



MAIL CALL



October 2025

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

2025 Southern Conference

November 7-9, 2025

Margaritaville Lake Conroe
Resort
Montgomery, Texas

IRS Deadline to file 990s

November 15, 2025

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:

July to Sept Trustee Report of
Audit is due by OCTOBER 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
 Joint Meeting 6:00 pm
 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: Jr Vice James Bourque

DISTRICT 4 MEETINGS:

Nov 15, 2025 **Post 1982**
 Registration 9:00 am
 Meeting 10:00 am
 Lunch (\$8) 12:00 noon
Rep: Cmdr James Prestenback

April 18, 2026 **Post 9822**
 Registration 9:00 am
 Meeting 10:00 am
 Lunch (\$8) 12:00 noon

DISTRICT 5 MEETINGS:

Nov 15 2025 **Post 2130**
 Registration 9:00 am
 Meeting 10:00 am
 Lunch 12:00 noon
Rep: Sr Vice Sharee Arends

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**
 Registration 9:00 am
 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

Feb 21, 2026 **Post 3139**
 Registration 10:00 am
 Meeting 10:30 am
 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

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 **November** is **James Minchew** from **Post 3665!** Congratulations **James!**

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>

Is Your Post in Good Standing?

- ⇒ Your Post must be properly bonded.
- ⇒ Your Post must have submitted all four Trustee Reports for the 2025 / 2026 year.
- ⇒ Your Post must have been inspected and all discrepancies corrected.
- ⇒ Your Post must submit an election report for the 2026 / 2027 year.
- ⇒ Your Post must be current with 990 filings.
- ⇒ Your Post must be current with the Annual Secretary of State Filing.
- ⇒ Your Post must have current Post By Laws.

What is the VFW Action Corps?

The VFW Action Corps is our National grassroots advocacy network comprised of more that 300,000 VFW members and patriotic supporters of veterans who want to stay informed.

Scan the QR Code to become a member of the VFW Action Corps.

STAY INFORMED





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 2: Post 3219 (VA)
Division 3: Post 1210 (MN)
Division 4: Post 11038 (WI)
Division 5: Post 12202 (VA)
Division 6: Post 3174 (MO)

Division 7: Post 4713 (OH)
Division 8: Post 6908 (TN)
Division 9: Post 2602 (IL)
Division 10: Post 12231 (Pacific)
Division 11: Post 12235 (TX)

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, let's 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.



Department of Louisiana



NOVEMBER'S MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE VETERANS MONTH EDITION

In honor of **Veterans Month**, I'm announcing a special **State Commander's Membership Challenge** for the month of **November**.

The **Post that brings back the most expired or reinstated annual members** during this month will receive **\$100** and a **Commander's Special Award** in recognition of their outstanding dedication to retaining and honoring our members.

Every member we bring back strengthens our organization and continues our mission to serve veterans, their families, and our communities. Let's make this Veterans Month a time of renewed commitment and growth!

One Team, One Fight – Lets Get It Done!



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:

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

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...

Comrades,

As we enter November, our hearts turn to two special observances — Veterans Day and Thanksgiving — as well as an important event for our Department, the Southern Conference.

On Veterans Day, we pause to honor the brave men and women who have worn our nation's uniform. Their service and sacrifice have preserved the freedoms we enjoy today. I encourage every Post to take part in community ceremonies, school programs, and public tributes that remind all Americans that freedom is never free.



**State Commander
James Prestenback**

This month also brings our Southern Conference, where we join with our comrades from across the region to share ideas, celebrate achievements, and strengthen our commitment to the VFW mission. I look forward to representing the great Department of Louisiana and showcasing the dedication and accomplishments of our members.

As Thanksgiving approaches, let us reflect on our many blessings — family, friendship, and the honor of serving our fellow veterans. Take time to reach out to those who may be alone this season and continue to demonstrate the compassion and camaraderie that define our organization.

Thank you for all that you do for veterans, their families, and your communities. Together, we remain One Team, One Fight.

Yours in Comradeship,
Jamie Prestenback
State Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Louisiana

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

Comrades,

Can you believe it is already November? This year just keeps flying by! I hope everyone had a fantastic Halloween filled with fun and community spirit. By now, you should have received all your Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Americanism, and Teacher of the Year entries at the Post level. Please make sure your judging is well underway so selections can be submitted to the District by the December 5th deadline. Thank you for your dedication to recognizing excellence and promoting these important programs. Your efforts make a real difference!

Let's keep building our organization by actively recruiting new members and staying connected with our current ones. Regular outreach helps ensure everyone remains engaged with our mission to support Veterans. Encourage members to invite friends, share our activities on social media, and get involved in community events. By fostering strong involvement and open communication, we strengthen not only our network but also our ability to advocate effectively for Veterans. Together, we make a greater impact.

Now is the perfect time to begin planning for the holiday season. Form a committee and start organizing a festive event that brings our community together. Holiday gatherings are a powerful way to connect with others, showcase our mission, and welcome new faces. The more we open our doors, the more we grow. When people see who we are and what we do, they will be inspired to join us and support our work on behalf of Veterans. Let's make this season meaningful—for our members and our community.

I look forward to seeing more friendly faces as I go around the state to District meetings. It is always an honor to stand alongside Veterans who are Still Serving.



**Sr. Vice Commander
Sharee Arends**

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

Comrades,

A busy October has come and gone. I attended JVC training in Kansas City. It was great to get to know my fellow Junior Vice Commanders and receive a wealth of VFW knowledge.

By now you should be thinking about judges for your youth programs at the post and district levels. Don't wait until the last minute to get your programs judged and sent off to the next level.

November is a special month for us. November 11 gives us a chance to reflect and give thanks to those veterans who have served our country. This is also a great opportunity to get out in our communities. We need to be seen at Veteran Day events, parades, ceremonies, and school programs. We are bestowed the honor of teaching our communities patriotism and love of country, and there is no better group of people to do so.

The holiday season begins on November 10th with the 250th birthday of the Marine Corps. Happy 250th to my fellow Marines!! Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family! I am thankful to be able to be a part of this great organization, and to be able to call all of you comrades.

James Bourque

State Junior Vice Commander



**Jr. Vice Commander
James Bourque**

A message from our State Adjutant....

I AM THE POST ADJUTANT...WHAT AM I SUPPOSE TO DO?

Among the duties of the Post Adjutant, the Adjutant shall:

- A. Be the official corresponding officer for the Post and shall attest to all official communications and reports with their signature.
- B. Under the direction of the Commander, prepare all reports and returns required of the Adjutant.
- C. Maintain the books and records in a legible and uniform format. Record keeping by electronic means may be used, provided a back-up is maintained. Books and records shall be available for inspection by authorized officers and Post members at all reasonable times. Unless specifically authorized by the Post to remove such books and records from its facilities, they will be kept at the Post facilities.
- D. The Post Adjutant shall maintain the following records:
 1. A copy of the original application of every member admitted to the Post.
 2. Minutes of each Post meeting after correction and approval.
 3. All current orders or circulars issued by the Commander-in-Chief, the National Council of Administration, the Department Commander, the District and/or County Council Commander (if applicable) and the Post Commander.
 4. A correspondence file.
 5. A file containing a copy of the proof of eligibility submitted by officers pursuant to Section 216.
- E. Maintain a current copy of the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and copies of the Bylaws of the Post, Department, District and County Council (if applicable).
- F. Transfer to their successor, without delay, all books, papers, records, monies and other records and property of the Post in their possession or under their control.
- G. Comply with and perform all duties required of the Adjutant by the laws and usages of this organization, applicable By-laws and orders from lawful authority and perform such other duties as are incident to such office.



**State Adjutant
Carl Karnish**

A message from our State Quartermaster....

This is a reminder that Posts must file their IRS Form 990 no later than November 15th. All Post should be filing on a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

If your Post is unable to meet this deadline, you must file for an extension by submitting IRS Form 8868, which grants an automatic six-month extension. Timely filing of your 990 ensures your Post remains in good standing both with the IRS and the Department.

Posts are encouraged to reach out to any members who have not yet renewed their dues for this year. Quartermasters should double-check that all dues payments have been processed through OMS. Renewals not only keep your members in good standing but also help your Post remain eligible for All-State and All-American awards. If your Post needs assistance with membership reports, dues processing, or accessing OMS, please contact us at Department Headquarters for support.



**State Quartermaster
Elvin Ray Bass**

The Department Headquarters will be closed Wednesday, November 26th through Friday, November 28th in observance of the Thanksgiving Holidays. We will reopen for regular business hours on Monday, December 1st.

I wish each of you a safe and happy Thanksgiving filled with gratitude, good food, and fellowship.

A message from our State Surgeon....

Comrades,

Hope everyone has a happy Thanksgiving.
Hope to see everyone at Mid-Winter in
January

Joseph Dufrene

State Surgeon



**State Surgeon
Joseph Dufrene**

A message from our State Chaplain....

This November carries a special weight for me—it is my first Thanksgiving without my Mom. Holidays remind us most of the empty chairs around our tables, and while there is sorrow in loss, there is also deep gratitude for the memories, lessons, and love that remain. It is in this balance of grief and gratitude that Thanksgiving takes on its truest meaning.

For all of us, family—whether by blood, service, or community—is the heart of this season. As veterans and members of the VFW, we understand that family is not only who gathers in our homes, but also those who stand with us in our Posts, who share our burdens, and who walk beside us in life.

Scripture reminds us: “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Gratitude is more than celebrating abundance—it is finding strength in trials, comfort in memories, and joy in the presence of others.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage each of us to extend our family tables. Invite a veteran who may be alone, call someone who needs encouragement, or simply sit with those who need a friend. In doing so, we embody the spirit of Thanksgiving—unity, love, and shared blessing.



**State Chaplain
Paul Stone**

LEGISLATIVE CORNER

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.

October 6th :

Bill to Expand Pentagon Reservation Toxic Exposure Benefits: Legislation has been introduced regarding veterans who may have been exposed to toxins at the Pentagon Reservation during a period of time beginning on Sept. 11, 2001. H.R. 5339, Susan E. Lukas 9/11 Servicemember Fairness Act, would establish a presumption of service connection associated with exposure and certain respiratory, cardiovascular and cancer-related diseases. The Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-168) and other benefits programs exclude these individuals. This proposal would close a long-standing coverage gap and streamline the disability compensation claims process.

VFW Challenges VA Over Education Benefits Restrictions: The VFW is opposing VA directives that contradict last year's Supreme Court decision in *Rudisill v. McDonough* that ruled veterans eligible for both the Montgomery and Post-9/11 GI Bills are entitled to full benefits under both programs up to the 48-month cap. VA's current guidance continues to deny access by imposing unlawful restrictions. "These new rules directly contradict the Supreme Court's decision on what veterans have earned through honorable service," said VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore. Consequently, the VFW is leading the charge to ensure all veterans receive the full benefits they deserve by joining a new lawsuit before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and is asking affected members to submit their stories to legal@vfw.org. "If you or your family were counting on these education benefits this fall and suddenly found yourself left out, we want to hear from you," said Whitmore. [Read more.](#)

Services Still Available During Government Shutdown: The federal government is currently shut down until Congress passes a budget, leaving many services unavailable. While some VFW service offices located in government buildings may be affected, VFW Accredited Service Officers and Pre-Discharge Representatives can still access VA systems remotely and remain available to assist veterans and families. [Learn more.](#) Separating service members needing assistance with VA claims, no matter their duty station, can also email bdd@vfw.org. Contact your representative before canceling or postponing a scheduled appointment.

During the shutdown, some VA services may be disrupted, but VA health care will not be impacted. VA medical centers, outpatient clinics and Vet Centers remain open. VA benefits processing and payments will continue, as will the Veterans Crisis Line (Dial 988, Press 1) and the VA's primary call center, MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411).

October 13 th :

Top VFW Leader Condemns The Washington Post: VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore sharply criticized The Washington Post's reporting in response to its recent article, "How some veterans exploit \$193 billion VA program, due to lax controls" (October 6, 2025). "Your article leans heavily on inflammatory anecdotes and edge cases, portraying veterans as system abusers, while ignoring the structural reality: Combat wounds are not the only occupational hazards of military service," said Whitmore. As an organization with a long history and memory, the VFW has seen the arguments and accusations portrayed by The Washington Post in decades past and responded in kind. Whitmore continued, "... let's not ignore what this article really reflects: Veterans make an easy scapegoat for the elites of this country ... It is politically and socially convenient to question the integrity of veterans rather than confront the true cost of 25 years of war." Read the response.

Major Richard Star Act Blocked in Senate: Passage of S.1032, Major Richard Star Act, has faced a setback. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) requested unanimous consent to pass this legislation that would finally authorize full concurrent receipt for veterans medically retired under Chapter 61. Currently, there is an offset that prevents more than 50,000 combat-injured retirees from receiving both their DOD military retirement pay and their VA disability compensation. Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS) objected, citing cost concerns and calling it a "double benefit." In response, Sen. Blumenthal emphasized that they are separate, earned benefits and urged Senate leaders to allow a vote before year's end. The bill has 76 Senate and 304 House cosponsors, and it remains one of the VFW's highest legislative priorities. Watch the video.

VFW Calls for Restoration of Women's Advisory Committee: VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore has called on Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to reinstate the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS), which the Pentagon recently dissolved. Whitmore is the first woman to lead the VFW. In a letter to the Secretary, she emphasized that DACOWITS has strengthened the force for more than seven decades by improving recruitment, training and equipment for service women. She cautioned that disbanding the panel abandons the 400,000 women who serve today and urged the Department of Defense to reform and modernize, rather than eliminate, this key readiness advisory body. Read the letter.

Coast Guard Left Unpaid During Government Shutdown: Since the government shutdown began on Oct. 1, members of the U.S. Coast Guard have continued to stand watch without pay. Unlike other uniformed services funded through the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard falls under the Department of Homeland Security, leaving its personnel without pay until Congress restores funding. This is the second time since 2019 that Coast Guard families have been forced to endure the financial strain during a lapse in appropriations that could cause thousands to face uncertainty over how to cover basic expenses such as rent, groceries and child care. Therefore, the VFW strongly supports H.R. 5401, Pay Our Troops Act of 2026. This bipartisan legislation would ensure members of all branches of the armed forces continue to receive pay during any future government shutdowns.

VFW Attends Ceremonial Claim Sharks Bill Signing: Rhode Island Governor Daniel McKee held a ceremonial signing for legislation aimed at curbing deceptive trade practices by unaccredited claims agents often referred to as “Claim Sharks.” McKee was joined by State Sen. Walter Felag, State Rep. Sam Azzinaro, VFW National Legislative Committee Member Matt McCoy, and immediate past VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray, who championed this issue and were all instrumental in the law’s passage. Enacted on June 30, 2025, it makes Rhode Island the 11th state to protect veterans from predatory actors who charge improper fees for advising or assisting veterans in filing VA disability compensation claims. [Read more.](#)

VFW, SVA Announce 2025/2026 Student Veteran Fellowship Class: The VFW and Student Veterans of America (SVA) have selected six student veterans for the 2025/2026 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship. Now in its 12th year, the fellowship is an academic and hands-on experience during which students advance a shared VFW-SVA policy priority through community engagement and direct advocacy on Capitol Hill. This year’s fellows will attend the SVA Leadership Institute in October, the SVA National Conference in January, and the VFW Washington Conference in March, where they will meet with lawmakers alongside VFW delegations. The 2025/2026 legislative fellows are:

- Shadic Anderson, Marine Corps veteran, California State University
- Juanita Murillo Garcia, Army veteran, Northeastern University
- Giancarlo Gonzalez, Army veteran, St. Petersburg College
- Kimmie Kim, Navy veteran, Vanguard University of Southern California
- Austin Lawrence, Navy veteran, Harvard University
- Sarah Lively, Air Force veteran, Concordia University

VFW Staff, Special Guest Refute The Washington Post Article: The VFW’s Honor the Contract campaign is at the core of the latest episode of #StillServing: The VFW Podcast, wherein host Rob Couture, Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci, National Veterans Service Director Mike Figlioli, National Legislative Director Kristina Keenan, and special guest Pat Murray delve in to the demerits of The Washington Post’s recent article, “How some veterans exploit \$193 billion VA program, due to lax controls” (October 6, 2025). In addition to correcting falsehoods and misleading notions portrayed within, they highlight the parallels between the burgeoning rhetorical attack on veterans benefits and those of the 1930s and 1950s. Listen to Episode 51, Honor the Contract, wherever you get your podcasts or watch it on YouTube.

October 20th :

VFW Urges Congress to Pay Our Troops: The Veterans of Foreign Wars joined Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, along with fellow organizations that serve the military and veteran communities, at a press conference calling on Congress to end the government shutdown and pass H.R.5401, Pay Our Troops Act of 2026. VFW National Legislative Associate Director Joy Craig reminded lawmakers, “This shutdown is not just a debate in Washington, it’s a kitchen-table crisis for military and veteran families across the country.” She cautioned that while current paychecks are being covered through temporary funding shifts, future pay is not guaranteed. Craig added, “No one who has sworn an oath to this nation should have to wonder if their paycheck will come.” Watch the press conference.

Senate Advances Defense Bill Strengthening Transition & Quality of Life: The Senate united to pass its \$925 billion National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, marking a bipartisan breakthrough despite the ongoing government shutdown. The bill includes several provisions long championed by the VFW, including enhanced TRICARE benefits supporting women and family health, increased funding for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, and the creation of a senior DOD official to oversee military-to-civilian transition policy. It also directs DOD to pilot a new housing allowance model to improve affordability and accuracy. Senate and House Armed Services Committee leaders will now negotiate a final version for passage before the end of the year. Read more.

VFW Junior Vice Commanders Training: VFW senior leaders and staff convened in Kansas City, Mo., for the annual Junior Vice Commanders training conference. The event featured comprehensive presentations on all aspects of the VFW designed to equip attendees to fulfill their current responsibilities, and to prepare them for future leadership roles within the organization. VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Nancy Springer briefed on legislative advocacy, outlining strategies to engage and mobilize VFW and Auxiliary members in support of the VFW’s legislative priorities. She encouraged attendees to join Action Corps to stay informed on relevant legislative activity and respond to Action Alerts so Congress hears directly from our advocates on important veteran issues.

October 27th :

Top VFW Leaders Speak at Military Conference: VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore and Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci took to the stage at the Military Impact Summit during MCON 2025 in Las Vegas, Nev., for fireside chats on key topics within the veteran community. Commander Whitmore's session titled, "Leading from the Front – Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges," centered on the vital role the VFW plays in advocacy and veteran service programs worldwide while Gallucci's session titled, "Advancing Veterans' Rights: Federal and State Advocacy Strategies & Lessons Learned," underscored the veteran community's power to lead change from within and beyond.

VFW Joins Major Richard Star Campaign: The VFW participated in a Capitol Hill event organized with partners Wounded Warrior Project and Disabled American Veterans to raise awareness for H.R.2102/S.1032, Major Richard Star Act. The organizations conducted a poster and pin campaign to highlight the bill's importance for combat-disabled retirees. The event underscored strong support to end the unjust offset blocking these veterans from receiving both their disability compensation and retirement pay.

VFW Participates in Consumer Protection Roundtable: VFW Washington Office staff participated in a roundtable with veteran organizations and advocacy groups convened by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to address concerns related to the bureau and the ongoing government shutdown. CFPB staff clarified that it remains operational during the shutdown because it is funded by quarterly transfers from the Federal Reserve, not congressional appropriations. National Legislative Associate Director Joy Craig urged CFPB to remain focused on monitoring consumer complaints by service members under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. National Legislative Associate Director Joe Grassi inquired about CFPB investigations regarding unaccredited claims consultants, which the VFW refers to as Claims Sharks, and called for a comprehensive report on veteran complaints about these predatory actors. Learn more about how to submit a financial product or service complaint.

VA Computer Glitch Delays Chapter 35 Benefits Delivery: Computer problems are delaying monthly checks for college tuition and housing allowances paid to the dependents of fully disabled veterans and the survivors of service members who died in the line of duty. According to VA, these Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance benefits, also known as Chapter 35, are behind schedule due to problems with a new claims management system. Until the problem is fixed, which might take until late November or early December, claims are being processed manually.

LOUISIANA COUNCIL MEMBER

Welcome to November and the beginning of judging season for our Youth and Teacher Programs. I hope that all of you have been out in the schools getting the information out in the communities for these programs. This will be the first year that there will be no VOD Program during the Washington Conference, the Department winners will converge on Valley Forge in April for their seminars. Good luck to all the Districts during your judging.

Last month I had the opportunity to attend the Jr Vice Commander Training and was able to spend some quality time at our National Headquarters discussing the future of our Organization. Folks we have to start looking at Retention to make sure the VFW grows in numbers, it is fine to go out and recruit large numbers but if the ones you recruit each year leave the next we have accomplished nothing. National is working on a new Mentor Program that will hopefully assist in us keeping the members we already have and encourage them to recruit their friends into our organization.

If you have not heard, read or seen the Washington Post article claiming that the benefits we have earned through our service from the VA is a fraud, I suggest you research it and see what they are trying to convince their readers to believe. If you see anything come out from VFW on the Facebook pages referring to this, please share on your pages to spread the word that these individuals are trying to poison the system. We have to continue to fight this type of bad publicity.

As we prepare for the Southern Conference Convention the weekend of Nov 6-9, 2025 we will be electing the Conferences choice for Judge Advocate General and also the new officers for the Conference, I encourage each of you to attend one of these events so you can see how the inner workings of the organization functions. Once again we have to look at who will do the best job in those positions and bring NEW ideas along the way, not just individuals who are chasing hats, that is how we will never grow and evolve as an Organization.

The challenge to each Post to donate a minimum of \$75.00 to the NDSWM fundraiser continues. The Department is nearing the \$5000.00 goal we set and challenged other Departments to match, if your Post has not made your contribution please send the \$75.00 to our Department Quartermaster Ray Bass.

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

I wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving.



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**

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT

FUNDRAISER



NO ONE D... VETERANS.

Louisiana

**TICKETS:
\$1.00 EACH
OR
\$5.00 FOR 6**

**WINNING TICKETS WILL BE
DRAWN DURING THE MID
WINTER SATURDAY NIGHT
BANQUET!**

**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**

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

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!



COMBAT TESTED GAMING

By the **VFW**
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

THE VFW'S INAUGURAL GAMING LEAGUE EXCLUSIVELY FOR VETERANS.



Join the
community!



Combat Tested Gaming (CTG) has become the fastest-growing veterans gaming community in America. We are approaching 2,500 veteran gamers on our Discord server and streaming gameplay on our Combat Tested Gaming Twitch channel. Join our Discord community to connect with other veterans and active duty server members who play your game of choice! Subscribe to our Twitch and YouTube channels to watch our gameplay and experience the thrill and camaraderie of our gamers.

GAMES

- Rocket League
- Call of Duty
- Call of Duty: Warzone
- World of Warcraft
- Valorant
- Madden
- MLB: The Show
- Rainbow Six Siege
- NBA 2K
- Helldivers 2
- Apex Legends
- Fortnite
- League of Legends
- The Finals
- EA Sports FC
- And more! We are adding games consistently.

IMPACT OVERVIEW

2,250+
Veteran
gamers.



**DEDICATED VFW
SERVICE
OFFICER**



answering VA benefits
questions daily.

**4 VFW
POSTS**



have leveraged CTG to start
gaming nights – one building
a gaming room to support
student veterans.

**5 VETERANS'
LIVES SAVED**



during crisis by
using connections
made through CTG.

CTG has quickly succeeded in reaching its early objectives. Now, as we look to the future, we set our sights on becoming THE leader in the veteran gaming space by continuing to promote the program and through partnering with a veteran-owned company which specializes in building the gaming infrastructure needed to support our growth and long-term success.



SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA VETERANS HOME

VETERAN'S ★ NOVEMBER 7, 2025 *Day celebration*

★ PARADE AND PROGRAM ★

PARADE ROLLS FROM REGALA GYM AT 10:00 AM
PROGRAM BEGINS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PARADE

In partnership with many dedicated local businesses and organizations
Grand Marshall and keynote speaker Brigadier General Michael A. Cushman

Food, Fun, and Fellowship

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU SET UP A TABLE AND SERVE YOUR
FAVORITE DISH TO OUR VETERANS AND GUESTS.



MUSIC BY NOTE WORTHY TRIO BAND



Please contact
Sonya Hebert 225-315-8063
Sonya.Hebert@LA.GOV



OUR HEROES LOVE TO RIDE IN THE PARADE, PLEASE
HELP US PROVIDE SOMETHING FOR THEM TO RIDE IN.



TOP RECRUITER

NOVEMBER

LOUISIANA

"STURMGEWehr"

MINIATURE STG44 MODEL



*Sticker
Included!*



11.5" / 32 cm



12 OZ. WEIGHT



1:3 SCALE



MEDIUM ASSEMBLY



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



V F W
N A T I O N A L H O M E

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)



LAPLACE VFW POST 3337

**VETERANS DAY
GOLF TOURNAMENT**



**BELLE TERRE COUNTRY CLUB
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025**

111 Fairway Dr, LaPlace, LA 70068

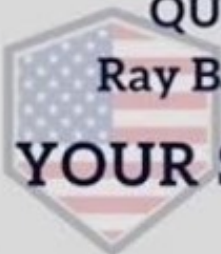
7:00 AM REGISTRATION

8:00 AM SHOTGUN START

QUESTIONS OR SPONSOR DONATIONS CONTACT

Ray Bass (504) 273-3622 or Wesley Mitchel (985) 788-8807

YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!



SHADOW ROAD

Come Join Us

THE BEST OF THE BEST.....

ON STAGE

NOV. 16TH
2-5

KYLE DUGAS

EDDIE SMITH

You're Invited!

Sponsored by
Baton Rouge VFW
POST 3784

Gonzales Memorial VFW Post 3693
42430 Churchpoint Rd., Gonzales, LA 70737

VFW Post 9822

March 28, 2026

FIRST ANNUAL GOLF
TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE

THIS HOLE
SPONSORED BY
VFW
POST 9822