

## MAIL CALL



January 2026

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#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

#### **Mid Winter Conference**

January 22-25, 2026 Hotel Bentley Alexandria

#### State Commanders Testimonial

March 21, 2026 VFW Post 3665 127 St. Phillip St. Raceland La 70394

#### **State Convention**

June 18-21, 2026 Hotel Bentley Alexandria

#### **REMINDERS:**

October to December Trustee Report of Audit is due by January 31st!

## "One Team, One Fight"

#### **DISTRICT MEETINGS**

#### **DISTRICT 2 MEETINGS:**

Jan 29, 2026 Post 3750 Registration 5:30 pm **Joint Meeting** 6:00 pm Dinner (\$7) 6:00 pm **Rep: Cmdr James Prestenback** 

Apr 23, 2025 Post 3750 Registration 5:30 pm 6:00 pm **Joint Meeting** Dinner (\$7) 6:00 pm

Rep: Adj Carl Karnish

#### **DISTRICT 3 MEETINGS:**

Jan 10, 2026 Post 3665 Registration 9:00 am Meeting 10:00 am Lunch 12:00 noon

**Rep: Cmdr James Prestenback** 

Apr 25, 2026 Post 3665 Registration 9:00 am Meeting 10:00 am Lunch 12:00 noon

**Rep: Ir Vice James Bourque** 

#### **DISTRICT 4 MEETINGS:**

April 18, 2026 Post 9822 Registration 9:00 am Meeting 10:00 am Lunch (\$8) 12:00 noon Rep: Judge Advocate Max Arends

#### **DISTRICT 5 MEETINGS:**

Mar 14, 2026 Post 3106 Registration 9:00 am Meeting 10:00 am Lunch 12:00 noon

Rep: Jr Vice James Bourque

May 2, 2026 Post 3802 Registration 9:00 am Meeting 10:00 am Lunch 12:00 noon Rep: PSC Debbie McElhannon

#### **DISTRICT 7 MEETINGS:**

May 9, 2026 Post 2483 Registration 9:00 am Meeting 10:00 am Lunch (\$10) 12:00 noon Rep: Jr Vice James Bourque

#### **DISTRICT 8 MEETINGS:**

January 17, 2026 Post 3693 Registration 9:00 am Meeting 10:00 am Lunch (\$7) 12 noon **Rep: Cmdr James Prestenback** 

April 25, 2026 Post 3785 9:00 am Registration Meeting 10:00 am Lunch (\$7) 12 noon Rep: Sr Vice Sharee Arends

#### **DISTRICT 9 MEETINGS:**

January 17, 2026 Post 8290 Registration 9:00 am Meeting 10:00 am Lunch 12 noon Rep: Jr Vice James Bourque

April 25, 2026 Post 8720 Registration 9:00 am Meeting 10:00 am Lunch 12 noon **Rep: Cmdr James Prestenback** 

#### **DISTRICT 10 MEETINGS:**

Feb 21, 2026 Post 3139 Registration 10:00 am 10:30 am Meeting Lunch (\$10) 12:00 noon **Rep: Cmdr James Prestenback** 

Apr 25, 2026 Post 8852 Registration 10:00 am Meeting 10:30 am Lunch (\$10) 12:00 noon Rep: Judge Advocate Max Arends

#### **DISTRICT 11 MEETINGS:**

Jan 17, 2026 Post 3615 Registration 9:30 am Meeting 10:00 am Lunch (\$10) 12:00 noon **Rep: Sr Vice Sharee Arends** 

May 16, 2026 Post 1809 Registration 9:30 am Meeting 10:00 am Lunch (\$10) 12:00 noon

Rep: Jr Vice James Bourque

#### **DISTRICT 12 MEETINGS:**

Jan 10, 2026 Post 4588 Registration 9:00 am Meeting 10:00 am Lunch (\$10) 12:00 noon

**Rep: Sr Vice Sharee Arends** 

May 9, 2026 Post 5951 Registration 9:00 am Meeting 10:00 am Lunch (\$10) 12:00 noon **Rep: Cmdr James Prestenback** 

#### **MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE WINNER:**

## The top recruiter for the month of **December** is **Chris LeGuin** from **Post 1809!** Congratulations **Chris**

#### CHALLENGE COIN

We invite all of our Post to join us in honoring our local law enforcement officers, EMTs, and firefighters by purchasing Challenge Coins to show our appreciation to them.

Cost \$10.00 each + shipping

All Posts should check with their District to see if they have placed an order to distribute to Post! Click the link below to order yours today!

https://form.jotform.com/242673672339162

#### LINK FOR POST TO REPORT THEIR RECRUITING EVENT FOR ALL STATE INCLUSION

https://form.jotform.com/253275025727054?

fbclid=IwY2xjawOakFRleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeH4MvMRd92PraG2q3pe-vSpjRw73tRYv-ImC4I27DMUI uQ0SPetQX3pd3A aem tKURUJ5BnPaowM0Z3doxAA

## IMPORTANT PROGRAM INFORMATION

At the Post Level you must enter your VOD, PP and Teachers submissions on the National Web Page: VFW.ORG.

- Login in
- Click on Online Membership System
- Click on All American Dashboard
- Click on Entries (upper rt corner)
- Click on +Create Entry
- Entry Type is PROGRAM
- Program—select VOD / PP / Teacher
- Make sure District and Post are correct.
- Fill out the information with regards to your select.
- Under notes put in that your winner has been forwarded to District
- Click Save and Approve

#### **VFW FOUNDATION GRANTS**

The VFW Foundation offers three grant opportunities annually. Applications are generally accepted from September through June 1 of the following year, or until grant funding is exhausted. Please reference each grant below for current information on application availability.

Grant eligibility is exclusive to VFW entities such as Posts, Districts, and Auxiliaries. Nonprofits outside of the VFW cannot apply. All grants are reimbursement-based, meaning applicants must complete their projects and then apply with proof of expenses.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GRANT APPLICATIONS FROM VFW POSTS MUST BE COMPLETED VIA THE DASHBOARD at VFW.ORG. CONVERSELY, VFW AUXILIARIES WILL APPLY FOR GRANTS THROUGH PDF APPLICATIONS WHICH AT THE MOMENT ARE UNAVAILABLE (Expected availability is likely after September 19).

We highly encourage applicants to contact the VFW Foundation before starting a project to ensure it qualifies.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact VFW Program Coordinator, Mary Spencer: (816) 756-3390 EXT: 6287, mspencer@vfw.org



### COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

#### CONGRATULATIONS ON A SUCCESSFUL FIRST QUARTER!



The first quarter of the 2025-2026 membership year has been a great success! We are ahead of where we were at this point last year, and we want to keep that momentum going into the second quarter!

The following Posts led their Divisions in the Q1 Commander's Challenge:

Division 1: Post 2224 (WA)	Division 7: Post 4713 (OH)
Division 2: Post 3219 (VA)	Division 8: Post 6908 (TN)
Division 3: Post 1210 (MN)	Division 9: Post 2602 (IL)
Division 4: Post 11038 (WI)	Division 10: Post 12231 (Pacific)
Division 5: Post 12202 (VA)	Division 11: Post 12235 (TX)
Division 6: Post 3174 (MO)	and a three of this property of the second second second second for a contract of the second

Every quarter, we will award points to our Posts as follows:

Recruit a New Annual Member into the Post: 1 point An Annual or Lapsed Member converts to Life: 5 points Recruit a New Life Member into the Post: 10 points



For the second quarter challenge, the Post that leads each Division at the end of the quarter will receive a pair of 8" table drapes for use at recruiting events and Post functions

As we start this new year, lets get out there and show everyone how NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!

This contest will run from October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. Applications and payments processed online before close of business will be credited that day, payments and applications made through the mail will be processed when received. Questions about this or other membership programs can be sent to membership@vfw.org.

#### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, DEPT OF LA TENTATIVE MID WINTER CONFERENCE AGENDA

JAN 22 - 25, 2026

THE BENTLEY HOTEL 200 Desoto St., Alexandria, LA.

#### VFW

	Thursd	lay -	January	22,	20	26
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4:00pm - 5:30pm	Registration	TBD (2nd Floor)
6:00 pm	Convention Committee MTG	Board Room

#### Friday - January 23, 2026

#### (Officers dress is Business Casual or Cmdr.'s Polo)

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7:00am - 9:00am	Breakfast	Bayou Chicou
9:00am - 11:30am	Registration	Lobby
9:00am - 10:15am	Suicide Prevention	Ball Room
10:30am - 12:00pm	Round Table Trn. (A/QM/CDR)	Ballroom 1st Floor
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch (National Home Fundraiser) Presented by JVC James Bourque	
The state of the s		
	Gumbo	Lobby
12:30pm - 4:00pm	Registration	Lobby
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Budget Meeting (if needed)	Ballroom 1st Floor
1:00pm - 2:00pm	VA Benefits Seminar (Possible)	Bayou Robert
2:00pm - Until	Pastalaya Cook Off Begins	Outside
2:30pm - 4:00pm	Council of Administration	Ballroom 1st Floor
4:15pm - 5:15pm	Auxiliary Bingo	Lobby 1st Floor
5:00pm	Pastalaya Judging	TBD
5:00pm - 6:00pm	MOC & MOCA Meeting	Bayou Robert 2nd Floor
6:00pm - 8:00pm	Dinner - Auxiliary Fundraiser	Lobby 1st Floor
	<b>Buddy Poppy Hat Contest</b>	Lobby 1st Floor

#### Saturday - January 24, 2026

Music (DJ from Church Point)

8:15pm

Ballroom 1st Floor

#### (Officers dress is Blues & Grays and/or Suit for Joint Opening)

7:00am - 9:00am	Breakfast	Bayou Chicou	
8:45	VFW & Aux Officers Line Up Lobby 1st Floor		
9:00am - 11:30am	Registration	Lobby	
9:00am - 11:30am	Joint Opening	Ballroom 1st Floor	
10:00am - 2:00pm	Blood Drive	Valet Area	
11:30am - 1:00pm	Lunch Auxiliary SRVP Fundraiser	Lobby	
12:00pm - 1:00pm	PSC Luncheon	Bayou Robert 2nd Floor	
	PSP Luncheon		
1:00pm - 3:30pm	VFW Business Session	Ballroom 1st Floor	
6:30pm	Banquet (Dress is Banquet Attire)	Ballroom 1st Floor	
VFW NATIO	ONAL REP: NATIONAL SR. VICE CIC (	OREY GEISLER	
8:15pm	Music (DJ from Church Point)	Ballroom 1st Floor	

#### Sunday - January 25, 2026

7:00am - 9:00am Breakfast Bayou Chicou 9:00am - 11:00pm Final Business Session (if needed) Ballroom 1st Floor

#### HOSPITALITY ROOM - BEAUREGARD - 2ND FLOOR



## STATE COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT



## PROJECT 4 HOPE

Project 4 Hope is a Veterans tiny house community in Arcadia, LA.

GOAL: RAISE \$10,000 TO BUILD A TINY HOME FOR VETERANS NAMED AFTER VFW DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE USING THE QR CODE OR BY MAILING A CHECK TO VFW DEPT OF LOUISIANA **HEADQUARTERS: 10185 MAMMOTH AVE., BATON ROUGE, LA 70814** 



#### **EVENT FLYERS:**

Any District/Post that has upcoming events and would like to include a flyer in our monthly Mail Call, please send the information to adj@vfwla.net

## Future National Convention Dates:

July 24-30, 2026

Reno, NV

July 31-Aug 4, 2027

Aug 5-10, 2028

Milwaukee, WI

San Antonio, TX

## VFW Department of Louisiana Headquarters CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office- 225-928-5025 | www.vfwdeptla.org

\*Please note the Department NO longer has a Fax Number!

#### **State Quartermaster**

Elvin R. Bass

Email: qtm@vfwla.net

#### **State Adjutant**

Carl Karnish

Email: adj@vfwla.net

#### **State Administrative Assistant:**

Tori LeBlanc

Email: admin@vfwla.net

#### **State Commander:**

James Prestenback

Email: jprestenback302@gmail.com

## COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING:

All reports should be submitted **MONTHLY** by logging onto the Department's Website - Members Only Section. It's very important that Community Service Activities are reported in the month that they take place!

#### Department Conference/ Convention Dates:

#### **Mid Winter**

January 22-25, 2026

#### **State Convention**

June 18-21, 2026

2026-2027

#### **CoA/Officer Training**

August 28-30, 2026

#### Mid - Winter

January 28-31, 2027

#### **State Convention**

June 17-20, 2027

#### From the desk of the State Commander...

Happy New Year to our VFW family!

As we begin a new year, I want to thank each of you for your continued dedication and hard work on behalf of our veterans, service members, and their families. I am extremely proud of our leadership at every level—Post, District, and State—and the teamwork being shown across Louisiana.

Outstanding job on membership efforts statewide. Your focus on retention and recruitment is paying off, and it reflects the strength and commitment of our organization. Let's continue to build on this momentum as we move forward in the new year.



State Commander James Prestenback

I would also like to thank everyone who participated in our VFW programs this year. Programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Americanism, Teacher of the Year, Safety, and others highlight the positive impact our Posts and Districts have within their communities. I look forward to announcing and recognizing our program winners in the upcoming Mid-Winter Conference.

January brings important opportunities to connect and strengthen our organization. I encourage everyone to attend your upcoming District meetings and actively participate in the discussions and planning taking place. These meetings are vital to sharing ideas, addressing challenges, and ensuring continued success.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Mid-Winter Conference, where we will have the opportunity for training, fellowship, and alignment as we prepare for the remainder of the year.

Thank you again for all that you do. I wish you and your families a safe, healthy, and successful New Year.

## A message from our State Sr. Vice Commander....

Comrades.

As we close out this month, I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible work each of you has done in recruiting and retaining members. Your dedication to growing our ranks ensures that the Veterans of Foreign Wars remains a strong voice for those who served.

Membership is the lifeblood of our organization, and this month's progress shows what happens when we work together with purpose. Every conversation, every outreach effort, and every welcome extended to a new member makes a difference—not just for our posts, but for the veterans and families we serve.

I also want to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for the countless hours you put in behind the scenes. Whether it's organizing events, supporting community programs, or simply being there for a fellow veteran, your commitment embodies the very spirit of the VFW.



Sr. Vice Commander
Sharee Arends

As we reflect on the holiday season just past, I hope each of you found time to enjoy family, friends, and the peace you've earned through your service. Looking ahead, let's carry that spirit of camaraderie and gratitude into the new year. Together, we can continue to honor our mission and strengthen our brotherhood and sisterhood.

Thank you for all you do, and best wishes for a safe, happy, and prosperous New Year! I look forward to seeing your friendly faces as I travel around the state for District meetings. It is always an honor to stand alongside Veterans who are Still Serving.

## A message from our State Jr. Vice Commander....

Comrades,

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas, and enjoyed spending  $\theta$ me with loved ones and those closest to you. As we've now turned the page on 2025 and into 2026 it is a good time to evaluate your post or district plans for the year. If there are any adjustments to the plan that need to be made now's the time. This will help us finish the year strong and keeping with the State Commanders mo $\Sigma$ o "One team. One Fight."

We're halfway through the 25-26 year and it has been a great year on many fronts. We had a great membership push in December! Keep up the recruiting, recurring and reinstate efforts! Our community service efforts so far this year has been outstanding! This is evident not only in the community service dashboard, but in the many posts on Facebook from across the state. No one truly works harder and gives more than veterans from Louisiana. Let's keep this momentum rolling into 2026 and finish the last half of the 25-26 year strong!

I want to remind everyone about the National Home Gumbo Lunch Fundraiser. This will be held the Friday of Mid-Winter. Please bring \$10.00 for your lunch. There will be no ticket sales. All you have to do is drop your money in the bucket at the door. All proceeds from the lunch fundraiser will go directly to the National Home. For \$10.00 you will get a bowl of gumbo, potato salad, dessert, and a drink. You can't beat that! Good food for a great cause!

On that note I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter, and finding out who will be our VOD winner for the 25-26 year. Thank you for all your hard work and see you later this month.



Jr. Vice Commander
James Bourque

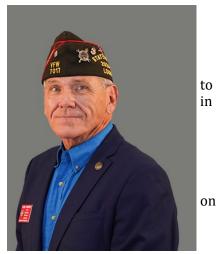
## A message from our State Adjutant....

The Power of Timely Reporting in Strengthening Our Mission

In every VFW Post, we pride ourselves on service, accountability, and commitment to one another. These values don't just guide our major initiatives — they show up the everyday responsibilities that keep our organization strong. One of the simplest yet most impactful of these responsibilities is submitting reports on time.

Timely reporting isn't just paperwork. It's a reflection of our dedication to the veterans and families we serve. When reports arrive promptly, our Districts and Departments can track progress, secure funding, plan events, and advocate effectively behalf of our members. Every report — whether it's community service, membership, or program activity — becomes a building block in the larger mission of the VFW.

When reports are late, the entire chain slows down. Opportunities are missed. Resources are delayed. Momentum fades. But when we stay on schedule, we send a clear message: we are organized, we are engaged, and we are committed to excellence.



State Adjutant Carl Karnish

Each of us plays a part in that success. By taking a few minutes to complete and submit reports on time, we honor the trust placed in us as leaders and members. We strengthen our Posts, support our comrades, and ensure the VFW continues to stand as a force for good in our communities.

Let's keep that momentum strong — together.

### A message from our State Quartermaster.....

Comrades,

I hope you all had a great Christmas Holiday with your families. As we begin a new calendar year, I want to take a moment to thank our Posts and Districts for their continued dedication.

I encourage all Quartermasters to take time this month to review Post finances, verify bonding coverage, and ensure that proper internal controls are being followed. If you have questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to Department Headquarters. We are here to help and want to see every Post succeed.



State Quartermaster Elvin Ray Bass

Our Mid-Winter Conference is less than a month away. Posts can register attending members on the Department's website, as well as purchase banquet tickets.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Alexandria at the end of this month.

## A message from our State Surgeon....

Comrades,

Now that Christmas has passed and hopefully Santa brought you everything you wanted. I would like to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2026.

POP BONE

State Surgeon
Joseph Dufrene

Joseph Dufrene State Surgeon

## A message from our State Chaplain....

The start of a new year brings with it a sense of hope. It is a time when we pause, reflect, and consider what kind of people, and comrades, we want to be in the months ahead. For veterans, January is an opportunity to renew not just personal resolutions, but our commitment to one another.

Many of us resolve to improve our health, strengthen our families, or slow down and appreciate life more. This year, let us also resolve to look outward, to notice the veterans around us who may be struggling quietly. A phone call, a ride to an appointment, an invitation to a meeting, or simply listening can make a powerful difference.

Scripture reminds us that small acts of care matter. "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Helping fellow veterans does not require grand gestures. It begins with compassion, consistency, and a willingness to be present.

State Chaplain Paul Stone

The new year brings fresh opportunities to serve in meaningful ways. We can resolve to check on those who have gone silent, to share resources with those who are overwhelmed, and to ensure no veteran feels forgotten. When we lift one another up, we continue the mission of service that first brought us together.

As this new year unfolds, let us move forward with gratitude for what we have endured and hope for what we can still do. May our resolutions be rooted in kindness, our actions guided by purpose, and our fellowship strengthened through care for one another.

Prayer: Lord, bless this new year with hope and compassion. Help us see those in need, give us willing hearts to serve, and unite us in caring for one another. Amen.

## ALL STATE & ALL AMERICAN DOES MY POST QUALIFY?

To be eligible for All State and All American we always hear that my post must be in good standing. What does this really mean?

To maintain good standing as a VFW Post, it must adhere to the following requirements:

- Post must have a Charter (Sec 201 Bylaws)
- Formation. A Post may be formed by completing a charter application consisting of twenty-five (25) eligible veterans, of which at least ten (10) must be new members, submitted through proper channels to the Commander-in-Chief.
- Remedy:
- Ensure you have a copy of the Post Charter. If you do not request a copy from National for \$25
- Post shall adopt Bylaws (Sec 202 Manual of Procedure)
- Copies of Bylaws, including amendments adopted by a Post shall, within thirty (30) days, be forwarded to the Department Commander for review and forward ing to the Commander in-Chief. Bylaws or amendments adopted by a Post shall become effective upon review by the Commander-in-Chief, provided such By laws do not conflict with the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual or laws and us ages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
- Remedy:
- Go to vfwdeptla.org
- Click on RESOURCES
- From drop down menu click on forms
- Click on PostBylawsTemplate 2024.pdf
- Fill in blank areas
- Follow Sec 202 ByLaws to establish a vote by the Post
- Copies of Bylaws, including amendments adopted by a Post shall, within thirty
  (30) days, be forwarded to the Department Commander for review and forward
  ing to the Commander in-Chief. Bylaws or amendments adopted by a Post shall
  become effective upon review by the Commander-in-Chief, provided such By
  laws do not conflict with the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual or laws and us
  ages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
- Regular Meetings. (Sec 203 Bylaws)
- Post shall hold at least one regular meeting each month.

- The Post Bylaws may specify the minimum number of members required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a regular or special meeting, provided that in no case shall the quorum be less than five (5) mem bers.
  - Remedy:
  - Hold your meetings as outlined in Commanders Book
  - IF you do not have a quorum, do not give up reach out to members via the phone. They can attend telephonically.
- Arrearages, Deficiencies and Omissions. (Sec 213 Bylaws)
- Any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable),
   District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money,
- Failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703,
- Bonds (Sec 703 Bylaws) Each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these Bylaws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, they may be accountable. The bond premium shall be paid from the funds of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Depart ment, District, County Council or Post to which each officer is accountable. The bonds of such accountable officers, in amount and as to surety, shall be ap proved by their respective units and held by their respective Commanders. The Commander of each unit shall be responsible for the proper and adequate bonding of all accountable officers in their unit.
  - Remedy:
  - Go to vfwdeptla.org
  - Click on RESOURCES
  - From drop down menu click on Post Bond Information
  - Click on Officers Bond Application
  - Fill in blank areas
- failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with (Sec 709 By laws)
- Any Post, County Council, District or Department owning and/or operating, directly or by reason of a holding company or other entity

substantially controlled by the Post, County Council, District or Department or its members, a canteen, clubroom or other facility available to members or guests must maintain general liability insurance, including, if necessary or appropriate, liquor liability insurance. Such insurance must be of a type and amount sufficient to protect the Post, County Council, District or Department and must name, as additional insureds, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Department in which such Post, County Council, District or Department is located.

- Remedy:
- There are many companies that will provide insurance to post. Shop around, talk with other posts, know your Posts needs.
- failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit (Sec 218.11 Manual of Procedures)
- Trustees shall not be eligible to serve as an elected officer, Adjutant or on a committee whose books, records and accounts are audited by the Trustees. Among the duties of Post trustees, they shall:
- a. At least monthly, review the Monthly Report of Receipts and Expenditures of the Post Quartermaster.
- b. Within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, properly audit the books and Record of the Post Quartermaster, Post Adjutant, and any activity, club room, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or on behalf of the Post and submit a Post Trustee's Report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector.
- c. The Report shall be in accordance with and upon such form as may be prescribed by the Adjutant General. The audit shall be signed by the Post Commander and Trustees, who shall, by their signatures, certify to the accuracy of the information contained therein.
- Remedy:
- Go to vfwdeptla.org
- Click on LOGIN then MEMBERS ONLY
- Member ID is your membership number
- Password is your last name no caps
- Click on Login
- Click on Post Trustee Resources

- Click on Trustees-Report-of-Audit-form2025.pdf
- Fill in blank areas based on provided documentation.
- Print form out for Review and THREE SIGNATURES
- Send completed form (Hardcopy, Picture or Scanned) to Department within 30 days of the quarter closing.
- Post Election Report for the Ensuing Year, (Sec 218a,1,i Manual of Procedures)
  - i. Assure that all reports are correctly prepared and promptly forwarded, that all Business of the Post is handled with dispatch and that all necessary licenses and permits are obtained for proper operation. Ensure that a properly completed Report of Election of Officers for the Ensuing Year is submitted to Department and National Headquarters by June 1.
  - Remedy:
  - After Post and District elections QM should complete the election report completely. You will find the Election Report on the VFW home page. VFW.ORG
  - VERIFY all information is correct. Verify spelling of names, phone numbers, email address and physical address.
  - If you have a change of officers you can resubmit the election report to insure that HQ has the current information.
  - or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council and District meetings, County Council, District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.
- Posts will submit other obligations, specifically the IRS Form 990 annually. (Sec 218.a.5. j Manual of Procedures)
  - j. File appropriate forms as required by Federal, State and Local Statutes or regulations.
  - Important Reminders:
    - All Post should be filing on a Fiscal Year (July 1 to June 30th)

- Due Date: The 990 filing (any version) is due on the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of the fiscal year, so for VFW Post the due date is November 15th.
- Failure to file for 3 consecutive years results in automatic revocation of tax-exempt status
  - Remedy:
  - Go to vfwdeptla.org
  - Click on LOGIN then MEMBERS ONLY
  - Member ID is your membership number
  - Password is your last name no caps
  - Click on Login
  - Click on Post Quartermasters Resources
  - Scroll down to TAX INFORMATION
  - Decide which 990 form you are required to file.
  - File the appropriate tax form.
  - Need Help Call the Department Quartermaster!!

To keep your Post non-profit status a 990 must be filed before **November 15** of each year.

#### Which 990 Form should a Post file?

The 990 form a Post must file depends on its financial activity, as indicated below:

#### Form Type Eligibility Details

**990-N** Gross receipts normally \$50,000 or less per year Filed electronically only. Very short form.

**990-EZ** Gross receipts more than \$50,000 but less than shorter version of full 990 \$200,000, and assets under \$500,000

**990** Gross receipts \$200,000 or more, or assets Full Form (Detailed) \$500,000 or more

**990-TIf** the Post has unrelated business income (UBI) In addition to 990 filing over \$1000

990-N Filing Guide: <a href="http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5248.pdf">http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5248.pdf</a>

Click here to file a 990 N: <a href="http://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-electronic-filing-requirement-for-small-exempt-organizations-form-990-n-e-postcard">http://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-electronic-filing-requirement-for-small-exempt-organizations-form-990-n-e-postcard</a>

- Post Annual Inspection completed (Sec 418,a,11 Manual of Procedures)
- The District Inspector shall ensure that each Post in the District is inspected in accordance with the Department Bylaws or as directed by the Department Commander. The requirements of such inspection are:
- 1. That all books and records are inspected in accordance with a properly executed Inspection Form.
- 2. The Inspector shall provide a copy of each inspection to the Post Commander, District and Department and set forth therein any constructive criticism and recommendations. The Inspector shall perform such other duties as may be incident to the office or may be from time to time required by the laws and usages of the organization or on lawful orders of proper authority.
  - Remedy:
  - BE PREPARED
  - Go to vfwdeptla.org
  - Click on LOGIN then MEMBERS ONLY
  - Member ID is your membership number
  - Password is your last name no caps
  - Click on Login
  - Click on appropriate inspection form:
  - Districtinspectionformandinstructions.pdy
  - Postinspectionpackagefillanle.pdf

# STATE COMMANDER'S TEST MONITOR STATE COMMANDER'S

HOSTED BY POST 3665



### MARCH 21, 2026 4:00PM - UNTIL

Cajun Theme. Donations only. Come experience some great cajun cuisine. Post will open at 11am for a social and the possibility of some boiled crawfish. Music starting at 6pm by Corey Perrilloux. Please RSVP. Casual dress. We have blocked rooms at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites located at 4716 Hwy 1 Raceland, LA 70394. Saturday night \$119.00. Group Name: "State Commander". Booking Cut off is March 16, 2026

#### **Veterans of Foreign Wars**

#### **Department of Louisiana**

#### **Legislative Report December 2025**

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. Wishing each of you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays for December.

#### **December 8th:**

VFW Testifies on Pending Legislation: VFW National Legislative Director Kristina Keenan testified at a hearing on pending legislation before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R.6047, Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act of 2025, would provide an added supplement to Special Monthly Compensation for catastrophically injured veterans and would raise Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for survivors. However, it would be financed by removing the VA home loan funding fee exemption for disabled veterans rated 70 percent or below on their second and subsequent uses of the loan. "The VFW wants to see increases in monthly support to the most severely disabled veterans, and we want to see survivor benefits strengthened. We agree that these are long overdue, but asking disabled veterans to finance them is something the VFW cannot accept," said Keenan. Read the testimony or watch the hearing, which begins at the 23:57 mark.

VFW Statement for Senate Medication Management Hearing: The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs conducted a hearing on medication management within VA health care. VFW National Legislative Associate Director Meggan Coleman submitted a statement for the record focused on medication prescribing patterns, consequences of overprescribing, and related experiences from VFW members. According to Coleman, "These experiences highlight a larger issue within the VA system, which is the potential for overprescribing and the urgent need for alternative and more personalized options for those who have served." Read the testimony or watch the hearing, which begins at the 15:43 mark.

Action Alert on Veteran Medication Safety: Many veterans are still being prescribed powerful psychiatric drug combinations without clear written information about risks, side effects, or safer alternatives. The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing to examine VA medication management for which the VFW submitted testimony for the record to convey to Congress how serious this problem has become. Two House bills have been introduced that would provide real protection. H.R.4837, Written Informed Consent Act, would require written informed consent before VA prescribes certain psychiatric medications; and H.R.2623, Innovative Therapies Centers of Excellence Act of 2025, would expand access to innovative PTSD treatments to reduce reliance on heavy medication. Your voice matters, so take action now and tell Congress to support these solutions.

VFW Recovers \$16.2 Billion for Veterans: VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) continues to stand as one of the strongest advocates for America's veterans, delivering direct, life-changing support at no cost. With a network of more than 2,300 highly trained VA-accredited representatives serving in communities across the country and around the world, NVS ensures veterans and their families receive the care,

benefits and recognition they have earned. These dedicated representatives have assisted more than 608,000 veterans with their claims and appeals, guiding them through a complex and often overwhelming process. To date, their unmatched expertise and commitment has resulted in over \$16.2 billion recovered in earned benefits, all free of charge to every veteran they assisted. NVS remains proudly mission focused: veterans first, always. Learn more.

**TRICARE Enrollment Window Closing:** TRICARE Open Season ends on Dec. 9. Eligible beneficiaries may enroll in or change health plans for 2026. Active duty members and those with TRICARE For Life are not affected. Beneficiaries can make changes online through milConnect, by phone, or by mail, and should verify their Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System information. Changes made during this period will take effect on Jan. 1. Read more.

VFW Podcast Covers the Latest in DC: In the latest episode of #StillServing: The VFW Podcast, special guest VFW Junior Vice Commander Glenn Umberger joins Washington Office regulars to discuss the latest news and events in our nation's capital. The panel recaps National Legislative Service Director Kristina Keenan's recent congressional testimony, new articles that deep dive into Claim Sharks' waters, and VFW's stance on VA medication management. Catch episode 55, "Mimecast and CallBots and Over-Prescriptions," on your favorite podcast platform or watch it on the VFW's YouTube channel.

#### **December 15th:**

VFW Testifies on Pending Legislation: VFW National Legislative Service Acting Director Nancy Springer testified at a Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing on pending legislation. In her written statement, Springer addressed all 24 legislative proposals and bills under the Committee's consideration, while highlighting three key measures during her oral testimony. She emphasized that this legislative triplet would eliminate automatic claim denials due to a missed medical examination, enable a more efficient and timely appeals process, and allow veterans to access available military medical treatment facilities, improving continuity of care and timely medical evaluations. Read the testimony or watch the hearing, which begins at the 1:18:12 mark.

VFW Addresses House Bipartisan Working Group on Veterans' Employment: VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Joy Craig participated in a congressional breakfast hosted by the House Bipartisan Working Group to discuss policies that strengthen veterans' employment and military-to-civilian transition. Craig emphasized that transition is a core Department of Defense responsibility and called for early VA benefits enrollment for all separating service members to prevent the "deadly gap" following discharge. Key priorities included modernization of education benefits, enhanced Veteran Readiness and Employment counseling, expanded hiring incentives for veterans and military spouses, and stronger oversight of the Transition Assistance Program to ensure full access to earned benefits.

VFW Highlights Data Security Concerns on Capitol Hill: VFW National Veterans Service Deputy Director Chris Macinkowicz spoke at a House Committee on Veterans' Affairs roundtable focused on VA's growing challenges with artificial intelligence and the urgent need to safeguard veterans' data. Macinkowicz stressed that AI must be treated as a tool, not an employee, and called for strong oversight, clear guidelines and robust security protocols to protect sensitive information. He urged law-makers to move quickly to establish transparent, enforceable standards for AI use across VA operations, noting that these safeguards are essential to maintaining veterans' trust and addressing vulnerabilities in an already strained cybersecurity environment. Watch the roundtable, which begins at the 1:57 mark.

VFW Submits Statement for House Oversight Hearing: The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health conducted an oversight hearing titled, "Putting Families First: Strengthening CHAMPVA for Survivors and Dependents." VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Meggan Coleman submitted a statement for the record that emphasized the urgent need for sustained momentum in Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) technological innovation stating, "The VFW calls on Congress and VA leadership to continue building on the existing modernization foundation. VA should further streamline internal processing systems by utilizing the digital infrastructure already in place for VA community care and TRICARE." Read the testimony or watch the hearing, which begins at the 1:39:57 mark.

VFW Commends VA Women's Health Policy Improvement: VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore released a statement praising VA Secretary Doug Collins and his team for removing mandated referrals for gynecological care. Going forward, women veterans will no longer need to meet with their VA primary care team for a referral; they may now contact gynecology directly for appointments. "As the first woman to lead the nation's largest organization of combat veterans, and as a former Army Nurse who relies on VA for my own health care, I know firsthand how vital it is for women veterans to feel welcomed, respected and understood when they enter a VA facility," said Whitmore. "For VA to remain a truly veteran-centered health system, removing barriers and eliminating inefficiencies must remain a priority." Read the statement.

#### December 22nd:

VFW Supports VHA Restructuring Efforts: VA plans to reorganize the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to improve care for veterans by reducing bureaucracy, clarifying roles and empowering local medical center leaders. Guided by recommendations from the VA Inspector General and Government Accountability Office, the reorganization will streamline management while keeping staffing levels and services unchanged. VHA Central Office will focus on policy and oversight, regional networks will support implementation, and local facilities will have greater decision-making authority. These changes will roll out over the next 18–24 months to help VA focus more on better care delivery and less on bureaucracy. Read more.

**New VFW Story Banking Initiative:** The VFW has launched VFW Voices of Service – Stories in Action, a new national initiative to collect veteran and family experiences that inform and strengthen our legislative advocacy. We will be gathering stories on a wide range of issues, including VA health care access; toxic exposures; concurrent receipt and the Major Richard Star Act; VA benefits and disability claims; education, employment and transition; mental health and suicide prevention; food insecurity; caregiver and survivor benefits; and other challenges facing the veteran and military community. Submissions will help us to identify patterns, gaps and real-world impacts that shape legislative priorities, congressional engagement, testimony, education and grassroots advocacy throughout the year. Every experience adds to the overall picture. Share your story and help turn your personal experience into advocacy action.

**VFW Urges Awarding of Purple Hearts:** VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore sent a letter to the White House urging President Trump to award Purple Hearts to the West Virginia National Guard troops involved in the recent Washington D.C., shooting, which left one dead and one critically wounded. "Spc. Beckstrom and Staff Sgt. Wolfe answered their nation's call and wore the same uniform as every American who has been called away from their families to stand a post, whether at home or abroad," said

Whitmore. "If this investigation confirms terroristic intent, recognizing them under the Purple Heart is not just a matter of law, it is a matter of honor." Read the letter.

VFW Podcast Guests Talk Veteran Data, Legislation and Military Transition: On the latest episode of #StillServing: The VFW Podcast, co-hosts Rob Couture and Brittany Dymond Murray welcomed VFW National Veterans Service and National Legislative Service Deputy Directors to discuss the nuances of recent Hill activities, VA claims for transitioning service members, and even a recap of the VFW's attendance at the Army Navy Game 2025 tailgates. Listen to episode 56, "And of Course, World Peace," on your favorite podcast platform or watch it on the VFW's YouTube channel.

VFW Leaders and Members Engage Crowds at Army Navy Game Tailgates: Together with VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore and Junior Vice Commander Glenn Umberger, VFW Washington Office staff and members from the Departments of Rhode Island and Maryland shared in camaraderie building and community outreach across two tailgate events. As a fixture at the Travis Manion Foundation's tailgate, VFW leadership and staff engaged key leaders and supporters in the military and veteran spaces while members from VFW Rhode Island Post 152 organized and held their Mother of All Tailgates event to raise funds for Homes For Our Troops. VFW members from the Department of Maryland assisted heavily with outreach at both tailgates, enabling VFW's messages of service, advocacy and camaraderie to reach new audiences.

\* This is the last edition of the Action Corps Weekly for 2025. The next edition will be on Monday, Jan. 12, 2026. We wish you a Merry Christmas and wonderful holiday season! \*

Respectfully,

Matthew J. West

VFW, Department of Louisiana

Matthew. J. West

National Legislative Committee Member 2020-2026

#### LOUISIANA COUNCIL MEMBER

Welcome to 2026 and the halfway point of the 2025-2026 VFW Year. Our Department surpassed that all important 92% membership prior to 31 December 2025 which is a great achievement and helping build toward us reaching 101% as the CIC has set as a goal.

Program finalist should be at the Department Level and final judging taking place, good luck to all the Districts that your entries do well at the Department level. Working the programs get you into the community and let them know that we are here to support and award teachers, 1 st responders along with youth for doing outstanding things. This will also help with your membership as people attending your awards program maybe eligible to join our organization.

As January approaches so do Department Mid Winter Conferences and VOD/PP Awards Programs. I have the privilege to represent our CIC in Alaska and Oregon this coming month, but don't worry I will be back to attend the Louisiana Mid Winter as well. It is truly a unique experience traveling to other Departments and see how they conduct their events compared to our Department. SVCIC Cory Geisler will be the national Rep for Louisiana's Mid Winter so lets welcome that Wisconsin fella with some good ole Louisiana Hospitality.

Districts I hope you all are ready to compete in the 5 th Annual Mid Winter Cookoff, with this years event featuring Pastalaya. Good luck to all Districts.

Soon we will be heading to Washington DC for the Washington Conference February 27 to March 4, Legislative Chairman Matt West is working tirelessly to set up meetings with our Legislators so we can discuss Priority Goals and things that are effecting Louisiana veterans. This will be the first year that we won't have the VOD Parade of Champions on Monday night as it was voted on and approved to send the winners to Freedom Foundation in Philadelphia in April.

The monthly Council Updates are sent to all of the District Commanders for distribution to the Posts, if you are not receiving them please contact your District Commander or send me an email and I will send them to you.

Do not just wait until it is time to collect dues to contact your members, do it on a regular basis. Until next month, let's continue to renew, reinstate and recruit members into the Department of Louisiana VFW.



# Department of Louisiana VFW Desert Storm War Memorial Fundraiser 2025

As the construction of this Memorial has begun with an anticipated completion date in 2026, let's step up once again and do our part to help honor those who served during this War.

The goal is to raise another \$5000.00 from the Department to bring our total to \$20,000.00. To accomplish this the Challenge is for each Post in the Department to donate a minimum of \$75.00 earmarked for this fundraiser, Auxiliaries are also welcome to donate as well. Send all donations to the Department Quartermaster earmarked for the Memorial.

We are also going to issue a challenge to all the other Departments to match or beat our donation to help the VFW be recognized as a Million Dollar donor on the memorial.



Louisiana

## FISHING TRIP FUNDRAISER

TO CONTINUE FUNDING VITAL PROGRAMS AND OFFSET
DEPARTMENT EXPENSES, WE'RE HOSTING A FUNDRAISER IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH OUTCAST FISHING CHARTERS

GRAND PRIZE: A FULL-DAY
GUIDED FISHING TRIP FOR
TWO PEOPLE

- INCLUDES ALL NECESSARY FISHING EQUIPMENT
- LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS
- AMEMORABLE LOUISIANA
  FISHING EXPERIENCE WITH
  PROFESSIONAL CAPTAINS



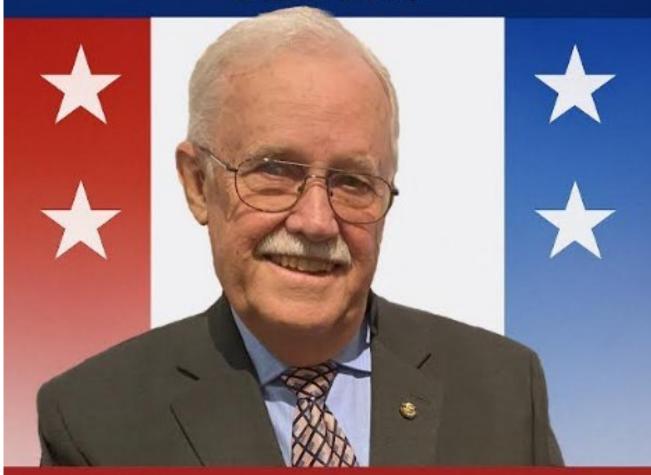
PURCHASE YOUR TICKET TODAY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A GUIDED FISHING TRIP AND SUPPORT OUR VETERANS!

For tickets, contact a local VFW Post or Department Headquarters at 225-928-5025





## CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL 2026-2030



## DON REBER

TRIPLE CROWN PAST STATE COMMANDER 22-23

A PROVEN LEADER WITH OVER FORTY
YEARS OF EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE,
STANDING READY TO SERVE
OUR LOUISIANA VETERANS

As a member of this great organization, I would like your support to become our next Junior Vice Commander for the Department of Louisiana 2026-27.

As a proud 24-year veteran of the United States Air Force and a dedicated member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, my vision as Junior Vice Commander of the Department of Louisiana is to strengthen our foundation of **Service**, **Unity**, **and Advocacy**. I will work tirelessly to ensure every veteran's voice is heard, every post is empowered, and every member feels valued. Together, we will preserve the traditions of the VFW while embracing innovative ways to grow, engage, and lead—ensuring our organization remains a powerful force for veterans and their families across Louisiana and beyond.

Lawrence (Larry) S. Koons

President, Cole-Miers VFW Riders

Commander, District 5 Louisiana VFW

VFW Riders Chairman,

Department of Louisiana VFW.

"No One Does More For Vets"

Mental health is one of our most crucial fights!







# State Junior Vice Commander

- -A proven Leader with over 26+ years of Military Service
- -Two-time Cootie All-Star Grand Commander
- -Six-term State Chaplain
- -Two term District 12 Commander & All-State / All-American Post Commander
- Dedicates countless hours each month to his post, church, and his community
- **-Life member DAV and National Infantry Association**
- -Silver Legacy lifetime member VFW post 5951

## JANUARY TOP REGRUITER

The FN SCAR, designed by FN Herstal, the SCAR-H offers versatility and adaptability, catering to various mission requirements. The SCAR is used by several military forces and special units worldwide, known for its reliability and accuracy. Its legacy includes its role in advancing modular rifle design for modern combat scenarios.







1:3 SCALE





#### VFW DAY OF SERVICE 2026

The fifth annual VFW Day of Service will kick off May 2, 2026.

This worldwide movement lasts for the entire month. Be sure to let your fellow veterans and Posts know and encourage them to sign up.

Participating in Day of Service 2026 gets your Post one step closer to achieving All-American status. Plus, you'll be making a positive difference in your town — It's a win-win!

Did we mention Posts that confirm their events and participation early will be more likely to have support from our team to earn media coverage? The sooner you confirm participation, the more support we can provide.

- Confirm and update your event details
- Share stories and contact info to potentially get your Post media attention
- Find FREE helpful tools to come up with ideas, plan, and promote your event

P.S. Don't miss out on your chance to show America how you're Still Serving with your fellow veterans. Start making plans now to participate in the 2026 VFW Day of Service!





# Jr Vice Team is hosting a Mid-Winter Friday Lunch Fundraiser for the National Home



#### Includes:

Gumbo, Potato Salad, dessert, drink
Purchase on-site for \$10 donation
Cash or Check
ALL Proceeds will go to the
VFW National Home

Served at The Bentley (enter the Forum to the left of grand staircase)

Sponsored by **Humana** 



#### ATTENTION POSTS AND DISTRICT

# DO NOT FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR POST AND DISTRICT EVENTS TO PUBLISH IN THE MONTH-LY MAIL CALL!!!

## VETERANS HELPING VETERANS TO HELP VETERANS