

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

"Of the Veterans and For the Veterans"

**NUMBER 12**

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**June 1, 2025**

Staunton, Virginia 24401  
In Virginia 800-888-3521

**GUIDE TO THE GO:**

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**1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:**

Comrades,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve alongside you as the Department of Virginia's State Commander for 2024-2025. As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together. By now, all Posts should have a new slate of officers ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the 2025-2026 year. It's truly a moment of transition—out with the old and in with the new—and this change brings new ideas as well as a different approach, both excitement and hope for what lies ahead.

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to each one of you. Your dedication, camaraderie, and unwavering support have made this year not just productive but memorable. From our shared victories to overcoming challenges together, every moment has been a testament to our collective strength and resilience. This year has been an incredible journey, reminding us all that together we can achieve great things. Let us carry forward this spirit of unity and purpose as we step into the future!

To the Line Officers, Ed and Angie, and everyone that has been there along the way, you are the reason for all the successes we had this year. **This band of brothers we call the A-Team** has been the best group of people that I had the privilege to work with in a very long time. None of us ever let any differences come between us, we picked on each other equally as all branch's do, some of us were picked on more than others which will cost you this year, but boy did we laugh. This enjoyable stress-free working environment that we created is a true testament to what can be done when you enjoy your job, and when you surround yourself with great people. To my counterpart Dawn, the

ride is almost over, and I am so grateful for your friendship, and conversations we had throughout this year. We may not have been at a lot of meetings together, however, whenever we were together it was a blast, and I thank you, for all you and the Auxiliary has done to make this year memorable and meaningful.

Congratulations to all the winners, that will receive awards at the Convention. To all the All-State Posts, and Districts, Commanders, and Quartermasters for your persistence throughout the year to ensure your Posts and Districts were held to a higher standard and achieved greatness. **With that being said we still have until the end of June to capture the goals we set out to achieve with Membership nearing 100% we need to be at 102%, for All-American and the Online Reports to be at 100% for the year.** I will continue to send out the daily numbers until we achieve what we started.

Lastly, I (Army) want to wish the new State Commander Doug Hoffman nothing but smooth sailing as he sets out for his years journey. I hope you don't encounter any rough seas and as a true Navy-Squid/Submariner you know when to dive, dive, dive, when necessary, maybe even shoot off a missile or two.

Best of luck,  
Mitch Rubenstein  
Soon to be Immediate Past Commander signing off

## 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. ALL STATE:

Congratulations to the following District and Posts who made All-State by May 9, 2025. If your Post is not on the list, you still have until June 30<sup>th</sup> to achieve All State don't stop working on membership.

District 1, Department of Virginia  
District 5, Department of Virginia

District 8, Department of Virginia  
District 10, Department of Virginia

VFW Post 3219, District 1, Phoebus, VA  
VFW Post 8252, District 1, Gloucester, VA  
VFW Post 960, District 1, Yorktown, VA  
VFW Post 12225, District 1, GTMO, VA  
VFW Post 2894, District 2, Chesapeake, VA  
VFW Post 2582, District 2, Suffolk, VA  
VFW Post 3160, District 2, Norfolk, VA  
VFW Post 4411, District 2, Franklin, VA  
VFW Post 8545, District 2, Smithfield, VA  
VFW Post 12217, District 2, Holland, VA  
VFW Post 622, District 3, Petersburg, VA  
VFW Post 4639, District 3, Williamsburg, VA  
VFW Post 9808, District 3, Mechanicsville, VA  
VFW Post 2239, District 3, Colonial Heights, VA  
VFW Post 8046, District 3, Norge, VA  
VFW Post 10840, District 5, Penhook, VA  
VFW Post 7800, District 5, Stuart, VA  
VFW Post 1841, District 6, Daleville, VA

VFW Post 2447, District 7, Edinburg, VA  
VFW Post 3103, District 8, Fredericksburg, VA  
VFW Post 7589, District 8, Manassas, VA  
VFW Post 7728, District 8, Morrisville, VA  
VFW Post 12202, District 8, King George, VA  
VFW Post 12218, District 8, Haymarket, VA  
VFW Post 1115, District 9, Hillsville, VA  
VFW Post 3150, District 10, Arlington, VA  
VFW Post 1503, District 10, Dale City, VA  
VFW Post 609, District 10, Alexandria, VA  
VFW Post 1177, District 10, Leesburg, VA  
VFW Post 8469, District 10, Fairfax, VA  
VFW Post 2216, District 11, Staunton, VA  
VFW Post 8644, District 11, Bridgewater, VA  
VFW Post 10826, District 11, Verona, VA  
VFW Post 2613, District 13, Columbia, VA  
VFW Post 8947, District 13, Louisa, VA  
VFW Post 10574, District 13, Colonial Beach, VA

#### 4. AUDIT REPORTS:

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

Also, attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 (a)(11) of the National Manual of Procedure, Officers: Duties and Obligations. Trustees Report of Audit must be prepared in detail within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, one of which ended March 31 and is **NOW PAST DUE**.

#### 5. DELEGATE FEE:

In accordance with the National By-Laws Section 222(C), each Post will pay in accordance with Department By-Laws a delegate registration fee for each delegate to which the Post shall be entitled.

Therefore, you must submit your delegates list (form is enclosed) to the Department in accordance with Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure (B) along with a check in the amount of \$5.00 for every delegate your Post is entitled to as of membership status March 31. All delegate lists and monies should be sent to Department Headquarters by **June 11, 2025**. Failure to do so will put your Post in arrears to the Department and the Post will have no voting strength at the State Convention.

#### 6. DELINQUENT:

Dist.	Post	Audits	Dist.	Post	Audits	Dist.	Post	Audits
1	176	March	6	2157	March	9	9640	December
2	2296	December	6	4299	March	10	5412	March
5	873	March	6	5895	March	10	8241	March
6	1033	March	7	1860	March	12	5715	March
			9	2719	March			

#### 7. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Date: 8/30/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 3219, Phoebus 122 E Mellen St, Hampton	5 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 8/16/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Date: 8/16/25 Meeting: 9:00 AM Location: Post 3160 Norfolk 111 A View Avenue	6 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 8/2/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1264 Roanoke (sponsored Post 2157) 4930 Grandview Avenue NW
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Date: 9/13/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Lunch: To follow Meeting Location: Post 9808 Mechanicsville 7168 Flag Lane	7 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 8/23/25 Meeting: 11:30 AM Location: Post 9760 Berryville 425 S Buckmarsh St
4 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 8/9/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 8163 Clarksville 7488 Hwy 15N	8 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 9/6/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 3103 Fredericksburg 2701 Princess Anne St

9<sup>th</sup>      Date:            9/20/25  
         Meeting:       10:00 AM  
         Location:      Post 2719 Wytheville  
                             250 S 4<sup>th</sup> St

11<sup>th</sup>      Date:            9/13/25  
         Meeting:       9:00 AM  
         Location:      Post 632 Harrisonburg  
                             450 Waterman Dr

10<sup>th</sup>      Date:            8/30/25  
         Meeting:       10:00 AM  
         Location:      Post 1503 Dale City  
                             14631 Minnieville Rd

12<sup>th</sup>      Date:            8/2/25  
         Meeting:       10:00 AM  
         Location:      Post 1994 Abingdon  
                             17581 Lee Highway

13<sup>th</sup>      Date            8/16/25  
         Meeting:       11:00 AM  
         Location:      Post 1827 Charlottesville  
                             1170 River Rd

## **8. ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE AT THE STATE CONVENTION:**

Per Section 213 of the National Bylaws, Posts that have not submitted a properly completed Post Election Report by June 1 are in arrears and shall be deprived of all representation in District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustments of such deficiencies. Posts that have registered delegates for the Department and National Conventions will not receive credentials until the Post has satisfied their arrearage.

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

## **9. 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.

## **10. FLAG DAY, JUNE 14:**

All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Saturday, June 14 and to conduct a ceremony or program as feasible. You may contact the VFW Communications Department for a Flag Day speech. It is also suggested Posts should award the VFW Patriotic Citizen Award (Product No. 4385) for those who have daily displayed our National flag.

## **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 since January 1, 2014.



## 12. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts will reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails the week after the State Convention. This will be the primary means of sending correspondence from State Headquarters to Post and District Officers.

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

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

1. Go to Department web site [www.vfwva.org](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 **VFW2025!** once you have accessed the mail program you will be asked to change it; it must contain at least one uppercase letter and one number.

For Post Officers, your address will be [cdrrpost176@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrrpost176@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 [cdrrdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrrdist1@vfwva.org) for Districts other than the first just replace the 1 with your district # **Please note District Senior Vice Commander's now have an email address**

[svrdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:svrdist1@vfwva.org)  
[adjdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:adjdist1@vfwva.org)  
[qmdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:qmdist1@vfwva.org)

## 13. IMPORTANT DATES:

June 18 - 22, 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
August 23, 2025	District Commander School/Fall Council Meeting, Augusta -Staunton Post 2216, Staunton at 9:00 am
November 6 - 9, 2025	Southern Conference, Montgomery, TX
January 8 - 11, 2026	Winter Council, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$129.00 per night. Cutoff Date is Monday, December 8, 2025, by 5:00 pm.
August 15 - 19, 2026	National Convention, Salt Lake City, UT
October 22 - 25, 2026	Southern Conference, Mobile, AL

## 14. LIFE MEMBER PAYOUT:

The following will be the 2025-2026 Life Member Payout. The National Council of Administration concurred with the payment amounts at its March 2, 2025, meeting.

- Plan ABC - A total payout of \$10.50 for each life member (\$3.50 to each Post, Department and National).
- Plan D - A total payout of \$11.70 for each life member (\$3.90 to each Post, Department and National).
- Plan E - A total payout of \$23.10 for each life member (\$7.70 to each Post, Department and National).

Note: At-Large Members' corresponding plan pay out amount is divided by two. For example, Plan ABC At-Large Payout is \$5.25 (\$10.50 / 2, Department & National).

This information will also be placed in the VFW General Orders and other communications. As indicated in the By-Laws, payment will be made in September 2025 for all Life Members recorded as of August 31, 2025. In addition, a payment will be made in January 2026 for all Life Members processed during the period September 1 through December 31, 2025.

We wanted to get this information to you as soon as possible, because we know it affects your Post's budget projections for the ensuing year.

Marc Garduno  
Quartermaster General  
VFW National Headquarters

## 15. 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

## 16. MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE:

The Military Order of the Cootie year starts June 1st and continues through May 31st each year. Your Cooties are conducting their Pup Tent elections for the upcoming year and will take command of their Pup Tents after the Grand Installation in June at the Department Convention. Cooties are out supporting Veterans in Hospitals and the grand special project of Equine Therapy. We have contributions going out to support Equine Therapy for Veterans in the Richmond, Williamsburg, and Dale City areas. if you would like to contribute to this special project, please email me and we can discuss locations to contribute in your area.

The new Pup Tent 20 is getting closer to being initiated in Daleville, VA. To be eligible to be a Cootie you need to have completed six months in an officer position or active with your Post. Contact me for information regarding becoming a Cootie in the New Pup Tent.

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

## **17. NATIONAL CONVENTION:**

The 126th National Convention housing officially opened March 18, 2025. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at [vfw.org/convention](http://vfw.org/convention). The convention website will also have general convention information including the registration form and links to other convention related information for Columbus, OH – Aug. 9-13, including a tentative agenda.

Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials, and one identified registered delegate for the VFW National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten-dollar (\$10) delegate fee provided the Post has paid the mandated \$25 advance registration fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. **ATTN:** Convention Registration, Quartermasters are strongly encouraged to register delegates utilizing the on-line membership system (OMS).

## **18. OFFICE CLOSURE:**

State Headquarters will be closed June 19 – 23, 2025, for the State Convention.

The State Service Offices located in Smithfield and Dale City are closed June 19, 2025, in observance of Juneteenth.

## **19. POSTS IN ARREARS FOR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:**

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

## **20. PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY:**

Post, District, Department Commanders, Adjutants and Quartermasters are reminded of the requirements of Sections 216, 416 and 516 of the Manual of Procedure with regard to proof of eligibility for all newly-elected and appointed officers. Elected and appointed officers **shall not be installed** or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Failure or refusal to submit proof of eligibility within thirty (30) days of election or appointment shall result in the office being declared vacant.

## **21. 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.

## **22. RESOLUTIONS:**

“Resolutions: Resolutions are the way the rank and file of the VFW can influence the organization’s priorities and processes. Program Resolutions, with the familiar WHEREAS paragraphs, are intended to bring decisionmaker attention to concerns (e.g., asking Congress to pass the PACT Act or asking the VFW National to implement a specific program). Resolutions to change By-Laws, Manual of Procedure, or Ritual take on a different format. For

these proposals text to be added is underlined and italicized (and can even be ***bolded***) whereas the text to be deleted is ~~struck out~~. An example of this type of resolutions was adding Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day to the list of special days of observance in the VFW Ritual. Please see the four-page Amendments and Resolutions Manual, in last month's General Orders.

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

Posts can submit draft resolutions to the Committee prior to formal approval by Post membership so that logic and clarity of the arguments can be finessed and smoothed out. The Post can then vote on whether to approve the returned draft Resolution. Once formally approved by Post membership (at a Post meeting), the Resolution can be forwarded to State Headquarters, who will share with the Resolutions Committee. It is not necessary to submit a Resolution to District for approval, however, best practices suggest that the Resolution be socialized in order to garner necessary support for an eventual up/down vote at Department Convention."

M. C. "Connie" Agresti  
Chairman, Resolutions Committee  
[mcagresti@vfwva.org](mailto:mcagresti@vfwva.org)  
[mcaiii@aol.com](mailto:mcaiii@aol.com)

## 23. SCHOLARSHIP THEMES:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is now accepting entries for its 79th annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarship competitions. The 2025-2026 theme asks America's students "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"

Student entries may be submitted (along with a completed entry form) to their local participating VFW Post. The deadline for both contests is **Oct. 31, 2025**.

[Read more about the contests](#), or submit your essay and entry form at your local participating [VFW Post](#).

## 24. STATE CONVENTION:

The overflow hotel for the State Convention is the Double Tree by Hilton located at 1400 E Market St, Harrisonburg, VA 22801; the Phone Number is 540-433-2521. They will honor the Convention rate of \$129.00 a night. Call me if you run into any issues with booking.

Also below is the booking link for the Convention overflow hotel. Let me know if you have any problems.

<https://group.doubletree.com/826mi9>

Below is the link to attend the State Convention by Zoom. If you are an All State Commander or Quartermaster you must attend in person to receive the stipend.

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_NGU4NGEzYjYtZWYzNC00MzU3LTg5OGUtZWU1NjM3Njg1NDlk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22c330e5f5-a378-44b5-a8d0-38deeed908a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22ce1a7d4b-c794-40cf-b245-e9efe97c93dc%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NGU4NGEzYjYtZWYzNC00MzU3LTg5OGUtZWU1NjM3Njg1NDlk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22c330e5f5-a378-44b5-a8d0-38deeed908a%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22ce1a7d4b-c794-40cf-b245-e9efe97c93dc%22%7d)

Ed Mann, State Adjutant/Quartermaster  
Office: 540-886-8112  
Cell: 804-304-7726

## 25. STATE CONVENTION INSTALLATION:

Everyone being installed at the State Convention to include the District Commanders should be in a coat and tie. Also, you will need to stick around after for photos so we can update the website. My wife, Tracy, will be taking the photos for that.

Doug Hoffman  
State Senior Vice Commander  
Unity Brings Victory

## 26. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

With the end of April, the official 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary period for the Vietnam War has come to an end. As such, this will be my last report and I recommend that the Committee not be reconstituted for the 2025-2026 period. It has been a distinct honor to Chair this Committee and report on historical events that have taken place up to the end of April 1975.

Earlier this month, Post 9835 received a package from the Vietnam Anniversary Committee containing a Blue Commemorative Partner flag and about 50 Vietnam War Veteran pins (different from the one shown on the upper left of this memo). I don't know if other Posts received similar packages but it's my intent, with your permission, to give a final oral report at the Convention and then announce that I have a supply of the pins with me and will give it to anyone who requests one after the meeting.

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

1965 (June 10<sup>th</sup>) - The first contingent of combat troops from Australia arrives in South Vietnam aboard the HMAS Sydney as part of the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR). The rest of the 1RAR arrives by air. The 1RAR consists of approximately 1,400 troops attached to the U.S. 173d Airborne Brigade stationed near Bien Hoa Air Base. It includes one combat infantry battalion, a signal unit, and other elements.

1965 (June 17<sup>th</sup>) - Two U.S. Navy F-4 Phantom aircrews record the first confirmed U.S. air-to-air kills of the Vietnam War. The Phantoms, of Fighter Squadron 21 from the carrier USS *Midway*, shoot down two North Vietnamese MiG-17s using air-to-air missiles.

1965 (June 18<sup>th</sup>) - The first Arc Light mission, flown by 30 U.S. Air Force B-52 bombers, is launched against suspected Viet Cong targets near Ben Cat, approximately 40 miles north of Saigon. During the mission, two B-52s collide and crash at sea, killing eight crewmen. "Arc Light" becomes the term used for B-52 bombing missions flown in South Vietnam and adjacent portions of Laos, Cambodia, and North Vietnam. B-52 Stratofortresses fly these missions primarily from bases in Guam and Thailand. B-52s, originally designed to carry nuclear weapons, are modified to carry conventional ordnance because most Arc Light missions consist of the bombing of enemy camps and supply lines in tactical support of the ground war. They continue until August 1973, mostly against Viet Cong-held regions of South Vietnam and the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

1966 (June 2<sup>nd</sup>) - Operation HAWTHORNE begins. Its objective is to relieve a garrison of South Vietnamese Regional Forces, which has been surrounded by the North Vietnamese at a Special Forces camp near Dak To, Kontum Province. Participants include elements of the 101st Airborne Division, two South Vietnamese battalions, and ample air support. After the allied troops rescue the garrison, they pursue a skillful and aggressive North Vietnamese force. The North Vietnamese 24th Regiment is eventually pushed back and pinned in its fortified base area, where it is shattered by B-52 Arc Light strikes. Enemy forces finally withdraw, and HAWTHORNE ends on June 20.

1967 (June 1<sup>st</sup>) - Task Force 117, the Mobile Riverine Force, becomes operational. It is a joint U.S. Army-Navy task force whose goal is to search out and eliminate Viet Cong elements along the Mekong Delta's many

waterways. During operations, Navy gunboats and landing craft offload Army infantry units in amphibious assaults on enemy positions in the delta. The task force is disestablished in 1969.

1968 (June 19<sup>th</sup>) - As part of an effort to mobilize more of the population in the aftermath of the Tet Offensive, the South Vietnamese government announces the formation of the People's Self-Defense Force (PSDF). Those men not eligible for the military draft are required to join the PSDF. This primarily includes 16- and 17-year-olds and men between 39 and 50. Teenagers under 16, men over 50, and women are encouraged to serve in noncombat support roles. This defense force becomes an important part of MACV's pacification and security program after 1968. The PSDF is a part-time militia that uses guerrilla tactics to defend local villages. As many as four million South Vietnamese are enrolled in the PSDF in either combat or support units. Wherever the program is well-implemented, local security noticeably improves, but in general PSDF performance is uneven.

1969 (June 3<sup>rd</sup>) - During a nighttime SEATO naval exercise in the South China Sea, the Australian aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne and the U.S. Navy destroyer USS *Frank E. Evans* collide. The Evans is cut in two and its bow quickly sinks. Of the over 270 crewmen aboard the Evans, 74 are killed. There are no reported deaths aboard the Melbourne.

1969 (June 10<sup>th</sup>) - At a conference with South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu on Midway Island, President Nixon announces that the United States will withdraw 25,000 troops from Vietnam by the end of August. The first to leave are elements of the 3d Marine Division and the Army's 9th Infantry Division. It is the first significant redeployment of American troops in the war.

1969 (June 1-30) - The last of five Air National Guard (ANG) units in Southeast Asia returns to the United States. About 2,000 Air National Guardsmen serve in Vietnam, and they fly over 30,000 sorties. Seven are killed in action. Approximately 4,000 additional ANG personnel serve in other locations throughout East Asia.

1971 (June 13<sup>th</sup>) - The New York Times publishes the first of a series of articles based on the Pentagon Papers, a leaked collection of secret government files that reveals the history of U.S. policy in Vietnam. The papers—officially called United States-Vietnam Relations, 1945–1967—were put together by a task force formed by Secretary of Defense McNamara to study the course of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. They include over 7,000 pages of narrative and original government documents. One of the study's authors, Daniel Ellsberg, photocopies it and gives it to the Times. Additional newspapers publish articles based on the Pentagon Papers soon thereafter. The Nixon administration reacts harshly, seeking an injunction against their publication. Nixon works to discredit Ellsberg and suspects others in his administration of leaking information to the press. By 1972, the Pentagon Papers are formally declassified and the U.S. government publishes most of them. The Papers lead many to criticize the Kennedy and Johnson administrations' strategies and policies in Southeast Asia.

1972 (June 16<sup>th</sup>) - MAG 15 redeploys from Da Nang to Nam Phong, Thailand, where it supports operations of the U.S. Seventh Air Force against Communist forces in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Jeff Dombroff  
Vietnam War Commemoration Committee Chairman

Official:



Ed Mann  
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Mitch Rubenstein  
State Commander

State Headquarters  
403 Lee Jackson Highway  
Staunton, Virginia 24401  
[www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org)



Phone: 540-886-8112  
800-888-3521  
Fax: 866-416-0586  
Email: [statehq@vfwva.org](mailto:statehq@vfwva.org)

March 25, 2025

Comrades:

On March 18<sup>th</sup> your Council of Administration held a Special meeting to discuss vital business of the Department. As part of that meeting a discussion was held concerning the Service Officer Program.

The Service officer program for the Department of Virginia has taken a hit over the last few years. Having two Department Officers covering the entire state is not giving our veterans and their families the attention that they deserve to fully complete their claims. Therefore, the Council felt a need for a change. As of 1 April, our staff have been instructed not to take on any new clients or power of attorney's and begin the process of deferring all new claims to the Virginia Department of Veteran Services.

We have established a strong network and working relationship with DVS, which will give our members a larger pool to assist the veterans in every district. Our tax dollars are now funding 78 fully accredited full-time service officers and 21 administrative positions across the commonwealth now devoted to serving our veteran community. In addition, DVS also has a fully funded and staffed appeals team to represent Virginia veterans before the Board of Veterans Appeals and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Due to fiscal realities the Council felt this was in the best interest of our veteran community. There is going to be a period of transition over the next few months, and we urge our members to be patient during this time. Our program will officially end on September 1, 2025, but the DVS will be there for our members starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

This was a very difficult decision to make but one your Council felt was in the best interest of Virginia's veterans and their families.

My personal thanks go out to our dedicated VFW VSOs, Laurie Clay and Raymond Bailey, for their hard work over their time with the VFW. We look forward to their continued pursuits in serving our veterans.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitch Rubenstein".

Mitch Rubenstein  
State Commander  
Veterans of Foreign Wars



SEPARATING/RETIRING AND NEED VA CLAIMS ASSISTANCE?

EMAIL [BDD@VFW.ORG](mailto:BDD@VFW.ORG) WITH YOUR SEPARATION DATE

OR SCAN FOR POINTS OF CONTACT



START A CLAIM AS EARLY AS 180 DAYS PRIOR TO  
SEPARATION/RETIREMENT

PLEASE HAVE YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS

WE ARE VA ACCREDITED

NO COST, NO MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED



# Department of Virginia Commanders Club

Commanders and Seam Squirrels join the Department of Virginia Commanders Club

We promote the interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in accordance with the By-Laws of the Department of Virginia and in addition to fostering esprit de corps provide additional scholarships for youth (VOD/PP/SOY).

All Past, Present, and Elected Post, District, Department, and National Commanders, Seam Squirrels, Grand Commanders, and Supreme Commanders are eligible.

If you are a current member of the Department of Virginia Commanders Club please assist me by sending your Roster information to [treasurerclub@vfwva.org](mailto:treasurerclub@vfwva.org).

Life Member Dues are \$35.00

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Department of Virginia Commanders Club

MAIL CHECK TO: Ken Shannon  
Commanders Club Treasurer  
152 Old Carriage Way  
Williamsburg VA 23188

## OR PAY ONLINE AT EVENTBRITE WITH A SERVICE FEE:

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/department-of-virginia-commanders-club-lunch-tickets-1256030012579?aff=oddtcreator&utm\\_campaign=46082713&utm\\_term=ctabutton&mipa=ABIdvVvBuMBQB0j82UIMa0c\\_oLpH6jwXzl2WD0Is0jzXcSQ01KfhqeXXrBml2Y0shMmyiTFrZHwbn7qf1x5Hnidyy6VL-D28Wi6VNrVmnNZYvWCxEX6YCFjrsn14ENZ192UvvGI0qknBks5oM6b5Hsl7jHEQg6lYqoWw7Xjp8E-dF1fCBuVR-Nwl7RaFsn8BF5v1kh2iuOKsQYmCKAgZzrQKH-iLTsFgc\\_Y84Y6J4SWF\\_4cZdY61d3PhO1ZXo7G4UpQhrVOLEwSNX3d3Lf5KStMGjHjsDJA&utm\\_source=eventbrite&utm\\_medium=ebcampaigns](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/department-of-virginia-commanders-club-lunch-tickets-1256030012579?aff=oddtcreator&utm_campaign=46082713&utm_term=ctabutton&mipa=ABIdvVvBuMBQB0j82UIMa0c_oLpH6jwXzl2WD0Is0jzXcSQ01KfhqeXXrBml2Y0shMmyiTFrZHwbn7qf1x5Hnidyy6VL-D28Wi6VNrVmnNZYvWCxEX6YCFjrsn14ENZ192UvvGI0qknBks5oM6b5Hsl7jHEQg6lYqoWw7Xjp8E-dF1fCBuVR-Nwl7RaFsn8BF5v1kh2iuOKsQYmCKAgZzrQKH-iLTsFgc_Y84Y6J4SWF_4cZdY61d3PhO1ZXo7G4UpQhrVOLEwSNX3d3Lf5KStMGjHjsDJA&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=ebcampaigns)

PLEASE SEND THIS COMPLETED FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Post or Pup Tent \_\_\_\_\_

Dates as Commander or Seam Squirrel \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

# PLEASE NOTE

All State Post  
Commanders and All  
State Post  
Quartermasters **Must**  
**attend AND sign in** to  
all highlighted  
Meetings on the  
Convention Agenda to  
receive the \$300.00  
stipend.

103<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION  
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOTEL MADISON  
HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA  
JUNE 19 - 22, 2025

Kathy Goodall  
Convention Chairman

Sandra Terry  
Convention Vice Chairman

**Tentative Subject to Change**

All State Post Commanders and All State Post Quartermasters **Must attend AND sign in** to all highlighted Meetings on the Convention Agenda to receive the \$300.00 stipend.

**Thursday,  
June 19, 2025**

11:00 AM	NOON	COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING	MADISON BOARDROOM
10:00 AM	4:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	CONF CENTER FOYER
12:30 PM	2:00 PM	VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION MEETING	MADISON BOARDROOM
2:30 PM	4:00 PM	JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICES	SHENANDOAH A&B
<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>9:00 PM</b>	<b>JOINT PRESENTATION OF AWARDS</b>	<b>SHENANDOAH A&amp;B</b>

**Friday,  
June 20, 2025**

7:30 AM	8:30 AM	PAST STATE COMMANDERS/PRESIDENTS BREAKFAST	DOLLEY MADISON DINING ROOM
8:00 AM	5:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	CONF CENTER FOYER
<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>JOINT OPENING SESSION</b>	<b>SHENANDOAH A&amp;B</b>
<b>12:30 PM</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>	<b>VFW BUSINESS SESSION (NOMINATION OF STATE OFFICERS)</b>	<b>SHENANDOAH B</b>
4:00 PM	5:30 PM	WOMEN VETERANS FORUM	SHENANDOAH B
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	MOVIE My Dead Friend Zoe.	SHENANDOAH B
7:30 PM	9:30 PM	MOC DEGREE WORK	ALLEGHENY

**Saturday,  
June 21, 2025**

8:30 AM	10:30 AM	REGISTRATION, VFW	CONF CENTER FOYER
<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>BUSINESS SESSION</b>	<b>SHENANDOAH B</b>
11:30 AM	1:00 PM	COMMANDERS CLUB LUNCH	ALLEGHENY A.B&C
<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS</b>	<b>SHENANDOAH B</b>
3:15 PM	4:30 PM	MOC SCRATCH	MADISON BOARDROOM
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	VFW RIDERS MEETING	MADISON BOARDROOM
6:30 PM	9:00 PM	COMMANDERS RECEPTION	SHENANDOAH A&B

**Sunday,  
June 22, 2025**

9:00 AM	9:30 AM	JOINT DEVOTIONAL SERVICE	SHENANDOAH A
9:30 AM	11:00 AM	COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION	MADISON BOARDROOM

Registration \$5.00 (All VFW members are required to register in advance as delegates from their Post)

**SATURDAY RECEPTION/DANCE - THERE WILL BE A \$10.00 FEE TO THOSE WANTING TO ATTEND  
HOSPITALITY ROOM - Department – APPALACHIAN Ballroom**

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

CHAIRMAN, CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

103<sup>rd</sup> Annual State Convention, Harrisonburg, Virginia June 19 – 22, 2025

Below are listed the Delegates and alternates duly elected at a regular meeting of Post \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

Name - Delegates		Title	Name - Alternates		Title
1	Example – John Smith	Cmdr	1	Example – John Doe	Trustee
2			2		
3			3		
4			4		
5			5		
6			6		
7			7		
8			8		
9			9		
10			10		
11			11		
12			12		
13			13		
14			14		
15			15		
16			16		
17			17		
18			18		
19			19		
20			20		

Official:

Yours in Comradeship,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Post Adjutant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Post Commander

MAIL TO:

VFW State Headquarters 403 Lee Jackson Hwy Staunton, VA 24401

Elect one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for each 30 members or fraction thereof in Memstats in the Post at the date of election. Delegate strength to be based on State Quartermasters records as of March 31, 2025, with the exception of New Posts organized after that date and prior to opening date of State Convention – June 19, 2025. **Each Post must pay \$5.00 for every delegate that they are entitled to.** Please send **form and check** to State Headquarters by June 11, 2025.

Please make sure you put Comrades that **ARE ATTENDING** the State Convention first.

Delegate fees **must be paid regardless** of whether anyone is attending the State Convention or not.

If there are any questions, please contact State Headquarters at 540-886-8112 or email [statehq@vfwva.org](mailto:statehq@vfwva.org)

# FREE MOVIE SCREENING!

VFW Virginia State Convention

Friday June 20<sup>th</sup> – 6pm-7:45pm

Appalachian A, B&C



Dark Comedy inspired by a true story.  
By a US Army vet filmmaker.  
About vets. Starring vets.

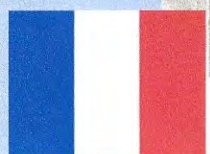




# Korean War Historical Seminar



The 9<sup>th</sup> Korean War historical seminar  
hosted by OP International,  
Society of the 3d Infantry Division and  
the Korean Defense Attaché's Office



**What:** A historical seminar commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War on 25 June 1950

**Who:** Korean War veterans, their families, friends, and anyone Interested in the Korean War

**Where:** American Legion Post 176  
6520 Amherst Avenue  
Springfield, VA 22150

**When:** 23-25 June 2025

23 June – Seminars 0900-1600

24 June – Seminars 0900-1600

25 June – 0915 - Wreath ceremony Tomb of the Unknowns  
Arlington National Cemetery followed by wreath ceremony at  
the 3ID Monument

**Points of Contact:** C. Monika Stoy and Timothy R. Stoy

**Hotel information:** Homewood Suites by Hilton  
7010 Old Keene Mill Rd, Springfield, VA 22150

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/dcasfhw-90p-698ccdee-b04c-4e75-b18f-962e0324deaf/>

**Registration Date:** NLT 20 June 2025

**Registration Fee:** \$20

**Email:** [timmoni15@yahoo.com](mailto:timmoni15@yahoo.com), **Phone:** 571 419 8915

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**





## 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

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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

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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:

 <div>Burial Services</div>	 <div>Career Services</div>	 <div>Education</div>	 <div>Entrepreneurship</div>	 <div>Financial Assistance</div>
 <div>Fitness</div>	 <div>Health Services</div>	 <div>Homeless Assistance</div>	 <div>Legal Assistance</div>	 <div>Life Wellness</div>
 <div>Mental Wellness</div>	 <div>Social Life</div>	 <div>Veteran Benefits</div>	 <div>Volunteer Engagements</div>	 <div>Workshops</div>

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.

**FOR SALE!**

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

interested in buying or questions contact our Department Treasurer Cathy Graham

[cg12dc12@outlook.com](mailto:cg12dc12@outlook.com)





## *VFW Auxiliary Department of Virginia*

I would like to begin by thanking Department Commander Rubenstein for letting the VFW Auxiliary Virginia provide Post Commanders and members information about forming a new Auxiliary and recruiting Auxiliary members for existing Auxiliaries.

### Starting a New Auxiliary

The first step to institute a new Auxiliary begins with Per VFW Bylaws Section XI - no Auxiliary to a Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be formed unless approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Post membership present and voting at a regular or special meeting, due notice of the proposed formation of an Auxiliary having been given the entire membership of the Post, in writing at least twenty (20) days prior to a regular meeting, or special meeting called for the aforementioned purpose. The approval to form a new Auxiliary is to be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

Although the process to form a new Auxiliary sound like a challenge, the benefits of having an Auxiliary affiliated with your Post far outweigh the challenge. You will have a partner to work with to assist the VFW to pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families, provide volunteer hours in the VA Medical Centers and local medical facilities, conduct patriotic programs with thousands of students and offer hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for our nation's youth. We are there to assist Veterans and their families as well as working with other organizations in our communities.

### Existing Auxiliary

If your post has an Auxiliary, you already know the benefits of having an affiliated Auxiliary. If you have not already done so, you can show your support by signing up eligible family members. The best resource for new Auxiliary members (must be minimum of 16 years old), either forming a new Auxiliary (which we need fifteen new members) or an existing Auxiliary is the Post members. Included is the VFW Auxiliary Eligibility which shows the relatives to the Veteran who are eligible to become an auxiliary member. If you would like to sign up new Auxiliary members, please contact the Auxiliary President. He or she will be happy to assist you.

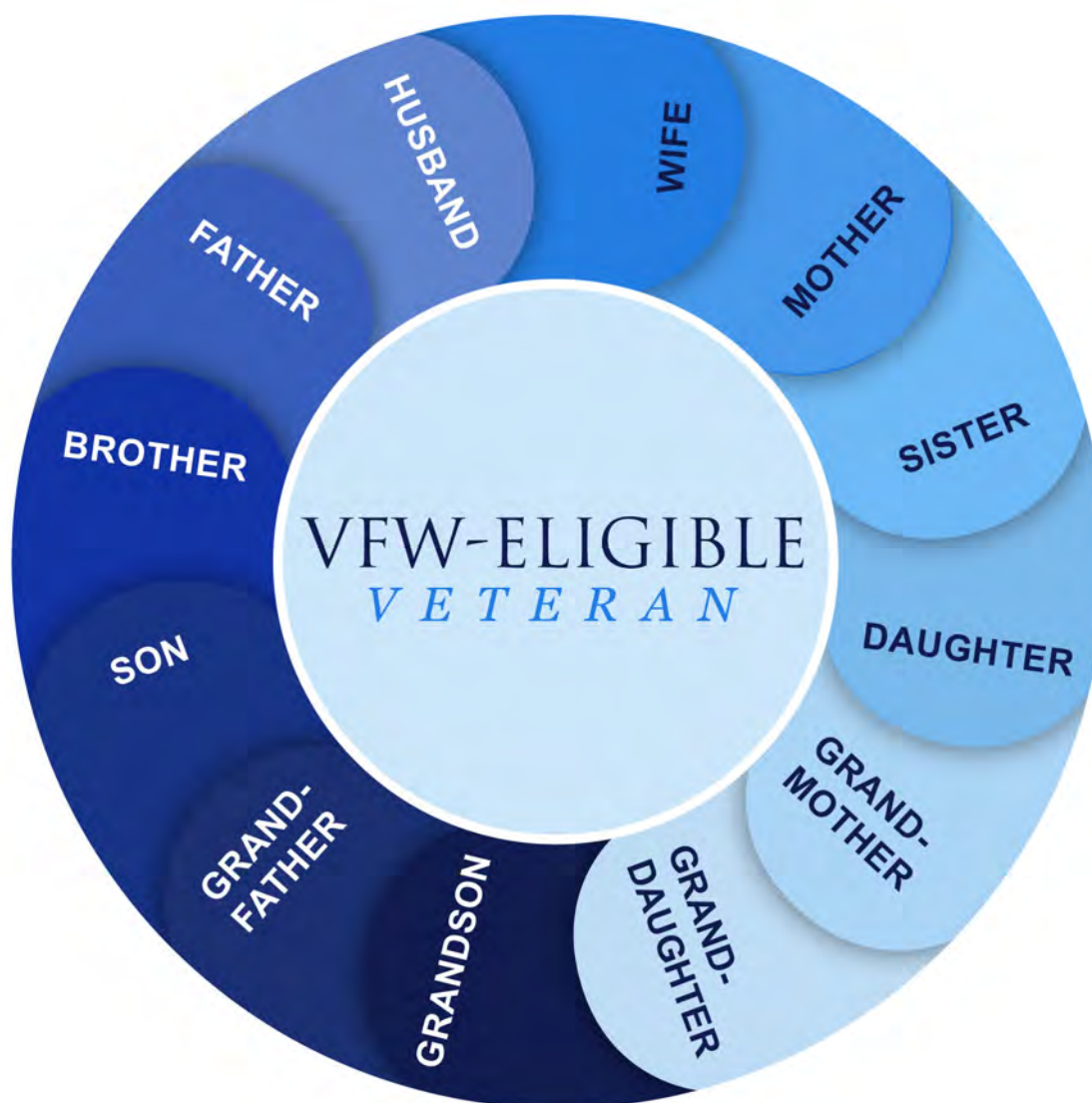
To our "bachelor" posts once your post has approved the formation of the Auxiliary, please contact our Department President Dawn Kuhn or Department Chief of Staff Carol Vangi. We will assist you with the next steps.

Again, thank Commander Rubenstein for allowing us to provide this information.

Dawn Kuhn, Department President  
[kuhn@comcast.net](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.





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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](https://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: [vfwnationalhome.org](http://vfwnationalhome.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 [vfwnationalhome.org](http://vfwnationalhome.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**

## **TENTATIVE AGENDA**

### **VFW 126<sup>th</sup> National Convention Columbus, OH Greater Columbus Convention Center August 9-13, 2025**

*All meetings are held in the convention center unless otherwise noted.*

*Times for various functions are subject to change.*

*Meeting rooms will be posted closer to conference dates and are subject to change*

#### **Friday, August 8, 2025**

10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.	VFW/Auxiliary Pre-Registration
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	National Veterans Service Advisory Committee

#### **Saturday, August 9, 2025**

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	VFW Registration/Exhibits
8:00 a.m.	Budget and Finance Committee
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	VA Claims Clinic
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Uniting to Combat Hunger
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Vander Clute Memorial Ride
10:00 a.m.	National Council of Administration Meeting
3:00 p.m.	Eastern Conference
3:00 p.m.	Southern Conference
3:00 p.m.	Big Ten Conference
3:00 p.m.	Western Conference

#### **Sunday, August 10, 2025**

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	VFW Registration/Exhibits
9:00 a.m.	Joint Memorial Service
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	VA Claims Clinic
10:00 a.m.	Workshops (TBD)
11:00 a.m.	Update on VFW Legislative Priority Goals
11:00 a.m.	VFW Post Service Officer Training
12:30 p.m.	First Time Attendees Welcome Orientation
1:00 p.m.	VFW Programs Town Hall

## **TENTATIVE AGENDA**

### **VFW 126<sup>th</sup> National Convention Columbus, OH Greater Columbus Convention Center August 9-13, 2025**

#### **Committee Meetings:**

1:00 p.m.	National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual -
1:00 p.m.	Finance and Internal Organization (200 series)
1:00 p.m.	General Resolutions (300 Series)
1:00 p.m.	National Security and Foreign Affairs (400 series)
	Sub Committee – POW/MIA
1:00 p.m.	National Veterans Service Resolutions (600 series)
	Sub-committee – Health
	Sub-committee – Benefits
	Sub-committee – Economic Opportunity/Other
4:00 p.m.	Workshops (TBD)
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Department Adjutant Quartermasters Association Meeting & Reception ( <i>by invitation only</i> )
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Cornhole Tournament

#### **Monday, August 11, 2025**

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	VFW Registration/Exhibits
8:00 a.m.	Joint Opening Session
	<i>(Business session will resume after lunch break)</i>
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	VA Claims Clinic
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Cornhole Tournament Championship
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	126 <sup>th</sup> VFW National Convention Awards Banquet-Cocktail Hour
6:15 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	126 <sup>th</sup> VFW National Convention Awards Banquet

#### **Tuesday, August 12, 2025**

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	VFW Registration/Exhibits
8:00 a.m.	VFW Business Session
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	VA Claims Clinic
1:00 p.m.	Department Commanders Luncheon – (by invitation) –
1:00 p.m.	2023-2024 Senior Vice Commanders, Senior Vice Presidents Luncheon (by invite only)
1:00 p.m.	2023-2024 Junior Vice Commanders, Junior Vice President's Luncheon (by invite only)

## **TENTATIVE AGENDA**

### **VFW 126<sup>th</sup> National Convention Columbus, OH Greater Columbus Convention Center August 9-13, 2025**

1:00 p.m.	Update on Federal Benefits and Services for Veterans
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Workshops (TBD)
1:00 p.m.	Chaplains Workshop
5:15 p.m.	Parade Line-up
6:00 p.m.	Patriotic Rally & Entertainment

#### **Wednesday, August 13, 2025**

8:00 a.m.	Business Session: Nominations/Election/Installation of National Officers National Council of Administration Meeting <i>(Following business session)</i>
1:00 p.m.	<b>All American Commanders Luncheon (ticketed event)</b>
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Commander-in-Chief's and National President's Reception

*Updated: 3/11/25*





# VFW 3103 3rd Annual Star Spangled Veterans Golf Tournament

*All proceeds benefit Fredericksburg area  
veterans and families.*

## September 19, 2025

The Gauntlet Golf Course

18 Fairway Dr.

Fredericksburg, VA 22554

**Individual Player - \$125**

**Team - \$500**

Sponsorship opportunities are available  
For more information go to:

**[HTTPS://VFW3103.org](https://vfw3103.org)**

Or use the QR Code

Contact us at [vfw3103@gmail.com](mailto:vfw3103@gmail.com)

