

VFW State Commander & Auxiliary President's Homecoming
Saturday, March 22nd, 2025
VFW POST 2447 100 Veterans Way, Edinburg, VA 22824



This is a FREE EVENT. We encourage everyone to join us in celebrating our year.

Hotel Information:

Holiday Inn Express

11300 Motel Drive, Woodstock, VA 22664 540-459-5000

\$110.00 a night, special rate rooms blocked until February 21st, 2025, regular rates will start after the 2/21/2025

Call now to reserve a room while they last.

Arrivals: Can begin on Friday, March 21st, 2025, and Depart on Sunday, 23rd, 2025

Dress: Casual– Black & Gray Shirt, if you have one.

Cocktail Hour: 3:00-4:00 pm (hors D'oeuvres will be served)

It will be a Cash Bar - 2 free drink tickets will be issued for attendance.

Dinner: 4:00-6:00pm

Menu: Ribs, Chicken, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Macaroni & Cheese, Rolls, Dessert.
Tea, Water, Soda, and Lemonade

DJ: 7:00pm-9:00pm

Please contact Liz Wilson by email lizwilson3456@gmail.com by March 10, 2025, to register for this event. We appreciate your help in this enables us to have a head count for the food.



“Of the Veterans and For the Veterans”

NUMBER 8

403 Lee Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112

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

February 1, 2025

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

Articles are listed by number not by pages:

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1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Comrades,

I hope everyone who attended the Mid-Winter Council had a great time even with the inclement weather. Ed and Angie did an outstanding job getting everything to flow without any major issues. The events and classes were very informative, and the dinner banquet was our chance to recognize the outstanding work of the students and teachers. Thank you to all the Chairpersons for all your hard work. A big Kudo's to Jim Wikkerink for all he did working with Jake Rademacher to bring the movie "Brothers after War" to us. That movie was well received by all in attendance, and it really hit home. When it comes to a Regal Cinema near you, I suggest you see it. Congratulations on reaching 100% again with the Online Reports, we need to keep this going throughout the remainder of the year, but accomplishing it earlier in the quarter would be very much appreciated. Keep reading the General Orders (G.O.'s) to stay on top of everything that is happening within the Department, especially upcoming suspense's.

We currently stand at 92.33% in Membership, now that winter is here this is the time to make calls, and get the one's that may have gotten away, and the renewals, think out of the box to convince the Annual members to go to a Life Membership, the Membership Team is here to assist you if needed. We are halfway through the year and there are many things ahead of us that need your attention, pay close attention to the All-State and All-American checklists and keep working hard to check all the boxes. March 22nd is the Homecoming for Dawn the Auxiliary President and me that will be held at Post 2447, in Edinburg. We hope that you will attend, check the G.O.'s it has all the details, and hotel information, the flyer is listed in the attachments. **Contact Liz Wilson** at lizwilson3456@gmail.com to register for this free event **before March 10, 2025, the hotel is taking reservations requests now at a special rate until February 21, 2025.** Please see the attachment with regards to the **President's Special Project** "The Barns at Blue Mountain" as we help Dawn raise enough money through donations to reach

her target amount. I have a request from the National C-I-C, Al Lipphardt, who would love to see as many VFW members as possible standing at the steps of Congress and walking the halls to speak to your Congressional Representatives during the Legislative Meetings during the Washington Conference, and when he is scheduled to testify wearing VFW caps with a strong showing. Congratulations to Past National C-I-C Hal Roesch on his position as the new Executive Director for the National VFW Foundation, we wish you the best of luck.

Until next month, be well and stay warm.

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. 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.

4. DELINQUENT:

Dist.	Post	Audits		Dist.	Post	Audits	Bonds
2	2296	September		6	2157	September	
3	7167	September		6	4522	September	
3	10654	September		9	6000		Expired
4	7819	September		9	7136	March	

5. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1st Date: 5/3/25
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Location: Post 3219, Phoebus
 122 E Mellen St, Hampton
 Rep:

3rd Date: 2/8/25
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Lunch: To follow Meeting
 Location: Post 637 Hopewell
 335 South 15th Ave
 State SVC Doug Hoffman
 Rep:

2nd Date: 2/8/25
 Meeting: 9:00 AM
 Location: Post 2894 Chesapeake
 3329 Battlefield Blvd S
 St Cmdr Mitch Rubenstein
 Rep:

4th Date: 2/8/25
 Meeting: 11:00 AM
 Location: Post 9954 Victoria
 1000 Marshall Ave
 State Surgeon Randy Coker
 Rep:

5 th	Date: 2/15/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep: State Surgeon Randy Coker	9 th	Date: 5/10/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4667 Marion 861 Goolsby St Rep:
6 th	Date: 4/5/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1264 Roanoke (sponsored Post 1841) 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: State Inspector Ken Shannon	10 th	Date: 3/8/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 9274 Falls Church 7118 Shreve Rd Rep: State SVC Doug Hoffman
7 th	Date: 5/17/25 Meeting: 11:30 AM Location: Post 9660 Broadway 14550 Runion Creek Rd Rep:	11 th	Date: 5/10/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 8644 Bridgewater 118 Dry River Rd Rep:
8 th	Date: 2/1/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 2524 Culpeper 12210 Sperryville Pike Rep: State JVC Mark Maggio	12 th	Date: 2/1/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 4301 Norton 1151 Park Ave Rep: PSC Gary Adams
		13 th	Date: 2/22/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 8947 Mineral 201 Mineral Ave Rep: St. Judge Advocate Charles Bush

6. 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.

7. IMPORTANT DATES:

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

8. 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 cdrpost176@vfwva.org where the 176 is you replace it with **your** Post number.

adjpost176@vfwva.org
qmpost176@vfwva.org

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

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

9. 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.

10. KOREAN WAR VETERANS:

Wanted – Dr. Julia Palmer at Hampden-Sydney College is conducting research and wishes to interview U.S. Army participants that served in the Korean War. She may be contacted directly by email at: jpalmer@hsc.edu or by telephone: (434) 223-6213.

11. 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 offer 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.

Enrollment Cost:

Levels

Gold- \$1,200.00
Silver- \$800.00
Bronze- \$400.00

Posts

\$18.00
\$12.00
\$6.00

Annual Payouts:

Departments

\$18.00
\$12.00
\$6.00

National

\$18.00
\$12.00
\$6.00

12. JROTC CADET OF THE YEAR AWARD:

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

Deadline for Cadet applications to the local Post: **1 March 2025**

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

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

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

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

Note: National has discontinued the National JROTC Award this year. As such, Posts should submit their Post level nominees to Department for consideration at the State level. Email is the preferred method of submission.

If you have any questions about the program, feel free to contact the Department Chair, Deadra Miller at dmlwmavfw@gmail.com or Committee member, Ben Guinan at bguinan@vfwva.org

Deadra Miller
JROTC Chairman

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. MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE:

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

15. NATIONAL CONVENTION:

The 126th National Convention housing will open, **Monday, March 17, 2025**. 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, tentative agenda, and links to other convention related information for Columbus, Ohio - Aug. 9-13, 2025.

16. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters and the Service Officer Offices in Dale City and Smithfield will be closed February 17, 2025, in observance of President's Day.

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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. RESOLUTIONS:

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

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

Posts can submit draft resolutions to the Committee prior to formal approval by Post membership so that logic and clarity of the arguments can be finessed and smoothed out. The Post can then vote on whether to approve the returned draft Resolution. Once formally approved by Post membership (at a Post meeting), the Resolution can be forwarded to State Headquarters, who will share with the Resolutions Committee. It is not necessary to submit a

Resolution to District for approval, however, best practices suggest that the Resolution be socialized in order to garner necessary support for an eventual up/down vote at Department Convention.”

M. C. “Connie” Agresti
Chairman, Resolutions Committee
mcagresti@vfwva.org
mcaiii@aol.com

20. ROSTER CHANGES:

Post 176 Cmdr
Victor Kowalewski
26 Creekstone Drive
Newport News, VA 23603

Post 776
Time Changed to 6:00 pm

Post 776 Cmdr
Nathan A. VanHoy
531 Clement St
Radford, VA 24141
540-392-1149
cdrpost776@vfwva.org

Post 8243 Location
1703 Seymour Dr
South Boston, VA 24592

Post 776 QM
Frederick B. Woolever
515 E 18th St
Anniston, AL 36207
702-540-4520
qmpost776@vfwva.org

Post 3150 JVC
Andrew Stewart
633 N Buchanan St
Arlington, VA 22203
706-593-4226
andrew.stewart2k@gmail.com

Post 9292 QM
Jack D. Hensley
PO Box 341
Elkton, VA 22827
540-652-9031
qmpost9292@vfwva.org

21. SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD:

The clock is ticking. Scouts who desire to be considered for this high honor should be working on the required documentation NOW.

The deadline for submitting an entry form to a VFW Post is 1 March 2025. Each VFW Post must deliver their selected entry to their respective VFW District by 15 March 2025. The winning VFW District entry needs to be in the hands of the VFW Department Scouting Chair NLT 1 April 2025.

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

<https://vfw-org-hqagarhxahbybyd9.z01.azurefd.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Scout-of-the-Year/ScoutoftheYearBrochureandEntryForm.pdf?v=1&d=20210708T183715Z&la=en>

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

<https://vfw-org-hqagarhxahbybyd9.z01.azurefd.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Scout-of-the-Year/Scout-of-the-Year-Rules-and-Eligibility.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20220914T144112Z>

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

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

22. VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING TEAM:

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

There is one position on the Scouting Team for each of the 13 Districts in the Department to promote the values of Scouting to the youth of the community and to the VFW leadership. Request each District Commander select a VFW Member that has a background in Scouting and submit the name and contact information for their District Scouting Team Chair to:

Bob Fenlason
Dept Scouting Chair
clangomat3@gmail.com
(703) 730-5414

23. 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.

24. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

The following historical events for the Vietnam War took place during February:

Feb 8, 1962 - The United States activates Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), with headquarters in Saigon. MACV's first commander is General Paul D. Harkins. The new command absorbs and supervises the Military Assistance and Advisory Group, Vietnam. From 1962 on, MACV directs the conduct of the war.

Feb 19, 1962 - The Navy establishes and begins training 13-man Seabee Technical Assistance Teams (STATs) to counter Communist insurgents through civic action programs and to support CIDGs. The first STATs deploy to Vietnam in January 1963. In South Vietnam, STATs build military installations, village fortifications, houses, schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, and wells. They also fortify isolated bases held by U.S. Special Operations forces and their paramilitary troops.

Feb 7, 1965 - Early in the morning, while it is still dark, approximately ten Viet Cong insurgents breach the fenced perimeter of the U.S. Army advisory facility near Pleiku, in the South Vietnamese Central Highlands. The infiltrators place demolition charges against several structures, detonate them, and begin throwing additional charges and mortar rounds through windows and damaged walls. The attack lasts for about ten minutes. At the same time, a few kilometers away, two five-man Viet Cong mortar teams enter the aircraft parking area of Camp Holloway, an Army helicopter base and headquarters for the 52d Aviation Battalion. Over the course of ten minutes, the Viet Cong teams fire mortar rounds and detonate charges against parked aircraft and barracks buildings. The attacks kill eight Americans and wound over 100 others. Over a dozen aircraft are destroyed or damaged. The attackers escape both the advisory base and Camp Holloway with no casualties.

Feb 8, 1965 - In the immediate wake of the Viet Cong attack at Pleiku, President Johnson reads a report submitted by National Security Advisor McGeorge Bundy regarding Bundy's recent trip to South Vietnam. Bundy's report notes that "without U.S. action defeat appears inevitable." Johnson decides to authorize the systematic bombing of North Vietnam in an attempt to prop up the Saigon regime and deter Hanoi's support for Viet Cong insurgents. Initial retaliatory bombings eventually develop into the years-long bombing operation called ROLLING THUNDER. Johnson is publicly silent about his decision to authorize the bombings.

Feb 8, 1965 - President Johnson orders airstrikes against North Vietnamese military targets. They are codenamed Operation FLAMING DART. U.S. Navy carrier aircraft strike enemy installations near Dong Hoi, North Vietnam. The next day, U.S. Air Force and South Vietnamese aircraft strike North Vietnamese barracks and antiaircraft sites near the DMZ. These are the first U.S. Air Force strikes against North Vietnam.

Feb 10-11, 1965 - Viet Cong guerrillas detonate a bomb at a U.S. Army barracks facility in the South Vietnamese coastal city of Qui Nhon. The blast kills 23 Americans and 7 South Vietnamese. In response, President Johnson orders additional air attacks in North Vietnam on February 11, known as FLAMING DART II. U.S. Navy and Air Force and South Vietnamese aircraft hit barracks and other facilities at Chanh Hoa and Vu Con with rockets and bombs.

Feb 16, 1965 - A U.S. helicopter pilot spots a 130-foot North Vietnamese trawler unloading cargo on a remote beach in South Vietnam's Vung Ro Bay. Airstrikes capsize the trawler. Three days later, allied personnel reach the scene and find that the trawler was carrying about 100 tons of arms, ammunition, explosives, and other supplies intended for the Viet Cong. The incident helps provide the final justification for Operation MARKET TIME. This combined U.S. Navy-U.S. Coast Guard-South Vietnamese navy coastal patrol operation is designed to stem the flow of smuggled supplies by sea from North to South Vietnam. During the next seven years, the patrol vessels and aircraft of MARKET TIME help thwart the great majority of infiltration by North Vietnamese coastal vessels. The North Vietnamese respond by moving their seaborne smuggling operations further south, through the ostensibly neutral port at Sihanoukville, Cambodia. They also increase the volume of traffic moving overland through Laos and Cambodia via the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Feb 25, 1965 - The Republic of Korea Military Assistance Group, Vietnam, also known as Dove Unit, begins to arrive in Vietnam. It is based in Bien Hoa Province. South Korea's Dove Unit includes a noncombat force of about 2,400 men comprising a construction support group, marine corps engineer company, army security company, and navy amphibious unit.

Feb 26, 1965 - President Johnson's decision to use American airpower to bomb North Vietnam leads him to further conclude that the United States requires more ground forces in South Vietnam, whose responsibility it will be to protect growing U.S. air bases and other facilities from retaliation by Communist troops. Johnson approves General William Westmoreland's request for two Marine Corps battalions to fill this role, and the Marines begin preparations for a landing at Da Nang, in northern South Vietnam.

Feb 17, 1966 - Thailand activates the Royal Thai Military Assistance Group, Vietnam. The Royal Thai Air Force contingent already in South Vietnam comes under the new group's command. The Thai forces in South Vietnam eventually consist of Royal Thai Air Force, Navy, and Army groups. The largest contingent is from the Army. Later in the year MACV places them under the operational control of the 9th U.S. Infantry Division.

Feb 14-15, 1967 - The 11th Company of the Republic of Korea 2d Marine (Blue Dragon) Brigade is surrounded and attacked by a regiment-sized force of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops near a village southwest of Chu Lai. The attackers breach the Koreans' perimeter with bangalore torpedoes and flame throwers. Some Korean troops are forced to resort to hand-to-hand combat. A South Korean counterattack ultimately drives off the larger enemy force.

Feb 22, 1967 - Elements from multiple U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, and South Vietnamese army units take part in Operation JUNCTION CITY. The operation is the primary offensive of the overall campaign in III Corps and its objective is to encircle and destroy the Viet Cong 9th Division, which controls the area northwest of Saigon near the Cambodian border. JUNCTION CITY represents one of the largest helicopter actions of the war, and the offensive begins with the only major parachute assault of the war. The operation lasts until May. U.S. troops capture 850 tons of food and about 500,000 pages of documents, kill over 2,700 enemy soldiers, and force Viet Cong commanders to move their southern headquarters into Cambodia.

Feb 24, 1968 - As part of the assaults on Khe Sanh and Hue, enemy forces begin attacking allied shipping on the Cua Viet and Perfume Rivers. These waterways are crucial supply and communication links for northern I Corps. Deputy Commander of MACV, General Creighton Abrams, requests Naval Forces Vietnam to create a task force that can protect supply convoys and keep waterways open to traffic. It is known as Task Force Clearwater.

Task Force Clearwater begins escorting river supply convoys with patrol boats, helicopter gunships, and ground troops, which act as reaction forces during ambushes. The task force proves especially vital for protecting supplies intended for the besieged Marine garrison at Khe Sanh.

Feb 27, 1968 - After his trip to Vietnam in early 1968, anchorman Walter Cronkite broadcasts his coverage of the Tet Offensive. Cronkite concludes his report with a personal commentary, voicing his skepticism of official assertions of military progress.

"To say that we are closer to victory today is to believe, in the face of evidence, the optimists who have been wrong in the past. To suggest we are on the edge of defeat is to yield to unreasonable pessimism. To say that we are mired in stalemate seems the only realistic, yet unsatisfactory, conclusion. . . . But it is increasingly clear to this reporter that the only rational way out then will be to negotiate, not as victors, but as an honorable people who lived up to their pledge to defend democracy, and did the best they could." –Walter Cronkite

February 1968 - As the Tet Offensive rages, U.S. Air Force aeromedical evacuation aircraft transport more than 10,000 wounded and injured personnel during February alone. Air Force Airlift units average over 9,000 patients evacuated per month through the month of June.

Feb 23, 1969 - The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong launch artillery attacks on over 100 population centers and military targets across South Vietnam. The attacks represent a Communist attempt to mount another sustained

offensive close to the Tet season, though this one is far weaker than Tet 1968. Communist forces target Saigon and other cities and installations with mortar and rocket fire. MACV commander General Abrams quickly orders a four-day retaliatory bombardment of North Vietnam below the 19th parallel using both air strikes and naval artillery. In March, President Nixon orders further retaliatory air strikes known as Operation MENU. The erratic Communist offensive lasts until June.

Feb 8, 1971 - Approximately 17,000 South Vietnamese soldiers and marines launch Operation LAM SON 719, along Highway 9 into Laos. Their objective is to interdict enemy supply efforts on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, west of Khe Sanh. Although the South Vietnamese are supported by U.S. Army helicopters and U.S. Air Force aircraft, American ground forces are not permitted to enter Laos. The operation is an important test of the progress of Vietnamization. A much larger North Vietnamese force stalls and then reverses the assault, and the South Vietnamese suffer high casualties. LAM SON 719 ends on March 24.

Feb 12, 1973 - A U.S. Air Force C-141, the "Hanoi Taxi," airlifts the first American prisoners of war to freedom from Gia Lam Airport in Hanoi, North Vietnam. From February 12 to March 29, U.S. transport aircraft fly POWs home from Southeast Asia as part of Operation HOMECOMING. In all, 591 American military and civilian prisoners are released, including individuals held by North Vietnam, the Viet Cong, the Pathet Lao, and the People's Republic of China.

Jeff Dombroff
Vietnam War Commemoration Committee Chairman

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Mitch Rubenstein
State Commander



**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department Commander Shirt
2025-2026**



Pre- order forms must be sent to **Department Headquarters**
no later than March 21, 2025 for VFW members

Additional Shirts for the VFW members will be available to order at the 2026 June Convention.

Cost: Small – Extra Large: \$35.00 2XL: \$36.00 3XL: \$37.00 4XL: \$38.00

Name: _____ Size: ____ Number of Shirts: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Post # _____ District # _____

If you are unable to pick up your shirt at June 2025 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 2025-2026

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

AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS



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**PREPARING A PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE NATIONAL BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE OR RITUAL**

Bylaws: Any member in good standing, a Post, a District, or a Department, may propose an amendment to the National Bylaws; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must be approved by a Department Convention. Immediately following a Department Convention, the proposed amendment(s) must be forwarded to National Headquarters.

Manual of Procedure and Ritual: Any Post, District, or Department may propose an amendment to the Manual of Procedure or Ritual; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must have been forwarded, through channels and have been properly approved.

In order to meet National Bylaw/Manual of Procedure Article XIV requirements, to provide fifteen (15) day notice to all Posts of all amendments, the Adjutant General requests all amendments be forwarded to National Headquarters no later than five (5) working days following the close of the Department Convention.

Bylaw, Manual of Procedure or Ritual changes not in proper form, unclear as to meaning, or concerning matters clearly not within the scope and purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars cannot be considered by the National Convention.

A proposed change to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual must be submitted as such, not as a resolution. Proposed amendments must be definite and specific as to the verbiage to be deleted or added. Use of the most recent amended copy of the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual is encouraged, as proposed changes considered by Convention delegates cannot be amended on the floor.

EXAMPLE 1

Proposed Amendment to National Bylaws proposed by Department of _____.
Section 202 – Bylaws.

Amend Section 202, National Bylaws, by deleting the words “two-thirds (2/3)” in the first sentence of paragraph one, and inserting, in lieu thereof, the following:
“majority”.

EXAMPLE 2

Proposed Amendment to National Manual of Procedure proposed by Department of _____.
Section 518 – Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Section 518, Manual of Procedure, by deleting paragraph (a) (1) d. in its entirety and inserting, in lieu thereof, the following:
“Plan and organize all social functions.”

EXAMPLE 3

Proposed Amendment to National Ritual proposed by Department of _____.

Amend the Ritual by deleting on page 48, in the last sentence of the Member’s Obligation, the words “and a citizen of our great republic.”

Further amend by placing a period after the word “comrade” in the same sentence.

If you require help composing a proposed change to the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual, please contact Administrative Operations at National Headquarters for advice and assistance in properly preparing a proposed amendment to be voted upon by your department convention.

PREPARING A RESOLUTION TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

The policy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is established by resolutions adopted by the delegates attending Department and National Conventions. Most resolutions originate at the Post level and are passed through the District and Department before being acted upon at a National Convention. Many times, an otherwise worthy idea gets nowhere merely because it is not correctly presented.

A resolution contains two separate parts; a statement of the problem to be solved, and the proposed solution to the problem. The problem is outlined in the “*WHEREAS*” clauses, and the proposed solution is given in the “*RESOLVED*” section.

The “*RESOLVED*” section of a resolution should be complete in itself without depending on the “*WHEREAS*” clauses to give it meaning.

EXAMPLE

WHEREAS, the rising cost of living has created an intense hardship on those disabled veterans whose only income is a meager pension check; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we petition Congress to enact legislation which would provide a substantial increase in non-service connected pension rates.

If a resolution deals with a local problem, it needs no action on a level higher than that of the Post. If the problem concerns an area larger than that served by the Post, it should, after Post approval, be presented before the District or County Council. All resolutions of statewide, regional or national concern must be acted upon by the Department Convention. Those resolutions approved by a Department Convention, which affect persons or matters outside the state boundaries, must be forwarded to the National Convention for final disposition.

When submitting a resolution to the Department Convention, a notation on the bottom should show the previous action taken, such as, approval by Post and, if applicable, by the District. A Post or District submitting a resolution to its Department Convention must follow guidelines established by the Department, which may require submitting the resolution to the Department Adjutant prior to the convening of the convention.

Resolutions not in proper form, with unclear meaning, or concerning matters clearly not within the scope and purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars cannot be considered by the National Convention.

Resolutions approved by a Department Convention, which affect matters outside state boundaries, must be forwarded by the Department Adjutant to the National Convention for final disposition. Approved resolutions should be sent to National Headquarters at the close of the Department Convention. The Adjutant General requests all resolutions be forwarded to National Headquarters no later than five (5) working days following the close of the Department Convention. A resolution disapproved by the Department Convention or not acted upon by the Department Convention will not be considered by the National Convention.

Resolutions may also be originated by Department officers or by the Department Convention itself and acted upon by the Department Convention. A National Officer may originate a resolution concerning National affairs and submit it directly to the National Convention without Department action. Likewise, a National Convention Committee may originate a resolution and present it for approval during the National Convention.

Policy set by the National Convention is binding upon all subordinate units of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. No Post or Department is permitted to take any individual action or espouse any cause contrary to the National Bylaws or to the actions of the National Convention except that it may propose changes in policy by the preparation of a resolution for consideration as outlined herein.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- 1) Any member in good standing may propose a National Bylaw, Manual of Procedure, or Ritual amendment directly to the National Convention delegates.
 True
 False
- 2) Article XIV of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure require the Adjutant General to provide ___ day notice to all Posts on any proposed amendment to be decided by the delegates of the National Convention.
A. 10
B. 15
C. 20
D. 30
- 3) National Bylaw, Manual of Procedure, or Ritual amendments are submitted to the Adjutant General in the form of a resolution.
 True
 False
- 4) A resolution adopted by the National Convention sets policy which is binding for all subordinate units of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
 True
 False
- 5) In a resolution the “WHEREAS” represents the issue and the “BE IT RESOLVE” proposes the solution.
 True
 False
- 6) Resolutions approved by a Department Convention that affect matters outside its geographical boundary must be forwarded to the National Convention for final disposition.
 True
 False

1) False – An amendment must be approved by a Department Convention (or be submitted by a National Officer) before it can be considered by the National Convention; 2) 15 days; 3) False, the amendment must be specific; 4) True; 5) True; 6) True

INVITATION



80th Anniversary Commemoration of
the Battle of the Colmar Pocket in Alsace, France
3 Dec 44 to 9 Feb 45

Outpost International, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division, the French Embassy,
and the Defense Attaché of France

Honors veterans of the 6th Army Group, 1st French Army, XXIst US Corps, 3rd, 28th, 75th
Infantry Divisions, 12th Armored Division, 36th Infantry Division, attached units, the
French Air Force, the US Army Air Force, and other allied air forces.



When: 0900 to 1600, 27 and 28 February 2025 and 1 March 2025 at Arlington
National Cemetery time TBD.

Where: Springfield American Legion Post 176, 6250 Amherst Avenue, Springfield, VA
22150.

Who: Veterans, families and friends of the Battle of the Colmar Pocket from the 3rd,
28th, 36th, and 75th Infantry Divisions, the 12th Armored Division, XXIst US Corps, the
First French Army, and allied air units who fought in the Colmar area.

Why: To honor the Divisions and veterans of the Battle of the Colmar Pocket, [in which Audie Murphy, Charles P. Murray, Ellis Weicht, Bernard Bell, Keith L. Ware, Gus Kefurt, Eli Whiteley, Russell Dunham, Garlin Connor, Forrest Peden, and Jose Valdez received the Medal of Honor](#), and to educate the public about this little
remembered front known as the second Battle of the Bulge.

Registration required by 14 February 2025. Registration fee is \$25 each seminar day.

Homewood Suites Hotel by Hilton offers a special rate for attendees. Booking link is:
<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=DCASFHW&groupCode=CHWBCP&arrivaldate=2025-02-24&departuredate=2025-03-03&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Point of Contact: Monika Stoy, President, Outpost International at email
timmoni15@yahoo.com, PH: 571 419-8915.

INVITATION

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 637

**IRAQ WAR
VETERAN**

2003 - 2011

WELCOME HOME

YOUR SACRIFICE WILL
NOT BE FORGOTTEN

VFW Post 637 Hopewell

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Ceremony

**PATRICK OLIVIER
MUSIC**

Willie G & Me!

Entertainment starting at 3pm

Guest Speaker



Lt. Gen. Robert D. Harter
Chief of Army Reserve

MARCH 22, 2025
2PM Ceremony 3PM-6PM Live Music

CEREMONY MONGOLIAN BBQ MEAL LIVE MUSIC

1400 Lynchburg Street, Hopewell, VA 23860



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Williamsburg, VA Post 4639

Annual Charity Golf Fundraiser Benefiting Veterans and Their Families

Registration: 8 am

Shotgun Start: 9 am

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

A Golf Digest "Place to Play" in Williamsburg

Sat. April 19, 2025

Individual: _____

or

Team Name: _____

Captain: _____

Player #2: _____

Player #3: _____

Player #4: _____

Contact e-mail / phone: _____

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

or

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

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

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

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

[Extra Sponsorship Options here](#)

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



\$110 per golfer / \$440 per team

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

Drone Drive Included with Entry!

Scramble format **Tees:**

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

Additional Fundraisers

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

Hole Sponsorships:

\$150 – Bronze Sponsor:

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

\$300 – Silver Sponsor:

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

\$575 – Gold Sponsor:

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



Golfing For Veterans

Second Annual Golf Tournament

"All Proceeds Support Veterans & Veteran's Programs"

Date: Friday, April 25, 2025

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

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

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

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

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

Registration - Electronically at VFWPOST8469.com/golf4vets

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

Twin Lakes Golf Course

6201 Union Mill Road
Clifton VA 20124

Silent Auction

Military and Sports

Memorabilia

Mulligans

50/50 Raffle

Flag of Honor Raffle

Lunch Provided by

Mission BBQ

TEAM PRIZES

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

Individual Registration

Player Name _____

Email _____

(Individual registrants will be assigned to a team.)

HOST

VFW POST 8469
FAIRFAX STATION, VA

Team Registration

Team Name: _____

Player 1 (Captain) _____ Email _____

Player 2 Name _____ Email _____

Player 3 Name _____ Email _____

Player 4 Name _____ Email _____



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

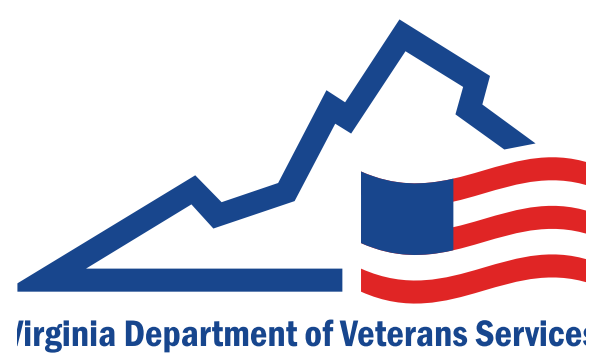
The Virginia Veterans Network is here for you.

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.

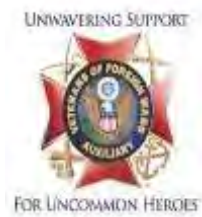
FOR SALE!

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.

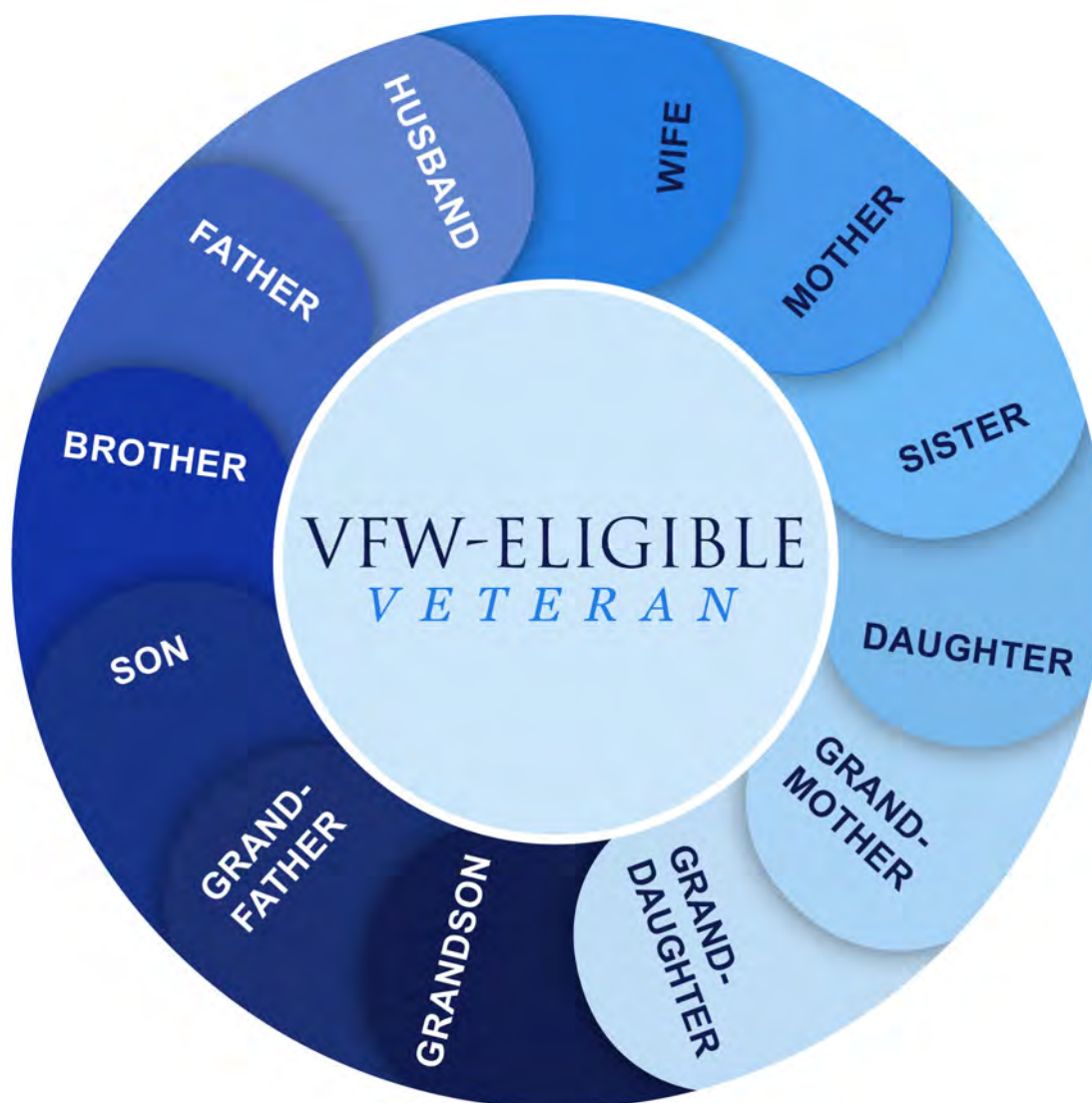
To our "bachelor" posts once your post has approved the formation of the Auxiliary, please contact our Department President Dawn Kuhn or Department Chief of Staff Carol Vangi. We will assist you with the next steps.

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.*



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



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***