

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

“Of the Veterans and For the Veterans”

**NUMBER 7**  
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**January 1, 2025**  
Staunton, Virginia 24401  
In Virginia 800-888-3521

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### 1. COMMANDER’S MESSAGE:

Comrades,

I hope everyone enjoyed the festive season however it is that you celebrate it and welcomed in the New Year 2025 with your friends and families. As we look back at 2024’s accomplishments I encourage everyone to carryover the same positive attitude and enthusiasm, while continuing on the same path to success. I see so many Posts that have exceeded their expectations and are even surprising themselves, membership is moving in the right direction, as we are at 91% which is the goal that National set and we hit the mark. This is because of your commitment to making Virginia the best Department in the VFW along with our (2) two great leaders Todd Taylor and Troy Wagers who are keeping us on track. There is NO time to sit back and wait, we have other things to get done. The School Programs combined with the start of the new ScholarsApp, has made this year a little challenging. We had some bumps along the way but, that was expected, I think participation was up and still had a very successful year. I attribute the success mostly because of people behind the scenes, the one’s that answered your questions and made sure the submissions were complete. Thank you, Ben Guinan, Mike Diaz, Chris Birch, Glenda Indyck, and Ashley Gurley, for your hard work and dedication with this year’s programs.

With all the great things that each Post has done, and I know it has been said numerous times that all things need to be entered in the National Dashboard at the Post Level to show your activities to receive credit, there is a **DEADLINE now, this must be met and entered by Midnight on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2025, the system will NOT! I REPEAT WILL NOT!! accept any further Post-level entries after that deadline.** **On deck**, is the Public Servant of the Year Awards which are due to HQ’s by the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2025, if you are planning to participate in these. **Warming up**, is Deadre Miller, and the JROTC (Civil Air Patrol, & Sea Cadets) Programs, and Bob Fenalson, with the Scout of the Year. If your Post(s) are planning to participate in these programs, you need to get

them going. I am thinking about starting a new Award **“Who really reads the General Orders Award”** the prizes will be at the end of the VFW year with awarding all the Post(s), and Districts(s) Commanders and their Quartermasters for making All-State, and All-American.

On a sad note, we lost a Past Department State Commander, and Past Adjutant/Quartermaster Bobby Walls. May he Rest in Peace, our condolences go out to his family and friends. Please keep them in your prayers.

Let’s finish what we started and make this year one to remember. Keep the pedal on the gas!

Happy New Year to all, see you in Williamsburg at the Mid-Winter. (The information is in the G.O.’s)

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. BONDS:**

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

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

**4. 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.

**5. DELINQUENT:**

Dist.	Post	Audits		Dist.	Post	Audits	Bonds
2	2296	September		6	2157	September	
3	7167	September		6	4522	September	
4	7819	September		9	6000		Expired
4	7897	September		9	7136	March	Expired
6	776	September					

## 6. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Date: 1/18/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 176 Newport News 21 Forrest Drive Rep: St Cmdr Mitch Rubenstein	7 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 1/18/25 Meeting: 11:30 AM Location: Post 2447 Edinburg 100 Veterans Way Rep: State SVC Doug Hoffman
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Date: 2/8/25 Meeting: 9:00 AM Location: Post 2894 Chesapeake 3329 Battlefield Blvd S Rep: St Cmdr Mitch Rubenstein	8 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 2/1/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 2524 Culpeper 12210 Sperryville Pike Rep: State JVC Mark Maggio
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Date: 2/8/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Lunch: To follow Meeting Location: Post 637 Hopewell 335 South 15 <sup>th</sup> Ave Rep: State SVC Doug Hoffman	9 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 1/25/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: VFW Post 7726 Independence 115 Klondike Road Rep: PSC Gary Adams
4 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 2/8/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 9954 Victoria 1000 Marshall Ave Rep: State SVC Doug Hoffman	10 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 3/8/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 9274 Falls Church 7118 Shreve Rd Rep: State SVC Doug Hoffman
5 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 2/15/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep: State Surgeon Randy Coker	11 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 1/25/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 2216 Staunton 212 Frontier Drive Rep: State Inspector Ken Shannon
6 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 4/5/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1264 Roanoke (sponsored Post 1841) 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: State Inspector Ken Shannon	12 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 2/1/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 4301 Norton 1151 Park Ave Rep: PSC Gary Adams
		13 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 2/22/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 8947 Mineral 201 Mineral Ave Rep: St. Judge Advocate Charles Bush

## 7. DUTIES OF TRUSTEES:

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

Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including the Club Manager, Bingo Chairman and VFW Rider Groups. These records shall be audits by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster and Adjutant records.

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

## 8. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 21<sup>st</sup>**. 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](http://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](mailto:cdrpost176@vfwva.org) where the 176 is you replace it with **your** Post number.

[adjpost176@vfwva.org](mailto:adjpost176@vfwva.org)  
[qmpost176@vfwva.org](mailto:qmpost176@vfwva.org)

For District Officers your address will be [cdrdist1@vfwva.org](mailto: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](mailto:svdist1@vfwva.org)  
[adjdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:adjdist1@vfwva.org)  
[qmdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:qmdist1@vfwva.org)

## 9. FEDERAL FUNDING FOR POST:

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

## 10. GENERAL ORDERS:

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

## 11. 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.

## 12. IMPORTANT DATES:

- January 9 - 12, 2025 Winter Council Meeting, Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA: phone 757-220-2250. Room Rates are \$92.00 per night. Cutoff Date was Thursday, December 19, 2024.
- March 22, 2025 State Commander/President's Homecoming at Post 2447, Edinburg, Holiday Inn Express, 1130 Motel Drive, Woodstock, VA; phone 540-459-5000. Room Rates are \$110.00 (available for Friday and Saturday nights) Cutoff Date is Saturday, February 1, 2025; more details to come.
- June 18 – 23, 2025 State Convention, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$129.00 per night. Cutoff Date is Thursday, May 22, 2025, by 5:00 pm.
- August 9 - 13, 2025 National Convention, Columbus, Ohio

## 13. 2025 VFW/JLC DAY OF THE HILL:

The Annual VFW/JLC day on the hill will be held on January 9, 2025. We will meet at Post 9808 in Mechanicsville starting at 7:30 AM where a light breakfast will be provided. Bus transportation to the Legislature will be provided at 9:00 AM. We plan to return to Post 9808 before 2:00 PM. There are five JLC initiatives this year:

1. Verification of Veteran Status: Arrest, Jails, and Prisons
2. Stop Unscrupulous Firms from Exploiting Veterans
3. Virginia National Guard Tuition
4. Suffolk State Veterans Cemetery Expansion
5. Women Veteran Day

Position papers on the above initiatives can be found at:

<https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/about-us/boards-foundations/joint-leadership-council-of-veterans-service-organizations>

Rick Raskin  
PSC/JLC Representative

## 14. 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](mailto:jpalmer@hsc.edu) or by telephone: (434) 223-6213.

## 15. MICROSOFT 365 TRAINING:

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

## 16. 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](mailto: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

#### **17. MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE:**

As we celebrate the Holidays remember to check on our Veterans and do a buddy check to ensure we are caring for our own. This month your Grand of Virginia Cooties trekked to the frozen north for Cootie Christmas at the VFW National Home. We celebrated with the residents at the home and shared many events with them providing a little Christmas Cheer. On our return we learned of the passing of our dear comrade Gary Dressell a former Grand Commander of Virginia and past Supreme Quartermaster. If you are able to, donate to the VFW National Home in Gary's name.

As we prepare for Winter COA Meeting help us get the word out to future Cooties in Western Virginia and grow a Pup Tent in the Daleville/Roanoke area. If you have any Cooties that need degree work we will have a Scratch on Friday night at Williamsburg. Look at the agenda for times and locations for the Friday and Saturday Scratches. If you need the forms for new Cooties go to <https://lotcs.org/forms.html> and under pup Tent Starter Kit is the General Membership Application.

For more information on the Military Order of the Cootie please contact Ken Shannon Grand Commander at [kshannon@vfwva.org](mailto:kshannon@vfwva.org) or [grandcdr@vfwva.org](mailto:grandcdr@vfwva.org)

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

#### **18. OFFICE CLOSURE:**

State Headquarters and the Service Officer Offices in Dale City and Smithfield will be closed January 1, 2025, in observance of New Year's and January 20, 2025, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

State Headquarters will be closed January 9, 2025, and reopen January 13, 2025, for the Winter Council Administration Meeting.

The Service Office in Smithfield will be closed January 23 – 24, 2025.

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.

#### **19. PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS:**

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

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award



- VFW National 911 Dispatcher Award
- VFW National Explosive Ordinance Technician Award

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

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

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

## 20. REPORTING:

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

## 21. ROSTER CHANGES:

Post 1211 Cmdr  
Marisa Tanner  
116 E Gibbs Rd  
Knotts Island, NC 27950  
910-391-5654  
[cdrpost1211@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrpost1211@vfwva.org)

Post 1211 SVC  
Carrey L. Switzer  
2877 W. Landing Rd  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456  
757-581-2061  
[gunnyswitzer@outlook.com](mailto:gunnyswitzer@outlook.com)

Post 1211 JVC  
Floyd A. Baker  
3573 Muddy Creek Rd  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456  
757-426-2901

Post 3219 JVC  
Brian E. McFadden  
47 Cherry Acres Dr  
Hampton, VA 23669  
703-867-2300  
[navydude@sprynet.com](mailto:navydude@sprynet.com)

Post 10387 QM  
Kenneth Silvers  
14400 Tooley Ter  
Chester, VA 23831  
757-639-8356  
[qmpost10387@vfwva.org](mailto:qmpost10387@vfwva.org)

## 22. 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.

## 23. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

Comrades – As you will read below, January 30 will mark the 56<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Tet Offensive. I landed at Ton Son Nhut Airbase on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February and was greeted by tracers flashing into the surrounding skies and flares all over the perimeter. We were given flak jackets and helmets and told to lie down on the floor of the vehicles (with only black-out lights showing) taking us from the planes. Word of the offensive had not yet filtered down the chain of command back in the States and those of us flying in from McCord AFB in Seattle had no clue as to what was going on. I'm sure others have similar stories of those chaotic days.

The following historical events for the Vietnam War took place in January:

**January 10, 1962** - In Operation RANCH HAND, the United States and South Vietnam spray herbicides over forested regions to deny the Viet Cong jungle cover and food supplies. President Ngo Dinh Diem requests the operation and President Kennedy approves it in 1961. It lasts until 1971, and over nine years aircraft spray some 18 million gallons of chemicals over South Vietnam. The program impacts 20 percent of the nation's forests. Many people—including veterans—argue that contact with these herbicides, especially one named Agent Orange, causes a range of serious illnesses. The long term effects of herbicides remain controversial, and it is one of the longest lasting legacies of the war.

**January 2, 1963** - Elements of the South Vietnamese 7th Infantry Division engage a smaller Viet Cong force outside the village of Ap Bac, 40 miles southwest of Saigon, in the Mekong Delta. The South Vietnamese force commits numerous mistakes, and the Viet Cong troops, holding strong defensive positions, kill 63 and wound 100 South Vietnamese soldiers. Estimates of Viet Cong casualties vary. The enemy guerrilla forces also shoot down five American helicopters before successfully escaping the battlefield. Three Americans are killed in action. It is the first major South Vietnamese defeat after some notable victories in late 1962.

**January 24, 1964** - MACV establishes the Special Operations Group, which is later renamed the Studies and Observations Group (SOG). SOG is a joint-service U.S. special operations unit that conducts unconventional warfare—mainly against the Ho Chi Minh Trail and in North Vietnam—in support of a new allied covert action program called Operation Plan 34A. SOG's missions include strategic reconnaissance, capturing enemy prisoners,



rescuing downed aircrews, and conducting clandestine and psychological warfare. At peak strength, SOG consists of about 2,500 American and 7,000 Southeast Asian personnel.

**January 15, 1965** - Major Kathleen I. Wilkes and Sergeant Betty L. Adams of the U.S. Women's Army Corps (WAC) arrive in Saigon to train South Vietnam's Women's Armed Forces Corps. They are the first WAC representatives to serve in Vietnam since 1963. Many more WAC women later deploy to Vietnam. They will serve in clerical, training, administrative, finance, intelligence, logistics, and legal and civil affairs assignments in various U.S. military headquarters.

**January 7, 1966** - Through January 13, U.S. and Australian army forces mount a large search-and-destroy operation known as CRIMP. The operation is directed against a Viet Cong base area north of Saigon, adjacent to the region known as the Iron Triangle. While conducting a sweep there, and after a fierce firefight, the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment identifies a vast complex of tunnels. The complex contains a Viet Cong regional headquarters. The Australians also discover some 7,500 documents and maps, many of which reveal names and locations of Viet Cong agents. The discovery is one of the biggest intelligence coups of the war.

**January 24, 1966** - The U.S. Army 1st Cavalry Division begins Operation MASHER in Binh Dinh Province on the Bong Son Plain, a strip of land along the central coast of South Vietnam. MASHER is a large search-and-destroy operation employing multiple airmobile assaults into the narrow valleys, mountain spurs, and coastal plains north of the town of Bong Son. Shortly after the operation begins, presidential adviser McGeorge Bundy requests that MACV change MASHER's name, because the Johnson administration fears the reaction it might elicit from an American public that is increasingly skeptical of U.S. troops commitments. Bundy believes the title "MASHER" is inflammatory. In response, General William C. Westmoreland changes the operation's name to WHITE WING.

Operation MASHER/WHITE WING lasts for 41 days. Airmobile cavalrymen make a series of assaults into the Viet Cong-dominated region and, in a string of running engagements, push Communist forces toward blocking positions occupied by American, South Vietnamese, and Korean troops. Allied forces deal the Communist troops a heavy blow, killing 1,300 men, capturing 600 prisoners, and taking in 500 defectors. American losses include 228 dead and 834 wounded. The 1st Cavalry also captures several significant weapon and supply caches.

MASHER/WHITE WING comes on the heels of the Ia Drang Valley fighting and cements in U.S. commanders' minds that airmobile and search-and-destroy tactics are effective. When the operation ends in early March, however, parts of the region remain unsecured, and Communist forces reoccupy much of it in the subsequent months and years.

**January 28, 1966** - The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Senator James W. Fulbright (D-AR), begins hearings questioning the Johnson administration's Vietnam policies. Fulbright was once a supporter of the president and helped guide the 1964 Tonkin Gulf Resolution through Congress. But he has come to believe that the regime in Saigon is corrupt and irredeemable and that U.S. escalation of the war is a mistake. Those who testify at the hearings against continued U.S. participation in the war include decorated World War II veteran and retired Lieutenant General James Gavin and diplomat George F. Kennan, the primary founder of Cold War "containment" policy. The hearings collectively become known as the Fulbright Hearings and take place intermittently between 1966 and 1971. They are also televised, and the public nature of criticisms raised at the hearings angers Lyndon Johnson. Many historians later argue that the hearings helped turn popular public opinion against the war and gave a larger platform to the antiwar movement.

**January 8, 1967** - Elements of the U.S. 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions, 11th Armored Cavalry, 173d Airborne Brigade, and one South Vietnamese infantry division begin Operation CEDAR FALLS. In the largest offensive of the war to date, allied troops use a "hammer and anvil" maneuver to sweep the Iron Triangle region, about 15 miles north of Saigon, and destroy a major Viet Cong base area. Allied personnel forcibly remove thousands of civilians from villages like Ben Suc to create free-fire areas. Engineers and infantry work in unison to deny the Viet Cong concealment, destroying hundreds of tunnels and capturing tons of supplies and a large store of documents. The operation lasts until January 26 and temporarily curtails insurgency operations in the Iron Triangle. Despite the

setback, the Viet Cong avoid the destruction of their major combat forces in the area and soon return. U.S. and South Vietnamese troops kill an estimated 700 guerrilla soldiers, and allied forces lose 83 killed and 345 wounded.

**January 1968** – Installed in late 1967, Lima Site 85, on top of Phou Pha Thi Mountain, in Laos, supports a covert U.S. tactical navigation station which directs U.S. bombers to their targets in North Vietnam. Though important to the allied bombing campaign and defended by CIA, Air Force, and Hmong troops, Site 85 is highly vulnerable to being overrun. In January 1968, Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese forces begin to converge on Lima Site 85, planning to destroy it. The U.S. Air Force and the CIA direct numerous airstrikes against the attacking troops, hoping to keep the site operational for as long as possible. On January 12, the North Vietnamese conduct their first air strike of the war against ground troops when two biplanes attack the site with 120-millimeter mortar shells. Both enemy planes are shot down by the crew of an Air America helicopter.

**January 21, 1968** - In late 1967 the North Vietnamese Army begins a carefully prepared operation against the U.S. Marine base at Khe Sanh, in the northwest corner of I Corps. By January 1968, between 15,000 and 30,000 Communist troops converge on the area around the base. The base, with a small airfield for resupply, guards a primary infiltration route into South Vietnam from Laos. It is the westernmost outpost of the McNamara Line, with some 6,000 Marine defenders, roughly 3,000 garrisoned at Khe Sanh itself. On January 20, North Vietnamese troops attack a U.S. patrol. Early the next morning, the main assault follows. The U.S. reinforces Khe Sanh with artillery and air support, including the massive air campaign, Operation NIAGARA. Intense fighting and artillery barrages last into April.

Throughout the siege, there is some discord between General Westmoreland's MACV headquarters and Marine Corps leadership. Complex and ill-defined command structures between MACV and III MAF lead General Westmoreland to create MACV Forward at Phu Bai, a new headquarters to oversee the battle for I Corps and bring the Marine fixed-wing aircraft under Air Force control.

**January 23 – 29, 1968** – During this period, the South Korean army Capital Division deploys six companies on a search-and-destroy mission near Phu Cat, in South Vietnam. Following contact with a North Vietnamese force, the Koreans quickly execute an encircling maneuver, trapping the enemy. Over six days, the Korean troops slowly tighten the cordon. The North Vietnamese lose 278 men to 11 killed for the Koreans. The successful action demonstrates the ongoing effectiveness of Korean troops in their area of operations.

**January 30, 1968** - During the Vietnamese New Year celebrations known as Tet—customarily a ceasefire period observed by both sides—Communist forces launch what becomes known as the Tet Offensive. North Vietnam had been planning the offensive since early 1967. Its objective is to defeat the South Vietnamese Army and spark a popular uprising across the South, possibly ending the war in one bold stroke. Roughly 84,000 enemy troops launch coordinated, timed attacks on 36 provincial capitals and 64 district towns, as well as many American bases. The offensive shocks the American public. Media attention focuses primarily on scenes of the violence in Saigon and the U.S. Embassy compound, which is a prominent symbol of the American presence in Vietnam.

**January 31, 1968** - As part of the Tet Offensive, Communist troops assault the fortified city of Hue, the old Vietnamese imperial capital. They successfully occupy much of the city for several weeks. Though isolated, South Vietnamese and U.S. Marine and Army troops resist the attackers in bitter house-to-house fighting, resulting in high military and civilian casualties. U.S. Marine Task Force X-Ray fights its way into Hue's MACV compound and retakes buildings south of the Perfume River. Later, additional South Vietnamese and U.S. troops arrive as reinforcements. The battle for Hue continues for almost a month. The Viet Cong arrest and execute as many as 3,000 civilians, acts which go largely unreported at the time. The battle ravages the city, destroying or damaging as much as 80 percent of its structures. Over 100,000 people are left homeless.

**January 13, 1969** - In Operation BOLD MARINER, a U.S. Navy Seventh Fleet task force puts a brigade-size Marine force ashore on the Batangan Peninsula, Quang Ngai Province, in South Vietnam. The region has long been a Viet Cong stronghold. The operation's objective is to identify and clear out Viet Cong agents and secure the civilian population. The Marines, working in concert with U.S. Army and South Vietnamese troops, screen some 12,000 civilians and remove them from their villages for resettlement further south. They then identify and destroy

nearly eight miles of enemy tunnels. The main portion of BOLD MARINER lasts until early February and is the largest amphibious operation of the war.

**January 14, 1969** - While steaming off of Hawaii before deploying to Vietnam, the nuclear-powered carrier *USS Enterprise* suffers a costly fire when a rocket ignites on the flight deck and triggers explosions in nearby aircraft. Though the flames are brought under control, 27 crewmen are killed, 344 are injured, and 15 aircraft are destroyed.

**January 22, 1969** - From January 22 to March 19, the U.S. 9th Marine Regiment conducts Operation DEWEY CANYON. Its objective is to eliminate a North Vietnamese buildup in the Da Krong Valley, an enemy supply route between the Laotian border and the A Shau Valley. Over the course of two months, Marine infantry units, transported and supported by helicopters, operate in the two valleys constructing fire bases and clearing out North Vietnamese troops. The operation accounts for numerous enemy casualties and the capture or destruction of thousands of tons of enemy arms, ammunition, and supplies.

**January 5, 1971** - The Cooper-Church Amendment, which is attached to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-652), goes into effect. It cuts off funding for U.S. ground operations and military advisers in Laos and Cambodia. The amendment also stops U.S. support for South Vietnamese operations in those countries. The amendment is a direct legislative response to the U.S. incursion into Cambodia and is sponsored by Senators John Cooper (R-KY) and Frank Church (D-ID).

**January 12, 1971** - President Nixon signs an amendment to the Foreign Military Sales Act (Public Law 91-672) into law. The bill contains an attachment officially repealing the 1964 Tonkin Gulf Resolution. In ensuing years, Congress introduces multiple pieces of legislation meant to restrict the funding for and scope of U.S. military operations in Southeast Asia.

**January 27, 1973** - The “Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam,” otherwise known as the Paris Peace Accords, is signed by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Vietnam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government (Viet Cong), and the United States. Among other stipulations, the agreement establishes a ceasefire, a 60-day period for withdrawal of all American and other foreign troops, and the return of U.S. civilian and military personnel held prisoner by Communist forces. The accords officially end direct U.S. military involvement in Vietnam. The next day, President Nixon uses an executive order to end the draft and inaugurate an all-volunteer military.

**January 29, 1973** - MAG 12 begins departing for Iwakuni, Japan. The group completes its redeployment by February 3, becoming the last American fixed-wing aviation unit to depart Vietnam.

Happy New Year to you all and to my fellow Vietnam Vets “Welcome Home”.

Jeff Dombroff  
Vietnam War Commemoration Committee Chairman

Official:



Ed Mann  
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Mitch Rubenstein  
State Commander



# REGISTRATION DEADLINE JANUARY 3<sup>rd</sup>

## WINTER COUNCIL MEETING

January 9 – 12, 2025

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

([Hotel Group Rate Deadline is December 19<sup>th</sup>](#))

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR BANQUET TICKET  
\$55.00

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

### Dinner Menu

**Herb Crusted Chicken**

**AND**

**Sliced Herb Crusted Roast Beef**

Served with:

House Salad

Southern Style Green Beans    Oven Roasted Potatoes

Warm Rolls and Butter

Chocolate Cake

Coffee    Iced Tea

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RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY **JANUARY 3, 2025** (NO EXCEPTIONS)  
Check, Discover, American Express, Visa, or MasterCard Accepted

Person placing the order (name) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out completely for each person you are registering including Post number or Auxiliary number:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Aux: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Aux: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Aux: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Aux: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Aux: \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my card: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle One: Discover American Express MasterCard Visa SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form to: State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401  
You may also e-mail this form to: [statehq@vfwva.org](mailto:statehq@vfwva.org) or fax it to 1-866-416-0586 if paying by Credit Card only

***Pre-paid tickets will not be mailed to you; they will be available for pick up at registration.***



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

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

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025**

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

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2025**

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

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025**

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

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025**

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

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

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

**(Tentative schedule subject to change)**



## My HealtheVet sign-in changes in 2025

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

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

Here's what to know:

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

PREPARE FOR SIGN-IN CHANGES

## VA is here for you.

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

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

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

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



# VFW Department of Virginia

## Job Announcement

Administrative Assistant (State Service Office)

Location: Tidewater

TITLE: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

SALARY: \$12.50 an hour

### Roles and Responsibilities:

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

### Qualifications for the position:

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

### Additional notes:

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

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

# **VFW Department of Virginia**

## **Job Announcement**

Assistant Department Service Officer

Location: Norfolk Service Office Post 3160

111 A View Ave.

Norfolk Virginia 23503

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pay starts at \$12.50 an hour.

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

VFW DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

TITLE: VFW ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

SALARY: minimum \$12.50  
an hour

DEPARTMENT: VIRGINIA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# **INVITATION**



## **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of the Colmar Pocket in Alsace, France 3 Dec 44 to 9 Feb 45**

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

Honors veterans of the 6<sup>th</sup> Army Group, 1<sup>st</sup> French Army, XXI<sup>st</sup> US Corps, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>  
Infantry Divisions, 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, 36<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
28<sup>th</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup>, and 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions, the 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, XXI<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:timmoni15@yahoo.com), PH: 571 419-8915.

# **INVITATION**

**VFW**

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 637

**IRAQ WAR  
VETERAN**

2003 - 2007

**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





# 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](http://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

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

## Assess the Urgency and Tone

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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](http://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](https://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](mailto:VirginiaVeteransNetwork@dvs.virginia.gov)

 804-786-0286

## GET CONNECTED.

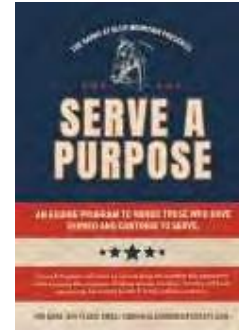
Here's how: Visit [dvs.virginia.gov](https://dvs.virginia.gov) to create a profile and validate your veteran or service member status. After registering, you'll find services and resources from hundreds of local and nationwide organizations vetted by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS).



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](http://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.

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](mailto:cg12dc12@outlook.com)

**FOR SALE!**





## *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](mailto:kuhn@comcast.net)

Carol Vangi, Chief of Staff  
[cjonesvangi@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mcasper@techfortroops.org)

Website: [TechforTroops.org](http://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](http://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](http://TechforTroops.org) or contact us at 804-521-7979 or [info@TechforTroops.org](mailto:info@TechforTroops.org).

**### END ###**



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

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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](http://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](http://vfnationalhome.org)

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### **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](http://vfnationalhome.org)  
*Purchase National Home Life Membership \$50*

### **GREAT NEWS...**

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.



## **100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration – 2025**

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

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

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

June 28, 2025 - 100<sup>th</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration on June 28<sup>th</sup> 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***