

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

"Of the Veterans and For the Veterans"

NUMBER 6

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Website: www.vfwva.org
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December 1, 2024

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

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1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Comrades,

As I am writing this message, we are well into November, having been to the Southern Conference, celebrated Veterans Day, and making great strides in our Membership from everyone's hard work, and even finding sometime to prep for Thanksgiving. Many Posts have been very busy with parades, and events and should be getting closer to closing the book **on all** of their **Online Reports for the second quarter** (*Hint, Hint*, -Dec. 31st). I have been busy running around the state this month trying to visit as many Posts and District events as possible. Thank you all for your generosity and kindness. I'm sorry I can't get to all the events but I'm trying, and as my car needs an oil change, and I would love to get more sleep, however, I keep getting woken up early from my annoying alarm clock named **Doug**. Grumpy, wasn't given that nickname for a reason seems to think everyone needs to be up when he gets up and calls me in the early morning to let me know it.

November is always a great month to remember friends and toast the ones past and present and the organizations you have been part of. As we move into December we have Remembrance Day on the 7th, a Day of Infamy, and then the Holiday Seasons roll in and that is all about family. When we were in the active military and doing our thing, we at times were concentrating on our mission at hand, that our focus wasn't directed at our families as maybe we should have. Nonetheless, you remain in that zone of mission first, absorbing all the training and

information, trying to stay alive to be able to return home to them the same way we left. That was our job then, the support we got from our families and the family support groups is what gave us the strength to persevere.

That time has passed, and you are here now, December is a time to spend with your families, and friends, to show them how much their support meant to you and how much you appreciate them. Your religious beliefs may have you celebrate holidays in different ways and that's all good but remember besides your religious beliefs it was also the thought of your family that brought you home. So, charge your glasses and raise them, toast as many people or organizations you want but also remember to toast to your battle buddies and fellow comrades. Your military family is one of, if not the strongest bond you have with someone who is not related to you, or married to you, but one that is always there for you whenever you need them. The VFW and Auxiliary of Virginia is also your family, and we are always here for you!

From my family to yours, and from the Line Officers to you all, Dawn and I want to wish everyone of you a Safe and Merry Holiday Season, and a Happy and Healthy 2025 New Year.

Keep your foot on the gas, you all are doing a great job,

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. ALL STATE PROGRAM CHANGE:

POST 100% MEMBERSHIP AWARD - National is no longer carrying the 100% Membership Pins for the Post Commanders and Quartermasters. Post Commanders will still receive a Tumbler and the Vest if they are 100% by Tuesday, December 31, 2024, and Post Quartermasters will still receive the Tumbler.

4. BONDS:

All Bonds expired August 31, 2024. Please see July or August General Orders for the rate schedule for the cost of your bond and return completed form(s) and payment to State Headquarters. Please note the Quartermaster Bond rate schedule **is for** the Post Officers. There is a separate schedule for your canteen employees and others who are not Post Officers but need to be bonded. Remember that persons on any and/or all accounts have **MUST** be bonded.

EACH PERSON BONDED MUST BE ON A SEPARATE FORM. EXAMPLE DO NOT PUT QM AND COMMANDER ON SAME FORM, THERE MUST BE TWO FORMS COMPLETED BEFORE BONDS CAN BE PROCESSED. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHICH FORM, YOU SHOULD BE USING CONTACT STATE HEADQUARTERS.

5. BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:

All officers should obtain current 2025 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 2025 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 125th National Convention, which became effective on Aug. 28, 2024.

6. CHAPLAIN:

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

Who would believe it was November already...and welcome to edition 2404-4 of the Chaplain's Corner. It has been a busy summer and fall.

To better communicate with my Chaplains, we have created a Chaplain's Corner Facebook site at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1883823568808611>

The site will feature events, chaplains' sites and materials, daily reflections, and provide us a means to communicate as Chaplains. It is a private site, and you must enter your VFW data to get in.

I am looking for all of our 139 chaplains to be on that site...**need some help to arrive to that number.**

As we sail into Pearl Harbor Day, let us not forget our 2403 multiservice Comrades, who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives defending the Pacific that day. In 1994 President Bill Clinton passed through Joint Resolution designating December 7 "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" and a formal part of our Patriotic, National Observances and Ceremonies codified in the United States Code (USC).

By the same token, we must remember our own government consigned **One Hundred and Twenty thousand** American born ethnic Japanese into detention camps. The most famous of which is Manzanar found at: <https://www.nps.gov/manz/index.htm>. Despite this maltreatment, some of those young "Manzanar Men, proved" their loyalty and volunteered to join the U.S. Army. A few were selected to form the famous 442nd "Nisei" Regimental Combat Team, which fought in Italy. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/442nd_Infantry_Regiment_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/442nd_Infantry_Regiment_(United_States)) Hard fought campaigns up the mountainous Italian peninsula including the attack on the Adriatic's Gothic Line, earned the 442nd: 21 Medals of Honor, 53 Distinguished Service Crosses, 371 Silver Stars, and 4000 Bronze Stars. Brave men who proved the metal of Asian Americans, please remember and pray for them in December.

On our Chaplains Corner website there is a tab called files. Inside there is a file "the VFW Pearl Harbor Day ceremony," which features intro and prayers for your chaplains to use in leading observances. I will create a refined version of the prayers for each commemoration so after a year we will have a library that can be used as needed. Commanders and CHAPLAINS are **encouraged** to conduct a Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony as outlined by our United States Code. As we do so, lets also remember the sacrifice of the valorous 442nd, and the Japanese Imperial Military who lost their lives. Raise a glass to all, **THEN POST YOUR PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE REPORTS.**

See you around a post or in January at the Winter Conference

"Rejoice Always! Pray without ceasing!" 1Thesalonians 5:16-17

Pray for Each Other Daily,
Robert Ruffolo, KC*SG
State Chaplain Chaplain@vfwva.org

7. CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD:

The deadline for submission of nominations to the Post was **October 31st**. Post judging should have been completed and winners forwarded by **November 15th**. District judging should be completed by **December 15th** and nominations forwarded to the Department chairman no later than **December 20th**. Department judging will be conducted on **December 21st**.

Districts:

- (1) Please ensure teacher nominations are complete before forwarding them to Department. By the time I receive the nominations, I do not have the time to go back to the Post to try and get the missing items (resume, photograph, etc.)
- (2) Complete each Post Teacher Entry Form listing all information called for.
- (3) Complete the District Chairman Report Form and submit with your entries if possible. I have sent this Report Form to the District Commanders. If they have not forwarded it to you, let me know and I will email it to you.
- (4) Submit your winning nominations to the address listed below:

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

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me (540) 539-5446 or email me bigredtruk@comcast.net.

Chris Birch
 Teacher Recognition Chairman

8. DELINQUENT:

Dist.	Post	Audits	Bonds		Dist.	Post	Audits	Bonds
2	8545	September			7	9292	September	Expired
4	7819	September			9	6000		Expired
4	7897	September			9	7136	March	Expired
6	776	September			12	5715	September	
6	2157	September	Expired		12	9830		Expired
6	4522	September			13	2044	September	

9. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1st Date: 1/18/25
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Location: Post 176 Newport News
 21 Forrest Drive
 Rep: St Cmdr Mitch Rubenstein</p> | <p>5th Date: 2/15/25
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Location: Post 4637 Martinsville
 1425 Greensboro Road
 Rep: State Surgeon Randy Coker</p> |
| <p>2nd Date: 2/8/25
 Meeting: 9:00 AM
 Location: Post 2894 Chesapeake
 3329 Battlefield Blvd S
 Rep: St Cmdr Mitch Rubenstein</p> | <p>6th Date: 12/7/24
 Meeting: 11:00 AM
 Location: Post 1264 Roanoke
 4930 Grandview Avenue NW
 Rep: State SVC Doug Hoffman</p> |
| <p>3rd Date: 2/8/25
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Lunch: To follow Meeting
 Location: Post 637 Hopewell
 335 South 15th Ave
 Rep: State SVC Doug Hoffman</p> | <p>7th Date: 1/18/25
 Meeting: 11:30 AM
 Location: Post 2447 Edinburg
 100 Veterans Way
 Rep: State SVC Doug Hoffman</p> |
| <p>4th Date: 2/9/25
 Meeting: 11:00 AM
 Location: Post 9954 Victoria
 1000 Marshall Ave
 Rep: State SVC Doug Hoffman</p> | <p>8th Date: 2/1/25
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Location: Post 2524 Culpeper
 12210 Sperryville Pike
 Rep: State JVC Mark Maggio</p> |

9th Date: 1/25/25
Meeting: 10:00 AM
Location: VFW Post 7726 Independence
115 Klondike Road
Rep: PSC Gary Adams

11th Date: 1/25/25
Meeting: 10:00 AM
Location: Post 2216 Staunton
212 Frontier Drive
Rep: State Inspector Ken Shannon

10th Date: 12/7/24
Meeting: 10:00 AM
Location: Post 1177 Leesburg
401 Old Waterford Rd NW
Rep: St Cmdr Mitch Rubenstein

12th Date: 2/1/25
Meeting: 11:00 AM
Location: Post 4301 Norton
1151 Park Ave
Rep: PSC Gary Adams

13th Date: 2/22/25
Meeting: 11:00 AM
Location: Post 8947 Mineral
201 Mineral Ave
Rep: St. Judge Advocate Charles Bush

10. DUTIES OF TRUSTEES:

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 (a)(11) of the National Manual of Procedure, "Duty of Trustees." Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the closed of each quarter, one of which ends December 31, 2024.

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 Rider Groups. These records shall be audits by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster and Adjutant records.

Quarters ending March 2024 and September 2024 are NOW PAST DUE FROM SEVERAL POSTS.

11. FEDERAL FUNDING FOR POST:

"VFW and Auxiliary members will learn about the requirements for Auxiliaries, Posts, and Districts to apply for federal funding to include loans, grants, loan/grant combinations, and cooperative agreements. This includes various websites (SAM.gov, grants.gov, and websites for federal agencies), how to interpret federal funding announcements and federal regulations, and usual reporting requirements for those who accept federal funding. The course will be taught by an experienced federal funding specialist involved in funding programs who also manages millions in federal funding for multiple individual projects for a major federal agency."

12. 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.

13. HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG:

Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates December 7 as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" and requests the flag of the United States to be flown 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/flags/usflags.

14. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 21st**. 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 **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 cdmpost176@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 cdmdist1@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

15. IMPORTANT DATES:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| January 9 - 12, 2025 | Winter Council Meeting, Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA: phone 757-220-2250. Room Rates are \$92.00 per night. Cutoff Date is Thursday, December 19, 2024. |
| March 22, 2025 | State Commander/President's Homecoming at Post 2447, Edinburg, Holiday Inn Express, 1130 Motel Drive, Woodstock, VA; phone 540-459-5000. Room Rates are \$110.00 (available for Friday and Saturday nights) Cutoff Date is Saturday, February 1, 2025; more details to come. |
| June 18 – 23, 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 |

16. 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.

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. 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, 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

18. LIFE DRAWING:

Congratulations to Champ J. Lawson, Jr. and Douglas Hall Kirby Post 2044, Earlysville as the winner of a free Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Virginia. Champ J. Lawson, Jr. and Douglas Hall Kirby Post 2044 was made eligible for this Free Life Membership for having 85% of their membership reported to State Headquarters by October 31, 2024, deadline.

19. MICROSOFT 365 TRAINING:

Microsoft 365 training is being held at the Winter Council of Administration Meeting on Friday, January 10, 2025. Please bring your computers.

20. MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE:

It was an honor to represent our Grand of Virginia Cooties for Tomb Trek at Arlington Cemetery remembering those that have gone before us. We are headed to the VFW National Home for Cootie Christmas on December 7th to help the Grand of Michigan spread cheer to the residents. As we prepare for Winter COA Meeting help us get the word out to future Cooties in Western Virginia and grow a Pup Tent in the Roanoke area. If you have any Cooties that need degree work we will have a Scratch on Friday night at Williamsburg. Look at the agenda for times and locations for the Friday and Saturday Scratches. If you need the forms for new Cooties go to <https://lotcs.org/forms.html> and under pup Tent Starter Kit is the General Membership Application.

For more information on the Military Order of the Cootie please contact Ken Shannon Grand Commander at kshannon@vfwva.org or grandcdr@vfwva.org.

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

21. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters will be closed December 20, 2024, and will reopen December 30, 2024, in observance of Christmas and it will also be closed January 1, 2025, in observance of New Year's.

The Service Officer Offices in Dale City and Smithfield will be closed December 23, 2024, and reopen December 30, 2024, in observance of Christmas and they will also be closed January 1, 2025, in observance of New Year's.

Please note the Norfolk Service Office is temporarily closed.

The Adj/QM will be available by phone or email for any issues that may arise.

22. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY:

Procedure and Ritual establish that *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 14th Edition* shall be the parliamentary authority on procedural matters not governed by VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. This edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* is readily available at local bookstores and online retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

23. POST RELIEF FUND:

Sections 219 and 704 of the Manual of Procedure outline the various things for which the Post Relief Fund can be used. "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.

24. PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS:

Posts are asked to submit four nominees (one for each career area) to State Headquarters no later than January 9, 2025.

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award
- VFW National 911 Dispatcher Award
- VFW National Explosive Ordinance Technician Award

VFW PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATION POST ENTRY FORM. This form was developed to assist VFW Post Safety Chairpersons with an entry form to hand out to the local Fire Department, Police Department, etc. to assist interested individuals in nominating one of their own. Once a winner in each category has been chosen, the Post will forward the winning entries on to the next level of judging.

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

NOTE: Remember, the First Responder Medal is available through the VFW Store. To review this item, please click on the following link: vfwstore.org/products/32134.

25. RAFFLE:

Just a reminder money, ticket stubs and unsold raffle tickets needs to be returned to State Headquarters no later than December 17, 2024.

PLEASE DO NOT HOLD MONEY AND TICKETS UNTIL THE LAST DAY!

26. ROSTER CHANGES:

Post 3219 JVC
Brian E. McFadden
47 Cherry Acres Dr
Hampton, VA 23669
703-867-2300
navydude@sprynet.com

Post 8545 JVC
Christopher Corizzo
601 Jericho Rd
Smithfield, VA 23430
808-779-2838
corizzoc@gmail.com

27. 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.

28. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 122:

Membership Inactive
Hilary Williams
VFW Post No. 5311

Pursuant to the voluntary resignation of their membership upon the ascertainment of their desire to no longer be affiliated with the Veterans of Foreign Wars,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the name of Hilary Williams, Membership No. 11714782, be removed from the rolls of Leonard E. Mc Coy Post No. 5311, Christiansburg, Virginia, and their membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States vacated per member's request.

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

29. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 134:

Membership Inactive
Matthew E. Meditz
VFW Post No. 1264

Pursuant to the voluntary resignation of their membership upon the ascertainment of their desire to no longer be affiliated with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the name of Matthew E. Meditz, Membership No. 11270699, be removed from the rolls of Irvin L. Manning Post No. 1264, Roanoke, Virginia, and their membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States vacated per member's request.

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

30. 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 is 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.

31. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

The following significant events occurred in December:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

December 1, 1968 - A total of 26 men of 4 Troop, First Ranger Squadron, of the New Zealand Special Air Service (NZSAS) arrive in South Vietnam. They are attached to the Australian Special Air Service at Nui Dat, in III Corps. While NZSAS detachments have previously served in Thailand, this is their first Vietnam deployment. They conduct long range patrols and ambushes against enemy supply lines. New Zealand's troop commitment in Vietnam peaks at roughly 550 personnel.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I wish all of you and the members of your Districts a happy and joyous holiday season and a prosperous 2025.

Jeff Dombroff
Vietnam War Commemoration Committee Chairman

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Mitch Rubenstein
State Commander



REGISTRATION DEADLINE JANUARY 3rd

WINTER COUNCIL MEETING

January 9 – 12, 2025

Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center ~ Williamsburg, Virginia ~ 757-220-2250 ~
\$92.00 Per night

(Hotel Group Rate Deadline is December 19th)

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR BANQUET TICKET
\$55.00

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

Dinner Menu

Herb Crusted Chicken

AND

Sliced Herb Crusted Roast Beef

Served with:

House Salad

Southern Style Green Beans Oven Roasted Potatoes

Warm Rolls and Butter

Chocolate Cake

Coffee Iced Tea

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY **JANUARY 3, 2025** (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: statehq@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 OF THE UNITED STATES
AND VFW AUXILIARY**

Winter Council of Administration Meeting
January 9-12, 2025
Ft Magruder Hotel and Conference Center
Williamsburg, Virginia 757-220-2250

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025

1:00 PM 3:00 PM Virginia Veterans Foundation Board Meeting TBD

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2025

10:00 AM	5:00 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Williamsburg Room
12:30 PM	2:00 PM	Public affairs and social media for the VFW	Petersburg B&C
12:30 PM	2:30 PM	Microsoft 365 Training	Amphitheater
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	Federal funding for Post	Petersburg B&C
2:00 PM	5:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Audit (Treasurer and Audit Team)	Boardroom
3:00 PM	4:30 PM	Public affairs & social media for the VFW (Repeat)	Petersburg B&C
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Womens Veterans Forum	Amphitheater
4:30 PM	5:30 PM	Federal Funding for Post (Repeat)	Petersburg B&C
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Cootie Degree Work	Amphitheater
7:00 PM	9:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Council Meeting	Richmond

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025

7:30 AM	8:30 AM	PDP Breakfast	Hotel Breakfast Bar
7:30 AM	8:15 AM	Auxiliary Floor Practice	Richmond
8:00 AM	2:30 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Williamsburg Room
8:00 AM	2:30 PM	Service Officer Training	Amphitheater
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Commanders Club Meeting	Petersburg
8:30 AM	12:30 PM	VFW Auxiliary Business/Program Presentation	Richmond
9:30 AM	12:00 PM	VFW Council of Administration Meeting	Petersburg
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	VFW Riders Meeting	Petersburg A
1:00 PM	3:00 PM	Charitable Gaming Updates and best practices	Petersburg B&C
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	MOCA Meeting	Petersburg A
2:30 PM	4:30 PM	Movie (Brothers after War) TBD	Amphitheater
3:00 PM	4:00 PM	MOC Meeting	Petersburg B&C
6:00 PM	8:00 PM	VOD & PP BANQUET	Richmond

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

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

TEACHER OF THE YEAR, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, AND PATRIOT'S PEN BANQUET TICKETS: \$TBD

Department Hospitality Room – Williamsburg Room
Tenth District Hospitality Room – Third Floor

(Tentative schedule subject to change)

VFW Department of Virginia

Job Announcement

Administrative Assistant (State Service Office)

Location: Tidewater

TITLE: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

SALARY: \$12.50 an hour

Roles and Responsibilities:

1. Shall assist with work related to various administrative functions of the VFW State Service Offices.
2. Shall support those with issues related to benefits managed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in a manner approved by the Director of National Veterans Service.
3. Additional duties as assigned.
4. Some travel may be required.

Qualifications for the position:

Experience in administrative functions a plus. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office and various other programs. Must be able to handle sensitive documents in a confidential manner.

Additional notes:

This position is Part time 20-30 hours a week.

If interested, please send résumé to State Adjutant/Quartermaster Ed Mann at adj@vfwva.org. Deadline is January 6, 2025.

VFW Department of Virginia

Job Announcement

Assistant Department Service Officer

Location: Norfolk Service Office Post 3160

111 A View Ave.

Norfolk Virginia 23503

Candidate must be or become a VFW Member in good standing.

Candidates for the position must have proficient human relations skills and basic analytical abilities.

They are required to interface with the veteran's community, analyze claims folders, research and apply applicable statutes, regulations, government directives and VFW policies pertinent to the claim.

Position requires knowledge of given subjects to such a degree as to make the incumbent authoritative in veterans entitlement and benefit programs.

Associates Degree required or three years of related experience in the same or closely related field with advanced knowledge of personal computers to include software applications.

The successful candidate, after successfully passing a Background Check will be offered conditional employment based on satisfactory completion of training and a six month probationary period.

Pay starts at \$12.50 an hour.

Interested parties should send a resume to Ed Mann, Adjutant/Quartermaster at adj@vfwva.org Deadline is January 6, 2025.

VFW DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

TITLE: VFW ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

SALARY: minimum \$12.50
an hour

DEPARTMENT: VIRGINIA

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Incumbent is expected to manage the daily activities of the VFW Service Office of the Department of VIRGINIA at the Norfolk, VA Office. Provide administrative and clerical support doing claims and appeal processing to the VFW Office in Smithfield, VA and VA Regional Office, Roanoke, VA. Maintain and generate monthly National Service Office reports. Manage individual office in providing professional veterans representation for fulfillment of federal, state and local government entitlements.

WORKING CONDITIONS: Position functions in a typical office environment approximately 95% of the time. Domestic and local travel is required approximately 5% of the time to participate in conferences, outreach, Conventions and training programs, veterans' affairs hearings, staff meetings, and National Veterans Service and Department meetings, as directed. Occasional physical lifting may be required. The above duties are general in nature and may have other duties as directed by the Department Service Officer (DSO), or the Department Adjutant in the absence of the DSO.

TYPICAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Each Assistant State Service Officer shall comply with all pertinent instructions and policies of the VFW National Veterans Service and VFW Virginia.

-An Assistant State Service Officer shall maintain office hours of 8:00am to 4:00pm at the Norfolk Service Office unless otherwise directed by the Department Service Officer (DSO).

- He/She shall maintain the ability to travel as his/her duties may require for which he/she shall be reimbursed in accordance with the policies established by the DSO within the constraints of the Department budget. Such travel may include but shall not be limited to outreach services at Hampton VAMC, Norfolk Naval Station or other various military installations constrained to the geographical Tidewater, VA area, representation of the DSO at meetings of VA facility directors, VFW District meetings and training schools, VFW Post meetings and in response to special requests for speakers on VA benefits as directed by the DSO.

-An Assistant State Service Officer shall maintain a working knowledge of all VA benefits, the forms required to apply for those benefits and the VA regulations which govern the eligibility for and payment of those benefits.

-An Assistant State Service Officer shall assist all veterans, their dependents and their survivors in the pursuit of all federal, state or county benefits to which they may be legitimately entitled without prejudice and without prejudice.

-An Assistant State Service Officer shall prepare submissions of claims to appropriate agencies in a timely manner. He/she shall ensure that all claim activity is properly recorded in both the claimant's office hard copy file and in the electronic file.

-An Assistant State Service Officer shall maintain effective communication with claimants by either letter, email or phone as may be required in a timely manner.

-An Assistant State Service Officer shall develop and maintain good working relationships with all VFW VA representatives, all VAMC representatives, all Post and District Service Officers who assist our claimants in the preparation and development of claims.

-An Assistant State Service Officer shall attend all training required by the Department Service Officer or by VFW National Veterans Service.

-An Assistant State Service Officer shall maintain records of daily activities as required by the Department Service Officer and shall prepare reports as required by the DSO.

-In addition to the above each Assistant State Service Officer shall perform all other duties as may be assigned by the Department Service Officer or Department Adjutant in the absence of the DSO.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: Advanced human relations and management skills are required. This position requires knowledge of specific subjects to make the incumbent very authoritative in national veterans' affairs programs. This typically includes public speaking on a particular subject, and the incumbent may frequently be called upon for views on special veterans' issues. Thorough knowledge is required on conducting interviews, competing veterans' affairs forms and understanding Title 38 United States Code, Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), federal court decisions and government statutes, regulations, directives and publications.

Position requires a minimum of an associate degree or three years' experience in the same or related field. It is necessary to have advanced knowledge of office equipment and particularly competes to include software applications, case management techniques and other electronic applications used in a fully automated office. Position requires VFW accreditation with the Department of Veterans Affairs, in accordance with the National Veterans Service Policy and Procedure and successful completion of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Training, Responsibility, Involvement and Preparation of claims (TRIP) test. Incumbents will, from time to time, be required to take re-certification tests to monitor their proficiency in the laws pertaining to veterans' benefits.



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

Unusual language errors can indicate phishing attempts.

Check Sender's Email Address

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

Assess the Urgency and Tone

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

Beware of Suspicious Attachments or Links

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

Scrutinize the Email's Greeting

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

Help your fellow service members

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

PACT
forAnimals.org

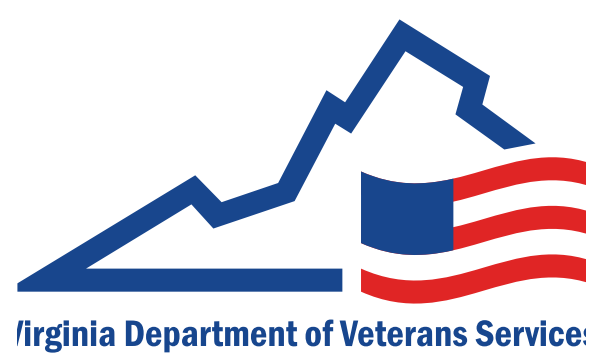
The Virginia Veterans Network is here for you.

Find more information about resources and support at dvs.virginia.gov 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

 804-786-0286

GET CONNECTED.

Here's how: Visit 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

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.

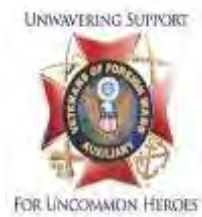
FOR SALE!

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





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.

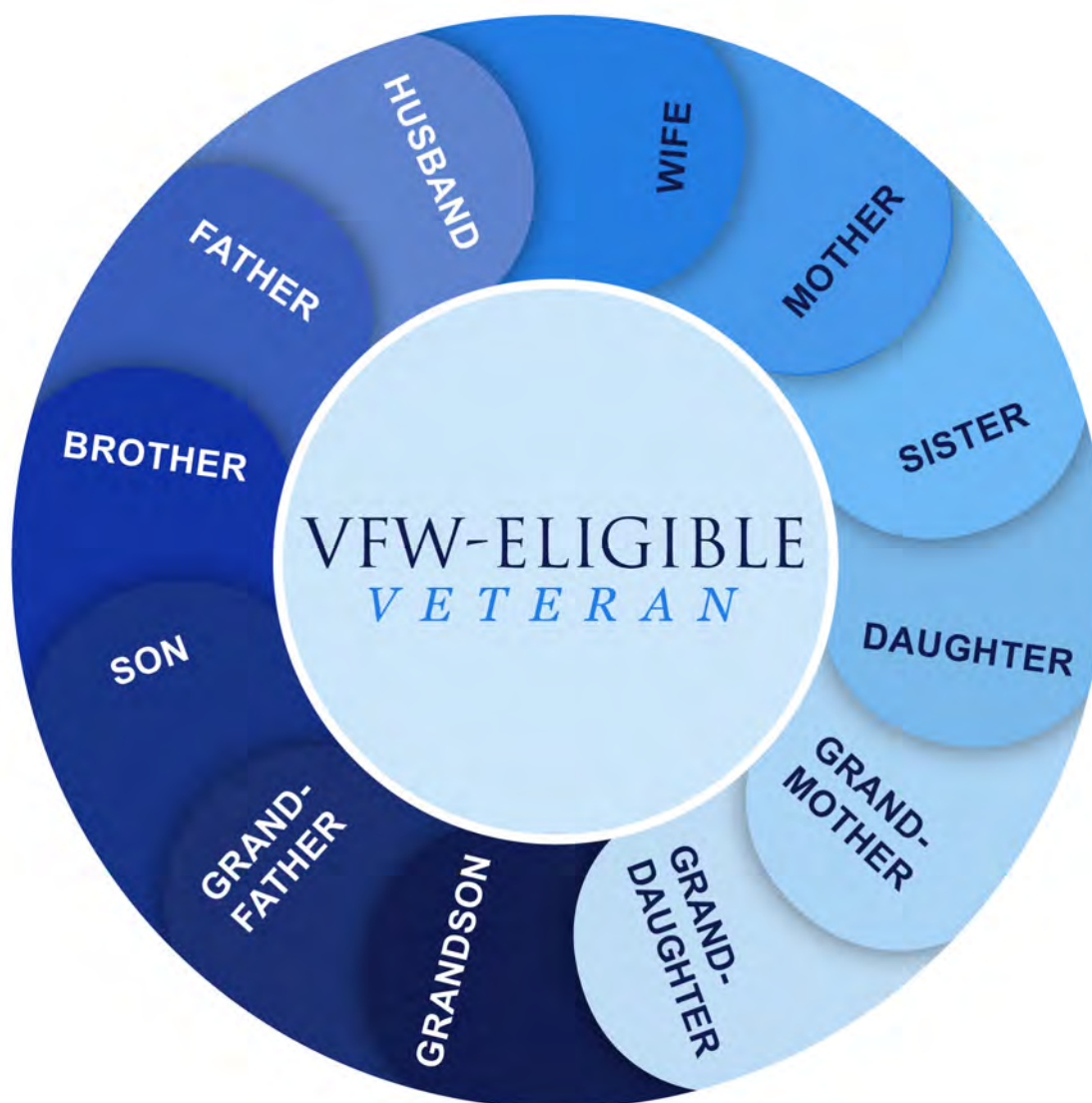
To our "bachelor" posts once your post has approved the formation of the Auxiliary, please contact our Department President Dawn Kuhn or Department Chief of Staff Carol Vangi. We will assist you with the next steps.

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

Dawn Kuhn, Department President
kuhn@comcast.net

Carol Vangi, Chief of Staff
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.*

Learn to Recognize Signs of Veterans in Crisis

VETERANS CRISIS LINE – 988 then press (1)

Every Veteran is different, and many may not show any signs of intent to harm themselves. But some actions and behaviors can be a sign that they need help. Learn to recognize the signs of crisis so you can support a Veteran going through a difficult time.

Many Veterans don't show any signs of an urge to harm themselves before doing so. But some may show signs like these of depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, or hopelessness:

- Seeming sad, depressed, anxious, or agitated most of the time
- Sleeping either all the time or not much at all
- Not caring about what they look like or what happens to them
- Pulling away from friends, family, and society
- Losing interest in hobbies, work, school, or other things they used to care about
- Expressing feelings of excessive guilt or shame, failure, lack of purpose in life, or being trapped

They may also change the way they act, and start to show signs like these:

- Perform poorly at work or school
 - Act violently or take risks (like driving fast or running red lights)
 - Do things to prepare for a suicide (like giving away special personal items, making a will, or seeking access to guns or pills)
-
- Appearing sad or depressed most of the time
 - Hopelessness
 - Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
 - Feeling as if there is no reason to live
 - Feeling excessive guilt, shame, or sense of failure
 - Rage or anger
 - Engaging in risky activities without thinking
 - Increasing alcohol or drug misuse

- Losing interest in hobbies, work, or school
- Neglecting personal welfare and appearance
- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Showing violent behavior, like punching a hole in the wall or getting into fights
- Giving away prized possessions
- Getting affairs in order, tying up loose ends, or writing a will

You don't have to be an expert to talk to a Veteran facing challenges. You just need to show genuine care and concern.

Department Surgeon

Randy Coker



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

Website: 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 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 or contact us at 804-521-7979 or info@TechforTroops.org.

END



My HealtheVet sign-in changes in 2025

We want to make sure you're ready for upcoming sign-in changes for VA websites and apps.

After **January 31, 2025**, you'll no longer be able to use your **My HealtheVet** user ID and password to sign in. Our records show you already have an **ID.me** account. We encourage you to start using your **ID.me** account soon so you're ready for this change.

Here's what to know:

- Don't worry. **My HealtheVet** isn't going away. We're just changing the way you sign in. We're moving to just 2 sign-in options (**ID.me** and **Login.gov**). We'll also require multifactor authentication (MFA) as an added layer of protection for your account. We're doing this to reduce the number of sign-in options Veterans need to choose from—and to protect all Veterans' information and benefits.
- Never give your information to anyone who says they can help you with signing in to VA websites—unless you're sure they're a VA employee or an accredited representative of VA. And always make sure a link is taking you to the official va.gov website before selecting it from an email, text message, social media post, or online ad. You can always go to www.va.gov/sign-in-changes for trusted information.
- If you need to verify your identity or add MFA for your **ID.me** account, we encourage you to do that soon. This process often takes about 10 minutes. [Learn more about verifying your identity for your account](#)

PREPARE FOR SIGN-IN CHANGES

VA is here for you.

[1-800-MyVA411](tel:1-800-MyVA411) ([1-800-698-2411](tel:1-800-698-2411)) is always the right number

[Veterans Crisis Line](#): [988](tel:988) and press 1, [Chat](#), or Text 838255

[Vet Centers](#): [1-877-927-8387](tel:1-877-927-8387)

[Homeless Veteran Resources](#): [1-877-424-3838](tel:1-877-424-3838) or [Chat](#)



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

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 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

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
Purchase National Home Life Membership \$50

GREAT NEWS...

For the 2nd 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 (1st 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 22nd 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.



100th Birthday Celebration – 2025

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

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

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

June 28, 2025 - 100th 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 100th Celebration on June 28th 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***