

JANUARY
2024

MAIL CALL

23-24 GENERAL ORDER-07 PAGE 5



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

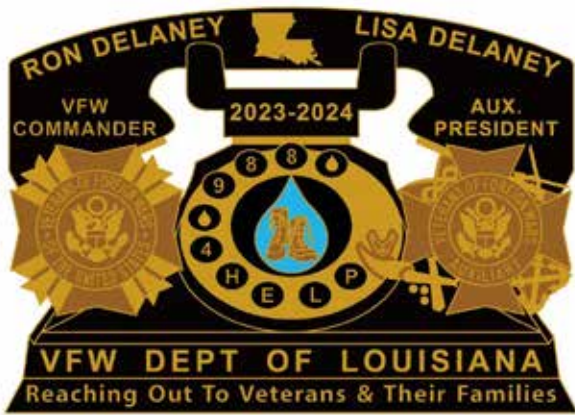


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STATE OFFICERS MESSAGES

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 3750
<i>Editor Mail Call/Louisiana Combat Veteran</i>	
<i>State Historian</i>	
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



MID-WINTER 2024
JANUARY 25-28, 2024
THE HOTEL BENTLEY
 200 Desoto Street
 Alexandria, LA 70131

93RD STATE CONVENTION 2024
JUNE 27 - 30, 2024
THE HOTEL BENTLEY
 200 Desoto Street
 Alexandria, LA 70131



STATE COMMANDER MESSAGE

Greetings Comrades. Lisa and I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Now let's start this new year off right and recruit, reinstate and let's get off the bottom of the pile. Louisiana currently sits at 84.74%, as of 01/06/24. We can do better!!

Now let's talk about something that separates us from the other VSO's, DD-214. Yes, it's up to the applicant to provide proof of eligibility. But it's our responsibility to ensure that 2 things appear. Type of discharge and which campaign ribbon/medal was awarded to the applicant. If the remarks state, "in support of" and you were stationed in Europe, Asia or stateside, the applicant ISN'T qualified! As I write this, there are 3 individuals who are currently officers at the post and District and according to their DD-214 aren't qualified to be in the VFW! We need to be more diligent when looking over a DD-214. We also need to check dates to ensure the timelines are correct.

I have received calls and comments that some people who are voting and attending meetings, AREN'T members of the VFW or that Post. Adjutants should have a sign in sheet and checking membership cards. And when you look at the membership card, look at the post number, dates, and post number. Any member in good standing can go to any meeting, anywhere, and anytime. But if they are a member from another post of member at large, they can participate in discussions if the commander obliges, but no voting.

We are also experiencing problems in canteens. This comes down to hiring practices and who you hire. It appears that some canteens are hiring family members and that isn't always the best plan. All post canteens need to really investigate those hiring practices.

As we move into this New Year, let's work together to bring Louisiana's membership up and into the limelight and show all the VFW that Louisiana is not a every other year wonder!!

Hope to see everyone at the Mid-Winter Conference in Alexandria, January 25-28.



RON DELANEY
Air Force - Post 4588



National Representative for Mid-Winter 2024



Glenn R. Umberger Jr. National Council of Administration Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Glenn R. Umberger Jr. was elected to a four-year term on the VFW's National Council of Administration on Aug. 3, 2021, at the 122nd VFW National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, representing the Department of Pennsylvania.

He served in the United States Army from 1985 to 2018, earning his VFW eligibility serving in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In recognition of his service, he received two Meritorious Service Medals, 10 Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three campaign stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with gold hourglass and "M" device, Saudi Arabian Medal for the Liberation of Kuwait, and the Kuwait Medal for the Liberation of Kuwait, among several other awards and citations.

Glenn joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1993 at Post 23 in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, later transferring to Post 7155 in Trappe, Pennsylvania, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as the VFW Department of Pennsylvania Commander from 2015 to 2016. On the national level, he has served on several committees, to include the National Veterans and Military Support Committee, National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure Committee, and served as National Deputy Chief of Staff and National Aide-de-Camp.

He received his Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice at Shippensburg University. He is currently employed with the Department of the United States Army as a regional facility operations specialist.

Glenn is a member of the American Legion and a life member of the Military Order of the Cootie, the VFW National Home, the Association of the United States Army, and the National Rifle Association.

He resides in Schwenksville, Pennsylvania.



23-24 General Order-07

ONLY PAGE 5- 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.

Correction: Mail Call Volume 38 changed to Volume 23. The Volume number indicates the year a publication started. While refiling the older issues it was noticed that the creation year of Mail Call the 2000-01 year put it 15 years off of its actual date. So 15 was subtracted to correct the Volume number to 23.

ARTICLE 7 - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 702 - Politics.

No officer or member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall in any manner use the Veterans of Foreign Wars for partisan politics and no discussion of partisan questions shall be permitted at any meetings nor shall any nominations, recommendations or endorsements for political office be made, provided this shall not apply to discussion of policies of any organization that seeks to alter our present form of government by force, violence or other unlawful means.

Participation in activities supporting or opposing legislation or administration of laws for veteran's welfare or relating to other matters pertaining to the purposes of the organization shall be permitted. Such participation shall be consistent with the legislative and welfare programs and policies approved by the National Convention.

No Post, County Council, District or Department shall participate in a labor dispute, either on behalf of labor or management. No member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall wear the VFW uniform or VFW cap in any plant or picket line or meeting of employees where a labor dispute arises.

Nothing contained in this Section shall prevent the organization of a lawful political action committee to further the purposes of the VFW as set forth in Section 230102 of the Congressional Charter, nor prevent any discussion of the activities of such a committee.

BY COMMAND OF
RON DELANEY
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:



Mitchell R. Cota, PSC
State Adjutant

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE WINNERS

For the month of December 2023, the challenge was made to increase membership percentage by recruiting, retaining, and reinstating members. The following Posts led their divisions in increasing membership percentage, and will receive an award of \$500 plus a special limited-edition Commander-in-Chief jacket! Let's all congratulate these Posts for leading the way and meeting the challenge!



Division 1: Post 6018 (NC)

Division 2: Post 4548 (AR)

Division 3: Post 10167 (FL)

Division 4: Post 3208 (CA)

Division 5: Post 1333 (NJ)

Division 6: Post 1074 (PA)

Division 7: Post 3652 (LA)

Division 8: Post 12149 (GA)

Division 9: Post 2242 (AR)

Division 10: Post 3402 (MA)

Division 11: Post 4166 (OR)



Thanks to hard work like these Posts have shown, we are well on our way to making that 102% membership goal, continuing to prove that

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 District 2 - Cota District 3 - Prestenback District 8 - McElhannon District 11 - Delaney
14	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	20 District 9 - McElhannon District 12 - Delaney
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
		Notes				

January 1 - New Years Day

January 1 - National Awards for Public Servants Post to Department deadline

January 1 - Post/District, if applicable, Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award entry to Department deadline

January 1 - VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" application period for fall semester opens

January 10 - Deadline for completion of Department judging for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen

January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 15 - Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winner packet due from Department to National

January 15 - District reporting deadline to Department for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen

January 31 - Voice of Democracy final Department report to National deadline

January 31 - Patriot's Pen final Department report to National deadline

DISTRICT MEETINGS

District Meeting/Workshop	District Meeting/Workshop	District Convention
<p style="text-align: center;">District 2 August 26, 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3267 1133 Hickory Ave., Harahan, LA 70123 Registration 9am Meetings 10am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 2 January 13, 2024 <i>REP - St Adj Cota</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3750--- 140 Angus Dr., Luling, LA 70070 Registration 9am Meetings 10am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 2 May 4, 2024 <i>REP - SJVC Prestenback</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Convention</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3750 140 Angus Dr., Luling, LA 70070 Registration 9am Meetings 10am</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">District 3 August 26, 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">District 3 January 13, 2024 <i>REP - SJVC Prestenback</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">District 3 May 4, 2024 <i>REP - St Adj Cota</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">District 4 August 19, 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">District 4 November 18, 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">District 4 February 10, 2024 <i>REP - SJVC Prestenback</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">District 4 May 4th <i>REP - PSC Wesley</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 Cdr Delaney</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>To Be Announced</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 27, 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 January 20, 2024 <i>REP - SSVC McElhannon</i> District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3652 15800 Demarco Lane., Hammond, LA 70403 Registration 9am Sessions start at 10am Breakout 11am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 9 April 20, 2024 <i>REP - SJVC Prestenback</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

<p>District 10 September 16, 2023</p> <p>District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3841 2471 Leglise St., Mansura, LA 71350 Registration 10am Sessions start at 10:30am Lunch 12pm. (\$10 Donation)</p>	<p>District 10 February 17, 2024 <i>REP - SSVC McElhannon</i></p> <p>District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 8852 2419 3rd St., Alexandria, LA 71302 Registration 10am Sessions start at 10:30am Lunch 12pm. (\$10 Donation)</p>	<p>District 10 May 18, 2024 <i>To Be Announced</i></p> <p>District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 3139 412 Elmo S., Marksville, LA 71351 Registration 10am Sessions start at 10:30am Lunch 12pm. (\$10 Donation)</p>
<p>District 11 August 26, 2023</p> <p>District Meeting</p> <p>Meeting place: Post 5442 (Farmerville) 100 Hudson Rd., Farmerville LA 71241 Registration/meet & greet 10:30am Meeting 11am:</p>	<p>District 11 January 13, 2024 <i>REP - St Cdr Delaney</i></p> <p>District Meeting</p> <p>Meeting place: Post 3615 (Ruston) 200 E. Mississippi Ave., Ruston LA 71270 Registration/meet & greet 10:30am Meeting 11am:</p>	<p>District 11 May 4, 2024 <i>REP - PSC Lobrano</i></p> <p>District Convention</p> <p>Meeting place: Post 1809 (Monroe) 1499 Highway 594, Monroe LA 71203 Registration/meet & greet 10:30am Meeting 11am:</p>
<p>District 12 September 9, 2023</p> <p>District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 5187 860 Dahlia Vines St., Zwolle, LA 71486 Registration 9am Lunch (\$10)</p>	<p>District 12 January 20, 2024 <i>REP - St Cdr Delaney</i></p> <p>District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 4588 1004 Jeter St., Bossier City, LA 71111 Registration 9am Lunch (\$10)</p>	<p>District 12 May 11, 2024 <i>REP - St Cdr Delaney</i></p> <p>District Convention</p> <p>Meetings place: Post 5951 1315 Northgate Road, Bossier City, LA 71112 Registration 9am Lunch (\$10)</p>

FUTURE 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

Schedule of Events

Thursday - January 25, 2024

4pm - 5:30pm Registration TBD (2nd Floor)

Friday - January 26, 2024

7am - 9am Breakfast *Bayou Chicou*
9am - 11:30am Registration TBD (2nd Floor)
9am - 12n Workshop/Training *Ballroom* (1st Floor)
12n - 1:15pm Lunch
12:30pm - 3pm Registration TBD (2nd Floor)
1:15pm - 3:30pm Leadership Training *Ballroom* (1st Floor)
4:00pm - 5:30pm Budget Meeting *Ballroom* (1st Floor)
6pm - 8:pm *Aux* Mardi Gras Party *Lobby* (1st Floor)
Buddy Poppy Hat Contest
8:15pm Cornhole Tournament *Ballroom* (1st Floor)
9:pm MOC Meeting *Bayou Robert* (2nd Flr)

Saturday - January 27, 2024

7am - 9am Breakfast *Bayou Chicou*
8:45am VFW & Aux Officers Line up *Lobby* (1st Floor)
9am - 11am Joint Opening *Ballroom* (1st Floor)
9am - 11:30am Registration TBD (2nd Floor)
12n - 1pm Lunch
12n - 1pm PSC Luncheon *Bayou Robert* (2nd Flr)
12:30pm - 3pm Registration TBD (2nd Floor)
1:15pm - 3:30pm VFW Business Session *Ballroom* (1st Floor)
6:30pm Banquet *Lobby* (1st Floor)

VFW National Rep, National Council Member Glenn R. Umberger Jr.

Sunday - January 28, 2024

7am - 9am Breakfast *Bayou Chicou*
If Needed VFW Business Session *Ballroom* (1st Floor)
"SAFE TRAVELS"
Hospitality Room Thursday - Saturday Beauregard (2nd Floor)

STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all of you. Hopefully, you were able to see some family and friends this past year. Let's start the New Year with old friends and meeting some new ones.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter Conference at the end of this month. It's time to award all the hard work our posts and districts did on their programs. Hopefully you can make the conference and come have some fun.

Remember to get your tickets to me before the end of the day on Saturday, 27 January. We will draw for the winners of the Sr Vice CDR drawing on Saturday evening. Winners do not need to be present for the drawing, but you do have to buy a ticket to win. You can still purchase tickets by calling me or at Mid-Winter. Tickets are \$10.00.

Have a great day!



DEBBIE MCELHANNON
Army - Post 9854



FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

June 27 - 30, 2024 - State Convention
Alexandria, LA

STATE JR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Comrades,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It's my favorite time of the year to see family and friends.

I look forward to attending upcoming District Meetings and the Mid-Winter Conference. It's a time we can come together and share comradery. Let's continue to strengthen our comradery on a Post, District and State Level.

Commander Delaney has issued a membership challenge for the month of January! The Post that increases their membership the most will receive a certificate to use the VFW Timeshare in Orlando, FL. Good Luck!

Let's continue to move the Department of Louisiana forward!

"The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one who gets the people to do the greatest things." — Ronald Reagan



JAMES M. PRESTENBACK
Army - Post 3665



State Historian

Please send pictures your Post or Auxiliary take of our Commander and President's visit to your Post or District meetings.

Things needed

Pictures of the State Commander and/or State President with Post or District Officers, everyone's names in the picture, the date of the event, and a paragraph or two of awards or ceremony that took place that day.



STATE ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, Comrades,

Both Desiree and I hope you all had a safe and Happy New Year and this year brings you, your families and veterans across the nation, peace and prosperity as we go through this year.

Programs:

January marks the start of the second half of the 23-24 term. Our VOD and Patriot's Pen Winners have been chosen and will be announced at the Mid-Winter Banquet. These are talented young people with bright futures ahead of them. If you can come out to hear the winners essay and show your support as one lucky contestant moves forward to the National VOD competition. I hope to see you in Alexandria on the 27th of January.

Post and District Adjutants:

After reviewing my last month's article, I have designed a sign in or attendance sheet for you all to try and give feedback on how it works or does not work with your record keeping of your Post attendees. This is NOT A MANDATORY form (page 14). It is only intended to help in recording members attendance to your meetings, as an aid to the Officer Of The Day or your Sergeant-At-Arms.

I have also included a visitors attendance sheet as well, there are spaces for State and District Officers, Members from other Posts, and for Visitors, Potential VFW Members, and Guest of members. Again, this is NOT A MANDATORY form (page 15). It is only intended to help in recording attendees to your meetings as an aid to the Officer Of The Day or your Sergeant-At-Arms

I will be sending an email to the Adjutants and Adj/Quartermasters in the coming days along with printable pdf's.

Fundraising Ideas:

Of the two ideas I have, one would be producing a Department Ad Book. As I stated in last months issue, the Ad Book can generate up to \$6000 minus the cost for printing cover, 11"x17" paper (if used) that can saddle stitched bound (stapled), and printing at Headquarters, netting about \$5,500 or



MITCHELL R. "MITCH" COTA, PSC
Air Force - Post 3750

more depending on the cover cost.

Second, I have placed an example recipe (page 17) for my idea of a fundraising CookBook. I came up with this recipe a couple months ago that Desi and I both enjoy with beef and chicken dishes for dinner. ***(Cookbook Will Have To Be Approved By Council)***

Mid-Winter Registration:

Registration forms are on Pages 15 and 16. If you plan on attending the Mid-Winter Conference on January 25 - 28. Deadline for Member Registering is January 19th and for the Mid-winter Banquet is January 20th of 2024.

Seeking Higher Office:

If you are planning to seek a Higher Office at State level, I urge you to start attending upcoming District meetings in the next few month. Also, send in your announcements to Mail Call. I will place it in an issue.

Hope to see you at Mid-Winter at the end of the month. I wish you all happy gatherings and safe travels.

PSC Mitchell R. Cota
State Adjutant
Department of Louisiana

Attendance Sheet

Post _____

Date: _____

#	<i>Membership Number</i>	<i>Members Name</i>	<i>Members Signature</i>
1			
2			
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11			
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16			
17			
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19			
20			
21			
22			
23			

Post _____

Visitor Attendance Sheet

Date: _____

Visiting VFW Officers

#	Membership Number	Members Name	Members Signature
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Visiting VFW Members

#	Membership Number	Members Name	Members Signature
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Visitors

#	Phone Number	Email Address	Printed Name
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Parsley Seasoned Potatoes

SIDE DISH



Ingredients:

1½ to 2 lbs of Tri-Colored
New Potatoes
Dried or Fresh Parsley
Salt
Onion Powder
Garlic Powder

RECIPE SUBMITTED BY:
MITCH AND DESIREE COTA

Rinse potatoes after removing them from the bag.

Cut potatoes into ¼ inch medallions, placing in a strainer and rinsing again after cutting is completed.



Place potato medallions in a pot or skillet and cover with water.

Add Salt, Onion Powder, and Garlic Powder to taste.

Add 1 to 1½ tablespoons of Parsley.

Boil until soft. Enjoy with butter!





NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Louisiana

Mid-Winter Conference

Banquet Ticket Form

Tickets - \$30.00 per person

Deadline: Jan. 20th

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

Post/Aux: _____

No. of Tickets: _____

Please make a note if the tickets being purchased are for any State Officers, VOD Parents, etc...

**Make Checks Payable to VFW Department of Louisiana Mail to:
10185 Mammoth Avenue Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70814**

PLEASE NOTE:

***NO PHONE CALL REQUEST FOR TICKETS**

*Tickets will be assigned on a first come first serve bases.

***No tickets will be held without payment!!**

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY:

Date Received: _____

Check Amount: _____

Check No: _____

VFW Mid Winter Conference Registration Form

Post # _____

City: _____

\$5.00 per Member attending, Plus \$5.00 for Post Commander. Make check payable to: VFW, Department of Louisiana. Mail form to: VFW, Department of Louisiana, 10185 Mammoth Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70814. **Deadline Date is January 19 of current year.**
Please only send a list of names of those members attending the Mid Winter Conference.

Please Print

1. _____
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Signed – CDR.: _____ or Qtm: _____

Dept of La, VFW Record Keeping:

Department Received: _____ Check #: _____ Amount: _____

COMMITTEEMEN CORNER

Greetings All,

Hope each of you had a great Holiday Season and have rejuvenated and refreshed to finish this VFW Year off strong. Don't forget that the Commanders Challenge for the Post that increase their percentage the most this month will will the rights to the Timeshare in Orlando. Encourage all your Posts to work those Unpaid/Expired List. Remember our Department will be undergoing an Inspection from the National HQ Inspection Team beginning on 12 January, please be patient and let them prepare and get ready for this inspection.

Legal Counsel:

- We have received some questions recently on a new law that is about to become effective. The Corporate Transparency Act passed in 2021, included a reporting requirement called the Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting rule, which will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2024. It generally requires entities doing business in the U.S. to disclose information to the US Treasury, under the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), about individuals who directly or indirectly own or control a company.

Under this ruling, there is an exemption for tax-exempt organizations. The entity qualifies for the exemption if they are organized under 501(c) of the IRS Code of 1986 and are exempt from tax under section 501(a) of the Code. An entity also qualifies if it is described in section 501(c) of the Code and was exempt from tax under section 501(a) of the Code but lost its tax-exempt status less than 180 days ago.

In summary, Posts, Districts and Departments who are a 501(c) [including 501(c)(19), 501(c)(3), and 501(c)(4)] and who are currently exempt with the IRS do not have to report to the FinCEN. Also, Posts, Districts and Departments who are a 501(c) and have lost their exemption in the last 180 days do not have to report to the FinCEN. If a Post, District or Department has lost their exemption more than 180 days ago, they must file with the FinCEN, as must any entity not organized under 501(c).



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

Member Service Center

- Please be advised that the Online Membership System (OMS) will be shutting down at 4:00 p.m. CST on Dec. 31, 2023. Any transactions that are submitted through OMS on Dec. 31, up to the closing time, will be posted to Memstats and Post Query later that evening and available for viewing the morning of Jan. 5, 2024.

- Mail received at the National Headquarters prior to Dec. 29, 2023 will be processed and counted in the December total. Mail received after that date, regardless of the postmark date, will not be counted in the December total. We suggest you have your Posts mail in their membership as early as possible or take advantage of the Online Membership System tools.

- The OMS system will be back online for the submittal of transactions by 4:00 p.m. CST, Jan. 1, 2024; however, membership transactions that are processed will not be posted to Memstats until all pertinent data is secured and verified. This should occur on (or before) Jan. 8, 2024.

Administrative Operations:

- There are currently 47 Posts under suspension, two of which are new. No Post consolidations have been processed pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,660 chartered Posts.

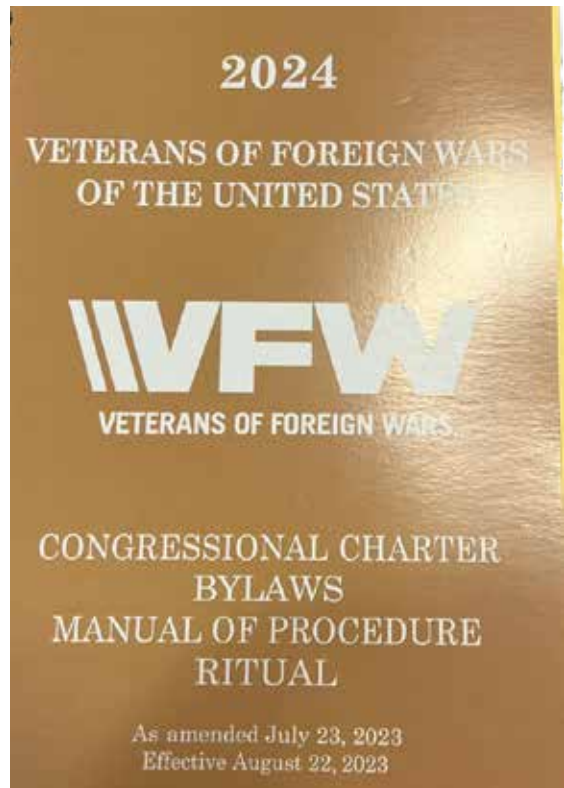
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 22 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 18 Administrative Actions and eight membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 44 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 18 of which are new; current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 30 days.

Department Inspections:

As the Department Inspection initiative is well underway for the 2023-2024 term, we would like to share some of the common items that have been identified by the inspection team during their visits. We are halfway through the scheduled inspections for the year so the items below may change as we are able to gather more data. Please understand the list of items below is not all encompassing but are the most commonly identified concerns the team encounters during the inspections. Some of these items are considered deficiencies pursuant to the National Bylaws but some are simply issues that can assist a Department in their daily operations, if implemented.

Most Commonly Identified Concerns:

- Failure to have proof of eligibility for all District Commanders, Senior Vice Commanders, and Junior Vice Commanders on file at the Department (Ref. Section 416).
- Departments are not properly bonded pursuant to Section 703 of the National Bylaws.
 - o Failing to ensure all officers accountable for funds are bonded.
 - o Departments not securing a bond that covers the required amount of all funds.
 - o Departments do not have VFW National listed as additional insureds.
- Lack of or Incomplete and Outdated Standard Operating Procedures (HQ’s staff, Service Officers, and HQ’s operations).
- Lack of Defined Adjutant/Quartermaster duties specific to the Department.
 - o Lack of Employee Handbook.
- To include policies approved by the Department Council of Administration and signed by all employees and Department officers.
 - o Conflict of Interest
 - o Sexual Harassment



[Download the Podium pdf](#)

- o Travel Policy
- o Vehicle Use Policy
- o Use of Credit Cards
- o Code of Ethics
- o Information Technology/Security
- The Department Council of Administration should be approving budgets, SOP’s, policies, Employee Handbooks, etc., but are failing to maintain proper records or meeting minutes showing approval of any and all items.

We look forward to another successful year of inspections and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Quentin Carroll at QCarroll@vfw.org.

Robert “Bobby” Lovergne
 National Council of Administration Member
 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 November 2023

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.

December 4th:

VFW Tells Subcommittee to Streamline Appeals Process:

VFW National Veterans Service Director Michael Figlioli testified at a House Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs oversight hearing to examine the VA appeals process. Figlioli stated the VFW's views on how to improve decision-making processes at the VA Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) and the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. "It is the VFW's position that communication and coordination between the BVA, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), and accredited representatives are critical during the remand process," he said. "Clear and concise directives that the decision-maker must comply with from the BVA to the VBA help streamline the further development of cases." He continued, "Effective collaboration between these entities is essential to ensure that the remand process serves its intended purpose without unnecessary complications and needless delays." Read the testimony or watch the hearing, which begins at the 7:43 mark.

FBI Briefing on Combating Malign Influence:

VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Joe Grassi was in attendance for a virtual briefing by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on malign foreign and domestic influence targeting veterans and military family communities. The event was hosted by the nonpartisan, nonprofit organization We the Veterans. The presentation covered foreign and domestic groups aiming to sow public discord and undermine national institutions by pursuing veterans and military families through social media to achieve their detrimental objectives. The briefing also provided an in-depth look at the specific tactics involved and what the veterans' community can do to mitigate bad actors. Learn more.



MATTHEW J. WEST, PSC
Army - Post 3619

MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced seven burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II and the Korean War. Returning home for burial with full military honors are: Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class Ralph M. Boudreaux, 20, of New Orleans, Louisiana, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. He was among 429 crewmen killed that day. He will be buried on Jan. 29, 2024, in Slidell, Louisiana. Read about Boudreaux.

December 11th:

Take Action to Stop Claim Sharks: A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to "assist" or "consult" veterans and survivors with filing their VA benefits claims. This practice is illegal! In fact, none of these private companies is better than the others. They are all operating illegally. Claim Sharks are not VA-accredited, meaning they are not required to adhere to professional and ethical standards, so their advice can be misleading or even fraudulent. Please take a moment to send an important message to Congress and help the VFW stop Claim Sharks. TAKE ACTION.

Military Promotions Hold in Senate Finally Lifted:

The nearly year-long obstruction of hundreds of senior officer promotions has ended in large part to Sens. Dan Sullivan and Joni Ernst, both fellow VFW members. The hold on military promotions endangered our national security and that of our allies, further jeopardizing the sustainability of our all-volunteer force. VFW National Commander Duane Sarmiento commented, “Going forward, we urge Congress to work together to resolve political disputes within the halls of Congress and permanently abandon the dangerous practice of casting partisan politics on to those wearing the cloth of our nation. Let’s remember, veterans vote.”

VFW Op-Ed on Claim Sharks: In response to an article in Stars and Stripes by David Cook titled, “VSOs should back a PLUS Act that gives vets options,” VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Kristina Keenan wrote an article to clarify the VFW’s views on unaccredited claims consultants known as Claim Sharks. She wrote, “Bottom line: What these companies do is against the law. Veterans should be careful when considering working with an unaccredited consultant because they may be asked to share personal information, medical records and bank account details with companies that have no oversight, no accountability, and that are operating illegally. All of the companies that charge for initial claims are doing so illegally.” Read the op-ed.

Holiday Rush Prescription Deliveries: The Department of Veterans Affairs wants veterans to know it intends for mail order prescriptions to be delivered in a timely manner throughout the holidays. VA works with the U.S. Postal Service to prioritize deliveries to veterans. However, if a veteran experiences an issue, pharmacies at VA medical centers can fill prescriptions. Staying in contact with your doctor and local VA health team is important for handling any gaps in medical needs. Learn more.

December 18th:

Defeating the Holiday Blues: For many veterans, the holiday season intensifies feelings of stress, depression, anxiety, and loneliness. Creating a community and building connections are ways to

combat the holiday blues and provide a sense of purpose. For those unable to meet in person with family and friends, you can schedule video calls, online game nights, or virtual dinners, workouts, and watch parties. You can also volunteer with local VFW Posts and veteran support organizations in your area. Read more.

Free Connections to Resources: The National Resource Directory (NRD) gives service members, veterans, family members, and caregivers the ability to find and connect with organizations that can assist with specialized recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration needs. The NRD is the product of a partnership with DOD, VA, and the Department of Labor. This program is meant to facilitate free connections between individuals and stringently vetted resources that provide support in many areas such as employment, education, veteran benefits, caregiver support, housing, and the Military Adaptive Sports Program. Read more.

Due to the Christmas and New Years holidays, there will be no additional Action Corps Weekly until January 8, 2024.

Merry Christmas to all, and Happy New Year!
Respectfully,

Matthew F. West

Matthew J. West

VFW, Department of Louisiana

National Legislative Committee Member 2020-2026





POW/MIA RECOVERED

George F. Bishop

Sergeant, US Army
(Washington)


Service Member **SGT GEORGE F BISHOP**

[Return to Service Member Profiles](#)



Conflict **WORLD WAR II**
Service **UNITED STATES ARMY**
Status **Accounted For**

Date of Identification **06/30/2023**



SUBMIT A PHOTO

SGT GEORGE F BISHOP

Unit [ARMY - 59 COAST ARTILLERY REGIMENT](#)
 Historical Country of Loss [PHILIPPINE ISLANDS](#)
 Loss Area Current [Nueva Ecija](#)
 Current Country of Loss [Philippines](#)
 Home of Record [WA](#)

On June 30, 2023, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Sergeant George F. Bishop, missing from World War II.

Sergeant Bishop entered the U.S. Army from Washington and served with Battery K of the 59th Coastal Artillery Regiment in the Philippines. He was captured on Corregidor Island following the Allied surrender of the Bataan Peninsula on April 9, 1942, and was eventually transferred to the notorious Cabanatuan Prison Camp in Nueva Ecija Province, where he died of diphtheria and dysentery on July 28, 1942. At its peak, Cabanatuan held approximately 8,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war captured during and after the Fall of Bataan. Conditions at the camp were poor, with food and water extremely limited, leading to widespread malnutrition and outbreaks of malaria and dysentery. By the time the camp was liberated in early 1945, approximately 2,800 Americans had died at Cabanatuan. SGT Bishop was buried in Common Grave 215 in the camp cemetery along with other deceased American POWs. Following the war, American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) personnel exhumed those buried at the Cabanatuan cemetery and relocated the remains to a temporary U.S. military mausoleum near Manila. In 1947, the AGRS examined the remains in an attempt to identify them. Remains that could not be identified were buried at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial as Unknowns. In 2018, the unidentified remains associated with Common Grave 215 were disinterred and sent to a DPAA laboratory for analysis. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established an association between one set of these Unknown remains and SGT Bishop.

Sergeant Bishop is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

If you are a family member of this service member, you may contact your casualty office representative to learn more about your service member.



POW/MIA RECOVERED

Ralph M. Boudreaux

Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class, US Navy
(New Orleans, Louisiana)

PRESS RELEASE | Nov. 21, 2023

USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted for from WWII (Boudreaux, R.)

WASHINGTON –

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class Ralph M. Boudreaux, 20, of New Orleans, killed during World War II, was accounted for on July 26, 2021.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Boudreaux was assigned to the battleship USS *Oklahoma*, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The USS *Oklahoma* sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Boudreaux.

From December 1941 to June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the remains of the deceased crew, which were subsequently interred in the Halawa and Nu'uaniu Cemeteries.

In September 1947, tasked with recovering and identifying fallen U.S. personnel in the Pacific Theater, members of the [American Graves Registration Service \(AGRS\)](#) disinterred the remains of U.S. casualties from the two cemeteries and transferred them to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks. The laboratory staff was only able to confirm the identifications of 35 men from the USS *Oklahoma* at that time. The AGRS subsequently buried the unidentified remains in 46 plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP), known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu. In October 1949, a military board classified those who could not be identified as non-recoverable, including Boudreaux.

Between June and November 2015, DPAA personnel exhumed the USS *Oklahoma* Unknowns from the Punchbowl for analysis.

To identify Boudreaux's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis. Additionally, scientists from the [Armed Forces Medical Examiner System](#) used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis.

Boudreaux's name is recorded in the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Boudreaux will be buried on Jan. 29, 2024, in Slidell, Louisiana.

For family and funeral information, contact the Navy Casualty office at (800) 443-9298.

DPAA is grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of the Navy for their partnership in this mission.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or <https://www.linkedin.com/company/defense-pow-mia-accounting-agency>.





POW/MIA RECOVERED

Kenyon Brindley

Second Lieutenant, US Army Air Force
(Arkansas)

Service Member **2D LT KENYON -- BRINDLEY**

[Return to Service Member Profiles](#)



Conflict **WORLD WAR II**
Service **UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES**
Status **Accounted For**

Date of Identification **09/21/2023**



2d Lt KENYON -- BRINDLEY

Unit **703 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON 445 BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)**
Country of Loss **Germany**
Home of Record **AR**

On September 21, 2023, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Second Lieutenant Kenyon Brindley, missing from World War II.

Second Lieutenant Kenyon Brindley entered the U.S. Army Air Forces from Arkansas and served in the 703rd Bombardment Squadron, 403rd Bombardment Group. On February 24, 1944, he was the bombardier aboard a B-24J Liberator (serial number 42-100312) which took off from its airbase in England, for a bombing mission against enemy targets near Gotha, Germany. During the mission, this aircraft sustained damage from an enemy fighter attack and exploded in mid-air near Bad Salzungen, Germany. Two crew members survived the attack, but the rest, including 2nd Lt Brindley, were lost in the explosion, and post-war search efforts to find his remains were unsuccessful. In March 1952, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC) took custody of commingled unidentified remains from Bad Salzungen Cemetery. Among them were remains belonging to several crewmembers from a bomber crash between Bad Salzungen and Leimbach-Kaiseroda. However, there was not enough evidence to warrant an individual or group identification, and they were ultimately interred in the Ardennes American Cemetery. In June 2021 these remains were disinterred and transferred to a DPAA Laboratory for further study. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established one set of these remains as those of 2nd Lt Brindley.

Second Lieutenant Brindley is memorialized on the Tablets of the Missing at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Hombourg, Belgium.

If you are a family member of this service member, you may contact your casualty office representative to learn more about your service member.



POW/MIA RECOVERED

Daniel De Anda

Corporal, US Army
(California)

[Return to Service Member Profiles](#)

Service Member **CPL DANIEL DEANDA**



Conflict **KOREAN WAR**
Service **UNITED STATES ARMY**
Status **Accounted For**

Date of Identification **01/10/2023**



Cpl DANIEL DEANDA

Unit **G CO 2/23 REGT 2ID**
Country of Loss **North Korea**
Home of Record **CA**

On January 10, 2023, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Corporal Daniel De Anda, missing from the Korean War. Corporal De Anda entered the U.S. Army from California and served in Company G, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. On November 30, 1950, he was reported missing in action after his unit attempted to withdraw from Kunu-ri, North Korea, to Suncheon, on Nov. 30, following the Battle of Ch'ongch'on. Based on later reports from returning American POWs, CPL De Anda was captured and taken to POW Camp 5, Pyoktong, North Korea, where he died between January and March 1951. During Operation GLORY, the postwar exchange of war dead, 495 sets of remains from burial grounds around POW Camp 5 were returned to United Nations Command. All but 38 were identified. Those remains were buried as Unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. In August 2019, as part of a planned exhumation of Project GLORY burials originating from Camp 5, one set of remains was disinterred and sent to a DPAA laboratory for further study. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established the remains as those of CPL De Anda. Corporal De Anda is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His name is also inscribed on the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC, which was updated in 2022 to include the names of the fallen.

If you are a family member of this service member, you may contact your casualty office representative to learn more about your service member.



POW/MIA RECOVERED

Robert L. Farris Jr.

Staff Sergeant, US Army Air Force
(New York)



Conflict **WORLD WAR II**
Service **UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES**
Status **Accounted For**
Date of Identification **09/22/2023**



S Sgt ROBERT L FERRIS JR.

Unit **401 BOMBARDMENT
SQUADRON 91
BOMBARDMENT GROUP
(HEAVY)**
Country of Loss
France
Home of Record **NY**

On September 22, 2023, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Staff Sergeant Robert L. Farris Jr., missing from World War II.

Staff Sergeant Ferris entered the U.S. Army Air Forces from New York and served in the 401st Bombardment Squadron, 91st Bombardment Group. On December 20, 1942, he was the ball turret gunner aboard a B-17 Flying Fortress (serial number 41-24432, nicknamed "Danellen") which took off from Cambridgeshire, England, for a bombing mission against targets in the area of Romilly-sur-Seine, France. During the mission, this B-17 was shot down by an enemy fighter plane and was last seen spinning towards the ground with smoke coming from its engines. It crashed near the village of Bernieres-sur-Seine, France. One crew member, who managed to bail out of the aircraft before the crash, later reported that the remaining eight crew members perished when the B-17 went down. During postwar recovery efforts, the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) disinterred four sets of remains from the city cemetery in Evreux, France. One set of these remains was successfully identified by the AGRS as belonging to the top turret gunner of the B-17, however the rest could not be identified, and they were eventually buried as Unknowns in the Normandy American Cemetery. In 2011, a family member of one of the crew contacted the Department of Defense after visiting the crash site and interviewing a witness who had artifacts belonging to Danellen. That same year, historians from what is now DPAA re-analyzed the Unknowns associated with the crew and determined there was enough evidence to pursue the case. In March 2019, the Department of Defense and the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) exhumed the three sets of unknown remains believed to be associated with the crew of "Danellen" and sent them to a DPAA laboratory for further study. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established one set of these remains as those of SSgt Ferris.

Staff Sergeant Ferris is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France.

If you are a family member of this service member, you may contact your casualty office representative to learn more about your service member.



POW/MIA RECOVERED

Franklin P. Hall

Staff Sergeant, US Army Air Force
(?)

Service Member **S SGT FRANKLIN P HALL**

[Return to Service Member Profiles](#)



Conflict **WORLD WAR II**
Service **UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES**
Status **Accounted For**
Date of Identification **07/13/2023**

If you are a family member of this service member, you may contact your casualty office representative to learn more about your service member.



S Sgt FRANKLIN P HALL

Unit **66 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON 44 BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)**
Country of Loss **France**
Home of Record **FL**



POW/MIA RECOVERED

Gene F. Walker

Second Lieutenant, US Army Aif Force
(Richmond, Indiana)

Tanker Accounted for from WWII (Walker, G.)

WASHINGTON –

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Gene F. Walker, 27, of Richmond, Indiana, killed during World War II, was accounted for July 21, 2023.

In November 1944, Walker was assigned to Company H, 3rd Battalion, 32nd Armored Regiment, 3rd Armored Division, as the commander of an M4 Sherman tank. His unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Hüheln, Germany, when his tank was hit by an 88-mm anti-tank round. The hit caused a fire and is believed to have killed Walker instantaneously. The surviving crew bailed out of the tank, but when they regrouped later were unable to remove Walker from the tank due to heavy fighting. The War Department issued a presumptive finding of death in April 1945.

Following the end of the war, the [American Graves Registration Command](#) was tasked with investigating and recovering missing American personnel in Europe. They conducted several investigations in the Hüheln area September 1948. Town locals were interviewed, but there were no reports of deceased American servicemembers in the area. All efforts to locate 2LT Walker proved unsuccessful at the time.

While studying unresolved American losses in the Hüheln area, a DPAA historian determined that one set of unidentified remains, designated X-157 Henri-Chapelle, recovered from one of the burned-out tanks in Hüheln in December 1944 possibly belonged to Walker. The remains, which had been buried in Henri-Chapelle U.S. Military Cemetery, an [American Battle Monuments Commission](#) site in Hombourg, Belgium, were disinterred in August 2021 and sent to the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

To identify Walker's remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA).

Walker's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at Netherlands American Cemetery, an [American Battle Monuments Commission](#) site in Margarten, Netherlands, along with the others still missing from World War II. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Walker will be buried in San Diego, California, in early 2024.

For family and funeral information, contact the Army Casualty Office at (800) 892-2490.

DPAA is grateful to the American Battle Monuments Commission and to the U.S. Army Regional Mortuary-Europe/Africa for their partnership in this mission.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, and find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or <https://www.linkedin.com/company/defense-pow-mia-accounting-agency>.



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.***

Updated 8/1/2022

Membership

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

Happy new year VFW! This month, Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento is issuing a challenge to our Posts to bring in new members - but wait, there's more! Because this challenge isn't just for the Posts, Departments can benefit as well!

It's a new year, and we want to see new members joining the VFW! So, for the month of January, the Post in each membership division that brings in the most new members (Annual and/or Life) will receive a \$500 award deposited into the Post account! In addition, for every Post that leads their Division, their Department will also receive a \$500 award. We want to see our Department leadership motivating everyone and helping our Posts recruit!

This challenge will count new members who join the Post between Jan. 1 and Jan. 31. As a reminder, a new member is a veteran who has never been a member of the VFW before. We all know eligible veterans who haven't yet made the decision to become a member of the VFW, now is the time to bring them on board and make them a part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars!

There is no better time than now to help grow our ranks and help us meet the Commander-in-Chief's goal of 102% membership by the end of the year!

Communication is key to building a strong VFW, both with leadership providing encouragement and motivation and with each one of us going out, recruiting new veterans into the VFW, and showing that we can MEET THE CHALLENGE!

EARLY BIRD AWARD-VFW LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The top three Post Commanders and Quartermasters in each division on Jan. 1, 2024, will receive:

- **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.**

POST COMMANDER AND QUARTERMASTER - NEW & REINSTATED MEMBER AWARD

The top ten Post Commanders and Quartermasters in each division who report more than 50 new and/or reinstated members by Jan. 1, 2024, will each be awarded:

- **A travel charger with the official VFW Commander-in-Chief logo.**

MEMBERSHIP OBJECTIVES

As the membership year has begun keep in mind our membership objectives, also written in the 2023-24 Membership Program.

- For everyone to recruit at least one new member and then mentor that member.
- Increase membership drives and/or events.
- For Posts, District and Departments to reach 102% membership by June 30, 2024.
- Develop new Posts and/or revitalize existing Posts.
- Increase Life Membership and Legacy Life Membership.
- Provide membership assistance, using teams from your conference to assist and mentor those who request assistance.

NEW POST DEVELOPMENT & POST REVITALIZATION DEPARTMENT AWARD

Congratulations to the Department of Washington for establishing new VFW Post 12228, Stanwood, Washington, established, Dec. 12, 2023. If you have questions about Memstats, Post Query, or if you are trying to Charter a Post and you have more than (15) members on a charter application, give me a call, Matt Nute at 816.968.1122. We have many resources available to help you.

New Post Development and Post Revitalization Department Award: For each new Post chartered, and/or revitalized, the Department Quartermaster will receive:

- A \$250 credit from the VFW Store to be used towards necessary materials for the new Post.

For details on this and all other All-American membership incentives view, the Commander-in-Chief's National Membership Program at vfw.org under *Membership Recruiting & Retention*.

For any questions or further information, please contact the Membership Department via email at membership@vfw.org or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

UPCOMING TRAINING

Membership Monday training webinar will be on Jan. 8, 2024, at 2:00 PM, CST, Topic: **Membership Roles at the Post**. We urge you to pass along this information to all who would be interested.

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook to view the latest membership news, Post Shout-Outs, and important resource information throughout the year - facebook.com/VFWmembership/.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP THREE RECRUITERS!

Top Three Recruiters (as of 12.20.23):

Steven L. Woodward – 383
VFW Post 2224, Dept. of WA

Timothy M. Borland – 258
VFW Post 9972, Dept. of AZ

Ed Stefanak, Jr. – 202
VFW Post 9539, Dept. of SC

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to vfw.org, click on JOIN, and scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video on the right. This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are three levels of membership; each offers their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

<u>Levels</u>		<u>Posts</u>	<u>Departments</u>	<u>National</u>
Gold-	\$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver-	\$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze-	\$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

What will your Legacy be?

VFW National Convention

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING CHANGE – 125th National Convention housing will open, **Monday, March 18, 2024**. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at vfw.org/convention. The convention website will also have general convention information including the registration form and links to other convention related information for Louisville, Kentucky – July 27-Aug. 1, 2024, and a tentative agenda.

Development

As we near the season of giving, here is some helpful information about why the support of every VFW member is vitally important. VFW's life-changing programs are not possible through membership dues alone. In fact, **membership dues alone cover just 17% of the cost of programs**. As a nonprofit organization, the VFW relies heavily on the generosity of its members and patriotic supporters. When members donate, 100% of their net donation goes directly back to support their Department. *Please spread the word and give as generously as you are able.*

2024 VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) Annual Campaign Kick Off – is underway, and we urgently need your support to make a meaningful impact on the lives of America's veterans. This campaign is crucial for assisting veterans from all generations, particularly those returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, in accessing the benefits they rightfully deserve. Your donation ensures the VFW's national force of highly trained and accredited service officers is at the ready to help America's veterans navigate the complicated VA system.

As a token of our appreciation, enclosed in this package, you will find the 2024 Petition to Congress and an "American Hero" Memorial Day Ribbon Card. We urge you to add your signature to the petition and card before returning them to us. The collected petitions will be delivered to Congress, sending a powerful message that any proposed cuts to veterans' benefits are unacceptable to those who have proudly worn the

uniform. The signed cards will be distributed to hospitalized veterans and service members, bringing them a heartfelt reminder in time for Memorial Day. Some members will receive the 2024 “Help Our Heroes” Member Survey to fill out and return. Your valuable input, gathered through this survey, will play a crucial role in shaping our ongoing efforts to support veterans.

2024 Label and Certificate of Appreciation – This January, anticipate the arrival of the 2024 Label and Certificate of Appreciation from the VFW. Alongside these tokens of gratitude, you will find a special Memorial Day “American Hero” Ribbon Card. We kindly request you to sign and promptly return the card, as your participation holds the power to bring warmth and solace to our fellow service members and hospitalized veterans this Memorial Day. The act of receiving a Thank You card from a fellow veteran resonates deeply with those who have served.

Your gesture demonstrates that they are remembered and cared for by their comrades, providing a meaningful connection during a time of reflection. In honor of your fellow veterans navigating the long road to recovery from battle injuries, we invite you to make a donation. Your generosity directly contributes to the strength and availability of programs that provide crucial support for veterans across your Department.

Your 2023 Year-End Tax Receipt Is On Its Way! – Late January, we will be mailing the 2023 Year-End Tax Receipts to VFW members who have requested to receive one at the end of the year.

Do Not Ignore Your Online Accounts – When did you last think about ALL your online accounts? In the case of an emergency, someone near you might need access to those passwords. When the time comes to think about setting up your will/trust – make sure to also include how to access your devices and accounts. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe: vfw.planmylegacy.org/online-accounts. Starting to think about your legacy? Consider making a gift to the VFW in your will. We’re always here to talk. Contact the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or plannedgiving@vfw.org.

Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism? – Adjutant General Dan West would like you to join with him in supporting the VFW’s life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive. The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible and a Year-End Tax Receipt mailed by the end of January. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department toll-free at 1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483) or email us at partners@vfw.org with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

VFW Friends of Freedom – If you are not already a member of the VFW’s online community, please visit vfw.org and look for the gold banner that says “**Find Out What’s Happening**” to sign up. As a member of the VFW’s Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation’s veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit vfw.org/VFWatWork and click on “**Read VFW success stories**” to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans’ rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

Department Resources – Many great resources are available for your Department to use in promoting fundraising programs. By visiting heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools, you will find the latest fundraising program

information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items for your Department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mail schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the tools found on the VFW Department Resources Page to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today.

VFW Communications

Join 2024 VFW Day of Service.

The VFW's third annual VFW Day of Service – a dedicated day of service led by VFW members throughout the country and the world – kicks off the first Saturday on May 4, 2024, and marks the start of veteran-led community service projects to take place throughout the month.

The VFW Day of Service is an outgrowth of the organization's #StillServing campaign launched in 2020 to recognize the ongoing dedication of veterans and service members who continue to serve their communities. VFW Day of Service, led by veterans and in concert with other organizations and civic groups, is open for anyone to participate.

We're urging all members and Posts to visit [VFWDayofService.org](https://www.vfw.org/dayofservice) to register their event on the interactive Day of Service map and receive a special participation decal, or find a local event to join and see what other veterans around the country are doing to make a difference.

Veterans & Military Support Programs

VMS All-American Requirement

VMS donations will only be handled through the Dashboard. All Posts must click on the VMS donation tab on the Dashboard to donate. The link will point them to OMS. Please do not send checks to the National Headquarters.

If a Post does not use a credit card, the Post will send their donation to their Department HQs and the Department HQs will submit the donation for their Post. Credit will automatically update on the Dashboard daily.

Overseas Departments will donate for the other programs through the link also in lieu of participation. This will automatically update daily.

Your \$100 or more donation meets the eligibility criteria for All-American in this category.

Continue to do what you are doing and thank you for your support!

Veterans & Military Support (VMS)

If your Department hasn't paid for their 2023-24 VMS Lapel Pins, please pay for them as soon as possible. You may use the VMS Donation link on the upper right-hand corner of the Dashboard.

The Veterans & Military Support Program Chair Tools webpage is updated every month. Link to the webpage is [vfw.org/community/troop-support/VMSP-Chair-Tools](https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support/VMSP-Chair-Tools).

Help us let the public know the impacts the VFW has on military families and veterans by reporting your holiday events to your Veterans & Military Support Chairman. MAP grants have increased for the holiday season. Please complete the MAP after event requirements within the **14-day deadline**. If you have any questions, please call the MAP office at 816.756.3390, ext. 6211.

VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"

The 2024 Fall Semester application will be available Jan. 1, 2024, and can only be found online at vfw.org/Scholarship with a deadline date of April. 30, 2024.

VFW Programs

DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS. Military service flags, insignias, etc. should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag.

PROGRAMS DASHBOARD TOOL. (NOTE: Previously ALL AMERICAN DASHBOARD) Please encourage Posts to read the 2023-24 Membership program. Military Assistance Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much in grant assistance has been received from National HQs to supplement the Unmet Needs financial grants & VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero scholarship statistics. The information charts reside on the KPI tools section.

FLY THE FLAG ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S BIRTHDAY. The U.S. federal flag code has been amended by Congress and signed by the president to add Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to the list of days on which the flag should be displayed. His birthday is observed on the third Monday in January; therefore, the flag should be flown on that day. To purchase a U.S. flag from the VFW Store, go to vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags.

Many communities are conducting community service projects that day. It is highly suggested that all members support this day of service.

SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM DEADLINE REMINDER. Nominations for this award and the judging at Post and District level, if applicable, should be completed at this time and their winners submitted to their VFW Department Headquarters for their judging by Jan. 1. A completed nomination should consist of a completed entry form with a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five-pages, including the resume, as a maximum of documentation of their teacher experience, along with a head-and-shoulder photo, if available at the time.

Each corresponding deadline for Post, District, if applicable, and Department to have their entries to the next level are as follows: Nov. 15, 2023, for completion of Post judging; Dec. 15, 2023, for completion of District judging, if applicable; Feb. 1, 2024, for completion of Department judging and their winners forwarded to National Headquarters.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the "VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form" with the entry documentation downloaded. A link has been forwarded to the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster to submit it to National Headquarters by Feb. 1. You may locate additional information by logging in to vfw.org and searching under "My VFW" in the Training & Support

section. If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email tbeauchamp@vfw.org or call 816.756.3390 and ask for extension 6287.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN DEPARTMENT DEADLINE REMINDER. The deadline for submitting the Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen winner packets to National Headquarters is Jan. 15, 2024 (even if they have not been personally notified they are the winner).

The suggested deadline for Departments to have reviewed and approved their District and Post entries in the Programs Dashboard Tool is Jan. 31. This will ensure we have accurate reporting numbers across the organization and allot us the time to remedy errors. If you are unsure how to report your participation in the Programs Dashboard Tool or if you are having login issues to the OMS system, contact Nick Lopez at nlopez@vfw.org or 816.968.1155.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN NATIONAL AWARDS. Every Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen first place Department winner will receive a National scholarship or award. The amount for the Voice of Democracy National Awards now totals \$172,000, with the top three awards being raised to \$35,000, \$21,000 and \$15,000. The Patriot’s Pen National Awards total is \$55,000.

VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS. Judging at Post level should have been completed at this time or the near future. VFW Post Safety Chairperson’s are to submit up to five winning nominees (one for each career area) to their Department Headquarters for judging no later than Jan. 1.

Once judging has been completed, Departments are asked to submit their five winning nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs office, by completing the “VFW Department Public Servant Award Request Form” through Formstack. VFW Programs staff has emailed the form link to Department Adjutants/Quartermasters prior to the deadline of Feb. 1.

VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award
- VFW National 911 Dispatcher Award
- VFW National Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician (E.O.D.T.) Award

Each Department will receive their requested awards and should contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department Commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient’s peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the general public and especially other law enforcement, firefighters, EMTs, dispatchers and EODTs personnel, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership. Order plaques and citations for public servants from the VFW Store vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=public%20servant.

NOTE: Remember, the First Responder Medal is available through the VFW Store. To review this item, please click on the following link: vfwstore.org/products/32134.

NEW UPDATES. VFW National Programs has updated the Fred C. Hall and Outstanding Community Service Post award programs starting this program year. Please share this with your Community Service Chairpersons.

The new programs are as follows:

FRED C. HALL MEMORIAL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE. Each year on July 1, the national Programs office will determine the top community service Posts in each conference, based off their community service reporting and total impact, from July 1 to June 30 the previous year. Your community service total impact is figured by the money spent to host and organize the community service event, plus total hours all volunteers participated, plus the mileage for all volunteers (Dollars Donated + Hours + Mileage = Total Impact).

These four Posts will be awarded the Fred C. Hall Memorial Award for Community Service and will be invited to attend the VFW National Convention. The Post Commander (or designated representative) and a guest will receive round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations for five nights, and a \$599 stipend to receive the award at the VFW National Convention.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE POST OF THE YEAR. Each Department will have an OCSP winner based on total impact also. National will select based on end of year reports on July 1. Winners will also be published in the Convention program booklet and receive a street sign identifying this national award for the Post to put up in their community.

“UPDATED” POW/MIA FLAG – OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Under previous Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 16, 1997), it indicated there were only six days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices were required to display the POW/MIA flag. Now under new law, Public Law 116-67 (Feb. 21, 2020), it is required that the POW/MIA flag be flown on all days on which the flag of the United States is displayed. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to vfwstore.org/products/GP237.

IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW programs Patriot’s Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

VFW Member Benefits

Is Pet Insurance Worth the Cost?

It seems that just about everything is more expensive lately. Though inflation has slowed, prices have yet to do the same. Used cars, rent, groceries, and gas prices all remain well above pre-pandemic prices.

Raising a pet seems to be getting more expensive, too. The dog sitting app, Rover, has estimated yearly dog expenses range from \$600 to \$3,500 depending on your location:

- Flea and tick prevention can cost up to \$215.
- Annual checkups are typically over \$100.
- Dental cleanings can cost upwards of \$600.

Give your wallet a break and save on pet ownership with these tips:

- Don’t try new food before the weekend.
- Stay up to date on prevention and vaccines.
- Buy food in bulk or rely on auto ship.
- Purchase pet insurance.

For additional information about Pet Insurance, call Nationwide at 877.738.7874 or [click here](#).

“Buddy”[®] Poppy

“BUDDY”[®] POPPY CAMPAIGN. Although we emphasize Buddy Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, Buddy Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, Buddy Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as “They Gave, Will You?” is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of three (3) weeks in advance of your distribution date.

BUDDY POPPY UPDATE: National Headquarters conducted a review of the Buddy Poppy policy and procedures and implemented the following changes effective Jan. 1, 2024:

- 1) Departments must order poppies through OMS.
- 2) All claims of non-receipt of a Buddy Poppy order must be made within 90 days of the date of the order or will NOT be replaced free of charge.
- 3) All orders for the traditional Buddy Poppy, Anniversary Poppies or tin tab poppies must be placed through your Department Headquarters. Auxiliaries must go through their Post to order all poppies.
- 4) The tabs do count towards the Buddy Poppy requirement for the All-American program.
- 5) If you do not receive your order within four weeks of placing it with your Department, please contact your Department Headquarters to report you have not received your order.
- 6) All poppies are shipped within 10 days of ordering except orders placed in June and July, due to preparation for National Convention, please allow an additional five business days.

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

The Manual of Procedure provides that Post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairperson’s guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of Buddy Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the Post general fund.

VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES. The silver, gold and diamond anniversary Buddy Poppies are for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary years. For Posts currently in their 100th year anniversary, they can order any color and as many as they need. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out unless you are currently in your 100th year. These are ordered through the Department in OMS and processed the same as the red poppies. Currently we have no plans to replenish inventory due to increased cost and the small quantities we sell of the Anniversary Poppies. Based on the past four years’ sales, we have sufficient inventory for the next 3.5 years of the Gold, 5 years of Diamond and 52 years of the Silver.

Adjutant General

Legal

We have received some questions recently on a new law that is about to become effective. The Corporate Transparency Act passed in 2021, included a reporting requirement called the Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting rule, which will go into effect on January 1, 2024. It generally requires entities doing business in the U.S. to disclose information to the U.S. Treasury, under the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), about individuals who directly or indirectly own or control a company.

Under this ruling, there is an exemption for tax-exempt organizations. The entity qualifies for the exemption if they are organized under 501(c) of the IRS Code of 1986 and are exempt from tax under section 501(a) of the Code. An entity also qualifies if it is described in section 501(c) of the Code and was exempt from tax under section 501(a) of the Code but lost its tax-exempt status less than 180 days ago.

In summary, Posts, Districts and Departments who are a 501(c) [including 501(c)(19), 501(c)(3), and 501(c)(4)] and who are currently exempt with the IRS do not have to report to the FinCEN. Also, Posts, Districts and Departments who are a 501(c) and have lost their exemption in the last 180 days do not have to report to the FinCEN. If a Post, District or Department has lost their exemption more than 180 days ago, they must file with the FinCEN, as must any entity not organized under 501(c).

Click here for more information: fincen.gov/boi-faqs.

National Veterans Service

New Accredited Service Officer Virtual Basic Training

NVS is excited to announce that Virtual Basic Accredited Service Officer Training will be available Feb. 5-9, 2024, for newly accredited representatives who have not yet participated in an NVS training conference. This conference will be a hybrid conference, with attendees receiving video training using the VFW Online Learning Portal as well as daily live instruction using Zoom teleconferencing software.

Formal notification to students who are required to participate in this conference will be sent in the coming weeks, along with instructions on how to register and access the course.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

Military Promotions Hold in Senate Finally Lifted

The nearly year-long obstruction of hundreds of senior officer promotions has ended in large part to Sens. Dan Sullivan and Joni Ernst, both fellow VFW members. The hold on military promotions endangered our national security and that of our allies, further jeopardizing the sustainability of our all-volunteer force. VFW National Commander Duane Sarmiento commented, "Going forward, we urge Congress to work together to resolve political disputes within the halls of Congress and permanently abandon the dangerous practice of casting partisan politics on to those wearing the cloth of our nation. Let's remember, veterans vote."

VFW Store

New Year, new gear! Check out the selection of T-shirts, polos, outerwear, caps, bags and more. See what's new at the VFW Store:

vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems



Roll Call of Departed Comrades

KNOWLES, JOHN M., Commander, Department of Arizona, 1993-1994, and Life Member of White Mountain Area Post No. 9907, Show Low, Arizona, December 18, 2023.

2023-24 State VFW Commander & Auxiliary President Shirts

See Order Form for Pricing Information

MEN'S STYLE POLO

These run true to size.



POLO SHIRTS AVAILABLE IN SHORT SLEEVE ONLY WITH BOTH MEN'S & WOMEN'S STYLE OPTION.

WOMEN'S STYLE POLO

*Please Note Women's Polos run small & you should order up a size.



ALL SHIRTS
WILL HAVE
COMMANDER / PRESIDENT
LOGO EMBROIDERED ON
LEFT SIDE
WITH OPTIONAL
PERSONALIZATION UP TO 3
LINES ON RIGHT SIDE
EXAMPLE
(NAME/TITLE/ POST#)

MEN'S & WOMENS LIGHT BLUE BUTTON DOWN
LONG OR SHORT SLEEVE AVAILABLE

These run true to size.



OUR SPECIAL PROJECT TAPS

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors is on every shirt. A big THANK YOU to our VFW home Post 4588 for sponsoring that extra cost! It was important to us to help bring awareness to the valuable resources TAPS provides. It is on the sleeve of the Polos & on back yoke of button ups.



2023-24 State Commander & President Shirts

Name: _____ Post#: _____
 Email _____ Phone# _____

BUTTON UP

PERSONALIZED OPTION

Shirt with Commander/President Logo on Left & Name /Title UP TO 3 LINES on Right

Men's & Women's Long or Short Sleeve

Print Name/Title (up to 3 lines)

Size		Small	Medium	Large	X Large	2X	3X	4X
Cost		\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
Long Sleeve	Men's							
	Ladies							
Short Sleeve	Men's							
	Ladies							

BUTTON UP

Shirt with Commander / President Logo ONLY

Men's & Women's Long or Short Sleeve

LOGO ONLY NOT PERSONALIZED

Size		Small	Medium	Large	X Large	2X	3X	4X
Cost		\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
Long Sleeve	Men's							
	Ladies							
Short Sleeve	Men's							
	Ladies							

POLO

PERSONALIZED OPTION

Short Sleeve Polo with Commander/President Logo PLUS Name /Title UP TO 3 LINES

Men's & Women's Short Sleeve POLO

Print Name/Title (up to 3 lines)

Size		Small	Medium	Large	X Large	2X	3X	4X
Cost		\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
Short Sleeve	Men's							
	Ladies							N/A

POLO

Short Sleeve POLO with Commander/President LOGO ONLY

Men's & Women's Short Sleeve POLO

LOGO ONLY NOT PERSONALIZED

Size		Small	Medium	Large	X Large	2X	3X	4X
Cost		\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
Short Sleeve	Men's							
	Ladies							N/A

**Make Checks Payable to Ron Delaney & Send Form & Payment to:
 Ron Delaney, 222 S Cloverleaf Dr., Haughton, LA 71037**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

LAST CHANCE TO ENTER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

SR VICE CDR RAFFLE

DRAWING 27 JANUARY 2024 AT MID-
WINTER CONFERENCE IN ALEXANDRIA

TICKETS \$10.00 EACH FOR 3 PRIZES

1ST PRIZE – RUGER AMERICAN 6.5
CREEDMOOR WITH VORTEX SCOPE

2ND PRIZE – WOODEN FLAG

3RD PRIZE – METAL LASER ART PIECE



RUGER AMERICAN RIFLE WITH
VORTEX CROSSFIRE II RIFLESCOPE



19" X 36"



18" X 12"

For more information contact Jennifer Lockett @ 337-602-8418 or Debbie
McElhannon @ 337-526-3695. Thank you for your support!

Return tickets by 26 Jan at MWC or mail by 18 Jan to 5455 Henderson Rd, Vinton, LA 70668

LAST CHANCE TO ENTER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



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: _____