

GENERAL ORDER NO. 4

September 4, 2019

AUGUST TOP INDIVIDUAL RECRUITER:

Kim Emerling of Salem Post 1524: (6 New Members)
He will receive \$50 VFW Store Gift Certificate and 2 tickets to the Commanders Testimonial Banquet.

AUGUST TOP POST

Salem Post 1524: (6 New Members)
The post will also receive a \$50 VFW Store Gift Certificate and 2 tickets to Commander's Testimonial Banquet.

MEMBERSHIP: Our Commander-in-Chief is offering a new Life membership incentive program. All members who either join the VFW as a new Life member, reinstate as a Life member, or upgrade their existing annual membership to Life beginning Sept. 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, will earn a \$50 store credit. This credit must be used prior to Aug. 31, 2020. Upgrade, pay off or reinstate your Life membership today www.oms.vfw.org/QuickRenew.aspx?srcid=275

MEMBERSHIP: The National Bylaws provide for only one type of membership: active membership. There are no provisions in the National Bylaws, nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Member cards, Honorary Membership cards, Courtesy Membership cards or any other special type of cards. Any Post issuing such unauthorized cards, or conducting club operations open to the general public, endangers its standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting non-members to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW Bylaws or procedures.

STATE MEMBERSHIP: Membership is vital to the success of our organization and to the services we provide. Most of the time getting a new member is as easy as saying hi and where did you serve? Every community has younger veterans who are eligible, and it should be the priority of every post and every member to let them know the VFW is here and ready to serve them.

STATE HEADQUARTERS

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24 Beacon Street, Suite 546-1
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Fax 617-727-3876

STATE SERVICE OFFICE

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Boston, MA 02133
Office: 617-303-5688
Fax: 617-227-2024

POST BONDING: Attention of commanders is directed to section 703 of the National By-Laws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which they may be accountable. **Too many posts have missed the August 31st deadline this year!** If yours is one of them, do the right thing and get it turned in to the Department. This applies even if a third party does the bonding!

POST INCORPORATION: Every Post and District must be incorporated. Incorporation papers must be filed every year. No Exceptions. This is for your protection. Incorporation forms and website links can be found on the state website www.vfwma.org

POST INSPECTIONS: Section 518 provides that the Department Inspector shall require that each Post be inspected in accordance with Department and National guidelines. The purpose of the inspection is to assure that the Post operates in a manner that supports the purposes set forth in the Congressional Charter, complies with the By-Laws, preserves the financial integrity of the Post and protects the interest of the member. Every Post is expected to be inspected at least once each year. It is the duty of the District Inspector to notify the Post Commander, Quartermaster, Adjutant and Trustees of the date and time that the inspection is scheduled. The inspector should allow you enough time to prepare for the visit. The Post inspection will go a lot smoother if it is conducted at some time other than a Post meeting night. If, for any reason, a Post cannot be inspected thoroughly, a report stating the facts must be submitted. It is the responsibility of the Post Quartermaster and Post Adjutant to provide the records necessary to complete the duties of Inspector. When the inspection of a Post is completed, the Post Inspection Form will be made out in triplicate. The yellow copy will be mailed to the Post Commander and a copy should be retained for your files.

AUTHORIZATION OF THE WEAR OF THE VFW LOGO TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE VFW: On August 24, 2019, the National Council of Administration passed a motion extending the authorization of the wear of the VFW logo to those who are not members of the VFW for the limited purpose of demonstrating public support of the VFW. This authorization is only applicable to the VFW logo reflected below:

This authorization does not include the Cross of Malta or any other trademark and service mark of the VFW, including its name, emblems, or insignia. The use of other trademarks and service marks, including the Cross of Malta, is still limited to VFW members in good standing unless such written consent has been obtained pursuant to Section 803 of the National Bylaws. Only the VFW Store, its Licensed Vendors and those properly authorized pursuant to the National Bylaws may manufacture or sell merchandise bearing the VFW logo. Additionally, no person shall wear the VFW logo while engaged in any commercial or political activity in such a manner as likely to falsely convey that such activity is approved or endorsed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Non-members desiring to wear the VFW logo should not knowingly harm, misuse or bring into disrepute the name or logos of the VFW. Authorization for non-members to wear the VFW logo is subject to revocation by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

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VFW'S "SPORT CLIPS HELP A HERO SCHOLARSHIP": The spring 2020 application is now available online at vfw.org/scholarship. Deadline for applications is Nov. 15. The VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program awarded 165 scholarships totaling over \$760,000 for the 2019 fall semester. Since beginning the program in January 2014, over 1,450 veterans have been awarded scholarships totaling more than \$6.4 million.

WORLD WAR ONE CENTENNIAL NEWS: Is Your Post Named for a Veteran of the Great War (World War One)? If so, we want to hear from you! The US World War One Centennial Commission is collecting information on VFW Posts named after WW1 veterans. If your Post is honored by the memory of a local doughboy, marine, sailor, or nurse who served and sacrificed their lives, we want to know more. Please send your information and material on the history of your Post to David Hamon, Veterans and Military Affairs

Director, US World War 1 Centennial Commission, at: david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org or, you may call him at 540.379.8584. The Commission is collecting historical and archive information on the Great War to observe and commemorate those 4.7 million who served in that conflict. America never forgets its veterans. Help them build a national memorial in Washington, DC. To learn more, go to: www.ww1cc.org/memorial

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN NATIONAL AWARDS. Every Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen first place Department winner will receive a National scholarship or award. The new amount for the Voice of Democracy National Awards now total \$154,000 and the Patriot's Pen National Awards total is now \$55,000.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES. The 2019-20 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief William J. "Doc" Schmitz. The Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "What Makes America Great." The new 2019-20 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

Additionally, anyone (including students, parents, teachers, and chairmen) can download and print the student entry forms for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen by visiting the below links:

Voice of Democracy: <http://www.vfw.org/VOD/> Patriot's Pen: <http://www.vfw.org/PatriotsPen/>

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN BROCHURES.

For Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store: <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy> for Voice of Democracy and <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen> for Patriot's Pen.

NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD

DEADLINE DATES. The VFW wants to recognize the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history, traditions and institutions effectively through the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award program. Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for the next

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competition. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, VFW Posts, supervisors or other interested individuals (not relatives). Self-nominees are not eligible.

Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. has the correct teacher award entry deadlines for the 2019-20 program year. The dates are October 31, 2019, for entries to the Post, November 15, 2019, for completion of Post judging, December 15, 2019, for completion of District judging, January 10, 2020, for completion of Department judging and the Department winners are due to National Headquarters by January 15, 2020. The entry forms are up on the VFW website and are available in the VFW Store.

*******NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD SUBMISSION CHANGE.*******

POST LEVEL NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHERS AWARD – submit an entry in all three categories (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) advanced to District judging. (Any Post can donate \$75 to National in lieu of each entry**.) **Donations made to replace a Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, National Citizenship Education Teachers Award and towards Veterans & Military Support Programs Services as listed above will only be accepted through the following link. Do not donate through your Department or by any other means.

https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation

PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11. Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11, is designated as "Patriot Day." The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States. For flags and other patriotic items, click here <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic>.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 20. Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure. For POW/MIA merchandise, click <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia>.

VFW BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: National VFW Day is observed annually on September 29, honoring the men and women devoted to this valuable organization and those members who have served our nation. Consider holding an event to mark this occasion.

VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM MONTH IN NOVEMBER: VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are encouraged to volunteer in their schools to talk about their military and home front experiences to students. Invite your local military recruiter to join you to talk about military service today. Additional information can be found in the 2019-20 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman's Manual. Simply visit vfw.org and LOG IN (or create an account if you do not have one). After logging in, you'll be redirected to the "My VFW" page where you will click on VFW Training & Support and then Community Service, Youth Scholarships & Activities where you'll have access to

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the "CHAIRMAN MANUALS." Participate in this activity during the week of Veterans Day, which is part of "National Veterans Awareness Week," as designated by Congress. Find Pledge of Allegiance pencils and coloring books, plus other citizenship education tools at the VFW Store

www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation

ACTION CORPS: If you are not already an Action Corps Advocate, we urge you to sign up to receive our *VFW Action Corps Weekly* which will keep you informed about the work we are doing on your behalf on Capitol Hill. By staying connected, you will be the first to know what is happening in Washington regarding legislation that impacts the lives of veterans and their families, and you will be able to assist in our grassroots efforts by responding when we send out any Action Alerts.

To become an Action Corps Advocate and receive the VFW Action Corps Weekly, sign up at:

<http://capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm>.

FACEBOOK: Make sure you 'like' and 'share' the VFW Department of Massachusetts Facebook page. We post updates, links, contest reminders, events, etc. for you. Share the good news of the VFW: <https://www.facebook.com/vfwma/>

"Comrades, we are barely three months into the new year and already a number of Posts and Districts delinquent in fulfilling their obligation, in particular Bonds, June Audit Reports and District meeting Schedule submissions. Also, this past spring, the OTI participation from the membership was at a four-year low. Not only that, we have less than 2 months to the deadline (October 31st) of many of our premier programs, i.e.: VOD, PP, Teacher of the Year, etc. Time to step up, do your duty as officers and members and do the right thing! At the end of the day, ask yourself: 'Am I leading the type of life that is worthy of the sacrifice that so many veterans have made for us?' If you can say 'Yes', then God bless you and I thank you. If not, do the right thing!"

In your Comradeship,

Jeff Najarian
Department Commander
Veterans of Foreign Wars

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IMPORTANT DATES

1. **MEMBERSHIP AND PROGRAM TRAINING PROVIDED BY NATIONAL:** On Saturday September 28th, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, at the Doubletree Hotel in Leominster, MA, there will be Membership training provided by Rick Butler, National Director of Membership and Programs training provided by Lynn Rolf, National Director of Programs. All posts are invited to attend, and lunch will be served. Please let us know if your post is coming!
2. **COMMANDER'S TESTIMONIAL BANQUET:** On Saturday September 28th, at the Doubletree Hotel in Leominster, MA at 6:00 PM, there will be a testimonial dinner in honor of State Commander Jeffrey Najarian. Social hour will start at 5:00 PM. Tickets are \$40 per person. Please register by September 15th by contacting Tara at 617-727-2612.
3. **COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING:** On Sunday September 29th, at 10:30 AM, there will be a Council of Administration meeting, at the Doubletree Hotel in Leominster, MA.
4. **HOSPITAL WORKSHOP:** On October 5th at 9:00 am at the Medway Post 1526 there will be a hospital workshop. This is a well-attended event by both the VFW and the Auxiliary, hope to see you all there.
5. **NEWSPAPER DEADLINE:** The deadline for the next edition of the Department Newspaper is October 15th. All State Officers are required to submit an article, all District Commanders are required to submit a minimum of two pictures with caption (event and who is in the photo). Any post that wants to submit a photo is highly encouraged. Please send articles and photos to PSC Eric Segundo at esegundo@vfwma.org.

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2019 Commander's Testimonial Weekend

Friday, September 27, 2019

7:00PM Social Hotel Lounge

Saturday, September 28, 2019

9:30AM Membership Training (National Membership Director)
Program Training (National Program Director)

5:00PM Social (Cash Bar)

6:00PM Banquet Grand Ball Room

Sunday, September 29, 2019

10:30AM Council of Administration Meeting

Note: Hotel rooms are available at \$105.00 plus 11.7% tax. Let them know you with the VFW and use **VTS** for this special rate.

Doubletree by Hilton Leominster
99 Erdman Way, Leominster MA
1-978-534-9000

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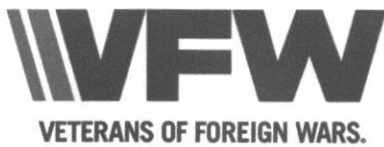
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MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM TRAINING

The National Membership Director Rick Butler and Program Director Lynn Rolf III, will be coming to Massachusetts to conduct recruiting and retention training along with National program training.

Join us Saturday September 28th, 2019

Beginning at 9:30AM

Doubletree by Hilton Leominster

99 Erdman Way, Leominster MA

This training is open to all VFW members to include our surrounding VFW Departments. There is no cost for this training however there is limited seating and reservations are required.

This training has been requested by VFW leaders and members across the Commonwealth. This is a great opportunity to learn how to effectively recruit prospective members in your area, strategies, talking points, retention, and much more. This training is designed to help everyone increase their membership.

Contact Michael Raymond, State Membership Chairman

mraymond@vfwma.org

Name _____

Department/Post _____

Number of Personal Attending _____

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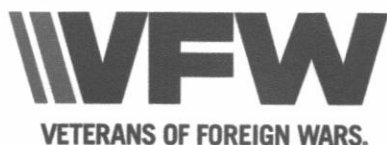
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DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Testimonial Dinner for State Commander Jeffrey Najarian

Join us on Saturday September 28th, 2019

Cocktails 5:00PM Dinner 6:00PM

Doubletree by Hilton Leominster | 99 Erdman Way
Leominster, Massachusetts

\$40 Per Person

Teriyaki Tenderloin Tips or Baked Haddock with Ritz Cracker Crumb
Caesar Salad, Rice Pilaf, Green Bean Almandine
NY Style Cheesecake with Strawberries

RSVP by September 13th to 617-727-2612 or secretary@vfwma.org

For Tickets Mail Check to:
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Massachusetts
ATTN: Commanders Testimonial
24 Beacon St. Suite 546-1
Boston, MA 02133

Please Indicate Your Meal Selection | Tables of 8 Available
No Tickets will be mailed

Name _____

Amount _____ Department _____

Post/Aux # _____ Number of Tickets _____

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Department Calendar 2019-2020

2019

Date	Time	Event	Location
September 5-8		Commander-in-Chief Homecoming	Albany, NY
September 9-12		Fall Legislative Committee Meeting	Washington DC
September 15-19		Service Officer Training Advance Skills	Annapolis, MD
September 15-20		Service Officer Training Initial Training	Annapolis, MD
September 20	5:00PM	POW/MA Recognition Day	Bourne National Cemetery
September 21	11:30AM	Aux Finance Fundraiser: Murder Mystery Dinner	Gardner Post 905
September 28	9:00AM	Membership Training by National	Leominster, MA
September 28	5:00PM	State Commander Testimonial	Leominster, MA
September 29		VFW 120 th Birthday	
September 29	10:30AM	Council of Administration	Leominster, MA
October 5	9:00AM	Hospital Workshop	Medway Post 1526
October 10-13		State JVC/QM Training	Kansas, MO
October 15		Newspaper Deadline	
October 25-27		Eastern Conference	Rocky Hill, CT
November 2	9:30AM	Auxiliary Council of Administration	Millbury Post 3329
November 9	10:30AM	Council of Administration	Somerville Post 529
November 10	12:30PM	Bourne Veterans Day Ceremony	Bourne Veterans Cemetery
November 11		Veterans Day	
December 7	12:00PM	Aux Spaghetti Dinner/Holiday Auction	Dedham Post 2017
December 9	6:30PM	Canton Hospital Christmas Party	Canton, MA
December 14		Wreaths Across America	

2020

January 11	10:30AM	Council of Administration	Medway Post 1526
January 15		Newspaper Deadline	
January 25	9:30AM	Auxiliary Council of Administration	North Billerica Post 8819
January 26	1:00PM	VOD/Patriots Pen Banquet	Leominster, MA
February 14		Valentine's Day at Bedford VA	Bedford VA
February 15	9:00AM	Mid-Winter Conference	Beachmont Post 6712
Feb. 29-Mar. 4		Voice of Democracy	Washington DC
March 1-5		Legislative Conference	Washington DC
March 5-8		Commander-in-Chief Visit	
March 7	1:00PM	C-in-C Reception	
March 14	10:30AM	Council of Administration	Westford Post 6539
March 29	12:00PM	State President's Banquet	TBA
April 2-5		Sr. Vice Cdr./Adjutant Training	Kansas City, MO
April 15		Newspaper Deadline	
May 16	10:30AM	Council of Administration	Townsend Post 6538
May 24	12:30PM	Bourne Ceremony	Bourne
June 11-14		State Convention	Leominster, MA
July 18-23		National Convention	Reno, Nevada

District Meetings Schedule 2019-2020

DISTRICT #5	DATE	TIME	POST #	MEETING PLACE
	09/22/19	10AM	1018	DORCHESTER
	11/03/19	10AM	1645	STOUGHTON
	01/12/20	10AM	3402	FRANKLIN
	03/15/20	10AM	2498	NEEDHAM
	04/19/20	10AM	5188	WALPOLE
	05/03/20	10AM	1526	MEDWAY
DISTRICT #6	DATE	TIME	POST #	MEETING PLACE
	09/15/19	1PM	7239	ACUSHNET
	11/17/19	1PM	3260	NEW BEDFORD
	01/19/20	1PM	8502	WESTPORT
	03/15/20	1PM	2547	NORTH EASTON
	05/17/20	1PM	6643	FREETOWN
DISTRICT #7	DATE	TIME	POST #	MEETING PLACE
	06/23/19	11AM	8503	SHELBURNE FALLS
	08/25/19	11AM	9397	HAMPDEN
	10/27/19	11AM	2596	WALES
	02/23/20	11AM	8428	BELCHERTOWN
	03/22/20	11AM	7352	SPRINGFIELD
DISTRICT #8	DATE	TIME	POST #	MEETING PLACE
	09/15/19	2PM	10278	SHREWSBURY
	10/20/19	2PM	3329	MILLBURY
	11/17/19	2PM	1385	UXBRIDGE
	02/16/20	2PM	312	WORCESTER
	03/15/20	2PM	5594	UPTON
	04/30/20	2PM	5594	MILFORD (UPTON HOST)
DISTRICT #9	DATE	TIME	POST #	MEETING PLACE
	09/15/19	9AM	10338	LANESBORO
	10/27/19	9AM	448	PITTSFIELD
	11/17/19	9AM	8183	HOUSATONIC
	02/16/20	9AM	996	NORTH ADAMS
	03/15/20	9AM	12079	LENOX
	04/19/20	9AM	1995	ADAMS
	05/17/19	9AM	9566	DALTON

DISTRICT #10	DATE	TIME	POST #	MEETING PLACE
	09/15/19	10:30AM	6712	BEACHMONT
	11/3/19	10:30AM	4524	REVERE
	01/12/20	10:30AM	2104	N. ANDOVER
	03/8/20	10:30AM	2359	DANVERS
	05/3/20	10:30AM	2346	SAUGUS
DISTRICT #11	DATE	TIME	POST #	MEETING PLACE
	08/18/19	12:00 PM	7389	WESTMINSTER-DIST BBQ
	09/15/19	2:00 PM	1807	LEOMINSTER
	10/20/19	2:00 PM	523	CLINTON
	11/17/19	2:00 PM	905	GARDNER
	12/15/19	2:00 PM	905	GARDNER
	01/19/20	2:00 PM	905	GARDNER
	02/02/20	2:00 PM	7389	WESTMINSTER
	03/15/20	2:00 PM	3439	NORTH BROOKFIELD
	04/19/20	2:00 PM	650	ATHOL
DISTRICT #12	DATE	TIME	POST #	MEETING PLACE
	09/09/19	7:30PM	2188	MIDDLEBORO
	10/14/19	7:30PM	1822	PLYMOUTH
	TBD	7:30PM	2125	BRIDGEWATER
DISTRICT #15	DATE	TIME	POST #	MEETING PLACE
	9/15/19	10:30 AM	8819	NORTH BILLERICA
	10/20/19	10:30 AM	662	LOWELL
	11/17/19	12PM	1274	NATICK
	01/19/20	10:30 AM	3291	PEPPERELL
	03/15/20	10:30 AM	6556	LITTLETON
	04/19/20	10:30 AM	6538	TOWNSEND
	04/26/20	12PM	BANQUET	TBD
	05/17/20	10:30 AM	1027	HUDSON
DISTRICT #18	DATE	TIME	POST #	MEETING PLACE
	9/8/2019	10AM	529	SOMERVILLE



DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

For Immediate Release:

To: Editors, Feature Writers and Event Listings, news desks

Subject: Opposition to HB 4049

Date: September 4, 2019

Contact: Bill LeBeau
(617) 727-2612
adjutant@vfwma.org

Subject: Massachusetts VFW Opposes HB 4049

MASSACHUSETTS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OPPOSES THE FORMATION OF A BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT CADET PROGRAM TO BYPASS VETERANS IN THE HIRING PROCESS

"The Department of Massachusetts Veterans of Foreign War represents over 22,000 Combat Veterans and an additional 5,000+ family members who are part of its auxiliary. One of our core missions is keeping our promises to the men and women who served. In this capacity we vigorously oppose HB 4049, *An Act to create a Boston Fire Department Cadet Program*. While the VFW certainly supports creating pathways and encouraging young adults to consider jobs as first responders in all of our cities and towns, HB 4049 would seriously curtail the ability for Veterans to compete for these same jobs by allowing the City of Boston to circumvent MGL Chapter 31, section 26, governing Veteran preference ranking for initial hiring to the Boston Fire Department.

HB 4049 would allow over 33% of all new members of BFD to consist of individuals that are hired outside of the oversight of civil service or any other objective authority. This legislation would allow non-veterans, with no residency requirement and a minimum civil service test grade of 70% to bypass higher ranked Disabled Veterans, Veterans on the civil service list for employment as firefighters. This is against the spirit of the Veterans preference laws already on the books and would encourage other jurisdictions around the Commonwealth to follow the same path in denying preference to our Veterans.

For these reasons the Department of Massachusetts Veterans of Foreign Wars strongly opposes HB 4049 and members from each of our 163 posts throughout the Commonwealth will be contacting their respective elected State Legislators and Senators, as well as the Governor's Office, to communicate this opposition directly."

Jeffrey Najarian
State Commander
Massachusetts Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars

No One Does More For Veterans

24 Beacon Street State House Suite 546-1, Boston, MA 02133 617.727.2613 www.vfwma.org