



# NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

March 2015

Issue # 17

## State Competition Winners

From Sutherland Public School, representing District 4 is Nathan Fleecs (Voice of Democracy). From Arnold Public School, representing District 11 is Tatum Cool (Patriot's Pen). Midwinter Conference was held in Lincoln on February 5th through the 7th. It was an opportunity to announce and celebrate all of the students who participated across the state in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Competitions. The 10 District winners for the Voice of Democracy were invited to the Conference along with the top 3 in the state for the Patriot's Pen. This year saw 3,128 entrants in the Patriot's Pen Competition and 1,324 entrants in the Voice of Democracy Competition. Emceeding the event was State Chairman John Iossi. Assisting John was State Auxiliary Chairman Virginia Schlender. VFW Post 2704 in Omaha sponsored both the 1st place awards. Pictured top are Post 2704 Quartermaster Larry Gerlt, State Commander Bernie Brosnihan, Patriot's Pen 1st Place winner Tatum Cool, State Auxiliary President Julie Brown and Auxiliary Chairman Virginia Schlender. Pictured middle are (left to right) District 4 Commander P.J. Pajerski, Post 2704 Quartermaster Larry Gerlt, State Commander Bernie Brosnihan, Voice of Democracy 1st Place winner Nathan Fleecs, District 4 Auxiliary President Carol Thompson, State Auxiliary President Julie Brown and Auxiliary Chairman Virginia Schlender. Bottom photo, the Chairmen and students and families head to the State Capitol.



### Legislative Day

The day began with a tour for the students of the Capitol while VFW and other organization representatives attended Legislative Day. Legislative Day provides veterans and the Nebraska Veterans Council an opportunity to express their thoughts on key legislation that directly effects veterans throughout the state of Nebraska.



All of the students and their families lined up outside the Capitol before heading inside with the V.O.D. and Patriot's Pen Chairmen, from the VFW John Iossi and from the Auxiliary Virginia Schlender. Joining the group also is Barry Caster from the Convention Corporation.



Chaplain Jerry Ludwig, V.O.D. and Patriot's Pen Chairman John Iossi and State Commander Bernie Brosnihan at the State Capitol.



Governor Pete Ricketts welcomes the group. Several bills were then discussed by the respective Senators. Below left is Big Ten Jr. Vice Commander designee Keith Harmon, National VFW Jr. Vice Commander in Chief Brian Duffy and Parliamentarian Jim Pierce.





### Off to the Governor's residence

The students and their families had lunch followed by a tour at the Governor's Residence. It was a pizza buffet. Attendance included the National Jr. Vice Commander in Chief Brian Duffy and the Big Ten Jr. Vice Commander designee Keith Harmon. They are pictured below with District 10 VOD winner Stacie Bartels and her mother Lori Bartels and NE National Council Chairman Dan Petersen.



## Parade of Winners Voice of Democracy

The Parade of Winners was a time to finally announce the winners. The award sponsors stepped forward enabling the VFW to increase the amount of the awards this year. Students were escorted in by the Commander and President from their respective district. In order of District, the Voice of Democracy winners are: (left to right) from District 1 Taylor Rempp with Tom Arends and Joyce Witt, from District 3 is Jared Fuelberth with George Rathman and Elizabeth Davis, from District 4 Nathan Fleecs with P.J. Pajerski and Carol Thompson from District 6 is Grant Moles with Steve Calkin and Joyce Medina, from District 7 James Moseman with Dale Fenske and Barb Huettmann, from District 9 Tymber Long with Steve Calkin and Vicki Luebbe, from District 10 Stacie Bartels with Joe Smith and Bonnie Gerlt, from District 11 Tawny Harvey with Ralph Carman and Sheree Brown, from District 13 Ashley Burkholder with Albert Miller and Terrie Stokes and from District 15 Brianna Brugman with Jerry and Geanne Chlopek. The State Chairman for the Youth Programs John lossi was the emcee for the event.



## Parade of Winners Patriot's Pen

In order of District, the top 3 Patriot's Pen winners are (left to right) from District 1 Morgan Edmund with Tom Arends and Joyce Witt, from District 10 Nevaeh McKinney with Joe Smith and Bonnie Gerlt and from District 11 Tatum Cool with Ralph Carman and Sheree Brown.





## The Banquet Highlights and Speeches

The Friday evening banquet was an opportunity for the two winners to share their winning essays with the group. Both are pictured below. The speeches were moving, thoughtful and inspirational. VFW Youth Chairman and emcee John Iossi (top photo) congratulated all the district winners with praise and encouragement. The National Representative, Brian Duffy, Jr. Vice Commander in Chief is pictured below. He talked to the group about why the Patriot's Pen award is near and dear to him.



Bottom left are the top three Patriot's Pen winners, (left to right): Sponsored by Post & Aux. 7970 Harrison is Morgan Edmund, Sponsored by Post & Aux. 2503 Omaha is Nevaeh McKinney and Sponsored by Post 6157 Arnold is Tatum Cool. Bottom right are the District Voice of Democracy winners, (back row) Sponsored by Post & Aux. 8221 Tecumseh Grant Moles, Sponsored by Post & Aux. 5543 Oakland is James Moseman, Sponsored by Post & Aux. 4688 Imperial is Nathan Fleecs, Sponsored by Post & Aux. 5283 is Jared Fuelberth, Sponsored by Post 7970 Harrison is Taylor Rempp, Sponsored by Post & Aux. 890 Cozad is Ashley Burkholder, (front row) Sponsored by Post & Aux. 3606 is Tymber Long, Sponsored by Post & Aux. 6159 Taylor is Tawny Harvey, Sponsored by Post & Aux. 736 Albion is Brianna Brugman and Sponsored by Post 9558 Springfield is Stacie Bartels.





State Commander  
**Bernie Brosnihan**  
Midwinter  
Conference

Congratulations to Nathan Fleecs and Tatum Cool. Thank you to all of the Posts and Auxiliaries who participated. The young men and women who took part in the contests are proof that Patriotism is alive and well in Nebraska.

The \$333.00 and \$100.00 drawings at Midwinter Conference were won by Larry Gerlt of Post 2704. We will have another drawing for members who recruit a new member or reinstate a lapsed member (1 year minimum) at State Convention in June. This means if you recruit 3 new or reinstate 3 members, you get 3 chances at \$100.00 and 1 chance for \$333.00. In addition, at the Department there will be a \$100.00 drawing of all new and reinstated members. So when you are out there beating the bushes this \$100.00 drawing will give new and reinstates a little more incentive to sign up.

This year is rapidly coming to an end and we need every member we can muster. If Post Commanders need help call Department Headquarters and let us know. We will make every effort to assist you.



Don't forget to get scholarship applications into the Department by March 31st. Please refer to the program book or call the Department Headquarters if you have any questions or need applications.



**LEGACY LIFE MEMBER EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS**

MEMBER INCENTIVES	BRONZE \$400	SILVER \$800	GOLD \$1200
Plated Engraved Life Member Card	●	●	●
Lapel Pin	●	●	●
Hat Pin	●	●	●
Distinctive VFW Store Line for Legacy Life Members	●	●	●
Framed Legacy Life Membership Certificate	●	●	●
Member Recognition on Internet & Convention Program	●	●	●
Member Recognition at Kiosks at Memorial Building in Washington, D.C. and Museum at National Headquarters	●	●	●
Special Legacy Life Member Plaque	●	●	●
Hat Patch	●	●	●
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza	●	●	●
VFW Store Discounts (for personal use only) *	5%	10%	15%
Increased Level of No-Cost AD&D Insurance *	\$2000	\$3500	\$5000
Annual Endowment: Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment: Department	\$6	\$12	\$18

### Send Off Ceremony in NE City

District 6 Auxiliary President Paula Waterfield and State Parliamentarian Jim Pierce were among the attendees on February 14th in Nebraska City at the send off ceremony for the 192nd.



VFW Post 1581 Omaha had their awards banquet on January 14th, 2015. They presented several awards including to the teacher who helps sponsor their Patriot's Pen essay competition. Pictured is Steve Broszko receiving his award from 1581 Post Commander Chris Leighter, Jr. Vice Commander John Hilgert emceed the event.



### Get Your Poppy Orders In

Donations received from "Buddy Poppy" drives are used entirely to fund our Veterans Assistance Programs. For more than 75 years, the VFW's Buddy Poppy program has raised millions of dollars in support of veterans' welfare and the well being of their dependents. VFW Buddy Poppies are entirely assembled by disabled and needy veterans in VA Hospitals.



The **VFW Unmet Needs** program provides up to \$2,500 in financial assistance to service members and military families who face unexpected financial difficulties as a result of military service. The program assists with the costs associated with basic life needs and does not require repayment. Qualified applicants must have served on active duty within the past 36 months.

### Veterans Day Parade in Kearney

The VFW Post 759 Kearney and Auxiliary had a float in the parade held on November 8th in downtown Kearney. Auxiliary President Jan Jurgens is on the float and Cory Walcott, Post Commander also participated. Kearney Post 759 color guard marched on the bricks, combining with DAV and American Legion. Ray Ramirez drove his car for the parade carrying Miss Nebraska Hospitality Madison Bittleston.



70TH Anniversary WWII  
Okinawa Survivors Reunion  
All Branches

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Contact Tom Baye at 402-553-6248  
or Jack Bauerle at 402-894-0354




### Wreaths Placed at Veterans Memorials

VFW Post 5547 and Auxiliary in Syracuse placed wreaths on five veterans memorials at Park Hill Cemetery in Syracuse on December 13th. A holiday remembrance was held with the help of local Cub Scouts.

leave your  
**MARK**  
for the future-

become a **LEGACY LIFE** member




VFW Life Members can now take the next step in ensuring veterans a better tomorrow by becoming a Legacy Life Member today. Be remembered for your service as a veteran and VFW member.

It's easy to get started:

- Choose from Gold, Silver or Bronze, each with its own prestigious benefits.
- Gold \$1,200
- Silver \$800
- Bronze \$400
- Legacy is tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed.
- Use the installment plan option to make quarterly payments.

For more information call  
1.800.963.3180.







### Ski For Light

The Nebraska participants (pictured above) came away with some scrapes, bruises and broken bones yet memories to last a lifetime. The VFW Nebraska's Trudie Hammers went to assist in the skiing and other activities at this years "Ski For Light" in Deadwood, S.D. the last week in January.

February 10, 2015

Trudie Hammers  
PO Box 4552  
Lincoln, NE 68504

Dear Trudie,

Please find enclosed a picture of our small but hardy group that traveled to Deadwood for the 2015 "Black Hills Ski for Light" I also included any individual pictures I may have of you as we enjoyed this adventure.

Thanks again for making this a fun and exciting time!

Sincerely,

Ward and Kathy Kinney

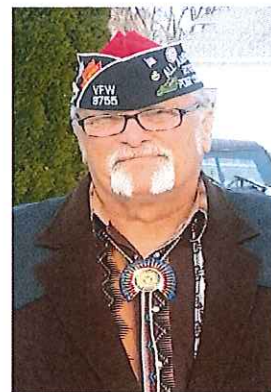
# VOTE

## GARY E. BUSH SR.

### 2015-2016

#### DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

#### JUDGE ADVOCATE



## U.S. Navy 1965-1968

### The Home Depot (HD) has opened their Community Impact Grant for 2015

VFW members can receive up to \$5,000 to fix up their Post building! Although of course there are no guarantees (so please be mindful of that) I encourage all Posts to apply ASAP if you desire to remodel your building.

To begin the process, go to:

<http://homedepotfoundation.org/page/applying-for-a-grant>

Or you may contact Department Headquarters at: 402-464-0674.



## VFW Nebraska 94<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention

June 4-7, 2015

Divots Conference Center and Norfolk Lodge & Suites

4200 W. Norfolk Avenue; Norfolk, NE 68701

402-379-3833

Room Rates: \$79.99 + Tax

**VFW Department of Nebraska 2431 N. 48<sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68504**

**Travel Request Form for State Convention**

email to: [trudie@vfwne.org](mailto:trudie@vfwne.org)

**Deadline for Reservations is May 11, 2015**

Personal and Billing Information	
Traveler name	
E-mail	
Post	
Phone	
Billing address	
Badge name(s)	
Credit card number	
Credit card expiration date	
Lodging Information	
Destination	Norfolk Lodge & Suites at the Divots
Check in date?	
Check out date?	
Cost per night	\$79.99 plus tax
Number of people	
Room preference (e.g., king, double, single)	
Special requests?	

# *VFW State Convention Program Booklet*

*Ads are available for the program booklet*

*for VFW Nebraska 94th State Convention*

*in Norfolk, Nebraska June 4-7, 2015*

*Ad costs:*

*1/2 page ( 3 3/4" X 4" ) ad copy \$ 25.00*

*Full page ( 7 1/2" X 4" ) ad copy \$50.00*

*Back Cover \$75.00*

*Line (4") copy \$5.00 per line*

*recognize your Post / Auxiliary / or Memorial names*

**Ad Copy:**

**Ad size** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$** \_\_\_\_\_ **amount paid**

**Name & or Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ad copy attached :** yes \_\_\_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** [jodys@vfwne.org](mailto:jodys@vfwne.org) \_\_\_\_\_

**Line Copy** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send payment and information to: VFW State Headquarters; PO Box 4552; Lincoln NE 68504  
Phone : 402-464-0674**

# Calendar of Events

## March 2015

- 1 Eagle Scout Entry to Post
- 21 Cheyenne WY VA Hospital St. Patrick's Day Party at 1:30
- 21 Western Nebraska Veterans Home St. Patrick's Day Party at 7:00
- 22 Hot Springs SD VA Hospital White Socks Party and St Patrick's Day Party at 11:00 am
- 31 Scholarship Student Application to Department

## April 2015

(T4) Trustee Quarterly report to Department. (Jan 1 to March 31)

- 1 Eagle Scout Entry to Department
- 11 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary WWII Okinawa Survivors Reunion Contact Tom Baye: 402-553-6248  
Jack Bauerle at 402-894-0354
- 12 Dist 7 mtg in West Point Post 4912 to host at the Nielson Center 300 Anna Stalp Ave.  
1:30 pm Reg:TBA Lunch to follow. Ladies same time and place.
- 12 Dist 10 mtg in Millard at Post 8334 at 2:00 pm.
- 15 Cut Off (for all Awards State Convention June 4-7, 2015)
- 19 Dist 3 mtg in Norfolk at Post 1644 at 1:00 pm 12:00 Registration \$5.00 fee. Evening lunch  
To follow. Ladies same time and place.
- 19 Dist 11 mtg in O'Neill at Holt County Annex 128 N 6th at 2:00 pm \$1.00 registration fee  
Evening lunch. Ladies auxiliary to meet at the Post 926 410 S Harrison
- 26 Dist 1 mtg in Gering at 2710 N 10<sup>th</sup> st. Post 1681 to host at 1:00 pm. Registration fee of \$5.00  
Lunch to follow. Ladies same time and place
- 26 Dist 4 mtg in Imperial at 12:00 mt time. Ladies Auxiliary same time and place.
- 26 Dist 6 mtg in Beatrice at Post 1077 at 1:00 pm lunch to follow. Ladies Auxiliary same time  
And place
- 26 Dist 13 mtg in Red Cloud at Community Center. Post 5641 to host at 1:00 pm. Lunch to follow  
Ladies Auxiliary same time and place. Election of officers after meeting.
- 30 Post Service Officer State Entry to Department

## MARCH CALENDAR WINNERS

\$40.00	Randý	Post
\$40.00	James	Harris
\$40.00	John	Dahl
\$40.00	James	Vanek
\$40.00	Jeff	Lewis
\$40.00	Patty	Donley
\$40.00	Kathy	Westman
\$40.00	Patricia	Gillenwater
\$40.00	Randall	Moeller
\$40.00	Steven	Grueber
\$40.00	Linda	Duell
\$40.00	Patty	Donley
\$40.00	George & Joanne	Arends
\$40.00	Craig	Space
\$40.00	Sue	Frey
\$40.00	Gene	Schmidt
\$40.00	Loraine	Hook
\$40.00	Jerry	Winkler
\$40.00	Keny	Helm
\$40.00	Anthony	Michele
\$40.00	Jason and Sidney	Lang
\$40.00	Southeast Cellular	
\$40.00	Kelly	Mohr
\$40.00	Steve	Hensler
\$40.00	James	Pierce
\$40.00	Pam	Zulkoski
\$40.00	Bobby	Fisher
\$40.00	John	Simonson
\$40.00	Thomas	Bursch
\$40.00	Beau	Hartman
\$40.00	Meyers Body Shop	



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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## VFW NEWS AD Rates

## Per monthly issue rates:

4" X 4" \$ 75.00

1/4 page \$135.00

1/2 page \$200.00

Full page  
\$400.00

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We would love to hear  
what is going on at your posts as  
well as communities.....

Send articles to

Department of NE VFW

John Liebsack

PO BOX 4552

Lincoln, NE 68504

Email: [johnl@vfwne.org](mailto:johnl@vfwne.org)

Auxiliary Editor

Angela Ostrander

PO BOX 114

Goehner, NE 68364

Email:

[litfireball2000@yahoo.com](mailto:litfireball2000@yahoo.com)

## Nebraska Membership as of March 3, 2015

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	533	5	4	151	693	756	91.66%
District Totals		3	1283	9	6	284	1582	1650	95.87%
District Totals		4	989	6	6	253	1254	1322	94.85%
District Totals		6	1155	8	4	312	1479	1615	91.57%
District Totals		7	859	4	7	305	1175	1252	93.84%
District Totals		9	1528	29	12	435	2004	2179	91.96%
District Totals		10	3468	72	122	878	4540	4778	95.01%
District Totals		11	941	6	4	270	1221	1284	95.09%
District Totals		13	1051	9	5	184	1249	1305	95.70%
District Totals		15	824	3	5	159	991	1024	96.77%
District Totals		99	706	34	10	234	984	1123	87.62%
State Totals			13337	185	185	3465	17172	18288	93.89%