



SAVE THE DATE!



Gary & Vicki's



HOMECOMING



CELEBRATION

**Join us for great food, live music,
cornhole, bon fire, smores & more!**

October 14, 2023 at 5pm

Hillsville VFW

**This is a no alcohol event due to Hillsville
VFW being a dry post.**

SATURDAY 14th, OCTOBER, 2023

Click on the link below to RSVP

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

NUMBER 4

403 Lee Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112

“No Veteran asks for a thank you”

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

October 1, 2023

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

Articles are listed by number not by pages:

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1. COMMANDER’S MESSAGE:

Greetings to you all. We just had a great Fall Council of Administration, and Centennial Celebration in Roanoke Post 1264, and we had a fantastic celebration of the centennial at Clarksville Post 8163, and in Marion Post 4667. All three really did a great job showing off their Posts and demonstrating the hospitality of the western part of the state. Everyone had a great time. We had an in-person and Zoom option for others who could not attend the COA, and that went great. I feel like we will do more of this in the future. It has also been suggested that the future Commanders may have the Fall COA in different locations around the state if it is cost-effective.

As many of you know the state is at over 82% in membership and going strong. We are ahead of our goal for this point in the year. Keep up the good work. Our next goal is to be 88% by November 1st as a state. We can do this. We are well on our way to 102%. Thanks again to all our recruiters. We have 450 new members as of today. That’s fantastic. Every member has the potential to be a recruiter. Let’s all act like one. And get across the goal line at 102%. Enough on membership.

Mine and Vicki’s Homecoming/Chicken Stew is on Saturday, October 14th in Hillsville. Everyone is welcome that wants to come. All we ask is that you register on Eventbrite so that we have a headcount for the food. The link to register is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gary-and-vickis-homecoming-chicken-stew-at-vfw-1115-hillsville-va-tickets-694387149657?aff=oddtcreator>. It starts at 5 PM and lasts until... We will have live music by The Granite City Rollers. We will have lots of food, corn-hole, plenty of deserts, and a bonfire. We hope to see you in Hillsville.

I'm sorry to say that I have been trying for a couple of months to get a block of hotel rooms, for Homecoming and I have had no luck. Last I checked, the Holiday Inn in Hillsville was completely sold out.

I do think that the Hampton Inn had some rooms but no discount. Three Stars for the Hampton Inn, located at 90 Farmers Market Dr, Hillsville, VA 24343•(276) 728-2345.

We also have a Comfort Inn and Suites, is a two-star accommodation, located at 151 Farmers Market Dr, Hillsville, VA 24343•(276) 779-4159.

At the bottom of the list we have Super 8, another two-star accommodation, at 99 Farmers Market Dr, Hillsville, VA 24343•(276) 524-2554.

Quality Inn, Two Stars, at 85 Airport Rd, Hillsville, VA 24343•(276) 728-2120.

Red Roof Inn, Two Stars, 2666 Old Galax Pike, Hillsville, VA 24343•(276) 277-0090.

I am very fortunate to be associated with so many good people in the Department of Virginia. I thank you all for your hard work and dedication. Thanks to every Post and member who serves the veterans and the communities of this state.

Yours in Comradeship
Gary Adams
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. **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, June 30 quarter has ended and is **NOW PAST DUE**.

4. **BELLS OF PEACE:**

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, the sounds of guns were replaced by the sounds of bells ringing through the war-torn fields and communities of Europe. Initiated on November 11, 2018, to honor the WWI Armistice on its 100th anniversary, **Bells of Peace** marks a National U.S. remembrance. Ever since, the Doughboy Foundation has promoted the annual remembrance with tens of thousands having rung the **Bells of Peace** at 11am on Veterans Day, to salute all Americans who served their nation in both conflict and times of peace. Visit <https://bellsforpeace.org> for information, FAQs, National (i.e., Washington, DC events), and social media links. Please share with churches and other community organizations to let everyone know what you are doing at 11am on November 11th to honor our veterans who have served and sacrificed. Use the hashtags #BellsOfPeace and #TollTheBells in your posts to help the Bells of Peace community know what you are doing!

Connie Agresti
Resolutions Chairman

5. BONDS:

Please see July or August General Orders for the rate schedule for the cost of your bond and return completed forms and payment to State Headquarters. Please note the Quartermaster Bond rate schedule **is for** the Post Officers. There is a separate schedule for your canteen employees and others who are not Post Officers but need to be bonded. Remember that people on any and/or all accounts the Post has **Must be bonded**.

6. BUDDY POPPIES:

Currently State Headquarters does not have any Buddy Poppies (old or new) in stock. The new price for the original buddy poppies (red ones) are \$160.00 per 500. The price for the new metal poppies is \$70.00 per 500.

7. BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:

All officers should obtain current 2024 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 2024 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 124th National Convention, which becomes effective on August 20, 2023.

8. CALENDAR RAFFLE:

Once again, I want to thank everyone for the support so far on the calendars. The feedback so far has been positive, and I hear that they are selling. Keep pushing. Take them with you on your recruiting events and buddy poppy events (Veterans Day is coming up!). Buy a few as stocking stuffers! Give one to a Vietnam Veteran or a new member. Remember this helps fund our programs that are very important to the VFW (Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, Teacher of the Year). So, let's make these last three months of sales the best yet. Remember, money, ticket stubs and unsold calendars need to be back to Headquarters no later than December 20, 2023. Thanks again for all the support and feel free to call me if you have any questions and especially if you need more calendars.

Doug Hoffman
State Jr Vice Commander

9. CANDIDATE:

Comrades,

I write to you today to announce that I am entering the race to become the National Judge Advocate General for the 2026-2027 VFW year. I am excited for this new venture, and I hope you will support me as I campaign for the position. That campaign will take me to other Southern Conference states over the next two years and I am looking forward to it.

I believe that we need to elect officers with resumes showing knowledge and experience in the VFW. We have seen some of that in the position of Judge Advocate General, but we need more of it. While I am a paralegal, this position does no legal work for the organization. That makes me see that we need someone who understands how the organization works and has the experience of leading at all levels of the organization. My resume is full of experience at every level of the VFW.

I will continue to serve in my position as the National Council Member for the balance of my term. If elected, I will serve as the Judge Advocate General in the year after my term as National Council Member ends.

I have attached my flyer. I hope you will share it with others in your Post and District, and on your Post Facebook pages. I look forward to any questions you may have, and I greatly value the support Virginia has long shown me.

Ken Wiseman
Member, National Council of Administration

10. CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD:

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

The program dates for this year are as follows: **October 31st** is the Deadline for teacher nomination by the Post. Post judging should be completed by **November 15th** and winners sent to District. District judging should be completed by **December 15th** and winners forwarded to the Department. Department judging will be held **December 20th** and winners submitted to VFW National Headquarters by **January 15th**. District Chairman should send their District Reports with their District winners to the Department Chairman. Department winners will be honored at the Department Educational Awards Banquet on January 13, 2024, in Williamsburg, VA.

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 five (5) pages of documentation and a good quality 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
Chairman

11. CONTROL OF UNITS:

All Commanders are reminded that Section 709, Manual of Procedure - Control of Units, requires that any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or in behalf of a Post, County Council, District or Department shall be at all times under the direct control of such Post, County Council, District or Department and that all money, property or assets of any kind or nature, must be placed in the care and custody of the respective Quartermaster. All Commanders should ensure that all provisions of Section 709 are enforced.

12. DELINQUENT:

Dist.	Post	Fees	Audits	Bonds	Dist.	Post	Fees	Audits	Bonds
1	2296	6.00		Bond	9	4667		June	Bond
					9	7136		June	Bond
2	12217			Bond	9	7969			Bond
					9	9640			Bond
3	2239		June	Bond	9	9696			Bond
3	10387			Bond					
					12	4301	6.00		
4	8446		June		12	5715	12.00		Bond
					12	9600	9.00		Bond
7	8613	9.00							

13. DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS:

Members now have the ability to download their digital version of their membership card. Depending on whether a member has an iPhone or Android, they will be able to download and access their digital membership card from the VFW app.

This will not replace the physical VFW membership card - we will still be sending out membership cards to all our annual and Life members. This is intended as another option for our members' convenience. When asked to show a VFW membership card, a member can either produce their physical card out of their wallet or display their digital card on their smart phone.

14. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 st	Date: 1/20/24 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: TBD Rep: State SVC Mitch Rubenstein	7 th	Date: 1/20/24 Lunch: 11:30 AM Meeting: To follow lunch Location: Post 2447 Edinburg 100 Veterans Way Rep: State Judge Advocate Mark Maggio
2 nd	Date: 11/18/23 Meeting: 9:00 AM Location: Post 3160 Norfolk 111A View Avenue Rep: State Surgeon Charles Bush	8 th	Date: 11/18/23 Meeting: Noon Location: Post 7728 Morrisville 12496 Harpers Run Rd, Bealeton Rep: PSC Rick Raskin
3 rd	Date: 11/18/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 2239 Colonial Heights 14705 Jefferson Davis Highway Rep: State JVC Doug Hoffman	9 th	Date: 1/20/24 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 9696 Bluefield 131 Loverlane Street Rep: State Adj/QM Ed Mann
4 th	Date: 10/21/23 Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 8163 Clarksville 7488 Highway 15N Rep: State Commander Gary Adams	10 th	Date: 12/3/23 Meeting: 10:30 AM Location: Post 1177 Leesburg 401 Old Waterford Rd NW Rep: State Inspector Randy Coker
5 th	Date: 11/18/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Rd Rep: State Judge Advocate Mark Maggio	11 th	Date: 1/27/24 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 2216 Staunton 212 Frontier Drive Rep: State JVC Doug Hoffman
6 th	Date: 12/2/23 Meeting: Noon Location: Post 1264 Roanoke 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: State SVC Mitch Rubenstein	12 th	Date: 12/2/23 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1994 Abingdon 17581 Lee Highway Rep: State Commander Gary Adams
		13 th	Date: 11/18/23 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 8947 Louisa 201 Mineral Avenue Rep: State SVC Mitch Rubenstein

15. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 13th**. 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 **VFW2023!** 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

16. 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.

17. IMPORTANT DATES:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| November 2 - 5, 2023 | Southern Conference, Tulsa, Oklahoma (See July or August for registration packet) |
| January 12 - 14, 2024 | Winter Council Meeting, Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA: phone 757-220-2250. Room Rates are \$89.00 per night. Group name "Veterans of Foreign Wars – Winter Council Meeting Group"; Cut-off Date December 11, 2023. |
| June 12 – 16, 2024 | State Convention, Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA: phone 757-220-2250. Room Rates are \$139.00 per night. |
| July 27 - Aug 1, 2024 | National Convention, Louisville, Kentucky |
| August 9 - 14, 2025 | National Convention, Columbus, Ohio |

18. 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.

19. 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 is effective January 1, 2014.

20. LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to vfw.org, click on JOIN, and scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video on the right. This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are three levels of membership; each offer their own

package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

<i>Enrollment Cost:</i>	<i>Annual Payouts:</i>		
<i>Levels</i>	<i>Posts</i>	<i>Departments</i>	<i>National</i>
Gold- \$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver- \$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze- \$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

What will your Legacy be?

21. MEMBERSHIP:

Commanders and Comrades,

October is here and the weather is cooling off. It's a great time to set up outside and recruit and reinstate members for your Post. We have hopefully helped some of you at the State Fair which ended on October 1st. I will have a report in next month's General Orders on how well we did. I hope all of you are planning for Veterans Day in November, please include recruiting when you are doing your Poppy Drives. We should try to get as many members as possible before the holidays that are coming this month and in December.

We have completed the Recruiter Schools of Instruction and I hope we answered any questions that you had. If you still have any questions, send me a message and I will try to help you.

The Membership Team is here to help and assist you so don't hesitate to contact me, or State Headquarters and we will do our best to help you.

Tom Hines PSC
Membership Team Chairman

22. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters and the Service Officer Offices in Dale City, Norfolk and Smithfield will be closed October 9, 2023, in observance of Columbus Day. The Adj/QM will be available by phone and email for any issues that may arise.

23. 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 book stores and online retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

24. PARTNERS IN PATRIOTISM:

Commander-in-Chief Duane T. Sarmiento would like you to join with him in supporting the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive. The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis, as well as reduce

expenses and eliminate fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible and a Year-End Tax Receipt mailed by the end of January. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department toll-free at 1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483) or email us at partners@vfw.org with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

25. PATRIOT'S PEN:

Conducted nationwide, the VFW Patriot's Pen competition gives students the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on patriotic topics. Annually, nearly 68,800 Middle School students compete for more than \$1.4 million in state and national awards. Each first place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the National level, and the National first place winner wins \$5000.00. A written essay is submitted by each applicant and addresses an annual patriotic theme. The 2023 theme is "How are you inspired by America?" The contest is open to all students in grades 6-8. More specific information, including rules, forms, and brochures, is 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 middle schools, teachers and students as soon as possible. Since middle schools in your area have already let out for the summer vacation, you can either contact them now, electronically through emails and social media, or contact them directly as soon as classes resume.

2023-2024 Patriot's Pen Reporting Deadlines

31 October 2023 Student entries due at the Post

15 November 2023 Completion of Post Judging

02 December 2023 Completion of District Judging

23 December 2023 Department Patriot's Pen Selection Board

12 January 2024 Completion of Department Judging

13 January 2024 Department Educational Awards Banquet Williamsburg, Virginia

15 January 2024 District Participation Reports due For Department Chairman

15 January 2024 Department Winners Due to National

31 January 2024 Department Reports due To National

Awards will be presented to the top three Department winners at the Department Winter Council meeting on Saturday, 13 January 2024 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Please send complete application packets to the Department Patriot's Pen Chairman to include the completed Official Student entry form with all appropriate signatures, a typed essay and a photograph of the District winner. 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 Patriot Pen Chairman, which is required for his Department report, NLT Sunday, 15 January 2024.

The District First place winning submissions should be mailed to the Department Patriot's Pen Chairman Louis Filippone at 15608 Jillians Forest Way, Centreville, VA 20120-1255.

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 Patriot's Pen Chairman must receive your submission NLT Friday, 15 December 2023. The Department Patriot's Pen Selection Board will be held on Saturday, 23 December 2023 at Post 9808 Mechanicsville, Virginia.

Patriot's Pen Department Awards

The top three finalists will be invited to the Winter Council Luncheon in Williamsburg, Virginia on Saturday, 13 January 2024. All three finalists will receive their awards and the first place winner will present their essay at the Awards Banquet. The First-place winner will receive \$2,750.00 from the Department. The second-place winner will receive \$ 2,250.00, and the third place winner will receive \$1,750.00. The Post that sponsors the Department's

winner will receive the Larry Mattera Memorial Patriot's Pen Plaque at the Department Convention in June 2024, Date to be determined. Should you require any assistance, or additional information regarding the 2023-2024

Patriot's Pen 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.

Louis Filippone
Department Patriot's Pen Program Chairman

26. 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.

27. ROSTER CHANGES:

State Chaplain
James Goebel, III
PO Box 1373
West Point, VA 23181

District 6 Adj
Christopher J. Smith
374 Dawnridge Ln
Troutville, VA 24175
540-816-6675
srvdist6@vfwva.org

District 6 QM
Elizabeth A. Jarrett
670 Manley Branch Rd
Concord, VA 24538
518-598-6903
qmdist6@vfwva.org

Post 622 SVC
Rufus N. Montgomery
5503 Snow Creek Ct
Prince George, VA 23875
804-861-1330

Post 622 JVC
James G. Gill
PO Box 773
Malaga, NJ 08328
804-263-6287
jamesgill042@aol.com

Post 2157 Cmdr
John DeLong
540-598-2315

Post 2216 JVC
Christopher Gill
14 Whirlwind Ct
Fishersville, VA 22939
703-303-8373
christopher.b.gill4@gmail.com

Post 2216 QM
Sterling M. Gill
14 Whirlwind Ct
Fishersville, VA 22939
703-300-8357
qmpost2216@vfwva.org

Post 2524 Commander
George T. Brobst
540-522-1469

Post 2524 Quartermaster
Keith D. Price
540-729-5255

Post 2613 Meeting Location
8550 Three Notch Road
Louisa, VA 23093

Post 10654 JVC
Thomas M. Bynum
1017 County Park Pl
Richmond, VA 23223
804-982-0044
pastorthomasbynum@gmail.com

28. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 78:

The suspension from membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for a period of six (6) months ending September 16, 2023, for SAUN T. WILLIAMSON, Life Membership No. 5920736, Louisa County Post No. 8947, Mineral, Virginia, as set forth in Special Order No. 232 dated March 16, 2023, has expired.

It is hereby ordered that the membership with all rights and privileges attendant thereto of SAUN T. WILLIAMSON be restored and such membership assigned to Department of Virginia Member-at-Large effective September 16, 2023, after which time he will be eligible to transfer to a Post of his choosing in accordance with Section 107 of the National Bylaws.

By order of
Duane T. Sarmiento
Commander-in-Chief

29. SURGEON:

Hello, Comrades of Virginia VFW; we hope you enjoy the change of season. Fall is here.

Vaccination Awareness Month – October

All adults need immunizations to help them prevent getting and spreading serious diseases. The Flu season starts in October and peaks in February. During your health check visit, please ask your doctor about the common vaccines, like flu, pneumonia, and shingles shots. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) list the following vaccination for your information.

Anthrax	Measles, Mumps and Rubella
Cholera	MMRV
COVID-19	Meningococcal
Dengue	Orthopoxviruses (Smallpox and Monkeypox)
DTaP-IPV-Hib-HepB	Pneumococcal
DTaP/Tdap/Td	Polio
Ebola	Rabies
Hepatitis A	Rotavirus
Hepatitis B	RSV
Hib	Typhoid
HPV	Varicella (Chickenpox)
Influenza	Yellow Fever
Japanese Encephalitis	Zoster (Shingles)

Please see the attachment for more information on Flu season.

Disclaimer:

Talk with your physician or healthcare provider if you have questions about a personal health problem, condition, or treatment. They are familiar with you and can address your circumstances.

Reference(s):

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/immunization-manual/vis/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/index.html>

Stay safe and healthy!

Yours in Comradeship and Peace,
Charles H. Bush Jr.
State Surgeon

30. 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 will provide twelve (12) grants worth up to \$250 for the 2023-2024 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 are in the attachments. While the project can be completed anytime between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, the application is due no later than November 30, 2023. 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 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 will provide ten (10) grants worth up to \$300 for the 2023-2024 year. The requirements and application are in the attachments. While the project can be completed anytime between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, the application is due no later than November 30, 2023. Entries can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to State Headquarters.

32. VOICE OF DEMOCRACY:

The Voice of Democracy program, instituted in 1947, has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars premier scholarship program. Each year over 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 2023-24 theme is: *"What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?"*

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>. In order to have a successful program this year it is important that participating Posts begin contacting high schools, teachers and students as soon as possible.

2023-2024 Voice of Democracy Reporting Deadlines

31 October 2023 - Student entries must be in the hands of the Post

15 November 2023 - Completion of Post judging

3 December 2023 - Completion of District judging

23 December 2023 - Department VOD Selection Board

15 January 2024 - District Participation Reports due to Department Chairman

15 January 2024 - Department winners due to National

Awards will be presented to the top three Department winners at the Department Winter Council of Administration (COA) Reception on Saturday, 13 January 2024 in Williamsburg, 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 may result in disqualifying your candidate from judging.

The District first place winning submissions must be received by the Department VOD Chairman Geoffrey Lyster, P.O. Box 1196, Warrenton, VA 20188, NLT Friday, 15 December 2023. 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 completed application packet. The Department VOD Selection Board will be held on Saturday, 23 December 2023, at VFW Post 9808 Mechanicsville.

Voice of Democracy Department Awards

The top three finalists will be invited to the Winter COA Banquet in Williamsburg, Virginia to be held Saturday, 13 January 2024. All three finalists will receive their awards and should be prepared to present their essays at the awards banquet. 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 2024. Should you require any assistance or additional information regarding the 2023-2024 Voice of Democracy program, or its administration please contact me directly at 703-725-7862 or email glyster@vfwva.org.

Geoffrey D. Lyster
Voice of Democracy Chairman

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Gary W Adams, Jr.
State Commander



VFW

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



VFW Virginia District 2 and Auxiliary

Location: Scope Arena, Norfolk

Date: Sunday, November 5

Puck Drops: 3:05pm

Ticket Prices: \$12 or \$27
(Includes Taxes and fees)



<https://fevogm.com/Vfwweterans>

Buy your Tickets
before
November 1st
for a Chance at a
Zamboni Ride!!!

Purchase Tickets using the QR Code or the Link





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

Winter Council of Administration Meeting
January 11-14, 2024
Ft Magruder Hotel and Conference Center
Williamsburg, Virginia
757-220-2250

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024

10:00 PM 5:00 PM VFW Headquarters Table Open Williamsburg Room
12:30 PM 2:30 PM Microsoft 365 Training Amphitheater
12:30 PM 2:30 PM VFW History, Core Values & Traditions Petersburg
1:00 PM 5:00 PM VFW Auxiliary Audit (Treasurer and Audit Team)
3:00 PM 5:00 PM Microsoft 365 Training (Repeats)
3:00 PM 5:00 PM VFW History, Core Values & Traditions (Repeats)
6:00 PM 7:00 PM Vendor Appreciation Event Williamsburg
7:00 PM 9:00 PM VFW Auxiliary Council Meeting

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024

7:30 AM 8:30 PM PDP Breakfast
8:00 AM 2:30 PM VFW Headquarters Table Open Williamsburg Room
8:30 AM 9:00 AM Commanders Club Meeting Petersburg
9:30 AM 12:00 PM VFW Council of Administration Meeting Petersburg
8:00 AM 2:30 PM Service Officer Training Amphitheater
9:00 AM 12:30 PM VFW Auxiliary Business/Program Presentation Richmond
12:00 PM 1:00 PM VFW Riders Meeting Petersburg A
1:30 PM 3:00 PM MOCA Meeting Petersburg A
2:00 PM 3:00 PM Membership & Recruiting Workshop Petersburg B&C
3:00 PM 4:00 PM MOC Meeting Petersburg B&C
3:00 PM 4:00 PM Women Veterans Forum Amphitheater
6:00 PM 8:00 PM VOD & PP BANQUET Richmond

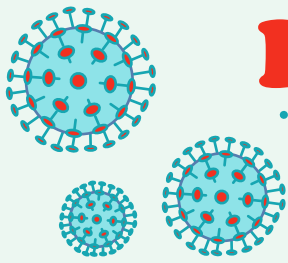
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024

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

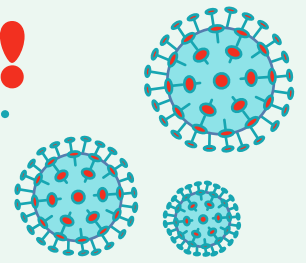
TEACHER OF THE YEAR, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, AND PATRIOT'S PEN BANQUET TICKETS: \$55.00

Department Hospitality Room – Williamsburg Room

(Tentative schedule subject to change)



It's Flu Season!



Don't give the flu a chance to infect you!

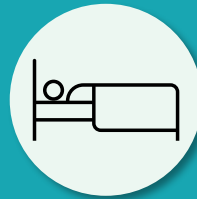
Flu season starts in October and peaks in February. Influenza (flu) is a contagious, airborne transmitted, respiratory virus that infects the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, pneumonia, and though rare, can lead to death. Symptoms may last over two weeks and can include:



Fever / chills



Body aches



Fatigue



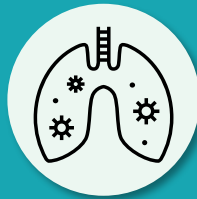
Headache



Congestion



Cough



Breathing issues



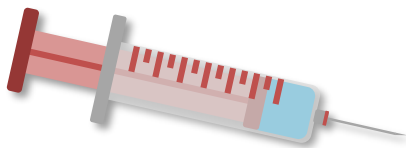
Sore throat



Vomiting / Diarrhea



Preventing The Flu



Get Vaccinated

Getting the annual Flu vaccine is the first and most important step in protecting yourself and others from the flu.



Practice Good Hygiene

Wash your hands often with soap and water. Carry and use hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.



Decontaminate

Use appropriate products to clean and disinfect frequently used surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with the flu and other germs.



December 14, 2022

Dear Post Quartermaster,

With the support of the VFW National Headquarters and the VFW Department leadership, the National Council of Administration passed a resolution at the August 28th Council meeting that makes it mandatory for all Posts and Departments to sign up for Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments from the National Headquarters by December 31, 2016.

What is ACH and what does this mean? ACH is a method for the National Headquarters to electronically submit payments to Posts and Departments. ACH is one of the most secure, fastest and efficient payment methods available today. When an ACH payment is transmitted, the deposit will typically be available in the payee's account the following business day. If you provide an e-mail address, you will also receive an e-mail notification whenever a payment is transmitted to your account from National Headquarters, and that e-mail will explain the purpose of the payment.

After December 31, 2016, the National Headquarters will no longer be issuing paper checks to Posts and Departments. Historically there have been thousands of checks to VFW Posts and Department that have gone uncashed, and by signing up for ACH, that issue will be eliminated.

Attached is the ACH application form that needs to be completed and signed. You are also required to attach a voided check from the appropriate bank account. 


Thanks for your assistance in making the VFW more efficient.

Sincerely,

Donald R Holland Jr., MBA
VFW National Accounting Dept
406 W 34th St
Kansas City, MO 64111



AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR AUTOMATIC DEPOSITS (ACH CREDITS)

Attention Quartermasters

An email notification will be sent to the Post's V-mail account after each ACH Deposit has been transmitted providing the date of deposit and amount. If your Post would like to also receive an email message to a different email account, please provide below.

VFW DEPT OR
VFW POST/AUX NAME _____

TAX ID
NUMBER _____

I (we) hereby authorize Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, hereinafter called VFW of US, to initiate credit entries and to initiate, if necessary, debit* entries and adjustments for any credit entries in error to our () **Checking** or () **Savings** account (**select one**) indicated below and the depository named below, hereinafter called DEPOSITORY, to credit and/or debit* the same to such account.

DEPOSITORY/BANK

NAME _____

BRANCH _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

ROUTING NO. _____ ACCOUNT NO. _____

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until VFW of US has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford VFW of US and Depository a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

POST QUARTERMASTER OR AUX TREASURER

NAME _____

DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____

Be advised, it takes approximately 1 week to process, therefore, it is important to return this form as soon as possible.

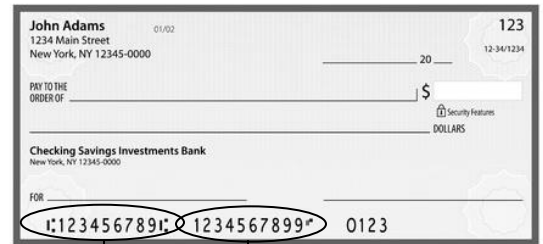
FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT, PLEASE MAIL, FAX OR SCAN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO:

VFW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
ACCOUNTING DEPT
ATTN: DONALD HOLLAND
406 W. 34TH ST., SUITE 1100
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64111

816-756-3390 Ext 6230 / FAX 816-968-1137 /EMAIL DHolland@vfw.org

PLEASE ATTACH VOID OR CANCELLED CHECK HERE

***Debits will only be initiated to correct an error. Under no circumstances will the Debit exceed the error amount. Application will not be processed if there is no void check or deposit slip attached.**



Routing # Account #

FOR SALE!

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

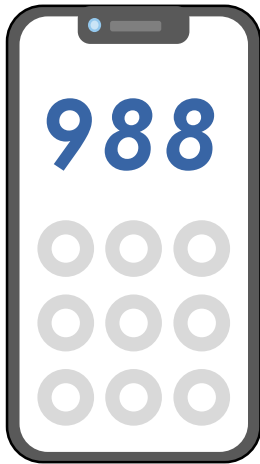
interested in buying or questions contact our Department Treasurer Cathy Graham

cg12dc12@outlook.com



New!

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



Call or Text 988 for Free, Confidential, 24/7 Mental Health Support

On July 16, 2022, the U.S. is transitioning to using the 988-dialing code to operate through the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255).

Facts About 988



Accessible. It serves as a universal entry point so that no matter where you live, you can reach a trained crisis counselor who can help people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the U.S.



Comprehensive. 988 is a direct connection to compassionate care and support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress – whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress.



For Everyone. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one or someone who may need crisis support.

To learn more about 988, visit:
bit.ly/988forHope



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 twelve (12) grants worth up to \$250 each for the 2023-2024 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, 2023.**

The requirements of the grant are as follows:

- 1) The project must be initiated and completed in the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.
- 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 \$250 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 \$300 each for the 2023-2024 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, 2023.**

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, 2023 through June 30, 2024. 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 \$300.00 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: _____



Centennial Garden

Celebrate the upcoming VFW National Home Centennial in style with a personalized engraved brick in our 2025 Centennial Garden. Whether it's to honor a loved one, commemorate a special event, or simply leave your mark on this historic occasion, our 8x8 engraved bricks offer a timeless way to do just that. And for a limited time only, you can secure your place in history for an unbeatable price of only \$500.

Our bricks are made from the highest quality materials and engraved with the latest technology, ensuring that your message will last for generations to come. Not only will your brick be a lasting tribute to your contribution to celebrate our 2025 centennial anniversary, but it will also add to the beauty and legacy of the garden for years to come.

With only a limited number of bricks available, now is the time to act. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Order your personalized engraved brick today for only \$500 and be a part of history.



To order bricks visit <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/vfwnationalhome>



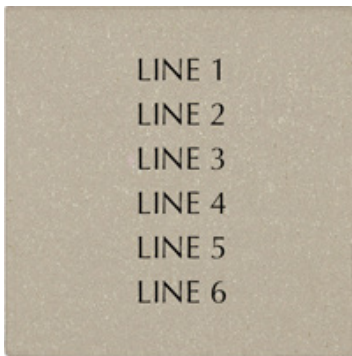


V F W
NATIONAL HOME

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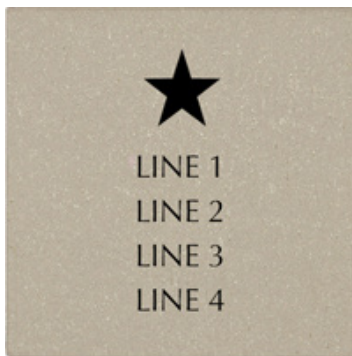
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With only a limited number of bricks available, now is the time to act. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Order your personalized engraved brick today for only \$500 and be a part of history.



\$500 - 8x8 Brick

6 lines of text, 20 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation)



\$500 - 8x8 Brick

4 lines of text, 20 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation)

Clipart

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

MAIL FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

VFW National Home
Attn: Development Dept
3573 S Waverly Rd
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

VFW National Home

Brick Markers USA, Inc. Free Clipart Library

when choosing clipart only use number and letter(s) for referencing.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A SPECIFIC CLIPART NOT LISTED WITHIN OUR LIBRARY?
INQUIRE WITH YOUR SALES REPRESENTATIVE!

SPORTS
CLIPART

1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	11SP	6A	12SP
7A	13SP	9A	14SP	10A	15SP	16SP	11A
				 <small>LAYOUT 1 & 3 ONLY</small>	 <small>LAYOUT 1 & 3 ONLY</small>		
12A	17SP	13A	18SP	14A	19SP	15A	20SP
16A	17A	21SP	18A	22SP	19A	20A	23SP
21A	24SP	22A	23A	15P	25P	35P	45P
55P	65P	75P	85P	95P	105P	255P	265P
275P	285P	295P	305P	315P	325P		

SPORTS
CLIPART

ARTS &
EDUCATION
CLIPART

22B	8A	6ED	1ED	2ED	3ED	4ED	5ED

ARTS &
EDUCATION
CLIPART

ANIMAL
CLIPART

1B	2B	5AN	3B	6AN	4B	7AN	5B
8AN	12B	13B	9AN	14B	1AN	2AN	3AN
		 <small>LAYOUT 1 & 3 ONLY</small>	 <small>LAYOUT 1 & 3 ONLY</small>				
4AN	10AN	11AN	12AN				

ANIMAL
CLIPART

* NOT APPLICABLE FOR MINI REPLICAS

Brick Markers® USA, Inc. (BMI) offers this free clipart to your club or organization as an opportunity to increase your profit margins. Your club or organization could charge an additional fee to any of your donors/customers that would like to add clipart to their bricks.

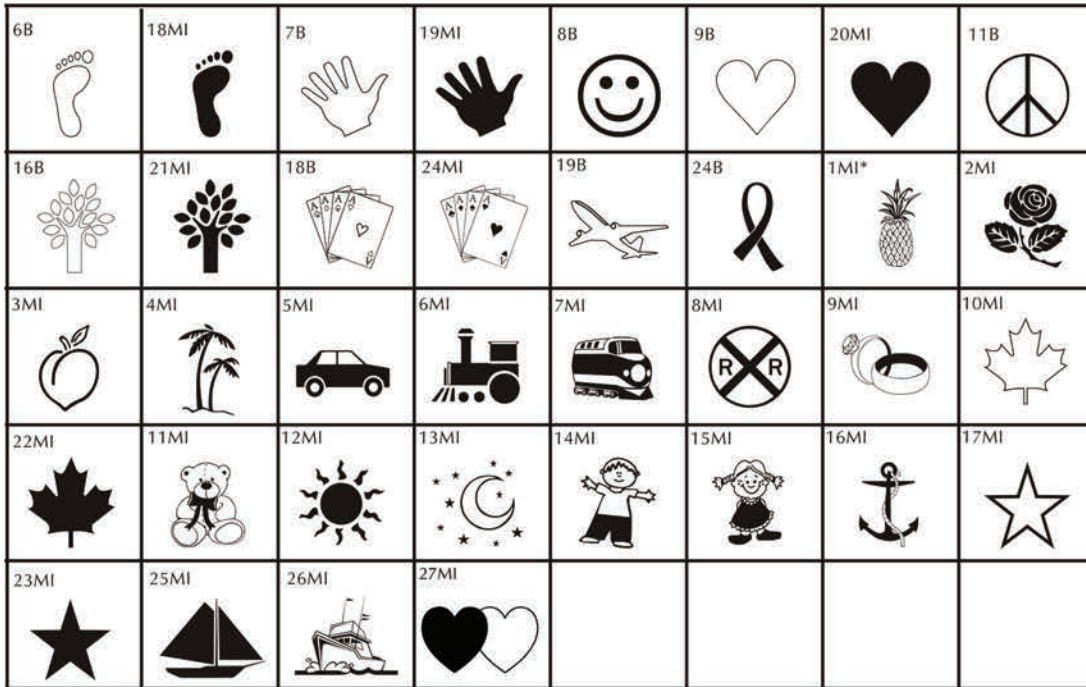
Important Note: Your brick area should have a clean and consistent appearance and should not be filled with too many free clipart images. We suggest that you limit the amount of free clipart images you offer to your donors/customers. For the possible free clipart image layouts, please see the attachment. We highly recommend one layout per size brick (4x8 & 8x8).

BMI Disclaimer: We will always do our best to provide a high quality engraved image. However, with any engraving process, we may lose some of the intricate details of a logo/graphic from the process of engraving. Such lost details should not be considered a defect but simply the result of engraving the image.

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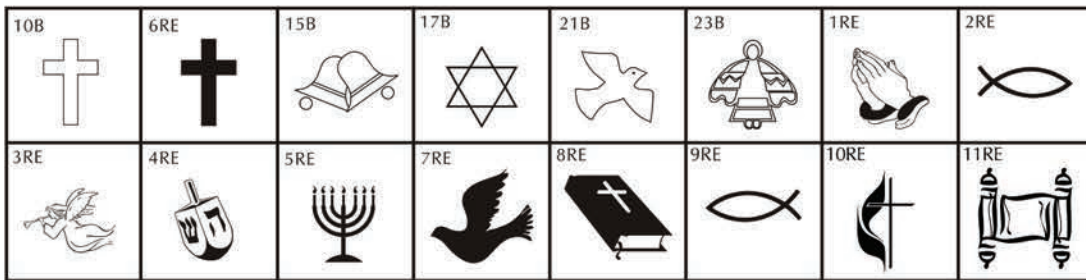
when choosing clipart only use number and letter(s) for referencing.

MISC.
CLIPART



MISC.
CLIPART

RELIGIOUS
CLIPART



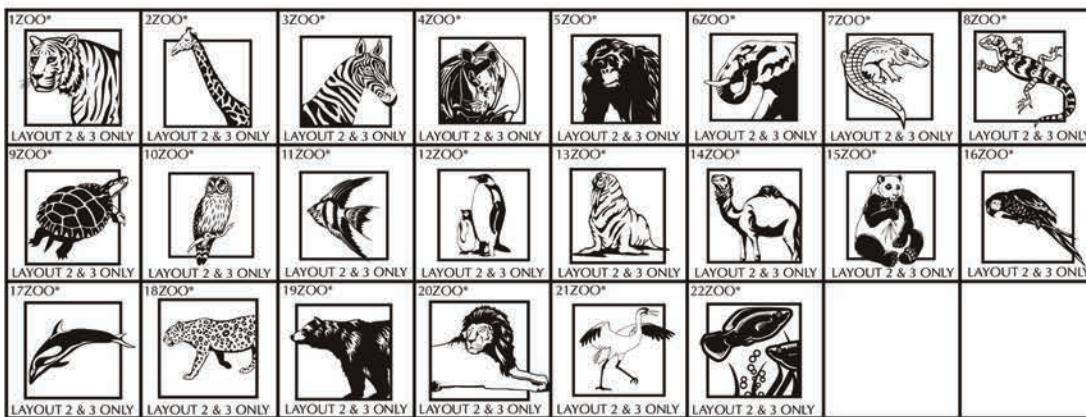
RELIGIOUS
CLIPART

HOLIDAY
CLIPART



HOLIDAY
CLIPART

ZOO
CLIPART



ZOO
CLIPART

* NOT APPLICABLE FOR MINI REPLICA

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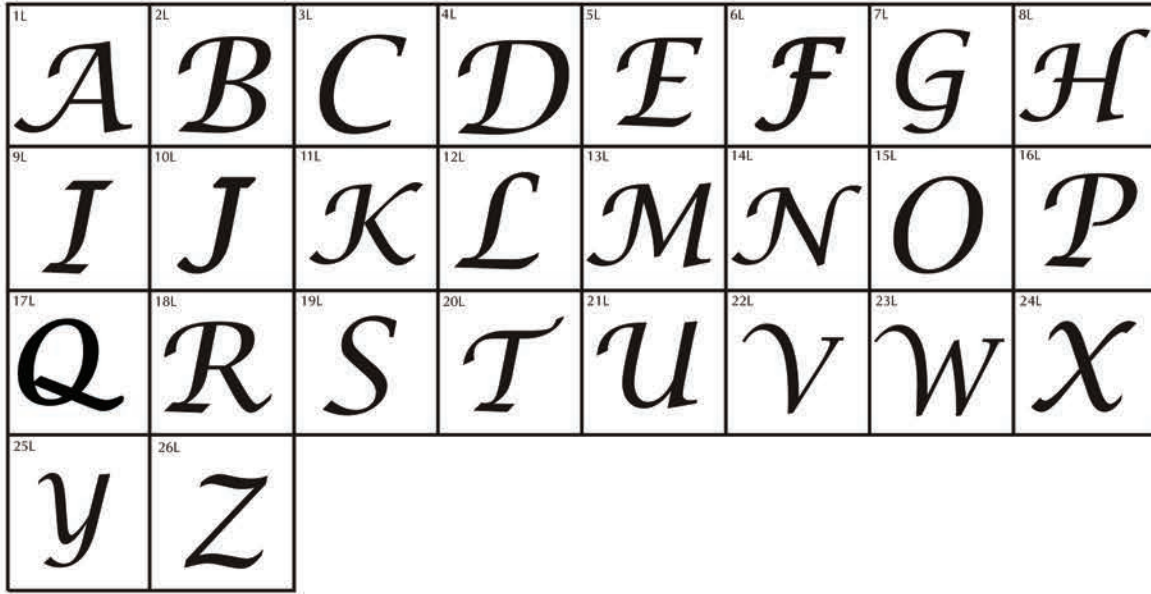
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Brick Markers USA, Inc. Free Clipart Library

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LETTERING
CLIPART



LETTERING
CLIPART

SEALS &
BADGES
CLIPART



SEALS &
BADGES
CLIPART

* NOT APPLICABLE FOR MINI REPLICA

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Vote for Experience!

Elect Ken Wiseman

National Judge Advocate General

2026-2027

Ready on Day 1!

Ken became a Paralegal after graduating from The George Washington University. More importantly, Ken has years of experience at all levels of the VFW that has taught him much about our great organization. Ken will be ready to go to work from the moment he is installed.



Years of Experience!

Ken earned All-American honors as a State Commander, State Adjutant/Quartermaster, Post Commander, and Post Quartermaster. He has been a Century Recruiter four times. Ken has led major updates to our bylaws and has experience handling Article 9 cases relating to disciplinary actions. Ken previously served as a VFW employee working on the National Legislative Service staff and he was an accredited Service Officer for the VFW.

Ken is currently the National Council Member and District 10 Commander in Virginia.

Committed to Service!

Having a Judge Advocate General with Ken's experience means having someone with experience in many of the issues our organization faces. Ken will work to help the VFW grow and he is committed to proving that "No One Does More for Veterans" than the VFW.