



MAIL CALL



May 2026

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- District Meetings– Page 2
- Ramifications of a Post Not being in good standing– Page 3
- VFW Foundation Grants– Page 3
- Department Challenge Coin— Page 3
- Membership Challenge Winner– Page 3
- Commander’s 90 Challenge **Winners**– Page 4
- State Commander’s Special Project– Page 5
- Conference/Convention Dates– Page 6
- Administration Contact information—Page 6
- State Commander’s Article– Page 7
- Sr. Vice Commanders Article– Page 8
- Jr. Vice Commanders Article– – Page 9
- Dept. Proposed ByLaw AmendmentsPage10-11
- Legislative Report– Page 12-15
- Day of Service—Page 17
- Desert Storm Donations– Page 18
- Department Fundraiser Flyer– Page 19
- Candidates for State Senior Vice Cmdr—20
- Candidates for State Junior Vice Cmdr 21-22
- Candidate for National Council Member– Page 23
- April Award Top Recruiter– Pages 24
- Post Functions—Page 25-29
- Auxiliary Functions—Page 30

UPCOMING EVENTS:

State Convention

June 18-21, 2026

Hotel Bentley Alexandria

REMINDERS:

**January—March Trustee
Report of Audit is due by April
30th**

“One Team, One Fight”

DISTRICT MEETINGS

DISTRICT 7 MEETINGS:

May 9, 2026 **Post 2483**
Registration 9:00 am
Meeting 10:00 am
Lunch (\$10) 12:00 noon
Rep: PSC Fred Wesley

DISTRICT 11 MEETINGS:

May 16, 2026 **Post 1809**
Registration 9:30 am
Meeting 10:00 am
Lunch (\$10) 12:00 noon
Rep: Sr Vice Sharee Arends

DISTRICT 12 MEETINGS:

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 **April is Chanda Hill** from **Post 8973!** Congratulations

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?](https://form.jotform.com/253275025727054?fbclid=IwY2xjawOakFRleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcf9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeH4MvMRd92PraG2q3pe-vSpjRw73tRYv-lmC4I27DMUI_uQ0SPetQX3pd3A_aem_tKURUJ5BnPaowM0Z3doxAA)

[fbclid=IwY2xjawOakFRleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcf9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeH4MvMRd92PraG2q3pe-vSpjRw73tRYv-lmC4I27DMUI_uQ0SPetQX3pd3A_aem_tKURUJ5BnPaowM0Z3doxAA](https://form.jotform.com/253275025727054?fbclid=IwY2xjawOakFRleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcf9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeH4MvMRd92PraG2q3pe-vSpjRw73tRYv-lmC4I27DMUI_uQ0SPetQX3pd3A_aem_tKURUJ5BnPaowM0Z3doxAA)

Ramifications of a Post being "not in good standing" within the VFW.

Based on national and departmental bylaws, maintaining good standing is critical for the continued operation and representation of your Post.

When a Post is **not in good standing**, the primary consequences include the loss of voting rights at District, Department, and National Conventions, effectively silencing your voice in organizational decisions.

Additionally, the Post may be barred from participating in VFW programs, receiving certain grants, or being eligible for community service awards.

Further administrative actions may include the suspension of the Post charter, the removal of elected officers, or the appointment of a trustee to oversee operations. In severe cases, a Post may face permanent charter revocation and the loss of tax exemption.

It is essential that you address any outstanding audits, reports, or per capita requirements immediately to restore your status and ensure you continue serving our veterans effectively.

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, m Spencer@vfw.org



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

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!

Future National Convention Dates:

July 24-30, 2026

Reno, NV

July 31-Aug 4, 2027

Milwaukee, WI

Aug 5-10, 2028

San Antonio, TX

Department Conference/ Convention Dates:

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

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

From the desk of the State Commander...

First, I want to extend my sincere congratulations to the Department of Louisiana for exceeding the Commander-in-Chief's membership goal of 101%. That achievement did not happen by accident. It happened because of dedicated leaders, committed members, and teams that refused to quit. Your hard work, recruiting efforts, and focus on our mission have made Louisiana proud. Thank you for staying the course and proving once again what teamwork can accomplish.



**State Commander
James Prestenback**

As we move into May, I want to remind everyone that our VFW Day of Service begins May 2, 2026. This is our opportunity to show our communities who we are and what we stand for. Whether it is helping a veteran, supporting a local school, cleaning up a cemetery, or assisting a family in need, every act of service reflects the heart of the VFW. I encourage every Post and District to participate and share your impact.

And finally, as Memorial Day approaches, let us never forget the true meaning of that sacred day. Memorial Day is not just the start of summer—it is a time to honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. I ask each of you to attend a ceremony, place flags on graves, support Gold Star families, and ensure that the legacy of our fallen heroes is remembered with dignity and respect.

Thank you for what you do every day for veterans, their families, and our communities.

No one does more for veterans.

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

Comrades,

First and foremost, Congratulations on meeting the CICs Challenge of 101% membership!

As we move into the month of May it is a time of reflection, accountability, and action. May carries deep meaning for all of us in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, culminating in one of the most sacred observances we hold as a nation—Memorial Day.

First—finish strong.

We are closing in on the end of the reporting year. Now is the time to ensure all requirements for All-State and All-American are complete. Double-check your reports, verify your submissions, and make sure nothing is left on the table. The difference between a good year and a great one often comes down to attention to detail in these final weeks.

Second—honor with purpose.

Memorial Day is not just another event on the calendar. It is our responsibility to lead our communities in remembrance. Whether it is organizing ceremonies, placing flags, or supporting Gold Star families, ensure your Post is visible and engaged. This is one of the most important days we represent the mission of the VFW.

Third—membership never stops.

Even as the year winds down, our mission to Recruit, Retain, and Reinstate does not pause. Every interaction is an opportunity. Every event is a platform. Every veteran we meet is a potential Comrade. Strong Posts don't wait for a new year—they build momentum now.

Fourth—prepare the next leaders.

With elections and transitions underway, ensure incoming leadership is set up for success. Mentorship and training are not optional—they are critical. A strong handoff ensures continuity, stability, and growth.

Finally—stay engaged.

Travel, attend meetings, support each other, and show up. The strength of our organization is not in numbers alone—it is in participation and commitment.

We are in the final stretch. Let's finish this year with discipline, pride, and a clear focus on our mission.

We do not slow down—we close out strong.

Yours in Comradeship,
Sharee' Arends (**Lady Legacy**)
VFW, Department of Louisiana
Sr. Vice Commander



**Sr. Vice Commander
Sharee' Arends**

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



**Jr. Vice Commander
James Bourque**

Comrades,

I hope everyone had a Happy Easter. Elections at the post level should be complete. If you haven't done so already, please get your Election Report completed and turned in. This is a vital component to your post remaining in good standing.

Quite a few district meetings have taken place the last couple of weeks. Congratulations to all the newly elected District Commanders and District Officers. You will play a vital role in a successful 2026-2027 year. As we begin to close out a great 2025-2026 year please remember to get those All-State Entry forms turned in by May 7th.

The month of May is a special month for the VFW. We take time to remember our brothers and sisters who've paid the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedom and way of life. This is a solemn time of reflection and a time we as the Veterans of Foreign Wars should be educating our local communities in the true meaning of the holiday.

May is also our Day of Service month. This will kick off on May 2nd and run through the entire month of May. This is a great time to show case what the VFW can do for the community as a whole. Let's get out in our communities and show what it means to #still serve. It can be any type of community service from replacing the flag at city hall, cleaning veteran headstones, or cleaning up a local park. No good deed is too small! I have full confidence that this year's Day of Service will be better than ever!

James Bourque

State Junior Vice Commander

Proposed Bylaws Amendment 26.001

Submitted by: PSC Ray Bass (current Department Quartermaster)

Description from Submitter: Amend Article X, *Miscellaneous*: Clarifies certain organizational and financial issues in the relationship between the Department and Posts within the Department. This proposal would create a new Section 4 and is essentially identical to Section 709 of the National Headquarters Manual of Procedure, with revisions only to make the provisions apply directly to the Department of Louisiana.

Current Bylaws Content: Not applicable

Proposed Amended Bylaws Content:

Sec. 4 - Control of Units

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a federally chartered membership corporation created by an Act of Congress. In accordance with that legislation, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has issued charters to the Auxiliary, Departments, and other units, including Posts. Pursuant to their charters, those units are bound to pursue the purposes set forth in the Congressional Charter and abide by the Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and the laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. However, each organization is a separate unincorporated association or corporation under the laws of the jurisdiction in which each is located.

The Department of Louisiana of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States does not own an interest in any clubroom, canteen, facility or any fundraising activity operated by any such chartered unit, nor are clubrooms, canteens, facilities or other fundraising activities operated for or on behalf of the Department of Louisiana of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The Department of Louisiana of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States does not derive any profit from such facilities or activities. Clubrooms, canteens, facilities, and other fundraising activities of chartered units are executed by such units in furtherance of the fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational purposes set forth by Congress.

The Department of Louisiana of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States does not lend money or extend credit to any chartered unit. It is in no manner responsible for the debts or any other liability incurred by any chartered unit or any clubroom, canteen, facility, or other fundraising activity operated by it. As unincorporated associations or corporations, they are responsible for their own debts and liabilities. To the extent that The Department of Louisiana of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is threatened with or sustains damage arising from a debt or liability incurred by a chartered unit, the Department of Louisiana of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may seek to recover such damages and any costs and expenses incurred from such chartered unit or persons responsible for such debt or liability.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment 26.002

Submitted by: PSC Ray Bass (current Department Quartermaster)

Description from Submitter: Amend Article XI, Section 1: *Amendments*: Change the due dates for submission to the Department Adjutant and subsequent publishing of the proposed amendments in the Department Monthly Mail Call.

Current Bylaws Content:

These Bylaws shall be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates at the Annual Department Convention if the amendment is submitted by a Post, District Convention, Department Chair Officer or Past Department Commander, and copies of the proposed amendment was submitted to the Department Adjutant not less than forty-five days prior to the convening of the Department Convention. The Department Adjutant shall at least thirty (30) days prior to the convention of the Department Convention publish notice of all proposed Bylaw amendments in either the Department Monthly Mail Call or the Combat Veteran. Amendments to these Bylaws will take effect immediately following approval of the changes by the Commander-in-Chief.

Proposed Amended Bylaws Content:

These Bylaws shall be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates at the Annual Department Convention if the amendment is submitted by a Post, District Convention, Department Chair Officer or Past Department Commander and **the text of the proposed amendment is submitted to the Department Adjutant by April 15 of the current year prior to the convening of the Department Convention. The Department Adjutant shall publish notice of all proposed Bylaw amendments in the May 1 edition of the Department Monthly Mail Call. Amendments to these Bylaws will take effect immediately following approval of the changes by the Commander-in-Chief.**

Proposed Bylaws Amendment 26.003

Submitted by: PSC Ray Bass (current Department Quartermaster)

Description from Submitter: Upon Convention approval of Proposed Bylaws Amendment 26.002, Amend Article XI, Section 1: *Amendments*: Renumber previous Section 1 content as Section 1, subparagraph A. Add subparagraph B to authorize the Department Adjutant to make minor changes to the Bylaws not involving new policy or content.

Current Bylaws Content: Not applicable

Proposed Amended Bylaws Content:

B. The Department Adjutant, with the concurrence of the Department Commander and the Department Bylaws Chairperson, shall be authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Department Convention in connection with these Bylaws.

COMMITTEEMAN'S CORNER

Welcome to the final Countdown for the 2025-2026 VFW Year, we have 55 days left until the new slate of Officers for the Post, District and Department Officers take over, let's not sit back and hold membership until the beginning of the next year, continue to recruit, renew and reinstate your members. Louisiana is currently #4 Nationally and leading the Southern Conference in Membership, congrats to all who recruited and worked your Posts Unpaid/Expired list to help us reach this goal.

May will be an exciting month for the Department with National President Lois Callahan doing her official visit and now we have National CIC Carol Whitmore coming to town as well. She will be arriving on May 14 th and myself and her will head to Alexandria for dinner with the Auxiliary. Friday we will have a tour of Ft Polk along with a mission brief before heading back to Alexandria for the National Presidents reception. Saturday she will get to enjoy the tastes of crawfish at the Raceland Post Crawfish Cookoff. Sunday she will depart headed to Nashville for an America 250 event with John Rich.

Once again, I remind the newly elected Post and District Officers, if you are an Annual Pay Member when elected, take the time to pay your dues ASAP or become a Life Member, nothing worse than seeing an elected Officer removed for not paying dues. Strive to find ways to improve your Post or District as you proceed through your year.

Planning for the 127 th National Convention in Reno, Nevada is well underway; a tentative agenda is located on the vfw.org website. As of now, we will be having a Louisiana/We Can Do It Hospitality Room at the Silver Legacy Hotel. If anyone going this year would like to help man the room or donate funds or alcohol to support our efforts, please get with myself or Sharee Arends. Get your room reservations made so that you aren't put into another hotel. The Southern Conference Caucus will be held on July 25 th beginning at 4:00pm. This year the Southern Conference will have the Judge Advocate General and the Jr Vice Commander in Chief going into office.

I want to thank everyone who has volunteered to assist with my selection for JVCIC and also selling the tickets to help support the Homecoming. It has been quite a long time since Louisiana has had a CIC for the VFW and I look forward to the opportunity and challenges this position will have. Before we know it the Convention in San Antonio will be here in 2028.

April was a busy month with the 2026-2027 Implementation Meeting and also the Sr Vice Commander Training in Kansas City. A lot of good information and planning was discussed with the new Membership Plan being discussed and modified with discussions from the Departments Sr Vice Commanders. Looking forward to a positive year with SVCIC Cory Geisler becoming the CIC.

May and June will be a busy month with travel as National Rep for the following Departments: Arkansas, Nevada, Michigan, Hawaii, Kentucky and then to Texas in July before heading to Reno for National Convention. I want to wish all of the incoming officers for the Department the best of luck and hope that you have a great Convention, I will miss being there but CIC Whitmore twisted my arm and I am headed to Hawaii the same weekend as our Convention. Aloha

Until next month, let's keep pushing forward to improve our Department and raise the numbers back up by renewing, reinstating or recruiting new members.

Robert (Bobby) Lovergne
National Council of Administration Member

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Department of Louisiana

Legislative Report April 2026

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.

April 6th:

Subcommittee Hearing on Military Quality of Life: The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing on military quality of life. Senior enlisted leaders from five of the armed services emphasized that quality of life is directly tied to readiness. Testimony underscored persistent challenges with privatized housing, limited child care access and family stability, all of which affect retention more than recruiting. Lawmakers from both parties raised concerns about accountability in housing contracts and the impact of hiring freezes on oversight and support programs. The witnesses also warned that without consistent funding infrastructure backlogs will continue to grow, stressing the need for sustained investment in military families. Watch the hearing.

Fort McClellan Epidemiological Study Update: As directed in Section 801 of Public Law 117-168, Honoring our PACT Act of 2022, VA contracted with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to conduct an epidemiological study of personnel who served at Fort McClellan, Alabama, from 1979 to 1999. NASEM commenced the study in February 2026 with a multidisciplinary panel of scientific experts and is soliciting perspectives from individuals stationed there during the study timeframe. VA and NASEM anticipate publicly releasing the study's results in the fall of 2028 after a rigorous external peer-review process. Read more and share your experience.

GI Bill Update: VA has announced it is taking steps to help the estimated more than two million eligible veterans maximize use of their GI Bill education benefits following the Supreme Court ruling in *Rudisill v. McDonough* and the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims ruling in *Perkins v. Collins*. VA will automatically assess veterans' eligibility, prioritize reviews for current or recently enrolled students with less than three months of remaining benefits, and update its adjudication systems to fully apply the Perkins decision. The rulings may allow qualifying veterans to receive up to 48 months of combined benefits under the Montgomery and Post-9/11 GI Bills. Prior to VA's announcement, the VFW joined with other parties in ongoing litigation to ensure that the law is applied correctly and that veterans are not denied benefits due to restrictive interpretations inconsistent with the Supreme Court's ruling. Announcements and internal guidance, while meaningful, do not resolve whether all affected veterans are receiving the benefits to which they are entitled, and do not, by themselves, eliminate the need for judicial review. The VFW will continue to monitor implementation closely and remains committed to ensuring that veterans receive the full measure of education benefits provided under the law.

April 13th:

VFW Commends Iran Aircrew Rescue Operation: Over Easter weekend, the United States successfully recovered aircrews whose aircraft went down in hostile territory as part of Operation Epic Fury. VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore praised the operation as a testament to the training and professionalism of America's military men and women, and a reinforcement of the ethos to leave no one behind on the battlefield. Read the statement.

VFW Delegation Engages DPAA, Embassies, Southeast Asia Relationships: VFW Senior Vice Commander Cory Geisler and Public Affairs and Strategic Outreach Director Rob Couture recently engaged in relationship-building and fact-finding missions across the Pacific and Southeast Asia. Their efforts included a stop at Hawaii's Daniel K. Inouye Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Center of Excellence, followed by visits to multiple countries in Southeast Asia, where they met with leadership at U.S. embassies, DPAA recovery Detachments 2 and 3, and host nations' agencies and groups dedicated to recovering those still missing from the Vietnam War. The fact-finding mission in Southeast Asia concluded at a DPAA Joint Field Activities recovery site in Vietnam, where Senior Vice Commander stopped accepting new VASP applications last year before a permanent replacement relief program was in place. Con-

gress responded by passing the VFW-supported *VA Home Loan Program Reform Act* (Public Law 119-31) into law on July 30, 2025, establishing a permanent partial claims program to help veterans bring delinquent mortgages current and avoid foreclosure. As of today, VA has yet to implement the program. At a recent hearing of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, a VA witness confirmed veterans must rely on temporary measures such as forbearance and loan modifications until partial claims programs are implemented, which is not expected until June. Lawmakers expressed frustration with the delay and urged VA to use every available authority to prevent veterans from losing their homes. Learn more.

VFW Podcast Focuses on DPAA: VFW Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Cory Geisler joins host Rob Couture for a special overseas episode of *Still Serving: The VFW Podcast* offering an inside look at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) mission in Southeast Asia, recorded on location in Ho Chi Minh City. Geisler shares reflections from visits to Hawaii, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam, highlighting forensic work, remote recovery efforts, international cooperation and threats to the mission, to include logistical barriers and funding shortfalls. Through meetings and site visits, the conversation underscores the human cost of war and the enduring commitment to the fullest accounting of missing servicemembers. Listen to episode 62, "Never Leave a Fallen Comrade," on your favorite podcast platform or watch it on YouTube.

April 27th:

White House Executive Order Advances Research, Access to Emerging Treatments: The VFW praised a new White House executive order aimed at accelerating research and access to emerging treatments for serious mental illness, calling it a potentially transformative step for veterans. The order directs federal agencies, including the VA and FDA, to streamline research, reduce barriers and expand clinical access to innovative therapies such as psychedelic-assisted treatments. VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore emphasized that veterans have long advocated for alternative treatment options beyond traditional medications. The policy signals a shift toward a more proactive, innovation-driven approach and could help address conditions like post-traumatic stress disorder and depression where current treatments often fall short. Read the press release.

VFW Speaks at Roundtable with House Leaders: VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci participated in a veterans organization roundtable hosted by House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Ranking Member Mark Takano, D-Calif. The focus was on the cost of war, toxic exposures and current legislation. Gallucci stressed that at a time when service members are in harm's way in the Middle East and around the world, Congress must not forget its duty to Honor the Contract. He mentioned how passing the Major Richard Star Act is critical, as more than 400 service members have been injured in the current conflict with Iran and some of them could soon be medically retired. The Star Act would ensure that their retirement benefits are not offset by any disability compensation they may receive for their combat injuries. Leader Jeffries concluded the discussion by agreeing that Congress must Honor the Contract.

VFW Joins in Seeking Solutions to Veteran Homelessness: House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Ranking Member Mark Takano, D-Calif, hosted a roundtable to discuss preventing and ending veteran homelessness. VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Joe Grassi joined 13 other participants representing a broad coalition of nonprofit organizations dedicated to advancing practical, real-world solutions to the issue. Grassi emphasized that stable, affordable housing enables veterans facing homelessness to address health needs, secure employment and maintain family stability. He noted that VA allowing expiration of the Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase program in July 2025, combined with failure to implement the VA Home Loan Program Reform Act (Public Law 119-31) in the interim, has resulted in a dramatic increase in VA home loan foreclosures, compounding housing instability for some veterans. He further explained that the VFW supports expanding veterans' eligibility for the Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing program and timely assignment of VA case managers, along with increasing access to mental health care for veterans experiencing homelessness and veterans at-risk of becoming homeless.

Subcommittee Hearing on VA Life Insurance and Pension Programs: The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held an oversight hearing on the several life insurance options offered by VA that are tailored to the unique needs of veterans. In her statement for the record, VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director Nancy Springer emphasized that, "Due to service-connected disabilities, many veterans are either uninsurable in the commercial market or face prohibitively high premiums. In recognition of this reality, VA provides guar-

anteed acceptance life insurance options that ensure access to coverage regardless of health status.” VA assists transitioning service members with continuous coverage by allowing them to convert their active duty Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance to Veterans’ Group Life Insurance. Additionally, VA administers needs-based pension programs that provide financial support to wartime veterans and eligible survivors with limited income. Read the VFW’s testimony for the record or watch the hearing, which begins at the 26:55 mark.

SCOTUS Rules in Favor of Service Members, Keeping Contractors Accountable: The VFW praised a major U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Hencely v. Fluor Corp.* that restores a path to justice for injured service members. The ruling allows U.S. Army Spc. Winston Hencely, who was permanently disabled after stopping a suicide bomber at Bagram Airfield, to pursue negligence claims against military contractor Fluor Corp. The Court rejected a sweeping “battlefield preemption” doctrine that had shielded contractors from liability, aligning with arguments made by the VFW in its amicus briefs. VFW General Counsel John Muckelbauer said the decision ensures service members can seek accountability when contractors act outside authorized military direction, preserving one of the few remaining legal remedies available. Read the press release.

Fort McClellan Information Gathering: In accordance with the Honoring our PACT Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-168), the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine are conducting an epidemiological study of veterans who served at Fort McClellan from 1979-1999. On May 4, 2026, the study committee will hold an information-gathering session. Fort McClellan veterans, family members and others may register for the session and sign up to provide public comments from 12:45-1:30 p.m. or 1:45-2:30 p.m. EDT. Written comments are due by May 15, 2026. Read more.

Respectfully,

Matthew J. West

Matthew J. West

VFW, Department of Louisiana

National Legislative Committee Member 2020-2026



*Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary
Department of Louisiana*

Tax ID: 51-0205791 (non-profit)

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community Partners,

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting a live auction as part of our upcoming fundraising event at our State Convention, June 20, 2026 in Alexandria, LA. This auction is a cornerstone of our efforts to raise vital funds that directly support our programs and initiatives for Veterans and their families. We sincerely hope you will join us in making this event a success by contributing an item for auction.

Donated items can include, but are not limited to:

- Gift baskets
- Event tickets (concerts, theater, sports, etc.)
- Artwork and collectibles
- Gift certificates to local restaurants or businesses
- Unique experiences (tours, lessons, workshops)
- Vacation packages or weekend getaways
- Handcrafted goods or specialty items

Your generous donation will not only help us reach our fundraising goals but will also provide your business or family with valuable recognition during our event and in all related promotional materials. Every donation, big or small, makes a difference and is greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in donating, please contact President Ann Barnett or Auction Chairman Lorna Mills by May 1, 2026. We are happy to arrange for item pick-up if needed.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and commitment to supporting the VFW Auxiliary Programs for Veterans and their families. Together, we can make a significant impact!

Sincerely,

Ann Barnett, President
6652 Bienvenue St.
Mansura, LA 71350
Email: ann-is-a@doglover.com

Lorna Mills, Auction Chairman
1976 Bushville Hwy.
Arnaudeville, LA 70512
Email: patrioticgranny@cox.net

UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

The VFW Fournet-Manuel Post 12203

Day of Service



Flag Retirement Ceremony for 2026



Officiating:

Richard Morgan with the Kinder VVA, Chapter 215

Commissioner for LDVA:

The Honorable Eric Kuyper - Speaker

Mayor of Kinder:

Wayland LaFargue – Keynote Speaker

Date / Time: May 21, 2026 @ 5:30pm

**Location: The Kinder American Legion Hall,
219 North 9th St., Kinder, LA 70648**

Event is open to the public as we pay tribute to our nation's long-standing symbol of strength and freedom which is recognized around the world and upon which we pledge our allegiance to,
The Flag of the United States of America.



James "Jimmy" Anderson
"Leave It Better Than You Found It!"
(337) 532-2185



VFW, Post 12203 - Adjutant - Benefits Resource Officer - Surgeon
VFW, LA Dist. 5 - Benefits Resource Officer



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.



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

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
- A MEMORABLE LOUISIANA FISHING EXPERIENCE WITH PROFESSIONAL CAPTAINS

**TICKETS
ONLY \$5.00
EACH**

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

✓
Vote

James Bourque

for

DEPT OF LOUISIANA
SR VICE COMMANDER
2026-2027



Gold Legacy Life Member



VOTE



For

David B. Fields

State Junior Vice Commander 2026-2027

- 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



Lawrence “Larry” Koons Announces Candidacy for Department of Louisiana Junior Vice Commander (2026–2027)

Lawrence “Larry” Koons, a 24-year veteran of the United States Air Force and a committed leader within the Veterans of Foreign Wars, has announced his candidacy for Junior Vice Commander for the Department of Louisiana for the 2026–2027 term.

A VFW Life Member, Larry currently serves as District 5 Commander and has previously served as Post Commander and State Surgeon. His continued dedication to the organization is evident through his active involvement with the VFW Riders, where he has served as Post President and now serves as Department Chairman. He is also a member of the Military Order of the Cootie.

Larry brings a leadership approach grounded in service, accountability, and results. His vision focuses on strengthening the Department by ensuring that every veteran’s voice is heard, every Post is supported, and every member is valued.

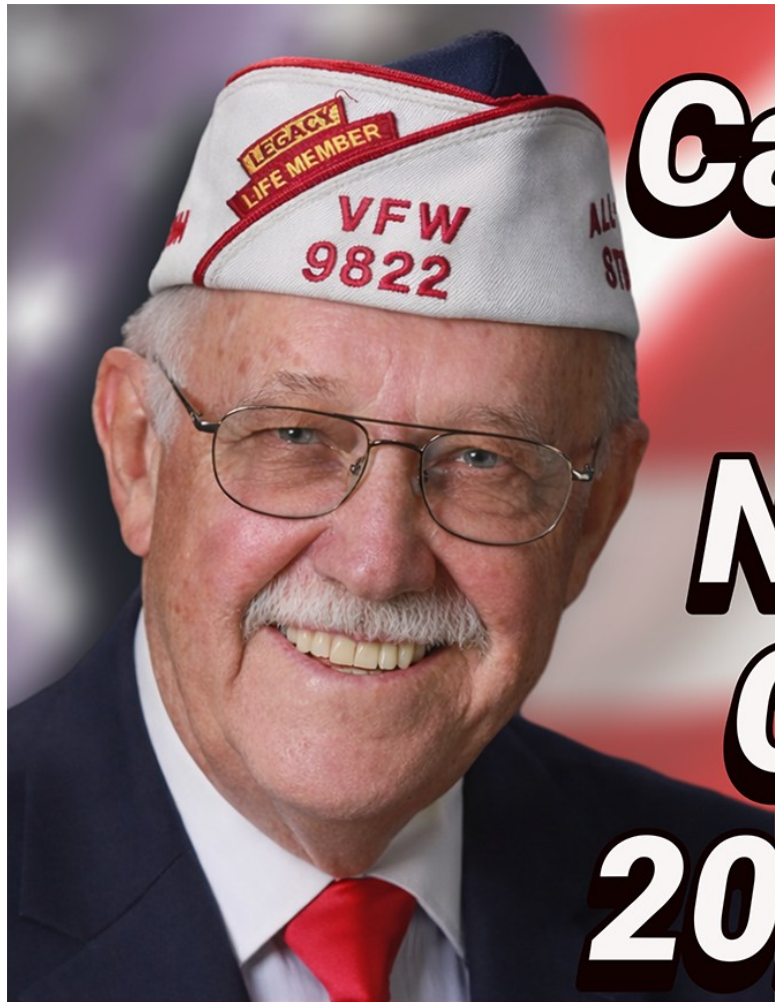
He is committed to continued advocacy at the Congressional level, working to ensure that all veterans receive the care and support they have earned—not just members of the VFW.

Understanding that the strength of the organization begins at the Post level, Larry emphasizes the importance of empowering Posts with the tools, leadership, and Department support necessary to meet and exceed expectations. He believes that when Posts succeed, the entire Department succeeds.

Larry also recognizes that membership is the lifeblood of the VFW. He is dedicated to fostering a culture of respect and accountability, where every member is treated with dignity and where standards are upheld in accordance with VFW bylaws.

“With your support, we will continue to build a stronger, more unified Department—one that honors our traditions while moving forward with purpose,” Larry said.

Larry respectfully asks for your consideration and your vote for Junior Vice Commander for the Department of Louisiana.



**Candidate
for
National
Council
2026-2030**

DON REBER

Triple Crown Past State Commander

A proven leader with more than 40 years of executive experience, committed to service and results.

With a lifetime dedicated to leadership and advocacy, I stand ready to continue serving the veterans of Louisiana—with integrity, experience, and vision.

Vote June 21, 2026

Louisiana State Convention

MAY 2026

TOP RECRUITER

"RATTLER"

MINIATURE SIG MCX® MODEL



Sticker Included!



11" / 28cm



11 OZ. WEIGHT



1:3 SCALE



MEDIUM ASSEMBLY

VFW Auxiliary

Mess Hall

Mayhem

Wild Game Cook-Off & Fun

Day
May 2, 2026

Cook-Off
Form



Food, Music,
Booths & Kids
Zone

10am-4pm

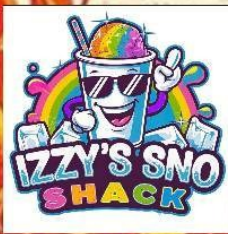
Craft
Booth Form



If you need more info on applying
please email at

vfw3652aux@gmail.com

SPONSORS



Ponchatoula Memorial
Park
N 6th St, Ponchatoula,
LA 70454

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 3665 & AUXILIARY

8TH ANNUAL CRAWFISH BOIL-OFF

\$25 - ALL YOU CAN EAT
\$12 - TO GO PLATE
"No outside trays"

- \$150 entry fee
- Crawfish provided by post
- Judging starts at 11:00am
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners
- Judges & people's choice
- Music, silent auction, half & half
- Sweets for sale

Contact Us

James Prestenback
(985) 791-5998
James Minchew
(985) 855-3315
Joseph "Mike" Parfait
(985) 381-9781

More information
Mailing Address
P.O. Box 236, Raceland,
LA 70394



11 AM - 3 PM

16

MAY

**VFW POST
3665**

127 ST. PHILIP STREET
RACELAND, LA, 70394





Sponsored by:
VFW POST 4588, 1004 JETER ST., BOSSIER CITY
MAY 16, 2026, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR VETERANS' ISSUES INCLUDING VA CLAIMS, HEALTH & WELL BEING, FINANCIAL HEALTH, AND FINAL EXPENSES.

OVERTON BROOKS VA MEDICAL CENTER, SHREVEPORT LA
LDVA SERVICE OFFICER
BOONE FUNERAL HOME
TAPS (TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS)
GUITAR 4 VETS
THE BOOT
LIFE SHARE BLOOD DRIVE
RED RIVER CORVETTES
BARKSDALE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
STAR PROGRAM
EXPEDIA CRUISES

Fried Fish and Shrimp Plates \$10
Dinner includes French Fries, Cole Slaw,
Hush Puppies, and Tea or Coffee



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE FOURTH ANNUAL
BOOGIE DOWN THE BAYOU



SUNDAY, MAY 17 2026

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 10 AM

GONZALES MEMORIAL VFW POST 3693
42430 CHURCHPOINT RD, GONZALES, LA 70737

Live Music Featuring

The Mojos
and

Mike Broussard & Night Train

TICKETS: \$30 IN ADVANCE OR \$35 AT THE DOOR

Delicious Food
50/50 Raffle
Live & Silent Auctions
Dancing
Cash Bar



**SPECIAL
APPEARANCE BY:
WILL CLARK**



**PROUD
SUPPORTER
OF THE**

Tunnel to Towers Foundation

T2T.ORG

All Proceeds Go to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation



All Tickets Are Non-Refundable
No Outside Food or Drink Allowed

Sponsored by: Bayou Hope Foundation

VFW 5951

GOLF TOURNAMENT



— September 19, 2026 —

Crooked Hollow Golf Club

8667 Elysian Fields Rd., Greenwood, LA

— 0830 Shotgun Start —



Entry Fees: \$125 Per Person / \$500 Team of 4

Includes:

Green Fees, Carts, 2 Mulligans, 2 Beers, Water & Lunch

EXTRAS:

\$20 Par 5 Team Zero Shot • Closest to the Pin • Longest Drive • \$5 50/50 Pot

Point of Contact: Herb Lemon, 318-773-5904

**STATE CONFERENCE
FUNDRAISER FOR
SR. VICE SONJA LAMBERT
LUNCH WILL BE IN THE LOBBY
ON THE 1ST FLOOR
TACO SOUP, DESERT, & DRINK
\$10.00
FRIDAY JUNE 19, 2026
PLEASE COME OUT AND
ENJOY THIS DELICIOUS MEAL**



VFW AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER DINNER

★ State Convention – June 19, 2026 ★

Celebrating **250** Years of the United States of America!

Join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and patriotic celebration as we honor America's 250th Birthday!



DATE:
June 19, 2026



LOCATION:
State Convention



TICKETS:
\$10 per person



TABLE RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE:



TABLE OF 8



TABLE OF 10

Reserve your table early and celebrate together!

★★★ **IMPORTANT!** ★★★

EVERYONE MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A FORM

— even if your meal was prepaid in January.

RETURN COMPLETED FORMS TO:

Debbie Holmes
110 Sellers Rd
Dubach, LA 71235
debbieholmes@bellsouth.net

★★★ **RESERVATION FORM** ★★★

Auxiliary or District Number: _____

<p>RESERVATION TYPE (please check one):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Table of 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Table of 10</p>	<p>PAYMENT METHOD (please check one):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prepaid (January)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Payment Included</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Will Pay at Convention</p>
---	--

★ *Thank you for supporting your VFW Auxiliary!* ★