

REGISTRATION DEADLINE JANUARY 5TH

WINTER COUNCIL MEETING

January 12 – 15, 2023
Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel ~ Portsmouth, Virginia ~ 757-673-3000 ~
\$97.00 Per night

(Hotel Group Rate Deadline is December 12th)

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR BANQUET TICKET
\$50.00

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

Dinner Menu

Parmesan Crusted Chicken with Mozzarella served with Marinara Sauce

AND

Shrimp Scampi served over Pasta

Served with:

Caesar with Shaved Parmesan, Focaccia Crouton & Green Goddess Caesar Dressing

Mixed Greens with Ranch or Creamy Italian Dressing

Sweet Potato Casserole Steamed Broccoli in Lemon Butter Oven Roasted Potatoes

Warm Rolls and Butter

Assorted Mini Dessert Shooters, Strawberry Lemonade Cheesecake, Smores, Crème Brule, Mini Bundt Cakes

Coffee/Decaffeinated Coffee/Herbal Teas

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY **JANUARY 5, 2022** (NO EXCEPTIONS)

Check, Discover, American Express, Visa, or MasterCard Accepted

Person placing the order (name) _____ Phone: _____

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

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

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

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

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

Mail form to: State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401
You may also e-mail this form to: statehg@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

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

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

November 1, 2022

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

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1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Comrades and Auxiliary,

As the leaves change colors, the temperatures cool and we prepare for the arrival of the holiday season, Theresa and I would like to wish everyone a Happy Halloween and a Great Thanksgiving. We had a very busy VFW month in October, and I would like to share some highlights.

Training: We wrapped up our SOI Training and we held another stellar hands-on session of State Adjutant-Quartermaster Training. Overall, I think the revamped training modules this year were very well received. Remember, "leadership and learning are indispensable of one another" (JFK).

Reporting: We achieved 100 percent reporting for the first half of the year! Thanks to all the members who entered reports (especially the five required reports) and special thanks to Chief of Staff Ken Wiseman. Your State Team participated in many events across the Commonwealth.

Sep. 23-Oct. 2 VFW Recruiting Booth at Virginia State Fair: We had a record week at the Virginia State Fair! Our final numbers tallied from the State Fair indicated we recruited 149 New/Reinstated members for a new State record! We also disseminated valuable information to veterans, sold numerous raffle tickets and calendars. Thanks to our Membership Team and all our dedicated volunteers. Special Membership Chair, Tom Hines for providing a stellar and welcoming VFW Booth.

Oct. 8 VFW at King George Fall Festival: On October 8 I was honored to attend the 63rd Annual King George Fall Festival and marched in their parade. The VFW was featured prominently as Post 12202 was honored as

“Grand Marshall” of the parade. Afterwards, we manned the VFW Booth - greeted the public, and did some hands-on recruiting. Congratulations to Post 12202 for making 100 percent as a result. Special thanks to Post 12202 Commander Alex McKenna and his team for putting on a great event.

Oct. 10-12 Association of the U.S. Army Convention: We had very successful event this week, at the *Assoc. of the U.S. Army Convention & Exposition* at the Washington Convention Center, Washington DC. This was a National (funded) event, right in our own back yard. We recruited 86 new/reinstated members, all for the Department of Virginia. Thanks to National VFW for funding and hosting our Membership Team.

Oct. 12 USS COLE Ceremonies: Members of the Dept. of Virginia VFW gathered with shipmates and family members of the USS COLE to lay wreaths at the graves of fallen COLE veterans in Norfolk and at Arlington National Cemetery. Additionally, a *Celebration of Life Ceremony* was conducted at VFW Post 4809. Special thanks to Post 4809 and our Chief of Staff for organizing these events.

Oct. 15 Haymarket Day: Our State Membership Team maintained a VFW Recruiting Booth at Haymarket Day on this busy day in this bustling northern suburb. Over 25,000 attendees enjoyed the parade and vendor booths. Veteran Service literature was distributed and over 20 new members were recruited. We are exploring starting a new post in this area, which seems very welcoming to the VFW. Thanks to Ken Wiseman and Todd Taylor for their efforts.

Events On the Horizon...

Women’s Veterans Forum: On January 13, 2023 we will be hosting a Women’s Veterans Forum at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Hotel. Tammy Barlet, Deputy Director of VFW National Legislative Department and VFW Representative on the House Veteran Affairs Women Task Force will be our special guest speaker. Please mark your calendars and try to attend.

Jan. 12-15, 2023, Winter Council of Administration (COA): Join us for the Winter COA at the beautiful Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Hotel. National VFW Senior Vice Commander-In-Chief, and Duane *Sarmiento*, will be attending as the official National Rep!

*As a friendly reminder: book your rooms now for the Winter COA. RSVP for the free **Homecoming** on Friday night (Jan. 13) Don’t miss it, it may be the biggest Homecoming in history! Secondly, don’t forget to register for the Annual **Youth-Educator Awards Banquet** (\$50) on Saturday night (Jan. 14). We will be enjoying parmesan crusted chicken, savory shrimp scampi over pasta and other delicacies in a buffet setting.*

Membership & Recruiting: We had a strong month with regard to *Membership & Recruiting*. At the time of this writing, our Department stands at 86.5 percent with nearly 900 new and reinstated members. Thanks to all our members and dedicated recruiters. Special thanks to Membership Chairman Tom Hines and his Team for all their hard work. There is much work, yet to do. I am requesting that every member, especially active members, recruit at least one new member this year. In return you will receive a *National One Recruiter Pin*.

The Department of Virginia is doing very well and setting new records as we continue to emerge from the pandemic. Our members continue to do extraordinary things. I hope you will continue to work hard, inspire your members and make a difference for veterans!

Sincerely and respectfully,
Geoffrey Lyster
State Commander
Department of Virginia

2. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:

The National Bylaws provide for only one type of membership: active membership. There are no provisions in the National Bylaws, nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Member cards, Honorary Membership cards, Courtesy Membership cards or any other special type of cards. Any Post issuing such unauthorized cards, or conducting club operations open to the general public, endangers its standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting

non-members to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW Bylaws or procedures.

3. 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.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 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

4. BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:

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

5. CITIZEN EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD:

Please see the attachment. There is a change for the 2022-2023 Program.

6. DELINQUENT:

The following is a list of Posts that are still delinquent in Delegate Fees, Bonds and Audits. If you are bonded through another company, **you must still submit proof of bonding** to State Headquarters.

Dist.	Post	2022 Delegate Fees	Audits	Bonds	Dist.	Post	2022 Delegate Fees	Audits	Bonds
2	2582			Expired	12	4301	\$6.00	June	
					12	5715	\$12.00		
3	7167	\$6.00			12	8652		June	Expired
3	8046	\$6.00			12	9600	\$9.00		Expired
					12	9830	\$6.00		
4	5313		June	Expired	12	9864	\$6.00		
					13	10574		June	

7. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 st	Date: 1/21/23 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Hosted by Post 8252 Gloucester DAV Building, 6265 Professional Drive Rep: State Inspector Charles Bush	6 th	Date: 12/3/22 Meeting: Noon Location: Hosted by Post 5311 Christiansburg at Post 1264 Roanoke 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: St Judge Advocate Doug Hoffman
2 nd	Date: 12/3/22 Lunch: Noon Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 3160 Norfolk 111 A View Avenue Rep: St Commander Geoffrey Lyster	7 th	Date: 1/21/23 Lunch: 11:30 AM Meeting: To follow Lunch Location: Post 2447 Edinburg 100 Veterans Way Rep: State SVC Gary Adams
3 rd	Date: 11/19/22 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 9808 Mechanicsville 7168 Flag Lane Rep: State Surgeon Mark Maggio	8 th	Date: 11/19/22 Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 3103 Fredericksburg 2701 Princess Anne Street Rep: State Inspector Charles Bush
4 th	Date: 11/5/22 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 7166 South Hill 1472 N Mecklenburg Avenue Rep: State Surgeon Mark Maggio	9 th	Date: 1/28/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 11115 Hillsville 701 W. Stuart Drive Rep: State JVC Mitch Rubenstein
5 th	Date: 11/19/22 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep: St Chief-of-Staff Ken Wiseman	10 th	Date: 12/11/22 Lunch: Noon Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 1177 Leesburg 401 Old Waterford RD NW Rep: State SVC Gary Adams

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

12th Date: 12/3/22
Meeting: 11:00 AM
Location: Post 1994 Abingdon
17581 Lee Highway
Rep: State Chief of Staff Ken Wiseman

13th Date: 11/5/22
Meeting: 11:00 AM
Location: Post 8169 Scottsville
2997 W River Road
Rep: State SVC Gary Adams

8. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

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

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

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

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

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

adjpost176@vfwva.org

qmpost176@vfwva.org

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

svdist1@vfwva.org

adjdist1@vfwva.org

qmdist1@vfwva.org

9. 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.

10. IMPORTANT DATES:

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

11. INSPECTIONS:

Hello, Comrades of Virginia; we hope you adjusting to the change of season.

I’m happy to report as of October 20, 2022

10 DISTRICTS OF 13 INSPECTED (77%)
91 POSTS OF 127 INSPECTED (72%)

45 POSTS/DISTRICTS ARE INSPECTION READY (32%)
16 POSTS/DISTRICTS WITH OUTSTANDING INSPECTION BINDERS (11%)

Let’s start November with Congratulations to **Districts 4, 7, 8, and 9 for getting most of their Posts Inspected in September. Awesome job!**

District Commanders and District Inspectors of the Month:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Comments</u>
September	Comrade Tommy Hines	Dist. 4	Great Job!
September	Comrade Christopher Birch	Dist. 7	Great Job!
September	Comrade Monti Zimmerman	Dist. 8	Great Job!
September	Comrade Dan Boyer	Dist. 9	Great Job!

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

We started Inspectors’ training; please check with your District Commander to join.

Finally, Inspector No. 1 Objective is to create and support a plan to inspect all Posts and Districts by December 16, 2022, and correction completed by May 5, 2023.

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

12. 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.

13. IRS FORM 8822-B:

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

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

14. MEMBERSHIP:

Comrades and Commanders,

We are doing well in the State so far, I would like to thank all of you for your efforts. Now is the time to contact all of your unpaid annuals that have expired or are in the 90-day window before expiring. Every Post Quartermaster can identify these members by viewing his Post Roster online. I hope all of your Post took advantage of the fifty-dollar grant for every new life member that the CIC offered during the month of October.

We have Veterans Day this month that gives you another chance to recruit and distribute Buddy Poppies. When you them a Poppy don't forget to ask if they are eligible for the Veterans of Foreign Wars or its Auxiliary. Never hand them a Poppy and just say thank you. Maximize your opportunities.

We did quite well at the State Fair this year even though we had rain from the hurricane on two days. The Team put members in 40 Posts from 7 Districts. We ended up with 149 for the ten days. The top three Post were 9808 with 19, 6364 with 15, and 3103 with 14. I would like to thank Cdr. Geoffery Lyster for working all Ten Days. Kathy Goodall, Ken Wiseman, Troy Wagers, and Ron Riffle all worked multiple days to make this a great success. Troy and Ron were new recruiters at the fair this year and did quite well. As always Ken and Kathy were awesome in their efforts. The State Team is here to help you in your recruiting efforts. Please contact me or State Headquarters with your questions or request. DONT FORGET TO READ THE STATE MEMBERSHIP PLAN FOR THIS YEAR. THERE ARE REWARDS FOR YOU OR YOUR POST ALL DURING THE YEAR. CHECK OUT THE DECEMBER 31st AWARD FOR POST COMMANDERS.

Tom Hines PSC
Membership Team Chairman

15. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters and the Smithfield, Norfolk and Dale City Service Offices will be closed November 11, 2022, in observance of Veterans Day and will close at noon on November 23 and reopen on November 28, 2022, in observance of Thanksgiving.

The Adj/QM will be available by phone and email for any issues that may arise.

Please note the Hopewell Service Office is temporarily closed.

16. 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.

17. PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS:

Please see the attachment. There has been a new category added 2022-2023 Program. Please note deadline to State Headquarters is January 1, 2023.

18. REPORTING:

Comrades to view whether your Post has submitted an Audit Report, Americanism, Community Service, Safety, Youth or Hospital report you should visit the Department website (www.vfwva.org).

The website is updated daily. If you have any questions, please call State Headquarters.

There will be no form for Homeless when reporting for assistance to a homeless veteran please put it on a Community Activity report under aid to others.

19. ROSTER CHANGES:

District 3 Pro-Temp QM
Doris Wollett
5102 Hurop Road
Sandston 23150
804-512-5040
qmdist3@vfwva.org

Post 3150 SVC
Darrell L. Smith
2304 Potomac Ave Unit 102
Alexandria 22301
803-847-0680
smithusaf@hotmail.com

Post 8545
Dues \$45.00

Post 10574 Cmdr
Matthew E. Willis
27 Dogwood Ave
Colonial Beach 22443
949-547-7303
cdrpost10574@vfwva.org

Post 10574 SVC
Robert L. McKenney
114 Washington Ave
Colonial Beach 22443
434-987-1298

Post 10574 JVC
Sheila A. Wolfe
103 Lynnhaven Ct
Colonial Beach 22443
804-224-9027

Post 10574 QM
Lorijean (LJ) Brady
10297 Woodland Way
King George 22485
540-834-8675
qmpost10574@vfwva.org

Post 12179 Meeting Location
Moose Lodge 715
2307 Lakeside Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24501

20. SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY THEMES:

The 2022–23 themes have been chosen by Commander-in-Chief Timothy M. Borland. The Voice of Democracy theme is “**Why is the Veteran Important?**” and the Patriot’s Pen theme is “**My Pledge to our Veterans.**”

21. VETERANS DAY ON NOVEMBER 11:

Organize a community event on Veterans Day honoring all veterans. For a ceremonial procedure, refer to the information found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairperson’s Guide. If

you should need a Veterans Day speech, please go to vfw.org/MY-VFW/Patriotic-Holiday-Speeches. Click here for Veterans Day merchandise vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday.

22. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 63:

Membership Reinstatement
Mark A. Stephens
VFW Post No. 392

Having received additional documentation to support honorable service on the Korean peninsula or in its territorial waters for not less than 30 consecutive days, thereby meeting the eligibility requisites for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Special Order No. 77, dated October 26, 2021, terminating the membership of Mark A. Stephens, Life Membership No. 1149409, General Mac Arthur Memorial Post No. 392, Virginia Beach, Virginia, in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, is hereby rescinded and membership is reinstated retroactive to original date of membership.

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

23. 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 2022-2023 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 last month's General Orders. While the project can be completed anytime between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, the application is due no later than November 30, 2022. 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.

24. VVF POST HOME IMPROVEMENT AND ASSISTANCE GRANT:

Recently, the Board of Directors for the Virginia Veterans Foundation approved a reduction in the Foundation's budget affecting several items. An affected item is the Post Home Improvement Grant. There are still 10 grants available, but each will be for a maximum of \$300. The application was in last month's General Orders and on the state's website. The deadline and other requirements for the program are the same.

The Foundation's Board felt this change was necessary to plan for future years where less revenue is possible while still trying to maintain the programs supported by the Foundation. We hope everyone can understand and support this and we will continue to monitor our budget to find opportunities to support our organization.

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 \$300 (please note new amounts)** for the 2022-2023 year. The requirements and application were in last month's General Orders. While the project can be completed anytime between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, the application is due no later than November 30, 2022. Entries can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to State Headquarters.

25. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

I'm finding fewer and fewer Vietnam Veterans in my area who haven't already received their Pin. I was on a trip in George last week and gave out two. There has to be a large number of unrecognized Vietnam Veterans in Virginia and it's up to us to identify them. You know the drill by now.

This month's Vietnam War Congressional Medal of Honor winner is Thomas G. Kelly. Born in Boston MA in 1939, he graduated from the College of Holy Cross in 1960. Kelly joined the Navy via OCS at Newport RI. After assignments as a surface warfare officer on USS Pandemus (ARL-18), USS Davis (DD-37) and USS Stickell (DD-888), he volunteered for service in Vietnam as a lieutenant in command of River Assault Division 152, part of the Mobile Riverine Force.

On June 15, 1969, Kelley led eight river assault craft boats on a mission to extract a United States Army infantry company from the bank of the Ong Muong Canal in Kien Hoa Province, South Vietnam. When a boat malfunctioned, he ordered the other craft to circle the disabled boat that had come under attack and placed his boat directly in the line of enemy fire. A rocket-propelled grenade struck nearby, severely injuring Kelley, but he continued to protect his men until they could get to safety, then ordered medical assistance for himself. For this feat he was awarded the Medal of Honor. His citation reads as follows:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in the afternoon while serving as commander of River Assault Division 152 during combat operations against enemy aggressor forces. Lt. Comdr. (then Lt.) Kelley was in charge of a column of 8 river assault craft which were extracting one company of U.S. Army infantry troops on the east bank of the Ong Muong Canal in Kien Hoa province, when one of the armored troop carriers reported a mechanical failure of a loading ramp. At approximately the same time, Viet Cong forces opened fire from the opposite bank of the canal. After issuing orders for the crippled troop carrier to raise its ramp manually, and for the remaining boats to form a protective cordon around the disabled craft, Lt. Comdr. Kelley realizing the extreme danger to his column and its inability to clear the ambush site until the crippled unit was repaired, boldly maneuvered the monitor in which he was embarked to the exposed side of the protective cordon in direct line with the enemy's fire, and ordered the monitor to commence firing. Suddenly, an enemy rocket scored a direct hit on the coxswain's flat, the shell penetrating the thick armor plate, and the explosion spraying shrapnel in all directions. Sustaining serious head wounds from the blast, which hurled him to the deck of the monitor, Lt. Comdr. Kelley disregarded his severe injuries and attempted to continue directing the other boats. Although unable to move from the deck or to speak clearly into the radio, he succeeded in relaying his commands through one of his men until the enemy attack was silenced and the boats were able to move to an area of safety. Lt. Comdr. Kelley's brilliant leadership, bold initiative, and resolute determination served to inspire his men and provide the impetus needed to carry out the mission after he was medically evacuated by helicopter. His extraordinary courage under fire, and his selfless devotion to duty sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.^[1]

Kelley received his Medal from President Richard Nixon on May 14, 1970. Kelly recovered from his wounds and despite the Navy's insistence that he was no longer fit for active duty due to the loss of an eye in the action, remained on active duty until 1990, retiring as a Captain. His final assignment was in BUPERS, working with then VADM Boorda enhancing the responsibilities and stature of enlisted personnel, while closely integrating minorities and women into mainstream assignments. After his navy service, Kelley worked as a civilian in the Department of Defense for several years before returning to Boston. He became commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services in April 1999 and was named Secretary of that department in August 2003. While Secretary, Kelley ran the Commonwealth's veterans' public assistance program, along with educational benefits and annuities for the disabled. After 9/11, as veterans began returning to Massachusetts, Kelley instituted new programs to reach their unique needs, especially those involving the unseen wounds of war, such as traumatic brain injury and suicide prevention. He hired young, disabled veterans for better outreach to this new cadre. He also worked with the United States Department of Labor to enforce federal employment protections for returning service men and women.

In January 2011, Kelley retired from public service. His combined forty-plus years of naval and state service were recognized in a tribute event attended by 500 persons that also raised \$300,000 for the Massachusetts Soldiers' Legacy Fund, which pays the educational expenses for children of those soldiers who died in the Global War on Terror. Kelly and his family currently reside in Boston.

Jeff Dombroff
Vietnam War Commemoration Committee Chairman

26. VOICE OF DEMOCRACY:

The Voice of Democracy program, instituted in 1947, has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars premier scholarship program. Annually, nearly 25,000 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 2022 theme is, "Why is the Veteran Important?" 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](http://www.vfw.org).

In order to have a successful program this year it is important that participating Posts begin recruiting high schools, teachers and students as soon as possible. Since high schools in your area have already let out for summer vacation, you can either contact them now electronically through emails and social media or contact them directly as soon as classes resume.

2022-2023 Voice of Democracy Reporting Deadlines

15 November 2022 Completion of Post judging
03 December 2022 Completion of District judging
17 December 2022 Department VOD Selection Board
06 January 2023 Completion of Department Judging
15 January 2023 District Participation Reports due for Department Chairman
15 January 2023 Department winners due for National

Awards will be presented to the top three Department winners at the Department Winter Council meeting on Saturday, 14 January 2023 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, flash drive and a photograph of the District winner. Make sure your flash drive 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 Sunday, 15 January 2023.

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, 16 December 2022. The Department VOD Selection Board will be held on Saturday, 17 December 2022, 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 Banquet in Portsmouth, Virginia on Saturday, 14 January 2023. 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 in June 2023, date to be determined. Should you require

any assistance or additional information regarding the 2022-2023 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

27. 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 look forward to a successful event. **Please note last day to Book is Monday, December 12, 2022.**

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1656095589272&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

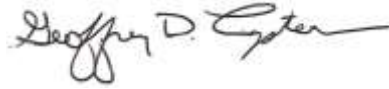
The Winter Council is January 12 – 15, 2023, but you can receive the discounted rate January 9 – 18, 2023. Room rate is \$97.00 per night.

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Geoffrey D. Lyster
State Commander

Limited Edition

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia

Centennial Anniversary KA-BAR Knife

Celebrating 100 years
Only 100 made
\$100 each



To get yours contact State Headquarters.

(540) 886-8112

Shipping Charges may apply.



CALLING ALL WOMEN VETERANS

WE HAVE A SPECIAL GUEST: TAMMY BARLET, MPH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
SPEAKING AT MID WINTER CONFERENCE
PORTSMOUTH VA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022 2-4pm

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES!!! SEE YOU THERE



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

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023

7:00 PM 9:00 PM Virginia Veterans Foundation Board Meeting TBD

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023

Noon	5:00 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Washington Board Room
2:00 PM	4:00 PM	Women Veterans Forum	Madison
5:00 PM	7:00 PM	State CMDR and Aux. Presidents Homecoming	Portsmouth I-III
7:00 PM	11:00 PM	VFW Riders Dance	Portsmouth I-III

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023

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

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

Department Hospitality Room – Commodore Room

(Tentative schedule subject to change)

Subject: Citizenship Education Teacher Recognition

There is a change for the 2022-2023 Program. Once again, National will recognize teachers from elementary, middle and high school rather than the State selecting one of their winners and submitting that entry. Our State's 3 winners will all receive recognition from National.

Post and District Chairpersons are strongly encouraged to go to the National website (<http://www.vfw.org>) and download the VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Chairman's Manual. This document contained entry forms, judging sheets and the necessary information that you need to run a successful program.

Post chairmen must be sure to send the original entry form for the winners along with a one-page resume as a minimum, or up to five pages (both sides) as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience, such as references, news articles, etc. Also, good quality head and shoulders photograph from the winning teachers.

Eligibility: Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. For example, do you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall or organizes community volunteer projects? Maybe you know an instructor who invites veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences. Perhaps you are familiar with a teacher who fosters the development of democratic value and beliefs through special projects. If you know of such a teacher, honor him or her today.

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals, including students.

Deadlines:

15 November 22: Post Judging complete
10 December 22: District Judging complete
17 December 22: District winners must be at State Chairman for
19 December 22: judging State Judging

Post Chairpersons: Don't forget to fill out the bottom portion of the entry form showing number of teachers participating; number of winners advanced to District; amount of Post/Auxiliary awards; and, amount of Post/Auxiliary additional expenses.

District Chairpersons: You will have a report to submit with your entries to State that reflect Post information as well as District awards and expense money. This report will be emailed/mailed to you by November 1 and should be submitted with your District winners.

Any questions, you can contact me at bigredtruk@comcast.net or (540) 539-5446.

Chris Birch
Teacher Recognition Program Chairman



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

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects emergency medical technicians, law enforcement and firefighter personnel to receive VFW Public Servant Awards. New this year, the dispatcher category has been added. Post Safety Chairmen are encouraged to submit a candidate for these awards to their **Department Headquarters by January 1.**

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.

VFW National 911 Dispatcher Public Servant Citation:

Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with providing the vital link between callers in distress and emergency response teams by obtaining essential information to send the appropriate responders to the right location.

NOTE: "NEW" First Responder Medal is available through the VFW Store. To review this item please click on the following link: <https://www.vfwstore.org/products/32134>

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) Public Servant Award Citation Post Entry Form
- 2) Nomination letter containing the candidate's name, title, address, telephone and identifying the award for which the individual should be considered.
- 3) Include justification outlining background in field, accomplishments and awards.

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
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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 #:

VFW Post POC

Full Name:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Individual Submitting Nomination

Full Name:

Phone:

Email:

Nominee Information

Choose appropriate citation:

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 winning 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



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



- **Purpose:** *To Honor Commander Geoffrey Lyster & President Fred Jennings*
- **Date/Time:** Friday, January 13, 2023; 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- **Location:** Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel, 425 Water St, Portsmouth, VA
- **Cost:** Free
- **Entertainment:** Famous DJ “JR”– and Featured Speakers
- **Dance Contest:** Awards for Best Dancer; Best Couple Dancers
- **Giveaways:** Complimentary Deluxe 2022-2023 Commanders Challenge Coin; die cast-full color-ltd edition (in vinyl sleeve) *One free Deluxe Challenge Coin to all attendees, if not rec'd previously*
- **Raffles:** *Henry Golden Boy* .22 S/L/LR (walnut stock); Door Prizes
- **Dress:** Casual (*wear your red or pink organizational shirt*)
- **Menu: “Famous Tidewater Buffet!”**
 - *Mixed green salad with optional: tomatoes, croutons, goat cheese, spiced pecans, cranberries, roasted peach vinaigrette; creamy ranch or tasty Italian dressing*
 - **Entrees:** *-Tidewater “all-day smoked” beef brisket with bourbon BBQ sauce*
-Southern Fried Chicken - buttermilk brined coating
-Buttery garlic mashed potatoes and seasonal grilled vegetables
 - *Dessert: Assorted Chesapeake mini-dessert shooters, strawberry lemonade cheesecake, ‘Campfire S’mores’, assorted southern style mini-bundt cakes, crème brule & assorted macaroons*
-Served with fresh baked rolls & butter, freshly brewed gourmet coffee and exotic herbal teas
- ❖ **RSVP for Commander by January 6, 2023:**
Ken Wiseman – kwiseman@vfwva.org
- ❖ **RSVP for President by January 6, 2023**
Ellen Stogsdill - ellenstogsdill@cox.net



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

*This may be the largest State Homecoming Extravaganza ever!
Stay overnight at the hotel or make it a Daytrip.
Whatever you do, you don't want to miss it!!*

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



Elegant Dancing

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

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

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

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

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

"Neb"

Ben Guinan

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





Charles H. Bush, Jr.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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