



# MAIL CALL



October 2025

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- District Meetings– Page 2
- VFW National Home– Page 3
- Life Saving Awards– Page 3
- Department Challenge Coin— Page 3
- Membership Challenge Winner– Page 3
- Commander’s 90 Challenge Winners– Page 4
- October Top Recruiter Award– Page 5
- State Commander’s Special Project– Page 6
- Conference/Convention Dates– Page 7
- Administration Contact information—Page 7
- State Commander’s Article– Page 8
- Sr. & Jr Vice Cmdr’s Articles– Page 9
- State Adjutant & Quartermaster Articles– Page 10
- State Surgeon & Chaplain Articles– Page 11
- Legislative Report– Page 12-17
- Louisiana Council Member Article– Page 18-19
- Desert Storm Donations– Page 20
- Department Fundraiser Flyer– Page 21
- Candidate for National LA Council Member– Page 22
- Candidates for State Junior Vice Cmdr 26-27– Pages 23-24
- Combat Gaming for Veterans– Page 25
- Post Events– Pages 26
- 15 years of Gratitude and Growth– Page 27-28  
*(A Letter from the Department Administrative Assistant)*

## 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**

## DISTRICT 5 MEETINGS:

**May 2, 2026**                      **Post 3802**  
 Registration                      9:00 am  
 Meeting                              10:00 am  
 Lunch                                12:00 noon

**Rep: PSC Debbie McElhannon**

## DISTRICT 7 MEETINGS:

**Oct 25, 2025**                      **Post 5153**  
 Registration                      9:00 am  
 Meeting                              10:00 am  
 Lunch (\$10)                      12:00 noon

**Rep: Cmdr James Prestenback**

**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

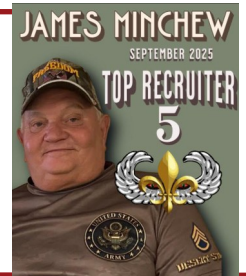
**Rep: Sr Vice Sharee Arends**

**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 **September** 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>**

### National Home

Born from the belief that America needs to care for the children and families of men and women who sacrificed for our country, the VFW National Home is a place of healing, support and refuge.

It was founded in 1925 as a place where the families left behind by war could remain together, keeping the family circle intact even when their servicemember didn't come home.

Today's families face different challenges — reintegration, post-traumatic stress, high unemployment and rehabilitation from battlefield injuries, among others — and the National Home has evolved over our decades-long history to meet those changing needs.

Please be advised that all Posts are **encouraged to donate funds** to the National Home. Make check payable to: **VFW National Home** and mail to 3573 Waverly Rd., Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 or DONATIONS TO THE NATIONAL HOME CAN BE MADE ONLINE: **<https://vfwnationalhome.org/donate/>**

### Life Saving Awards

Safety Chairmen at Posts, Districts and Departments are encouraged to regularly identify and honor individuals throughout the year in their geographic area who have saved a life. **The VFW National Programs Office provides the following three different citations, free of charge, for local presentation.**

- **Regular Life Saving Citation** -- Honors individuals who have, without regard for their own comfort, taken action resulting in the saving of another human life.
- **Line of Duty Life Saving Citation** -- Honors individuals who, in the execution of their assigned duties, have taken action resulting in the saving of another human life.
- **Valor Life Saving Citation** -- Honor civilians who have taken action resulting in the saving of another human life and have place their own safety at risk.

All Life Saving Award Citation request must be submitted to the Department Headquarters for processing.

# Congratulations!

THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA  
PROUDLY CONGRATULATES:



**VFW POST 1809 – MONROE**  
**VFW POST 12182 – PATTERSON**

FOR WINNING THE  
**COMMANDER'S 90 – DAY**  
**MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE!**

Your dedication to strengthening our  
ranks and honoring our mission is  
greatly appreciated.

OCTOBER  
**TOP RECRUITER  
AWARD**



**9 OZ. WEIGHT**



**1:3 SCALE**



**EASY ASSEMBLY**



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.vfwdeptla.org)

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

**State Quartermaster**

Elvin R. Bass

Email: [qtm@vfwla.net](mailto:qtm@vfwla.net)

**State Adjutant**

Carl Karnish

Email: [adj@vfwla.net](mailto:adj@vfwla.net)

**State Administrative Assistant:**

Tori LeBlanc

Email: [admin@vfwla.net](mailto:admin@vfwla.net)

**State Commander:**

James Prestenback

Email: [jprestenback302@gmail.com](mailto:jprestenback302@gmail.com)

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

Comrades,

As we move further into the fall season, I would like to take a moment to highlight several important events and reminders for our Department.

First, all Posts should be actively working on their Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year programs. These entries are due to your Posts no later than October 31st. These programs are at the very heart of what we do—promoting patriotism, education, and civic pride among our youth and recognizing those educators who instill these values in the classroom. I encourage every Post to reach out to their schools and communities to ensure strong participation.



**State Commander  
James Prestenback**

Next, I want to draw attention to the Department Auxiliary President's Homecoming, which will take place on October 25th. This will be a wonderful opportunity to show our support and appreciation for the Auxiliary and the outstanding work they do alongside us in serving veterans, families, and communities. I urge as many of you as possible to attend and share in this celebration.

On the subject of membership, I am proud to report that our Department continues to perform extremely well. Your efforts in recruiting, retaining, and reengaging members are truly making a difference. Let us continue to press forward with enthusiasm as we work toward achieving—and surpassing—our goals for the year.

Finally, I want to thank each of you for your continued commitment to the Commander's Special Project. Your support is vital to its success, and I am deeply grateful for the dedication you have shown. Together, we are making a meaningful impact across Louisiana.

Keep up the excellent work and let us carry this momentum forward into the months ahead.

In Comradeship,  
Jamie Prestenback  
State Commander



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

Comrades,

October and cooler weather are upon us. This month is extremely important because you should be collecting the VOD, Patriot's Pen, Americanism, and Teachers Awards, and voting for the winners at the Post level. Do not let this opportunity slip by—these recognitions are your chance to achieve All American and All State status. Let's also make sure our community members receive the acknowledgment they deserve.

Keep recruiting new members and reaching out to current ones to ensure they remain engaged with our mission. Encourage members to invite friends, share our activities on social media, and participate in community events. By fostering involvement and communication, we strengthen our organization and our ability to advocate for Veterans.

Now is also the time to begin planning for the holidays. Form a committee and start organizing a holiday event that includes your community. The more we open our doors, the more we grow. When people see who we are and what we do, they will want to be part of it.

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,

If you haven't already now is the time to push the youth programs. The post due date for Americanism, Patriots Pen, and Voice of Democracy is October 31! This is one of the highlights of the year as we get to educate the young people on our community on what it means to be patriotic, and recognize their talent. As Voice of Democracy chairman I am looking forward to this year's batch of district winners. It's always great to get our young people's patriotic opinions.

Congratulations goes out to all the posts who have hit the 100% mark in membership, and also the 101% goal for All-American. It's always great to see so many posts at 100% or more when the life members drop. We are off to a great start with membership this year! Let's keep it going.

Thank you to our Legislative Officer PSC Matt West for attending the fall legislative conference in Washington D.C., and keeping us current on the happenings of what our organization is fighting for. I encourage all members who are not enrolled in the Action Alerts to do so. Those enrolled let's do our part as a member and take action when national sends those alerts out. This is quite literally the easiest way you can serve your fellow veteran and get your voice heard.

Lastly, I want to wish everyone a safe and Happy Halloween!

James Bourque  
State Junior Vice Commander



**Jr. Vice Commander  
James Bourque**

# A message from our State Adjutant....

## So Just What does a Post Adjutant 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 Bylaws 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....

Comrades,

As we move into fall, I want to highlight a few important updates and reminders.

The Department has partnered with OutCast Fishing Charters to host a fundraiser raffle benefiting the Department programs and operations. See the flyer in this month's mail call for more information. Tickets may be purchased through your VFW Post or District Commander. We encourage all members to participate and help spread the word. Every ticket sold helps to support our Department's mission and programs!

**Post are reminded that Section 214 of the National Manual of Procedure states:**

*"A Post shall not solicit funds or donations, or otherwise engage in fundraising activities outside the immediate geographical area or community of the Post."*

Any Post wishing to conduct a fundraiser during a Department-sponsored event must first submit a proposal to Department Headquarters for review and approval by the Council of Administration.

Post Trustees should begin preparing the next **Quarterly Audit Report**, which is **due by October 31st**. Timely and accurate reporting is important to keep everything transparent.

Last, we will be hosting a Quartermaster Video Conference via Google Meet at 6:00pm on October 10th. All Post Quartermasters are encouraged to join by using the link here: <https://meet.google.com/qrb-ozkm-oty>

Thank you all for your continued dedication and hard work. Your attention to detail and commitment to accountability ensure the continued success of our Department.



**State Quartermaster  
Elvin Ray Bass**

# A message from our State Surgeon....

Comrades.

September was prostate cancer awareness month. If you're 55 or older, you should be getting a PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) screening every year and this is simple blood test that can be done when getting annual labs done.

October is breastfeeding cancer awareness month. So, for our older females and those with a family history of cancer, go out and get your mammogram done.

Joe Dufrene

State Surgeon



**State Surgeon  
Joseph Dufrene**

# A message from our State Chaplain....

First of all, I want to thank each and every one of you comrades with the prayers and messages that I have received the past few weeks. Just to give an update, Mom is currently in VA Hospice Care in Phoenix with late-stage Ovarian Cancer. She is ALL of my inspiration when it comes to faith. She is the one that instilled my love for the Lord and our Savior throughout my life, even when I didn't want to. She is my rock and my center! Thank you again everyone for everything, the battle isn't over yet.

As we move through October, many of us are reminded that it is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. But health screenings go far beyond one illness; they are a lifeline for all of us. As veterans, we were trained to maintain our weapons, equipment, and vehicles with precision because lives depended on it. Our bodies and minds deserve the same diligence.

Routine screenings, whether for blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, or cancer, are not signs of weakness. They are signs of strength and stewardship. Proverbs 27:12 reminds us: "The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty." Preventive care allows us to see potential danger before it takes root.

And yes, this includes the screenings that many of us would rather avoid, such as prostate exams, colonoscopies, and OB/GYN visits. These are often the ones that catch problems early and give us the best chance at long, healthy lives. It may be uncomfortable in the moment, but the peace of mind and protection they bring are well worth it.

Screening also reminds us of our duty to one another. Just as we check on our buddies, we should encourage each other to get medical checkups that can save lives. Whether it's a yearly physical, mental health appointment, or specialized screenings, taking that step is an act of love for ourselves, our families, and our communities.

This October, I encourage every comrade: schedule your screenings, follow through, even the ones you don't like, and remind a fellow veteran to do the same. Our service didn't end when we took off the uniform, our mission now is to live well, care for one another, and be examples of resilience.



**State Chaplain  
Paul Stone**

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
**Fall Legislative Conference**  
**07-11 SEP 2025**

This is a summary of the events that took place. 7 and 11 SEP were travel days. I arrived around 12:00 PM and checked into the hotel. Thursday departure, early flight, but got back home around 12:30 PM.

**Bottom Line up Front (BLUF):** All in all, a good trip. There was much discussion about funding the Richard Star act (as well as inclusion in the 2026 NDAA both House and Senate versions), it has 6 of 8 Louisiana Legislators co-sponsor (Rep. Scalise as Majority Leader will support just not put his name out as Leader, Speaker Johnson says he will support, just not co-sponsor due to influence of position); We discussed the TAP Promotion Act, Veterans Access Act of 2025, and Exploring Alternatives PTSD Treatments. Additionally, we discussed other areas of concern that the VFW is still fighting, but priorities are higher for the above.

**08 SEP 25 DAY 1:**

As directed in the National Bylaws, Legislative is now a stand alone committee and were directed to conduct training at the September legislative Conference. We are proud to have **Gabby Kubinyi** back on the team at NLS. Gabby was given the task of setting up this whole day of training and knocked it out of the park. With the new changes, we now fall under the rule that for every 8 Representatives a State has, they get a Legislative Committee Member, so we had approximately 30 new committee members present this year. The training was spot on, very helpful, and trained our committee members on techniques to use to keep the meetings engaged, professional and personal.



**09 SEP 25 DAY 2:**

I had previously set up 8 of 8 appointments, prior to arriving. Today I knocked at 5 of those and have 3 more tomorrow.

At 0940 AM, I arrived at Congresswoman Julie Letlow's office, to meet with **Kaitlyn Mullen**, however, I misread the email and realized the meeting was on the 10<sup>th</sup>. I Let them know that I was 24 hours early!

At 1 PM, I had the opportunity to meet with **Joseph Allnut** (Speaker Johnson's Defense Fellow), **Orlando Cabrera** (Representative Higgins Defense Fellow) and **Lewis Aldridge** (House majority leader Scalise's Defense Fellow) all in one meeting, set up by the Speakers Office. Additionally, **Joy Craig** (National legislative Office) attended the meeting. Great discussion and questions from each. They were all a little dismayed that the Richard Star Amendment was dropped from 2026 NDAA House version. They were hopeful that the Senate version will continue to keep that in theirs and will be brought back up in Conference, when both bills come together. All in all, a good meeting well received with three young men I work with all of the time.



At 2:30 PM, I had a meeting with **Hunter Koski** from Senator Cassidy's office. Hunter and I have been working together for over 5 years now, keeping the Senator aware of the VFW concerns and talking points. I asked Hunter to ensure that the Richard Star Amendment stays in the Senate version of the NDAA, so it can come back to discussion, when the Conference takes place. As stated above, it is always good to meet with Hunter, who has been on the Hill for 9 years, and is a go to for information.



At 3:30 PM, I thought I was meeting with Congressman Troy Carter, however, that was not the case, I ended meeting with **Liz Beltran**, the Legislative Assistant. As we got to the second page of the Talking Points, the door opened, and another assistant told Liz, that the Congressman was about to speak on the floor, and she had to be there. She apologized, ran out and sent a young assistant in to finish the meeting. **Shelby Adams** sat down and began feverishly writing notes and asking questions (for clarity), I asked her how long she had been working in the office, she replied, today is day 2! I wanted to note that, because she was professional, personal and truly a great listening, but she paid attention and asked a lot of questions back to me.



This was my last meeting of the day, and I returned to the hotel.

## **10 SEP 25 DAY 2:**



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Fall Legislative Conference  
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**10 SEP 25 DAY 2:**

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At 11 AM, I met with Congressman Cleo Fields (Our newest member of Congress) who missed meeting with us in March, so wanted to make sure he met this week. He was very receptive on almost all of the talking points, but specifically, Alternate PTSD Treatments, Veterans ACCESS Act of 2025 and TAP Promotion act, all of which he directed his Legislative Assistant to co-sponsor. Attending the meeting was Matt Deville, Legislative Assistant.



At 09:40 AM, I once again made my way to Congresswoman Letlow's office to meet with **Kaitlyn Mullen**, this time my timing was right. Kaitlyn decided to have the meeting right by the entry way of the office (a little inconvenient) however, Kaitlyn and I have been working together since the Congresswoman got elected. Being in that location actually allowed me to bump into the Congresswoman, as she ran in to get some papers, heading to an Appropriations Meeting. Then, Kaitlyn and I completed the meeting. They are very supportive of Veterans and co-sponsor almost every bill that will help.



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My final meeting of the day at 2:30 PM, I met with **Paker Loy** Legislative Assistant and **Connor Domingue** Legislative Correspondent from Senator Kennedy's office. Again, two guys I have worked with over the past couple of years, who had firm understanding of each of the bills we are working through to get passed. Key was keeping the Richard Star amendment in the Senate version of the 2026 NDAA.

# LOUISIANA COUNCIL MEMBER

Good Afternoon All,

What a busy week last week, along with sitting in on the New Council Member Training on Thursday, Budget and Finance Meeting on Friday, Council Workshop on Saturday and then the Council Meeting on Sunday, a few Senior Leadership Team Meetings in between was just a regular week in KC.

Some items of interest for all of you to be aware of that was decided at the meetings.

1. Cost of renovations to the Washington DC office was approved last year based on an engineering report for 8.3 Million, after the contractor was hired and looked into the items needing replacement that was over 3.0 million short, the contractor also did inspections to the plumbing pipes and cooling systems which were outdated or end of life that needed to be replaced so now overall cost of the renovations will be 19 million dollars. Once this is complete (hopefully by summer 2026), the DC office will be completely refurbished with a roof top access that can be rented out for events as well.

2. Budget was approved as presented by the QMG and Budget Committee

3. The VFW has entered into a sponsorship with Torch Beverage; you can check them out at [torchdrinks.com](http://torchdrinks.com). This is a THC beverage and there was a lot of discussion on is this the right image for the VFW, the contract that was signed for them to use our logo states that they are a Proud Sponsor of the VFW and that we do not endorse the use of THC. They will be making a presentation at the Southern Conference in November

4. Something rather disturbing that was briefed by DC Executive Director Ryan Galluci was that out of the 330,000 emails that was sent out requesting Action to thank the President for signing the VA Home Loan Reform Act into law, there were only 669 replies.

5. We were given a briefing by the CEO of Innovairre concerning the mail out fundraising, with the new contract that was signed we exceeded the amount that they guaranteed in the contract. Very good results and an increase in funds donated and use of social media and advertisements have worked in our favor.

6. At the end of this racing season we will no longer be involved with Ryan Roulett Racing, he has continuously increased the amount of funds he asked for and the return on dollar does not show it has helped with recruitment. So, if you have some of the items from the store hang onto them, they may become collectors' items.

7. A complex briefing on the current Salary Structure was gone over and explained, along with the motion to bring the minimum pay for 26 employees to be increased by 3.3%. This pay structure we use is very confusing and hopefully we can go to an easier to understand formula once this contract is done.

8. Big topic was the Departments who have Foundations and are using the VFW name or Logo with their foundation. A lot of discussion went into this as to how to proceed with correcting this because donors are getting these Department Foundations confused with our National Foundation. So, the motion was made for all Department Foundations to work with the QMG to provide documentation for 990's By-Laws, and other requested items to his office within 90 days and look at renaming their Foundations without the VFW name or logo.

9. A briefing on the new computer system that we will be going to was given and it looks to be a lot more user friendly and will be able to accomplish a lot more than what we are using now. Should be ready to roll out this time next year. Training will be given to the A/QM's when they go for training this year and next.

10. The foreign travel for the Line officers was discussed and approved for this coming year. There are 5 overseas trips for the CIC, SVCIC & JVCIC.
  11. There was a briefing given on the use of Ibogaine to combat PTSD and other issues, it is a Stanford Based study and has been used in the states on a trial basis, they are wanting us to work with our legislatures to get FDA approval for the use of this Psychoactive drug by the VA. More to come on this later.
  12. Riders group was briefed that they are currently working on By-Laws and SOPs for the riders, they are setting up their first meeting to elect the Officers who will be in charge of the Riders now that they are their own entity.
  13. Of course, the election of Cory Geisler was brought up by the NCM from Montana thinking this was a smear campaign on Tim Peters, AG Dan West spoke, SVCIC Cory spoke, PCIC Lipphardt spoke on why this took place. The Western Conference as a whole is not upset that Peters was replaced, they believe that they would be losing their appointments for National Convention by not having a Western Conference person in the chairs. Also brought up was the fact that the now SVC's from around the country has asked what was going to happen to the funds that have already been raised for Peters Homecoming that many of them had sold tickets for. That information will be forwarded to the QMG to review, and a determination will be made as to what will happen to the funds.
  14. Discussion was held about the CIC Trip and issues that were had getting to Vancouver and to try and prevent any issues with CIC Whitmore's trip next year. More discussion will be had at our NCM in Washington in March.
  15. For those of you who didn't know, the leadership of the Southern Conference were asked to submit names for the VFW Retirement Board, myself and Victor recommended Wyatt and Tony Dobbins recommended Jeff Carroll, after both submitted resumes and had interviews the Board selected Jeff to be the representative for the Southern Conference for the next 5 years.
  16. The firm of Bureau Proof out of Michigan has been hired to complete the investigation into the allegations of harassment and bullying that was brought up at the National Convention and letters sent into the AG afterwards. Once this investigation is complete there will be a report given to the CIC to decide how she wants to proceed.
- As you can see it was a very busy week, and a lot of motions and business was made to keep our organization moving forward. I believe that this is one of the best positions to hold in the VFW because you really are the ones who make a lot of decisions to better the VFW.

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



## 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!**

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

# CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL 2026 - 2030



A PROVEN LEADER  
WITH OVER FOURTY  
YEARS OF EXECUTIVE  
EXPERIENCE, STANDING  
READY TO CONTINUE  
SUPPORTING THE LOUISIANA  
VFW

## DON REBER

TRIPLE CROWN  
PAST STATE COMMANDER 22-23

Photo by [unreadable]

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!**

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





# 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.



LAPLACE VFW POST 3337

**VETERANS DAY  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**



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

111 Fairway Dr, LaPlace, LA 70068

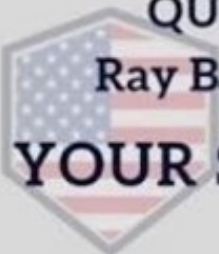
7:00 AM REGISTRATION

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!**



## **A Note of Gratitude from the Department Administrative Assistant**

This month marks 15 years that I have been employed at the VFW Department of Louisiana State Headquarters, and I can honestly say it has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. Looking back, I am filled with gratitude and humility.

If you had told me back in 2009, right after graduating from high school, that I would still be here today, I probably would not have believed you. That year was a turning point for me. I had just found out I was pregnant and had started technical college to become a medical assistant. One day, I stopped by Headquarters to visit my Granny (PW), who has always been such a huge part of my life and the reason I was introduced to the VFW family at such a young age. While chatting with her, I jokingly said, "You should hire me."

Two weeks later, the unexpected happened. Our office secretary at that time, Connie Fauver, suffered a severe stroke. That was when the opportunity arose for me to step in and help. What was meant to be something temporary quickly turned into something life-changing.

By that time, I was already familiar with the day-to-day operations since I had been volunteering at Headquarters since I was about 12 years old. What started as helping out for a little while became so much more than a job. It became a calling. Over the years, I have grown not just as an employee but as a person.

This opportunity has allowed me to be both a dedicated employee and a present mother. I have never had to miss a baseball game, a school event, or a field trip, and that is something I will always be thankful for. You truly cannot put a price on doing something you love, and I wake up every day with complete confidence that I love what I do.

### **The joy this job brings me comes in so many forms.**

- ★ When a newly elected Post Officer reaches out with questions, and I get to help guide them through their first year and watch them succeed.
- ★ Being able to watch relationships grow between Posts and see teamwork and unity in action across the state.
- ★ When a Post that has been struggling for years finally finds new leadership, rebuilds, and proudly receives several awards and walks across the stage at the Convention to receive All State or All American honors and then takes the time to thank me for playing a part in helping them get there.
- ★ Knowing that my behind-the-scenes work plays a part in helping the Department run efficiently.
- ★ Watching ideas that I helped to implement, like digital forms or updated procedures, take off and help our Department continue to move forward and evolve.
- ★ Seeing members treat me and my family like their own because they know how much I truly care about the success of every Post, every District, and our Department as a whole.

### **Those are the moments that make every single day worth it.**

I have had the honor of serving alongside so many wonderful people, and I am proud to be part of an organization that stands strong in its mission to serve veterans and their families.

Over the past 15 years, I have had the privilege of working alongside **15 different State Commanders** and various leadership teams each year. Some years were harder than others, but even through those challenging times, my heart has always remained dedicated. Those years have taught me **resilience**, how to keep going, how to adapt, and most importantly, how to approach every person and every situation with empathy.

**To the State Commanders and leadership teams who have extended grace and gratitude during their years, thank you.**

Over the years, I have learned that challenges and differing opinions are part of any organization, but they do not define who we are. What defines us is our shared purpose and commitment to serving veterans and their families. We are a nonprofit veterans' organization doing our best every single day with the resources we have. While it may sometimes take us a little longer to evolve and adapt, please know that I am always behind the scenes researching and finding ways to improve and modernize our Department's operations.

My success as an employee comes only from the success of our Department as a whole. The State Commander's theme this year has replayed in my mind more times than I can count, because we truly are ONE TEAM.

First and foremost, I want to **thank all of our members** across the Department. Your support over the years has meant so much to me and my family. Every kind word, every encouraging gesture, and every bit of trust you've placed in me has shaped my journey here.

To **Carl and Ray**, thank you for your patience and teamwork as we have navigated new challenges and changes together at Headquarters. Your leadership, support, and willingness to adapt alongside me have been invaluable.

To **Adelaide Labauve**, thank you for being my right-hand. The hours you spend volunteering to help out the VFW Department and Posts are remarkable. I appreciate your dedication more than words can say.

And to my **Granny**, thank you for believing in me 15 years ago, for holding me to higher professional standards, and for giving me this opportunity that changed my life. Without you, none of this would have been possible. Your service and dedication continue to inspire me every single day.



With love and gratitude,  
**Tori LeBlanc**  
Dept. Administrative Asst

