

# DECEMBER 2023 MAIL CALL

23-24 GENERAL ORDER-06 PAGE 7



COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT DELANEY ATTEND A THANKSGIVING DINNER AT

## VFW POST 3619

pages 38 - 42



WOMEN VETERANS

Marine Veteran CJ Scarlet featured Author in Novembers VA/News Pages 23-25



Two World War II & One Korean War MIA's Recovered Pages 26-29

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



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**STATE OFFICERS MESSAGES**

Ronald K. "Ron" Delaney, State Commander	Post 4588
Debbie McElhannon, Senior Vice Commander	Post 9854
James M. Prestenback, Junior Vice Commander	Post 3665
Elvin "Ray" Bass, State Quartermaster	Post 3337
Mitchell R. "Mitch" Cota, State Adjutant	Post 3750
<i>Editor Mail Call/Louisiana Combat Veteran</i>	
<i>State Historian</i>	
Sharee M. Arends, State Surgeon	Post 5159
David Fields, State Chaplain	Post 5159

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF  
**DUANE T. SARMIENTO**

**MEET THE CHALLENGE**



**2023-2024**



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

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



## STATE COMMANDER MESSAGE

Greetings Commrades,

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and are looking to a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Now down to business, we need to focus on membership while checking DD214s to ensure eligibility. It is important to have 3 Commrades review eligibility and sign the back of applications. We have been finding a few eligibility concerns with some members in the Department and this can be avoided by doing our “due diligence” up front. This is important because once a new member pays their dues this money is not refundable if they are deemed to be ineligible at a future date.

Congratulations the Department of Louisiana met the National Commander in Chief’s November Membership Challenge and received \$500. This was a great first step in moving Louisiana up and we still have a long way to go. Membership is also important to meet the All State requirements of 85% retention so we need to retain or reinstate our existing and expired members as well as recruit new ones. Your Quartermaster can access OMS to find expired members that can be contacted in an effort to improve your membership retention.

Buddy checks are especially important this time of the year. The holiday season for most is a fun time of year filled with celebrations and social gatherings with family and friends. For some it can be a time filled with stress, sadness and loneliness. So reaching out may be that necessary blessing one of your Commrades really needed.

Please reference your Commander book to ensure you meet all program deadlines. Americanism entries should already have been provided to the District Chairman. We look forward to celebrating many Americanism winners at the Mid-Winter Conference in Alexandria January 25-28, 2024. Banquet tickets can be purchased on the Department website. Plan to join us at the banquet in support of our Americanism winners.

The Department of Louisiana is comprised of a diverse group of Commrades. It is important to practice mutual

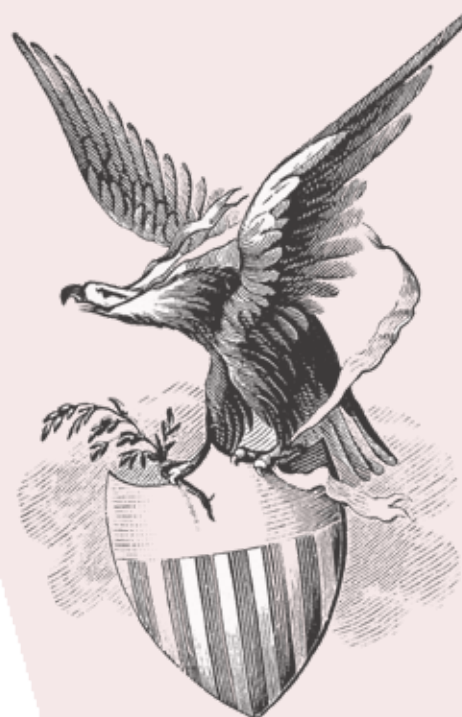


RON DELANEY  
Air Force - Post 4588

respect. ***“Strength lies in differences, not in similarities.”*** - Stephen Covey

Let’s finish 2023 strong and ROAR into 2024 demonstrating just how great the Department of Louisiana really is!

Thank you for ***“Reaching Out To Our Veterans and Their Families”!***



# DEPARTMENT RECRUITERS

District	Post #	Card #	Recruiter	Members
2	3121	451535	Gerald G. Dugas	1
2	3121	11347611	Lavurn J. Nolen PhD	1
2	3337	10564710	Lance G. Ellis	1
2	3750	11421562	Douglas J. Ellis	2
2	3750	3017234	Iven A. Naquin Jr.	1
2	3750	11538618	Kristine M. Noack-Reeves	1
2	3750	10310354	Nathan A. Steckel	1
2	3750	9125727	Shane Wenger	1
2	6640	11004102	Patrick R. Kennedy	1
2	8973	10579805	Gabriela Swanson	3
3	3665	10203395	Dallas E. Bookenberger	1
3	3665	11624764	Gavin P. Porche	1
3	3665	1457129	James H. Minchew Jr.	4
3	3665	10853689	James M. Prestenback	6
3	3665	324887	Raymond J. Ledet	3
3	4222	10436277	Walter H. Mays Jr.	1
3	8538	5938765	Gregory M. Badeaux	1
3	12182	10300381	Robert E. Boudreaux Sr.	2
4	9210	11263438	James A. Ethington	1
4	9822	10908265	Donald A. Reber	20
4	9822	11646361	Dustin Roger	1
4	9822	9225239	James D. Bourque	5
4	9822	11505847	John P. Bonin	1
4	9822	11591877	Jonathan Blake Young	2
4	9822	11502757	Richard J. Brasseaux	1
4	9822	6215037	Thomas W. Grote	1
4	12065	9470427	Gaston P. Dupas Jr.	2
5	2130	10309290	Jesse J. Curry	1
5	3106	10415595	George V. Gainer Jr.	1

# DEPARTMENT RECRUITERS

5	3106	9611957	Vincent E. Hood Sr.	1
5	3619	10542693	Lawrence S. Koons	1
5	3619	11392677	Lori L. Bates	5
5	3619	5804350	Michael R. Liles	1
5	3619	11389124	Robert W. Bates	2
5	3619	9692532	Shane A. Fowler	7
5	4759	11599347	Gary N. Langton	1
7	2483	9210886	Joseph H. Thomas Jr.	2
7	5153	6095247	Larry J. Thomas	1
7	5153	9147787	Leonard D. Marks	1
7	8971	11520172	James D. Darbonne	1
7	8971	11430923	Robert A. Witkovski	1
7	9903	10197248	Dennis A. Hart	1
7	9903	9254439	William B. Ridihalgh Jr.	1
8	3693	9337602	Brent M. Gautreau	3
8	3693	11431056	Brian Chesne	4
8	3693	11540677	Clifford J. Heintze	2
8	3693	101222	Forest J. Brady	1
8	3693	10851048	George A. Schmidt	2
8	3693	6212875	Jared L. Nolen	2
8	3693	5207481	Shelby E. Ballard	1
8	3693	11473670	Vincent T. Cambre Jr.	1
8	3784	9152090	Thomas J. Pitre	2
8	4224	1035750	Robert R. Reisz	3
8	7017	9133256	Carl J. Karnish	2
8	7017	1120083	Vance S. Sutton	10
9	3652	11383178	Albert M. Cusimano Sr.	25
9	3652	11483479	Brian J. Bonanno	1
9	5735	9434793	Patricia A. Vickers	1
9	5735	10376784	Richard Schneider	1
9	8290	9295057	Terry A. Sauls Jr.	1
9	8720	9373596	Hillary Vidrine	1

# DEPARTMENT RECRUITERS

9	8720	11453439	Matthew R. Booth	1
9	8720	9110929	Michael S. Peats	2
9	8720	852522	Paul A. Resor Jr.	1
10	1736	701383	Landry E. Saucier	1
10	1736	1129120	Rodney L. Barnett	8
10	1962	4376902	Charlie Davis Jr.	1
10	3139	11429471	Eric P. Bettevy	2
10	8852	953423	Charlie Marbs	1
11	1809	11445567	Christopher D. Bullock	1
11	1809	10986845	Christopher M. LeGuin	5
11	1809	11593035	David R. Kovac	2
11	3615	10110973	James J. Ferguson	1
11	3615	11447247	Thomas L. Boniol Sr.	1
11	3977	11422005	Chris W. Isaac	1
11	4317	9314470	Donald J. Le Blanc	2
11	5442	9440632	Kenneth E. Boyett	1
12	4588	10080590	Randy L. Campbell	5
12	4588	10141006	Richard E. Parent	1
12	4588	1186166	Ronald K. Delaney	1
12	4588	9536274	Timothy A. Sloan	1
12	5187	1532543	Sylvester Martinez	2
12	5187	5667570	Walter R. Korb	4
12	5951	1482682	Federico M. Arends	16
12	5951	157176	James E. Reynolds	1
12	5951	10224477	Paul D. Stone	4
12	5951	9383725	Ronald E. Barnard	4
12	5951	9633511	Sharee M. Arends	2
99	15019	1323864	Ben B. Rice	1
			No Recruiter	67
<b>Departm</b>			297	

# 23-24 General Order-06

PAGE 5 IS TO BE READ AT MEETINGS THEN POSTED

## MANDATORY:

**General Orders:** All material in the State General Orders is directive in nature and will be read to the membership at the Post regular membership meetings each month. **Some of these have remained the same and will remain for a while longer to instill their importance to our order. New Items will be added to the General Order and will have some highlighted in Red areas.**

## ARTICLE II - POSTS

Sec. 218 - Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations.

(a) Officers.

(6) Adjutant. 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.

BY COMMAND OF  
RON DELANEY  
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:



Mitchell R. Cota, PSC  
State Adjutant

# DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31		Notes				

December 5 - International Volunteer Day

December 7 - National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (flag at half-staff)

December 15 - Patriot's Pen District judging deadline

December 15 - Voice of Democracy District judging deadline

December 15 - Teacher Award District judging deadline

December 25 - Christmas Day



December brings us halfway through the membership year, and we want to see our membership continue to grow! This month, Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento is issuing a challenge to our Posts to increase their membership percentage in December!



Throughout the month of December, we're going to track our Posts' membership percentages. This means new members, reinstated members, renewals, dues-paying transfers - we want to see more active paid members in the Post!

As a reminder, to figure your membership percentage you take your total current paid members, and divide it by your prior year total. Or you can just go check out Memstats and we do the math for you!

This challenge will compare the Post's membership percentage as of December 1st and compare it to where your membership percentage is at close of business on December 31st. The Post in each membership division that shows the greatest increase will receive a \$500 award plus a custom Commander-in-Chief Jacket!

We have eleven membership divisions, so that means there will only be eleven of these jackets ever made! If you want everyone to know that your Post has met the challenge for membership excellence, now is your chance!

This is a season of giving, and now is the time to give your best when it comes to strengthening our membership. We want you all to continue to build this organization, engage with our members, and to always go out there and

**MEET THE CHALLENGE!**

This contest will compare the Post's membership percentage from December 1 to December 31st. 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](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

# COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE WINNERS

Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento challenged all VFW Departments to increase their New and Reinstated members for November 2023 by at least 10% over last November, and you all did not disappoint! The Departments listed below showed a 10% increase or more in New and Reinstated members and will receive a \$500 cash award and a special plaque to display at their headquarters!

	Alaska	Nevada	
	Arkansas	New Jersey	
	Connecticut	New York	
	Hawaii	Ohio	
	Indiana	Oklahoma	
	Iowa	Pennsylvania	
	Kansas	South Carolina	
	Louisiana	Tennessee	
	Maryland	Utah	
	Massachusetts	Vermont	
	Minnesota	Wisconsin	
	Mississippi	Wyoming	
	Montana	Europe	
	Nebraska		

Thanks to everyone's hard work, the VFW saw a total increase of 19.83% in New and Reinstated members this month, showing that

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**

# DISTRICT MEETINGS

District Meeting/Workshop	District Meeting/Workshop	District Convention
<p><b>District 2</b> <b>August 26, 2023</b></p> <p>District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>3267</b> 1133 Hickory Ave., Harahan, LA 70123 Registration 9am Meetings 10am</p>	<p><b>District 2</b> <b>January 13, 2024</b></p> <p>District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>3750---</b> 140 Angus Dr., Luling, LA 70070 Registration 9am Meetings 10am</p>	<p><b>District 2</b> <b>May 4, 2024</b></p> <p>District Convention</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>3750</b> 140 Angus Dr., Luling, LA 70070 Registration 9am Meetings 10am</p>
<p><b>District 3</b> <b>August 26, 2023</b></p> <p>School of Instruction</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>5097</b> 1004 Tiger Dr., Thibodaux, LA 70302 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>	<p><b>District 3</b> <b>January 13, 2024</b></p> <p>Business/Awards</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>5097</b> 1004 Tiger Dr., Thibodaux, LA 70302 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>	<p><b>District 3</b> <b>May 4, 2024</b></p> <p>Business/Elections</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>5097</b> 1004 Tiger Dr., Thibodaux, LA 70302 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>
<p><b>District 4</b> <b>August 19, 2023</b></p> <p>Workshop Following C of A</p> <p>Meeting place: Post <b>9822</b> 120 VFW Road, Duson, LA 70529 Registration - 9:00 a.m. Joint Opening - 10:00 a.m. Lunch - 12:00 p.m. VFW/Aux Business Session - 1 pm</p>	<p><b>District 4</b> <b>November 18, 2023</b></p> <p>Programs</p> <p>Meeting place: Post <b>4158</b> 102 Jimmy C Vorhoff Jr Dr. Abbeville LA 70510 Registration - 9:00 a.m. Joint Opening - 10:00 a.m. Lunch - 12:00 p.m. VFW/Aux Business Session - 1 pm</p> <p><b>District 4</b> <b>February 10, 2024</b></p> <p>Mid-Year Update/Awards</p> <p>Meeting place: Post <b>1982</b> 1907 Jefferson Terrace Blvd., New Iberia, LA 70562 Registration - 9:00 a.m. Joint Opening - 10:00 a.m. Lunch - 12:00 p.m. VFW/Aux Business Session - 1 pm</p>	<p><b>District 4</b> <b>April 13th</b></p> <p>Elections</p> <p>Meeting place: Post <b>4158</b> 102 Jimmy C Vorhoff Jr Dr. Abbeville LA 70510 Registration - 9:00 a.m. Joint Opening - 10:00 a.m. Lunch - 12:00 p.m. VFW/Aux Business Session - 1 pm</p>

# DISTRICT MEETINGS

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 5</b> <b>September 9, 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>3802</b> 5416 Hwy 27 S., De Quincy, LA 70633 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$?)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 5</b> <b>November 12, 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>9854</b> 2292 Highway 109 S, Vinton, LA 70668 Registration 1pm Sessions start at 2pm. Lunch 12pm. (\$?)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 5</b> <b>April 20, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Convention</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>7321</b> 2668 Hwy 171 North, Lake Charles, LA 70611 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$?)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 7</b> <b>August 19, 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>8971</b> 3809 Highway 190, Eunice, LA 70535 Registration 9am. Meeting start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 7</b> <b>October 28, 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>2484</b> 123 N Liberty St., Opelousas, LA 70570 Registration 9am. Meeting start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 7</b> <b>May 18, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>5153</b> 1020 VFW Drive, Arnaudville, LA 70512 Registration 9am. Meeting start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 8</b> <b>September 9, 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>3784</b> 13214 S Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge LA 70815 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$7)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 8</b> <b>January 13, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>3693</b> 42430 Church Point Rd., Gonzales, LA 70737 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$7)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 8</b> <b>April 27, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nomination and Elections</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>4224</b> 3215 Ben Williams Lane, Baker, LA 70714 Registration 9am-10am. Sessions start at 10am. Lunch 12pm. (\$7)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 9</b> <b>September 16, 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>8290</b> 28000 Main St., Lacombe, LA 70445 Registration 9am Sessions start at 10am Breakout 11am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 9</b> <b>January 20, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>3652</b> 15800 Demarco Lane., Hammond, LA 70403 Registration 9am Sessions start at 10am Breakout 11am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 9</b> <b>April 20, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Convention</p> <p>Meetings place: Post <b>8720</b> 21470 Mire Dr., Abita Springs, LA 70420 Registration 9am Sessions start at 10am Breakout 11am</p>

# DISTRICT MEETINGS

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

## FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

July 27 - August 1, 2024 - National Convention, Louisville, KY

August 9 -14, 2025 - National Convention, Columbus, OH

August 15 - 20, 2026 - National Convention, Salt Lake City, UT

July 31 - August 54, 2027 - National Convention, Milwaukee, WI

August 5 - 10, 2028 - National Convention, San Antonio, TX

# OMS UPDATE FROM NATIONAL

Team, with the new features of pops ups and the dynamic of pulling all CS data that has been entered, we are experiencing a serious lag time on the dashboard loading when searching for posts status. I have decided to disable the CS pop up that shows each quarter when you hover over until our team can optimize the features. I'm expecting it to take a week as of now. If your posts have reported what's required it will be updated Met as shown below, however when its Unmet for now you cannot see what Qtr. you're missing until we solve the dynamic issue.

Statistics:  Details:  Program Year:

Post:

All  Met  Unmet

Department	District	Post	Community Service	VMS	Voice of Democracy	Patriot's Pen	Teacher Av
Kansas	1	56	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	U

15 items per page 1 - 1 of 1 items

The work around for now is you can pull your community service activity summary and clearly see which reports have been added and know which quarters dont have a report associated. The quarter breakdown is as follows as a reminder July-Sept, Oct-Dec, Jan-Mar, April-June. Bleow screenshot

**WFW** VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS Hello, Lynn Rolf Log

KPI Tools Dashboard Actions Entries Citation Action NLS Action Reports Admin VMS Donat

## Reports

Report:  Department:  District:

Program Year:  Format:

### Lastly, for Overseas Departments, Districts and their Posts only.

Do not enter any participation entries for VOD-TOY-PP until I give a green light to enter your entries. We know there is an issue with accepting entries and it being deleted. This is due to an upload nightly from OMS for donations in lieu of participation in the programs canceling out all past entries. I am working diligently to correct and allow participation entries and donations simulatenously. If you have donated you will not see an issue, these go in nightly and will update to Met status. The issue is only for those who create a participation entry only and it gets cleared out. This is a top priority for our team. I am expecting this issue to be resolved in a week also. This was an oversight on my part and did not anticipate the upload to cancel everything out for overseas Departments/District/Posts. With the new donation feature and instant credit - i just did not anticipate this issue. Be patient and trust me this will be corrected shortly and noone will miss out on credit. I will update the Pacific areas leadership and Europe leadership when the issue is resoved and can enetr their participation credit.

**Yours in Comradeship,**

**Lynn W. Rolf III**  
Programs Director  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
406 W 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111

**Schedule of Events**

**Thursday - January 25, 2024**

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

**Friday - January 26, 2024**

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

**Saturday - January 27, 2024**

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

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

**Sunday - January 28, 2024**

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

## STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year to everyone. I hope you have family and friends that you can visit this holiday season. This time of year is hard on many people and we see an increase in the number of suicides. Please remember to do buddy checks this time of year; especially, to those who don't have family around to spend Christmas and New Year's.

Any time we go to any conferences or meetings, we need to be one front. We need to work together as one Team, Team Louisiana. WE are comrades, no matter what. When one of our own is hurting or needs help, we do what is needed to help them; we take care of each other. I consider all of you as family, my brothers, and sisters. If you have any issues or need assistance with anything, please call me. I am here for you.

Mid-winter Conference is right around the corner. I look forward to seeing you there. I can't wait to see and hear the entries from our students for the Youth contests, Americanism, Patriot Pen, and Voice of Democracy. We need to instill Patriotism in our youth, so we don't lose it in the future.

The legislative Conference is in March. If you haven't gone to the Conference, it is a great opportunity to see what the VFW does to help pass legislation for veterans. We actually meet with congressman, to discuss important bills that we need passed. If you haven't made your reservations, you need to make them, as soon as possible to make sure you have a room.



DEBBIE McELHANNON  
Army - Post 9854



### FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

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



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## STATE JR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

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Comrades,

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Holiday! Please remember our military personnel CONUS and OCONUS who are away from their loved ones during the holidays. For those deployed, we pray they return home safe.

All VFW programs should have been submitted to the District Chairman for judging. I hope all Post were able to participate. It is very important to promote Patriotism with our youth in these times. Post and District Adjutant's, make sure you submit your entries into the All American Dashboard and monitor the State Dashboard.

Congratulations to all Posts who reached or exceeded 100% in membership. Outstanding job! Let's continue to Recruit, Educate and Mentor!

Thank you for all you do and your continued service to this Great Nation!

***“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.”***

— Colin Powell



JAMES M. PRESTENBACK  
Army - Post 3665



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### State Historian

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

#### Things needed

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

# All American Status as of November 28, 2028

## All American 2023-2024 Eligible Dashboard Report

Department	District	Post	Veterans & Military Support Donation	Voice of Democracy	Patriot's Pen	Teacher Award	Buddy Poppy Order	Membership	National Legislative Service	Community Service	Recruiting Events	Department Round Up Tour	NVS Training	Post Service Officer Training	JROTC Cadet of the Year	Employer of the Year	VFW Member of the Year
Louisiana	2	3121	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	2	3267	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	2	3337	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	2	3750	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	2	5852	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	2	6640	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	2	7732	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	2	8973	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	3	3665	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	3	4222	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	3	4752	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	3	5097	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	3	7755	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	3	8538	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	3	9608	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	3	12182	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	4	1982	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	4	3793	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	4	4158	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	4	4201	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	4	4215	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	4	9210	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	4	9822	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Unmet	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	4	12065	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	2130	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Department	District	Post	Veterans & Military Support Donation	Voice of Democracy	Patriot's Pen	Teacher Award	Buddy Poppy Order	Membership	National Legislative Service	Community Service	Recruiting Events	Department Round Up Tour	NVS Training	Post Service Officer Training	JROTC Cadet of the Year	Employer of the Year	VFW Member of the Year
Louisiana	5	3106	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	3619	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	3686	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	3802	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	4759	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	7321	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	9854	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	12203	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	7	2483	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	7	3803	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	7	5153	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	7	6720	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	7	8678	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	7	8971	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	7	9903	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	8	3693	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	8	3766	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	8	3784	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	8	3785	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	8	4224	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	8	7017	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Met	N/A	Unmet	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	8	11169	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	9	3652	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	9	5735	Unmet	Pending - District	Pending - District	Pending - District	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	9	7196	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Department	District	Post	Veterans & Military Support Donation	Voice of Democracy	Patriot's Pen	Teacher Award	Buddy Poppy Order	Membership	National Legislative Service	Community Service	Recruiting Events	Department Round Up Tour	NVS Training	Post Service Officer Training	JROTC Cadet of the Year	Employer of the Year	VFW Member of the Year
Louisiana	9	7286	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	9	8290	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	9	8720	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	10	1736	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	10	1962	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	10	3139	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	10	3841	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	10	5002	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	10	7643	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	10	8852	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	11	1809	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	11	3155	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	11	3375	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	11	3615	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	11	3977	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	11	3993	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	11	4317	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	11	5442	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	12	2885	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	12	4586	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	12	4588	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	12	4858	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	12	5187	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Met	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	12	5951	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	12	7287	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

# STATE ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

## *Merry Christmas, Comrades,*

Both Desiree and I wish you, your members, and their family a very merry, happy and safe holiday season in the coming weeks.

### ***Programs:***

We are almost half way through our year and VOD and Patriot's Pen due dates are just around the corner to State and then National. I trust judging at the Post levels went well in November and District goes just as well this month. I cannot wait to meet the District Winners at Mid-Winter in Alexandria, in January of 2024. These kids are and will be our future civic and military leaders of their generation and the stewards of our country.

### ***Post and District Adjutants:***

In light of recent events where we (the Department) have had to research minutes and Attendance Sign-In Sheets. I am asking that the following be enacted on your Post and District Sign-In Sheets: DATE of meeting, PRINTED NAME of attendee, SIGNATURE block(Optional), MEMBERSHIP block, and VISITOR block.

Remember when taking Minutes for the meeting, it does not have to be a word by word of what was said during the meeting. It does, however have to be a concise paragraph covering the Who, What, When, Where, and Why of what was said.

### ***Fundraising Ideas:***

The two ideas I have are not new ones by any means but they have proven in the past to generate funds for organizations.

First, at each State Convention members seeking higher office, State Officers, Posts, Districts, and even outside companies placed an ad in the Departments Ad Book. Giving members the information about themselves, their accomplishments, and what they hope to bring to the VFW. I published the DAV's Ad Books for their 2021 and 2022 State Conventions.




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

They were both successful and generated about \$6000 with each issue. Total published around 500 copies costing just under \$1300 for both issues, netting \$10,700. And, I believe it is worth looking into starting once again.

Second, this may or may not be something a veterans organization has done before, I don't recall seeing one but I have seen them in other organizations, and it is the "Cookbook". These would have to be family recipes or modified ones giving credit to whom and where you got it from. A price would have to be determined but it gives you a chance to share your favorite foods and maybe a piece of your history or traditions with others.

If these are ideas you would like to see the department engage in, please email me and let me know, and I will put together a proposal and submit it to the Council of Administration at next month's Mid-Winter Conference.

Until January, I wish you all safe travels and happy gatherings.

  
PSC Mitchell R. Cota  
State Adjutant  
Department of Louisiana



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Louisiana

## Mid-Winter Conference

### Banquet Ticket Form

Tickets - \$30.00 per person

*Deadline: Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Aux: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**\*NO PHONE CALL REQUEST FOR TICKETS**

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

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

**FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY:**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Check No: \_\_\_\_\_

# VFW Mid Winter Conference Registration Form

Post # \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Please Print**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
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**Please Print**

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19. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed – CDR.: \_\_\_\_\_ or Qtm: \_\_\_\_\_

Dept of La, VFW Record Keeping:

Department Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMITTEEMEN CORNER

Greetings All,

This month's Committee Report has to deal with some issues we have going on in our Department and what the By-Laws guide us to do. First off, there is no room for discrimination within our ranks, if you have an issue with anyone because of race, religion or anything else then maybe you need to step away and rethink your position. We as veterans have all served together and defended our country together, we have all shed tears of joy and sorrow together, leave the discrimination out of the VFW. Secondly, according to Article VII, Section 702 – Politics it states:

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

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

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

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

With all that being said, wanting to participate in rallies over police brutality or other such rallies is



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

not what this organization was chartered for. The purpose of the corporation are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational, and are:

1. To preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members;
2. To assist worthy comrades;
3. To perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans;
4. To maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws;
5. To foster true patriotism;
6. To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and
7. To preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies

No where do I see it saying to attend rallies to protest things for your own benefit using the VFW as your platform. If this is your purpose to use VFW funds and membership to do this then show yourself to the door, we have the resources to remove you from the ranks of the VFW with Article IX actions.

Folks we are a veterans organization working to

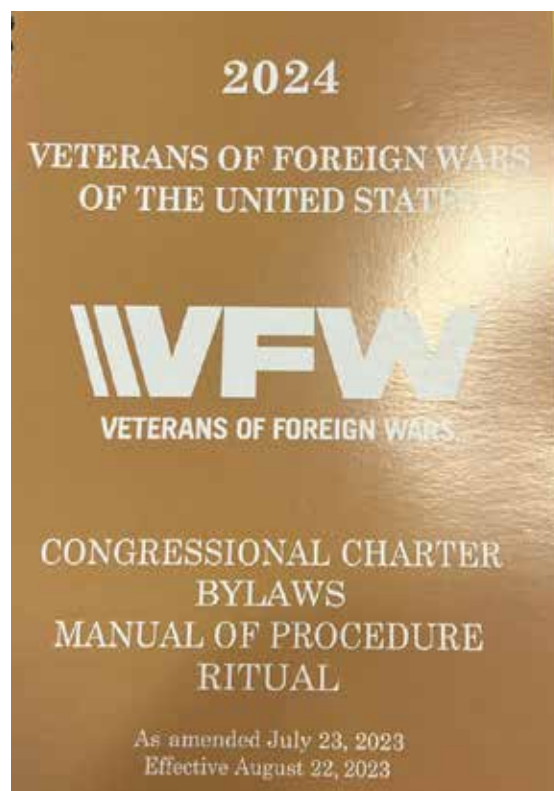


uphold and secure the benefits that we as veterans have earned, if you believe in that then stand up and let those who are trying to do the wrong things know that it is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Continue to check those DD214's for members that are wanting to join your Post as some of these that are causing the issues may not even be eligible to be members but slipped through the cracks by not having their credentials checked. Remember INTEGRITY is doing what is right no matter what others think.

I hope each of you have a great Holiday Season with your families and friends and for those who will be sailing on the Southern Conference Cruise I look forward to seeing all of you on board for a week of fun in the sun.

As always I will leave you with this quote:  
***“We must reject the idea that every time a law’s broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions.”***

**-Ronald Reagan**



[Download the Podium pdf](#)

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## Council Weekly

Good Morning Commanders,

Hope you all had a great week and are looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving with family and friends. It would be a really good Thanksgiving for our Commander Ron Delaney if we could move from the cellar of the Membership Standings, to do that it takes you to help motivate your Posts to get involved with membership. As you can see from the items below that our KC and DC office has really made a strong push to shutdown these claim sharks who are charging YOU the veteran to get you your benefits which are free, don't fall into the grasp of these sharks. Until next week, HAPPY THANKSGIVING and continue to push forward on the membership.

### Administrative Operations

- Department Inspections: We are moving forward with the Department Inspection initiative for the 2023-2024 term and have plans to complete ten (10) inspections this year. The hope is that we will have the first inspection scheduled for the beginning of October and have all inspections completed by May 2024, prior to the start of Department conventions. In the coming weeks we will be reaching out to the Departments that have been selected by the Commander-in-Chief as well as the inspection team members to begin working through availability and scheduling. Additionally, the inspection team will be conducting initial and refresher training in September before we start our schedule. We look forward to another successful year of inspections and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Quentin Carroll at [QCarroll@vfw.org](mailto:QCarroll@vfw.org).
- There are currently 50 Posts under suspension, four of which are new. We have processed one Post con-

solidation pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,664 chartered Posts.

- Administrative Operations is engaged in 10 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 12 Administrative Actions and 10 membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 49 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, five of which are new; current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 30 days.

### Membership

- Your national membership team would like to wish you a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday! As you travel and visit your Posts, help remind Posts to update their membership materials. Materials such as door hangers, fact sheets and other membership materials can be ordered on [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) anytime!
- Recruiting efforts remain high and are needed going into the holiday season, so keep the press on! Encourage Post leaders to start planning their spring-time recruiting events now. Mitigate challenges early to ensure success!
- Have you heard of the 8 Weeks of Christmas? See the flyer on the Membership Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembership>, or on Instagram @ [vfwmembership](https://www.instagram.com/vfwmembership). Members can register multiple times to win prize packages each week through December 31. Over one thousand members have registered to date, with more than 186 Posts participating in this contest. Help spread the word so your Posts do not miss out! Note: unfortunately, due to technical limitations of the contest platform, only Posts in North America can participate.
- If you have a topic for training, we would love to hear from you! Contact us by emailing, [Membership@vfw.org](mailto:Membership@vfw.org). Follow our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembership>.

### National Legislative Service

- House Subcommittee Hearing on Pending Legislation: VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Quandrea Patterson testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs regarding pending legislation related to fiduciary fraud and VA Board of Appeals processes. She conveyed the VFW's support to restore benefits to veterans and their families when they fall victim to abuse or fraud by fiduciaries. She also spoke about a bill to establish presumptions of service connection for diseases associated with firefighting. Patterson said, "This would prevent PFAS from becoming another situation like Blue Water Navy or Camp Lejeune in which veterans became sick and died waiting decades for their conditions to be properly recognized and appropriately treated." She stated VFW's support for a bill that limits the authority of VA to deny the claim of a veteran for benefits on the sole basis of failure to appear for a medical examination, commenting that "restarting a claim for this reason is unnecessary and veterans would benefit from a process that does not place so much power in a missed appointment." Read the testimony or watch the hearing, which begins at the 7:17 mark.

- Don't Feed the Sharks: The VFW has issued a Claim Shark factsheet for you to share with fellow veterans and social media communities. A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to "assist" or "consult" veterans with filing their VA benefit claims. This practice is illegal! Like the VFW said last year during testimony before Congress, "In our opinion, any group that fails to adhere to VA's well-established standards of accreditation and fee arrangements should be met at the door by Capitol Police, not offered a seat at the same table as hard-working, VA-accredited advocates who are held to professional and ethical standards designed to protect veterans." Get the Fact Sheet.
- VFW, SVA Announce 2023/2024 Student Veteran Fellowship Class: Eight Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) members and Student Veterans of America (SVA) leaders have been selected for the 2023/2024 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship. In its tenth year, the fellowship is an academic experience during which students advocate for a policy proposal that addresses a VFW legislative priority issue. The fellows have the opportunity to attend the VFW Legislative Conference and participate with their VFW Department delegations during meetings with members of Congress and staff. The 2023/2024 legislative fellows are:

- Alex Ortiz, Army veteran, Inter American University of Puerto Rico – School of Law
- Alexander Thymmons, Army veteran, University of Hawaii – Manoa
- Bryce Kyle, Army veteran, University of Texas – San Antonio
- Jamie Springston, Navy veteran, Marshall University
- Jason Do, Air Force veteran, Samuel Merritt University
- Lyssa Losa, Army veteran, Texas A&M University – College Station
- Terren Wise, Navy veteran, Brown University
- Jennifer Ray, Air Force veteran, Southwestern College

• House Hearing on Veteran Businesses: VFW Department of Illinois District 15 Commander Chris Maynor testified before the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs about the issues facing veteran- owned businesses. Maynor is an Army veteran and owner of Daniel Deans clothing store in Murphysboro, Illinois. He described the difficulty in finding veteran related programs to help launch small businesses, and shared his journey of getting his company off the ground. Many VFW members across the country are business owners, so having their voices represented before Congress is very powerful. Watch the hearing, which begins at the 9:17 mark.

#### National Veterans Service

- The VFW NVS staff held a press conference with the DAV, TAPS, SVA, NACVSO and others to expose claims sharks and educate veterans to not pay for claims help.
- VFW staff attended a press briefing by Veterans Benefits Guardian at the National Press Club.
- NVS BDD reps service officer training session is this week with VA and VFW instructors teaching via ZOOM.
- NVS BDD leadership participated in the Navy General Officer TAP class.
- NVS health team participated in the VHA Integrated Veterans Care meeting.
- NVS health team participated in the VA Veterans Sources Community Network meeting

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



# NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEEMAN

## Legislative Report November 2023

These are the key Topics from this month. Please read through these and let me know your thoughts on how we can continue to show Louisiana, that our Elected Officials are committed to our Veterans.

### November 6th:

#### House Subcommittee Hearing on Pending

**Legislation:** VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Kristina Keenan testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity regarding pending legislation related to education and other benefits. She conveyed the VFW's support to expand the monthly housing allowance to student veterans taking online courses during summer semesters. She also spoke about a bill to remove the red tape that has caused some schools to drop out of the GI Bill program. "This would modify the requirement for schools to provide personalized information about costs and financial assistance. The new language would give schools more flexibility by lessening the barrier to receiving VA education funding," Keenan said. She also stated the VFW's support for a bill to reimburse the VA Home Loan funding fee to service members who apply for VA disability but receive a rating decision after finalizing the purchase of a home. Read the testimony or watch the hearing, which begins at the 6:55 mark.

#### Annual Military Suicide Report Released:

The Department of Defense (DOD) released its Annual Report on Suicide in the Military Calendar Year 2022. In total, 492 service members across components lost their lives to suicide in 2022, which is a decrease from 2021. In addition, a total of 168 family members died by suicide in 2021, which is the most recent year data is available. Among service members, suicide rates (deaths per 100,000) for active duty, Reserve, and National Guard components were 25.1, 19.1, and 22.2, respectively. While the rates among Reserve and National Guard personnel continue to show neither upward nor downward trends, the rate of active duty members dying by suicide has continued to trend upward from 2011-2022. The 2021 suicide rates among



MATTHEW J. WEST, PSC  
Army - Post 3619

family members appeared to be lower than in 2019 and 2020, though no time-based trends have been established. Importantly, the report outlines DOD's ongoing and planned actions to curb suicide numbers including implementing recommendations from the Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee (SPRIRC). Read the DOD suicide report. Read the SPRIRC report.

**Veterans Day Discounts and Freebies:** As a display of gratitude and appreciation, community partners have joined together for Veterans Day, Nov. 11, to honor service members, veterans, and their families for their sacrifice and dedication to our nation. VA has compiled and will continue to update a list of nationally available Veterans Day discounts to give back to our veterans.

### November 13th:

#### VFW Participates in Veterans Day Events:

VFW National Commander Duane Sarmiento took part in activities in the Washington, D.C., area on Veterans Day, Nov. 11., beginning with a visit to the White House. From there Sarmiento headed to Arlington National Cemetery where he and VFW Auxiliary President Carla Martinez laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The VFW then

hosted a reception at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, while VFW Washington Office staff laid a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial during an afternoon ceremony.

### **House Subcommittee Hearing on Pending**

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### **November 20th:**

**Fight Against Claim Sharks:** The VFW was joined by congressional lawmakers, representatives from veteran organizations, and veteran advocates for a press conference warning veterans and survivors about the dangers of pay-to-play claims consulting

companies, known as “Claim Sharks.” Some Claim Sharks offer high-priced assistance and suspect medical advice on VA claims without following the well-established professional and ethical standards of accreditation. No veteran should pay excessive and unregulated fees to access their earned VA benefits. VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci stated, “We’re not going to stop in this [fight] because these are illicit organizations. What they are doing is illegal.” He added, “Even if you legalize these activities, it doesn’t do anything about the fraud. Our goal is to make sure that not another veteran falls victim to their scams.” Get the facts or watch the video.

**Certain Health Care Costs Covered for Camp Lejeune Families:** Families of veterans exposed to contaminated drinking water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune are now eligible for reimbursement of health care costs associated with Parkinson’s disease in addition to the list of serious health conditions currently covered. Learn more or apply for health care reimbursement under VA’s Camp Lejeune Family Member Program. To apply for disability benefits related to Camp Lejeune, find a VFW Accredited Service Officer in your area. VA National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report: VA has released its 2023 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. This is the largest national analysis of veteran suicides through 2021. The report shows 6,392 veterans died by suicide that year, which is 114 more than in 2020. The first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 led to greater financial strain, housing instability, anxiety and depression levels, and barriers to health care. All of these factors are known to be associated with an increased risk of suicide for veterans and non-veterans alike. This report is a peer-reviewed publication that is based on verified data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and DOD. Read the report.

**Reserve Component Compensation Challenges:** Recently published data revealed a disparity in the approval of disability compensation claims between National Guard/ Reserve and active-duty component members. The Government Accountability Office recommends that VA should implement guidance informing reservists about the importance of reporting

medical conditions in real time as related to claims for disability compensation. Read more.

**Bring Christmas Joy Through Toys for Tots:** Since 1947, Marine Toys for Tots has been bringing the joy of Christmas to America’s less-fortunate children and fostering community engagement. Every holiday season, new unwrapped toys are distributed to children in need. Donated items may be dropped off at designated locations, or you may make a virtual donation. Learn more.

**Holiday Overseas Mail Deadlines Approaching:** The U.S. Postal Service is preparing for the holiday season as many families spend holidays apart due to military service. In order to ensure overseas packages are delivered before Dec. 25, it has provided the following deadlines: Dec. 9 for all Air/ Army Post Office (APO), Fleet Post Office (FPO) and Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) addresses with AE zip codes using Priority Mail and First-Class Mail; and Dec. 15 for APO/FPO/DPO addresses using USPS Priority Mail Express (excluding zip 093). The Postal Service offers a free military care kit to ship items. Read more.

**November 27th:**

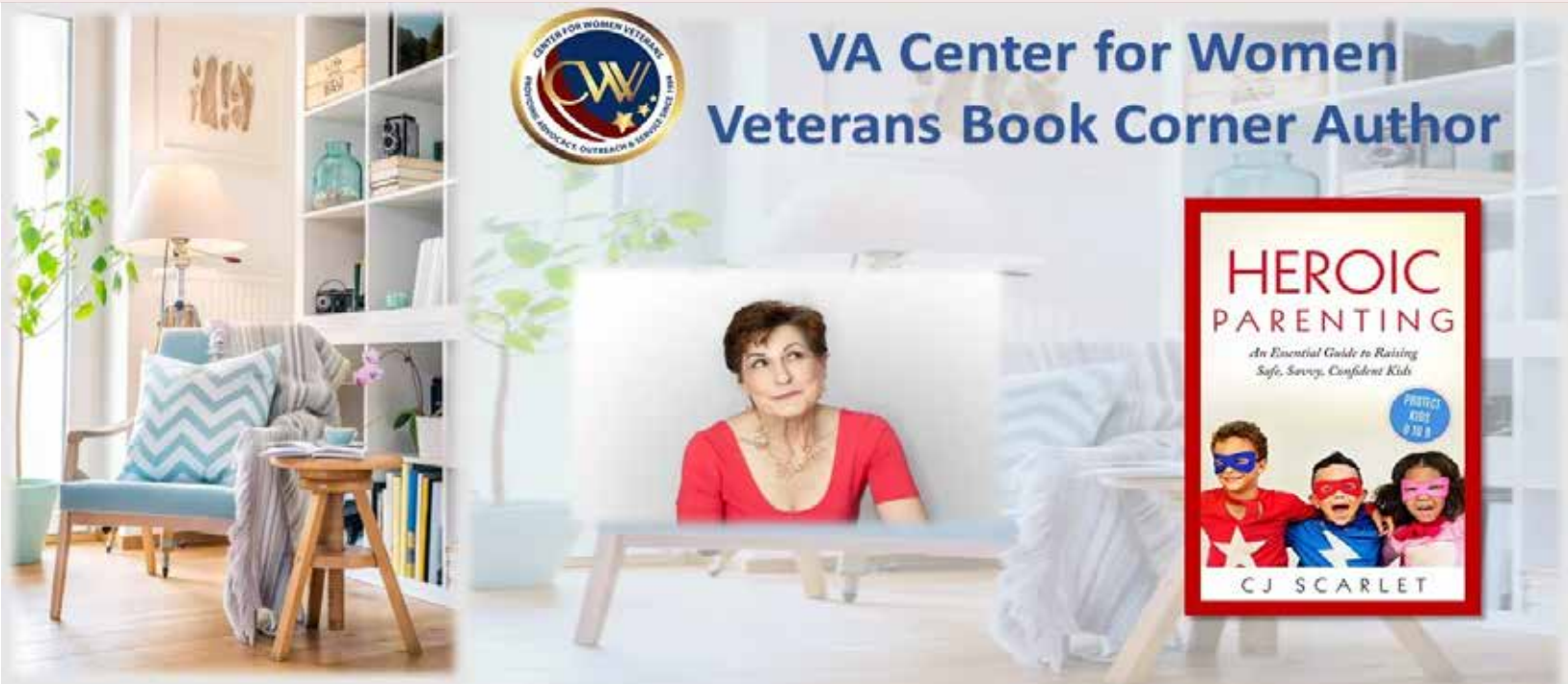
No Action Corps for this week due to Thanksgiving Weekend.

Respectfully,

*Matthew J. West*  
Matthew J. West  
VFW, Department of Louisiana  
National Legislative Committee Member 2020-2026



# WOMEN VETERANS



Taken from VA/News

## CWV BOOK CORNER, NOVEMBER: MARINE CORPS VETERAN CJ SCARLET

*November 18, 2023*

*By Michelle Terry*

*CWV Outreach Program Manager*

This month's Center for Women Veterans author is Marine Corps Veteran CJ Scarlet, who served as a photojournalist from 1981 to 1986. She has written five books, including "Raising Badass Kids: The Parents' Guide to Predator-Proofing Tweens & Teens" (RBK), which will be published in this month.

Scarlet is a danger expert, award-winning author, ghostwriter, and survivor of childhood abuse and teen sexual assault. As an advocate for victims of assault, she ran a child advocacy center and served as director of Victims Issues for the North Carolina Attorney General's Office.

She has previously worked as roller-skating carhop, forest firefighter, Marine photojournalist, and holds a master's degree in human violence. Named one of the "Happy 100" people on the planet, her story of triumph over adversity is featured in several bestselling books.

**Can you share a brief background of your military experience, including your branch of service, years served, and any notable positions or deployments?**

I served in the Marine Corps from 1981 to 1986 as a photojournalist—the coolest job you can have in the military! Every day was filled with new stories to cover, and I got to meet the most amazing people, from grunts to generals to movie stars.

## **What inspired you to write a book and share your story as a woman Veteran?**

Although I am a noted danger expert, when my grandtwins were born I was overwhelmed with nightmares about their personal safety. I wondered how I could protect them and, even more importantly, how I could teach them to protect themselves. My first two books are for parents on kids aged 0-9; my latest book, to be published in November, is for parents of kids aged 10-18. Each of these books covers who the predators are, what the dangers are (bullying/cyberbullying, sexual molestation and assault, online dangers and sex trafficking), and how to teach kids to avoid these dangers and fight their way out of an attack, if needed.

## **How has your military background influenced your writing style and the themes you explore in your work?**

Being a trained photojournalist has made it easy to write nonfiction. In the past, I've also written pieces about sexual assault and harassment against service members (women in the military are at a vastly greater risk of being sexually assaulted than those in the civilian population).

## **How do you hope your book will impact other women Veterans, active duty service members and the general public?**

I hope every parent will read my books, which are filled with solid, actionable tips and advice, so they can protect our precious kids.

## **What role do you think storytelling and literature play in fostering understanding and support for the women Veteran's community?**

Women Veterans have amazing stories to tell and wisdom to share, not only about their military experiences, but about life in general that can benefit the women Veterans' community.

## **Can you share a memorable experience or anecdote from your time in the military that has had a lasting impact on your life and writing?**

On my very first day on the job at my very first duty station (Camp Pendleton), I stopped a war! Okay, it was just a joint Navy-Marine Corps military exercise, but I stopped it nonetheless by calling for a "cease fire" when I was escorting a news crew that wanted to get a shot of the machine gunners. Hey! How was I supposed to know they were firing blanks?

## **Are there any fellow women Veteran authors or books that have inspired or resonated with you? If so, could you tell us a bit about them?**

My military buddy, Tracy Crow, is also an author, and now an agent for women Veteran authors. I've been friends with Tracy for 42 years now and have always been inspired by her integrity, her professionalism, her knowledge and her kindness.

## **What advice do you have for other women Veterans or active-duty service members who may be considering writing about their experiences?**

Everyone is fighting a hard battle others know nothing about, and they have an amazing story to tell.

My favorite quote, by Henry Van Dyke, is (and I'm paraphrasing here): "How silent the woods would be if only the best bird sang."



Your unique voice matters. Your story matters and can send ripples across the collective unconscious that will inspire others. So, write that book!

### **How has writing this book helped you?**

Once I started writing my books to teach parents how to empower their kids to stay safe, my nightmares ended. Knowing my written words can protect kids and, potentially, even save lives, is a great feeling that I will always carry with me.

### **Can you tell us about any upcoming projects or events you're involved in that our audience might be interested in?**

I didn't promote my earlier books like I should have, but I'm going all out on this next one, which was published on Nov. 15, 2023. I'll be doing a national satellite media tour and a ton of podcasts and other media interviews to get the word out.

### **Are you a woman Veteran author, or do you know of one?**

If so, please visit our [website](#) to find out more information. If you have further questions, contact the CWV Outreach Program Manager Michelle Terry at [00W@VA.gov](mailto:00W@VA.gov).

*I came across this article and thought it may be of interest or helpful to someone trying their hand at writing and telling their story. Being an unpublished author myself, this may be an article that gives you the push you need to start telling about the experiences you had as a Woman Veteran.*

Mitchell R. "Mitch" Cota  
State Adjutant





# POW/MIA RECOVERED

PRESS RELEASE | NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Service Member **PFC CLINTON E SMITH**



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

Date of Identification **09/28/2022**



Pfc CLINTON E SMITH

Unit **157 INFANTRY 45**  
DIVISION  
Country of Loss  
**France**  
Home of Record **TX**

On September 28, 2022, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Private First Class Clinton E. Smith Jr., missing from World War II.

Private First Class Smith entered U.S. Army from Texas and served with Company D, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. On January 14, 1945, elements of the VI Corps, including the 45th Infantry Division, were defending Alsace and Lorraine in northern France against the German offensive of Operation NORDWIND, an effort to break through American lines in eastern France and eliminate as many Allied units as possible. PFC Smith was killed by shrapnel while manning a machine gun positioned to support his advancing infantry company, which was attempting to regain ground lost to the Germans northeast of Reipertswiller, France. Because the Germans controlled the territory where PFC Smith fell, his fellow soldiers were unable to remove his body. Post-war search efforts by the American Graves Registration Command to recover his remains were unsuccessful. More recent efforts by DPAA historians conducting on-going research into soldiers missing from combat around Reipertswiller found that one set of remains, which had been buried at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in Belgium, could be associated with PFC Smith. This set of remains was disinterred in August 2021 and transferred to a DPAA Laboratory for further study. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established the remains as those of PFC Smith.

Private First Class Smith is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the Epinal American Cemetery in Dinozé, France.



PRESS RELEASE | Nov. 8, 2023

## Airman Accounted for from WWII (McConnell, H.)

WASHINGTON –

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U.S. Army Air Force Pfc. Henry J. McConnell, 28, of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, who was captured and died as a prisoner of war during World War II, was accounted for July 27, 2023.

In early 1942, McConnell was assigned to the 2nd Observation Squadron in the Philippines, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula on April 9, 1942, and of Corregidor Island on May 6, 1942.

Thousands of U.S. and Filipino service members were captured and interned at POW camps. McConnell was among those reported captured when U.S. forces in Bataan surrendered to the Japanese. They were subjected to the 65-mile Bataan Death March and then held at the Cabanatuan POW camp. More than 2,500 POWs perished in this camp during the war.

## *Airman McConnell continued*

According to prison camp and other historical records, McConnell died July 26, 1942, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 225.

Following the war, American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) personnel exhumed those buried at the Cabanatuan cemetery and relocated the remains to a temporary U.S. military mausoleum near Manila. In 1947, the AGRS examined the remains in an attempt to identify them. Three of the sets of remains from Common Grave 225 were identified, but the rest were declared unidentifiable. The unidentified remains were buried at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM) as Unknowns.

In March 2018, the remains associated with Common Grave 225 were disinterred and sent to the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

To identify McConnell's remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological and dental analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the [Armed Forces Medical Examiner System](#) used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), Y-chromosome (Y-STR), and autosomal DNA (auSTR) analysis.

Although interred as an Unknown in MACM, McConnell's grave was meticulously cared for over the past 70 years by the [American Battle Monuments Commission](#) (ABMC).

McConnell will be buried in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, on November 30, 2023.

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

DPAA is grateful to the ABMC and the United States Army for their partnership in this mission.

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

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# Soldier Accounted for from Korean War (Herrington, W.)

WASHINGTON –

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U.S. Army Cpl. William J. Herrington, 19, of Alliance, Ohio, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Aug. 26, 2022.

In late 1950, Herrington was a member of Dog Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, while fighting a series of major battles with the Chinese People's Volunteer Army (CPVA) on the eastern shore of the Chosin Reservoir, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (D.P.R.K. or North Korea). When Herrington's unit regrouped in Hangnam, he could not be located and was reported missing. There is no evidence that he was ever a prisoner of war. Herrington, absent any evidence of his continued survival, was declared nonrecoverable and the Army issued a presumptive finding of death on Dec. 31, 1953.

On July 27, 2018, following the summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un in June 2018, North Korea turned over 55 boxes, purported to contain the remains of American service members killed during the Korean War. The remains arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on Aug. 1, 2018, and were subsequently accessioned into the DPAA laboratory for identification.

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

Herrington's name is recorded on the [American Battle Monuments Commission's](#) Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with the others who are still missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Herrington will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, in July, 2024.

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

To see the most up-to-date statistics on DPAA recovery efforts for those unaccounted for from the Korean War, go to the Korean War Accounting page on the DPAA website at: <https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaFamWebKorean>.

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

Herrington's personnel profile can be viewed at <https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaProfile?id=a0Jt0000001yfZEEAY>.

# Post 3619 Thanksgiving Highlights 2023

VFW Post 3619 held its 15th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner in Deridder on Thanksgiving Day. Post & Auxiliary members worked together to provide a delicious meal for Post & Auxiliary members, Veterans, Active Duty and their families in Deridder area.



# Highlights from Southern Conference 2023



# Highlights from Southern Conference 2023





DISTRICT 9 - POST 3652



DISTRICT 9 - POST 3652



# VFW PROGRAMS DEADLINE DATES

## **Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award**

- \*October 31, Entries to the Post
- November 15, Completion of Post judging
- December 15, Completion of District judging
- \*February 1, Department winners and reports due to National (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention presentation)

## **Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen**

- \*October 31, Student entries to the Post
- November 15, Completion of Post judging
- December 15, Completion of District judging
- January 10, Completion of Department judging
- January 15, District participation reports due to Department Chairmen
- \*January 15, Department winners due to National
- \*January 31, Department reports due to National

## **Scout of the Year**

- \*March 1, Scout entries to the Post
- \*April 1, Post entries to Department Scouting Chairman or Department HQs
- \*May 1, Department entry to National from Department Scouting Chairman or Department HQs

## **Community Service**

- \*April 30, Post Special Project & Fred C. Hall Award Submission (Department to National)
- \*April 30, National Outstanding Community Service Post Submission(s) (Department to National)
- \*June 30, Community Service Reports Deadline

## **Public Servant National Award (Law Enforcement, Firefighter, Emergency Services)**

- January 1, Nominations due (from Post to Department)
- \*February 1, (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention presentation), Nominations due from Department to National

## **National Certificate of Recognition**

- April 1 (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention presentation), List due to National from Department

***\*Required deadline (by VFW National Headquarters.) All other deadlines are suggested, and can be internally set at the discretion of the VFW Department leadership. Post Chairmen, be sure to communicate with your District Chairmen to find out their official deadlines, and District Chairmen need to communicate with their Department Chairmen to find out their deadlines.***

Updated 8/1/2022

## Membership

### COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

December brings us halfway through the membership year, and we want to see our membership continue to grow! This month, Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento is issuing a challenge to our Posts to increase their membership percentage in December!

Throughout the month of December, we are going to track our Post's membership percentages. This means new members, reinstated members, renewals, dues-paying transfers - we want to see more active paid members in the Post!

As a reminder, to figure your membership percentage you take your total current paid members and divide it by your prior year total. Or you can just go check out Memstats and we will do the math for you!

This challenge will compare the Post's membership percentage as of Dec. 1 and compare it to where your membership percentage is at close of business on Dec. 31. The Post in each membership division that shows the greatest increase will receive a \$500 award plus a custom Commander-in-Chief Jacket. We have eleven membership divisions so that means there will only be eleven of these jackets ever made. If you want everyone to know that your Post has met the challenge for membership excellence, now is your chance!

This is a season of giving and now is the time to give your best when it comes to strengthening our membership. We want you all to continue to build this organization, engage with our members, and to always go out there and **MEET THE CHALLENGE!**

### EARLY BIRD AWARD-VFW LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

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

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

### POST COMMANDER AND QUARTERMASTER NEW & REINSTATED MEMBER AWARD

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

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

## MEMBERSHIP OBJECTIVES

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

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

## NEW POST DEVELOPMENT & POST REVITALIZATION DEPARTMENT AWARD

Congratulations to the Department of Pacific Areas for establishing new VFW Post 12224, Puerto Princesa City, Philippines, established on October 22, 2023.

Congratulations goes out to the Department of Colorado for establishing VFW Post 12226, Sterling, Colorado and VFW Post 12227, Falcon, Colorado, established, Oct. 27 and Oct. 28, 2023, respectively. If you have questions about Memstats, Post Query, or if you are trying to Charter a Post and you have more than (15) members on a charter application, give me a call, Matt Nute at 816.968.1122. We have many resources available to help you.

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

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

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

For any questions or further information, please contact the Membership Department via email at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org) or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

## UPCOMING TRAINING

Membership Monday training webinar will be on Dec. 4, 2023, at 2:00 PM, CDT, Topic: TBD. We urge you to pass along this information to all who would be interested.

## CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook to view the latest membership news, Post shout-outs, and important resource information throughout the year - [facebook.com/VFWmembership/](https://facebook.com/VFWmembership/).

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP THREE RECRUITERS!**

Top Three Recruiters (as of 11.27.23):

**Steven L. Woodward – 356**  
VFW Post 2224, Dept. of WA

**Timothy M. Borland – 229**  
VFW Post 9972, Dept. of AZ

**Joseph T. Allen – 171**  
VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

**LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

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

**Enrollment Cost:**

**Annual Payouts:**

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

*What will your Legacy be?*

**VFW Foundation**

The 2023-24 VFW Foundation grant applications are available at [vfw.org/Grants](http://vfw.org/Grants). VFW Posts, Districts and Auxiliaries may qualify for grant funding. A total of three reimbursement-based grant opportunities will be provided:

#StillServing Grant (SSG) – This grant provides reimbursement of up to \$1,500 for expenses incurred while performing community service activities where Post/District/Auxiliary members engaged community members directly.

Post Assistance Grant (PAG) – This grant provides reimbursement of up to \$2,500 for expenses incurred from purchasing qualifying equipment or making repairs/renovating a Post owned property.

Uniting to Combat Hunger (UTCH) Grant – This grant provides reimbursement of up to \$1,500 for donations made to food insecurity organizations or for the purchase of food that supports a Post or Auxiliary ran food pantry.

Contact: VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations Richard Freiburghouse, [rfreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:rfreiburghouse@vfw.org).

# Development

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

**MATCHING GIFT OFFER!** – Look out for a special notice coming to your mailbox this month! Friends of the VFW have generously pledged to triple your donation for the next 30 days, kickstarting our 2023 Annual Challenge with a commitment of \$50,000 from their own pockets. They recognize that the cost of war extends far beyond the battlefield and believe that there are many others who share this understanding. Proud VFW members like you are being called upon to support our newest veterans, especially those returning home disabled by war. Your contribution to the VFW today will not only be matched but tripled. To make sure every dollar counts toward the 2023 Annual Challenge, please ensure that all gifts are postmarked within the next 30 days. Your generosity will make a significant difference in the lives of our veterans. Thank you for your ongoing support!

**VFW Kicks Off the 2023 Year-End Campaign with the Friends of Freedom Online Community** – November 25 is the start of the VFW's 2023 Year-End Campaign, running until December 31! Keep an eye on your inbox for an email from the VFW and consider making a generous, tax-deductible year-end contribution. You can also make a donation by [clicking here](#). We also encourage you to spread the word about the campaign across your social media networks. Given the rapidly increasing demand for VFW programs, your support for this year's 2023 Year-End Campaign is more vital than ever. Your contribution will directly impact veterans of all generations by enabling VFW Accredited Service Officers to provide essential assistance in applying for and securing their hard-earned VA benefits. It will also support military families in financial distress by providing assistance for rent, utilities and other necessities. Furthermore, your generosity ensures that all veterans are effectively represented on Capitol Hill, safeguarding their rights and benefits. Your generosity creates life-changing opportunities for our nation's heroes when they need it most.

**Celebrate the Holiday Season by Helping Fellow Veterans** – Your support of the VFW this holiday season – and throughout the year – is extremely important in helping the VFW's efforts to serve and assist veterans of all generations who are sick, unemployed, homeless or suffering from combat wounds received long ago. We recently mailed a special edition of the 2024 VFW "Fly the Flag" Calendar, and we also included a bonus gift – a beautiful VFW "American Songbirds" Calendar. The 2024 VFW Veterans Service Annual Campaign will be mailing early in January. By supporting these programs, you help veterans and their families in need throughout the year in your Department and across the country. And please display the U.S. flag – especially on patriotic holidays, which are marked in your new VFW Calendars. You can visit [heroes.vfw.org/Flag](https://heroes.vfw.org/Flag) and print a free flag poster to display.

**Smart Ways to Give Before 2023 Ends** – Finish the year with a gift that maximizes your impact AND reduces your taxes. If made before Dec. 31 your donation qualifies for a 2023 tax deduction. Help veterans of every generation and consider making a gift to the VFW before the year is out.

Our team at the VFW Planned Giving Office can help you plan for the future—and continue supporting our country's veterans while doing so. Contact our office at 816.968.1119, or by emailing [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org), to receive free information about estate planning.

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

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

**Department Resources** – Many great resources are available for your Department to use in promoting fundraising programs. By visiting [heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools](http://heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools), you will find the latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items for your Department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mail schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the tools found on the VFW Department Resources Page to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

## Veterans & Military Support Programs

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

### VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”

The spring 2024 application closed Nov. 15, 2023. The fall 2024 application will be available early January 2023 and can be found online at [vfw.org/Scholarship](http://vfw.org/Scholarship) with a deadline date of April 30, 2024.

### VMS All-American Requirement

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

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



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

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

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

### **Veterans & Military Support (VMS)**

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

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

## VFW Programs

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

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

### **SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD**

**PROGRAM DEADLINE REMINDER.** Post level judging should be completed at this time and their winners' nominations forwarded on to the next level of judging, District, if applicable, or on to their VFW Department Headquarters. A completed nomination should consist of a completed entry form with a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five-pages, including the resume, as a maximum of documentation of their teacher experience, along with a head-and-shoulder photo, if available at the time.

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

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

The VFW's Department Citizenship Education Teacher Award includes a citation for both the winning teacher and their school.

The VFW's National Citizenship Education Teacher Awards include: three national \$1,000 awards for the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses; \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and school; and an all-expense-paid trip to attend a VFW National Convention.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email [tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org) or call 816.756.3390 and ask for extension 6287 or Tammy Beauchamp.

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

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

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

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

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

Simply visit [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Public Servant Program**.

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

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

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

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

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

**The new programs are as follows:**

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

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

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

**HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG ON DEC. 7.** Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates Dec. 7 as “National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day” and requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day. To order a flag, go to [vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags](http://vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags).

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

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

## VFW Member Benefits

### Keep a Little More Cash in Your Pocket This Holiday Season

Dash through the deals this holiday season with the VFW Perkspot savings program. Whether you’re traveling to see family members, looking for the perfect gift for the perfect someone, or want to make good on your New Year resolution, dash through the deals this holiday season with the VFW PerkSpot savings program.

Now, with access to exclusive discounts on everything from home goods and the latest gadgets, to entertainment, travel and big-ticket buys, being a VFW member means you get to save time AND money! Visit [vfw.perkspot.com/login](https://vfw.perkspot.com/login) to create an account and keep a little more cash in your pocket this holiday season.

## “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy

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

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

**BUDDY POPPY UPDATE:** National Headquarters conducted a review of the Buddy Poppy policy and procedures and implemented the following changes effective Aug. 1, 2023:

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

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

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

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

**VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES.** The silver, gold and diamond anniversary Buddy Poppies are for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary years. For Posts currently in their 100th year anniversary, they can order any color and as many as they need. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out unless you are currently in your 100th year. These are ordered through the Department in OMS and processed the same as the red poppies.

Currently we have no plans to replenish inventory due to increased cost and the small quantities we sell of the Anniversary Poppies. Based on the past four year's sales, we have sufficient inventory for the next 3.5 years of the Gold, 5 years of Diamond and 52 years of the Silver.

## National Veterans Service

### **LAST CALL FOR 2023 VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE (VAVS) NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NAC) VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATIONS**

**REMINDER:** The deadline for submission of nominations for the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Volunteer of the Year awards is **Dec. 8, 2023**.

Nominations are for two awards (one male and one female), which will be presented during the 2024 VAVS National Advisory Committee meeting. **Nominees for this award must participate in established VAVS assignments, serve as a Regularly Scheduled (RS) Volunteer and meet one of the following criteria:**

- Volunteer with hospitalized Veterans
- Volunteer with Veterans at Outpatient Clinics
- Volunteer with Veterans in Community Living Centers
- Volunteer with homeless Veterans
- Volunteer with Veterans and Veterans groups in the community
- Host Veterans functions in the Lodge, Post, Chapter, i.e., Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup> and Veterans Day observances, etc., that qualify as a VAVS assignment
- Host Veterans functions outside the Lodge, Post, Chapter, i.e., fishing trips, day at the races, sporting events, etc., that qualify as a VAVS assignment
- Visit Veterans confined to their homes as a VAVS assignment
- Adopt-A-Veteran

If your Department has not already done so, please select your two candidates (one male and one female) and send all supporting documentation along with their nomination letters to: [jmooss@vfw.org](mailto:jmooss@vfw.org).

## National Legislative Service/Action Corps

### **Don't Feed the Sharks**

The VFW has issued a Claim Shark factsheet for you to share with fellow veterans and social media communities. A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to "assist" or "consult" veterans with filing their VA benefit claims. This practice is illegal! Like the VFW said last year during testimony before Congress, "In our opinion, any group that fails to adhere to VA's well-established standards of accreditation and fee arrangements should be met at the door by Capitol Police, not offered a seat at the same table as hard-working, VA-accredited advocates who are held to professional and ethical standards designed to protect veterans." [Get the factsheet.](#)

## VFW Store

Shop the VFW Store this winter for hoodies, jackets, knit caps and more!  
Click [vfwstore.org](http://vfwstore.org) to shop now!

Don't see what you're looking for? Contact Kim Winston at  
[kwinston@vfw.org](mailto:kwinston@vfw.org) for custom orders!



## Roll Call of Departed Comrades

JOHNSON, DANIEL K. "DEKE," National Council of Administration member, 2006–2008, Department Adjutant/Quartermaster, 1994-2004, Department Quartermaster, 2004-2008 and a Gold Legacy Life Member of Capitol City Post 63, Boise, Idaho, November 19, 2023.

# 2023-24 State VFW Commander & Auxiliary President Shirts

See Order Form for Pricing Information

## MEN'S STYLE POLO

These run true to size.



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

## WOMEN'S STYLE POLO

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



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

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

These run true to size.



## OUR SPECIAL PROJECT TAPS

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



# 2023-24 State Commander & President Shirts

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

## BUTTON UP

PERSONALIZED OPTION

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

Men's & Women's Long or Short Sleeve

Print Name/Title (up to 3 lines)

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

## BUTTON UP

Shirt with Commander / President Logo ONLY

Men's & Women's Long or Short Sleeve

LOGO ONLY NOT PERSONALIZED

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

## POLO

PERSONALIZED OPTION

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

Men's & Women's Short Sleeve POLO

Print Name/Title (up to 3 lines)

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

## POLO

Short Sleeve POLO with Commander/President LOGO ONLY

Men's & Women's Short Sleeve POLO

LOGO ONLY NOT PERSONALIZED

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

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

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



# SR VICE CDR RAFFLE

DRAWING 27 JANUARY 2024 AT MID-WINTER CONFERENCE IN ALEXANDRIA

TICKETS \$10.00 EACH FOR 3 PRIZES

1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE – RUGER AMERICAN 6.5

CREEDMOOR WITH VORTEX SCOPE

2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE – WOODEN FLAG

3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE – METAL LASER ART PIECE



RUGER AMERICAN® RIFLE WITH  
VORTEX® CROSSFIRE II® RIFLESCOPE



19" X 36"

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

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



18" X 12"



DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

PLEASE DISREGARD ANY OTHER BUDDY POPPY ORDER FORMS! THESE ARE THE PRICES YOU WILL BE CHARGED!!!!

DISTRICT # \_\_\_\_\_  
 POST # \_\_\_\_\_  
 AUXILIARY # \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**BUDDY POPPY ORDER FORM**

MAIL TO: VFW DEPT. OF LOUISIANA  
 10185 MAMMOTH AVE.  
 BATON ROUGE, LA 70814

ALL CHECKS ARE TO BE MADE  
 PAYABLE TO "VFW DEPT. OF LA"

QUANTITY:	ITEM:	PRICE:	TOTAL:
	BUDDY POPPIES	Per 1,000	\$275.00
		Per 500	\$137.50
		SUB-TOTAL=	

All other VFW Buddy Poppy supplies may be purchased directly from the VFW Store Online by visiting their website [www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org). See list of other Buddy Poppy Items and Product Codes that VFW Store Offers

ITEM NAME:	ITEM #:
Buddy Poppy Coin Canisters	A9703
Buddy Poppy Posters	09701
Buddy Poppy Volunteer Buttons	09705

Visit the VFW Store website listed above to order and view more items offered!

Please allow 10-12 weeks for processing!

GRAND TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

SHIP POPPIES TO: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET ADDRESS: (PHYSICAL ADDRESS - NO -- P.O. BOXES!)

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY:</b>	
_____	QUANTITY ORDERED FROM NATIONAL - DATE _____
_____	QUANTITY SHIPPED FROM DEPT HQ DATE _____
DATE RECEIVED _____	CHECK # _____ CHECK AMOUNT _____