

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

"No Veteran asks for a thank you"

NUMBER 8

403 Lee Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112

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

February 1, 2024

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

Articles are listed by number not by pages:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Commander's Message | 13. IRS Form 8822-B |
| 2. Active Membership | 14. Legacy Life Membership |
| 3. Buddy Poppies | 15. Membership |
| 4. By-Laws and Manual of Procedure | 16. National Convention |
| 5. Calendars | 17. Office Closure |
| 6. Claim Sharks | 18. Patriot's Pen |
| 7. Delinquent | 19. Posts in Arrears for Financial Obligations |
| 8. District Meetings | 20. Reporting |
| 9. E-Mail Account Access | 21. Roster Changes |
| 10. Fred C. Hall Memorial Award for Community Service | 22. Special Order No. 179 |
| 11. Important Dates | 23. State Surgeon |
| 12. General Orders | 24. Teacher Recognition |

1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Welcome to the Team, Virginia!

Dear Team Members,

I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for each and every one of you who has joined our team. I truly appreciate your dedication and commitment to our shared goals.

In particular, I want to give a special shoutout to our membership team here in Virginia. Your participation and contribution have been instrumental in our success. Every member in Virginia counts, and we are thrilled to have you on board.

As of today, we have reached an impressive membership rate of 93.20%. This is a remarkable achievement that showcases the strength and unity within our team. Together, we are making a real impact.

In the great state of Virginia, we currently stand tall with 30,658 members. Your enthusiasm and engagement are what keep us going every day.

Remember, each one of you plays a vital role in driving our collective vision forward. Your ideas, skills, and energy make this team thrive.

If you have any suggestions or ideas on how we can further enhance our team's success or if there's anything you need assistance with, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here for you!

Thank you again for being an essential part of our team's journey towards achieving greatness together.

With heartfelt appreciation, Gary Adams, 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. BUDDY POPPIES:

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

4. BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:

All officers should obtain current 2024 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 2024 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 124th National Convention, which becomes effective on August 20, 2023.

5. CALENDARS:

All unsold calendars, money and calendar stubs are due by to State Headquarters by March 20, 2024.

Doug Hoffman
State Junior Vice Commander

6. CLAIM SHARKS:

At the Winter Conference in Williamsburg, the State Council of Administration for the VFW Department of Virginia voted unanimously to endorse HB 736, which would make illegal in Virginia the actions of predatory Claim Sharks. These companies are known for billing veterans to file VA claims which are, and have always been, free to submit. This bill is in the **Virginia General Assembly** and is both separate and complimentary to the legislation that the VFW is pushing in Congress to do the same thing at the federal level.

Virginia's bill, which is starting in the House of Delegates, is sponsored by Delegate Briana Sewell. Delegate Sewell agreed to sponsor this bill after being approached by State Junior Vice Commander Doug Hoffman.

The talking points for this bill are in the back of the General Orders and the link to see the bill is: <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=241&typ=bil&val=hb736>. Please study both and please send your questions to Ken Wiseman at kwiseman@vfwva.org or Doug Hoffman at dhoffman@vfwva.org.

In the future we will send out updates on the bill. If we need constituents to call members, we will let you know and provide information to use. While we know this to be important, we will not sit back and be overconfident because it is not a win until the Governor signs the bill.

An email about this was sent to the entire Department. **Please share that with all of your members by discussing this in meetings and forwarding the email and attachment.** Again, we welcome your questions.

7. DELINQUENT:

Dist.	Post	Fees	Audits	Bonds	Dist.	Post	Audits
2	2296	6.00		Bond	7	8613	September
					7	9292	September
3	2239		June, Sept				
3	8529		September		9	4667	September
4	8446		September		12	9600	September
5	8467		September				

8. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 st	Date: TBD Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: TBD Rep: State Commander Gary Adams	7 th	Date: 5/11/24 Lunch: 11:30 AM Meeting: To follow lunch Location: Post 9660 Broadway 14550 Runion Creek Road State JVC Doug Hoffman
2 nd	Date: 2/10/24 Meeting: 9:00 AM Location: Post 2894 Chesapeake 3329 Battlefield Blvd Rep: State JVC Doug Hoffman	8 th	Date: 2/3/24 Meeting: 9:00 AM Location: Post 12218 Haymarket 6620 James Madison Hwy State Commander Gary Adams
3 rd	Date: 2/10/24 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 637 Hopewell 1400 Lynchburg St Rep: State Commander Gary Adams	9 th	Date: 4/13/24 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 1115 Hillsville 701 W Stuart Drive State Commander Gary Adams
4 th	Date: 4/13/24 Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 7166 South Hill 1472 N Mecklenburg Ave Rep: PSC Geoffrey Lyster	10 th	Date: 3/9/24 Meeting: 10:30 AM Location: Post 1503 Dale City 14631 Minnieville Rd State Inspector Randy Coker
5 th	Date: 2/17/24 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep: State SVC Mitch Rubenstein	11 th	Date: TBD Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: TBD Rep: State Judge Advocate Mark Maggio
6 th	Date: 4/6/24 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1264 Roanoke 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: State Surgeon Charles Bush	12 th	Date: 3/9/24 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 9830 Damascus 23489 Mountain City Rd State Commander Gary Adams
		13 th	Date: 2/24/24 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 8947 Louisa 201 Mineral Avenue Rep: State Surgeon Charles Bush

9. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 13th**. 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 **VFW2023!** 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 cdrdist1@vfwva.org for Districts other than the first just replace the 1 with your district # **Please note District Senior Vice Commander's now have an email address**

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

10. FRED C. HALL MEMORIAL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Each year on July 1, the national Programs office will determine the top community service Posts in each conference, based off their community service reporting and total impact, from July 1 to June 30 the previous year. Your community service total impact is figured by the money spent to host and organize the community service event, plus total hours all volunteers participated, plus the mileage for all volunteers (Dollars Donated + Hours + Mileage = Total Impact). These four Posts will be awarded the Fred C. Hall Memorial Award for Community Service and will be invited to attend the VFW National Convention. The Post Commander (or designated representative) and a guest will receive round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations for five nights, and a \$599 stipend to receive the award at the VFW National Convention.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE POST OF THE YEAR

Each Department will have an OCSP winner based on total impact also. National will select based on end of year reports on July 1. Winners will also be published in the Convention program booklet and receive a street sign identifying this national award for the Post to put up in their community.

11. IMPORTANT DATES:

June 12 – 16, 2024	State Convention, Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA: phone 757-220-2250. Room Rates are \$139.00 per night.
July 27 - Aug 1, 2024	National Convention, Louisville, Kentucky
August 9 - 14, 2025	National Convention, Columbus, Ohio

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. 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 is effective January 1, 2014.

Here is the link to get the form and instructions – <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822b.pdf>

This will also apply to all Auxiliaries that have their own EIN number.

14. LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to vfw.org, click on JOIN, and scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video on the right. This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are three levels of membership; each offers their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

<i>Enrollment Cost:</i>		<i>Annual Payouts:</i>	
<i>Levels</i>	<i>Posts</i>	<i>Departments</i>	<i>National</i>
Gold- \$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver- \$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze- \$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

What will your Legacy be?

15. MEMBERSHIP:

Comrades and Commanders,

As we start February, I want to thank all of you that attended the RSOI in Williamsburg. We had 42 in attendance, by far a larger group than we had at any of the previous schools. I apologize for having to rush through the school, however we only had one hour in the room. I also want to thank State Commander Adams for granting another opportunity for some of you to qualify for All State. I hope you will return the favor and get out and really work membership for the remainder of the year. The State is at 93.20% this morning, January 20th, and I don't believe we will make the 95% benchmark set by the National Commander for February 1st. We will make the 102% by the end of June if we all work together as a team until that date.

I want all of you to know how much Gary and I appreciate your support so far this year. If there is anything we can do to support you in your recruiting efforts, please don't hesitate to call us or State Headquarters. We are here to support you and your Post, so that you can be successful this year. I look forward to working with you and your Post for the remainder of the year.

Tom Hines PSC
Membership Team Chairman

16. NATIONAL CONVENTION:

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING CHANGE – 125th National Convention housing will open, Monday, March 18, 2024. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at vfw.org/convention. The convention website will also have general convention

information including the registration form and links to other convention related information for Louisville, Kentucky – July 27-Aug. 1, 2024, and a tentative agenda.

17. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters will be closed February 2, 2024.

State Headquarters and the Service Officer Offices in Dale City, Norfolk and Smithfield will be closed February 19, 2024, in observance of President's Day.

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

18. PATRIOT'S PEN:

Below are the Department Patriot's Pen Winners.

1st Place - Samantha C. Schillo; District 8, Post 3103

2nd Place - Riley Ann Dallas; District 7, Post 2447

3rd Place - Hayden S. Hudson; District 4, Post 7819

Lou Filippone
Department Patriot's Pen Chairman

19. POSTS IN ARREARS FOR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

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

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:

VFW Post 3150 JVC
Shawnta M. Difalco
1912 Columbia Pike Apt. 7
Arlington, VA 22204
509-901-2076
shawntadifalco@gmail.com

VFW Post 12200 Cmdr
Patrick W. Nelson
401 Battery Ave
Emporia, VA 23847
cdrpost12200@vfwva.org

VFW Post 12200 SVC
Robert E. Estes
13093 Henry Rd
Jarratt, VA 23867
robert_estes2001@yahoo.com

VFW Post 12200 JVC
Tommy W. Hines
811 Craig Mill Rd
South Hill, VA 23970
434-774-7729
qmpost12200@vfwva.org

22. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 179:

Membership Inactive
Sean M. La Rue
VFW Post No. 8545

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 Sean M. La Rue, Membership No. 10227205, be removed from the rolls of Smithfield Post No. 8545, Smithfield, Virginia, and their membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States vacated per member's request.

By order of
Duane T. Sarmiento
Commander-in-Chief

23. STATE SURGEON:

The theme for February is the heart, both for Valentine's and Heart Awareness.

Hello, Comrades and Auxiliary members of the VFW Virginia; we wish you and your family a Happy Valentine. Let's keep our hearts healthy for us and our loved ones who enjoy our company!

February is American Heart Month, a time when it is important for cardiologists and others who work with the heart to raise awareness for heart disease prevention. Patients diagnosed with cancer can be at a higher risk for, among other cardiovascular concerns, heart attack and stroke.

Cardiovascular Disease, as defined by the CDC, is a group of heart [cardio] and blood vessel [vascular] disorders that is the leading cause of death and disability -- not only in the United States but globally.

Any sustained reduction in blood flow to an organ will damage that organ. When the reduction in flow is to the heart, this causes a "heart attack." If the reduction is to the brain, it causes a stroke.

Certain chronic diseases, including hypertension and high blood cholesterol, increase the likelihood of damaging your arteries. This also increases your risk of suffering a heart attack as well as a stroke.

Disclaimer:

Talk with your physician or healthcare provider if you have questions about a personal health problem, condition, or treatment. They are familiar with you and can address your circumstances.

References:

1. Heart Disease, Hypertension, High Blood Cholesterol - heart disease (virginia.gov),
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/heart-disease/>

2. Heart attack, stroke risk elevated following cancer diagnosis. National Cancer Institute. Published August 25, 2017. Accessed February 25, 2021, <https://www.cancer.gov/news-events/cancer-currents-blog/2017/heart-attack-stroke-risk-cancer>.
3. Stoltzfus KC, Zhang Y, Sturgeon K, et al. Fatal heart disease among cancer patients. Nat Commun. 2020;11(1):2011. doi:10.1038/s41467-020-15639-5

Let's keep moving forward and enjoy your hearty days ahead!

Thank you
Comrade Charles Bush
VFW VA State Surgeon

24. **TEACHER RECOGNITION:**

Judging was held for the State Teachers of the Year awards on Monday December 19, 2023 at the American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax, Va. The State winners are as follows:

K-5 Jessica L. Albright
Lemon Ridge Elementary School
Falls Church, VA 22043
District 10, Post 9274

6-8 Lisa St.Ledger
Marshall Middle School
The Plains, VA 20198
District 8, Post 9835

9-12 John G. King
Warhill High School
Williamsburg, VA 23188
District 3, Post 4639

Teachers received their awards at the Winter council of Administration Banquet on Saturday January 13, 2024, in Williamsburg Virginia. Their entries were sent to VFW National Headquarters for judging in the National competition with the results to be released in March 2024.

I want to thank the Post and Districts that participated in the program this year. As a Post Commander, I know that September and October are busy months with the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Programs being conducted at the same time. All 3 of these programs are very important if we are to educate and influence the youth of today. Thank you again for your efforts.

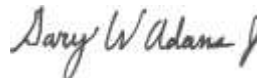
Chris Birch
Teacher Recognition Chairman

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Gary W Adams, Jr.
State Commander



ASAP'S NEW ANTHOLOGY

Call for Poetry, Prose, and Visual Art

Share your polished short stories, creative nonfiction, humor, poetry, photography, or visual art for publication in a book of creative work by military-connected artists.

Who is eligible to submit?

- Veterans
- Service Members
- Military Spouses
- Military Family Members
- Military Caregivers

The deadline to submit is March 1, 2024.

A cash prize of \$500 will be awarded to the Editors' Choice Grand Prize winner. The finalists in each genre of poetry, prose, and visual art will receive \$250.

Theme: Partnerships, The Untold Stories

Partners are an integral aspect of military life, at home and afar, during deployment and after homecoming. Partnerships drive military action and extend beyond being a battle buddy, wingman, or crew member. Some are planned while others arise in unexpected ways. Spouses, family, old or new friends, community, faith leaders, and medical specialists all support the military community.

Despite their importance, the stories of these partnerships often go untold. This anthology aims to correct that: use this space to highlight the nuances, surprises, joy, sorrow, heroism, tears, healing power, or ache of your own partnerships. Submit a piece of art that embodies the partnerships from your journey, and we'll help you tell that story.

SUBMIT BY MARCH 1, 2024



**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department Commander Shirt
2024-2025**



Pre- order forms must be sent to **Department Headquarters**
no later than March 22nd, 2024 for VFW members
Additional Shirts for the VFW members will be available to order at the 2024 June Convention.

Cost: Small – Extra Large: \$35.00 2XL: \$36.00 3XL: \$37.00

Name: _____ Size: ____ Number of Shirts: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Post # _____ District # _____

If you are unable to pick up your shirt at June 2024 Department Convention and have not made prior arrangements to have it picked up. Please add \$9.00 for shipping.

Make checks Payable to: Department of Virginia VFW
For: Commander Shirt 2024-2025

Send Form to: Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Virginia
403 Lee Jackson Hwy
Staunton, VA 22401

HB 736 Veterans' Services Protection Act



DON'T FEED THE SHARKS



DontFeedTheSharks.org

What can be done in our state from a legislative perspective?

- Pass HB 736: The Veterans' Services Protection Act
- It updates the Virginia Consumer Protection Act
- It bans compensation for preparing claims or for referring people to banned entities.
- It protects accredited representatives and attorneys allowed to handle claims (including Virginia DVS).

What we think a "Claim Shark" is:

- A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to "assist" or "consult" veterans with filing their VA benefit claims – this practice is illegal!
- Claim Sharks are not VA accredited, meaning they aren't required to adhere to the well-established professional and ethical standards of VA accreditation, so their advice can often be misleading or even fraudulent.
- Like a "Loan Shark," once you're in, you can't get out, and may be subject to new and hidden fees whenever you get a new rating, no matter who does the work.

Some of their predatory practices are:

- Promising or guaranteeing an increased disability rating or percentage increase.
- Advertising expedited VA claims decisions.
- Requesting login credentials to access a veteran's personal information through secure VA websites like eBenefits or VA.gov.
- Using confusing tactics or ambiguous language to mislead claimants or coerce them into signing a contract.
- Telling veterans to forego VA exams and offering health consultations within their own network of doctors.

Who we think the Claim Sharks are:

- 🐋 Trajector Medical
- 🐋 Veteran Benefits Guide
- 🐋 Veterans Guardian
- 🐋 VA Claims Insider

- 🐋 Telemedica
- 🐋 Patriot Angels
- 🐋 Veteran Care Services
- 🐋 VetComm

- 🐋 VA Claims Academy
- 🐋 Vet Assist
- 🐋 Just4Veterans
- 🐋 Veterans Disability Help

Veterans can protect themselves by:

- Always working with VA accredited representatives.
- Attending all exams ordered by VA.
- Not signing contracts.
- Not agreeing to fees or payments from future benefits.
- Not agreeing to pay for medical consultations or opinions.
- Not providing access to Protected Health Information or Personal Identifiable Information.

Who is NOT a Claim Shark?

- VA accredited veterans service organization representatives, like the VFW
- VA accredited claims agents
- VA accredited attorneys
- State veteran agencies
- Attorneys assisting with Camp LeJeune lawsuits who do not charge excessive fees





MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU



SGT Nicholas C. Mason Memorial
VFW Post 12202 and
King George Parks and Recreation
present

**3rd Annual Post Celebration and
King George Family Day**

MAY 4, 2024
1pm-7pm

Special
appearance from
the 501st Legion



Food Trucks,
Local Beer and Wine Vendors
Crafts, Live Music
Kids Games and More!



AT SEALSTON SPORTS COMPLEX
11050 Fletchers Chapel Road
King George, VA

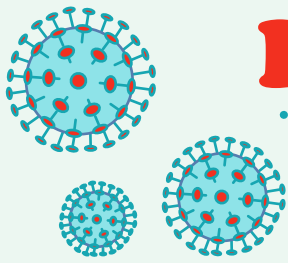
Your Certificate of Appreciation



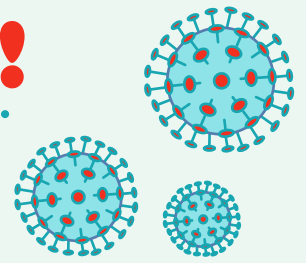
Soon you will receive your 2024 Certificate of Appreciation for your support of the VFW National Veterans Service Program. You'll also receive personalized address labels plus a special American Hero Memorial Day card to sign and return within 30 days of receiving your package. Please continue to show your support for fellow veterans in need with a gift. Please keep the VFW's National Veterans Service Program strong with your continued support.

Coming in January!

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



It's Flu Season!



Don't give the flu a chance to infect you!

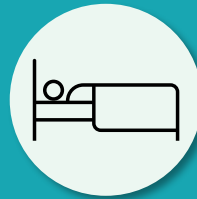
Flu season starts in October and peaks in February. Influenza (flu) is a contagious, airborne transmitted, respiratory virus that infects the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, pneumonia, and though rare, can lead to death. Symptoms may last over two weeks and can include:



Fever / chills



Body aches



Fatigue



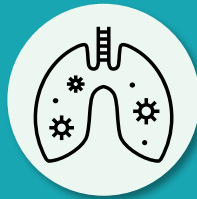
Headache



Congestion



Cough



Breathing issues



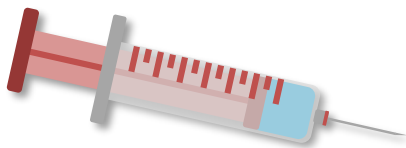
Sore throat



Vomiting / Diarrhea



Preventing The Flu



Get Vaccinated

Getting the annual Flu vaccine is the first and most important step in protecting yourself and others from the flu.



Practice Good Hygiene

Wash your hands often with soap and water. Carry and use hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.



Decontaminate

Use appropriate products to clean and disinfect frequently used surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with the flu and other germs.

FOR SALE!

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

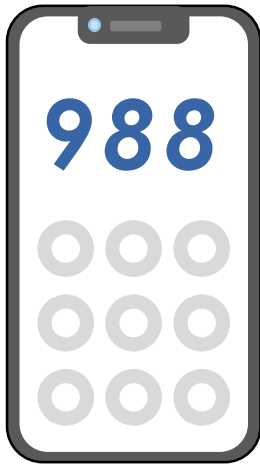
interested in buying or questions contact our Department Treasurer Cathy Graham

cg12dc12@outlook.com



New!

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



Call or Text 988 for Free, Confidential, 24/7 Mental Health Support

On July 16, 2022, the U.S. is transitioning to using the 988-dialing code to operate through the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255).

Facts About 988



Accessible. It serves as a universal entry point so that no matter where you live, you can reach a trained crisis counselor who can help people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the U.S.



Comprehensive. 988 is a direct connection to compassionate care and support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress – whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress.



For Everyone. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one or someone who may need crisis support.

To learn more about 988, visit:
bit.ly/988forHope



Vote for Experience!

Elect Ken Wiseman

National Judge Advocate General

2026-2027

Ready on Day 1!

Ken became a Paralegal after graduating from The George Washington University. More importantly, Ken has years of experience at all levels of the VFW that has taught him much about our great organization. Ken will be ready to go to work from the moment he is installed.



Years of Experience!

Ken earned All-American honors as a State Commander, State Adjutant/Quartermaster, Post Commander, and Post Quartermaster. He has been a Century Recruiter four times. Ken has led major updates to our bylaws and has experience handling Article 9 cases relating to disciplinary actions. Ken previously served as a VFW employee working on the National Legislative Service staff and he was an accredited Service Officer for the VFW.

Ken is currently the National Council Member and District 10 Commander in Virginia.

Committed to Service!

Having a Judge Advocate General with Ken's experience means having someone with experience in many of the issues our organization faces. Ken will work to help the VFW grow and he is committed to proving that "No One Does More for Veterans" than the VFW.

Save the Date
August 22-25, 2024
Savannah, Georgia

Al Lipphardt
VFW National Commander Homecoming

Where:

- **Hyatt Regency Savannah**
2 W. Bay Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

Group Code – G-VFWG
Room rate \$263 per night



Hotel Reservation Link – Available Now
[VFWDG - Commander-in-Chief Homecoming \(hyatt.com\)](https://www.hyatt.com/en/US/hotels/hyatt-regency-savannah)



Activities:

Hands-on Cooking Class
Painting with a Twist
Riverboat Cruise
Golf
Shopping

“Believe In What You Do – Do What You Believe In”