

## Commander's Message



**State Commander  
 Mitchell "Mitch" Rubenstein  
 US Army, Post 2447**

The Department of Virginia continues to be very active since the last Newsletter was published. I believe if the members of this organization stay busy then so must its leadership. Here are some photos that were taken during the National Auxiliary President's visit to Virginia where we had a great showing of members from both the Auxiliary and the VFW as we visited the D-day Memorial in Bedford, VA. The department is doing very well with our Membership as we push to meet our next plateau of 91% before December 31<sup>st</sup>. With the weather changing and forced to recruit indoors now is a great time to contact the members that may have not renewed their memberships and have slipped away. Speak to them and get them back. There are plenty of events that have been happening throughout the great

state of Virginia and I can see through our Online Reports that everyone is staying busy.

With the Holiday Season approaching its time to charge your glasses and raise them, toast as many people or organizations you want but also remember to toast to your battle buddies and fellow comrades. Your military family is one of, if not the strongest bond you have with someone who is not related to you, or married to you, but one that is always there for you whenever you need them. The VFW and Auxiliary of Virginia is also your family, and we are always here for you!

From my family to yours, and from the Line Officers to you all, Dawn and I want to wish everyone of you a Safe and Merry Holiday Season, and a Happy and Healthy 2025 New Year.

Keep your foot on the gas, you all are doing a great job, so don't pump the brakes yet!

*Mitch*



Part of the Recruiting Team at the State Fair



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[www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org)

## 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*

### DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

<b>Commander</b> Mitch Rubenstein	<b>Surgeon</b> Randy Coker
<b>Senior Vice Commander</b> Doug Hoffman	<b>Past Commander</b> Gary Adams
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### EDITORIAL STAFF

<b>Editor</b> Randy Coker	<b>Managing Editor</b> Ed Mann
	<b>Copy Editors</b> Doc Crouch, Janet & Rick Raskin

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[www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org).

Articles may be submitted by email to:  
[news@vfwva.org](mailto:news@vfwva.org) or [rwcocker1@gmail.com](mailto:rwcocker1@gmail.com)

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

*Note: Deadline for the next newspaper is:*

**February 27, 2025**

# Photos taken during the National Auxiliary President Brenda Bryant's visit to Virginia



National Auxiliary President Brenda Bryant

State Commander Mitch Rubenstein & State Auxiliary President: Dawn Kuhn



Nominated for a Quilt by Past Auxiliary President Fred Jennings, Judy Lupole, Jim Wickerink (District 1 Commander), and Troy Wagers. Thank you all for such a great honor.



Receiving this beautiful quilt during the Quilts of Valor Ceremony along with the other recipients shown on the right.



State Commander Mitch Rubenstein & State Auxiliary President Dawn Kuhn Attending the US Veterans Association, Hall of Fame Induction Banquet



Mitch Rubenstein addresses the attendees at the Gala Event and spread the news of the great work the Veterans of Foreign Wars & Auxiliary, continue to do for Veterans and their families.



The 2024 Inductees



Finishing off the weekend with breakfast at Post 3160 with my brothers.

## McNair-Trueheart Post 622 received a “Difference Makers Grant” for 2024

Veterans of Foreign Wars' McNair-Trueheart Post 622 received a “Difference Makers Grant” for 2024 from Royal Neighbors of America. VFW Member Tricia Newsome submitted the grant application on behalf of Post 622. The Difference Maker Fund grant from Royal Neighbors of America is an annual grant available to Royal Neighbors members to help offset the costs of volunteer projects that make a positive impact in the community. VFW Post 622 used the grant to provide socks and shirts to Veterans in need at the Richmond Veterans Administration Medical Center. Post 622 Commander Fayette Moore and several post members presented the donations to Ms. Monique Harris of CDCE Volunteer Services.



## Post 758 creates medal display for the Manassas Museum



JERRY MARTIN

Mary Helen Dellinger, Curator of the Manassas Museum with me medal display created by the Post and Auxiliary. Extra credit goes to Tina Bliem and Mary Corkhill for their

The following text is displayed at the Manassas Museum:

These decorations and campaign ribbons were awarded to Manassas area residents for their service during military conflicts in the 20th and 21st centuries. They remind us of valor, service to country, courage and the honor that comes with volunteering to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. The flag in the center draped the coffin of a local military veteran. Do the circumstances of its donation to the VFW, we do not know the name of the deceased.

This special exhibit was created by the VFW for display inside Post 7589. Post members generously offered to premier it here during the Veterans Day holiday. We thank them for making it available.

--- 'Pins' Grandson-in-Law---

## Korean War Sailor Visits Navy's Newest Ship

By Greg Eanes

Retired Master Chief Petty Officer Gus Villalobos of Victoria, now 91 years young, participated in a time-honored Navy tradition when he helped 'pin' Chief's Anchors on his grandson-in-law, Nick Swartz, who was just promoted in ceremonies on the nuclear powered USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CVN-79). Both men are members of Victoria VFW Post 9954.

### From Korea to Now

Villalobos enlisted in the Navy at 18 and became a Radioman serving in the Korean War earning a Combat Action Ribbon when his ship was hit Communist shore batteries. He cross-trained to be a Cryptologic Technician listening in on Soviet secrets during the Cold War. On returning to Victoria, he became active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars where he served as the Fourth District Commander earning the rare 'All-American' status.

Villalobos said the September 27 ceremony gave him a rare opportunity to see one of the Navy's newest nuclear powered aircraft carriers which is still "fitting out" with its commissioning crew. It is finalizing some additional work and is scheduled for delivery to the Navy sometime in 2025. The nuclear-energy will allow it to cruise for 20 to 25 years with its 90 aircraft and 4660-man crew allowing the United States to project power anywhere in the world at any time.

Villalobos was impressed with the ship and ceremony and noted, "It was a wonderful day for all parties involved!"



# Post 7589 Veterans Day activities



RICK RASKIN

Monti Zimmerman with DVS Commissioner Chuck Zingler at the Manassas Park Veterans ceremony on



RICK GOODMAN / AL Post 10

Gunny Lewis hosts the Veterans Day ceremony at the Harris Pavillion on November 9.



RICK GOODMAN / AL Post 10

PSC Rick Raskin confers with American Legion State Commander Eugene Malinowski at the



RICK GOODMAN / AL Post 10

PSC Rick Raskin speaks on the importance of veterans at the Harris Pavillion.



EMILY OKIN / InsideNoVa

Veterans and community members partake in the event at the Harris Pavillion.



RICH ROULEAU

Commander Wayne and Comrade Megan Cate



WAYNE MOORE

Rich Rouleau and Megan Cate distribute poppies Hay-market Wal Mart on November 9 & 10. We received over \$1100 in donations and gained a new member.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Past Post Chaplain Ron Knowles who is now residing at the Richmond VA Care Center receives goodies from a local