

**"Of the Veterans and For the Veterans"****NUMBER 10**

403 Lee Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112

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

May 1, 2025

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

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1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Comrades,

To everyone who attended our homecoming, thank you all for a great day and a very memorable event. Dawn and I were so pleased to see all of members who took the time out of their busy schedules to celebrate with us. To my Post 2447, Linda and her staff, the Auxiliary and the members of the VFW you made everything happen in such a way that I can't even describe, I am so proud to be a member of our Post. Thank you so much for making our day something really special.

We finished the month of March with being part of the NASCAR Truck Series Pit Crew at Martinsville Speedway. I was the Honorary Pit Crew Chief, and the Pit Crew was, State Auxiliary President Dawn Kuhn, PDC Gary Adams, Post 1115 Commander Sandra Coble, and District 5 Commander David Gilleran. We had a fun time and represented the VFW in a great way, unfortunately, our driver, Ryan Roulette didn't have a good night and was literally knocked out of the race early.

This is the month to take your Nominations to the next level and have your elections. I hope everyone fills the positions with the best possible members for the positions to lead your Posts to bigger and better things. Next month will be the installation of those elects which will lead up to the June Convention for 2025-2026.

Thank you all for keeping our 100% in Online Community Reports, we are well into our 4th Quarter and as promised after we make 100% for the year, I will not bother you any further. Make sure you have registered with National your plans for the “Day of Service” and have that started on May 3rd and completed by the end of the month.

The Department currently stands at 98.75% and needs 1,067 new, re-instated, or renewed members to reach 102% for All-American to reach our goal. The time is now for your Post, and District to finish strong. The June Convention is at the Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg and the hotel is completely full however, the overflow hotel is the Double Tree by Hilton. The Phone Number is 540-433-2521, They will honor the convention rate of \$129 dollars a night. The address is 1400 E Market Street, Harrisonburg VA. 22801.

We hope you will be there for the Convention and are looking forward to seeing you there. Until next month be careful out there and enjoy the great weather ahead.

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. AUDIT REPORTS:

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.

4. AWARDS:

State Awards and All State information were in last month's General Orders, along with various entry forms. Deadline is May 9, 2025, at 4:00 pm.

5. BUDDY POPPIES:

The price for the original buddy poppies (red ones) are \$160.00 per 500. The price for the metal poppies are \$70.00 per 500. As a reminder, poppies must be paid for before they can be shipped. A Buddy Poppy order form was in last month's General Orders.

6. 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.

7. DELEGATES TO DISTRICT/DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS:

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, each District shall hold an annual District Convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention.

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National Bylaws – Regular Meeting, Districts shall hold at least two (2) regular meetings each year for purposes of transacting business and conducting schools of instruction.

Pursuant to Section 417 of the National Manual of Procedure, District officers shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed.

District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed in accordance with Section 416 of the Manual of Procedure.

8. DELINQUENT:

Dist.	Post	Audits	Dist.	Post	Audits	Dist.	Post	Audits
2	2296	December	9	7136	March	9	9640	December

9. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 st	Date: 5/17/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 3219, Phoebus 122 E Mellen St, Hampton Rep: State Surgeon Randy Coker	5 th	Date: 5/17/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep: PSC Tom Hines
2 nd	Date: 5/10/25 Meeting: 9:00 AM Location: Post 3160 Norfolk 111 A View Avenue Rep: St C-O-S Butch Schupska	6 th	Date: 8/2/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1264 Roanoke (sponsored Post 2157) 4930 Grandview Avenue NW
3 rd	Date: 5/3/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Lunch: To follow Meeting Location: Post 9808 Mechanicsville 7168 Flag Lane Rep: St C-O-S Butch Schupska	7 th	Date: 5/17/25 Meeting: 11:30 AM Location: Post 9660 Broadway 14550 Runion Creek Rd Rep: St Inspector Ken Shannon
4 th	Date: 5/10/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 7166 South Hill 1472 N Mecklenburg Ave, LaCrosse Rep: State JVC Mark Maggio	8 th	Date: 9/6/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 3103 Fredericksburg 2701 Princess Anne St
		9 th	Date: 5/10/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4667 Marion 861 Goolsby St Rep: St JVC Doug Hoffman

10th Date: 5/10/25
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Location: Post 1503 Dale City
 14631 Minnieville Rd
 Rep: State Surgeon Randy Coker

12th Date: 5/10/25
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Location: Post 1994 Abingdon
 17581 Lee Highway
 Rep: St Cmdr Mitch Rubenstein

11th Date: 5/10/25
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Location: Post 8644 Bridgewater
 118 Dry River Rd
 Rep: St Chaplain Robert Ruffolo

13th Date 5/17/25
 Meeting: 11:00 AM
 Location: Post 1827 Charlottesville
 1170 River Rd
 Rep: St Judge Advocate Charles Bush

10. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 21st**. This will be the primary means of sending correspondence from State Headquarters to Post and District Officers.

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

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

1. Go to Department web site www.vfwva.org.
2. Click on Resources, Microsoft 365.
3. The username is your email address; put that on the first line (see below for your new address).
4. Your default password will be **VFW2024!** once you have accessed the mail program you will be asked to change it; it must contain at least one uppercase letter and one number.

For Post Officers, your address will be cdmpost176@vfwva.org where the 176 is you replace it with **your** Post number.

adjpost176@vfwva.org
qmpost176@vfwva.org

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

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

11. GENERAL ORDERS:

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

12. HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG:

The U.S. Flag should be at half-staff on Memorial Day, the last Monday in May (federal holiday - half-staff until noon). Flags available at VFW Store vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags.

13. 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.

14. 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, TBD 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

15. INSTALLING OFFICERS:

Installing officers are directed to see to it that the Post Election Report forms have been completed and submitted to National Headquarters. If a Post Election Report form has not been forwarded to National Headquarters at the time of installation, the installing officer shall complete and forward such report at the time of the installation of Post Officers no later than June 1. **We encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS).** Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters. Additionally, Section 413 of the National Bylaws requires that a properly completed District Election Report be submitted to National Headquarters prior to the convening of the Department Convention.

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.

16. 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.

17. LIFE MEMBER DRAWING:

Congratulations to William I. Cooper Memorial Post 10574, Colonial Beach as the winner of a free Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Virginia. Colonial Beach Post 10574 was made eligible for this Free Life Membership for having 100% of their membership reported to State Headquarters by March 28, 2025, deadline.

18. 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.

Best regards,
Marc Garduno
Quartermaster General
VFW National Headquarters

19. LIABILITY INSURANCE:

Posts with Post Homes must have liability insurance and list State Headquarters and VFW National Headquarters as additional insurers. State Headquarters does not need a copy of your whole insurance policy; only a copy of the Certificate of Insurance listing State Headquarters and VFW National Headquarters as additional insurers.

The Certificate of Insurance needs to be sent to State Headquarters every year and it can be emailed to statehq@vfwva.org, faxed 1-866-416-0586 or regular mail to VFW State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at State Headquarters.

Ed Mann
State Adj/QM

20. LOYALTY DAY AND MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE:

Section 223 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure provides that each Post shall make the necessary arrangements for proper observance of Loyalty Day and Memorial Day. Officers should see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased veterans.

21. 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 or grandcdr@vfwva.org.

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

22. 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. 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).

23. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters and the State Service Offices located in Smithfield and Dale City are closed May 26, 2025, in observance of Memorial Day.

Please note the Norfolk Service Office is permanently closed.

24. 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.

25. REPORTING:

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

26. 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
mcaiii@aol.com

27. ROSTER CHANGES:

Post 12200
New Meeting time
4th Friday at 6:00 pm

28. 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](#).

29. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 221:

Upon the recommendation of the Commander, Department of Virginia, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 210 of the National Bylaws, the charter of Bland County Memorial Post No. 7969, Bland, Virginia mustered September 27, 1981, is hereby cancelled and the Post declared defunct. Such cancellation includes a revocation of the right to use all trademarks and service marks, including the name, emblems/insignia, seals and logos, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The Commander, Department of Virginia, will at once recover the charter, rituals, paraphernalia and all monies and other property of the Post in accordance with the provisions of the National Bylaws.

By order of
Alfred J. Lipphardt
Commander-in-Chief

30. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 229:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 212 of the National Bylaws and upon the recommendation of the Commander, Department of Virginia, while under suspension, due to their failure to establish a meeting quorum or elect the required officers, the charter of Poff-Cunningham Post No. 6000, Narrows, Virginia mustered February 15, 1946, is hereby cancelled and the Post declared defunct. Such cancellation includes a revocation of the right to use all trademarks and service marks, including the name, emblems/insignia, seals and logos, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The Commander, Department of Virginia, will at once recover the charter, rituals, paraphernalia and all monies and other property of the Post in accordance with the provisions of the National Bylaws.

By order of
Alfred J. Lipphardt
Commander-in-Chief

31. STATE CONVENTION:

Due to the rising costs of the reception at the State Convention, there will now be a \$10.00 fee for attending. Please see the enclosed reservation form. **Please wear your new Commander's shirt.**

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

Ed Mann
Department Adjutant Quartermaster
Office: 540-886-8112
Cell: 804-304-7726

32. VFW DAY OF SERVICE:

Post/District Commanders, and Comrades,

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.

Getting this news out to District Commanders and having them make sure the Posts understand this and when they submit the report to National. **The Day of Service starts 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.

33. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

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

1954 (May 6): Shortly before the final Viet Minh assault at the battle of Dien Bien Phu, two Civil Air Transport (CAT) pilots, James McGovern and co-pilot Wallace Buford, are killed when Viet Minh ground fire near Dien Bien Phu downs their transport plane. Over the course of the battle, 37 CAT pilots complete 682 airborne supply missions in support of the besieged French garrison.

1961 (May 14): The first unit of the Army Security Agency (ASA) arrives in South Vietnam, establishing headquarters at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. As the U.S. Army's signals intelligence branch, the ASA mission is to intercept Viet Cong and North Vietnamese electronic communications and use them to locate Communist troops. It designates its units as "Radio Research" to conceal their true purpose, and ASA personnel pose as military advisers attached to MAAG, Vietnam. The agency's personnel also train their South Vietnamese counterparts.

1964 (May 22): The CIA's Air America, formerly Civil Air Transport, begins search-and-rescue operations in Laos and North Vietnam. Its first rescue mission, on June 6, is an attempt to recover U.S. Navy aviator Lieutenant Charles F. Klusmann, who is shot down while flying a reconnaissance mission over the Plain of Jars, in Laos. Initial attempts to rescue Klusmann fail, however, and he is captured by the Pathet Lao. Klusmann later escapes and is picked up by Air America after three months in captivity.

1965 (May 3-7): The first U.S. Army ground combat unit to deploy to South Vietnam, the 173d Airborne Brigade, arrives from Okinawa. The brigade is stationed at Bien Hoa Air Base near Saigon. The 173d Airborne Brigade's initial mission is limited to defending U.S. bases and installations, especially Bien Hoa. This mission quickly expands in the following days and weeks to include offensive counterinsurgency operations against Viet Cong forces.

1965 (May 7): American officials and the U.S. Marine Corps restructure and expand Marine forces in Vietnam. The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade becomes the III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF). This force consists of the forward elements of the 3d Marine Division and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. The III MAF mission is to support the South Vietnamese in the five I Corps provinces, the vulnerable region closest to the DMZ. Before the end of June, 9,000 Marines are added to the Marine Corps forces in Vietnam.

1966 (May 10): The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Point Grey, patrolling off the Ca Mau Peninsula at the southern tip of South Vietnam, encounters a large steel-hulled trawler. The trawler runs aground when challenged. During the ensuing engagement, with assistance from the Coast Guard cutter Point Cypress and U.S. Navy personnel, the trawler suffers a large internal explosion. Salvage teams later recover tons of war materiel from the wreck of the trawler, which has been supplying Viet Cong troops in the area. It is the most significant known waterborne Viet Cong infiltration attempt since the Vung Ro Bay incident in February 1965. Also on that day, as part of Operation GAME WARDEN, the U.S. Navy establishes Mine Squadron 11, Detachment Alpha, under the command of Task Force 116. The squadron of a dozen minesweeping boats is assigned to keep the Long Tau River shipping channel clear of mines. The shipping channel is a vital avenue for merchant and military vessels heading to Saigon, and Viet Cong mining of the waterway would threaten to damage the economy of South Vietnam as well as the war effort, as the United States relies on the channel heavily to get goods and materials to Saigon.

1967 (May 15): Coast Guard Squadron Three, newly arrived in Vietnam, begins to support the U.S. Navy in Operation MARKET TIME. Squadron Three is equipped with five 311-foot, high-endurance cutters. In addition to providing fire support, Squadron Three interdicts enemy supply vessels and engages in medical and civic action programs. USCG Cutter Barataria conducts the first fire-support mission for Squadron Three on May 22.

1967 (May 31): The CIA's newly developed Lockheed A-12 reconnaissance aircraft flies its first covert surveillance mission over North Vietnam. It is the first of 29 missions named Operation BLACK SHIELD, whose primary objective is to photograph the sites of possible surface-to-surface missile installations. The CIA directs the BLACK SHIELD missions, which are flown by six pilots and three aircraft based in Okinawa. They determine that no surface-to-surface missiles have been placed in North Vietnam.

1968 (May 10): American and North Vietnamese representatives meet in Paris to begin peace negotiations. It is the first time negotiators from both nations meet face-to-face. Formal negotiations open three days later, but immediately come to a standstill. The two nations continue to hold talks until 1973.

1969 (May 10): In Operation APACHE SNOW, elements of the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division, 9th Marine Regiment, and a South Vietnamese infantry regiment move to disrupt North Vietnamese activities in the A Shau Valley. The valley is an important enemy staging area for the Ho Chi Minh Trail. In an assault on Ap Bia Mountain on May 11, allied forces meet heavy resistance from multiple enemy battalions in fortified positions. Allied troops secure the mountain on May 20 after suffering significant casualties. American servicemen and journalists name it the battle of "Hamburger Hill." It is one of the bloodiest engagements of the war. APACHE SNOW concludes on June 7 and succeeds in forcing North Vietnamese troops out of the valley, but they return shortly after U.S. forces leave the area.

1970 (May 1): The U.S. Air Force and Navy fly the first large-scale strikes against targets in North Vietnam since the bombing halt of 1968. President Nixon orders them as "protective reaction strikes" in retaliation for North Vietnamese antiaircraft and SAM attacks on U.S. reconnaissance aircraft. Almost 500 American aircraft strike missile sites and antiaircraft emplacements over the course of four days. Officials at the Pentagon publicly acknowledge these strikes on May 3.

1970 (May 4): Antiwar demonstrations erupt on over 400 college and university campuses across the United States in the wake of the Cambodian incursion. Amid protests on the campus of Kent State University in Ohio, National Guardsmen fire at students. Four students are killed and nine are wounded. The shootings at Kent State become a focus of national attention and perhaps trigger as much outrage as the incursion itself, spurring the spread of demonstrations. Protests continue to break out nationwide over the following weeks, reinvigorating the antiwar movement.

1970 (May 9): A SEALORDS combined South Vietnamese-U.S. naval task force proceeds up the Mekong River into Cambodia as part of the Cambodian Incursion. Its main objective is to disrupt North Vietnamese and Viet Cong use of the river as an infiltration route into South Vietnam. The task force consists of river patrol, assault, and transport boats as well as helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. South Vietnamese naval units reach the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh. U.S. personnel are allowed only a short distance into Cambodia and stop halfway to Phnom Penh at Neak Luong, securing the strategic Highway 1 river crossing over the Mekong. U.S. boats return to South Vietnam by the end of June, but South Vietnamese forces continue to guard the Cambodian stretches of the Mekong through the summer

1970 (May 28): The National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia incorporates in Washington D.C. The league emerges from a movement begun in the late 1960s in California and Virginia by the families of POWs. Its stated objective is “to obtain the release of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting of the missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died serving our nation during the Vietnam War.” The National League of Families becomes the largest of the POW/MIA family organizations and helps focus public attention on prisoner-of-war issues.

1972 (May 2): As part of the Easter Offensive, two North Vietnamese army divisions, supported by tanks and heavy artillery, launch an assault on Kontum, a key provincial capital city in the Central Highlands. The defending South Vietnamese forces are supported by U.S. Air Force air support and U.S. Army advisers, air cavalry, and attack helicopters. After two months of intense fighting, the allied forces defeat the North Vietnamese units and end the siege of the city.

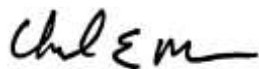
1972 (May 9): In retaliation for the North Vietnamese Easter Offensive, President Nixon orders U.S. aviators flying A-7 Corsairs and A-6 Intruders from the carrier USS *Coral Sea* to begin mining the waters surrounding North Vietnamese seaports, including the vital port of Haiphong. Over 85 percent of the North’s military supplies flow through these ports, and the mines are intended to interdict the materiel powering the Communist offensive. The mining is labeled Operation POCKET MONEY.

1972 (May 10): In response to the Easter Offensive, The U.S. Air Force and Navy begin the massive aerial bombardment of targets in North Vietnam, known as Operation LINEBACKER. The bombings last until October, and their objective is to destroy or interdict North Vietnam’s military supplies in order to turn back the Communist invasion of South Vietnam. Targets include roads, bridges, military bases, power plants, warehouses, and petroleum storage facilities. President Nixon also hopes LINEBACKER will compel the North Vietnamese to negotiate an acceptable peace agreement. In LINEBACKER, U.S. aircraft drop over 150,000 tons of bombs in North Vietnam. The operation is the first sustained bombing campaign to extensively use laser-guided and electro-optically guided munitions. It helps stall the Easter Offensive and is one of the most effective campaigns of the war.

1972 (May 16): MAG 12 deploys to Bien Hoa to help provide air support to those allied forces countering the North Vietnamese Easter Offensive.

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



Phone: 540-886-8112
800-888-3521
Fax: 866-416-0586
Email: statehq@vfwva.org

March 25, 2025

Comrades:

On March 18th 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 1st, 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 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



ENDLESS DESTINATIONS
PREMIERE TRAVEL AGENCY
A World of Possibilities



SET SAIL WITH VFW POST 8545 Community Fundraiser

Open to everyone. You do not need to be a VFW member.

Norwegian Prima, Departing from Port Canaveral (Orlando), FL

6 – 13 Sep 2026

**Ports of Call: Orlando FL (Port Canaveral), Puerto Plata Dominican Republic,
Great Stirrup Cay Bahamas, Orlando FL**

\$200 Deposit Due by 10 May 2025

Final Payment Due 1 May 2026

Cabin rates based on double occupancy and includes all taxes, port fees, More at Sea Package, insurance, and gratuity (all-inclusive price** with the exception of excursions and airfare). 10% military discount available.**

\$4000 – Balcony

\$3925 – Ocean View

\$3450 – Inside Cabin

Suites & family cabins have to be priced separately

Note: Prices are subject to change based on your cabin selection aboard ship; i.e. midship cabins tend to be a higher rate or higher cabin category.

Contact Ollie for more details

Endless Destinations Travel, LLC

757-621-2328

endlessdestinations2024@gmail.com

Commanders Club Luncheon

ATTENTION: All Past and Present Commanders

You are invited to attend the Annual Commanders Club Luncheon to be held on **SATURDAY**, June 21, 2025, at the Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. We have changed the day to Saturday and hope to get more attendees. We will have a limit of 70 so register early.

COST: **Check \$40.00** **Online \$44.52**

MENU: Salad, Entrée (Grilled Portobello Mushroom, Roasted Panko Crusted Chicken Piccata, or Beef Medallions), Rosemary Roasted Klondike Potatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots, Sliced Rolls with Butter, Coffee and Iced tea, and Fruit Cobbler

REGISTRATION CAN BE MADE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Department of Virginia Commanders Club
MAIL CHECK TO: **Ken Shannon**, Commanders Club Treasurer
152 Old Carriage Way, Williamsburg VA 23188

ONLINE AT EVENTBRITE WITH A SERVICE FEE:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/departments-of-virginia-commanders-club-lunch-tickets-1256030012579?aff=oddttdcreator&utm_campaign=46082713&utm_term=ctabutton&mipa=ABldvVvBuMBQBo0j82UIMa0c_oLpH6jwXzl2WD0Is0jzXcSQ01KfhqeXXrBml2Y0shMmyiTFrZHwbn7qf1x5Hnidyy6VL-D28Wl6VNrVmnNZYvWCxEX6YCFjrsn14ENZ192UvvGI0qknBks5oM6b5Hsl7jHEQg6lYqoWw7Xjp8E-dF1fCBuVR-Nwl7RaFsn8BF5v1kh2iuOKsQYmCKAgZrQKH-iLLTsFgc_Y84Y6J4SWF_4cZdY61d3PhO1ZXo7G4UpQhrVOLEwSNXd3Lf5KStMGjHsDjA&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=ebcampaigns

DEADLINE: May 17, 2025 PRE-REGISTRATION FOR MEAL IS REQUIRED.
NO MEALS WILL BE AVAILABLE UNLESS PRE-REGISTERED.

Tickets available through Eventbrite or pick up your ticket at REGISTRATION

REMEMBER: You can become a LIFE MEMBER for \$35.00; All dues can be sent to Ken Shannon at the address above or pay through the Eventbrite link \$39.19

PLEASE SEND THE FORM BELOW ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK TO ASSURE ACCURACY.

Post No. _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Name of each person attending luncheon (please print clearly)

NAME MEAL CHOICE (Mushroom/Chicken/Beef) DATE JOINED

Life Member Dues for _____

For Life Members please include Name, Post or PT, Address, Email, and Phone Number

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.

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_4cZdY61d3PhO1ZXo7G4UpQhrVOLEwSNXd3Lf5KStMGjHjsDJA&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 _____



VFW Ruppert L Sargent Post 3219
Presents

**24 MAY
2025**

Woodlands Golf Course
9 Woodland Rd
Hampton, VA 23663
(757) 727-1195

ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC



REGISTRATION FEES

Single Player	\$100
4-man Team	\$400
Register before 5-18-25	\$360

AGENDA

7:00 AM	Registration
8:00 AM	Shotgun Start
1:00 PM	Luncheon at Post 3219 122 E Mellen St Hampton, VA 23663 (757) 723-2667

**Proceeds support needy
Veterans in Hampton Roads**

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.

103RD 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
6:00 PM	9:00 PM	JOINT PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	SHENANDOAH A&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
9:00 AM	11:00 AM	JOINT OPENING SESSION	SHENANDOAH A&B
12:30 PM	3:30 PM	VFW BUSINESS SESSION (NOMINATION OF STATE OFFICERS)	SHENANDOAH B
4:00 PM	5:30 PM	WOMEN VETERANS FORUM	SHENANDOAH B
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	MOVIE TBD	APPALACHIAN A, B&C
7:30 PM	9:30 PM	MOC DEGREE WORK	SHENANDOAH B

**Saturday,
June 21, 2025**

8:30 AM	10:30 AM	REGISTRATION, VFW	CONF CENTER FOYER
9:00 AM	11:00 AM	BUSINESS SESSION	SHENANDOAH B
11:30 AM	1:00 PM	COMMANDERS CLUB LUNCH	ALLEGHENY A,B&C
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS	SHENANDOAH 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



STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

State Convention will be held June 19 – 22, 2025 at the

Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley
Conference Center
710 S Main Street
Harrisonburg – 540-564-0200

The Commanders Reception will be held on June 21st.
You will **NOT** be able to purchase tickets the weekend of the Convention.
Pre-purchased tickets will be available at the registration table.

You **MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR THE RECEPTION (NO REFUNDS)**

Please wear your new Commander's Shirt

Tickets: \$10.00

Meal will consist of

Salad (*Mixed Greens, Tomatoes, Shaved Parmesan,
Kalamata Olives, served with Balsamic Garlic Vinaigrette*)
Tomato, Basil, and Feta Salad with Citrus Vinaigrette
Roasted Sliced Italian Beef
Chicken Piccata with Lemon Caper Pinot Grigio Sauce
Penne Bolognese
Roasted Vegetable Medley with Italian Herbs
Garlic Parmesan Bread sticks
Tiramisu and Cannoli

Your choice of Iced Tea, Iced Water

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401 BY May 30, 2025
No Exceptions No Refunds after May 30th Check, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express Accepted

Person placing the order (name) _____ Phone: _____

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

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

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: MasterCard or Visa or Discover or American Express

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

You may e-mail this form to: statehq@vfwva.org or fax to: 1-866-416-0586

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

CHAIRMAN, CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

103rd 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		
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11			11		
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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



VA VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS



VFW is seeking volunteers for VA Volunteer Service Programs

(VFW Membership not required)

Volunteer Opportunities

(In-person or Online)

Compassionate Contact Corps
Corporate Volunteerism
Physician Ambassador Program
Student Volunteer Program /
James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship
Volunteer Transportation Network
Voter Assistance

Join a Legacy of Service

Volunteer once, occasionally, or regularly — your assistance and time are priceless to the VFW, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and our Nations Veterans.

No Computer? No Problem.

Call 1-800-VFW-1899 for assistance today!
(1-800-839-1899)

Learn How to Spot the Phish!

Look for Spelling and Grammar Errors

Unusual language errors can indicate phishing attempts.

Check Sender's Email Address

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

Assess the Urgency and Tone

Phishing often uses a high-pressure tone demanding immediate action to create a sense of urgency.

Beware of Suspicious Attachments or Links

Do not open attachments or click links unless you're certain of their safety

Scrutinize the Email's Greeting

Impersonal or generic greetings might signal a phishing attempt.



PACT

FOR ANIMALS



WHAT IS PACT FOR ANIMALS?

PACT for Animals is a non-profit that gives peace of mind to military, veterans, and hospital patients by placing their pets into temporary foster homes until their owners can be reunited with the devoted companions they love. Since its founding in 2011, PACT has facilitated the placements of thousands of pets nationwide.



SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

We offer a letter certifying volunteer hours for your MOVSM to any military member who fosters with PACT and help fellow military families.



WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

We are a FREE service that pairs pets with pre-screened and approved fosters across all 50 US states.

As the ONLY nationwide non-profit to manage the entire foster process, every step of the way, we ensure a positive experience for all parties. We coordinate communication between fosters and owners, conduct monthly check-ins, and facilitate reunions.

WHAT NEXT?

The first step in any PACT for Animals process is our online application. This is true for pet owners and those interested in fostering. Once we have that, things move quickly, and we ask that you pay extra close attention to your inbox.



pactforanimals.org

Help your fellow service members

Foster a pet. Make a friend.
Make a difference.

PACT
forAnimals.org



The Virginia Veterans Network is here for you.

Find more information about resources and support at dvs.virginia.gov through the Virginia Veterans Network. Our offerings include:

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

The Virginia Veterans Network is managed by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.



The Virginia Department of Veterans Services connects Virginia's veterans and their families to the federal and state benefits, support, quality care, and recognition they have earned.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact DVS for assistance at:

-  VirginiaVeteransNetwork@dvs.virginia.gov
-  804-786-0286

GET CONNECTED.

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



Scan QR code to visit the Virginia Veterans Network.

President's Special Project



Please Send donations to Department Treasurer: Cathy Graham 9691 Linden brook Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22031-1132

Facts about The Barns at Blue Mountain: www.barnsatbluemountain.org

They are a 501c3 non-profit, they are a self-sustaining organization that relies on fundraising, donations, and grants to pay staff, care for their horse partners, monthly rent for their facilities, and all other expenses. They do work with Blue Mountain Therapy to provide quality services with their amazing staff. Their services are not billable to insurance companies currently. They are part of an army of equine assisted service providers working hard to supply hard data and results that will push companies to recognize the benefits and pay for these services. This is why they Fundraise so much! Their staff, board members, and volunteers work hard on raising funds all year to help cover the cost of services and care for their horse partners. They ask for no more than 1/3 of the cost of providing an equine assisted service from the family they serve. They have a sliding scale that can take the cost down to as low as \$5 per session. So fundraising and your support makes it possible to provide a trained & healthy equine partner, an equine specialist &/or certified therapeutic riding instructor, a therapist or counsellor in some cases, volunteers or added staff for aid, and the equipment and facility to those benefiting from our programs in your community. They work closely with Physical, occupational, and speech therapists, as well as, behaviour technicians, mental health professionals, and social workers from Blue Mountain Therapy. They collaborate and work closely with Emory & Henry College and their equine, psychology, and therapy departments to both put the most up to date methods into practice and to train upcoming equine assisted services professionals.

Programs they have:

Healing Hooves is a therapeutic riding program serving ages 6& up with a variety of physical & mental disabilities, or cognitive delays.

Changing Strides is an at-risk youth program serving ages 6-19. They work with DSS, foster care agencies, juvenile court, and mental health agencies to provide a safe space for healing and growth. They work on personal growth, healthy relationships and communication, and self-sufficiency.

Serve a Purpose Program serves our veterans, active military, and their families with both community engagement & support, and equine assisted psychotherapy with a mental health professional.

Pony Power Reading Program is for all ages and promotes reading and literacy while being in the calm realm of horses that is judgement free.

Pony Pals Program is an all-inclusive group class that is open to ages 6-15. This group learns horse safety, handling, behaviour, communication, independence, teamwork, social skills, emotional regulation, and leadership.

Barn Buddies Program is for adults with disabilities or cognitive delays to enjoy outdoor and social activities while learning social skills, emotional regulation, and independence.

FOR SALE!

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

interested in buying or questions contact our Department Treasurer Cathy Graham

cg12dc12@outlook.com





VFW Auxiliary Department of Virginia

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

Starting a New Auxiliary

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

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

Existing Auxiliary

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

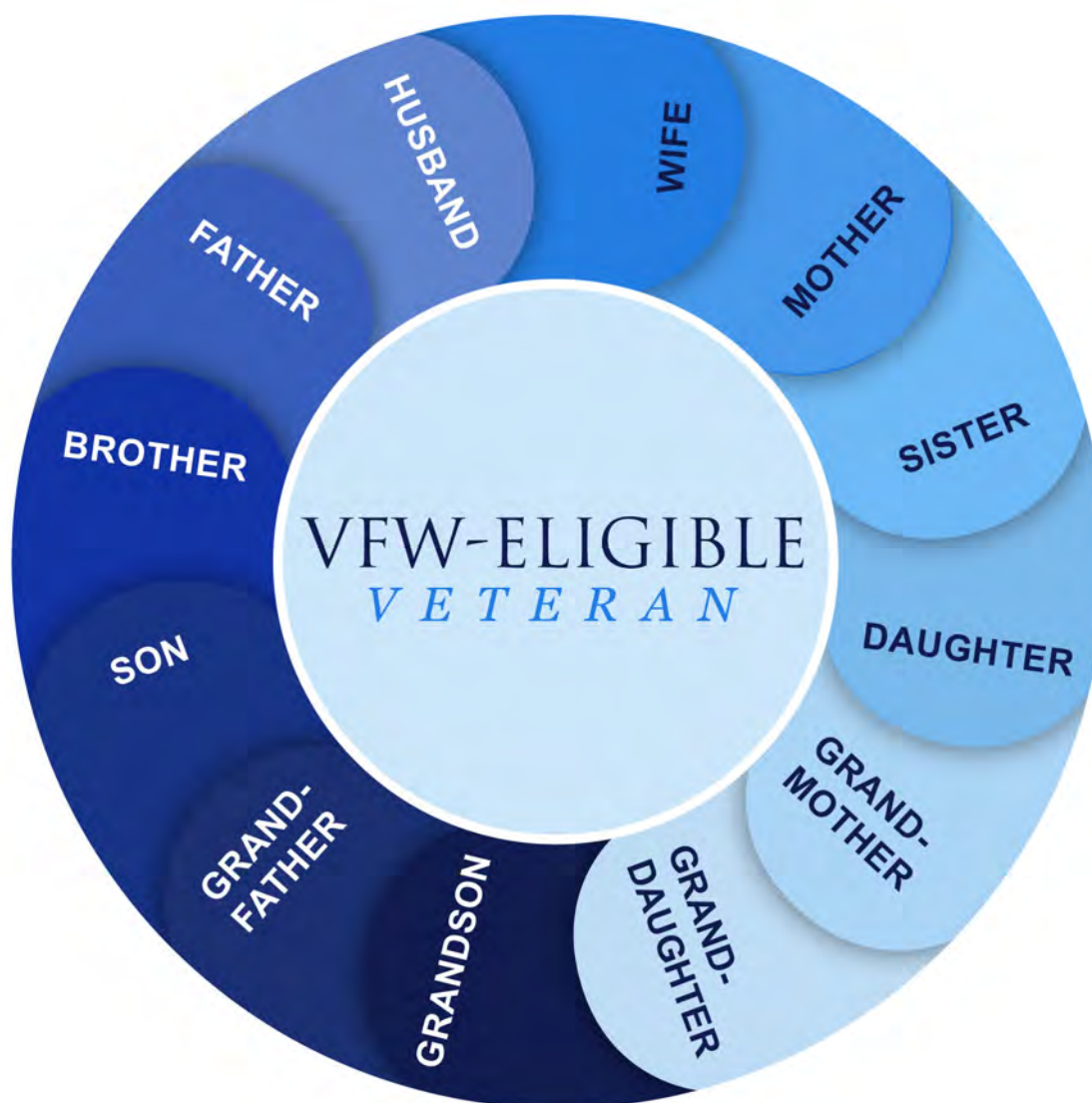
To our "bachelor" posts once your post has approved the formation of the Auxiliary, please contact our Department President Dawn Kuhn or Department Chief of Staff Carol Vangi. We will assist you with the next steps.

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

Dawn Kuhn, Department President
kuhn@comcast.net

Carol Vangi, Chief of Staff
cjonesvangi@gmail.com

VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel



**Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.*



Todd A. Taylor

Candidate for the High Office of VFW State Surgeon 2025-2026

Comrades, for those that don't know me I am Todd Taylor and I am running for State Surgeon for the 2025-2026 term. I am not into recreating the wheel and am looking to continue the great work that we all do for the VFW. I look to continue some of the great practices that were done by my predecessors in ensuring that we are supporting our Veterans, making a positive impact in our communities, and supporting our VFW Programs both at the State and National levels.

My eligibility for the VFW is service in Desert Shield/Desert Storm with 11 years of honorable service in the United States Marine Corps.

My VFW Service is as follows:

Post:

- Service as a Trustee and Adjutant
- All-State and All-American Quartermaster
- All-State and All-American Commander
- MOC Seam Squirrel Puptent 19 2023-Present

District:

- Service within the District for 3 years
- All-State and All-American Commander

Department:

- Sergeant at Arms for Department Ceremonies
- Recruiting Chair North 2024-2025

Appointments:

- Assistant National Aide-De-Camp 2021-2022
- National Finance and Internal Organization Committee 2022
- Assistant Inspector General 2022-2024
- National Bylaws Committee 2023 & 2024

I look forward to serving the VFW to the best of my ability and I am looking forward to the opportunity of becoming the next VFW Department of Virginia Surgeon.



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

Dear Members:

Where has the 2024 year gone. The fall foliage has faded...the air is cool, and the sun goes down way too soon. Holidays will soon be approaching. What a wonderful time of the year for family, friends & food. Busy, exciting and very festive. Same for our VFW National Home Families.



To see a **VIRTUAL TOUR** of the Virginia House go to vfwnationalhome.org and check out **“OUR COMMUNITY”**. Scroll down to the Virginia House and hit virtual tour. It will also tell you the history of the House, built in 1935, 1,933 Square Feet, 3 Bed, 1.5 Bath. The home itself is in very good shape. You can also take a virtual tour of the entire VFW National Home campus. Check out the **“STORIES”** of how you have made such a difference in the lives of many veterans and their families. There is so much more important information about the home and events. Share it with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Families at the National Home

- There is a female Veteran and her son living at the Virginia House. They are doing well and working on their commitments.
- We have 37 houses occupied, with 82 kids & 52 adults living in the homes.
- 7 Families have graduated and are on their way to a brighter future. Thanks to you!
- There are 5 applications in the works.



The VFW National Home will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 2025, and we want you to be part of it. That's why we are inviting you to join our Centennial Membership. As a token of our appreciation, we are making this special offer available to current and nonmembers. When you apply between April 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025, we offer the following benefits:

- Exclusive Centennial Membership Pin
- 10% Off Souvenirs and Apparel
- Reduced Guest Lodge Rate
- Exclusive Member-only Apparel

Applications can be found on the VFW National Home website: vfnationalhome.org

VFW LIFE MEMBERSHIP

VFW and VFW Auxiliary members and organizations are eligible to become Life Members. Life Members may vote for the trustees who represent their National Home District and approve any proposed changes to our bylaws and articles of incorporation. The National Home Board of Trustees approved the use of electronic voting beginning with the 2022 Trustee District election. Therefore, Life Members must have a valid email and/or a mobile phone number on record in order to vote.

ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Any individual or organization wishing to support the National Home's mission can become an Associate Life Member. Associate Life Members do not have voting privileges.

Applications can be found online at vfnationalhome.org
Purchase National Home Life Membership \$50

GREAT NEWS...

For the 2nd year the VFW National Home has received a 4 Star rating as an organization that can be trusted and exceeds the best practices and industry standards for charity accountability, donor privacy, leadership and organization culture best practices. That is hard to receive and that says a lot about our VFW National Home.

MORE GREAT NEWS....

As of the end of October, roads and stripping are done; electrical infrastructure upgrade is finished; the renovation of the Welcome Center has started and the new Pollett House (1st home and family at the VFW National Home which had to be condemned) is well underway to completion. The Centennial Garden has been completed in time for the new plants, trees and grass before the winter sets in. Bricks that were purchased before July 22nd arrived and installed. A total of 372 bricks have been purchased since April 1, 2024.

Celebrate the National Home's Upcoming Centennial birthday

Celebrate the upcoming VFW National Home Centennial in style with a personalized engraved brick in our 2025 Centennial Garden. Whether it's to honor a loved one, commemorate a special event, or simply leave your mark on this historic occasion, our 8x8 engraved bricks offer a timeless way to do just that. For a limited time only, you can secure your place in history for an unbeatable price of only \$500. The Centennial Garden will be located adjacent to the existing Tribute Park. PS. It is not too late for you, your Post/Auxiliary, to share a Centennial Garden Brick on every level.... Post, District and Dept.



100th Birthday Celebration – 2025

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

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

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

June 28, 2025 - 100th Celebration (Carnival, dedications, cartoon characters, concerts, food vendors, pavilions, vintage baseball & ending with a laser show - 11am–11 pm)



Our newest addition! CIC AI and National President Brenda's Department Commanders and Presidents Class 24-25 project is completed and in the Tribute Park. It is awesome and perfect for the National Home. Job Well Done! Thank you, Team 2024-25 Commanders/Presidents. The dedication will take place during the 100th Celebration on June 28th at the VFW National Home.

Thank you for your continuous support!

Sandi Kriebel, PNP

Board of Trustees #4 VFW National Home

Sr. Vice President, Executive Committee

Representing DE, MD, NC & VA

443-745-9206

**HAVE A BLESSED THANKSGIVING &
BRIGHT HOLIDAY SEASON WITH
FAMILY & FRIENDS**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

VFW 126th 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

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VFW 126th 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 th VFW National Convention Awards Banquet-Cocktail Hour
6:15 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	126 th 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)

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VFW 126th 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.	All American Commanders Luncheon (ticketed event)
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Commander-in-Chief's and National President's Reception

Updated: 3/11/25