

State Headquarters  
403 Lee Jackson Highway  
Staunton, Virginia 24401  
[www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org)



Phone: 540-886-8112  
800-888-3521  
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Email: [statehq@vfwva.org](mailto:statehq@vfwva.org)

March 25, 2025

Comrades:

On March 18<sup>th</sup> your Council of Administration held a Special meeting to discuss vital business of the Department. As part of that meeting a discussion was held concerning the Service Officer Program.

The Service officer program for the Department of Virginia has taken a hit over the last few years. Having two Department Officers covering the entire state is not giving our veterans and their families the attention that they deserve to fully complete their claims. Therefore, the Council felt a need for a change. As of 1 April, our staff have been instructed not to take on any new clients or power of attorney's and begin the process of deferring all new claims to the Virginia Department of Veteran Services.

We have established a strong network and working relationship with DVS, which will give our members a larger pool to assist the veterans in every district. Our tax dollars are now funding 78 fully accredited full-time service officers and 21 administrative positions across the commonwealth now devoted to serving our veteran community. In addition, DVS also has a fully funded and staffed appeals team to represent Virginia veterans before the Board of Veterans Appeals and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Due to fiscal realities the Council felt this was in the best interest of our veteran community. There is going to be a period of transition over the next few months, and we urge our members to be patient during this time. Our program will officially end on September 1, 2025, but the DVS will be there for our members starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

This was a very difficult decision to make but one your Council felt was in the best interest of Virginia's veterans and their families.

My personal thanks go out to our dedicated VFW VSOs, Laurie Clay and Raymond Bailey, for their hard work over their time with the VFW. We look forward to their continued pursuits in serving our veterans.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitch Rubenstein". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mitch Rubenstein  
State Commander  
Veterans of Foreign Wars

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

CHAIRMAN, CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

103<sup>rd</sup> Annual State Convention, Harrisonburg, Virginia June 19 – 22, 2025

Below are listed the Delegates and alternates duly elected at a regular meeting of Post \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

Name - Delegates		Title	Name - Alternates		Title
1	Example – John Smith	Cmdr	1	Example – John Doe	Trustee
2			2		
3			3		
4			4		
5			5		
6			6		
7			7		
8			8		
9			9		
10			10		
11			11		
12			12		
13			13		
14			14		
15			15		
16			16		
17			17		
18			18		
19			19		
20			20		

Official:

Yours in Comradeship,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Post Adjutant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Post Commander

MAIL TO:

VFW State Headquarters 403 Lee Jackson Hwy Staunton, VA 24401

Elect one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for each 30 members or fraction thereof in Memstats in the Post at the date of election. Delegate strength to be based on State Quartermasters records as of March 31, 2025, with the exception of New Posts organized after that date and prior to opening date of State Convention – June 19, 2025. **Each Post must pay \$5.00 for every delegate that they are entitled to.** Please send **form and check** to State Headquarters by June 11, 2025.

Please make sure you put Comrades that **ARE ATTENDING** the State Convention first.

Delegate fees **must be paid regardless** of whether anyone is attending the State Convention or not.

If there are any questions, please contact State Headquarters at 540-886-8112 or email [statehq@vfwva.org](mailto:statehq@vfwva.org)

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

“Of the Veterans and For the Veterans”

**NUMBER 10**

403 Lee Jackson Highway  
(540) 886-8112

FAX: 866-416-0586  
Website: [www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org)  
Email: [statehq@vfwva.org](mailto:statehq@vfwva.org)

**April 1, 2025**

Staunton, Virginia 24401  
In Virginia 800-888-3521

**GUIDE TO THE GO:**

Articles are listed by number not by pages:

- |                                   |   |
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| 2. Active Membership              | 18. Military Order of the Cootie              |
| 3. Audit Reports                  | 19. National Convention                       |
| 4. Awards                         | 20. Office Closure                            |
| 5. Buddy Poppies                  | 21. Post Elections                            |
| 6. Delinquent                     | 22. Post in Arrears for Financial Obligations |
| 7. District Conventions           | 23. Reporting                                 |
| 8. District Meetings              | 24. Resolutions                               |
| 9. E-Mail Account Access          | 25. Roster Changes                            |
| 10. General Orders                | 26. Scout of the Year                         |
| 11. Important Dates               | 27. Special Order No. 202                     |
| 12. Installing Officers           | 28. State Convention                          |
| 13. IRS Form 8822-B               | 29. VFW Day of Service                        |
| 14. JROTC Cadet of the Year Award | 30. VFW Department Scouting Team              |
| 15. Life Member Drawing           | 31. Vietnam War Commemoration                 |
| 16. Liability Insurance           |   |

**1. COMMANDER’S MESSAGE:**

Comrades,

We started off March with a bang, I like many other members throughout the entire VFW gathered in Washington DC for the Parade of Champions for the Voice of Democracy winners, then for the Legislative Conference to be a major show of force to stand behind our National Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt as he testified before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans’ Affairs. In plain English Al asked them to “**Honor the Contract**”, we have by doing our part, it was now up to them to honor theirs. He also delivered its top legislative priorities; of unaddressed toxic exposures, transition from service, alternative PTSD treatments, claim sharks, and GI Bill Parity. his testimony may still be available on the National Website. The next day was Pat Murray’s last time testifying on behalf of the VFW before he moves on to bigger and better things. Pat was taking a stand against Claim Sharks and stood tall, even when times got interesting. The week was busy, and it was a great time to catch up with the other Department Commanders that were there from all areas of the VFW, along with many familiar faces, and friends.

The Department of Virginia is doing well, and that is because of you the dedicated leaders and members, as well as the support from our Auxiliary. This never-ending devotion to duty, and the pursuit of excellence will drive us to finish what we started. As of today 3/24/2025, we stand at 96.74% and need 1754 members to reach our goal of 102%. The list of Posts reaching 100% is continually growing and many have already reached or exceeded All-State

requirement of 101% and I hope they are continuing to reach for All-American numbers of 102% or more. **Online Reports** are due at the end of this month wrapping up the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter with just one (1) more quarter remaining to finish out this year. I hope to see all 13 Districts continue to submit their reports and keep our Department at 100% throughout the year.

March 22<sup>nd</sup> was our Homecoming at Post 2447, in Edinburg. Dawn and I appreciate all of you for taking the time to enjoy this festive day with us. I cannot thank my Post, and Auxiliary enough for making this possible. We had a tremendous turn-out and you did an amazing job as usual. I even grew hair from it!

I had the distinct honor to speak at 12218's 2-year anniversary, it was a nice night and well done by the Post. National asked for Virginia to represent at the Martinville Speedway for the NASCAR Truck Series race for the new VFW sponsored truck and driver Ryan Roulette. It was a fun night for this Honorary Pit Crew Chief, along with my Pit Crew of Department Auxiliary President Dawn Kuhn, Past Department Commander Gary Adams, Commander of Post 1115, Hillsville, Sandra Terry, and District 5 Commander David Gilleran. We had a great time and enjoyed each other's company.

Lastly, after countless hours of discussions and speaking with the Council of Administration, we have decided to end our Department Service Officer Program September 1, 2025. Starting April 1, 2025, the Department of Veterans Services will be the avenue to use to process your claims. There is more information located in the front page of this month's General Orders. We thank Laurie, and Raymond for their hard work and dedication to the members of this Department. This will be a period of transition, and we thank you for your patience and understanding.

We are getting closer to the home stretch and what we do from here on out will be a reflection on this Department and all the achievements we have accomplished this year. None of this would be possible without all your hard work and dedication. I am very proud, and extremely humbled to be your Commander for this year, and I look forward to seeing as many Posts as possible, and Districts walk across the stage at the National Convention in Ohio.

Keep your foot on the gas, and let's finish what we started.

Yours in Comradeship, and Service,  
Mitch Rubenstein  
State Commander

## **2. 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.

## **3. AUDIT REPORTS:**

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 (a)(11) of the National Manual of Procedure, Officers: Duties and Obligations. Trustees Report of Audit must be prepared in detail within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, one of which ends March 31.

**4. AWARDS:**

State Awards and All State information were in last month’s General Orders, along with various entry forms.

Deadline is May 9, 2025, at 4:00 pm.

**5. BUDDY POPPIES:**

The price for the original buddy poppies (red ones) are \$160.00 per 500. The price for the metal poppies are \$70.00 per 500. As a reminder, poppies must be paid for before they can be shipped.

A Buddy Poppy order form is enclosed.

**6. DELINQUENT:**

Dist.	Post	Audits	Bonds	Dist.	Post	Audits
2	2296	December		9	9640	December
4	8446	December		9	9696	December
9	6000	December	Expired	10	5412	December
9	7136	March		12	1994	December

**7. DISTRICT CONVENTIONS:**

Section 222 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure provides that delegates and alternates for the District Convention and meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post as of March 31.

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, each District shall hold an annual District Convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention.

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National Bylaws – Regular Meeting, Districts shall hold at least two (2) regular meetings each year for purposes of transacting business and conducting schools of instruction.

Pursuant to Section 417 of the National Manual of Procedure, District officers shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed.

District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed in accordance with Section 416 of the Manual of Procedure.

**8. DISTRICT MEETINGS:**

1<sup>st</sup>      Date:            5/17/25  
Meeting:        10:00 AM  
Location:        Post 3219, Phoebus  
                      122 E Mellen St, Hampton  
Rep:              State Surgeon Randy Coker

2<sup>nd</sup>      Date:            5/10/25  
Meeting:        9:00 AM  
Location:        Post 3160 Norfolk  
                      111 A View Avenue  
Rep:              St C-O-S Butch Schupska

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Date: 5/3/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Lunch: To follow Meeting Location: Post 9808 Mechanicsville 7168 Flag Lane Rep: St C-O-S Butch Schupska	8 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 4/5/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 3103 Fredericksburg 2701 Princess Anne St Rep: St Cmdr Mitch Rubenstein
4 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 5/10/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 7166 South Hill 1472 N Mecklenburg Ave, LaCrosse Rep: State JVC Mark Maggio	9 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 5/10/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4667 Marion 861 Goolsby St Rep: St JVC Doug Hoffman
5 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 5/17/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep: PSC Tom Hines	10 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 5/10/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 1503 Dale City 14631 Minnieville Rd Rep: State Surgeon Randy Coker
6 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 4/5/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1264 Roanoke (sponsored Post 1841) 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: State Inspector Ken Shannon	11 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 5/10/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 8644 Bridgewater 118 Dry River Rd Rep: St Chaplain Robert Ruffolo
7 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 5/17/25 Meeting: 11:30 AM Location: Post 9660 Broadway 14550 Runion Creek Rd Rep: St Inspector Ken Shannon	12 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 5/10/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 1994 Abingdon 17581 Lee Highway Rep: St Cmdr Mitch Rubenstein
		13 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 5/17/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1827 Charlottesville 1170 River Rd Rep: St Judge Advocate Charles Bush

## 9. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 21<sup>st</sup>**. 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](http://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 **VFW2024!** 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](mailto:cdrpost176@vfwva.org) where the 176 is you replace it with **your** Post number.

[adjpost176@vfwva.org](mailto:adjpost176@vfwva.org)  
[qmpost176@vfwva.org](mailto:qmpost176@vfwva.org)

For District Officers your address will be [cdrdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrdist1@vfwva.org) for Districts other than the first just replace the 1 with your district # **Please note District Senior Vice Commander's now have an email address**

[svydist1@vfwva.org](mailto:svydist1@vfwva.org)  
[adjdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:adjdist1@vfwva.org)  
[qmdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:qmdist1@vfwva.org)

## 10. GENERAL ORDERS:

The cut off for the General Orders is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. No EXCEPTIONS. Subscriptions for hard copy General Orders are \$30.00 for the year. Contact State Headquarters for more info.

## 11. IMPORTANT DATES:

June 18 - 22, 2025	State Convention, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$129.00 per night. Cutoff Date is Thursday, May 22, 2025, by 5:00 pm.
August 9 - 13, 2025	National Convention, Columbus, Ohio
August 23, 2025	District Commander School/Fall Council Meeting, State Headquarters, Virginia at 9:00 am
November 6 - 9, 2025	Southern Conference, Montgomery, TX
January 8 - 11, 2026	Winter Council, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$129.00 per night. Cutoff Date is Monday, December 8, 2025, by 5:00 pm.
August 15 - 19, 2026	National Convention, Salt Lake City, UT
October 22 - 25, 2026	Southern Conference, Mobile, AL

## 12. INSTALLING OFFICERS:

Installing officers will see that the provisions of Section 216 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed.

Post-Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We highly encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters.

## 13. 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 anytime the Post Quartermaster changes and/or the Post address changes. This has been effective January 1, 2014.

#### **14. JROTC CADET OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

To make participating in this new State level program for Posts a bit easier for this year, the Department JROTC Committee has adjusted the deadlines for submission.

Posts should have their reviews done by the last week in March and must have their Post Cadet Winner submitted to the Department JROTC Committee by **1 April 2025**

The State Winner's sponsoring Post will be notified of the award, and the Post will be responsible for coordinating a place and time to present the State Winner with their State level award.

**Note:** JROTC cadets, Sea Cadets, and Civil Air Patrol cadets can be nominated for this program.

Information for the Virginia JROTC Cadet of the Year award program can be found on the State website under the Programs tab/drop-down menu: [JROTC](#)

**Note:** National has discontinued the National JROTC Award this year. As such, Posts should submit their Post level nominees to Deadra Miller at [dlmwmafvf@gmail.com](mailto:dlmwmafvf@gmail.com) for consideration at the State level. Email is the preferred method of submission.

If you have any questions about the program, feel free to contact the Department Chair, Deadra Miller at [dlmwmafvf@gmail.com](mailto:dlmwmafvf@gmail.com) or Committee member, Ben Guinan at [bguinan@vfwva.org](mailto:bguinan@vfwva.org)

Deadra Miller  
JROTC Chairman

#### **15. LIFE MEMBER DRAWING:**

Congratulations to GTMO Post 12225, GTMO as the winner of a free Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Virginia. GTMO Post 12225 was made eligible for this Free Life Membership for having 95% of their membership reported to State Headquarters by February 28, 2025, deadline.

#### **16. LIABILITY INSURANCE:**

Posts with Post Homes must have liability insurance and list State Headquarters and VFW National Headquarters as additional insurers. State Headquarters does not need a copy of your whole insurance policy; only a copy of the Certificate of Insurance listing State Headquarters and VFW National Headquarters as additional insurers.

The Certificate of Insurance needs to be sent to State Headquarters every year and it can be emailed to [statehq@vfwva.org](mailto:statehq@vfwva.org), faxed 1-866-416-0586 or regular mail to VFW State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at State Headquarters.

Ed Mann  
State Adj/QM

#### **17. LOYALTY DAY AND MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE:**

Section 223 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure provides that each Post shall make the necessary arrangements for proper observance of Loyalty Day and Memorial Day. Officers should see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased veterans.



## **18. MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE:**

The Military Order of the Cootie year starts June 1st and continues through May 31st each year. Your Cooties are conducting their Pup Tent elections for the upcoming year and will take command of their Pup Tents after the Grand Installation in June at the Department Convention. Cooties are out supporting Veterans in Hospitals and the grand special project of Equine Therapy. We have contributions going out to support Equine Therapy for Veterans in the Richmond, Williamsburg, and Dale City areas. If you would like to contribute to this special project, please email me and we can discuss locations to contribute in your area.

The new Pup Tent 20 is getting closer to being initiated in Daleville, VA. To be eligible to be a Cootie you need to have completed six months in an officer position or active with your Post. Contact me for information regarding becoming a Cootie in the New Pup Tent.

For more information on the Military Order of the Cootie please contact Ken Shannon Grand Commander at [kshannon@vfwva.org](mailto:kshannon@vfwva.org) or [grandcdr@vfwva.org](mailto:grandcdr@vfwva.org).

Ken Shannon, Grand Commander  
Department of Virginia  
757-509-3000

## **19. NATIONAL CONVENTION:**

The 126th National Convention housing officially opened March 18, 2025. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at [vfw.org/convention](http://vfw.org/convention). The convention website will also have general convention information including the registration form and links to other convention related information for Columbus, OH – Aug. 9-13, including a tentative agenda.

Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials, and one identified registered delegate for the VFW National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten-dollar (\$10) delegate fee provided the Post has paid the mandated \$25 advance registration fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. **ATTN:** Convention Registration, Quartermasters are strongly encouraged to register delegates utilizing the on-line membership system (OMS).

## **20. OFFICE CLOSURE:**

State Headquarters and the State Service Offices located in Smithfield and Dale City are closed April 18, 2025, for Good Friday.

State Headquarters will be closed April 25, 2025.

Please note the Norfolk Service Office is permanently closed.

## **21. POST ELECTIONS:**

Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers. Post Election Report forms are being mailed to Post Quartermasters with instructions that they complete the form online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or they can complete the form and return directly to National Headquarters immediately following the election of Post Officers but not later than June 1.

## 22. POSTS IN ARREARS FOR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

Attention is directed to Section 213 of the National Bylaws concerning any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council and District meetings; County Council, District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

## 23. 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](http://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.

## 24. RESOLUTIONS:

“Resolutions: Resolutions are the way the rank and file of the VFW can influence the organization’s priorities and processes. Program Resolutions, with the familiar WHEREAS paragraphs, are intended to bring decisionmaker attention to concerns (e.g., asking Congress to pass the PACT Act or asking the VFW National to implement a specific program). Resolutions to change By-Laws, Manual of Procedure, or Ritual take on a different format. For these proposals text to be added is *underlined and italicized* (and can even be *bolded*) whereas the text to be deleted is ~~struck out~~. An example of this type of resolutions was adding Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day to the list of special days of observance in the VFW Ritual. Please see the four-page Amendments and Resolutions Manual, in last month’s General Orders.

The time to submit draft Resolutions is *now*. Not only does this permit time for the Posts to work with the Resolutions Committee to smooth wording, focus logic and arguments, and identify sources of information, but it also prevents the Resolutions Committee from being overwhelmed in the week or two prior to the Department Convention, during which period, a late-submitted Resolution may not receive appropriate attention that it is due.

Posts can submit draft resolutions to the Committee prior to formal approval by Post membership so that logic and clarity of the arguments can be finessed and smoothed out. The Post can then vote on whether to approve the returned draft Resolution. Once formally approved by Post membership (at a Post meeting), the Resolution can be forwarded to State Headquarters, who will share with the Resolutions Committee. It is not necessary to submit a Resolution to District for approval, however, best practices suggest that the Resolution be socialized in order to garner necessary support for an eventual up/down vote at Department Convention.”

M. C. “Connie” Agresti  
Chairman, Resolutions Committee  
[mcagresti@vfwva.org](mailto:mcagresti@vfwva.org)  
[mcaiii@aol.com](mailto:mcaiii@aol.com)

## 25. ROSTER CHANGES:

Post 637 QM  
Dennis C. Kennedy  
4511 Tatum Rd  
Disputanta, VA 23842  
804-926-6553  
[qmpost637@vfwva.org](mailto:qmpost637@vfwva.org)

Post 8545  
New Meeting time  
beginning May 2025  
7:00 pm

**26. SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

The winning VFW District entry needs to be in the hands of the VFW Department Scouting Chair NLT 1 April 2025.

There are six requirements listed on the back of the entry form. Please examine the requirements closely to ensure each entry is fully compliant. The entry form can be downloaded from:

<https://vfw-org-hqagarhxahbyd9.z01.azurefd.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Scout-of-the-Year/ScoutoftheYearBrochureandEntryForm.pdf?v=1&d=20210708T183715Z&la=en>

Please ensure that each Scout has reviewed the rules and eligibility requirements:

<https://vfw-org-hqagarhxahbyd9.z01.azurefd.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Scout-of-the-Year/Scout-of-the-Year-Rules-and-Eligibility.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20220914T144112Z>

Request each VFW District submit their winning Scout of the Year entry by mail to:

Bob Fenlason  
Dept Scouting Chair  
15504 Ridgcrest Drive  
Montclair, VA 22025

**27. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 202:**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 212 of the National Bylaws and upon the recommendation of the Commander, Department of Virginia, while under suspension, due to their failure to establish a meeting quorum, the charter of Albert Lee Mills Post No. 10387, Petersburg, Virginia mustered May 25, 1974, is hereby cancelled and the Post declared defunct. Such cancellation includes a revocation of the right to use all trademarks and service marks, including the name, emblems/insignia, seals and logos, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The Commander, Department of Virginia, will at once recover the charter, rituals, paraphernalia and all monies and other property of the Post in accordance with the provisions of the National Bylaws.

By order of  
Alfred J. Lipphardt  
Commander-in-Chief

**28. STATE CONVENTION:**

Due to the rising costs of the reception at the State Convention, there will now be a \$10.00 fee for attending. Please see the enclosed reservation form. **Please wear your new Commander's shirt.**

**29. VFW DAY OF SERVICE:**

Post/District Commanders, and Comrades,

I wanted to make everyone aware of something that was brought to my attention for discussion and clarification. This is worth getting out now and re-enforced to our District Commanders and Post Commanders before May 2025 so you can plan for it.

One of the All-American Program requirements is to participate in the **VFW Day of Service**. This is how it's worded in the program book:

A Post must submit a community service report quarterly to their Department for submission to the All-American Dashboard. The quarters are July-Sept, Oct-Dec, Jan-March, and April-June. **One of these community service activities must be for the VFW Day of Service.** Learn more at: <https://todaysvfw.org/vfw-day-of-service/>

Even though it says to "submit a community service report quarterly **to their Department**", that's NOT how the VFW Day of Service is going to be recorded or tracked.

As per a conversation with Lynn Rolf, VFW Director of Programs, about what we may need to do to adjust our reporting from Virginia to handle this. He stated that Posts will be required to go to <https://todaysvfw.org/vfw-day-of-service/> and enter their event using the "Sign Up Now" button. So, not only do they need to report this directly to National, but it's reported differently than Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, etc. There also will **NOT** be a way of seeing who has or hasn't reported their event on the National Dashboard. Unless something changes at National between now and then, this is how this new requirement will be handled.

The Department IT Committee Chairman Robert "Check" Adamczyk updated the All-State and All-American page on the State website to show where to report it, but the key thing is that there isn't going to be a way to track it.

Therefore, consider this message an early "**heads up**" of what to expect in May 2025. Getting this news out to District Commanders and having them make sure the Posts understand this and when they submit the report to National. State Reps. need to remind the Posts/Districts when they do their first District meeting in 2025. **The Day of Service starts May 3, 2025.** Since there will be no way for Districts or Departments to see who has and who hasn't met this requirement, it's going to be even tougher to track than usual.

### **30. VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING TEAM:**

The backbone of the VFW Scouting program is the VFW Scouting Team. Over the past few years, the number of members on the VFW Department Scouting Team has decreased. One of the most important functions of the Scouting Team is reviewing the nominations received for the VFW Scout of the Year in March of every year and completing the standard score sheet. The highest score determines which Scout becomes the Scout of the Year for that year.

There is one position on the Scouting Team for each of the 13 Districts in the Department to promote the values of Scouting to the youth of the community and to the VFW leadership. Request each District Commander select a

VFW Member that has a background in Scouting and submit the name and contact information for their District Scouting Team Chair to:

Bob Fenlason  
Dept Scouting Chair  
[elangomat3@gmail.com](mailto:elangomat3@gmail.com)  
(703) 730-5414

### **31. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:**

The following historical events for the Vietnam War took place during April (1975 is pretty sad):

1956 (April 1) - Three U.S. Army women nurses arrive in Vietnam as part of the MAAG Medical Training Team to train South Vietnamese medical personnel. They are the first U.S. servicewomen to arrive in Vietnam. As many as 11,000 servicewomen eventually deploy to Southeast Asia during the war. Eight U.S. women die while serving their country in Vietnam, including seven Army nurses and one Air Force nurse.

1962 (April 9) - The headquarters element of U.S. Marine Corps helicopter Task Unit 79.3.5 begins arriving at Soc Trang in the Mekong Delta. Much of the squadron itself arrives aboard the amphibious assault carrier USS

Princeton on April 15. Codenamed SHUFLY, the helicopter unit provides air support for MACV and the South Vietnamese military in the campaign against Communist guerrilla forces.

1962 (April 18) - The U.S. Army's 8th Field Hospital becomes operational at Nha Trang. It provides both medical care and medical logistics. It serves as the primary treatment facility for U.S. military personnel in South Vietnam until 1963, when the Navy establishes its own facility in Saigon. The 8th Field Hospital receives support from the 57th Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance), which is equipped with UH-1 "Huey" helicopters. The 57th's first rescue mission takes place on May 12, 1962.

1965 (April 5) - U.S. military commanders request an expansion of the Marine Corps' defensive mission at Da Nang so that they can pursue enemy forces in more offensive actions. Lyndon Johnson approves this request and also agrees to send two additional deployments of Marines to Da Nang. The Marines based at Da Nang are now authorized to pursue Communist forces away from American bases.

1965 (April 17) - An activist group called Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) stages a protest against the war in front of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. Approximately 25,000 people, mostly students, attend the protest, which features speeches against U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia. According to historians, the event is the largest antiwar demonstration in American history to date. Over the next several years, SDS—which grows from 800 members in 1962 to over 10,000 by 1965—shifts more of its focus from domestic civil rights issues to foreign policy and protesting the escalation of the Vietnam War.

1965 (April 26) - The U.S. Air Force 45th Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFS) deploys to Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. The squadron is equipped with the first Air Force F-4 Phantom II jets in Southeast Asia. On July 10 the 45th TFS records the Air Force's first aerial victories in Southeast Asia when two F-4 aircrews shoot down two North Vietnamese MiG-17 jet fighters.

1966 (April 1) - The United States establishes Naval Forces Vietnam, which is responsible for U.S. Navy units in II, III, and IV Corps as well as Naval Support Activity, Saigon; the Military Sea Transportation Service; Coast Guard Activities, Vietnam; and other elements. Naval Forces Vietnam also takes over responsibility for Operations MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN.

1966 (April 12) - Strategic Air Command B-52 bombers attack targets in North Vietnam for the first time. They strike the Mu Gia Pass, a crucial enemy supply route adjacent to Laos near an entrance to the Ho Chi Minh Trail. This bombing is part of Operation ROLLING THUNDER. Also on this day Major Paul J. Gilmore and 1st Lieutenant William T. Smith, flying a U.S. Air Force F-4 Phantom, shoot down a North Vietnamese MiG-21 fighter with an air-to-air missile. It is the first U.S. Air Force encounter with this advanced Soviet-built North Vietnamese jet aircraft, signaling a qualitative shift in the air war.

1967 (April 10) - A contingent of U.S. Air Force B-52s lands at U-Tapao Air Base, Thailand, after flying missions in support of Operation JUNCTION CITY. They are the first B-52s based in Thailand. The Air Force moves a number of B-52s from Guam to U-Tapao to be closer to their targets, making it possible for the aircraft to fly more frequent missions. The Air Force does this in response to General Westmoreland's increasing requests for Arc Light strikes. B-52s remain based at U-Tapao until the end of the war.

1967 (April 12) - MACV officially activates Task Force OREGON, which deploys to I Corps. The task force consists of multiple existing U.S. Army units from across South Vietnam. It replaces some Marines in southern I Corps, who move farther north to counter growing North Vietnamese threats near the DMZ. The task force conducts operations against guerrillas in the coastal plain and enemy bases in nearby mountains. Westmoreland later renames Task Force OREGON the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) on September 25.

1967 (April 24) - The Khe Sanh combat base is adjacent to a principal Communist infiltration route in western Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. A battle erupts near the base when elements of the 3d Marine Division assault a series of enemy-controlled hills that dominate the approaches into the area. The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing provides air support, along with U.S. Air Force B-52s. The battle lasts until May 11. In one of the bloodiest actions of the war, the Marines temporarily clear the hills overlooking the combat base. Throughout 1967 the Marines

defending I Corps engage Communist forces in larger and more frequent battles than in previous years. Khe Sanh takes on increasing importance as North Vietnam builds up its forces in the region. U.S. commanders continue to insist upon holding it, and the North Vietnamese continue to harass and isolate the garrison into 1968.

1968 (April 1) - The U.S. Army 1st Cavalry and Marine 3d Division, joined by South Vietnamese airborne and ranger units, begin Operation PEGASUS. Its objective is to reach and relieve the garrison at Khe Sanh, which has been under siege since January. Allied forces begin by clearing the primary road to Khe Sanh of enemy units, moving westward with ground and airmobile assaults. The Marines at Khe Sanh go on the offensive, breaking out from their positions on April 4. Khe Sanh is finally relieved on April 8 when the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry reaches the combat base. U.S. troops proceed to clear the surrounding area of enemy forces, and PEGASUS ends on April 15.

1969 (April 1) - U.S. force levels in South Vietnam reach a peak at approximately 543,400 troops. At the direction of President Nixon and with insights from Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, who has recently returned from a visit to Vietnam, National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger issues a memo instructing the Department of Defense, the State Department, and the CIA to formulate “a specific timetable for Vietnamizing the war.” The goal of Vietnamization is to gradually turn the conduct of the war over to the South Vietnamese and begin the incremental withdrawal of American troops.

1970 (April 15) - The Department of Defense bans the use of Agent Orange amid ongoing controversy over the use of defoliants in Vietnam and greatly curtails defoliation operations in general. The elements executing Operation RANCH HAND have been reduced to a single unit of eight aircraft. The final defoliation mission of the war occurs on May 9 using Agent White. Limited crop destruction missions continue until January 1971.

1970 (April 20) - President Nixon, in a televised address to the country, says that the United States has “now reached a point where we can confidently move . . . to a longer-range program for the replacement of Americans by South Vietnamese troops.” He announces that 150,000 U.S. troops will leave Vietnam over the next 12 months.

1970 (April 28) - President Nixon authorizes approximately 48,000 South Vietnamese Army and 32,000 U.S. Army Soldiers, supported by the U.S. Air Force, to cross the border from III Corps into Cambodia the next day. Their mission is to attack Viet Cong and North Vietnamese bases in Cambodia, which Communist forces have been using as a sanctuary from allied troops. The incursion is the largest military operation of the war since 1967. By late June, the allies inflict over 11,000 enemy casualties and seize thousands of tons of military supplies and food. Nearly 1,000 allied troops are killed, including 338 Americans. North Vietnamese forces later reoccupy much of eastern Cambodia, and the incursion inflames antiwar sentiment in the United States.

1971 (April 7) - President Nixon publicly announces that a further 100,000 U.S. troops will withdraw from Vietnam before the beginning of 1972.

1971 (April 15) - The Department of Defense establishes the POW/MIA Task Group under the direction of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs. The group is the coordinating body for all POW/MIA matters. Its objective is to obtain the release and full accounting of American POWs and to devise policies and procedures for their return to the United States. The group manages multiple issues relating to returnees’ repatriation, including medical evaluations, debriefings, and family, financial, and legal counseling. The task group remains in place through the return of prisoners in 1973.

1971 (April 19) - More than 1,000 Vietnam veterans arrive in Washington, D.C. for an antiwar protest organized by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW), a group of veteran activists. They stage peaceful demonstrations throughout the week, including a memorial service at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. On April 22, a VVAW spokesman, Navy veteran John Kerry, testifies before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations about the group’s opposition to the war and its call for an immediate U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam. VVAW members conclude their stay in D.C. with a march to the Capitol on April 23, where more than 500 of them throw medals and ribbons toward the Capitol building. While the VVAW’s lobbying efforts are largely unsuccessful, the protests and Kerry’s televised testimony increase its membership and gain national attention.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Williamsburg, VA Post 4639

# Annual Charity Golf Fundraiser Benefiting Veterans and Their Families

Registration: 8 am

Shotgun Start: 9 am

Kiskiack Golf Course  
8104 Club Dr., Williamsburg, VA 23188

A Golf Digest "Place to Play" in Williamsburg

## Sat. April 19, 2025

Individual: \_\_\_\_\_

or

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #4: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact e-mail / phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Register at  
[2025 VFW 4639 Charity Golf](https://www.facebook.com/VFWPost4639/)

or

Send payment and registration to:  
VFW Post 4639 Golf  
PO Box 1236, Williamsburg VA, 23187

Payment must be received before April 13, 2025  
(THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS IS A NON-PROFIT 501 (c) (19)  
ORGANIZATION; EIN 75-3187629)

**Post media**  
<https://www.facebook.com/VFWPost4639/>  
<https://vfwpost4639.org>  
[Vfwpost4639@gmail.com](mailto:Vfwpost4639@gmail.com) (757) 258-9802

Golf Committee: [eric.oitzman@yahoo.com](mailto:eric.oitzman@yahoo.com)  
(757) 289-6773

[Extra Sponsorship Options here](#)

**Drone Drive Sponsor**  
(Bring the WOW factor for an organization)  
**Technology Package**  
(Exclusive exposure throughout website  
& App)  
**Towels or Balls w/Logo**  
**Closest to the Pin or Long Drive**



**\$110 per golfer / \$440 per team**

- Live Leaderboard
- Flight A & B team prizes
- 2 **Blue Raffle** tickets
- 2 Mulligans per player
- Hole Contest Prizes
- 1 String-it-out per team
- Lunch on-the-turn
- 2 drink tickets

**Drone Drive Included with Entry!**

Scramble format **Tees:**

Green: Women & Men > 62  
B/W combo: All others

### Additional Fundraisers

- \* Extra **Blue Raffle** Tickets -- 1 = \$5    3 = \$10    8 = \$20
- \* 50/50 **Red Tickets** -- 1 = \$1    6 = \$5

### Hole Sponsorships:

**\$150 – Bronze Sponsor:**

- ✓ Sign or sponsor provided banner at 1 hole & live scoring app

**\$300 – Silver Sponsor:**

- ✓ Sign or sponsor provided banner at 1 hole & live scoring app
- ✓ Logo & name recognition on event & post media outlets
- ✓ Recognition at opening and closing announcements

**\$575 – Gold Sponsor:**

- ✓ Golf for four (4) in the event
- ✓ Sign or sponsor provided banner at hole, live scoring app & clubhouse
- ✓ Logo & name recognition on event & post media outlets
- ✓ Recognition at opening and closing announcements



# Golfing For Veterans

## Second Annual Golf Tournament

"All Proceeds Support Veterans & Veteran's Programs"

Date: Friday, April 25, 2025

4-Person Scramble - Shotgun Start @ 9:00am - Check In:0730-0830

Registration Form and Payment Due by - Friday, April 18, 2025

Entry Fee - Individual - \$150.00 - Foursome - \$600.00

Payment - Venmo to @VFW8469 (VFW Post 8469) or

Check to: VFW Post 8469, 5703 Vogue Rd, Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Registration - Electronically at [VFWPOST8469.com/golf4vets](http://VFWPOST8469.com/golf4vets)

Registration fee - Incl Green/Cart Fee Range Balls & Lunch

**Twin Lakes Golf Course**

6201 Union Mill Road  
Clifton VA 20124

Silent Auction

Military and Sports

Memorabilia

Mulligans

50/50 Raffle

Flag of Honor Raffle

Lunch Provided by

Mission BBQ

### TEAM PRIZES

FIRST - \$125.00 Gift Card/Golfer  
SECOND - \$100.00 Gift Card/Golfer  
THIRD - \$75.00 Gift Card/Golfer  
FOURTH - \$50.00 Gift Card/Golfer  
FIFTH - \$25.00 Gift Card/Golfer

### Individual Registration

Player Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(Individual registrants will be assigned to a team.)

HOST

VFW POST 8469  
FAIRFAX STATION, VA

### Team Registration

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 1 (Captain) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Player 3 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Player 4 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_





ENDLESS DESTINATIONS  
PREMIERE TRAVEL AGENCY  
*A World of Possibilities*



## SET SAIL WITH VFW POST 8545 Community Fundraiser

*Open to everyone. You do not need to be a VFW member.*

**Norwegian Prima, Departing from Port Canaveral (Orlando), FL**

**6 – 13 Sep 2026**

**Ports of Call: Orlando FL (Port Canaveral), Puerto Plata Dominican Republic,  
Great Stirrup Cay Bahamas, Orlando FL**

**\$200 Deposit Due by 10 May 2025**

**Final Payment Due 1 May 2026**

**Cabin rates based on double occupancy and includes all taxes, port fees, More at Sea Package, insurance, and gratuity (**all-inclusive price** with the exception of excursions and airfare). 10% military discount available.**

\$4000 – Balcony

\$3925 – Ocean View

\$3450 – Inside Cabin

Suites & family cabins have to be priced separately

**Note:** Prices are subject to change based on your cabin selection aboard ship; i.e. midship cabins tend to be a higher rate or higher cabin category.

**Contact Ollie for more details**

**Endless Destinations Travel, LLC**

**757-621-2328**

**endlessdestinations2024@gmail.com**

# Commanders Club Luncheon

## ATTENTION: All Past and Present Commanders

You are invited to attend the Annual Commanders Club Luncheon to be held on **SATURDAY**, June 21, 2025, at the Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. We have changed the day to Saturday and hope to get more attendees. We will have a limit of 70 so register early.

**COST:** Check \$40.00 Online \$44.52

**MENU:** Salad, Entrée (Grilled Portobello Mushroom, Roasted Panko Crusted Chicken Piccata, or Beef Medallions), Rosemary Roasted Klondike Potatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots, Sliced Rolls with Butter, Coffee and Iced tea, and Fruit Cobbler

### REGISTRATION CAN BE MADE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:** Department of Virginia Commanders Club  
**MAIL CHECK TO:** Ken Shannon, Commanders Club Treasurer  
152 Old Carriage Way, Williamsburg VA 23188

### ONLINE AT EVENTBRITE WITH A SERVICE FEE:

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/department-of-virginia-commanders-club-lunch-tickets-1256030012579?aff=oddtcreator&utm\\_campaign=46082713&utm\\_term=ctabutton&mipa=ABldvVvBuMBQBo0j82UIMa0c\\_oLpH6jwXzl2WD0Is0jzXcSQ01KfhqeXXrBml2Y0shMmyiTFrZHwbn7qf1x5Hnidyy6VL-D28Wl6VNrVmnNZYvWCxEX6YCFjrsn14ENZ192UvvGI0qknBks5oM6b5Hsl7jHEQg6lYqoWw7Xjp8E-dF1fCBuVR-Nwl7RaFsn8BF5v1kh2iuOKsQYmCKAgZrQKH-iLLTsFgc\\_Y84Y6J4SWF\\_4cZdY61d3PhO1ZXo7G4UpQhrVOLEwSNXd3Lf5KStMGjHjsDjA&utm\\_source=eventbrite&utm\\_medium=ebcampaigns](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/department-of-virginia-commanders-club-lunch-tickets-1256030012579?aff=oddtcreator&utm_campaign=46082713&utm_term=ctabutton&mipa=ABldvVvBuMBQBo0j82UIMa0c_oLpH6jwXzl2WD0Is0jzXcSQ01KfhqeXXrBml2Y0shMmyiTFrZHwbn7qf1x5Hnidyy6VL-D28Wl6VNrVmnNZYvWCxEX6YCFjrsn14ENZ192UvvGI0qknBks5oM6b5Hsl7jHEQg6lYqoWw7Xjp8E-dF1fCBuVR-Nwl7RaFsn8BF5v1kh2iuOKsQYmCKAgZrQKH-iLLTsFgc_Y84Y6J4SWF_4cZdY61d3PhO1ZXo7G4UpQhrVOLEwSNXd3Lf5KStMGjHjsDjA&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=ebcampaigns)

**DEADLINE: May 17, 2025 PRE-REGISTRATION FOR MEAL IS REQUIRED.  
NO MEALS WILL BE AVAILABLE UNLESS PRE-REGISTERED.**

**Tickets available through Eventbrite or pick up your ticket at REGISTRATION**

**REMEMBER:** You can become a LIFE MEMBER for \$35.00; All dues can be sent to Ken Shannon at the address above or pay through the Eventbrite link \$39.19

PLEASE SEND THE FORM BELOW ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK TO ASSURE ACCURACY.

-----  
Post No. \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Name of each person attending luncheon (please print clearly)

NAME MEAL CHOICE (Mushroom/Chicken/Beef) DATE JOINED

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Life Member Dues for \_\_\_\_\_

For Life Members please include Name, Post or PT, Address, Email, and Phone Number

# Department of Virginia Commanders Club

Commanders and Seam Squirrels join the Department of Virginia Commanders Club

We promote the interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in accordance with the By-Laws of the Department of Virginia and in addition to fostering esprit de corps provide additional scholarships for youth (VOD/PP/SOY).

All Past, Present, and Elected Post, District, Department, and National Commanders, Seam Squirrels, Grand Commanders, and Supreme Commanders are eligible.

If you are a current member of the Department of Virginia Commanders Club please assist me by sending your Roster information to [treasurerclub@vfwva.org](mailto:treasurerclub@vfwva.org).

Life Member Dues are \$35.00

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Department of Virginia Commanders Club

MAIL CHECK TO: Ken Shannon  
Commanders Club Treasurer  
152 Old Carriage Way  
Williamsburg VA 23188

**OR PAY ONLINE AT EVENTBRITE WITH A SERVICE FEE:**

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/department-of-virginia-commanders-club-lunch-tickets-1256030012579?aff=oddtcreator&utm\\_campaign=46082713&utm\\_term=ctabutton&mipa=ABIdvVvBuMBQB0j82UIMa0c\\_oLpH6jwXzl2WD0ls0jzXcSQ01KfhqeXXrBml2Y0shMmyiTFrZHwbn7qf1x5Hnidyy6VL-D28Wl6VNrVmnNZYvWCxEX6YCFjrsn14ENZ192UvvGI0qknBks5oM6b5Hsl7jHEQg6IYqoWw7Xjp8E-dF1fCBuVR-Nwl7RaFsn8BF5v1kh2iuOKsQYmCKAgZzrQKH-iLLTsFgc\\_Y84Y6J4SWF\\_4cZdY61d3PhO1ZXo7G4UpQhrVOLEwSNXd3Lf5KStMGjHjsDJA&utm\\_source=eventbrite&utm\\_medium=ebcampaigns](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/department-of-virginia-commanders-club-lunch-tickets-1256030012579?aff=oddtcreator&utm_campaign=46082713&utm_term=ctabutton&mipa=ABIdvVvBuMBQB0j82UIMa0c_oLpH6jwXzl2WD0ls0jzXcSQ01KfhqeXXrBml2Y0shMmyiTFrZHwbn7qf1x5Hnidyy6VL-D28Wl6VNrVmnNZYvWCxEX6YCFjrsn14ENZ192UvvGI0qknBks5oM6b5Hsl7jHEQg6IYqoWw7Xjp8E-dF1fCBuVR-Nwl7RaFsn8BF5v1kh2iuOKsQYmCKAgZzrQKH-iLLTsFgc_Y84Y6J4SWF_4cZdY61d3PhO1ZXo7G4UpQhrVOLEwSNXd3Lf5KStMGjHjsDJA&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=ebcampaigns)

PLEASE SEND THIS COMPLETED FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Post or Pup Tent \_\_\_\_\_

Dates as Commander or Seam Squirrel \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_



VFW Ruppert L Sargent Post 3219  
Presents

# ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

**24** **MAY**  
**2025**

Woodlands Golf Course  
9 Woodland Rd  
Hampton, VA 23663  
(757) 727-1195



## REGISTRATION FEES

Single Player	\$100
4-man Team	\$400
Register before 5-18-25	\$360

## AGENDA

7:00 AM	Registration
8:00 AM	Shotgun Start
1:00 PM	Luncheon at Post 3219 122 E Mellen St Hampton, VA 23663 (757) 723-2667

**Proceeds support needy  
Veterans in Hampton Roads**

# PLEASE NOTE

All State Post  
Commanders and All  
State Post  
Quartermasters **Must**  
**attend AND sign in** to  
all highlighted  
Meetings on the  
Convention Agenda to  
receive the \$300.00  
stipend.

103<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION  
 DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA  
 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES  
 HOTEL MADISON  
 HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA  
 JUNE 19 - 22, 2025

Kathy Goodall  
 Convention Chairman

Sandra Terry  
 Convention Vice Chairman

**Tentative Subject to Change**

All State Post Commanders and All State Post Quartermasters **Must attend AND sign in** to all highlighted Meetings on the Convention Agenda to receive the \$300.00 stipend.

**Thursday,  
 June 19, 2025**

11:00 AM	NOON	COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING	MADISON BOARDROOM
10:00 AM	4:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	CONF CENTER FOYER
12:30 PM	2:00 PM	VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION MEETING	MADISON BOARDROOM
2:30 PM	4:00 PM	JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICES	SHENANDOAH A&B
<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>9:00 PM</b>	<b>JOINT PRESENTATION OF AWARDS</b>	<b>SHENANDOAH A&amp;B</b>

**Friday,  
 June 20, 2025**

7:30 AM	8:30 AM	PAST STATE COMMANDERS/PRESIDENTS BREAKFAST	DOLLEY MADISON DINING ROOM
8:00 AM	5:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	CONF CENTER FOYER
<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>JOINT OPENING SESSION</b>	<b>SHENANDOAH A&amp;B</b>
<b>12:30 PM</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>	<b>VFW BUSINESS SESSION (NOMINATION OF STATE OFFICERS)</b>	<b>SHENANDOAH B</b>
4:00 PM	5:30 PM	WOMEN VETERANS FORUM	SHENANDOAH B
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	MOVIE TBD	APPALACHIAN A, B&C
7:30 PM	9:30 PM	MOC DEGREE WORK	SHENANDOAH B

**Saturday,  
 June 21, 2025**

8:30 AM	10:30 AM	REGISTRATION, VFW	CONF CENTER FOYER
<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>BUSINESS SESSION</b>	<b>SHENANDOAH B</b>
11:30 AM	1:00 PM	COMMANDERS CLUB LUNCH	ALLEGHENY A,B&C
<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS</b>	<b>SHENANDOAH B</b>
3:15 PM	4:30 PM	MOC SCRATCH	MADISON BOARDROOM
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	VFW RIDERS MEETING	MADISON BOARDROOM
6:30 PM	9:00 PM	COMMANDERS RECEPTION	SHENANDOAH A&B

**Sunday,  
 June 22, 2025**

9:00 AM	9:30 AM	JOINT DEVOTIONAL SERVICE	SHENANDOAH A
9:30 AM	11:00 AM	COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION	MADISON BOARDROOM

Registration \$5.00 (All VFW members are required to register in advance as delegates from their Post)

**SATURDAY RECEPTION/DANCE - THERE WILL BE A \$10.00 FEE THOSE WANTING TO ATTEND**

**HOSPITALITY ROOM**  
 Department – APPALACHIAN Ballroom



# STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

State Convention will be held June 19 – 22, 2025 at the

Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley  
Conference Center  
710 S Main Street  
Harrisonburg – 540-564-0200

The Commanders Reception will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup>.  
You will **NOT** be able to purchase tickets the weekend of the Convention.  
Pre-purchased tickets will be available at the registration table.

You **MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR THE RECEPTION (NO REFUNDS)**  
**Please wear your new Commander's Shirt**

Tickets: \$10.00

Meal will consist of

**Salad** (*Mixed Greens, Tomatoes, Shaved Parmesan, Kalamata Olives, served with Balsamic Garlic Vinaigrette*)  
**Tomato, Basil, and Feta Salad with Citrus Vinaigrette**  
**Roasted Sliced Italian Beef**  
**Chicken Piccata with Lemon Caper Pinot Grigio Sauce**  
**Penne Bolognese**  
**Roasted Vegetable Medley with Italian Herbs**  
**Garlic Parmesan Bread sticks**  
**Tiramisu and Cannoli**

Your choice of Iced Tea, Iced Water

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RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401 BY May 30, 2025  
No Exceptions No Refunds after May 30<sup>th</sup> Check, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express Accepted

Person placing the order (name) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out completely for each person you are registering including Post or Auxiliary number.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Aux: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Aux: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Aux: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Aux: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Aux: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Aux: \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my card: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle One: MasterCard or Visa or Discover or American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

*Pre-paid tickets **will not** be mailed to you; they will be available for pick up at registration.*

You may e-mail this form to: [statehq@vfwva.org](mailto:statehq@vfwva.org) or fax to: 1-866-416-0586

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Department of Virginia  
403 Lee Jackson Highway  
Staunton Virginia 24401

Buddy Poppy Order Form

Post Number \_\_\_\_\_

Ship To Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date Ordered \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Sale \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Card Type (Circle One) Visa    Master Card    Discover    American Express

Make checks payable to: Department of Virginia, VFW with buddy poppies on the memo line.

State Headquarters now has Buddy Poppies (old or new) in stock. The new price for the original buddy poppies (red ones) \$160.00 per 500. The price for the new metal poppies is \$70.00 per 500. As a reminder, poppies must be paid for before they can be shipped.

POSTS MUST ORDER FIVE POPPYS PER MEMBER MUST BE ORDERED IN ORDER TO MEET ALL STATE/ALL AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS.

Quantity of Boxes (500 Per Box) \_\_\_\_\_ Total Number of Poppies \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount paid \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Example: If a post has more than 100 members but less than 200, then 1000 poppies must be ordered to meet the five poppy per member requirement, due to the fact they only come in boxes of 500.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Commander or Quartermaster

Signature \_\_\_\_\_





## VA VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS



# VFW is seeking volunteers for VA Volunteer Service Programs

(VFW Membership not required)

## Volunteer Opportunities

*(In-person or Online)*

Compassionate Contact Corps  
Corporate Volunteerism  
Physician Ambassador Program  
Student Volunteer Program /  
James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship  
Volunteer Transportation Network  
Voter Assistance

## Join a Legacy of Service

Volunteer once, occasionally, or regularly — your assistance and time are priceless to the VFW, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and our Nations Veterans.

**No Computer? No Problem.**

**Call 1-800-VFW-1899 for assistance today!**

(1-800-839-1899)

# Learn How to Spot the Phish!

## Look for Spelling and Grammar Errors

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Unusual language errors can indicate phishing attempts.

## Check Sender's Email Address

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Scrutinize the sender's email for odd variations or unfamiliar domains; legitimate emails usually have consistent, recognizable addresses.

## Assess the Urgency and Tone

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Phishing often uses a high-pressure tone demanding immediate action to create a sense of urgency.

## Beware of Suspicious Attachments or Links

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Do not open attachments or click links unless you're certain of their safety

## Scrutinize the Email's Greeting

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Impersonal or generic greetings might signal a phishing attempt.



# PACT

FOR ANIMALS



## WHAT IS PACT FOR ANIMALS?

PACT for Animals is a non-profit that gives peace of mind to military, veterans, and hospital patients by placing their pets into temporary foster homes until their owners can be reunited with the devoted companions they love. Since its founding in 2011, PACT has facilitated the placements of thousands of pets nationwide.



## SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

We offer a letter certifying volunteer hours for your MOVSM to any military member who fosters with PACT and help fellow military families.



## WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

We are a FREE service that pairs pets with pre-screened and approved fosters across all 50 US states.

As the ONLY nationwide non-profit to manage the entire foster process, every step of the way, we ensure a positive experience for all parties. We coordinate communication between fosters and owners, conduct monthly check-ins, and facilitate reunions.

## WHAT NEXT?

The first step in any PACT for Animals process is our online application. This is true for pet owners and those interested in fostering. Once we have that, things move quickly, and we ask that you pay extra close attention to your inbox.



[pactforanimals.org](http://pactforanimals.org)

# Help your fellow service members

Foster a pet. Make a friend.  
Make a difference.

**PACT**  
forAnimals.org

# The Virginia Veterans Network is here for you.

Find more information about resources and support at [dvs.virginia.gov](https://dvs.virginia.gov) through the Virginia Veterans Network. Our offerings include:

 Burial Services	 Career Services	 Education	 Entrepreneurship	 Financial Assistance
 Fitness	 Health Services	 Homeless Assistance	 Legal Assistance	 Life Wellness
 Mental Wellness	 Social Life	 Veteran Benefits	 Volunteer Engagements	 Workshops



The Virginia Veterans Network is managed by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.



The Virginia Department of Veterans Services connects Virginia's veterans and their families to the federal and state benefits, support, quality care, and recognition they have earned.

## HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact DVS for assistance at:

 [VirginiaVeteransNetwork@dvs.virginia.gov](mailto:VirginiaVeteransNetwork@dvs.virginia.gov)

 804-786-0286

## GET CONNECTED.

Here's how: Visit [dvs.virginia.gov](https://dvs.virginia.gov) to create a profile and validate your veteran or service member status. After registering, you'll find services and resources from hundreds of local and nationwide organizations vetted by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS).



Scan QR code to visit the Virginia Veterans Network.

## President's Special Project



**Please Send donations to** Department Treasurer: Cathy Graham 9691 Linden brook Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22031-1132

**Facts about The Barns at Blue Mountain:** [www.barnsatbluemountain.org](http://www.barnsatbluemountain.org)

They are a 501c3 non-profit, they are a self-sustaining organization that relies on fundraising, donations, and grants to pay staff, care for their horse partners, monthly rent for their facilities, and all other expenses. They do work with Blue Mountain Therapy to provide quality services with their amazing staff. Their services are not billable to insurance companies currently. They are part of an army of equine assisted service providers working hard to supply hard data and results that will push companies to recognize the benefits and pay for these services. This is why they Fundraise so much! Their staff, board members, and volunteers work hard on raising funds all year to help cover the cost of services and care for their horse partners. They ask for no more than 1/3 of the cost of providing an equine assisted service from the family they serve. They have a sliding scale that can take the cost down to as low as \$5 per session. So fundraising and your support makes it possible to provide a trained & healthy equine partner, an equine specialist &/or certified therapeutic riding instructor, a therapist or counsellor in some cases, volunteers or added staff for aid, and the equipment and facility to those benefiting from our programs in your community. They work closely with Physical, occupational, and speech therapists, as well as, behaviour technicians, mental health professionals, and social workers from Blue Mountain Therapy. They collaborate and work closely with Emory & Henry College and their equine, psychology, and therapy departments to both put the most up to date methods into practice and to train upcoming equine assisted services professionals.

### **Programs they have:**

**Healing Hooves** is a therapeutic riding program serving ages 6& up with a variety of physical & mental disabilities, or cognitive delays.

**Changing Strides** is an at-risk youth program serving ages 6-19. They work with DSS, foster care agencies, juvenile court, and mental health agencies to provide a safe space for healing and growth. They work on personal growth, healthy relationships and communication, and self-sufficiency.

**Serve a Purpose Program** serves our veterans, active military, and their families with both community engagement & support, and equine assisted psychotherapy with a mental health professional.

**Pony Power Reading Program** is for all ages and promotes reading and literacy while being in the calm realm of horses that is judgement free.

**Pony Pals Program** is an all-inclusive group class that is open to ages 6-15. This group learns horse safety, handling, behaviour, communication, independence, teamwork, social skills, emotional regulation, and leadership.

**Barn Buddies Program** is for adults with disabilities or cognitive delays to enjoy outdoor and social activities while learning social skills, emotional regulation, and independence.

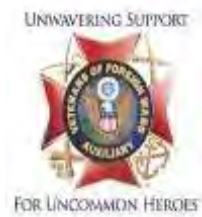
**FOR SALE!**

The Department of Virginia Auxiliary has a QuickBooks program ( never been used) for sale for \$500.

interested in buying or questions contact our Department Treasurer Cathy Graham

[cg12dc12@outlook.com](mailto:cg12dc12@outlook.com)





## *VFW Auxiliary Department of Virginia*

I would like to begin by thanking Department Commander Rubenstein for letting the VFW Auxiliary Virginia provide Post Commanders and members information about forming a new Auxiliary and recruiting Auxiliary members for existing Auxiliaries.

### Starting a New Auxiliary

The first step to institute a new Auxiliary begins with Per VFW Bylaws Section XI - no Auxiliary to a Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be formed unless approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Post membership present and voting at a regular or special meeting, due notice of the proposed formation of an Auxiliary having been given the entire membership of the Post, in writing at least twenty (20) days prior to a regular meeting, or special meeting called for the aforementioned purpose. The approval to form a new Auxiliary is to be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

Although the process to form a new Auxiliary sound like a challenge, the benefits of having an Auxiliary affiliated with your Post far outweigh the challenge. You will have a partner to work with to assist the VFW to pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families, provide volunteer hours in the VA Medical Centers and local medical facilities, conduct patriotic programs with thousands of students and offer hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for our nation's youth. We are there to assist Veterans and their families as well as working with other organizations in our communities.

### Existing Auxiliary

If your post has an Auxiliary, you already know the benefits of having an affiliated Auxiliary. If you have not already done so, you can show your support by signing up eligible family members. The best resource for new Auxiliary members (must be minimum of 16 years old), either forming a new Auxiliary (which we need fifteen new members) or an existing Auxiliary is the Post members. Included is the VFW Auxiliary Eligibility which shows the relatives to the Veteran who are eligible to become an auxiliary member. If you would like to sign up new Auxiliary members, please contact the Auxiliary President. He or she will be happy to assist you.

To our "bachelor" posts once your post has approved the formation of the Auxiliary, please contact our Department President Dawn Kuhn or Department Chief of Staff Carol Vangi. We will assist you with the next steps.

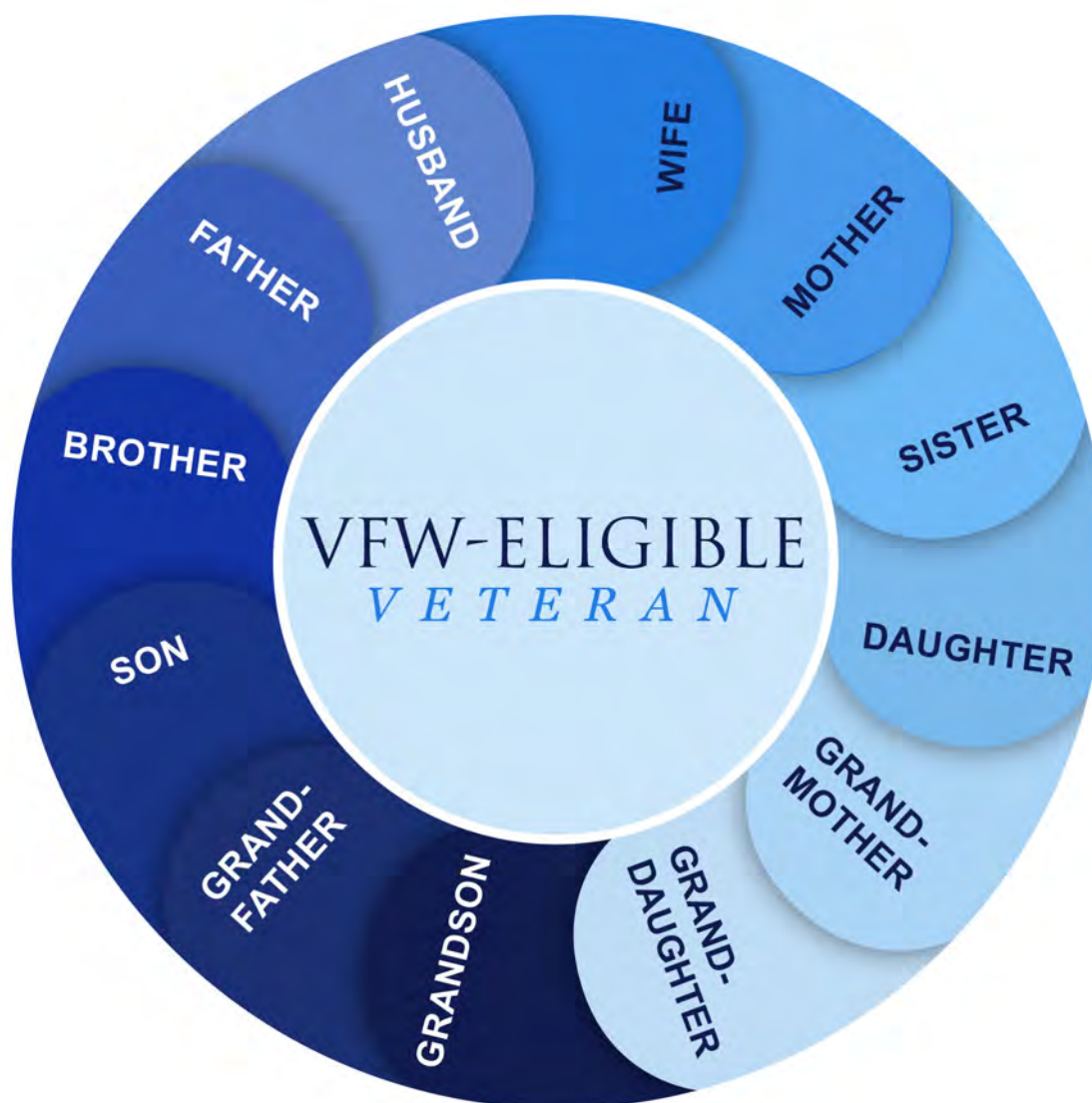
Again, thank Commander Rubenstein for allowing us to provide this information.

Dawn Kuhn, Department President  
[kuhn@comcast.net](mailto:kuhn@comcast.net)

Carol Vangi, Chief of Staff  
[cjonesvangi@gmail.com](mailto:cjonesvangi@gmail.com)



# VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel



*\*Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.*



Todd A. Taylor

## **Candidate for the High Office of VFW State Surgeon 2025-2026**

Comrades, for those that don't know me I am Todd Taylor and I am running for State Surgeon for the 2025-2026 term. I am not into recreating the wheel and am looking to continue the great work that we all do for the VFW. I look to continue some of the great practices that were done by my predecessors in ensuring that we are supporting our Veterans, making a positive impact in our communities, and supporting our VFW Programs both at the State and National levels.

My eligibility for the VFW is service in Desert Shield/Desert Storm with 11 years of honorable service in the United States Marine Corps.

My VFW Service is as follows:

Post:

- Service as a Trustee and Adjutant
- All-State and All-American Quartermaster
- All-State and All-American Commander
- MOC Seam Squirrel Puptent 19 2023-Present

District:

- Service within the District for 3 years
- All-State and All-American Commander

Department:

- Sergeant at Arms for Department Ceremonies
- Recruiting Chair North 2024-2025

Appointments:

- Assistant National Aide-De-Camp 2021-2022
- National Finance and Internal Organization Committee 2022
- Assistant Inspector General 2022-2024
- National Bylaws Committee 2023 & 2024

I look forward to serving the VFW to the best of my ability and I am looking forward to the opportunity of becoming the next VFW Department of Virginia Surgeon.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tech for Troops

Contact: Mark Casper, Executive Director

Phone: 804-521-7979

Email: [mcasper@techfortroops.org](mailto:mcasper@techfortroops.org)

Website: [TechforTroops.org](http://TechforTroops.org)

**Tech For Troops Awarded Two Top 2025 Military Friendly® Employer Designations**

**Richmond, VA — November 20, 2024** — Tech For Troops, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering Veterans through technology, is proud to announce recent recognition as a 2025 Gold Level Military Friendly® Employer and 2025 Military Spouse Friendly Employer®. The 22nd annual list of Military Friendly® Employers was released on [www.militaryfriendly.com](http://www.militaryfriendly.com) and is due to be published in the December 2024 issue of G.I. Jobs® magazine recognizing 338 Employers.

In applying to the rigorous and transparent system designed to create real, lasting benefits for those who serve or have served, Tech For Troops was selected after first pledging their commitment to supporting the military community, which includes active duty, reserve, guard, Veterans, and military spouses. The framework for the Military Friendly® Employer standard ensures that organizations are not only committed to supporting the military community but are also held accountable for their efforts and successes.

"We are deeply honored to be recognized as both a Gold Level 2025 Military Friendly® Employer and a Military Spouse Friendly Employer®. This recognition reflects our unwavering pledge to supporting those who have served, as well as their families, by providing the training, resources, and opportunities they need to succeed." said Mark Casper, President and CEO of Tech for Troops. "At Tech For Troops, we strive to break down barriers to employment and access to technology, empowering Veterans and military spouses to thrive in today's digital workforce. This recognition validates the hard work and dedication of our team, and we remain steadfast to making a lasting impact on the military community."

Tech For Troops is dedicated to providing Workforce Development and Mental Wellness programming to military personnel along with environmental and security services related to E-waste Recycling and Data Destruction. With each key focus area, Tech For Troops is able to offer employment positions to Veterans and technology training that provides employment preparation such as resume guidance and virtual interviewing.

**About Military Friendly®**

Military Friendly® is the standard that measures an organization's commitment, and success in creating sustainable and meaningful benefits for the military community. Over 2,800 organizations compete annually for Military Friendly® designation. Military Friendly® ratings are owned by Viqtory, Inc., a service-disabled, Veteran-owned small business. Viqtory is not affiliated with or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Defense or the federal government. Results are produced via a rules-based algorithm. The data-driven Military Friendly® lists and methodology can be found at <https://www.militaryfriendly.com/mfcguide/>

**About Tech for Troops**

Tech for Troops is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing Veterans with the technology, training, and resources they need to succeed in a digital world. Through computer refurbishing, technical training, and career support, Tech for Troops helps Veterans overcome the digital divide, ensuring they have access to the tools they need to thrive in today's job market.

For more information, visit [TechforTroops.org](http://TechforTroops.org) or contact us at 804-521-7979 or [info@TechforTroops.org](mailto:info@TechforTroops.org).

**### END ###**



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Department of Virginia  
Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary  
November - December 2024

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Dear Members:

Where has the 2024 year gone. The fall foliage has faded...the air is cool, and the sun goes down way too soon. Holidays will soon be approaching. What a wonderful time of the year for family, friends & food. Busy, exciting and very festive. Same for our VFW National Home Families.



To see a **VIRTUAL TOUR** of the Virginia House go to [vfwnationalhome.org](http://vfwnationalhome.org) and check out **“OUR COMMUNITY”**. Scroll down to the Virginia House and hit virtual tour. It will also tell you the history of the House, built in 1935, 1,933 Square Feet, 3 Bed, 1.5 Bath. The home itself is in very good shape. You can also take a virtual tour of the entire VFW National Home campus. Check out the **“STORIES”** of how you have made such a difference in the lives of many veterans and their families. There is so much more important information about the home and events. Share it with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

### **Families at the National Home**

- There is a female Veteran and her son living at the Virginia House. They are doing well and working on their commitments.
- We have 37 houses occupied, with 82 kids & 52 adults living in the homes.
- 7 Families have graduated and are on their way to a brighter future. Thanks to you!
- There are 5 applications in the works.



The VFW National Home will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 2025, and we want you to be part of it. That's why we are inviting you to join our Centennial Membership. As a token of our appreciation, we are making this special offer available to current and nonmembers. When you apply between April 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025, we offer the following benefits:

- Exclusive Centennial Membership Pin
- 10% Off Souvenirs and Apparel
- Reduced Guest Lodge Rate
- Exclusive Member-only Apparel

Applications can be found on the VFW National Home website: [vfnationalhome.org](http://vfnationalhome.org)

\*\*\*\*

### **VFW LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

VFW and VFW Auxiliary members and organizations are eligible to become Life Members. Life Members may vote for the trustees who represent their National Home District and approve any proposed changes to our bylaws and articles of incorporation. The National Home Board of Trustees approved the use of electronic voting beginning with the 2022 Trustee District election. Therefore, Life Members must have a valid email and/or a mobile phone number on record in order to vote.

### **ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Any individual or organization wishing to support the National Home's mission can become an Associate Life Member. Associate Life Members do not have voting privileges.

Applications can be found online at [vfnationalhome.org](http://vfnationalhome.org)  
*Purchase National Home Life Membership \$50*

### **GREAT NEWS...**

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year the VFW National Home has received a 4 Star rating as an organization that can be trusted and exceeds the best practices and industry standards for charity accountability, donor privacy, leadership and organization culture best practices. That is hard to receive and that says a lot about our VFW National Home.

### **MORE GREAT NEWS....**

As of the end of October, roads and stripping are done; electrical infrastructure upgrade is finished; the renovation of the Welcome Center has started and the new Pollett House (1<sup>st</sup> home and family at the VFW National Home which had to be condemned) is well underway to completion. The Centennial Garden has been completed in time for the new plants, trees and grass before the winter sets in. Bricks that were purchased before July 22<sup>nd</sup> arrived and installed. A total of 372 bricks have been purchased since April 1, 2024.

## **Celebrate the National Home's Upcoming Centennial birthday**

Celebrate the upcoming VFW National Home Centennial in style with a personalized engraved brick in our 2025 Centennial Garden. Whether it's to honor a loved one, commemorate a special event, or simply leave your mark on this historic occasion, our 8x8 engraved bricks offer a timeless way to do just that. For a limited time only, you can secure your place in history for an unbeatable price of only \$500. The Centennial Garden will be located adjacent to the existing Tribute Park. PS. It is not too late for you, your Post/Auxiliary, to share a Centennial Garden Brick on every level.... Post, District and Dept.



## **100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration – 2025**

January 7, 2025 - Everyone is encouraged to sponsor a Birthday Celebration

February 8, 2025 - 100<sup>th</sup> Gala Anniversary Celebration Formal Dinner –Tickets \$125.00 ea

March 7, 2025 - New Pollett House Dedication & Ribbon Cutting

June 28, 2025 - 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration (Carnival, dedications, cartoon characters, concerts, food vendors, pavilions, vintage baseball & ending with a laser show - 11am–11 pm)



Our newest addition! CIC AI and National President Brenda's Department Commanders and Presidents Class 24-25 project is completed and in the Tribute Park. It is awesome and perfect for the National Home. Job Well Done! Thank you, Team 2024-25 Commanders/Presidents. The dedication will take place during the 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration on June 28<sup>th</sup> at the VFW National Home.

**Thank you for your continuous support!**

Sandi Kriebel, PNP

Board of Trustees #4 VFW National Home

Sr. Vice President, Executive Committee

Representing DE, MD, NC & VA

443-745-9206

***HAVE A BLESSED THANKSGIVING &  
BRIGHT HOLIDAY SEASON WITH  
FAMILY & FRIENDS***

## **TENTATIVE AGENDA**

### **VFW 126<sup>th</sup> National Convention Columbus, OH Greater Columbus Convention Center August 9-13, 2025**

*All meetings are held in the convention center unless otherwise noted.*

*Times for various functions are subject to change.*

*Meeting rooms will be posted closer to conference dates and are subject to change*

#### **Friday, August 8, 2025**

10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. VFW/Auxiliary Pre-Registration  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. National Veterans Service Advisory Committee

#### **Saturday, August 9, 2025**

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. VFW Registration/Exhibits  
8:00 a.m. Budget and Finance Committee  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. VA Claims Clinic  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Uniting to Combat Hunger  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Vander Clute Memorial Ride  
10:00 a.m. National Council of Administration Meeting  
3:00 p.m. Eastern Conference  
3:00 p.m. Southern Conference  
3:00 p.m. Big Ten Conference  
3:00 p.m. Western Conference

#### **Sunday, August 10, 2025**

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. VFW Registration/Exhibits  
9:00 a.m. Joint Memorial Service  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. VA Claims Clinic  
10:00 a.m. Workshops (TBD)  
11:00 a.m. Update on VFW Legislative Priority Goals  
11:00 a.m. VFW Post Service Officer Training  
12:30 p.m. First Time Attendees Welcome Orientation  
1:00 p.m. VFW Programs Town Hall



## **TENTATIVE AGENDA**

### **VFW 126<sup>th</sup> National Convention Columbus, OH Greater Columbus Convention Center August 9-13, 2025**

#### **Committee Meetings:**

1:00 p.m.	National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual -
1:00 p.m.	Finance and Internal Organization (200 series)
1:00 p.m.	General Resolutions (300 Series)
1:00 p.m.	National Security and Foreign Affairs (400 series) Sub Committee – POW/MIA
1:00 p.m.	National Veterans Service Resolutions (600 series) Sub-committee – Health Sub-committee – Benefits Sub-committee – Economic Opportunity/Other
4:00 p.m.	Workshops (TBD)
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Department Adjutant Quartermasters Association Meeting & Reception ( <i>by invitation only</i> )
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Cornhole Tournament

#### **Monday, August 11, 2025**

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	VFW Registration/Exhibits
8:00 a.m.	Joint Opening Session <i>(Business session will resume after lunch break)</i>
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	VA Claims Clinic
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Cornhole Tournament Championship
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	126 <sup>th</sup> VFW National Convention Awards Banquet-Cocktail Hour
6:15 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	126 <sup>th</sup> VFW National Convention Awards Banquet

#### **Tuesday, August 12, 2025**

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	VFW Registration/Exhibits
8:00 a.m.	VFW Business Session
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	VA Claims Clinic
1:00 p.m.	Department Commanders Luncheon – (by invitation) –
1:00 p.m.	2023-2024 Senior Vice Commanders, Senior Vice Presidents Luncheon (by invite only)
1:00 p.m.	2023-2024 Junior Vice Commanders, Junior Vice President’s Luncheon (by invite only)

## **TENTATIVE AGENDA**

### **VFW 126<sup>th</sup> National Convention Columbus, OH Greater Columbus Convention Center August 9-13, 2025**

1:00 p.m.	Update on Federal Benefits and Services for Veterans
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Workshops (TBD)
1:00 p.m.	Chaplains Workshop
5:15 p.m.	Parade Line-up
6:00 p.m.	Patriotic Rally & Entertainment

#### **Wednesday, August 13, 2025**

8:00 a.m.	Business Session: Nominations/Election/Installation of National Officers National Council of Administration Meeting <i>(Following business session)</i>
1:00 p.m.	<b>All American Commanders Luncheon (ticketed event)</b>
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Commander-in-Chief's and National President's Reception

*Updated: 3/11/25*

1972 (April 6) - Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 15 deploys to Da Nang. It serves as air support for the South Vietnamese armed forces and U.S. troops combating the Easter Offensive. MAG 15 operates under the Seventh Air Force.

1972 (April 7) - During the Easter Offensive, two armor-equipped North Vietnamese army divisions lay siege to the city of An Loc, located north of Saigon in III Corps. The assault forces the city's South Vietnamese army defenders to engage in house-to-house fighting. They are supported by nearly continuous air support from U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps gunships, fighters, and bombers—including B-52s. The defenders hold out against enemy attacks for more than two months. The city is left largely in ruins.

1972 (April 19) - The cruiser USS *Oklahoma City*, the guided-missile frigate USS *Sterett*, and the destroyers USS *Higbee*, and USS *Lloyd Thomas* attack targets near Dong Hoi on the coast of North Vietnam, where the North Vietnamese are using a coastal highway to transport war supplies. North Vietnamese patrol boats and MiG fighters engage the U.S. ships, which destroy two enemy boats and one MiG. The North Vietnamese hit the *Oklahoma City* with shells from their shore batteries and one of their MiG-17s hits the *Higbee* in the gun turret with a 550-pound bomb, wounding four Sailors. The engagement is one of the largest naval actions of the war.

1974 (April 4) - As the political, economic, and military situations in South Vietnam rapidly deteriorate, President Nixon asks Congress to increase military aid to South Vietnam. The measure fails to pass the House of Representatives.

1975 (April 4) - The evacuation of approximately 2,600 Vietnamese children from Saigon to the United States, known as Operation BABYLIFT, begins. The initial BABYLIFT flight crashes shortly after takeoff. Of the over 300 people on board, nearly half are killed, most of whom are Vietnamese children. The rest of the dead are employees of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Defense Attaché Office Saigon, and others. Later flights arrive in the United States safely. Several hundred children are flown out on private planes not on military contract. The children of BABYLIFT are adopted by people in the United States, Canada, Australia, and Europe.

1975 (April 29) - In the final stage of the offensive against Saigon, The North Vietnamese army closes in on Saigon. Remaining U.S. personnel execute Operation FREQUENT WIND, the evacuation of Americans, foreign nationals, South Vietnamese officials, and citizens associated with Americans from the city. During the final North Vietnamese assault, runways at Tan Son Nhut Air Base are damaged and strewn with debris, making evacuation by fixed-wing aircraft impossible. A North Vietnamese rocket attack on the Base results in the death of two U.S. Marines. They are the last American troops to die on the ground in South Vietnam. With over 800 U.S. Marines providing security for the operation, U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force helicopters evacuate over 7,000 personnel—primarily Americans and Vietnamese—from Tan Son Nhut, the U.S. Defense Attaché Office, and the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. The evacuees are transported to ships of the U.S. Seventh Fleet offshore, including the USS *Okinawa*, *Hancock*, *Dubuque*, *Denver*, *Duluth*, *Mobile*, *Peoria*, and *Vancouver*, among others.

1975 (April 30) - Operation FREQUENT WIND ends, though U.S. vessels continue to pick up numerous refugees escaping Vietnam by sea. The departure of the Seventh Fleet marks the conclusion of three decades of American involvement in Vietnam. Saigon falls to North Vietnamese troops, and organized South Vietnamese resistance to Communist forces ceases. President Duong Van Minh, who has only been in office for days, announces the unconditional surrender of the Republic of Vietnam.

Jeff Dombroff  
Vietnam War Commemoration Committee Chairman

Official:



Ed Mann  
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Mitch Rubenstein  
State Commander