



VFW

On Line Information Bulletin

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Ohio
P.O. Box 15219 Columbus, OH 43215

Website: www.ohiovfw.org

Feb. 2012



PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER **GARY BENTFELD**

Past Department Commander Gary B. Bentfeld, 64, of New Middletown, passed away Sunday, Dec. 18, 2011, at the Sinai Hospital in Baltimore following complications from surgery.

Gary was born April 8, 1947, in Youngstown, the son of Charles Kenneth Bentfeld Jr. and Leona Goughler Bentfeld.

He attended school in the Youngstown area but received his GED through the Navy, wherein he enlisted on July 16, 1966. Gary had served during the Vietnam War on the U.S.S. Intrepid CVS II. Gary was discharged on Aug. 11, 1970, and had earned the Vietnam Service Medal.

After the war, Gary married the former Earlyn Beight on April 8, 1972.

Also, Gary had been employed as an assembler for the General Motors Lordstown Assembly until his retirement.

Gary was very active with many veterans associations, but most notably he was past post commander of the VFW Post 2799 in New

Springfield, past VFW District 8 commander from 1984-85, served on many committees at the district level, past VFW state commander from 1993-94, Big 10 Conference chairman from 1990 to 2010, chairman of the Robert Combs / James Comedy Cancer Fund for many years, served on the Time Place, Ways, Means, Finance Committee of the VFW of Ohio, and many committees at the national level. Gary dedicated his life in service of the VFW. He lived as a patriot.

Gary leaves behind his wife, Earlyn Bentfeld of New Middletown; three brothers, John (Libbie) Bentfeld of Norton, W. Tom (Johnnie) Bentfeld of Virginia Beach, Va., and Robert L. (Mary Lou) Bentfeld of Champion. Gary also leaves two sisters, Deborah A. Smith of Tulsa, Okla., and Connie Tubbs of Cullman, Ala.; and many nieces and nephews. And lastly, Gary's "girls," Destiny, Belle and Sassy, the family pets.

VFW SCHOLARSHIP THEMES **2012-13**

Voice of Democracy – Is Our Constitution Still Relevant?

Patriot's Pen – What I Would Tell America's Founding Fathers.



Past District 3 Commander John Sturgell, passed away January 13, 2012. John served as District Commander 2000-2001.



Buddy J Cottrell passed away January 10, 2012 at Hospice of Northwest Ohio surrounded by his wife Jean and family.



Eva Daugherty Past District #5 President has passed away from Leukemia. She donated her body to science.



WWII VET VISITED

Alvie Glenn age 91 is visited by members of the 811th Eng USNAG unit and Post 3331 VFW staff after the December 10th Christmas Party.

Alvie was born May 21, 1921 in rural KY and was drafted into the U.S. Army. He landed at Omaha Beach during the D-Day invasion in 1944. He was a member of General Patton's 3rd Army. Alvie was

wounded and captured by German forces 30 days after the Normandy invasion, stripped naked except for his dog tags, and nearly died of exposure. After 4 days a German soldier took pity and clothed and fed him. He returned to England after V.E. day as one of only 14 of 136 men in his unit to survive.

Alvie's father was a WWI veteran and his Great-Grandfather was in "Lincoln's Army" during the Civil War. His home Kentucky land tract was awarded by Lincoln following the war.

Unfortunately Alvie is too sick for Honor Flight, so he will never see his WWII memorial in person.

MID WINTER CONFERENCE

The Mid Winter Conference is over and we are happy to report, a great success. The Council of Administration concluded its business in a timely manner and was well attended.

Senior Vice Commander in Chief John Hamilton was our national representative. Senior Chief Hamilton is a great story teller and motivator. I wish all of you comrades could have attended the Conference or Banquet to hear John speak.

The parade of checks for the Combs/Comedy cancer fund did not do as well as we were hoping. The \$36,000.00 raised would have disappointed the late Gary Bentfeld. But it is not too late. Go to your post meetings and ask your post to make an additional donation to the Combs/Comedy cancer fund. Remember

the Combs/Comedy cancer fund benefits both cancer aid and research as well as hospice patients.

The Voice of Democracy banquet was also a success, creating its usual suspense in naming the Department of Ohio Voice of Democracy winner that will represent Ohio in Washington DC. The winning speech will appear later in this news letter.

The Department would like to recognize the efforts of Susan Hite, Bill Guess and the staff of the Ramada Plaza in make the conference a great success.

PATRIOT'S PEN WINNERS

First Place (\$1,500.00) District 2
LINDI A. CISCO

Second Place (\$1,200.00) District 3
MARIA D. EVERS

Third Place (\$800.00) District 5
LANA M. HOWELL

POLICE OFFICER of the YEAR

RICHARD THOMAS BALDWIN – Patrol Officer Youngstown Police Dept.
(District 8, Post 9947)

FIRE FIGHTER of the YEAR

RICHARD L. HARVEY – Fire Chief Mentor Fire Dept.
(District 7, Post 9295)

EMT of the YEAR

KYLE HIGGINBOTHAM – Paramedic Brunswick Fire Dept.
(District 7, Post 9520)

TEACHER of the YEAR

K-5 **MEG SHINGLER**
(sponsor Post 7174 District 12)

6-8 **MATT YINGLING**
(sponsor Post 7883 District 11)

9-12 **NELL RAPPORT**
(sponsor Post 2595 District 7)

2012 VOD FINALISTS



Places 6 – 12 and winners of a \$2,000.00 scholarship.

Samantha M. Shook, sponsored by Post 7262 Greenville, District 3

Hunter L. Wells, sponsored by Post 8287 Manchester, District 4

Emily G. Cosma, sponsored by Post 3767 Hubbard, District 8

Ashley E. Szatala, sponsored by Post 2529 Sandusky, District 9

Alexa M. Cortelletti, sponsored by Post 7651 Ontario, District 10

Lydia G. Richardson, sponsored by Post 9893 Albany, District 12

5th Place Winner \$2,500.00 Scholarship
Dominic L. Julian, sponsored by Post 1598, District 11

4th Place Winner \$3,000.00 Scholarship
Hannah E. Beck, sponsored by Post 1275, District 2

3rd Place Winner \$4,000.00 Scholarship
Edith M. Howell, sponsored by Post 1058, District 5

2nd Place Winner \$5,000.00 Scholarship
Jeffrey R. Miller, sponsored by Post 5563, District 7

**2012 FIRST PLACE VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY WINNER
\$8,000.00 scholarship**

CAROLYN L. SOWA



Sponsored by Post 11115 Maumee, District 1

WINNING SPEECH

Is There Pride in Serving in Our Military?

The pounding on the door was thunderous. Petrified, the tiny woman pulled it open. There stood her oldest son. The news was devastating: "Mama, the Cossacks are coming. The Czar's army is sending me to the frontline." The woman collapsed. That young man was my Great-Grandfather, Klimenty Dmitrievich Pasechnik, the tiny woman, his mother, the house, in Ukraine, and the time, WWI. The decision was made in haste: Great-Grandpa would leave alone for North America; thus started my family's legacy in the United States.

Great-Grandpa's odyssey eventually took him to Detroit in 1916 and ironically, he found himself the very next year on a troopship back to the Old World, but as a U.S. soldier. In France, he was gassed by German troops. Miraculously, he survived the war with a Silver Star commendation, earned his U.S. citizenship and raised a family. In life, he lamented every day that he was not able to see his beloved family and Ukraine again, but he never regretted his service in the U.S. Army.

12:30pm, December 8, 1941, a nation stood still as Franklin D. Roosevelt's voice solemnly resonated in the air across America. "Yesterday, Dec. 7, 1941- a date which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan." Within hours of the speech, all three brothers of my Grandfather's family signed up for the US Army. Grandpa was sent to the Pacific

Theater. In May, 1943, he landed in Attu, Alaska with his unit from the U.S. 7th Infantry Division to retake the island from the Japanese Imperial Army. On May 29, desperate, the Japanese broke through the American front line with banzai charges. Our soldiers fought hard with their enemy in hand-to-hand combat. Casualties were tremendous on both sides. Grandpa was wounded. Buried under the corpses of both Japanese and Americans, he felt death creeping up to him before he lost consciousness. His comrades refused to let him die and pulled him out. After recovering from his wounds, he rejoined his unit and fought in the Philippines and eventually landed in Okinawa, where he waited for the invasion of Japan. He came home with a purple heart, but also a changed man: he had seen death face to face. He never liked the killings. But he was proud that his military service helped defend freedom.

On August 22, 1976, my father joined the US Army right after his 18th birthday and served in South Korea. Many nights, in darkness so deep that the very air seemed saturated with it, he patrolled the DMZ. Service in such forward outposts of the Cold War imparted a tremendous sense of isolation. But seeing the moon break through the overcast, and realizing that this same moon would soon be shining over his own home, which was safe and free because of his sacrifice and the sacrifice of all U.S. military men and women filled him with a great sense of pride in his military service.

Incredibly, some youngsters of my generation do not understand the pride in serving in the military. I recently saw a Facebook post by a young man who said "A soldier will fight long and hard for a bit of colored ribbon...This is a pity, but it is true." The truth is that

many of our soldiers fight, but never see this "bit of colored ribbon". Why do American men and women serve in the military? Ask the five Sullivan brothers of Waterloo, Iowa, who lost their lives in the same incident in the Pacific in WWII, ask the four Borgstrom brothers of Utah who died within six months in European battlefields in the same war, ask the nineteen young men from the small town of Bedford, Virginia, who laid down their lives within a few minutes on Omaha Beach, Normandy, in the first wave of D-Day, and ask Patrick Tillman, who gave up a lucrative contract in the NFL after 9/11 to join the Army Rangers and died in Afghanistan. They are not able to answer the question now, but my cousin, the fourth generation of my family to serve in the US Army, answered for them, "We serve in the military because freedom and democracy are not free and someone must defend them."

My brother went to The United States Military Academy at the age of 17 to become a soldier. At this very moment, he is somewhere in the Middle East with the 82nd Airborne. He is a gentle soul. He hates violence. He won't even watch horror movies for fear of nightmares and he won't get on a roller-coaster for fear of heights. He plays classical music on piano, and he played violin in his high school orchestra. His favorite movie is not Rambo, but the Notebook. He is willing to jump out of an airplane to fight because he said for his country he must volunteer his service. He exemplifies the spirit of an American soldier characterized in General MacArthur's farewell speech at West Point that an American soldier "belongs to history as furnishing one of the greatest examples of successful patriotism. He belongs to posterity as the instructor of future

generations in the principles of liberty and freedom. He belongs to the present, to us, by his virtues and by his achievements." Yes, without doubt, there is great pride in serving in the military.

DEDICATION

Spencerville Area Veterans Memorial Park dedication set for Memorial Day at 11AM on May 28, 2012.

PDC George Cox wants everyone from across the State of Ohio to come and celebrate the dedication.

IMPORTANT DATES MARCH

4 District 1 Meeting Post 7424
Wauseon

4 District 2 Meeting Post 4239 Sidney

4 District 10 Meeting Post 1067

Ashland

4 District 11 Meeting Post 3761

Baltimore

11 District 3 Meeting Post 3438 West

Carrollton

11 District 4 Meeting Post 3809

Middletown

11 District 8 Meeting Post 3383 Akron

11 District 9 Meeting Post 7035 Avon

11 District 12 Meeting Post 108

Chillicothe

17 Post 2480 Pt. Clinton, Anniversary

26 Post 3360 Defiance, VOD Banquet

31 Post 7262 Greenville, Am. Banquet

WEB NOTE

All VFW of Ohio forms can be found on line at www.ohiovfw.org.

DEPT. MEMBERSHIP

Thursday February 9, 2012

Dist	Total	Prior Year	Percent
12	3854	3702	104.10
2	5965	6021	99.06
5	4450	4521	98.42
4	5661	5817	97.31
11	7838	8104	96.71
3	8438	8732	96.63
10	3407	3546	96.08
9	8025	8482	94.61
7	8278	8834	93.70
8	6093	6548	93.05
1	5247	5642	92.99
6	5690	6239	91.20
99	4460	5014	88.95
	77406	81202	95.32

It's that time of year again when we elect our Post Officers

Sec. 216—Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

The Commander, on the night of election or as soon thereafter as possible, shall appoint the Adjutant, Officer of the Day, Service Officer, Guard and such other officers, chairmen and committees as may be required by Department or Post By-Laws or by vote of the Post membership. The Commander may appoint such other officers, chairmen and committees as he deems appropriate to properly conduct the affairs of the Post. The Commander retains authority to remove officers, committee chairmen and committee members appointed by him at any time.

Post officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the Post Adjutant. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Such proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to installation to office. In the event an elected or appointed officer fails to submit proof of eligibility within sixty (60) days of election or appointment, any right of the officer to hold the office shall be forfeited, the office declared vacant and the eligibility qualifications of such officer shall be questioned in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of the National By-Laws.

Sec. 217—Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office.

Order of nominations and elections. The order of nominations and elections shall be Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain, Judge Advocate, Surgeon and Trustee(s).

Nomination. Prior to the opening of nominations, the Post shall decide which form of election shall be used, unless the Post By-Laws specify the manner of election. Post officers shall be nominated in March.

Any nominee shall have the opportunity to decline nomination for the office to which he has been nominated before nominations are closed. A member making the nomination of an absentee for any office shall have presented to the Adjutant, in writing, the consent of the member being nominated prior to the opening of nominations. Nominations shall remain open until the Post is ready to vote, provided, however, that when a poll system and preprinted ballots are used, as hereinafter described, nominations must be closed at the meeting at which nominations are made.

Election. Post officers shall be elected in April. Balloting for Post officers may be conducted by open vote or written secret ballot (handwritten or printed) at a regular Post meeting, or, if required by Post By-Laws or authorized by Post vote prior to the opening of nominations, by a poll system and preprinted ballot. Absentee ballots and proxy votes are prohibited.

A majority vote of all votes cast, except where otherwise designated, shall be necessary to elect. If there be no election on the first ballot, the name of the comrade receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and so on in successive ballots until an election is made.

Installation of Officers. The Post Commander-elect will select the installing officer who holds or has held a rank at least as high as that of Post Commander. Post officers shall be installed in their respective offices prior to the convening of the Department Convention, but shall not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed. The installation may be conducted publicly at an open meeting.

An officer-elect who may be absent for good and sufficient reason or cause may be installed at any regular or special meeting prior to the Department convention. If not then installed, the office will automatically become vacant.

Term of Office. Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year except that three trustees shall initially be elected for terms of one (1), two (2) and three (3) years and thereafter one (1) trustee shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years

Promote comradeship among its members

We must always remember why the Veterans of Foreign Wars was founded and it is becoming more important every day that we get back to the basics. I can tell you at the State level of our government in Ohio, some of our lawmakers are asking me, what are the posts under your command doing to deserve non-profit status? Please report what your post is doing through our VFW Program Reporting System! What is it that your post doing to deserve its exemption as a 501c19 veterans organization?

Gerald J. (Mort) Ward, State Commander

Host Hotel for the “She Serves in the American Military” Event



March 30-March 31, 2012



Hotel Cleveland

Friday Night meet and greet. If you wore the uniform (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard) and served your country at home and/or abroad, this is a time to meet new friends, reunite with old, and share. Enjoy a fun filled evening of food, music, and fun. Saturday after breakfast there will be opportunities to get questions answered and find out what support is out there for women veterans. Share your concerns and ideas. Information from "She Serves" conference in Washington D.C.

Rooms are available at the Radisson Hotel Cleveland Airport at a special rate of \$79.00 inclusive (includes tax – king or double room) - Includes Hot Breakfast Buffet

Radisson Hotel located off Interstate 480 across from Great Northern Mall. Close to I-71 and the Ohio Turnpike,

Complimentary transportation to and from Cleveland Hopkins Airport

To make your reservation:

- Complete this form and return to hotel via fax at 440-734-5471
- Or call 440-734-5060 and mention “**She Serves In The American Military**” group block
- Or email a request to sales@radissonclevelandap.com
- Send form, \$10 registration fee and overnight accommodations payment to:

**Ms. Charine Zsaludko, Past Commander
1104 East Dartmoor, Seven Hills, OH 44131**

Any questions regarding making your reservation, please call Denise Beck, Director of Sales at the Radisson – 440-734-5060 ext. 254.

All reservations must be made by March 4, 2012

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAME: _____ • ADDRESS: _____ _____ _____ <p>(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TELEPHONE: _____ FAX: _____ • CHECK-IN DATE: _____ CHECK-OUT DATE: _____ • <input type="checkbox"/> King Room <input type="checkbox"/> Double Room <input type="checkbox"/> Non Smoking <input type="checkbox"/> Smoking • Roommate(s) for Double: _____
CREDIT CARD GUARANTEE METHOD ONLY (PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BY CHECK)
<p>CREDIT CARD NO.: _____ EXP: _____ (mo. /yr)</p>
<p>SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____</p>