

NUMBER 6

403 Lee Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112
Hours M – F 8:00am – 4:00 pm

"Unity Brings Victory"

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

December 1, 2025

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

Articles are listed by number not by pages:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Commander's Message | 15. Office Closure |
| 2. Active Membership | 16. Parliamentary Authority |
| 3. Bonds | 17. Post Relief Fund |
| 4. By-Laws and Manual of Procedure | 18. Public Servant Awards |
| 5. Delinquent | 19. Raffle |
| 6. District Meetings | 20. Reporting |
| 7. Duties of Trustees | 21. Roster Changes |
| 8. E-Mail Account Access | 22. Special Order No. 98 |
| 9. General Orders | 23. State Convention |
| 10. Half-Staff U.S. Flag | 24. Teacher Recognition |
| 11. Important Dates | 25. Virginia Vietnam War Commemoration |
| 12. IRS Form 8822-B | 26. VFW/JLC Day on the Hill in Richmond |
| 13. Liability Insurance | 27. Winter Council |
| 14. Membership | |

1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Comrades,

The holiday season is here! Looking for a great stocking stuffer? Department Raffle Tickets are perfect—and your support gives our fundraiser one last big push!

We also have many members whose memberships will expire at the end of December. Please reach out and encourage them to renew so they can stay connected.

Mid-Winter Conference is fast approaching—January 8–11 in Harrisonburg. Make sure you secure your reservations and banquet tickets now. Information is in this month's Department General Orders.

The passing of Mitch and Mike Boehme has been hard on many of us who knew and respected them. We will hold a joint memorial service during the Mid-Winter Conference to honor both of them and all comrades we've lost recently. Thank you for the incredible support you've shown their families and our Department this past month.

I want to give a personal thanks to David Jones, Colonial Downs, and our Posts, the Colonial Downs/VVF grants are giving the VFW in Virginia great exposure. Let's keep that momentum going!

Finally, the holiday season can be joyful, but for some—especially veterans—it can bring feelings of isolation, stress, or depression. These challenges may increase the risk of suicidal thoughts. It's important to stay connected, check in on fellow veterans, and remind them that help is available. If you or someone you know is struggling, reach out to the Veterans Crisis Line by dialing 988 and pressing 1.

I want to wish each of you a joyous and memorable holiday season.

Yours in Comradeship
Doug Hoffman, 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. BONDS:

All bonds expired August 31, 2025.

Please see July or August General Orders for the rate schedule for the cost of your bond and return completed forms and payment to State Headquarters. Please note Quartermaster Bond rate **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/or all accounts the Post has **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.

4. BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:

All officers should obtain current 2026 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 126th National Convention, which became effective on September 11, 2025.

5. DELINQUENT:

District	Post	Fee	Bonds	Audits	District	Post	Fee	Bonds	Audits
2	2296	\$ 10.00	Expired	June, Sept	9	2719			September
2	12217			September	9	4667		Expired	
3	7167			June, Sept	9	7136			September
4	7819	\$ 10.00			11	9339		Expired	September
5	873			September	12	1994			September
6	1033			September	12	5715			September
6	2157			September	12	7360	\$ 10.00		
6	4299	\$ 5.00			12	9830		Expired	
7	2447			September	12	9864	\$ 10.00		
7	8613	\$ 15.00		September					
7	9760			September	13			Expired	
9	1184			September	13	8947			September

6. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 st	Date: 12/6/25 Meeting: 10:00 am Location: Post 176 Newport News 21 Forest Drive Rep: St Surgeon Todd Taylor	7 th	Date: 1/17/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 2447 Edinburg 100 Veterans Ways Rep: State Cdr Doug Hoffman
2 nd	Date: 2/14/26 Meeting: 9:00 AM Location: Post 2894 Chesapeake 3329 Battlefield Blvd S Rep: St Chief-of-Staff Joanne Smith	8 th	Date: 12/6/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 7728 Bealeton 12496 Harpers Run Rd Rep: St Judge Advocate Randy Coker
3 rd	Date: 2/21/26 Meeting: 10:00 AM Lunch: To follow Meeting Location: Post 637 Hopewell 335 South 15 th Ave Rep: State Adj/QM Ed Mann	9 th	Date: 1/17/26 Meeting: 10:00 am Location: Post 9696 Bluefield 131 Lovelane St Rep: St Surgeon Todd Taylor
4 th	Date: 2/14/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 9954 Victoria 1000 Marshal Ave Rep: St Cmdr Doug Hoffman	10 th	Date: 12/6/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 8241 McLean 1051 Springhill Rd Rep: St JVC Charles Bush
5 th	Date: 2/21/26 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep: St Inspector Beth Ford	11 th	Date: 1/24/26 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 9339 Stuarts Draft 3251 Stuarts Draft Highway Rep: State Cdr Doug Hoffman
6 th	Date: 12/6/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1264 Roanoke (sponsored Post 4299) 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: PSC Gary Adams	12 th	Date: 1/17/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1994 Abingdon 17581 Lee Highway Rep: State SVC Mark Maggio
		13 th	Date: 2/28/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1827 Charlottesville 1170 River Road Rep: St Cmdr Doug Hoffman

7. 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, 2025.

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 June 2025 and September 2025 are NOW PAST DUE FROM SEVERAL POSTS.

8. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts will reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails the week after the State Convention. 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 **VFW2025!** 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**

srvdist1@vfwva.org
adjdist1@vfwva.org
qmdist1@vfwva.org

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. IMPORTANT DATES:

January 8 - 11, 2026	Winter Council, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$129.00 per night. Cutoff Date is Monday, December 8, 2025, by 5:00 pm.
May 27 - 30, 2026	State Convention, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$99.00 per night. Cutoff Date is April 26, 2026, by 5:00 pm.
July 25 - 29, 2026	National Convention, Reno, Nevada
October 22 - 25, 2026	Southern Conference, Mobile, AL

January 13 - 15, 2027	Winter Council, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$110.00 per night. Cutoff Date is December 12, 2027, by 5:00 pm.
June 6 - 12, 2027	State Convention, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$119.00 per night. Cutoff Date is May 5, 2027, by 5:00 pm.
July 31 - August 4, 2027	National Convention, Milwaukee, WI
January 12 - 14, 2028	Winter Council, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$119.00 per night. Cutoff Date is December 11, 2028, by 5:00 pm.
June 21 – 24, 2028	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 May 20, 2028, by 5:00 pm.
August 5 - 10, 2028	National Convention, San Antonio, TX

12. IRS FORM 8822-B:

IRS Form 8822-B, it is now a requirement by the IRS that all Posts submit this form. This form must be submitted 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.

13. 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

14. MEMBERSHIP:

Commanders and Comrades,

As we head into December, I would like to thank you for five months of outstanding effort in recruiting, retention, and increasing our Life Member totals. Because of your efforts, we are at 91.07% this morning, November 19th. You have also propelled the State into first place in the Southern Conference; however, it is going to take a monumental effort by everyone in the State to keep us there. South Carolina, North Carolina, and Florida are pushing hard to remove us from that lofty position.

Now that the winter months are upon us, it's a good time to gather at the Post with your unpaid roster and assign a member with a few names to renew. You can use it as a good excuse not to go shopping with the wife. Remember, there is no reward without effort. Also remember the moved-up timeline to reach 101% before our state judging because of hotel availability in June. We now have 4 Post over 101% and 5 Post at 100% so you can see we are meeting the challenge. Please do everything within your power to bring your Post or District up to or ahead of the State average. By striving to do this we will continue Virginia's streak of excellence. Please reach out to the Team, myself, or State H.Q., for assistance in planning or executing a membership event.

Tom Hines PSC
Membership Team Chairman
Cell. 434 774 7729

15. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters will be closed December 19, 2025, and December 24, 2025, and reopen December 29, 2025, in observance of Christmas and will also be closed January 1, 2026, and reopen on January 5, 2026, in observance of New Year's Day.

State Adjutant/Quartermaster Mann will be available by phone and email.

16. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY:

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

17. 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.

18. PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS:

Posts are asked to submit five nominees (one for each career area) to State Headquarters no later than January 8, 2026.

- Law Enforcement Award
- Firefighter Award
- Emergency Medical Technician Award
- 911 Dispatcher Award
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician (E.O.D.T.) 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.

19. RAFFLE:

Just a reminder money and ticket stubs need to be returned to State Headquarters no later than December 18, 2025.

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

20. REPORTING:

Comrades to view whether your Post has submitted an Audit Report, Americanism, Community Service, Safety, Youth or Hospital report you should visit the Department website (www.vfwva.org). The website is updated daily. If you have any questions, please call State Headquarters. There will be no form for Homeless when reporting for assistance to a homeless veteran please put it on a Community Activity report under aid to others.

21. ROSTER CHANGES:

Second District SVC
Ronald Riffle
3309 Indian River Road
Chesapeake, VA 23325
757-309-0409
srvdist2@vfwva.org

Second District JVC
Robert Meade
5602 Duck Town Road
Zuni, VA 23898
757-742-1474
meade62.rm@gmail.com

Post 176
Membership Dues
\$45.00

Post 176 SVC
Labrina Banks
5412 Mill Creek Court
Hampton, VA 23663
757-515-3166
labrinahunter@gmail.com

Post 1994
Effective 1/1/2026
Cleveland Community Center
18003 Cleveland Church Road
Abingdon, VA 24211

Post 4809 Cmdr
Ronald Riffle
3309 Indian River Road
Chesapeake, VA 23325
757-309-0409
cdrpost4809@vfwva.org

Post 4809 QM
Eric Mallett
1732 Petree Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456
757-769-1143
qmpost4809@vfwva.org

Post 9835 Cmdr
Brian D. Cohen
9133 Madell Ln
Warrenton, VA 20187
571-329-7076
cdrpost9835@vfwva.org

Post 9835 SVC
Edmond K. Benson
7314 Hazelwood Ct
Warrenton, VA 20187
719-650-5879
ed_benson47@yahoo.com

Post JVC
Thomas J. Bilger
11000 Blake Ln
Bealeton, VA 22712
703-906-4661
tjbiler@gmail.com

22. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 98:

Upon the recommendation of the Commander, Department of Virginia, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 210 of the National Bylaws, the charter of Patton-Crosswhite Post No. 6975, Bristol, Virginia mustered April 26, 1946, is hereby cancelled and the Post declared defunct. Such cancellation includes a revocation of the right to use all trademarks and service marks, including the name, emblems/insignia, seals and logos, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

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

By order of
Carol L. Whitmore
Commander-in-Chief

23. STATE CONVENTION:

The link for VFW's 2026 State Convention below. This block's cutoff date is **April 26th, 2026**.

Booking link: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/110365?groupID=4846760>

24. TEACHER RECOGNITION:

District judging should have been completed by now and your winners mailed to me at my Post address (VFW Post 9835, PO Box 163, Warrenton VA 20188). The judging will be completed in a week or so in Warrenton and while I have some local volunteers, if anyone wants to spend a few hours reviewing these candidates, please email me (qmpost9835@vfwva.org) and let me know. Once a date has been determined (probably a Saturday or Sunday), I'll get back to you. I will communicate with District Commanders to let them who the State winners are. Also, I will personally communicate with the three winning teachers and invite them and spouse/guest to the Winter Conference.

J. I. Dombroff
Chairman

25. VIRGINIA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

As part of a continuing effort to recognize those who earned the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War, I submit the following:

Specialist Five Dwight Birdwell earned the Medal of Honor for gallantry displayed on January 31, 1968, at the start of the Tet Offensive. A citizen of the Cherokee Nation, he was born in Texas in January 1948. He enlisted in May 1966 following his graduation from high school. After completing Basic and AIT, he deployed to Vietnam where he was assigned to Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division. When the Tet Offensive broke, his unit was sent to defend the Ton Son Nhut airbase which was under attack. His actions on January 31, 1968, earned him both a Silver Star and later the Medal of Honor. The citation for the Medal of Honor follows:

Spec. 5 Dwight W. Birdwell distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division, in the Republic of Vietnam on Jan. 31, 1968. On this date, a large enemy element initiated an assault on the Tan Son Nhut Airbase near Saigon. Birdwell's unit bore the brunt of the initial attack, which resulted in the disabling or destruction of many of the unit's vehicles and the incapacitation of his tank commander. Birdwell, under heavy enemy small-arms fire, moved the tank commander to a place of safety and assumed control of the vehicle. Realizing his tank was the first line of

defense for the troop, he used its cannon, machine gun and his rifle to place effective fire on the enemy force. From the exposed position of the tank commander's hatch, Birdwell engaged the enemy with machine gun fire and provided situation reports to his squadron commander until the communications system became damaged due to enemy fire. After having expended all of his ammunition, Birdwell dismounted and maneuvered to his squadron commander's helicopter, which had been downed by enemy fire, and retrieved two machine guns and ammunition, with which he and a comrade suppressed the enemy. When his machine gun was hit by enemy fire and exploded, resulting in wounds to his face and torso, Birdwell refused evacuation and moved amongst the disabled vehicles and defensive positions, collecting ammunition to distribute to the remaining defenders. While under harassing fire, Birdwell led a small group of defenders past the enemy force and personally engaged the enemy with hand grenades, which disrupted their assault until reinforcements arrived. Upon receiving reinforcement, Birdwell aided in evacuating the wounded until he was ordered to seek attention for his wounds. Throughout the entire engagement, Birdwell repeatedly placed himself in extreme danger to protect his team and to defeat the enemy. His extraordinary heroism and selflessness 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.

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On July 4th, 1968, he was instrumental in saving more Americans trapped in a Vietnamese village which earned him his second Silver Star. He returned to the United States in December 1968 where he was discharged from the Army. At the time of his discharge, he had earned two Silver Stars, the Bronze Star Medal and two Purple Hearts. He attended Northeastern State University and then the University of Oklahoma College of Law, graduating in 1976. He was a member of the Judicial Appeals Tribunal (Supreme Court) of the Cherokee Nation from 1987 to 1999, serving as its chief justice from 1995 to 1996 and 1998 to 1999. For a number of years, he served on the Cherokee Nation Judicial Appeals Tribunal. On July 5, 2022, President Biden presented him with the Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony. He now resides in Oklahoma City where he is still a practicing attorney.

Jeff Dombroff
Chairman

26. VFW/JLC DAY ON THE HILL IN RICHMOND:

Virginia VFW and Auxiliary are invited to VFW/JLC Day on the Hill in Richmond. We will join together on Thursday, January 15, 2026, to show the strength of the VFW is the membership.

Please be at VFW Post 9808 by 0700 to muster. If you plan on attending Day on the Hill please RSVP to Chief of Staff Joanne Smith chiefofstaff@vfwva.org directly. This is the only way to ensure that you will have transportation from VFW 9808 to and from the General Assembly Building. We have 36 seats on the bus and depending on the number of attendees we may have to make two runs with the bus. We don't want anyone to miss a meeting at the General Assembly. The General Assembly Building will be packed with other organizations and there may be a line to enter the building. We don't want to commit to a specific pick-up time because meetings and events may be delayed.

VFW Virginia's membership was 33,645 for 2024-2025. Imagine if 1% were to show up that would be 336 VFW members in Richmond. We have several issues that will be center stage during the session to include: Claim Sharks, Charitable Gaming, and Virginia Military Survivors & Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP.)

VFW Virginia's Commonwealth Legislative Team members are:

Legislative Chairman Ron Riffle
PSC/JLC Representative Rick Raskin
Chief of Staff/JLC Alternate Joanne Smith
PSC Eric Mallett
NCM Ken Wiseman
Public Affairs April Phillips

The Department of Virginia would like VFW members to begin reaching out to their Commonwealth Delegates and Senators and their staffers to bring these talking points to them during the election season and prior to session in

January and February. Invite them to visit your Post homes or attend a special event to interact with our members. If we develop relationships early, we may be able to partner with them to advocate for our issues in Richmond.

If you have questions on how to connect with your local representatives or would like to be included in emails from our Department of Virginia Legislative Committee, please email Ron Riffle at vfwvleg@gmail.com.

JLC initiatives for the upcoming legislative session are available at <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/about-us/boards-foundations/joint-leadership-council-of-veterans-service-organizations>.


We are looking forward to the VFW/JLC Day on the Hill and your presence will have a positive impact on veteran's issues in Richmond.

27. WINTER COUNCIL:

Below is the booking link for the January 2026 Winter Council of Administration Meeting. This block's cutoff date is **December 8, 2025**.

Booking link: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/110365?groupID=4636143>

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Douglas Hoffman
State Commander



REGISTRATION DEADLINE DECEMBER 18TH

WINTER COUNCIL MEETING

January 8 – 11, 2026

Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley Conference Center ~ Harrisonburg, Virginia ~

540-564-0200

\$129.00 Per night

(Hotel Group Rate Deadline is December 8th)

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

Marinated Pork Loin with Apple Cider Reduction

Served with:

Market Fresh Greens

Roasted Asparagus Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Freshly Bake Bread and Butter

Flourless Chocolate Torte with Raspberry Sauce

Coffee Regular and Decaffeinated Iced Tea Iced Water

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY **DECEMBER 18, 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: _____ CVV Code _____ 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 8 - 11, 2026
Hotel Madison Shenandoah Conference Center
Harrisonburg Virginia
540-564-0200

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

1:00 PM	3:00 PM	Virginia Veterans Foundation Board Meeting	Madison Boardroom
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026

10:00 AM	5:00 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Conf Center Foyer
11:00 AM	11:30 AM	Joint Memorial Service	Allegheny A,B &C
12:30 PM	2:30 PM	Microsoft 365 Training	Allegheny A,B &C
1:00 PM	5:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Audit (Treasurer and Audit Team)	Madison Boardroom
2:00 PM	4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Council Meeting	Allegheny A
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Charitable Gaming Laws & Regs	Allegheny A,B &C
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	MOC Meeting and Degree Work	Shenandoah B
6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Cornhole Tournament	Shenandoah B

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026

7:30 AM	8:30 PM	PDP Breakfast	Dolley Madison
8:00 AM	2:30 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Conf. Center Foyer
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Commanders Club Meeting	Shenandoah B
9:30 AM	12:00 PM	VFW Council of Administration Meeting	Shenandoah B
8:00 AM	12:00 PM	Post Benefits Advisor Training	Allegheny A,B &C
9:00 AM	12:30 PM	VFW Auxiliary Business/Program Presentation	Shenandoah A
12:30 PM	1:00 PM	VFW Riders Meeting	Allegheny A,B &C
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	MOCA Meeting	Shenandoah A
1:30 PM	2:30 PM	Membership & Recruiting Workshop	Allegheny A,B&C
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Women's Veterans Forum	Allegheny A,B &C
6:00 PM	8:00 PM	VOD & PP BANQUET	Shenandoah A & B

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Joint Devotional Service	Shenandoah A
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TEACHER OF THE YEAR, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, AND PATRIOT'S PEN BANQUET TICKETS: \$55.00

Department Hospitality Room – Shenandoah C

(Tentative schedule subject to change)

TO BENEFIT VFW POST 12225
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

REGISTER NOW @
IPLAYACL.COM



CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT



\$30 Registration Fee

- Double Elimination Blind Draw
- Open Local Points

Prizes:

- 1st Place - \$600 Cash & Trophy
- 2nd Place - \$400
- 3rd Place - \$200

Date & Time

- January 9th, 2026
- Doors Open @ 6:00pm
- Bags Fly @ 7:00pm

Location

- Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley
Conference Center
- 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Also Offered:

\$10 Air Mail Knockout (6:50pm)

50/50

Door Prizes & Raffles



GTMO VFW
POST 12225



No Outside Food or Beverage

Reach out to Headspace Cornhole on Facebook with any Questions

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





MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR[®]



**Help us find
Operation
Homefront's next
award recipients!**



For more information,
scan the QR code or visit
operationhomefront.org/mcoy

WHAT

Operation Homefront's Military Child of the Year Awards celebrate and recognize the tremendous achievements of outstanding military children.

WHO

Each year, hundreds of military teens (ages 13–18) are nominated by a parent, teacher, mentor or guardian. Candidates for the Military Child of the Year Awards demonstrate resilience, strength of character, and the ability to thrive in the face of the challenges of military life.

WHEN

The Awards Gala will be held in Washington, D.C. on April 23, 2026 during the Month of the Military Child.

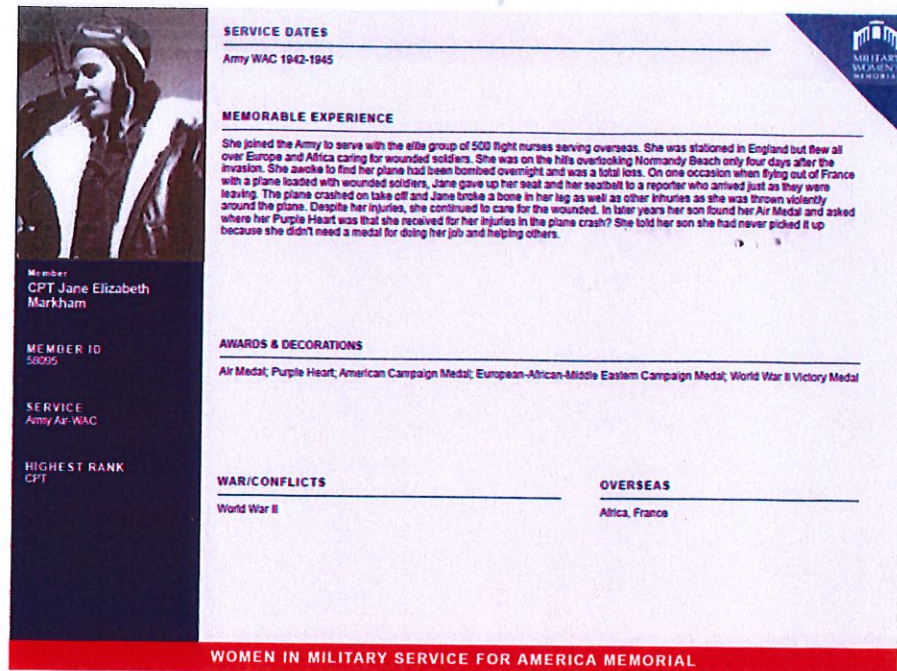
RECIPIENTS

Military Child of the Year Award recipients receive a \$10,000 cash award, a laptop computer, and are flown with a parent or guardian for a 3-night stay in Washington, D.C.

**Nominations accepted
September 3 to
December 2, 2025**

Calling all VFW/Aux Women Veterans to Register for the Women In
Military Service For America Memorial
Register her service for free at womensmemorial.org

Our *Register* is a one-of-a-kind interactive database that records and preserves the names, service information, photographs and memorable experiences of each registered servicewoman.



The screenshot displays a profile page for a registered member. On the left is a black and white photograph of a woman in military uniform. To the right of the photo, a dark blue sidebar contains the following text: "Member: CPT Jane Elizabeth Markham", "MEMBER ID: 50095", "SERVICE: Army Air-WAC", and "HIGHEST RANK: CPT". The main white area of the profile is divided into several sections: "SERVICE DATES" (Army WAC 1942-1945), "MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE" (a detailed paragraph about her service as a flight nurse in England and France, including a plane crash), "AWARDS & DECORATIONS" (listing the Air Medal, Purple Heart, and several campaign medals), "WAR/CONFLICTS" (World War II), and "OVERSEAS" (Africa, France). A red banner at the bottom of the profile reads "WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL".

The

Register records and preserves the history of the powerful women who have defended this country—both past and present.

From the earliest days of the nation, women have been serving alongside men to gain and preserve liberty, but it was difficult to find them in our history books. There was no repository of women's service to the United States. That all changed in April 1987.

Not long after legislation authorized the Women In Military Service For America Memorial and ten years before the Memorial would open to the public in 1997, the *Register* was created. Servicewomen and women veterans were invited to make their military experiences visible by "registering" their service. By completing a simple form with their dates of service, branch of service, awards and decorations, at least one memorable experience, and a picture in uniform, women took their rightful and visible place in history for all time. For the first time in American history, there was a place to learn about the extraordinary servicewomen who defend or have defended our country.

For more than 30 years, the Memorial has been permanently documenting military women's experiences and their impact on American, military and women's history. Visitors are invited to look up

servicewomen in the *Register*, learn about their impact on our collective history, and purchase a print of individual profiles as a keepsake.

If you know a servicewoman or woman veteran, please take advantage of the FREE registration to ensure HERstory joins hundreds of thousands of individual stories that make up our *Register*.

History is not complete until every military woman's story is told.

Let's get every VFW Woman Registered

I know we have a large number of Charter Members and Members out there, please reach out to Tara Jeffries or Joanne Smith to start our Department list.

For New Additions to the Register:

Register her service for free at
womensmemorial.org



VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

➡ DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA HAS **(57)** VFW UNAFFILIATED POSTS

READY TO ADD AN AUXILIARY TO YOUR POST?

1. The VFW Bylaws require that a notice be mailed or emailed to each Post member advising them that a vote to have a Post Auxiliary will take place at a specific meeting.
2. The VFW Bylaws require that a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present at the meeting approve the formation of an Auxiliary.
3. The approval to form the Auxiliary is recorded in the VFW's official meeting minutes.
4. If approved, the Post informs the Department President.
 - The Department President will then assign an Auxiliary organizer who will work to obtain the required number of Charter members (15), and will also ensure that the necessary paperwork is completed.

Approval to have a Post Auxiliary will certainly meet our Department Commander's and Department President's theme:

"Unity Brings Victory"

ELIGIBILITY TO JOIN THE VFW AUXILIARY

Male and female relatives (listed below) of persons who served in a war, campaign, or expedition on foreign soil, or in hostile waters.

- Husband/wife; widower/widow; father/mother; brothers/sisters; sons/daughters; grandfathers/grandmothers; grandsons & granddaughters.
- Members must be at least 16 years old.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS, CONTACT

Patricia Jurgensen
Department Chief of Staff
Email: pjurgy@aol.com
Cell: 703-380-3024

"MERRY CHRISTMAS" AND "HAPPY 2026 NEW YEAR"

VFW Music Licensing Exemption Checklist (Virginia)

Based on Federal Copyright Law – 17 U.S.C. § 110(10)

This checklist helps determine whether a Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post event qualifies as a non-public performance and is therefore exempt from paying ASCAP, BMI, or SESAC public performance licenses.

1. Organization Status

- ☐ The event is organized by a nonprofit veterans' organization (chartered VFW Post).
- ☐ The Post is in good standing as a 501(c)(19) or operates under the national VFW's nonprofit umbrella.
- ☒ Why it matters: The exemption specifically applies to nonprofit veterans', fraternal, and membership organizations.

2. Type of Music

- ☐ The performance involves nondramatic musical works (recorded, live band, DJ, or karaoke).
- ☐ No theatrical or dramatic performances are included.
- ☒ Examples allowed: jukebox, live band, DJ, karaoke, background music.
- ☒ Not covered: musicals, operas, or dramatic performances.

3. Audience Restrictions

- ☐ Attendance limited to members and immediate guests.
- ☐ Not advertised to or open to the general public.
- ☐ Access controlled (membership card or guest list).
- ☒ Members-only events qualify; public dances or rentals do not.

4. Admission and Proceeds

- ☐ No admission charge or fees only cover reasonable costs (food, DJ, decorations).
- ☐ All proceeds used solely for charitable or Post purposes (no private profit).
- ☒ 'At cost' events are fine; proceeds can support veterans' programs.

5. Sponsorship & Control

- ☐ The Post organizes and manages the event (not an outside promoter).
- ☐ If a DJ or band is hired, they are under Post supervision.
- ☐ The music is incidental to a social function, not business activity.

6. Location & Use

- ☐ Event held in Post-controlled facility (canteen, hall, or grounds).
- ☐ Facility not rented to outside groups for public use.
- ☐ Music played on-premises only (not broadcast or streamed).

7. Optional Best Practices

- ☐ Keep documentation of nonprofit status (IRS letter or VFW charter).
- ☐ Record event details in Post minutes (date, audience type, purpose).
- ☐ If any public events occur during the year, consider a low-cost blanket license (~\$300-\$600/yr).

If all boxes are checked → No license is required under 17 U.S.C. § 110(10).

If any are unchecked → The Post likely needs a license (ASCAP, BMI, SESAC nonprofit rate).

Approved by: _____ Date: _____



FREE — US ARMY MAGAZINE
27 BOUND VOLUMES
1967—1996

Contact Rick Raskin—PSC
rraskin@vfwva.org



Vote for Experience! Elect Doug Hoffman to the National Council of Administration 2026-2030

Ready on Day 1!

Doug will be ready to go to work from the moment he is installed. He has held numerous positions at the Post, District, and State levels of the organization culminating with his recent election to be the State Commander. He will bring all of that knowledge to help National HQs.



Years of Service!

Doug earned All-American and All-State honors leading Post 3160 and District 2, which are both among the largest in Virginia. He also serves as the Treasurer for the Virginia VFW Riders ensuring their financial success. Doug also has experience in the private sector supervising people and overseeing large projects for the U.S. Navy, which is practical experience he will draw upon when studying the issues the VFW will face. With over 200 employees and a budget over \$100 million, The VFW needs experienced Council Members like Doug.

Committed to Success!

Doug will ensure decisions made are for the betterment of the entire organization, not just a few inside it. Most importantly, he will ensure that the VFW continues to stand tall for veterans!



Beth A. Ford

Candidate for the High Office of the VFW State Surgeon 2026-2027

Comrades, for those that don't know me I am Beth Ford and I am running for State Surgeon for the 2026-2027 term. I am not focused on recreating this organization as I believe that we are all doing great work. I am focused on keeping us great, focused on veterans, youth programs, membership, and true mentorship that inspires others to continue to lead and make meaningful differences and impacts for our future, communities, and programs. I look forward to serving the VFW to the best of my ability and the opportunity of being the next VFW Department of Virginia Surgeon.

My eligibility for the VFW was service during Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) where I was awarded the Air Force Combat Action Medal and the Bronze Star. I retired after 22 years and 1 month of honorable service.

My VFW Service is as follows:

Post:

- Service as a Trustee and Adjutant 2024 to 2025
- Service and Jr. and Sr. Vice (Post 3219) 2020 to 2022
- All-State and All-American Commander (Post 3219) 2022 to 2024
- Current Post Commander for Post 176

District:

- Jr. Vice District 1 2023-2024
- Sr. Vice District 1 2024-2025
- Current District 1 Commander for 2025-2026

Department:

- VFW Riders Treasurer 2019 – 2023
- Currently State Inspector
- Currently Sr. Vice for Commanders Club

Appointments:

- Assistant National Aide-De-Camp
- National Bylaws Committee 2019 and 2024