

POST SENTINEL

VFW POST 1419 | OCTOBER 2026

A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE, SERVICE & CONTINUITY

“Leadership changes, but the mission continues — serving veterans, their families, and our community.”

IN THIS ISSUE

Commander's Farewell & Leadership Transition

2026 Veteran of the Year — Gary J. Mosier

Welcome Our New Members

Military Observances

Service Officer Report

Auxiliary Corner

Chaplain's Corner

Honor Guard Corner

Patriot's Pen & Voice of Democracy

Post Announcements & Save the Dates

Commander's Message

A Farewell, and Confidence in the Future

As many of you are now aware, I will be resigning as Commander of VFW Post 1419 effective October 30, 2026, as I prepare to relocate to Florida.

Although I am leaving in the middle of my term, this move has been a process more than a year in the making, and the time has come for me to move on to this next chapter of my life. This has not been an easy decision. VFW Post 1419 has been such a large part of my life, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve this Post and our veterans.

Along with stepping down as Commander, I will also be stepping away from my positions as a Director of HLOV and as an Honor Guard member and treasurer. Until further notice, I will continue to coordinate events for the Oakwood Manor and DeGal Room.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank our Senior Vice Commander, Connor Colombo, for his service to VFW Post 1419 over the past couple of years. Connor has done a fantastic job and has been instrumental in many of the programs and activities that have taken place during his tenure. Due to personal reasons, Connor will also be resigning from his position as Senior Vice Commander. I sincerely thank Connor for the time, dedication, and service he has given to our Post and our veterans, and I wish him nothing but the best.

With these changes in leadership, John Redmond was nominated and voted in as Commander of VFW Post 1419 for the remainder of the 2026–2027 term. Bryce Beeman will step up to Senior Vice Commander, and Diane Wesp was nominated as Junior Vice Commander.

I have every confidence that our new leadership, along with our officers and dedicated members, will continue moving Post 1419 forward. I ask that you give them the same support, cooperation, and encouragement that you have given me throughout my time as Commander.

I want to sincerely thank our officers, members, Auxiliary, Honor Guard, volunteers, and everyone who has supported me during my time as Commander. There are so many people who give their time and energy behind the scenes to keep this Post going, and I am grateful to each and every one of you.

Serving as Commander of VFW Post 1419 has been an honor. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and especially proud of the continued commitment of our members to veterans, their families, and our community.

While I may be moving to Florida, I will always carry with me the friendships, memories, and experiences I have gained here. Post 1419 and the people who make it what it is will always hold a special place in my heart.

Thank you for your friendship, your support, and for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Commander.

**In Comradeship,
Amy Owczarczak
Commander, VFW Post 1419**

2026 Veteran of the Year

Honoring Gary J. Mosier

It is my honor to recognize a veteran whose service to our country spans decades, multiple deployments, and a continued commitment to serving his fellow veterans. This year, VFW Post 1419 is proud to recognize Gary J. Mosier as our Veteran of the Year.

Gary began his military career in April 1990, when he joined the United States Army as an Armor Crewman, 19K10. He completed One Station Unit Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he trained on both the M1 and M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank.

Only a few months later, in August 1990, Gary volunteered to deploy with the first unit going into Saudi Arabia. He flew aboard a C-130 to Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he was assigned to 2nd Platoon, B Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor, 24th Infantry Division, serving as the loader for the platoon sergeant's tank.

Gary helped put up some of the first tents in what became Tent City in Saudi Arabia while they waited for their tanks to arrive by ship. Once the tanks arrived, they loaded up and headed into the desert as part of Operation Desert Shield.

When Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm, Gary participated in combat operations that included Jalibah Airfield and Highway 80, commonly known as the Highway of Death.

His service did not end there. From December 1992 through April 1994, Gary served in Korea. He was assigned to 2nd Platoon, D Company, 1st Battalion, 72nd Armor, 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Casey, where he served as the gunner on an M1 tank for his platoon sergeant.

Gary left active duty in April 1994 and entered the Individual Ready Reserve. In 1997, he returned to military service by joining the Army Reserve and became part of the 98th Infantry Division in Amherst, New York, serving as an 88M instructor and wheeled-vehicle instructor.

Then, in 2004, Gary was activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the 18th Airborne Corps and deployed to Baghdad, Iraq. While there, Gary was handpicked for a CENTCOM mission and assigned as the primary bodyguard for Brigadier General Sherlock, whose responsibilities included overseeing the training of the Iraqi Army throughout the country. Gary was also assigned as an alternate to Lieutenant General Petraeus' team for vehicle maintenance.

During his 2004-2005 service in Iraq, Gary was awarded a Bronze Star for his missions. On June 22, 2005, during a mortar and rocket attack, he pulled a soldier to safety and provided aid.

Throughout his military career, Gary's service was recognized with an extensive list of awards, decorations, ribbons, badges, and qualifications.

MILITARY HONORS

Bronze Star Medal; Joint Service Achievement Medal; Army Commendation Medal, including a second award; Army Achievement Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal, including a second award; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Southwest Asia Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars; Korean Service Medal; Kuwait Liberation Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Mobilization Device; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service

Ribbon; Army Lapel Button; Overseas Service Bars; Driver and Mechanic Badge with Driver-T Bar; Sharpshooter Badge; and Expert qualification with the 9mm and tank weapons.

Those awards tell only part of Gary's story. Behind each ribbon, medal, and badge are years of training, deployments, sacrifice, responsibility, and service to our country.

Gary's dedication to veterans also extends beyond his military career. His connection to the VFW began in 1991, when he received a complimentary one-year membership with VFW Post 5798 in Angola, New York. More than three decades later, in May 2024, Gary joined VFW Post 1419 as a Life Member.

It did not take long for Gary to become an active part of our Post. Since 2025, he has served as our Quartermaster, taking on a position that requires commitment, responsibility, and countless hours behind the scenes.

As Commander, I know how important it is to have people willing to step forward—not simply to hold a title, but to do the work that keeps a VFW Post moving forward and allows us to continue serving veterans, their families, and our community.

Gary has demonstrated that commitment both during his military career and here at Post 1419. From serving aboard an M1 tank in the deserts of Southwest Asia, to Korea, to Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and now to serving his fellow veterans here at home, Gary's life reflects what service is truly about.

Military service may eventually come to an end, but for some veterans, the desire to serve never really does. Gary is one of those veterans.

Gary, on behalf of the officers, members, Auxiliary, Honor Guard, and everyone here at VFW Post 1419, thank you for your service to our country, for your continued dedication to our veterans, and for everything you do for our Post.

It is my privilege and honor to present Gary J. Mosier as VFW Post 1419's 2026 Veteran of the Year. Congratulations, Gary—and thank you for your service to our country, your service to your fellow veterans, and your continued dedication to our Post and our community.

Please join us in congratulating Gary J. Mosier, our 2026 Veteran of the Year, and in thanking him for his many years of service to our veterans, our Post, and our community.

We invite you to join us as we celebrate Gary at the Veteran of the Year Dinner on Tuesday, November 17 at 6:00 PM. Please see the dinner flyer in this newsletter for ticket information and additional details.

Amy Owczarczak, Commander

Welcome Our New Members

Please join us in welcoming these veterans to VFW Post 1419. We are proud to have you as part of our Post family and thank you for your service.

Member	Membership	Branch	Eligibility / Service
Scott Alan Thompson	Transfer Life Member	Army	Imminent Danger Pay; Southwest Asia Service Medal
Gregory P. Pencek II	Annual Member	Air Force	Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Shawn P. Santo	Annual Membership with Auto Renewal	Marine (Retired)	CAB – Afghanistan/Iraq; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism; Korea Defense
Kris S. Corvisser	Life Member Transfer	Navy	Southwest Asia Service Medal

Upcoming Military & Veteran Observances

October 13 | U.S. Navy Birthday

The Navy marks its 251st birthday in 2026, tracing its founding to October 13, 1775.

October 26 | National Day of the Deployed

A day to honor service members deployed around the world and recognize the sacrifices of their families.

November 10 | U.S. Marine Corps Birthday

The Marine Corps commemorates its founding on November 10, 1775.

November 11 | Veterans Day

A national observance honoring all who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

October Service Officer Report

Submitted by Dominic Caselli, Service Officer

The following report summarizes current VFW advocacy and veterans' issues provided for October.

VA Electronic Health Record Modernization

VFW National Veterans Service Deputy Director Gregg Orto submitted a statement for the record for a House Committee on Veterans' Affairs oversight hearing on the status of the VA Electronic Health Record Modernization program. Orto stated that the VFW has long supported the goal of a modern, interoperable system that allows the transfer of health care information from DOD to VA as service members become veterans. He also expressed the VFW's appreciation for VA's improved outreach to veterans, citing its work with the VFW Department of Michigan before the new system was deployed in that state. The VFW looks forward to continuing to work with VA and Congress as implementation moves forward to help ensure reliable and seamless health care for veterans.

Section 108 – Take Care of America's Veterans Act

Veterans and supporters have spent months making clear to Congress that expanding benefits should not come at the expense of future veterans' earned disability compensation. Emails, phone calls, meetings with lawmakers, and advocacy on Capitol Hill have helped keep opposition to Section 108 of the Take Care of America's Veterans Act at the forefront of legislative priorities. Although the House pulled its planned vote, the legislation remains active. The VFW is asking advocates to continue contacting their representatives and senators to oppose Section 108 and seek another way to fund veterans' priorities.

Congressional Representative Nick Langworthy: Local office 716-574-6844 | Washington, D.C. 202-225-3161

Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses – Veteran Engagement Session

The VA Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Subcommittee on Veteran Engagement will hold a Veteran Engagement Session on October 23, 2026. Open to the public, the session will provide Gulf War veterans an opportunity to share their experiences with Gulf War Illness, including health and quality-of-life concerns. The discussion will also address the importance of veteran participation in research and how VA research can inform veteran health care and policy. Information gathered will be provided to the full committee to help guide recommendations regarding Gulf War-related research.

The session will take place at the Fairmont Washington, D.C., Georgetown, 2401 M Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20037, from 1:00–4:00 p.m. EDT. Gulf War veterans are welcome to stay for informal conversations until 8:00 p.m.

Major Richard Star Act

Discharge Petition No. 22 for H.R. 2102, the Major Richard Star Act, has reached the 218 signatures needed to move forward. VFW Department of South Carolina National Legislative Committee members and VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Joy Craig met with Rep. Nancy Mace on September 15 to discuss the bill and the importance of signing the petition. Mace added her signature

later that day. According to the report, reaching 218 signatures gives the legislation a path to the House floor through the discharge process as the VFW continues working to secure consideration of the clean version of the Major Richard Star Act.

Auxiliary Corner

Well, it's October already and Trunk or Treat is a little more than a week away. Kelly is still looking for people to step up and volunteer their time and their trunks. It's a mere couple of hours out of your Sunday and there is no Bills Game that day so where else would you rather be than right there?

Our Meat Raffle is 24th and from what I've been told by one of the committee members they have everything under control. Since I have not been part of any of the planning, I can only tell you what I was told by others. Tickets are \$15.00 and are available at the Post Lounge from any Bartender on duty, or I believe you can still pay at the door. Again, this is just my assumption since I am not part of the planning committee. They may still be looking for Gift Card Donations or Basket Raffle Donations. If you are planning on making any of those donations, please bring them to the Post before the raffle date.

Dues are \$35.00. Your Auxiliary dues must be paid before October 31st to be eligible for a drawing of free dues for 2028. As you may or may not recall, we throw every member's name in a hat and select one to have their dues paid by the Auxiliary for the following year. If you pay them AFTER 12/31/26, you are going to owe an additional \$5.00. In the past, some of you have gotten away with NOT PAYING the late fee, and I am going to personally see to it that your dues are NOT submitted to National until you add the extra money to your payment. It's not fair to all of the members that get their dues in on time for you to get away with paying them whenever you please.

Well, that's about all I have for now. On Fridays, WE WEAR RED to support our Military. On most Sundays we wear Red, White and Blue for our Bills.

Katy Blaszkiewicz, President

Chaplain's Corner

Submitted by Brent Doyle, Chaplain

As long as I have been your Chaplain, and as long as I shall be, I will look at our Post as "my church." Even if you have a church and a priest or pastor, the fact that we are all veterans of foreign wars creates a unique situation and bond. In Matthew 11:28-29, Jesus spoke these words: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Anyone who can read can read from our manual at wakes and funerals, and that has its place. Often, however, it can be too late to ease the burden of the deceased, though we can hopefully offer comfort to the survivors. As a minister of the Gospel, I am here to offer assistance to the living, should they need it,

in learning from Christ in order to find rest for their souls now. I don't offer you religion, but a relationship with Christ, so that while laboring and being heavily laden, you might find rest for your souls.

If you need me, I'm here. I close with the Aaronic Blessing, the ultimate blessing that God gave to Moses for His children:

Numbers 6:24-26 - "The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

Humbly, Your Chaplain,

Brent Doyle

SICK CALL - What I'm not aware of, I can't pray for, so please reach out to me.

Please keep these brother comrades in prayer:

Don Hancock

Jerry Welsted

Honor Guard Corner

We will be hosting an event for senior citizens in the museum on October 15. They will be guided through the museum by students from Hamburg Middle School.

This is a great opportunity to get the public involved and interested in the history of our nation's heroes who have worn the uniform.

Have a blessed month.

In comradeship,

John Arcadipane, Captain

Patriot's Pen & Voice of Democracy

2026–2027 VFW Youth Scholarship Programs

This year's theme: "What a Veteran Taught Me About America"

Patriot's Pen

Open to students in grades 6–8. Students submit a 300–400-word essay for the opportunity to compete for a \$5,000 national award.

Voice of Democracy

Open to students in grades 9–12. Students submit a 3–5-minute recorded audio essay along with a written transcript for the opportunity to compete for a \$35,000 national scholarship.

ENTRY DEADLINE: OCTOBER 31, 2026

For information or entry details, contact Diane Wesp, Junior Vice Commander, VFW Post 1419 • (571) 409-0261

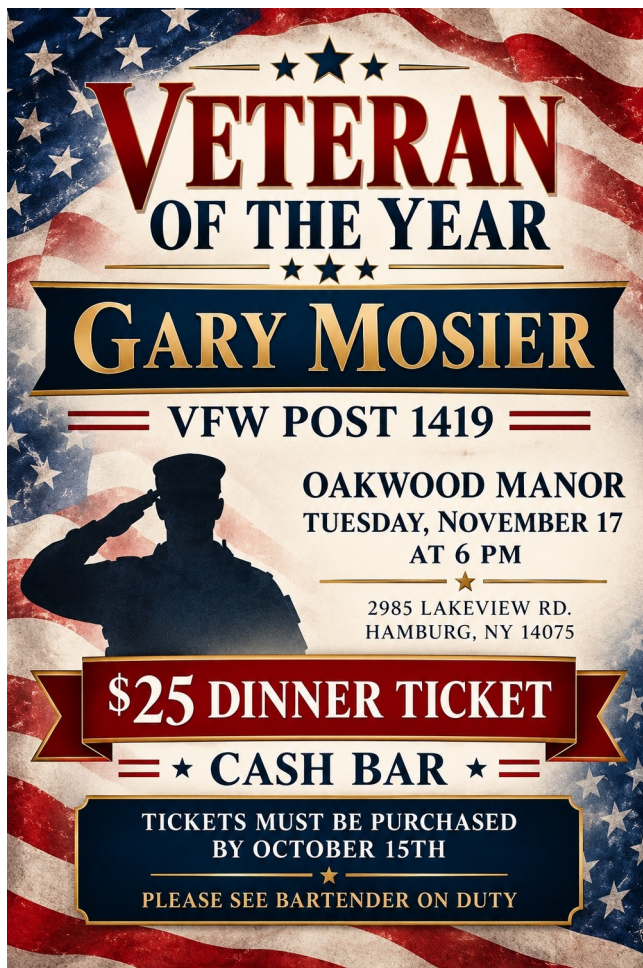
Post 1419 Announcements & Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar and join us at the Post!

OUR KITCHEN IS OPEN!

Open to all VFW members and the public
Wednesdays & Saturdays | 3:00-8:00 p.m.

Stop in, enjoy a meal, and support VFW Post 1419!



**VETERAN
OF THE YEAR**

GARY MOSIER

== VFW POST 1419 ==

OAKWOOD MANOR
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
AT 6 PM

2985 LAKEVIEW RD.
HAMBURG, NY 14075

\$25 DINNER TICKET

== ★ CASH BAR ★ ==

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED
BY OCTOBER 15TH

PLEASE SEE BARTENDER ON DUTY



**VFW POST 1419
HAMBURG, NY**

SPONSORED JOINTLY BY THE VFW VETERANS AND THE AUXILIARY

MEAT RAFFLE

GREAT PRIZES ★ GREAT FOOD ★ GREAT TIME!

\$15 ADMISSION
INCLUDES
FREE BEER
AND POP!

Featuring
**12 ROUNDS
OF QUALITY
MEATS!**

PLUS GREAT SIDE PRIZES!

- GIFT BASKETS**
Many Themed Baskets
to Be Won!
- 50/50 RAFFLE!**
50/50 RAFFLE
- GENEROUS DOOR PRIZE!**
Winner Must Be Present
or another ticket will be drawn
- FEATURED SIDE RAFFLE!**
GRAB BARGAINS,
WIN BIG!

★ **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026** ★

EVENT WILL BE HELD AT:
OAKWOOD MANOR
2985 Lake View Rd, Hamburg, NY 14075

★ **DOORS OPEN AT 6PM**
FIRST SPIN AT 7PM

BRING YOUR OWN
SNACKS AND A COOLER
FOR YOUR WINNINGS.

CASH BAR
WILL BE AVAILABLE.

TICKETS
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
THE LOUNGE BAR OR FROM
MEAT RAFFLE COMMITTEE
MEMBERS.

MEAT RAFFLE COMMITTEE
FOR INFORMATION AND TICKET SALES:
Al St Jacques (716) 245-4948
Connor Colombo (716) 440-8015
Bryce Beeman (920) 973-9707
Phil Kiefer (716) 868-0804

LOUNGE BAR
PHONE: **716-648-2618**

★ **COME OUT FOR A FUN TIME AND SUPPORT OUR VETERANS!** ★

★ **MUST BE 21 TO PURCHASE ALCOHOL** ★

MEAT RAFFLE - OCTOBER 24, 2026 | VETERAN OF THE YEAR DINNER - NOVEMBER 17, 2026

Auxiliary Trunk or Treat

A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026 | 12:00-2:00 PM

VFW Post 1419 Parking Lot • 2985 Lakeview Road, Hamburg, NY

Games, prizes, donuts, cider, music, \$1 hot dogs and more. Motorcycles and hot rods welcome.

Volunteers needed: decorate your trunks and pass out candy. Please arrive by 11:30 AM to set up. Rain or shine.

For more information: Kelly Welsted • 716-270-7153

Save the Dates

NOVEMBER 11	Veterans Day Ceremony 2:00 PM • Post 1419 Lounge
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17	Veteran of the Year Dinner 6:00 PM
DECEMBER 5	Children's Christmas Party 12:00–2:00 PM