

## Commander's Message



**State Commander Geoffrey D Lyster**

**US Navy, Post 9835**

Comrades and Auxiliary: As we move from the summer to the autumnal season, I am reminded of a quote from Humbert Wolfe: *"The wind is rising, and the air is wild with leaves. We have had our summer evenings; now for Autumn eves!"*.

I would like to start with some acknowledgements. First, congratulations to the Department of Virginia for being 100 percent reported for the first half of the year. Thanks to all of our dedicated instructors who delivered the District Commanders School of Instruction (SOI); Department SOI; Recruiting SOI and State Adjutant Quartermaster Training. We revamped the training modules this year and I think the new training was very well received. Remem-

ber, *"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other"* (John F Kennedy).

Thanks to our Membership Team and all our dedicated recruiters who have recruited over 850 new and reinstated members, and who continue to work diligently on retention. I am encouraging every member, especially active members, to recruit at least one new member this year. In the process you will earn a great One Recruiter Pin and you will be enabling your Department to strive to become 100% this year.

We have some great events coming up and I hope all of you will join us for the Winter Council of Administration, to be held January 12-15, 2023 at the beautiful Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterside Hotel. On Friday night we will have our State Commander's and State President's Homecoming. This will be a complimentary event, with great food, dancing, some nice giveaways and uncommon camaraderie. On Saturday night we will be honoring our educators and students with our annual Awards Banquet. We will hear some patriotic essays, and we will be presenting some impressive awards.

As I write this article, the Department is off to a great start and doing extraordinary things. I hope you will continue to work hard, inspire your members and make a difference for veterans!

Geoffrey D. Lyster,

State Commander



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

*Note: Deadline for the next newspaper is:*

**January 23rd, 2023**



RICK RASKIN

**Governor Youngkin signed the veteran retiree tax relief bill into law on September 9.**



**Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) signs bills that alleviate taxes on military veteran pay at Quantico Corporate Center in Stafford County. [Uriah Kiser/Potomac Local News]**

**See Article on Page 4**

**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*





VFW AUXILIARY  
10th CELEBRATING  
AMERICA'S FREEDOM EVENT  
FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2022



JANE REAPE  
National President



2022 Celebration Of America's Freedom Event token for participation

### VFW Auxiliary visits 911 Memorial in Shanksville PA.



National Council Member Cathy Graham at the Memorial Plaza entrance



Department Presidents and color bearers lining up for ceremonial march-on



Department President Fred Jennings marching on accompanied by Junior Vice President Dawn Kuhn (L) and Chaplain Kelli Levitt



National President Jane Reape and Junior Vice Commander in Chief Al Lipphardt being assisted in the laying of a wreath

## Youngkin signs tax relief for Virginia veterans at Quantico Corporate Center

Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin (R) came to the crossroads of the Marine Corps to sign new legislation giving veterans a break on their annual income tax.

[Uriah Kiser](#)

September 9, 2022

[PotomacLocalNews.com](http://PotomacLocalNews.com)



The governor signed two identical pieces of legislation, HB 1128 and SB 528, which will exempt up to \$40,000 of veteran retirement pay from taxes and prioritize Virginia's Military and Veteran Community.

"When I had the great privilege of being hired by all of you, we expressed a great series of commitments, and you're at the top of the list of that commitment: to go work on a bi-partisan basis to make Virginia the most military and veteran-friendly state in America," said Youngkin.

A crowd of more than 100 people, many of the veterans, gathered at Patricio Enterprises Inc. at Quantico Corporate Center in Stafford County to watch the bill signing. Youngkin's visit was the second time in less than two weeks, following an event at Colonial Forge High School on September 1, where he signed executive order loosening the hiring requirements for new teachers.

State Senator Bryce Reeves (R-Spotsylvania) and Delegate John McGuire (R-Goochland) carried the bills across the finish line. McGuire said many veterans have moved from Virginia to North Carolina, which does not tax veterans' benefits, and that he hopes Virginia, eventually, will end the practice altogether.

A Cardinal News report notes Northern Virginia is leading the state's population loss, noting Fairfax and Prince William counties as the two largest counties no longer attracting new residents.

State Senator Jeremy McPike (D-Prince William) supported the legislation, which he hopes will reverse the trend of veterans leaving the state.

"Hey, come on back. If you're out of state, this is already a great place. One of the keys is having a community of veterans. VFW Post 1503, right up the road

in Dale City, is the largest in the world, and I think it's important that veterans know there's a strong base of veterans here," McPike told Potomac Local News.

Reeves called the legislation a stepping stone in caring for the state's veterans. He said the state needs to do more to help former service members transition into civilian life.

"We still have a lot of broken sailors, soldiers, airmen, marines, coast guard, and they need us," said Reeves.

The region will soon be home to two new federal veterans' healthcare facilities. In Spotsylvania, The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is building a four-story, 450,000-square-foot clinic on a 48-acre at U.S. Route 1 at Hood Drive, opening next year.

At Vint Hill in Fauquier County, the Virginia Department of Veterans Affairs will open a 128-bed senior care facility next year that will feature all private rooms organized into households and neighborhoods that surround a central community center.

Quantico Corporate Center is a business park near the Marine Corps Base that is home to the Marine Corps Officers Candidate School, which commissions Marine officers.



Virginia VFW members attended the September 9 signing ceremony of HB 1128 and SB 528, which will exempt up to \$40,000 of veteran retirement pay from taxes and prioritize Virginia's Military and Veteran Community.

(L-R) Post 7589 Commander Wayne Moore, Post 3103 Commander Todd Taylor, Ben Seal— Post 3103; Post 2524 Commander Keith Price, Post 9835 Commander Robert Lunn; State JVC Mitch Rubenstein and PSC Rick Raskin. Not pictured, State Legislative Committee Chair Monti Zimmerman.

## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER GEOFF LYSTER BEGINS HIS STATE WIDE COMMANDERS VISITS IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE STATE

### State VFW Commander To Visit Area

Virginia's newest VFW Commander Geoff Lyster and key headquarters staff will visit VFW Fourth District Posts July 29 to July 30th. Fourth District Commander Gus Villalobos said this be the first area visit by a State Commander in nearly five years making it a "pretty significant event" for area members. Known as a "roundup," the visit is an opportunity to meet and greet members, auxiliary members, eligible veterans, and their families.

The VFW Headquarters visit will aid area posts in recruiting, addressing veteran issues, and identifying solutions while in their home communities. Lyster will visit the Emporia and Crewe VFW posts where he will give prepared comments. Lyster and staff will also support local post recruiting efforts at various storefronts.



**GEOFF LYSTER**  
*VFW state commander to make rare visit to the area this weekend.*

Commander Lyster's schedule is as follows:

Friday, July 29: Recruiting booth at Hibbit Sporting Goods in Emporia from 8 am to noon. Other staff will support a recruiting event at the Lawrenceville Food Lion at the same time. The State

Commander and staff will visit the Emporia VFW Post at 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 30: Recruiting booth at the Farmville Wal-Mart from 10 am to 2 pm. Other staff will recruit at the Farmville Tractor Supply. During those same hours, state staff will support recruiting in South Hill at the Wal-Mart and Tractor Supply. At 1 p.m. the State Commander will visit the Crewe VFW Post. This is a central point to meet for VFW members from Drakes Branch, Blackstone, Nottoway, Victoria, and Amelia. They will end the day at the Clarksville VFW at 3:45 in a joint meeting with South Hill VFW members.

All VFW members in the region, eligible veterans and their family members are encouraged to attend any of these events.

Courier  Record

### STATE VFW COMMANDER Coming to Crewe 1 p.m. Saturday

Virginia's newest VFW Commander Geoff Lyster and key headquarters staff will visit VFW Fourth District Posts this Friday and Saturday, July 29-30th.

Fourth District Commander Gus Villalobos of Lunenburg says this will be the first area visit by a State Commander in nearly five years, making it a "pretty significant event" for area members. Known as a 'round up', the visit is an opportunity to meet and greet members, auxiliary members, eligible veterans, and their families.

Lyster will visit the Crewe VFW Post at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, and he will give prepared comments. This is a central point to meet for VFW members from Drakes Branch, Blackstone, Nottoway, Victoria, and Amelia. They will end the day at the Clarksville VFW at 3:45 in a joint meeting with South Hill VFW members.

All VFW members in the region, eligible veterans and their family members are encouraged to attend any of these events.

## District 4 Greets VFW State Commander



BARBARA ASHMORE

Members of various posts of the Fourth District Veterans of Foreign Wars greeted VFW State Commander Geoff Lyster in Crewe on Saturday, July 30 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The meet and greet gave the commander time to discuss VFW initiatives, listen to members and discuss pending issues in Congress. Pictured, bottom row, from left to right, Mathew S. Rowe of VFW Post 8759 in Amelia, Carl Dagner, VFW member at large of Blackstone, Commander Lyster, Gold Star Memorial Post 7819 Wayne E. ‘Beanie’ Roberts of Crewe, and Fourth District Commander Gus Villalobos of Victoria. Back row, from left to right, Greg Eanes, Hal Hardaway, Micky Altizer, Bob Hanks, all of Post 7819 in Crewe, Virginia VFW Chief of Staff and National Councilman Ken Wiseman, Jed Watkins and John Allen of Blackstone VFW Post 7897.



Department Commander Geoff Lyster pictured with (L-R) John Allen and Jed Watkins of Blackstone VFW Post 7897

With Fourth District Commander Gus Villalobos

## VFW Post 3103 represented on Capitol Hill



VFW Post 3103 attended the Blind American Veteran Awards. Pictured are John Kearney, Auxiliary; Kevin Corbett, VFW; Kristi Corbett, Auxiliary; Michael Jernigan, BAVF President and VFW 3103 Member; Senator Ted Cruz; Nancy Kearney, Auxiliary President; Todd Taylor, VFW Commander and Beth Taylor, Auxiliary meeting with Texas Senator Cruz.

## All American Team CREWE's Gold Star Memorial VFW Post 7819

ALL AMERICAN TEAM-Crewe's Gold Star Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7819 was recognized Saturday, July 30 by VFW State Commander Geoff Lyster as a National Level VFW All-American Team for the 2021-2022 year. The coveted red, white, and blue All-American cap was awarded to outgoing Commander Greg Eanes who wears it on behalf of the post. Eanes said all post achievements are the result of the entire team. Pictured are some of the post leadership team, from left to right, are Trustee Bob Hanks, 2022-2023 Commander Wayne E. 'Beanie' Roberts, Eanes and Service Officer Mickey Altizer.



HAL HARDAWAY



GREG EANES

DISTRICT VISITORS—Mathew S. Rowe of Amelia VFW Post 8759 and Carl Dagner of Blackstone, a VFW member at large, were among the visitors to Crewe Post 7819 for State Commander Geoff Lyster's visit. Navy veteran Rowe, a former Hull Technician on the USS KIDD (DDG-993) and 1996 veteran of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, lives in rural Nottoway near the Amelia line and is a 1975 graduate of Nottoway High School.

## VFW Commander's Call



GREG EANES

**VFW COMMANDER'S CALL!** – Crewe's Gold Star Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7819 Commander Wayne E. 'Beanie' Roberts hosted a District visit by VFW State Commander Geoff Lyster on Saturday, July 30. During the event Commander Lyster presented Commander Roberts with a State VFW Commander's Coin in recognition of his work at the post.

**VFW 'FAMILY' SNAPSHOT** – It is often said the VFW is not a veteran's organization but is instead a large family that includes the spouses and children of veterans. Among those attending Saturday's Crewe welcome of the VFW State Commander were member and retired Navy Captain Hal Hardaway, now of Williamsburg; Barbara Ashmore of Crewe, whose late father Johnny Ashmore initiated the Crewe post when he returned from World War II; Virginia (Ginny) Marsden Snead whose late father was a World War II veteran and a driving force in the early days of the Crewe post (he helped get the tank) and Mickey Altizer of Crewe. Hardaway is a veteran of Vietnam, Cold War operations, DESERT STORM and 9/11 operations. Altizer was with the 101st Airborne in Vietnam.



GREG EANES



STATE VFW COMMANDER VISITS LOCAL VETERANS-Virginia's Veterans of Foreign Wars commander Geoff Lyster (left) visited Crewe VFW Post 7819 Saturday, July 30 to meet with area veterans. Lyster discussed a variety of veteran issues including pending legislation in Congress. Among those meeting with Lyster was Carl Dagner of Blackstone, a VFW member at large who traveled to Crewe for the event.



GREG EANES



Department Commander &amp; Mathew S. Rowe of Amelia VFW Post 8759

## Post's Aluminum Tab Program still going strong

By Paul Chase

For more than six years Post 7589 Manassas, VA has been collecting aluminum can tabs from throughout Northern Virginia and VFW Posts throughout the country.

The tabs are given to the Manassas Shriners office which are bought by local metal recyclers. The proceeds go to the Shriners Hospital program to defray the costs of treating needy children and families with catastrophic medical costs.

To date more than three million tabs have been collected for this Post 7589 program which has now been made a permanent element of the Post 7589 community service program.



2017 PHOTO BY LARRY CLANCE

**Paul and Joel Chase (right) along with the late Warren Ewell (2nd from left) founded the program in 2016. Also pictured: Post Commander Wayne Moore, Post Adjutant Ron Link and Quartermaster Rick Raskin on the occasion of the first 1,000,000 tab donation.**



# PACT ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The **PACT Act** is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The Act **(1)** expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and **(2)** expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

## What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

VETERANS AND SURVIVORS CAN FILE CLAIMS FOR ALL CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN THE PACT ACT IMMEDIATELY.

### For Gulf War and post 9-11 Veterans, that includes:

Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma (diagnosed after service), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis,

Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

### For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), High blood pressure (hypertension).

## How can Veterans apply for VA health care?

Apply **online** at [VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction).

**Call** our toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387, M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET.

**Mail** a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits ([VA Form 10-10EZ](#)).

**Bring a completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ** with you to your **nearest medical center or clinic** or get help through your **state's Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officer**.

**Get help** filing your claim by working with an **accredited representative**.

## What are the PACT Act key components?



The Act **expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures** and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.



VA **will improve the decision-making process** for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.



Every enrolled Veteran will **receive an initial toxic exposure screening** and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



VA health care staff and claims processors will receive **toxic exposure-related education and training**.



The Act requires **research studies** on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.



The Act will help VA **build a stronger, more skilled workforce** to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.



The Act authorizes **31 new medical facilities** across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.

## How can a Veteran file a claim?



Veterans who would like to file a claim must complete [VA Form 21-526EZ](#) to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.



To learn about standard VA disability claims, supplemental claims, secondary claims, and more visit: [VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file](https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file).

## If a Veteran was previously denied a claim, what can they do?

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, **Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim** are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT)  
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)  
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)  
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://www.va.gov/find-locations/)

## Department Commander visits CREWE Post 7819's founding daughters



GREG EANES

**FOUNDER'S DAUGHTERS** – Among those welcoming Virginia VFW State Commander Geoff Lyster (center) to Crewe on Saturday, July 30 were two Post 7819 founders' daughters. On the left is Virginia Marsden Snead, daughter of World War II Distinguished Service Cross recipient Captain William M. "Jimmy Dick" Marsden. On the right is Barbara Ashmore, daughter of Johnny Ashmore of Crewe who initiated the formation of a VFW post in Crewe on his return from the hospital in 1946. Both Marsden and Ashmore were seriously wounded during the 1944 Battle of the Hurtgen Forest, the longest single battle the U.S. Army has ever fought. Marsden is not on the charter because he was still hospitalized from severe wounds but he became a leader in the organization on his return and was later instrumental in getting the current post building constructed.



GREG EANES

**REMEMBERING 'JIMMY DICK'** – Veterans of Foreign Wars State Commander Geoff Lyster (left) took time to read the Post 7819 memorial to William M. 'Jimmy Dick' Marsden while visiting Crewe on Saturday, July 30. The memorial was placed in 1965 after his unexpected death from a heart attack at the young age of 46. Marsden was Ranger, member and later commander of 'I' Company, 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division from the D-Day landing on June 6, 1944 until December 1944 when he was severely wounded. During his six months combat, Marsden was made a prisoner of war, escaped, was wounded twice and earned every medal for combat heroism with the exception of the Medal of Honor. This led General James Van Fleet to call Marsden one of the top four Rangers of World War II. He was a member and leader of Gold Star Memorial Post 7819 in Crewe.

With Commander Lyster is Marsden daughter, Virginia (Ginny) Marsden Snead of Crewe.

## VFW National Council member / Department Chief of Staff visits Crewe Post



GREG EANES

The Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars National Council member Ken Wiseman (on left), also the current State VFW Chief of Staff, was with State Commander Geoff Lyster when he visited the Crewe VFW on Saturday, July 30. The VFW National Council is like a VFW ‘Congress’ in that it provides direction on daily operations of the National organization. Wiseman briefed attendees on the Camp Lejeune toxicity issue as well as the VFW supported PACT Act –covering generational burn pit issues from Vietnam to today – which recently failed to garner enough votes in the Senate. He said the issues raised were being amended and will be completed before another Senate vote. Pictured, from left to right, are Wiseman, Post 7819 Commander Wayne E. (Beanie) Roberts, Post 7819 members Bob Hanks and Mickey Altizer. Roberts

and Altizer are Army Vietnam Veterans and Hanks earned the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal as a Marine during the 1965 Dominican Republic intervention which resulted in over 300 U.S. military casualties.

## SGT Nicholas C. Mason Memorial Post 12202 & Auxiliary Community support

On 10 July 2022 the SGT Nicholas C. Mason Memorial Post 12202 and Auxiliary cooked and served meals for over 500 VA National Guard soldiers and family members during the 229th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s inaugural Soldier and Family Recognition Day at the Wilderness Presidential Resort in Spotsylvania. Post 12202 also had an information tent setup and provided Guard members with information on the VFW’s Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship as well as providing points of contact to file for VA disability.



## District 11 hosts 6th annual Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes

By Lexie West, VFW Post 7814 and Melissa Patrick, VFW District 11 Commander

Waynesboro, VA – On September 10th, VFW District 11 hosted its bicycle fundraiser, the Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes. Around 200 bicyclists headed to the Shenandoah Valley to participate in the Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes. Among them was the state commander, Geoffrey Lyster, who rode the 20 mile gravel loop.

The event kicked off at Stable Craft Brewing and was the sixth year raising money for the Boulder Crest Retreat (BCR) in Bluemont, Virginia. BCR helps veterans and first responders recover from the wounds of war and trauma experienced while serving. Over the past five years, the event has raised more than \$120,000 for Boulder Crest Retreat. Organizers estimate that this year's event will add an additional \$47,000 in donations.

The Valley Veterans Ride involved eight of the 12 Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Posts in District 11. These eight posts planned, coordinated, and executed everything from fundraising, marketing and promoting the event, organizing the days' activities and manning the five bicycle routes. With the exception of the Ride Director, the event is entirely veteran-run.

Over the years, the event has grown dramatically, from an initial 45 riders to the current 200 bicyclists, as well as a major increase in the amount raised for BCR. The numbers and lengths of routes has also increased. Two years ago, two gravel loops were added to the three already established road routes. This year, District 11 invited VFW Posts across the state to contribute to the fundraiser, with ten Posts contributing a combined \$7350. District 11 is grateful for the contributions of Posts 9808 (Mechanicsville), 8644 (Bridgewater), 2216 (Staunton-Augusta), 392 (Virginia Beach), 4667 (Marion), 7814 (“*Little*” Staunton), 10826 (Verona), 3219 (Hampton), 9835 (Warrenton), and 7726 (Grayson).

The Valley Veterans Ride is unlike any other major bicycle ride because of its distinctive military theme. The day started with an opening ceremony that included: the Posting of the Colors by VFW Post 2216, the playing of the National Anthem, and a flyover by a vintage C-47 aircraft flown by Dynamic Aviation. The military theme continued through the course as riders were treated to military history reenactors and displays at all five rest stops and at the start/finish. Stable Craft Brewing featured a military memorial honoring the war dead of America’s past five conflicts and brewed a special beer that the VFW planners dubbed “Purple Heart 22” with commemorative pint glasses.

At the end of the day, District 11 had pulled off another successful event, with several hundred satisfied bicycle riders, increased camaraderie among its veterans, and \$47,000 available to help struggling veterans.



District 11 Commander Melissa Patrick welcomes the riders



Founder and President of Boulder Crest Retreat Ken Falke talks to the riders before they start



VFW Posts across the state of Virginia contributed to the fundraiser. Our biggest contributor was VFW Post 9808 Mechanicsville.



VFW Post 7814 at Stable Craft Brewing



State Commander Geoff Lyster on the roll



VFW Post 8644 Bridgewater at rest stop #3



VFW Post 3136 & Auxiliary, Mount Solon at rest stop #2



The riders saw the battlefield site of the Civil War battle of Piedmont, where 18,000 Americans engaged each other in June 1864.



State Commander Geoff Lyster makes remarks after presenting a commander's coin to BCR President Ken Falke



BCR President Ken Falke greets VFW Post 10826 Commander Eugene Chavis



VFW Post 10826 Verona



For more photos visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.5330366697013212&type=3>

## LCRC and VFW Post 8947 join forces to combat hunger

VFW Post 8947 and Louisa County Resource Council are teaming up to fight hunger for veterans, their families, and all residents of Louisa County struggling with food insecurity. The two local nonprofits are joining the national Uniting to Combat Hunger campaign (UTCH). UTCH was established in 2018 when Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States partnered with Humana to raise awareness for food insecurity for veterans and their families.

According to UTCH, food insecurity can affect 1 in 4 Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans, and 25 percent of active-duty military and Reserve members have had to rely on food bank donations to feed their families. Since its inception, the UTCH campaign has provided more than 2.5 million meals to service members, veterans, military families and communities in need.

VFW Post 8947 reached out to LCRC who provides multiple food programs to an existing network of those in need in the Louisa County community, including an estimated 150-250 veterans among the nearly 3,000 clients they serve. With this partnership, VFW and LCRC plan to join forces to specifically market available food programs to veterans, active duty, and those who have served who are having difficulty putting food on the table.

“Consumer prices have climbed 8.6 percent, the fastest rate of increase in forty years. American veterans and their families are facing new food insecurity challenges through more expensive fuel, food, and housing. VFW Post 8947 members, along with LCRC, will be there to assist those in need,” said Post 8947 Commander Kelly Scherer.

“It has been a pleasure meeting with Quartermaster Mike Krei of VFW Post 8947 and discussing this partnership. LCRC is excited to work with the VFW to reach more of our community’s veterans in need of food and other life-sustaining services that our programs provide. We hope that in working with the VFW Post 8947, we can identify more veterans who qualify for these services and can assist those who have protected our freedoms now when they are the ones in need of help,” said Louisa County Resource Council Executive Director, Lloyd Runnett.



**(L\_R) Quartermaster Mike Krei, Commander of District 13, Patrick Lane, Post 8947 Commander Kelly Scherer present LCRC Executive Director Lloyd Runnett with a \$5,000 Uniting to Combat Hunger grant.**

In addition to our food programs, LCRC has a Dental Assistance Program, a Community Closet with clothing and medical supplies like walkers, canes, etc., and our new Wheels for Work program to assist those in need of emergency car repairs



## Former Mayors Jim and Greg Eanes Comrades in Arms and family

OBSERVING PATRIOT'S DAY- Former Burkeville Mayor Jim R. Eanes (left) and his son, former Crewe Mayor Greg Eanes were among those turning out for Burkeville's Patriots Day event on Saturday, September 10th. As founder, publisher and editor for 40 years of The Crewe-Burkeville Journal Jim Eanes devoted countless pages and articles, on a weekly basis, highlighting local Crewe-Burkeville area



heroes, from local civic leaders to police officers, emergency first responders and local boys and girls who served their country in uniform. During the war in Vietnam, he made great efforts to publish stories on local servicemen and women and to gather and publish the names and addresses of local service personnel to ensure they received Christmas cards from local citizens. He repeated that effort during Operations DESERT SHIELD/STORM. Local citizens and school children responded often sending cards and notes to local men and women they did not even know. His work led to recognition by the Veterans of Foreign Wars before he retired. Jim Eanes also proudly displays a 'Blue Star Flag' with seven stars for his children and grandchildren who served or are currently serving. The younger Eanes is the past Commander of Gold Star Memorial VFW Post 7819 in Crewe. He led Crewe to its first 'All-American' recognition for the 2021-2022 year. (Contributed Photo)

## VFW Post 7819 Supports Patriots Day

Members of Gold Star Memorial Post 7819 attending the Town of Burkeville's Patriots Day event on September 10<sup>th</sup> had a group photo taken with Burkeville Mayor Brian Weltch during the event.



**Pictured from left to right are Service Officer Micky Altizer, Post Commander Wayne E. 'Beanie' Roberts, Weltch, Senior Vice-Commander Roy Turner and past Post Commander Greg Eanes. Altizer, Roberts and Turner are Vietnam veterans, Eanes is a Desert Storm and Global War on Terror Veteran and Weltch is a Global War on Terror**

**POST INSPECTION SEASON** Virginia's Fourth District Commander Gus Villalobos (sitting left) conducts an inspection of Buckingham VFW Post 8446 with Post Commander Victor Moss (on right) while the Post Quartermaster observes. August and September are 'inspection season' across the Commonwealth as Virginia VFW posts try to meet inspection deadlines. The Buckingham post passed with flying colors.



### Hall of Heroes

Buckingham VFW Post 8446 hosts a 'hall of heroes' in its post home. Post Commander Victor Moss (right) explains that a Buckingham High School teacher initiated a project in which local students developed displays of a family member that served in various conflicts. These were introduced, two or three at a time, during annual Memorial Day events. The VFW has all those that were developed and has mounted them throughout their post home to serve as an educational and memorial display.



GREG EANES

Pictured on the left is Fourth District VFW Commander Gus Villalobos who visited the post during a recent inspection.

### Chesty Puller VFW Post 1503 in Dale City, hosts POW/MIA remembrance ceremony.

Past All American Commander Randy Coker hosted the POW/MIA Ceremony on September 16th, assisted by the Post Honor Guard and Auxiliary Chaplain



## VFW Sharing Stories

The Town of Burkeville's Nottoway County Board of Supervisors representative Steve Bowen (left) shares a few stories with Gold Star Memorial Post 7819 Commander 'Beanie' Roberts during Burkeville's Patriots Day event on Saturday, September 10th. The VFW turned out to support the event, connect with local citizens and recruited a new member.



GREG EANES

## VFW Supports Heart of America

Farmville's VFW Post 7059 in Virginia's Fourth District turned out to support the Heart of Virginia Festival Saturday. Pictured, from left to right, are Mike Perutelli, Daniel Cobb, and Michael Lund. During the day they engaged visitors and many veterans recruiting four: one Vietnam veteran, two Global War on Terror veterans and one with recent service in Syria. Mr. Perutelli has the Post record for longest serving Quartermaster with 14 years' service in that position. Mr. Lund is a Professor Emeritus of English at Longwood University and the Director of 'Home and Abroad' (<http://homeandabroadva.com>), a writing program for veterans and family members designed to help them tell their personal stories.



GREG EANES