

Commander's Message



State Commander Gary Adams
US Navy, Post

GARY ADAMS

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10/31/23

Dear Comrades:

We are off to a great start. We have 28,500 members in good standing going into November and that's great. We sit at over 86.5% already. You, the department, have exceeded my wildest expectations. I am honored to serve as your commander. I want to thank everyone who has been an integral part of the membership team. I'm proud of you as I know Tommy Hines is. This is a great department to be a member of.

The summer is over and we have survived State and National Conventions, but we are preparing to leave for Southern Conference in a few days. I, Mitch, Doug, and Charles hope that we represent you well. I hope that we

make good decisions that reflect the way you, the Department of Virginia, would want. I wish I could sit down with every one of you and find out what your concerns are for veterans.

I want to recognize a few people who fight for us on a higher level than myself. There is Rick Raskin on the Joint Legislative Council. He takes the departments issues to a panel of Veteran Service Organizations, and they sort out everyone's issues and then the panel picks 6 for the coming year and take them to the state delegates on our behalf. You're doing a great job Rick, and I thank you and your alternate, Joanne Smith who is also very active. Monti Zimmerman does not represent the VFW but another group (MOAA) on the JLC but its like having two on it. Monte, thank you too. I need to mention Jill Lynch, and Tom Levitt. They spend hours emailing, and calling National Senators, and Congressmen's offices. They go the DC and march from office to office and represent Virginia on a national level and I thank both of You. I also thank Doc crouch for his emails about bills that are coming up soon and how they vote on them. Thank You Doc.

You see it takes all of us to make things happen. Everyone has a special talent. Yours might be in membership, or legislation. Your talent may be behind the scenes propping others up for success. That is my talent. Making others successful. The point I want to make is don't be afraid to pitch in if you want a shot at it. I did, and I became the state commander. If I can do it, anybody can. Use your talents. Don't sit on the sidelines and tell what you would do different. Show them.

I Wish You All Well

Gary W Adams Jr

State Commander

Gary Adams



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www.vfwva.org

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From the Editor's desk

I am excited to continue as your Newspaper editor for another great year. Please keep the Department of Virginia VFW informed of all your accomplishments by submitting your articles and pictures to me, for the Virginia Veterans Newspaper.



Randy Coker

Virginia Veteran is published tri-annually by the Department of Virginia, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US and is available in electronic format on the Department website:

www.vfwva.org.

Articles may be submitted by email to:
news@vfwva.org or rwcocker1@gmail.com

We reserve the right to edit all submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.

Note: Deadline for the next newspaper is:

Jan 29, 2024



Official Franchise Consultant of the Virginia VFW

Free Franchise Consultant Support!

Learn how **over 4,500 veterans** control their destiny by owning their own franchise business. Our #1 goal is to help you build a secure future for you and your family. Your service to your country has earned you benefits that can be applied to starting your own franchise business. Hundreds of franchise companies are available with discounts on initial fees and/or other special financing options to armed forces veterans.

Do you qualify for franchise ownership?

Most franchise companies require a liquid capital investment which can be in the form of cash, securities, 401K (with no tax penalties), or home equity. The following are minimum requirements:
Typically a minimum of \$25,000 + cash & a reasonable credit score.

TOP FIVE Reasons Veterans Succeed as Franchise Owners

The latest statistics show that 1 in 10 U.S. business owners are military veterans (U.S. Census Bureau) and with good reason: they truly shine when they are building their own businesses. Here's why:

Leadership Experience

Great leadership skills allow owners to develop solid growth, motivate their employees and deliver strategies that impact the success of the business. Veterans provide a selfless brand of leadership that inspires dedication and loyalty. Members of the military are often more prepared to take on the responsibility of supporting the numerous needs of their business and staff. Their leadership decisions impact the well being and attitude of their team members. Franchising allows entrepreneurs an opportunity to run a business without prior skills or experience specific to that industry – they'll be trained by experts to help ensure their endeavor is a success.

Strong Discipline

The truth is, working for yourself means nobody is looking over your shoulder to ensure that you stay focused. Business owners are often wearing many different hats and need high levels of discipline to stay on target and accomplish everything a growing business requires. Discipline is one of the first qualities that come to mind when people think of military veterans. Applying this discipline on a consistent basis can translate to greater productivity and faster growth.

Ability to Build a Team

As important as teamwork is, many business owners struggle to communicate and relinquish control. With teamwork being a key component of military culture, veterans have a clear advantage in this area. Members of the military train and carry out their duties within a group. Their success often depends on how well the team performs. Bringing this attitude to a business creates stronger bonds and encourages higher levels of performance among other team members – all of which leads to better results.

Ensuring Performance Under Pressure

Pressure is a reality for new business owners. They have to act in emergencies, delegate tasks, and make quick decisions that channel the business in a particular direction. Many military veterans have faced the highest levels of pressure and responsibility, so they're often well equipped to handle the stresses of entrepreneurship while remaining functional and effective.

Understanding Sacrifice

Most business owners will say they had to make sacrifices, especially during the early phases. Indeed, it is almost always a part of the roadmap to success. Entrepreneurs may feel overwhelmed at having to give up some of their social lives or quality time spent with family members to get the business up and running. Sacrifice is a central aspect of military service. Some veterans were stationed far away from their families, others relocated frequently and some faced the possibility of making the ultimate sacrifice. Making sacrifices to ensure the success of their business seems minor in comparison. These are just a few of the major strengths former military members have when pursuing entrepreneurship through franchise ownership. Each veteran's experiences and perspectives give them a unique set of tools for turning their business aspirations into successful ventures. We look forward to helping you turn your dream into a reality.

Contact me:

john.wilson@rag2richesfranchise.com

<https://rag2richesfranchise.com/>

<https://www.franchiseopportunityfinders.com/?feref=1350>

calendly.com/rag2richesfranchise

Culpeper Post 2524 Partners with Local Veteran Owned Brewery

By Alex McKenna, District 8 Recruiter

With the assistance of District 8 Recruiter Alex McKenna and District 8 Adjutant Jason Stewart, Culpeper Post 2524 Commander George Brobst now has a new location to recruit new members and hold fundraisers. Commander Brobst is a new Post Commander and wants to get the Post back out into the community but wasn't sure where to start, so he reached out to District 8 Commander Todd Taylor for assistance. Commander Taylor then dispatched is recruiting team to assist. Recruiter McKenna and Adjutant Stewart set up a meeting with Beer Hound Brewery, who's co-owner is retired U.S. Army Colonel Shirley Amom. During the initial meet and greet Shirely was very excited to partner with Post 2524 and said the Post was welcome there anytime. By the end of the meet and greet Shirely had become a Post Member and invited the Post to set up outside the Brewery during the Hop N' Hog- Culpeper Block Party & BBQ Competition on 21OCT2023. During the Hop N' Hog- Culpeper Block Party & BBQ Competition Post 2425 was able to recruit three new members, including a new Life Member and was able to talk to the public about the VFW and its programs to include Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy! Post 2524 will be back out at Beer Hound on Veterans Day from 5-9pm to hold a 50/50 and hopefully recruit more members!



Post 1503 POW/MIA Day Ceremony



Past All American Post Commander Tom Levitt participating in POW/MIA ceremony



Post 1503 MOC Seam Squirrel, Honor Guard Commander and VFW Riders Captain, Romeo Marlowe, participating in POW/MIA ceremony

POST 1503 LABOR DAY COMMUNITY APPRECIATION & FAMILY FUN DAY



Pictured on the left, Comrades and Auxiliary of 1503 serving community during family fun day.



Pictured on right is Department Inspector chilling out at the Family Fun Day



Pictured on the left, Comrade Tom Levitt on the grill, his favorite job during Family fn Day



Pictured on right is Post Commander Bernie Carter and SrVc Cmdr Ben Guinan at the recruiting station

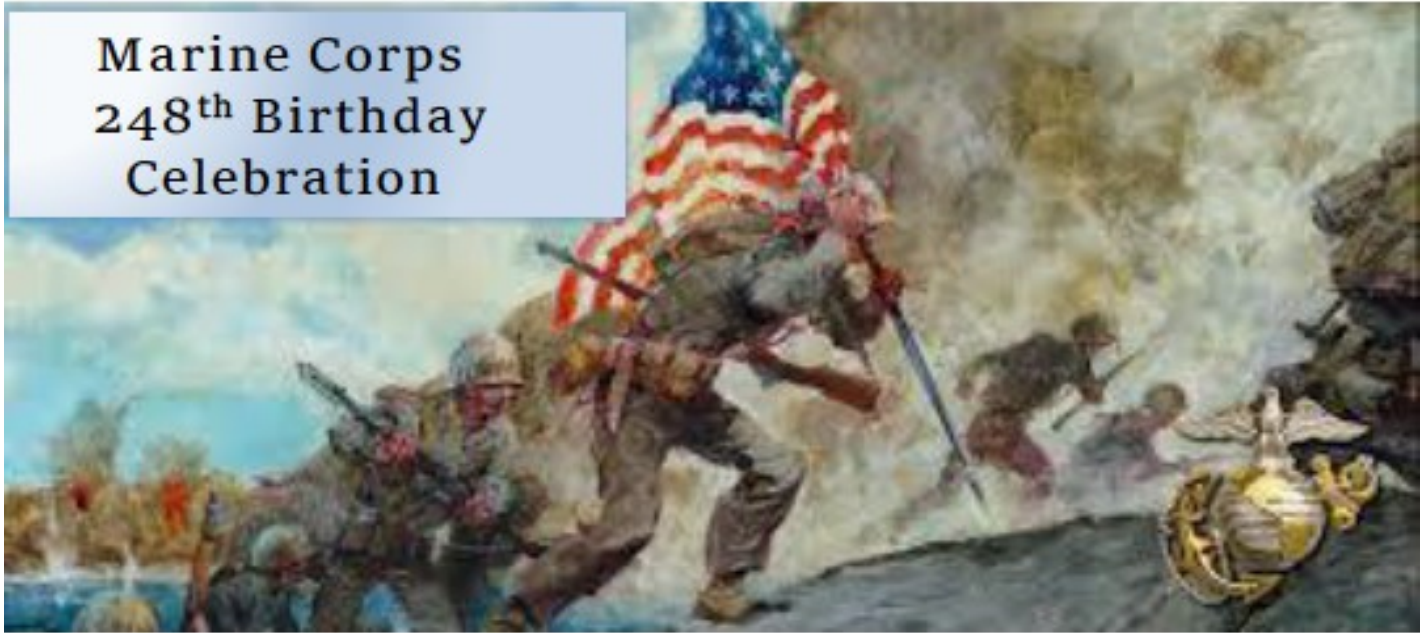


Pony Rides, balloon house, ice cream and snow cones for the kids in the community



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS 248 Years

Marine Corps
248th Birthday
Celebration



CHESTY PULLER VFW POST 1503

Date: Friday, November 10th, 2023 @ 1800

**Price: Free to Post members & guests
(Donations accepted at the door)**

Dress: Appropriate business casual or Full Military Dress

Guest of Honor: LtCol Sally Ann Falco USMC (ret)

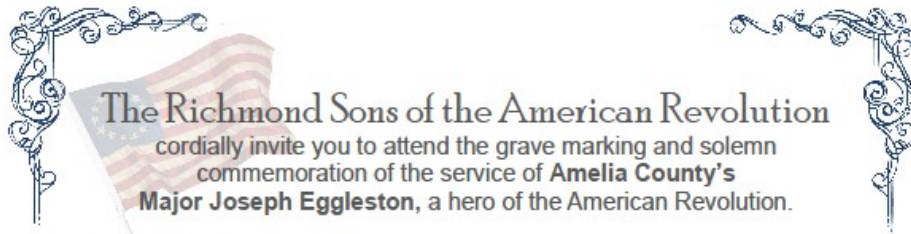
Sign up in canteen, starting October 15th

POC's – Randy Coker or Kevin Simpson

rwcocker1@gmail.com,

kevinwsimpson@msn.com



**Event details:**

- Sunday, November 5, at 2 p.m.
- St. John's "Grub Hill" Church
- Located on Grub Hill Church Rd. (State Rd. 609) north of Amelia Courthouse and just south of N. Lodore Rd. (State Rd. 636)

If you are part of an organization that will present a wreath, please confirm the name of your organization and that of the presenter with Philip Barnard virginiasociety8@gmail.com by Saturday, October 28.

Presented in cooperation with:

- The Amelia County American Revolution 250 Committee
- The Amelia County Historical Society
- Amelia County's Christ Episcopal Church
- The Virginia SAR Color Guard (will render honors and a musket salute)
- Major Joseph Eggleston descendants

Major Eggleston's Service:

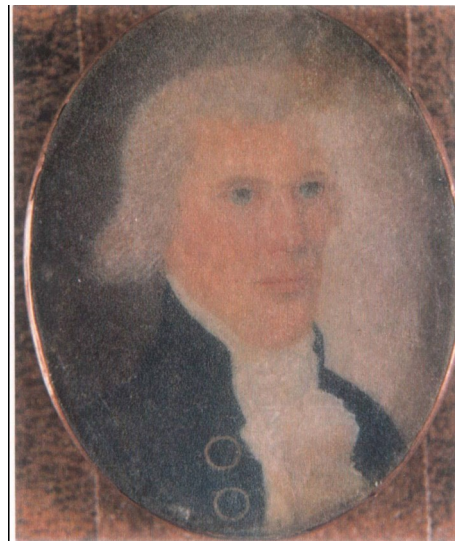
"Lighthorse Harry" Lee's second-in-command, Eggleston's storied career includes his rapid rise from paymaster-to lieutenant-to captain, in just over two years. Captured at Elizabethtown, he became a prisoner of war and later exchanged to return to service in Lee's cavalry. Major Eggleston was recognized for gallantry at Guilford, Augusta and Eutaw Springs, after which he rose to the rank of major. He went on to serve in the Virginia State Legislature and the United States Congress.

Event tips:

- Plan to arrive early - the event will start promptly at 2 p.m.
- Seating is limited - consider bringing a portable chair



Amelia county St. Johns "Grub Hill" Church



Amelia county's Major Joseph Eggleston,
American Revolution Hero.

Manassas Fall Jubilee a success despite rainy start

Over 800 Halloween Trick or Treat safety bags distributed to local youth and 3 veterans joined our post



RICK RASKIN

Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill prepares Trick or Treat safety bags.



MARY CORKHILL

Each bag contained an assortment of items



RICK RASKIN

The crowd increased after the rain stopped and be-



RICK RASKIN

Rod Burr and Kelley Williams handed out Trick or



RICK RASKIN

Commander Wayne Moore worked the booth as a bagpiper entertained. Our location in front of the Freedom Museum was ideal.



RICK RASKIN



CAROL CAMPBELL

One way to handle the rain.



CAROL CAMPBELL

Working the soon to be crowd.



CAROL CAMPBELL

Our resident bagpiper.