

NEWS FOR VETERANS

Goldsmith Elected VFW Commander-in-Chief

(NAPSA)—The 102nd national convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States witnessed a changing of the guard.

James N. Goldsmith of Lapeer, Michigan was elected Commander-in-Chief of the organization on August 24, 2001. The convention was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Deeply concerned for the welfare of our active duty and reserve military forces, Goldsmith has traveled worldwide listening to the needs of U.S. service men and women. As a result of these many discussions, he lists quality of life and defense readiness issues as his top priorities.

For example, he is particularly concerned about the number of the organization's members who have diabetes.

According to Goldsmith, "Our membership and, in fact, all of our citizens are now threatened by a silent, yet deadly enemy—Diabetes. The war against this insidious killer has taken on an increased urgency since we now know that in-country Vietnam vets are suffering from this dreaded



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disease in alarmingly high numbers, due to their service there."

He is proposing the VFW establish a number of research grants aimed at defeating the disease.

Another concern for Goldsmith is making sure that members of the Active Duty forces, National Guard, Reserves and military retirees are

all aware of the benefits and services they are entitled to when they separate from the armed forces.

Goldsmith served in the U.S. Army from November 1965 to August 1967, with duty in Vietnam as an engineer from April 1966 to August 1967.

In 1978, Goldsmith was selected as Michigan's "Young Veteran of the Year," and in 1980, became the first Vietnam veteran to be elected Department Junior Vice Commander. He earned All American status as a Department Commander, 1982-1983.

He also served as vice-chairman of the POW/MIA Committee and the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee. While serving as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Goldsmith was selected to travel to Vietnam as part of a presidential fact-finding committee. He retired from General Motors in 1997 after 35 years of service.

For a free brochure about becoming a member of the VFW write: Veterans of Foreign Wars, National Headquarters, Membership, Broadway at 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.