

# NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

Official Publication  
 Dept. of New York,  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars  
 of the United States



2017

January/February/March

Volume 36

Issue 3

## Dennis Sullivan State Commander



Comrades,

I am winding down the year, coming close to the finish line and getting closer to my goal of reaching 100% in membership. As you all know, membership has been extremely important to me and I will continue to drive membership until the end of my term. I have spoken to all the District Commanders and many Post Commanders and members encouraging everyone to bring in new members and look to reinstate old members. I have toured many posts throughout New York meeting many of you, sharing some techniques and suggested areas of where to find members. My State Membership Chairman, Art Scheuneman, has been working very hard researching and distributing lists to all the districts and posts, showing you how many members are needed and how it is attainable to reach our goal. My Membership Co-Chairman has been reaching out by emailing and telephone calls to posts to encourage them to reach 100%. Currently, we are at 94.72% and 16th place nationally. With three months to go, I have faith that we could accomplish 100% by the June Convention.

—STATE COMMANDER, continued on page 3

## Michael Burke Sr. Vice Commander



Comrades,

We are just about at the end of our fiscal year 2106-2017. Again I would like to thank all the members who supported me for Senior Vice Commander as I traveled across the State of New York and attended District, Post, and County Council meetings. I want to commend those Post Commanders who attended these meetings and those who sent delegates to represent them and their post. It is of utmost importance that you, as

—SR. VICE, continued on page 2

## Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr. State Adjutant



Comrades,

Spring is finally here as we prepare for many upcoming events to include nominations of Post Officers, which open in March and remain open until the Election of Post Officers in April. Please remember to submit your Post Election Reports using the National OMS System immediately following your Post Elections of Officers.

Many VFW Posts may change their Quartermasters. The IRS requires that all new Quartermasters file IRS Form 8822-B within 60 days of taking office. This form provides the Quartermaster's current contact information and current address in the event that the IRS send notifications and/or contact the Quartermaster. There is a link on the Department website to download the IRS Form 8822-B.

As we look into May we have found that 5 Districts are hosting their conventions during the first weekend. This has made it impossible to get a Department officer to every District Convention. In your planning for next year, please take this into consideration.

—STATE ADJUTANT, continued on page 3

## Gene Ratigliano Jr. Vice Commander



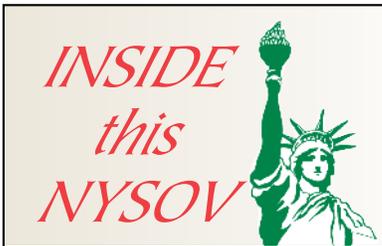
Comrades,

March is here and at the Post, Council and District levels you will be participating in the process of nominating officers for the upcoming year. As your Department Jr. Vice Commander, I ask that you give this process due diligence. Please take the time to hear what your officer candidates have to say and ensure you are considering the best candidate for the position. Just because a

—JR. VICE, continued on page 2

**Photographer:** **John Brunato**

**Editor:** **Don Mackey**



<b>Pages 1-3</b>	Officer's Messages
<b>Page 3</b>	Teacher Awards
<b>Page 3</b>	VFW Post 1314
<b>Page 4</b>	VFW Logo Use
<b>Page 4</b>	Chief of Staff report
<b>Page 5</b>	Hometown Hero

## New York State Overseas Veteran

The official publication of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York, 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205.

### \*\* PUBLICATIONS:

*Overseas Veteran* is published four times annually by the Department of New York in July/August/Sept., Oct./Nov./Dec., Jan./Feb./Mar. and April/May/June. All publications are digital format online and available on the VFWNY web site [WWW.VFWNY.COM](http://WWW.VFWNY.COM). Publications are 8.5" x 11" for individual printing capability. One dollar of each member's annual dues, paid to a VFW Post in New York State, is used for a year's subscription to the *Overseas Veteran*. Cost to non-members and widows of VFW members: \$10.00; payable in advance to Department of New York, 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205.

### \*\* ARTICLES:

Articles: Any and all articles involving and/or including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, its members, member communities, awards and activities are welcome.

### \*\* SUBMISSION & FORMAT:

Please prepare all articles in Microsoft Word (version 2003 or newer) or plain text. JPG/JPEG is the only picture format accepted and captions are appropriate. E-mail all articles and pictures as attachments with the sender's name, address and phone number in the base of the e-mail. Submissions from other sources must have complete credits such as publication name, address and dates published.

### \*\* EDITORIAL POLICY:

Inappropriate, demeaning, unduly critical articles and/or statements will not be published. Article length, inaccuracies, composition and other miscellaneous errors and/or mistakes may be edited.

Although every effort is made to maintain an honorable and accurate publication, the Department of New York and/or its staff, editor and other publication participants are not responsible for the content, views and/or positions of any article(s)/submissions.

**\*\* ALL ARTICLES AND PICTURES MUST BE E-MAILED TO: [CITadmin@VFWNY.com](mailto:CITadmin@VFWNY.com). They become the sole property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York.**

### \*\* DEADLINE:

Deadline: Articles must be submitted by the 15th of each month...July, October, January and April.

If you are using regular mail, send the items to CITadmin, P.O. Box 116, Carlisle, NY 12031.

### \*\* GRAPHIC DESIGN



Jenny DeBack, Owner  
[americanpublishing8482@gmail.com](mailto:americanpublishing8482@gmail.com)

© VFW Dept. of New York 2013.  
All Rights Reserved.

### —SR. VICE COMMANDER, from page 1—

a leader in this organization, represent your post to the fullest by getting all of your reports in on time and delivering the message to the members of your post from your District Commanders.

This year brought on new challenges for the Department, which we met head-on to get the job done. While we still have a lot of work to do, we need your support to accomplish these tasks. At the legislative meeting I attended in New York and Washington DC the turnout was very good, but it can be better. Our Commander in Chief Brian Duffy delivered a devastating Testimonial to the politician's in DC, which was well received.

Membership is always going to be at the top of our list because it is and will always be the backbone of this organization. We need more participation on recruiting members across the board. No one person or Post or

District or County Council can do it alone. In order to accomplish our goal everyone needs to participate on all levels. Remember, when recruiting push the life membership because this will alleviate tracking down members for annual dues. Please note that members now have the option to enroll in two beneficial programs.

VFW Autopay renews your annual membership automatically and with the Life Installment Plan, automatic monthly payment option, there is no longer the need to complete a payment authorization form.

In closing, I would like to say thank you all and all you do for our great organization.  
**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**

Yours in Comradeship,  
**Michael Burke**  
Senior Vice Commander  
Department of New York

### —JR. VICE COMMANDER, from page 1—

Comrade may have been around a long time is not sufficient justification to elect him or her to a position of leadership. A nominee should be knowledgeable of the by-laws, have respect for others and have the aggressive leadership qualities to lead your Post, Council or District in the right direction. For those who are currently in office, take the time to mentor those behind you because failing to properly train your relief is a prescription for failure.

I would like to congratulate all who have attained 100% in membership or more thus far this year. The months have passed by very quickly and the May-June timeframe will be upon us before you know it. Continue to work hard on membership and strive to bring back into the fold those members who have failed to pay their dues not only last year but in previous years as well. We need to get our Commander Dennis to the top of the heap and make sure he makes it to that 100% finish line.

Again last year, the Department struggled with getting election reports to be filed promptly and accurately with correct information. Many reports were very late missing some important information. Also, some posts continue to elect members to more than one elected office. Contact phone

numbers, e-mail addresses and some contact addresses were either not provided or were in error. The Department's Directory is compiled from the information reported to National on the Post, Council and District Election Reports. The sooner election reports are filed the quicker the Department can get the directory published. The information in the directory is only as good as what is provided on the election report.

The Spring Conference will soon be upon us and hope to see many of you there. We will have the privilege of having the National Commander Brian Duffy in attendance so do your best to attend. Commander Duffy is a dynamic leader and this is your opportunity to hear what he has to say on some very important issues. As always, I look forward to working with many of you and am available any time for your questions or assistance. While at the conference, take a minute to stop by my hospitality room and enjoy some refreshment and camaraderie. You can e-mail me at [ejr@vfw.com](mailto:ejr@vfw.com) or give me a call on my cell at 518-419-5644 and I will do what I can to assist you.

Sincerely,  
**Gene Ratigliano**  
Department Jr. Vice Commander



## Teacher Awards for 2017

### Elementary Level:

Amy McNamara - From District 1 and  
Sponsored by Post 5350

### Middle School Level:

Timothy Archer - From District 7 and  
Sponsored by Post 1483

### High School Level:

JoAnne Nolemi - From District 2 and  
Sponsored by Post 9587

**Dan McMahan**

**Chairman**

**Community Service**

**716-622-6911**

**dbm021@yahoo.com**

### —COMMANDER, from page 1—

I am reaching out to one and all to bring in new members and call our annual members. We are so close to goal, so keep the momentum going and make New York shine once again. It has been 13 years since we reached 100% and 2017 is the time to become 100% once again. You know my motto: "LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN"

Of course, this can't be accomplished without all of you, my comrades. We are all brothers and sisters and we all want the same thing: to make our great VFW organization thrive and grow. I do want to thank all the posts that have already reached 100% and those of you who have called me to say they are on target and will reach 100%. I thank you for your dedication, your hard work, and your support.

Also, in my travels I have been receiving positive support of my special project "Homeless Veterans." Posts and Districts have donated generously to my project as well as private companies. There are so

many homeless veterans and needy veterans and your donations can make a difference. A small donation goes a long way in helping our comrades live a better quality of life. We have a few months left to collect funds before we distribute equally to each district. Please, keep the donations coming in.

On a sad note, we lost a great comrade and a great friend to all of us. Comrade Fred P. Schwally Jr. went to his heavenly rest on March 23, 2017 after fighting a very brave battle. He has been a VFW member for 52 years. He will be missed and I will never forget him.

I would like to wish all my comrades and their families, and the VFW Auxiliary and their families a happy, healthy spring. Hope to see you at the Spring Conference in Albany.

Yours in Comradeship,

**Dennis Sullivan**

**Dept. of NY State Commander**

### —STATE ADJUTANT, from page 1

We continue to work very diligently on the new website which should be up and running in the next few weeks.

The Staff is here to provide service to our membership; do not hesitate to contact us.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 518-463-7427.

Sincerely,

**Harold "Hal" Burke Jr.**

**PJAG/PSC/PSQM**

**State Adjutant**

## VFW Post 1314

### Certificate of Recognition Presentation

Columbia County VFW Post 1314 presented a Certificate of Recognition to Jill Wishon, Director the Hudson Salvation Army and Bill Williams, Program Director IHeart Radio for their support of Veterans Programs and Fund Raisers that help the Community. Specifically Bill Williams continued Support of the Annual Vietnam Veterans Day Service, the Veterans Day & Memorial Day Parades and Veterans Programs throughout Columbia & Greene Counties and Jill Wishon, for her Dedication and Leadership providing for the less fortunate Residents of Columbia County and her continued Support of Veterans. The Post and Post Commander each presented a donation to the Salvation Army. If you would like to make a donation to the Salvation Army, you can go on their Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/TheSalvationArmyHudson/> and click on the Donate Tab, or send a check made out to the Hudson Salvation Army and mail it to Hudson Salvation Army, PO Box 761, Hudson NY 12534. You can also call them at 518-822-1602.



*Pictured L to R:*

*Post Quartermaster Randy Staats, IHeart Program Director Bill Williams, Salvation Army Director Jill Wishon, Post Commander Vince Grimaldi, Post Adjutant Terry Vogel, Post Trustee Ralph Avery and Post Trustee Carmen "Turtle" Torchia.*

**WE  
SUPPORT  
OUR  
TROOPS**

## VFW LOGO



I request your cooperation in addressing an ongoing matter regarding the use of the VFW trademarked name, emblems, and logos.

Per Sections 801-805 of the VFW By-Laws, the VFW Logo is trademarked and owned by VFW National Headquarters. No Member, Post, District, County Council or Department has authority to grant the right to manufacture, reproduce or deal in items bearing the name, and/or emblem of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, **without the written consent of the Quartermaster General.** (This applies to eight additional trademarks to include VFW Auxiliary, Buddy Poppy, Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen.)

It is the duty of the officers at all levels to enforce the laws and usages of the organization, to include proper usage and protection of the name and emblems. Please refer to the Manual of Procedure Sec 218, 418, 518, **Officers: Duties and Obligations.**

The VFW STORE and its LICENSED VENDORS are the **only authorized sources** to use the VFW name and Cross of Malta on apparel, caps and other merchandise. Your first line of contact for merchandise is the VFW Store, 1-800-821-2606. There is a Custom Consultant on staff that can assist with quantity, custom items that are not in the catalog. If the VFW Store is unable to assist, you may request authorization to use a third party vendor from the Quartermaster General.

Manufacturing and selling of unauthorized products is not only in violation of the VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, but it is also a federal offense. And, it impacts our ability to serve our nation's veterans, military service members and their families by taking resources from the National Organization and each Department and putting it directly in the offending commercial vendor's pockets. When you purchase through the VFW Store all the money stays in the organization; a portion is rebated back to the Departments and the rest is used for programs that further the mission of the VFW.

There may be times when the VFW Store cannot produce the merchandise requested. There may also be times the logo use is requested to be used in written communications through (or in

## VFW LOGO

partnership with) another organization or business. In these cases, authorization should be requested of the Quartermaster General by emailing the Authorization Request form to [qmgeneral@vfw.org](mailto:qmgeneral@vfw.org).

Department and Posts may continue to use the VFW name, logos, or emblems for printed or digital use for their own communications. Current logos for non-commercial use may be obtained from the VFW Communications Department by emailing [Communications@vfw.org](mailto:Communications@vfw.org).

Here are some helpful contacts:

- VFW Store: [www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org) 1.800.821.2606
- Partners and Licensed Vendors:  
<http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/partnersandlicensedvendors?Action=SkipLogin>
- VFW Store Custom Consultant: Kim Winston,  
[kwinston@vfw.org](mailto:kwinston@vfw.org) 816.968.1181
- Request Authorization to use the logo: [https://www.vfw.org/-/media/vfwsite/files/my\\_vfw/training-and-support/member-and-officer-training/use-of-name-and-logo-authorization-form.pdf?la=en](https://www.vfw.org/-/media/vfwsite/files/my_vfw/training-and-support/member-and-officer-training/use-of-name-and-logo-authorization-form.pdf?la=en) Email completed request to [qmgeneral@vfw.org](mailto:qmgeneral@vfw.org), Contact for follow up: Megan Kramer, 816-968-1141.

If you are aware of unauthorized use of our trademarks, contact Judy McNeel at [jmneel@vfw.org](mailto:jmneel@vfw.org) or 816-968-1131, so that we may take appropriate action.

Thank you for helping to protect our valuable name, logos, and emblems.

**Debra Anderson**  
**Quartermaster General**  
**Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
 406 W. 34th Street  
 Kansas City, MO 64111  
 Phone: (816) 968-1131 Fax (816) 968-1189

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

**Thomas J. Todaro**  
 Chief of Staff

I would first like to thank State Commander Sullivan for this appointment. This year has offered many challenges. The Commander recently provided a list of posts that only need ten or fewer members to attain 100%. I am currently working to contact those posts to help them achieve 100%.

Retention is one of our goals. In order to retain our members, we need to mentor them. AFTER we enroll Veterans in the VFW we must make them feel welcome at our Post. We cannot forget about them after getting them to join! Invite all members, especially new members, to attend your meetings. Greet your new members as they enter the meeting and be sure to introduce them to other veterans at the Post.

I have discovered that encouraging new members as Life Members, rather than Annual Members, helps greatly to retain those

members. There is an installment plan available which is a very good tool to use.

As I have traveled throughout this great State, I have learned a great deal from the posts I have visited. The members really appreciate learning what is going within our organization and they appreciate getting a different viewpoint on the programs. I have also found that members appreciate having their questions answered from the top!

I would like to thank the posts for the hospitality I have been shown in my travels. This year has been very informative and a lot of fun.

Comrades, keep up the good work! New York is right up there on the National listing. Let's all continue to work together and put our great State over the top this year.

LOCKPORT  
SINCE 1821

# Union-Sun & Journal

## HOMETOWN HERO

### Roy Hart grad earns Air Force Crew Chief award

By Julie Obermiller US&J correspondent

The Air Force recently named one hometown hero the Air Mobility Wing Crew Chief of the Year. The award is given annually to the airman judged to have made the most significant contribution to the mission.

Tech Sgt. Joseph Gutowski is a 2003 graduate of Royalton-Hartland High School who loved engines and mechanics. He grew up on Lincoln Avenue in Lockport with parents Kim and Ken Gutowski and brother John, and after high school worked for Barden Homes and a local pizzeria. He volunteered with his dad at Lockport VFW Post 2535 and Elks Lodge 41 and longed for a direction in his life.

After a stint at Niagara County Community College, Gutowski decided to spread his wings in the Air Force, shocking his parents with his sudden decision to enlist in 2005.

"If you had told me 12 years ago that I would have such a fulfilling career, a great family and be getting an award for doing what I love, I would never have believed it," Gutowski said from his home in Lakehurst, N.J. He was promoted to the rank of technical sergeant just last week.

In 2011, Gutowski was stationed in Germany, where he met Anita. They were married the following year and have a 2-year-old daughter, Sophie. While Gutowski travels the world's skies, Anita awaits the birth of a second daughter, Nina, in February. Currently the family is stationed at McGuire-Dix base.



"In 2015, I spent 290 days on duty," Gutowski said. "My wife and daughter spent the summer in Hungary with her family and when I was sent to Germany, I could drive down to visit them. That makes me luckier than

most soldiers who are away from their families for long deployments."

Gutowski's parents recently traveled to New Jersey for the ceremony in which their son received the Chief Master Sgt. Thomas N. Barnes Award for 2016 as well as the Crew Chief of the Year Award.

Gutowski is a crew chief with the 305th Air Mobility Wing Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "We as crew chiefs are responsible for all the services of an aircraft and we make sure it's air worthy," he said in a previous interview for an Air Force publication. "We do a bit of everything."

It has been a grueling year for the airman who has to keep the planes in the air.

"Last year, I was working as a (flying crew chief)," Gutowski explained. "I would grab my toolbox and all my gear, and I would be responsible for all the maintenance for the aircraft during missions."

Gutowski is proud of his part in keeping the massive planes ready for action. "Our C-17s do everything from combat and humanitarian missions to escorting the presidential entourage," he said. "We were in Nepal after the earthquakes, in Haiti after the hurricane and have carried grateful refugees from combat and disaster areas all over the world. We do everybody's everything."

The Air Force news reported, "With assignments lasting between one



**VFW Post 5350 Commander William Hughes presenting Colonel Michael Bank 106th Rescue Wing Commander and Command Chief Mike Hewson official recognition of Posts commitment to the Adopt a Unit Veterans of Foreign Wars National Program.**

or two days to over a month, Gutowski relied heavily on his extensive knowledge of the C-17 Globemaster III, helping avoid potential catastrophic situations." One such incident occurred over the Pacific.

"We left Japan and were heading toward (Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam) Hawaii, and we had an engine malfunction. The engine was consuming oil, but none of the operations personnel could find anything wrong with it," Gutowski explained.

He recommended his aircraft commander run the engine to maximum power before proceeding with actual takeoff. While things seemed to be responding normally, Gutowski then heard something break loose in the engine, allowing the crew to bail out of take-off just in time.

"We almost had to execute in-flight emergency procedures at the most critical point of a takeoff," he said.

Testaments to Gutowski's skill stretch beyond the Pacific and into the Middle East. When he was working a deployment between Germany and Al Udeid, his crew got a call for a "critical medical evaluation." Once their aircraft touched down to retrieve the wounded service member, the aircraft suffered an oil leak, and it was unclear whether they would be able to take off again. With the patient's condition quickly deteriorating, Gutowski's task became a matter of life or death.

"I was able to find the oil leak and repair it," he said. "We were able to take off on schedule, and that service member did end up surviving."

It's apparent how Gutowski's performance as a crew chief has affected service members worldwide — but he has also continued to set an example for his own airmen.

"Without a doubt, (Gutowski) deserves this award," Staff Sgt. Frank Buonanno, a fellow 305th AMW crew chief, said. "He's been rock solid all year."

Buonanno continued to describe what makes a good crew chief:

"You can't just be a hard worker, or a yes man, you need to have that technical knowledge, be the go-to guy," he said. "You can be as good as you want in books, but when you're out there turning the bolts, you need to know what you're doing."

Moving forward, Buonanno said, the airmen at the 305th AMXS continue to work hard, day in and day out, looking to Gutowski as the example.

Gutowski says he is humbled by his new title and will continue to strive for his best every chance he gets. His advice to himself: "Take a deep breath, and tackle each task one at a time. You learn more from your mistakes than your successes."

In Lockport, Ken and Kim Gutowski hope that their son Joe and his family will make it here for Thanksgiving; it's Joe's favorite time of the year.

"We worry about the safety of our son and his squad, especially in times like his recent mission to Iraq, but we are very proud of the wonderful man he has become and the example he provides for all those who work with him," Ken Gutowski said.