

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

NUMBER 3

403 Lee Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112

**“Veterans Helping Veterans
Dept. of Virginia 100th Anniversary”**

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

September 1, 2022

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

Articles are listed by number not by pages:

1. Commander’s Message
2. All American Reporting Requirement
3. Audits
4. Bonds
5. Buddy Poppy
6. Consolidation of Posts
7. Digital Membership Cards
8. Delinquent
9. District Meetings
10. E-Mail Account Access
11. General Orders
12. Important Dates
13. Incorporation
14. IRS Form 8822-B
15. Legacy Life Membership
16. Membership
17. National POW/MIA Recognition Day
18. Office Closure
19. Parliamentary Authority
20. Partners in Patriotism
21. Patriot Day
22. Post Officer’s Duties
23. Recruiting SOI
24. Removal of Officers
25. Reporting
26. Roster Changes
27. Scholarship Themes
28. VVF Community Service Grant
29. VVF Post Home Improvement and Assistance Grant
30. Vietnam War Commemoration
31. Voice of Democracy
32. Winter Council Meeting

1. COMMANDER’S MESSAGE:

Comrades and Auxiliary,

Greetings. July was a very busy month across the VFW. I was honored to represent the Virginia VFW at numerous events such as the National Commander Homecoming, the Virginia Sportsman Show-VFW Recruiting Booth; the State Commander’s Round-up to District 4; and the Nation’s Gun Show-VFW Recruiting Booth. Your State Officers and District Commanders were also very busy conducting the School of Instruction (SOI) all across the state. I personally, was pleased to instruct at District 6 Roanoke and District 13 Mineral. Additional news across the VFW includes:

State Service Officer: This month we hired of a new State Services Officer. Laurie Clay is a member of VFW Post 8545 Smithfield. She will be working out of the Smithfield Post. She has extensive VA claim and management experience and has already made a positive impact for our veterans.

Legislative: We had a great legislative victory this month with the signing of the *Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT)* Act of 2022. The PACT Act adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation. Among the benefits, it requires the VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every veteran enrolled in VA health care and helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures.

Membership: This month the Membership Team conducted Recruiting Schools of Instruction in Lexington and Mechanicsville; special thanks to Instructor Ken Wiseman. The next RSOI will be held on September 10 at Post 1115 Hillsville. State Membership Chairman Tom Hines and his Team have been executing our 2022-2023 State Membership Plan and recruiting all over the Commonwealth. Now is the best time to hold a local recruiting event at your Post or District. If you need a “recruiting assist” let us know.

Reporting: Our *Hospital, Americanism, Community, Safety and Youth* reports are a great way to document the tangible work that VFW conducts. Most of our Posts have completed their minimum five required reports for the first half of the year. However, there are 37 Posts who owe at least one report. Please ensure you get your reports in before October 31.

Homecoming: On January 13, 2023, we will be hosting the State Commander’s & State President’s Homecoming at the Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel (see flyer attached). Fred and I have worked hard to plan a Homecoming event that will be impactful and memorable. The Homecoming is a free event funded through the sale of State Commander/President shirts and fundraising raffles. We hope all our members and Auxiliary will attend. RSVP by January 6; you don’t want to miss it!

Fund Raising: 2023 VFW State Calendars are on sale now! Initial reception has been very strong. 2023 Calendars are only \$20 each and each calendar provides the holder a chance at one of **365 prizes totaling \$25,000**. Specifically, there will be three \$1000 drawings; seven \$500 drawings; two \$200 drawings; nine \$100 drawings; and 344 \$50 drawings.

Commander & 100th Anniversary (red & gold) shirts are in stock in all sizes, and red ballcaps are on hand. Wear yours to all VFW events, Centennial Celebrations and RED (Remember Everyone Deployed) Shirt Fridays. All proceeds go towards supporting the Homecoming (a free event). Have a great month and try to get out there and make a difference for veterans!

Sincerely and respectfully,
Geoffrey Lyster
State Commander
Department of Virginia

2. ALL-AMERICAN REPORTING REQUIREMENT:

In the 2022-2023 All-American requirements, a Post is required to report their community service with a minimum of one report being required. I am happy to share that our IT Chairman, Robert "Check" Adamczyk has coordinated with National HQs to continue the connection between our State HQs reporting system and the All-American Dashboard. This allows you to report once and get credit in both systems.

Future updates happen daily, and you will satisfy the All-American requirement once the first report is made into the State HQs system.

Ken Wiseman
Member, National Council of Administration
State Chief-of-Staff

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. Both March 31 and June 30 quarters have ended, and both are **NOW PAST DUE**.

4. BONDS:

All Bonds expired August 31, 2022. Please see July or August General Orders for the rate schedule for the cost of your bond and return completed forms and payment to State Headquarters. Please note the Quartermaster Bond rate schedule **is for** the Post Officers. There is a separate schedule for your canteen employees and others who are

not Post Offices but need to be bonded. Remember that persons on any and/or all accounts the Post have **Must** be bonded.

5. **BUDDY POPPY:**

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

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required, do not use “ASAP.” (Please note poppies are on backorder and may take longer to get to you.)

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

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

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

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

PURCHASING BUDDY POPPIES:

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

Ed Mann
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

6. **CONSOLIDATION OF POSTS:**

General Orders No. 1, 2022-23 series, will announced the consolidation of Joe Bagley Post No. 2582, Suffolk, Virginia and Richard T. Shea, Jr. Memorial Post No. 9382, Suffolk, Virginia. The consolidated Post is to be known as Joe Bagley Post No. 2582, Suffolk, Virginia. Approved July 29, 2022. The senior muster date is June 13, 1938.

7. 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.

8. DELINQUENT:

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

Dist.	Post	Fees	Audits	Dist.	Post	Fees	Audits
1	2296	\$6.00		7	9670		June
1	12201	\$3.00					
				10	5412	\$18.00	
2	993		March, June				
				11	3060	\$3.00	
3	7167	\$6.00					
3	8046	\$6.00		12	4301	\$6.00	June
				12	5715	\$12.00	
4	5313		June	12	8652		June
				12	8979	\$6.00	
5	873		June	12	9600	\$9.00	June
5	7800		June	12	9830	\$6.00	
5	8467		June	12	9864	\$6.00	
7	621	\$15.00		13	1827		June
7	8613	\$12.00		13	10574	\$18.00	June

9. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1st Date: 1/21/23
 Meeting: 11:00 AM
 Location: Hosted by Post 8252 Gloucester
 DAV Building, 6265
 Professional Drive
 Rep: St Judge Advocate Doug Hoffman

3rd Date: 11/19/22
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Lunch: To follow Meeting
 Location: Post 7167 Warsaw
 73 Washington Avenue
 Rep: State Surgeon Mark Maggio

2nd Date: 12/3/22
 Lunch: Noon
 Meeting: 1:00 PM
 Location: Post 3160 Norfolk
 111 A View Avenue
 Rep: St Commander Geoffrey Lyster

4th Date: 11/5/22
 Meeting: 11:00 AM
 Location: Post 7166 South Hill
 1472 N Mecklenburg Avenue
 Rep: State JVC Mitch Rubenstein

5 th	Date: 11/19/22 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep: St Chief-of-Staff Ken Wiseman	9 th	Date: 9/24/22 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 7726 Independence 115 Klondike Road Rep: St. Judge Advocate Doug Hoffman
6 th	Date: 12/3/22 Meeting: Noon Hosted by Post 5311 Christiansburg Location: Post 1264 Roanoke 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: State Inspector Charles Bush	10 th	Date: 9/25/22 SOI: 9:00 AM Lunch: Noon Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: 9274 Falls Church 7118 Shreve Road Rep: St Chief-of-Staff Ken Wiseman
7 th	Date: 1/21/23 Lunch: 11:30 AM Meeting: To follow Lunch Location: Post 2447 Edinburg 100 Veterans Way Rep: State SVC Gary Adams	11 th	Date: 1/28/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 2216 Staunton 212 Frontier Drive Rep: PSC Butch Schupska
8 th	Date: 11/19/22 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 7728 Morrisville 12496 Harpers Run Rd, Bealeton Rep: State Inspector Charles Bush	12 th	Date: 9/10/22 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1994 Abingdon 17581 Lee Highway Rep: State Surgeon Mark Maggio
		13 th	Date: 11/5/22 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 8169 Scottsville 2997 W River Road Rep: State SVC Gary Adams

10. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

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

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

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

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

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

adjpost176@vfwva.org
qmpost176@vfwva.org

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

svrdist1@vfwva.org

adjdist1@vfwva.org

qmdist1@vfwva.org

11. GENERAL ORDERS:

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

12. IMPORTANT DATES:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| October 27 – 30, 2022 | Southern Conference, Asheville, North Carolina (Information packet is included in this month's General Orders) |
| January 12 - 15, 2023 | Winter Council, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA phone 1-888-839-1775. Room Rates are \$97.00 per night. |
| June 1 – 4, 2023 | State Convention, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA; phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$149.00 per night. Group name "Virginia Department VFW & Auxiliary State Convention 2023"; Cut-off Date April 28, 2023. |
| July 22 – 27, 2023 | National Convention, Phoenix, Arizona |
| November 1 – 4, 2023 | Southern Conference, Tulsa, Oklahoma |
| July 27 – Aug 1, 2024 | National Convention, Louisville, Kentucky |
| August 9 – 14, 2025 | National Convention, Columbus, Ohio |

13. 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.

14. IRS FORM 8822-B:

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

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

15. LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to www.vfw.org, click on JOIN, 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>Post:</i>	<i>Department:</i>	<i>National:</i>
Levels: Gold-	\$1200.00	\$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?

16. MEMBERSHIP:

Comrades and Commanders,

Membership is doing well as we go into our Third Month of Geoff's year. Your Team has been working all around the State to support Districts and Posts. If you would like assistance from a Team Member, contact me or State Headquarters for information. Your Team is listed in the July General Orders along with the State and National Membership Programs. Post Commanders please make the State and National Programs known to your members at the next Post Meeting. There are some very nice awards available for your Post and members. A few minutes should be given at every Post meeting on the membership programs for everyone's benefit.

The Recruiter Schools of Instruction are in progress and are a requirement for All State, so make sure your Post gets credit for attending. If you have any questions, please contact me or State Headquarters for answers concerning membership.

Tom Hines PSC
Membership Team Chairman

17. NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPT. 16:

Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure. For POW/MIA merchandise, click [vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia](http://www.vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia).
<http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=97>

18. OFFICE CLOSURE:

Service Officer Offices in Dale City and Norfolk will be closed September 5, 2022, in observance of Labor Day.

State Headquarters will be closed September 2-5, 2022, in observance of Labor Day. The Adj/QM will be available by phone and email for any issues that may arise.

Please note the Hopewell Service Office is temporarily closed.

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. PARTNERS IN PATRIOTISM:

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? 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 the 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 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.

21. PATRIOT DAY:

SEPTEMBER 11. Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11, is designated as "Patriot Day."

The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States. For flags and other patriotic items, click here vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic.

22. POST OFFICER'S DUTIES:

The attention of incoming Post Officers is directed to Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure which outlines the duties of various Post Officers.

23. RECRUITING SOI:

State Headquarters will conduct a total of three in-person sessions of the Recruiter School of Instruction (SOI). The All-State Plan requires a Post to send at least one Post officer to a training session. The date, time, and location for the Recruiter SOI is as follows:

Post 1115 (Hillsville): September 10th 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Please email Past State Commander Ken Wiseman at kwiseman@vfwva.org with the number of members you expect to have in attendance at this session. There will not be a meal provided.

We look forward to seeing everyone at training.

The State Membership Committee will host one session of the Recruiter SOI in a virtual format. It will be held on September 3, 2022. You **MUST** register in advance, and you can do that here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkf-6srjwGtG_5VL06dExKIOUJReZYBoL.

On the day of the event, we will open the virtual session at 9:30 am and begin teaching promptly at 10:00 am. This 30-minute window will ensure we can account for everyone attending. As a friendly reminder, it is a requirement in this years, All-State plan to have at least one member from your Post attend. In-person sessions have been announced in previous editions of the General Orders.

Please email me with any questions at kwiseman@vfwva.org and I will be happy to help.

Ken Wiseman
National Council Member
State Chief-of-Staff

24. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS:

Section 220 of the National By-Laws, "Vacancies and removal of Elective Officers or Committee Members: states, "Any elective Post officer removed by the State Commander, by reason of failure to pay current dues or by vote of the Post under the provisions of this section, shall not be eligible to serve in any Post office in the same administrative year in which the officer is removed."

25. REPORTING:

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

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

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

26. ROSTER CHANGES:

Post 632 QM
Charles Carter
4803 Rawley Pike
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
540-246-4503
qmpost632@vfwva.org

Post 824 QM
Michael W. Cochran
102 Burnt Run
Yorktown, VA 23692
757-528-7922
qmpost824@vfwva.org

Post 1033 JVC
Oakland L. Eggleston
1406 Russell Drive
Covington, VA 24426
540-962-3625
Buzzmaw@aol.com

Post 1503 QM
Carl Richardson
17207 Four Seasons Dr
Dumfries, VA 22025
703-517-3923
qmpost1503@vfwva.org

Post 2613
First Saturday at 2:00 pm

Post 2719 QM
William Brogan
6441 Stoney Fork Rd
Wytheville, VA 24382
qmpost2719@vfwva.org
508-837-9156

Post 4809 SVC
Curtis C. Bobbitt
5522 Keydet Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
curtisbobbitt.vfw4809@gmail.com
757-300-9111

Post 4809 JVC
Lewis R. Bush
5429 Douglas St
Norfolk, VA 23509
lrbush1964@gmail.com
757-855-2505

Post 7167 QM
Michael Hall
523 Fort Lowry Lane
Dunnsville, VA 22454
Leatherneck46@gmail.com
410-707-9589

Post 8046
Mailing address
18168 New Kent Highway
Barhamsville, VA 23011
New time 6:30 pm

Post 8046 SVC
Kevin O. Gasway
810 Chapin Wood Dr
Newport News, VA 23608
Ookevin69@yahoo.com
757-344-1028

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

Post 8243 JVC
George S. Baylous
1070 Cowford Road
Halifax, VA 24558
434-476-6422

Post 12201 Cmdr
Charles S. Cox
PO Box 531
Kilmarnock, VA 22482
cdrpost12201@vfwva.org
804-761-1840

Post 9292 QM
LaRee D. Slusser
12624 Rockingham Pike
Elkton, VA 22824
qmpost9292@vfwva.org
540-435-2030

Post 12201 JVC
Albert Nunn
450 Kenmore Ave
Kilmarnock, VA 22482
spikenunn@aol.com
804-435-3704

27. SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY THEMES:

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

28. VVF COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANT:

The Virginia Veterans Foundation, the official foundation of the Virginia VFW, has opened the window to apply for a grant to perform community service. The grant, funded by Powerhouse Gaming, will provide twelve (12) grants worth up to \$250 for the 2022-2023 year. Should any money remain after the twelve (12) grants are paid out, those not selected in the first round of grants will be considered a second time. The requirements and application are in the attachments. While the project can be completed anytime between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, the application is due no later than November 30, 2022. Posts **AND** Auxiliaries can apply for this grant, but only one grant will be given to an individual Post or their Auxiliary, regardless of who applies. Entries can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to State Headquarters.

29. VVF POST HOME IMPROVEMENT AND ASSISTANCE GRANT:

The Virginia Veterans Foundation, the official foundation of the Virginia VFW, has opened the window to apply for a grant to perform improvements on your Post home. The grant, funded by Powerhouse Gaming, will provide ten (10) grants worth up to \$1,000 for the 2022-2023 year. The requirements and application are in the attachments. While the project can be completed anytime between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, the application is due no later than November 30, 2022. Entries can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to State Headquarters.

30. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

This month’s Congressional Medal of Honor winner is John J. Duffy. Born in New York City in 1938, Duffy joined the Army in 1955 and was commissioned via Infantry OCS in 1963. He served four combat tours in Vietnam as a Special Forces officer. In 1972 he was a special military advisor to MACV Advisory Team 162, known as “The Red Hats”. On 14 April 1972, during the North Vietnamese Easter Offensive, following a rocket and artillery barrage, the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) 320th Division attacked Firebase Charlie 10 km from Dak To.

Despite airstrikes and helicopter gunship support, Duffy and the Republic of Vietnam Airborne Division defenders were forced to abandon the base that night. The citation for his Medal of Honor reads as follows:

Maj. John J. Duffy distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty, while assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group and serving as a senior advisor to the 11th Airborne Battalion, 2nd Brigade, Airborne Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam in the Republic of Vietnam, on April 14-15, 1972. Two days earlier, the commander of the 11th Airborne Battalion was killed, the battalion command post was destroyed, and Duffy was twice wounded but refused to be evacuated. Then on April 14, Duffy directed the defense of Fire Support Base Charlie, which was surrounded by a battalion-sized enemy element. In the morning hours, after a failed effort to establish a landing zone for resupply aircraft, he moved close to enemy anti-aircraft positions to call in airstrikes. At this time, Duffy was again wounded by fragments from a recoilless rifle round and again refused evacuation. Shortly after, the enemy began an artillery bombardment on the base and he remained in an exposed position to direct gunships onto the enemy positions, which eventually silenced the enemy fire. Following the bombardment, Duffy assessed the conditions on the base and personally ensured that wounded friendly foreign forces were moved to positions of relative safety and the remaining ammunition was appropriately distributed to the remaining defenders. The enemy resumed indirect fire on the base, expending an estimated 300 rounds. Nevertheless, Duffy remained in an exposed position to direct gunship fire on the enemy positions. In the late afternoon hours, the enemy began a ground assault from all sides of the firebase, and Duffy moved from position to position to adjust fire, spot targets for artillery observers and, ultimately, to direct gunship fire on a friendly position which had been compromised. During the early morning hours of April 15, the enemy ambushed the battalion, inflicting additional casualties and scattering some of the able-bodied service members. After withstanding the ambush, Duffy led the evacuees - many of whom were significantly wounded - to an established evacuation area, despite being continually pursued by the enemy. Upon reaching the exfiltration site, Duffy directed gunship fire on enemy positions and marked a landing zone for the helicopters. Only after ensuring all of the evacuees were aboard, did Duffy board while also assisting a wounded friendly foreign service member. Once on board, he administered aid to a helicopter door gunner who had been wounded during the evacuation. Duffy's extraordinary heroism and selflessness beyond the call of duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army

Although recognition was long-delayed, Duffy was presented with the Medal of Honor by President Biden on 5 July 2022 in a ceremony at the White House. In addition to the Medal of Honor, Duffy's awards for valor include the Distinguished Service Cross, the Soldier's Medal, the Bronze Star with Combat "V" and 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, eight awards of the Purple Heart and the Air Medal with numeral "6".

Duffy retired from the Army in 1977. Following his military service, he was president of a publishing company and the founder and president of an investment firm which was bought by TD Ameritrade Inc. Duffy has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and has published six books of poetry. He currently resides in Santa Cruz, California.

Jeff Dombroff
Vietnam War Commemoration Committee Chairman

31. VOICE OF DEMOCRACY:

The Voice of Democracy program, instituted in 1947, has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars premier scholarship program. Annually, nearly 25,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Written and recorded audio essays are submitted by each applicant and address an annual patriotic theme. The 2022 theme is, "Why is the Veteran Important?" The contest is open to students in grades 9-12. More specific information, including rules, forms, and brochures are available at <http://www.vfw.org>.

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

2022-2023 Voice of Democracy Reporting Deadlines

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

Awards will be presented to the top three Department winners at the Department Winter Council meeting on Saturday, 14 January 2023 in Portsmouth, Virginia. Please send complete application packets to the Department VOD Chairman to include the completed Official Student Entry form with all appropriate signatures, a typed transcript, flash drive and a photograph of the District winner. Make sure your flash drive is properly recorded and playable before sending it. Incomplete application packets will disqualify your candidate from District and Department judging. District Chairmen are expected to complete and send out the District Participation Report in a timely manner. It should be received by the Department VOD Chairman, which is required for his Department Report NLT Sunday, 15 January 2023.

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

You are strongly encouraged to send your application packets by UPS, Fed Ex, or USPS return receipt. You are also advised to keep a duplicate copy of the complete application packet on hand. The Department VOD Chairman must receive your submissions NLT Friday, 16 December 2022. The Department VOD Selection Board will be held on Saturday, 17 December 2022, location to be announced. Possible teleconference format judging is being considered.

Voice of Democracy Department Awards

The top three finalists will be invited to the Winter Council Luncheon in Portsmouth, Virginia on Saturday, 14 January 2023. All three finalists will receive their awards and present their essays at the awards banquet. The first-place winner will receive a minimum of \$2,000.00 from the Department along with \$500.00 from the Commander's Club and an additional check from the Auxiliary. The second-place winner will receive a minimum of \$1,000.00, and the third-place winner will receive a minimum of \$500.00. Additional donations are expected this year. The Post that sponsors the Department's first place winner will be awarded the Clarence E. Kelley Memorial Voice of Democracy Trophy at the Department Convention in June 2023, date to be determined. Should you require any assistance or additional information regarding the 2022-2023 Voice of Democracy program, or its administration please contact me directly at (703) 477-2274 or email at drlouortho@aol.com.

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

Louis Filippone
Voice of Democracy Program Chairman

32. WINTER COUNCIL MEETING:

You will find the information for your online reservation link below. If you have questions or need help with the link, please do not hesitate to ask. We appreciate your business and look forward to a successful event. **Please note last day to Book is Monday, December 12, 2022.**

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

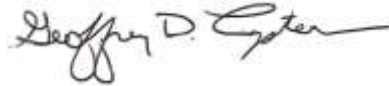
The Winter Council is January 12 – 15, 2023, but you can receive the discounted rate January 9 – 18, 2023. Room rate is \$97.00 per night.

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Geoffrey D. Lyster
State Commander



**WELCOME TO THE VFW SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
IN THE MOUNTAINS OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
OCTOBER 27TH – OCTOBER 30TH 2022**

**Crowne Plaza Asheville
1 Resort Drive
Asheville, NC 28806**

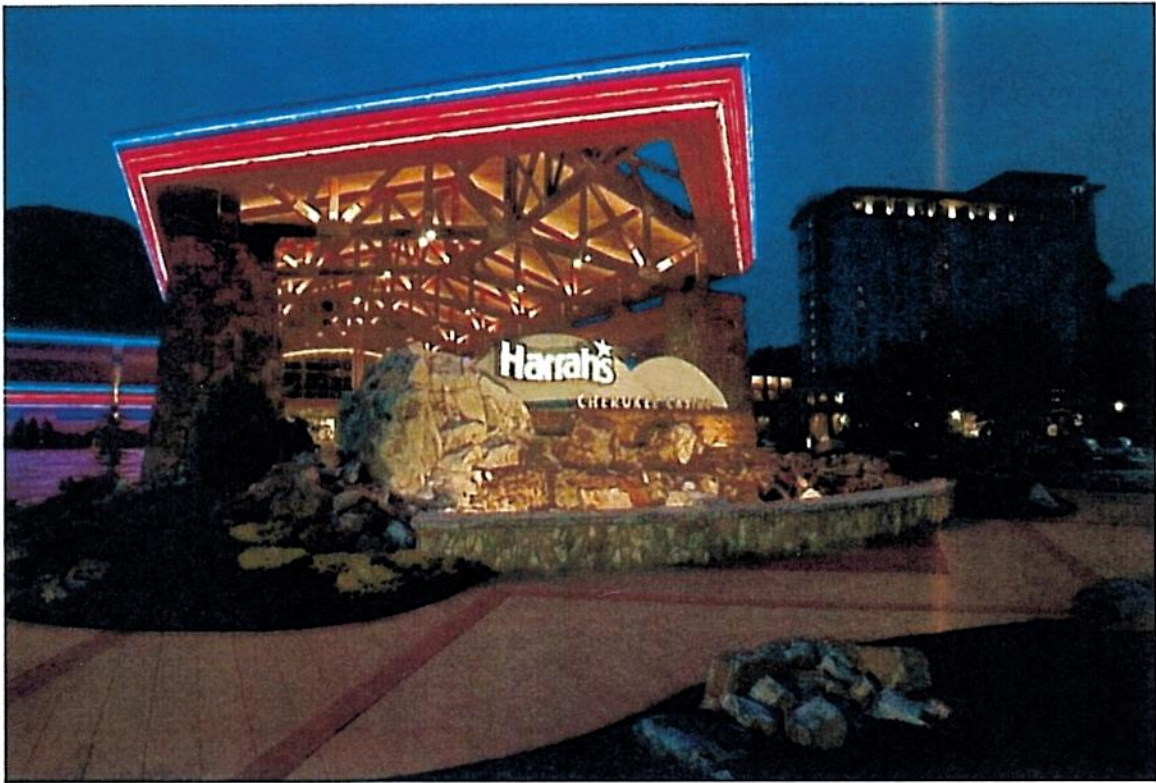
AREA ATTRACTIONS:



The Famous Biltmore Estate, America's Largest Home (admission fee)



Travel Along The Beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway (free)



Harrah's Cherokee Hotel & Casino (1hr drive)



Great Smoky Mountains National Park
(one of the only National Parks with no admission fee)

Southern Conference 2022
Veterans of Foreign Wars & Auxiliary

October 27th—October 30th 2022

Crowne Plaza Asheville

1 Resort Drive

Asheville, NC 28806

Room rate: \$182.00 + tax per night

Deadline September 29, 2022

Registration Form:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Department: _____

Post/Aux: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Pre-registration fee is \$85 .00 per person

*Registration Fee covers:

Banquet, Hospitality Room, and
Entertainment.

Registration at the Conference will be \$95.00.

For hotel reservations please contact the Crowne Plaza at (828) 285-2603

**Rooms must be reserved by September 29, 2022 at midnight to ensure the block room rate*

Make checks payable to: Department of North Carolina VFW

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY:

DATE RECEIVED: _____

CK#: _____

AMOUNT: _____

MAIL FORMS TO: DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA VFW 917 NEW BERN AVE. RALEIGH, NC 27601

OR EMAIL: SOUTHERNCONFERENCE2020@VFWNC.COM (CHECK WILL STILL NEED TO BE MAILED)

Southern Conference 2022
Veterans of Foreign Wars & Auxiliary

October 27th—October 30th 2022

Crowne Plaza Asheville

1 Resort Drive

Asheville, NC 28806

Deadline September 29, 2022



Request for Transportation Form:

Name: _____

Airline: _____

Arrival Date: ____ Time: ____ Flight: _____

Departure Date: ____ Time: ____ Flight: _____

Southern Conference 2022
Veterans of Foreign Wars & Auxiliary
October 27th—October 30th 2022
Crowne Plaza Asheville
1 Resort Drive
Asheville, NC 28806

Select your Dinner

Name _____ Herb Marinated Chicken Breast with Natural Jus
Caribbean Pork Lion with Sweet Mango Glaze

Name _____ Herb Marinated Chicken Breast with Natural Jus
Caribbean Pork Lion with Sweet Mango Glaze

MAIL FORMS TO:

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA VFW
917 NEWBERNAVE.
RALEIGH, NC 27601

Or

Email: SouthernConference2022@vfwnc.com

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 2022-2023 year. All requirements must be met, or the grant must be returned, in part or in whole, depending on the circumstances.

The requirements of the grant are as follows:

- 1) The project must be initiated and completed in the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.
- 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 \$1,000 each for the 2022-2023 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.

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, 2022 through June 30, 2023. 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 \$1,000 once complete, 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.
- 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: _____



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



- **Purpose:** *To Honor Commander Geoffrey Lyster & President Fred Jennings*
- **Date/Time:** Friday, January 13, 2023; 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- **Location:** Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel, 425 Water St, Portsmouth, VA
- **Cost:** Free
- **Entertainment:** Famous DJ “JR”– and Featured Speakers
- **Dance Contest:** Awards for Best Dancer; Best Couple Dancers
- **Giveaways:** Complimentary Deluxe 2022-2023 Commanders Challenge Coin; die cast-full color-ltd edition (in vinyl sleeve) *One free Deluxe Challenge Coin to all attendees, if not rec'd previously*
- **Raffles:** *Henry Golden Boy* .22 S/L/LR (walnut stock); Door Prizes
- **Dress:** Casual (*wear your red or pink organizational shirt*)
- **Menu:** **“Famous Tidewater Buffet!”**



- *Mixed green salad with optional: tomatoes, croutons, goat cheese, spiced pecans, cranberries, roasted peach vinaigrette; creamy ranch or tasty Italian dressing*
- **Entrees:** *-Tidewater “all-day smoked” beef brisket with bourbon BBQ sauce*
-Southern Fried Chicken - buttermilk brined coating
-Buttery garlic mashed potatoes and seasonal grilled vegetables
- *Dessert: Assorted Chesapeake mini-dessert shooters, strawberry lemonade cheesecake, ‘Campfire S’mores’, assorted southern style mini-bundt cakes, crème brule & assorted macaroons*
-Served with fresh baked rolls & butter, freshly brewed gourmet coffee and exotic herbal teas

❖ **RSVP for Commander by January 6, 2023:**

Ken Wiseman – kwiseman@vfwva.org

❖ **RSVP for President by January 6, 2023**

Ellen Stogsdill - ellenstogsdill@cox.net

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

This may be the largest State Homecoming Extravaganza ever!

Stay overnight at the hotel or make it a Daytrip.

Whatever you do, you don't want to miss it!!

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



Elegant Dancing

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

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

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

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

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

"Neb"

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





Charles H. Bush, Jr.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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