

REGISTRATION DEADLINE JANUARY 5TH

WINTER COUNCIL MEETING

January 12 – 15, 2023
Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel ~ Portsmouth, Virginia ~ 757-673-3000 ~
\$97.00 Per night

(Hotel Group Rate Deadline is December 12th)

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR BANQUET TICKET
\$50.00

**ALL TICKETS MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED. THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS
SOLD AT THE WINTER COUNCIL MEETING.**

Dinner Menu

Parmesan Crusted Chicken with Mozzarella served with Marinara Sauce

AND

Shrimp Scampi served over Pasta

Served with:

Caesar with Shaved Parmesan, Focaccia Crouton & Green Goddess Caesar Dressing

Mixed Greens with Ranch or Creamy Italian Dressing

Sweet Potato Casserole Steamed Broccoli in Lemon Butter Oven Roasted Potatoes

Warm Rolls and Butter

Assorted Mini Dessert Shooters, Strawberry Lemonade Cheesecake, Smores, Crème Brule, Mini Bundt Cakes

Coffee/Decaffeinated Coffee/Herbal Teas

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY **JANUARY 5, 2023** (NO EXCEPTIONS)

Check, Discover, American Express, Visa, or MasterCard Accepted

Person placing the order (name) _____ Phone: _____

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

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: Discover American Express MasterCard Visa SIGNATURE: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Billing Zip Code _____

Mail form to: State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401

You may also e-mail this form to: statehg@vfwva.org or fax it to 1-866-416-0586 if paying by Credit Card only

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

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

NUMBER 6

403 Lee Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112

**"Veterans Helping Veterans
Dept. of Virginia 100th Anniversary"**

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

December 1, 2022

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

Articles are listed by number not by pages:

- | | |
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| 1. Commander's Message | 15. Inspections |
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| 3. All American Dashboard | 17. Life Membership Drawing |
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| 5. By-Laws and Manual of Procedure | 19. Office Closure |
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| 14. Public Servant Awards | |

1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Comrades and Auxiliary,

December rings in the holiday season, one of the happiest times of the year. At the time of this writing, we are preparing for Thanksgiving and planning to decorate for the holidays. This past month our members have been very busy. By way of summary, the following is provided:

Southern Conference (SoCon) (Asheville, NC): In late October the Virginia delegation attended the annual SoCon in Asheville, NC. We approved a new budget, made amendments to our bylaws and took care of key business items. Additionally, three candidates announced for Junior Vice Commander-In-Chief; and two candidates announced for SoCon Vice Chairman.

Wreath Layings at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC)(Arlington, VA): On 5 November I was part of a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns at ANC. On 11 November National Commander Tim Borland, laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. If you get a chance, to visit the Tomb of the Unknowns you will be very proud of our tomb guards.

Veterans Day: Our Posts were very active with Poppy Drives all around the State. The public was very generous in contributing to our fundraisers. We also, managed to recruit approximately 59 new members over the course of the long weekend.

Charitable Gaming Town Hall: On 15 November we participated in a Town Hall sponsored by the Dept. of Agriculture, and Consumer Services, Charitable Gaming. We spoke with one voice and communicated the VFW position. We will know the results of the Town Hall in the coming months. Special thanks to PDC Tom Gimble and PCC Hal Roesch for all their hard work on this important issue.

VFW Legislative Open House and Mixer: On 16 November several of our State Officers, Legislative Committee members, and key personnel attended this Open House and mingled with their Washington DC counterparts. It was a great team building experience.

Yellow Ribbon: As part of our effort to increase our support to veterans we have signed up for all the Yellow Ribbon events being held in Virginia this year. This past month we attended a Yellow Ribbon event in Virginia Beach to welcome deployed members back home. Special thanks to Chief of Staff Ken Wiseman for organizing.

Membership: At the time of this writing our Department stands at nearly 90 percent; with over 1,100 new and reinstated members. District 10 leads with 96 percent; District 8 follows with nearly 95 percent. Districts 2 and 6 are not far behind with 90 percent each. Our goal is to have every District at 100 percent by June 30. One Recruiter Pins are in! Expect to receive yours at your next District meeting. I hope every member in the Department will be sporting a One Recruiter Pin. Special thanks to Membership Chair Tom Hines and his Team for all their efforts.

Winter Council of Administration (COA) News:

National Representative: We learned this month that National Senior Vice Commander-In-Chief Duane Sarmiento, will be attending our Winter COA as the official National Rep! I hope you will come to Portsmouth and meet SVC Sarmiento.

Training: As part of our dedicated training efforts, it was announced that there will be Microsoft Office 365 Training held on 13 January and a final Recruiting School of Instruction (RSOI) held on 14 January in Portsmouth, VA.

Homecoming 13 January: RSVPs for the free Homecoming are out of control! Be sure to get your RSVP in before the great ballroom fills up. Guests will enjoy the famous all-you-can-eat Tidewater Buffet; DJ "JR"; a Henry Golden Boy Gun Raffle and free giveaways such as a deluxe State Commanders Challenge Coin (die cast-full color-ltd edition in presentation vinyl sleeve). RSVP to kwiseman@vfwva.org by 6 January deadline.

Awards Banquet 14 January: Register now for our annual Youth/Educator Awards Banquet (only \$50.00 per person). You will hear inspiring patriotic essays from our best students and speeches from some of our top educators. Deadline is 5 January.

Theresa and I would like to pass our warmest wishes for a happy holiday season to all our members, Auxiliary and their families. If you know of a veteran out there who is alone this season, please reach out to them and let them know the VFW cares. You can make a difference.

Geoffrey Lyster
State Commander
Department of Virginia

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. ALL-AMERICAN DASHBOARD:

Military Assistance Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much in grant assistance that has been received from National HQs to supplement the Unmet Needs financial grants and VFW Sport Clips Help-A-Hero scholarship statistics. The information charts reside on the KPI tools section. 7

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 2023 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 2023 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 123rd National Convention, which becomes effective on August 20, 2022.

6. CITIZEN EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD:

Please see the attachment. There is a change for the 2022-2023 Program.

7. DELINQUENT:

The following is a list of Posts that are still delinquent in Delegate Fees, Bonds and Audits. If you are bonded through another company, **you must still submit proof of bonding** to State Headquarters.

Dist.	Post	Audits	Dist.	Post	Audits	Dist.	Post	Audits	Bonds
2	993	Sept	6	1264	Sept	9	7136	Sept	
			6	2157	Sept				
3	7167	Sept	6	5311	Sept	12	4301	June, Sept	
						12	8652	June, Sept	Expired
5	7854	Sept	7	8613	Sept	12	9600	Sept	Expired
			7	9760	Sept	12	9830	Sept	

8. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 st	Date:	1/21/23	2 nd	Date:	12/3/22
	Meeting:	11:00 AM		Lunch:	Noon
	Location:	Post 3219 Phoebus 122 E Mellen Street, Hampton		Meeting:	1:00 PM
	Rep:	State Inspector Charles Bush		Location:	Post 3160 Norfolk 111 A View Avenue
				Rep:	St Commander Geoffrey Lyster

3 rd	Date: 2/4/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 637 Hopewell 1400 Lynchburg Street Rep:	8 th	Date: 2/4/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 3103 Fredericksburg 2701 Princess Anne Street Rep:
4 th	Date: 2/11/23 Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 8759 Amelia 16440 Five Forks Road Rep:	9 th	Date: 1/28/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 11115 Hillsville 701 W. Stuart Drive State JVC Mitch Rubenstein Rep:
5 th	Date: 2/17/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep:	10 th	Date: 12/10/22 Lunch: Noon Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: American Legion 176 Springfield 6520 Amherst Avenue State SVC Gary Adams Rep:
6 th	Date: 12/3/22 Meeting: Noon Location: Hosted by Post 5311 Christiansburg at Post 1264 Roanoke 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: St Judge Advocate Doug Hoffman	11 th	Date: 1/28/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 2216 Staunton 212 Frontier Drive PSC Butch Schupska Rep:
7 th	Date: 1/21/23 Lunch: 11:30 AM Meeting: To follow Lunch Location: Post 2447 Edinburg 100 Veterans Way Rep: State SVC Gary Adams	12 th	Date: 12/3/22 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1994 Abingdon 17581 Lee Highway State Chief of Staff Ken Wiseman Rep:
		13 th	Date: 2/11/23 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1827 Charlottesville 1170 River Road Rep:

9. 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 Dec. 31, 2022. Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including the Club Manager, Bingo Chairman and VFW Riders Groups. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster and Adjutant records.

10. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 15th**. 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 **VFW2022!** 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 # **Please note District Senior Vice Commander's now have an email address**

svrdist1@vfwva.org
adjdist1@vfwva.org
qmdist1@vfwva.org

11. 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. Contact State Headquarters for more info.

12. HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG:

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.

13. IMPORTANT DATES:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| January 12 - 15, 2023 | Winter Council, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA phone 1-888-839-1775. Room Rates are \$97.00 per night. |
| June 1 – 4, 2023 | State Convention, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA; phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$149.00 per night. Group name “Virginia Department VFW & Auxiliary State Convention 2023”; Cut-off Date April 28, 2023. |
| July 22 – 27, 2023 | National Convention, Phoenix, Arizona |
| November 1 – 4, 2023 | Southern Conference, Tulsa, Oklahoma |
| July 27 – Aug 1, 2024 | National Convention, Louisville, Kentucky |
| August 9 – 14, 2025 | National Convention, Columbus, Ohio |

14. PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS:

Please see the attachment. There has been a new category added 2022-2023 Program. Please note deadline to State Headquarters is January 1, 2023.

15. INSPECTIONS:

Hello, Comrades of Virginia; we hope you are getting ready for the upcoming holiday season.

I'm happy to report as of November 20, 2022

11 Districts of 13 are Inspected (85%)

105 Posts of 127 are Inspected (83%)

69 Posts/Districts are Inspection Ready (49%)

28 Posts/Districts with Outstanding Inspection Binders (20%)

Let's start December with Congratulations to District 10 for finishing their Posts Inspection in November. Awesome job!

District Commanders and District Inspectors of the Month:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Comments</u>
November	Comrade Ben Guinan	Dist. 10	Awesome Job!

Each will receive a letter of appreciation and a \$20 gift certificate to Chick-fil-A or Mission BBQ.

We started Inspectors' training; please check with your District Commander to join.

Let's finish strong to achieve our objective. The objective is to create and support a plan to inspect all Posts and Districts by December 16, 2022, and correction completed by May 5, 2023.

Yours in Comradeship and Peace,
Charles H. Bush Jr.
State Inspector
inspector@vfwva.org
540-907-5292

16. 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 is 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 numbers.

17. LIFE MEMBER DRAWING:

Congratulations to Leonard E. McCoy Post 5311, Christiansburg as the winner of a free Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Virginia. Leonard E. McCoy Post 5311 was made eligible for this Free Life Membership for having 85% of their membership reported to State Headquarters by October 28, 2022, deadline.

18. MEMBERSHIP:

Comrades and Commanders,

As we begin our Sixth Month of Geoff's year, I would like to thank you for your efforts in Membership. Normally we have Posts that are already at or above their quota and Posts that are not doing so well. This year is no different,

however we have a large number of Posts that need ten or less to reach 100%. District Commanders, I encourage you to look at your Post, identify the ones that need just a few and help them earn a Commanders Jacket by reaching quota before December 31st.

We should work on our annuals again this month because we still have a large number that expire on December 31st. The weather is turning colder and may interfere with outdoor events. Please look for venues that will allow indoor recruiting. Post Commanders please spend a few minutes at every meeting promoting membership. Encourage members to look for potential members wherever they may be. The more recruiters you have the easier it is to reach your 100% goal. The Membership Team is always ready to assist you in your efforts. Reach out to State Headquarters or any member of the Team for help. We will do our very best to help you. Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and Fruitful New Year. Don't forget the men and women that are deployed during the Holiday's.

Tom Hines PSC
Membership Team Chairman

19. OFFICE CLOSURE:

The Smithfield, Norfolk and Dale City Service Offices will be closed December 26, 2022, and reopen January 3, 2023, in observance of Christmas and New Year's.

State Headquarters will be closed December 23, 2022, and reopen January 3, 2023, in observance of Christmas and New Year's. The Adj/QM will be available by phone and email for any issues that may arise.

Please note the Hopewell Service Office is temporarily closed.

20. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY:

Recent changes to the VFW National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual establish that *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall be the parliamentary authority on procedural matters not governed by VFW Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. Newly revised *Robert's Rules of Order* is readily available at local book stores and online retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

21. POST RELIEF FUND:

Sections 219 and 704 of the Manual of Procedure outline the various things for which the Post Relief Fund can be use. "To foster true patriotism and through historical and educational programs," is part of this section. This allows the Post to use the relief funds for the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year programs and other Americanism programs that are educational. This does not include Post building projects, hall remodeling, Color Guard uniforms or any other expenditures that does not follow these guidelines.

22. 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.

23. PROGRAMS:

Post and Districts must now submit their VOD, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year through the All American Dashboard. The Department will update the District Reporting page when the All American Dashboard box turns green. Only submit what your level judges. Post and District Commanders, Sr Vice Commanders, Jr Vice Commanders, Adjutants, and Quartermasters can now all make entries in the All American Dashboard. Call Headquarters (540-886-8112) or myself (804-304-7726) if you need further assistance or guidance.

Ed Mann
State Adj/QM

24. ROSTER CHANGES:

Fifth District Cmdr
David P. Gilleran
710 Beechnut Lane
Martinsville VA 24112
251-209-8154
cdrdist5@vfwva.org

Post 2296 Cmdr
Robert T. Schofield
17265 Rollingwood Dr
Painter, VA 23420
757-710-6098

Post 2894 Meeting location
Apostles Lutheran Church
370 Johnstown Road
Chesapeake, VA 23322

Post 2296 SVC
William L. Murphy
21304 Circle Drive
Onancock, VA 23417
757-787-1033

Post 5715 Cmdr
Clyde A. Phipps
126 Walnut Drive SE
Wise, VA 24293
423-213-0566
cdrpost5715@vfwva.org

Post 7800 QM
Israel Grissom
PO Box 1436
Stuart, VA 24171

25. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

"We don't need no steenking pins!" Well, actually you do, and I have them. Email me at cdrdist8@vfwva.org and I can send up to five.

This month's Vietnam War Congressional Medal of Honor winner is Santiago J. Erevia. Born in Corpus Christi TX in 1945, he enlisted in the Army in 1967. In May 1969, Erevia found himself assigned as a SP4 Radio Telephone Operator assigned to Company C, 1st/501st, 101st Airborne Division operating near Tam Ky, Vietnam. On May 21st, the action for which he received the Medal of Honor occurred. His citation reads as follows:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Specialist Four Santiago J. Erevia distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a radio telephone operator in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) during search and clear mission near Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam on May 21, 1969. After breaching an insurgent perimeter, Specialist Four Erevia was designated by his platoon leader to render first aid to several casualties, and the rest of the platoon moved forward. As he was doing so, he came under intense hostile fire from four bunkers to his left front. Although he could have taken cover with the rest of the element, he chose a retaliatory course of action. With heavy enemy fire directed at him, he moved in full view of the hostile gunners as he proceeded to crawl from one wounded man to another, gathering ammunition. Armed with two M-16 rifles and several hand grenades, he charged toward the enemy positions behind the suppressive fire of the two rifles. Under very intense fire, he continued to advance on the insurgents until he was near the first bunker. Disregarding the enemy fire, he pulled the pin from a hand grenade and advanced on the bunker, leveling suppressive fire until he could drop the grenade into the bunker, mortally wounding the insurgent and destroying

the fortification. Without hesitation, he employed identical tactics as he proceeded to eliminate the next two enemy positions. With the destruction of the third bunker, Specialist Four Erevia had exhausted his supply of hand grenades. Still under intense fire from the fourth position, he courageously charged forward behind the fire emitted by his M-16 rifles. Arriving at the very edge of the bunker, he silenced the occupant within the fortification at point blank range. Through his heroic actions the lives of the wounded were saved, and the members of the Company Command Post were relieved from a very precarious situation. His exemplary performance in the face of overwhelming danger was an inspiration to his entire company and contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Specialist Four Erevia's conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity at the risk of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

In 1970, Erevia left active service with a two-year reserve obligation. In 1972, he joined the Texas National Guard and went on to serve 17 years. Erevia worked as a mail carrier for the United States Postal Service, retiring in 2002 after thirty-two years of service. Erevia was one of two dozen veterans who received the Medal of Honor following a Congressionally mandated review of past discrimination in the bestowal of the Nation's highest honor to Jewish and Hispanic American veterans from WWII, Korea and the Vietnam War. He received his Medal from President Obama at a White House ceremony on March 18, 2014. He died on March 22, 2016, in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 70 and is interred in the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio.

Jeff Dombroff
Vietnam War Commemoration Committee Chairman

26. VOICE OF DEMOCRACY:

The 2022 Department Voice of Democracy Selection Board will be held at Post 9808 Mechanicsville, Virginia on Saturday 17 December 2022 beginning at 10:00 A.M. At least one representative from each District should be present.

The January 2023 Awards ceremony for the top three finalists will be held Saturday 14th January 2023 in Portsmouth, Virginia. Further information will be forth coming.

Louis Filippone
Voice of Democracy Program Chairman

27. WINTER COUNCIL MEETING:

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. **Please note last day to Book is Monday, December 12, 2022.**

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1656095589272&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

The Winter Council is January 12 – 15, 2023, but you can receive the discounted rate January 9 – 18, 2023. Room rate is \$97.00 per night.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Official:

Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:

Geoffrey D. Lyster
State Commander

Limited Edition

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia

Centennial Anniversary KA-BAR Knife

Celebrating 100 years
Only 100 made
\$100 each



To get yours contact State Headquarters.

(540) 886-8112

Shipping Charges may apply.



CALLING ALL WOMEN VETERANS

WE HAVE A SPECIAL GUEST: TAMMY BARLET, MPH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
SPEAKING AT MID WINTER CONFERENCE
PORTSMOUTH VA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022 2-4pm

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES!!! SEE YOU THERE



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
AND
VFW AUXILIARY**

Winter Council of Administration Meeting
January 12 – 15, 2023
Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel
Portsmouth, Virginia
757-673-3000

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023

3:00 PM 5:00 PM Virginia Veterans Foundation Board Meeting TBD

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023

Noon	5:00 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Washington Board Room
2:00 PM	4:00 PM	Women Veterans Forum	Madison
5:00 PM	7:00 PM	State CMDR and Aux. Presidents Homecoming	Portsmouth I-III
7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Microsoft 365 Training Seminar	Amphitheater

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023

8:00 AM	8:45 AM	VFW Auxiliary Floor Practice	Portsmouth V
8:00 AM	2:30 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Washington Board Room
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Commanders Club Meeting	Portsmouth VI-VIII
8:30 AM	2:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Council Meeting/ Program Fair	Portsmouth V
9:00 AM	4:00 PM	Service Officer Training	Amphitheater
9:30 AM	12:00 PM	VFW Council of Administration Meeting	Portsmouth VI-VIII
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	VFW Riders Meeting	Madison
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	MOCA Meeting	Madison
1:00 PM	3:00 PM	Membership & Recruiting SOI	Portsmouth VI-VIII
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	MOC Meeting	Lee Room
4:00 PM	6:00 PM	VOD & PP BANQUET	Holley Ballroom

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023

9:00 AM 9:30 AM Joint Devotional Service Madison

TEACHER OF THE YEAR, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, AND PATRIOT'S PEN BANQUET TICKETS: \$50.00
FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE MUST BE PURCHASED FROM THE VFW RIDERS Cost \$10.00

Department Hospitality Room – Commodore Room

(Tentative schedule subject to change)

Subject: Citizenship Education Teacher Recognition

There is a change for the 2022-2023 Program. Once again, National will recognize teachers from elementary, middle and high school rather than the State selecting one of their winners and submitting that entry. Our State's 3 winners will all receive recognition from National.

Post and District Chairpersons are strongly encouraged to go to the National website (<http://www.vfw.org>) and download the VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Chairman's Manual. This document contained entry forms, judging sheets and the necessary information that you need to run a successful program.

Post chairmen must be sure to send the original entry form for the winners along with a one-page resume as a minimum, or up to five pages (both sides) as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience, such as references, news articles, etc. Also, good quality head and shoulders photograph from the winning teachers.

Eligibility: Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. For example, do you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall or organizes community volunteer projects? Maybe you know an instructor who invites veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences. Perhaps you are familiar with a teacher who fosters the development of democratic value and beliefs through special projects. If you know of such a teacher, honor him or her today.

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals, including students.

Deadlines:

10 December 22: District Judging complete
17 December 22: District winners must be at State Chairman
19 December 22: for judging State Judging

Post Chairpersons: Don't forget to fill out the bottom portion of the entry form showing number of teachers participating; number of winners advanced to District; amount of Post/Auxiliary awards; and, amount of Post/Auxiliary additional expenses.

District Chairpersons: You will have a report to submit with your entries to State that reflect Post information as well as District awards and expense money. This report will be emailed/mailed to you by November 1 and should be submitted with your District winners.

Any questions, you can contact me at bigredtruk@comcast.net or (540) 539-5446.

Chris Birch
Teacher Recognition Program Chairman



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

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects emergency medical technicians, law enforcement and firefighter personnel to receive VFW Public Servant Awards. New this year, the dispatcher category has been added. Post Safety Chairmen are encouraged to submit a candidate for these awards to their **Department Headquarters by January 1.**

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.

VFW National 911 Dispatcher Public Servant Citation:

Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with providing the vital link between callers in distress and emergency response teams by obtaining essential information to send the appropriate responders to the right location.

NOTE: "NEW" First Responder Medal is available through the VFW Store. To review this item please click on the following link: <https://www.vfwstore.org/products/32134>

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) Public Servant Award Citation Post Entry Form
- 2) Nomination letter containing the candidate's name, title, address, telephone and identifying the award for which the individual should be considered.
- 3) Include justification outlining background in field, accomplishments and awards.

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

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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 #:

VFW Post POC

Full Name:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Individual Submitting Nomination

Full Name:

Phone:

Email:

Nominee Information

Choose appropriate citation:

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 winning 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



Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia *State Commander & President's Homecoming*



- **Purpose:** *To Honor Commander Geoffrey Lyster & President Fred Jennings*
- **Date/Time:** Friday, January 13, 2023; 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- **Location:** Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel, 425 Water St, Portsmouth, VA
- **Cost:** Free
- **Entertainment:** Famous DJ “JR”– and Featured Speakers
- **Dance Contest:** Awards for Best Dancer; Best Couple Dancers
- **Giveaways:** Complimentary Deluxe 2022-2023 Commanders Challenge Coin; die cast-full color-ltd edition (in vinyl sleeve) *One free Deluxe Challenge Coin to all attendees, if not rec'd previously*
- **Raffles:** *Henry Golden Boy* .22 S/L/LR (walnut stock); Door Prizes
- **Dress:** Casual (*wear your red or pink organizational shirt*)
- **Menu:** *“Famous Tidewater Buffet!”*



- *Mixed green salad with optional: tomatoes, croutons, goat cheese, spiced pecans, cranberries, roasted peach vinaigrette; creamy ranch or tasty Italian dressing*
- **Entrees:** *-Tidewater “all-day smoked” beef brisket with bourbon BBQ sauce
-Southern Fried Chicken - buttermilk brined coating
-Buttery garlic mashed potatoes and seasonal grilled vegetables*
- *Dessert: Assorted Chesapeake mini-dessert shooters, strawberry lemonade cheesecake, ‘Campfire S’mores’, assorted southern style mini-bundt cakes, crème brule & assorted macaroons
-Served with fresh baked rolls & butter, freshly brewed gourmet coffee and exotic herbal teas*

❖ **RSVP for Commander by January 6, 2023:**

Ken Wiseman – kwiseman@vfwva.org

❖ **RSVP for President by January 6, 2023**

Ellen Stogsdill - ellenstogsdill@cox.net

*You must RSVP
(for catering purposes)
No walk ins*

This may be the largest State Homecoming Extravaganza ever!

Stay overnight at the hotel or make it a Daytrip.

Whatever you do, you don't want to miss it!!

Hospitality Rooms
open prior to
event-then dine
with us!



Elegant Dancing

Famous ‘All-You-
Care-To-Eat’
Tidewater
Buffet!!

The Military Order of the Cootie is recognized as a subordinate and auxiliary order to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. It shall be **considered as the "Honor Degree" of the parent organization and shall be** governed by and under the control of the National Convention, the National Council of Administration, and the Commander-in-Chief.

Our service program is described as a directive to "Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White." Each year the Cooties volunteer thousands of hours of time worth over ten million dollars to Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) hospitals and domiciliaries throughout the United States. This work, in addition to the hours of service donated as active members of the VFW, set the members of the MOC apart as Foreign Service and Combat Veterans who are fully engaged in their communities.

Eligibility is determined through being active members for at least 6-months in a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and through completion of satisfactory service on a Post committee or satisfactory performance of Post duties or participating actively as a leader of post functions.

If you are interested in learning more about what it takes to become a Cootie reach out to grandcdr@vfwva.org.

"Neb"

Ben Guinan

Commander, 2022-2023
Grand of Virginia
Military Order of the Cootie





Charles H. Bush, Jr.

Candidate for the High Office of VFW State Surgeon 2023-24

Comrades, my name is Charles Bush, and I am running for State Surgeon. With your help, I want to bring learning, knowledge, recognition, and creditability to each position. I'm passionate about supporting our veterans, impacting our communities with good deeds, honoring our teachers and educators, engaging with our first responders, and encouraging youth activities by setting the example of a good American to all.

My goals are to continue improving our work on the business and administration side of our organization, grow membership and find a way to improve membership retention (I think we are missing out on grooming our next set of VFW leaders). Continue to make the VFW a strong voice for veterans. Create a strategic plan to visualize these goals along with your feedback, comments, and support. On the VFW membership side, embrace the family culture by enhancing members' experiences through recognition and increased learning. We, the VFW family, can uphold the VFW's outstanding achievements of the past with future process improvements.

My eligibility includes joining the Marine Corps and serving two combat tours, Desert Storm/Desert Shield in 1990 and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) in 2003, also deployments in South Korea.

My qualification includes joining the VFW organization as a Life Member in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, in 1997 while on active duty, transferring to Post 3103 Fredericksburg in 2009, and being appointed as the Senior Vice Commander pro temp in 2009 and elected to Post Commander in 2010-2011. Served on the District Eight Staff for over eight years, designated as the Inspector, and elected JVC, SVC. I was elected District 8 Commander and achieved All-State and All-American District Commander as District Commander for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. In 2019 all five posts made 100% membership, and two of five posts made All-American and All-State.

I'm currently serving as the State Inspector. In my positions working with the Posts, Districts, and the State, I have accumulated experience in the business of the VFW. I am ready to serve my comrades at the state surgeon level.

I am a learning member of the State Resolution Committee and the current President of the Commanders Club. I am also a member of the Past Post Commanders Council for Post 3103.

I'm currently employed by the Marine Corps Systems Command as a civilian employee since 2012, working in Acquisition Logistics. My wife Danielle is also a veteran and lifetime member of VFW Post 3103.

Born and raised in Mobile, Alabama (LA Lower Alabama), and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps from June 1981 until July 2011. With over 30 years of active duty military service and achieved the highest enlisted technical rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant/E-9 (MGySgt) in the Tactical Field and Garrison Communications MOS, starting as a basic field wireman to Communications Chief.

My father was Army Vietnam Veteran Airborne; my grandfathers were Veterans, and eight great uncles joined the military. I grew up around veterans and enjoyed the benefits as a dependent of a 100% disabled veteran (father). Now I have the opportunity to serve as a veteran in this organization. Together, Let's keep moving forward!

In Peace and Comradeship, Charles Bush, 540.907.5292 (cell), charlesbush2259@gmail.com.