

APRIL

2024

MAIL CALL

23-24 GENERAL ORDER-10 PAGE 4

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR POSTS AND DISTRICTS

CONDUCT BUDDY CHECKS ON COMRADES AND VETERANS YOU HAVEN'T SEEN OR HEARD FROM IN AWHILE

23-24 STATE COMMANDER
RONALD K. "RON" DELANEY

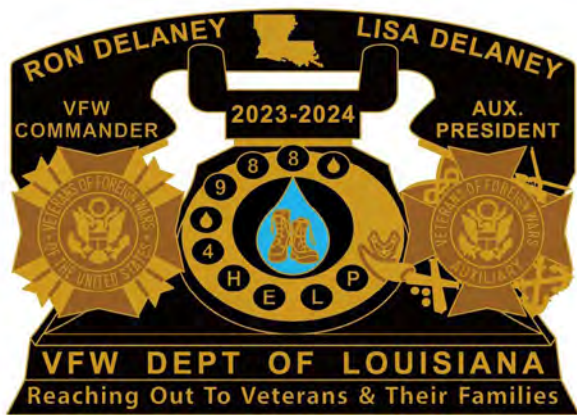


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover	page 1
Table of Contents	page 2
State Commander's Message	page 3
23-24 General Orders-08	page 4
VFW Programs Deadline Dates	page 5
Commander's Challenge	page 6
April Calender & Dates to Remember	page 7
District Meetings Schedule	pages 8-10
Future National Convention Dates	page 10
State Sr. Vice Commander's Seeks Higher Office	page 11
State Jr. Vice Commander's Message	page 12
State Adjutant's Message	page 13
National Committeemen Corner	pages 14-16
Legislative Priorities	pages 17-20
Surgeon Message	pages 20
Surgeon Arends Seeking Higher Office	page 21
VFW Foundation (Grants for Post)	page 22
Women Veterans Conferences	pages 523-24
2023 Buddy Poppy Order Form (updated)	page 25

STATE OFFICERS MESSAGES

Ronald K. "Ron" Delaney, State Commander	Post 4588
Debbie McElhannon, Senior Vice Commander	Post 9854
James M. Prestenback, Junior Vice Commander	Post 3665
Elvin "Ray" Bass, State Quartermaster	Post 3337
Mitchell R. "Mitch" Cota, State Adjutant	Post 7286

contact: adj@vfwdola.org

*Editor Mail Call/Louisiana Combat Veteran
 State Historian*

Sharee M. Arends, State Surgeon	Post 5951
David Fields, State Chaplain	Post 5951

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

DUANE T. SARMIENTO

MEET THE CHALLENGE



2023-2024



**STATE CONVENTION 2024
 JUNE 27 - 30, 2024**

THE HOTEL BENTLEY
 200 Desoto Street
 Alexandria, LA 70131



**NATIONAL CONVENTION 2024
 JULY 27 - AUGUST 1, 2024**

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
 Housing opens 3/18/24
 Closes 6/10/24

**COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION 2024
 AUGUST 9 - 11, 2024**

THE HOTEL BENTLEY
 200 Desoto Street
 Alexandria, LA 70131

**MID-WINTER CONFERENCE 2025
 JANUARY 23 - 26, 2025**

THE HOTEL BENTLEY
 200 Desoto Street
 Alexandria, LA 70131

STATE COMMANDER MESSAGE

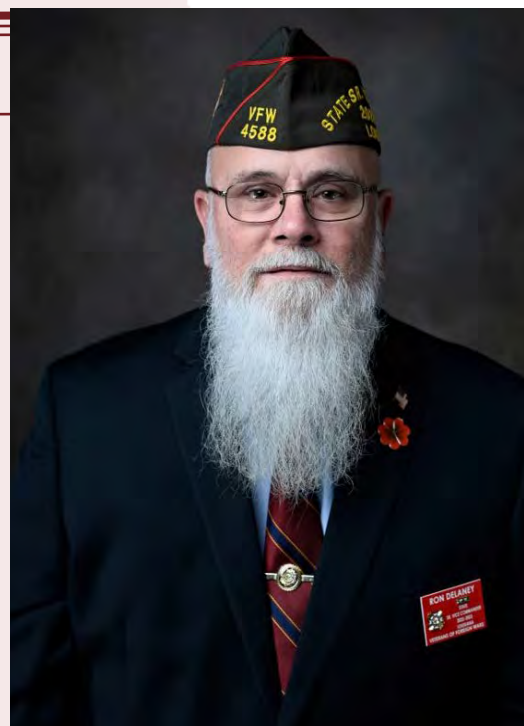
Greetings Comrades,

I have been invited to many Post and District Americanism Award Programs and while they were each unique, they all had a common theme of VFW & Auxiliary members taking time to recognize students, teachers and schools who participated in our programs. Hearing the essays and seeing the art restored my faith in PATRIOTISM among our country's youth. It was evident the Department VOD winners made friendships and bonds that have enhanced their "horizons". Many VFW's combined their Americanism Award ceremonies with the Safety Awards for Law Enforcement, EMS, and Dispatchers. It is extremely rewarding to know the VFW plays such an active role in recognizing our first responders, students and teachers.

What an honor it was to represent Louisiana in Washington DC last month. It was also a special privilege to escort our VOD state winner while in DC. A total of 13 VFW and Auxiliary members from Louisiana made the trip. We met with our Legislators to discuss the importance of VFW Priority Goals. During the trip we had the pleasure of touring the Capitol. My compliments to Matt West as our Legislative Chairman for the great job he has done staying in close contact with our congressional delegates and keeping us informed with detailed reports. He also made special arrangements for a few of us to have coffee with the speaker of House Mike Johnson. It was an enjoyable and more importantly a successful Legislative Conference.

One of my top priorities within our State is Reaching Out to Our Veterans through Buddy Checks. The importance of calling on our members is immeasurable. Through the calling efforts we learn if our comrades are in need and how we can help them. Sometimes the call alone serves as an important contact as it lets our members know we care.

As a State, we need to concentrate on membership. It is critical to recruit new members while working on retaining our annual members. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization and is necessary to continue the VFW mission. It is important for every



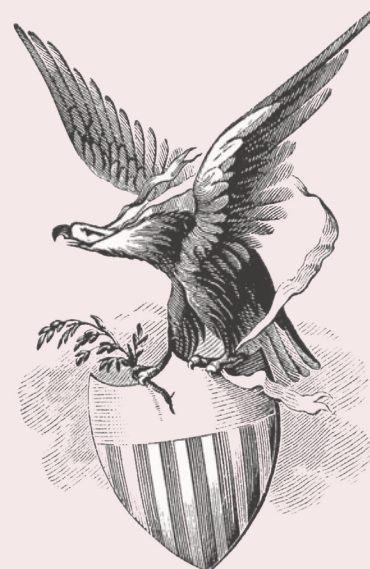
RON DELANEY
Air Force - Post 4588

member to contribute to our membership goals.

I am very proud of the leadership we already have in Louisiana. If you are considering serving the VFW in a leadership role at any level, I encourage you to get involved and help make a positive difference. There have been ups and downs throughout my year as Commander and some very difficult "goodbyes" for comrades who received their final call. All in all it had been extremely rewarding.

Thank you for all you do while "Reaching Out To Our Veterans and Their Families".

Ron Delaney
State Commander



ONLY PAGE 4- IS TO BE READ AT MEETINGS THEN POSTED

Please share Mail Call with Post Members by EMAIL.

MANDATORY:

General Orders: All material in the State General Orders is directive in nature and will be read to the membership at the Post regular membership meetings each month. **Some of these have remained the same and will remain for a while longer to instill their importance to our order. New Items will be added to the General Order and will have some highlighted in Red areas.**

1. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 222 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, which provides that each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee. Posts are encouraged to register their Post delegate(s) online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or by submitting their National Convention Post and Delegate Registration form that will be mailed to all Posts as part of the Election Report/Convention Registration mailing going out later this month. Registration forms for the 124th National Convention may be mailed to: Convention Registration, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.
2. Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers. Post Election Report forms are being mailed to Post Quartermasters with instructions that they complete the form online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or they can complete the form and return directly to National Headquarters immediately following the election of Post Officers but not later than June 1.
3. Section 222 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure provides that delegates and alternates for the District Convention and meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post as of March 31.
4. Pursuant to Section 403 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, each District shall hold an annual District Convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention. Pursuant to Section 403 of the National Bylaws – Regular Meeting, Districts shall hold at least two (2) regular meetings each year for purposes of transacting business and conducting schools of instruction. Pursuant to Section 417 of the National Manual of Procedure, District officers shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed. District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed in accordance with Section 416 of the Manual of Procedure.
5. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 (a)(11) of the National Manual of Procedure, Officers: Duties and Obligations. Trustees Report of Audit must be prepared in detail within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, one of which ends March 31.

BY COMMAND OF
RONALD K. "RON" DELANEY
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:



Mitchell R. Cota, PSC
State Adjutant

VFW PROGRAMS DEADLINE DATES

Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award

- *October 31, Entries to the Post
- November 15, Completion of Post judging
- December 15, Completion of District judging
- *February 1, Department winners and reports due to National (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention presentation)

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen

- *October 31, Student entries to the Post
- November 15, Completion of Post judging
- December 15, Completion of District judging
- January 10, Completion of Department judging
- January 15, District participation reports due to Department Chairmen
- *January 15, Department winners due to National
- *January 31, Department reports due to National

Scout of the Year

- *March 1, Scout entries to the Post
- *April 1, Post entries to Department Scouting Chairman or Department HQs
- *May 1, Department entry to National from Department Scouting Chairman or Department HQs

Community Service

- *April 30, Post Special Project & Fred C. Hall Award Submission (Department to National)
- *April 30, National Outstanding Community Service Post Submission(s) (Department to National)
- *June 30, Community Service Reports Deadline

Public Servant National Award (Law Enforcement, Firefighter, Emergency Services)

- January 1, Nominations due (from Post to Department)
- *February 1, (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention presentation), Nominations due from Department to National

National Certificate of Recognition

- April 1 (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention presentation), List due to National from Department

****Required deadline (by VFW National Headquarters.) All other deadlines are suggested, and can be internally set at the discretion of the VFW Department leadership. Post Chairmen, be sure to communicate with your District Chairmen to find out their official deadlines, and District Chairmen need to communicate with their Department Chairmen to find out their deadlines.***

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE WINNERS

March's Commander's Challenge saw some incredible membership growth across the board, and we are proud to recognize the Departments below as having led their divisions in membership percentage! Each of these Departments will receive a championship belt to recognize this achievement, and will progress to the championship bracket!

Division 1: Virginia, 97.97%
Division 2: Washington, 97.31%
Division 3: South Carolina, 100.29%
Division 4: Arkansas, 103.08%
Division 5: Montana, 102.74%
Division 6: Utah, 99.17%

In addition, the Commander-in-Chief had a challenge to all Departments, that any Department finishing March above 97% would receive a commemorative ring.

Those Departments are:
Arkansas, Montana, Pacific Areas,
South Carolina, Utah, Alaska, Europe,
Virginia, Nevada, and Washington

And as a further incentive, Departments who increased their membership by at least 2% during March will receive a cash bonus deposited into the Department account.

Those Departments are:
Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut,
Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky,
Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana,
New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico,
South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Europe

We had a lot going on in March, and we're going to see that continue on through the rest of the year through consistent effort and we are going to hit that 102% goal, proving to the world that
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 District Meetings D-2, D-3, D-5 D-8, and D-9
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
		Notes				

April 1 - Scout of the Year Post entries to District or Department. Check with your Department scouting Chairman to confirm where entries should be sent.

April 1 - Deadline for National Post Recognition Citation request to National

April 15 - Patriots' Day - Commemorates the first battles of the American Revolution

April 21-27 - National Volunteer Week

April 28 - Employer of the Year deadline

April 28 - VFW Member of the Year deadline

April 30 - VFW Special Projects entry due to National

April 30 - VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" application period for fall semester ends

April 30 - National Outstanding Community Service Post due to National

DISTRICT MEETINGS

District Meeting/Workshop	District Meeting/Workshop	District Convention
<p>District 2 August 26, 2023</p> <p>District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3267 1133 Hickory Ave., Harahan, LA 70123 Registration 9am Meetings 10am</p>	<p>District 2 January 13, 2024 REP - St Adj Cota</p> <p>District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3750--- 140 Angus Dr., Luling, LA 70070 Registration 9am Meetings 10am</p>	<p>District 2 April 20, 2024 REP - St Cdr Delaney</p> <p>District Convention</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3750 140 Angus Dr., Luling, LA 70070 Registration 9am Meetings 10am</p>
<p>District 3 August 26, 2023</p> <p>School of Instruction</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 5097 1004 Tiger Dr., Thibodaux, LA 70302 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>	<p>District 3 January 13, 2024 REP - SJVC Prestenback</p> <p>Business/Awards</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 5097 1004 Tiger Dr., Thibodaux, LA 70302 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>	<p>District 3 April 20, 2024 REP - SJVC Prestenback</p> <p>Business/Elections</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 5097 1004 Tiger Dr., Thibodaux, LA 70302 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>
<p>District 4 August 19, 2023</p> <p>Workshop Following C of A</p> <p>Meeting place: Post 9822 120 VFW Road, Duson, LA 70529 Registration - 9:00 a.m. Joint Opening - 10:00 a.m. Lunch - 12:00 p.m. VFW/Aux Business Session - 1 pm</p>	<p>District 4 November 18, 2023</p> <p>Programs</p> <p>Meeting place: Post 4158 102 Jimmy C Vorhoff Jr Dr. Abbeville LA 70510 Registration - 9:00 a.m. Joint Opening - 10:00 a.m. Lunch - 12:00 p.m. VFW/Aux Business Session - 1 pm</p> <p>District 4 February 10, 2024 REP - SSVC McElhannon</p> <p>Mid-Year Update/Awards</p> <p>Meeting place: Post 1982 1907 Jefferson Terrace Blvd., New Iberia, LA 70562 Registration - 9:00 a.m. Joint Opening - 10:00 a.m. Lunch - 12:00 p.m. VFW/Aux Business Session - 1 pm</p>	<p>District 4 May 4th REP - PSC Wesley</p> <p>Elections</p> <p>Meeting place: Post 4158 102 Jimmy C Vorhoff Jr Dr. Abbeville LA 70510 Registration - 9:00 a.m. Joint Opening - 10:00 a.m. Lunch - 12:00 p.m. VFW/Aux Business Session - 1 pm</p>

DISTRICT MEETINGS

<p style="text-align: center;">District 5 September 9, 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3802 5416 Hwy 27 S., De Quincy, LA 70633 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$?)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 5 November 12, 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 9854 2292 Highway 109 S, Vinton, LA 70668 Registration 1pm Sessions start at 2pm. Lunch 12pm. (\$?)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 5 April 20, 2024 <i>REP - St. Surgeon Arends</i> District Convention</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 7321 2668 Hwy 171 North, Lake Charles, LA 70611 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$?)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">District 7 August 19, 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 8971 3809 Highway 190, Eunice, LA 70535 Registration 9am. Meeting start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 7 October 28, 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 2484 123 N Liberty St., Opelousas, LA 70570 Registration 9am. Meeting start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 7 May 18, 2024 <i>REP - St Cdr Delaney</i> District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 5153 1020 VFW Drive, Arnaudville, LA 70512 Registration 9am. Meeting start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">District 8 September 9, 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3784 13214 S Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge LA 70815 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$7)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 8 January 13, 2024 <i>REP - SSVC McElhannon</i> District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3693 42430 Church Point Rd., Gonzales, LA 70737 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$7)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 8 April 20, 2024 <i>REP - SSVC McElhannon</i> Nomination and Elections</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 4224 3215 Ben Williams Lane, Baker, LA 70714 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$7)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">District 9 September 16, 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 8290 28000 Main St., Lacombe, LA 70445 Registration 9am Sessions start at 10am Breakout 11am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 9 February 3, 2024 <i>REP - St Adj Cota</i> District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3652 15800 Demarco Lane., Hammond, LA 70403 Registration 9am Sessions start at 10am Breakout 11am meeting dates changed due to weather</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 9 April 20, 2024 <i>REP - St Adj Cota</i> District Convention</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 8720 21470 Mire Dr., Abita Springs, LA 70420 Registration 9am Sessions start at 10am Breakout 11am</p>

DISTRICT MEETINGS

District 10 September 16, 2023 District Meeting Meetings place: Post 3841 2471 Leglise St., Mansura, LA 71350 Registration 10am Sessions start at 10:30am Lunch 12pm. (\$10 Donation)	District 10 February 17, 2024 <i>REP - SSVC McElhannon</i> District Meeting Meetings place: Post 8852 2419 3rd St., Alexandria, LA 71302 Registration 10am Sessions start at 10:30am Lunch 12pm. (\$10 Donation)	District 10 May 25, 2024 <i>REP - St Cdr Delaney</i> District Meeting Meetings place: Post 3139 412 Elmo S., Marksville, LA 71351 Registration 10am Sessions start at 10:30am Lunch 12pm. (\$10 Donation)
District 11 August 26, 2023 District Meeting Meeting place: Post 5442 (Farmerville) 100 Hudson Rd., Farmerville LA 71241 Registration/meet & greet 10:30am Meeting 11am:	District 11 January 13, 2024 <i>REP - St Cdr Delaney</i> District Meeting Meeting place: Post 3615 (Ruston) 200 E. Mississippi Ave., Ruston LA 71270 Registration/meet & greet 10:30am Meeting 11am:	District 11 May 11, 2024 <i>REP - SSVC McElhannon</i> District Convention Meeting place: Post 1809 (Monroe) 1499 Highway 594, Monroe LA 71203 Registration/meet & greet 10:30am Meeting 11am:
District 12 September 9, 2023 District Meeting Meetings place: Post 5187 860 Dahlia Vines St., Zwolle, LA 71486 Registration 9am Lunch (\$10)	District 12 January 20, 2024 <i>REP - St Cdr Delaney</i> District Meeting Meetings place: Post 4588 1004 Jeter St., Bossier City, LA 71111 Registration 9am Lunch (\$10)	District 12 May 11, 2024 <i>REP - St Cdr Delaney</i> District Convention Meetings place: Post 5951 1315 Northgate Road, Bossier City, LA 71112 Registration 9am Lunch (\$10)

FUTURE NATIONAL DATES TO REMEMBER

July 27 - August 1, 2024 - National Convention, Louisville, KY

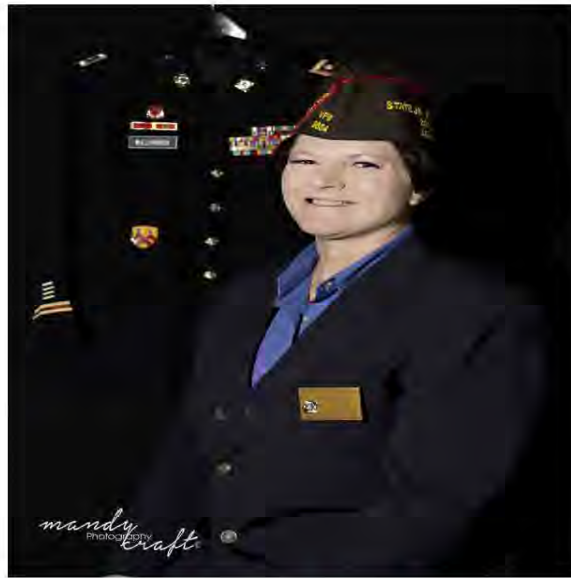
August 9 -14, 2025 - National Convention, Columbus, OH

August 15 - 20, 2026 - National Convention, Salt Lake City, UT

July 31 - August 54, 2027 - National Convention, Milwaukee, WI

August 5 - 10, 2028 - National Convention, San Antonio, TX

SEEKING HIGHER OFFICE



Elect Debbie McElhannon 2024-2025 State Commander Dept of LA

VFW Accomplishments	Goals
<p>Joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in 2004 Transferred to Harrington-LeBouef VFW Post 9854 in Vinton, LA 2012 Post 9854 Junior Vice CDR 2012 Post 9854 Commander 2013 – 2015, 2017-2023 Department Chairman for Americanism 2013-15, 2022-23 Department Chairman for Patriot’s Pen 2017-2022 All State Post Commander 2019, 2020, and 2021 Co-chairman for Women Veterans 2019-2022, 2023 All American Post Commander 2021 District 5 Commander 2021, 2022 All State District Commander 2021 All American District Commander 2021 Dept of LA Junior Vice CDR 2022-2023 Dept of LA Senior Vice CDR 2023-2024</p>	<p>Keep Louisiana on top of the Departments within the National Organization and continue to increase in membership.</p> <p>Remember our promise of helping Veterans and partner with other organizations to increase our ability to help veterans.</p> <p>Communicate with all members of the organization to work as a team to provide service to veterans and our communities.</p> <p>Mentor members to become VFW leaders.</p> <p>Encourage Comrades to sponsor fun events to promote camaraderie and mental wellness.</p>

STATE JR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Comrades,

I hope everyone had a great Easter Holiday weekend!

It was an eye-opening experience attending the VFW National Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. You really learn the inner workings of the VFW on Veteran Legislation issues. Our Legislative team works hard behind the scenes on Veteran issues. Veteran Legislation is a big part of what we do! Our team met with Louisiana Representatives, Senators, or their staff to push the following VFW Legislative Priorities: HR 1139/S 740 GUARD VA Benefits Act; HR 4157/S 928 Not Just a Number Act; HR 3933/S 2888 TAP Promotion Act and HR 1282/S 344 Major Richard Star Act. We will continue to advocate for Veterans who cannot advocate for themselves. No One Does More For Veterans.

Recruit, Educate and Mentor!

Post nominations and elections are held this month. Looking forward to working with our 2024-2025 Leadership. Remember to submit your election reports to National as soon as possible. I also look forward to attending upcoming District Conventions!

Let's finish this year strong! Reach out to those Unpaid or Expired members and have them renew their annual dues. We can do this!

Thanks for being a member of this Great Organization!

LEAD FROM THE FRONT!

James M. Prestenback
State Junior Vice Commander



JAMES M. PRESTENBACK
Army - Post 3665

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 27 - 30, 2024 - State Convention
Alexandria, LA
- July 27 - August 1, 2024 - National
Convention, Louisville, KY
- August 9 - 11, 2024 - C of A Conference
Alexandria, LA
- January 23 - 26, 2025 - Mid-Winter
Conference, Alexandria, LA
- June 26 - 29, 2025 - State Convention
Alexandria, LA
- August 9 - 14, 2025 - National Convention
Columbus, OH
- August 22 - 24, 2025 - C of A Conference
Alexandria, LA
- January 22 - 25, 2026, Mid-Winter
Conference, Alexandria, LA

STATE ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

Comrades,

Election Season is still upon us for the 24-25 VFW year. April and May are the months where each Post and District chooses their new leadership teams.

As each Post and District will be voting on their new leaders or old ones, I hope that the newly elected and reelected officers tackle their positions with passion, keeping our Department moving forward in its programs, membership, and enthusiasm for helping veterans, their families, and serving our communities.

Remember, as newly elected or reelected Commanders, it is your responsibility to set the pace for your Post activities and events. To include membership and buddy poppy drives and letting your communities know about our programs and benefits for students, first responders, active duty service members, and veterans joining our ranks of those of other VSO's.

Our biggest obstacle in membership is attracting our younger veterans. I have been working for the past three months talking to younger veterans and seeing what they are looking for as they consider membership in organizations like the VFW and get just about the same answer from them! They would like to belong but the time driving to, time participating in in-person meetings and then driving home is time they can be spending with their families. Online meetings, like Zoom or some other kind of Online meeting service, would work better for them.

I know a few current and potential members who are considering making the move to an Online Post, where most if not all would-be members would call in to a Zoom meeting.

In Tangipahoa Parish, there is only one Post in Hammond. We once had parishes with multiple Posts in them. Now, most parishes in the State have only one with no Post to cover the rest of the area within its borders. This leaves many schools, home school children, and first responders without any Post to sponsor them for awards. My plans are to start an Online Post in one parish. If we are successful with



MITCHELL R. "MITCH" COTA, PSC
Air Force - Post 7286

the first Online Post in Louisiana, then we can go parish by parish assessing where to place the next one.

Times have changed along with these new and different generations of veterans. How they think and how they communicate today is so different than the veterans of the 20th Century and in some cases the first decade of this century. There is a world of tech.

We must change for them or lose the organization we love and have worked so hard to make stronger.

In the 1920's, our first Department Commander Samuel Haas used the old and new technologies he had at the time, the telegraph and telephone, and brought our Department from 10 Posts in 1931 to 25 Posts at the close of the term in 1932.

I believe we can do better with the technologies we have at our finger tips if we are only brave enough to try them and change with the times to attract the younger veterans.

I am willing to try. Who's with me?

"Respectfully working in comradeship for veterans and never running away from a challenge."

PSC Mitchell R. Cota, State Adjutant

COMMITTEEMEN CORNER

Good Morning Commanders,

I hope all of you had a good Easter and spent quality time with family and friends. Now to finish up this VFW Year strong and continue to climb that National Membership Ladder one step at a time. Like the old story goes: How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.....so lets continue those Buddy Checks and contacting your Expired and Unpaid members. When recruiting do the right thing and make sure that the individuals present proof of eligibility and that they are voted on by the Post Membership prior to them being put into OMS. Integrity First and you will gain more respect than taking short cuts!!!!

Remember housing for the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Ky is open. Go to VFW.org and fill out your housing request, Louisiana will be hosting a Hospitality Room on Sunday and Monday, if you are going to the Convention and wish to help out let myself or Debbie McElhannon know. Also AG Dan West has stated in his comments that the Columbus, Oh Convention will be one day shorter as voted on by the Council in March at our meeting.

From the Office of the Adjutant General

We have started some social media advertising to raise awareness of the VFW and what we do as an organization. The first day we had 75,000 likes. If you cannot find the ad in your feed, you can always go to the VFW Facebook Page and find it there. Please watch, share, and leave a comment on what you, your Post, District or Department is doing.

We are also working on preparations for the implementation meeting April 14-17, held here in Kansas City for the 2024-2025 year that includes programs and budgetary projections. Immediately after the implementation meeting the Bylaws Study group will meet April 17-19, to discuss Bylaws being proposed by the Commander-in-Chief and other National Officers. Once that ends, we will kick off with the Department Senior Vice Commanders and Incoming Adjutants training April 18-21.

We have also gone through and readjusted some of our scheduled dates for Sr. Vice training in 2025 so it is not over Easter weekend as well as moving Jr. Vice training dates in 2024 and 2025 to not overlap with one or more conference meeting dates. These are reflected on the new calendars that went out with April National Headquarters Bulletin.



ROBERT "BOBBY" LOVERGNE, PSC
National Committee Member
Air Force - Post 3750

Most of you already know that we have also added a Department Adjutant/Quartermaster only training that will start in September of the 2024-2025 year. After this year there will no longer be a combined training and this change will save the organization approximately \$25,000.00+/-.

We have also started our preparations for the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky celebrating 125 years of service to veterans. Two key changes for the convention in Columbus, Ohio for 2026, is that it will be one day less per vote of the National Council of Administration at the recent Washington Conference which is expected to save the organization approximately \$100,000,00+/- . Next year as we are celebrating a milestone of 125 years incoming Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt has asked for us to prepare for a formal banquet to celebrate and recognize the occasion, more details about this will come out at some point in the future.

Dan West
Adjutant General

Programs

- VFW Combat Tested Gaming Update: Season 3 registration is now open! For more information about Combat Tested Gaming leagues or to register, visit <https://vfwgaming.com/>.

One option is to sign up as a team if you have a full team ready to roll. The other is to sign up individually on one of our free-agent teams. If you go the free-agent route, we monitor those teams and will set the team as private once it's full. From there, we will email everyone and ask for an email response to confirm you are in to play. If we do not get a response, you will be removed from the team to open up the spot for a new player.

We are currently nearing 1,000 veteran gamers. Please share this and help us continue to grow.

- VFW National Convention 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament:

Please support the 2nd annual VFW Cornhole Tournament taking place at the 125th VFW National Convention in Louisville!

The series will take place on Sunday, July 28, and Monday, July 29, 2024. All proceeds from the competition go to VFW PACT Act benefit assistance. For more information and to sign up for this event, which was an instant hit last year in Phoenix, visit <https://kccrew.com/leagues/vfwcornholetournament/>.

We need board sponsors and tons of teams from our membership. Please share this far and wide and support our amazing NVS PACT Act initiatives.

Contact: VFW Programs Director Lynn W. Rolf, III, LRolf@vfw.org.

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 48 Posts under suspension, one of which is new. There is one pending Post consolidation pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,647 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 18 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 12 Administrative Removals/Actions and 11 membership eligibility challenges.
- Currently Administrative Operations has 121 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 22 of which are new; current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 45-60 days.

Disciplinary Action Guide:

There have been recent updates to the Disciplinary Action Guide that outlines the process to successfully complete a disciplinary action. We have included information to the guide that encompasses sentencing guidelines which is located as an appendix at the end of the guide and outlines sentencing/penalty considerations, clarifications, and examples.

The guide is available on the Document Repository in the "Guide to Disciplinary Action" folder or on the VFW website behind the login under My VFW/Bylaws: Train-

ing, Forms & Templates/ Training/Training Guides & Standard Operating Procedures.

Department Inspections:

At the beginning of the 2023-2024 term, we planned for a total of 10 Department inspections. At this time a total of eight Department inspections have been completed with two scheduled and pending. All inspections will be completed by the end of April, at which time we will compile an updated list of common issues and best practices.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Quentin Carroll at QCarroll@vfw.org.

Election Reports:

2024-2025 Election reports have been mailed out. Per the Bylaws and Manual of Procedures, Posts should be opening nominations for the upcoming year in March and closing the nominations and electing the Post officers in April. To access the election report online; sign in to VFW.org and proceed to My VFW. Select Online Membership System (OMS), then press the drop-down menu on the left side of the screen for Election Report and select Post Election Report Filing.

The 2024-25 Election Report will be available in OMS on April 1, 2024. Please ensure when you file your Election Report for the new term that you have selected 2024-25 from the drop-down option as OMS will typically default to the current term.

NOTE: The National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure require a properly completed Election Report for the ensuing year to be submitted to Department and National Headquarters by June 1, 2024.

Contact: VFW Administrative Operations Director Quentin Carroll, QCarroll@vfw.org.

Membership:

- Are your Posts engaging their membership? Join us on Monday, April 8, at 2:00 p.m. CST for another edition of Membership Monday where we will discuss the topic "Engaging your Membership." We'll be focusing on best practices for retaining Post members and planning activities to engage and attract members to the Post. Look for the Zoom link on the Membership Facebook Page.
- Looking for a pro tip to use in your discussions around membership and growing the VFW? Check out Veterans Data Central, a tremendous online data tool that produces easy to read statistics on your state and county veterans to include population numbers. This site is easy to navigate and should be consulted when considering strategic recruiting and retention efforts.
- How familiar are you with OMS? Are you able to answer common questions from your Districts such as: "Where do I find my Post's MEMSTATS?" or "How do I check a Post's All-American Dashboard?" Do you know how to view and use your KPI Tools? If these are ques-

tions you cannot answer, chances are good there are leaders in your Districts that can't either. If you need help in this arena, call us! We will help you!

- Need recruiting training/resources?! If you have a topic for training, we would love to hear from you! Contact us by emailing, Membership@vfw.org. Follow our Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/VFW-membership>

National Legislative Service:

- House Subcommittee Hearing on Pending Legislation: VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director Kristina Keenan testified at a hearing on pending legislation before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. Among the proposals was the expansion of eligibility for the VA Home Loan Guaranty program to members of the National Guard and Reserves who have performed active duty for training, and the addition of co-op housing units to this program. Keenan also expressed support for key provisions of proposed legislation to improve service member transition. She stated, "The VFW strongly supports the provisions that would improve the transition to VA, including requiring accredited claims representatives be included in the Transition Assistance Program. This would enable service members to have a point of contact to begin their pre-separation claim. We also support the bill's inclusion of pre-enrollment in VA medical care during transition. This would provide veterans with their earned benefits the day they leave the military." Read the testimony or watch the hearing, which begins at the 12:27 mark.

- VFW Testimony on VA Notice Letters: VFW National Veterans Service Director Michael Figlioli testified at a hearing of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on the need for simplifying VA's disability claims and appeals letters. In his written testimony, Figlioli explained that like the Veterans Benefits Administration, the Board of Veterans' Appeals also has its challenges with decision notices and explanations that can be too long and unclear. "Letters received by appellants are redundant in nature, generic in scope, and missing critical information specific to the appeal," he wrote. In his conclusion he offered, "The VFW is always willing to lend our assistance in making the claims process more seamless and accessible for all veterans, family members, and survivors. We are committed to working with VA across all departments and business lines to continue to develop notifications with a commonsense approach." Read the testimony or watch the hearing, which begins at the 11:16 mark.

- VFW Meets with Senior Enlisted Advisor: In his first visit since becoming the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, SEAC Troy E. Black joined VFW Washington Office directors for a candid

conversation about recruiting challenges, the meaning of service, transition, and veterans' issues. SEAC Black assumed his current post following his service as the 19th sergeant major of the Marine Corps.

Contact: VFW National Legislative Service Director Patrick Murray, PMurray@vfw.org.

National Veterans Service:

- NVS leadership met with Booze Allen Hamilton at the VFW Washington Office to discuss how Booze Allen Hamilton can help support NVS and VFW initiatives.
- NVS health team participated in the VHA Health Outcomes Military Exposures quarterly meeting.
- NVS health leadership participated in the National Veterans Business Council meeting.
- NVS health team attended a virtual discussion with the VetResources Community Network.
- NVS health and training leadership attended a Survivor Summit with USB.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at military bases around the country.
- NVS BDD team collaborated at a quarterly all-hands BDD team meeting.

Contact: VFW National Veterans Service Director Michael Figlioli, MFiglioli@vfw.org.

As you can see there are a lot of wheels in motion in our KC and DC offices working to get things right for all veterans, please keep up the push to climb that ladder and show the VFW World that Louisiana is here to stay and not going away anytime soon.

Robert "Bobby" Lovergne
National Council of Administration Member
Past Southern Conference Chairman
Past Department of Louisiana Commander
Department Budget Committee
West St Charles VFW Post 3750
(504) 251-5628

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEEMAN

Legislative Report March 2024

These are the key Topics from this month. Please read through these and let me know your thoughts on how we can continue to show Louisiana, that our Elected Officials are committed to our Veterans.

March 4th:

Senate Committee Hearing on Burial Benefits:

VFW National Veterans Service Director Michael Figlioli testified at a Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing on the National Cemetery Administration's job performance and customer satisfaction rating. "The National Cemetery Administration has consistently rated in the high 90 percentile in every American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey since 2015. It most recently achieved a 97 percent rating in 2022, which was the highest score ever achieved by any organization rated by ACSI," said Figlioli. He also called attention to the importance of being precise when honoring veterans' legacies. "We all served. We all went obediently to where we were told to fulfill whatever duties we had been assigned. The issue is about accuracy, not self-importance." Read the testimony or watch the hearing, which begins at the 21:09 mark.

Expanded VA Health Care: VA has announced that beginning on March 5, 2024, toxic-exposed veterans will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible, as well as veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the United States. This expansion comes after years of effort by Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Jon Tester and the passage of the PACT Act. In response to the announcement Tester said, "Generations of veterans answered the call to serve and came home changed, and it's our duty to ensure they have health care that meets their needs I'm glad to see VA announcing they will honor this nation's promise by expanding health care



MATTHEW J. WEST, PSC
Army - Post 3619

eligibility for toxic-exposed veterans immediately, rather than waiting for a years-long phase-in. This is exactly why we fought to pass the PACT Act — to expand health care access for millions of veterans without the red tape that has turned too many folks away in the past." Toxic -exposed veterans and survivors can apply today at va.gov/PACT or by calling 1-800-MYVA411.

VFW Washington Conference: The VFW conference in Washington, D.C., is taking place this year on March 3 – 7, during which hundreds of attendees will make sure veterans' voices are heard on Capitol Hill. Our National Legislative Committee members will lead their delegations, some including the 2024 VFW-SVA Fellows, to present our legislative priorities to members of Congress and their staffs. VFW National Commander Duane Sarmiento will testify before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs on Wednesday, March 6, at 10:00 a.m. EST. Watch the hearing.

Claim Shark Victims: Predatory unaccredited companies referred to as "Claim Sharks" coach veterans in filing VA disability claims with promises of increasing their ratings, while charging fees and taking a portion of the veterans' compensation. This is an illegal practice. Accredited Veterans Service Organizations like the VFW have service

officers who provide claims assistance to veterans free of charge, as is the law. If you or someone you know has been charged fees for VA claims assistance, please email us at vfw@vfw.org.

March 11th:

VFW National Commander Testifies Before Congress: VFW National Commander Duane Sarmiento testified before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs. The VFW delivered its top legislative priorities of cracking down on predatory claims companies, improving VA benefits data sharing for suicide prevention, including accredited claims representatives in transition assistance programs, and removing offsets from concurrent receipt policies. Sarmiento stated the VFW strongly supports the GUARD VA Benefits Act to reinstate penalties for charging veterans unauthorized fees for submitting VA claims, and explained that Claim Sharks are spending millions of dollars to lobby against this bill, which is stalling a federal fix. "It's distasteful that these Claim Sharks take money from veterans. But it's disgusting that they take money from survivors," Sarmiento said. Read the testimony or watch the hearing, which begins at the 7:39 mark.

Major Richard Star Act Press Conference: VFW Department of Montana Adjutant/Quartermaster Tim Peters spoke at a press conference on H.R. 1282/S. 344, Major Richard Star Act, alongside Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT); Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-12); Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID); Tonya Star, the widow of Major Richard Star; and other veteran advocates. "Our veterans cannot afford to continue losing their full earned military retirement pay because Congress insists on saving money at their expense," said Peters. "It is time to stop talking about this bill and get it done!" With consistent and overwhelming bipartisan and bicameral support, this legislation would permit combat injured and medically retired veterans with less than 20 years of service to receive their full earned retirement pay and disability compensation without reduction. The press conference was heavily attended by VFW members from across the nation, as it coincided with the annual VFW Washington Conference.

Representative Levin Receives VFW Congressional Award: The VFW presented its 2024 Congressional Award to Rep. Mike Levin (CA-49) for his outstanding service and years of unwavering support of veterans, service members, their families and survivors. "I am honored to present this award to such a staunch advocate for our military and veteran communities," said VFW National Commander Duane Sarmiento. "Representative Levin exemplifies the values of service and advocacy that we at the VFW strive to live every day. His propensity for and track record of working across the aisle to deliver results is remarkable." Levin is a staunch proponent of the GUARD VA Benefits Act that would protect veterans by eliminating predatory claims practices, and is one of the VFW's top legislative priorities.

VFW Department of New Jersey Accepts Award: The VFW presented its 2023-2024 National Legislative Service Award to VFW Department of New Jersey. The criteria for the award includes quality reporting of legislative activity, advocacy actions taken, and resulting accomplishments. The department was instrumental in the passage of a state law that makes it a violation of the Consumer Fraud Act for individuals to receive unlawful compensation for advising or assisting with veterans' benefits. This legislation safeguards veterans from fraud and Claim Sharks. VFW National Commander Duane Sarmiento presented the award to National Legislative Committee members Bill Thomson and Luddie Austin who accepted the award on behalf of the Department of New Jersey.

Vet the Vote: March 11-15 is National Civic Learning Week. Participate in this non-partisan event by registering to vote or checking your voter registration status. The program also provides volunteer opportunities for veterans and military families to support their local communities by becoming poll workers in time for election day. Learn more.

March 18th:

VFW-SVA Legislative Fellows on Capitol Hill: Six 2023/2024 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellows traveled to our nation's capital to participate in the VFW Washington Conference. Joining VFW delegations from their respective states, the fellows

met with key staffers and congressional members, including some who serve on the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs. The fellows focused their discussions on the VFW's support for H.R. 4157/S. 928, Not Just a Number Act, which aims to improve veteran suicide prevention. Pictured from top left to bottom right are:

- Terren Wise, Navy veteran, Brown University
- Jamie Springston, Navy veteran, Marshall University
- Jennifer Ray, Air Force veteran, Southwestern College
- Bryce Kyle, Army veteran, University of Texas – San Antonio
- Lyssa Losa, Army veteran, Texas A&M University – College Station
- Alexander Thymmons, Army veteran, University of Hawaii – Manoa (not pictured)

Celebrating Women Veterans: VFW Junior Vice Commander Carol Whitmore and National Legislative Deputy Director Kristina Keenan attended a women veterans event hosted by the White House Office of Public Engagement. A panel discussion on the Administration's work supporting women service members and veterans included VA Deputy Secretary Tanya Bradsher, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Defense Policy Jason Israel, Special Assistant to the President for Veterans Affairs Terri Tanielian, and Strategic Partnerships Project Director at Creative Forces Carolyn Bartley. Following the panel were poetry and storytelling performances by women veterans.

VA Trauma Coordinators: Military sexual trauma (MST) is sexual assault or harassment that occurs during military service. MST survivors can receive assistance from MST Coordinators at VA health facilities to connect with no-cost care. Community-based Vet Centers provide MST-related outpatient counseling and referral services in nonmedical settings.

March 25th:

House Subcommittee Hearing on Pending Legislation: VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Kristina Keenan testified at a hearing on pending legislation before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. Among the proposals was the expansion of eligi-

bility for the VA Home Loan Guaranty program to members of the National Guard and Reserves who have performed active duty for training, and the addition of co-op housing units to this program. Keenan also expressed support for key provisions of proposed legislation to improve service member transition. She stated, "The VFW strongly supports the provisions that would improve the transition to VA, including requiring accredited claims representatives be included in the Transition Assistance Program. This would enable service members to have a point of contact to begin their pre-separation claim. We also support the bill's inclusion of pre-enrollment in VA medical care during transition. This would provide veterans with their earned benefits the day they leave the military." Read the testimony or watch the hearing, which begins at the 12:27 mark.

VFW Testimony on VA Notice Letters: VFW National Veterans Service Director Michael Figlioli testified at a hearing of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on the need for simplifying VA's disability claims and appeals letters. In his written testimony, Figlioli explained that like the Veterans Benefits Administration, the Board of Veterans' Appeals also has its challenges with decision notices and explanations that can be too long and unclear. "Letters received by appellants are redundant in nature, generic in scope, and missing critical information specific to the appeal," he wrote. In his conclusion he offered, "The VFW is always willing to lend our assistance in making the claims process more seamless and accessible for all veterans, family members, and survivors. We are committed to working with VA across all departments and business lines to continue to develop notifications with a commonsense approach." Read the testimony or watch the hearing, which begins at the 11:16 mark.

VFW Meets with Senior Enlisted Advisor: In his first visit since becoming the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, SEAC Troy E. Black joined VFW Washington Office directors for a candid conversation about recruiting challenges, the meaning of service, transition, and veterans' issues. SEAC Black assumed his current post following his service as the 19th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

VFW Welcomes DPAA Principal Deputy Director: Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Principal Deputy Director Fern Sumpter Winbush provided a briefing on the status of the DPAA mission to VFW National Adjutant General Dan West and Kansas City Headquarters staff. Winbush emphasized the valued partnership between the two organizations. This meeting was one of several events leading up to the 2024 Kansas City Family Member Update, a periodic event designed to keep families of missing Americans informed about the mission, and to share information about their specific losses. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Blake Gonzales)

Respectfully,

Matthew J. West
Matthew J. West
VFW, Department of Louisiana
National Legislative Committee
Member 2020-2026

SURGEON'S MESSAGE

Greeting Comrades,

I hope everyone had a Blessed Easter holiday! It was good to see all of those who came to celebrate Commander and President Delaney at their St. Patrick's Day Testimonial.

As we move into Spring, we also move into the nominations and elections of our officers. Please remember to make sure you have all the necessary documentation for those you elect to office.

Also, with Spring bringing storms, please be mindful and always aware of the weather. Make sure you have your preparations in place and your safe location in your homes.

As always, I look forward to the next time we all see each other!

Stay safe and healthy each, and every day!



SHAREE' ARENDS
Air Force - Post 5951

V/R

Sharee' Arends
VFW, Department of Louisiana
Surgeon

SEEKING HIGHER OFFICE



Elect Sharee' Arends

2024-2025 State Jr. Vice Commander, Department of LA.

VFW Accomplishments	Goals
<p> Joined VFW Barksdale Air Force Base Johnny Welch Memorial Post 5951 (2010) Post 5951 Chaplain 2018-2019 District 12 Jr. Vice Commander 2018-2019 Post 5951 Jr. Vice Commander 2019-2020 District 12 Sr. Vice Commander 2019-2020 Post 5951 Sr. Vice Commander 2020-2023 All State, All American District 12 Commander 2020-2021 Department Membership Chairman 2020-2021 Post 5951 Commander 2023-Present Member of Military Order of the Cootie since 2018 </p>	<p> Keep the Department on top of all goals and leading the way of supporting Veterans and our communities. Maintain communications with other VSOs and work together to accomplish the mission of supporting Veterans and our communities. Ensure detailed communications within the Department, to include into the Districts and the Posts. Strengthen the bond between eras of Veterans. Mentor and train new members to grow within our ranks. </p>

VFW Foundation Grants

For nearly 124 years, VFW Posts have been the pillars of support in their communities. From building local playgrounds and organizing clothing drives, to military support events and disaster relief efforts, we take great pride in our long history of service to communities across the globe.

The VFW Foundation is proud to offer funding through various grant programs available throughout the year designed to help VFW Posts and their Auxiliaries provide the vital support local communities, America's heroes and their families all deserve,

The VFW Foundation is providing three grant opportunities during the 2023-2024 cycle. The VFW Foundation application period is now open!

Grants are open exclusively to VFW entities. All grants are reimbursement based as applicants will need to do a project and then submit an application with proof of how the funding was spent. Applicants are highly encouraged to contact the VFW Foundation prior to starting a project to ensure it qualifies.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact VFW Foundation Grants Manager Jason Couch at JCouch@vfw.org.

VFW #StillServing Grant

The #StillServing Grant is offered exclusively to VFW Posts, Districts and their Auxiliaries to offset expenses incurred while doing community service projects. Projects require direct involvement by the applying organization's members with members of their community to qualify.

Both a VFW Post and its Auxiliary, and a District and its Auxiliary, can receive funding of up to \$1,500, but each applicant organization must have its own unique project. Applicants are limited to receiving a total of \$1,500 during the cycle.

Applications for the VFW #StillServing Grant will be accepted through June 1, 2024, or until all grant funding is exhausted.

[Apply Today](#)

Post Assistance Grant

The Post Assistance Grant is offered exclusively to VFW Posts to offset expenses incurred for building repairs and equipment that enhances or restores the applicant organization's ability to serve veterans and their community. Auxiliaries, Districts, Departments and other VFW subordinate organizations, etc., may not apply.

VFW Posts may receive up to \$2,500 in reimbursement for qualifying projects. Applicants are limited to receiving this grant once every three years, with 2023-24 being the inaugural year.

Applications for the VFW Foundation Post Assistance Grant will be accepted until June 1, 2024, or until all grant funding is exhausted.

[APPLY TODAY](#)

Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant

Join us in our fight against food insecurity! The Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant is a matching grant of up to \$1,500 available to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries for monetary and food donations to local food banks and pantries in their communities. The VFW Foundation will provide a \$1 match for every pound of food or dollar donated to food insecurity organizations. A Post or its Auxiliary may receive this grant but not both.

The 2023-2024 UTCH grant application period is now open. We will continue to accept applications until funding for the grant is exhausted.

[APPLY TODAY](#)

For more information, please direct any questions you may have to Foundation@vfw.org.

WOMEN VETERANS

WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE

BY VFW DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA

APRIL 27, 2024

10 AM-2 PM



LOCATION: GDIT

(GENERAL DYNAMIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)

6310 E TEXAS ST. BOSSIER CITY, LA 71111

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

KONNIE MOLL KMBRAT@HOTMAIL.COM

405-351-0548

WOMEN VETERAN CHAIRMAN

PAULA BALDWIN COMBATSOULSISTER@YAHOO.COM

337-424-1379

WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE

BY VFW DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA

MAY 25, 2024

10 AM-2 PM



LOCATION: VFW 6640

2809 HARVARD AVE METAIRIE, LA 70006

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

KOLLEEN HERNDON 504-452-2550

WOMEN VETERAN CHAIRMAN

PAULA BALDWIN COMBATSOULSISTER@YAHOO.COM

337-424-1379



DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

REVISED 10/01/2023

PLEASE DISREGARD ANY OTHER BUDDY POPPY ORDER FORMS! THESE ARE THE PRICES YOU WILL BE CHARGED!!!!

DISTRICT # _____

DATE: _____

POST # _____

AUXILIARY # _____

BUDDY POPPY ORDER FORM

MAIL TO: VFW DEPT. OF LOUISIANA
10185 MAMMOTH AVE.
BATON ROUGE, LA 70814

ALL CHECKS ARE TO BE MADE
PAYABLE TO "VFW DEPT. OF LA"

ORIGINAL BUDDY POPPY (500 Minimum)			
QUANTITY:	ITEM:	PRICE:	TOTAL:
	ORIGINAL BUDDY POPPY PER 500	\$145.00	\$
	PER 1,000	\$290.00	\$
TOTAL=			

METAL TAB BUDDY POPPY			
QUANTITY:	ITEM:	PRICE:	TOTAL:
	METAL BUDDY POPPY PER 500	\$80.00	\$
	PER 1,000	\$160.00	\$
TOTAL=			

SHIP TO: _____

VFW MEMBERSHIP #: _____

STREET ADDRESS: (NO PO BOXES!)

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY:		
_____ QUANTITY ORDERED FROM NATIONAL	DATE: _____	
_____ QUANTITY SHIPPED FROM DEPT. HQ	DATE: _____	
DATE RECEIVED: _____	CHECK #: _____	AMOUNT: _____