

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

NUMBER 7

403 Lee Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112

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

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

January 1, 2023

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

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1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

As we close out December, I hope that everyone had a safe and joyous Holiday Season. January marks the beginning of New Year and all the exciting possibilities that come with it. 2023 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Department of Virginia. We intend to celebrate this milestone with six Centennial Celebrations across the state throughout 2023.

This month we are looking forward to our Winter Council of Administration (COA) meeting 12-15 January at the Renaissance Portsmouth Waterside Hotel. On 13 January the VFW State Officers and the State Auxiliary Officers will be making an official visit to Hampton Roads VA Hospital. We will conduct a tour and try to meet as many veterans as possible. That evening we will be hosting the State Commander's and State President's Homecoming. With RSVPs nearing 200, we expect this to be the largest State Homecoming ever! The following evening, January 14 we will have our Annual Youth-Educator Awards Banquet. We will be honoring our State winners in Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year. Thanks to generous donations from several organizations and individuals, this promises to be a memorable event.

Our National Representative at this year's COA will be National Senior Vice Commander Duane Sarmiento. Also attending will be several Southern Conference candidates for National Junior Vice Commander. Although, the election is still several years out, it is good to listen to these candidates and gain familiarity.

We have worked hard to create a great Winter COA. We are fortunate to have a world class Renaissance-Marriott hotel with premium facilities and catering. We have fought hard to keep the Hospitality Room format the same. In between events, you can always stop in there and get some food and refreshments, or

chat with a friendly bartender. For those in the area, please attend the COA as an exciting daytrip; and don't forget to RSVP for the Homecoming and Banquet.

We are doing better than ever on recruiting, thanks to our crack Membership Team. However, many memberships will have expired on 31 December 2022. It's never too late to bring these members back. When it comes to membership "*Recruiting and Retention*" are two sides of the same coin. We must work on our retention equally as hard as we do our recruiting. I encourage you to reach out to all members nearing expiration or recently expired and attempt to renew them. Sometimes all it takes is a phone call letting them know you care.

We are working hard on establishing new VFW Posts. As demographics and growth areas change, sometimes there is a need and desire to stand up a fresh new post. We are working hard in strategic areas to make this a reality. Expect further news on new VFW Institution Ceremonies in the coming months.

As we move into a new year, I urge all of you to continue your efforts on "improving service to veterans", staying focused on *Recruiting & Retention*, and making Virginia's VFW Programs the best in the nation.

Geoffrey Lyster
State Commander
Department of Virginia

2. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:

The National Bylaws provide for only one type of membership: active membership. There are no provisions in the National Bylaws, nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Member cards, Honorary Membership cards, Courtesy Membership cards or any other special type of cards. Any Post issuing such unauthorized cards, or conducting club operations open to the general public, endangers its standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting non-members to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW Bylaws or procedures.

3. ADJ/QM TRAINING:

Adjutant/Quartermaster Training will be conducted by the State Adj/QM on Saturday 4 Feb 2023 at VFW Post 3103, 2701 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401 from 1200-1600. Lunch and beverages to be provided by the Post during the training session. This is an opportunity for those already in these positions or those considering running for these positions to gain a better understanding of what's involved. Please notify Post 3103 of your intent to attend and number of attendees for lunch planning purposes **No Later Than** 28 Jan 2023. Questions or attendance notifications can be sent to vfw3103@gmail.com.

We encourage anyone with these roles to bring their laptops along. Wifi will be available.

4. AMAZONSMILE:

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to charitable organizations selected by our customers. Our very own Foundation is listed – The Virginia Veterans Foundation.

5. BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:

All officers should obtain current 2023 copies of the podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. Copies of the revised edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters. The 2023 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 123rd National Convention, which becomes effective on August 20, 2022.

6. CLAIR B. POFF PUBLIE RELATIONS AWARD:

The Clair B. Poff Public Relations award is presented to three (3) Posts for the most outstanding newsletter or publication for their size group and then forwarded to National for judging. Group 1: Membership 99 members or less, Group 2: Membership 100 – 179 and Group 3: Membership 180 or more. To enter, send two different copies of your Post Newsletter to State Headquarters along with the editor’s name and address. Deadline for submission to State Headquarters is January 10, 2023. Judging will determine first, second and third place winners.

7. DELINQUENT:

The following is a list of Posts that are still delinquent in Audits.

Dist.	Post	Audits	Dist.	Post	Audits	Dist.	Post	Audits
2	993	Sept	5	7854	Sept	12	4301	June, Sept
						12	8652	June, Sept
3	7167	Sept	9	7136	Sept	12	9600	Sept
						12	9830	Sept

8. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1st Date: 1/21/23
 Meeting: 11:00 AM
 Location: Post 3219 Phoebus
 122 E Mellen Street, Hampton
 Rep: State Inspector Charles Bush</p> | <p>6th Date: 4/1/23
 Meeting: Noon
 Location: Hosted by Post 5895 Buchanan at
 Post 1264 Roanoke
 4930 Grandview Avenue NW
 Rep: St Chief-of-Staff Ken Wiseman</p> |
| <p>2nd Date: 2/11/23
 Lunch: Noon
 Meeting: 1:00 PM
 Location: Post 8545 Smithfield
 223 Washington Street
 Rep: St Judge Advocate Doug Hoffman</p> | <p>7th Date: 1/21/23
 Lunch: 11:30 AM
 Meeting: To follow Lunch
 Location: Post 2447 Edinburg
 100 Veterans Way
 Rep: State SVC Gary Adams</p> |
| <p>3rd Date: 2/4/23
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Location: Post 637 Hopewell
 1400 Lynchburg Street
 Rep: St Commander Geoffrey Lyster</p> | <p>8th Date: 2/4/23
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Location: Post 3103 Fredericksburg
 2701 Princess Anne Street
 Rep: State Surgeon Mark Maggio</p> |
| <p>4th Date: 2/11/23
 Meeting: 11:00 AM
 Location: Post 8759 Amelia
 16440 Five Forks Road
 Rep: State Inspector Charles Bush</p> | <p>9th Date: 1/28/23
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Location: Post 11115 Hillsville
 701 W. Stuart Drive
 Rep: State JVC Mitch Rubenstein</p> |
| <p>5th Date: 2/18/23
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Location: Post 4637 Martinsville
 1425 Greensboro Road
 Rep: St Judge Advocate Doug Hoffman</p> | <p>10th Date: 3/26/23
 Lunch: 11:30 AM
 Meeting: 1:00 PM
 Location: Post 1503 Dale City
 14631 Minnieville Road
 Rep: State Commander Geoffrey Lyster</p> |

11th Date: 1/28/23
Meeting: 10:00 AM
Location: Post 2216 Staunton
212 Frontier Drive
Rep: PSC Butch Schupska

12th Date: 4/1/23
Meeting: 10:00 AM
Location: Post 9830 Damascus
23489 Mountain City Rd
State Surgeon Mark Maggio

13th Date: 2/11/23
Meeting: 11:00 AM
Location: Post 1827 Charlottesville
1170 River Road
Rep: State JVC Mitch Rubenstein

9. DUTIES OF TRUSTEES:

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure, "Duty of Trustees." Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the close of each quarter, one of which ended December 31, 2022. Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including the Club Manager, Bingo Chairman and VFW Riders Groups. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster and Adjutant records.

10. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 15th**. This will be the primary means of sending correspondence from State Headquarters to Post and District Officers.

You will receive all General Orders, special notices and any other documentation that you need via email. This will help cut down on postal expenses and speed up the response time for you receiving the information.

Here are directions for logging into your new account for the first time.

1. Go to Department web site www.vfwva.org.
2. Click on Resources, Microsoft 365.
3. The username is your email address; put that on the first line (see below for your new address).
4. Your default password will be **VFW2022!** once you have accessed the mail program you will be asked to change it; it must contain at least one uppercase letter and one number.

For Post Officers, your address will be cdrpost176@vfwva.org where the 176 is you replace it with **your** Post number.

adjpost176@vfwva.org
qmpost176@vfwva.org

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

svdist1@vfwva.org
adjdist1@vfwva.org
qmdist1@vfwva.org

11. GENERAL ORDERS:

The cut off for the General Orders is the 20th of the month. No EXCEPTIONS. Subscriptions for hard copy General Orders are \$30.00 for the year. Contact State Headquarters for more info.

12. IMPORTANT DATES:

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

13. INSPECTIONS:

Hello, Comrades of Virginia; we hope you are getting ready for the upcoming New Year “2023”.

I’m happy to report that as of December 20, 2022, all Post/District Inspections were conducted and reported. We, as a team, achieved our objective; thanks to all who supported this outstanding effort.

13 Districts of 13 were Inspected (100%)

127 Posts of 127 were Inspected (100%)

78 Posts were Inspection Ready (56%)

28 Posts with Outstanding Inspection Binders (20%)

Let’s start the new year in January with Congratulations to District 2, District 12, and District 13 for finishing their Posts Inspection in December. Awesome job!

District Commanders and District Inspectors of the Month:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Comments</u>
December	Ronnie Steele	Dist. 2	Awesome Job!
December	Elizabeth Wicht	Dist. 12	Thanks for making it happen!
December	Christiny Green/James White	Dist. 13	Thanks for closing us out!

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

We finished strong. Now let’s achieve having all discrepancies corrected **by May 5, 2023.**

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

14. IRS FORM 8822-B:

It is now a requirement by the IRS that all Posts submit this form. This form must be submitted anytime the Post Quartermaster changes and/or the Post address changes. This is effective January 1, 2014.

Here is the link to get the form and instructions – <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822b.pdf>. This will also apply to all Auxiliaries that have their own EIN numbers.

15. MEMBERSHIP:

Comrades and Commanders,

I hope all had the best holidays possible. We did very well the first half of the year. I really appreciate the effort by all comrades. As they say in sports, you play the first half to get to the second half, that is where we are at now. The second half of the Membership year. Congratulations to all the Posts that reached their quota's and earned their Commanders a jacket before December 31st. Now we must work to get the remainder of the Posts to that plateau. Our goal every year is to have all Posts reach 100% Membership. Our second goal is to have the Department reach 100% plus one in Membership. We are off to a great start, now let's finish the mission. I am confident that we will, by all Comrades pulling together. A lot of hands make the job much easier. Again, Comrades thank you for all that you do for the VFW of Virginia.

Tom Hines PSC
Membership Team Chairman

16. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters and the Smithfield, Norfolk and Dale City Service Offices will be closed January 1, 2023, and reopen January 3, 2023, in observance of New Year's. Also, all offices will be closed on January 16, 2023, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

State Headquarters will be closed January 12, 2023, and reopen January 17, 2023, for the Winter Council of Administration Meeting. The Adj/QM will be available by phone and email for any issues that may arise.

Please note the Hopewell Service Office is temporarily closed.

17. PROGRAMS:

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

Ed Mann
State Adj/QM

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. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 144:

Membership Ineligible
James L. Bush
VFW Post No. 9600

Pursuant to the voluntary resignation of their membership upon their acknowledgement of ineligibility for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the name of James L. Bush, Membership No. 10149104, be removed from the rolls of Christopher Gist Post No. 9600, Pound, Virginia and their membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States terminated by reason of ineligibility.

By order of
Timothy M. Borland
Commander-in-Chief

20. ROSTER CHANGES:

First District Commander
Victor Kowalewski
46 Airline Drive
Newport News, VA 23608

VFW Post 1994
Time Change
6:00 pm

VFW Post 960
Mailing Address
401 Boundary Road
Lackey, VA 23690

VFW Post 5313
Mailing Address
PO Box 711
Blackstone, VA 23824

Jeffery L. Loomis, Cmdr
VFW Post 1211
625 Sandy Springs Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
757-377-3622
cdrpost1211@vfwva.org

VFW Post 8243
Meeting Location
Dan River Ruritan Club
1144 Shandy Lane
South Boston, VA 24592

Marvin M. Prince, SVC
VFW Post 1211
3269 Sacramento Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456
407-902-4238
marvin.m.prince@gmail.com

21. VFW SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRAM:

This program was put in place to recognize VFW units for creating and completing unique and extraordinary community service projects.

Record book entry nominations that are found to be complete and well-substantiated should be endorsed by the Department Adjutant or VFW Department Community Activities Chairperson and forwarded to National Programs Department. Deadline for entries is April 30 of each year.

Every Post Special Project receiving the Award of Excellence in the May judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairperson's Guide.

22. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

While I don't have information on what individual Posts have been doing, I can report that I did send five pins and other assorted items to Post 10574 (Colonial Beach) this past month. For the year I have personally presented over 60 pins to Vietnam Veterans. 29 Posts and units of the VFW in Virginia are signed up as commemorative partners in the anniversary commission. Commanders should be reminded that I can make pins available to them without their Posts, etc joining up.

This month's Vietnam War Congressional Medal of Honor winner is Clyde E. Lassen. Born in Ft. Myers, FL in 1942, he entered the Navy at Jacksonville, earned his commission and aviator wings in 1965 and became a helicopter pilot. On June 19, 1968, Lassen was commanding a UH-2A assigned to Helicopter Support Squadron 7 embarked aboard U.S.S. Preble (DLG-15) on a search and rescue mission over North Vietnam when the action for which he received the Medal of Honor took place. His citation reads as follows:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as pilot and aircraft commander of a search and rescue helicopter, attached to Helicopter Support Squadron 7, during operations against enemy forces in North Vietnam. Launched shortly after midnight to attempt the rescue of 2 downed aviators, Lt. (then Lt. (J.G.)) Lassen skillfully piloted his aircraft over unknown and hostile terrain to a steep, tree-covered hill on which the survivors had been located. Although enemy fire was being directed at the helicopter, he initially landed in a clear area near the base of the hill, but, due to the dense undergrowth, the survivors could not reach the helicopter. With the aid of flare illumination, Lt. Lassen successfully accomplished a hover between 2 trees at the survivors' position. Illumination was abruptly lost as the last of the flares were expended, and the helicopter collided with a tree, commencing a sharp descent. Expertly righting his aircraft and maneuvering clear, Lt. Lassen remained in the area, determined to make another rescue attempt, and encouraged the downed aviators while awaiting resumption of flare illumination. After another unsuccessful, illuminated rescue attempt, and with his fuel dangerously low and his aircraft significantly damaged, he launched again and commenced another approach in the face of the continuing enemy opposition. When flare illumination was again lost, Lt. Lassen, fully aware of the dangers in clearly revealing his position to the enemy, turned on his landing lights and completed the landing. On this attempt, the survivors were able to make their way to the helicopter. En route to the coast he encountered and successfully evaded additional hostile anti-aircraft fire and, with fuel for only 5 minutes of flight remaining, landed safely aboard USS Jouett (DLG-29).

Lassen received his Medal of Honor from President Lyndon B. Johnson at a White House ceremony becoming the first Naval Aviator to earn the MoH for service in the Vietnam War. He remained on active duty until 1982, retiring as a Commander. He resided in Pensacola, FL until his death from cancer on April 1, 1994, and is interred in the Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola, FL. In 2001, the destroyer U.S.S. Lassen (DDG-82) was commissioned and named in his honor.

Jeff Dombroff
Vietnam War Commemoration Committee Chairman

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Geoffrey D. Lyster
State Commander



Duane Sarmiento
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Duane Sarmiento was elected Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on July 21, 2022, at the 123rd VFW National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

He served in the United States Navy from 1988 to 1997, and the United States Naval Reserve from 2002 to 2006, earning his VFW eligibility by serving in Operations Desert Shield/Storm. In recognition of his service, he received the Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Good Conduct Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three campaign stars, the Saudi Arabian Medal for the Liberation of Kuwait, Kuwait Medal for the Liberation of Kuwait and numerous other medals and ribbons. In 2003, he earned the title of the Naval Reserve Center Sailor of the Year at Fort Dix.



Duane joined the VFW in 1990 at Post 5579 in Gibbstown, New Jersey, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as the VFW Department of New Jersey Commander from 2018 to 2019. On the national level, he served as the VFW Inspector General from 2019 to 2020, and served on the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, General Resolutions Committee, and as Special Aide-de-Camp.

He retired as a police officer with the Greenwich Township Police Department and Gloucester County Sheriff's Department in New Jersey. Duane was the director of Veterans Affairs in Gloucester County, New Jersey, retiring after 10 years of service.

He is a life member of the Military Order of the Cootie, at Ky-Yi Pup Tent #1 in Delaware, and a member of the Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 57.

Duane and his wife, Ellen, reside in Gibbstown, New Jersey.

-vfw-

Limited Edition

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia

Centennial Anniversary KA-BAR Knife

Celebrating 100 years
Only 100 made
\$100 each



To get yours contact State Headquarters.

(540) 886-8112

Shipping Charges may apply.

CALLING ALL WOMEN VETERANS

WE WILL HAVE A SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKING
AT THE MID WINTER CONFERENCE IN
PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES!!!

SEE YOU THERE



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

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023

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

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

Department Hospitality Room – Commodore Room

(Tentative schedule subject to change)



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



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



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

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

Ken Wiseman – kwiseman@vfwva.org

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

Ellen Stogsdill - ellenstogsdill@cox.net

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

This may be the largest State Homecoming Extravaganza ever!

Stay overnight at the hotel or make it a Daytrip.

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

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



Elegant Dancing

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

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

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

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

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

"Neb"

Ben Guinan

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





Charles H. Bush, Jr.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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