

ATTENTION

It is with regret the Department announces the Cancellation of the January Mid-Winter conference in Portsmouth. This is due to more stringent Covid-19 restrictions creating uncertainty about being able to hold this event in January. The Department Council of Administration will meet on January 9th at Post 9808 at 7168 Flag Ln in Mechanicsville. Further details are in Article 22 in the General Orders. You can call me if you have any questions. Ed. Office: 540-886-8112 or Cell: 804-304-7726

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

NUMBER 6

403 Lee Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112

"Steady the Course"

FAX: 866-416-0586
Website: www.vfwva.org
Email: statehq@vfwva.org

December 1, 2020

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

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1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Comrades, I wish all a Happy Holiday season. Plan your events safely at home and at our Post.

I want to congratulate Posts that had or will be having Anniversaries November through January, Blacknall-Chess Post 4639, Francis Marion Post 4667, Vinton Post 4522, Leonard E. McCoy Post 5311, Ford-Stewart Post 4637, William T. Allen Memorial Post 5500 on their 75th Anniversary, and General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller Post 1503 on their 50th Anniversary.

I hope all Posts and Districts are setting goals to reach 90% membership by Dec. 31st, get a copy of the unpaid list we still have a lot of members with dues coming up in December. Call HQ if you need help with retrieving the unpaid list for your Post. Contact your Department Line Officers if you need help with recruiting ideas.

Post Commanders set goals to achieve 100% reported the second half reporting period, we missed the first half reporting let's not repeat.

In closing I want to thank every member for the work they do in their community, Hospital, school, scouts and their Post homes. Post Commanders set up a group to call your Post members this holiday season "Buddy Check" find out how they are doing, do they need anything during this Holiday season with COVID19 in place and numbers raising.

Find ways to contact our veterans in the VA Hospital even by just a card letting them know we are all thinking of them this Holiday season.

GREAT JOB TEAM Virginia.

Eric Mallett
State Commander

2. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 st	Date: 1/23/21 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 176 Newport News 21 Forrest Drive	8 th	Date: TBD Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: TBD
2 nd	Date: TBD Lunch: Noon Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: TBD	9 th	Date: 1/16/21 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4667 Marion 861 Goolsby Street
3 rd	Date: TBD Meeting: 10:00 AM Lunch: to follow Meeting Location: TBD	10 th	Date: 12/6/20 Lunch: Noon Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 9274 Falls Church 7118 Shreve Road
4 th	Date: TBD Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: TBD	11 th	Date: 1/23/21 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 2216 Staunton 212 Frontier Drive
5 th	Date: TBD Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: TBD	12 th	Date: 1/16/21 Registration: 10:30 AM Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1994 Abingdon 17581 Lee Highway
6 th	Date: 12/5/20 Meeting: Noon Location: Post 1264 Roanoke 4930 Grandview Ave NW	13 th	Date: TBD Meeting: Noon Location: TBD
7 th	Date: 1/16/21 Lunch: 11:30 AM Meeting: 12:15 PM Location: Post 2447 Edinburg 100 Veterans Way		

3. ACTIVE 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.

4. **AMAZONSMILE:**

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to charitable organizations selected by our customers. Our very own foundation is listed the Virginia Veterans Foundation.

5. **BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:**

All officers should obtain current 2021 copies of the podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. Copies of the revised edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters. The 2021 revised edition reflects that in response to the deadly virus COVID-19, the 121st National Convention was held pro-forma where no amendments to the National Bylaws or Manual of Procedure were made.

6. **CITIZEN EDUCATION TEACHER AWRD:**

District judging should be completed by **December 15th** and nominations forwarded to the Department Chairman no later than **December 20th**. Department judging will be held on **December 23rd**.

Districts

1. Please ensure teacher nominations are complete before forwarding them to Department. By the time I receive the nominations, I do not have the time to go back to the Post to try and get the missing items (resume, photograph, etc.)
2. Complete the Post Teacher Entry Form listing all information called for.
3. District Report forms have previously been provided to the District Commanders. If you still need them, contact me and I will provide them. These forms should be submitted with your teacher nominations.
4. Submit your winning nominations to the address listed below:

Chris Birch
304 E Main Street
Berryville, VA 22611-1306

If you have any questions, call me at (540) 955-3311 or (540) 539-5446 or email me at bigredtruk@comcast.net.

Chris Birch
Teacher's Recognition Chairman

7. **DUTIES OF TRUSTEES:**

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to section 218 of the Manual of Procedure, "Duty of Trustees." Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the close of each quarter, one of which ends December 31, 2020. Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including the Club Manager and Bingo Chairman. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster and Adjutant records.

8. **HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG:**

DEC. 7. Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates Dec. 7 as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" and requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day. To order a flag, go to vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags.

9. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 25th**. This will be the primary means of sending correspondence from State Headquarters to Post and District Officers.

You will receive all General Orders, special notices and any other documentation that you need via email. This will help cut down on postal expenses and speed up the response time for you receiving the information.

Here are directions for logging into your new account for the first time.

1. Go to Department web site www.vfwva.org.
2. Click on Resources, Microsoft 365.
3. The username is your email address; put that on the first line (see below for your new address).
4. Your default password will be **VFW2020!** once you have accessed the mail program you will be asked to change it; it must contain at least one uppercase letter and one number.

For Post Officers, your address will be cdrpost176@vfwva.org where the 176 is you replace it with **your** Post number.

adjpost176@vfwva.org
qmpost176@vfwva.org

For District Officers your address will be cdrdist1@vfwva.org for Districts other than the first just replace the 1 with your district #

adjdist1@vfwva.org
qmdist1@vfwva.org

10. GENERAL ORDERS:

The cut off for the General Orders is the 20th of the month. No EXCEPTIONS. Subscriptions for hard copy General Orders are \$30.00 for the year (**please note new price**). Contact State Headquarters for more info.

11. IMPORTANT DATES:

February 5-7, 2021	State Commander/State President/MOCA Homecoming, Virginia Beach, VA (see enclosed packet)
March 25-28, 2021	National Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch Homecoming, Portsmouth, VA (a revised packet was in October General Orders)
June 3-6, 2021	State Convention, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA; phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$125.00 per night. Group name "Virginia VFW"; Cut-off Date May 3, 2021
July 31-August 5, 2021	National Convention, Baltimore, MD
November 18-21, 2021	Southern Conference, Hilton Head, South Carolina
January 7-9, 2022	Winter Council, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA; phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$94.00 per night. Group name "VFW Department of Virginia Winter Council Meeting"; Cut-off Date December 6, 2021.

12. IRS FORM 8822-B:

IRS form 8822-B. It is now a requirement by the IRS that all Posts submit this form. This form must be submitted any time the Post Quartermaster changes and/or the Post address changes. This was effective January 1, 2014. Here is the link to get the form and instructions – <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822b.pdf>
This will also apply to all Auxiliaries that have their own EIN number.

13. LIFE MEMBERSHIP DRAWING:

Congratulations to Arthur Williams Memorial Post 10654 as the winner of a free Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Virginia. Arthur Williams Memorial Post 10654 was made eligible for this Free Life Membership for having 85% of their membership goal reported to State Headquarters by the October 30, 2020 deadline.

14. MEMBERSHIP:

Comrades and Commanders,

I hope this message finds all Leaders and members healthy and in good spirits. As we move toward Christmas and celebrate with our families and give thanks for our good fortune, please reflect on the service members that are still overseas in harm's way. Those are the ones that we, as an organization, remain vigilant to serve and protect. They are the reason we need to go out and recruit new members and reinstate ones that have lost sight of our mission. My generation of veterans are turning the organization over to the Gulf War Veterans, and they in turn pass it on to the next. We have been doing this for over 121 years. We were filing claims for vets long before the Veterans Administration was created in 1930. That in itself should inspire you to want to bring in new members to continue the legacy that this organization has established.

By the time you see this we will need less than 5,000 members to reach our quota and make Eric an All American Commander. Also let's not forget about Hal our first CIC ever, it would look very bad if his own State didn't make its Quota in membership. The Membership Team opened a new Post in Emporia on November 7th and with the help of the First District, will open another in January or February in Kilmarnock. My point is that there are a lot of veterans in this State that are not members yet. When you hear of a veteran that lives in your area, make an effort to sign them up. If we all make a little extra effort to recruit, then we will be successful. Please stay safe but continue to recruit. Thank you for all that you do for the Department of Virginia.

Tom Hines, PDC
Membership Team

15. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters and the Service Officer offices in Hopewell, Norfolk and Dale City will close at noon on December 24 and reopen January 4, 2021 in observance of Christmas and New Year's. The State Adjutant/Quartermaster will be available by phone and email for any issues that may arise.

16. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY:

Procedure and Ritual establish that *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12th Edition* shall be the parliamentary authority on procedural matters not governed by VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. This edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* is readily available at local bookstores and online retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

17. PATRIOT'S PEN:

I am requesting District Chairpersons forward Winning Patriots Pen Packages to

Dennis W Walk
State Patriots Pen Chairman
401 Chowan Place
Newport News, VA 23608-1333

The packages must be complete by ensuring a head and shoulder picture of the winner and be received at my address by 17 Dec 2020. The State judging will be on 19 Dec 2020 at Post 9808 in Mechanicsville, VA at 1:00 pm. Any questions please call 757-874-4660 or email retdwalk143@aol.com.

18. POST PANDEMIC RELIEF GRANTS:

To all VFW State Departments Commanders, Senior Vice Commanders, Junior Vice Commanders, Adjutants and Quartermasters,

The VFW Foundation is shifting its grant making focus for the 2021 fiscal year to provide urgently needed financial relief to VFW Posts affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The VFW Foundation Post Pandemic Relief Grant (PPRG) is an opportunity for VFW Posts that own or lease their buildings to receive up to \$2,500 in support toward expenses such as mortgage/rent, utility bills and property taxes. Posts will need to meet certain requirements to be eligible to receive funding from this program.

PPRG applications will be accepted beginning 10/1/2020. However, Posts may access and begin completing the application prior to October 1 by visiting www.vfw.org/grants and clicking on "Apply Now".

For more information please visit: www.vfw.org/grants. You may also contact Jason Couch, Grants & External Relations Coordinator, at jcouch@vfw.org.

19. PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS:

Department deadline is January 8, 2021. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award

Each Department will receive their three awards and should contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department Commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient's peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the general public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters and EMTs, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership. Order plaques and citations for public servants from the VFW Store vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=public%20servant.

NOTE: VFW PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATION POST ENTRY FORM. This form was developed to assist VFW Post Safety Chairmen with an entry form to hand out to the local Fire Department, Police Department, etc. to assist interested individuals in nominating one of their own. The entry form along with the required documentation (nominees' background, resume of background in appropriate work, accomplishments in appropriate field, title and address) are to be returned to the local VFW Post for their judging. Once the winner in each category has been chosen, the Post will forward those entries on to the next level of judging.

Simply visit vfw.org, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Public Servant Program**.

20. REPORTING:

Comrades to view whether your Post has submitted an Audit Report, Americanism, Community Service, Safety, Youth or Hospital report you should visit the Department website (www.vfwva.org).

The website is updated daily. If you have any questions, please call State Headquarters.

There will be no form for Homeless when reporting for assistance to a homeless veteran please put it on a Community Activity report under aid to others.

21. SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING:

The Department Service Officer Bobbiejo Lazo will hold a training session on January 9 at 10:00 am by Zoom. The following is the invitation for Service Officer Training.

Mike Diaz is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Service Officer Training

Time: Jan 9, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84515423765?pwd=RGZPM2lsK0FZclh0blFPc0tZMUJFZz09>

Meeting ID: 845 1542 3765

Passcode: 405152

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84515423765#,,,,,0#,,405152# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,84515423765#,,,,,0#,,405152# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 845 1542 3765

Passcode: 405152

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kMIEe6atj>

22. WINTER COUNCIL:

The Department Council of Administration only will meet on January 9th at Post 9808 at 7168 Flag Ln in Mechanicsville. The meeting will start at 9:00 am and you may zoom. You can call me if you have any questions.

Ed Mann is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84044182894?pwd=M1E0enozUFdtckErRm5hV1ZOREJvUT09>

Meeting ID: 840 4418 2894

Passcode: 538961

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,84044182894#,,,,,0#,,538961# US (New York)

+13017158592,,84044182894#,,,,,0#,,538961# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 840 4418 2894

Passcode: 538961

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84044182894?pwd=M1E0enozUFdtckErRm5hV1ZOREJvUT09>

Ed Mann

Department Adjutant Quartermaster

23. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

Comrades – I want to remind you that a key purpose of the Vietnam War Commemoration Commission is to seek out and finally recognize veterans from that conflict who know better than most what it was like to return home to a hostile population. Whenever I engage a Vietnam veteran in conversation (whether they have already received their pin or I'm about to present them one), the topic always turns to the reception they received when returning Stateside. To a man (and occasionally a woman), they remember those times with bitterness and compare their reception to that being afforded veterans today. So, if you have Vietnam Veterans in your Post (or your area is likely to have them), make sure you have a few pins on hand to present (you can ask me for some) and greet them with "Welcome Home"..

The following historical events for the Vietnam War took place in December:

December 11, 1961 - The first U.S. Army helicopter units in Vietnam, the 8th and 57th Transportation Companies, arrive at the port of Saigon aboard the ferry carrier USNS Core. They are equipped with 32 CH-21 helicopters and 400 air and ground crewmen. Their presence is the direct result of the "limited partnership" between the Kennedy administration and Diem government.

December 24, 1961 - Specialist 4 George Fryett, a clerk for the Military Assistance and Advisory Group, Vietnam, is captured by Viet Cong troops while riding his bicycle on the outskirts of Saigon. Fryett, the first U.S. prisoner of war in Vietnam, is released six months later.

December 24, 1964 - Viet Cong agents detonate a vehicle filled with explosives at Saigon's Brink Hotel, which is being used as officers' quarters. The bomb destroys part of the building, killing two U.S. servicemen and injuring more than 100 people, including Americans, Australians, and Vietnamese. Four U.S. Navy nurses are wounded in the attack. At least one of them insists on treating victims at the scene and helping with disaster relief before accepting treatment for her injuries. All four wounded nurses receive the Purple Heart. They are the only Navy nurses to receive that award during the war.

December 28, 1964 - On December 28, the insurgency launches its largest attack to date when two Viet Cong main-force regiments, joined by local militiamen, overrun the town of Binh Gia, approximately 40 miles southeast of Saigon, in the Mekong Delta. The attackers occupy Binh Gia, which has a population of approximately 6,000 people, most of whom are Catholic refugees who fled the Communist regime in the North a decade earlier. Despite a numerical and technological disadvantage, the Viet Cong force holds Binh Gia for more than four days, repelling all South Vietnamese attempts to retake the town. The South Vietnamese military suffers heavy casualties, and 200 of them are killed, along with five American military advisers. The Viet Cong soldiers decimate a South Vietnamese ranger battalion as well as a battalion of marines before voluntarily abandoning Binh Gia on January 1, 1965.

The battle of Binh Gia is the costliest defeat yet for South Vietnam's armed forces in their fight against the Viet Cong insurgency. The battle demonstrates the increasing military proficiency of the Viet Cong. Perhaps more significantly, it shows that South Vietnam's military remains fatally weak, despite American resources and training, and that the Saigon government is unable to effectively defend the country, which seems dangerously near collapse.

December 2, 1965 - The aircraft carrier USS *Enterprise*, stationed at Dixie Station off the coast of southern South Vietnam, launches 21 aircraft in a strike against Viet Cong forces near Bien Hoa. In doing so it becomes the first nuclear-powered carrier in history to engage in combat operations.

December 8, 1965 - In Operation HARVEST MOON, U.S. Marines of Task Force Delta and other units combine with South Vietnamese army troops to engage the 1st Viet Cong Regiment. The operation takes place in and around the Phuoc Ha Valley, northwest of Chu Lai. When U.S. and South Vietnamese units are on their way to trap the Viet Cong regiment in the valley, enemy forces ambush the South Vietnamese troops. The Marines march overland to reinforce the South Vietnamese lines, then organize a counterattack. Marines waiting offshore aboard the helicopter carrier USS Valley Forge arrive as reinforcements. The fighting lasts until December 20, when the Viet Cong withdraw. HARVEST MOON becomes the Marines' largest engagement of the war since their arrival in Vietnam.

December 18, 1965 - The U.S. Navy establishes the River Patrol Force (Task Force 116) for Operation GAME WARDEN. The force's mission is to patrol the waterways of the Mekong Delta and disrupt Viet Cong activities and supply lines. U.S. naval commanders envision GAME WARDEN as an inland, riverine complement to the coastal interdiction of Operation MARKET TIME. Task Force 116 is equipped with a fleet of river patrol boats (PBRs). PBRs are shallow-draft, fast, and maneuverable craft used to intercept and inspect river traffic, sweep for mines, and support allied personnel on shore, including U.S. Navy SEALs. By 1967, the task force also utilizes UH-1 "Huey" helicopters of Navy Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron 3 (HAL-3), known as the "Seawolves." Task Force 116 works to secure the major rivers in the Mekong Delta against enemy infiltration until December 1970.

December 1966 - In keeping with the large U.S. Army deployments to Vietnam throughout 1966, the 9th Infantry Division "Old Reliables" arrives in South Vietnam. The 9th is based in III Corps near Saigon, completing a ring of U.S. divisions that are assigned to protect the heavily populated capital region.

December 1967 - The final two brigades of the 101st Airborne Division arrive in Vietnam in December (the 1st Brigade has been in Vietnam since 1965). MACV assigns the newly arrived brigades to I Corps to counter growing enemy activity in the northern provinces.

December 1, 1968 - A total of 26 men of 4 Troop, First Ranger Squadron, of the New Zealand Special Air Service (NZSAS) arrive in South Vietnam. They are attached to the Australian Special Air Service at Nui Dat, in III Corps.

While NZSAS detachments have previously served in Thailand, this is their first Vietnam deployment. They conduct long range patrols and ambushes against enemy supply lines. New Zealand's troop commitment in Vietnam peaks at roughly 550 personnel.

December 1, 1968 - Elements of the U.S. Army 9th Infantry Division begin an extensive counterinsurgency campaign against Viet Cong troops in the northern Mekong Delta. The operation, codenamed SPEEDY EXPRESS, lasts until the end of May 1969. Approximately 270 U.S. personnel are killed during operations. MACV reports almost 750 captured weapons and nearly 11,000 enemy casualties. Later, multiple journalists and others question the high ratio of enemy casualties to weapons captured, and some allege that a significant number of civilians were killed. Army officials reply that recovery of enemy weapons during the operation had been difficult due to the swampy nature of the terrain, the character of the fighting, and the number of engagements occurring at night or involving aviation units.

December 6, 1968 - Operation GIANT SLINGSHOT begins. It is an extension of SEALORDS barrier patrols that work to eliminate enemy riverine infiltration from Cambodia. GIANT SLINGSHOT personnel focus efforts specifically along the Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Tay Rivers, in the "Parrot's Beak" area of the South Vietnam-Cambodia border. The operation lasts until May 1970, when it is transferred to the South Vietnamese navy.

December 1, 1969 - In an attempt to introduce greater fairness into the system, the United States establishes a draft lottery. Under the previous selective service system, thousands of local draft boards, staffed by volunteers, produced draftees based on government quotas. Allegations that some boards practiced discrimination and favoritism contributed to growing public disaffection with the war.

Using the lottery system, officials choose capsules, each containing a day of the year, at random in public. They number the capsules in the order selected. Men with birthdays on the lower numbered dates are the most likely to be drafted. The lottery remains in force until 1973, but the effect it has on who serves in Vietnam is minimal because troop withdrawals have already begun.

December 26, 1969 - The SS Badger State, a civilian-owned 441-foot cargo vessel chartered by the U.S. Military Sea Transportation Service, encounters a storm in the middle of the North Pacific Ocean. It is carrying a cargo of munitions intended for delivery to South Vietnam. Several bombs in the hold break loose and explode. The explosion blows open the vessel's side, and the 40 members of the crew abandon ship. When a merchant ship arrives 30 minutes after the explosion, it recovers only 14 survivors.

December 1, 1970 - As part of the U.S. Navy's and Coast Guard's Vietnamization programs, Naval Forces Vietnam completes the three-month transfer of naval facilities at Phu Cuong, Long Binh, Kien An, Chau Doc, Tan Chau, and Ha Tien to Vietnamese navy control.

December 18, 1972 - When North Vietnamese delegates fail to return to the negotiating table, President Nixon orders the resumption of bombing in North Vietnam above the 20th parallel. In Operation LINEBACKER II—derisively nicknamed by some as the "Christmas Bombings"—the U.S. Navy and Air Force launch a series of devastating strikes against North Vietnam, mostly in the Hanoi-Haiphong area. The bombing operation, carried out primarily by B-52s, lasts for 11 days, with a 36-hour pause for Christmas Day. A total of 15 B-52s and 10 other U.S. aircraft are lost, primarily due to surface-to-air missiles. LINEBACKER II ends only after North Vietnamese officials agree to Nixon's terms for continuing peace talks. The United States continues to bomb North Vietnam south of the 20th parallel.

December 13, 1974 - The North Vietnamese Army 7th and 3d Divisions attack Phuoc Long, a provincial capital north of Saigon in III Corps. Attacking forces include multiple regiments of infantry, armor, artillery, antiaircraft, and sapper units. Defending South Vietnamese Army forces include 1,000 Montagnard Popular Forces troops, five battalions of Regional Forces, and four Territorial Artillery units. They are later reinforced by two battalions of the South Vietnamese 7th Infantry and additional artillery, ranger, and reconnaissance units from the regular South Vietnamese armed forces. A battle for the city rages for weeks. By January 7, however, the South Vietnamese defenders are overrun. Phuoc Long becomes the first South Vietnamese provincial capital to be permanently

occupied by Communist forces. North Vietnamese troops also close in on Hue and other major population centers across Vietnam.

December 31, 1974 - The size of the reduced U.S. military mission to Vietnam stands at approximately 50 personnel.

I wish all of you and your Post members a happy and joyous holiday season and a prosperous (and healthy) 2021.

Jeff Dombroff
Vietnam War Commemoration
Committee Chairman

24. VOICE OF DEMOCRACY:

The 2020 Department Voice of Democracy Selection Board will be held at Post 9808 Mechanicsville, Virginia on Saturday 19 December 2020 beginning at 9:00 AM. At least one representative from each District should be present.

The January 2021 Awards ceremony for the top three finalists may be subject to change due to COVID-19. Further information will be forth coming.

Louis Filippone
Voice of Democracy Program Chairman

25. ZOOM MEETING LINK:

Each Membership Monday training topic is developed with the Post-level leadership in mind. Each of these sessions are intended to be live with ability for audience interaction. The media platform we will be using is the Zoom platform so these training sessions can be recorded and viewed throughout the year.

Please see the schedule below. We would like your help in communicating this schedule to your Posts. All Membership Monday Webinars are planned to be held at **2:00 – 3:00 PM, CST** on the dates provided below.

A Membership Monday OMS Alert Notification has been updated with the latest Zoom Meeting link.

If you would like to suggest a Membership Monday training topic, please email us at, membership@vfw.org.

Please let me know what questions you may have.

Membership Monday Webinar Training Series Tentative Schedule:

- December 14, 2020: Retention Pocket Guide for the Post

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://vfw.zoom.us/j/8708367256>

Meeting ID: 870 836 7256
One tap mobile
+13462487799,,8708367256# US (Houston)
+12532158782,,8708367256# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 870 836 7256
Find your local number: <https://vfw.zoom.us/j/aejqTGAUGy>

26. STATE CONVENTION:

You will find the information for your online reservation link below. If you have questions or need help with the link, please do not hesitate to ask. We look forward to a successful event.

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1602798939355&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Eric Mallett
State Commander

**STAY SAFE AND
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Advancement Form (Post Teacher Entry Form)

(Attach to original Post entry documentation for each teacher nominated.)

Nominee's Full Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Social Security Number _____ Grade level K-5 6-8 9-12

Name of School _____ School's Phone _____

School Address _____

Post/Auxiliary Chairman Section

I certify that the teacher named above is the duly selected Post winner of the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Program in his/her grade level category and is our Post's authorized entry into the District finals.

Signature of Post Commander/Chairman _____ VFW Post No. _____ Phone _____

Post Address _____

Signature of Auxiliary President/Chairman _____ Auxiliary No. _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Total number of teacher nominations for all categories _____ Total dollar amount spent by Post/Auxiliary for awards for all categories and other (citations, gifts, medals, banquet) \$ _____

District/Auxiliary Chairman Section

I certify that the teacher named above is the duly selected District winner of the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award in his/her grade level category and is our District's entry into the Department finals.

Signature of Dist. Commander/Chairman _____ Dist. No. _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Signature of Auxiliary Dist. President/Chairman _____ Dist. No. _____ Phone _____

Address _____

List all Posts participating in program _____

Total dollar amount spent by Posts/Auxiliaries for awards for all categories and other (citations, gifts, medals, banquet) \$ _____

VFW Department Commander/Chairman Section

I certify that the teacher listed above is the duly selected winner of the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award in our Department in his/her grade level and is our official entry into the National judging. This winner will be/was notified that they are the first place **state** winner in their grade level on the following date: _____

Signature of Dept. Commander/Chairman _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Note: Be sure this form is entirely completed before sending to National Headquarters with your state winner's original nomination form, essay, one page resume, up to five pages of documentation and a good quality head and shoulders photograph. Remember this form is due back to VFW National Headquarters Programs Department by April 5th.

Mail to: VFW PROGRAMS, VFW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, 406 W. 34TH ST., KANSAS CITY, MO 64111.



PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATIONS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL AND FIREFIGHTERS

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects emergency medical technicians, law enforcement and firefighter personnel to receive VFW Public Servant Awards. Post Safety Chairmen are encouraged to submit a candidate for these awards to their **Department Headquarters by Jan. 8**. The Department must select a single candidate for each of the three awards and submit those to **VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1**.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the “VFW Department Public Servant Award Citation Request Form” which is now available on the VFW website. You can locate this form by logging in to vfw.org and searching under “My VFW” in the Training & Support section.

VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Public Servant Citation:

Any individual, who actively gives emergency medical treatment, provides rescue service or civil disaster assistance as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to give emergency medical care, provide rescue and civil disaster assistance to our nation’s citizens.

VFW National Law Enforcement Public Servant Citation:

Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with enforcement of the laws pertaining to their area of responsibility. This award does not apply to individual employed by private companies or security services.

VFW National Firefighters Public Servant Citation: Any individual who actively fights fires as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to fight fires and give assistance to our nation’s citizens.

Criteria for these awards – Candidates must have demonstrated:

- 1) Recognition by their colleagues or those they serve.
- 2) Consistent excellence in the performance of their duties.
- 3) Consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession.

Documentation required for all Candidates:

- 1) Nomination letter containing the candidate’s name, title, address, telephone and identifying the award for which the individual should be considered.
 - a. Include justification outlining background in field, accomplishments and awards.

Note NEW (not required) One (1) page VFW Public Servant Award Citation Post Entry Form is now available on the VFW website. You can locate this form by logging in to vfw.org and searching under “My VFW” in the Training & Support section.

If you have any questions contact Tammy Beauchamp at 816.756.3390 Ext. 6287, e-mail tbeauchamp@vfw.org.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Office 816.756.3390
Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org



VFW Public Servant Award Citation Post Entry Form

NOTE: VFW Point of Contact should fill out their section below prior to distributing this form.
This will provide individuals from outside of the VFW with the needed information to submit their packets successfully.

To be filled out by VFW representative

Sponsoring VFW Post #: Sponsoring District #:

Date of Presentation: MM/DD/YY (if available)

VFW Post POC

Full Name:

Phone: Email:

Address: (where to mail entry)

City: State: Zip:

Individual Submitting Nomination

Full Name:

Phone: Email:

Nominee Information

Choose appropriate citation: (EMT, Firefighter or Law Enforcement)

Full Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

Occupation Title: (if any) (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

Employer Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

Address of Employer:

City: State: Zip:

Employer Phone: Employer Email: (if available)

Please complete this form and submit to your local VFW Post using the information provided above. Ensure to include all required documentation that is outlined on the instructions sheet provided with this form. All post entries must be received by their **Department Headquarters no later than January 1st**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tammy Beauchamp at 816-756-3390 x 6287, e-mail tbeauchamp@vfw.org

Homecoming

Supreme MOC Auxiliary

President Jennifer Winn

&

VFW Department of Virginia

President Maggie Myers

Commander Eric Mallett

February 5 – 6, 2021



Holiday Inn & Suites North Beach

Ocean Front

3900 Atlantic Ave. Virginia Beach, VA. 23451

Hotel Information

THE DEADLINE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS IS JANUARY 8, 2021

USE NORFOLK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR ALL FLIGHTS

Booking link name: VFW Department of Virginia/ Supreme MOCA
CALL TO MAKE THE RESERVATION: Direct 757.419.3672 | Reservations 866.456.3446
(Tell them you are attending the “VFW Department of Virginia/ Supreme MOCA Homecoming” to get our rate)

[VFW Department of Virginia / Supreme MOCA](#)

Rooms are \$89.00 standard, \$109.00 Suite, plus tax, per night. Free Parking. The rooms include complimentary Wi-Fi, indoor heated pool, exercise room, Movie Theater. The rate is good for three days before and three days after the event for those who want to come early or stay longer.

Homecoming Registration Form

(Deadline January 8, 2021)

Registration Fee: \$45.00 Per Person

Dress Attire is Business Casual

Registration

Includes:

Welcome packet

Friday & Saturday Hospitality room (**open bar**)

Saturday Banquet Buffet Dinner

Entertainment

&

2 Hospitality Rooms Open

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

**ALL DOCUMENTS WITH "FORMS" IN THE TITLE SHOULD BE MAILED OR
EMAILED:**

VFW Department of Virginia

ATTN: Supreme MOCA/Department Homecoming

403 Lee-Jackson HWY Staunton, VA 24401

adj@vfwva.org

Call for payments: 540-886-8112

Deadline for registration is January 8, 2021

Cancelations will be considered as a donation to the fund. No refunds

Airport Transportation Form

USE NORFOLK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR ALL FLIGHTS

Name(s): _____

State/Department: _____

Cell phone number: _____

Number of passengers: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Airline: _____ Arrival time: _____

Departure Date: _____ Airline: _____ Departure time: _____

Transportation will be available using this form for the period of February 4 - 7, 2021. We are unable to handle departures after Monday.

DUE TO THE EXPECTED NUMBER OF FLIGHTS, THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO ENSURE TRANSPORTATION.

Homecoming Payment Form

(NOT INCLUDING FEES AND COSTS AT THE EVENT WHICH YOU PAY SEPERATLY)

Name of those attending: _____ State _____

Homecoming Registration Fee: Number of people _____ x \$45.00 per person = _____

Friday Night, February 5th

Captain Georges Seafood Buffet (Check them out at WWW.CAPTAINGEORGES.COM)

(Includes Buffet, soft drink, tip and tax)

Name: _____ Number of people _____ x \$42.00 Per person = _____

Deadline for registration is January 8, 2021

Cancelations will be considered as a donation to the fund. No refunds

Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center: for group rate a minimum of 15 people

	Adult (12 & up)	Child (age 3 – 11)
Aquarium only	\$18.00 X _____	\$12.00 X _____
Movie only	\$5.00 X _____	\$5.00 X _____
Dolphin Watch Boat Trip only	\$18.00 X _____	\$13.00 X _____
Ocean Collections Boat Trip only	\$18.00 X _____	\$13.00 X _____
Whale Watching Boat Trip only	\$23.00 X _____	\$18.00 X _____

Name: _____

Number of people _____ Total _____

Pick a day

Friday 10am - _____ OR Saturday 9am - _____

VFW Post Visit;

Time will be Posted at Hotel

Thursday____, Friday____, Saturday____ or ALL_____

VFW General MacArthur Post 392; Number of people _____

VFW Post 4809; Number of people _____

Homecoming Agenda

Friday February 5th

Registration open 9am – 4pm

Hospitality room Vista Del Mar 6th floor (12 noon – TBD)

Captain Georges Seafood Buffet 5pm

Saturday February 6th

Registration open 9am – 3pm

6th floor Vista Del Mar Hospitality room open 7am – 5pm reopens after Banquet

1st floor Square Whale Hospitality room opens (12 noon – 5pm reopens after Banquet)

Saturday Banquet 6pm

Sunday February 7th

6th floor Hospitality Vista Del Mar Vista Del Mar room open 6am – TBD

Thank you for attending our Joint Homecoming

Local Attractions

Beach and Board walk shops

USS Wisconsin and Nautilus Museum

MacArthur Memorial Museum

NAS Oceana Flam of Hope

Shopping at Norfolk Premium Outlets