

REGISTRATION DEADLINE DECEMBER 30TH

WINTER COUNCIL MEETING

January 7 – 9, 2022
Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel ~ Portsmouth, Virginia ~ 757-673-3000 ~
\$94.00 Per night

(Hotel Group Rate Deadline is December 6th)

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR BANQUET TICKET
\$45.00

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

Italian Buffet

Bucatini Pasta, Lasagna, Marinara Sauce
Fresh Baked Herb and Garlic Breadsticks
Choice of: Sausage and Onions, or Meatballs
Mixed Green Salad with Herb Vinaigrette
Tiramisu

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY **DECEMBER 30, 2021** (NO EXCEPTIONS)
Check, Discover, American Express, Visa, or MasterCard Accepted

Person placing the order (name) _____ Phone: _____

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

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

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

Please Circle One: Discover American Express MasterCard Visa SIGNATURE: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Billing Zip Code _____

Mail form to: State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401

You may also e-mail this form to: statehq@vfwva.org or fax it to 1-866-416-0586 if paying by Credit Card only

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

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

NUMBER 5

403 Lee Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112

"Full steam ahead for vets"

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

November 1, 2021

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

Articles are listed by number not by pages:

- | | |
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1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Comrades & Auxiliary:

First let me & Peggy wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and hope to see you all at Winter Council in January and for the Homecoming.

I want to say thank you to the best State Recruiting team anywhere, led by Tommy Hines, Ken Wiseman, Geoff Lyster and David Jarett, for working the State Fair this year, the last two years records were shattered by this year's event, recruited 140 new members for 39 Posts along with 8 transferred in ten days, thank you Commander Frederick Eley of Post 10657 for helping one day.

Congratulations to Post 2217 in Orange for reaching 100% in membership, thanks Commander Elbert Dulaney for your leadership.

By the time of this General Orders the second half of the reporting has started, thanks to all the Posts and Districts for making 100% for the first half.

Don't forget to set an email to district2schupska@gmail.com all lower case to let us know you are attending our Homecoming, Friday from 1700-1900 no rsvp will be accepted after 12-31-21. Also, the State Hospitality room will be closed until the completion of the Homecoming.

If anyone that has an event and wants to put it in the Virginia newspaper, send your picture or article to Randy Coker at rwcocker1@gmail.com.

I want to say thank you all very much for all the hard work that you all continue to do for the Department and the Auxiliary.

Butch Schupska
State Commander

2. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 st	Date: 1/22/22 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 2296 Tasley 21503 Daugherty Road Rep: St Cmdr Butch Schupska	7 th	Date: 1/15/22 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 2447 Edinburg 100 Veterans Way Rep: St SVC Geoffrey Lyster
2 nd	Date: 11/13/21 RSOI: 9:00 AM Lunch: Noon Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 8545 Smithfield 223 Washington Street Rep: St JVC Gary Adams	8 th	Date: 11/13/21 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 7589 Manassas 9304 Centreville Road Rep: St Judge Advocate Mitch Rubenstein
3 rd	Date: 11/13/21 Lunch: 10:00 AM Meeting: To follow lunch Location: Post 2239 Colonial Heights 14705 Jefferson Davis Hwy Rep: St Adj/QM Ed Mann	9 th	Date: 1/15/22 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 1115 Hillsville 701 W Stuart Drive Rep: TBD
4 th	Date: 11/13/21 SOI: 10:00 AM Meeting: To follow SOI Lunch: Noon Location: Post 8163 Clarksville 7488 Highway 15 Rep: St SVC Geoffrey Lyster	10 th	Date: 12/12/21 Lunch: NOON Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 9275 Falls Church 7118 Shreve Road Rep: TBD
5 th	Date: 11/13/21 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 647 Danville 275 VFW Drive Rep: St Surgeon Doug Hoffman	11 th	Date: 1/22/22 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 632 Harrisonburg 450 Waterman Drive Rep: St Surgeon Doug Hoffman
6 th	Date: 12/4/21 Meeting: Noon Location: Post 4299 Clifton Forge 724A Commercial Avenue Rep: St Judge Advocate Mitch Rubenstein	12 th	Date: 11/6/21 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 9600 Pound 1112 Main Street Rep: St Surgeon Doug Hoffman
		13 th	Date: 11/13/21 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 8947 Mineral 201 Mineral Avenue Rep: St Cmdr Butch Schupska

3. 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.

4. BONDS:

All Bonds expired August 31, 2021. Please see July or August General Orders for the rate schedule for the cost of your bond and return completed forms and payment to State Headquarters. Please note the Quartermaster Bond rate schedule **is for** the Post Officers. There is a separate schedule for your canteen employees and others who are not Post Offices but need to be bonded. Remember that persons on any and/or all accounts of the Post have **Must** be bonded. **If you are bonded through another company, you must still submit proof of bonding to State Headquarters. Those not bonded:**

District	Post	District	Post
3	10657	12	9600
4	5313	12	9864
4	12200		

5. BUDDY POPPY:

Although we emphasize Buddy Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, Buddy Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, Buddy Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as “They Gave, Will You?” is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies.

Contact State Headquarters to place your order for Buddy Poppies. Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 6 to 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required, do not use “ASAP.”

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

The Manual of Procedure provides that Post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of Buddy Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the Post general fund.

VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES. The silver, gold and diamond anniversary Buddy Poppies are for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary years. For Posts currently in their 100th year anniversary, they can order any color and as many as they need. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don’t pass those costs on to the Posts. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out, unless you are currently in your 100th year. These are ordered through the Department and processed the same as the red poppies. Annotate on the order to National that it is for anniversary poppies and specify which one.

PURCHASING BUDDY POPPIES:

For many years, the courtesy of allowing Posts to buy Poppies and to pay later was something that was extended as a way to help Posts. However, we have started to see too many Posts still owe for Poppies at the end of the year because of not paying their bill. Effective May 30, 2019, Posts must pay before they can receive Poppies. We will continue to accept payment by check, or you can call and order over the phone with State Headquarters by using a credit or debit card. An order form can be found on the State website under Resources, then Forms.

Ed Mann
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

6. BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:

All officers should obtain current 2022 copies of the podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. Copies of the revised edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters. The 2022 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 122nd National Convention, which becomes effective on September 2, 2021.

7. CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD:

The VFW Teacher of the Year award contest recognizes three exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students. Nominations of outstanding teachers in three categories: grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

ATTENTION: There are changes for this year’s program. For starters, there is a new Teacher Entry Form which was published in the September 2021 General Orders. Go to the National Web Site and preprint your Post information before the Nominator fills out the form. Other changes include who can nominate a teacher and who is eligible.

The program dates for this year are as follows: Post judging should be completed by **November 15th** and winners sent to District. District judging should be completed by **December 15th** and winners forwarded to the Department by **December 20th**. Department judging will be completed by **December 23rd** and winners submitted to VFW National Headquarters by **January 15th**. District chairpersons will provide District Reports with their District winners to the State Chairman.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call me (540) 955-3311 or (540) 539-5446 or email me bigredtruk@comcast.net.

Chris Birch
Teacher’s Recognition Chairman

8. DELINQUENT:

The following is a list of Posts that are still delinquent in Delegate Fees Reports:

Dist.	Post	Fees		Dist.	Post	Fees
4	5313	\$6.00		12	4301	\$6.00
4	12200	\$3.00		12	8979	\$6.00
				12	9600	\$9.00
6	4299	\$6.00		12	9830	\$6.00
				12	9864	\$6.00

9. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 7th**. 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 **VFW2021!** once you have accessed the mail program you will be asked to change it; it must contain at least one uppercase letter and one number.

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

adjpost176@vfwva.org
qmpost176@vfwva.org

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

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

10. 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.

11. INCORPORATION:

The attention of the Post Commander is directed to section 708 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, which prescribes the procedure for the Incorporation of Units. It shall be the responsibility of the Post

Commander to ensure full compliance with both sections and to ensure that all state requirements for annual filing, fees, etc., are met in a timely manner.

Posts should take the necessary steps to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the Post is located. Financial responsibility laws, as interpreted by the courts, may cause members of unincorporated Posts to be at risk. Incorporating under the provisions of section 708 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure and the laws of the state will provide protection for Post members. Posts are urged to contact their Department Adjutant to obtain the proper forms for incorporating. The Articles of Incorporation must be reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief prior to forwarding them to the proper state authorities.

12. IMPORTANT DATES:

- November 18 - 21, 2021 Southern Conference, Hilton Head, South Carolina (Reservations packets in October General Orders)
- January 7 - 9, 2022 Winter Council, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA; phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$94.00 per night. Group name "VFW Department of Virginia Winter Council Meeting"; Cut-off Date December 6, 2021. The State Commander/President's Homecoming will be held during this time.
- June 9 - 12, 2022 State Convention, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA; phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$129.00 per night. Group name "Virginia Department VFW & Auxiliary State Convention 2022"; Cut-off Date May 9, 2022.
- July 16 – 21, 2022 National Convention, Kansas City, Missouri
- July 22 – 27, 2023 National Convention, Phoenix, Arizona
- July 27 – Aug 1, 2024 National Convention, Louisville, Kentucky
- August 9 – 14, 2025 National Convention, Columbus, Ohio
- August 15 – 20, 2026 National Convention Salt Lake City, Utah

13. INSPECTIONS:

Hello, Comrades of Virginia,

I'm happy to report that our Posts are **64%** and Districts are **94%** inspection completion. Keep up the good work.

Districts 1, 7 and 11 are 100% Posts and District inspected

Congratulations to our District Inspectors of the Month for September to District 1, and 7.

Comrade Mark Shockley District 1

Comrade Christopher Birch District 7

Part 3 Question of the month: "Do you know what is needed to inspect? Knowledgeable of programs, By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations. i.e., Audits, Bonded, All-American, All-State requirements." This question is open to all.

The Inspectors **No. 1 Objective** is to create and support a plan **to inspect all Posts and Districts by December 17, 2021**, and to **correct all discrepancies by April 30, 2022**.

Are **You Inspection ready?** You, too, can get a certificate of Post Inspection readiness!

Any questions, comments, support needed, or recommendations, don't hesitate to get in touch with me at:

Charles Bush
State Inspector
inspector@vfwva.org
540-907-5292

14. 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 any time the Post Quartermaster changes and/or the Post address changes. This was effective January 1, 2014.

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

15. JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL:

The JLC met on September 9 at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond. Following reports from the Board of Veterans Services, The Virginia Services Foundation and The Department of Veterans Services the council voted to approve and prioritize seven initiatives for the 2022 legislative session. They are listed below in order of priority:

1. Maintain Momentum on state-level efforts on Suicide Prevention among Service Members, Veterans and their Families
2. Expand Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses of Military Services Members “Killed in Action” to also include “Died in Line-of Duty/ not due to the member’s own misconduct
3. VSO Color and Honor Guards Protections
4. State Veterans Cemeteries – Eliminate Spousal Burial Fees
5. Grants for Employers Who Hire National Guard and Reserves
6. Free entry to state parks for Guard members
7. Income Tax Deduction for Guard members

Position papers for use at our 2022 Day-on-the-Hill will be approved at the December JLC meeting.

I am also pleased to announce that Rev. Dr. Harold Sayles has agreed to be my alternate to the JLC.

For questions of additional information please feel free to contact me.

Rick Raskin
PSC/JLC Representative

16. LIFE MEMBER DRAWING:

Congratulations to Battlefield Post 9808, Mechanicsville as the winner of a free Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Virginia. Battlefield Post 9808 was made eligible for this Free Life Membership for having 75% of their membership reported to State Headquarters by September 24, 2021 deadline.

17. MEMBERSHIP:

Comrades and Commanders,

We are closing in on Veterans Day and I hope all have planned functions and recruiting events by now. If you haven't and need assistance, please contact me or State Headquarters and let us know how we can assist you. Since my last report we have held five Recruiter Schools at various locations around the State. We also zoomed from two locations. We have a record of all that attended in person and those that attended by zoom. This was a requirement for All State and we had good attendance. Looks as though a lot of you are planning on being All State this year.

Remember to set a donation jar on your recruiter table with poppies laying on the table. This attracts veterans and spouses of veterans to the table. I sign a lot of veterans up just by starting a conversation as they are making a donation. The Auxiliary really should attend our recruiter events because we have hundreds of people tell us that someone in their family served in a qualifying area. We do pass out auxiliary applications but I'm sure very few ever join. You have to be there and get the app filled out and collect the money, then it's a done deal.

We had the best year at the State Fair that we have ever had. We had great recruiters and we broke previous records every day. In all we signed up 140 new or reinstated and had 8 transfers, most from out of State. We put new members in 9 Districts and 15048 our At Large Post. We helped 39 Post and 15048 with at least one member. The Third District had the most new members but Fredericksburg Post 3103 received the most with 26. I would like to thank State Commander Butch for working the entire ten days with me. Also, thanks to Geoff Lyster and Ken Wiseman for working both weekends and David Jarrett for working all weekdays and last but not least Fritz Eley for helping out. We have Processed all but 5 as I submit this report. Even if we don't get the last five it's still the best year ever.

Comrades I will leave you with one last thought, work membership all year and please make an effort to spend time at your Post Meetings discussing membership. If the Team can be of assistance, please contact us or State Headquarters. One of our team is being deployed very soon, George Winters, the Commander of Lynchburg Post 12179 and one of our newest team members is heading to Africa for nine months. We wish George and the Bedford Boys all the best on their deployment and wish them all a safe return.

Tom Hines PSC
Membership Team

18. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters and the Hopewell, Norfolk and Dale City Service Offices will be closed November 11, 2021 in observance of Veterans Day and will close at noon on November 24 and reopen on November 29, 2021 in observance of Thanksgiving. The State Adjutant/Quartermaster will be available by phone and email for any issues that may arise.

19. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY:

Procedure and Ritual establish that *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12th Edition* shall be the parliamentary authority on procedural matters not governed by VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. This edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* is readily available at local bookstores and online retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

20. PATRIOT'S PEN:

Request District Chairpersons forward winning Patriots Pen Packages to:

Dennis W Walk
State Chair Patriots Pen
401 Chowan Place
Newport News, VA 23608-1333

I have attached the District report Forms to be completed. The packages must be complete by ensuring a head and shoulder picture of the winner. Need to be received at my address by 16 December 2021. The State judging will be on 18 December 2021 at a location to be announced. Any Questions, please call 757-874-4660 or 757-532-0435.

Dennis Walk
Patriot's Pen Chairman

21. PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS:

Posts are asked to submit three nominees (one for each career area) to State Headquarters no later than January 10, 2022.

Law Enforcement Award
Firefighter Award
Emergency Medical Technician Award

NOTE: VFW PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATION POST ENTRY FORM. This form was developed to assist VFW Post Safety Chairmen with an entry form to hand out to the local Fire Department, Police Department, etc. to assist interested individuals in nominating one of their own. The entry form along with the required documentation (nominees' background, resume of background in appropriate work, accomplishments in appropriate field, title and address) are to be returned to the local VFW Post for their judging. Once the winner in each category have been chosen, the Post will forward those entries on to the next level of judging.

Instructions and entry forms are enclosed.

22. 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.

23. ROSTER CHANGES:

Post 3150 JVC
Christopher E. Alexander
2200 12th Ct N 209
Arlington, VA 22201
202-779-8387
brasidas422@gmail.com

Post 6975 Cmdr
Leon W. Brimm
PO Box 818
Bristol, VA 24203
423-27-9747
cdrpost6975@gmail.com

Post 6975 SVC
Michael A Vallas
929 Holston Ave Apt 1
Bristol, TN 374620
423-967-5071
mavallas@yahoo.com

Post 8479 Cmdr
John W. Gibson
20 Sugar Hill Lane
Crimora, VA 24431
540-451-3386

Post 8479 SVC
Jeffrey T. Vandevander
811 Crabtree Circle
Staunton, VA 24401
740-237-9946
Truckdrive19692004@gmail.com

Post 9660 Cmdr
David F. Kennedy
540-214-7267

Post 9660 QM
Spencer K. White
276 1st Street
Broadway, VA 22815
540-421-8243
qmpost9660@vfwva.org

24. SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY THEMES:

The 2021-22 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Matthew M. "Fritz" Mihelcic. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "**America: Where do we go from here?**" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "**How can I be a good American?**"

25. VVF POST HOME IMPROVEMENT AND ASSISTANCE GRANT:

The Virginia Veterans Foundation, the official foundation of the Virginia VFW, has opened the window to apply for a grant to perform improvements on your Post home. The grant, funded by Powerhouse Gaming, will provide ten (10) grants worth up to \$1,000 for the 2021-2022 year. The requirements and application were in October's General Orders. While the project can be completed anytime between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, the application is due no later than November 30, 2021. Entries can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to State Headquarters.

26. VVF COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANT:

The Virginia Veterans Foundation, the official foundation of the Virginia VFW, has opened the window to apply for a grant to perform community service. The grant, funded by Powerhouse Gaming, will provide twelve (12) grants worth up to \$250 for the 2021-2022 year. Should any money remain after the twelve (12) grants are paid out, those not selected in the first round of grants will be considered a second time. The requirements and application were in October's General Orders. While the project can be completed anytime between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, the application is due no later than November 30, 2021. Posts **AND** Auxiliaries can apply for this grant, but only one grant will be given to an individual Post or their Auxiliary, regardless of who applies. Entries can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to State Headquarters.

27. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

During the reporting period, I distributed two of the pins designated for surviving family members of a Vietnam War Veteran. With Poppy Drives on the horizon, everyone should be on the lookout for Vietnam veterans (look at their caps) and, if they don't have one, make sure they get their commemorative pin.

This month's Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient – PFC Gary W. Martini (USMC) - was born in Lexington, Virginia and joined the Marine Corps in March 1966. Transferred to Vietnam in December 1966, he was assigned to F Company, 2nd Bn, 1st Marines as a rifleman. During Operation Union near Da Nang on April 21, 1967, PFC Martini lost his life while going to the aid of his wounded comrades. The citation accompanying his Medal of Honor reads as follows:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Rifleman, Company F, Second Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam. On 21 April 1967, during Operation UNION, elements of Company F, conducting offensive operations at Binh Son, encountered a firmly entrenched enemy force and immediately deployed to engage them. The Marines in Private Martini's platoon assaulted across an open rice paddy to within twenty meters of the enemy trench line where they were suddenly struck by hand grenades, intense small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire. The enemy onslaught killed 14 and wounded 18 Marines, pinning the remainder of the platoon down behind a low paddy dike. In the face of imminent danger, Private Martini immediately crawled over the dike to a forward open area within 15 meters of the enemy position where, continuously exposed to the hostile fire, he hurled hand grenades, killing several of the enemy. Crawling back through the intense fire, he rejoined his platoon which had moved to the relative safety of a trench line. From this position he observed several of his wounded comrades lying helpless in the fire swept paddy. Although he knew that one man had been killed, attempting to assist the wounded, Private Martini raced through the open area and dragged a comrade back to the friendly position. In spite of a serious wound received during this first daring rescue, he again braved the unrelenting fury of the enemy fire to aid another companion lying wounded only twenty meters in front of the enemy trench line. As he reached the fallen Marine, he received a mortal wound, but disregarding his own condition, he began to drag the Marine toward his platoon's position. Observing men from his unit attempting to leave the security of their position to aid him, concerned only

for their safety, he called to them to remain under cover and through a final supreme effort, moved his injured comrade to where he could be pulled to safety, before he fell, succumbing to his wounds. Stouthearted and indomitable, Private Martini unhesitatingly yielded his own life to save two of his comrades and insure the safety of the remainder of his platoon. His outstanding courage, valiant fighting spirit and selfless devotion to duty reflected the highest credit upon himself, the Marine Corps, and the [United States Naval Service](#). He gallantly gave his life for his country.

The Medal was presented to his family at ceremonies at the Marine Barracks in Washington on October 22, 1968 by Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius. He is buried in Rosewood Cemetery, Lewisburg, WV. Martini Hall at MCRD San Diego is named in his honor.

Jeff Dombroff
Vietnam War Commemoration Committee Chairman
Commander, District 8
Cdrdist8@vfwva.org

28. VOICE OF DEMOCRACY:

The Voice of Democracy program, instituted in 1947, has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars premier scholarship program. Annually, nearly 64,500 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Written and recorded audio essays are submitted by each applicant and address an annual patriotic theme. The 2021 theme is, "America: Where Do We Go From Here?" The contest is open to students in grades 9-12. More specific information, including rules, forms, and brochures are available at <http://www.vfw.org>.

Because of unexpected Covid 19 school closures we must be more creative this year when recruiting applicants for the Voice of Democracy contest. Please consider using social media, and electronic communication with school administrators and teachers, as well as traditional methods.

2021-2022 Voice of Democracy Reporting Deadlines

15 November 2021 Completion of Post judging
05 December 2021 Completion of District judging
18 December 2021 Department VOD Selection Board
22 December 2021 Completion of Department Judging
15 January 2022 District Participation Reports due for Department Chairman
15 January 2022 Department winners due for National

Awards will be presented to the top three Department winners at the Department Winter Council meeting on Saturday, 8 January 2022 in Portsmouth, Virginia. Please send complete application packets to the Department VOD Chairman to include the completed Official Student Entry form with all appropriate signatures, a typed transcript, an audio CD or flash drive and a photograph of the District winner. Make sure your flash drive or CD is properly recorded and playable before sending it. Incomplete application packets will disqualify your candidate from District and Department judging. District Chairmen are expected to complete and send out the District Participation Report in a timely manner. It should be received by the Department VOD Chairman, which is required for his Department Report NLT Saturday, 15 January 2022.

The District first place winning submissions should be mailed to the Department VOD Chairman Louis Filippone at 15608 Jillians Forest Way, Centreville, Virginia 20120.

You are strongly encouraged to send your application packets by UPS, Fed Ex, or USPS return receipt. You are also advised to keep a duplicate copy of the complete application packet on hand. The Department VOD Chairman must receive your submissions NLT Friday, 17 December 2021. The Department VOD Selection Board will be held on Saturday, 18 December 2021, location to be announced. Possible teleconference format judging is being considered.

Voice of Democracy Department Awards

The top three finalists will be invited to the Winter Council Luncheon in Portsmouth, Virginia on Saturday, 08 January 2022. All three finalists will receive their awards and present their essays at the awards banquet. The first-place winner will receive a minimum of \$2,000.00 from the Department along with \$500.00 from the Commander's Club and an additional check from the Auxiliary. The second-place winner will receive a minimum of \$1,000.00, and the third-place winner will receive a minimum of \$500.00. Additional donations are expected this year. The Post that sponsors the Department's first place winner will be awarded the Clarence E. Kelley Memorial Voice of Democracy Trophy at the Department Convention on June 11, 2022. Should you require any assistance or additional information regarding the 2021-2022 Voice of Democracy program, or its administration please contact me directly at (703)477-2274 or email at drlouortho@aol.com.

Please be advised all dates and venues are subject to change as a result of unforeseen Covid 19 restrictions.

Louis Filippone
Voice of Democracy Program Chairman

29. WINTER COUNCIL MEETING:

You will find the information for your online reservation link below. If you have questions or need help with the link, please do not hesitate to ask. We appreciate your business and look forward to a successful event.

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1620421775100&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

To book via phone, please call Central Reservations at 1-888-839-1775 and ask for the 'VFW' group rate.

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Butch Schupska
State Commander

District Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Participation Reporting

District Chairmen: Please forward the completed District Report Form and Summary to your Department Chairman.

POST NO.

List Posts that have actually declared student winner(s) and have forwarded at least one winner on to the next (i.e. District) level. Co-sponsorships between VFW Posts are not allowed. These Posts can be listed in either District or numerical order.

AUXILIARY

If Post has an Auxiliary, credit their participation by indicating *YES* or *NO*.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS

Number of students that actually entered the competition by writing an essay.

NUMBER OF POST WINNERS ADVANCED

Number of Post winners that were advanced up to the second level of competition (i.e. District.)

MONETARY AWARDS

Total amount of dollars actually awarded to student participants.

ADDITIONAL MONEY EXPENDED

All additional monies (other than scholarships and award monies) allocated and expended in conducting their program (banquets, gifts, pins, jackets, etc.)

Fowarding District Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Winners to Department

District Chairmen: The District winner's materials that should be forwarded to the Department Chairman (immediately after the District judging is complete) are:

(For both Voice of Democracy and Patriot' Pen)

- 1.) First Place District winner's completed official entry form.
- 2.) For Voice of Democracy only: First Place District winner's audio recording (audio CD or USB drive—checked for 3-5 minute time, good audio quality, and other rule compliance.)
- 3.) First Place District winner's typed essay.
- 4.) First Place District winner's photograph (close-up of head & shoulders.)

If you have any questions, please contact:

Kris Harmer
Programs Department
VFW National Headquarters
406 West 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Phone: (816) 968-1117
E-mail: kharmer@vfw.org

SUMMARY

DISTRICT PATRIOT'S PEN PARTICIPATION REPORT

DISTRICT NO. _____

DEPARTMENT OF _____, VFW

The VFW Posts and Auxiliaries identified in this report in this District participated in the VFW annual Patriot's Pen Program.

GRAND TOTALS FOR POST COMPETITION: list totals taken from District report form(s)

_____	_____	_____	_____
Posts	Auxs	Students	Post Winners Advanced
\$ _____			\$ _____
Monetary Awards			Addl. Money Expended

MONETARY VALUE OF DISTRICT COMPETITION (add County Councils if applicable):

District Monetary Awards \$ _____

District Additional Expenses \$ _____

Signed by: _____ Date _____

District Chairman

***PLEASE ATTACH COMPLETED REPORT FORM(S) AND GIVE
THIS COMPLETED SUMMARY TO YOUR DEPARTMENT
Patriot's Pen Chairman***



PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATIONS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL AND FIREFIGHTERS

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects emergency medical technicians, law enforcement and firefighter personnel to receive VFW Public Servant Awards. Post Safety Chairmen are encouraged to submit a candidate for these awards to their **Department Headquarters by Jan. 1**. The Department must select a single candidate for each of the three awards and submit those to **VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1**.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the “VFW Department Public Servant Award Citation Request Form” which is now available on the VFW website. You can locate this form by logging in to vfw.org and searching under “My VFW” in the Training & Support section.

VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Public Servant Citation:

Any individual, who actively gives emergency medical treatment, provides rescue service or civil disaster assistance as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to give emergency medical care, provide rescue and civil disaster assistance to our nation’s citizens.

VFW National Law Enforcement Public Servant Citation:

Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with enforcement of the laws pertaining to their area of responsibility. This award does not apply to individual employed by private companies or security services.

VFW National Firefighters Public Servant Citation: Any individual who actively fights fires as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to fight fires and give assistance to our nation’s citizens.

Criteria for these awards – Candidates must have demonstrated:

- 1) Recognition by their colleagues or those they serve.
- 2) Consistent excellence in the performance of their duties.
- 3) Consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession.

Documentation required for all Candidates:

- 1) Nomination letter containing the candidate’s name, title, address, telephone and identifying the award for which the individual should be considered.
 - a. Include justification outlining background in field, accomplishments and awards.

Note NEW (not required) One (1) page VFW Public Servant Award Citation Post Entry Form is now available on the VFW website. You can locate this form by logging in to vfw.org and searching under “My VFW” in the Training & Support section.

If you have any questions contact Tammy Beauchamp at 816.756.3390 Ext. 6287, e-mail tbeauchamp@vfw.org.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Office 816.756.3390
Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org



VFW Public Servant Award Citation Post Entry Form

NOTE: VFW Point of Contact should fill out their section below prior to distributing this form.
This will provide individuals from outside of the VFW with the needed information to submit their packets successfully.

To be filled out by VFW representative

Sponsoring VFW Post #: Sponsoring District #:
Date of Presentation: MM/DD/YY (if available)

VFW Post POC

Full Name:
Phone: Email:
Address: (where to mail entry)
City: State: Zip:

Individual Submitting Nomination

Full Name:
Phone: Email:

Nominee Information

Choose appropriate citation: (EMT, Firefighter or Law Enforcement)
Full Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)
Occupation Title: (if any) (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)
Employer Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)
Address of Employer:

City: State: Zip:
Employer Phone: Employer Email: (if available)

Please complete this form and submit to your local VFW Post using the information provided above. Ensure to include all required documentation that is outlined on the instructions sheet provided with this form. All post entries must be received by their **Department Headquarters no later than January 1st**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tammy Beauchamp at 816-756-3390 x 6287, e-mail tbeauchamp@vfw.org



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



**The VFW Department
of Virginia
Oral History Project
is about to begin!**

VFW Department of Virginia has contracted with Publishing Concepts (PCI), a trusted partner, to create this special member publication.

Up-to-date member information is essential for our organization to serve veterans, their families, and our communities in accordance with the traditions and proud history of VFW Department of Virginia. We are also collecting stories from our members to memorialize the history of their VFW experiences through the years.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to be included!



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

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

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

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

Hay-U

Ronnie Steele

Commander

Grand of Virginia

Military Order of the Cootie



Comrades:

My name is Harold Milton Schupska, (aka), Butch. I am announcing my candidacy for National Council member for the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 2022-2026. I was in the Navy from 1972-1975, then came back into the Navy in 1979. I married Peggy Ann Barchaniwcz on July 18, 1983. We have no children, but we spoil nieces and nephews and then send them home. I retired from the Navy on September 30, 1996 as a First-Class Boiler Technician (SW). My wife Peggy and I reside in Norfolk, Virginia.



I joined the VFW in 1989 at Ocean View Post 3160 became involved with the Military Order of the Cooties, reaching the title of Seam Squirrel four times. In 2002 I became Junior Vice Commander of Post 3160. In 2003-2004 I was Senior Vice Commander and then in 2004-2005, I became Post Commander. As Post Commander I received the distinguished All-State Commander award and made All American Commander. In 2008-2009, I was elected as the Grand Commander of the Military Order of the Cooties. From 2010-2013, I was elected Post Commander again, and was an All-American Commander all three terms, and All-State two of the three terms.

In 2016, I ran for Department Surgeon and from 2017 until the present, I have made my way up the chairs and am the 2021-2022 Department Commander.

I will give this Department my all to ensure that Virginia continues to lead the Veterans of Foreign Wars. "Full Steam Ahead for Vets".

I hope I can count on your support at state convention in June of 2022.



Harold Milton Schupska (AKA) Butch



Vote Ken Wiseman for National Council of Administration!

An Experienced Leader For Virginia!



Endorsed by current National Councilman Tom Gimble!

The National Council of Administration oversees the National HQs of the VFW and Virginia needs someone to represent our interests and help oversee national-level efforts. With a multi-million dollar budget, important programs, and a future that must be as great as our past, we need experience and knowledge in the person holding this position.

As an All-American Past State Commander and All-American Past State Adjutant/Quartermaster, Ken knows firsthand Virginia's relationship with the National HQs and will fight to protect the more than \$175,000 Virginia gets annually from the National HQs. Ken knows the importance of Service Officers having been one and he sees the help they give veterans as a cornerstone of the VFW. Ken spent three years working in the VFW's D.C. office and knows well our fight on Capitol Hill and the need to support all VFW employees in their efforts to fulfill our mission.

Most importantly, Ken understands the challenges faced by our Posts. Having served multiple times as a Post Commander and Post Quartermaster and earning All-American and All-State honors along the way, Ken believes Posts are the most important level of the organization and should be supported as such. Ken will work to ensure that the National HQs empowers and strengthens Posts, not make it harder for them to succeed.

Vote for experience and continued advocacy!

Mark P. Maggio

Candidate for the Office of State Surgeon 2022-23



Comrades my name is Mark Maggio and I am running for State Surgeon. I moved from New York to Virginia in 2003. I have served in a variety of positions since living in Virginia and most recently served as the State Chief of Staff for Commander Eric Mallette. In my positions with the Posts, Districts and State, I have accumulated experience in the business of the VFW and feel that I am ready to serve my fellow comrades as a state officer and eventually State Commander. My goals are to continue the work that has been done by the state over the years growing the membership and reaching out to new members, and continuing to make the VFW a strong voice for veterans.

I enlisted in the Army November of 1982 and went to Basic Training at Fort McClellan, Alabama. I served as a Smoke Generator Operator until receiving my commission from Hofstra University in May 1986 as a Chemical Officer. I served as a platoon leader and executive officer of the 363rd Chemical Company and was transferred to the 318th Movement Control Agency just prior to deploying to Saudi Arabia for Desert Shield and Storm. During Operation Desert Storm I served as Freight Movements Officer from October 1990 till July of 1991. I returned home and went on to the Transportation Officer Advanced Course then went on to serve as a Company Commander of the 623rd Transportation Company. I then served in various staff assignment in the 354th and 436th Transportation Battalions. I later served with the 1179th Transportation Brigade and the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command where I served tours in both Afghanistan and Iraq. In Iraq I was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for establishing a redeployment system that streamlined the process of units moving in and out of theater while minimizing the disruption of the change over operations and combat operations.

While serving in Post 4639 I served as Jr and Sr Vice Commander becoming Commander in 2010. I was an All State Commander in my first year. In 2018 I was elected District 3 Commander and was an All American District Commander in my first year and a All State District Commander in my second. In 2018 11 of the 15 posts in the district made All State and 7 made All American. I was asked by Commander Mallette to be his Chief of Staff and worked in that position during the 2020-21 term. I am a member of the State Honor Guard and I am currently the Treasurer of the Commanders Club. I am also a member of the Military Order of the Cooties, where I currently serve as the Sky Pilot.

I am currently employed by the United States Army working at Fort Eustis for the Future Concepts Center under the Army Futures Command. I have been a civilian employee of the Department of the Army since 2010. My girlfriend Rosanne is a member of the Auxilliary and her father was a victim of Agent Orange which took his life in 2001. I have lost several comrades who served in Vietnam to Agent Orange and cancer. I have lost comrades to suicide as well. It is the remembrance of those lives that drive me to a voice for veterans whose voice may be lost in the din of competing voices for Government resources and aid. I want to be the voice that breaks through and helps them get the aid that they fought for and sacrificed for. We must always remain vigilant and never assume our work is finished. No one does more for Veterans than the VFW, must not just be a slogan but our lives work. Thank you Comrades for your consideration.

Fraternally,

Mark P. Maggio
757-879-7724 - Cell
Mmaggio39@gmail.com



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AND VFW AUXILIARY

Winter Council of Administration Meeting
January 7 - 9, 2022
Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel
Portsmouth, Virginia
757-673-3000

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2022

Table with 4 columns: Time, Activity, Location, and Room. Includes events like VFW Headquarters Table Open, State CMDR and Aux. Presidents Homecoming, and VFW Riders Dance.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2022

Table with 4 columns: Time, Activity, Location, and Room. Includes events like VFW Headquarters Table Open, Commanders Club Meeting, VFW Auxiliary Council Meeting/ Program Fair, and VOD & PP BANQUET.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022

Table with 4 columns: Time, Activity, Location, and Room. Includes Joint Devotional Service in the Holley Ballroom IV.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, AND PATRIOT'S PEN BANQUET TICKETS: \$45.00
FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE MUST BE PURCHASED FROM THE VFW RIDERS Cost \$10.00

Department Hospitality Room - Commodore Room

(Tentative schedule subject to change)