE...** and many more... 24 classics in all. Come on! Let the good times roll as you listen to this wonderful entertainer sing you a goldmine of happiness! Get happy and let Phil Harris warm your heart. Order your very own collection now.

**Your Guarantee**

The PHIL HARRIS collection will never be available in record stores. Only friends like you are privileged to enjoy this limited by-mail offer. We guarantee you will play and enjoy this double album collection as much as any you have ever owned or it won't cost you a penny. Simply return it for a full refund, absolutely no questions asked. Don't miss out. Hurry and order today.

**24 Songs On Records & Tapes**

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It was said that his was "the voice of the century." And when you hear Mario Lanza sing on these magnificent recordings you know why. Whether the Italian songmaster is singing the most demanding operatic area or the tenderness of love songs, his dazzling voice keeps you spellbound.

Hear his electrifying voice again in 24 original recordings of the best-loved musical masterpieces of all time. This beautiful collection contains rare performances never released before.

Listen to his million-selling hit

**BE MY LOVE plus WITH A SONG IN MY HEART... ARRIVEDERCI ROMA... BECAUSE... MY WILD IRISH ROSE... OH MARIE, OH MARIE** and 18 more!

**Your Guarantee**

Don't miss this rare and beautiful Mario Lanza collection. We unconditionally guarantee you will enjoy these records and tapes like none you've ever owned or your money back, no questions asked. But please hurry and order yours now. This collection is not sold in any store at any price and supplies are limited.

**24 Wonderful Songs On Records & Tapes**

- Be My Love • Serenade From "The Student Prince" • Temptation • Wanting You • I'll Be Seeing You • With A Song In My Heart • Without A Song • Danny Boy • My Wild Irish Rose • And This Is My Beloved • Because • Only A Rose • Funiculi, Funicula • Come Back To Sorrento • Oh Marie, Oh Marie • O Sole Mio • Neapolitan Love Song • Arrivederci, Roma • Ah, Sweet Mystery Of Life • Look For The Silver Lining • Memories • The Song Is You • Ave Maria • You'll Never Walk Alone

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**Flag Foul-up Fixed**

The following letter of thanks was sent to Comrade Bob Helms, of Jerome, Idaho, and copied to the editor of VFW Magazine. Several other letters were addressed to this office on the same subject. The advertisement appeared on the inside back cover of the December issue.

Dear Mr. Helms:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Flag in the Iwo Jima Stained Glass Plate. You are correct — the 50-star Flag was not used at the time of the battle. That is, however, the Flag that is flown today at the Iwo Jima Memorial. The artist, Jack Woodson, felt that the Flag on the art should be the same as the one flown at the memorial. In the past couple of days, we have talked with several collectors about the Flag on the art, and the consensus is that it should match the one in the original photograph, not the one at the Iwo Jima Memorial. Therefore, we have changed the art for the plate. If you decide to order a plate, the one you receive will show the 48-star Flag instead of the 50 as pictured. Sincerely, Elaine J. Lidholm, Manager, Creative Services, United States Historical Society.

**VA Insurance Dividend to Top \$1 Billion**

The VA will pay more than \$1 billion worth of dividends in 1989 to veterans holding active VA life insurance policies, the largest amount in the 70-year history of the program.

The record payout will be sent automatically to some 2.9 million policyholders on the anniversary date of their policies in the form of dividend checks or one of five other payment options they selected.

The VA said the dividend — which exceeds the 1988 payment by \$44.6 million — reflects both favorable claims experience and high yields on trust funds invested in U.S. government securities.

The largest group receiving 1989 payments will be almost 2.5 million World War II veterans with National Service Life Insurance (prefix "V")

who will each receive an average of \$350.

Dividends totalling \$11.1 million will be paid to 43,175 World War I veterans holding U.S. Government Life Insurance (prefix "K") policies for an average of \$257.

Nearly 304,000 veterans have Veterans Special Life Insurance (prefixes "RS" and "W") and their dividends will average \$310.

Holders of "J," "JR" and "JS" policies — Veterans Reopened Insurance — who currently number 155,770, will receive 1989 dividends averaging \$284.

**Salute to Veterans**

An Army veteran, Kevin Dobson, will lead the VA's 1989 National Salute to Hospitalized veterans.

Dobson, currently starring in CBS-TV's "Knot's Landing," will appear in public service spots and visit VA hospitals in connection with the week of Feb. 12 when the annual event will be held at all 172 VA medical centers.

Of Dobson, VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage said: "Like millions of Americans, I know Kevin as a popular and accomplished actor. I know him as a generous concerned citizen willing to help focus public attention on fellow veterans cared for in VA medical centers."

VFW Posts interested in honoring hospitalized veterans should contact their nearest VA medical centers.

**'Great Planes' on TV**

Seven new episodes of "Great Planes," the 13-part series of hour-long programs chronicling the history of U.S. warplanes, will begin on the Discovery TV Channel Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Each episode highlights a particular aircraft such as the Grumman F-14 Tomcat, the Boeing B-52 Stratofortress, the Lockheed P-38 Lightning and General Dynamics F-111 Aardvark.

Previously classified footage of test flights are revealed as the series traces the production of military aircraft from drawing board to prototype to the final flight-ready model.

**LONE SAILOR**

from the Statue Sculpted for the United States Navy Memorial, Washington, D.C.



The Lone Sailor statue is a dramatic symbol of every person who has ever worn the Navy blue. Now you may display your own Lone Sailor, which is being issued by the United States Historical Society® in cooperation with the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation. When you acquire a Lone Sailor, you become a Sponsor of the Memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C.—a living tribute to all the men and women of the Navy who have served their country in war and peace. Available in two versions: 8-inch bonded-bronze, mounted on wooden base, and 15-inch genuine bronze, mounted on marble base.

YES! I wish to acquire the following Lone Sailor statue(s). I understand the statue is based on the original sculpture by Stanley Bleifeld. I will be appointed an Individual Sponsor of the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. and I will receive a Certificate of Authenticity.  
 Please send \_\_\_\_\_ Lone Sailor 8" statues at \$85 each plus \$2.50 shipping and handling.  
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# ANNOUNCING A TRIBUTE TO RONALD REAGAN

## Limited Edition Offered First to Readers of VFW

Announcing a special tribute to Ronald Reagan and an exceptional opportunity for you: the new **Ronald Reagan - A Great American** limited edition belt buckle. This stunning commemorative buckle was just released to the public on January 20, 1989 - the last day of Ronald Reagan's presidency. It is a magnificent tribute to an exceptional man. This collector's item is so unique that it is copyrighted with the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.!

### A LIMITED EDITION

The **Ronald Reagan - A Great American** buckle is a Limited Edition. Only 20,000 will ever be made before the original mold is destroyed. And, just like a rare coin, your buckle is likely to dramatically rise in value over the years.

Each buckle is individually numbered and comes with an official Certificate of Authenticity. This is an investment that you, your children, and your grandchildren will treasure and enjoy for years to come.

### A GREAT AMERICAN

Ronald Reagan is one of the most respected and admired presidents in history. His "Reagan Revolution" will be forever remembered as a time of renewed pride and spirit in the United States. That's why Ronald Reagan is the first to be honored in the new "Great Americans" series of belt buckles, available only from Waycross Company.

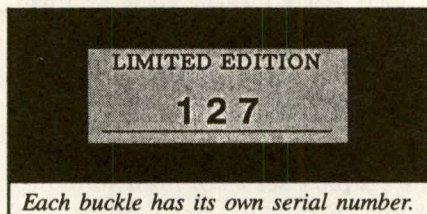
### A FINE WORK OF ART

The buckle, which fits any standard belt, is made in the U.S.A. from Old World Pewter. The 3-dimensional sculptures, created by Chicago artist Thomas Ferris, stand out dramatically. In the center of the buckle is a sculpture of Mr. Reagan's official presidential portrait. To the left is the Great Seal, the mark of the President. To the right, Mr. Reagan is seen standing in front of the American flag and waving to his admirers as he leaves office. The detail is



*The Ronald Reagan - A Great American belt buckle, a limited edition of only 20,000, was just released. It is being offered first to readers of VFW. Shown slightly larger than actual size of 3 1/4" by 2".*

so fine that you can count the stars and stripes on the flag. On the back side is your buckle's individual serial number, along with a short biography of Mr. Reagan.



### A NO-RISK OFFER

Here is our offer: After you receive your **Ronald Reagan - A Great American** belt buckle, take one full month to look it over and show it to your family and friends. If for any reason you decide not to keep it, send it back for a full 100% refund. This is an unconditional money-back guarantee!

### BE SURE TO ORDER EARLY

The desirable low serial numbers will go to the people who place their orders first. Don't miss out on this great opportunity - **order today!**

WAYCROSS COMPANY  
5063 Monaco Dr.  
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**YES!** I want to order the **Ronald Reagan - A Great American** commemorative belt buckle. Please ship it immediately and give me the lowest serial number available. I know that I may return it for a full refund for any reason within one month. I also know that the buckle may be ordered either with or without a display case.

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ buckle(s) at \$19.95 each.

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ buckle(s) in display case(s) handmade of solid walnut at \$36.95 each.

Your shipping and handling is FREE!  
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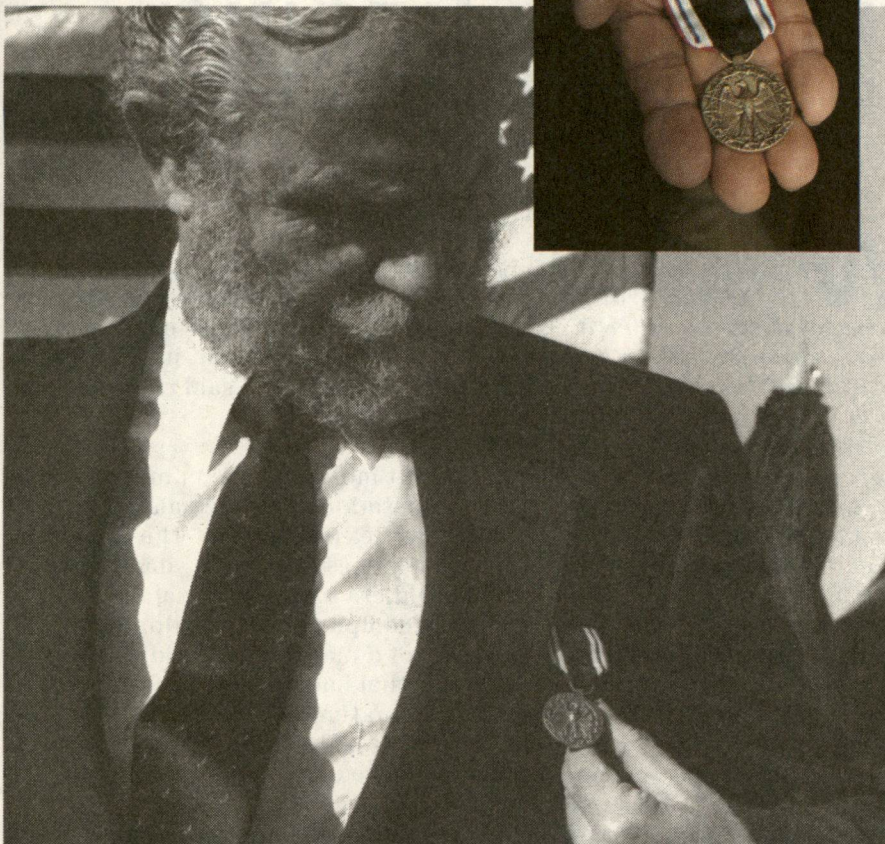
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# Their Ordeal REWARDED

Story and photos by Joel P. Smith



Joe Klass spent two years in a German stalag.

**S**ome waited three wars and more than three decades for this one hour.

Three-hundred and thirty-one former prisoners of war — the majority WWII veterans — were awarded the new POW medal recently in an hour-long mass ceremony at the Presidio of San Francisco.

VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage and Rep. Barbara Boxer (Calif.) opened the state's second POW medal presentation.

Authorized by Congress in November, 1985, the medal will be awarded to POWs who served honorably and were captured after April 15, 1917.

"They were finally shown some appreciation for what they endured in the concentration camps," said Commander Donald E. Ellis, of the VFW Department of California's 15th

District.

Ellis and District 15 helped organize the event, which honored former POWs from northern California.

"Any time a man lays his life on the line for his country — that's worth something," said Ellis. "But a POW put in a whole lot more than that."

One of the men honored at the ceremony, Joe Klass, knows. After all, he bled more than two years of his life into a German stalag.

A second-lieutenant in the Army Air Corps during WWII, Klass was shot down over the Tunisian desert April 6, 1943.

Until his release April 29, 1945, Klass languished in infamous Stalagluft III, near Sagan, Germany (now Zagan, Poland).

At the ceremony, he gingerly held his medal and gazed at its dark relief.

"The medal shows an eagle surrounded by barbed wire and bayonets," said Klass.

"In the camp, I used to think of us as eagles with wings clipped. We weren't supposed to be in a cage, but there we were."

Klass remarked, "You had to be brave just to be a prisoner of war. You didn't get there by sitting in a chair at home."

"I'm proud to be here with all these men," Klass said. "Mostly though, I feel sorry for the ones who can't stand to accept it — the ones who never made it out of the camps."

According to medal recipient George F. Fryett, who said he was the nation's first POW in the Vietnam War, the ceremony was "part of a healing process" in America.

"I think people here are beginning to realize that POWs made a unique contribution," said Fryett, captured Christmas Eve, 1961.

"We gave away a valuable part of our lives."

Fryett said he was an Army specialist fourth class assigned to a military advisory group in Saigon, seven miles from where he was ambushed. He was released June 24, 1962.

The medal's violent symbolism isn't lost on Romeo de Fernandez, a WWII POW who survived the Bataan Death March.

When a reporter-photographer at the ceremony asked to photograph Fernandez's "barbed wire symbol," Fernandez rolled up his sleeves.

There, on his scarred wrists, was the testament to his sacrifice. The Japanese had bound his wrists with barbed wire before his forced march to a prison camp in the Philippines.

"Still, it is very good to be recognized, to be given a medal in this great presentation," said Fernandez, an Army corporal in the Philippine Scouts when he was captured April 9, 1942.

He was released by the Japanese Oct. 20, 1942.

POWs living today number about 142,000, according to Martin F. Bleskey, a veterans' service officer in the Veterans Administration San Francisco regional office. ■

# WHERE THE ROAD ENDS, THE WAR BEGINS

By Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter G. Hogan

**VFW** *Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, Wally Hogan recently completed his second visit to Central America, accompanied by Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief James Kimery. This is his report to VFW members.*

I listened intently as the young Guatemalan infantry officer, recently returned from the combat zone in the mountains north of the capital city, described to me the frustrations of fighting a hardened guerrilla force with limited resources.

As he spoke, his voice rasping from an earlier bullet wound to his throat, the five young lieutenants and captains who had also come to meet with me nodded their heads in agreement.

I could see in their eyes the hope that, as one who also had experienced the rigors of combat, I would understand their needs and their loyalty to their soldiers.

"Yes, our weapons and equipment are old and worn out," said the captain. "But what we desperately need are simple, basic items that will help us stay in the field and fight. Batteries, insect repellent, medical supplies and transportation."

He paused for a few moments, reflecting on the gruelling combat patrols and weeks and months in the field. "We are not in defensive positions," he said. "We are on the offensive, patrolling and moving among and working with the people. There are few or no roads, and the area is dangerously mined by the guerrillas."

As he described the indiscriminate maiming and death caused by the mines to farmers and soldiers, he stopped speaking for a moment.

Obviously saddened, he again began to

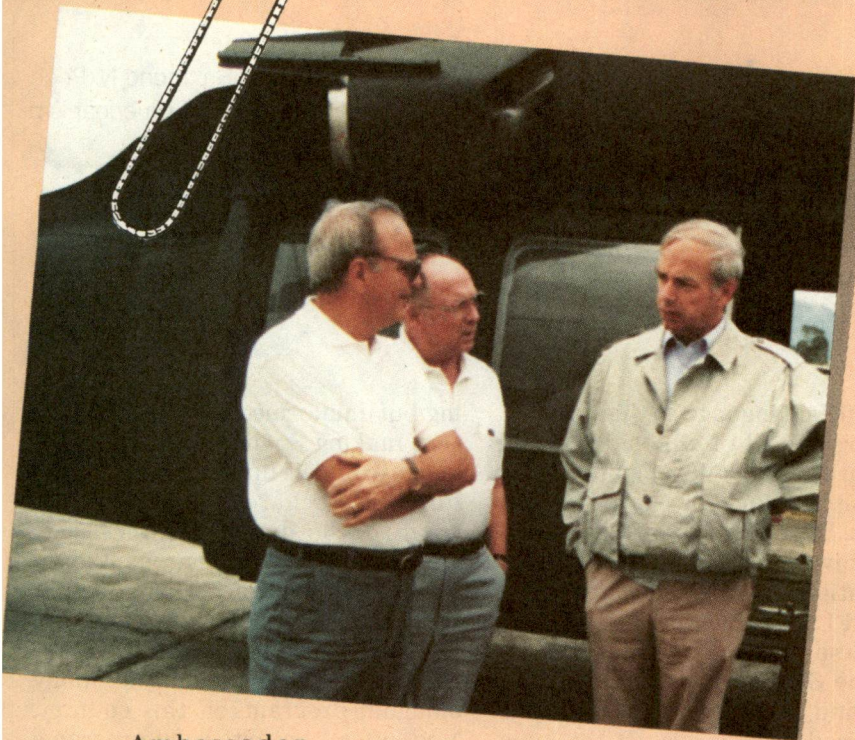
speak, a little more slowly but with greater intensity. "One of my soldiers who stepped on one of those awful mines died because we could not evacuate him in time — no roads, no helicopter," said the captain shaking his head.

**T**he next morning, when I met with the U.S. ambassador to Guatemala, James H. Michel, my experience of the previous night's meetings with the young Guatemalan soldiers took on special meaning. I was to accompany Ambassador Michel to the start of a major road-building project in an area that had previously had guerrilla activity. Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, who ordered the project, would officiate at the ceremony.

**The humanitarian aid provided to the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters by the U.S. is vitally important to them. It is their lifeline.**

Ambassador Michel discussed the Guatemalan efforts to enhance the nation's image as a major emerging democratic nation in Central America. He spoke of the nation's efforts to improve the economic and social well-being of the people, and he spoke of their efforts to overcome charges of human-rights violations.

"These road-building projects of President Cerezo are extremely important," said



Guatemala City — VFW Senior and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Wally Hogan and James Kimery respectively chat with U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala James H. Michel (right) prior to boarding a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter for a visit to the road-building project at San Pedro La Laguna.

Ambassador Michel. "It's obvious that where the road ends, the war begins."

I thought about the young captain and the soldier who died because there was no road and no helicopter.

Later that morning, accompanied by Ambassador Michel, we arrived at the project at San Pedro La Laguna. I listened as President Cerezo detailed the importance of the road project to Guatemala and the people of the small community at San Pedro.

I thought of how much we in America take freedom and democracy for granted. The nations of Central America are struggling to ensure that they remain free and independent. The presence of the Communist-inspired regime in Nicaragua, however, makes them uneasy and feel very much threatened. I could sense this uneasiness as I talked to officials in Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica.

A few days earlier, I had been in Costa Rica and spoken with the U.S. ambassador to Costa Rica, Deane R. Hinton. He described Costa Rica as a beautiful country, with people proud of their democratic traditions and their president, Oscar Arias, whose efforts to bring peace to the region earned

him a Nobel Peace Prize. He noted, however, that those peace talks between the Sandinista government in Nicaragua and the Nicaraguan Resistance remain at an impasse.

In the past year, I have made two visits to Central America. In that time, military aid to the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters has been stopped by a narrow vote in the House. While negotiations between the Sandinista government and Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters are stalemated, the Freedom Fighters languish in camps and subsist on limited humanitarian aid which will end this March.

The humanitarian aid provided to the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters by the U.S. is vitally important to them. It is their lifeline. This was apparent during my visit to a Nicaraguan Resistance Recuperation Center in Costa Rica, where young men injured or wounded in the fighting in Nicaragua receive medical treatment in highly-rated Costa Rica medical facilities. Field commanders at the center asked me to take back to the American people a plea for continued U.S. humanitarian aid. These commanders view continued U.S. aid as the only reason the Sandinistas have not broken off peace talks completely. Even though the talks are stalled, the commanders feel U.S. aid and recognition give the Sandinistas reason to talk.

*continued on page 60*

# **1 English** /'ɪŋ-ɡlɪʃ /

By Raymond N. Price  
VFW Director of Americanism

## **n 1 a : our official language**

**A**sk anyone what the official language of the United States is, and chances are the reply would be English, but this is wrong, because this country has no official language.

Reason for the respondent's incredulity probably is that for decades the ability to read, write and understand English was a requirement for citizenship among the foreign-born.

Many in this country believe English should be the official language and are trying to do something about it. Several states have adopted bills making English their official language. Some states that acted in this matter in the last election are Florida and Arizona, to name just a few. California acted in 1986.

Over the past few years, several attempts also have been made in the U.S. Congress. In 1987 and 1988, 15 bills were introduced to establish English as the official language of the United States. Lest you think those introducing bills were not serious, consider that six of these bills were designed to establish English as the official language by amending the Constitution. However, nothing of substance happened, and the bills died in committee.

Some of the members of Congress who submitted bills to this end are Sen. Larry Pressler (S.D.) and Reps. William S. Broomfield (Mich.), Clarence E. Miller (Ohio), Norman D. Shumway (Calif.) and Virginia Smith (Neb.). When he was in the Senate, S.I. Hayakawa authored a similar bill.

The VFW, believing it is time for the nation to act, passed Resolution 105 at the 89th National Convention mandating the VFW leadership to seek Congressional action in the form of legislation that would make English

the official language of this country.

A great deal of opposition to the Official Language Movement has been generated. Much of the opposition comes, in the words of former Sen. Hayakawa, "from militant ethnic organizations such as the League of United Latin-American Citizens, the Japanese-American Redress Committee, the Chinese for Affirmative Action, and the like. Each of these is organized to fight against the injustices suffered, or about to be suffered, by the ethnic groups they claim to represent. Naturally, the reaction of such organizations is to view any new idea with suspicion and fear."

It is not just the ethnic groups that oppose the efforts, however. Some of the opposition comes from well-mean-

ing, but uninformed people who argue that making English the official language would be unfair and detrimental to the welfare of people in this country who do not speak English. Most of this opposition probably originates from misconception and fear.

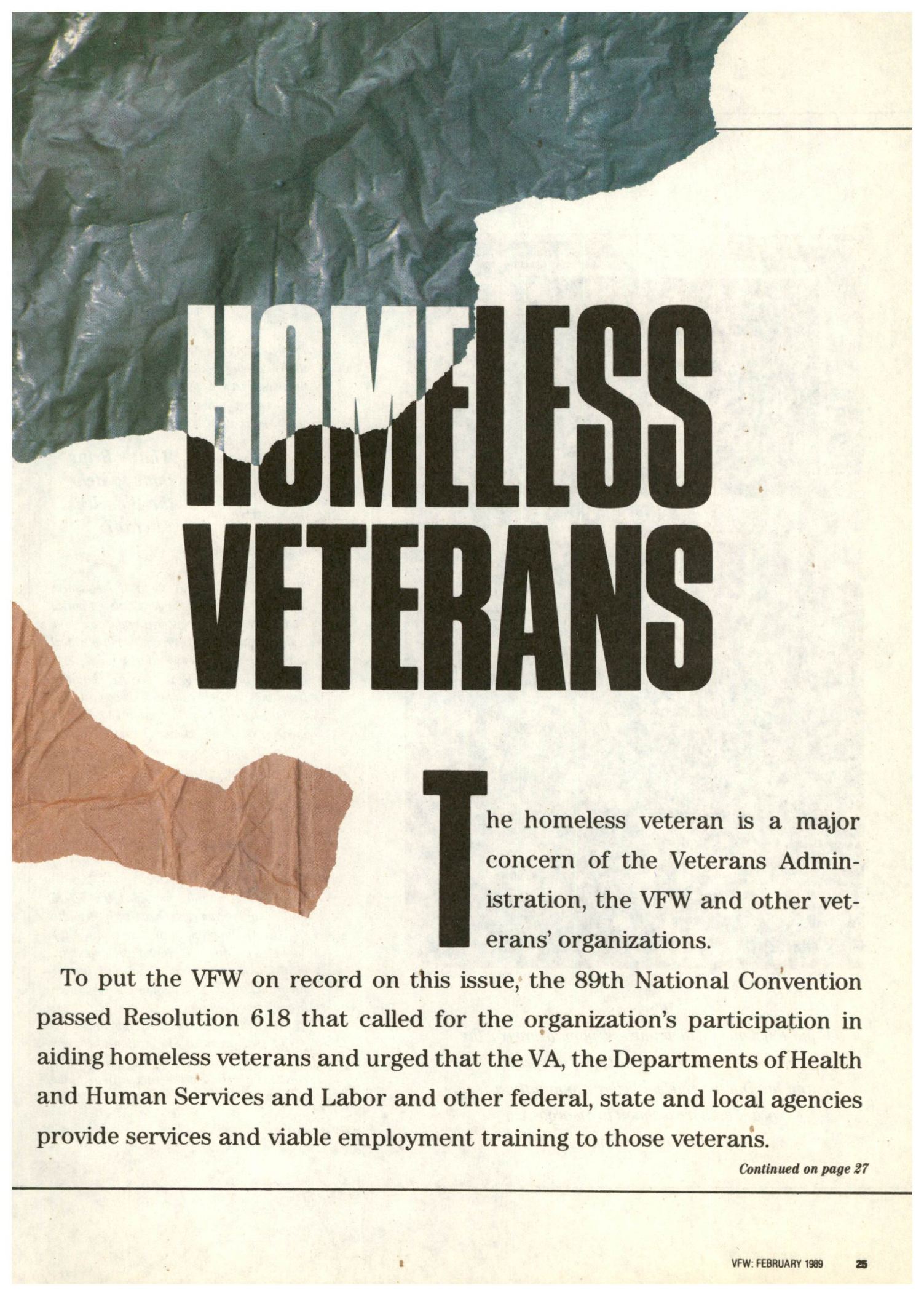
Many who oppose English as the official language maintain its establishment would eliminate the many bilingual programs in this country. Most often, they cite such programs as bilingual education of non-English speaking children. This is simply not true, for none of the bilingual programs have been discontinued in any of the states that have made English their official language, and none are expected to be.

*continued on page 60*

## **Resolution No. 105**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that we seek legislation that mandates English as the official language of the United States; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we seek legislation to: **1)** limit bilingual education to short-term transitional programs only; **2)** initiate a speedy return to voting ballots in English only; **3)** make more opportunities available to immigrants for learning English; **4)** maintain the English language as a condition for naturalization; and **5)** enact legal protections for the English language, at state and national levels, through the designation of English as our official language.

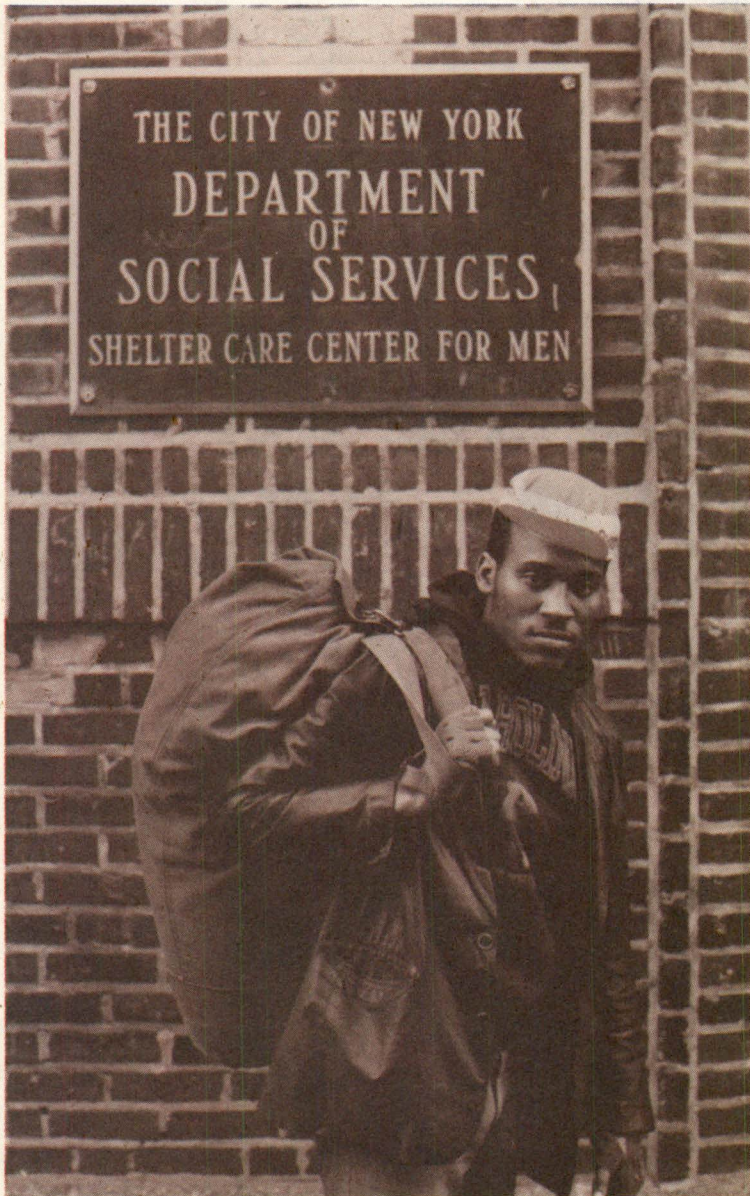


# HOMELESS VETERANS

**T**he homeless veteran is a major concern of the Veterans Administration, the VFW and other veterans' organizations.

To put the VFW on record on this issue, the 89th National Convention passed Resolution 618 that called for the organization's participation in aiding homeless veterans and urged that the VA, the Departments of Health and Human Services and Labor and other federal, state and local agencies provide services and viable employment training to those veterans.

*Continued on page 27*



*Whereas,  
the existence of a homeless population in the  
United States is a national disgrace  
and having a homeless veteran population is a  
grave embarrassment to an organiza-  
tion of veterans . . .*

**T**he VA has several programs and initiatives to assist homeless veterans, plus those geared to preventing them from ending up on the streets.

All were adopted or proposed with vigorous VFW support.

■ One, authorized under Section 9 of the Veterans Home Loan

Program Improvements Act of 1987, permits the VA to sell foreclosed properties for use by homeless veterans to state and local agencies and certain non-profit organizations that work on behalf of the homeless.

■ Public Law 99-570 eliminates the need for a VA beneficiary to have a fixed address in order to send a compensation or pension check.

■ The VA Working Group on Homelessness has been established to coordinate VA policy and address issues concerning the homeless. A special task force is developing plans to deal with homeless Vet Center clients.

■ Jobs for Homeless Veterans Initiative links the VA, Department of Labor and the Social Security Administration in a ten-city model program in which veterans' organizations will sponsor homeless persons and help them use resources for their rehabilitation, with job placement the goal.

■ The VA provided \$100,000 for a nine-city initiative to address comprehensive care, rehabilitation and non-institutional housing for the chronically mentally ill — many of them homeless.

■ Public Law 100-6 provided the VA \$5 million for the Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill Veterans Program to provide community-based psychiatric residential treatment facilities. An additional \$5 million for the program through Sept. 30 of last year has been extended by Congress.

■ The 1987 Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1987 provided \$15 million to convert underused VA hospital space to domiciliary care use for eligible veterans, primarily the homeless.

### **What's Being Done to Help the Homeless Veteran?**

*Continued from page 25*

The resolution urged further that "state legislatures, governors and mayors identify and provide domiciliary care and treatment to homeless veterans, providing them with appropriate medical and psychiatric care and, when warranted, place them in community residential treatment settings and that legislation be established for the continuity of the care and treatment of homeless veterans."

No one knows how many homeless veterans there are. Estimates of the total homeless population range from 250,000 to ten times that number. The VA estimates about 30% of that total have served in the Armed Forces.

Since New York, the nation's largest city, probably leads in the number of homeless persons, it is appropriate that the VFW is active there in assisting homeless veterans.

## *VFW in New York Takes the Lead*

**P**ast Commander Ralph De Marco, of the Department of New York, is active on the committee on the homeless headed by Councilman Abraham Gerges. Other veterans' organizations are represented also.

De Marco says the committee has made some progress, but it has been found that many of the homeless are mentally ill, while others are well educated but drug-addicted.

"Many of them have college degrees," De Marco says. "Some have regular jobs and leave the shelter in Queens each morning with briefcases. They live in the shelter because they cannot afford the high rents for apartments. Mayor Ed Koch suggested the other day that they pay rent, and that did not set well.

"The Queens shelter for veterans only opened a year and a half ago, and we would like to get them out of the shelter and into private housing such as some of the empty apartments that the city owns," De Marco says. "But it will cost a lot of money, and the committee wants to see what can be done to coordinate action for federal, state and city funds."

VFW Posts in the area have been active also, De Marco says, in provid-

ing clothing, televisions, video-cassette recorders and often entertainment for the homeless veterans in the shelters.

"This is not a problem, of course, just for New York; most other large cities have the same conditions, but it seems that more of the homeless are drawn to New York," De Marco says.

The number of homeless men varies. Some city officials estimate their number at 10,000 with perhaps a third of them veterans. Chances are that no one can give an exact figure because of the transient lifestyle of the homeless.

But one thing is certain: homeless veterans served their nation in uniform yesterday, and today they need help.

**W**ho is the New York City homeless veteran? He is overwhelmingly male. He is likely to be black or Hispanic. He is probably between 24 and 45. He almost certainly served in the U.S. Army, although a very small percentage served in the Marine Corps, Air Force and Navy. He usually has a high school or

general education (GED) diploma. He definitely is not stupid. If he is given the opportunity to have a more productive life, he will take it. What keeps him from maintaining it is his drug or alcohol dependency or his emotional problems.

The mission of the Veterans Administration is to "ensure that (veterans) receive the care, support and recognition (they have) earned in service to this nation." Every agency employee is required to "serve America's veterans... with dignity and compassion." Homeless veterans are not exempt from that mandate.

Some VA employees in New York City visit shelters to inform homeless veterans of benefits they might be entitled to; others search the many soup kitchens, alleyways and Skid Row areas of the city for physically or mentally ill veterans to enroll them in health-care programs designed especially for them.

Some drug- or alcohol-addicted veterans are given the chance to participate in detoxification programs. Some, eligible for education benefits, are offered the opportunity to return to school. Others are taught basic living skills, such as cooking and cleaning.

**W**illie Stewart and Eloy Alicea, veterans benefits counselors at the New York VA Regional Office, both grew up in the streets of New York. Both visit shelters throughout the city on a regular basis, and both relate to the veterans with the firm and compassionate toughness of a caring brother or parent. As benefits counselors, their job is to determine whether the veterans are eligible to receive entitlements and to help them apply for their benefits. "I always say to them a

*Continued on page 29*



*Whereas,  
federal and state agencies have not adequately  
attempted to identify and to overcome  
the barriers which contribute to homeless veterans  
not receiving or benefiting from  
health services . . .*

**B**ase Camp, Inc., a private corporation to assist veterans, joined forces with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to establish a center in Nashville for homeless veterans and their families.

John H. Fisher, manager of the Nashville HUD office, and Jerry Washington, executive director of Base Camp, Inc., executed a one-year, one-dollar lease for a HUD-held single-family house.


In addition to housing homeless veterans and their families, Base Camp will staff the transitional housing headquarters with veterans, said Washington.

**Private Sector  
and Federal  
Government  
Team Up to  
Help Homeless**

Fisher, in a ceremony at the HUD office where the lease was signed, declared: "This cooperative effort is an example of the many activities of the federal government designed to assist America's homeless population. HUD-Nashville is proud to have a part locally through Base Camp, and we hope this is but the first of a years-long program to assist homeless veterans — until there no longer remains a need for the program.

"Federal agencies, state and local governments and dedicated private, non-profit institutions and organizations like Base Camp must work together to meaningfully address the needs of our homeless populations. Joint efforts are far more effective than efforts made separately. HUD wants to focus all appropriate resources on serving the nation's homeless."





*Continued from page 27*

winner never quits, and a loser never wins," said Stewart.

One of the shelters on Stewart's beat is run by the Salvation Army in Queens. One of 18 city shelters visited by the counselors, it is the only one strictly for veterans. By general consensus, it is the cleanest and most liveable of all New York City's shelters. With a portable laptop computer that can access thousands of VA records, Stewart is able to interview an average of 20 veterans per visit. "The computer enables me to find the details of each veteran's claim without having to carry the files around with me," Stewart said.

Stewart has been with the VA more than a year and has worked in social services all his adult life. He has been deputy director of the East Harlem Community Corporation, a poverty program, and the director of community affairs at North General Hospital, formerly the Hospital for Joint Disease.

During the hot summer months,

most veterans don't want to be inside the overcrowded shelters. Stewart goes out in search of them. "I'll go to the park. I know where they hang out," said Stewart. "Sometimes I'll talk to them right there in the park or on the street, and I'll get information from them right there. Sometimes they don't want to give me any information about themselves, so we'll have a little talk. They get to know me. And in talking to them, I'll say, 'Well, when you go back in to the shelter, meet me there next time.' They know when I'm coming."

A native New Yorker, Stewart grew up in Harlem. He quit high school, then went back and got his diploma, and went on to Queens College. "I know what it's like to get out there and kick and scratch to get what you want. And I don't care whether I'm sanctified for what I do. I do this work here at the VA because I like to do it. We're helping people. There's great satisfaction knowing that," Stewart said.

visor interviews each of the men. All the veterans are referred to Alicea. Although East 3rd Street may be the end of the line for some, for veterans, it can be the gateway to a better life.

The problems of homeless veterans are many and varied, and there is no one profile that fits them all. At East 3rd Street, Alicea regularly meets veterans like Leroy and Domingo (not their real names).

Leroy, an Army veteran, said he had a job as a security guard, but when his employer found out he was living at a shelter, he was fired from his job. He lived for awhile with his brother but was thrown out because of his drug addiction.

Domingo is a Vietnam combat veteran, suffering from post traumatic stress disorder. He studied accounting at Queens College for two years. He has been hospitalized off and on for 13 years. He can't hold a job. Alicea obtained proof of both men's military service and referred them to the veterans' job employment center at the New York VA Regional Office.

Beauregard, one of Willie Stewart's cases, repaired weapons and tank turrets in the Army. Separated from his wife, he served a two-month jail sentence for burglary and underwent drug treatment at Beth Israel Hospital. He says whenever he gets a job and the employer finds out he was in jail, he loses the job. With Stewart's help, he is now in a longterm drug rehabilitation program at the Montrose VA Medical Center.

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## *"Get him out of the streets"*

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**A**licea was raised in the tough Bedford-Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn. He promised himself that his own kids would never grow up in the streets. Now, two of his children are in college and one is in the Air Force. "This city has taught me how to use my common sense in life. If I can help a veteran in any way to get him out of the streets and improve his life, I will," he said.

A Vietnam combat veteran, Alicea learned about VA benefits when he was an Army recruiter stationed in Syracuse and Pittsburgh. He was responsible for briefing servicemen about VA benefit programs 90 days

before they left the military. His beat is primarily the Brooklyn shelters. He also visits the East 3rd Street shelter in Manhattan, run by the city's Human Resources Administration (HRA).

The old red brick building on East 3rd Street is in New York's dreary Bowery district. The waiting room is filled with homeless men waiting to be interviewed. They're used to waiting. Often listless and malnourished, they have no place else to go. They've come for a bath, a meal and clean clothes. The drone of a single large fan lulls the men into a semi-stupor in the oppressive heat of a New York summer. An HRA social-work super-

**B**enefits counselors say their most important mission is to maintain a liaison with the HRA counselors and try to identify the veterans. Some veterans are receiving benefits, and some are not. Some don't even know they are eligible.

"I want them to know that we care about them and most of all that we want to get them out of the system

*Continued on page 30*

*Continued from page 29*

and back on their feet," said Alicea. He often tries to help veterans privately. "If they're getting enough of an income from their benefits to afford housing, they might ask me if I know of available apartments. Same thing with jobs. I know a couple of people who have businesses in the area where I live. A friend of mine is always looking for veterans. So I refer the vets to him when I can."

Alicea says that just knowing the VA is "out there" and wants to help pull the veteran out of that "pool of homeless people" gives them a sense of self worth. "Suddenly the veteran starts remembering and relating to things that were important to him, and he might say, 'Hey, what am I doing here? How did I get here? I gotta get out of this situation because I don't want to live like this anymore,'" he said.

In making his rounds, Alicea prefers the Bellevue shelter in Manhattan because of the way it takes care of elderly veterans. "People at Bellevue are mostly older, and they are completely alone. The attitudes of the older men are different from the younger ones'. They have no family. Many are truly disabled. They cooperate with us. Most of them are too old to work. They receive either Social Security benefits or what the VA gives them. And they are not out to hustle anyone. Their generation is not on drugs, although some are alcoholics."

**S**tewart and Alicea work for Ben Weisbroth, the veterans services officer at the New York regional office. Since the VA provides information to the many people in other agencies who work with the homeless, Weisbroth sees the agency's role as one of educator to those organizations.

"Our benefits counselors teach HRA about veterans programs and services," said Weisbroth. "Our people also

network with representatives from other veterans' agencies and non-profit coalitions."

The city also maintains separate shelters for women. Not many homeless veterans are women — only between 100 and 150 in the New York

our alcohol and drug treatment programs and our education benefits," he said. "Those who can benefit from rehabilitation should be put in detoxification programs. They should get used to living on their own again and then get out of the system. Those

*VFW Resolution*

**618**

*Homeless Veterans*

*Be It Resolved that we participate in aiding homeless veterans and urge the Veterans Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Labor, and other federal, state and*

homeless shelter systems. "What we do find is that some women are eligible for benefits as the widows of deceased veterans. In one or two instances, we have found the mother of a deceased veteran who was eligible for benefits based on the death of her son," Weisbroth explained.

Weisbroth concluded by saying that his personal goal is to provide the information every homeless veteran in the city needs to better his or her life.

"We have to let them know about

veterans who simply cannot be rehabilitated should be given a clean, dignified surrounding in which to live. If we can separate those who can be helped from those who can't and help them to live their lives with dignity, then we will have accomplished something great."

While the New York regional office provides benefits and services to eligible homeless veterans, other New York VA facilities are working to provide them with quality medical care.

**T**he New York VA Medical Center in Manhattan is one of 43 VA facilities nationwide funded by Congress to seek out, treat and rehabilitate homeless veterans who are diagnosed as "chronically mentally ill." (See sidebar: VA's Homeless Chron-

ment.

Louis Barnadas is coordinator of the Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill Veterans Program. A social-work graduate of Fordham University, he and another graduate social worker visit city shelters regularly to determine

medical center in New Jersey. We act like a conduit to help veterans find the kind of medical treatment they need."

**T**he Manhattan "drop-in" center is not the only one the VA runs in New York. A far more elaborate program is underway at the Brooklyn VA Medical Center.

On May 13, 1988, the Brooklyn VAMC officially opened The Outreach and Rehabilitation Center for Homeless Veterans (TORCH) at the medical center's outpatient clinic. The outreach program is a daytime drop-in clinic for veterans who come in off the street or are referred from other shelters, particularly the Queens veterans' shelter. For many homeless veterans, TORCH has lit the light of life.

Zelda Foster, chief of social work for the Brooklyn medical center, says veterans have generally tended to "fall through the cracks" of community and institutional health-care services. They have been reluctant to seek or accept traditional treatment services and often have refused the health care they need. "We have been working for over a year to establish linkages with other public and voluntary agencies. We are especially collaborating with the city's Human Resources Administration, the Coalition for the Homeless, and the U.S. Department of Labor," she said.

The Project TORCH team includes a medical doctor, a nurse practitioner, a nursing assistant, a recreation therapist, a psychologist, a vocational rehabilitation specialist and two social workers. Together they provide a comprehensive rehabilitation program, with the social workers as the case managers. In addition to general medical care, the drop-in center has treatment resources at the Brooklyn VAMC for alcoholism and drug detoxification, mental hygiene, a day hospital, a

*Continued on page 32*

*local agencies to provide services and viable employment training to these veterans; and*

***Be It Further Resolved*** *that we urge state legislatures, governors, and mayors to identify and provide domiciliary care and treatment to homeless veterans, providing them with appropriate medical and psychiatric care and, when warranted, place them in community residential treatment settings, and that legislation be established for the continuity of the care and treatment of homeless veterans.*

ically Mentally Ill Veterans Program.)

The American Psychiatric Association defines this as a mental illness that lasts for at least six months or more. In New York City, it is estimated that about 700 single, homeless male veterans are chronically mentally ill. No homeless veteran, mentally ill or otherwise, is turned away by the medical center. Since July, homeless veterans are able to visit a "drop-in center" at the VA Medical Center's outpatient clinic, where they can walk in off the street without an appoint-

ment. what veterans need, socially, medically and psychologically.

One of Barnadas's first cases was that of a veteran who had lived in New York's Central Park for five years. After working with him for awhile, Barnadas finally persuaded the veteran to get treatment at the hospital. "We try to encourage them to come here for treatment," he said. "Often we link them up with longer-term psychiatric-care facilities within the VA hospital system at Montrose and Northport in New York or the East Orange

*Continued from page 31*

housing clinic and a psychoeducational family treatment program.

The veterans seem relaxed and at home at the cheerful center. It is freshly painted in bright colors, with numerous artworks on its walls. It has a nurses' station, recreation room and a fully stocked kitchen. There is a feeling of camaraderie among the veterans and a very real sense of warmth and hospitality on the part of the staff who run TORCH. Innovative programs like Mike Fruchter's cooking class provide an extraordinary example of the belief in the human spirit and in patience and loving care.

Fruchter, a recreation therapist, did an internship at the Brooklyn medical center three years ago, liked it and decided to come back when he heard about Project TORCH. He is also professionally trained as a master chef. "I taught the vets how to make eggplant parmigiana. It costs about a dollar and feeds about 12. I taught them how to select an eggplant and how to slice it. I showed them how to buy a bag of dough for a dollar, take about half of it, work the dough and make pizza for a dozen people," said Fruchter. "We use canned tomatoes and some cheese we got from the Department of Agriculture's surplus stock. Sometimes people donate food, and we also have a small petty-cash fund."

The cooking club is one of the key resources of the TORCH program. Not only does Fruchter teach the veterans some skills in meal preparation and how to prepare nutritional meals for themselves, he also teaches them what he calls his main goal — social skills. He creates an atmosphere where the men work with each other to prepare meals, set the table, eat together, clean up and generally take responsibility for themselves and for each other. "When we're through," said Fruchter, "the place is spotless, and they did it all."

A visitor can easily observe the

great pride the veterans experience in their newly learned abilities. They've done a creative and productive thing together, and their eyes reflect that accomplishment. Where once there was hopelessness, a light has been turned on, and a spark has been rekindled.

Because many of the men may eventually live in small one-room efficiencies, the only cooking implement a hotplate or electric frying pan, Fruchter shows them how to make inexpensive, nutritious, one-dish meals. "It's very encouraging. I see them coming in the beginning with long faces, frustrated and discouraged. After a while they start to develop a sense of motivation and

goals. They become focused, less isolated. It's more like a family here," Fruchter said.

Fruchter's first step was to build an interdependent, supportive network among regular visitors to the center. Then, as part of the team, he began to work with the veterans on a one-on-one basis in an effort to support their rehabilitation goals. Some of these goals are family reconciliation, job training and preparing them for work. Said Fruchter: "Some of the men tell me they now feel confident that they can go out and apply for a job as a kitchen helper. I tell them, 'Hey, remember to say where you got your experience.'"

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## *Social Rehabilitation is the Goal*

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**H**enrietta Fishman, a social worker with a master's degree in social work from Columbia University and supervisor in the social work department of the Brooklyn medical center at Poly Place, coordinates the Project TORCH program.

Fishman points out that TORCH is an ambulatory arm of a domiciliary being prepared at the St. Albans Extended Care facility in Queens. The domiciliary will be a 50-bed (semi-private room), transitional, therapeutic community-type facility with heavy emphasis on social rehabilitation for homeless veterans, who will stay for a period of up to six months.

"We have a very aggressive outreach program," said Fishman. "We go to four shelters each week. We make announcements in each one, putting up signs in advance, saying that social workers are coming from the VA's Project TORCH to meet with veterans. And the word gets out even further

because the men don't always remain in one shelter. They move around a lot. Also, other health-care providers in the field know about us, and we know about them, and there is a lot of linkage."

Many of the veterans they see are in poor physical condition and have psychiatric problems as well. A veteran arrived from the Queens shelter who was a diabetic and insulin dependent. "It was his first visit, and I think he'll come back. If he doesn't we're going to go out with a butterfly net and try to get him back. We try to track them, but we're not always successful," said Fishman.

At TORCH, goals for veterans are set in short-term increments — what they can do today, then tomorrow and then a month later. "These are incremental steps. We can say to them, today you will be involved in cooking skills, and you are going to have an instant success because you

In February 1987, Congress at VFW urging appropriated \$5 million to the VA for treatment of homeless veterans who were chronically mentally ill. Twice since then funding has been extended.

The VA identified 43 sites to implement the Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill Veterans Program in rural and urban settings based on the size of the veteran population; availability of local agencies working with the homeless, and VA support facilities, especially psychiatric and medical diagnostic and treatment resources.

The program is designed to identify homeless veterans who are chronically ill, provide them with medical and psychiatric treatment, and place them in residential treatment facilities.

### **VA's Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill Veterans Program**

Local HCMI program coordinators contract with residential care facilities to provide active therapy. Treatment of the homeless is monitored by VA outreach clinicians to insure continuity of care. While costs vary from site to site, the average cost per day for treatment is just over \$30, considerably less expensive than VA medical center care.

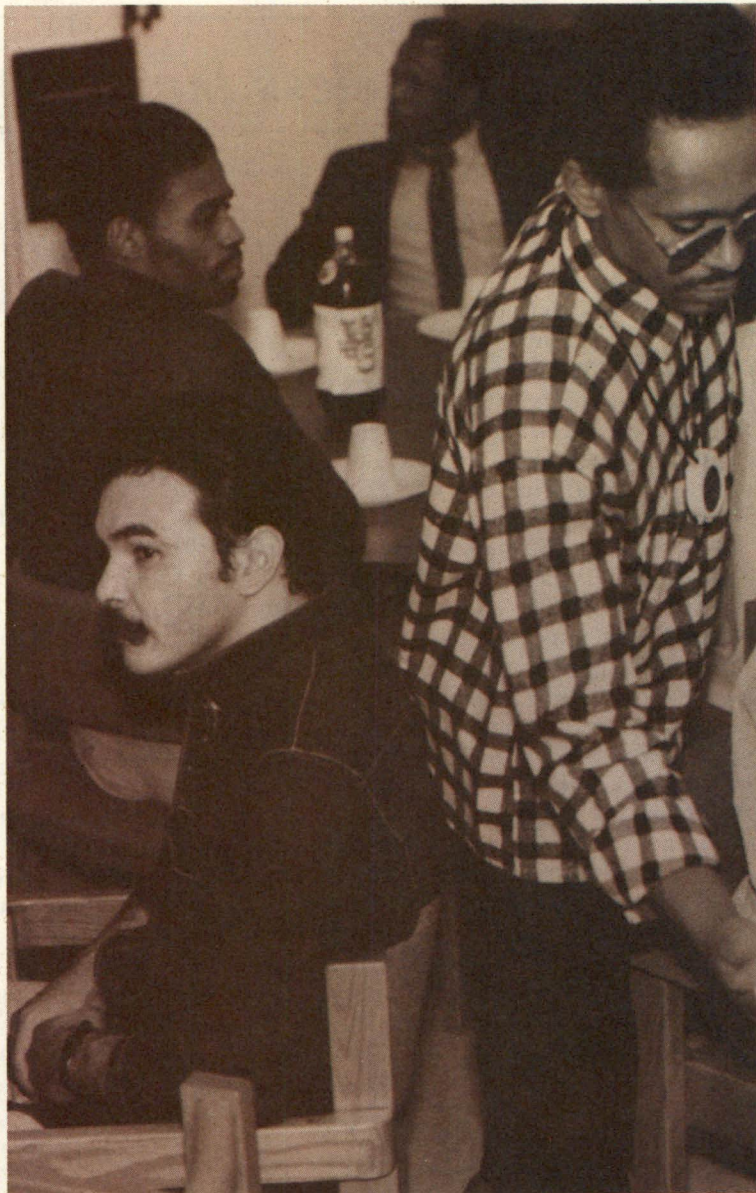
Since the program's inception, more than 11,000 veterans have been contacted by HCMI outreach workers, and more than 1,000 have been placed in residential care facilities.

A report on the status of the HCMI program was to be delivered to Congress on December 15 but has been delayed.

### **Who Are Homeless Veterans?**

Intake assessment interviews revealed the following profile of the HCMI veteran.

- 31% Reported combat experience
- 1.7% Reported to have been POW
- 37.8% Served during Vietnam Era
- 82% Completed high school
- 44% Skilled or higher-level occupation
- 75% Homeless more than a month
- 50% Homeless over six months
- 97% Unmarried, divorced or separated
- 45% Reported serious medical problems



**Whereas,**  
recent surveys and studies reveal a high percentage of homeless to be veterans, not only in large metropolitan areas but in smaller rural areas as well . . .

are going to have lunch. And they learn how to do something construc-

tive and build on these small successes," said Fishman.

made over 100 employment referrals which have led to jobs. Thirty-nine veterans were referred to the Brooklyn VA Medical Center for employment there.

None of the Project TORCH workers, or the benefits counselors, or those who work on the program for the mentally ill have any illusions that the problems of veterans' homelessness in New York City can be solved easily. Yet each time they see a homeless veteran, they are mindful of the VA's mission — to treat that veteran with dignity and compassion, and to give them the care and support that their service has earned them.

"I don't believe in miracles," concluded Fishman. "I think that for the man who comes in here hungry, who has not had a bath and is wearing filthy, torn clothes, if he leaves here cleaned up, fed and with some decent clothes, we did something. We didn't make a miracle, but we did something to make him feel better about himself. In comes your homeless man. He looks to be at the depths of despair, the bottom of the barrel, nothing can be done. I say, something can be done, even if it's a cup of tea. And just maybe he'll come back." ■

*This article was prepared by Susan Scharfman, public affairs specialist in the VA New York Office of Public Affairs; James K. Anderson, editor of the VFW Magazine, and Warren Maus, managing editor.*

## Jobs Give Homeless Dignity

**H**er longterm goals are to enhance the quality of life of homeless veterans, some of whom may never be able to enter the work force. By finding the level of care that is best suited for them, independent living, an adult home or supportive or supervised living arrangement such as the domiciliary, TORCH offers many homeless veterans an opportunity to live their lives with respect and dignity.

Fishman has the most hope for younger men in their 20s or 30s who have not been in the system too long. With sufficient supervised and structured work, they have the greatest potential for rehabilitation. "Many of the vets are in the unskilled labor market. We have moved away from the factories and into service industries today. It's a combination of linking them up with whatever job training they need and giving them sufficient support and help, physically and emotionally," she said.

Most veterans at Project TORCH have some work history. Social workers try to identify their strengths and work on some of the problems that

have put them in their situation. Says Fishman: "Because they often go out and get a job, and then lose it, they fall into a vicious cycle, with a constant sense of losing. Some need to have substance-abuse treatment. Maybe it doesn't work the first time. It may take two, or five or ten times. But we stay with them. This is a longterm process."

The veterans know the TORCH staff is there for them today and will be there for them tomorrow. They can count on the constancy. They learn to turn to each other for support, which the staff reinforces. Fishman feels that veterans are different from the rest of the homeless population. "I think it is part of the military environment they bring with them, the buddy system. These men have the military in common, and some close bonding develops. That is something we really have going for us at the Veterans Administration," said Fishman.

Since June, 1987, Project TORCH has served approximately 600 homeless veterans. Social workers have

**T**his plaintive letter to the editor of the VFW Magazine from a homeless veteran, B.J. Sawyer, reminds all VFW members of the need to aid the homeless, as expressed in Resolution 618, who have served the United States in the Armed Forces. When he wrote this letter, Dec.

11, he was living in Bijou House in Colorado Springs.

"I am a U.S. Army veteran. I served at Camp Casey, Korea, from 15 May, 1964 to 27 April, 1965. Was drafted into the U.S. Army 3 Dec., 1963. As I write this letter, also I have been homeless and live outdoors two years and nine months.

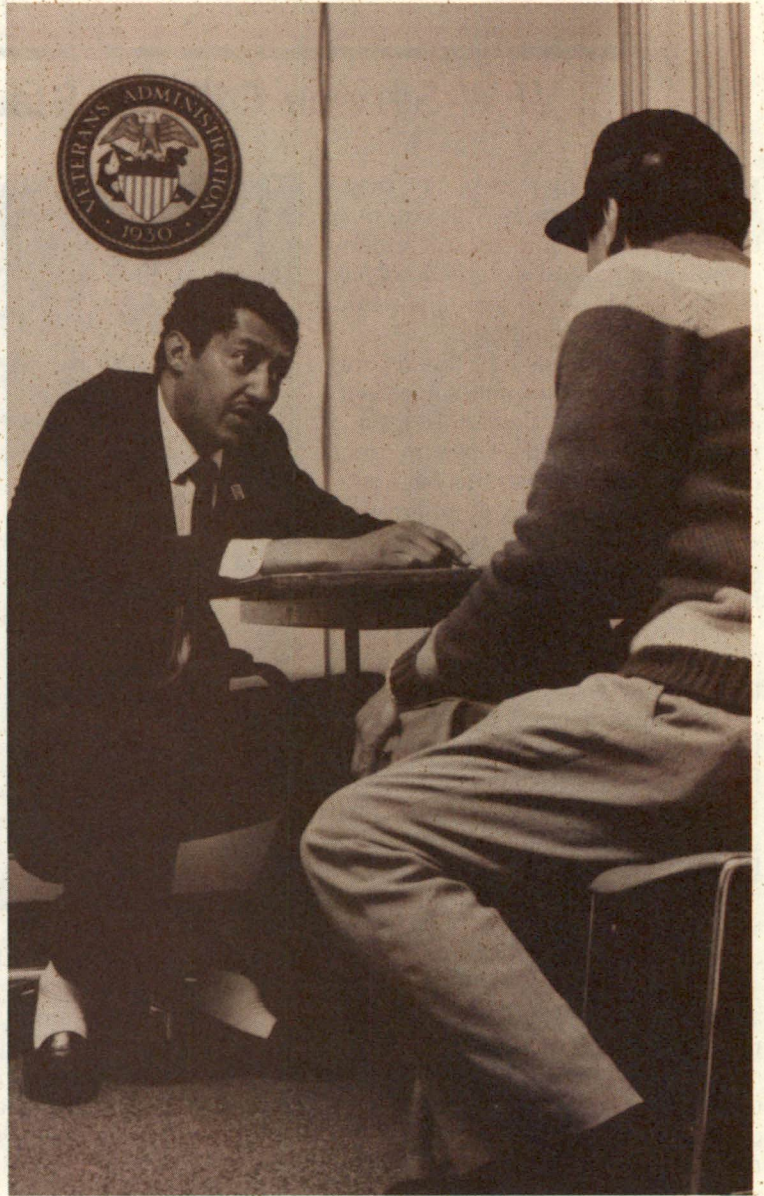
### **An Appeal from a Homeless Veteran**

"When I was homeless and went to the VA, they left me outdoors. B.J. Jordan is 59 years old and she is an Air Force veteran. After B.J. Jordan lost her VA benefit [no explanation given by Sawyer for this], she was made homeless again. Me and B.J. Jordan slept under the same bridge once. I slept at the center of the bridge and she slept at the end of the bridge.

"Don't understand VA who would make a woman homeless and on the street to live.

"I never fought in any war. Vietnam was heating up when I was stationed at Camp Casey, Korea. There are homeless veterans and homeless Vietnam veterans also. Is this the thanks we get from President Reagan and Vice President George Bush for serving our country?

"Presently, I am indoors and on Social Security disability. When George Bush becomes President, I hope and pray George Bush will be confronted with homelessness in our country, including homeless veterans and homeless Vietnam veterans also."



**Whereas,**  
*presently homeless veterans who are chronically mentally ill, because of the unique nature of their mental illness are denied appropriate medical and psychiatric care . . .*

# FILE NOW FOR AGENT ORANGE COMP

## VFW Service Officers Stand Ready To Help

If you were exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, you may be eligible for some of the money chemical companies agreed to pay veterans who served in or near that Southeast Asian country.

Now that appeals have been completed since the companies agreed to an out-of-court settlement in 1984, a manual for assisting Vietnam veterans and their families has been prepared by Kenneth R. Feinberg, the special master for the federal court in New York where the case was heard by Judge Jack B. Weinstein.

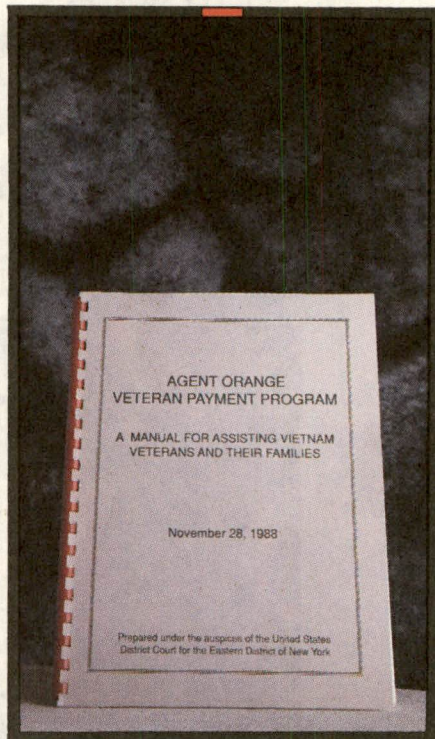
Since then, the \$180 million the companies agreed to pay has grown to \$240 million.

The fund's allocation is \$170 million for the Agent Orange Veteran Payment Program, \$52 million for the Agent Orange Class Assistance Program, \$4.5 million for the Australian Distribution Plan, \$500,000 for the New Zealand Distribution Plan and \$13 million for the plaintiffs' attorneys' fees.

Under the plan developed by an advisory group of Vietnam veterans, plus suggestions from individual veterans and their organizations, the court decided to use the largest part of the settlement to create the \$170 million Agent Orange Veteran Payment Program.

This money will be used to pay cash compensation to Vietnam veterans who are longterm totally disabled and to the survivors of deceased Vietnam veterans.

Feinberg's manual gives detailed information about the payment program. Copies may be obtained by writing him at 901-15th Street, N.W., Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20005. For further information about the payment program and to obtain an



application kit, call toll-free 1-800-225-4712.

According to the manual, the application materials for the payment program "are designed to be as simple and straightforward as possible" and are accompanied by an instruction booklet that should aid applicants in their completion.

Since many veterans will turn to VFW service officers for assistance, the manual is designed to provide them with detailed information about the program and to help them aid applicants successfully.

### Who is eligible?

Eligibility requirements are service in the U.S. Armed Forces in or near Vietnam at any time from Jan. 1,

1961 through Dec. 31, 1971. The veteran must be disabled from or have died from a non-traumatic, non-accidental and non-self-inflicted cause before his/her 60th birthday.

Exposure to Agent Orange must have occurred during service in or near Vietnam. It will be determined by an exposure test that compares the veteran's locations and time of service in Vietnam with computerized records of spraying missions.

Service in or near Vietnam includes on the ground in Vietnam, on flight missions over Vietnam, on boats operating off the coast of Vietnam and service in neighboring countries. Veterans whose only service during this time was in the U.S. or in Europe are not eligible to participate in the payment program.

Only veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and their survivors are entitled to payment-program benefits. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard are spelled out in the manual. A dishonorable discharge does not affect a veteran's eligibility. Civilians were not part of the plaintiff class and are ineligible.

Citizens of other countries, Canadians in particular since they may form the largest number who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, are eligible for the program under the same terms and conditions as Americans. Two of the lines at the toll-free number are available to answer questions Canadian applicants may have.

Because Australia and New Zealand government, private compensation and social services for Vietnam veterans differ greatly from those in the U.S., the court set aside the \$5 million total for separate portions of the settlement for those veterans.

Applicants must submit copies of

the veteran's DD Form 214, the Report of Separation, but the original should be retained since the document cannot be returned. In the event that the original has been lost, the application kit makes provision for this, and its instructions should be followed. Four to six weeks are needed for processing the request for a copy submitted to the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis.

Persons still on active military duty may obtain copies of their military records from their units' personnel officer, a process that requires about two weeks.

## What constitutes disability?

Disability means that a veteran must be longterm totally disabled as defined by the Social Security Act, since, the court decided this is the most universally accepted standard. Its definition is "the inability to engage in a substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months."

However, this decision does not mean that because a veteran has been denied Social Security benefits he or she will be ineligible for payment program benefits. Veterans receiving Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income for disability are considered totally disabled. Recipients of either of these two benefits should submit a copy of their Certificate of Social Insurance Award.

The program will determine independently whether a veteran not receiving Social Security benefits is totally disabled within the meaning of the Social Security Act definition.

The veteran's period of total disability must have lasted five months before he or she can receive benefits from the payment program. All disability compensation from the program will stop when the veteran's disability ends. Also, the veteran must show the existence of total disability for each subsequent year of compensation from the payment program. If

the veteran dies during the program's life, the surviving spouse or dependent children may be eligible for survivor compensation.

Higher disability payments will be made for longer disability periods and to younger veterans.

## How much will a victim receive?

The veteran who will receive the most compensation under these guidelines will be the one disabled for at least 15 years as of Jan. 1, 1985, and remains disabled and under 60 for the ten-year duration of the program. Reasoning is that in a young population incidence of disease-connected disability is relatively low. A veteran already disabled as of Jan. 1, 1985, will receive additional compensation for each year of past disability up to a maximum of 15 years, but none will be awarded for a period of disability prior to Jan. 1, 1970. A veteran turned 60 before or on Jan. 1, 1985, is still eligible for a payment for each year of total disability between Jan. 1, 1970, and the veteran's 60th birthday but is not eligible for payments for future disability.

Payments will be made on an annual basis. All eligible applicants will receive an incremental payment for each year of total disability after Jan. 1, 1985, through the program's ten-year life.

**RESOLUTION  
NO. 697**

**AGENT  
ORANGE**

**S E T T L E M E N T**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that any such settlement of monies received as the result of this class action lawsuit not be counted as income for the purpose of receiving public assistance monies and legislation be enacted in this matter.

## Is compensation taxable?

Whether compensation will be taxed has not been announced yet by the Internal Revenue Service, but the court has structured the payment program with the goal of eliminating any tax effect on recipients.

Special Master Feinberg has worked and continues to work to obtain a ruling from the IRS that money distributed from the program will not be deemed taxable income, but the IRS has not issued a ruling yet.

VFW Resolution 697, adopted by the 89th National Convention has urged that "any such settlement monies received as the result of this class action lawsuit not be counted as income for the purposes of receiving public assistance monies and that legislation be enacted in this matter."

The manual, issued Nov. 28, notes that "to be timely, an applicant must request an application kit prior to Jan. 1, 1989." The date was extended in January to March 1, 1989. However, for a veteran who is unaware of a disabling or terminal health condition, the deadline for requesting application materials is 120 days after death or discovery of the disability.

Further, the court may waive the filing deadline if the applicant can show a good reason for failing to request application materials within 120 days. In such a case, a veteran should submit a statement explaining the reason for the lateness.

All applications for payment must be submitted no later than the last day of the program, Dec. 31, 1994. Also veterans should return the application for payment within 60 days of receiving the kit. ■

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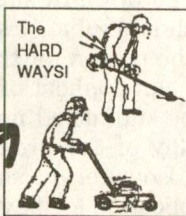


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# S E R V I C E W I N S

## How Teamwork Paid Off

Teamwork, a fundamental ingredient of the VFW Service Program, is unquestionably the reason for the many successes achieved each year in the representation of individual benefit claims before the Veterans Administration.

The VFW pyramid of service does not operate in a vacuum. Through training, publications and other forms of communication, the VFW has developed a spirit of cooperation at all levels of the organization that really works.

The delivery of quality representation depends on interaction whether between Post and Department Service Officers or County and the Department Service Officers or the Department Service Officers and the National Veterans Service staff in Washington, D.C. Pulling together is the name of the game.

Crossing Department lines has become a routine in this spirit of teamwork. An example of how this works is this story from the VFW Department Service Office in Fargo, N.D.

Earlier this year, Robert Routledge, a Vietnam veteran rated 70% for a service connected disability, told his County Veterans Service Officer he would be moving from North Dakota to Las Vegas, Nev. The county official submitted a change of address form to Charles Barstad, North Dakota VFW Department Service Officer, requesting that the veteran's VA claims folder be transferred to the Reno, Nev., VA Regional Office.

During a review of Routledge's file

before its transfer to Reno, Barstad discovered the veteran was not being paid the additional monthly compensation for dependents to which he was entitled. Barstad observed that Routledge had reported his marriage to Maureen Dixon to the VA in 1975 in connection with VA educational benefits and had indicated that Maureen's two minor children from a previous marriage were now in his custody.

For unexplained reasons, the VA failed to take appropriate action to adjust the compensation award nor did it adjust the award after being informed by the veteran in 1977 of the birth of his son.

Following these discoveries, Barstad immediately wrote the veteran explaining the situation. He advised Routledge to obtain certain dependency information and to seek the assistance of Donald Mitchell, Nevada VFW Department Service Officer, as Mitchell would take over representation because of the veteran's move to Las Vegas.

When Mitchell learned of the case, he acted quickly to help Routledge obtain the dependency documents required by the VA. When the information was gathered, Mitchell submitted it to the Adjudication Division of the Reno VA office. The result was a retroactive compensation adjustment of \$3,000.

Had it not been for the cooperation of Barstad and Mitchell, this case could have continued unresolved for some time. Teamwork really did pay off. ■

## MARKET PLACE

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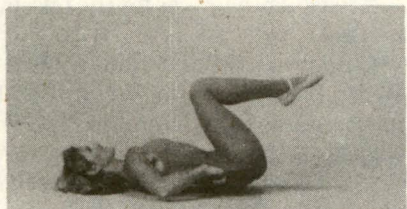
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# Vietnam Vets Gather

**W**hen he was in Vietnam with the Marine Corps, Past Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron recalled that the troops could not understand why the United States had deserted them.

The remarks of Cameron, the first Vietnam veteran to be elected VFW Commander-in-Chief, were made last October when **Post 647**, Danville, Va., played host to its sixth annual Vietnam veterans reunion.

Cameron said that he was 22 when he was in combat in Vietnam, but the rest of the men were 18 or 19, and they called him "Pops" because he was somewhat older.

Wounded by a mine during the Tet Offensive, Cameron related that he was operated on in a hospital in

Vietnam and again in one on Guam.

"I lay in the hospital bed and prayed to the good Lord to save my legs," he said. "I said, 'Lord, if you save my legs, I will work to help veterans.' The Lord saved my legs."

When he returned home, he said, the 167 stitches did not hurt nearly so badly as the demonstrators who greeted him outside the gates of Travis Air Force Base.

However, "I was inspired to help veterans and became associated with the greatest organization in the world, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States."

As chairman of the VFW POW/MIA Subcommittee, Cameron said he has dedicated himself to helping resolve the question of POW/MIAs — the



Past Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron is welcomed to the speakers stand by Commander Ed Ingram, of Post 647, Danville, Va., host to the sixth annual Vietnam veterans reunion.

70,000 who did not return from WWII, the 8,000 who are still missing from the Korean War and the 2,400 unaccounted for after the Vietnam War.

"Please say a prayer for the missing," he said.

Cameron said that Gen. William C. Westmoreland, former commander in Vietnam, asked him to "give my regards to the troops."

Marine Lt. Gen. Thomas H. Miller, comparing WWII with the Korean and Vietnam Wars, said the first was a declared one and had public support while the other two were not waged to win.

"World War II was a conventional war, one of survival, and was fought to be won at all costs," he said. "Military decisions were made by the military professionals. Korea was a conventional war, but 'we were guided by political decisions, and the most fortunate thing about it was that we had no television.'"

Miller described the Vietnam War as a conventional war, but a highly political one, and like Korea, officially called a "conflict" not a war.

"Security was not respected," he said. "Businesses wanted higher profits. Military leaders were under very heavy pressure to produce the greatest results with the fewest casualties."

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coupon  
today!**

TROY-BILT Manufacturing Co. Dept. A2827  
102nd St. & 9th Ave., Troy, N.Y. 12180

Please send me the whole wonderful story of your Tillers, with Models for every size garden, including prices and OFF-SEASON SAVINGS now in effect!

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**TORTURE!**



**Why, for heaven's sake,** suffer any longer with a FRONT-END tiller like the one shown here —the type with the revolving TINES IN FRONT and NO POWER to their tiny wheels? They shake the living daylight out of you and make you leave footprints and wheelmarks in the soil. They make gardening TOO HARD... but the TROY-BILT "JUNIOR" makes it easier and more enjoyable than ever! Send for full details TODAY!

Product available in Canada

## WWI Veterans Remembered

Last Veterans Day was the 70th anniversary of World War I's end, and many VFW Posts honored former Doughboys who helped bring Kaiser Bill to heel. Although only fewer than 122,000 are still left, many are hale and hearty, as some of these pictures show. But not only does the VFW pay tribute to those who have served their country, it also honors others who help their communities.



Post 336, Ordway, Colo., hosted a dinner for veterans on Nov. 11. Among the guests were World War I veterans Dixon Rhodes, a 45-year VFW member; Louis Goodrich and Jake Pantel. They are the only surviving WWI veterans in Crowley County. Behind them is Sr. Vice Commander Vern Roberts.



**VFW** Field Representative Ted Sypko (right) presents a Certificate of Appreciation for 13 years of service to veterans to Betty Hines, administrative assistant in the prosthetics and sensory aids department at the Kansas City VA Medical Center.



Post Commander Ralph Knox, of Post 673, Jasper, Ind., receives the POW Medal from Rep. Lee H. Hamilton (Ind.) in ceremonies in the U.S. Capitol. Knox was captured in the Philippines in 1942 and spent 40 months as a forced laborer in Japan.

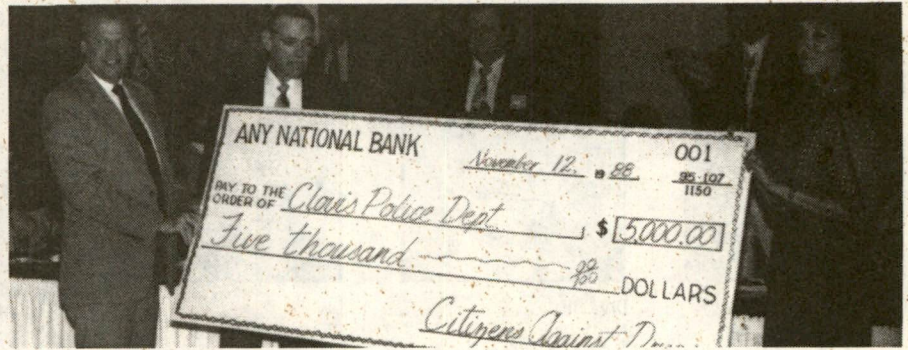


**R**ockland, N.Y., County Commander Jerry Lake, center, congratulates two charter Commanders, James McGuinness, left, of Post 126, West Nyack, and William Burke, of Post 851, Clarkstown, during the two Posts' double institution ceremony. This marked the first time in New York Department history that one man, Lake, organized two Posts in one day, July 7, 1988; applied for both Post charters on the same day, July 18, 1988; received approval of both Post applications on the same day, July 21, 1988, and held the institution and installation of officers on the same day, Oct. 2, 1988. More than 200 persons attended the event.



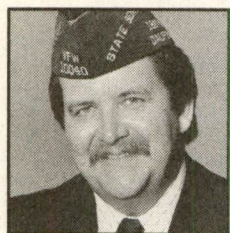
**C**ommander Don Eichelberger, of Post 4874, Piqua, Ohio, and Post OD Gary Wagner, present a posthumous POW Medal to Mrs. Mary Brown, widow of David Brown, a former POW in Germany and Post 4874 member who died in 1985. With her are her two sons.

**T**his simulated check for \$5,000 represents the amount raised by Clovis, N.M., Joint Veterans Council through a "walk-a-thon" for a new narcotics dog for the police department. Holding the check are Police Chief Caleb Chandler, Carrol Huggins, Post 3280 member and "walk-a-thon" chairman, and Alice Huggins, co-chairman.

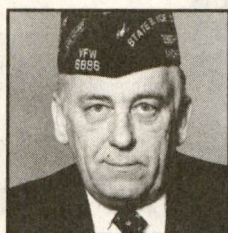


**P**ost 3541, Sterling, Colo., honored these seven surviving World War I veterans on Veterans Day. They are, seated, Earl D. Franklin, Sr.; Mike Campbell, William Sincock and Roy Walker; and, standing, Truman Louderback, Glenn Morris and Jay Beemer. Beemer at 99 is the oldest, while the others range in age from 94 to 92. Commander Ivo M. Foxhoven presided at the ceremonies.

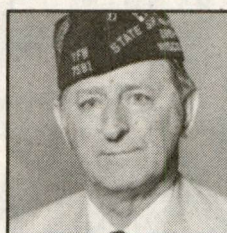
## December Commanders-of-the-Month Department



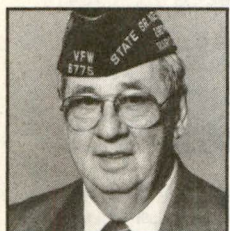
DIV. I  
California  
**James R. Rowoldt** (4)



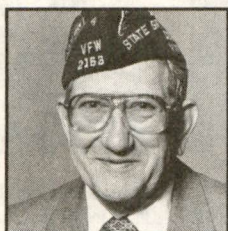
DIV. II  
Michigan  
**Edmund Gucwa** (3)



DIV. III  
Wisconsin  
**Donald Cunningham** (4)



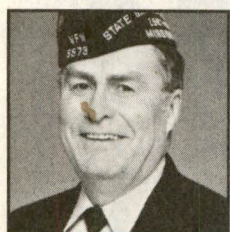
DIV. IV  
Maryland  
**James M. McGuire** (3)



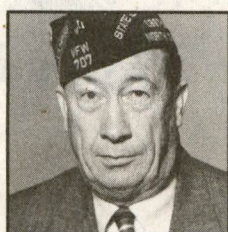
DIV. V  
Virginia  
**Kenneth J. Vitale**



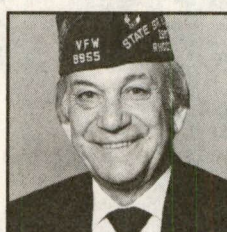
DIV. VI  
Louisiana  
**Ashton J. Dronet** (4)



DIV. VII  
Mississippi  
**Johnnie Sartor**



DIV. VIII  
North Dakota  
**James Gorman** (2)



DIV. IX  
Rhode Island  
**Armando Azzinaro** (2)



DIV. X  
Delaware  
**Ronald L. Mosher, Jr.** (2)



DIV. XI  
Pacific Areas  
**Gerald L. Kraus** (4)

## Post

DIV. I  
Post 1114  
Indiana  
**Calvin Ashley** (4)

DIV. II  
Post 1736  
Louisiana  
**James A. Johnson** (4)

DIV. III  
Post 6694  
Maryland  
**Edgar J. Woolfenden** (3)

DIV. IV  
Post 2947  
Ohio  
**Craig Swartz** (3)

DIV. V  
Post 194  
Maryland  
**William D. McCallum** (3)

DIV. VI  
Post 8334  
Nebraska  
**Dale E. Karloff**

DIV. VII  
Post 2380  
Florida  
**Herbert D. Purvis** (2)

DIV. VIII  
Post 989  
Oklahoma  
**Bill Willhite** (2)

DIV. IX  
Post 4206  
Florida  
**John N. Fabbro** (3)

DIV. X  
Post 5032  
Georgia  
**J. E. Land** (4)

DIV. XI  
Post 6805  
New Jersey  
**Edward J. Damiano**

DIV. XII  
Post 546  
New York  
**John V. Panagakos**

DIV. XIII  
Post 3839  
Minnesota  
**Clarence Fyhrlund** (3)

DIV. XIV  
Post 10081  
Maryland  
**George E. Clark** (3)

DIV. XV  
Post 2993  
Kansas  
**Gordon G. Good**

DIV. XVI  
Post 4351  
Florida  
**Edward L. Kelley**

DIV. XVII  
Post 4759  
Louisiana  
**Samuel R. Johnson**

DIV. XVIII  
Post 10102  
Iowa  
**Robert E. Carroll** (4)

DIV. XIX  
Post 9985  
Pacific Areas  
**J. Tyson Dees** (3)

DIV. XX  
Post 10290  
North Carolina  
**Olyseus Lawson**

## County Council

DIV. I  
Erie  
New York  
**Gerred J. Snyder** (4)

DIV. II  
Firelands  
Ohio  
**Craig Swartz** (4)

DIV. III  
Berks  
New York  
**Bernard Schultz**

DIV. IV  
Medina  
Ohio  
**Floyd V. Weitzel**

(Number in parentheses indicates number of times Commander has won this honor.)

## District

DIV. I District 7 Minnesota <b>Dan Bartholomew (3)</b>	DIV. II District 8 Indiana <b>Wayne L. Moore (2)</b>	DIV. III District 14 Maryland <b>John J. Gistedt (4)</b>	DIV. IV District 3 Kansas <b>Bryan Fenton (2)</b>	DIV. V District 23 California <b>William Tobin</b>	DIV. VI District 17 Illinois <b>Jim Hood</b>
DIV. VII District 7 Florida <b>Frank W. Bower</b>	DIV. VIII District 10 Louisiana <b>Richard Burgess (3)</b>	DIV. IX District 4 North Dakota <b>Wallace Bolte (2)</b>	DIV. X District 5 Vermont <b>Richard LeMay (3)</b>	DIV. XI District 3 Delaware <b>Charles McGuire (3)</b>	DIV. XII District 1 Delaware <b>Lonnie Ashe</b>

## Order of Parade

Standings are based on per capita tax transmittals received at National Headquarters through December 31, 1988.

NATIONAL AVERAGE — 87.56%

1 MARYLAND . . . . . 93.47	15 Iowa . . . . . 89.09	29 Maine . . . . . 86.95	43 Tennessee . . . . . 83.61
2 Kansas . . . . . 93.39	16 Indiana . . . . . 89.04	30 New Jersey . . . . . 86.71	44 Georgia . . . . . 83.29
3 Louisiana . . . . . 92.60	17 Pacific Areas . . . . . 88.81	31 Mississippi . . . . . 86.46	45 South Carolina . . . . . 82.72
4 Michigan . . . . . 92.45	18 Missouri . . . . . 88.37	32 North Carolina . . . . . 86.37	46 Idaho . . . . . 82.69
5 Wisconsin . . . . . 91.95	19 Connecticut . . . . . 88.36	33 Alaska . . . . . 86.35	47 Utah . . . . . 81.16
6 California . . . . . 91.63	20 Kentucky . . . . . 88.02	34 Montana . . . . . 86.22	48 Oklahoma . . . . . 81.09
7 Minnesota . . . . . 91.25	21 Rhode Island . . . . . 87.70	35 Nevada . . . . . 86.17	49 Texas . . . . . 80.97
8 Delaware . . . . . 90.59	22 Wyoming . . . . . 87.67	36 Massachusetts . . . . . 85.76	50 Panama Canal . . . . . 79.69
9 Virginia . . . . . 90.28	23 Vermont . . . . . 87.63	37 Colorado . . . . . 85.40	51 District of Columbia . . . . . 79.20
10 Florida . . . . . 89.60	24 Washington . . . . . 87.49	38 Pennsylvania . . . . . 85.18	52 Alabama . . . . . 78.85
11 North Dakota . . . . . 89.52	25 Illinois . . . . . 87.28	39 Arizona . . . . . 84.88	53 Hawaii . . . . . 75.71
12 Ohio . . . . . 89.51	26 New Mexico . . . . . 87.21	40 West Virginia . . . . . 84.77	54 Europe . . . . . 73.61
13 Nebraska . . . . . 89.35	27 New York . . . . . 87.12	41 New Hampshire . . . . . 84.00	
14 South Dakota . . . . . 89.20	28 Oregon . . . . . 87.03	42 Arkansas . . . . . 83.94	

## Posts of 1,000 Members or More

Recorded as of January 6, 1989

Post Place No.	Location	1988-89 Membership
1 1114	Evansville, IN	4207
2 3579	Park Ridge, IL	2553
3 5555	Richfield, MN	2507
4 628	Sioux Falls, SD	2483
5 1146	St. Clair Shores, MI	2341
6 6506	Rosedale, MD	2216
7 131	Lincoln, NE	2001
8 1308	Alton, IL	1950
9 360	Mishawaka, IN	1948
10 1273	Rapid City, SD	1922
11 47	Uniontown, PA	1885
12 49	Mobile, AL	1864
13 1296	Bloomington, MN	1859
14 1064	Huntington, WV	1785
15 3382	Kingsport, TN	1719
16 401	Albuquerque, NM	1697
17 1736	Alexandria, LA	1695
18 969	Tacoma, WA	1646
19 2503	Omaha, NE	1645
20 2290	Manville, NJ	1639
21 1275	Lima, OH	1611
22 283	Kingston, PA	1587
23 1079	Elyria, OH	1580
24 1599	Chambersburg, PA	1580
25 249	Butler, PA	1553
26 9223	Arlington, CA	1548
27 549	Tucson, AZ	1544
28 379	Yakima, WA	1531
29 6975	Bristol, VA	1524
30 367	Joliet, IL	1508
31 2539	Gulfport, MS	1500
32 6704	Mechanicsburg, PA	1492
33 2704	South Omaha, NE	1479
34 6640	Metairie, LA	1475
34 641	Columbia, SC	1475
36 6251	Cheektowaga, NY	1472
36 2529	Sandusky, OH	1472
38 6796	Dallas, TX	1470
39 2940	W. Seneca, NY	1469
40 1989	Indiana, PA	1456
41 972	Terre Haute, IN	1454
42 8541	San Antonio, TX	1451
43 6874	Lemon Grove, CA	1442
44 112	Wichita, KS	1438
45 1650	Topeka, KS	1427
46 10209	Spring Hill, FL	1426
47 9619	Morningside, MD	1411
48 6694	Dundalk, MD	1373
49 1621	Janesville, WI	1371
50 428	Saint Cloud, MN	1359
51 891	Asheville, NC	1358
52 1326	Bismarck, ND	1356
53 5632	St. Louis Park, MN	1355
54 2754	West View, PA	1349
54 5263	Fort Sill, OK	1349
56 3790	Logansport, IN	1346
57 4087	Davison, MI	1336
58 7330	Oakville, CT	1334
59 2100	Everett, WA	1333
60 9083	Baltimore, MD	1314
61 447	Albert Lea, MN	1307
62 6896	Detroit, MI	1304
63 1432	Salina, KS	1302
64 3777	Festus, MO	1276
65 1810	Brentwood, PA	1274
66 4057	Tupelo, MS	1265
67 639	Malden, MA	1259
68 7987	New Port Richey, FL	1254
69 1000	Independence, MO	1243
70 2199	Joliet, IL	1242
71 9186	San Antonio, TX	1241
72 295	South St. Paul, MN	1240
73 733	Mason City, IA	1233
74 3851	Carmi, IL	1228
75 1865	Kenosha, WI	1221
76 788	Cedar Rapids, IA	1218
77 573	Clarksburg, WV	1199
78 23	Lebanon, PA	1195
79 1003	Jefferson City, MO	1190
80 305	Eau Claire, WI	1188
81 1115	Hillsville, VA	1186
82 4051	Colorado Spgs., CO	1183
82 137	Duluth, MN	1183
84 53	Jamestown, NY	1181
85 2012	Abilene, TX	1177
86 5225	West Memphis, AR	1173
86 7175	Millington, TN	1173
88 6827	St. Petersburg, FL	1172
89 1	Denver, CO	1171
90 4809	Norfolk, VA	1170
91 2702	Huntsville, AL	1169
92 832	S. Portland, ME	1166
93 9400	Sunnyslope, AZ	1163
94 1990	Greeneville, TN	1153
95 1693	New Albany, IN	1151
96 501	Denver, CO	1147
97 4200	Russell, KS	1143
98 1475	Amarillo, TX	1136
99 2111	Chula Vista, CA	1135
100 3982	Santa Clara, CA	1132
101 3838	Cape Girardeau, MO	1125
102 7119	Indianapolis, IN	1119
103 1154	Lafayette, IN	1118
104 4372	Odessa, TX	1117
105 1857	Oklahoma City, OK	1115
106 1271	Central Falls, RI	1112
107 10097	Ft Myers Beach, FL	1109
107 1216	Austin, MN	1109
109 762	Fargo, ND	1106
110 4075	Frankfort, KY	1104
111 8919	El Paso, TX	1103
111 4848	Chattanooga, TN	1103
113 1720	Grand Rapids, MN	1101
114 4903	Tucson, AZ	1100
115 3376	Ephrata, PA	1099
116 2346	Saugus, MA	1095
117 1848	Jackson, TN	1092
118 5206	Hendersonville, NC	1091
119 2743	Norwalk, OH	1082
120 3074	Lexington, NC	1079
121 1863	Solon, OH	1074
122 2947	Fremont, OH	1068
123 1435	Spokane, WA	1059
124 1930	Daytona Beach, FL	1056
125 1536	Sayre, PA	1049
126 5220	Oak Lawn, IL	1045
127 10017	Ashland, KY	1043
128 5065	Sheridan, MI	1042
129 194	Salisbury, MD	1031
130 9927	Kettering, OH	1021
131 673	Jasper, IN	1019
132 9972	Sierra Vista, AZ	1011
133 1383	Klamath Falls, OR	1006
134 8950	Lanham, MD	1005
135 2785	Albany, GA	1004
135 1639	Willmar, MN	1004

## Aides-de-Camp

The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by qualifying for the National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class, award. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 50 new and/or reinstated members.

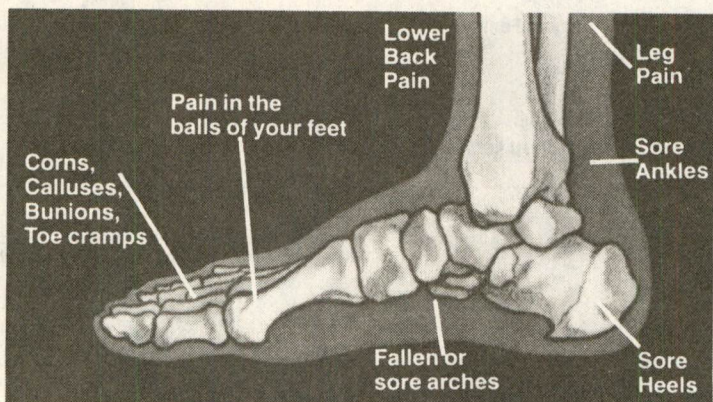
J. Pat Cassidy, Post 9972, Sierra Vista, Ariz.; Don R. Magana, Post 989, Bartlesville, Okla.; Joseph M.

Sykes, Post 989, Bartlesville, Okla.; Cornelius Drake, Jr., Post 4262, Columbia, S.C.; Byron Cunningham, Post 7591, Madison, Wis.; Jack Ottovich, Post 2386, Fremont, Calif.; Orville K. Tucker, Post 2380, DeLand, Fla.; Charley Shoemaker, Post 56, Leavenworth, Kans.; Lewis F. Reed, Post 5452, Ontario, Ore.; Roy C. Painter, Post 3781, Santa Rosa, Calif.; Robert W. Turner, Post 5988, Bourne, Mass.; James A. Burns, Post 2280, Bellevue, Neb., and Roland C. Abare, Post 1019, Albany, N.Y.

## Century Award

The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by qualifying for the Century Award. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 100 new and/or reinstated members. Byron B. Cunningham, Post 7591, Madison, Wis., and Maurice Hale, Post 989, Bartlesville, Okla.

# Foot Pain Is No Laughing Matter



## At Last-Instant Relief!

If you suffer from foot pain you know better than anyone it's **no laughing matter!** Especially when you have corns, calluses, pain in the balls of your feet, burning nerve endings, painful ankles, old injuries, backaches, or just plain sore, aching feet.

Now with SwissCo "FOOT CRADLES" you will look back on suffering needlessly, and laugh at having put up with foot pain when you really didn't have to.

### Doctor's Scientific Discovery Ends Foot Pain.

A Swiss doctor who specialized in foot therapy knew that painful feet needed to be properly supported and cushioned in any pair of shoes. No one knew better than he as he watched his patients try one remedy after another. Anything his patients tried never provided long-lasting relief from pain.

Finally, he set out to solve the problem himself. After testing dozens of special shoes and insole supports, he invented the amazingly successful "FOOT CRADLE".

### The "Foot Cradle" Insert

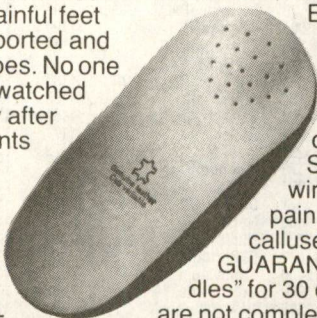
A triumph of Swiss inventive genius! "FOOT CRADLE" weighs less than one ounce, yet its unique, contoured design enables it to help support your full body weight while unshackling your feet from their misery.

Works in any shoes—sandals, high heels, sport shoes, sneakers,

work shoes, even boots. You won't even realize you're wearing them. See for yourself: Test "FOOT CRADLE" in your shoes entirely at our risk.

### How It's Guaranteed To Work For You.

Like all great inventions it was quite simple once he figured it out! The secret of the "FOOT CRADLE" is in the unique, contoured design. Just as your body weight shifts naturally with each step, so does the CRADLE. It's designed to apply the natural laws of foot motion to pain-racked feet. "FOOT CRADLES", handmade from genuine



European leather, easily slips into any pair of shoes you own. Once you start walking or running, you'll feel the difference immediately. Suddenly, you no longer wince when you walk. The pain from your corns and calluses will disappear. **WE GUARANTEE IT.** Try "Foot Cradles" for 30 days at our risk. If you are not completely free of foot pain, return them for a full refund.

### 30-Day Risk-Free Trial

SwissCo International, Dept. YVFO29  
712 No. 34th Street, Seattle, WA 98103

YES! Rush my "FOOT CRADLE" on the RISK FREE 30-DAY GUARANTEE.

- 1 pair for \$19.95 plus \$1.50 postage handling.
- 2 pair for \$37.90 (Save \$5) postage handling FREE.

Enclosed is my  Check  Money Order or Charge my  Visa  MasterCard  
WA residents add 8.1% state sales tax.

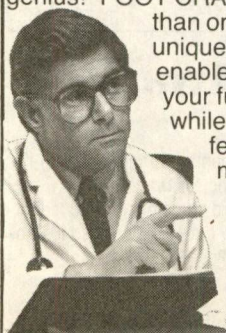
Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Women's shoe size \_\_\_\_\_  Men's shoe size \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



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712 No. 34th Street Seattle WA 98103

## GENERAL ORDERS

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

1988-89 Series

General Orders No. 5

- The following appointments are hereby announced:  
NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE: Members: Walter Imse, Post 1691, Milwaukee, Wis.; Felix Longoria, Post 6719, Raymondville, Texas, and Franklin Smith, Post 1736, Alexandria, La. NATIONAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: Chairman: Richard Tromb, Post 1174, El Dorado, Kans.; Vice Chairmen: James H. Kennedy, Post 3877, St. Paul, Minn.; Richard L. Kilhefner, Post 3376, Ephrata, Pa.; James L. Mascola, Post 3580, Blue Island, Ill.; Edwin L. Myers, Post 9814, Fresno, Calif.; Ray Nowak, Post 2940, W. Seneca, N.Y.; Edwood B. Richards, Post 7234, Ocean View, Del.; Charles Sauer, Post 4290, New Milford, N.J.; Jake Tate, Jr., Post 647, Danville, Va., and James H. Willis, Post 534, Joplin, Mo. NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Members: Roger Sellers, Post 6654, DeSoto, Kans., and Edward P. Gros, Post 5097, Thibodaux, La. NATIONAL MARCHING UNITS AND PARADE COMMITTEE: Chairman: J. Robert Brady, Post 7090, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Members: Diamond Blakeney, Post 3937, Long Beach, Miss.; Henry Majewski, Post 300, Chicago, Ill.; Raymond C. O'Brien, Post 529, Somerville, Mass.; Michael Petrone, Post 226, Bayonne, N.J., and John Wilson, Post 1669, Royal Oak, Mich. NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: Chairman: John A. Lutz, Post 6640, Metairie, La.; Vice Chairmen: Norman H. Dohn, Post 3477, Athens, Ohio, and Daniel Dwyer, Post 161, Port Jervis, N.Y. NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE: Member: Lawrence Brewer, Post 7340, Cincinnati, Ohio. NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE: Members: Adam A. Carmouche, Post 8852, Alexandria, La., and Landry Saucier, Post 1736, Alexandria, La. NATIONAL DEPUTY CHIEFS OF STAFF: Richard R. Pignone, Post 3173, Anaheim, Calif.; Robert C. McConnell, Post 3917, Security Colo.; Nicholas A. Duva, Post 8463, Cape Coral, Fla.; William S. Satchell, Post 660, Savannah, Ga.; George W. Temple, Post 2024, Chicago, Ill.; William Eicholtz, Post 467, Westminster, Md.; Thomas L. Pence, Post 7262, Greenville, Ohio; Richard L. Howard, Post 1148, Bowling Green, Ohio; Arthur J. Kerr, Post 3822, Ancon, Panama Canal; Eugene J. Slabinski, Post 5267, Wilkes Barre, Pa.; Frank Aglira, Post 598, Darby, Pa.; Thomas E. Finnerty, Post 5203, Paoli, Pa.; Robert L. Snyder, Post 6954, Littlestown, Pa.; Robert E. Durovey, Post 7842, Linesville, Pa.; Tom Hunt, Post 3474, Dumore, Pa.; Joe C. Hinson, Post 8553, Clifton, Texas; Eloy A. Garcia, Post 9175, Roma, Texas; Paul H. Duff, Post 8789, Bowie, Texas, and James M. Francis, Post 2469, Buffalo, Wyo. ASSISTANT INSPECTORS GENERAL: John L. Graves, Post 10040, Sun Valley, Calif.; Erwin K. Blackledge, Post 9221, Cedar-edge, Colo.; Robert E. Bates, Post 2933, Covington, Ga.; Lawrence Bericha, Post 3483, Independence, Ohio; Dennis Doggett, Post 5356, Saint Clairsville, Ohio; Norman L. Lausch, Post 8795, Adamstown, Pa.; Russell A. Wilson, Post 8251, LaPorte, Texas, and Ralph E. Norstedt, Post 9439, Casper, Wyo. NATIONAL AIDES-DE-CAMP, MEDAL OF HONOR CLASS: James R. Hendrix, Post 8464, Lepanto, Fla.; Wilson D. Watson, Post 8532, Coal Hill, Ark.; Col. William E. Barber, Post 7893, Irvine, Calif.; Jon R. Cavaiani, Post 5627, College Park, Md.; John Baca, Post 7464, Grasonville, Md.; John W. Meagher, Post 1447, Jersey City, N.J.; Rufus G. Herring, Post 8498, Roseboro, N.C.; Jose M. Lopez, Post 8936, San Antonio, Texas; David H. McNeerney, Post 9187, Houston, Texas; Lewis L. Millett, Post 2012, Abilene, Texas; Robert E. Galer, Post 1837, Dallas, Texas; Beryl R. Newman, Post 9636, Deltaville, Va., and John D. Hawk, Post 3694, Bremerton, Wash.
- The National Council of Administration will meet Saturday, March 4, 1989, at the Sheraton-Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C.
- Department Adjutants are reminded that they should notify the Adjutant General, as soon as possible, of the time and place their Department Convention will be held in 1989.
- Commanders on all levels are reminded that members who have not paid their dues for 1989 are not members in good standing and, therefore, cannot hold office until such time as their dues are paid for the current year.
- The 90th National Convention, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 18-25, 1989.

continued on page 48

# DOES 60 lbs. OF TOMATOES FROM ONE YIELD SOUND INCREDIBLE?

## NOT IF YOU OWN THE

# Amazing TREE TOMATO

(Cyphomandra betacea)



**GROWS INDOORS OR OUTDOORS . . . YOU PICK BASKET AFTER BASKET OF RIPE, TASTY TOMATOES . . . ONE BUMPER CROP AFTER ANOTHER . . . 5 TO 7 MONTHS A YEAR . . . YEAR AFTER YEAR!**

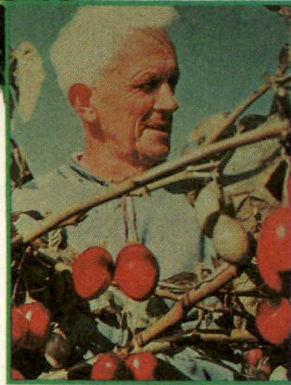
### We Get Letters!

Read what Mr. L. F. S. of Wisc. has to say: "...Just a line to let you know the Tree Tomato is doing great . . . about 5½ ft. tall . . . you said leaves grew 12" . . . mine are 15 and 16". It's just beautiful!"

### Noted Citriculturist of New Zealand says:

"Ripening in New Zealand from late April to early November, the tree tomato (or Tamarillo) has a very long fruiting season. Its wide range of culinary uses make it a valuable winter and spring fruit . . . a welcome addition to the menu."

"Although introduced into New Zealand many years ago, it is only in recent years that the tree tomato has become better known for its many uses. It is now much sought after, and its popularity is indicated by the high price realized for it on local markets . . . Under suitable conditions the plant will produce from 40 to 60 lbs. of fruit annually."



**From Lakeland Nurseries comes the biggest garden sensation of the century . . . THE PERENNIAL TOMATO!**

The TREE TOMATO . . . a remarkable new horticultural concept . . . unlike anything you've ever seen before! NOT a vine . . . NOT a regular tomato plant that withers and dies after one summer . . . THE TREE TOMATO is a living, growing tree that BEARS FRUIT SEASON AFTER SEASON . . . YEAR AFTER YEAR!

Why settle for garden-fresh tomatoes a few short weeks of the year? Why put up with hothouse tomatoes that taste like cardboard the rest of the time? Not when you can pick crop after crop of red, plump juicy TREE TOMATOES up to 7 months a year (all year 'round when grown indoors!)

### WAVE AFTER WAVE OF SUCCULENT TREE TOMATOES GROW AS QUICK AS YOU CAN PICK 'EM!

Your TREE TOMATO will arrive already leafed-out . . . in full, green hardy vigor! When ready to bear, the branches will literally droop with huge clusters of delicious TREE TOMATOES, hundreds upon hundreds . . . and, as one crop is harvested, another rushed forth to take its place . . . so you have a virtually constant supply of luscious TREE TOMATOES!

**CAN BE TUB-GROWN INDOORS FOR YEAR-'ROUND TOMATO HARVESTS!**



### GROW IT OUTDOORS AS A TREE—INDOORS AS A HOUSEPLANT!

The TREE TOMATO will thrive marvelously—indoors or out! If you live in a temperate zone, plant it outdoors and enjoy its bountiful, exotic beauty in your garden! Or, tub-grow the TREE TOMATO, bring it indoors for winter, and surprise your family and friends with ripe, just-picked tomatoes. Or . . . cultivate the TREE TOMATO as a house-plant anytime . . . anywhere! The TREE TOMATO will achieve heights of up to 8 ft. outdoors, but it can be trimmed and trained to any size or shape you wish!

### ENJOY TREE TOMATOES SO MANY DELECTABLE WAYS!

We think TREE TOMATOES are much tastier than ordinary tomatoes . . . It's hard to find a meatier, firmer, more bursting-with-goodness taste treat! Of course, like all fruit, your tree tomatoes should be eaten ripe. Rich in Vitamin C, TREE TOMATOES are fabulous in salads, sandwiches and are absolutely fantastic just sliced up and popped in your mouth!

Nothing beats fresh produce, so why continue to pay high supermarket prices for inferior tomatoes, when you can grow your own TREE TOMATOES! REMEMBER, WE SHIP MATURE PLANTS . . . NOT SEEDS . . . ORDER YOUR TREE TOMATOES TODAY! Full growing instructions included.

### LAKELAND'S DOUBLE GUARANTEE

All plants must arrive in perfect condition. If you are not totally satisfied with any order, return within 10 days for a prompt replacement or refund of purchase price (except post. & hdg.). And all plants must thrive after planting, or return anytime within 3 months for prompt replacement—no questions asked!

**LAKELAND NURSERIES SALES, Hanover, Pa. 17333**

**SATISFACTION GUARANTEED! MAIL COUPON TODAY!**

**LAKELAND NURSERIES SALES®, Dept. LKL-2727  
Bldg. #5, Hanover, PA 17333**

Sure, I want to enjoy fresh-picked tomato goodness—even out of season! Kindly send TREE TOMATOES (L101170E) as indicated below on money-back guarantee.

- 1 TREE TOMATO @ only \$5.99 + 90¢ post. & handl.
- 2 TREE TOMATOES @ only \$9.99 + \$1.70 post. & handl.
- 4 TREE TOMATOES @ only \$16.99 + \$2.90 post. & handl.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Pa. residents add sales tax.)

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Check here and send \$1.00 for a year's subscription to our full color nursery catalog (L389957X).

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# Accidental Discovery May End Obesity

## Blocks calorie absorption

SWEDEN—Medical researchers at the University of Kuopio, in Finland, have discovered (accidentally) a new weight-loss formula. The new discovery enables an overweight individual to lose pounds and fatty tissue without dieting or exercise.

Scientists made the discovery while searching for a formula to lower cholesterol. In a controlled study of a test group of people, cholesterol levels remained unchanged but the doctors were astounded to find that every patient who used the formula lost weight. The published report of this study stated, "A highly significant decrease in body weight was seen" in patients who received the formula.

The formula was then tested in Sweden at Sahlgren Hospital, University of Goteborg. Again, all patients lost a substantial amount of weight even though they did not change their eating habits. The report detailing this study, published in the British Journal of Nutrition, stated: "Body weight was significantly reduced even though the patients were specifically asked not to alter their dietary habits." One patient in this study lost more than 30 pounds.

According to one informed source, the active ingredient comes from a 100% natural botanical source and contains no drugs or stimulants. When taken before mealtime it bonds with the food you eat and "ties up" calories, preventing their absorption.

A substantial portion of the calories ingested therefore pass through the digestive system unabsorbed. The body has to get energy to replace the lost calories, so it starts to burn stored fat. The result is rapid body weight loss. Extensive clinical tests have verified the safety of this formula for long-term use.

The formula is marketed in tablet form in the United States under the trade name Cal-Ban 3000. A firm located in Tampa, Florida, has exclusive North American distribution rights. A review of the customer files of this company revealed the names of hundreds of people who have lost up to 10 pounds the first week and as much as 20, 40 or 60 or more pounds overall with Cal-Ban 3000. This is a golden opportunity for people who are plagued by fat and cellulite that they can't seem to lose by conventional methods.

Cal-Ban 3000 is reasonably priced at \$19.95 for a 3-week supply and \$38.95 for a 6-week supply. Postage and handling is \$3. To assure fastest service, orders are accepted by toll-free phone only. VISA, Master Card, Amex and C.O.D. orders are accepted. C.O.D.'s are \$2.00 extra. Orders may be placed by calling Anderson Pharmaceuticals TOLL-FREE 1-800-248-0474. During this special phone order promotion purchasers of a six-week supply of Cal-Ban 3000 will receive, absolutely free, a beautiful 24" double strand necklace of sparkling Chinese Faux pearls.

Call today to begin the pleasant transformation from fat and flab to the slender firm body you want! If you fail to achieve a major weight loss you may return the empty bottle for a 100% refund.

## GENERAL ORDERS

continued from page 46

- Allegations have been received by the Commander-in-Chief that some Posts have not accepted eligible veterans because of race or gender. All Posts are directed to comply with the eligibility rules of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure and to act upon the membership applications of all qualified veterans in complete accordance with the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.
- Charters for the following Posts have been authorized: Post 436, Allegan, Mich.; Post 1331, Andrews, Texas; Post 1485, Guadalupe, Mex. (Dept. of Texas); Post 1843, Glencoe, Okla.; Post 1877, Washington, D.C.; Post 1880, Frostproof, Fla.; Post 2630, Bassfield, Miss.; Post 5818, Pemberville, Ohio; Post 7844, Pelham, Ga.; Post 8378, Detroit, Mich.; Post 8435, Denver, Colo.; Post 8458, Detroit, Mich.; Post 8474, Mt. Clemens, Mich.; Post 9025, Jersey City, N.J.; Post 9030, Yorba Linda, Calif.; Post 9042, Corona, Calif.; Post 9132, Schenectady, N.Y.; Post 9530, LeCompte, La.; Post 9679, Waterford, Calif.; Post 9725, Riverside, Calif.; Post 9941, Reading, Mich.; Post 9998, Thousand Palms, Calif.; Post 10044, Woodland, Calif.; Post 10050, Glenmora, La.; Post 10070, French Settlement, La.; Post 10193, Jena, La.; Post 10388, Franksville, Wis.; Post 10542, Middletown, N.Y.; Post 10547, Woodstock, N.Y., and Post 10550, Delhi, N.Y.

By Command of  
Larry W. Rivers  
Commander-in-Chief

### OFFICIAL:

Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.  
Adjutant General

## CLAIMS

Readers are urged to help these veterans seeking claim substantiation statements. Respond directly to the person listed at the end of the claim assistance request.

If you have need of assistance in preparing a claim, contact your local VFW Service Officer. They are located at VA medical centers and regional offices.

**168th CE Bn, Co A, 1st Pltn (Dau Tien, RVN, Sept-Dec 1969)**—Seeking anyone who witnessed explosion of truck and diesel trailer which rolled over land mine and caused injuries to my back and kidneys, esp Sgt Maj Donald G Hamilton, Pltn Cmdr I Lt Smithgall—Luchers Jenkins, POB 584, Boyle MS 38730.

**3623 Ord Maint Co (1953, Nevada Atomic Test Site)**—Seeking anyone in unit during test code-named Upshot and Knot Hole who has suffered ill effects of radiation exposure—Kenneth R Kendall, 5782 Houston Ave, Portage IN 46368.

**7th Div (Korea DMZ, 1954)**—Seeking anyone who remembered my fall from bridge and subsequent reaction—Joe A Povato, 1880 SW 5th Ave, #29, Portland OR 97201.

**USS New Jersey, 5th Div (WWII)**—Seeking anyone remembering my fall down ladder and injury to my left leg—James L Pyles, POB 251, Hepzilah WV 26869.

**20th QM Co (Won-ju, Korea, June 1953)**—Seeking anyone who remembers accident involving refrigerator at railroad ration depot where I sustained injuries from fall to tracks—Leonard M Pendergraft, Rt 5, Box 830, Lafayette GA 30728.

**7th Div, 31st Inf, HHC Motor Pool (Korea, Sept 1952)**—Seeking Samuel Stoneman, jeep driver in accident involving ROK army truck; other passenger was Pfc James E Dreiling—Norbert Robben; RR 1, Victoria KS 67671.

**40th Div, 160th Inf, HHC (Korea, Oct 31, 1952)**—Seeking anyone who remembers me stepping on land mine—George F Webb, 302 Mimosa Ave, Belleville IL 62221-1960.

# FLATTEN YOUR STOMACH

(For Men Over 40)

It's never too late to flatten your stomach and narrow your waistline. But as you have probably noticed, diets alone are not enough. That is especially true as you get older. Even if you keep your weight down and get some exercise, your stomach may bulge and sag because your abdominal muscles are not properly toned.

## Sit-Ups Alone Are Not Enough

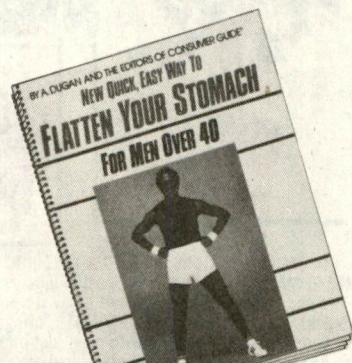
Sit-ups alone work on only some of these muscles. But unless you exercise all four major abdominal muscles—your stomach may be hard, but it won't be flat.

This new book shows you how to flatten your stomach by exercising *all*—and not just some—of your stomach muscles. And it is specially designed to meet the needs of men over 40. Strenuous exercises are avoided . . . so you need not be in shape to get started.\* After you get going, you progress at your own speed to intermediate and advanced programs. And each level includes exercises to strengthen your back and give your cardiovascular system vital aerobic conditioning.

## Results Guaranteed—Or Your Money Back!

Give this NEW QUICK, EASY WAY TO FLATTEN YOUR STOMACH FOR MEN OVER 40 a try. It has easy-to-follow directions. All exercises are fully illustrated in color. Plus it's spiral bound to stay open and lie flat while you exercise. See if you don't feel more fit, energetic and self-confident in just a few short weeks. You must get the results you want or we'll give you your money back. So don't wait any longer. *Put your order in the mail today!*

\*We recommend you check with your doctor before starting this or any other exercise program.



Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back. Shipment guaranteed within 60 days. © 1989 NSI. General Offices: 37 11th Ave., Huntington Station, NY 11746.

**PUBLISHERS CHOICE, Box 4174, Dept. BD00-VA, Huntington Station, NY 11746**

Please rush me:

\_\_\_\_\_ #BD00 Flatten Your Stomach for Men Over 40 \$6.95

Please add \$1.90 postage and handling. IA, IL, MI, NJ and NY residents add appropriate sales tax.

**SAVE! Order two for \$12.90 plus \$3.80 P&H.**

Please print: Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

continued on page 50

# Join the Forces of the Free and Independent!

## Enter the 1989 Electric Mobility Sweepstakes to WIN a Rascal Scooter!

Join the happy free-wheeling people who go everywhere they want on exciting Rascal Electric 3-Wheelers!

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Your 1989 Rascal comes complete with: built-in battery charger; quiet maintenance-free direct drive power, rear suspension system and extra-wide padded swivel seat for a comfortable ride.

Your friends and relatives will marvel at the changes you've made in your life! To enter sweepstakes and to get a FREE Color Catalog, return the coupon below or call Toll-Free:



**1-800-662-4548!**



The New 1989 Rascal Take-Apart Frame Makes It  
EASIER to Transport Your Scooter in Your Car!

-  **Veterans Authorized!**
-  **Ask for Medicare Details**

★ ★ ★ ENTER THE 1989 ELECTRIC MOBILITY SWEEPSTAKES TODAY! ★ ★ ★

We're giving away one Rascal per month in 1989!  
The sooner you enter the more chances you have to WIN!

### 1989 ELECTRIC MOBILITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICIAL RULES

1. To enter, handprint your name, address, zip code and telephone number on the attached postage-paid sweepstakes entry postcard or on a 3" x 5" card and send it to: Electric Mobility Corporation Sweepstakes, #1 Mobility Plaza, Sewell, NJ 08080. Only one entry per person. All entries must be postmarked on or before the last day of the month to be included in the current month's drawing and remaining months' drawings.
2. The winner will be selected in a random drawing from among all entries received prior to the end of the sweepstakes. Drawings will be conducted by an independent judging organization not affiliated with Electric Mobility Corp. The prizes will be awarded and the winners will be notified by mail. Tax liability is the responsibility of the individual winner. No responsibility is assumed for lost, late or misdirected mail.
3. Sweepstakes open to individuals 18 years or older except Electric Mobility Corp. employees and their families, affiliates, subsidiaries or advertising agencies. Subject to all federal, state and local laws. Void where prohibited, restricted or taxed.
4. For the winners' names, send a self-addressed-stamped-envelope to: Electric Mobility Corporation, Sweepstakes Winners, #1 Mobility Plaza, Sewell, NJ 08080

### Return This Coupon TODAY!

- Please enter me in the Electric Mobility Sweepstakes and rush me a FREE Color Catalog!
- Enter me in the Electric Mobility Sweepstakes and call me to arrange a Free Home Demonstration.

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# HEALTH TIPS

A new book reveals vital Health Tips based on the latest nutritional and scientific findings and time-proven remedies. This book is of vital importance to everyone interested in their health. Here are a few tips covered in this *Complete Handbook Of Health Tips*:

- How to get more energy and combat fatigue (2 nutrients may help).
- How to flatten your tummy with a 20-second, daily exercise.
- A nutrient that may help improve memory.
- How to deal with stress, including what nutrients may be helpful.
- A nutrient that may increase resistance to disease.
- 4 simple ways to take off weight.
- The only effective way to get rid of cellulite.
- 4 tips for relieving canker sores.
- A cheese that can help prevent tooth decay.
- A herbal remedy to prevent migraine headaches.
- One doctor's way to prevent grey hair.
- How to get rid of face hair.
- How to shorten miseries of a cold.
- 3 tips for relieving sinus congestion.
- 5 ways to stop foot odor.
- 2 vitamins that may help avoid bruises.
- 5 ways to relieve hemorrhoids.
- How to relieve nightly leg cramps.
- Prostate trouble: A simple tactic to alleviate getting up nights.
- 4 tips to fall asleep faster.
- How to detect and relieve food allergies.
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- A vitamin that may repel insects when taken orally.
- A simple technique to relieve tension.
- How to relieve dry skin.
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You can order the book direct from the publisher and save. To order simply send \$12.95 plus \$1 postage and handling to: United Research Publishers, 103 North Highway 101, Dept. FH02, Encinitas, CA 92024. You can return the book within 30 days for full refund if not satisfied.

## CLAIMS

continued from page 48

**10th Mtn Div, 10th Med Bn, Co D (Italy, 1945)**—Seeking Lt Milan Germanovich (Cleveland OH), anyone who knows of face wound from mortar fire—Lt Don Hart, 83 Kings Hwy, Huntington WV 25705.

**VQ-1, Bravo Det (DaNang RVN)**—Seeking ADJ-3s Ken L. James & Stephen E Sauer—William H Wallace, 620 Birch Dr, Prescott AZ 86301.

**69th Bde, 2/137th Inf, HHC (Camp Red Devil Recondo Course 1-70, Ft Carson, July 8-29, 1969)**—Seeking Lucian DeLeon Jr, two other trainees who were struck by lightning—Charles Armstead, 709 Campbell St, Brenham TX 77833.

**Ft Bliss to Los Alamos**—Seeking anyone who remembers exact dates soldiers were transported from Ft Bliss to atomic testing grounds to witness above-ground atomic explosion—Willis R Flores, 654 Walnut Pl, Ste 404, Highland Park IL 60035.

**Ft Ord (Jan-March 1974)**—Seeking anyone in training unit who remembers me—Donald B DiSantos, 1325 Dunkeith Dr NW, Canton OH 44108.

**589th Engr Bn, Co B (An Khe, Pleiku, Phan Rhang AB, 1968)**—Seeking anyone in unit, esp CO 227th Avn Bn (AH), Co C (Phuc Vinh, 1969)—Seeking anyone in unit, esp Col Miller. 101st Avn Div, CMMI Team (Phu Bai, Hue, 1971)—Seeking anyone with knowledge of incident surrounding discharge—Robert E Hare, 1002 S Parrott Ave, Okeechobee FL 34972.

**POW Camp 59 (Italy)**—Seeking Larry Barlow (SD)—Neil E Torrsell, POB 38, Sleepy Eye MN 56085.

## REUNIONS

Reunion announcements are published as a cost-free service to VFW members in good standing. To ensure timely inclusion of your announcement, all information pertaining to the event must arrive in VFW Magazine offices six months prior to the reunion. Reunion announcement forms must be used and can be obtained by writing VFW Magazine, Reunions, 34th and Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64111. Publication is limited to one time per calendar year.

## AIR FORCE

**2011th Ord Maint Co (WWII)**—June, Ellenville NY—Sydney Chasin, 1140 NE 200th Terr, Miami FL 33179.

**AFLC/GEEIA-MDA**—Aug, Oklahoma City—Sophia Bronson, 13501 SE 29th St, Box 83, Choctaw OK 73020.

**AF Security Police Assn**—Aug, Orlando—Jerry Bullock, 28 Willow Creek Cir, San Marcos TX 78666.

**BAD 2 (WWII)**—Sept, Minneapolis—Ernie Etter, POB 188, Menahga MN 56464.

**Big Spring Bombardier School (Class 44-9)**—May—Anthony Braidic, 10341 SW 119th St, Miami FL 33176.

**Class 43E (SETC & WCTC)**—May, San Antonio—Paul Murphy, 7013 Bellrose NE, Albuquerque NM 87110.

**2d AF, HQ Sqdn (WWII) (stationed Spokane WA & Colorado Springs CO)**—Aug, Colorado Springs—John Mollerskov, 1407 Oakdale Ave, Racine WI 53406.

**Salinas Army Airbase**—Apr, Salinas CA—Harold Oberg, #3 Fairfax Cir, Salinas CA 93901.

**Santa Ana AAB**—March, Costa Mesa CA—SAAAB Wing, POB 1764, Costa Mesa CA 92628.

**So Pac Air Crew**—June, Queensland, Australia—Joyce Wydrzynski, POB 355, Boring OR 97009.

**USAFISPA**—Oct, Houston—Gerald Bray, 10331 Sage York, Houston TX 77089.

**1st Ftr Control Sqdn, 5th AF (WWII)**—Chester Driest, 687 E Wacker St, Hernando FL 32642.

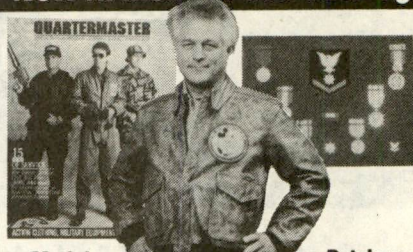
**2d Bomb GP (Langley & WWII)/2D Bomb Wg (SAC)**—Nov, Tucson—John Collens, POB 735, El Dorado CA 95623.

**2d Ferrying Gp, Air Trans Cmd (WWII)**—May, Dayton OH—Ray Kuhlman, 7 Springwood Ln, Kinston NC 28501.

**5th AF, 36th AB Gp, 49/374 Svc Sqdn & 36th HQ Sqdn**—Sept, Huntington WV—Keith Derks, 11004 Military Rd, Kansas City MO 64138.

**5th Liaison Sqdn**—Oct, Dayton OH—Floyd Whitney, 86 Middle Gate Rd, Myrtle Beach SC 29577.

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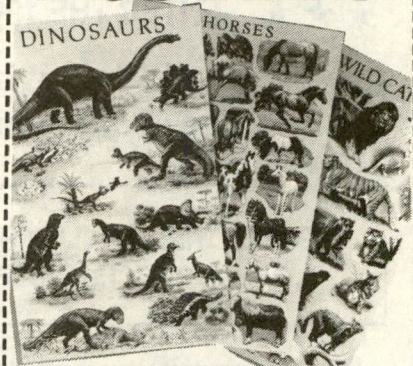
**BATTLESHIPS:** IOWA, NEW JERSEY, MISSOURI, WISCONSIN, NEW YORK, TEXAS, ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, WEST VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON. **AIRCRAFT CARRIERS:** MIDWAY, CORAL SEA, FORRESTAL, SARATOGA, RANGER, INDEPENDENCE, KITTY HAWK, CONSTELLATION, ENTERPRISE, AMERICA, JOHN F. KENNEDY, NIMITZ, EISENHOWER, VINSON, ROOSEVELT. **RETIRED:** This cap is available for U.S. NAVY, U.S. MARINES, U.S. COAST GUARD, U.S. ARMY and U.S. AIR FORCE (grey thread for U.S. AIR FORCE).

**SPECIALTY:** U.S. NAVY, USMC, USAF, TOP GUN, STARK, VINCENNES. **EMBLEM:** This cap is embroidered in silver and gold metallic thread and available for U.S. NAVY (Officer), U.S. NAVY (C.P.O.), U.S. NAVY (Wings), U.S. MARINES, U.S. COAST GUARD, U.S. ARMY and U.S. AIR FORCE. **CUSTOM:** Any ship not listed above or any military unit is available as a custom cap. The minimum quantity for a custom cap is two per ship or unit (both with eggs or both without eggs). Custom caps must be ordered in even numbers. The top line is twenty spaces maximum and the bottom line is twelve spaces maximum. EMBLEMS NOT AVAILABLE ON CUSTOM CAPS.

Caps are \$12.00 each or \$14.00 each with scrambled eggs. Add \$2.50 for shipping. CA residents add 6%. Allow eight weeks for delivery. No CODs.

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VF

**6th Aircraft Repair Unit (Floating) (WWII)**—Wm Blockley, 301 Yuma Ct, Boulder City NV 89005.

**8th Svc Gp, HQ Sqn, 11/482 Svc Sqn & attached units (WWII)**—Apr, Lancaster PA—John Heckler, 76 E Harbor Dr, Teaticket MA 02536.

**11th Bomb Gp (H) Assn**—Aug, Portland OR—Bob May, POB 637, Sefner FL 33584.

**13th Bomb Sqn (WWII)**—May, New Orleans—Vernon Main, 1024 Harding Dr, New Orleans LA 70119.

**20th Air Depot Rep Sqn**—Aug, Dayton OH—Scott Ide, 195 Patrice Terr, Williamsville NY 14221.

**25th Bomb Gp (Watton, England)**—Wright Patterson Field, Dayton OH—Bob Herzog, 4 Colonial Lane, Larchmont NY 10538.

**26th Photo Recon Sqn (WWII)**—Aug—Don Esmond, 5245 Longton Rd, Lundhurst OH 44124.

**27th Air Depot Gp & attached QMC units**—June, Amarillo TX—Cleo Russell, Box 576, Clarendon TX 79226.

**32d Pur Sqn, 36th Pur Gp**—June, Tyler TX—Lionel Gard, Rt 3, Box 328, Troup TX 75789.

**39th Bomb Gp, 20th Army Air Corps (VH)**—James Wyckoff, 2714 E Hayts Corners Rd, Ovid NY 14521.

**45th Bomb Sqn (Smoky Hill/Schilling AFB 1953-60)**—Aug, Salina KS—Lyle Gauby, 1111 Dover Dr, Salina KS 67401.

**54th Trp Carr APO942 (Seattle WA, 1955)**—Verda Carver, Rt 1, Box 215E, Whitney TX 76692.

**69th Ftr Sqn, 58th Gp, 5th AF**—May, San Antonio—Bob Humphreys, 5712 Rockhill Rd, Ft Worth TX 76112.

**74th Bomb Sqn**—Sept—M L Crabb, Box 85, Killen TX 76540.

**75th Air Police Sqn**—Sept, Nashville—Kenneth Brunmeier, POB 181, Onida SD 57564.

**76th Trp Carr Sqn, 435th TC Gp (WWII)**—Oct, Orlando—William Wehr, RD 1, Box 193, Watstown PA 17777.

**84th Airdrome Sqn, 5th AF (So Pacific, WWII)**—Louis Bier, 5786 Stewart St, Philadelphia PA 19131.

**57th Bomb Wing Assn (WWII) (Bomb Gps & Svc Sqns 12/310/319/321/340, 308 Sig Wing)**—July, Salt Lake City—Bob Evans, 1950 Cunningham Dr, Speedway IN 46224-5341.

**94th Bomb Gp, 8th AF (WWII)**—Oct, Minneapolis—Robert Voss, 26 Fawn Meadows Dr, Belleville IL 62221.

**309th FS, 31st Ftr Gp (WWII, England, Africa, Italy)**—Carl Ruess, 21-B Rutland Ln, Jamesburg NJ 08831.

**340th Ftr Sqn Assn (WWII)**—Sept, Rochester NY—Jim Yealy, 331 Yacht Club Dr, Ft Walton Beach FL 32548.

**341st Airdrome Sqn, 3d Air Commandos**—W C Gray, 1403½ E Main St, Ottumwa IA 52501.

**364th Ftr Gp, 8th AF (WWII, Honington, Eng)**—Oct, Ft Walton Beach FL—Dan Leftwich, 6630 Caldero Ct, Dayton OH 45415.

**374th Food Svc Sqn (Japan, 1951-55)**—June, St Louis—Charles Palmer, Rt 7, Box 18, Gilmer TX 75644.

**376th Hv Bomb Gp Assn, 9th AF (WWII)**—May, Ft Worth—Bob James, 204 Summit Dr, Keaton OH 43326.

**419th Sig Co (Avn)**—Willis McDonald, Box 415, Randolph NE 68771.

**438th Trp Carr Gp (WWII)**—May, St Louis—Ronald Worrell, 419 S 4th St, DeKalb IL 60115.

**456th Bomb Gp (H) (Italy, WWII)**—May, Ft Worth—James Watkins, 11415 Minor Dr, Kansas City MO 64114.

**461st/484th Bomb Gps Assn (WWII)**—Aug, New Orleans—Bud Markel, 1122 Ysabel St, Redondo Beach CA 90277.

**483d Bomb Gp (H) (WWII)**—Oct, Omaha—Harry Whye, 1508 Gregg Rd, Bellevue NE 68005.

**664th AC & W Sqn**—Sept, Bellefontaine OH—R C Bogardus, 601 Parkwood Dr, Bellefontaine OH 43311.

**893d Sig Co Depot Avn (WWII)**—Sept, Reno—L Winston Hamm, 202 Farley Rd, Hollis NH 03049.

**1600 QM Car Co HQ, 20th AF**—June, Pennsylvania—John Shinskie, 23 S Mann Ave, Yeagertown PA 17099.

### ALL BRANCHES

**A-1 Skyraider Assn**—Sept, Phoenix—Mel Elliott, POB 1592, Glendale AZ 85311-1592.

**American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor**—April, Reno—Ralph Levenberg, 2716 Eastshore Pl, Reno NV 89509.

**Assn of Ex-POWs of the Korean War Inc**—July, Evansville IN—Fred Herrmann, 6925 Little Schaefer Rd, Evansville IN 47712.

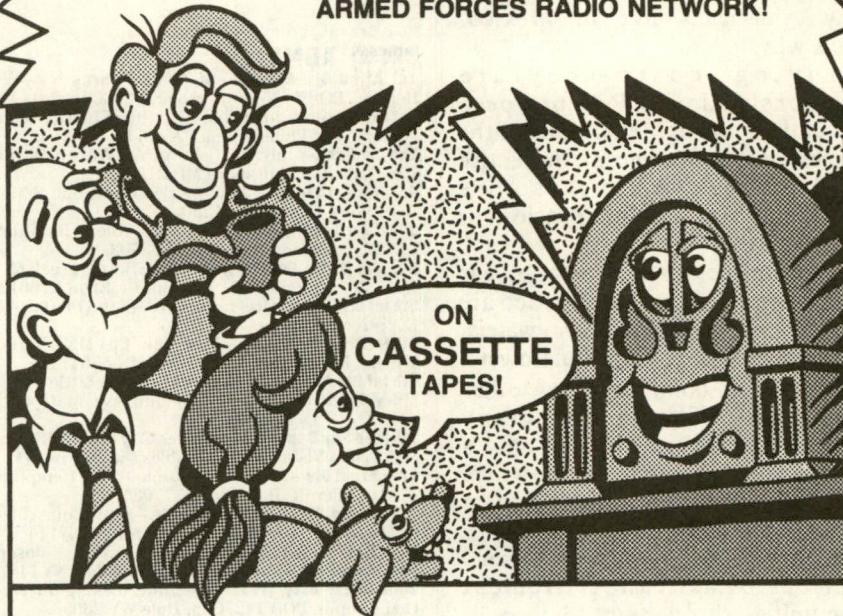
**Bulgarian Ex-POWs**—Erling Arnson, 10257 Bannock St, Spring Hill FL 34608.

**Guadalcanal Campaign Vets**—July, Anderson IN—Charles Draper, RR 4, Box 382, Alexandria IN 46001.

*continued on page 52*

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## REUNIONS

continued from page 51

**SPADRA**—July, Pomona CA—Billy Mitchell, 2013 Hidden Valley Dr, Santa Rosa CA 95404.

**SS Francois Hennebique (1945-46)**—April, Titusville FL—John Norton, 7106 Jones Valley Dr, Huntsville AL 35802.

## ARMY

**1st Armd Div Assn**—Sept, Reno/Sparks NV—W S Beasley, POB 5675, Anderson SC 29623.

**1st Div**—Colorado Springs—Arthur Chaitt, 5 Montgomery Ave, Philadelphia PA 19118.

**2nd Div Assn**—July, Harrisburg PA—William Bilenki, 128 Haile Ave, Baltimore MD 21225.

**3d Army, 133d CE**—June—Arie Oliver, 620 S Main Ave, Sioux Center IA 51250.

**3d Inf Div**—Sept, Sparks/Reno NV—Glenn Rathburn, 713 W Braemere Rd, Boise ID 83702.

**5th Div, 2d Inf, Co C (WWII)**—Sept, Battle Creek MI—Leon Belardinelli, 1351 Windsor Ct, Elgin IL 60120.

**5th Inf Div**—Sept, Greensboro NC—John Pflaum, 170 Evergreen, Elmhurst IL 60126.

**6th Inf Div, 1st Inf, Co E**—June, Lake City MN—Vernon Willers, RR 2, Box 82, Lake City MN 55041.

**7th Inf Div Assn (WWII & Korea)**—June, Little Rock—Mary Jean Wise, 3001 Richmond Ave, Mattoon IL 61938.

**7th Med Sup Depot**—June, Miles City MT—Ed Schreiber, Prima Vista Dr, Box 2, Miles City MT 59301.

**12th Armd Div**—Sept, San Antonio—Paul Hempfling, 11418 Hillcroft, Houston TX 77035.

**13th Armd Div, 24th Tank Bn Gp**—Sept, Louisville—Galen Krieg, 110 SW 4th St, Newton KS 67114.

**14th Field Hosp (1942-45)**—May, Las Vegas—Joseph Steadman, 570 Chemung St, Painted Post NY 14870.

**15th Coast Arty (1932-42)**—June, Lexington KY—D M Cooper, POB 142, Glen Dale WV 26038.

**17th Port, HQ**—Apr, San Antonio—Ralph Rinn, 1001 E Gonzales, Yoakum TX 77995.

**18th FA Bde, 6th Corps Arty, HQ Btry**—June, Grove OK—Ted Franklin, Rt 3, Box 2780, Afton OK 74331.

**19th CA**—June, McPherson KS—Daniel Walline, 419 S Lucy, McPherson KS 67460.

**20th Armd Div, 20th Tank Bn, Co A**—May, Pidgeon Forge TN—William McCoy, 1709 Green Valley Dr, Kingsport TN 37664.

**24th Inf Rgt Assn, 159th FA, 77th Engr, 512th MP Co**—July, Columbia SC—Taylor Moore, 124 W Lakeside Ave, Columbia SC 29203.

**25th Inf Div and attached units (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, peacetime)**—Nov, Washington DC—Brad Murray, 25th Inf Div Assn, POB 5434, Friendship Sta, 4005 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington DC 20016.

**25th Inf Div, 23d Inf, 4th Bn, Recon, HHC (Vietnam)**—June, Atlantic City NJ—Stephen Smith, 27880 Stienbarger Rd, Mendon MI 49072.

**25th Med Bn, Co D (Mar, 1965-Nov, 1966)**—Lawrence Driscoll, 4 Geneva Tr, Hopatcong NJ 07843.

**28th Div, 28th Recon Trp**—Sept, Indiantown Gap PA—Francis Weber, RD 2, Box 282, Shamokin PA 17872.

**29th Inf Rgt**—Oct, Columbus GA—John Blumenschein, 749 Gridley St, Lancaster PA 17601.

**31st Div, 124th Inf, Co C (WWII)**—May, Branson MO—Elmer Uppendahl, Box 419, Cheney KS 67025.

**34th Div, 135th Inf, 3d Bn, Cos I/K/L/M & HQ**—Sept, Minneapolis—Don Hoagland, Glen Rt, Box 136, Aitkin MN 56431.

**37th AAA Gun Bn, Btry D (1950-53)**—Sherward Wingate, 1419 E Calhoun St, Anderson SC 29621.

**37th Div, 135th FA, Btry C (WWII)**—June, Alliance OH—Bob Steffy, 7230 Swamp St NE, Hartsville OH 44632.

**38th Engr Rgt (C) (WWII)**—Sept, Canton OH—Dwight Netzly, 1237 Lincoln Way E, Massillon OH 44646.

**42d Rainbow Div**—July, St Louis MO—Hugo Grimm, POB 200, Lake Sherwood MO 63357.

**43d Div, 103d Inf**—May, Lewiston ME—J Paul Whitten, Groves St, RFD 2, Box 740, Lewiston ME 04240.

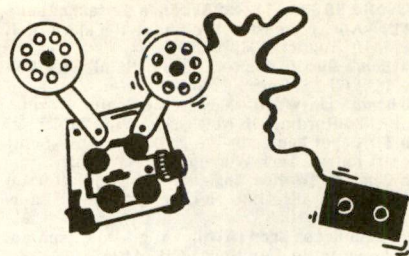
**43d Inf Div, 169th Inf Rgt, Cannon Co**—Aug, International Falls MN—John Patterson, 909 Riverside Dr, International Falls MN 56649.

**44th Div, 71st Inf, Co I**—Sept, Myrtle Beach SC—L W Allen, 3001 Manor Rd, Charlotte NC 28209.

**44th CE Bn (WWII)**—Albert Cline, POB 501, Gaffney SC 29342.

**45th Div, 180th Inf, Co G**—May, McAlester OK—J M Phipps, POB 347, Clarcona FL 32710.

**45th Gen Hosp**—May, Williamsburg VA—Frank Zahemski, 244 Maryland Ave, Paterson NJ 07503.



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**50th AAA, AW Bn (SP) (Korea)**—Sept, El Paso—Gene Ross, 530 Race St, Clyde OH 43410.

**51st Med Bn Assn (WWII)**—June, Greensburg PA—George Dull, 410 S Broad St, Mechanicsburg PA 17055.

**54th QM Base Depot (Antwerp Belgium)**—Philadelphia—William Siegrist, 4 Camillo Dr, Wayne NJ 07470.

**56th CA (Ft Cronkhite CA, 1941)**—July, LaCrosse WI—Aldor Hanson, 1423 S 4th St, LaCrosse WI 54601.

**62d Sig Bn, Co B (No Africa & Italy, 1943-44)**—Ernie Johnson, 5368 Lowell Ave, Spring Hill FL 34609.

**65th Gen Hosp (WWII)**—April, Raleigh NC—Sarkis Mihranian, 19 Gregory Lane, Loudonville NY 12211.

**66th CA (AA), Btry E, later 910th AA AW Bn, Btry A**—May/Sept, MN/AR—Alfred Starz, Box 197, Rt 1, Zumbro Falls MN 55991.

**74th CA, 372d S/L Bn**—Sept, Grand Island NY—Dorothy King, 3464 N Turquoise Ave, Roswell NM 88201.

**78th Div, 309th Inf, Co E**—May, Lansing MI—Keith Mygrants, 1303 N Hayford, Lansing MI 48912.

**79th Inf Div, 314th Inf Rgt, 79th Recon (WWII)**—July, Lincoln NE—Ray Kubie, 824 S 51st St, Lincoln NE 68510.

**80th Div Vets Assn (WWI & WWII)**—Aug, Louisville—Claude Schappell, RD 1, Box 1492, Bethel PA 19507.

**83d Inf Div Assn (WWII)**—Aug, Cincinnati—Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Rd, Hamilton OH 45013.

**86th Inf Div, 911th FA Bn, HQ Btry (WWII)**—June, Omaha—Francis Swircinski, 9115 S' Cir, Omaha NE 68127.

**88th Div, 350th Inf Rgt, Anti-Tank Co**—Aug, Allenwood PA—Lee Rearick, RD 1, Box 402, Allenwood PA 17810.

**88th Inf, SE Chpt**—Apr, St Petersburg FL—George Spino, POB 2561, Largo FL 34649.

**88th Inf Abn Bn, 88th Glider Inf**—July, Sturgis SD—Anthony Braide, 10341 SW 119 St, Miami FL 33176.

**93d AA Bn, Btry B**—May, Colorado Springs—Raymond Gilbert, 4768 N 39th St, Milwaukee WI 53209.

**94th Sig Bn Assn**—Sept, Wichita KS—Max Boyer, 910 N Mt Carmel, Wichita KS 67203.

**99th CML Mortar Bn/442d AAA (AW) Bn (WWII)**—June, Florence KY—David Tubesing, 3923 Hope Lane, Erlanger KY 41018.

**99th Sig Bn (WWII)**—June, Birmingham—Emmett Patton, 5604 Court O, Birmingham AL 35208.

**100th Div, 398th Inf Rgt, Co F**—Sheldon Kofod, 613 E 7th St, Jamestown NY 14701.

**100th Inf Div Assn (FL Chpt) (WWII)**—May, DeLand FL—Hugh Creveling, 92 Ventura Dr, Dunedin FL 34698.

**100th Inf Div Assn**—Sept, Lake Kiamesha NY—John Walsh, 51 Ninth Ave, Carbondale PA 18407.

**101 A/B Div, 1/327th Abn Inf, Co A (RVN 67-68)**—June, San Mateo CA—Vince Tavitian, 5969 Matthew Dr, Whitehouse OH 43571.

**102d AAA AW Bn (A/T) (WWII)**—May, Virginia Beach—Howard Zeh, 981 N Forest Rd, Buffalo NY 14221.

**103d Div, 382d FA Bn, Btry C**—June, Bossier City LA—Wayne Sullivan, 2711 Lindholm St, Shreveport LA 71108.

**103d Div, 409th Inf, Co D**—Sept—James Kallod, 1534 11th St N, Fargo ND 58102.

**103d Div, 384th FA Bn, HQ Btry**—Apr, Eau Claire WI—Cecil Ankney, 302 Broadview Blvd, Eau Claire WI 54701.

**105th CE Bn**—Alma White, 4022 Dana Dr, Louisville KY 40216.

**105th Sta Hosp**—July, Toledo—Owen Weiser, 4930 Rambo Ln, Toledo OH 43623.

**106th Cav Vets Assn**—June, Champaign IL—Fred Gourley, 1412 S Mattis, Champaign IL 61821.

**112th Sig Radio Intel Co**—Aug, Moline IL—Henry Reepmeyer, RD 1, Box 44, Cohoes NY 12047.

**113th QM Rgt, 38th QM Co**—July, Indianapolis—Ward Buss, 28323 C R 16 W, Elkhart IN 46516.

**135th Ord, MM Co**—Feb, Sebring FL—Frank Lantante, 1119 Green Pine Blvd, G1, West Palm Beach FL 33409.

**147th FA Rgt, Btry E, re-designated Btry B (WWII)**—June, Yankton SD—Leonard Lubbers, 817 Pine, Yankton SD 57078.

**150th Ord, MVA Co**—June, Columbus OH—George Jones, 1319 Azalea Dr, Reynoldsburg OH 43068.

**158th Inf Rgt & 147th FA**—May, Monroeville PA—Raymond Brett, RR 1, Box 234, Keene NH 03431.

**164th Inf, Co G**—June, Valley City ND—Carl Tait, 450 4th Ave NW, Valley City ND 58072.

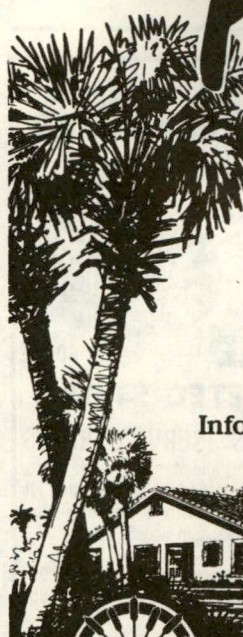
**164th Inf, Co I (WWII)**—June, Wahpeton ND—Ira Keeney, 521 2nd St N, Wahpeton ND 58075.

**168th CA Bn (AA)**—Apr, Emporia KS—Lawrence Ringle, RR 5, Box 61, Emporia KS 66801.

**195th AAA AW Bn (WWII)**—Sept, Branson MO—Donald Thomas, 27356 SW Ave, Naranja FL 33032.

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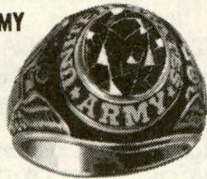
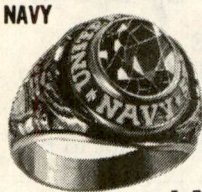
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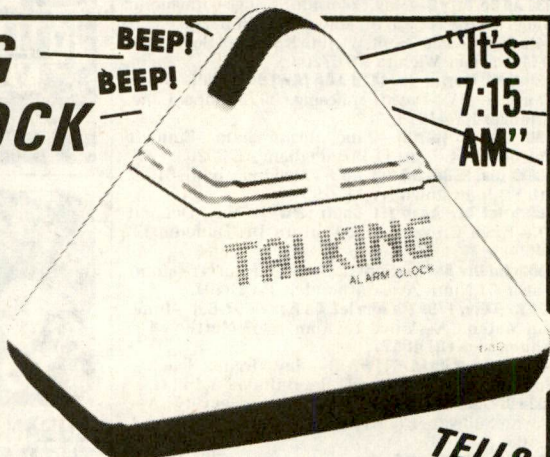
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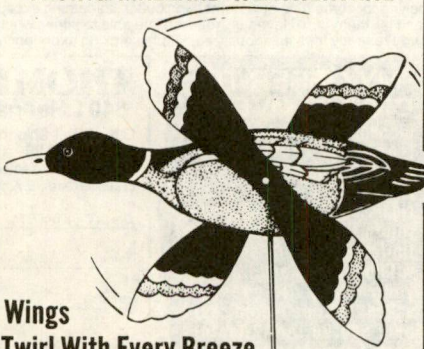
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## REUNIONS

continued from page 53

- 202d AAA AW Bn**—Oct, Navarre Beach FL—Elmer Krebsbach, 3361 Lynne Ave, Flint MI 48506.  
**202d CE Bn, Co C (WWII)**—July, Niles OH—John Hyre, 1360 Niles Cortland Rd SE, Warren OH 44484.  
**208th CE Bn (WWII)**—June, St Louis—Thomas Roberts, 4420 Benzler Rd, Marion OH 43302.  
**208th MP Co**—Apr, Houston—Jim Waters, POB 936, Lufkin TX 75901.  
**211th MP Co/15th Corp**—June, Esterville IA—Melvin Ellis, Alex Rd, Rt 4, Esterville IA 51334.  
**214th AAA Gun Bn (WWII)**—Ralph Snyder, Box 81, 30 N Centre Ave, Lessport PA 19533.  
**215th CA (AA)**—July, New Ulm MN 56073—Louis Kahle, 327 N State, New Ulm MN 56073.  
**226th S/L Bn, Btry B (WWII)**—July, Riverside CA—Joe Dunbar, 3880 Rockingham Pl, Riverside CA 92504.  
**244th FA Bn**—May, Macon GA—Alex Luckasevic, 711 Crest Ave, Charleroi PA 15022.  
**248th FA Bn, Btry B**—Aug, Marion SC—W R Corbin, 140 Scenic View Dr, Old Hickory TN 37138.  
**257th Ord, MM Co (WWII)**—Sept, Marion OH—W W Blocho, 238 Cass Ave, Cheektowaga NY 14206.  
**264th FA Bn**—June, Kentucky—Lawrence Gresham, 804 Anaconda Ave, Charleston WV 25302.  
**277th Port Co, 503d Port Bn, TC**—Sept, Minneapolis—Jim Beemiller, RR 5, Box 488, Bedford PA 15522.  
**278th CE Bn, Co A**—Aug, Louisville—Francis Martin, 14727 Co Line Rd, Poseyville IN 47633.  
**278th RCT Assn**—March, Gatlinburg TN—Gene Miller, POB 315, Etowah TN 37331.  
**283d FA Bn**—LeVan Reber, 109 N Cambridge Ave, Ventnor NJ 08406.  
**285th CE Bn (WWII)**—Oct—Walter Maxwell, 309 Brock Rd, Springfield PA 19064.  
**291st Engr, C Bn**—June, Norman OK—Mack Barbour, 627 Clossen Blvd, Norman OK 73071.  
**300th Armd FA Bn (SP), Btry A/Med Det (Korea, 1952)**—May, Kansas City MO—Robert Davis, 1322 Dublin Blvd, Colorado Springs CO 80918.  
**304th Ord, Rgt B, 2d Bn**—Nov, Savannah GA—Dana Lyman, 520 Franklin St, Hinesville GA 31313.  
**315th Inf Rgt (WWII)**—Aug, Pittsburgh—Francis Oczko, 144 N 6th St, New Hyde Park NY 11040.  
**337th FA, Btry C**—Aug, Allenwood PA—Willard Russell, RD 1, Box 400, Allenwood PA 17810.  
**343d Eng GS (Germany)**—June, Hager City WI—Bernie Olson, Rt 1, Box 1389, Hager City WI 54014.  
**344th Ord Depot Co**—Sept, Charleston WV—Frank Angotti, 109 Main, Weston WV 26452.  
**351st Ord Maint Co, AA (WWII)**—Sept, Pocono PA—George Billger, 370 Woodstream Way, N Wales PA 19454.  
**351st S/L Bn**—June, Des Moines—Bob Johnson, 514 Brown St, Jackson MN 56143.  
**373d FA Bn Acco**—Apr, Pocono Manor PA—Frank Andros, POB 55, Hyde Park NY 12538.  
**377th AA AW Bn, Btry A**—May, Kingston OK—Harold Blackwell, 1736 Arch Ave, SW, Seattle WA 98116.  
**385th AAA Bn (WWII)**—June, Asheville NC—Douglass Cochran, 420 Belvedere Rd, Hagerstown MD 21740.  
**400th AAA Bn (WWII)**—Sept, Las Vegas—Edward Rau, 1025 Prune Ct, Sunnyvale CA 94087.  
**410th AAA Bn, Btry D (WWII)**—Aug, Rockton PA—John Conway, POB 56, Rockton PA 15856.  
**430th AAA AW Bn**—May, St Louis—James McPhail, 17 S 71st St, Belleville IL 62223.  
**471st Engr Maint Co**—June, So Fallsburg NY—Anthony DiCroce, 301 Seneca Pkwy, Rochester NY 14613.  
**475th AAA AW Bn (WWII)**—Sept—Dave Orr, 153 Connie Dr, Pittsburgh PA 15214.  
**516th Sig Co (Camp Roeder, Salsburg Austria, 1953-55)**—June—Dow Duncan, Box 204, Boone IA 50036.  
**527th Engr, Lt Ponton Co**—July, Des Moines—Marion Munsinger, POB 7, Eldora IA 50627-0007.  
**531st AAA AW Bn (WWII)**—Aug, Des Moines—Ed Herman, 602 4th St NE, Montgomery MN 56069.  
**535th AAA AW Bn (WWII)**—May, Scottsdale AZ—Gene Lash, 11601 N Sundown Dr, Scottsdale AZ 85260.  
**557th AAA Bn Assn**—May, Gettysburg PA—Louis Edell, 2904 Oakrest Ave, Baltimore MD 21234.  
**563d SAW Bn**—Herb Rose, 6778 Derby Rd, Derby NY 14047.  
**601st Ord Bn (1952-54)**—July, Omaha—Lyle Allbery, 116 S Westgate St, Gretna NE 68028.  
**605th FA Bn, Btry A**—Oct, Hernando FL—Gerald Nash, 40 Temple St, Nashua NH 03060.  
**611th OBAM Bn**—Nov, Savannah GA—John Kowalchuk, 2 Rusty Rail Ln, Hilton Head Isle GA 29295.

continued on page 56

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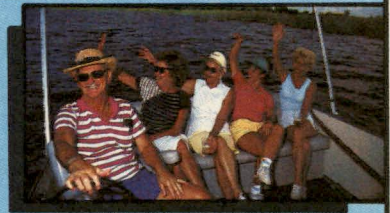


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## REUNIONS

continued from page 55

- 619th Engr Base Eqp Co**—Sept, Bismark ND—Ken Secret, RD 1, Box 72, Unadilla NY 13849.  
**627th TD Bn**—May, Painted Post NY—Harry Sturdevant, 65-414 Estates, Beaver Dam NY 14812.  
**630th AA Bn**—July, Parsippany NJ—Michael Wolfe, 28 Clara St, N Haledon NJ 07508.  
**632d TD Bn**—May, Nashville—Lester Otto, 609 N Park St, Streator IL 61364.  
**638th TD Bn**—July, Indianapolis—Art Paulin, 3610 E 75th St, Indianapolis IN 46240.  
**699th Sig Corp (WWII)**—June, Baltimore—Robert Collins, 2523 Londonderry Rd, Timonium MD 21093.  
**711th Abn Ord Maint Co, Bn O**—Oct, Columbus GA—James Hembree, 20 Binks Dr, Clarksville TN 37042.  
**720th MP Bn Assn**—June, Laurel MD—Joseph Selovich, 1909 35th St, Kenosha WI 53140.  
**724th ROB (WWII)**—Aug, Jackson MI—James Williams, Golden Terr # 1, 555 Lake Hurst Rd, Browns Mills NJ 08015.  
**746th Ry Oper Bn**—June, San Antonio—Edith Gillen, 1614 Glen Valley Dr, Irving TX 75061.  
**757th Ry Shop Bn**—NY—Bernard Okarma, 26 Crestwood Dr, Randolph NJ 07869.  
**779th AAA AW Bn, Btry C**—North Adams MA—Vincent Bushee, Manchester Center VT 05255.  
**783d Engr Petr Dist Co**—May, Nashville—Paul Mclean, 1742 Spencerport Rd, Rochester NY 14606.  
**785th MP Bn, Co B**—June, Boaz AL—Louie Hollaway, Rte 7, Box 431, Boaz AL 35957.  
**787th AAA AW Bn, Btry A**—Jerome Svajda, POB 2091, Bryan TX 77806.  
**793d MP Bn (1943-53)**—Art Sherokow, Rt 1, Box 196C, Parsons TN 38363.  
**817th TD Bn**—June, Pittsburgh—Raymond Banks, 116 Laurel Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15202.  
**850th Engr Avn Bn**—June, Peoria IL—Larry Kinsinger, 709 W Jefferson, Washington IL 61571.  
**866th AAA AW Bn**—July, Lansing MI—John Sawyer, 2636 Ray Blvd, Traverse City MI 49684.  
**987th Armd FA Bn (Korea)**—June, Alliance OH—Bob Steffy, 7230 Swamp St NE, Hartville OH 44632.  
**989th Sig Svc Co, Team A/B/C**—Oct—Ed Brown, 316 N Willow Dr W, Plainfield IL 60544.  
**1000th Engr Tdwy Brg Co**—Sept, Philadelphia—Louis Feraco, 502 Schoolhouse La, Willow Grove PA 19090.  
**1142d CE Gp (WWII)**—June, Asheboro NC—Mahon Flake, Box 285, Badin NC 28009.  
**1255th CE Bn (WWII)**—Aug, Morningside MD—Alfred J Babecki, 1405 Colony Rd, Oxon Hill MD 20745.  
**1289th CE**—June, Hasper IN—Hilbert Theisinger, Box 113, Schnellville IN 47580.  
**1905th Engr Avn Bn**—Aug, Oklahoma City—John Grapes, 704 S Massachusetts, Cherokee OK 73728.  
**3451st Ord MM Co**—Sept, Evansville IN—James Rankin, 7902 Schmuck Rd, Evansville IN 47712.  
**3573d QM Trk Co (ETO, WWII)**—Charles Beard, 319 Bigley Ave, Baltimore MD 21227.  
**3711th QM Trk Co**—June, Cedar Rapids IA—Bud Rosdail, 228 Harnett St NW, Cedar Rapids IA 52405.  
**Americal Div FA (WWII, Korea, Vietnam)**—May, Myrtle Beach SC—Carlo DePorto, POB 232, Gambrells MD 21054.  
**Army Otter-Caribou Assn**—Aug, Seattle WA—Bill Hooks, POB 6091, Columbus GA 31907-0073.  
**Co C, Staff Bn, HSG, GHQ FEC (Tokyo)**—June, Cleveland—Lawrence Casapini, 510 Stuart St NW, Massillon OH 44646.  
**Ft Kamehameha, Hawaii (all units, 1932-42)**—June, Lexington KY—DM Cooper, POB 142, Glen Dale WV 26038.  
**Ft Robinson, Neb**—July, Ft Robinson—Ed Bieganski, HC 75, Box 25A, Chadron NE 69337.  
**Inf Security Det (1950-51)**—Gerald Pierce, 3201 Jeff Davis Rd, Oxford MS 38655.  
**MP Town Patrol, Ft Lawton (Seattle WA, 1949-52)**—Percy Hugdahl, 2119 Spooner Ave, Altoona WI 54720.  
**WWII Pacific Amphib Tank-Trac Forces**—Aug, San Diego—John Pinkerman, PO Drawer J, Idyllwild CA 92349.  
**Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Assn**—June, Las Vegas—Spencer Gardner, POB 237, Crowley TX 76036.

## COAST GUARD

**USS Burlington PF51**—Myron Rogers, 1890 South Ocean Dr, Apt 1203E, Hallandale FL 33009.

**USS Knoxville PF64**—May, Heber Springs AR—Charles Linn, Rt 3, Box 9-A, Tumbling Shoals AR 72581.

## MARINES

- A/19/3d Mar Div**—Sept, San Leandro CA—Robert Shine, 51705 Pine Loop Dr, La Pine OR 97739.  
**Bermuda Mar Ditch (1953-56)**—Hank Olney, 205 Summer St, Stratford CT 06497.  
**Chi-Chi-Jima Marines**—June, Gettysburg PA—Bob Snyder, 2160 Hanover Rd, #10, Gettysburg PA 17325.  
**K/4/12, 3d Mar Div (Vietnam, 1966-69)**—July, Chicago—Doug Wean, 1 S 175 Winthrop Ln, Villa Park IL 60181.  
**MOTG 81**—George Campbell, 1210 Mkt St, Box 503, Bloomsburg PA 17815.  
**Marines**—Aug, Youngstown OH—W R Simon, 2268 Innwood Dr, Youngstown OH 44515-5150.  
**USS Enterprise CV6**—June, San Diego—Pete Damato, 10322 Woodbridge, N Hollywood CA 91602.  
**USS General H L Scott AP136 (WWII)**—Don Larson, 8701 Nantucket Way, Garden Grove CA 92641.  
**VMSB-243 (1942-44)**—Oct, Dallas—Thomas Schmidt, 14920 NW 12th Ave, Miami FL 33168.  
**6/2/5, 1st Mar Div**—Lake Charles LA—Fred Hollier, POB 700173, San Antonio TX 78270.  
**1st Div, 16th Field Dept, Peleliu Survivors**—Sept, Niagara Falls—John Hinds, 50 Miramar Rd, Rochester NY 14624.  
**3d Barrage Balloon Sqdn (WWII)**—Oct, Ponchatoula LA—Robert Herbst, 19 Shannon Ridge Rd, Danbury CT 06810.  
**3d Mar Div**—July, Guam—Harvey Tennant, 4368 Loma Riviera Ct, San Diego CA 92110.  
**3d Mar Div Assn**—July, Chicago—John McLynn, POB 5247, Chula Vista CA 92012.  
**3d Mar Div, 4th Bn, 12th Mar, Kilo (Vietnam, 1966-69)**—July, Chicago—Rex Forcht, Box 341, Dongola IL 62926.  
**11th Amph Trac Bn**—June, Vincennes IN—George Phillips, 1306 Maple St, Lawrenceville IL 62439.
- NAVY**
- 1st NCB Bn**—Apr, Orlando—Charles Mischler, 29 Sanford Ave, Emerson NJ 07630.  
**8th NCB**—Sept, Fresno CA—George Kaiser, 221 W Herndon, #218, Pinedale CA 93650.  
**9th Spec NCB, Co B**—J L Gulsvig, Lago Morada-4, 14474 Skyline Dr, Spicer MN 56288.  
**30th NCB**—June, Poconos PA—Paul Flack, 154 Cuba Ave, Staten Island NY 10306.  
**35th NCB**—Sept, Columbia SC—Phil Silver, 9245 Stratford Ct, Westbury NY 11590.  
**57th CE Bn, Co C, Americal Div**—July, Cheektowaga NY—Henry Fronczak, 57 Annamarie Terr, Cheektowaga NY 14225.  
**73d NCB**—July, St Louis—Henry Taneggra, 915 St Clair Ave, Collinsville IL 62234.  
**85th NCB**—Fred Kofman, 415 Walnut St, Julesburg CO 80737.  
**93d NCB**—Oct, Mesa AZ—Ed Cox, 7732 E Holmes Ave, Mesa AZ 85208.  
**115th NCB**—July, Northampton MA—Edward Plummer, 5023 E Naomi St, Indianapolis IN 46203.  
**136th NCB**—July, Allentown PA—Ralph Harrison, 837 Millwood Rd, Broken Arrow OK 74011.  
**622d Ord Bn Assn**—Sept, St Louis—Scott Staton, 300 Sugar Loaf Rd, Hendersonville NC 28739.  
**ARSD Navy 60 (Russell Islands, Solomons)**—June, Niagara Falls—Edward Devantier, 1115 91st St, Niagara Falls NY 14304.  
**CAG 14 & VF(N) 77C (USS Wasp CV18 & USS Intrepid CV11)**—Sept, San Diego—Gordon Bjornson, POB 3988, La Mesa CA 92044.  
**CBMU-302 (RVN 1967-69)**—RL Snyder, 1542 Landing Ln, Neptune Beach FL 32233.  
**Co 17 (1939, Great Lakes, US Naval Training Sta)**—Sept, Vinton IA—Harry Swiger, RR 2, New Boston IL 61272.  
**Comdeslant/US Denebola AD12 (1940-46)**—June, Portland—Frank Chapin, 111 Dyke Farm Rd Ext, So Portland ME 04106.  
**Covered Wagon Assn (CV-1/AV-3)**—Oct, San Jose CA—Earl Dixon, 1975-275 Space Park Way, Mt View CA 94043.  
**Des Div 59 (USS Bernadou, USS 153/US Cole, DD455/US Dallas, DD199/US DuPont, DD152 & USS Ellis, DD154)**—May, Decatur AL—Richardson Prouty, 335 Main St, Spencer MA 01522.  
**Helicopter Attack Light 3**—June, Pensacola FL—Tom Thalmann, N2656 Fox Lane, Shawano WI 54166.  
**Navy 3115 Cub 10 (Hollandia, New Guinea)**—June, Owensboro KY—Roger Hedrick, 1401 N Woodburn Ave, Bloomington IN 47401.  
**Navy Armed Guard**—May, El Paso—Herb Norch, 77 Sutton Pl, El Paso TX 79912.  
**NMCCB-74 Vietnam Era Assn**—Nov, Gulfport MS—Bill Christiansen, 7586 County M, Maplewood WI 54226.

**PATSU 1-3 (WWII, South Pacific)**—Gordon Jones, 211 Naples St, Chula Vista CA 92011.

**Sampson WWII Navy Vets, Co 558, 6 Unit Sept, Waterloo NY**—Raymond Taylor, 2 Harvard Dr, Media PA 19063.

**Ship Exp Unit, Naval AC Factory, NAAS Mustin Field, Phila, 1942-44**—George Hutchinson, 106 Avondale Av, Haddon Field NJ 08033.

**Spec Augmented Hosp**—Oct, Biloxi MS—George Mitchell, 1639 Oaklawn Pl, Biloxi MS 39530.

**Spec Augmented Hosp #8 (Okinawa, 1945)**—Oct, Dallas—Clarence Rhines, 140 S Main St, O'Fallon, IL 62269.

**US Navy Armed Guard (WWI & WWII)**—June, Seattle—Madelen Rigg, 1623 SW 166th, Seattle WA 98166.

**US Navy Armed Guard (WWII)**—May, El Paso—Herb Norch, 74 Sutton Pl, El Paso TX 79912.

**USS Alabama BB60/SSBN731**—Apr, Mobile AL—John Brown, POB 501, Keller TX 76248.

**USS Alaska CB1**—June, Duluth MN—Keith Thomson, 13010 W 2nd St, Duluth MN 55808.

**USS Allen M Sumner DD692**—June, Buffalo NY—R E Gall, 61 Fuller Ave, Tonawanda NY 14150.

**USS Ashland LSD1**—July, Lexington KY—Milt Ferguson, 1540 E Moore Rd, Hillsdale MI 49242.

**USS Attu CVE102**—Sept, Mackinaw City MI—Floyd Atkins, 9110 Huggin Hollow, Martinsville IN 46151.

**USS Bagley DD386**—Sept, St Louis—Walter Morley, POB 608, West Dennis MA 02670.

**USS Barnett APA5**—June, Norfolk—John Kolstad, 2213 Ming Ave, Bakersfield CA 93304.

**USS Beale DD/DDE471**—Aug, Levelland TX—Frank Davidson, Box 471, Whiteface TX 79379.

**USS Bon Homme Richard CV/CVA31**—Aug, Bremerton WA—Ralph Pound, POB 1531, 410 Clark St, Tupelo MS 38802.

**USS Braine DD630 (1943-73)**—Oct, Norfolk VA—Doug Hotchkiss, RR8, Box 92, Bridgeton NJ 08302.

**USS Bremerton**—Aug, Long Beach—R F Polanowski, RD 1, Belfast NY 14711.

**USS Bunch DE694/AP079**—May, Baltimore—David Hibbs, 706 Hartman Ave, Hanover PA 17331.

**USS Bunker Hill CV17/C652**—Sept, Williamsburg VA—Billy Wagner, POB 516, Williamsburg VA 23187.

**USS Burleigh PA95 (WWII)**—Nov, Norfolk—Carl Bell, 1470 Cranbrook Dr, Hermitage PA 16148.

**USS Caravan AM157**—May, Omaha—Tom Crossy, 444 Adam St, Westmont IL 60559.

**USS Captivate AM156**—H W McPherson, 5732 S Washington St, Downers Grove IL 61510.

**USS Card CVE11 & VC1/8/9/12/55**—Sept, San Diego—Joe Macchia, 8290 Melrose Rd, Melrose FL 32666.

**USS Chantrelleur AV10**—Oct, North Charleston SC—Kenneth Boyd, Rt 4, Box 145, Culpeper VA 22701.

**USS Charrett DD581**—Sept, St Louis—Vernon Houchin, 4932 Fairview, St Louis MO 63139.

**USS Clemson DD186/APD31**—Aug, Pittsburgh PA—Fred Haag, 92 E Steuben St, Pittsburgh PA 15205.

**USS Collett DD730**—R K Conover, 9 Helen Ave, Freehold NJ 07728.

**USS Conway DD507 (1942-70)**—Carl Shand, RD3, Ware Rd, Fulton NY 13069.

**USS Conyngham DD371**—June, Pasco WA—Jack Dawson, 2912 Rogers Ave, Tampa FL 33611.

**USS Cotten DD669**—Aug, El Paso—Walter Shollmier, 1828 Parnassus, Memphis TN 38108.

**USS Crouter DE11 (Sept, 1943-Dec, 1945)**—John Sedory, 5700 W Wilson, #81, Banning CA 92220.

**USS Daly DD519**—July, St Louis—Walter Johnson, 161 Boxford St, Lawrence MA 01843.

**USS Dashill DD659**—July, McPherson KS—Don Merryfield, Box 447, McPherson KS 67460.

**USS Davison DD618**—June, Lancaster PA—Roy DeWald, 313 Mt Allen Dr, Mechanicsburg PA 17055.

**USS Delta AK29/AR9**—Sept, Davenport IA—James Elder, 13010 W Colfax Pl, Butler WI 53007.

**USS Dorsey DMS1**—June, Las Vegas—Roger Sloan, 2605 Havasupai Bl, Lake Havasu City AZ 86403.

**USS Earl Johnson**—Edward Warrington, 4718 NW Marie Cir, Cleveland TN 37311.

**USS Eaton DD/DE510**—Aug, Coralville IA—Barbara Gorvin, RR 1, Box 165, Oxford IA 52322.

**USS Entemedor SS340**—Glen Stinson, 7111 N Cosby Dr, Kansas City MO 64151.

**USS Fessenden DE142**—Norfolk VA—Joe Kirsch, 424 Plummer Dr, Chesapeake VA 23323.

**USS Foote DD511**—Oct, San Antonio—Edward Mazepa, 146 Pine St, South Plainfield NJ 07080.

**USS Fowler DE222**—Sept, Charleston SC—Bill Burris, 1010 W Broadway, Maryville TN 37801.

**USS Frankford DD497**—Sept, Tacoma WA—George Borgia, 6911 47th St Ct E, Puyallup WA 98371.

**USS Franklin CV13**—March, San Diego—Ray Bailey, 3511 Byrd St, San Diego CA 92154.

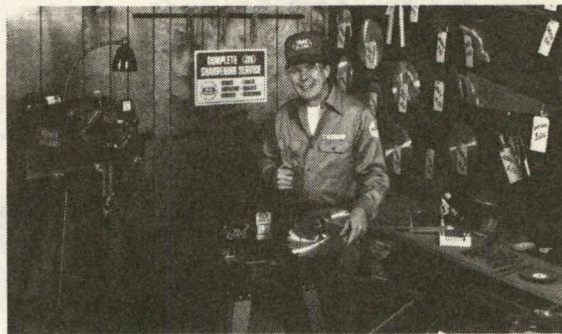
**USS Franklin D Roosevelt CV42 & Air Wings**—May, Atlantic Beach FL—John Lyons, 4213 Harry St, Corpus Christi TX 79412.

**USS Gantner DE60/APD42**—Sept, Charleston SC—Richard Ager, 9411 Woodberry St, Lanham Seabrook MD 20706.

continued on page 58

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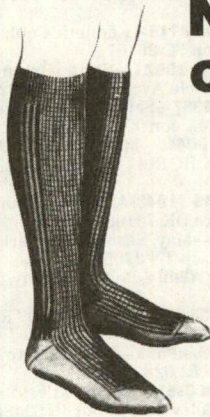


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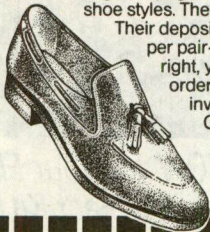
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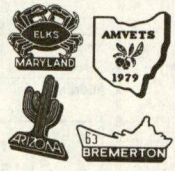
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## REUNIONS

continued from page 57

- USS Gayety AM239**—Sept, Louisville KY—Bud Zecker, 5007 W 63rd Terr, Prairie Village KS 66208.
- USS George E Davis DE357**—Stanley Cohen, 33 Fairways Cir, Palm Coast FL 32037.
- USS George A Johnson DE583**—Sept, Charleston SC—Harry Burtchin, 555 S Copus Rd, Lima OH 45805.
- USS George K MacKenzie DD836**—July, St Louis—J L House, 1021 N 8th, Apt 1, Burlington IA 52601.
- USS Gull AM74 (1942-45)**—Albert Campoli, 711 Cricket Ave, Ardley PA 19038.
- USS H A Bass APD124**—June, San Diego—Charles Kunick, 2840 Bamboo Dr, Lake Havasu City AZ 86403.
- USS Hector AR7**—Oct, Lake Havasu City AZ—Bruce Harrell, 3195 Kenneth Ln, Lake Havasu City AZ 86403.
- USS Heermann DD532**—May, Long Beach CA—Ralph Stokes, 54 Golden Pond Dr, Heron MT 59844.
- USS Hesperia AKS13**—Sept, St Petersburg FL—Harold Curry, 1300 62nd Terr S, St Petersburg FL 33705.
- USS Hopkins DMS13/USS Long DMS12/USS Hovey DMS11/USS Southard DMS10 & USS Chandler DMS9**—June, Portland OR—Robert Neal, 5718 SE Woodhaven St, Milwaukie OR 97222.
- USS Howard F Clark DE533**—Sept, Charleston SC—George Neldon, 1508 N Franklin, Litchfield IL 62056.
- USS Idaho BB42 Assn**—July, Moscow ID—David Graham, POB 11247, San Diego CA 92111.
- USS Independence CVL22**—Aug, Reno—C J Horth, 200 W San Bernardino Ave, # 117, Rialto CA 92376.
- USS Indiana BB58**—Aug, Fall River MA—Al Vicarelli, POB 620, Cutchogue NY 11935.
- USS Ingraham DD694 (1944-71)**—Aug, 1990, Bethlehem PA—Arthur Jones, 1817 W Main, Massillon OH 44646.
- USS J Fred Talbot D156**—May, Washington DC—Bob Zveare, 714 W Tantalion Dr, Ft Washington MD 20744.
- USS Jack Miller DE410**—Rudy Florentine, 126 N Avolyn Ave, Ventnor City NJ 08406.
- USS Jerauld APA174 (deck force)**—Joseph Nichols, 290 W Branch Rd, Prudenville MI 48651.
- USS John C Butler**—Oct, Charleston SC—Chestor Skoczen, 326 Chestnut St, N Syracuse NY 13212.
- USS Joseph E Campbell DE70/APD49**—Sept, Charleston SC—Del Faust, 116 Oriole Dr, St Charles MO 63301.
- USS Juneau CLAA119**—Kenneth Cook, 63 Ft Royal Ave, Charleston SC 29407.
- USS Kimberly DD521**—Sept, Orlando—Arthur Forster, 2312 Nela Ave, Orlando FL 32809.
- USS Lamson DD367**—Sept, St Louis—Ray Duley, Heritage Sq, L-3, Mission TX 78572.
- USS La Vallette DD448**—May, San Diego CA/Ensenada BC—C M Allen, HC Rte 1, Box 551, Trinity Center CA 96091.
- USS LCI(G) 346 (1943-45)**—Ray Malicoat, 244 S Norman, Moore OK 73160.
- USS LCI(G) 439**—May, Nashville—Charles Craft, Rt 5, Box 438, Dickson TN 37055.
- USS LCI(L) 613 (WWII)**—Robert Byheny, 55 Revere Dr, Sayville NY 11782.
- USS Lewis DE535**—Elmer Sailer, 1507 Rockwood Dr, Alamogordo NM 88310.
- USS Lloyd DE209/APD63**—Frank Hightowler, 22 Litzen Rd, Forestdale RI 02824.
- USS Long Island CVE1**—May, Charleston SC—George Klein, 135 Hickory St, Lemont IL 60439.
- USS Lowndes APA154**—Dan Wisdom, 1615 HARRISEE St, Terrell TX 75160.
- USS LSM3 (1944-46)**—Edward Jones, 105 Amackassin Terr, Yonkers NY 10703.
- USS LST197**—William Dilworth, 68 Milton St, Arlington MA 02174.
- USS LST266 (1943-45)**—Edward Dyar, 6075 Darra-moor Rd, Birmingham MI 48010.
- USS LST279**—Sept, Louisville KY—A J Mayer, 1204 Pennsylvania, Windsor IL 61957.
- USS LSM330/LSM Grp 18 (staff)**—Oct, Orlando—Gregory Mullian, 4 Broadway, Apt B, Newport RI 02840.
- USS LSTs 525 & 512**—June, Garden Grove CA—Bob Perry, 9172 Orangewood Ave, Garden Grove CA 92641.
- LST654**—Sept, Lancaster PA—Art Mohn, 127 E Church St, Stevens PA 17578.
- USS LST694/USS LCT724/USS LCT893**—Sept, Minneapolis—Robert Kirsch, RD 4, Box 117, Evans City PA 16033.
- USS LST727 (WWII, Pacific area)**—Jule Wicker, 8565 M 765 South, Lachine MI 49753.
- LST658 (WWII & Vietnam)**—Aug, Oakland MD—Gerald Busic, 195 4th Ave, Holtsville NY 11742.

- USS LST(H) 951**—May, St Louis—A J Pepper, 1814 Stratford, Sylvan Lake MI 48053.
- USS LST957**—June, Boston—William Barron, 1 Mann St, Braintree MA 02184.
- USS Ludlow DD438**—Sept, Annapolis MD—Bob Javins, 537 Clark's Run Rd, La Plata MD 20646.
- USS Lyon AP71**—Sept, Davenport IA—D E Cloe, 6281 NW Blvd, Davenport IA 52806.
- USS Maddox DD731/USS C Turner Joy DD951**—Aug, Baton Rouge—C Ward Bond, 305 S River Rd, Baton Rouge LA 70802.
- USS Maryland BB46 Vets Assn**—Sept, Denver—Wm Haligas, 481 E 66th Ave, Denver CO 80229.
- USS Massachusetts**—June, Somerset MA—Robert Grimes, 11 Spring St, Waltham MA 02154.
- USS Massey DD778**—Aug, Portland OR—Bob Bergen, 14107 NE 82 Ave, Vancouver WA 98662.
- USS Melville AD2**—July, Key West FL—Jesse Woodruff, POB 2484, Key West FL 33045.
- USS Montpelier CL57 Assn**—Sept, Myrtle Beach SC—George Scully, 745 Thomas St, Elizabeth NJ 07202.
- USS Mustin DD413/USS Hornet CV8**—May, Norfolk VA—Jarvis Cartwright, 8060 Danbury Dr, Norfolk VA 23518.
- USS Naifeh DE352**—Sept, Charleston SC—William Wrase, 4148 Harbor Point Dr, Muskegon MI 49441-4663.
- USS Nashville CL43 Assn**—June, Nashville—A B Speed, 13229 Des Moines Way S, Seattle WA 98168.
- USS New York BB34 (1914-1946)**—Oct, Atlanta—Fred Fries, 803 Fredell Cir, East Point GA 30344.
- USS Norman Scott DD690**—Oct, Baton Rouge LA—Robert Laubinger, 1048 E Loma Vista Dr, Tempe AZ 85282.
- USS Paducah PG18**—Aug, Duluth MN—Sidney Henson, 120 N 25 Ave W, Duluth MN 55806-1916.
- USS PC470**—June, Berrien Springs MI—Woody McGowan, 16 E Floral Ave, Pleasantville NJ 08232.
- USS PC565**—Sept, Newport RI—Exum Pike, POB 831, Newport RI 02840.
- USS PCE900 (1945-47)**—Sept, Rapid City SD—Bob Kissing, 1232 Christopher Ct, Oconomowoc WI 53066.
- USS Philadelphia CL41**—Sept, Corpus Christi—George Brucia, 609 Clemons St, Bellmore NY 11710.
- USS President Adams APA19/USS President Jackson APA18/USS President Hayes APA20 & USS Crescent City APA21**—Sept, Dallas—Bill Lindner, POB 4006, Virginia Beach VA 23454.
- USS Pringle DD477**—Oct, San Diego—William Herman, 1427 Woodbridge Rd, Baltimore MD 21228.
- USS Providence CL82**—Apr, Virginia Beach VA—O C Ayers, 424 Ridgeland Ave, Elmhurst IL 60126.
- USS Pyro AE1/AE24**—Sept, Dubuque IA—Paul Simon, 52 Bluff St, Dubuque IA 52001.
- USS Quincy**—Sept, St Louis—Albert Levesque, 46 Foster St, Pawtucket RI 02861.
- USS Ranger CVA61**—Aug, San Diego—John Muzio, POB 49, Round Top NY 12473.
- USS Reuben James DD245 & DE153**—May, Norfolk VA—George Giehl, 5473 Shimerville Rd, Clarence NY 14031.
- USS Rowan DD405**—Sept, Colorado Springs—E C Harvey, 903 Stratford Rd, Avondale Estates GA 30002.
- USS Salute AM294**—June, Tulsa—James Johnston, RRI, Ainsworth IA 52201.
- USS Samuel S Miles DD183**—Sept, Charleston SC—Charles Markham, 22311 Swan Rd, #311, South Lyon MI 48178.
- USS San Saba APA232**—July, Superior WI—Philip Poupore, 3622 Stebner Rd, Duluth MN 55811.
- USS Sarita AKA39**—Eugene Kozuk, 8509 W Red Bud Lane, Muncie IN 47304.
- USS SC632**—Philip Stauderman, RD 2, Box 281, Cranbury NJ 08512.
- USS Seekonk A0620 (WWII)**—June, New York City—Ralph Di Meo, 253 Raymond St, Hasbrouck Heights NJ 07604.
- USS Shaw DD373**—Apr, Laughlin NV—Elmo Rash, 4630 Obispo Ave, Lakewood CA 90712.
- USS Skagit AKA105**—Aug, Norfolk VA—Don Vogaw, 950 Watkins St, Conway AR 72032.
- USS Sicard DM21 (WWII)**—Sept—Ovie Vernon, 2121 N Greenwood St, Pueblo CO 81003.
- USS Smartt DE257**—Sept, Charleston SC—Henry Siedlecki, 86 Pearsall Pl, Deer Park NY 11729.
- USS Sproston DD577**—Sept, Boston—George Ress, 35 Briarwood Dr, Poughkeepsie NY 12601.
- USS Stack DD406**—Mar, Kissimmee FL—W W Price, 313 Sussex Ct, Wilmington NC 28405.
- USS Stanley**—June, Fort Smith AR—Blackie Fields, 1618 Memphis, Fort Smith AR 72901.
- USS Stormes DD780/USS Warrington DD843/USS Vogel-gesang DD862**—Apr, Jackson MI—Raymond Didur, 122 Potter St, POB 282, Cement City MI 49233.
- USS Stribling DD867**—May, Norfolk VA—Ed Burris, RD 1, Box 27, Tidouche PA 16351.
- USS Strong DD758**—Sept, Charleston SC—O P Pritchard, 182 Hair St, Soddy-Daisy TN 37379.



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**USS Suffolk AKA69**—T R Jacobson, POB 1030, Hot Springs SD 57747.  
**USS Sultan (Aug. 1962, Dodd schools on Okinawa, Japan)**—J Adams, 107 Sunset Lane, Beverly NJ 08010.  
**USS The Sullivans DD537 (1943-65)**—Sept, Buffalo NY—Charles McCarty, 1420 Seabreeze St, Clearwater FL 34616.  
**USS Thomas Jefferson APA30**—Sept, Norfolk VA—Larry Flanagan, 8200 Beatty St, Norfolk VA 23518.  
**USS Ticonderoga CV/CVA/CVS 14/CG47**—May, Charleston SC—Felix Radleigh, 465 Creighton Rd, Orange Park FL 32073.  
**USS Torrance AKA76 (WWII)**—Oct, Nashville—Robert Evans, 204 Rosewood Dr, Phillipsburg OH 45354.  
**USS Trinity A013**—Sept, Branson MO—Henry Holmes, 5005 Faraon St, #111, St Joseph MO 64506.  
**USS Vincennes Assn, CA44/CL64/CG49**—Aug, Vincennes, IN—Anthony Curcio, 705 School House Ln, Bound Brook NJ 08805.  
**USS Virgo AKA20**—June, Nashville—James Moten, 4995 Cuba Millington Rd, Millington TN 38053.  
**USS Wainwright DLG28**—Charleston SC—J C Carlson, 325 W 19th St, Holland MI 49423.  
**USS Wayne APA54**—Oct, New Orleans—Ronald Monteple, 1478 Riviera Ave, New Orleans LA 70122.  
**USS Weaver DE741**—June, Nashville—Walter Reichert, 2050 Herrick Ave, Feasterville PA 19047.  
**USS White Plains CVE66/VCA4**—Sept, Milwaukee—Robert Johnson, 2283 E 15th Ave, North St Paul MN 55109.  
**USS William C Miller DE259**—Haldor Gustafson, 1403 Kenwood Ave, Duluth MN 55811.  
**USS YMS 274**—Robert Erickson, 401 Hilltop Rd, Paoli PA 19301.  
**USS YMS 302**—Charles Grainger, 117 Meadow Hill Covington KY 41017.  
**VP72**—May, Pensacola FL—N K Little, 2435 Pleasant Hill Rd, Pleasant Hill CA 94523.

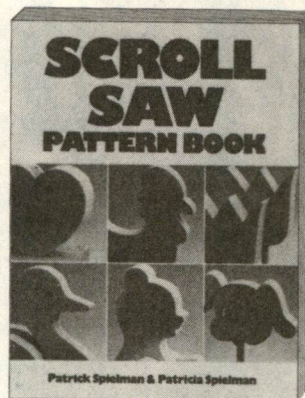
## SEEKING

The Seeking column is published on a first-come first-served basis. Submission forms are available from VFW Magazine, Seeking, 406 W. 34 St., Kansas City MO 64111.

**VMF 216, USMC Ground Crew (1943-45)**—Warren Kemp, 1700 S Van Eps Ave, Sioux Falls SD 57105.  
**217th Gun Bn (90 m/m), Btry C (outside St Lo France, WWII)**—Seeking Pvs. Bosworth, Dusa, Hallenbeck—Everitt Soper, 35 Groff St, Kingston NY 12401.  
**USS Oriskany Aircraft Carrier**—J B Rainville, 2949 West Ave SW, Wyoming MI 49509.  
**817 TD Bn**—Seeking Vernon & James Sheets (Idaho)—Raymond Banks, 116 Laurel Ave, Pittsburgh PA 11520.  
**Mitchell AFB, Long Island (early 1940s)**—Seeking Lou Grumundo—Anne Slusser, 547 E 450 S, Apt A, Clearfield UT 84015.  
**POW, Camp 59 (Italy), Sgt Pilot RCAF**—Seeking Larry Barlow—Neil Torrsell, Box 384, Sleepy Eye MN 56085.  
**42d Bomb Wing (Loring AFB, Maine, 1950s)**—Richard Green, 76 Quartercroft, Pyramid Close, Weston Faull, Northampton, England NN3 4DP.  
**USS Myles Crosby Fox DD819**—Seeking T Wells & McKenzie—R W Mothorpe, 3590 Lakeville Pk, Lakeville NY 14480.  
**Marine 16th AA Bn (Tinian & Okinawa, WWII)**—Seeking buddies, esp Jim Addinizio—Raymond Mariano, 324 Boston St, Oneida NY 13421.  
**USAF ISPA (Magenta AB, So Pac BA Com, Tontouta AB, New Caledonia)**—Seeking James Blake & James Higginbotham—Gerald Bray, 10331 Sageyork, Houston TX 77089.  
**428th MPEG (WWII, Europe)**—Seeking Thornton (OK), Clark (WV), others—Bruce Hezlep, 87 Settler Rd, South Portland ME 04106.  
**USS Battleship New Hampshire**—Frederick Egger, 119 Chapel St, Penn Yan, NY 14527.  
**Reims France (Sept-Nov. 1945) football team**—Seeking anyone who had anything to do with football team—Al Schenck, 25 Maple Ave, Lehigh Acres FL 33936.  
**HMM-164 MAG-16 1st MAW (Vietnam, 1968-70)**—Michael Triner, 608 W Belmont, #3E, Chicago IL 60657.  
**Indiantown Gap Military Reserve, PA, 5th Inf Div, 4th Pltn, Co F (Feb-June, 1952)**—Dick Tome, 1940 W 32nd St, Erie PA 16508.  
**27th Inf Rgt, Co L (WWII)**—Seeking Nathan Hamilton & Lyle Fenton—Sidney Curnutt, 602 S 2nd St, Maquoketa IA 52060.  
**QM School, Fort Lee VA**—Seeking Walter Dixon—Ed Bieganski, HC 75, Box 25A, Chadron NE 69337.  
**HQ, 10th AF**—Seeking Wesley Hymas—James Barth, Rt 4, Box 168, York NE 68467.

**746th Tank Bn (Belgium & Germany, WWII)**—Seeking James Turgerson, Sgts Mauld & Hodge—Norman Smith, 30 Tremont St, Apt 6C, Duxbury MA 02332.  
**565th SAW Bn, Co A (WWII)**—Seeking John Conn—Marion Rollins, 432 S Fordham, Aurora IL 60506.  
**USS Thomas Garfield DE**—Seeking crew members who rescued merchant seaman in Atlantic, 1945—Ken Thomas, 3000 Montana, Manhattan KS 66502.  
**USS Curtiss AV4 (1946-48)**—Seeking Paul Bergstrom (Chicago area)—Robert Desch, 6712 Johnston Pl Rd NE, Olympia WA 98506.  
**413th Sig Co (India, Okinawa)**—Seeking Jack Breneman & James Keegan—John Lefever, 130 SR 272 N, Stevens PA 17578.  
**USS Cimarron AO22 (1950-51)**—Joe Trotter & Callahan—William Rask, 8417 Russell Ln, Cleveland OH 44144.  
**HQ, 401st Bomb Grp, 11A**—Seeking M/Sgt Robert Adams—Lester Moyer, 9006 Symmes Knoll Ct, Loveland OH 45140.  
**USS Charger CVE30 (US Naval Hosp, Portsmouth VA)**—Seeking William Black & Benjamin McCafferty—William Elwell, 6711 McKinley St, Hollywood FL 33024.  
**Uniforms of 5 WWII veterans (Belgium)**—Seeking Jacob Goldman, J Vyhelzi, Paul Lane, Eugene Nissen, Roy Watts to return clothing to—Tom Peters, Box 582, Lansing IA 52151.  
**36th Div, 36th Recon Trp**—Seeking Capt McNett—Leter Terry, 16601 N 29th St, Sp 41, Phoenix AZ 85032.  
**1876th Engr Avn Bn (WWII, 1943-46)**—Frank Flinn, 5509 Boots Ave, No Charleston SC 29418.  
**Intelligence Det (Giessen & Frankfurt Germany)**—Seeking Andrew Dutkanych—Ed Bieganski, HC 75, Box 25A, Chadron NE 69337.  
**40th Div, 222d FA Bn (WWII)**—John Gorman, 16 Carleton Ct, Glens Falls NY 12801.  
**Ammunition Loading Detail (Italy, 1945-46)**—Seeking Donald Jessen (IA) & Richard Spitzer (MI)—Bert Hastings, 1748 N Oak Park Ave, Chicago IL 60635.  
**USS Winston AKA 94 (WWII)**—Seeking Clay Colburn & A L Kobuszewski—Blaine Sowers, 6517 Schlatter Rd, Leo IN 46765.  
**7811 Sta Complement Unit, Cos A/B/C (Frankfurt Germany, 1948-53)**—Robert Smith, 2564 Mona Ave, Charleston SC 29414.  
**Cmdr 7th Fleet (Flag)**—Seeking Sam Weatherly & Lovette Ennis—Clarence Wills, 11415 S Lawndale Ave, Chicago IL 60655.  
**IX Corps, 88th Inf Bn, Heavy Mortar, 1st Sqdn, Co A (Korea, 1954-55)**—Seeking Bernard Conway, Donald Olds, others—Worthy Williams, 5201 N Dort Hwy, Flint MI 48505.  
**USS LCI (G) 450**—Seeking Elmer Folk, Joe Duran—Leonard Rochon, 21191 Wilmont, Belleville MI 48111.  
**24th Inf Div, 11th/13th/52d & 63d FA Bns**—Robert Johnson, 24 Whipple St, Somerville MA 02144.  
**695th AAA MG Btry, Sep A/B (WWII)**—Seeking David Nichols & William Sexton—Robert Changnon, 227 Olentangy View Dr, Delaware OH 43015.  
**10th Armd Div, 132d Ord, Co B (WWII)**—Seeking Maj Daniel Marshall & Capt James Swift—Arthur Corbus, 5704 11th Ave NW, Seattle WA 98107.  
**28th Div, 110th Inf, Co A**—Seeking Wilbur Sell—Arthur Coon, 2480 Brookside Way, Carson City NV 89701.  
**Gunnery School (Air Corps) (Yuma AZ, 1944)**—Seeking David Valuska—J E Wells, 134 Gayden Dr, Pineville LA 71360.  
**US Naval Support Activity 90.7 (Sa Dec Republic of South Vietnam) (July 1968-69)**—James Metzger, 3420 Falcon St, #111, Pomona CA 91767.  
**28th Photo Recon Sqdn**—Eugene Jerz—Chester Matuszak, 5397 Shimerville Rd, Clarence NY 14031.  
**USS Columbia (1942-45)**—Seeking crew members 1942-45—Curtis Shinn, POB 7386, Port St Lucie FL 34985.  
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**USS Hanna DE449**—George Kovacs, 2629 McCord Rd N, Toledo OH 43615.  
**Fleet Air Wing 17, Black Cats (Patsu 17-1 & 17-2)**—Harry Carroll, 1846 Herrick NE, Grand Rapids MI 49505.  
**APD 88**—Seeking D J Picorello & A M Lambert—Stanley Adams, 11450 Old St Charles Rd, Bridgeton MO 63044.  
**USS LST 23 (WWII) (1945-46)**—Raymond McMahon, 1715 N Taylor, Grand Island NE 68803.  
**959 ABS Bn, Co A (WWII, Iceland)**—Seeking John Alvis—H L Bennett, Rt 3, Box 20, Grenada MS 39001.  
**USS APC37 (Apr. 1944-Jan. 1946)**—Louis Pasquale, 10 Peach St, Fairchance PA 15436.  
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**WAR BEGINS**

*continued from page 23*

At the center, I witnessed the frustration of Ron Baum, a young field worker from the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) who administers the U.S. relief program to the Freedom Fighters in Costa Rica. He struggles on a week-to-week basis trying to balance accounts and provide limited provisions to sustain a small band of fighters desperately struggling to get well and return to Nicaragua. Unless Congress takes action soon, U.S. humanitarian aid to these Freedom Fighters will stop in a few weeks.

**H**ere at home, in January we inaugurated our 41st President and began the 101st Congress. One of the toughest issues facing both the Administration and Congress remains U.S. policy in Central America.

Last year, Cuba and Soviet Bloc nations poured \$350 million in arms and equipment into Nicaragua to

bolster the Sandinista regime. What is disturbing to me is that last year, out of a worldwide \$4.5 billion Security Assistance Program, the United States provided only \$132 million in military assistance to Central America — El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

Broken down, the U.S. Security Assistance Program in 1988 was \$4.5 billion. Of those funds, 94% was provided largely to Egypt and Israel, with a little to Turkey, Greece and countries with which the U.S. has base rights. The remaining 6% or \$268 million was divided among all of Africa and South and Central America.

In the past five years, U.S. policy in Central America has sought to provide social, economic and political development coupled with security. At the same time, however, we have witnessed Congressional and Administration in-fighting while the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua continues to consolidate its position.

Last August, at the 89th VFW

**ENGLISH**

*continued from page 24*

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As for bilingual education, Secretary of Education Lauro F. Cavazos remains fully committed to bilingual education, although he maintains that "official" English is not an educational matter.

The VFW also believes that bilingual education should continue but be limited to a suitable transition period. It would seem logical that bilingual education could and should be phased out as the students' abilities with English increase.

After all, the ability to speak more than one language is something to be desired, not avoided. Generally speaking, students who are fluent in two or more languages tend to do better in school than students who speak only one. Nor is a new language considered a threat to the identity of a person or a culture.

It is not the intent of the VFW resolution, nor the various Official

Language Acts passed by the several states, to cause hardship for non-English speaking people in this country. True, it may seem harsh and prejudicial to those who have recently come to this country and speak little or no English, but is it really? No, it is not. In reality, requiring the new immigrants to learn English will, in the long run, help them assimilate into the mainstream of American life.

Neither is establishing English as the official language merely a means of increasing racism and strengthening prejudices, as some opponents have suggested. It is a way to eliminate them, however.

Again, Dr. Hayakawa, "As we who are the children and grandchildren of immigrants have become assimilated, the prejudices against the 'damned Dagoes,' the 'dumb Polacks,' the 'shanty Irish,' against 'Chinky-chinky Chinamen,' and the 'sly Jap'

National Convention, our organization mandated by resolution that we urge the Congress and the Administration to face up to the expanding threat to our security and the stability of the Central American nations.

The threat of Communist expansion from Nicaragua remains a real threat to the struggling democratic nations of Central America. We must, for our own security and the stability of the region, have Congress develop a new longterm, bipartisan foreign policy that will provide economic and military aid to the friendly nations of Central America.

In order to keep the Sandinistas at the negotiating table and in order to keep the peace talks alive, we must urge Congress to continue to provide humanitarian aid to the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters. ■

*(Next month, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Hogan will discuss his fact-finding mission to the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.)*

dissolve into distant memories to appear no more — not even in comic strips." The key word here is "assimilated."

The need for new arrivals to learn English helped them to become familiar with the ins and outs of life in America. The ability to speak, write and understand English helped them feel that they were no longer "outsiders" but were, in fact, a part of the American scene. This "I belong" feeling made it easier for them to expand out of the ethnic neighborhoods that were somewhere between a trap and a haven for the new immigrant and enter into the mainstream. ■

*The writer is director of VFW Americansim and Community Activities programs.*

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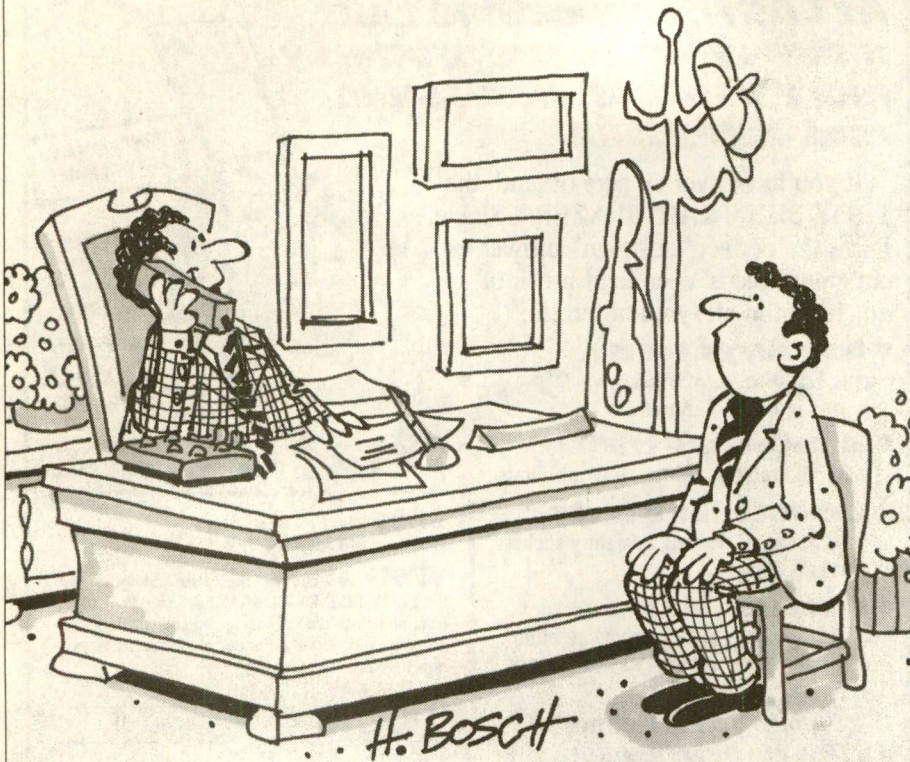
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**A small boy** asked his mother, "Why can't I go play golf with my Dad? I already know most of the words."

**The only** time people unite in brotherhood is when a major catastrophe happens, that we call an Act of God.

**Never** put off till tomorrow what you can ignore completely.

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**Tolerance** is based on courtesy, respect, and the suspicion that the other fellow may be right.

**A friend** is somebody who sees through you and still sees you through.

**The paratrooper** was almost out of the plane on his first jump when he lost his nerve. The jump master tried everything to get him out of the plane, and finally began calling the young man every name in the book.

"Hey," the trooper said, "You can't talk to me that way!"

"Oh yeah?" said the grizzled sergeant. "You wanna step outside and discuss it?"

**Being** a procrastinator means never having to say, "I've done it."

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**It is said** that the three most difficult times of life are being a teenager, being the parent of a teenager, and trying to teach a teenager.

**A balloon** goes up when filled with hot air. What holds some people down?

**Humility** is being inconspicuous by your presence.

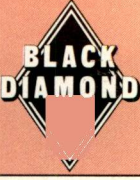


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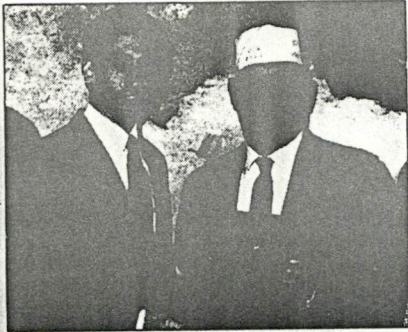


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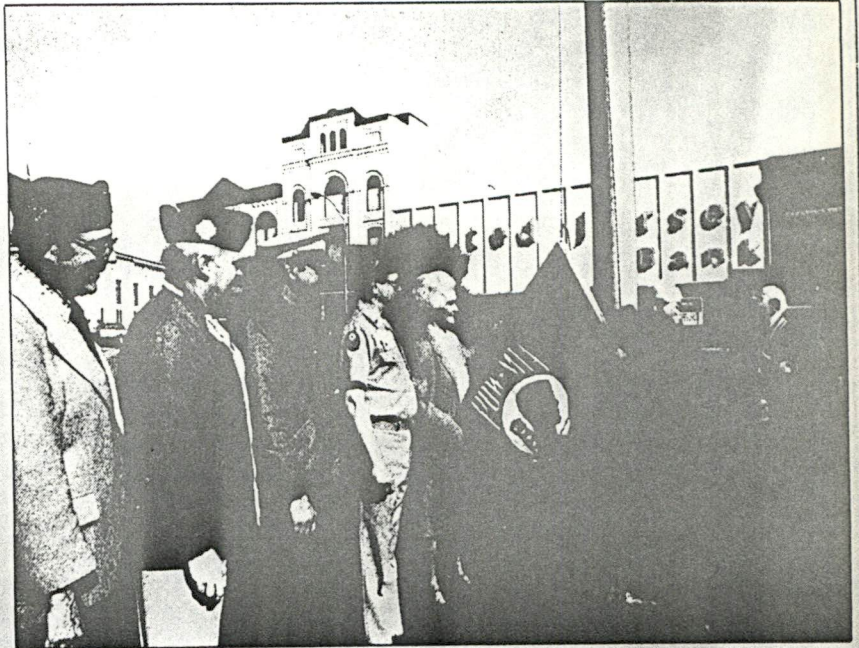
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**J**ohn Reilly, manager of communications and community relations for IBM, Kingston, N.Y., accepts a plaque on behalf of the company from Commander Herb Poppel, of Post 8959, for making work-related accommodations for its handicapped employees.



**P**ost 227 presents a POW/MIA flag to Rutherford, N.J., where it will be displayed in Station Square 24 hours a day. Mayor Barbara Chadwick accepts the flag from Councilman Andy Bertone, who also is a Post member.

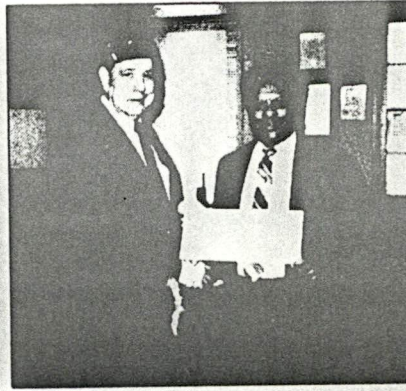
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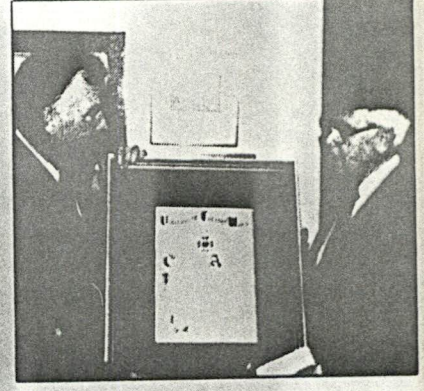
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**D**uring a recent visit to California, Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab, right, presented a \$1,000 check on behalf of California's District 1 to the St. Vincent de Paul Shelter, a temporary refuge for the homeless. With him are Department Commander Frank Borrello, District Commander Frank Sutil and Sr. Pat.



**C**ommander Russell H. Villwock, of Post 3579, Park Ridge, Ill., presents a \$500 check to Paul Sandford, director of the West Side VA hospital, for recreational equipment. It was one of four \$500 donations to VA hospitals in the area.



**S**en. Frank Murkowski, ranking minority member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, receives the VFW Certificate of Appreciation from Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office, for Murkowski's leadership and support in Congress for veterans' legislation.

ization of National Ex-Servicemen and Women, Anthony Stack, voiced his desire to form a world organization of veterans.

A highlight of the Convention's first morning was the presentation of her national first place Voice of Democracy winning essay by Elaine Barnett, of Fresno, Calif. The 1986-87 subject was "The Challenge of American Citizenship."

As Supreme Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie, James (Pat) Patterson pledged the support of his organization to VFW programs during the 1987-88 year and reviewed the Cooties' achievements in 1986-87.

The News Media Award, accepted for C-SPAN by its chairman, Brian Lamb, included a \$1,000 check for the C-SPAN educational fund. Staab praised C-SPAN for bringing sessions of Congress to the American people by cable television.

Col. William Ryan, Jr., of the American Battle Monuments Commission, joined Staab and Mrs. Mazer at the podium to accept a check for \$200,000 from the VFW and one for \$43,373 from the Ladies Auxiliary for the erection of the \$6 million projected Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington. Thanking them, Ryan said these gifts were the first contribution the agency had received for the monument from any veterans' organization. He added that \$3.5 million is needed.

Actor George Kennedy received the VFW Gold Medal of Merit and Citation for his dedication to air safety. "Stand tall," Kennedy said. "You are the best. Keep pulling our country together."

Recipient of the VFW Hall of Fame Award, Eddie Robinson, Grambling State University coach with a string of 224 victories to his credit, said the award "is of great significance because it comes from you, the VFW." He warned that drug abuse is one of the most dangerous threats to the country and a great effort is needed to combat it, especially among the nation's youth.

Sam Martinez, of the Adolph Coors Co., presented to Staab a painting by George Skypeck depicting the history of the VFW as part of the Coors collection of military art.

This year's Americanism Award went to Paul A. Volcker, former Federal Reserve System chairman. He called for VFW assistance in improving the quality of government employees. "Expertise and talent have declined over

the years," he said.

In the evening at the Distinguished Guests Dinner at the Hilton, Kelly Foxtan, a country and western star, entertained the banqueters, and two major awards were presented. The Aviation and Space Award went to Richard Rutan and Jeana Yeager, pilots of the Voyager, the first aircraft to girdle the globe without being refueled, and the Dwight David Eisenhower Award and Citation went to retired Army Gen. Bernard W. Rogers, former commander of NATO.

Rutan said that "Americans have always had a sense of adventure, and if this fades away and we accept the status quo, the country will fade away."

Accepting his award, Gen. Rogers said, "It is a pleasure to be among veterans. You have paid the ultimate price for being citizens. You answered the call . . .

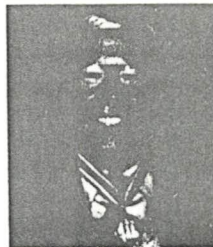
"The United States has accepted the global responsibility to protect democracy and the West. NATO is the greatest peace movement the world has ever known."

Tuesday,  
August 18

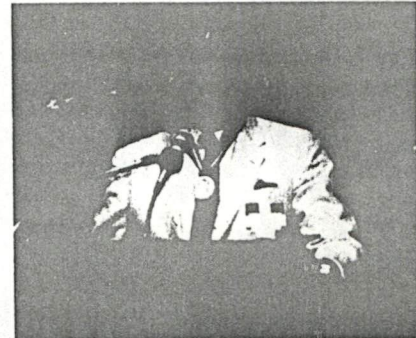
For the meeting of Aug. 18, the delegates returned to the Rivergate, where Vice President George Bush addressed a joint session with the Ladies Auxiliary.

Before that, however, veterans' issues were the principal concern, for delegates heard from Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery (Miss.), who chairs the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage. In addition, Jim Clay, a veterans employment representative in northern Kentucky, received the VFW Certificate of Commendation for his cable television programs of news, interviews and commentary called "For Veterans Only," and Past Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum was awarded the VFW Distinguished Service Medal and Citation for his work on behalf of the organization.

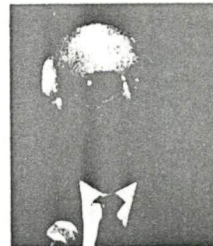
Reviewing accomplishments of his committee, Montgomery said it has passed bills to raise the VA and its



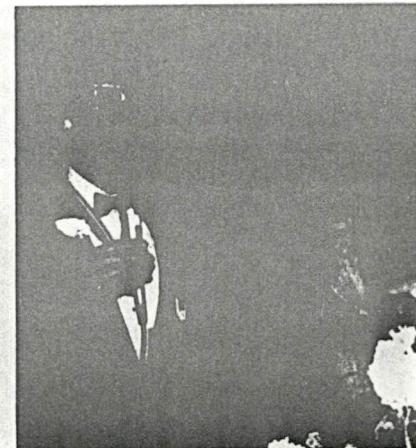
George Kennedy



Eddie G. Robinson



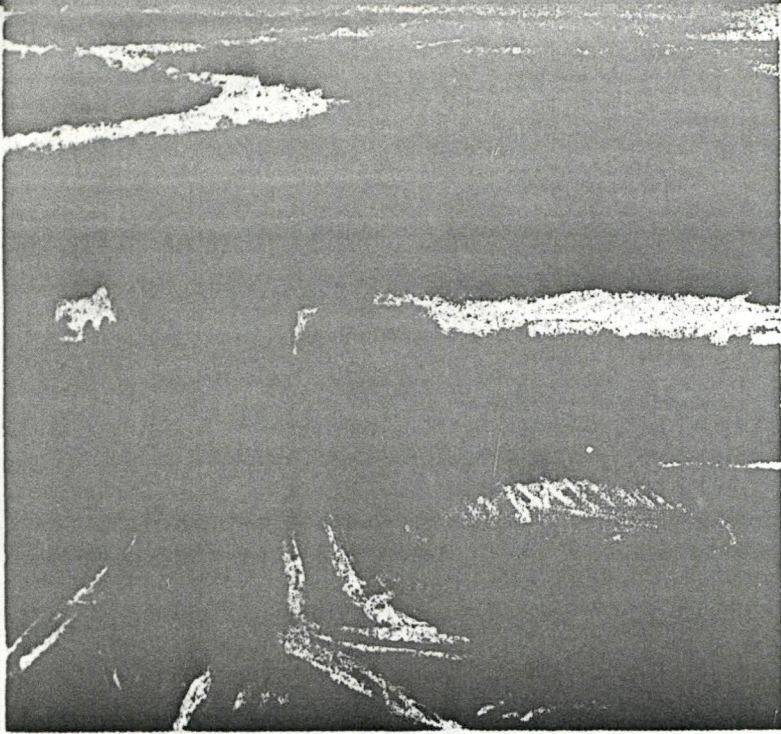
Paul A. Volcker



Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager



Bernard W. Rogers



FOR  
**AMERICA,**  
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## Action Was Convention Keynote

**A**ction, inspiration and dedication sum up the 88th National Convention, as delegates made their views known during debates on resolutions, speakers shared their opinions with VFW members and all pledged to make 1987-88 a banner year.  
Monday,  
August 17

From the moment Chairman Joseph Guidry, Sr., banged down the gavel on Aug. 17 at the Joint Opening Session in the Rivergate in New Orleans to the closing ceremonies at the New Orleans Hilton, each day was a major event.

Mayor Sidney J. Barthelemy welcomed the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary, and Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., Louisiana adjutant general, brought greetings from Gov. Edwin Edwards.

Then Guidry turned over the gavel to Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab who announced that the VFW had recorded its 32nd consecutive year of membership gain to swell the total to well over 2 million.

Staab introduced Rep. Lindy (Mrs. Hale) Boggs (La.), who thanked the VFW for the assistance it provides members of the House of Representatives and the Senate as they delib-

erate veterans' legislation.

One of Staab's fellow Kansans and VFW Life Member, Gov. Mike Hayden told the delegates of the pride the state takes in its veterans "who learned through service to their country the skills of strong leadership and courage." Among them, he said, are Sen. Bob Dole, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Staab.

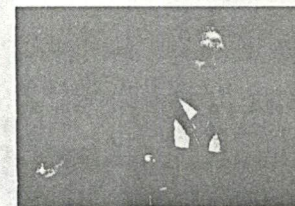
After Staab awarded Auxiliary National President Rosemary Mazer the VFW Gold Medal of Merit and Citation, she introduced Auxiliary National Patriotic Instructor Audrey Creel who presented flag sets to Barthelemy and to Stroud for Gov. Edwards.

Representatives of the Republic of Korea and the Republic of China on Taiwan were introduced by Staab. Gen. Chang Kuo-Ying, chairman of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, said the Nationalist Chinese veterans and members of the VFW have fought totalitarian aggression and are still defending freedom. Gen. Seok Chu Paik, president of the Korean Veterans Association, thanked the VFW and the U.S. for the support they have given to Korean security.

A representative of the Irish Organ-



Rep. Lindy (Mrs. Hale) Boggs



Brian Lamb



Col. William E. Ryan, Jr.

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administrator to cabinet level and legislation to compensate American veterans who suffered from the effects of radiation when they served in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and in atomic tests after the war.

He also said he has contacted the Philippines government, the American Battle Monuments Commission and the State Department about restoring and maintaining Corregidor Island, where American troops resisted Japanese assaults from Dec. 26, 1941, to May 6, 1942, before finally surrendering under orders.

Turnage, after presenting an award to Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office, deplored criticism of the VA medical system for the sake of criticism because it strengthens the arguments of forces in the country that would do away with the program altogether.

"It seems to me that positive, cooperative efforts make better avenues on which we can drive forward together . . . Building confidence in our system, because that's surely our most effective road to gaining the public support we both want," he said.

Despite the drive to reduce the federal deficit, the VA has been appropriated enough money to do a good job, he continued. For the next fiscal year, the VA proposed budget is the largest in the agency's history, up more than \$500 million over the current funding level.

Secretary of Education William J. Bennett, who received the VFW James E. Van Zandt Citizenship Award, called for improved teaching of history in the nation's schools.

"We have no choice but to teach our children what our brave men and women have done for freedom," he said, and recalled that in California a student asked him if he really believed the United States is better than the Soviet Union.

Bennett said he did and explained to her that people are clambering to enter the U.S., but the reverse is true of the Soviet Union, which many want to leave. He said he calls this the "gateway test," of which the Berlin Wall is an example.

Speeches by Rep. Richard Gephardt (Mo.), seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, and Vice President George Bush concluded the Aug. 18 session.

Several thousand spectators — many of them tourists drawn to New

Orleans for vacations—lined Canal Street in the evening of Aug. 18 for the annual hours-long Military Parade that concluded near the reviewing stand at the Rivergate. Commander R.V. (Bubba) Martin, of the Department of Louisiana, was parade chairman, while Rear Adm. Tommie F. Rinard was grand marshal.

**Wednesday,  
August 19**

The session of Aug. 19 got off to a quick start with a discussion of Resolution 202 that would gradually phase out the VFW National Home at Eaton Rapids, Mich., because of the expense, alternate means of child care available and the trend toward allowing children to remain in their home communities.

Past Commander-in-Chief Arthur J. Fellwock, who chaired the Finance

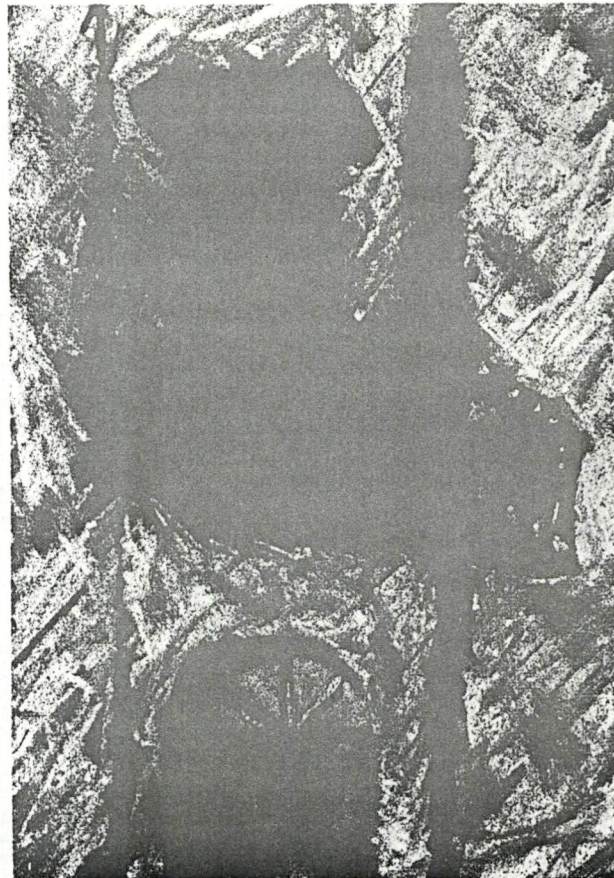
and Internal Organization Committee that reviewed the resolution, said the VFW wants to expand child care to other states, not curtail it.

He suggested providing children who would be sent to the Home but would stay in their own communities instead with grants of \$200 a month and \$100 at Christmas.

Fellwock also said that 33 Departments voted to adopt Resolution 202 while 13 Departments voted in their conventions to support Resolution 203 that would continue the Home. In addition, he added that the committee voted 102 to 25 to support Resolution 202.

Several speakers, including Past Commander-in-Chief John Wasyluk, rose to urge retention of the VFW National Home, as did Paul Savage, president of the Home's Board of

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Trustees, who called the institution a "living, breathing memorial to those who gave their lives."

A motion to table Resolution 202 was passed after several impassioned pleas, and in effect, finally killed it. The Home won a reprieve at least for another year.

In between the debate over the VFW National Home, several speakers appeared, among them Sen. Robert Dole (Kans.), a prospective Republican presidential candidate; John O'Brien, president of Grumman Corp.; Adm. Paul A. Yost, Jr., commandant of the Coast Guard, recipient of the VFW Armed Forces Award; Minneapolis Police Sgt. Michael J. Ganley, this year's VFW J. Edgar Hoover Award winner, and Jack Han, representing H.W. Baik, president of Hyundai Motor America, contributor of \$1 million toward the construction of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and recipient of the VFW Gold Medal of Merit.

Past Commander-in-Chief Richard L. Roudebush presented a \$2,000 check to Staab for the VFW and the incoming Commander-in-Chief for any program he directs. The \$2,000 was from Roudebush and Veterans Life Insurance Co., which he represents.

O'Brien, whose company recently was awarded a major contract by NASA for a space station, said, "I believe NASA's permanently manned orbiting space station is the next logical platform in mankind's evolving process of discovery."

Although space has lost its importance on the national agenda in recent years, O'Brien said that "in a world of diminishing resources, space is the environment where we have to adapt."

"Space is the next frontier, and we will have to go there," he added. O'Brien said the \$15 billion permanently manned orbiting space station "will serve all mankind" and will represent unprecedented cooperation among government, academia and business.

In accepting the Coast Guard's award, Yost said it "represents a war on drugs, and the United States Coast Guard is deeply involved on a day-to-day basis in the war against cocaine and the other drugs that are undermining this country's patriotism, its youth and destroying the institutions of our friends in South America and elsewhere."

Han said the Hyundai gift represented Koreans and Americans work-

ing together since some of the \$1 million was contributed by dealers and their employees.

"Without the Korean veterans, we would not have the way of life we have today," he said. "We have to honor them, your country and mine. All my countrymen know what went on during the Korean War, and we have been able to build a better way of life for all our people."

Thursday,  
August 20

Two longtime VFW employees were honored with Distinguished Service Medals at the Aug. 20 session. They were Elmer Rafiner, retired National Headquarters General Services director, and Barney M. Aldridge, who retired recently as Department of Kansas Adjutant-Quartermaster.

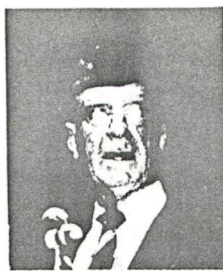
Highlight of the session, however,

was the visit of the National Home representatives to thank the delegates for their vote tabling Resolution 202.

"The VFW National Home is a nice place to live," 11-year-old Tom McCray, a resident of the Florida Cottage and 1987-88 Buddy Poppy boy, told the delegates. "And it is all because of you. You are the National Home. Thank you, comrades, for keeping the Home open."

Savage said many improvements have been made in the Home in the last few years and invited delegates to visit it whenever they are in the Eaton Rapids area.

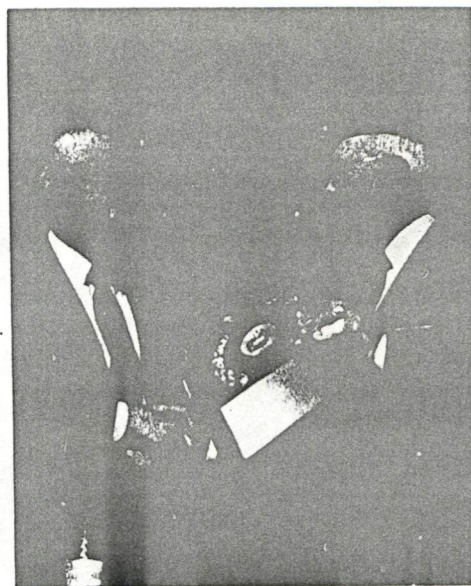
"Thank you for the support you have given us, and now business can go on as usual," he continued. "If there is anything you don't understand, write us and we will explain everything you want to know."



Rep. G. V. Montgomery

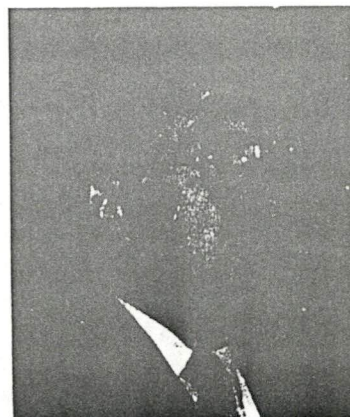


William J. Bennett

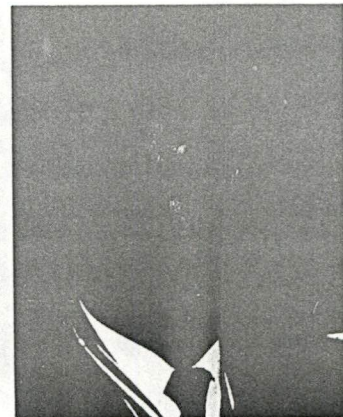


Thomas K. Turnage

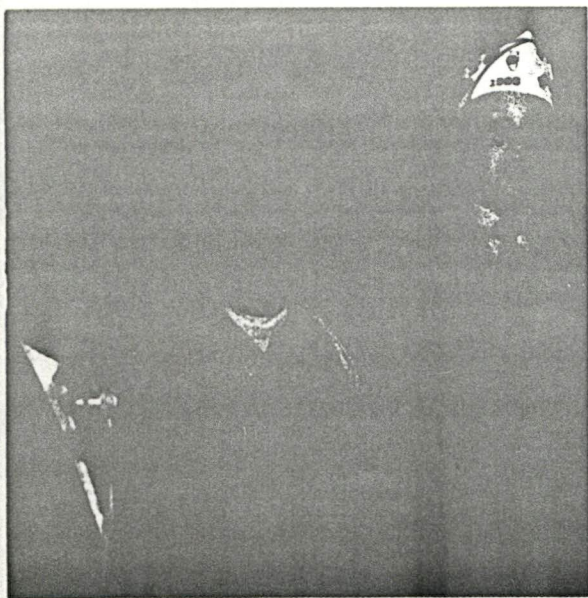
Cooper T. Holt



John O'Brien



Jack Han



Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab listens to 11-year-old Tom McCray, this year's Buddy Poppy boy.

Theodore Wilson, Home executive director, said the current services will be used as a core for further development, but any change boils down to the question of whether it is right for the children because the Home is right for children. "We appreciate your support and good wishes," he added.

Mrs. Mazer, accompanied by a delegation from the Ladies Auxiliary holding its National Convention at the Marriott Hotel, expressed her thanks to Staab for his and the VFW's cooperation with the Auxiliary over the past year and presented him with a flag set.

Retired Army Gen. Alexander M. Haig told delegates the U.S. needs a president "who is in charge." A former commander of NATO and secretary of state, he is seeking the Republican presidential nomination.

Adolfo Calero, a leader of anti-Sandinista Nicaraguans, asked delegates who favored continued aid to the Contras to stand. So many did that Calero did not ask opponents to rise.

Diane Carlson Evans, director of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, said approximately a third of the cost has been raised to erect the \$1 million proposed statue of a woman at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. If approval of the Fine Arts Commission is granted, the statue will be dedicated on Veterans Day

next year, she said.

"By its support, the VFW has let the world know the women who served have not been forgotten," she said.

Nominated as officers for 1987-88 were Earl L. Stock, Jr., for Commander-in-Chief, Larry W. Rivers for Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Walter Hogan for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, James Lund for Judge Advocate General, Dr. Philip Begley for Surgeon General and Bishop Boyd Winterton for National Chaplain. Nominated for reelection as Quartermaster General was Herbert W. Irwin.

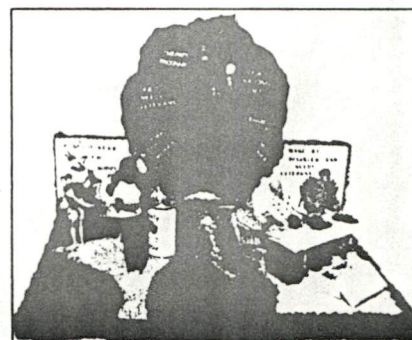
Friday,  
August 21

All were elected unanimously on Aug. 21. Commander-in-Chief Stock was sworn in by Past Commanders-in-Chief Clyde Lewis and Joseph Lombardo, both New Yorkers as is Stock. All the other newly-elected officers and members of the National Council of Administration also were given their oath of office on the Convention's last day.

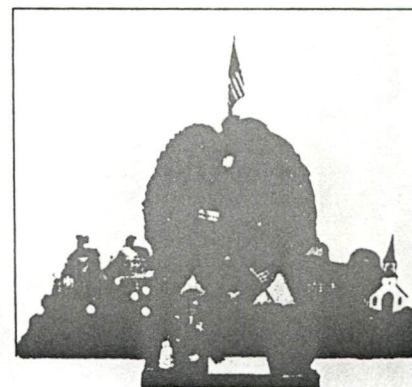
Reappointed were Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., and Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office, and Paul E. Wampler, Jr., was named National Chief of Staff and Peter E. Olson Inspector General.

The 89th National Convention will be held in Chicago. ■

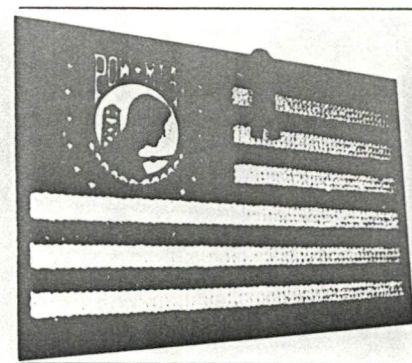
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  - BRONZE STAR
  - CHINA SERVICE (N, M/C, C/G)
  - DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
  - EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-M.E., CAMPAIGN
  - KOREAN SERVICE
  - MARINE GOOD CONDUCT
  - NAVY COMMENDATION
  - NAVY GOOD CONDUCT
  - NAVY & MARINE CORPS MEDAL
  - NAVY RESERVE MEDAL
  - NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE
  - PHILIPPINE LIBERATION
  - PURPLE HEART
  - REP. VIETNAM CPGN/YEAR BAR
  - SILVER STAR
  - UNITED NATIONS SERVICE
  - VIETNAM SERVICE
  - WORLD WAR II OCCUPATION (Specify Branch)
  - WORLD WAR II VICTORY

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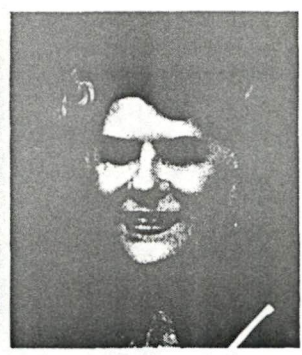
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Mrs. Joan Katkus

## Auxiliary's New High

Registration reached a new high of 6,432 at the 74th National Convention when New Orleans played host for the fifth time since World War II to the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Those in attendance met two scholarship winners, two TV stars, a former Miss America and the 11-year old Buddy Poppy boy, Tom McCray, who charmed his listeners with his eloquent comments.

The Voice of Democracy first place national winner, Elaine Barnett, of Fresno, Calif., gave her winning speech at the Joint Opening Session, and members were equally proud to meet the Outstanding Junior Girl, Karen Dombeck, of Guernsey, Wyo.

National President Rosemary Mazer presented former Miss America, Jacquelyn Townsend, with the 1987 Unsung Heroine Award for her courage and willingness to help others. In 1970, at 28, she suffered a stroke which paralyzed the right side of her body. It took her several years to relearn how to speak, walk, tie her shoes and do other things most persons take for granted, but you would never know it now, as she travels around the country as a motivational speaker sharing her courage with other stroke victims.

Also honored at the convention was actress Jill Jacobson, who received the Caring American Award for serving as a National Spokeswoman with the American Cancer Society. For this, she accepted a \$5,000 contribution designated for educational materials. She played Miss Jones

on "Falcon Crest" and has starred in several other TV shows.

Receiving the Spirit of Hope and Freedom Award, named for National President Mazer's theme, was Heidi Bohay, who played Megan Kendall on the TV series "Hotel." She was honored for her work with several charities, particularly the March of Dimes. She has served as a "Walk America Ambassador" and co-host of its TV telethon. The \$2,000 accompanying the award was designated for the March of Dimes.

Dr. Edward Kremetz also attended the convention to accept the Auxiliary's \$5,000 contribution to Tulane University Medical Center for cancer research.

In addition to meeting the many special guests, delegates also celebrated the outstanding accomplishments of the past year. At the top of the list was the record-breaking membership of 745,210 achieved during 1986-87, the 32nd consecutive year of membership growth. Adding to that record growth was the increase in the number of Auxiliaries to 7,120, up 26 over last year.

This was also the third consecutive year that donations for the Cancer Aid and Research program surpassed \$2.5 million and the sixth year that contributions topped \$2 million.

Members gave a total of \$219,000 to the renovation of the Statue of Liberty, with \$29,000 donated during 1986-87. Auxiliaries sold more than 6 million Buddy Poppies to help needy veterans, and 158,845 volunteers served 3,754,373 hours through the Hospital and Veterans Administration Voluntary Service program. **In all, members volunteered 19 million hours and contributed \$27 million conducting patriotic and community service programs during the past year.**

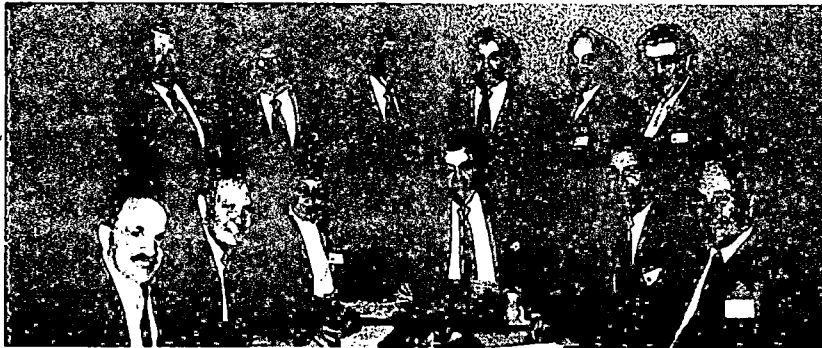
On Friday, Aug. 21, Joan Katkus, of Alaska, was elected National President and, along with the other National Officers, was installed by Past Commander-in-Chief Bob Currieo of Arizona.

Other National Line Officers elected were Sr. Vice President Mona Longly, of Lexington, Neb.; Jr. Vice President Alice Hutto, of Swansea, S.C.; Secretary-Treasurer Glenn Grossman, of Kansas City, Mo.; Chaplain Frances Booth, of Cape Elizabeth, Maine; Conductress Mary Sears, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Guard Maye Vontin, of Virginia, Minn.

## 1987-88 Plans Are Firm

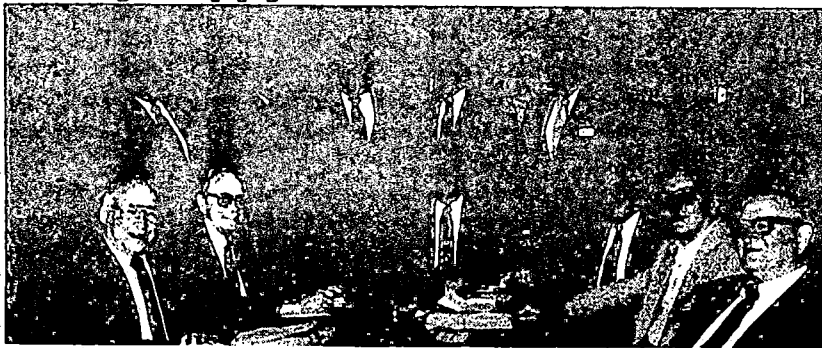
Shortly after the 88th National Convention in New Orleans, national committees met in Kansas City and Washington, D.C., to set goals and firm up plans for the leadership year. On these pages

### Americanism



Seated: Frank Borello and C.C. Blankinship, Vice Chairmen; Rena Nunn, Ladies Auxiliary National Americanism Director; Raymond Price, National Director; Paul Phillips, Chairman, and Michael J. Mason, Vice Chairman. Not shown, Moe Panell, Vice Chairman. Standing: National Chief of Staff Paul E. Wampler, Inspector Gen. Peter E. Olson, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter Hogan and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute.

### Buddy Poppy



Seated: James L. Kimery and Dwaine Wilson, Vice Chairmen; Dominic J. Romano, Chairman; Thomas L. Kissell, National Director; T. William Bossidy and Robert C. Jordan, Vice Chairmen. Standing: National Chief of Staff Paul E. Wampler, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter Hogan, Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute.

### Community Activities



Seated: John A. Lutz and George S. Smith, Vice Chairmen; Rosalie Fabio, Ladies Auxiliary National Community Activities Director; Raymond Price, National Director; Al Gordon, Chairman, and William Nelson and Charles Godke, Vice Chairmen. Standing: National Chief of Staff Paul E. Wampler, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter Hogan, Inspector Gen. Peter E. Olson and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute.

whom Stock presented the VFW James E. Van Zandt Citizenship Award. "Freedom," he said, "has made the United States the greatest country in the world . . . Let's pray that freedom will be the inheritance of our children and our children's children."

Frederick W. Speer, of the Department of Europe, gave his 1988 Voice of Democracy first place oration on "America's Liberty: Our Challenge."

As recipient from Stock of the VFW Americanism Award, Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh recalled that 40 years ago during the VFW National Convention, the American people helped preserve freedom for the people of Berlin when the Soviets blockaded the city.

"In one of the greatest episodes in the history of freedom, the Berlin Airlift was launched . . . Just over a year later, the blockade was lifted. Berlin was saved."

Now, 40 years later, he continued, tension is eased between the U.S. and the Soviet Union because of this country's commitment to a strong defense and the modernization of its forces.

"A strong defense is the key to a stable world environment where there is freedom," he said.

Highlight of the Joint Opening Session was the keynote speech of Vice President George Bush. His appearance as Republican Presidential candidate received increased attention because of allegations that his Vice Presidential running mate, Sen. Dan Quayle, of Indiana, had received preferential treatment to join the National Guard to avoid being drafted into the Army for Vietnam service.

Bush gave Quayle a ringing endorsement, declaring "he served honorably, didn't go to Canada, didn't burn his draft card, and he damned sure didn't burn the American Flag."

"Let his detractors cast the first stone," Bush added.

Pledging his support for a strong national defense, Bush reviewed the history of military weakness and how it has invited war, compared to the present situation where the fact of American strength is creating peace, easing the U.S.-Soviet tension, encouraging democracy on the Pacific rim and signing of the U.S.-Soviet INF Treaty.

He declared the policies his opponent, Gov. Michael Dukakis, of Massachusetts, supported, such as the nuclear freeze, would have locked in Soviet superiority, prevented deployment of Pershing missiles in Europe that convinced the Soviets "we were serious about having them remove their 1,000 SS-20 warheads at a time when we had zilch."

"I don't believe in making unilateral concessions to the Soviet Union or anyone else," Bush said. He also pledged he would be a President who "favors veterans — after all, I'm one of you."

"I know how we can start," he continued. "For about 25 years bills have been introduced in Congress to make the VA a full Cabinet department. I support having the VA at



my Cabinet table."

He also said veterans' preference in federal hiring would be strengthened in his administration; he would do everything possible to resolve the POW/MIA question; more for aging

veterans would be done; and Vietnam veterans would "get the services and treatment they need and deserve."

"Keeping the faith with veterans is not just a matter of trust — it's a pillar of a sound national security policy, and I am going to do it," he added.

At the Joint Opening Session also, Joseph O. Hansen, Past Department Commander of Maryland and a longtime supporter of the Voice of Democracy, was presented with the VFW Gold Medal of Merit for his services to the VFW. The latest was perpetuation of a sixth-place national scholarship for the Voice program.

Supreme Commander Albert S. Thomas, Jr., of the Military Order of the Cootie, reported to the delegates a \$10,750 contribution to VFW National Home-sponsored scholarships and 3,349 new VFW Life Members this year.

#### Distinguished Guests Banquet

In the evening, at the Distinguished Guests Banquet, Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr., retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and now President Reagan's special emissary to the Vietnamese on the POW/MIA issue, received from Stock the VFW Dwight David Eisenhower Distinguished Service Award; Mrs. Nancy Howser, widow of the late Kansas City Royals manager, Dick Howser, accepted the posthumous Hall of Fame Award on his behalf; Stock and Mrs. Katkus presented Col. William E. Ryan, Jr., of the American Battle Monuments Commission, with \$101,400 and \$31,500, respectively, for their two organizations toward the construction of a memorial to Korean War veterans. This brings the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary total to \$252,815.

In accepting her husband's posthumous award, Mrs. Howser said of her husband, who led the Royals to their 1985 World Series victory over the Cardinals, "The final victory was his. He had faith in God. Now he is in your Hall of Fame, and he is in God's. Thank you and I love you for remembering my husband in this way."

Col. Ryan said the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary were the first veterans' organizations to make a major contribution. "You make me proud," he said, adding that so far \$2.260 million has been received out of the \$6 million needed for the Korean War memorial.

Vessey urged a strong national defense, recalling the U.S. weakness that led to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and this country's involvement in World War II and to the North Korean attack on South Korea on the assumption that perceived American weakness would prevent a U.S. response.



*"Mr. Danson is asking for a raise, Miss Welch. Would you call the weather service and check the temperature in Hell."*

**An inferiority** complex is any teenager who feels his parents are smarter than he is.

**The truly** creative ideas will always emerge after the deadline.

**O'Hare** handles 112 landings an hour, and one air traffic controller tracks 13 planes at once. Some call it hazardous congestion. We'd like to think of it as Chicago roulette.

**Education** is something you get when your father sends you to college. But it isn't complete until you send your own son.

**An excited** man called his wife. "I won! I won the lottery! Pack your clothes!"

"Great!" she says. "Summer or winter clothes?"

"All your clothes," says he. "I want you out by 6!"

**A small boy** asked his mother, "Why can't I go play golf with my Dad? I already know most of the words."

**The only** time people unite in brotherhood is when a major catastrophe happens, that we call an Act of God.

**Never** put off till tomorrow what you can ignore completely.

**Will truth** in packaging laws affect women's fashions?

**Tolerance** is based on courtesy, respect, and the suspicion that the other fellow may be right.

**A friend** is somebody who sees through you and still sees you through.

**The paratrooper** was almost out of the plane on his first jump when he lost his nerve. The jump master tried everything to get him out of the plane, and finally began calling the young man every name in the book.

"Hey," the trooper said, "You can't talk to me that way!"

"Oh yeah?" said the grizzled sergeant. "You wanna step outside and discuss it?"

**Being** a procrastinator means never having to say, "I've done it."

**Never** underestimate the power of stupid people in a group.

**The trade** deficit. The budget deficit. The Savings and Loan crisis. The falling dollar. Rising inflation. Crime. Pollution. George Bush just asked for a recount.

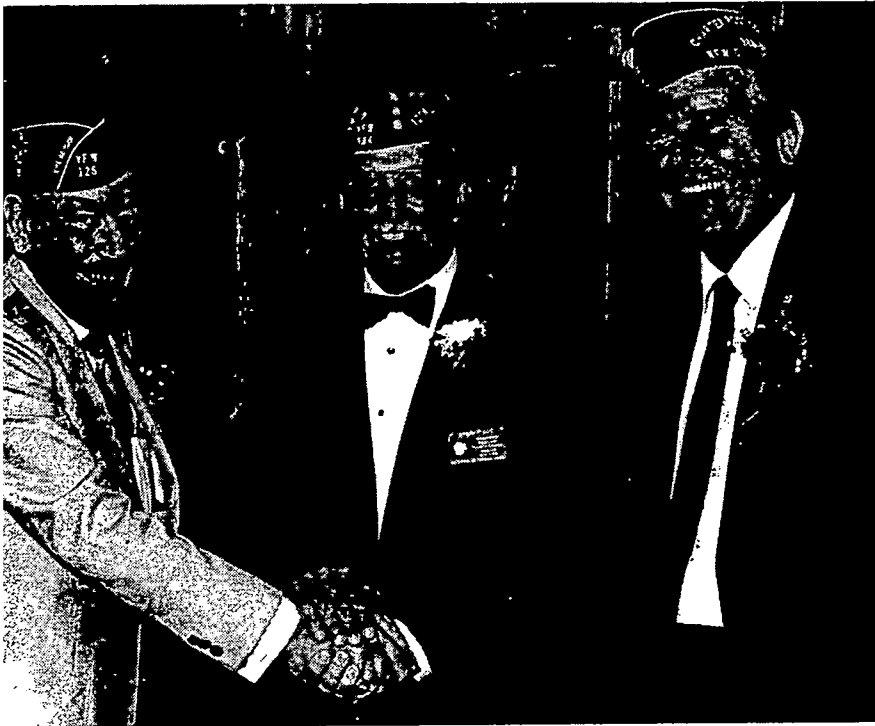
**It is said** that the three most difficult times of life are being a teenager, being the parent of a teenager, and trying to teach a teenager.

**A balloon** goes up when filled with hot air. What holds some people down?

**Humility** is being inconspicuous by your presence.



*"All I know is: I hit a hole in one on my first time out and he turned red, grasped his chest and fell over."*

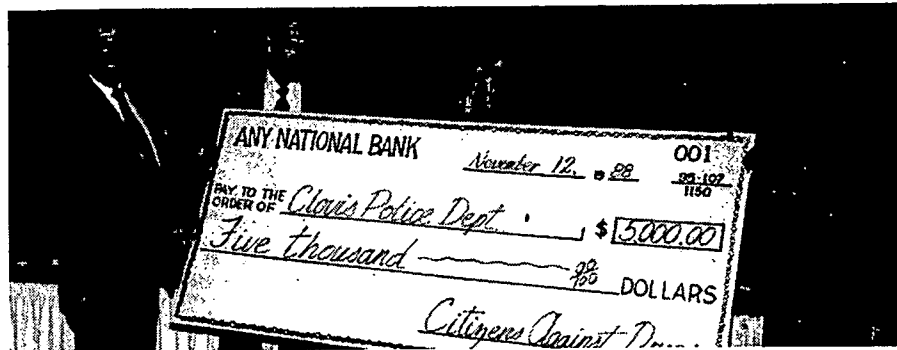


**R**ockland, N.Y., County Commander Jerry Lake, center, congratulates two charter Commanders, James McGuinness, left, of Post 126, West Nyack, and William Burke, of Post 851, Clarkstown, during the two Posts' double institution ceremony. This marked the first time in New York Department history that one man, Lake, organized two Posts in one day, July 7, 1988; applied for both Post charters on the same day, July 18, 1988; received approval of both Post applications on the same day, July 21, 1988, and held the institution and installation of officers on the same day, Oct. 2, 1988. More than 200 persons attended the event.



**C**ommander Don Eichelberger, of Post 4874, Piqua, Ohio, and Post OD Gary Wagner, present a posthumous POW Medal to Mrs. Mary Brown, widow of David Brown, a former POW in Germany and Post 4874 member who died in 1985. With her are her two sons.

his simulated check for \$5,000 represents the amount raised by Clovis, N.M., Joint Veterans Council through a walk-a-thon" for a new narcotics dog for the police department. Holding the check are Police Chief Caleb Huggins, Carrol Huggins, Post 3280 member and walk-a-thon" chairman, and Alice Huggins, co-chairman.



**P**ost 3541, Sterling, Colo., honored these seven surviving World War I veterans on Veterans Day. They are, seated, Earl D. Franklin, Sr.; Mike Campbell, William Sincock and Roy Walker, and, standing, Truman Lunderback, Glenn Morris and Jay Beemer. Beemer at 99 is the oldest, while the others range in age from 94 to 92. Commander Ivo M. Foxhoven presided at the ceremonies.

### No Korean Combat Pay

Although the Combat Duty Act of 1952 authorized payment of combat pay, the Barring Act, 31 United States Code, Section 71, states that unless claims are received within six years from the date the claim first accrued, they are barred from consideration. Therefore, payment of any claim for combat pay accrued during the Korean conflict would be disallowed because of the Barring Act. — *Mary L. Harden, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Army Finance and Accounting Center, Indianapolis, Ind. 46249-0001.*

### 'War and Remembrance'

Every veteran should boycott the remaining 12 hours of the ABC television network's "War and Remembrance" when shown in the spring. The \$110 million mini-series reminds everyone of the horrible Holocaust while portraying the U.S. Navy as criminals in the Pacific who gun down Japs swimming in the water. A more accurate story could have shown the death marches on Bataan and Corregidor. — *Gene Cordes, 1213 Las Brisas Dr., Daytona Beach, Fla. 32019.*

### Post Named for 66th Victim

Regarding "When Disaster Struck" (Dec.): My Post 5896 in Farmington, Mo., is named after Norman L. Rigdon, a man killed on the troopship Leopoldville and a member of the 66th Infantry Division. — *Rusty Carmichael, Double Star Ranch, RR 3, P.O. Box 3743, Farmington, Mo. 63640.*

### Polish Mission Recalled

In reference to "Memory Stronger Than Death" (Nov.), I find it necessary to comment because it touched me deeply and stirred my memories of that mission of so long ago. I didn't know Marcus Shook or James Christy or the rest of his crew. By researching some of my old records, I find Marcus Shook and James Christy were assigned to the 568th Bomb Sqdn., 390th Bomb Group (H). I was assigned to the 570th Bomb Sqdn., 390th Bomb Group at Station 153, Framlingham, England. Somewhere in that same

briefing room, Marcus Shook and James Christy and his crew were being briefed on that mission to Poland to drop much needed supplies to help fight off the German forces that were plaguing the anti-Communist and anti-Nazi Polish Home Army Forces in their struggle to hold their ground during that critical time on Sept. 18, 1944. This mission was, according to the Polish Home Army Forces, a success. For the efforts of these brave flying crews, the Polish Home Army Cross was awarded to the fliers of that mission. I feel proud to have been a part of that effort. Your article was good writing. My congratulations to Marcus Shook on the VFW's Certificate of Appreciation. — *Wm. B. (Bill) Foraker, 3834 Drexel Dr., Toledo, Ohio 43612.*

### Illegal Aliens

I'm disappointed that the VFW 1988-1989 priority and security goals, as shown in December magazine, did not include the adopted resolution on "Illegal aliens continue to enter the United States." If we can't stop illegal aliens by the thousands from entering the USA, especially along our southern border, why give priority to Central America, SDI, NATO, Pacific allies, terrorism, national defense. We cannot handle all the refugees of the world, and unless these illegal entries are stopped, it could be our downfall. — *Commander Richard W. Fenzel (Post 6376), 817 Browns Lane, Louisville, Ky. 40207.*

### Wants Papers

I need your help to be on the lookout for valuable documents I missed after displaying them in this fair city. They are my honorable discharge papers, U.S. Army, World War II; baptismal papers, Social Security card, of 1937 vintage; birth certificate, 1915, and marriage certificate. My wish is to find them while I'm still alive. Reward of \$500 for this sure information, paid to your favorite charity. — *Edward M. Staniszewski, 1604 W. Willow Run Drive, Willow Run, Wilmington, Del. 19805-1222.*

### True Christmas Spirit

On the Tuesday following Christmas, 1988, a gentleman in an electric wheelchair came wheeling into my office. He said he was cold and needed help.

It wasn't easy for him relating that he had recently lost his house; his wife had left, and most of his possessions had been stolen. All he had left was the van he now lived in, some bedding, and the electric wheelchair he relied on because of muscular dystrophy. His last few meals were purchased with money he obtained by pawning his manual wheelchair.

He was hungry and cold and needed gas so he could return to the Midwest where he would live with his daughter, who was expecting a baby any day now. As a Vietnam Era veteran, he was hoping someone here could help.

If anyone had been a non-believer in the Spirit of Christmas, that would have changed on that Tuesday. By the day's end, area veterans' organizations rallied to reach out and help.

The first to do so were VFW Post 992 and its Auxiliary. Food, gas and money were made available so this gentleman could rejoin his family and be on hand as a first-time grandpa. Thanks to this support, he was also able to get his manual wheelchair back. Most of all, the cold nights spent alone in the van would now be over.

As a true Christmas story taking place here in Walla Walla, this story has more than one happy ending. It shows how the efforts of organizations like the VFW go beyond just veterans' issues. Because of these efforts, we are thankful for the year-round spirit of giving that VFW members represent in this community. — *Daniel J. Sullivan, Office of Public Affairs, VA Medical Center, Walla Walla, Wash.*

Letters should be of no more than 100 words and deal with only one subject. Editing for space, clarity and good taste may be necessary. Published letters include the sender's name and address to enable readers to reply directly. Anonymous mail is not considered for publication. Space limitations preclude use of all the letters received. Because of their volume, it is impossible to reply to or to acknowledge Mail Call submissions.

# Is Greece Supporting Terrorists?



By Larry W. Rivers  
VFW Commander-in-Chief

**O**ne of the most dreadful crimes of this modern era is terrorism, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States again went squarely on record at the 89th National Convention denouncing it.

"Decisive Action Needed to Prevent Terrorism" is the title of Resolution 415 that concludes: "Openly reminding those countries who have been unwilling to assist our counterterrorist efforts that 'there are no neutrals in the war against terrorists.'"

The horror of Dec. 21, when 259 passengers on Pan Am Flight 103 and at least 11 persons on the ground were killed when the jet exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, on its way to the United States, clearly highlights the position on terrorism this organization firmly believes the President of the United States should take.

All the evidence points to this tragedy as being the work of terrorists. It is not known which faction of Middle Eastern terrorists is responsible. Some contend Iranian or Libyan; others point to Syrian or Palestine Liberation Organization splinter groups.

As disgusting as the crime committed on Dec. 21 is, just as gross is the attitude of Greece, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally of the United States.

Two recent events in Greece may have a direct bearing on the destruction of the plane and the murder of

the 270 persons, observers believe.

In early December, the Greek government released a suspected terrorist, Abdel Osama al-Zumar, thought to be a member of the lethal Abu Nidal gang, and flew him to Libya.

Al-Zumar was wanted by the government of Italy, another NATO ally, for the 1982 bombing of a Rome synagogue that killed a boy, 2, and injured 37 persons. Italy had asked for al-Zumar's extradition before his release from a Greek prison for gun-smuggling. The Greek Supreme Court had approved Italy's request, but Justice Minister Vassilis Rotis overturned the court's decision. He said al-Zumar was fighting for the freedom of his homeland.

Then there is the case of Mohamed Rashid, held by Greece and wanted by the U.S. for questioning in the Flight 103 outrage and in connection with the 1982 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner as it flew from Tokyo to Hawaii.

The Greek Supreme Court indefinitely postponed its decision extraditing Rashid on Nov. 15. Explanation was that "key documents" had not been supplied. The U.S. embassy, however, said they have been. U.S. Atty. Gen. Richard Thornburgh went to Greece to protest al-Zumar's release and to present the evidence against Rashid.

*continued on page 6*



WASHINGTON, JAN. 5 — Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers met with then-President-elect George Bush and Secretary of Veterans Affairs-designate Edwin Derwinski and others to discuss veterans' issues in the Old Executive Office Building. Washington Office Executive Director Cooper T. Holt was also on hand.

Wide World Photo

VFW post in Santa Cruz opposes U.S. involvement in Central America

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# The Christian CENTURY

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## EDITORIALS

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Almost daily, it seems, there are new developments in Wall Street's insider-trading scandals. Such illegal wheeling and dealing, says Editor James M. Wall, is not surprising in an era that lacks an adequate sense of responsibility.

**The Most Uncomfortable Day of the Year** 180  
In the first of this season's Lenten meditations, **Byron L. Rohrig**, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Bloomington, Indiana, discusses the meaning of Ash Wednesday and its call to repentance.

**Pruning Time for Shirley MacLaine?** 182  
Underlying actress Shirley MacLaine's eccentric spiritual quest is a genuine desire to be in touch with something eternal, maintains **Craig V. Anderson**. Mr. Anderson is pastor of Old First Church in Middletown, New Jersey.

**Elections Loom in Thatcher's Future** 183  
Noting the death of former Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, British correspondent **Kenneth Slack** goes on to assess the status of Margaret Thatcher's government. Mr. Slack is pastor of London's Kensington United Reformed Church.

## FEATURES

**Reuniting Sexuality and Spirituality** 187  
Though the uncompleted sexual revolution of the '60s and '70s, was at times superficial and exploitative, it also, contends **James B. Nelson**, pointed to the possible redemption of alienated sexuality. Dr. Nelson is professor of Christian ethics at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, New Brighton, Minnesota. His article is the first in a new series on sexual ethics.

**Church and State: The Ramparts Besieged** 191  
Religious zealots are often the most dedicated foes of religious liberty, in the view of **Robert L. Maddox**, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, whose offices are in Silver Spring, Maryland.

**A VFW Post with a Spiritual Vision** 193  
Writing about a veterans' group that "acts like a church" is **Charles W. Bare**, a free-lance writer and retired Disciples of Christ minister who lives in Miami.

**The Public and Private Burdens of Martin Luther King, Jr.** 197  
Editor-at-Large **Preston N. Williams** of Harvard Divinity School offers a review article on David J. Garrow's controversial biography of Dr. King.

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## SPECIAL REPORT

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### A VFW Post with a Spiritual Vision

**WE KNOW** churches that actively campaign for peace. But a VFW post? We know religious congregations that help feed the poor. But a variegated bunch of ex-servicemen? We understand that churchpeople are interested in improving the economies of Third World countries. But beer-drinking, sports-addicted members of a VFW post? We expect spiritual growth in churches. But how about a VFW post in which every meeting begins and ends in prayer and the chaplain is often the strongest officer?

To be a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars one must have served as a member of the U.S. armed forces in a combat zone beyond the borders of the U.S. during the time of an official U.S. conflict. Veterans organizations like the American Legion and the VFW typically support incumbent presidents' foreign policies and military and defense spending. But three years ago in the lovely, laid-back resort city of Santa Cruz, California, a new breed of veterans' posts was born.

Bill Motto Post 5888 was organized on December 4, 1983, with 30 members. The original Post 5888 had lost its charter as a result of financial difficulties and dwindling interest. The new post was named for a man who had been awarded two Purple Hearts and three Bronze Stars for his heroism as a combat medic in Vietnam. Motto had also founded Vietnam Vets of Santa Cruz and had been a harsh critic of the Vietnam conflict and of U.S. involvement in Central America. He died in August 1982 while fishing off the coast of Santa Cruz.

Within two years, the post had a roster of 150 veterans and a whole new program of working for peace and social change. On April 4, 1984, the post, which at that time had fewer than 70 members, three-fourths of whom were Vietnam veterans and many of whom were still critical of the war and feared a repeat of our involvement in Southeast Asia, composed a resolution for the state VFW convention:

"Whereas international confrontations such as those in Vietnam, Lebanon and Central America have resulted in combat deaths and political and/or terrorist assassinations of members of our Armed Forces with questionable enhancement of our national interest" and whereas "in August, 1983 the VFW National Convention publicly supported President Reagan's policies in Central America" and whereas "the one value, cherished above all others, for which the members of the VFW and their departed comrades have sacrificed is the existence of our democratic form of government," be it resolved "that VFW Bill Motto Post 5888 supports a policy of self-determination and non-intervention in Central America; and sees current administration policy as escalating rather than resolving such conflicts."

The resolution brought national attention to the post. Subsequent VFW conventions sought to expel it from membership, and a national debate ensued. Post members were interviewed on California radio and TV stations and on national news shows. In January 1985 the VFW national commander suspended the post for 60 days pending an investigation. In the interim the controversy continued, with some posts excoriating the maverick group, and peace organizations and individuals across the country expressing support. (The only other post known to have lost its charter for disagreeing with national VFW policy was one in Madison, Wisconsin, which nearly 16 years ago objected to the VFW's position on Vietnam.)

In April 1985 the case was brought to Superior Court of California but was subsequently settled out of court. The national VFW agreed to reinstate the post and promised to print retractions in national and state VFW magazines of derogatory statements it had made about the post's membership. The VFW also agreed to pay for two members of the post to attend the VFW national convention in Dallas in August 1985 and to sit on the by-laws and foreign-policy committees. The post, for its part, agreed not to voice its opposition to national VFW policy "as a post," though post members maintained their right to disagree "as members." The national VFW also inserted some changes into its policy statements making room for dissenting groups; this opened the door for many more Vietnam-era vets to join the VFW.

Meanwhile, the post carried on its unusual programs, getting involved in

hunger projects, veterans' affairs and community problems. A half-dozen women veterans joined, as did several father-and-son combinations. Three of the most active supporters of the post and its peace and social activities were World War I veterans over 80 years old.

Winds of change were also felt in the national convention. In the summer of 1986, resolutions offered by the Bill Motto Post calling for "a balanced economy in Central America, shifting from exports to regional self-sufficiency and agrarian land reform and peaceful solutions," were passed. The leadership of the VFW recognized that the post was sincere and reasonable in its approach, and it allowed the members to speak as a post regarding peace in Central America. Thus, the "wandering lost lamb" was vindicated and welcomed back to the fold.

**THE POST NOW** has more than 200 members, 30 per cent of them from outside California. Among those who have joined because of their attraction to the post's groundbreaking stances and its social conscience is ex-Catholic priest and chaplain Charles Liteky, who recently deposited his Medal of Honor at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington to protest the government's policies in Central America.

The post has been engaged in a wide variety of activities. It raised funds for a walker in the Great Peace March of 1986 which ended in Washington, D.C., on November 15. It supports foreign children through the Christian Children's Fund; it has made cash and food contributions to African hunger and U.S. farm aid; and it has undergirded programs to help end apartheid in South Africa. The post conceived and made possible the exhibition in Santa Cruz of a replica of the Vietnam Memorial. It helped make Santa Cruz County the first in the U.S. to provide free counsel to its veterans, and it established a free Vietnam veterans film library. It has sponsored a ten-kilometer walkathon for peace, several concerts for the community and a baseball team in the Santa Cruz Municipal League. The post also has 24 beds available to anyone needing one. An annual event, now headed toward its fourth year, is a huge Thanksgiving Day dinner for the post members, their families and anyone in the community desiring fellowship or needing a meal. This past Thanksgiving the post fed more than 400 people.

When I visited the post one Thanksgiv-

ing I found a couple of older vets worried that there were so many diners (many of whom took extra helpings away with them) that there might not be enough food. A cook replied, "Don't worry, this post and the good Lord won't let that happen." It didn't. As in the story of the loaves and the fishes, there was plenty to go around.

I have been in many church groups and worshiped all over the world, but in this VFW post I have found a love for people, a faith in one another and a spiritual quality sometimes lacking in the organized church. This spirit could be seen in the midst of the post's struggle to maintain good standing with the national VFW and to avoid becoming isolated from other veterans.

"I've grown to respect every comrade here," said one post member, a decorated Vietnam vet. "We are not a renegade post. We have a chance for success in the veterans' community. We don't want to alienate anybody. Other VFW posts are not filled with evil people. We have a concern for people plucked out of their lives and put into difficult situations whether in Vietnam, Central America or the United States. But we don't want to go backward. We want to go forward."

No bar exists in Post 5888 (which puts it in a minority of one among member posts). As former Commander Richard Anderson, a leader in the struggle for reinstatement, said, "We would rather help vets than pour liquor into them." Nor does the post sponsor bingo or any other game of chance. To raise funds for their programs and causes, the members prefer to rely on art shows, concerts, softball games and the direct solicitation of friends and members. There is now a "National Federation of Veterans for Peace," a coalition of 11 veterans organizations with members across the nation, to which the post belongs.

Bill Motto Post 5888 is not a church nor a substitute for one, but it certainly

is a congregation. The post is not a social agency, but its services meet real needs and often outperform those of some agencies. The post is not rich in dollars, but it is wealthy in love and concern for the oppressed and hungry. And though it eschews nationalistic rhetoric, the post is certainly an expression of real democracy. Charles W. Bare.

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## FILM

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### Top Motion Pictures of 1986

IN ANTICIPATION of the Oscar nominations we decided to name our own group of 1986's five best films. Selecting any "best" group is always a highly subjective process, and when two critics are involved the subjectivity is compounded. However, we undertook the task on the assumption that readers would want to compare our list with their own, and with the Oscars nomination list, thereby creating dialogue among those who acknowledge the special value motion pictures have as an art form that is part of a highly commercial industry. We urge readers to view these films soon, before they disappear from local screens, or else catch some of them when they show up again for brief runs around Academy Award time. Eventually many will see these films on home television screens through the magic of video, but we repeat our frequent warning that such movies are made for the big screen and will suffer when reduced to the smaller medium.

Our list is a consensus though we were unable to agree on the fifth picture. As it turns out, we agreed with the Academy nominations on only two films: *Platoon* and *Hannah and Her Sisters*; its other nominations were *The Mission*, *A Room with a View* and *Children of a Lesser God*.

The four films we agreed deserve to be among the top five are Oliver Stone's definitive portrayal of the American involvement in Vietnam, *Platoon*; Agnes Varda's chilling examination of the final days in the life of a young

woman, *Vagabond*; Jonathan Demme's peripatetic *Something Wild*; and David Lynch's dark and decadent *Blue Velvet*. Tying for the fifth spot were Woody Allen's *Hannah and Her Sisters* and James Cameron's *Aliens*. These are all pictures of artistic merit; their visions and styles may not appeal to every viewer's taste, but they all meet the criteria of excellence.

In selecting *Platoon* as the best picture of 1986, the National Council of Churches' Communication Commission described it as "a film which forces the viewer to enter the experience of the United States war in Vietnam." The "living room" war is one that we saw too much of, but it is also one we lost. It left us as a people with a desire to ignore the war's deeper reality. From the opening scene of new troops arriving for duty in Vietnam to the final images of a unit torn by inner strife, the film is unrelenting in its examination of what happens when men are forced to fight a war for which they are ill equipped, in a cause that is—and remains—unclear.

This war sharply divided civilians at home according to ideologies. But the divisions in the jungles and villages of Vietnam had less to do with ideology than with human frailty. *Platoon* depicts the ugly truth that this was a war fought within units as well as against a common enemy.

Whereas Stone wants to remake old-fashioned war films, Varda's *Vagabond* deliberately avoids straightforward narrative. It is the story of a girl (played by Sandrine Bonnaire) whose frozen body is found in a ditch in the opening scenes of the film. Set in a rural section of southwest France, the film proceeds by a series of flashbacks as though they will reveal some understanding of what led to the girl's death. But as the film progresses it becomes clear that Varda is not interested in presenting either psychological or sociological explanations.

In our first view of the girl before her death, she is emerging nude from the ocean, a Venus rising from the sea; the image is so distant that she seems to have no identity. We learn more about the people she meets than we do about her—and they are all tied to one another in some strange manner, as if the scattered parts of her existence have an enigmatic coherence.

*Vagabond* is concerned with epistemology; it suggests that human knowledge is indeed a "dark mirror," a

#### MANUSCRIPTS

The Century welcomes submissions of unsolicited manuscripts. These must be typed and double-spaced; send one copy only. Manuscripts not accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope (or international postage coupon) will not be returned. Following are maximum lengths for various sections of the magazine: major articles, 3,000 words; small-type articles, 2,500 words; special reports, 2,000 words; editorial material, 1,500 words; single reader's responses, 750 words; letters, 250 words. Send to: Manuscripts, The Christian Century, 407 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill. 60605.

# Reader's Digest

67TH YEAR

APRIL 1988

An article a day of enduring significance, in condensed permanent booklet form



Amputee finds support in boyhood friend

The Green Beret had another baptism of fire to go through, and he couldn't do it alone

## My Friend in Need

Condensed from THE WALL STREET JOURNAL  
B. T. COLLINS

**T**HE AMBULANCE FLIGHT from the Philippines was exhausting. We stopped at Air Force bases in Japan, Alaska, Illinois, and finally Washington, D.C.

From there I phoned my folks in White Plains, N.Y. I knew I would be flown to Fort Dix, N.J., the next day and then, after that July Fourth weekend, 1967, sent to Valley Forge General Hospital outside Philadelphia.

Just before I hung up I said, "Ma, you'd better call Dickie." (Fifteen years later his wife would tell me, "You're the only one allowed to call him Dickie.") He would spread the

word to my friends that I was home from Vietnam and had lost an arm and a leg. He'd take charge.

We met in Cub Scouts, probably in fourth grade. We have never agreed on anything since. He still says it was sixth grade.

In the hospital at Fort Dix the following day, my mother and two sisters saw me for the first time in six months. I wasn't much to look at— 102 pounds, big holes in my remaining leg, and my eyes sunk deep in their sockets. Tubes were everywhere. In short, I wasn't the six-foot-two, 180-pound Green Beret they had seen head



off for his second tour in Vietnam.

After my family left, the room filled with Dick Ehrlich and several other friends he had rounded up. If my appearance shocked him, he never let on. He told me a year later: "You looked like a ripple in the sheet. You looked so small." All I remember is that I burst into tears as he strode through the door, a six-pack under his arm.

As they were leaving, one of my friends, Judy, said, "You be ready Labor Day. We're taking you to the house on Long Island." To me that was years away. All I wanted was for the pain to stop.

Over the next two months, Dick made the 3½-hour trip to the hospi-

tal whenever he could, as did the others. Not a week went by that he didn't phone. He had no idea what it meant to me to cry on his shoulder, after putting up a good front for my family and acquaintances. He was just there, and that's what meant the most.

As Labor Day approached, my friends would not let up on the plans for me to spend the weekend with them. I was terrified. I had yet to leave the safety of the hospital. I started making excuses, but they came and got me anyway.

The weekend went fine. It looked as if life wasn't going to be half bad, after all. I even had the courage to ask Dick to change the

dressing on my leg stump. He didn't flinch. I wonder if I could have done the same for him.

Dick drove me back to the hospital. After four hours in Labor Day traffic, he pulled up to a restaurant near the hospital. I stiffened. Dick pretended to ignore my paranoia. "Want to eat? I'm starved, and I've got a long drive home."

"I'm not hungry," I replied. "I'll just wait in the car."

He put his hand on my shoulder, his eyes directly on mine. "Look, you're my friend and I'm proud of you, even though I hate that war. Now, let's try it. You hop in the wheelchair. I'll wheel you up to a booth. You hop out, and we'll eat. Okay? If it gets too bad, we'll just leave. I promise. I guarantee you it won't be half as bad as you think."

And it was not half bad at all. It was my baptism of fire all over again. The first parachute jump. The first firefight. I survived.

The following summer, while still in the hospital, I spent another weekend at the beach. Now I had a new hook and wooden leg, and I painfully negotiated my way to a spot in the sand.

Dick, remembering how much I loved the surf when we were teens, asked, "Ready to hit the waves?"

"No, I think I'll just read."

"Does it bother you?" he said.

"Then, guess we'd better do it!"

Off went the leg and arm, and I held on to his shoulder and hopped down to the waves. I never looked back.

I moved to California that year to attend college, then law school. In the years that followed, whenever something "bothered" me, I simply had to do it. I learned to ski, parachuted again and went around the world for three summers.

From 1979 to 1981, I ran the California Conservation Corps, a work program for kids ages 18 to 23. At the end of "basic training," I would always ask the corps members if they had seen *The Deer Hunter*. Those who knew the film invariably thought it was about Vietnam. "No," I would patiently explain. "It's about friendship. It's about people who would do anything for you—unquestioningly."

I met my deer hunter 37 years ago, though Dickie will insist when he reads this that it was 35. And I will point out that having him for a friend wasn't half as bad as I thought it would be.

Thanks, Dickie.

*B. T. Collins is a Sacramento-based vice president of Kidder, Peabody & Company, Inc., specializing in municipal securities. Dick Ehrlich owns the Clam Bar at Napeague, in Amagansett, N.Y.*

THE REASON for spring's good reputation is that it has an easy act to follow.

—Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate

## Careers

*A much-watched TV program claimed that Vietnam turned American fighting men into psychological basket cases. Ever hear of shell shock, Dan, baby?*

*4 examples of Vietnam*

# Nam returnees make good

*veterans who are successful*

By Dyan Machan

**N**EARLY 15 YEARS after the last American serviceman left Vietnam, a nasty myth still lingers. It says that Vietnam was different from other wars, in that the bulk of the Americans fighting there ended up as psychotics. Typical was a recent Dan Rather prime time special on CBS, claiming that as many as 1 million Vietnam veterans could be suffering from something called post-traumatic stress disorder.

Rather is not, of course, noted for his sense of history. He has perhaps not heard of the "shell shock" of World War I or the "battle fatigue" of World War II. In any case, he is plain wrong. A \$23.4 million nationwide study released in May by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta shows that 90% of Vietnam veterans today are leading normal, successful lives—a percentage that is roughly the same for Army veterans who never spent a tour of duty in Vietnam.

In fact, the business world is rife with Vietnam veterans who have succeeded handsomely in civilian life. To illustrate this point, FORBES made a few phone calls and easily found a number of Vietnam veterans who had transformed the horrors of

their experience into positive factors in their lives. Here are three:

Edward Vick, 44, is president and chief operating officer of Ammirati & Puris, a successful Manhattan advertising firm. Vick spent a year during 1968 and 1969 on a river patrol craft in the Mekong River, both near the Cambodian border and in the Delta.

Later, when he had returned to civilian life and joined the New York-based Benton & Bowles advertising

agency as an assistant account executive, Vick says, he wasn't much ruffled by deadlines. After what he had been through, such things were petty crises. Says he: "These sorts of problems just weren't the end of the world. You see, I already knew what the end of the world really was—and this wasn't it."

Vick came home to no heroes' welcome. He recalls: "People had the attitude that if you were in the war you were either an idiot or a baby killer." Rather than taking that sentiment as an expression of rejection, Vick viewed it as a challenge, and he set out to prove the perception wrong. Says he, "It got me into a drive mode that hasn't let up since."

A. Malachi Mixon III, 48, is chairman, president and chief executive officer of Invacare, an Elyria, Ohio medical equipment manufacturer. Vietnam to him meant learning to "meet objectives no matter what." As a U.S. Marine Corps captain directing air strikes in and around Chu Lai and later Da Nang, he says he developed a stoicism and inner resolve that has stayed with him. Says Mixon, "Bring on the problems, there's not much you can throw at me that I haven't seen."

Mixon recalls his first night back on the U.S. mainland, in 1966, when he attended a cocktail party in California with his wife. No one at the party had the slightest interest in discussing



Ed Vick, Ammirati & Puris president  
**Perspective from knowing what the end of the world really was.**

Vietnam with him one way or another. Instead of feeling crushed, the proud ex-Marine shrugged and enrolled in Harvard Business School. In 1968, an M.B.A. in hand, Mixon went to work for Cleveland's Harris Corp. as a management trainee, and then moved on to Technicare, a diagnostic imaging equipment maker.

Military service is a good vehicle for learning leadership skills, says Mixon, noting that business schools today are sorely deficient in teaching those skills. But military life and a bout with cancer ten years ago also taught him something else: just how short, precious and fragile is life itself, and thus how important it is for people to chase their dreams while they have a chance.

Chasing his dream to be his own boss, in 1979 Mixon organized a leveraged buyout of Invacare, Technicare's patient aids division. Since then, Invacare has grown from a \$19-million-a-year business to 1987 revenues of \$131 million. Today Mixon lectures community groups to encourage people to take the plunge and become entrepreneurs. Risky? Not compared with the risks he took regularly with his life during the war.



*Malachi Mixon, Invacare chairman  
As a Marine captain, directing  
airstrikes, developing resolve.*

Dayton Ogden, 43, is chief executive officer of SpencerStuart, a New York-based executive recruiting firm. In 1970 he was a U.S. Navy lieutenant (junior grade) in command of a Mekong Delta river patrol boat.

What did his wartime experience teach Ogden? He says that it taught him a lot about decision making and leadership. Says Ogden: "Courage isn't ducking fire. Any jackass can do that. Courage has to do with making hard personal choices. The business

world is a much more complex, challenging environment than Vietnam ever was."

The war indirectly got Ogden into his present field. When he was discharged from the Navy in spring 1971, his old job at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey was waiting for him. But after Vietnam it was too staid, and he soon found himself in the faster-paced search business.

In powerful ways, both good and bad, all three men were affected by the war. Vick, now married for the third time, says he thinks of the war more than he'd tell anyone. Mixon had trouble flying in airplanes for a good while after he came home and he felt uncomfortable without a pistol nearby. All of them, however, got on with their lives.

These men, though more successful than most, are typical of the vast majority of Vietnam veterans. They fought a war they didn't win, but they are scarcely the first army in history to do that. It does them a terrible injustice to project upon them the guilt that an articulate portion of the population feels right now about that particular war. ■



*Dayton Ogden as SpencerStuart  
chief and 18 years ago in Vietnam  
Business requires more courage.*

## A TALE OF TWO WARS: VIETNAM VET CHARLES FIGLEY HELPS TO HEAL RUSSIA'S TRAUMATIZED AFGANTSY

*Victorian vet (psychologist) goes to Soviet Union to help soldiers returning from*

Psychologist Charles Figley had never traveled quite so far from home to make a diagnosis, but he recognized the symptoms immediately. Back in the U.S., the Purdue University professor had counseled hundreds of fellow Vietnam veterans still tormented by a war they could not forget. These cases of posttraumatic stress appeared to be a peculiarly American disorder, the nation's bitter legacy of an unpopular war in a faraway place. But while trading war stories with several young Soviet soldiers at an informal gathering in Moscow, Figley saw a familiar haunted look in the eyes of one newfound friend who was recalling his homecoming after two years as an *Afgantsy*—a combat soldier in Afghanistan.

Alexander Lavrov, 22, described his tour of duty as an experience that "affected my soul. When I returned home, nobody needed me. I wanted to kill all those people who didn't understand." Figley, 44, patted the hulking young Russian on the back and assured him that many Vietnam vets had known a similar rage. Grateful to learn that he was not the only one in the

world to feel such pain, Lavrov suddenly locked his arms around Figley and lifted him off his feet. "Vietnam vets know!" Lavrov shouted. "They understand."

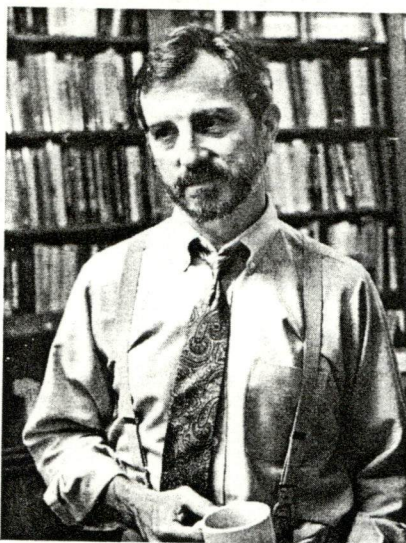
As a striking consequence of the new, Gorbachev-inspired openness toward the West, Figley and 19 other U.S.

*Afgh*  
experts on the counseling and treatment of veterans were invited to the Soviet Union last month to assist in the rehabilitation of troubled *Afgantsy*.

The delegation, organized by the Seattle-based peace group Earth Stewards Network, presented suitcases of documents on new developments in artificial limbs, transportation for the disabled and recent research on post-traumatic stress disorder. But for Figley, one of eight Vietnam veterans in the delegation, the real highlight of the trip was the opportunity to talk directly with dozens of *Afgantsy*.

"Our feet may be in the Soviet Union, but our hearts are in Afghanistan," combat veteran Andrei Larin, 24, told Figley during one session. Larin's eyelids twitched nervously as he talked about the awful feeling of responsibility he felt toward Afghan civilians who suffered in the war. Figley, in turn, gently sought to assuage such

As the Red Army continued its pullout, Figley, at left, urged the Soviets to step up treatment programs for troubled vets coming home from Afghanistan.



TERO YAMASAKI



## Move

feelings. "It was our duty. We were expected to go—to Afghanistan, to Vietnam," said Figley. "We went. We survived. Now we all want to fight for peace."

Suspicious of these fraternal feelings, a participant in a Radio Moscow current affairs program asked how Americans, whom he described as hired killers in Vietnam, could ever teach anything to "our heroes from Afghanistan." But among the So-



Figley, counseling a veteran at a Russian church, says, "My sensitivity comes from being exposed to so much pain."

viet veterans, Figley found little such chauvinism—and a lot of similarities to veterans of Vietnam. "Both wars were controversial and part-time wars," he says. "Thus only the poor and unconnected served. The end of both wars was negotiated mostly on the enemy's terms. And veterans returned to experience downright hatred from citizens who opposed the wars."

Once a "typical badass Marine," Figley volunteered for duty in Vietnam in 1965, not long after graduating from high school in Springboro, Ohio. He participated in numerous search-and-destroy missions during a one-year tour and led a charmed life until his last month in the country. "Then I had nightmares that someone was tapping me on the shoulder and saying, 'You can't go home yet.' I began to realize that war was not so clear-cut and I was not invincible." Returning home disillusioned, he found his peacetime calling in 1971, while marching in Washington, D.C., with Vietnam Veterans Against the War. "I started meeting a lot of guys who were traumatized," Figley says. "There was a huge iceberg out there—a lot of pain, suffering, divorce, and vets hated by everybody at home."

After earning his Ph.D. in psychology from Penn State in 1974, Figley pio-

neered research on the treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder. He has trained hundreds of American counselors in "memory management," a technique for working with disturbed veterans. "The key is to get the vets not to blame themselves for their trauma," Figley told Soviet psychologists. "Even though they may experience symptoms that are at odds with their macho image—nightmares, bed-wetting, self-mutilation—it doesn't mean they are losers."

At a picnic outing in Moscow with a group of *Afgantsy*, Gregori, 24, shared with Figley his guilt at having killed a 10-year-old boy in Afghanistan. "When I probed for details, I learned the boy had already shot two of Gregori's buddies and was ready to shoot him," says Figley. "I tried to persuade him that the responsibility for the tragedy was not his alone, that since his own life had been in danger, he was wrong to think of himself as a murderer." After the picnic Gregori motioned for Figley to sit next to him on the tour bus. "He put his hand on mine. It was ice cold, and his whole body began to tremble," says Figley. "I asked for the lights to be turned off on the bus and held him close."

—David Grogan;

Kanta Stanchina in Moscow and  
Toni Schlesinger in Indianapolis



"These kids are not that different from the kids sent to Vietnam," says ex-leatherneck Figley, at ease with returned Soviet soldiers.

*Vietnam veteran returns to N. Vietnam w/ medical supplies.  
Has come to terms w/ his war wounds*

## Scene

### VIETNAM VETERAN BILL FERRO FINDS PEACE IN THE LAND OF HIS 'ENEMIES'

**A**s Bill Ferro, 39, spins his wheelchair through Hanoi's crowded streets, past the old French colonial buildings with their peeling layers of whitewash, bicyclists turn their heads and smile, flashing the thumbs-up sign. In a barber shop, customers take turns riding in his chair as he is lathered up for a shave. "We like you better than the Russians," the barber says. "The Russians don't smile. They clink their glasses and demand service, but they don't tip." Four waitresses in a government-owned bar playfully draw straws to see which one will be Ferro's girlfriend. At a disco, college students buy him beers and applaud as he twirls his wheelchair on the dance floor. The band is playing "Yesterday."

In the homeland of his former enemies, on a mission of mercy to deliver medical supplies, Vietnam veteran Bill Ferro is completing a long journey back from despair and self-pity. "For the first time since I lost my legs, I feel alive," he says. "It's like I'm coming back to a part of myself."

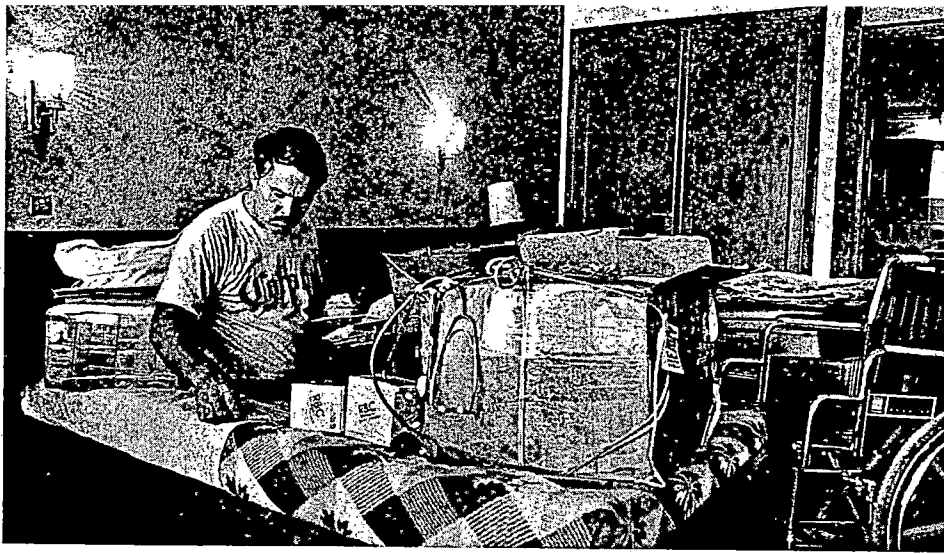
It is a part he could not have imagined 17 years ago when he first arrived in Vietnam, eager to fight a war that was already a dirty word to many Americans. First assigned to a headquarters company, he demanded his day in the field. "I went to Vietnam to see action and excitement," he says, "not to type and use a dictionary all day." Three weeks later, in a cemetery near Da Nang, he was badly wounded and his right foot blown off.

Over the next eight months, Ferro lost both his legs, slowly, to infection. He remained in military hospitals for a total of three years. Unable to cope with what he calls "life as a cripple," he twice attempted suicide by swallowing painkillers and cutting his wrists. Released in 1974 from a Veterans Administration hospital in Milwaukee, he raged around the country for

**In a flooded lane outside Hanoi, Ferro will pass out gum to the curious, delighted kids who throng about at his approach.**







In the Hanoi guest house, above, Fero checks the supplies he has brought from the U.S. for Vietnamese hospitals.

Wheeling the night away to the music of the Beatles, Fero mingles with locals in a government-owned discotheque, below.



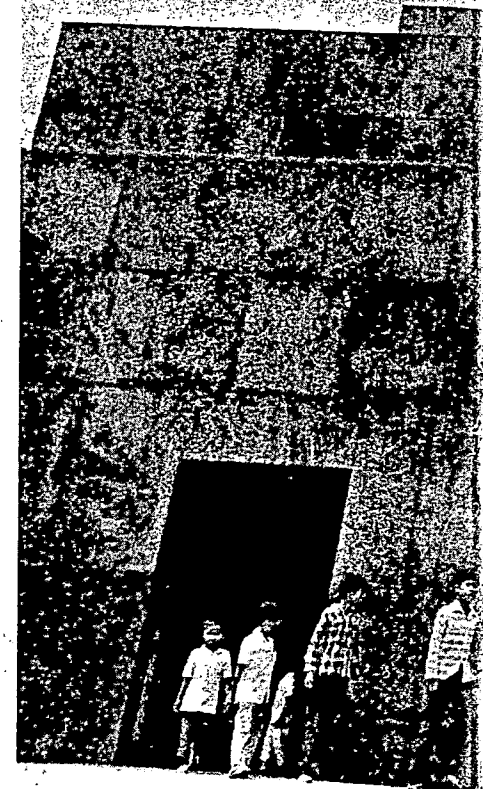
### Scene

the next four years on "a self-destructive orgy of booze and drugs." Finally a high-school friend told him he had two choices: straighten out or get better at suicide. Fero chose the former.

Fulfilling a lifetime dream, Fero purchased a farm in his hometown of Whitewater, Wis., in 1978 with a Veterans Administration loan. Perversely—since he was filled with hate for the Vietnamese—he heeded the urging of a local minister and allowed a refugee family to move in with him. For five months he tormented them, exacting a kind of revenge. "I demanded that they

wait on me hand and foot," he says. "I was the master, and they were slaves at my beck and call. And no matter what I did, all I got back was kindness. They took care of me when I was drunk. I cussed at them and threw pots and chairs. They gave me presents on Christmas and my birthday."

After the family moved on, Fero took in a Vietnamese couple. Ten weeks later, the woman gave birth. "I fell in love with the baby," he says. He sponsored five more families, and he recalls, "With each family, my feelings melted. If it wasn't for them, I might have stayed a bitter basket case, still fighting the war."



On this, his third trip to Vietnam in less than a year, Fero is bringing with him more than 3,000 pounds of supplies donated to the desperately understocked hospitals of America's last battle-ground foe. Although he is outwardly confident of an enthusiastic welcome, his stomach is still living in the past. "I'm a nervous wreck," he admits on the Thai International Airlines flight from Bangkok to Hanoi's Noi Bai Airport, as he gulps Roloids.

Although the sight of the airport guards in their pith helmets and olive green uniforms brings back "the pain of seeing guys killed and the pain of my own wounds," Fero's uneasiness is



quickly allayed. His sandaled host from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nguyen Hong Quang, waves an exuberant welcome after Fero hoists himself down the rain-soaked airplane stairway and muscles himself into his wheelchair. Then the official whisks him through customs and on to an air-conditioned van.

Back home, Fero is just another survivor. In Vietnam, he has become a savior. "Here, I can make a difference," he says. "In the U.S., people tend to be either arrogant or patronizing around someone in a wheelchair, but the Vietnamese aren't like that. Maybe it's because they have seen so

many victims of war on their own side. They make me feel whole again."

In a strange way, Bill Fero is a citizen of both America and Vietnam. His disability, which handicaps him in so many other ways, has allowed him to become an ambassador between the two nations, to heal the wounds of war and in turn to be healed himself. The Vietnamese call him "Mr. Bill, the Medicine Man." Kids follow him everywhere. More than 13 years after the fall of Saigon, the Vietnamese still suffer from the war's devastation, and they might be expected to view an American soldier with lingering bitterness. Instead, he is hailed.

**Fero, assisted by guards at Ho Chi Minh's tomb in Hanoi, says, "There are no winners or losers in war, just suffering."**

On the second night of this visit to Vietnam, Fero is the guest of honor at a dinner given by Nguyen Can, a deputy foreign minister. Fero dresses in blue jeans and a red Coca-Cola T-shirt, guzzles beer shamelessly and afterward suggests a game of cards.

Vietnamese officials, apparently charmed by Fero's informal approach to diplomacy, are hoping that he and other visitors to Vietnam will drum up grassroots support in the U.S. for the normalization of relations between



### Scene

the two countries and help clear the way for foreign investment. Consequently the five-day agenda that officials have prepared for Fero's visit to Hanoi is designed to impress upon him the depth of Vietnam's postwar suffering. At Viet Duc Hospital, a turn-of-the-century facility built by the French, a white-coated administrator, complaining of shortages of everything from vi-

tamins to surgical equipment, guides Fero through wards crowded with rusted metal beds. Bugs fly through screenless windows. In the emergency room, a World War I-vintage wooden wheelchair stands by the wall.

Bach Mai Hospital, destroyed in 1972 by American B-52 bombers, presents a similar picture of deprivation. The rebuilt 900-bed facility is one of the best in Vietnam, but doctors tell Fero they lack antibiotics and have to wash and

reuse surgical gloves. Fero dutifully notes every request for supplies, and promises to do the best he can. "It doesn't matter if the Vietnamese are using me," says Fero, who hopes to persuade American veterans groups to adopt some of these hospitals. "If people are getting helped, that's all that matters."

Meeting disabled Vietnamese veterans is, for Fero, the most gratifying part of the trip. At a rehabilitation



**Fero was distraught at a hospital in Ho Chi Minh City when he met Tuan Kiet, 11, the victim of a forgotten wartime mine.**

an alcoholic father, he dropped out of school at 16 and became "a street kid playing the angles" in Whitewater. After he graduated from petty larceny to auto theft, a judge allowed him to choose the Army over reform school. For 27 months Fero served as a cook and orderly stateside, several times landing in the stockade for insubordination. When his tour ended, he reenlisted. "All the guys I became friends with were going to Vietnam," he says. "I thought it was a big game. The guys who had been there came back talking about the women and the R&R. They made it sound like Shangri-La."

Late in 1971, Fero was on a night mission near Da Nang when a booby trap exploded, killing 18 of the 21 soldiers with him. "All I remember is the flash," Fero says. "I couldn't see. My jaw was shattered. I had shrapnel in my neck, back, arms and legs, and my right foot was blown off at the ankle."

Fero was shipped home from Vietnam, not to return until the fall of 1987. Determined by that time to purge the lingering bitterness from his system, Fero, then a struggling farmer who moonlighted on a General Motors assembly line, joined a group of veterans traveling to Vietnam for a three-week tour. "I wanted to get to the root of my feelings," he says. "I wanted to get past my anger and depression." He was astonished to be treated with kindness, and he was troubled by a visit to Cho Ray Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), where doctors complained of a critical shortage of medical supplies. "After going through all the surgery I did," he says, "I couldn't imagine surviving without antibiotics and painkillers. I used to consider myself strong, but I'm weak compared to the Vietnamese."

When Fero returned home, his co-workers on the GM night shift noticed he had become more introspective. He complained about American wastefulness and harped about shortages in Vietnam. Finally, nurses at the plant suggested that he stop talking and send some supplies. With their help, he requested donations from churches, local businesses, even Fortune 500 companies. Few of them responded.

"No one could understand why I wanted to help the Vietnamese, since they were the ones who blew off my

workshop in Hanoi, crippled vets proudly tell Fero about their families and ask him whether he has a wife in the U.S. "No," says Fero, lifting his empty pants leg. "American women don't like this."

"Then," replies one veteran, "you need to find yourself a Vietnamese wife."

Outside Hanoi, at the Thuan Thanh District Center for Invalids, Fero meets 200 paraplegic and quadriplegic veter-

ans and fights back tears. A former North Vietnamese soldier named Be Van Nhot, paralyzed from the waist down in the final days of the war, pulls his primitive wheelchair over to Fero and squeezes his arm. "We cannot think of the past," he tells Fero. "We must share the future."

For Fero, the kind of warmth and respect he has found in Vietnam has always been in short supply. The son of



**Fero's mother, Ellen, a frequent visitor to his farm in Whitewater, Wis., says he still broods about buddies killed in Vietnam.**

**"The Vietnamese treat me like someone special," says Fero, being given a hero's welcome, right, by veterans in the north.**

### Scene

legs," says Fero. Soon he began receiving anonymous phone calls from people who swore at him for being a "commie lover" and a friend of "the gooks." Still, by last February, Fero had collected 947 pounds of supplies from medical-equipment and pharmaceutical companies.

After taking out a \$2,500 personal loan to cover his expenses, Fero flew to Ho Chi Minh City to make sure the shipment got to Cho Ray Hospital intact. "The way they acted, you would have thought I was building a wing on the hospital," he says. For 18 days he was wined and dined by hospital staff and government officials. Overwhelmed by the gratitude, Fero decided one shipment was not enough. He became obsessed with helping. "I saw that I finally had a chance to leave some sort of imprint," he says.

Back at Cho Ray again, Fero watches the doctors' excited reactions to the sorely needed microscopes and the thermometers he has brought from the U.S. Completed in 1975, just before the fall of Saigon, Cho Ray was originally furnished with up-to-date American and Japanese equipment. Now much of that needs to be replaced, and Fero slowly wheels through the hospital, making a seemingly endless

list. Operating-room lamps have missing bulbs. Torn aspirators are patched with bandages. The emergency room does not have a working defibrillator for cardiac cases. There are no dialysis machines. Most appalling, in Fero's view, is that patients are dying of secondary infections because of a shortage of antibiotics.

In the crowded surgical ward, where critically ill patients share beds, Fero is confronted by a scene that brings back the war with a jolt. An 11-year-old boy has lost an eye and an arm after stepping on a mine. Two other men, both amputees, have also been wounded by leftover ordnance. Fero turns away, unable for the moment to cope with the sight of wounds so like his own.

In a larger sense, though, Fero has learned to cope with such wounds every day of his life. When he was hit 17 years ago, Fero lost more of himself than his legs. Now he has recovered more than he lost. He understands that the pain of war will always be with him, but he no longer allows those wounds to poison his mind. "I've gone through my own personal hell," he says, "and because of it, I've finally found a reason for living."

—David Grogan,  
and Civia Tamarkin in Vietnam





Bill Demby's sudden popularity after his debut in a Du Pont commercial

# Thirty Seconds

BY BOB GREENE

**I**T'S FUNNY how a man can live his whole life—a life filled with heroism and downfalls, fatherhood and courage and pain and introspection—and no one notices. No one outside the man's family and his small group of friends.

It's funny what television can do. Take the same man. Film a TV commercial that is brilliantly conceived and executed, and the man becomes known and revered in every corner of the nation. He is the same person; nothing at all about him has changed. Nothing except the most important thing of all: he has been televised.

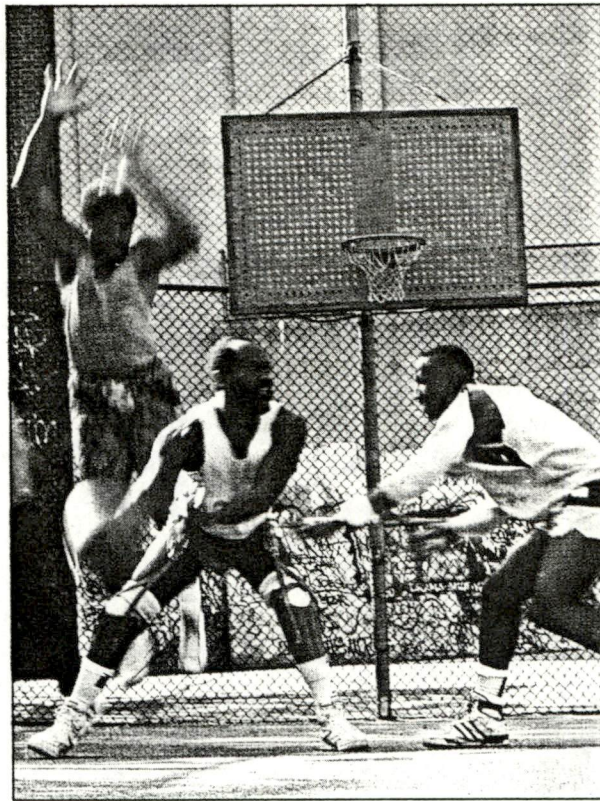
Novelists can write one hundred thousand words, two hundred thousand words, and not cause a ripple. For Bill Demby, it took only fifty-seven words, written by someone else and spoken by an announcer during a thirty-second television commercial, to totally revise his life.

Here are the words:

"When Bill Demby was in Vietnam, he dreamed of coming home and playing a little basketball. A dream that all but died when he lost both legs to a Vietcong rocket. But then researchers discovered that a Du Pont plastic could make truly lifelike artificial limbs. Now Bill's back, and some say he hasn't lost a step."

There was a tag line promoting Du Pont. The fifty-seven words about Bill Demby and the Du Pont tag line weren't what was so significant, of course. What was significant was the film footage of Demby—his artificial legs visible to the camera—competing in a game of playground basketball with able-bodied men. It began airing in the fall of 1987, and it became one of those commercials that people think about and talk to their

**Bob Greene** is a contributing editor of *Esquire* magazine. The paperback edition of his book *Be True to Your School: A Diary of 1964* has been published by Ballantine.



## How one television commercial changed Bill Demby's life

friends about. It won a Clio award from the advertising industry; Demby was featured on the ABC program *20/20*. He went from being completely anonymous to truly famous in a matter of weeks.

When I caught up with him he was heading for a small college in the Midwest to make an address to the students. The basketball arena had been reserved for the event because an overflow crowd was expected.

"I WALKED into a McDonald's the other day to get something to eat," Bill Demby said. "This guy said hello to me and I said hi back. I thought he was just a friendly guy. But then he said, 'I liked the commercial.'"

Demby, now thirty-eight, was driving a truck on a road outside Quang Tri, Vietnam, on March 26, 1971, when a Vietcong rocket hit the vehicle. A twenty-year-old Army private at the time, he lost both legs below the knee. He spent the next year in Walter Reed hospital in Washington, and then tried to put his life back together.

Nothing very spectacular happened. He had problems with alcohol and drugs. A promising athlete before going to Vietnam, Demby—with the help of artificial legs—began trying to play sports again. He was in Nashville in 1987 at a basketball tournament sponsored by the U.S. Amputee Athletic Association when he was invited to audition for a Du Pont commercial. Du Pont had manufactured some of the materials used in certain prostheses,

and had sent representatives of its advertising agency to the amputee tournament.

"I was very wary about doing it," Demby said. "I knew that on television, they can go into the cutting room and put things together any way they want. As far as the world was concerned at that point, Bill Demby didn't exist. As an amputee, usually I kept to myself."

Demby and four other disabled men wearing prostheses played basketball with personnel from the BBD&O ad agency looking on, and all five men submitted to informal interviews. Before long, Demby was told that he had been selected from the five to be the star of the Du Pont spot.

He was far from thrilled. "Actually, I called them up and said I was not interested in doing the commercial," Demby said.

I asked him why that was. For the first time in our conversation, he seemed to hesitate, as if a little embarrassed. Finally he said:

"I don't like to take my pants off in front of people." Meaning he doesn't like people to look at his artificial legs. Any people, much less millions upon millions of television viewers.

But in the end he decided to say yes. The commercial was shot on a basketball court in New York City, on Columbus Avenue between Seventy-sixth and Seventy-seventh streets, in late August 1987. "They told us that we were just supposed to play basketball, and that they'd film it," Demby said. "The other guys weren't actors—they were just players from the neighborhood. Players without physical disabilities.

"We played basketball from 7:00 in the morning until 6:30 at night. I got very tired. They had rented a room for me at the Warwick Hotel, and when the filming was over I just went to my room, took a shower, and fell asleep with the television set on. When I woke up the next morning the TV was still going. I didn't think much about what had happened. I just thought I had played some pickup basketball and they had filmed it, and now I would go back to my regular life. I went home that day. I felt that nothing had changed."

The advertising agency put the commercial together quickly. Demby and his family, who live near Washington, D.C., received a telephone call advising them to watch the CBS *Sunday Morning* broadcast on September 13, 1987. That was the day the commercial first aired.

"My wife and daughter and I sat in front of the TV set," Demby said. "The commercial came on. The wonderful feeling... there are no words to describe it."

THE FIRST TIME Demby realized that something unusual was up came within a few weeks. "I was walking down the street in Washington, and this real huge guy started staring right into my eyes. I was kind of scared. He said, 'It's you. It's you.' I didn't know what he was talking about. I thought that maybe he was going to rob me or something. I said, 'No, no.' And then the guy said, 'You're the one in the commercial. It's the best one I've ever seen.'"

Since that moment, Demby has become used to the public recognition. Sometimes he doesn't much like it. "On occasion it still surprises me when people look at me," he said. "It shouldn't, but it does. Once in a while when someone will ask me about the commercial, I'll find myself saying, 'No,

that was my twin brother.'"

There are other times, though. . . .

"A man came up to me—a man who had been having a lot of troubles. He explained the details of his troubles. He told me he had given up on everything. He said that seeing me in the commercial had turned him around. He thanked me for changing his life. Me.

"I walked away so that he wouldn't see me cry."

SOON EVERYTHING was happening for Demby. He went to a New York Knicks basketball game—he had never even been inside Madison Square Garden before—and the crowd gave him a long standing ovation. Moses Malone and Patrick Ewing shook his hand.

He began to be invited to speak before large groups, such as the college audience he was on his way to address when I joined him. The 20/20 segment was filmed. The irony, of course, was that he was the same man he had been for the almost twenty years after he had returned from Vietnam. But because of those thirty seconds on the Du Pont commercial (a sixty-second version also ran), for the first time in his life people were treating him as if he were special.

"It was very hard to get used to," Demby said. He was interviewed by newspapers and magazines; suddenly people saw him as a symbol of bravery and hope. He knew that if the commercial had not been broadcast, the same people would stare right through him as though he were invisible. Now they adored him.

Not everything made him feel great. "For a long time, I had been hesitant to tell people that I had lost my legs in Vietnam," he said. "I'd always wear long pants, even when I was playing sports. But now everyone knows what my legs look like.

"And my past problem with alcohol and PCP... that was my private problem, and now it's out. My daughter was eight years old, and she didn't know about it. She probably never would have, if the commercial hadn't been filmed and people hadn't started talking about me. She was very hurt by it. I tried to explain. I told her, 'It was just a bad part in Daddy's life. He was weak.'"

THERE IS ONE ASPECT of the commercial that Demby virtually never volunteers to talk about. The standard line is that the film crew just shot the pickup basketball game and edited the footage down. The most emotional moment in the commercial comes when Demby is knocked to the ground, hard, by an opposing player. On his back, he stares up. Then he gets to his

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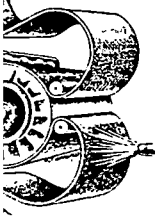
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feet. It is one of those magical television instants—a second or two of film that gives the audience goose bumps and stays with them for a long time.

“That didn’t happen during the game,” Demby said. “We had been playing all day, and finally the director, Rick Levine, called me aside. He said he needed something else. He asked me if I would mind if he had one of the players knock me down.”

It must have been quite a question. Imagine saying to a man with artificial legs: “Listen, we know you’ve been playing basketball for hours, but would it be okay if we had you jump in the air and then we pushed you to the concrete so that you land on your back? We’ll only need to do it a few times.”

Demby thought about it and said yes. He figured that Levine must know what he was doing. It paid off; without that sequence—especially the expression in Demby’s eyes after he hits the ground—the commercial would lose its strongest surge of visceral humanity and power. Still, though: imagine asking the question.

NOW, WITH ALL that has happened to Demby, you have to remind yourself that there were four other finalists for the starring role in the commercial, and that if BBD&O had selected any one of those four, today no one would know who Bill Demby is. Demby said that he has not heard from or seen the other four since auditioning. He got the thirty seconds; they didn’t.

He does his best to keep it in perspective. There are days now when he feels it would be impossible to be any more famous and respected. “But I know that just as fast as this has come, it can leave. It could turn out to be a very temporary thing.

“I have a tendency to think we’re all sort of crazy. The idea that thirty seconds could completely change a man’s life.” He tries not to lose sight of the fact that with or without the commercial, he would still be Bill Demby.

He is finally accepting the idea that strangers will approach him and tell him how much they admire him. “That’s just society, though,” he said. “That’s just people reacting to what they’ve seen on their television screen.

“I keep having this thought. One of these days the commercial is going to stop running. They all do.

“And not long after that, someone is going to say to someone else, ‘Hey, do you remember that guy—the amputee who played basketball in that commercial?’

“And the other guy will hesitate for a second and then say, ‘Yeah, I think so. What was his name?’” □

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# WWII hero reunites Germans & Americans 71

## ANNALS OF WAR AND PEACE

### HAND TO HAND

**B**Y alphabetical chance, Brent Maxwell Abel, a Harvard College classmate of mine who is also a fellow combat veteran of the Second World War and a longtime friend, always comes first in the autobiographical accounts that we 1937 graduates submit to an anniversary album every five years for posterity's sake and our own. Twenty-six of our classmates died in service during that war. Abel and I came out of it physically unimpaired but not, I hope, emotionally unchanged. I doubt, though, whether either of us shed any tears, between Pearl Harbor and V-J Day, for any of our German or Japanese armed opponents. Why should we have? They were trying to kill us, as we were trying to kill them.

If in 1962 I read through what Abel wrote for our twenty-fifth-reunion report, his words didn't make a lasting impression. I have recently had reason to reread them. This past September 29th, you see, I was aboard a floating restaurant on the outskirts of Frankfurt am Main when Abel received a hero's ovation from eight onetime crewmen of a Nazi U-boat whose lives he saved in 1944, following one of the most unlikely high-seas battles in modern history. What Abel had to say about that episode in 1962 was:

I commanded a destroyer escort, U.S.S. Buckley, which achieved particular distinction on account of her successful ramming and sinking of the surfaced German submarine U-66, in the central Atlantic, after a brief struggle, which included hand-to-hand fighting. The Buckley had no casualties, although about half the submarine's crew was lost, and we took the others prisoner. The Buckley later received a Navy Unit Commendation, which still gives me a warm sense of accomplishment.

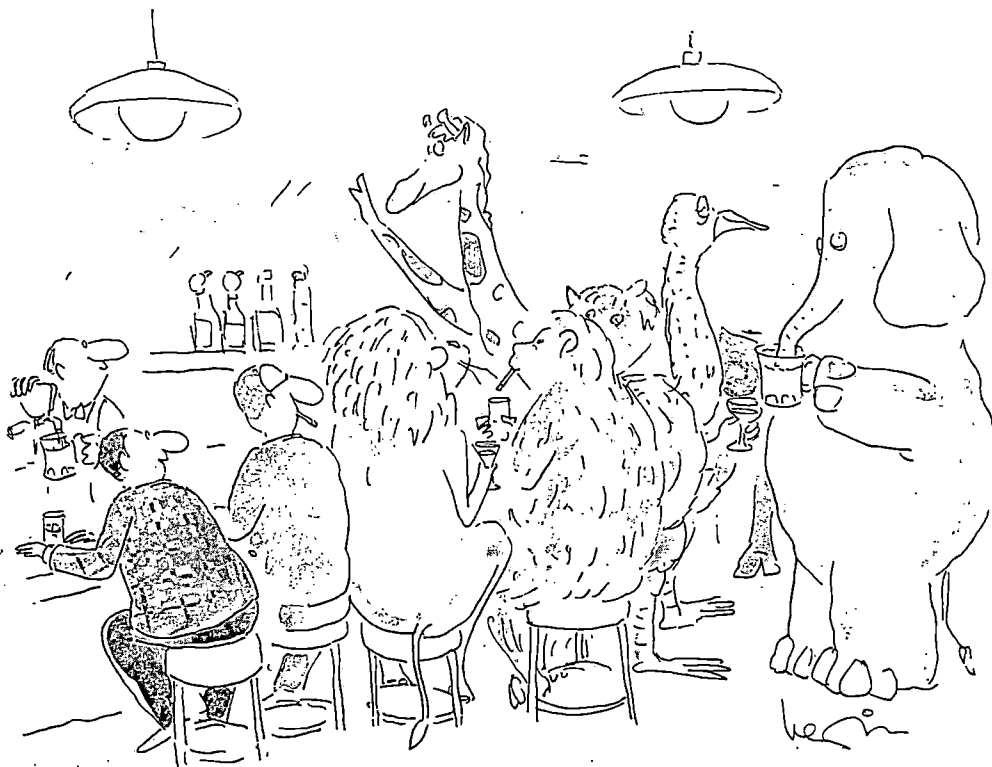
Abel neglected to add that he himself had received, for "extraordinary heroism"

in that engagement, the not lightly bestowed Navy Cross.

It was on May 6, 1944 (Abel's twenty-eighth birthday, which was something his two hundred and ten officers and men didn't know), that the Buckley sent the U-66 to the bottom. Over the next forty-two years, Abel thought back to that day every now and then—most notably when Rear Admiral Samuel Eliot Morrison, working on his history of American naval operations in the Second World War, phoned for details—but by and large during the postwar period he was less preoccupied with the past than with getting on with civilian life. In his case, it was an emphatically respectable one. Abel was born in Washington, D.C., and spent much of his childhood in Scarsdale. His parents were divorced when he was five, and thereafter he never laid eyes on his father, a retired First World War lieutenant colonel in the United States Army, who, as it happened, was German-born. (During Abel's junior year at Harvard, he once found his father's calling card in his Lowell House mail-

box, but there was no further such gesture.) After college, Abel moved along to the Harvard Law School, then married, and spent a prewar year at the distinguished New York law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore. After the war, he settled in San Francisco, where he later was divorced and remarried. Over the last forty-odd years, while practicing law there (taxes and estate planning are his specialties) with McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enersen, he has accumulated a variety of honors on both coasts. Out West, he has been the president of both the Bar Association of San Francisco and the State Bar of California. (He also breeds Angus cattle and frequents such elite haunts as the Pacific Union Club and the Bohemian Club.) Back East, he has been a trustee of Exeter, where he prepped for college; a Harvard Overseer; the president of the Associated Harvard Alumni; and—not unexpectedly, in the light of the foregoing—a member of our 1937 Class Committee.

As an undergraduate, Abel was one of thirty-nine men in his class



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who enrolled in the Navy's R.O.T.C. program. He acquired seagoing experience considerably earlier than most of his fellow apprentice officers, signing aboard a freighter, the summer after his freshman year, that took him, as a pot washer, all the way to Leningrad. After being called up for active duty in March, 1941, Abel spent a year ashore at Corpus Christi, Texas, as a Naval Air Station instructor in aerodynamics, although he had never studied that subject himself. Then in July, 1942, he put out to sea. "On account of the seniority acquired from taking naval science as an undergraduate," he wrote in that 1962 report, "my sea duty included responsibilities which I found terrifying, challenging, or funny by turns, and sometimes all three at once. For example, my first hour afloat was spent in simultaneously assuming command of a sub-chaser, an escort unit of four other subchasers, and a fifteen-ship convoy of tankers, all sailing at night from the blacked-out port of Curaçao to meet another convoy in the Caribbean. To this day I do not understand how this expedition came off without mishap." Later, from his Curacao base, he set off in pursuit of a German submarine that had particularly vexed the Allied naval forces in the Caribbean by mining the harbor of St. Lucia. Abel never made contact with it, and he did not know until he was shown a U-66 log-book in Frankfurt forty-five years later that the sub he had vainly chased on August 30, 1942, was the one he caught up with and demolished in 1944.

In the spring of 1943, Abel was transferred to the destroyer escort Buckley—DE51, in cold Navy parlance—and that summer he assumed command over fifteen subordinate officers and a hundred and ninety-five enlisted men. Three hundred and six feet long, and displacing one thousand eight hundred and fifty tons, the Buckley had a top speed of twenty-four knots and an arsenal composed of three-inch, twenty-millimetre, and forty-millimetre guns, depth bombs, and small arms. However Abel's subordinate officers may have felt about it, he endeared himself to his enlisted men during a liberty stop at Bermuda while the ship was on a shakedown cruise: he had to decide what to do about one of his seamen, who, when escorted aboard by a shore patrol, was naked from the waist down and had a live jackrabbit in one hand. Abel

concluded that because the jackrabbit appeared to be unharmed the man had committed no punishable offense.

**I**n the course of the war, Nazi Germany built approximately eleven hundred U-boats, about eight hundred of which were ultimately destroyed, but not before they had sunk some twenty-three thousand Allied and neutral ships. The U-66, commissioned on January 2, 1941, was two hundred and fifty-two feet long, displaced one thousand one hundred and twenty tons, and had a capacity of twenty-two torpedoes, with four firing tubes forward and two aft. It carried a crew of sixty, all volunteers for that cramped and perilous service. Operating out of a base in Lorient, France, it once sank four ships in a three-day stretch—August 29 to August 31, 1942. One of these four, destroyed on August 30th, two hundred and fifty miles off South America, was a fifty-six-hundred-ton freighter, the West Lashaway, which was fifteen days out of Takoradi, in French West Africa, with a cargo of palm oil, cocoa beans, tin, and copper; a crew of forty-seven, including American gunners; and nine civilian passengers. The freighter, one of two trophies bagged by the U-66 that day, went down so fast after taking the second of a pair of torpedo hits that its guards had no time to get off even a shot of defiance. The U-boat sprayed a few machine-gun rounds at figures floundering in the water, watched some of them scramble onto rafts, and then sped off. It might have hung around longer, several of its men later acknowledged, if the crew had suspected that the West Lashaway's hold contained some fifty million dollars' worth of conceivably salvageable gold, which was supposedly en route to Charles de Gaulle's Free French.

The U-66 had a close shave a year later. While it was surfaced near Bermuda, with its hatch yawning open, an American plane suddenly swept down out of the sun and raked it with bombs and machine-gun fire. Three submariners died; the captain and several others were wounded. The vessel crawled back to Lorient, and on January 16, 1944, having been refitted and remanned, it was sent out to work again, on its twelfth and final patrol. By May 6th, when its path crossed the Buckley's, it had, according to its record-keepers, spent six hundred and seventy-six days at sea, sunk thirty-six ships with an aggregate tonnage of

two hundred and forty thousand and two, and racked up eighty thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven sea miles above water and nine thousand three hundred and thirty-four submerged.

THE Buckley was part of a task group of American naval vessels—three other destroyer escorts and a mother ship, the escort carrier Block Island—that sailed out of Norfolk, Virginia, on April 22, 1944. (Abel, by now a lieutenant commander, and his men had devoted the previous year to tense but generally nonconfrontational patrols.) On May 5th, the group, whose mission was to hunt and kill U-boats, was some five hundred miles west of the Cape Verde Islands. The Block Island had Grumman Avengers aboard—planes, called “night owls,” that could operate in the dark. They had been stripped of all their ordnance to make room for extra fuel tanks and could stay aloft longer than most nights lasted—for fourteen hours. On the night of the fifth, the sea was calm and a near-full moon was shining brightly.

The U-66 had been under way this time for a hundred days. Its crewmen were pallid, haggard, and filthy. They had had no fresh water for ten days and no cigarettes for twenty-five. They'd long since run out of lemons, issued to counteract vitamin deficiencies. They were longing for a rendezvous with another submarine—a “milk cow,” they called it—that could refuel and reprovision them. At 9:22 P.M. on the fifth, their captain, Oberleutnant Gerhard Seehausen, decided to surface. Even if there was no milk cow nearby, he could at least get some fresh air and recharge his batteries. He was unaware that the Block Island had been tracking him for four days through aerial observation and radar. The carrier, for its part, was unaware that the U-66 was so close—within torpedo range. The Block Island, which spotted the sub when it surfaced, made haste to widen the gap between them, and by radio ordered the Buckley to take out after the sub. Just as that happened, Seehausen elected to close his hatch and dive. When he resurfaced, he was eighteen miles from the carrier. His new position was quickly discovered by an Avenger piloted by Lieutenant (j.g.) Jimmie J. Sellars. At 2:16 A.M. on May 6th, Sellars, keeping in close touch with the Buckley over VHF ra-

dio, began guiding Abel toward the U-66. As it happened, Sellars was armed merely with a pistol, but Seehausen couldn't know that, and, evidently fearing that if he submerged again the plane would depth-bomb him, he stayed on the surface.

At 2:46, Abel ordered “General Quarters.” He had closed to within seven miles. To make the Buckley as nearly invisible as possible to the enemy, he took pains to keep the submarine between him and the brilliant moon. He held his fire, hoping that the U-boat, if it detected his presence at all, would mistake him for a milk cow. Seehausen may indeed have done so, for at 3:08 he launched three red flares. Moments later, Sellars said to Abel, “The son of a bitch is taking a few shots at me, and I wish I had something to throw back at him.” No one will ever know whether Seehausen did it to reveal his location to a friendly U-boat or was gunning for Sellars. At 3:20, only twenty-one hundred yards from the U-boat, Abel knew that he could be unmistakably seen for what he was, and he ordered his three-inchers to fire. The very first salvo smashed into the sub's conning tower. Then Abel let go with everything he had, while the hovering Sellars gleefully went on playing spotter. “Boy, I have never before seen such concentration!” Sellars radioed the Block Island. “Buckley is cutting hell out of the conning tower!”

The two vessels zigged and zagged as they drew closer. Abel is not convinced to this day that the U-66 actually launched any torpedoes at him, but in his formal report of the encounter he noted that his crew saw what

they took to be a torpedo wake; and last September one of the Germans at Frankfurt, ex-Seaman Second Class Leonhard Būrian, said that he had fired a torpedo. In any event, none found its target. Abel, on his bridge, was unequivocally aware that the Germans were firing machine guns at him, but their aim was high, and the only hits they scored were on his stack.

By 3:25, the two ships were running parallel twenty yards apart—so close that planes that had taken off from the Block Island to reinforce Sellars couldn't bomb or strafe, lest they hit the Buckley. Seehausen ordered all his torpedo tubes opened. He seemed to be hoping that if the ships collided his torpedoes would explode and blow everybody up. At 3:29, Abel shouted, “Hard right rudder!” He had decided to ram. As the Buckley's bow crunched into the U-66's foredeck, Seehausen—who was shot and killed a few minutes later—issued his last command: “Abandon ship.”

Some of the Germans leaped into the water. At least a dozen others jumped onto the Buckley. It had been over one hundred years since any American naval officer had been known to issue the order “Stand by to repel boarders!” Abel is not sure of the historical precedents, but he has told me, with lawyerlike reserve, “My best recollection is that I said something like ‘My God, they're coming aboard!’”

Whether the Germans' intention was to engage in combat or to surrender was not clear at the moment. It was night, and there was a language barrier, and the setting was not conducive to interrogative niceties. Abel, in his action report, favored the Navy with a meticulous minute-by-minute account of what he perceived early that morning:

0329 BUCKLEY, alongside sub, gives hard right rudder. Rides up on forecastle of sub and stays there. Men begin swarming out of submarine and up on Buckley's forecastle. Machine gun, tommy gun, and rifle fire knock off several. Ammunition expended at this time included several general mess coffee cups which were on hand at ready gun station. Two of the enemy were hit in the head with these. Empty shell cases were also used by crew of 3" gun #2 to repel boarders. 3" guns could not bear. BUCKLEY suffers only casualty of engagement when man bruises fist knocking one of enemy over the side. Several men, apparently dead, could be seen hanging over the side of the sub's bridge at this time. The boatswain's mate in charge of forward ammunition party kills a man, attempting to board, with .45 pistol. Man falls back over side. Midships repair party



equipped with rifles mans lifelines on starboard side abaft light lock, and picks off several men on deck of submarine. Chief Fire Controlman uses Tommy gun from bridge with excellent results.

0330 BUCKLEY stops all engines and backs off, to avoid boarding by too many of enemy, some of whom came aboard armed. Sub draws ahead rapidly, maintaining speed of about 18 knots. Five prisoners are disarmed and taken aft.

That was Abel's official version, composed only forty-eight hours after the melee. He had somehow found time also to jot down some informal "Notes on the Battle":

Chapman and O'Keefe grabbed hammer and cornered prisoner who jumped over from sub.

Finch with a hammer made man surrender.

Castle and Springer knocked a man overboard by hitting him with empty ammunition shells.

Zilmer killed two men with .45 gun.

One of the enemy fired pistol. Snyder hit him over the head with his medical kit and then Hiott knocked same fellow over the side.

Pinkham and Zilmer herded prisoners on stbd side forward and took them aft.

Nesmith threw grenade and killed man.

2 brass cartridge cases thrown at sub.

Brundage threw Joe pot at enemy.

Coffee cup hit a bald head.

One German who was clobbered with a coffee mug—Stabsobsteuer-mann (Chief Warrant Quartermaster) Werner Fröhlich, the U-66's helmsman—later wrote to Abel, "It didn't injure my head, but the coffee cup was bent thereby. Heads were hard in those days."

The surviving Germans aboard the U-66 did not, as ordered, abandon ship. Enough of them remained at their stations to get their battered vessel under way, though at reduced speed. Abel took off after it, caught up, and was about to bombard it with depth charges when the U-66 swerved, possibly out of control, and struck the Buckley's starboard side a glancing blow. While the two ships were thus touching for a second time, one of Abel's men leaned over and dropped a hand grenade down the U-boat's hatch. (At about the same time, a thirty-seven-millimetre anti-aircraft gun on the U-66's deck suddenly began firing, with no live body near it; it must have been triggered by a burst from one of the Buckley's weapons.) The submarine veered away, now manifestly out of control. The few men still aboard it jumped into the ocean—the very last was its chief engineer, Oberleutnant Georg Olschewski—and an instant later the U-66, sheathed in flames, went siz-

zling toward the bottom, its expiration signalled by a muffled underwater explosion. It was 3:36 A.M.

The entire battle, later described in a United States government communiqué as "probably the closest naval combat of modern warfare," had, beginning with Abel's "Commence firing," lasted just sixteen minutes. Not counting coffee cups and other unconventional missiles, the Buckley had expended a hundred and five rounds from its three-inchers, three thousand one hundred and eighteen rounds from its twenty- and forty-millimetre guns, three hundred and ninety rounds from rifles, shotguns, and pistols, and two hand grenades. Its bow was warped, its starboard propeller shaft was sheared off, and its engine room and laundry were stove in. But the crew managed to patch things up sufficiently for the ship to proceed under its own power, though now at a top speed of only twelve knots. "The commanding officer is proud of the fighting spirit, coolness in action, and thoroughgoing teamwork of all hands," Abel informed his superiors. "It was these characteristics, more than the individual brilliance or heroism of any one officer or man, which concluded the action successfully."

There had been sixty-two men on the U-66—its regular complement of sixty and, as revealed later by U-boat crew members, two Englishmen, plucked from a sinking merchantman. Both disappeared; the Germans said afterward that when the U-66 seemed done for, the Englishmen were issued life preservers. However that may have been, it was rare for any U-boat to rescue survivors. In March, 1942, for instance, one German submarine

pulled close enough to a raft to toss some food and water and cigarettes to seven men huddled on it, and to take their picture; except in that photograph, they were never seen again. German submariners have always contended—the U-66's two English captives notwithstanding—that their ships simply weren't designed to accommodate unexpected guests.

The Buckley, with five Germans who had already surrendered secure amidships, now spent three hours—chancing an attack if another U-boat happened to be nearby—crisscrossing the area to look for more submariners. (Leonhard Bürjan, who was in the water for two and a half hours before being thrown a lifeline, recalls his joy on hearing Abel yell from the bridge, "There's another one!") At the end of the search, they had thirty-six submariners aboard—four of them officers. The Americans let their prisoners wash up, and passed out food and drink, cigarettes, and clean clothing. Another note in Abel's logbook says, "Prisoners stated that they were glad we were Americans as the English always beat hell out of them." Around four o'clock, the Germans were transferred, by breeches buoy, to the much more commodious Block Island. The Navy subsequently quoted Abel as saying of the carrier as the Buckley approached it, "I thought they wanted to ask us if we needed help in repairing damage. But the captain on the Block Island had all hands lined up on the flight deck. They blew their whistle and siren and gave us just about the best cheer you ever heard." The Block Island's skipper, Captain Francis M. Hughes, who himself described that reception as "a royal welcome," separated the U-66's thirty-two enlisted men from its officers. He said the whole lot of them could "perhaps be best described as looking like the very antithesis of the rugged, virile 'superman' with which one is given to understand Germany is now populated," and of the officers he reported, "In general it can be said that they were dignified, aloof, but congenial in response when addressed, as well as duly grateful for such small favors as being given a pinochle deck with which to while away the hours." Of the four, he added, the most talkative was Oberleutnant Klaus Herbig, the U-boat's executive officer and highest-ranking survivor, who was still limping slightly from a knee shattered in the 1943 debacle off Bermuda—and with whom



Brent Abel and I were not long ago clinking beer steins and champagne goblets.

Years later, Herbig set down his version of the mid-ocean boarding:

As I came up onto the bridge, our commander was again standing, but the destroyer [in recording their recollections, a number of Germans showed a fondness for promoting their destroyer-escort adversary to a higher category] was on our port side, with its crew preparing to board and capture our ship. The commander then gave me the order to take all the men on the bridge and jump over to the destroyer in order to prevent a boarding by the Americans. Boarding by the Americans would have meant scuttling our boat with part of the crew still belowdecks, in order to prevent the Americans from getting their hands on important material. Immediately, I jumped over with eight men to where we could hang on to the rail of the destroyer. The command was successful, because the destroyer immediately moved away from our sub. Our sub now rammed the destroyer in the propeller on the starboard side. The pause in firing, which had been in effect, was suddenly over, and a rain of bullets pelted our sub. We stood on the destroyer and watched as we were guarded by whites and blacks with ammunition belts, weapons, and other instruments.

The head engineer, Olschewski, who had had experience on many missions, was the last person on board our sub, which was still floating despite the hail of bullets. All others had left the boat. Many must have been killed during the jump into the water or while waiting on the bridge. As far as it is possible to be certain, no one went down with the boat. The engineer then sank the boat and left, with the waves which foamed over the bridge. Now the destroyer ceased firing. The chase, which had lasted over thirty minutes at a speed of 16-18 nautical m.p.h., was now over. You can imagine how our crew was scattered over a large area. The destroyer first returned to the point where the first men had jumped overboard and began picking them up out of the water. This action by the American commander was very commendable and a deed which we appreciated very much, because the men who had jumped overboard first of all were naturally more exhausted than those who had just jumped in. The airplanes dropped flares, because the moon had set in the meantime. The destroyer searched and hoisted men out of the water for a long period of time. The airplanes helped in the search, so that all human efforts were made to save every last survivor. But we were badly shaken when we surveyed our small group of survivors and realized which of our comrades, with whom we had made many voyages and overcome many dangers, no longer lived.

The Block Island ferried the prisoners to Casablanca, where they were placed in a guarded compound near the waterfront. Some of them were taking a stroll on May 29th when the carrier, returning to that harbor from another sortie, was hit by three torpe-

does and went down. Several weeks after that, the prisoners were put on another carrier and sent to Norfolk, Virginia. Many of them ended up at Camp McCain, in Mississippi, where the enlisted men picked cotton and a couple of the officers made, and profitably sold, cigars. Not until 1947 were most of the submariners finally repatriated.

The Buckley, damaged but navigable, made it back home and then underwent about a month of repairs at a Navy yard in Boston. Brent Abel, soon to be promoted to commander, was relieved of sea duty and sent to the University of Minnesota, to share his expertise with R.O.T.C. students there. He retired in January, 1946, as a captain—a promotion to which his Navy Cross automatically entitled him. As he embarked on his postwar law practice in San Francisco, it never occurred to him that he would again have—or want to have—anything to do with that particular lot of Germans. And for the next forty-two years he didn't.

**T**O unravel the curious threads that ultimately bound the American and German survivors to one another again, we must backtrack to the U-66's 1942 ambush of the West Lashaway. Of the fifty-six people aboard the freighter, forty-two managed to climb onto four meagrely provisioned eight-by-ten-foot rafts, three of which disappeared during bad weather, never to be seen again. After two weeks adrift, the remaining raft, with nineteen aboard, was spotted by a Navy plane, which dropped some rations (sharks gobbled up one bundle of sandwiches before the castaways could reach them), but by then two of the survivors, the West Lashaway's master and gunner, had died. The rest of the famished group, rejoicing that their position was now known, and assuming that deliverance was imminent, went greedily at the provender they were able to retrieve. But it was another five days before they were rescued—by a British destroyer, H.M.S. Vimy—and by then the seventeen had been reduced to half a tin of pemmican and a malted-milk tablet or a small piece of chocolate each a day. And even then there was a last-minute brush with disaster. The Vimy, in keeping with the ancient wartime dictum "Shoot first, ask questions afterward," had initially mistaken the raft for the conning tower of a U-boat and

had opened fire with fourteen of what its subsequent report called "controlled salvos." That account also said, perhaps a trifle self-servingly, "There was virtually standing room only on the raft and the compact mass of seventeen people standing up must obviously resemble a conning tower." Fortunately, all fourteen salvos missed.

One of the youngest of the survivors of that ordeal was an eleven-year-old boy, Robert W. Bell, and two of the others were his older sister and their widowed mother. Robert's parents, who were missionaries, had been posted to French West Africa in the mid-twenties; his father had died about ten years later in a motor-vehicle accident while he was on home leave. Bob Bell, who was born in what is now Mali, grew up, as the family moved about, in what are now Guinea, Burkina Faso, and the Côte d'Ivoire; aboard the West Lashaway he and his mother and sister had been heading to New York for a yearlong furlough. After V-J Day, Mrs. Bell returned to Africa and remained there until 1962, when she retired and settled in Florida. Bob Bell, who went into teaching and is now an elementary-school principal in Stony Brook, New York, was frequently asked to share his recollections of those hideous days on the raft. When he happened to mention in a 1975 lecture that he'd often wished he had a picture of the West Lashaway, one of his auditors suggested that he write to the Mariners' Museum at Newport News, Virginia. From that beginning, Bell made contact with a few of the other occupants of the precious raft.

Next, Bell wondered what had become of the Germans, whoever they were, who'd come so close to sending him prematurely to his death. On February 15, 1978, he wrote to the Bibliothek für Zeitgeschichte (World History), in Stuttgart, and twelve days later a letter arrived from the library's director. From the date supplied by Bell, and the location of the torpedoing, it had been authoritatively determined that the West Lashaway was sunk by the U-66, the librarian wrote, adding that he would follow up by sending the names and addresses of the U-boat's crew as soon as he was able to find them. Bell was off and running on a path of discovery, and he has been following it ever since, with what in his case can be described as missionary zeal.

Before long, Bell had embarked on



a forgive-and-don't-forget correspondence with several of the German veterans who were aboard the U-66 when the West Lashaway went down, including the sub's captain. (He had given up the sea for dentistry.) Bell got to know three of the Germans especially well. One was Georg Olschewski, the U-66's chief engineer, who had been the last man aboard at its demise and who in the West Lashaway episode had been, at thirty-three, the oldest crew member. After the war, Olschewski, a holder of the Iron Cross, had been employed as an engineer for a civilian public-utilities company and then for Germany's re-nascent Army and Navy. Another of Bell's correspondents—Karl Degener-Böning, who had been the sub's chief radioman—was much younger. He had joined the Navy in 1938, at nineteen, and after the war he had spent most of his time as a sound engineer at radio and television stations. Degener-Böning served on the U-66 straight through from its maiden voyage to its fiery demise. ("I must tell you," he later wrote to Brent Abel, on the back of a snapshot of himself, his wife, their children and grandchildren, "the fact is: Without your act of humanity, from May the 6, 44, these two happy families would not exist.") Then there was Vinzenz Nosch, an Austrian, who had been a Seaman First Class and became a policeman in the postwar years. While Nosch was a prisoner of war at Fort Meade, Maryland, he had filled some idle time by having his left arm tattooed, with a snake, "U-66," "South Atlantic," and "May 6, 1944."

Nosch developed into an indefatigable correspondent. A very small portion of one of his accounts to Bell of his wartime experiences went:

In the meantime, the destroyer Buckley continued its course in trying to ram us and I heard our on-board guns shooting at the approaching destroyer. At this time, we were above the water, and suddenly I heard the sound of a grenade exploding in our boat. The lights went off, there was a smell of powder and a strong odor in the boat, and in the front area you could hear water pouring in the boat. All of a sudden we heard the command "Everyone out of the boat." At this point, there was a lot of chaos—everyone ran to the same middle point, put on his life jacket, and tried to get out of the tower and onto the bridge whenever there was a pause in the firing, and to get overboard. As I entered the tower, Privates Jahn and Sündermann, badly injured and lying on the floor, asked to be taken along. The first one had had his arm blown off, and you could see that there had been many hits in the tower

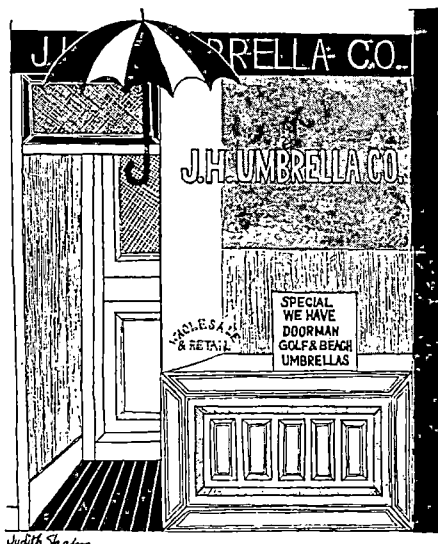
area. My comrade Ronge and I climbed up on the bridge, and as we were hidden behind the periscope supports we saw how our dead comrades were lying around the bridge and next to the 3.7-centimetre cannon. . . . During a pause in the fire, Ronge yelled I should jump overboard and swim with him to the destroyer. As I saw how Ronge wanted to jump across to the destroyer, which was right offside of us, and unfortunately mistimed his jump and fell between the approaching destroyer and our boat, I jumped away on the starboard of the tower into the water. Swimming in the water, I saw how the destroyer slowly approached our boat on its starboard side, shooting at our boat, and then how our boat sank tail first. Our boat sank at around 4 o'clock in the morning. My life jacket was ruined, and I am not ashamed to say that I was badly weakened physically by the sixteen-week voyage, and since I knew that there were no ships' routes in the area where we were sunk I wanted to give up. But, through praying, I still had hopes that I would be saved. As the sun went up, I suddenly saw over me an airplane and a flare. After I had been swimming in the Atlantic for three or four hours, I saw a mast on the horizon, and I was picked up by a destroyer [i.e. the Buckley].

Also, in 1978, Bell ascertained, from the United States Naval Archives, in Washington, the identity of two key players in the drama of the sub sinking—the Avenger pilot, Jimmie Sellars, and the U-66's nemesis, Brent Abel. Hoping to get together with them, Bell wrote to the postmasters of the most recent home towns that the archives had on record for each—respectively, Binger, Oklahoma, and Cambridge, Massachusetts. There was a swift, sad response from the pilot's father, who had been Binger's postmaster: his son Jimmie—who had received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his part in dispatching the U-66—had stayed in the Navy as a test pilot, and in 1951, rather than bail out of a malfunctioning jet and risk its plowing

into a populated area, had stuck with the craft until it exploded. The answer from Cambridge was neither saddening nor enlightening. The acting manager of mail services explained regretfully that the city had six postal branches and that without a street address he couldn't determine which one to turn to. He had checked the phone book but found no listing for "Abel B. M." If he had checked with, say, the president of Harvard, that would have done the trick, for at the time Abel was halfway through a six-year term on Derek Bok's Board of Overseers.

In any event, Bell was still concentrating on his newfound German pen pals. By 1981, he had got to know them well enough to be eager to meet them. (Close as Bell has come to be to these men, and they to him, however, he has not been able to bring himself to ask if any of them know why, on that bleak day in 1942, their ship delivered itself of a few machine-gun bursts and then steamed off across the ocean, leaving the women and children and others on the rafts to their own feeble devices.) He visited the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry for a look at the U-505, the only Second World War enemy submarine that the Allies bagged intact. Then, in September of 1981, Bell set forth, with his wife, Ruth, on a sort of personal pilgrimage. He went to Bielefeld, West Germany, to visit Karl Degener-Böning. Together, they took in a screening of the submarine film "Das Boot." Then Degener-Böning escorted his guest to the town of Schmittlotheim, to participate in a reunion of fourteen U-66 old-timers. Bell surely had more cause than most to hold a low opinion of German submariners, yet here he was at Schmittlotheim, having his photograph taken with an arm around the shoulders of the torpedoman who had fired the missiles that sent the West Lashaway to its doom.

The following year, Degener-Böning came to Long Island to visit Bell. He brought along, as a house gift, a comprehensive history of the entire Nazi U-boat fleet, on the flyleaf of which he inscribed, in German and English, his gratitude for the American's "untiring work for understanding and friendship between former enemies." In 1984, Bell expressed those sentiments in a memoir of which he was co-author, "In Peril on the Sea." (The dust jacket features the words "Hate," "Forgiveness," and "Reunion.") Its last sentence reads,



"The quest had been fulfilled." Not quite. Two more years passed before Bell—"destiny's chief mourner for the Second World War," as Vinzenz Nosch once apostrophized him—succeeded in getting hold of Brent Abel.

ON January 7, 1986, Abel received a letter from a stranger, one Robert W. Bell, of whose unflagging plenipotentiary endeavors he was unaware. Bell had tracked Abel down, at last, through an Orlando, Florida, organization called the Destroyer-Escort Sailors' Association, of whose existence Abel was also unaware. It would be nice, Bell wrote, if after so many years they compared wartime experiences, both involving the U-66; and, if Mr. Abel was so inclined, Bell could put him in touch with the onetime submariners. "Many of the men have expressed interest in contacting you," he wrote.

It didn't take long for Vinzenz Nosch to do so:

DEAR MR. BRENT ABEL:

You are certainly going to be surprised to receive a letter from Austria.

My name is Vinzenz Nosch. I am now 65 years old. . . .

While I was attending a reunion of the crew members of the U-66, I made the acquaintance of Bob Bell and his wife, Ruth, who had come to Europe on a visit. Because Bob took the initiative, forgot everything that had happened during the war and forgave us, we really gave him credit and have become very good friends since then. . . .

Now to the heart of the matter. All of us survivors of the U-66 have always had the desire to get to know our onetime adversaries in the war on the sea and if the opportunity presented itself to say thank you for the fair treatment on board the BUCKLEY and for saving our lives.

Meanwhile, again unknown to Abel, some of his crew, who had had access to the Destroyer-Escort Sailors' Association membership rolls, were planning a reunion of their own, for June of 1986. The principal organizer was Joseph Aucoin, a retired automobile repairman living in Brighton, Massachusetts. In the spring of 1944, Aucoin had been a nineteen-year-old gunner's mate aboard the Buckley. (He remembers that an instant before the ship barrelled into the sub one of his shipmates gasped, "My God, the old man's going to do it!") Over the first months of 1986, as Bob Bell provided addresses, there was a spate of communication, coast-to-coast and transatlantic. Joe Aucoin and Vinzenz Nosch, for instance, were exchanging

lengthy reminiscences and cordial good wishes, and so were Nosch and another Buckley veteran, former Seaman First Class James W. O'Keefe. In March, Nosch wrote to O'Keefe, "I had never thought, and it still seems like a dream, that after forty-two years I would be able to correspond with a former enemy, and be accepted as a friend." Various members of the U-66 contingent began writing to Abel. Brent himself, as soon as he was informed of the June reunion—to be held, over three days, at Cambridge—wanted news of it spread far and wide, and, accordingly, he wrote to the Chief of Naval Personnel, in Washington, requesting all the available names and addresses of the men who had been assigned to the Buckley between its commissioning, in 1943, and its decommissioning, late in 1945. He told the Chief, for whatever effect it might have, that he was sending a copy of his letter to then Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, "because he is a personal friend of long standing." (That and the Navy Cross didn't keep Captain Abel, United States Naval Reserve, from being charged two hundred and seventy dollars and eighty-eight cents for the names of twenty-nine officers and more than four hundred other ranks, without addresses, or from being instructed to be sure to mark his check "For services rendered.") While Abel was at it, he felt that it would be only fitting to invite Jimmie Sellars, who'd contributed so much to the U-66's demise, to attend the Cambridge gathering. So—not knowing that Bell had previously ascertained the unhappy truth—Abel once again appealed to the Navy. In due course, he received (no charge this time) a printed form with "Deceased 1951" typed on it.

Using addresses supplied by Bell, Abel wrote to nine of the U-66 survivors, saying he hoped that they could join in the forthcoming festivities. None could, but thirty-three Buckley alumni showed up, and, as by this time seemed only logical to all concerned, so did Robert Bell. The reunion, to which Abel brought along his son, his daughter and son-in-law, and his second wife, Corinne, went off agreeably—a lot of recollections, a lot of conviviality, a lot of photographs. There was also a lot of talk about further reunions—if possible, hands-across-the-sea ones, at which the erstwhile adversaries could actually look one another in the eye while speculating whether, say, this septuagenarian was



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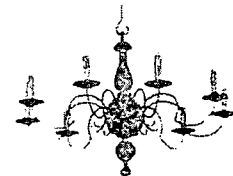
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the German kid who got whacked with the ammo box, or that white-haired American with the hearing aid might be the one who kicked So-and-So off the ship's deck.

Abel told me not long after that first reunion that several of the Germans who couldn't make it to Cambridge had expressed the hope that one day there might be a comparable gathering on *their* home ground. He and Corinne had already planned a trip to Europe for the following summer, a purpose of which was to visit the grave of her brother, David Crowder Waybur, who was one of the most decorated American foot soldiers of the Second World War, and was buried in the Lorraine American Cemetery, at Saint-Avold, in France, just across the German border. Of ten thousand four hundred and eighty-nine servicemen interred there, only three, including First Lieutenant David Waybur, won the Medal of Honor.

Before he was killed, by a Nazi sniper, on March 28, 1945, Lieutenant Waybur, a reconnaissance-troop leader in the justly celebrated 3rd Infantry Division, was also awarded, for further exceptional gallantry, the British Military Cross, the Croix de Guerre with palm, and a Purple Heart with two oak-leaf clusters. (He received one of these, along with the Silver Star, posthumously.) Abel knew his wife's brother only by hearsay, but he had long hoped to join her at his graveside. David Waybur, who was twenty-five at his death, would have been sixty-seven this year.

**B**Y this time, I had told Brent Abel that if there were any more reunions I'd be interested in attending one. "Are you bothered by contact with former Nazis?" he wrote me at one point. "Assuming they *were* Nazi, which may not be so." I was not bothered enough to lose interest. My Second World War combat, extremely modest compared to his, had been exclusively against the Japanese. The Battle of the Coral Sea had, it turned out, prevented them from torpedoing the troopship that was ferrying my infantry division, the 32nd, across the Pacific; and they had been a very formidable and unforgiving presence when I finally encountered them in battle, in the New Guinea jungle. But had latter-day contact with *them* bothered me? It had not. By the time—1951—I first set foot on Japanese soil, there was another enemy to reckon

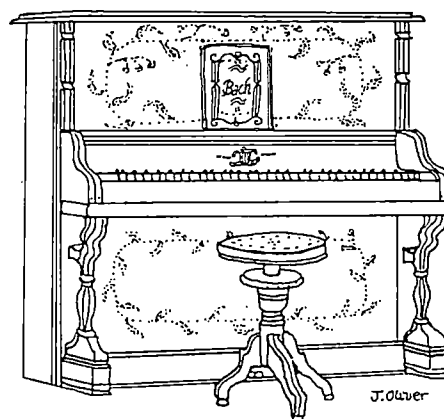
with: I was en route to Korea as a war correspondent. This time, American troops were facing two enemies, actually: North Koreans and Chinese, the same Chinese who had been my allies when the Japanese and I were at war, and who eventually were to welcome me as a friend on my first trip to China, in 1973. As for Koreans, I now remembered sitting in a Leningrad hotel dining room in 1958 and, as some Asians came by wearing rubber shoes, saying knowledgeably to a companion, "Ah, Koreans," and then, with a gasp, realizing what our ideological surroundings were, "North Koreans!" I had never seen a North Korean close up before, though some North Koreans had certainly seen me: they had picked off in midsentence an Army captain I was chatting with as we crouched behind a tank. As the Koreans in Leningrad were leaving the dining room, one of them, for some reason, smiled at me, and I remember how surprised I was at myself when I smiled back.

How did I feel, though, about contact with Nazis? I'd been to Germany twice since 1945—in 1949, to cover the Berlin Airlift, and in 1972, to cover the Munich Olympics. And I'd been there as a child, too—indeed, I was raised by a German nurse—in the twenties, but that, of course, was before Hitler. There was no ambiguity about my feelings toward Nazism. But individual Germans? My feelings about them may well have been less strong than the feelings that those of them now on one side of the Berlin Wall had about those on the other. I told Abel that if there was going to be some kind of gathering that included Germans I'd like to tag along.

Abel had meanwhile sent a letter, tentatively proposing a reunion in Germany, to Klaus Herbig, who had been the U-66's executive officer when it went down. His name was familiar to Abel; when the Buckley transferred

its prisoners to the Block Island, Herbig had been the most talkative. Most of the Germans whom Abel had heard from by this time had written in their own language, and he'd had to have their letters translated. Herbig, though, had written in flawless English, and had given as the reason for his inability to get to Cambridge a business commitment in Malaysia; here, clearly, was a person of parts—someone, presumably, equipped to organize a reunion. It soon developed that Herbig—who, he recounted, had joined the German Navy at seventeen and been second-in-command of the U-boat at twenty-two—lived and worked, as an executive of Tipp-Ex, a far-flung typewriter-correction-fluid company, close to Frankfurt. Herbig and Abel agreed in further exchanges that that city or its environs would be a convenient site for the reunion. Moreover, Frankfurt was only a couple of hours—at least, at breakneck Autobahn speed—from the Lorraine American Cemetery. None of six U-66 crewmen who were believed to be resident in East Germany were expected to attend, and they didn't, though, as I was to learn in Frankfurt, if you're sixty-five or over you can cross the Wall unchallenged, because you're considered harmless.

September 29th, a Tuesday, seemed as good a date as any, and Herbig picked Höchst, an attractive Frankfurt suburb, as the gathering place. For the main event—a dinner for the men and those of their wives who came along—he picked a private dining room in a permanently moored riverboat on the River Main called the Schiffshotel Schlott, and for the main course he picked a littoral variation of a traditional seafaring specialty: *Labskaus*, a mishmash of leftovers—meat and potatoes, mainly, as it was interpreted in the Schlott kitchen, with a sunny-side-up egg on top. Abel, while content to leave all such arrangements to the impressively efficient Herbig, did insist on some input of his own. He wrote the Tipp-Ex executive early in September, "I would like to claim the privilege of being the host of all attending the dinner. . . . I do so chiefly because it would give me pleasure but also because you were all temporarily under my command for a few hours on May 6, 1944. In the United States Navy, the captain is always right, which I hope will lead you to concede me the pleasure of paying for the dinner." Herbig was quick to retaliate. He said that the whole party must

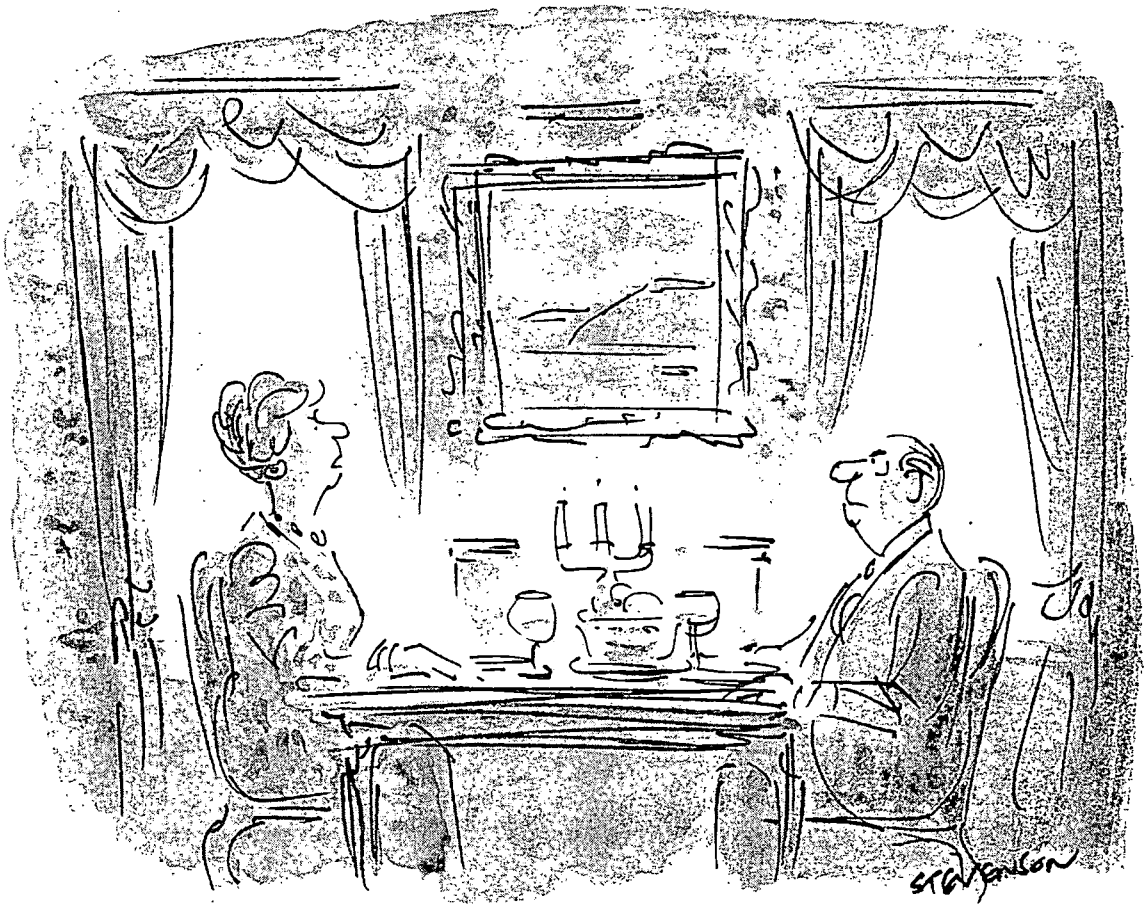


reconvene at his factory the following morning for champagne and cookies, and at his home later that same day for a local specialty, *Rippchen mit Sauerkraut und Apfelwein*. (Brent and Corinne said afterward that it was the best sauerkraut they'd ever tasted anywhere. They'd been slightly puzzled, though, that when a Herbig son dropped in during these festivities he seemed not to have been aware that a sub with his father aboard had been sunk.)

In August, Abel notified all the Americans who were under his command in May, 1944, of the impending get-together. He let me know, too. As it turned out—time was short and a trip to Germany was not cheap—among Abel's twenty-seven dinner guests at the Schiffshotel were only two old Buckley hands. One was

Joe Aucoin, the organizer of the 1986 reunion, and the other was Robert Burg, Electrician's Mate Third Class at sea and subsequently an electrical contractor. Burg had already arranged to visit an aunt in West Germany as well as Karl Degener-Böning, with whom he'd been corresponding for eighteen months. Aucoin brought a video camera. Both brought their wives.

Eight of the Germans who had been on the U-66 that memorable night in 1944 sat down to *Labskaus*. And it was a sit-right-down dinner. No ice-breaking, no informal standing around for drinks and handshakes, no mingling. It didn't take long to perceive that the widest gulf seemed to be between the German ex-officers and their ex-crewmen. In the private dining room, tables had been arranged to form three sides of a square, or a horseshoe. Abel and Herbig had, appropriately, the places of honor, with a big ship's wheel—a handy point of focus for Joe Aucoin and his camera—directly behind them, and miniature German and American flags in front of them. Off to one side of the tables someone had put up a stand bearing an enlarged version of a chart of the



"Herbert, I've decided to seek your oyster."

U-66's prowls over and under the Atlantic, with two key spots identified on it: where the West Lashaway had perished, and where the U-boat itself had made its final involuntary dive.

Among the Germans on the scene was Werner Fröhlich, the helmsman, who at hand-to-hand time had been skulled by the coffee cup. Abel had long since received from Vinzenz Nosch a snapshot of a young Fröhlich, in a grinning, cocksure pose with other U-boat officers in uniform, and sporting a trim black mustache, not to mention an Iron Cross. Now a retired merchant-marine captain and harbor inspector, Fröhlich had exchanged the mustache for a Lincolnesque, snow-white beard. (Not, mind you, that everybody else hadn't aged; Abel, for one, had lost most of his hair.) Fröhlich told me he had squeaked through six years of submarine warfare with no more physical damage than a bullet through one Achilles-like heel. I happened to be sitting next to him at dinner. His English was only a little bit better than my execrable German, but I did manage to comprehend his admission that he had a Mercedes, and though it was in unexceptionable

shape, he didn't like to push it, on the inviting local Autobahns, much beyond a hundred and ninety kilometres—a hundred and eighteen miles—per hour. Earlier, incidentally, I overheard Herbig telling Abel that German Navy officers of his time weren't necessarily members of the Nazi Party, and citing as evidence an occasion when one U-boat commander, returning to his home base for reprovisioning, asked, "Are the Nazis still in command here?" and, on being assured that they certainly were, had turned around and gone back to sea. (Abel had not followed up by inquiring how that skipper had ever got himself and his crew reprovisioned.)

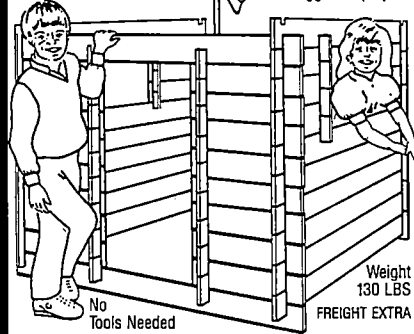
A conspicuous absentee, to general lamentation, was the retired Austrian policeman, Vinzenz Nosch. His home, in Mitterdorf, was quite far from Frankfurt, and apparently he had exhausted his travel budget. Less than two months earlier, before he had any inkling that there might be a reunion in Europe, he and his wife, Anni, had come to the United States to cement his friendships with Joe Aucoin and Bob Bell and to meet Jim O'Keefe and inspect the captive U-505 in Chica-

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go. I had met the Nosches then, when, escorted by Joe and Louise Aucoin and the omnipresent Bell, they visited Battleship Cove, at Fall River; there the two old sea dogs had had a fine time touring and commenting on the naval vessels—a destroyer and a submarine among them—moored in an outdoor museum. Nosch had been sporting a gold-braided cap bearing the name of the American nuclear submarine Nautilus. But now he couldn't make the reunion—an occasion that, if it ever came to pass, he'd told me at Fall River, would be the highlight of the rest of his life.

Bob Bell, the catalyst without whom the dinner could hardly have come about, did make it to Frankfurt. He was pressed for time, the school season having just got under way at Stony Brook, so he flew in for the dinner and flew back to Long Island the next day. Because he was as close to being of the cloth as anyone on hand, he was asked to say grace and did so with the quite justified air of one who, instead of being eaten by cannibals, has converted them to vegetarianism.

As the evening progressed, there were, inevitably, speeches, the flow of oratory intensified by the flow of beer. But much of the talk about brotherhood was on the surface; there seemed to be an element of unreality to it. It was as if these men (the women, apart from Corinne Abel, who was considered our hostess, hardly made their presence felt) didn't want to dwell too much on the one event that had brought them together, and couldn't figure out what else, if anything, they might have in common. At one point, I felt impelled to rise and tell the assemblage that our host, Herr Abel, was no longer a twenty-eight-year-old submarine chaser, which was perhaps how some of them still thought of him, but a semi-retired elder statesman and pillar of American law. My words didn't seem to make much of an impression on anyone, though. What clearly mattered most to all concerned was the simple fact that they were there.

Karl Degener-Böning, after profusely thanking the three American veterans of that long-ago hand-to-hand fracas for travelling so far “to shake hands with us,” affixed to Abel's lapel a German-submarine-service pin. Not to be outdone, Abel distributed a clutch of authentic orange-and-black

San Francisco Giants caps. (They were easy for him to obtain: the team is one of his firm's clients.) Degener-Böning, alluding to the reunion as “a highlight of our lives,” presented to Abel, and to Joe Aucoin and Bob Burg, tinplate serving trays engraved with the dates “6 May 1944” and “29 September 1987” and the words, in English, “Enemies Become Friends.” But, with a few exceptions, had most of those at the table ever truly been, in a personal sense, the former, and were they now and forever the latter? Even as I was thinking such thoughts, I was berating myself for them. Surely this was an occasion for generous portions of benefits of the doubt.

At moments, it seemed as though the most convivial of the celebrators, who were encamped at the end of one table with an accordion, were several ex-sailors who had served on the U-66 prior to May 6, 1944, and whose status seemed to be that of welcome freeloaders. Georg Olschewski, who, at seventy-seven, was the doyen of the German group, was not easy to hear over the din when he delivered a few gracious words of welcome. They were translated by his son Joachim, a social worker in Mainz prisons. At one moment, while across the room, to accordion accompaniment, some sea chanteys like “Yankee Doodle” and “My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean” were being bilingually sung, the younger Olschewski startled me by saying of his father, “It's hard to understand how a man so good and honorable could have overlooked this fucking National Socialism.”

Klaus Herbig, fittingly, was the chief spokesman for the host country. He surprised the three American guests of honor by saying that the Buckley might not have needed to get into a firefight at all, inasmuch as shortly before the two vessels encountered each other the U-66's commander, owing to the shortage of food and fuel and the unlikelihood of being resupplied, “had come to the decision that we would try to reach the Cape Verde Islands, where we would sink our boat and go into confinement.” Afterward, during a lull in the proceedings, Herbig told me, without rancor, that “Mr. Abel put some shell fragments into my back,” going on to explain, with a chuckle, “Not personally, but he was responsible for it.” (“Eleven men were treated for shrapnel and bullet wounds,” the senior



medical officer on the carrier Block Island had reported. "Some of these men had scores of small metallic fragments buried in their skins and subcutaneous tissues; none entered body cavities.") Indeed, Herbig added, although a surgeon had removed a number of fragments at Casablanca, he was still carrying a few around.

A waitress spilled some beer. Corinne Abel turned to Herbig and said, jokingly, "I thought you Germans were disciplined."

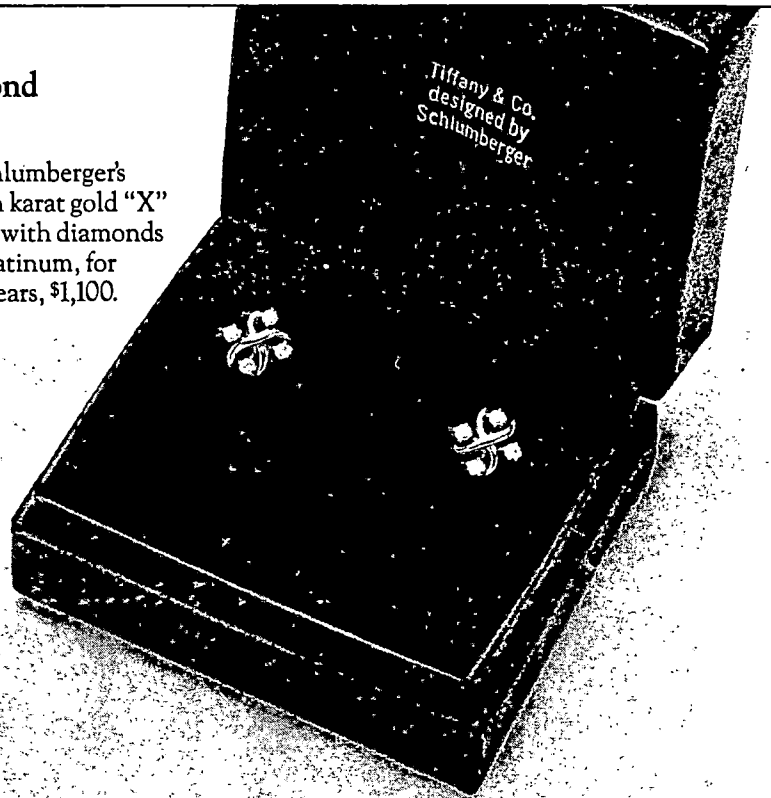
Herbig laughed, and replied, "No wonder we lost the war." He, too, was joking, of course, but I found myself thinking, What if they *hadn't* lost it? Would a group of Americans have staged such a reunion for Hitler's ex-warriors, in, say, San Francisco? Would the victorious Nazis have subscribed to the theory that enemies become friends?

Brent Abel had sat through the proceedings quietly, reflectively, and inscrutably. He had visited the Saint-Avoid cemetery the day before, had walked through long, long rows of immaculate white crosses, interspersed with some Stars of David, precisely aligned on carefully tended turf. The superintendent of the enclave had presented Corinne with an armful of roses to lay at the foot of her brother's cross and an order blank and price list for future use. Plot E, Row 22, Grave 44. Now Abel rose up and delivered a short speech, first in German—deliberate but resolute, like a ship with one disabled propeller—and then in measured English. "Many of us in America are direct descendants of you in Germany," he concluded. "My father was born in Mannheim. My wife is of German descent through both her mother and her father. Yet her brother was killed in Germany in the Second World War while serving in the U.S. Army. No doubt most of you also lost relatives in the Second World War. Old as we are, we must nevertheless do what we can to see that mankind forswears both the ideologies and the weapons which make such destruction possible. I am now seventy-one years old. In my entire life, there is no accomplishment of which I am as proud as that the U.S.S. Buckley under my direction took the risks and made the choices that enabled us to save the lives of those of you and your shipmates who survived. I wish we could have saved more. I know my shipmates, whether here or not, agree. Thank you."

—E. J. KAHN, JR.

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