



Official Publication of the Department of Virginia ★ Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

September 2026

Commander's Message



**State Commander
Mark Maggio**

Comrades,

As we now reach the fall season and leaves begin to fall and the weather gets cooler, we at the VFW continue to roll on with what is shaping up to be a great year. I have visited several posts and social functions as your commander, and I am impressed with the hard work and enthusiasm displayed by our members and the members of our great auxiliaries. I can go on and on about the great work being done and the great

individuals who have stepped up and are doing amazing work for our veterans and our organization. Don't forget to RSVP to Kathy Voss or myself for the homecoming at 9808 in Mechanicsville on October 17th at 1700 hours or 5 o'clock Air Force Time. I look forward to seeing all of you there and we can enjoy a night of good food and fellowship with each other.

When it comes to the "Taking Care of Veterans Act", we still have a fight on our hands as they have not yet removed Sec 108 of the bill which takes benefits from future veterans to pay for current veterans. Go to the VFW Action alerts and send a message to your local representatives as well as our senators. To paraphrase former President Bush after 9/11, "They will hear from all us soon." We cannot afford to be silent on this issue. The stakes are just too

great. If we allow Congress to pull on this seam, the whole sweater unravels. What is to stop them from eroding all of our earned benefits, including current beneficiaries, if we cave on this issue. We cannot be the ones who get the budget balanced on our backs. We are also close to pushing through the Major Richard Starr Act. See the VFW alert for that email also.

In closing as we approach the holiday season, reach out to friends and veterans that you may not have spoken to in a while. See how they are doing and let them know you care. Check on comrades who had life altering events such as divorces, deaths and serious illness. Good will towards man goes a long way if you feel alone and suddenly you hear from a comrade or friend. Let's prove that no one does more for veterans than the VFW.

Mark

Mark P. Maggio
State Commander
Phone: 757-879-7724
Email: mmaggio@vfwva.org

One Team One Fight!



Virginia

"You are what you do, not what you say you will do." — Carl Jung

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." — African Proverb



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rraskin@vfwva.org

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

Note: Deadline for the next newspaper is:

February 15, 2027

Please submit articles in MS Word or text (.txt) format.

Pictures: Please include captions and photo credit including who is in the picture.

Virginia Veteran Becomes New VFW National Judge Advocate General

Navy veteran Ken Wiseman brings decades of VFW experience to national role



RENO, Nev. (July 29, 2026) – Kenneth B. Wiseman, III, of Manassas, Virginia, was elected National Judge Advocate General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) on July 29, 2026, at the 127th VFW National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

Ken served in the United States Navy from 2002 to 2015, earning his VFW eligibility by serving onboard the USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG-

58) during counter-narcotics operations in South America, in which he earned imminent danger/hostile fire pay. In recognition of his service, he received three Navy Achievement Medals, four Good Conduct Medals, and numerous other ribbons and medals while serving at various commands.

He joined the VFW in 2009 at Post 970 in Honolulu, Hawaii, later transferring to Post 1503 in Dale City, Virginia, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as the Department of Virginia Commander in 2018, in which he achieved All-American status.

Ken is a Triple-Crown All-American Commander and has also earned All-American honors as a Quartermaster at the Post, District and Department levels. Ken served as a VFW Accredited Service Officer from 2017 to 2020 and served as the Associate Director for the VFW National Legislative Service in the VFW Washington, D.C., Office from 2015 to 2018.

On the national level, he served on the National Council of Administration, as Vice Chairman on the National Legislative Committee and on the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual Committee.

Ken received his Master of Public Administration degree from Old Dominion University.

He is employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service where he oversees grant funding used to expand internet access in rural communities.

Ken resides in Manassas, Virginia.

—VFW—

Commander in Chief Cory Geisler attended the Department SOI at Post 1503 on September 12th.



FACEBOOK — VFW VIRGINIA

District 11 hosts 10th and Final Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes

By Melissa Patrick, VFW Post 7814 and Past VFW District 11 Commander

Raphine, VA- On a foggy and cloud covered day, making for perfect bicycling conditions, VFW district 11 hosted its tenth and final Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes (VVR4H). Culminating nine months of planning, organization, and fundraising, the last VVR4H was a great success, raising at least \$50,000 for Boulder Crest Foundation (BCF), and enabling combat veterans to access BCF's life changing post traumatic growth programs.

The event kicked off on September 12, 2026, at Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery in Raphine, Virginia with 123 bicyclists in attendance and another seven registered as virtual riders. This was the tenth year raising money for Boulder Crest Foundation (BCF) in Bluemont, Virginia. BCF helps veterans and first responders recover from the trauma and wounds of war experienced while serving. Over the past nine years, the event has raised \$295,000 for BCF. Organizers estimate that this year's event will add an additional \$50,000 to \$55,000 in donations.

Starting in 2017, the Valley Veterans Ride has involved eight of the 12 Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Posts in District 11. These eight posts have planned, coordinated, and executed everything from fundraising, marketing and promoting the event, organizing the days' activities and manning rest stops along the three bicycle routes. With the exception of the Ride Director and the ham radio operators throughout the course, the event is entirely veteran-run. VFW Posts 632 (Harrisonburg), 1499 (Lexington), 8644 (Bridgewater), and 10826 (Verona) manned the four rest stops, while 2424 (Waynesboro) handled the parking detail and the Staunton-Augusta Posts 2216 and 7814 covered registration, merchandise, and serving the meal.

Over the years, the event has grown dramatically, from an initial 45 riders to a high of 200 bicyclists in 2022, as well as a major increase in the amount raised for BCF. Four years ago, District 11 invited VFW Posts across the state to contribute to the fundraiser as sponsors. For the 2026 Valley Veterans Ride, twelve Posts contributed a combined \$11,250. District 11 is grateful for the financial contributions of Posts 9808 (Mechanicsville), 632 (Harrisonburg), 1503 (Dale City), 2424 (Waynesboro), 7589 (Manassas), 7814 (Little Staunton), 8644 (Bridgewater), 12202 (King George), 2447 (Massanutten), 3103 (Fredericksburg), 4809 (Tidewater), and 9835 (Warrenton). Posts 2216 (Staunton-Augusta) and 10826 (Verona) made significant in-kind donations.

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 the cadets of the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership (VWIL) at Mary Baldwin University, the playing of the National Anthem, a memorial wreath presentation in remembrance of the 9-11 attacks twenty-five years ago, and the playing of Taps by Chaplain (USN, Ret.) Carl Trost of Verona VFW Post 10826. The military theme continued throughout the course as riders were treated to military history reenactors and displays at the rest stops and at the

start/finish. Rockbridge Vineyard & Brwery featured a military memorial honoring the war dead of America's past five conflicts, several vintage military vehicles, a display featuring the USS Indianapolis, and a World War I display. In honor of the nation's 250th anniversary, several reenactors portrayed the American Revolution.

During the opening ceremonies, a pilot with United Airlines spoke in memory of the United and American airlines crews and passengers lost on that fateful day. James Murphy, a Navy veteran who has been through the Boulder Crest posttraumatic growth program, spoke about the importance of that experience in helping him deal with his wartime trauma. He said that "Boulder Crest saved my life. I was on the path to being part of the 22 a day statistic, until I went through the program." He shared with the group how he was able to draw on his Boulder Crest experience and talk down a fellow veteran who was preparing to take his own life with a gun to his head. His personal testimony was heart-felt and dramatically illustrated the importance of the Valley Veterans Ride's fundraising efforts.

At the end of the day, District 11 had pulled off another successful event, with over a hundred satisfied bicycle riders, increased camaraderie among its veterans, and at least \$50,000 available to help struggling veterans. Giant US flag flying on a foggy morning



Melissa Patrick

Giant US flag flying on a foggy morning over the Rockbridge Vineyards.

Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes



Melissa Patrick

Rest stop #1 manned by Bridgewater VFW Post 8644.



Lexie West, VFW Post 7814.

At rest stop #1, Post Commander Julia Horn and District Commander Ike Deihl greet the riders.



Lexie West, VFW Post 7814.

At rest stop #3, members of Harrisonburg Post 632 and its Auxiliary along with a Revolutionary War Militiaman, greet the metric century riders at the furthest point on the course.



Melissa Patrick

Six members of the Verona Post 10826 greeted riders on both the 40 mile and 62 mile courses.



Melissa Patrick

Rico Martinez, VFW rider sponsored by VFW Post 4809, on the road.



Melissa Patrick

What it was all about. Supporting Boulder Crest Foundation!



Yard signs reflecting some of the VFW Posts who sponsored the Valley Veterans Ride.



Banners reflecting the contributions of two of our VFW Posts, with Rockbridge Vineyards in the background.

VFW VA District 2 and Tech for Troops gift refurbished computers to Veterans, Active-Duty members and some family members

By Troy Wagers

VFW Post 392 Benefits Advisor Troy Wagers and VFW Post 392 partnered with Tech for Troops (T4T) to provide 100 refurbished computers during 'Tech 100' in Virginia Beach. Tech for Troops gifted computers to Veterans and Active-Duty members and some family members. We worked together to advertise the event on area radio and news station media pages, along with VFW VA District 2 and District 2 Post's social media pages. This resulted in 115 applications being submitted for a free refurbished computer.

On the day of the giveaway, Tech for Troops was set up at VFW Post 392 at 9:00 AM. Before we were fully set up, we had applicants in line waiting for their new computer. By 12:00 PM, there were 89 applicants going home with a new computer, and 9 veterans, family and active duty that showed up to see if they could get one (which they did). It was a great event, with 97 total computers given away. The computers have Windows 11 installed, along with multiple training items on them, all for free, and many others are set up and ready to go.

The event was covered by WAVY-TV 10 NEWS and WTKR NEWS 13. Mark Casper, from Tech for Troops, along with a few recipients gave interviews, as well. Additionally, VFW Post 392 and T4T partnered with Cedar Grove Apartments (a homeless Veteran living establishment), to donate 3 Desktop computers to help residents get online, be able to conduct job searches, submit applications, and correspond with potential employers. The event was a huge success!!

We're still looking for VFW members to donate old laptops that are no longer being used so that we can donate them to T4T, to be refurbished for donation to our military community. This is a great example of Veterans working together to take care of Veterans. Troy had just one thing to say about the August 22nd event: "I was smiling the whole time, and even when I got home, I was still smiling, as it was a great day."

Don't throw away your old laptop or computer.



**Bring it to the Post
and we'll take it to
TECH FOR TROOPS.**

Sorry, we cannot take CRT monitors or Printers.

What T4T needs the most are laptops, desktop computers, tablets, and cell phones.

These devices go to in-need Veterans after data destruction.

T4T guarantees Data Destruction for all devices that could contain data.

Post 7589 Scouts conduct flag retirement ceremonies on September 12th

Over 500 flags were respectfully retired.



Preparing flags for retirement



Scouts conduct a ceremony prior to delivering flags to the flames



The reverent act of respectfully retiring "Old Glory"



Thoughts on visiting Capitol Hill in D.C.

By Tarah Jeffrey

We had EIGHT meetings today [September 16], which was a lot and we are all exhausted. I think we did over four miles walking. Thankfully my shoes didn't start giving me blisters until just now at dinner, LOL. 🤔

Most of the staffers were great and very receptive to our message. Mike and Tom gave great briefings to them! I just sat there and backed them up.

Never in my life did I imagine we would be on Capitol Hill talking with leaders and staff about Veterans' issues. But here we are. 🤔 I've met with people I would never, ever vote for, but it's not about me.

And we know the gravity of meeting with them, in hopes to prevent Veteran suicides by advocating for policies like the "Written Informed Consent Act". This legislation can give Veterans writ-

ten documentation on the side effects of the medications they're prescribed. If a Veteran doesn't know that the medication they are taking has side effects like suicidal ideation, then they may take their life thinking this is the only way out!!

Wouldn't you want to know exactly what your medication could cause as a side effect? What about our Nation's most vulnerable people trying to seek help for themselves??

Things like this light a fire in us to keep advocating for them. It's not about us, it's about them.

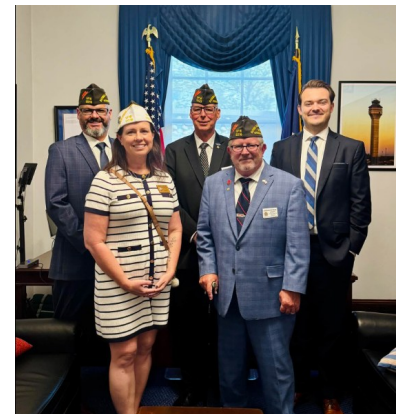
Because...

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Tomorrow we go home. 🤔



Things like this light a fire in us to keep advocating for them. It's not about us, it's about them.



VFW Post 2582 and BSA Troop 16 Honor "Old Glory" Through a Flag Retirement Ceremony

By Ronnie Steele

SUFFOLK, Va. — Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2582 partnered with BSA Troop 16 of Driver to conduct a solemn and respectful U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony on June 15 at the VFW Post 2582 grounds on Pughsville Road in North Suffolk.

Despite the heat of the summer evening, members of VFW 2582 and it's Auxiliary, as well as Scouts, leaders, and parents gathered to properly retire dozens of worn and unserviceable American flags in accordance with established flag etiquette and tradition.

The ceremony served as both a tribute to the nation's symbol and an educational opportunity for the young Scouts to learn the importance of honoring the American flag. During the event, Scouts carefully presented each flag while explaining the significance of the retirement process and the respect owed to the flag when it is no longer fit for display.

"Our nation's flag represents the sacrifices of generations of Americans who have defended freedom at home and abroad," said Post Commander Richard Nelson Jr. "Partnering with Troop 16 allows us to pass these traditions and values on to the next generation while ensuring these flags receive the dignity and respect they deserve."

VFW Post 2582 receives more than 100 worn American flags each year from local residents, businesses, schools, and organizations seeking a proper method of disposal. The annual retirement ceremonies provide a meaningful way for veterans and youth to work together in preserving patriotic traditions.

Leaders from Troop 16 emphasized the importance of community service and citizenship, noting that participation in the ceremony helps Scouts better understand the history, symbolism, and responsibility associated with the American flag.

As the retired flags were respectfully committed to the ceremonial fire, attendees reflected on the sacrifices made by America's service members and the enduring values represented by the Stars and Stripes.

The partnership between VFW Post 2582 and Troop 16 continues a longstanding commitment to patriotism, community service, and youth development in Suffolk. Both organizations hope the ceremony serves as a reminder of the importance of honoring national symbols and preserving traditions for future generations.

Residents wishing to retire worn American flags may contact VFW Post 2582 for information on proper flag disposal and future retirement ceremonies.

VFW Post 2582 is located at 4301 Pughsville Road, Suffolk, Virginia 23435. The Post meets on the first Tuesday of each month, with dinner served at 6:00 p.m. followed by the business meeting at 7:00 p.m.

BSA Troop 16 meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at Beech Grove United Methodist Church in Driver.



DARLENE JOHNSON / VFW POST 2582 AUXILIARY



DARLENE JOHNSON — VFW POST 2582 AUXILIARY

Post 2582 Commander Richard Nelson, Jr. retires the first flag.



RONNIE STEELE — VFW POST 2582

Honoring Our Colors: SGT Nicholas C. Mason Memorial VFW Post 12202 Retires 300 Flags at Valor Ranch

By Alex McKenna

On June 13th, the SGT Nicholas C. Mason Memorial VFW Post 12202 hosted a solemn and dignified Flag Retirement Ceremony at Valor Ranch in King George. This meaningful community event was organized to properly and respectfully retire unserviceable American flags, ensuring they were laid to rest in accordance with the United States Flag Code.

During the ceremony, a total of 300 American flags were respectfully retired. Each flag, having served its purpose flying over homes, businesses, and public institutions, was honored for what it represents: the enduring spirit of our nation and the sacrifices made to defend it. The peaceful setting at Valor Ranch provided a fitting backdrop for this time-honored military and civilian tradition.

A Special Thank You to Our Local Scouts

An event of this scale requires coordination and community support, and it would not have been possible without the dedicated assistance of our local youth organizations. VFW Post 12202 extends a special and heartfelt thank you to the following groups for their exceptional service:

Cub Scout Pack 38

Scouting America Troop 191B

Scouting America Troop 191G

Scouting America Troop 179

The scouts' active participation not only provided essential logistical support but also demonstrated a profound display of patriotism and respect from the next generation of leaders. Their reverence throughout the retirement process was commendable and deeply appreciated by all veterans and community members in attendance.

Thank you to everyone who participated, attended, and contributed to ensuring our nation's colors were retired with the utmost dignity.



Master of Ceremonies Lisa Bydairk



Front Lisa Bydairk, Back (L-R): Chaplain Robert Burge, Jr Vice Commander Bob Dolensky, Sr Vice Commander Brad Suckow, Commander Jason Stewart



King George Post 12202 hosts their 1st Veterans Game night

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who braved the rain and joined us for our very first Veterans Game Night!

Despite the weather, we had a great evening filled with camaraderie, laughter, and friendly competition. Your support made our first event a success!

We're planning to make Veterans Game Night a monthly event, and we hope even more veterans and service members will join us next time. Bring a friend, bring your favorite game, and come be part of an evening dedicated to fellowship and fun.

Stay tuned for the date of our next Game Night—we can't wait to see you there!



Christiansburg Post 5311



DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER CHRISTOPHER SMITH

Jenny Fields from New River Valley Quilts of Valor presents Post 5311 SVC Robert Borman a quilt of valor at the July 9 Post meeting. Comrade Calvin Hicks who nominated SVC Borman assisted.

NRV Quilts of Valor promotes comfort and healing by wrapping handmade quilts around Veterans touched by war.

<https://www.facebook.com/QuiltsOfValorNRVVA>

Loudoun County VFW Post 1177



FACEBOOK — VFW POST 1177

Loudoun County VFW Post 1177 was again honored to be requested to present the colors at the Senate Cannon Office Building in Washington DC in support of the National 7/27 Korean War Armistice Ceremony.

Franklin Post 4411

On Saturday, August 15 at SGT USMC Jayton D. Patterson VFW Post 4411 in Franklin, Virginia, District 2 held our first district meeting of the 2026-2027 membership year. Past Triple Crown Commander Doug Hoffman served as our Department Rep and it was great to celebrate the past year with him and welcome him home. All 9 Posts were present and Post 4411's Auxiliary provided a nice breakfast and lunch for over 60 members in attendance. The District came together to offer over 150 tattered American flags for retirement. The ceremony was led by District 2 Chaplain Todd Criner who also is serving as the SVC for VFW Post 4411. The ceremony was held with reverence being respectful and solemn as we honored "Old Glory" and shared our love of country together.



PHOTOS BY JAMES REID

Warrenton VFW Post 9835

“Post members Francis Xavier (Trustee) and Walt Lenky (Surgeon) presented the Post’s semi-annual donation to the Warrenton Family Shelter Services in July. The shelter provides temporary housing to veterans and the Warrenton community at large. The Post coordinates with shelter staff on a regular basis to determine if any veterans are currently sheltered there and assess their need for assistance.”

In July, Post Trustee Xavier, SVC Benson, Surgeon Lenky and



Photo courtesy of Shelter Services staff

JVC Bilger volunteered at Community Support of the Piedmont, assembling shelving units and medical mobility equipment and reorganizing the storage room to allow for additional space and easier access.

Community Support of the Piedmont provides medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, etc.) free of charge to community residents.”



Photo courtesy of Community Support of the Piedmont staff

Hopewell Post 6378

Commander Jay Harrison proudly presents a \$1,000 donation to the Hopewell Food Pantry. We are honored to support an organization that works tirelessly to help individuals and families in need throughout our community. This donation reflects our post’s continued commitment to serving Hopewell—because service doesn’t stop when the uniform comes off.



Phoebus Post 3219 remembers 9/11

VFW Post 3219 decided ...that we would do something a little different. Our goal was walking 2977 steps (about 1.5 miles), one each for those that died that 25 years ago [on 9/11]. We invited some active duty [personnel] and we walked well beyond our goal to remember those that died after, remembering our fallen first responders. NEVER FORGET!!! [They actually walked 1.8 miles to remember those who didn't die at the scene but died soon after.]

FACEBOOK—HAL ROESCH



Hopewell Post 637

In remembrance of September 11, our Past Commander Jim Cooper and Auxiliary President Darlene Loving had the honor of delivering pizzas, cookies and drinks to our local police officers and firefighters. This was a small gesture of appreciation for the brave men and women who serve and protect our community every day.

We thank you for your courage, dedication, and selfless service. Today, we remember those we lost, honor the heroes who answered the call, and stand united in gratitude.

We will never forget.

FACEBOOK — VFW POST 637



Galaxy S23 FE
September 11, 2026 12:12 PM

Post 3150 with Chief Geisler

This evening [9/11] I was honored to escort the VFW National Commander in Chief Cory Geisler to the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial and to VFW Post 3150 for some remembrance ceremonies and reflection from the past.

The VFW Commander in Chief was humbled and honored to be able to speak with local heroes and family and friends of those who we all remember from that day.



FACEBOOK — RANDY COKER & POST 3150

Loudoun County VFW Post 1177

Twenty-five years after 9/11, the Newton-Lee Elementary School community gathered to remember those lost and honor the two Loudoun County residents whose names the school carries forward: Christopher Newton and Dong Chul Lee, who were among those killed at the Pentagon.

Students, staff, community members and Superintendent Dr. Spence joined today's remembrance ceremony.



FACEBOOK — VFW POST 1177

On 9/11 Post 2239 and AL Post 284 honor local first responders

The 25th Anniversary of 9/11. Twenty five years later, our country still mourns the loss of all of our citizens whose lives were lost in the most catastrophic terrorist attack we have ever seen.

Each year, The American Legion Post 284 alongside VFW Post 2239, honor our first responders by bringing them pizza, wings and deserts. We met with our local first responders and fed them their annual meal, while remembering those our country lost.



FACEBOOK — AMERICAN LEGION POST 284

Post 392 and Auxiliary

This morning [September 10] school supplies and beach bag food items were dropped off to Strawbridge Elementary School by Post 392 and its Auxiliary.

Principal Jackie Sargent and School Counselor Amy Simpson were so appreciative and excited to receive all of the donations made by our Post and Auxiliary.

Thank all of you again for making this another successful school drive.



FACEBOOK—JUDY LUPOLE JENNINGS

VFW POST 392 - CELEBRATING AMERICA 250
REPRESENTING VETERANS ON THE BIG STAGE!
A DISTINGUISHED HONOR FOR OUR COMMANDER!



VFW POST 392
COMMANDER STEVE
 Participating in the Tidewater Winds
 Orchestra Concert
 ★ ★ ★

EVENT DETAILS
 DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 14TH
 TIME: 7:30 PM
 LOCATION: 24TH STREET
 VA BEACH OCEANFRONT
 COST: COMPLETELY FREE!
 ★ ★ ★

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE
 A NARRATION BY THE COMMANDER
POEM NARRATION
"I AM THE AMERICAN FLAG"
 Set to Stirring Patriotic Music by
 Tidewater Winds Orchestra

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS & COMMUNITY
 The VFW's core mission is to honor our fallen, support our veterans,
 foster true patriotism, and strengthen our local communities.



ATTEND THIS FREE CONCERT!
 COME OUT, SHOW YOUR PATRIOTIC PRIDE, & CELEBRATE OUR GREAT COUNTRY!
 JULY 14TH | 24TH STREET STAGE | VIRGINIA BEACH OCEANFRONT



On July 14th, there was a Patriotic Concert by the Tidewater Winds Concert Band and Patriotic reading by VFW Post 392 Commander Steven Wilkins at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront 24th Street Stage. It was an amazing and very patriotic event.

[Photo Gallery](#)

**If Congress establishes the precedent
 that disability ratings may be
 rewritten through statute to generate
 "savings," future Congresses will
 have a ready-made roadmap for
 reducing earned benefits whenever
 fiscal pressures arise.**

VFW
 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

BUDDY CHECK FRIDAY

Camaraderie continues.

Make the call.



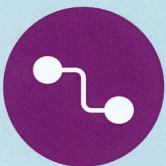
CALL

A simple call or text can mean everything.



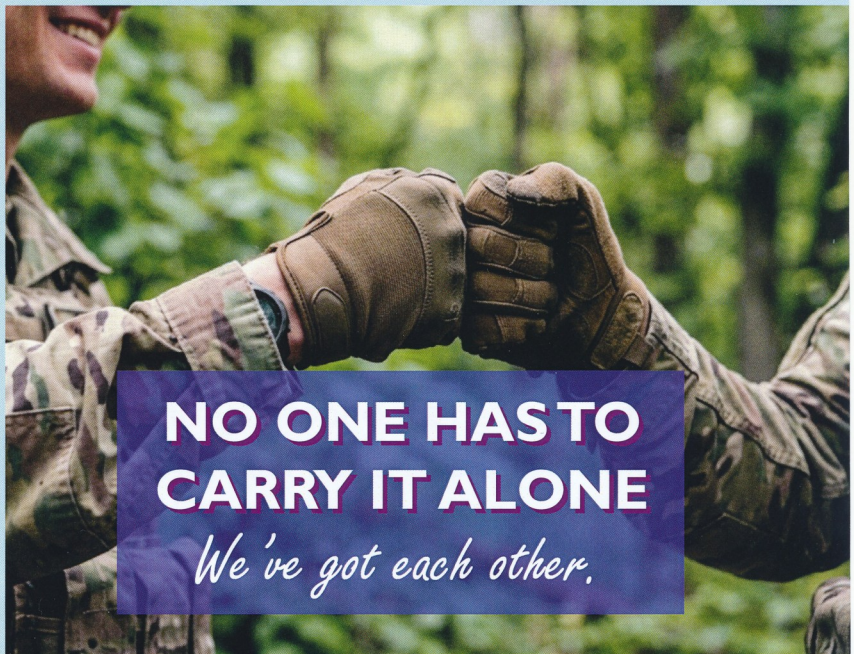
CHECK

Check on a battle buddy, a veteran, or a family member.



CONNECT

You never know who might need to hear from you today.



**NO ONE HAS TO
CARRY IT ALONE**

We've got each other.



Virginia Department of Veterans Services



Find us on
Facebook



Follow us
on X

Follow us on
Instagram



@VirginiaVeterans



Check out our
YouTube channel



Find us in
LinkedIn

www.dvs.virginia.gov



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

PROTECTING VETERANS. PROTECTING OUR MISSION.



INTEGRITY. HONOR. SERVICE.



CHARGING VETERANS FOR VA CLAIMS ASSISTANCE IS ILLEGAL.



FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS
ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES
OF VETERANS SERVICE
ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING
THE VFW, **FROM CHARGING
VETERANS FOR:**

- ✓ Preparing an initial claim
- ✓ Presenting a claim
- ✓ Prosecuting a claim

Violations of 38 U.S.C. § 5904 may result in civil or criminal penalties, loss of VA accreditation, and disciplinary action under VFW National By-Laws.



NO FEES. NO EXCEPTIONS.
**VA REPRESENTATION
FOR INITIAL CLAIMS IS FREE.**



VERIFY BEFORE YOU TRUST.

Always verify that the person helping you with your VA claim is properly accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs.



VA ACCREDITATION SEARCH TOOL

Check credentials. Protect your benefits. Protect yourself.

va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/



**BEWARE OF FRAUD. PROTECT YOUR BENEFITS.
PROTECT YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.**



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.