

Staum, Haake to represent National Organizations at Illinois Conventions

Past Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum of Minnesota and National VFW Auxiliary Chaplain Peggy Haake of Hawaii will represent their respective national organizations at the upcoming Illinois VFW and Auxiliary Conventions in Springfield.

Staum was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States during its 86th annual convention (1985) in Dallas, Texas.

A native and resident of Minneapolis, Minn., John was born on September 3, 1931. For over two years, he was a pre-seminary student at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, but gave up his deferment and subsequently was drafted into the Marine Corps.

Staum served with the U.S. Marine Corps detachments aboard the heavy cruiser USS Bremerton and the aircraft carrier USS Princeton operating in Korean waters from April 1952 to September 1953.

In 1957, he joined VFW Post 9625 in Coon Rapids, Minn. and rose through the various elective positions to become a two term Post Commander from 1961-1963. He was elected a district commander in 1966-67 and commanded the Department of Minnesota in 1970-71 when he earned All American honors. For the next twelve years, Staum



**Past Commander-in-Chief
John S. Staum**

served on various committees including National Voice of Democracy, Safety, Community Activities, and National Security and Foreign Affairs. In 1972 and 1977, he was the chairman of the VFW National Convention Corporation.

He is former president of the Glenmar Company, a sub-contracting and building supply firm in Minneapolis. He is a member of the American Legion.

Married to the former Bernadette T. Clarkin of Montgomery, Minn., the Staums have two grown children, Mark and Nancy. Mark is a Marine Corps veteran.

Haake of Kahului, Hawaii, was elected National Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary at its 103rd National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., on July 27, 2016.

She is now in the third of five



**National Auxiliary Chaplain
Peggy Haake**

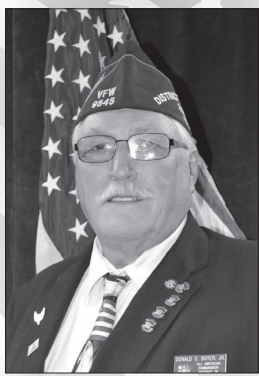
offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2019-2020.

Peggy is a Life Member of Wilbert Wah Hu Tom Auxiliary 3850, which she joined on the eligibility of her husband, Richard, who served in the United States Army in Vietnam from 1970-71.

Since joining, she has served the organization in many capacities, including Auxiliary and State President, National Council Member and Western Conference Chairman for the Youth Activities program. She is a Life Member of VFW National Home, Camp Trotter in Michigan, the DAV and the VFW Veteran's Village in Florida.

Peggy retired after 34 years with the Bank of Hawaii and is currently an instructor for AARP's Driver Safety Program. In her spare time she enjoys bowling and volunteer work.

State Junior Vice Commander



Don Boyer

Thank you to all our members for giving me the honor and privilege to serve this past year as your State Junior Vice Commander. I would like to thank Commander Dave Stout for his leadership this past year. It has been a great experience to serve with State Commander Dave Stout and his "Veterans United" team.

Congratulations to all our Posts and Districts that accomplished their goals over these past 12 months and for the awards that will be presented at the upcoming State Convention in June.

I would like to acknowledge the important work the staff at our State Headquarters does each and every day. Also, State

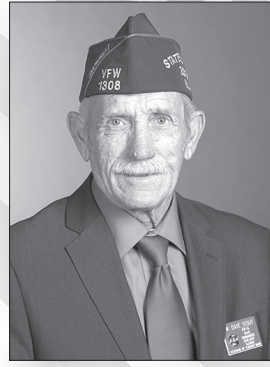
Service Officer Derek Giffin and his team work equally as hard, on a daily basis, for our veterans. Both offices are dedicated to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the veterans of the state of Illinois. Oftentimes, they are not appropriately recognized, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for everything they do for all of us.

Best wishes to our newly elected and appointed officers for the 2017-2018 year. I truly hope that all the goals that each of you set for yourselves are accomplished this year!

I appreciate all the courtesy and hospitality I received during my travels this year, and I know our Posts and Districts will continue to be just as hospitable to me in the future. I look forward to my upcoming travels and I know we can expect another great VFW year from all of you.

God bless you all.

State Commander



W. Dave Stout

This is my last column as your State Commander. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the organization and our State in this role.

The experience of going through the chairs has been a time I will never forget - the ups and downs, the good and the not so good have definitely made memories and formed impressions I will never forget. The chance to serve as your State Commander has been humbling, yet an honor I will always cherish.

None of it could have been done without you the membership but also the wonderful staff at the State Headquarters Office in Springfield. Their dedication and professionalism deserves the respect of all members of this state. When you see them throughout the year, thank them for what they do for each of us.

Traveling the state has been

amazing, especially the comrades and sisters that it has been my pleasure to interact with during my visits. The hospitality and warm welcomes have made all the travel and long hours worth every second of it.

"Veterans United" is not just a slogan - it should be our way of life. Our mission is all about service to veterans and their families. That is where we need to focus our energies.

Our Veterans Service Office is there to provide the services our people need. They are the best, please continue to use their skills and knowledge to help our veterans.

Thanks to all of you who gave it your best shot this year and continue what you do in your Posts, Districts and communities. You are the face of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Congratulations to the Auxiliary for their great efforts in membership this year - they did a great job. 100% plus! Let's finish 2016-2017 strong!

Thank you again for allowing me to lead the State of Illinois VFW for one short year into our future. It has been a privilege and honor to be the Illinois State Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I intend to continue to serve the department and the veterans in the years to come.

Thanks to each and everyone of you. God bless you, your families and the United States of America.

State Senior Vice Commander



Jeff Hastings

days are a time for celebration of our successes of this past year, a time to renew old friendships and make some new ones, and discover ways to improve our post, districts and department thru discussion of good practices.

We have much to be proud of but there is always room for improvement. Our convention provides us the opportunity to share our good practices, so while you are here please share, and brag on yourselves, network, so that we all learn better ways to do things.

The "Veterans United" Team continued the long tradition of our organization by assisting veterans throughout our state. Our department can be proud of the leaders as well as the phenomenal office staff at our Springfield and Chicago offices that have helped us have such a great 2016-2017 Year, please thank them for a job well done.

I sincerely thank all of you for what you do and more so for what you will continue to do. I look forward to seeing many of you next month in Springfield.

REUNIONS

USS Abnaki ATF-96

Sept. 6-10, 2017

Marriott BWI Airport Hotel

Linthicum, Maryland

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