

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

“Of the Veterans and For the Veterans”

NUMBER 5

403 Lee Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112

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

November 1, 2024

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

Articles are listed by number not by pages:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Commander’s Message | 17. Military Order of the Cootie |
| 2. Active Membership | 18. Office Closure |
| 3. All State Program Change | 19. Parliamentary Authority |
| 4. Audits | 20. Public Servant Awards |
| 5. Bonds | 21. Reporting |
| 6. Buddy Poppy | 22. Resolutions |
| 7. By-Laws and Manual of Procedure | 23. Roster Changes |
| 8. Citizenship Education Teacher Award | 24. Scholarship Themes |
| 9. Delinquent | 25. Special Order No. 96 |
| 10. District Meetings | 26. School of Instruction |
| 11. E-Mail Account Access | 27. Veterans Day on November 11 |
| 12. General Orders | 28. VFW Day of Service |
| 13. Important Dates | 29. Vietnam War Commemoration |
| 14. Incorporation | 30. VVF Community Service Grant |
| 15. IRS Form 8822-B | 31. VVF Post Home Improvement and Assistance Grant |
| 16. Life Member Drawing | |

1. COMMANDER’S MESSAGE:

Comrades,

As the State Commander this year, I am having more opportunities to visit places and witness things that I have not seen as much prior to this year with regards to the number of events, and functions the State does, while trying to meet the required reports. You all are truly amazing, and I am so proud of all your hard work. Some of these accomplishments were recently demonstrated by the Department reaching 100% with the online community reports for the first quarter. With every year there is a turnover in personnel, and some may crawl before they can walk which is part of the learning process. Mentorship is the key to a successful handoff, or transition so work with the NG. Our N/S Recruiting/Membership Teams are doing great, the Department has been hitting the ground running in numerous locations throughout our state and it has been productive, we are currently over 86% and climbing. The upcoming events will be very interesting leading us into the New Year and our Mid-Winter Conference in January 2025. There is No time to pump the brakes, hammer down and keep the train rolling!

With things moving in the right direction, I see so many positive things that it makes it easy to wipe out the negative, or just not dwell on it as much. However, when those unpredictable negative things happen it makes you think of the most important things in life, and that is life itself. In the VFW and being part of the many committees within a Post, District, or even the State, you are called on to provide services to assist families and friends. For me I have always been part of the Honor Guard both military and in Law Enforcement. Doing a detail can sometimes

become routine like in any job. However, when it's a friend, or comrade, one that you personally know it really hits home. You tend to want to do more even if it's a promise you made to that friend when he or she requests that you to give them a proper sendoff not just for them but for their family. This person was well deserving of those honors. The time, preparation and coordination involved, then trying to fit your aging and much larger body into your old dress uniform gives you those #\$\$&\$ moments and feelings but, you figured out a way to hold your breath long enough without passing out to button up everything, you find a mirror and hopefully you don't look like a stuffed sausage and then it's game time. You're standing tall and looking good, everything is going as planned, then Taps is played, and you are trying to hold back the tears that always comes. Mission complete, you have fulfilled your promise, and the grieving family can't thank you enough for what you have done and been a part of. The book doesn't always close, that emptiness of losing a friend, family member, and fellow comrade lasts forever.

November is the Southern Conference, Veteran's Day, and Thanksgiving. Please make the time to enjoy that time you have with your family, friends, and comrades while they are still here. Life is way too short at times and everyone needs to know how much you care about them. Make phone calls to your members and check on their well-being, especially with the weather changing. Maybe invite someone to join you as part of your family as you celebrate Thanksgiving.

From my family to yours, and from the Line Officers to you all, have a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Yours in Comradeship, and Service,
Mitch Rubenstein
State Commander

2. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:

The National Bylaws provide for only one type of membership: active membership. There are no provisions in the National Bylaws, nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Member cards, Honorary Membership cards, Courtesy Membership cards or any other special type of cards. Any Post issuing such unauthorized cards, or conducting club operations open to the general public, endangers its standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting non-members to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW Bylaws or procedures.

3. ALL STATE PROGRAM CHANGE:

POST 100% MEMBERSHIP AWARD - National is no longer carrying the 100% Membership Pins for the Post Commanders and Quartermasters. Post Commanders will still receive a Tumbler and the Vest if they are 100% by Tuesday, December 31, 2024, and Post Quartermasters will still receive the Tumbler.

4. AUDITS:

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 (a)(11) of the National Manual of Procedure, Officers: Duties and Obligations. Trustees Report of Audit must be prepared in detail within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter. **Quarters ending March 2024, June 2024 and September 2024 are NOW PAST DUE.**

5. BONDS:

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

EACH PERSON BONDED MUST BE ON A SEPARATE FORM. EXAMPLE DO NOT PUT QM AND COMMANDER ON SAME FORM, THERE MUST BE TWO FORMS COMPLETED BEFORE BONDS

CAN BE PROCESSED. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHICH FORM, YOU SHOULD BE USING CONTACT STATE HEADQUARTERS.

6. 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 three (3) weeks in advance of your distribution date.

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy or by calling Member Service Center at 1.833.839.8387.

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 chairperson’s 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.

7. BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:

All officers should obtain current 2025 copies of the podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. Copies of the revised edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters. The 2025 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 125th National Convention, which became effective on Aug. 28, 2024.

8. CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD:

October 31st was the Deadline for teacher nominations to be submitted to the Post. Post judging should be completed by **November 15th** and winners sent to District to arrive by **November 20th**. District judging should be completed by **December 10th** and winners forwarded to the Department chairman by **December 15th**. Department judging will be held on **December 20th**.

Posts and District Adjutants must report required information through **Dashboard** in order to get credit for participation in the All-State and All-American programs. District Chairperson will still submit reports to the State Chairman in order to supplement the State **Dashboard** reporting and enable the State Chairman to submit his information to the State Commander. Reporting forms for the District chairpersons will be provided to the District Commanders.

Post Chairmen must be sure to send the original nomination form, essay and official VFW Post teacher entry form of the winner from each grade’s category – along with one-page resume, up to four (4) pages of documentation and good qualify head and shoulders photograph from the winning teachers.

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

Chris Birch
Teacher Recognition Chairman

9. DELINQUENT:

Dist.	Post	Fees	Audits	Bonds	Dist.	Post	Fees	Audits	Bonds
4	7819	6.00			9	6000			Expired
6	2157			Expired	9	7136		March June	Expired
7	621	15.00			9	7969			Expired
7	1860		June		10	609	18.00		
7	9292			Expired	12	5715			Expired
					12	9830			Expired

10. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 st	Date: 1/18/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 176 Newport News 21 Forrest Drive Rep: St Cmdr Mitch Rubenstein	7 th	Date: 1/18/25 Meeting: 11:30 AM Location: Post 2447 Edinburg 100 Veterans Way Rep: State SVC Doug Hoffman
2 nd	Date: 11/9/24 Meeting: 9:00 AM Location: Post 4411 Franklin 3385 Beaver Dam Road Rep: State JVC Mark Maggio	8 th	Date: 11/3/24 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 9835 Warrenton Old City Hall, 18 Court St Rep: State Surgeon Randy Coker
3 rd	Date: 11/16/24 Meeting: 10:00 AM Lunch: To follow Meeting Location: Post 2239 Colonial Heights 14705 Jefferson Davis Hwy Rep: St Cmdr Mitch Rubenstein	9 th	Date: 1/25/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: VFW Post 7726 Independence 115 Klondike Road Rep:
4 th	Date: 11/23/24 Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 8759 Amelia Ct House 16440 Five Forks Road Rep: State Chaplain Robert Ruffolo	10 th	Date: 12/7/24 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 1177 Leesburg 401 Old Waterford Rd NW Rep: St Cmdr Mitch Rubenstein
5 th	Date: 11/16/24 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep: St Judge Advocate Charles Bush	11 th	Date: 1/25/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 2216 Staunton 212 Frontier Drive Rep: State Inspector Ken Shannon
6 th	Date: 12/7/24 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1264 Roanoke 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: State SVC Doug Hoffman	12 th	Date: 11/9/24 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1994 Abingdon 17581 Lee Highway Rep: PSC Dan Boyer
		13 th	Date: 11/23/24 Meeting: 11:00 AM Lunch: Noon Location: Post 8947 Mineral 201 Mineral Ave Rep: State Surgeon Randy Coker

11. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

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

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

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

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

For Post Officers, your address will be 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

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. IMPORTANT DATES:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| November 7 - 9, 2024 | Southern Conference, Nashville, TN (Agenda is attached) |
| January 9 - 12, 2025 | Winter Council Meeting, Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA: phone 757-220-2250. Room Rates are \$92.00 per night. Cutoff Date is Thursday, December 19, 2024. |
| March 22, 2025 | State Commander/President's Homecoming at Post 2447, Edinburg, Holiday Inn Express, 1130 Motel Drive, Woodstock, VA; phone 540-459-5000. Room Rates are \$110.00 (available for Friday and Saturday nights) Cutoff Date is Saturday, February 1, 2025; more details to come. |
| June 18 – 23, 2025 | State Convention, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$129.00 per night. Cutoff Date is Thursday, May 22, 2025, by 5:00 pm. |
| August 9 - 13, 2025 | National Convention, Columbus, Ohio |

14. 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.

15. IRS FORM 8822-B:

IRS Form 8822-B, it is now a requirement by the IRS that all Posts submit this form. This form must be submitted anytime the Post Quartermaster changes and/or the Post address changes. This has been effective January 1, 2014.

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

16. LIFE DRAWING:

Congratulations to GMTO Post 12225, GMTO as the winner of a free Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Virginia. GMTO Post 12225 was made eligible for this Free Life Membership for having 75% of their membership reported to State Headquarters by September 27, 2024, deadline.

17. MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE:

Your Cooties will be in full dress at the 89th Tomb Trek at Arlington National Cemetery, 8-10 November 2024. We will lay wreaths at the Cemetery on November 10th to honor those that have gone before us. Our Cooties continue working in support of Veterans in our Hospitals and locally at Assisted Living Facilities. We continue the efforts to start a new a new Pup Tent in the Western part of the State. If you are interested in joining a Pup Tent in the Roanoke Area, send me an email. Once again, your Cooties will be enjoying frivolity on Friday night at the Winter Conference so come join us. See more on the agenda once its published in the General Orders. For more information on the Military Order of the Cootie please contact Ken Shannon Grand Commander at kshannon@vfwva.org or grandcdr@vfwva.org

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

18. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters and the Service Officer Offices in Dale City and Smithfield will be closed November 11, 2024, in observance of Veterans Day and will also close at noon on November 27 and reopen on December 2, 2024, in observance of Thanksgiving.

Please note the Norfolk Service Office is temporarily closed.

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. PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS:

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

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award
- VFW National 911 Dispatcher Award
- VFW National Explosive Ordinance Technician Award

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

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

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

21. REPORTING:

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

22. RESOLUTIONS:

The following constitutes the post-National Convention report of the Resolutions Committee and summarizes the results of the Department of Virginia resolutions package submitted to the 125th VFW National Convention.

- **VA-2023- 01 – Claim Sharks** – internal to Virginia - dealt with through Joint Leadership Council
- **VA-2023- 02 – Amend MoP § 218 - Retention of Membership Records by Adjutant** – does not appear in Convention Resolutions Results package.
- **VA-2023-03 – Award AFEM for Service ISO Ukraine** – presented as National Resolution **419 – APPROVED**
- **VA-2023-04 – Honor and Remember Flag** – presented as National Resolution **303 – Rejected**
- **VA-2023-05 – Define Gold Star Family Member** – presented as National resolution **420 – Rejected**
- **VA-2023-06 – Amend Bylaws §§ 216(c), 416(c), and 516(c) – Elected and Appointed Officer, Chairmen, and Committees** – sought to change “required” to “allowed” vis-à-vis Chaplain - presented as Amendments **B-7, B-10, and B-12**, respectively – **All Rejected**
- **VA-2023-07 – Amend MoP § 417** – Nomination, Election, Installation of Officers– reword to “election or appointment” of Judge Advocate – presented as Amendment **M-9 – Rejected**

➤ **VA-2023-08/09 – VMSDEP** – internal to Virginia – **resolved** legislatively through efforts of JLC

Except for the absence of VA-2023-02 from the Nation Convention package, the results of the Convention are not surprising, although they are a bit disappointing. All of the results may be viewed at leisure on <https://www.vfw.org> after logging in to one's account – free to all members.

Sincerely,
M. Conrad "Connie" Agresti
Chairman, Resolutions Committee

23. ROSTER CHANGES:

Post 1994 QM
Tony R. Mitchell
16365 Ayres Ln
Bristol, VA 24202
276-356-2169
qmpost1994@vfwva.org

Post 8046 QM
Harold L. Pritts
8104 Chelmsford Ct
Williamsburg, VA 23188
724-454-7582
qmpost8046@vfwva.org

Post 4667 QM
Donald W. Edwards
150 Deans Br
Marion, VA 24354
276-781-0419
qmpost4667@vfwva.org

Post 8902 JVC
Cody L. Brooks
977 George Washington Hwy
Charlotte CH, VA 239283
434-470-0847
ko_day86@yahoo.com

Post 9760 JVC
Jack W. Campbell
211 Flanagan Dr
Winchester, VA 22602
228-313-8176
jack.w.campbell@hotmail.com

24. SCHOLARSHIP THEMES:

The 2024–25 themes were chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt. The Voice of Democracy theme will be **"Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"** and the Patriot's Pen theme will be **"My Voice in America's Democracy?"**

25. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 96:

Membership Inactive
George Holroyd
VFW Post No. 3150

Pursuant to the voluntary resignation of their membership upon the ascertainment of their desire to no longer be affiliated with the Veterans of Foreign Wars,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the name of George Holroyd, Life Membership No. 11414800, be removed from the rolls of John Lyon Post No. 3150, Arlington, Virginia, and their membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States vacated per member's request.

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

26. SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION:

The State Commander has authorized **one final opportunity** for Posts to earn credit for attending the School of Instruction.

The session will be held **remotely via Zoom on Saturday, November 9th, starting at 9:00 AM.**

Registration is required to receive the Zoom meeting link. Please register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEucuCqqD8pE9XQ6Pl-_wkZmnURdm9TcOrA

Please note: This is your Post's **last chance** to receive credit for attending the School of Instruction. Attendance is crucial for Posts aiming to achieve All American status this year.

Questions?

- Email: mdiaz@vfwva.org
- Phone: 860-514-5268

We encourage everyone to register and participate.

Best regards,
Michael Diaz

27. VETERANS DAY ON NOVEMBER 11:

CONDUCT A VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM ON NOV. 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.

28. VFW DAY OF SERVICE:

Post/District Commanders, and Comrades,

I wanted to make everyone aware of something that was brought to my attention for discussion and clarification. This is worth getting out now and re-enforced to our District Commanders and Post Commanders before May 2025 so you can plan for it.

One of the All-American Program requirements is to participate in the **VFW Day of Service**. This is how it's worded in the program book:

A Post must submit a community service report quarterly to their department for submission to the All-American Dashboard. The quarters are July-Sept, Oct-Dec, Jan-March, and April-June. **One of these community service activities must be for the VFW Day of Service.**

Learn more at: <https://todaysvfw.org/vfw-day-of-service/>

Even though it says to "submit a community service report quarterly **to their department**", that's NOT how the VFW Day of Service is going to be recorded or tracked.

As per a conversation with Lynn Rolf, VFW Director of Programs, about what we may need to do to adjust our reporting from Virginia to handle this. He stated that posts will be required to go to <https://todaysvfw.org/vfw-day-of-service/> and enter their event using the "Sign Up Now" button. So, not only do they need to report this directly to National, but it's reported differently than Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, etc. There also will **NOT** be a way

of seeing who has or hasn't reported their event on the National Dashboard. Unless something changes at National between now and then, this is how this new requirement will be handled.

The department IT Committee Chairman Robert "Check" Adamczyk updated the All-State and All-American page on the State website to show where to report it, but the key thing is that there isn't going to be a way to track it.

Therefore, consider this message a early "**heads up**" of what to expect in May 2025. Getting this news out to District Commanders and having them make sure the Posts understand this and when they submit the report to National. State Reps. need to remind the Posts/Districts when they do their first District meeting in 2025. **The Day of Service is May 3rd 2025.** Since there will be no way for Districts or Departments to see who has and who hasn't met this requirement, it's going to be even tougher to track than usual.

29. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

Public Law 110-181 created the Vietnam War Commemoration Commission to recognize the 50 years that had passed since the official start of the War. Over the years, many thousands of organizations throughout the nation have signed on as commemorative partners; none more than the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. As the commemorative period winds down, the Commission recently recognized those partners who – they noted – rank in the top 15% nationally of all commemorative partners in terms of conducting events and doing other things to recognize Vietnam War veterans and keep the legacy of that conflict alive. Twenty-seven Department of Virginia Posts became commemorative partners over the years and many others obtained pins from me to present to Vietnam Veterans in their areas. Eight of those Posts were singled out as Elite Commemorative Partners and recently received special letters and certificates from the Commission.

I would like to recognize those Posts in this report. In addition to the Department of Virginia, the following VFW Posts were singled out as being elite partners in this project:

1177 1503 1860 2894 3150 8947 9808 9835

The following significant events occurred in November:

On **November 11, 1961**, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and Secretary of State Dean Rusk advised President Kennedy that Ambassador General Maxwell Taylor's recommendation of sending 8,000 U.S. troops to Vietnam is too small of a contingent to affect the "deteriorating situation" but large enough to draw the United States into a more complicated situation. They issue a memorandum to the president recommending that the United States fully commit itself to preventing the fall of South Vietnam to communism, recognizing that additional U.S. and SEATO forces might be necessary to achieve this objective.

On **November 1, 1964**, Viet Cong troops attack Bien Hoa Air Base in South Vietnam with mortars. In 30 minutes, they kill four and wound 72 people, destroy or damage as many as 30 aircraft, and demonstrate that base operations in South Vietnam are vulnerable to direct enemy attacks. The incident is the first of at least 475 attacks on primary air bases in South Vietnam over the course of the war.

November 9, 1965 - American commanders inform senior officers of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) that intelligence suggests significant numbers of North Vietnamese Army troops are crossing the Cambodian border into South Vietnam's rugged and remote Central Highlands. U.S. troops have thus far been unable to locate and engage large bodies of North Vietnamese soldiers, and senior officers hope to use this new information to finally do so. Intelligence also indicates that the North Vietnamese have a hidden base of operations that is west of Plei Me, near the Ia Drang River Valley. In the following days, elements of the 1st Cavalry receive orders to conduct air assaults into the area to destroy any North Vietnamese forces they can find.

Beginning **November 14, 1965** - Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), commanded by Colonel Harold "Hal" Moore, make the first major airmobile assault in the history of warfare, flying into the Ia Drang Valley. Their mission is to locate and destroy any Communist troops they find.

The cavalrymen touch down at Landing Zone X-Ray, at the foot of the Chu Pong massif, in late morning. Unknown to the Americans, X-Ray is located directly next to a base area for several North Vietnamese Army regiments, which open fire on the cavalrymen soon after they begin to land. Over most of three days, soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry engage a significantly larger force of North Vietnamese, which effectively surrounds those in the landing zone and, on multiple occasions, nearly overruns their position. The 7th Cavalry's perimeter is precarious, but they are kept supplied by a group of helicopter pilots who repeatedly brave a barrage of enemy fire to fly their UH-1 Iroquois "Hueys" into the landing zone, bringing ammunition, equipment, and provisions as well as evacuating casualties. Well-placed and timely American artillery and air support also help prevent X-Ray from being overrun. Casualties on both sides are high, though much higher for the North Vietnamese troops, who ultimately withdraw from the area on November 16.

During **November 1967**, the anti-infiltration program later codenamed IGLOO WHITE begins. It is a joint Department of Defense-Air Force covert operation. The program uses electronic sensors and computer analysis to detect and identify enemy troops and convoys moving down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Its sensor system works in concert with the anti-infiltration obstacle system in South Vietnam known as the "McNamara Line." Most of the program's air-dropped sensors are designed to detect sound and vibrations. They are placed along enemy infiltration routes, primarily on the Ho Chi Minh Trail itself. Loitering aircraft receive sensor data and transmit it to the Infiltration Surveillance Center at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand. Surveillance center personnel use advanced IBM computers to process and analyze the data. They then request air strikes on targets as required.

November 1, 1968 - marks the beginning of the aerial interdiction campaign known as Operation COMMANDO HUNT begins. The operation's objective is to stem the flow of enemy troops, vehicles, and supplies that continue to move down the Ho Chi Minh Trail through Laos and into South Vietnam. U.S. Air Force, Navy, and Marine aviators conduct both day and night strikes against the trail with the help of data from electronic anti-infiltration ground sensors. COMMANDO HUNT sorties increase in tempo during the dry season between November and April, when traffic on the trail is heaviest. The campaign ends by April 1972 after having only limited success.

On the same day, in the northern Mekong Delta, Viet Cong swimmers attach mines to the USS *Westchester County* (LST 1167) which was supporting Riverine operations along the My Tho River. The resulting explosions kill 26 servicemen.

November 15, 1969 - following President Nixon's "Silent Majority" speech on November 3rd and other administration statements, antiwar activists are again motivated to come together behind another "Moratorium" day. The second Moratorium rally in Washington D.C. receives greater than anticipated turnout. Approximately 750,000 people participate in a demonstration on the National Mall. Demonstrations elsewhere include a gathering of as many as 250,000 people in San Francisco, California. As in October, the protests remain peaceful. Washington rally organizers plan and run events in cooperation with police. The "Moratorium" demonstrations of 1969 represent a high point of the organized anti-Vietnam War movement. Lacking funding and united leadership in the wake of Nixon's appeal to the nation for support, the national antiwar movement becomes less unified in ensuing years.

November 21, 1970 - U.S. Air Force Special Operations and Army Special Forces personnel raid Son Tay Prison, about 23 miles north of Hanoi. Their mission is to rescue up to 55 American POWs believed to be held there. Transport helicopters fly 56 U.S. commandos from Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base to the prison. After successfully infiltrating the facility, the raiders discover that all prisoners have been moved to another camp. No U.S. personnel are killed during the raid. All rescuers return safely. Officials in Hanoi subsequently order all POWs to be moved to more central locations.

On **November 12, 1971**, President Nixon announces that 45,000 additional U.S. troops will leave Vietnam by the end of January 1972. This leaves fewer than 140,000 American troops in South Vietnam.

Jeff Dombroff
Vietnam War Commemoration Committee Chairman

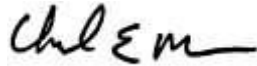
30. VVF COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANT:

The Virginia Veterans, the official foundation of the Virginia VFW, as opened the window to apply for a grant to perform community service. There will be of ten (10) grants worth up to \$300 each for the 2024-2025 year. Should any money remain after the ten grants are paid out, those not selected in the first round of grants will be considered a second time. The requirements and application are in the attachments. While the project can be completed anytime between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, the application is **due no later than November 30, 2024**. 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.

31. VVF POST HOME IMPROVEMENT AND ASSISTANCE GRANT:

The Virginia Veterans, the official foundation of the Virginia VFW, as opened the window to apply for a grant to perform improvements on your Post home. There will be ten (10) grants worth up to \$500 each for the 2024-2025 year. All requirements and application are in the attachments. While the project can be completed anytime between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, the **application is due no later than November 30, 2024**. Entries can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to State Headquarters.

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Mitch Rubenstein
State Commander



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

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2025

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

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

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

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

(Tentative schedule subject to change)



VA VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS



VFW is seeking volunteers for VA Volunteer Service Programs

(VFW Membership not required)

Volunteer Opportunities

(In-person or Online)

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

Join a Legacy of Service

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

No Computer? No Problem.

Call 1-800-VFW-1899 for assistance today!

(1-800-839-1899)

Southern Conference Meeting Agenda
Sheraton Music City, Nashville, TN, November 7- 9, 2024

Thursday, 7 November 2024

Registration (Located in Oaklands Room)..... 12:00 Noon to 5:00 pm
Hospitality (Belle Meade Room)3:00 pm to 11:00 pm
Suicide Prevention Class.....3:00 pm

Dinner on your own

Karaoke (Belle Meade Room)7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Friday, 8 November 2024

Breakfast on your own

Golf Tournament Bus Leaves..... 7:00 am

Registration (Located in Oaklands Room).....8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Vendors/Sponsors Hermitage Lobby9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Lunch on your own

Audit Committee Cheekwood Room.....2:30 pm to 3:00 pm
Budget and Finance Committee Cheekwood Room.....3:00 pm to 3:30 pm
Resolutions Committee Belmont Room.....2:30 pm to 3:00 pm
Bylaws Committee Belmont Room.....3:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Time and place Committee Belmont Room2:30 pm to 3:00 pm
Joint Memorial Service Hermitage A/B/C/D5:15 pm

Dinner on your own

Hospitality (Belle Meade Room)After memorial service to 11:00 pm

Friday Night Social 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Entertainment: Band with a karaoke contest between States

Band 8 pm to 9pm, Karaoke contest between States 9 pm to 10 pm, Band 10 pm till 11pm

Saturday, 9 November 2024

Officers Breakfast 7:00 am to 8:30 am

National Chair OfficersHermitage E/F
Southern Conference Officers.....Hermitage E/F
Dept. Commanders/Auxiliary PresidentsHermitage E/F
Dept. Sr Vice Commanders/Sr. Vice Aux. PresidentsHermitage E/F
Dept. Jr Vice Commanders/Jr Vice Aux. PresidentsHermitage E/F
Dept Quartermasters/ Dept. Auxiliary TreasurersHermitage E/F

Vendors/Sponsors Hermitage Lobby9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Registration (Located in Oaklands Room).....8:00 am to 10:00 pm
Joint Opening Session8:30 am to 10:00 am
VFW Business Meeting..... 10:15 am to 12:00 Noon
Auxiliary Business Meeting 10:15 am to 12:00 Noon

Lunch on your own

Hospitality (Belle Meade Room) 12:00 Noon to 9:00 pm
Reception with Cash Bar Hermitage Lobby.....6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Banquet Hermitage Ballroom7:00 pm to 9:30 pm

“WALK IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS”

NEW SHOES DRIVE

FOR VETERANS IN NEED



*Donations will be distributed at the
2024 Winterhaven/Standown on
Saturday, November 2 (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.).*

**Donate new and unworn shoes and boots
to assist a veteran in transition from
homelessness to housing stability.**

Shoe Sizes Needed: Women’s 6.5-12 | Men’s 9.5-15

For health reasons, donations must have never been worn.

**DROP-OFF/MAIL-IN
BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1:**

**Access Housing, Inc.
C/O: Walter Elmore, VSO
820 Chesapeake Street, SE (Ward 8)
Washington, D.C. 20032**

**For more information and mail-in/drop
off locations, please contact:**

**Jerryl Bennett, HUDVAG
jerryl.e.bennett@hud.gov**

**Walter Elmore, VSO
walter@accesshousing.org**



**SPONSORED BY: HUD Veterans Affinity Group (HUDVAG),
Access Housing, Inc., U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, D.C. Medical Center (VAMC), and National
Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS) Chapter #122.**

Learn How to Spot the Phish!

Look for Spelling and Grammar Errors

Unusual language errors can indicate phishing attempts.

Check Sender's Email Address

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

Assess the Urgency and Tone

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



Beware of Suspicious Attachments or Links

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

Scrutinize the Email's Greeting

Impersonal or generic greetings might signal a phishing attempt.

PACT

FOR ANIMALS



WHAT IS PACT FOR ANIMALS?

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



SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

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




WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?


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

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

WHAT NEXT?

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

 www.pactforanimals.org

 [@pactforanimals](https://www.instagram.com/pactforanimals)



pactforanimals.org

Help your fellow service members

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

PACT
forAnimals.org

The Virginia Veterans Network is here for you.

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

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



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



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

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact DVS for assistance at:

 VirginiaVeteransNetwork@dvs.virginia.gov

 804-786-0286

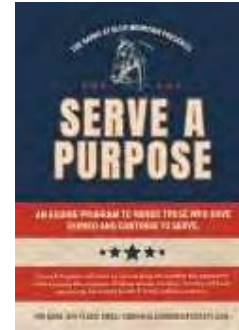
GET CONNECTED.

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



Scan QR code to visit the Virginia Veterans Network.

President's Special Project



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

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

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

Programs they have:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

interested in buying or questions contact
our Department Treasurer Cathy Graham

cg12dc12@outlook.com

FOR SALE!



From Executive Producer **GARY SINISE**



BROTHERS AFTER WAR

3 BROTHERS 12 WARFIGHTERS 15 YEARS LATER

Free Sneak Preview followed by Q & A with
Director **JAKE RADEMACHER**

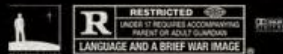
NOV. 16TH 8:00 AM @ REGAL KILN CREEK STADIUM 20

100 REGAL WAY, NEWPORT NEWS, VA

Please **RSVP**: <https://tinyurl.com/Regal-Kiln-Creek>



www.BrothersAfterWar.com





BROTHERS AFTER WAR

MOVIE & SEMINAR

CALLING ALL VETS, SERVICE MEMBERS & FAMILY

Join us at Regal Kiln Creek Stadium 20

Enjoy free lunch, movie, and seminar

Come be a part of this inspiring movie & seminar experience!

**Led by an incredible team of Veteran trainers,
this event is like nothing you've experienced before...**

- 8:00 am Introduction & Welcome
- 8:15 am Watch the award-winning "BROTHERS AFTER WAR"
- 10:00 am Receive a free personal journal and experience interactive discussion
- 12:00 pm Enjoy a free lunch and the camaraderie of fellow service members

Date: Saturday, November 16th **Time:** 08:00 - 12:00

Location: 100 Regal Way, Newport News, VA 23602

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/Regal-Kiln-Creek>

SPACE IS LIMITED



RSVP

*"The film helped me realize I'm not alone
or broken. It gives me hope for my future."*

- Veteran

*"This is real, raw, and honest.
Accurate and so beautifully told."*

- Military Child & Army Wife



National Induction Ceremony
— *Class of 2024* —

The U.S. Veterans Hall of Fame cordially invites you to join us at our 5th Annual Induction Ceremony to be held on

Saturday November 16, 2024 at 6:00 PM

LOCATION:

**Hampton Roads Convention Center
1610 Coliseum DR
Hampton, VA 23666**

*** Attire for the evening will be Business, Formal or Military Dress ***



GEN CHARLES BOLDEN



BG ANNA MAE HAYS



GEN BENJAMIN O DAVIS



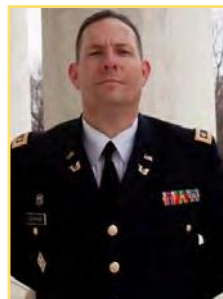
BG ALBERT K.B. LYMAN



LT COL AMY MCGRATH



LT COL CHARITY E ADAMS



MAJ EVAN R SEAMONE



CPL ROBERT C ANDRY

www.USVetsHallofFame.org/2024-Ceremony



VFW Auxiliary Department of Virginia

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

Starting a New Auxiliary

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

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

Existing Auxiliary

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

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

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

Dawn Kuhn, Department President
kuhn@comcast.net

Carol Vangi, Chief of Staff
cjonesvangi@gmail.com

VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel



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

THE VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION

VFW Community Service Grant

The purpose of the VFW Community Service Grant is to assist VFW Posts and Auxiliaries in Virginia who need assistance with funding community service projects. There will be of ten(10) grants worth up to \$300 each for the 2024-2025 year. All requirements must be met, or the grant must be returned, in part or in whole, depending on the circumstances. **Grant application is due no later than November 30, 2024.**

The requirements of the grant are as follows:

- 1) The project must be initiated, completed and receipts submitted in the period of July 1, 2024, through June 1, 2025.
- 2) The VFW Post or Auxiliary in question must have a current non-profit status on file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Post must provide the IRS paperwork proving this.
- 3) The Post or Auxiliary must be in good standing with the VFW National Headquarters and the Department of Virginia.
- 4) If the project is hosted at a building, it must be a non-smoking building regardless of the owner's rules for the use of the building.
- 5) The grant is not to be used for work on a VFW Post home or the property owned by any membership-based organization.
- 6) Receipts for the project must be provided and payment of the grant will not occur until this is done with all payments coming after project completion.
- 7) Should the project costs total less than \$300 once completed, the balance of the grant will not be paid. Additional projects may not be added to an approved grant. Alterations to an approved grant require approval by the Virginia Veterans Foundation before the grant can be claimed.
- 8) The VFW Post or Auxiliary receiving the grant must agree to allow the VFW Department of Virginia and Virginia Veterans Foundation the opportunity to promote the project on social media, in official communications, and in other forms of marketing.
- 9) The grant will only cover materials and the Post is responsible for providing labor. This can be done through paying for labor or by doing the work themselves.
- 10) All decisions on grants are final and will be made by the Board of Directors for the Virginia Veterans Foundation.
- 11) Funding from this grant program may be combined with other grants but the total of the funding received cannot exceed actual costs and the amount received from this grant may be reduced accordingly.
- 12) Only one grant per year will be provided to an individual Post or Auxiliary, regardless of who applies for the grant.

THE VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION

VFW Community Service Grant

Official Grant Application

(All questions must be answered in full)

Name and number of the Post/Auxiliary: _____

Mailing address: _____

Physical address of the event: _____

Commander/President name, phone number, and email address: _____

Quartermaster/Treasurer name, phone number, and email address: _____

Description of the project to be completed: _____

Estimated cost of the project: _____

How will labor be provided: _____

By signing below, you acknowledge the requirements of the grant program. Furthermore, you acknowledge that you have provided all needed documents and that the decision on this grant application rests solely with the Virginia Veterans Foundation. Finally, you agree to provide all needed receipts for the project and to cooperate with the Virginia Veterans Foundation and the VFW Department of Virginia in promoting the project and grant.

Commander/President: _____ QM/Treasurer: _____

THE VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION

VFW Post Home Improvement and Assistance Grant

The purpose of the VFW Post Home Improvement and Assistance Grant is to assist VFW Posts in Virginia who need assistance with funding projects to improve, expand, or repair their Post home as well as assisting those Posts in financial need. There will be ten (10) grants worth up to \$500 each for the 2024-2025 year. All requirements must be met, or the Post will be required to return the grant, in part or in whole, depending on the circumstances. **Grant application is due no later than November 30, 2024.**

The requirements of the grant are as follows:

- 1) If funding a project, it must be initiated and completed in the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Post must submit a thorough justification for the grant.
- 2) If asking for emergency assistance, the Post must explain the reason for the emergency and provide a plan for how the Post will raise money in the future and prepare for future problems.
- 3) The VFW Post in question must have a current non-profit status on file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and must provide the IRS paperwork proving this.
- 4) The Post must be in good standing with the VFW National and Department Headquarters.
- 5) If funding a project, the Post must own or lease the Post and must provide a copy of the documents showing either ownership or a current lease. For Posts who lease the property, there must be at least 2 years remaining on the lease to receive a grant.
- 6) The Post must not allow smoking in their Post building but may use the grant to repair damage after voting to ban smoking. A ban on smoking is defined as no smoking allowed inside the building of the Post home. It may be allowed outside of the building.
- 7) Receipts for the project or bills covered by the assistance requested must be provided and payment of the grant will not occur until this is done with all payments coming after project completion or for bills already paid.
- 8) Should the project costs or assistance requested total less than \$500.00 once complete, the balance of the grant will not be paid.
- 9) The VFW Post receiving the grant must agree to allow the VFW Department of Virginia and Virginia Veterans Foundation the opportunity to promote the funded project on social media, in official communications, and in other forms of marketing.
- 10) The grant will only cover materials and the Post is responsible for providing labor. This can be done through paying for labor or by doing the work themselves.
- 11) All decisions on grants are final and will be made by the Board of Directors for the Virginia Veterans Foundation.
- 12) Funding from this grant program may be combined with other grants but the total of the funding received cannot exceed actual costs and the amount received from this grant may be reduced accordingly.

THE VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION

VFW Post Home Improvement and Assistance Grant

Official Grant Application

(All questions must be answered in full)

Name and number of the Post: _____

Post mailing address: _____

Physical address of the Post: _____

Post Commander name, phone number, and email address: _____

Post Quartermaster name, phone number, and email address: _____

Estimated cost of the project or assistance requested: _____

How will labor be provided: _____

On a separate page, give either a description of the project to be completed or justification for assistance requested. For emergency assistance, also include in your description a plan for how the Post will raise money in the future and prepare for future problems.

By signing below, you acknowledge the requirements of the grant program. Furthermore, you acknowledge that you have provided all needed documents and that the decision on this grant application rests solely with the Virginia Veterans Foundation. Finally, you agree to provide all needed receipts for the project and to cooperate with the Virginia Veterans Foundation and the VFW Department of Virginia in promoting the project and grant.

Post Commander: _____ Post Quartermaster: _____