

VFW VA COMMANDER
RICK RASKIN

As we approach the end of the calendar year it's time to become more active in our quest to reach 100% membership. Many annual memberships will expire on December 31 and now is the time to contact these folks about renewing for next year. Better yet, why not sell them on converting their memberships to Life? National is offering a \$50 gift certificate to the VFW store for any member who converts to Life, is reinstated as a

Life member, signs up as a Life member or completes their Installment Life agreement. It's an excellent enticement because it will cover the cost of a member cap should they choose to buy one.

Posts should also start calling their lists of unpaid members. Why not try a calling night or a social media campaign to attract these members?

November was a busy month for us. Most Posts had Veterans Day activities, distributed Buddy Poppies and visited schools. Our patriotic essay and teacher contests have been completed at the Post and District levels. Department winners will be announced at the January Council of Administration meeting in Portsmouth.

Speaking of the Council meeting, I urge those planning to attend to make their hotel reservations as soon as possible because we'll probably sell out our block of rooms well in advance. The highlight of the weekend will be the banquet where we announce our educational award winners and present them with their prizes. Adding to the fun, none of the winners know their final placement until the actual announcement.

Your District Commanders are actively involved with their Posts. I am pleased by many reports of Post visits and the confidence that they show in working with their constituents. District Commanders are empowered to manage affairs in their Districts and take whatever action they deem necessary to assist. They are also directed to manage within their budgets and report monthly on their activities. I commend them all for stepping up to the challenge.

In early November we had a roundup in District 12 attended by Judge Advocate Eddie Reasor, Surgeon Geoff Lyster,
Continued on Page 3...

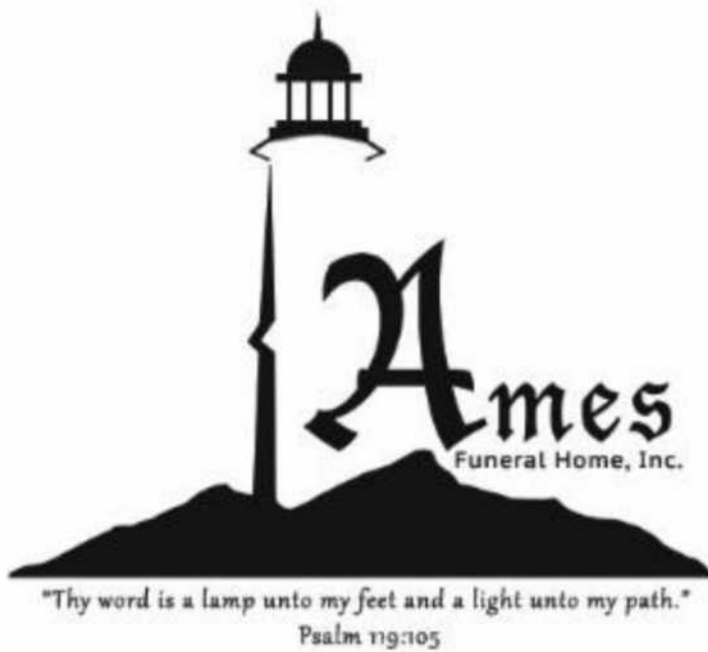
Eagle Scout Honored

By Dave Dudley, Commander, VFW Post 12145

On the evening of Tuesday, September 10th 2019 at the rural Central Baptist Church in Church Road Virginia, James Paul Sarafolean III, known as "JJ" was recognized as the newest Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts of America Troop 185. Previously, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 12145 in Dinwiddie County had repurposed an old mailbox to give county residents a place to put their US flags that were no longer serviceable and placed it at the Eastside Enhancement Center in Dinwiddie

County. JJ took his Scout Oath to heart and identified that having only one flag depository receptacle in a county as large as Dinwiddie County was not enough. He decided that his Eagle project would be to design, build, paint, and deliver three additional U.S. Flag depositories for flags that were ready for retirement. JJ successfully accomplished his project with the help and support of his family, friends, and his troop. His flag retirement depositories are located at the following locations: Ford Volunteer Fire Department in Church Road, at the Ragsdale Community Center in McKenney, and Carson Fire Department in Carson. JJ's Eagle project will serve the Dinwiddie County and surrounding communities for many years to come. VFW Post 12145, Post Commander Dave Dudley and Senior Vice Commander Jerry Horne presented JJ with a certificate for his achievement in reaching the highest advancement rank in Boy Scouting (see additional photos at back of newsletter).





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

Commander's Message Continued from Page 1...

Inspector Gary Adams, District 12 Commander Bud Davis, District 12 Historian Ken Hayes and me. We visited all the Posts we had scheduled over a three-day period.

One of the highlights occurred at Bristol where I was privileged to pin medals on a Korean War veteran who had never received them. There were about one hundred people present for an event that was to occur later and they all gave resounding applause.

Next March we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Post 622 in Petersburg. Our line officers will attend along with Past Commander in Chief John Smart and National Council Member / Past State Commander Tom Gimble. We will be proud to help them celebrate as they embark on their journey through the next 100 years.

The Virginia Veterans Foundation has announced the recipients of their first-ever grants for Post home improvement and community service grants. A total of 12 grants were issued to both Posts and Auxiliaries totaling nearly \$6,000 in support. Funded as part of the multi-year sponsorship from Powerhouse Gaming, the exclusive electronic pull-tab of the Virginia State HQs, the grants will go to support all that the VFW does.

In the 2018-2019 VFW year, the foundation supported numerous VFW programs including a \$10,000 grant to fund two-thirds of the emergency financial assistance given to members of the U.S. Coast Guard by the Virginia VFW when they did not get paid during a partial government shutdown.

To everyone I wish a safe and wonderful holiday season. It's a time to reflect on our accomplishments over the past year but more importantly, to spend time with our family and loved ones.

From the Editor's desk

Being an Army veteran and one who thoroughly enjoys museum going, particularly military-related ones, I am very excited about the opening of the National Museum of the United States Army! We are certainly lucky to be in the state of Virginia in terms of our rich history...there are so many great museums and historical sites in our state, as well as close by in the District of Columbia. Have you ever considered loaning or gifting an item of historical significance to such an institution? It's a great way to share your service history and that of our nation. If you are interested in sharing some history, contact the curator of your museum on interest.

Thanks for all your submissions to the Virginia Veteran.

All the best for a merry Christmas & happy New Year!

Curt Vaughn



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VFW Post 7059 conducted its annual POW/MIA Remembrance

By Fred Hill, Commander, VFW Post 7059

VFW Post 7059 conducted its annual POW/MIA Remembrance on the lawn of the Prince Edward County Courthouse on Sept. 20. POW/MIA Recognition Day is a day of remembrance and hope for the safe and speedy return of American Prisoners of Wars and those still Missing In Action. It also seeks the return of the remains of Fallen Soldiers. Today, there are still more than 83,000 American troops missing in action, according to the Department of Defense Prisoner of War-Missing Personnel Office. That includes some 73,681 from World War II; 7,947 from the Korean War; 126 during the Cold War; 1,657 from the Vietnam War; and six from Iraq and other conflicts.



Special Guests, American Legion Post 79 (South Hill) Honor Guard members Bob Wynn and Bugler Joh Lange closed the solemn remembrance with a moving performance of Taps.



Sr. Vice Commander Dean Lord presented the POW/MIA Table Rite



Opening Prayer was delivered by 7059 Chaplain Howard Arthur followed by comments by Commander Hill



Photo Left: Post 7059 thanks the Town of Farmville, the Farmville Police Department and the citizens of Farmville for their excellent turnout and continued support



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'You are not forgotten'

By Alex Perry, Suffolk News Herald

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia recognized those Virginians who remain unaccounted for in all wars by dedicating a new monument at Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery on Friday.

This ceremony was held on Friday for National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which is observed on the third Friday in September to honor those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in



Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia salute the new Chair of Honor monument that was dedicated in a ceremony at Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery on Friday. Pictured are VFW Department of Virginia POW/MIA Committee Chair Michael Chism, VFW Virginia State Adjutant Ken Wiseman and Robert Grady, past commander of Suffolk's VFW Post 2582

action.

The black granite Chair of Honor that was unveiled

and dedicated reads "this unoccupied seat is dedicated to the memory of the brave men and women of Virginia who are unaccounted for, from all wars," followed by an earnest and everlasting proclamation: "you are not forgotten."

"The purpose of this monument is to give us focus," VFW National Surgeon General Dr. Curtis "Doc" Bohlman said in his remarks. "To focus our thoughts on our comrades who have given so much, and remind us to say 'you are not forgotten' to our prisoners of war, those still missing in action and their families, many of whom still seek closure."

The Chair of Honor was made possible by contributions from VFW Department of Virginia District 2, VFW Post Auxiliaries and the VFW Riders Virginia, according to Michael Chism, POW/MIA committee chair for the Department of Virginia.

"Congratulations are in order to all who contributed and worked so hard that this monument might be constructed," Bohlman said.

VFW Department of Virginia District 2 Posts were represented at the ceremony, which was also attended by Suffolk City Council members, as well as friends and family.

The posting of VFW and branches of service flags was done in absolute silence that was punctuated only by careful footsteps, commands for direction and chirps of birds in trees throughout.

"I'm really happy to see this turnout," VFW Virginia State Commander Rick Raskin said in his remarks. "It speaks well for the community in the Suffolk area, and for the dedication that you have toward our veterans and our missing in action."

There are more than 82,000 Americans listed as missing or unaccounted for from U.S. wars going back to the beginning of World War II, according to James Evans, commander of VFW Department of Virginia District 2.

"That's more than 82,000 military and civilian men and women. Mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters," Evans said to the Friday gathering.

It's also important to remember the loss that's still felt by the friends and

family of these missing military men and women.

"It is true that the costs of war extend far beyond the last shots being fired, but for missing in action families, the passage of time does not heal their wounds," he said. "For them the days become weeks, the weeks become months, then years, and now sadly decades. "I cannot imagine the loss I would feel if my mother or father went off to war and didn't return," he continued. "I cannot imagine reliving the moment the government couldn't tell me if my brother or sister is alive or dead. I cannot imagine any emotions if that missing person was my son or daughter."

The Nansemond River High School Air Force JROTC cadets performed the Missing Man Table ceremony for the proceedings. Each facet of this table's symbolism was read aloud, and each reading was marked by a sharp ring of the bell.

"One thing I know for sure is that it means a lot to us today," State Commander Raskin said about the Missing Man Table, "but it may not mean so much in the future, because as time goes on people tend to forget. But that memorial that we're dedicating out there today will be there a lot longer than any of these tables will remain, and it will always keep us remembering what we need to remember — that we don't forget our MIA and POWs.

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Department Color Guard at Suffolk

Submitted by Phil Arendsen

On 20 September, 2019 the Department of Virginia Honor Guard was standing tall and presented the colors at the VA Albert G. Horton Memorial Veterans Cemetery for the POW/MIA ceremony hosted by the VFW Department of Virginia 2nd District.

The Comrades who served on the Honor Guard for this humbling ceremony were Honor Guard Captain Philip J. Arendsen II, Mark Maggio, Jim Collins, Jarl Christenson, Herb DeGroft and Tom Ferguson.



Daughter of Post 9835 Member

Honored - ROTC Cadet of the Year

On October 22nd, US Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein recognized the 2019 Cadet of the Year, 2nd Lt. Kirsten Cullinan, at the Pentagon, Arlington, VA. Read more and see photo at:

<https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1995898/goldfein-honors-2019-cadet-of-the-year/>

Post 9835 Members Speak to Warrenton 6th Graders

By Jeff Dombroff, Commander, VFW Post 9835

October 22, 2019 - Four members of Post 9835 in Warrenton addressed the 6th grade students at W. C. Taylor Middle School on their service experiences. The 6th grade assembly at Taylor has been conducted for nearly a decade. Speaking of his Vietnam experiences is Post QM Gary Robison (Army). Waiting their turn are Eric Johnson (USAF - 1st Gulf War); Kevin Turner (USARNG - Operation Inherent Resolve) and Post Commander Jeff Dombroff (Army - Vietnam)



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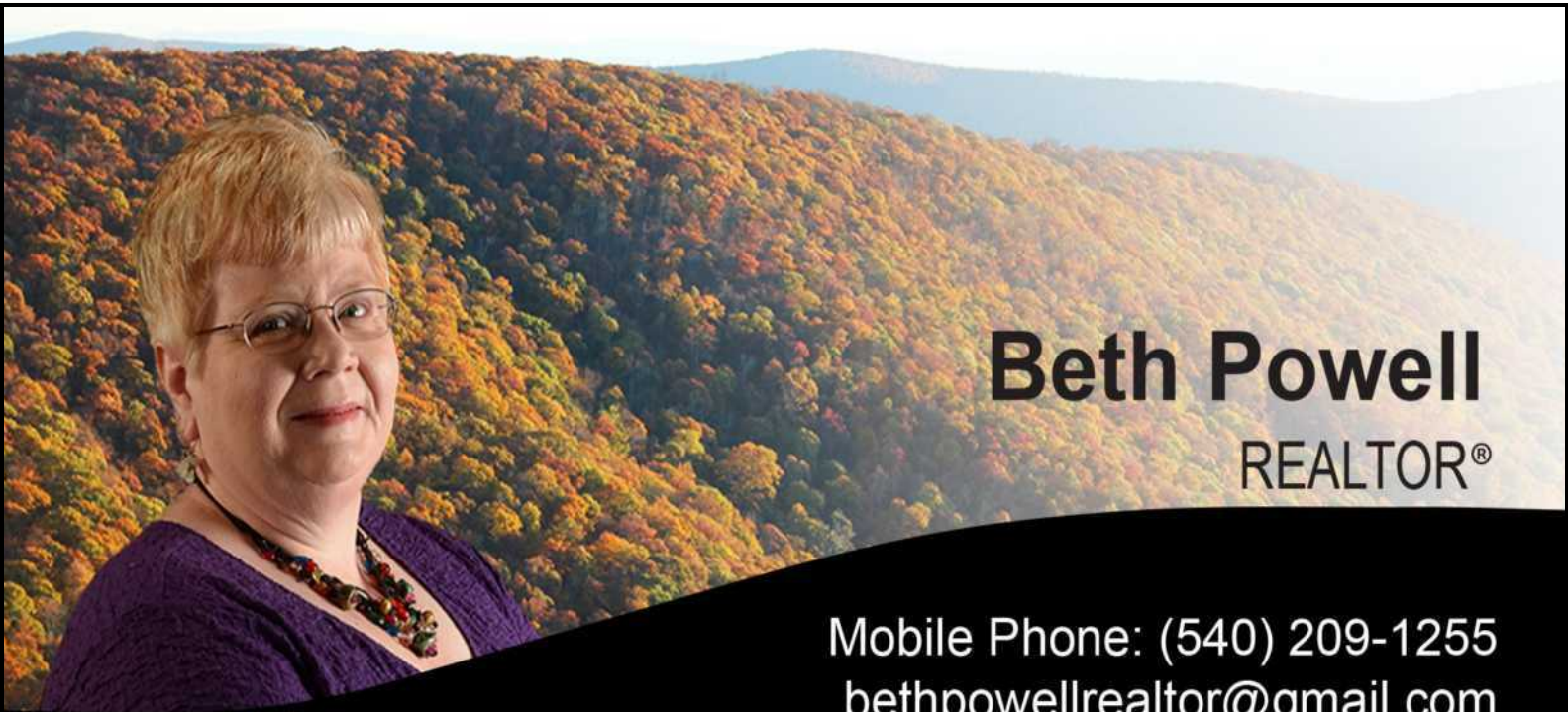


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State officers visit District 12 November 8-10, 2019

By Rick Raskin, State Commander
VFW Department of Virginia

State Commander Rick Raskin conducted a roundup in Virginia District 12, the furthest Southwest District in the state, from November 8-10, 2019. Accompanying him were State Judge Advocate Eddie Reasor, State Surgeon Geoff Lyster, State Inspector Gary Adams, District 12 Commander Bud Davis and District 12 Historian Ken Hayes.



I was privileged to pin medals on Robert Altizer, a 90 year old Korean War veteran who had never received them. Post Commander Charles Reisler assisted.



The Department delegation visited Grundy on November 10. The display is one of 3 the Department will use at recruiting events.

We visited Posts in Abingdon (1994), Damascus (9830), Bristol (6975), Coeburn (8652), Pound (9600), Clintwood (8975), Lebanon (9864) and Grundy (7360). Several Posts said they had never had a state officer visit, so our visit was a first.

The focus of the visits was to offer any assistance the Department could to help Posts with their programs and membership. We discussed the \$50 VFW Store gift certificate for those who renew, upgrade or sign up as life members. At each Post we talked about youth awards and encouraged continued participation. We also encouraged them to continue involvement in their communities.

Several notable things occurred:

- At Bristol I was privileged to pin medals on Robert Altizer, a Korean War veteran who had never received them. There were about one hundred people present for an event that was to occur later and they all gave a resounding applause.
- Bristol's Post home is located on the Tennessee side of State Street, and as such is subject to the gaming laws of that state. This severely limits the opportunity for a revenue stream. They have been trying to relocate to Virginia and recently acquired a suitable storefront with assistance from Powerhouse Gaming. Post members have been active in renovating the property and should have moved in by the time this is published.
- At Coeburn I presented the All-American Award to Post Commander Luther Willis. They were also celebrating the Post's 70th anniversary and had a veterans breakfast which was well attended by members from several Posts.
- I dispelled a rumor that we were about to close a Post because they had less than \$6000 in their account. It is interesting how rumors can start, and I was glad the Department was there to put the matter to rest.
- The Commander at Lebanon is also a County Councilman and I had an interesting conversation with him on how well the VFW is perceived in their community.
- One of the members at Grundy commented that he would like to see our color guards hone their presentation skills. I took the matter as an action item and will pursue adding a module to our Schools of Instruction. Virginia conducts SOIs in each District in order to reach a wider audience.
- District 12 Commander Davis had challenged each Post to recruit at least one new member before our visit and two Posts met the challenge.

It is encouraging to see that many of these small Posts are making do with what they have. They are doing an excellent job of keeping their Posts going. Despite the small number of members many have, they are active in VFW programs and enjoy the unique camaraderie that we VFW members all share.

I hope that our visit reinvigorated many members who felt that they were being ignored by the Department. Many times, I heard the comment that "the VFW stops at Roanoke". I feel our visit helped to alleviate that perception.

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Charitable Gaming to be a Major Issue at the Legislature

By Ken Wiseman, State Adjutant / Quartermaster

Once again, the issue that impacts the business side of our organization will again be a hot topic in the Virginia legislature. Charitable Gaming will be considered in many ways and as part of a larger issue on the future of gambling in the Commonwealth. Your VFW, along with other charities, manufacturers of charitable gaming units, and distributors of the equipment will again come together under the banner of the Virginia Charitable Gaming Council (VCGC) to fight for our ability to modernize and expand gaming for charities.

Electronic and paper pull-tabs, bingo, and other paper products are key to raising money for what we give to and for the success of our canteens. Even the IRS considers gaming in our canteens to be a central part of the culture of the groups, like the VFW, who are 501c19 non-profits. However, we need to modernize gaming and fight the entities who run illegal operations which take away our business and threaten the good name of charitable gaming. Regulated by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, charitable gaming is proven, regulated, and managed making it a major thing for charities to be concerned about.

The VCGC adopted five priorities recently to help us navigate the new session of the state legislature, which starts in January. First, we want to modernize charitable gaming by removing arbitrary limits on how often gaming can be done (currently two days for bingo), how audit fees are calculated, and how Use of Proceeds (the portion of profits that must be spent on approved expenses and charity actions) can also cover more expenses related to the games. Second, we want to be able to expand our ability to place electronic gaming machines associated with charities to include ABC approved locations which allows us to compete with “gray area” gaming that may be illegal (cases are pending). Third, oppose all illegal forms of gaming with tougher laws. Fourth, allow charities to hold Texas Hold'em poker tournaments. Finally, we also support expanding the number of electronic pull-tab machines beyond the current number of nine that can be in our canteens.

We will see a major push ahead of us for these goals. I ask that you consider coming to the state capitol on January 15th to support this effort during our “Day on the Hill” for charitable gaming. With the casinos coming, we need to fight for our future.

Post Member Throws First Pitch at Nationals Wild Card Game

By J. Gary Wagner, Adjutant, VFW Post 3150

VFW Post 3150 Life Member James Pierce threw out the first pitch at the recent National League wild-card game between the Washington Nationals and the Milwaukee Brewers. Pierce, a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, received the Purple Heart Medal and recovered from his injuries at Walter Reed Medical Center. He has been a member of Post 3150 since 2016 and currently works for the National Park Service. The Nationals won the game 4-3 to gain a spot in the National League Division Series.

Photos courtesy of Major League Baseball and used by permission.



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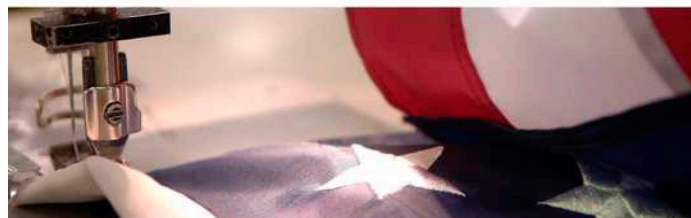
By J. Gary Wagner, Adjutant, VFW Post 3150

VFW Post 3150 Adjutant, J.Gary Wagner and Auxiliary President Cathy Graham (center) present six back packs loaded with all the necessary school supplies to Key Elementary School Principal / Director Marleny Perdomo (left) and Key Teacher Richard Pardo (right). The back packs were one for each grade from K through 5. Principal Perdomo sent a letter to the Post saying, in part, Thank you very much for your kind and generous gift of the children’s backpacks to Key School.”. Photographer C.D “Doc” Crouch was also present at the presentation.



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Sale Adjutant / Quartermaster Ken Wiseman takes a pie in the face from Charlottesville Post Quartermaster Cindy Wyman at State Headquarters in Staunton. Ken had said that any Districts that were 100% reported would get the honor and Cindy, from District 13, was chosen. Several other Districts also blasted Ken.

VA Ordered to Pay ER Bills for Vets

VFW National Headquarters

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is applauding the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, who in a 2-1 decision Monday, correctly ruled for the plaintiffs in Wolfe v. Wilkie. The class action lawsuit was the result of the Department of Veterans Affairs failing to fully reimburse veterans for the emergency room care they received from non-VA facilities, an issue the VFW had thought solved in 2016 when the same court ruled in favor of Staab v. Shulkin. But a report released last month by the VA Office of Inspector General found that the non-VA emergency room claims of some 17,400 veterans were denied or rejected primarily due to a VA work culture that favored speed over accuracy, a number that accounts for nearly a third of the 60,800 claims examined during the IG’s six-month nationwide audit in 2017.

“The first thing the VA tells people to do when calling is to hang up and dial 911 if it’s an emergency,” said VFW National Commander William J. “Doc” Schmitz. “So the VA must reimburse the actual cost of emergency medical care, regardless of whether the veteran has secondary insurance or not,” he said. “VA Secretary Robert Wilkie must make these veterans financially whole again, correct its policies and practices regarding non-VA emergency room billing immediately, and fully adopt the IG report’s 11 recommendations to improve the accuracy of the non-VA emergency room claims processing.”



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Virginia Building and Code Officials Association Donates \$5,000

John Smart, Past Commander-in-Chief and Foundation Chairman

Submitted by Ken Wiseman, State Adjutant / Quartermaster

The official foundation for the Virginia VFW, the Virginia Veterans Foundation, was honored to be named one of two charities supported by the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association (VBCOA) at their annual conference and awards banquet. Foundation Secretary/Treasurer Ken Wiseman accepted a \$5,000 check from the VBCOA which was collected through the sale of military-style challenge coins during their recent National Convention.

The donation, which will support the Department's Service Officer program, was made to honor the amazing work done by the VFW in support of veterans.



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Annual Trash Pick-up in Fauquier County

By Jeff Dombroff, Commander, VFW Post 9835

On November 3, nine Post and Auxiliary members, accompanied by local Scouts and their leaders, performed the semi-annual trash pickup along a 2-mile stretch of Meetz Road in Fauquier County. Participants filled more than two dozen large orange trash bags with roadside debris. The stretch of road policed has been adopted by Post 9835 in Warrenton.





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Dinwiddie VFW Wins National Recognition for Second Time!

By Greg Earns, Chief of Staff, 4th District

(Farmville) – Dinwiddie County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12145 has won the coveted title of All-American Post for the second time in less than three years. This is the highest and most prestigious National VFW recognition for individuals Posts.

VFW Fourth District Commander Gus Villalobos and State Senior Vice Commander Eric Mallett presented Dinwiddie Post Commander Dave Dudley with the Red, White and Blue All-American Commander's Cap during a Fourth District meeting in Farmville on Saturday.

Commander Villalobos said, "The Dinwiddie Post and its accomplishments are worthy of emulation, not just at the state level but also at the national level. This is a very young post only having been chartered since January 2015. In that short period of time they not only earned national level recognition with All-American but have also earned All-State recognition for three successive years. That's an impressive record for any post anywhere!"

Post Commander Dudley is an Army Vietnam Veteran who was assigned to 309th Signal Company, 29th Signal Group, 1st Signal Brigade in Thailand from 1966 to 1968. His unit was a primary communications link providing critical support to ground combat units in South Vietnam.

Commander Dudley credits the All-American award to the Dinwiddie Post members. He said, "The Post members made it happen. Without them we would not be here. My goal has always to competitive with other Posts in the state but ultimately the laurels belong to our members."



NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR LOCAL VFW - Dinwiddie VFW Post 12145 was recognized with the prestigious National level 'All American' Post award Saturday during a 4th District VFW meeting in Farmville. From left to right are State VFW Auxiliary Junior Vice-President Carol Vangi, Dinwiddie VFW Post 12145 Commander Dave Dudley, State VFW Senior Vice Commander Eric Mallett and 4th District VFW Commander Gus Villalobos. (Photo by Greg Eanes)

AWARD WINNING COMMANDERS - Dinwiddie VFW Post 1245 Commander Dave Dudley (left) and Buckingham County VFW Post 8446 Commander sport the prestigious red, white and blue All-American Commander hats after being recognized in a special ceremony at the 4th District VFW Meeting in Farmville on Saturday. (Photo by Greg Eanes)

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Virginia VFW Continues Support for the National Guard

VFW Virginia State Headquarters

Did you know the Virginia Army National Guard has a unit that runs rock quarries and, as part of their training, they make their own crush and run for Fort Pickett's 200 miles of roads? It is a platoon sized unit and one of only four in the Army which runs a quarry, one of only three on an Army base.

We learned this and more with our visit to Ft. Pickett for their Fall Festival in late September. Our 4th District team provided cooks, grills, tents, and drinks while the State headquarters provided a grant to help fund it and a Service Officer to talk about veteran's benefits.

Grants like this are available from both the National and State Headquarters and are meant to compliment additional funds your Post and Auxiliary put forward through your Relief Fund. Already this year the State Headquarters has provided three grants for military units. Contact State Headquarters for more information.



SportClips Raises Money for VFW Help-A-Hero Scholarship

By Ken Wiseman, State Adjutant / Quartermaster

While you can get your hair cut anywhere and while other places may also offer a discount, only SportClips offers VFW members a discount AND donates to the VFW's Help-a-Hero scholarship!

"I always say we should support those who support us and that's why I stopped at store VA 609 in Charlottesville to donate \$100 towards their efforts" said State Adj/QM Ken Wiseman. "SportClips has a long history of supporting the VFW and this is an awesome way to help veterans succeed" Ken added.

Having helped nearly 1,500 veterans, the program is a massive success with veterans being able to get as much as \$5,000 per scholarship with no limit to how many times they can get it. One veteran received the scholarship four times to help pay for his law degree and several veterans in Virginia have received help.

Gordon Logan, the President of SportClips and a lifetime member of the VFW, started the program as his next step in support veterans and the VFW. Previously, SportClips helped by funding phone calls home for troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait. As the need for those call centers ended, Logan and his team committed to continuing their support. Last year, SportClips raised \$1.25 million dollars for the program.



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Auxiliary National President Haake Visits Virginia

VFW State Headquarters

We are extremely honored to have Auxiliary National President Peggy Haake as our guest. She toured the National D-Day memorial, as shown in the picture, as part of a larger tour. The tour also included a visit with veterans in a care facility, a flag ceremony, and visits with members.

Peggy, who is from Hawaii, has been visiting all 50 states and was in Virginia for four days.



National Auxiliary President Peggy Haake (center) visits with Virginia VFW and Auxiliary members at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA.



VA Sending Letters to those Denied Bluewater Navy Benefits

By Ken Wiseman, Assistant State Service Officer

With the passage of the Bluewater Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, as many as 90,000 veterans previously denied and thousands more who have become sick from Agent Orange exposure will finally get their benefits. As soon as the President signed the bill, VA halted any processing of those claims until January 1st, 2020. The VFW opposed that halting but the time is soon to end and those impacted veterans should file their claims.

14 conditions are currently connected to Agent Orange as listed in federal law. Those conditions are known as the “presumptive list” of conditions. Veterans will still need to submit evidence and medical records, but these claims will be much easier to win because of the new law and the presumptive list.

Veterans previously denied for Bluewater Navy benefits will be getting a letter from the VA encouraging them to file again. This is a real letter and it should be taken seriously. That letter is also evidence as the law included a provision that those veterans previously denied will get retroactive payments to the date of their previous denial.

The change of the law also added other benefits. Those veterans exposed to Agent Orange on the Korean DMZ will have an earlier start date for the period that is known to have seen service members exposed to the dangerous chemical. Also, children of those veterans stationed in Thailand will now be included for Spina Bifida coverage. The birth defect, which is the only one a father can pass to their child and one of several a mother can pass because of Agent Orange exposure, includes all types of the condition except Spina Bifida Occulta.

The fight continues for those veterans who were stationed in Thailand. Also, the VFW remains committed to adding more conditions to the presumptive list as science indicates.

Those veterans seeking to file for VA benefits should ask for help from a VFW Service Officer. The VFW has offices in Hopewell, Staunton, Dale City, and Norfolk.

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Pres Marcia Semones- Dept. Cdr Raskin

Snapshots

Washington Conference VOD



So Conf (VFW Mtg) attendees



National Senior Vice Commander in Chief Hal Roesch



Dept. Cdr Raskin-Mitch Rubenstein (7 Dist Cdr)



So Conf Aux Install (Blk) Kathy Birch (Vice President)



Dept. Cdr R. Raskin-Mitch Rubenstein (7 Dist Cdr)- NCM B. Gimble- NCM T. Gimble

Snapshots

Southern Conference 2019

Banquet



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Southern Conference 2019

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Meetings



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Southern Conference 2019

Meetings



Snapshots Southern Conference 2019 Meetings



Eagle Scout Honored

(From Page 1)



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Gary Adams for State Surgeon

Hello, I'm Gary Adams from Grover King Post 1115 in Hillsville, and I wish to be State Surgeon 2020-21. I have been Quartermaster of one of the larger posts since 2015, and I've been involved in District 9 for 3 years now. I understand a lot of what make a post operate, and the dynamics of the membership. Please consider me for your Surgeon next June. I will work hard for you, and do my best to live up to your expectations.

Remember: it will be a lot easier, if none of you run against me.

Gary Adams

Quartermaster

District 9 CDR

Department Inspector

VFW Achievements

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All State Post Quartermaster 2015-16 / 2017-18-19

All American Post Quartermaster 2015-16

District Quartermaster 2016 – to 2019

District VOD, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year Chairman 2016-2019

District Scout of the Year Chairman 2017-2019

All State District Quartermaster 2018-19

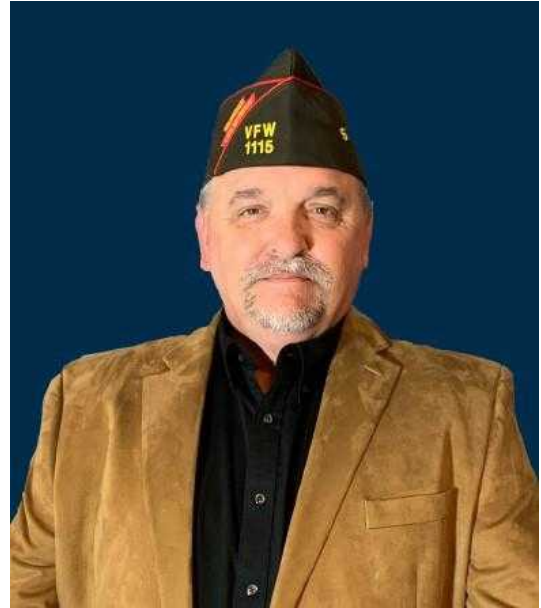
Dept. Honor Guard 2017- Present

Dept. Membership Committee 2017-Present

Dept. Time and Place Committee 2018-19

Dept. Audit Committee 2017-18 / 2019-20

Dept. Legislative Committee 2019-20



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Junior Sailor of the Quarter NOSC Greensboro, NC 2011

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Iraqi Campaign Medal

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