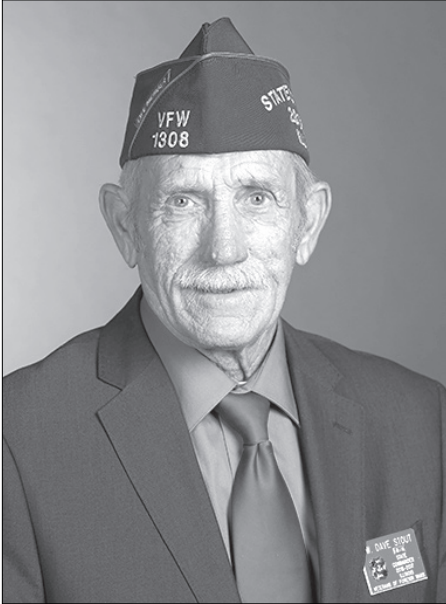


STATE ADJUTANT



W. Dave Stout
State Adjutant

P.O. Box 13206
Springfield, IL 62791-3206
Business: (217) 529-6688
Fax: (217) 546-3415
E-mail: vwil@vwil.org
Website: www.vwil.org

Thank you to everyone who did so much veterans service work this year despite the challenges that arose in 2020 and continued into the early months of 2021. The staff of our department service office had to adapt to a completely new dynamic and they've continued to do outstanding work.

The same thing goes for our districts and posts. Many challenges met and overcame. I want to thank all the officers who served during the past year and welcome all incoming newly elected officers at all levels. I want them to know that Headquarters is there to assist them in the performance of their duties.

I'm proud to share a leadership position with you this year. You have been chosen or elected by your peers to be part of the leadership team for the State of Illinois. Whether you are serving at the post, district, or department level, you have stepped up and accepted the responsibilities of those offices.

This year we must get down to the basics. We have program requirements that need to be met or exceeded. It will be our job to ensure these program requirements get accomplished. We must train and mentor every member on our programs and let them know what the Veterans of Foreign Wars is all about. This year's Commander's Leadership Manual is a guide. It outlines each and every program that we have. The purpose of this manual is to assist leaders at all levels in making a difference in their post and their community. If you don't know how to accomplish the programs, ask and you will be helped.

Each program is important. The key to success of course is our membership. Our membership goal is 100%. There are many eligible veterans in Illinois. The task at hand is to find them, recruit them, and retain them. Membership is the responsibility of every member at all levels. Remember, our primary mission is to assist veterans. By increasing membership, we have the ability to do more for our veterans.

We are all here for the same reason and must work hard to meet the goals. We can do that by being positive team players, knowledgeable of our core values, and have a desire to embody "Mission First - Veterans Always" to complete our mission. Thank you for stepping up to help our veterans and to our 2021-2022 Team!