

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

**NUMBER 7**

403 Lee Jackson Highway  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

*"Steady the Course"*

FAX: 866-416-0586  
Website: [www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org)  
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**January 1, 2021**

(540) 886-8112  
In Virginia 800-888-3521

**GUIDE TO THE GO:**

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**1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:**

Comrades,

I hope everyone had the best of the holiday season. This holiday season was different, and we had to approach it differently. The fact is that while vaccines are on the way, COVID-19 persists. We have seen increases in virus positivity throughout the State. We ask all of you to observe the 3W's: wear a mask, wash your hands and watch your distance. For your information, the CDC has provided guidance for what to consider when out in public (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/deciding-to-go-out.html>). Please do not relax your guard because of circumstance or camaraderie. Your well-being is important to us, as well as your family and friends. We believe that taking all due precautions for yourself and others. We wish the best to you and your loved ones!

Our Winter Council is approaching soon, again this will be mostly all on zoom with the Governor's restriction on meetings 10 or less. Hopefully by June we all can get together for State Convention.

We have a few Post that have reached their membership goal of 100% already GREAT job I salute them. The states goal for all Post was to be 90% by December 31. If you made that goal thank you for the hard work. The next milestone goal is for all Post to be at 95% by the end of March. If you need help or would like an unpaid list for your post call HQ for assistance. Contact your Department Line Officers if you need help with recruiting ideas.

Post Commanders set goals to achieve 100% reported the second half reporting period, we missed the first half reporting let's not repeat.

Districts and Posts check the All State and All American requirements use the check list to help guide you to accomplish the tasks. Check the Dash Board on National's website, check the Department website for all reports and make sure HQ has received and documented correctly if not call HQ.

If the Districts and Post have not made their donations to National VMS or to the State's Foundation please try to accomplish this soon.

In closing I want to thank every member for the work they do in their community, Hospital, school, scouts and their Post homes. Post Commander set up a group to call your Post members this holiday season "Buddy Check" find out how they are doing, do they need anything during this Holiday season with COVID19 in place and numbers raising. Find ways to contact our veterans in the VA Hospital even it's by just a card letting them know we are all thinking of them this Holiday season.

GREAT JOB TEAM Virginia.

Eric Mallett  
State Commander

## 2. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Date: 1/23/21 Recruit Train: 9:00 AM Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 3219 Phoebus 122 E Mellen Street Hampton	7 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 1/16/21 Lunch: 11:30 AM Meeting: 12:15 PM Location: Post 2447 Edinburg 100 Veterans Way
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Date: 2/13/21 Lunch: Noon Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 8545 223 Washington Street	8 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 2/13/21 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 3103 Fredericksburg 2701 Princess Anne Street
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Date: 1/23/21 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 9808 Mechanicsville 7168 Flag Lane	9 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 1/16/21 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4667 Marion 861 Goolsby Street
4 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 2/20/21 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 8759 Amelia 16440 Five Forks Road	10 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 3/7/21 Lunch: 11:30 am Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 1503 Dale City 14631 Minnieville Road
5 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 2/20/21 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 8467 Meadows of Dan 80 Mabry Mill Road	11 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 1/23/21 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 2216 Staunton 212 Frontier Drive
6 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 4/10/21 Meeting: Noon Location: Post 1841 Daleville 4902 Roanoke Road	12 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 1/16/21 Registration: 10:30 AM Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1994 Abingdon 17581 Lee Highway
		13 <sup>th</sup>	Date: 2/13/21 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 1827 Charlottesville 1170 River Road

### 3. **ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:**

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

### 4. **AMAZONSMILE:**

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to charitable organizations selected by our customers. Our very own foundation is listed the Virginia Veterans Foundation.

### 5. **BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:**

All officers should obtain current 2021 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 2021 revised edition reflects that in response to the deadly virus COVID-19, the 121st National Convention was held pro-forma where no amendments to the National Bylaws or Manual of Procedure were made.

### 6. **DUTIES OF TRUSTEES:**

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to section 218 of the Manual of Procedure, "Duty of Trustees." Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the close of each quarter, one of which ends December 31, 2020. Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including the Club Manager and Bingo Chairman. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster and Adjutant records.

### 7. **E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:**

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 25<sup>th</sup>**. 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](http://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 **VFW2020!** 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](mailto:cdrpost176@vfwva.org) where the 176 is you replace it with **your** Post number.

[adjpost176@vfwva.org](mailto:adjpost176@vfwva.org)  
[qmpost176@vfwva.org](mailto:qmpost176@vfwva.org)

For District Officers your address will be [cdrdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrdist1@vfwva.org) for Districts other than the first just replace the 1 with your district #

[adjdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:adjdist1@vfwva.org)  
[qmdist1@vfwva.org](mailto:qmdist1@vfwva.org)

## 8. FREE WRITING CLASSES:

Would you like to preserve your military experiences? Now is the time to share your stories! The Virginia War Memorial Foundation is accepting applications for the Spring Semester of the Mighty Pen Project (MPP), one of our most popular and enduring programs!

This 12-week creative writing class is free to veterans of all military branches. The MPP helps veterans craft personal and expressive works that document service to both community and country. Create, learn, and grow alongside fellow veterans and aspiring writers!

To sign up, visit [vawarmemorial.org/mpp](http://vawarmemorial.org/mpp). Spring 2021 classes will be held virtually on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm, January 6th through March 24th. Graduation will be held on April 7, 2021. Feel free to reach out with any questions!

View the MPP Archives| Listen to MPP stories through Virginia Voice

Annie Rudasill Warman  
Administrative Assistant  
Virginia War Memorial

## 9. GENERAL ORDERS:

The cut off for the General Orders is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. No EXCEPTIONS. Subscriptions for hard copy General Orders are \$30.00 for the year (**please note new price**). Contact State Headquarters for more info.

## 10. IMPORTANT DATES:

February 5-7, 2021	State Commander/State President/MOCA Homecoming, Virginia Beach, VA (see December General Orders)
March 25-28, 2021	National Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch Homecoming, Portsmouth, VA (a revised packet was in October General Orders)
June 3-6, 2021	State Convention, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA; phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$125.00 per night. Group name "Virginia VFW"; Cut-off Date May 3, 2021
July 31-August 5, 2021	National Convention, Baltimore, MD
November 18-21, 2021	Southern Conference, Hilton Head, South Carolina
January 7-9, 2022	Winter Council, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA; phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$94.00 per night. Group name "VFW Department of Virginia Winter Council Meeting"; Cut-off Date December 6, 2021.

## 11. IRS FORM 8822-B:

IRS form 8822-B. It is now a requirement by the IRS that all Posts submit this form. This form must be submitted any time the Post Quartermaster changes and/or the Post address changes. This was effective January 1, 2014.

Here is the link to get the form and instructions – <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822b.pdf>

This will also apply to all Auxiliaries that have their own EIN number.

## 12. MEMBERSHIP:

Comrades and Commanders,

The holiday season is behind us and I wish for all to have a safe and prosperous 2021 year. Six Months of the year have passed, and we have just six months to accomplish all that we have hoped for in Eric and Hal's year.

Membership is trickling in and we have been holding our own, however it's time to roll up our sleeves and make this Department reach its quota. Congratulations to all the Post that have reached their membership quota. I would like to offer help to the ones that haven't from our Membership Team. We have talented recruiters all around the State and if you desire help it is available to your Post or District. State H.Q. can supply a list of relocated and unpaid members in your zip code. You can do a radius around your Post of 5, 10, 15, or more miles. You can go back for 8 or more years and get addresses, emails, phone numbers, and what Post they belonged to. Bear in mind that you will get some bad info on this list. Some change phone numbers and email addresses like we change our shorts. I have more success with these lists by visiting the addresses in person. If the vet doesn't live there anymore, I inquire if the homeowner is a vet or knows a combat vet in the area. This leads to many more leads and recruitments.

The weather should get better as we move toward Spring and the restrictions for Covid 19 should be lifted now that we have a vaccine. As usual the year seems to fly by, and a sense of urgency should be gripping all of us about now. Please pay attention to this feeling and start recruiting to make your Post, District, and Department reach its quota. I will miss seeing everyone at the Winter Council but hopefully we will have our State Convention in June. So far Eric's Homecoming is still on and we can get together and talk membership strategy there. As you go forth with your daily adventures please remember to take advantage of every opportunity to recruit new members. The young veterans are eager to join, all you have to do is ask them.

Tom Hines, PDC  
Membership Team

## 13. MEMBERSHIP TRAINING:

Membership Monday Webinar Training Series Tentative Schedule:

- January 11, 2021 – Best Practices for following up with your Unpaid members.
- February 8, 2021 – How to successfully plan and execute a Recruiting Outreach Event
- March 8, 2021 – Identify your potential Post Officers and Chairmen for the upcoming new membership year.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://vfw.zoom.us/j/92263422696?pwd=SWhvOjBSZmVhVVdiSXILRTJKVGUrQT09>

Meeting ID: 922 6342 2696

Passcode: 818768

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,92263422696# US (Chicago)

+13017158592,,92263422696# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 922 6342 2696

Find your local number: <https://vfw.zoom.us/j/addLOL1krF>

Each Membership Monday training topic is developed with the Post-level leadership in mind. Each of these sessions are intended to be live with ability for audience interaction. These training sessions are recorded and can be viewed throughout the year. Videos are posted on the VFW Membership Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ> and on the VFW website, [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

All Membership Monday Webinars are planned to be held at 2:00 PM, CST on the dates provided.

Training is open to every member of the VFW and Auxiliary.

Each Membership Monday will be recorded and available for viewing for members who cannot attend the training live. Visit the sites below to view training topics.

- OMS under Membership Recruiting & Retention, VFW.org
- The Membership Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembership>
- VFW YouTube Channel, [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz\\_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi)

If you would like to suggest a Membership Monday training topic, please email us at, [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

#### 14. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters and the Service Officer offices in Hopewell, Norfolk and Dale City will be closed January 1, 2021 reopen January 4, 2021 in observance of New Year's. Also, all offices will be closed on January 18, 2021 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The State Adjutant/Quartermaster will be available by phone and email for any issues that may arise.

#### 15. POST PANDEMIC RELIEF GRANTS:

To all VFW State Departments Commanders, Senior Vice Commanders, Junior Vice Commanders, Adjutants and Quartermasters,

The VFW Foundation is shifting its grant making focus for the 2021 fiscal year to provide urgently needed financial relief to VFW Posts affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The VFW Foundation Post Pandemic Relief Grant (PPRG) is an opportunity for VFW Posts that own or lease their buildings to receive up to \$2,500 in support toward expenses such as mortgage/rent, utility bills and property taxes. Posts will need to meet certain requirements to be eligible to receive funding from this program.

**PPRG applications will be accepted beginning 10/1/2020.** However, Posts may access and begin completing the application prior to October 1 by visiting [www.vfw.org/grants](http://www.vfw.org/grants) and clicking on "Apply Now".

For more information please visit: [www.vfw.org/grants](http://www.vfw.org/grants). You may also contact Jason Couch, Grants & External Relations Coordinator, at [jcouch@vfw.org](mailto:jcouch@vfw.org). (Guidelines and application are attached also attached are the eligibility updates)

## 16. PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS:

Department deadline is January 8, 2021. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award

Each Department will receive their three awards and should contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department Commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient's peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the general public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters and EMTs, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership. Order plaques and citations for public servants from the VFW Store [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=public%20servant](http://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=public%20servant).

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

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

## 17. 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](http://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.

## 18. STATE CONVENTION:

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

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1602798939355&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

## 19. VFW SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRAM:

This program was put in place to recognize VFW units for creating and completing unique and extraordinary community service projects.

Record book entry nominations that are found to be complete and well-substantiated should be endorsed by the Department Adjutant or VFW Department Community Activities Chairman and forwarded to National Programs Department. Deadline for entries is April 30 of each year.

Every Post Special Project receiving the Award of Excellence in the May judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Manual.

## 20. SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING:

The Department Service Officer Bobbiejo Lazo will hold a training session on January 9 at 10:00 am by Zoom. The following is the invitation for Service Officer Training.

*Mike Diaz is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.*

*Topic: Service Officer Training*

*Time: Jan 9, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)*

*Join Zoom Meeting*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84515423765?pwd=RGZPM2lsK0FZclh0blFPc0tZMUJFZz09>

*Meeting ID: 845 1542 3765*

*Passcode: 405152*

*One tap mobile*

*+13126266799,,84515423765#,,,,,0#,,405152# US (Chicago)*

*+16465588656,,84515423765#,,,,,0#,,405152# US (New York)*

*Dial by your location*

*+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)*

*+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)*

*+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)*

*+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)*

*+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)*

*+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)*

*Meeting ID: 845 1542 3765*

*Passcode: 405152*

*Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84515423765?pwd=RGZPM2lsK0FZclh0blFPc0tZMUJFZz09>*

## 21. WINTER COUNCIL:

The Department Council of Administration only will meet on January 9<sup>th</sup> at Post 9808 at 7168 Flag Ln in Mechanicsville. The meeting will start at 9:00 am and you may zoom. You can call me if you have any questions.

Ed Mann is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

*Join Zoom Meeting*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84044182894?pwd=M1E0enozUFdtckErRm5hV1ZOREJvUT09>

*Meeting ID: 840 4418 2894*

*Passcode: 538961*

*One tap mobile*

*+19292056099,,84044182894#,,,,,0#,,538961# US (New York)*

*+13017158592,,84044182894#,,,,,0#,,538961# US (Washington D.C)*

*Dial by your location*

*+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)*

*+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)*



+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 840 4418 2894

Passcode: 538961

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84044182894>

Ed Mann  
Department Adjutant Quartermaster

## 22. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

Comrades – As you will read below, January 30 will mark the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Tet Offensive. I landed at Ton Son Nhut Airbase on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February and was greeted by tracers flashing into the surrounding skies and flares all over the perimeter. We were given flak jackets and helmets and told to lie down on the floor of the vehicles (with only black-out lights showing) taking us from the planes. Word of the offensive had not yet filtered down the chain of command back in the States and those of us flying in from McCord AFB in Seattle had no clue as to what was going on. I'm sure others have similar stories of those chaotic days.

The following historical events for the Vietnam War took place in January:

**January 10, 1962** - In Operation RANCH HAND, the United States and South Vietnam spray herbicides over forested regions to deny the Viet Cong jungle cover and food supplies. President Ngo Dinh Diem requests the operation and President Kennedy approves it in 1961. It lasts until 1971, and over nine years aircraft spray some 18 million gallons of chemicals over South Vietnam. The program impacts 20 percent of the nation's forests. Many people—including veterans—argue that contact with these herbicides, especially one named Agent Orange, causes a range of serious illnesses. The long term effects of herbicides remain controversial, and it is one of the longest lasting legacies of the war.

**January 2, 1963** - Elements of the South Vietnamese 7th Infantry Division engage a smaller Viet Cong force outside the village of Ap Bac, 40 miles southwest of Saigon, in the Mekong Delta. The South Vietnamese force commits numerous mistakes, and the Viet Cong troops, holding strong defensive positions, kill 63 and wound 100 South Vietnamese soldiers. Estimates of Viet Cong casualties vary. The enemy guerrilla forces also shoot down five American helicopters before successfully escaping the battlefield. Three Americans are killed in action. It is the first major South Vietnamese defeat after some notable victories in late 1962.

**January 24, 1964** - MACV establishes the Special Operations Group, which is later renamed the Studies and Observations Group (SOG). SOG is a joint-service U.S. special operations unit that conducts unconventional warfare—mainly against the Ho Chi Minh Trail and in North Vietnam—in support of a new allied covert action program called Operation Plan 34A. SOG's missions include strategic reconnaissance, capturing enemy prisoners, rescuing downed aircrews, and conducting clandestine and psychological warfare. At peak strength, SOG consists of about 2,500 American and 7,000 Southeast Asian personnel.

**January 15, 1965** - Major Kathleen I. Wilkes and Sergeant Betty L. Adams of the U.S. Women's Army Corps (WAC) arrive in Saigon to train South Vietnam's Women's Armed Forces Corps. They are the first WAC representatives to serve in Vietnam since 1963. Many more WAC women later deploy to Vietnam. They will serve in clerical, training, administrative, finance, intelligence, logistics, and legal and civil affairs assignments in various U.S. military headquarters.

**January 7, 1966** - Through January 13, U.S. and Australian army forces mount a large search-and-destroy operation known as CRIMP. The operation is directed against a Viet Cong base area north of Saigon, adjacent to the region known as the Iron Triangle. While conducting a sweep there, and after a fierce firefight, the 1st Battalion,

Royal Australian Regiment identifies a vast complex of tunnels. The complex contains a Viet Cong regional headquarters. The Australians also discover some 7,500 documents and maps, many of which reveal names and locations of Viet Cong agents. The discovery is one of the biggest intelligence coups of the war.

**January 24, 1966** - The U.S. Army 1st Cavalry Division begins Operation MASHER in Binh Dinh Province on the Bong Son Plain, a strip of land along the central coast of South Vietnam. MASHER is a large search-and-destroy operation employing multiple airmobile assaults into the narrow valleys, mountain spurs, and coastal plains north of the town of Bong Son. Shortly after the operation begins, presidential adviser McGeorge Bundy requests that MACV change MASHER's name, because the Johnson administration fears the reaction it might elicit from an American public that is increasingly skeptical of U.S. troops commitments. Bundy believes the title "MASHER" is inflammatory. In response, General William C. Westmoreland changes the operation's name to WHITE WING.

Operation MASHER/WHITE WING lasts for 41 days. Airmobile cavalrymen make a series of assaults into the Viet Cong-dominated region and, in a string of running engagements, push Communist forces toward blocking positions occupied by American, South Vietnamese, and Korean troops. Allied forces deal the Communist troops a heavy blow, killing 1,300 men, capturing 600 prisoners, and taking in 500 defectors. American losses include 228 dead and 834 wounded. The 1st Cavalry also captures several significant weapon and supply caches.

MASHER/WHITE WING comes on the heels of the Ia Drang Valley fighting and cements in U.S. commanders' minds that airmobile and search-and-destroy tactics are effective. When the operation ends in early March, however, parts of the region remain unsecured, and Communist forces reoccupy much of it in the subsequent months and years.

**January 28, 1966** - The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Senator James W. Fulbright (D-AR), begins hearings questioning the Johnson administration's Vietnam policies. Fulbright was once a supporter of the president and helped guide the 1964 Tonkin Gulf Resolution through Congress. But he has come to believe that the regime in Saigon is corrupt and irredeemable and that U.S. escalation of the war is a mistake. Those who testify at the hearings against continued U.S. participation in the war include decorated World War II veteran and retired Lieutenant General James Gavin and diplomat George F. Kennan, the primary founder of Cold War "containment" policy. The hearings collectively become known as the Fulbright Hearings and take place intermittently between 1966 and 1971. They are also televised, and the public nature of criticisms raised at the hearings angers Lyndon Johnson. Many historians later argue that the hearings helped turn popular public opinion against the war and gave a larger platform to the antiwar movement.

**January 8, 1967** - Elements of the U.S. 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions, 11th Armored Cavalry, 173d Airborne Brigade, and one South Vietnamese infantry division begin Operation CEDAR FALLS. In the largest offensive of the war to date, allied troops use a "hammer and anvil" maneuver to sweep the Iron Triangle region, about 15 miles north of Saigon, and destroy a major Viet Cong base area. Allied personnel forcibly remove thousands of civilians from villages like Ben Suc to create free-fire areas. Engineers and infantry work in unison to deny the Viet Cong concealment, destroying hundreds of tunnels and capturing tons of supplies and a large store of documents. The operation lasts until January 26 and temporarily curtails insurgency operations in the Iron Triangle. Despite the setback, the Viet Cong avoid the destruction of their major combat forces in the area and soon return. U.S. and South Vietnamese troops kill an estimated 700 guerrilla soldiers, and allied forces lose 83 killed and 345 wounded.

**January 1968** - Installed in late 1967, Lima Site 85, on top of Phou Pha Thi Mountain, in Laos, supports a covert U.S. tactical navigation station which directs U.S. bombers to their targets in North Vietnam. Though important to the allied bombing campaign and defended by CIA, Air Force, and Hmong troops, Site 85 is highly vulnerable to being overrun. In January 1968, Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese forces begin to converge on Lima Site 85, planning to destroy it. The U.S. Air Force and the CIA direct numerous airstrikes against the attacking troops, hoping to keep the site operational for as long as possible. On January 12, the North Vietnamese conduct their first air strike of the war against ground troops when two biplanes attack the site with 120-millimeter mortar shells. Both enemy planes are shot down by the crew of an Air America helicopter.

**January 21, 1968** - In late 1967 the North Vietnamese Army begins a carefully prepared operation against the U.S. Marine base at Khe Sanh, in the northwest corner of I Corps. By January 1968, between 15,000 and 30,000 Communist troops converge on the area around the base. The base, with a small airfield for resupply, guards a primary infiltration route into South Vietnam from Laos. It is the westernmost outpost of the McNamara Line, with some 6,000 Marine defenders, roughly 3,000 garrisoned at Khe Sanh itself. On January 20, North Vietnamese troops attack a U.S. patrol. Early the next morning, the main assault follows. The U.S. reinforces Khe Sanh with artillery and air support, including the massive air campaign, Operation NIAGARA. Intense fighting and artillery barrages last into April.

Throughout the siege, there is some discord between General Westmoreland's MACV headquarters and Marine Corps leadership. Complex and ill-defined command structures between MACV and III MAF lead General Westmoreland to create MACV Forward at Phu Bai, a new headquarters to oversee the battle for I Corps and bring the Marine fixed-wing aircraft under Air Force control.

**January 23 – 29, 1968** – During this period, the South Korean army Capital Division deploys six companies on a search-and-destroy mission near Phu Cat, in South Vietnam. Following contact with a North Vietnamese force, the Koreans quickly execute an encircling maneuver, trapping the enemy. Over six days, the Korean troops slowly tighten the cordon. The North Vietnamese lose 278 men to 11 killed for the Koreans. The successful action demonstrates the ongoing effectiveness of Korean troops in their area of operations.

**January 30, 1968** - During the Vietnamese New Year celebrations known as Tet—customarily a ceasefire period observed by both sides—Communist forces launch what becomes known as the Tet Offensive. North Vietnam had been planning the offensive since early 1967. Its objective is to defeat the South Vietnamese Army and spark a popular uprising across the South, possibly ending the war in one bold stroke. Roughly 84,000 enemy troops launch coordinated, timed attacks on 36 provincial capitals and 64 district towns, as well as many American bases. The offensive shocks the American public. Media attention focuses primarily on scenes of the violence in Saigon and the U.S. Embassy compound, which is a prominent symbol of the American presence in Vietnam.

**January 31, 1968** - As part of the Tet Offensive, Communist troops assault the fortified city of Hue, the old Vietnamese imperial capital. They successfully occupy much of the city for several weeks. Though isolated, South Vietnamese and U.S. Marine and Army troops resist the attackers in bitter house-to-house fighting, resulting in high military and civilian casualties. U.S. Marine Task Force X-Ray fights its way into Hue's MACV compound and retakes buildings south of the Perfume River. Later, additional South Vietnamese and U.S. troops arrive as reinforcements. The battle for Hue continues for almost a month. The Viet Cong arrest and execute as many as 3,000 civilians, acts which go largely unreported at the time. The battle ravages the city, destroying or damaging as much as 80 percent of its structures. Over 100,000 people are left homeless.

**January 13, 1969** - In Operation BOLD MARINER, a U.S. Navy Seventh Fleet task force puts a brigade-size Marine force ashore on the Batangan Peninsula, Quang Ngai Province, in South Vietnam. The region has long been a Viet Cong stronghold. The operation's objective is to identify and clear out Viet Cong agents and secure the civilian population. The Marines, working in concert with U.S. Army and South Vietnamese troops, screen some 12,000 civilians and remove them from their villages for resettlement further south. They then identify and destroy nearly eight miles of enemy tunnels. The main portion of BOLD MARINER lasts until early February and is the largest amphibious operation of the war.

**January 14, 1969** - While steaming off of Hawaii before deploying to Vietnam, the nuclear-powered carrier *USS Enterprise* suffers a costly fire when a rocket ignites on the flight deck and triggers explosions in nearby aircraft. Though the flames are brought under control, 27 crewmen are killed, 344 are injured, and 15 aircraft are destroyed.

**January 22, 1969** - From January 22 to March 19, the U.S. 9th Marine Regiment conducts Operation DEWEY CANYON. Its objective is to eliminate a North Vietnamese buildup in the Da Krong Valley, an enemy supply route between the Laotian border and the A Shau Valley. Over the course of two months, Marine infantry units, transported and supported by helicopters, operate in the two valleys constructing fire bases and clearing out North Vietnamese troops. The operation accounts for numerous enemy casualties and the capture or destruction of thousands of tons of enemy arms, ammunition, and supplies.

**January 5, 1971** - The Cooper-Church Amendment, which is attached to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-652), goes into effect. It cuts off funding for U.S. ground operations and military advisers in Laos and Cambodia. The amendment also stops U.S. support for South Vietnamese operations in those countries. The amendment is a direct legislative response to the U.S. incursion into Cambodia and is sponsored by Senators John Cooper (R-KY) and Frank Church (D-ID).

**January 12, 1971** - President Nixon signs an amendment to the Foreign Military Sales Act (Public Law 91-672) into law. The bill contains an attachment officially repealing the 1964 Tonkin Gulf Resolution. In ensuing years, Congress introduces multiple pieces of legislation meant to restrict the funding for and scope of U.S. military operations in Southeast Asia.

**January 27, 1973** - The “Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam,” otherwise known the Paris Peace Accords, is signed by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Vietnam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government (Viet Cong), and the United States. Among other stipulations, the agreement establishes a ceasefire, a 60-day period for withdrawal of all American and other foreign troops, and the return of U.S. civilian and military personnel held prisoner by Communist forces. The accords officially end direct U.S. military involvement in Vietnam. The next day, President Nixon uses an executive order to end the draft and inaugurate an all-volunteer military.

**January 29, 1973** - MAG 12 begins departing for Iwakuni, Japan. The group completes its redeployment by February 3, becoming the last American fixed-wing aviation unit to depart Vietnam.

Happy New Year to you all and to my fellow Vietnam Vets “Welcome Home”.

Jeff Dombroff  
Vietnam War Commemoration  
Committee Chairman

**23. VOICE OF DEMOCRACY:**

Department Voice of Democracy winners and their ranking will be announced in the February General Orders.

Louis Filippone  
Voice of Democracy Program Chairman

Official:

By Order of:



Ed Mann  
State Adjutant



Eric Mallett  
State Commander

## Mitchell L. Rubenstein

Candidate for the Office of State Surgeon  
2021-2022



Comrades my name is Mitchell Rubenstein and I am running for State Surgeon. I moved from New York to Virginia in 2010 and joined VFW Post 2447 in Edinburg August 2012 as a Life Member. Within my first six months I was asked to serve as both Post Quartermaster and Adjutant. Over the next few years I also served as the Post Junior Vice Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and currently serve as Post Commander. At the Post I saw the need for, and led the creation of, our Honor Guard, the Post Riders Group, and I was assigned to be the Recruiting/Membership Team Leader. I am pleased to say we made All-State the past three years, and our Honor Guard and Riders Group have brought credit upon our Post as we continually receive positive accolades throughout the valley. Next, I was elected twice as the District Commander for the 7<sup>th</sup> District in the rural Northwestern corner of the state. We made All-State and improved many programs and administrative processes making us stronger.

I enlisted in the Army January 1981, served as an Airborne MP Explosive Detection Dog handler with the 118<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, NC. I was deployed and served with my unit and others during the invasion and rescue mission "Operation Urgent Fury (OUF)" in Grenada in October 1983. I joined the Army Reserve in June 1984, with the 812<sup>th</sup> MP Company. Soon after I changed my MOS to Infantry to be a Drill Sergeant and after 3 ½ years I returned to the MP's. I attended and graduated the First Sergeants Course 1993 and the Sergeants Major Academy in 1996. I retired honorably after 21 years of faithful service March 2002 at the rank of Command Sergeant Major. My Senior leadership positions were Senior Drill Sergeant, Battalion and Brigade 1SG, and Battalion CSM (multiple tenures). In my civilian job I retired as a Police Officer from the Hempstead Police Department (NY), after 24 years of service. I held various positions as a Sniper/Observer, Defensive Tactics Instructor, State Instructor, Radar/Lidar Operator, Motors Officer, Field Training Officer, Honor Guard Trainer, and served on the PBA Board as the Corresponding Secretary.

Since my retirement, I am a Taxidermist (hobbyist). I have volunteered as a coach for the Woodstock/Edinburg youth football and basketball leagues, MMA football and basketball teams, Master Instructor for the State of Virginia's Hunter Safety Program and Treestand Safety Team. I have been the President of the Blue Knights (Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club) VA XVI, Secretary of Blue Knights NY X, and was the 1<sup>st</sup> President and founder of the 118<sup>th</sup> MPCo. Airborne Association which currently has over 300 members. I continue as a member for the Honor Guard in both the VFW and American Legion as well as the Department Honor Guard.

I currently live in Edinburg with my wife Suzanne. She is a VFW Life Member, a retired Command Sergeant Major, and she currently works at VMI as the Director of Activities. My wife and I have been married for 21 years and have two children, daughter Casey, and son Sidney. I am a team player who works hard to support every organization that I am part of and would like to give special focus to the VFW at the State level so we can strengthen our organization by supporting our Posts and Districts. My experience gives me a strong perspective on the importance of State officers being engaged and supportive. Failure is not an option because our mission is so important for our members and all Veterans, Service members and their families. I would appreciate your support, and I will do my best to assist you and your Posts in anyway I can.

Fraternally,

Mitchell L. Rubenstein  
516-381-5906 - Cell  
[cdrpost2447@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrpost2447@vfwva.org)  
[mitchret.csm@gmail.com](mailto:mitchret.csm@gmail.com)



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.**

**Doug Hoffman**  
for  
**Department Surgeon**  
**2021-2022**



- 
- Qualifying Campaign—Operation Iraqi Freedom
  - Retired Navy Chief
  - Two time Post Commander of Ocean View Post 3160
  - All State and All American Post Commander
  - Commander of District Two
  - State Inspector
  - Past Department Deputy Chief of Staff

**My Goals as a member of the VFW is the continued recognition of our Vietnam Veterans and assisting them as they are entering their retirement years. They seem to be the forgotten members and they have a lot of wisdom and leadership to offer our communities. We need to be the ones to find them and offer membership and services to them as we continue to do for all veterans.**

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## FY2021 VFW POST PANDEMIC RELIEF GRANT

### Eligibility Requirement Updates – December 2020

#### PURPOSE

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, VFW Posts have been severely impacted in their ability to cover operating expenses through conventional means such as canteen sales and fundraising events. To address the challenge, in August 2020 the VFW Foundation earmarked \$680,000 for the **VFW Foundation Post Pandemic Relief Grant (PPRG)**. Eligible Posts that own or lease their own Post Homes may apply for a grant of up to \$2,500.

As of December 10, 2020, nearly \$350,000 has been approved for PPRG support to 140+ VFW Posts. **At its December 14, 2020, meeting the VFW Foundation board of directors approved changes in PPRG eligibility requirements to allow additional VFW Posts to qualify for assistance.**

#### ELIGIBILITY (updates in RED type):

- Have completed **any two out of the five** following criteria during the **2018-2019 and/or 2019-2020** fiscal year:
  1. Achieved 100% membership.
  2. Submission of Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and/or Teacher of the Year
  3. Buddy Poppies purchased
  4. Donation made to Veterans & Military Support Programs
  5. Reported 1,000 or more hours of community service to their Department
- Be in good standing (i.e. not on suspension) with VFW National.
- Own or rent a Post Home. The title deed or lease agreement must be held by members of the VFW Post and cannot be jointly owned or rented by any other veterans' group(s).
- Have a fully completed Election Report on file with VFW National Headquarters.
- Have a combined total of **less than \$25,000** in all non-restricted bank accounts held by the Post. **Federal Payroll Protection Program grants are considered restricted funds and need not be counted when calculating the total amount in non-restricted accounts.**
- Agree to complete and return a two-page grant report form along with proof of how the funding was used.
- Have a qualifying need, which includes payment assistance for the following:
  - Mortgage/Rent
  - Utilities (gas, electric, water, etc.)
  - Insurance
  - Property tax
  - **Post home building repairs**
  - **Costs associated with bringing the Post building and personnel into compliance with Covid-19 safety regulations (e.g. cleaning/sanitizing, personal protective equipment (PPE), shields/sneeze guards, etc.)**

The updated PPRG application is available to download at [www.vfw.org/grants](http://www.vfw.org/grants). Questions regarding the PPRG may be directed to Jason Couch: [jcouch@vfw.org](mailto:jcouch@vfw.org) or 816-968-1174.

#### VFW FOUNDATION



## VFW Foundation Post Pandemic Relief Grant Guidelines

Due to the recent Covid-19 pandemic, the VFW has encountered significant challenges throughout our entire organization, including at the local Post level. Many VFW Posts have been negatively impacted in their ability to raise funds through traditional means, making it difficult to sustain operations and community service activities. To help ease the financial burden created by this unprecedented crisis, the VFW Foundation has earmarked funding for the **VFW Foundation Post Pandemic Relief Grant (PPRG)**.

PPRG is restricted to VFW Posts that own or lease their own building. It is a one-time grant of up to \$2,500 designed to help VFW Posts that find they are unable to cover specific expenses for mortgage payments, rent (if leasing a building), utilities (gas, electric, water, etc.), insurance or property tax, due to hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

PPRG funding is restricted for the purpose stated above. Expenses that DO NOT QUALIFY include (but are not limited to) the following: building repair, building repair materials purchases or contractor services, food/beverage expenses, canteen employee wages, membership dues payments, etc.

PPRG applications will be reviewed in the order of receipt. Funding is limited, and Posts in need of funding relief are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Please allow up to two weeks for notification of our decision and six total weeks to receive your award if approved.

To be eligible to apply for the Post Pandemic Relief Grant a VFW Post must:

- Have completed any three of the five following criteria during the 2018-2019 and/or 2019-2020 fiscal years:
  - 100% membership retention
  - Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and/or Teacher of the Year submission
  - Buddy Poppies purchased
  - Donation made to Veterans & Military Support Programs
  - Reported 1,000 or more hours of community service to their Department
- Be in good standing (i.e. not on suspension) with VFW National.
- Own or rent a Post Home. The title deed or lease agreement must be held or signed by the members of the VFW Post. The building deed or rental must solely be in the name of a VFW Post and cannot be jointly owned or rented by any other veterans' group(s).
- Have a fully completed Election Report on file with VFW National Headquarters. It is advised that a Post submit a copy along with their application to ensure expediency.
- Have a combined total of less than \$10,000 in all non-restricted bank accounts held by the Post.

Please follow these steps to submit a request:

1. Complete the PPRG form found on the next two pages of this document by recording your answers in each field except the signature block.
2. The Post Quartermaster must sign the application.
3. Once completed and signed, include a scanned official copy of bank statements for the previous month for each non-restricted bank account held by the Post.

Scan the completed and signed form, and bank statement(s) as one document and email the file to [jcouch@vfw.org](mailto:jcouch@vfw.org) with the subject headline of "PPRG Post XXXX." Replace XXXX with your Post number.

**\*BE SURE TO BLACK-OUT YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER IF VISIBLE ON YOUR BANK STATEMENT.**



# VFW Foundation Post Pandemic Relief Grant Application Form

## Page 1/2

Record your responses in the spaces provided. You must complete all fields to be considered for this grant. Where indicated, use personal phone numbers, not a general Post phone number.

Post Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the address of your Post home:

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Post Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Grant Contact Person Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grant Contact Person Position (Member or Officer Position) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Personal Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Post Commander's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Quartermaster's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Requested (Up to \$2,500) \_\_\_\_\_

**\*All funding received through PPRG MUST go to the creditor(s) named on page two of this application**

Signature of Post Quartermaster \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this PPRG document, you agree to all of the terms and conditions stated in the application guidelines. You agree to use all grant funding received from the VFW Foundation in accordance with the purpose stated on the second page of this application. You agree to ensure that sufficient proof of spending is provided to the VFW Foundation upon receipt of payment to the creditor(s) named on page two of this form.

### Reporting Requirement If Your Post Receives PPRG Funding

If your Post receives PPRG funding, you will be obligated to provide a copy of the canceled check or a bank statement indicating that the grant was spent as intended. Along with the proof of spending you will also need to complete and return the Report Form, which can be found on the final two pages of this document. Failure to provide this information within two months of the award date will result in forfeiture of the funding.

## VFW FOUNDATION

**VFW Foundation Post Pandemic Relief Grant Application Form**  
**Page 2/2**

Please answer each question in less than 100 words

**1. Why does your Post need relief?**

**2. Is your need related to the Covid 19 pandemic? If yes, how so?**

**3. If awarded this grant, to which creditor(s) will you make a payment(s)?**

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**3. How will your Post sustain its operation after it is awarded this grant? Do you see this as an opportunity for the Post to recover financially or is this only a temporary solution?**

**If you have not received a reply within two weeks of submitting your request, it was likely not received.  
Please call 816-968-1174 if an issue arises, or with any questions you may have about this program.**

**VFW FOUNDATION**

**VFW Foundation Post Pandemic Relief Grant Report Form**  
**Page 1/2**

Please complete this coversheet and answer the questions on the following page. Once completed, print this form and some form of proof of spending. Proof of spending can come in one of two forms: 1. A copy of a canceled check provided by your bank that shows a payment was made to the name creditor(s). 2. A bank statement with highlighted line items that show how the grant was spent. The proof of spending must equal the amount of the grant you were awarded. After printing out the needed proof, place it behind the report form pages and scan as one file. Send the file to [jcouch@vfw.org](mailto:jcouch@vfw.org).

**VFW Post Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Home Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Creditor(s) Paid:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**VFW Contact Person Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**VFW Post Quartermaster Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Awarded** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Expended** \_\_\_\_\_

**VFW FOUNDATION**

**VFW Post Pandemic Relief Grant Report Form**  
**Page 2/2**

**1. How did this grant impact your Post? Did the award help your Post to become financially solvent?**

**2. How did this grant allow you to better serve veterans?**

**3. What will the Post do to better prepare in the event of a future regional or national crisis?**

**VFW FOUNDATION**

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406 W. 34th Street      Office      816.968.1128  
Kansas City, MO 64111      Fax      816.968.2789

foundation@vfw.org  
www.vfwfoundation.org