1. **COMMANDER’S MESSAGE:**

   “I can’t change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination”

   Jimmy Dean

   The holidays are over and I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The current membership year is now half over. This year Post membership is like a yo-yo. You could recruit 10 (ten) new members and your percentage went down, (the 20 (twenty) you recruited last year did not renew). We also have to go after and retain annual members we already have. Don’t forget the three R’s (Recruit, Retain, and Reinstate). We need to work all 3 (three) in our Membership plan to have a successful membership year.

   There is a lot of work to be done on the Community Activity and Hospital reports. Commanders I challenge you to get your reports in before our Winter Council meeting in Williamsburg. I know the Governor said there is no more veteran’s homelessness but let’s keep doing what we are doing. If you do veteran homeless work, don’t forget to report it (Community Activity).

   The Winter Council Meeting is January 15-18 Williamsburg, VA. I encourage all to attend this meeting and the accompanying workshops.

   Membership: National 87.93% Virginia 87.28%

   Yours in Comradeship,
   
   Doug Keller
   
   Department Commander
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Lunch</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Rep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/16</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>to follow Meeting</td>
<td>Sponsored by Post 8252, Gloucester, Location TBD</td>
<td>Ken Wiseman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State Judge Advocate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/20/16</td>
<td>12:00 Noon</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Post 4411, Franklin 3385 Beavardam Road</td>
<td>Doug Keller</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/13/16</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>to follow Meeting</td>
<td>Post 9808, Mechanicsville 7168 Flag Lane</td>
<td>Doug Keller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/27/16</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Post 8759, Amelia Amelia City Veterans Center</td>
<td>Tom Gimble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State Sr. Vice Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/13/16</td>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>Post 8241, McLean 1051 Springhill Road</td>
<td>Rick Raskin</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State Surgeon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/20/16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Post 4637, Martinsville 2327 Old Chatham Road</td>
<td>Mike Boehme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State Jr. Vice Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/21/16</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Post 1264, Roanoke 4930 Grandview Ave, NW</td>
<td>Jim Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Past State Commander</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/13/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>01/24/16</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>12:00 Noon</td>
<td>Post 1115, Hillsville 701 W. Stuart Drive</td>
<td>Doug Keller</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>State Commander</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/20/16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Post 7728, Remington Corner of Rt. 17 and Rt. 836, Morrisville</td>
<td>Rick Raskin</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State Surgeon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/23/16</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Prime Steak House, Norton</td>
<td>Mike Boehme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>State Jr. Vice Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/09/16</td>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Post 632, Harrisonburg 450 Waterman Drive</td>
<td>Tom Gimble</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>State Sr. Vice Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/09/16</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Prime Steak House, Norton</td>
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<tr>
<td>01/09/16</td>
<td>12:00 Noon</td>
<td></td>
<td>Post 8169, Scottsville 2997 W. River Rd</td>
<td>Rick Raskin</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State Surgeon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. **BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:**


4. **CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD:**

**Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Program**

Grades K - 12

The VFW Teacher of the Year award contest recognizes three exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students. Nominations of outstanding teachers in three categories: grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12

**Important Information:**

1. **Nominations** can be submitted by fellow teachers, supervisors or other interested individuals. Nominations made by relatives or the teacher are ineligible.

2. **Home School Teachers** – are not eligible - primarily because of the half-day in a class room environment requirement teaching citizenship education specific courses.

3. **Photograph requirement** – is a time factor. The time from when the winners are selected to the time the publicity process begins usually does not allow time to have to go back to the winners and secure a photograph. The size of the photo can vary from wallet size on up to 3” x 5”. Please make sure it is a good quality photograph.

If you have trouble getting information on the program or getting any of the necessary forms, please contact me and I will mail you what you need.

**Dates To Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 15, 2016</td>
<td>Nominations to Post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 29, 2016</td>
<td>Post judging completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15, 2016</td>
<td>District judging completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 20, 2016</td>
<td>District winners to State Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30, 2016</td>
<td>State judging completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5, 2016</td>
<td>Department winners to National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 16, 2016</td>
<td>State winners at Department Convention in Williamsburg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required Documents**

1. **Original entry form** and essay of 350 words or less signed by the person who has nominated the teacher. All words must be counted including one-letter words.

2. **Official Post Teacher Entry Form** with signatures at Post, District and Department level.

3. **One page resume** (no more than two sides)

4. **Up to 5 pages (both sides) of additional documentation**.

5. **Good quality head & shoulder photograph** (no poor quality or computer pictures).
Remember: Nominations can be submitted in each of three categories: K-5, 6-8, 9-12.

Chris Birch, Chairman
304 E. Main St
Berryville, VA 22611-1306
home: (540) 955-3311
cell: (540) 539-5446
e-mail: bigredtruk@comcast.net
cdrdist7@va.vfwwebmail.com

5. CLOSING:

State Headquarters will be closing on January 1, 2016 and January 18, 2016.

6. COMPUTERS AVAILABLE:

Does your Post need a computer? How would you like to get one for free? That’s right, FREE.

I have a number of desktop PCs available. They are older models but fully functional in today’s office environment. While you won’t particularly want to run high-end graphic programs on them, they are perfect for day to day office use and high speed Internet. All of them are loaded with Windows 7 and can be upgraded to Windows 10. I'll even include a keyboard and mouse. I have a few LCD monitors but once they are gone you will have to get your own monitor. From my experience, lots of CRT monitors are available either free or very cheaply.

Please contact me at 703-369-2732 if you are interested.

Rick Raskin
Department Surgeon
surgeon@va.vfwwebmail.com

7. DAY ON THE HILL:

Comrades, our annual Day on the Hill in Richmond will be January 14, 2016. The Day on the Hill is our time to present the issues that are important to Virginia Veterans to our Legislators at the State Capitol. I encourage you to plan to attend this very important event, remembering that there is strength in numbers. We will meet at Post 9808 in Mechanicsville at 0800 to have a short planning and organizational meeting. The comrades from Post 9808 will once again provide transportation to the Hill and back to the Post. We will be finished and back at the Post by 1500. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 276-233-6990 or email jetmail@embarqmail.com. I hope to see you all on January 14, 2016.

Yours in Comradeship
Dan Boyer
Legislative Committee Chairman

8. DUES RESERVE FUND:

The attention of Post Commanders and Quartermasters is directed to section 218 of the Manual of Procedure, Duties of Quartermaster, which provides for the Dues Reserve Fund. The Post Quartermaster is required to maintain a dues reserve fund to which shall be credited not less than fifty percent of the Post’s part of the current year’s dues paid by each member prior to July 1, including life membership dues payouts received from the National Organization as set forth in section 717 of the Manual of Procedure.

9. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of June 15th. This will be the primary means of sending correspondence from State Headquarters to Post and District Officers.

You will receive all General Orders, special notices and any other documentation that you need via email. This will help cut down on postal expenses and speed up the response time for you receiving the information.

Here are directions for logging into your new account for the first time.
1. Go to Department web site www.vfwva.org
2. Click on Member Tools, VFW webmail.
3. The user name is your email address; put that on the first line (see below for your new address).
4. Your default password will be Veteran.2016! Once you have accessed the mail program you will be asked to change it, it must contain at least one uppercase letter and one number.

For District Officers your address will be cdrdist1@va.vfwwebmail.com or adjdist1@va.vfwwebmail.com or qmdist1@va.vfwwebmail.com for Districts other than the first just replace the 1 with your District #.
For Post Officers your address will be cdrpost176@va.vfwwebmail.com or adjpost176@va.vfwwebmail.com or qmpost176@va.vfwwebmail.com for Post other than 176 just replace the 176 with your Post #.

All Posts should prepare now for the full transition to the computer age. You can always find a library to get online.

10. GENERAL ORDERS:

The cut off for the General Orders is the 20th of the month. No EXCEPTIONS. Subscriptions for hard copy via USPS for General Orders are $24.00 for the year. Please contact State Headquarters for more info.

11. IMPORTANT DATES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Room Rate</th>
<th>Cut-off Date</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 15-17, 2016</td>
<td>Winter Council, Williamsburg, VA</td>
<td>$76.00</td>
<td>12-23-15</td>
<td>757-220-2250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15-18, 2016</td>
<td>Department Convention, Williamsburg, VA</td>
<td>$87.00</td>
<td>5-18-16</td>
<td>757-220-2250</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 22, 2016</td>
<td>Department Commander and President’s Homecoming at VFW Post 1503</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 13-15, 2017</td>
<td>Winter Council, Williamsburg, VA</td>
<td>$76.00</td>
<td>12-21-16</td>
<td>757-220-2250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 14-18, 2017</td>
<td>Department Convention, Williamsburg, VA</td>
<td>$92.00</td>
<td>5-17-17</td>
<td>757-220-2250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. INCORPORATION:

The attention of the Post Commander is directed to section 708 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, which prescribes the procedure for the Incorporation of Units. It shall be the responsibility of the Post Commander to ensure full compliance with both sections and to ensure that all state requirements for annual filing, fees, etc., are met in a timely manner.

Posts should take the necessary steps to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the Post is located. Financial responsibility laws, as interpreted by the courts, may cause members of unincorporated Posts to be at risk. Incorporating under the provisions of section 708 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure and the laws of the state will provide protection for Post members. Posts are urged to contact their Department Adjutant to obtain the proper forms for incorporating. The Articles of Incorporation must be reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief prior to forwarding them to the proper state authorities.

13. INSPECTIONS:

Post Inspections: I would like to thank our HQ staff for the support this year with Inspection reports and the District commanders for their support with the inspections “THANK YOU” job well done and I wish all a HAPPY and Safe Holiday season. We have a couple of Post Inspections to finish 1444, 4491, 4920, 9877 out of district 6, and 3103 out of District 8. I’m working on a discrepancy report for Winter Council for each District to follow up with corrections and we will fix all discrepancy we can by May 2016. Again Thanks.

Department Inspector
Eric Mallett
14. JR. VICE C-I-C CAMPAIGN:

IT IS VIRGINIA’S TIME

Comrades as you all know Hal Roesch is a very serious contender to become the Southern Conference’s candidate for the position of National Junior Commander-in-Chief 2018 progressing to National Commander-in-Chief in 2020. Virginia has never had a National Commander-in-Chief in the 116 year history of the VFW. To be successful Hal must actively campaign in all the 14 states in the Southern Conference for the next two years. A successful campaign requires funding. Comrades, let’s get behind Hal and have your Post and individual Comrades donate to this very important project. Send your donations to State Headquarters marked for Hal’s Campaign. All donations regardless of size will be greatly appreciated.

15. LEADERSHIP REFERENCE GUIDE:

The “Leadership Reference Guide” has been discontinued in its traditional format. In an effort to better serve the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, we have created "VFW Training and Support," where you will find training material relating to Membership Recruiting and Retention; Community Service, Youth Scholarships and Activities; Media and Public Relations; Post Service Officers; Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates; and Veterans & Military Support. To utilize these valuable training guides, videos, forms and templates, please login at www.vfw.org, proceed to “My VFW” and click the link “VFW Training and Support.”

The online “Document Repository” will be maintained as a system of managing documents utilized primarily by Department Officers and members of the National Council of Administration.

16. LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

**Legacy Life Membership:** This prestigious program is available to all Life Members. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels</th>
<th>Enrollment Cost</th>
<th>Annual Payouts:</th>
<th>Post:</th>
<th>Department:</th>
<th>National:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>$1200</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
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<td>Bronze</td>
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<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
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<td>$6.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What will your Legacy be?

17. MEMBERSHIP:

Commanders and Comrades,

I hope all of our Veterans, members and nonmembers, had a safe and happy Holiday Season. As we begin a new calendar year, I hope your New Year’s Resolution was to recruit and reinstate members for this great organization. We have just instituted a new Post in Salem. Post 12154 became a reality on December 12th, largely due to the efforts of David Perkins, and several of his close friends. They received tremendous support from the Salem Community with donations of food, drinks, and a facility to hold the event at. This tells me that communities still support our efforts to help veterans, and our communities thru our programs at the Post level.

This is the second year in a row that Virginia has started a new Post after a 12 year drought. Comrades we have turned the corner and started bringing back Post to our communities that don’t have one. We still have lost many Posts over the same period. Some of these Posts were lost because of self-inflicted wounds. Some died because of their location and other factors. All District Commanders should take a realistic look at the Post in their Districts and identify any that may be headed in the wrong direction. Every effort should be made to help these Posts, once they have been identified. Consolidation is one avenue to pursue, if a Post is failing. However many comrades hate the thought of losing their identity. If handled properly, a consolidation can keep some identity of both Post involved.

I urge all Post Commanders to make the Membership Program available to its members. This can be found in the July General Orders and on line. I was at a District Meeting recently and discovered that a lot of members did not know about the opportunity to win a cruise by signing up five new members. The Department has many rewards a member
could attain by signing up new or reinstating members. Please make these programs an agenda item for your next Post Meeting.

We have many trained recruiters throughout the Districts now. I hope you will ask them or the Department for help if you need it to reach your quota this year. Help is only a phone call or email away. We have a target rich environment in Virginia, let's take advantage of it and reach our Quota this year. I hope to see and talk membership with a lot of you at the Mid-Winter Conference this month in Williamsburg.

Yours in Comradeship,
Tom Hines-PAADC
Doc Crouch-PAADC
Your Membership Team

18. MEMBERSHIP WEBINAR TRAINING:

Continuing Membership webinar training will be held on the second Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. CST.

All interested parties are encouraged to participate, and each session will be recorded for those unable to participate live.

19. PARTNERS IN PATRIOTISM:

Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW’s life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families without receiving all of the unwanted mail? The VFW has developed an option that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate unwanted 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. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact the VFW Development Department Donor Services at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318, or email us at partners@vfw.org with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

20. PATRIOT’S PEN WINNERS:

Listed below are the winners of the Patriots Pen essay contest. Thank You to all of the Posts that participated. Virginia’s first place essay has been sent to National and we wish her the best of luck.

1st Place–Hannah Minnix, Post 7969, District 9
2nd Place–Aaron Earwood, Post 5715, District 12
3rd Place –Sebastien Cotto, Post 7589, District 8

Yours in Comradeship,
Joe Martin

21. POW/MIA:

November 20, 2015
Vietnam War MIA Recovery
The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced the identification of remains belonging to Army Staff Sgt. Kenneth L. Cunningham, 21, of Ellery, Ill. On Oct. 3, 1969, then Private 1st Class Cunningham was an observer in an OV-1C Mohawk aircraft on a surveillance mission over the tri-border area of Cambodia, Laos and South Vietnam. Contact was lost and the aircraft was found two days later on top of a 7,000 foot peak in a mountain range north of Kontum. His remains were not recovered. He was assigned to the 225th Aviation Company, 223rd Aviation Battalion, 17th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade.

December 04, 2015
Marine Missing From World War II Accounted For
The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a serviceman, unaccounted for since World War II, have been identified and are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors.
Marine Cpl. James D. Otto, 20, of Los Angeles, will be buried Dec. 8, in Arlington National Cemetery. In November 1943, Otto was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll, in an attempt to secure the island. Over several days of intense fighting, approximately 1,000 Marines were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded. Otto was reported killed in action on the first day of the battle, Nov. 20, 1943. In the immediate aftermath of the fighting on Tarawa, U.S. service members who died in the battle were buried in a number of battlefield cemeteries on the island. In 1946 and 1947, the 604th Quartermaster Graves Registration Company conducted remains recovery operations on Betio Island, but Otto’s remains were not recovered. On Feb. 10, 1949, a military review board declared Otto non-recoverable. In June 2015, a nongovernmental organization, History Flight, Inc., notified DPAA that they discovered a burial site on Betio Island and recovered the remains of what they believed were U.S. Marines who fought during the battle in November 1943. The remains were turned over to DPAA in July 2015. To identify Otto’s remains, scientists from DPAA used laboratory analysis, to include dental comparisons, which matched Otto’s records, as well as circumstantial and material evidence. Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, more than 400,000 died during the war.

December 11, 2015
MIA Recovery

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced burial updates for two soldiers, and the identification of remains of a third. Returned home are:

-- Army Sgt. Billy J. Williams, who was assigned to the 2nd Reconnaissance Company, 2nd Infantry Division, was lost in North Korea on Feb. 14, 1951.

-- Army Sgt. Robert C. Dakin, 22, will be buried with full military honors on Dec. 12 in his hometown of Waltham, Mass. He was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, when he was lost fighting near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea on Dec. 12, 1950.

-- Army Sgt. 1st Class Billy D. Hill, 21, of Wichita, Kan., will be buried with full military honors on Dec. 17, in Killeen, Texas. Hill was assigned as a helicopter gunner on a UH-1D that was shot down on Jan. 21, 1968. He was assigned to the 282nd Aviation Company, 14th Aviation Battalion, 17th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade.

-- Identified is Army Pfc. David S. Burke, 21, of Summit County, Ohio, who was lost fighting in North Korea on Nov. 27, 1950. He was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, and will be buried with full military honors on a date and location yet to be announced.

December 18, 2015
MIA Update

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has announced the identification of remains of two American servicemen who have been missing-in-action since World War II and Korea. Being returned home for burial with full military honors are:

-- Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Leonard R. Farron, of Pierce County, Wash., was piloting a P-39 Airacobra that failed to return to base after a strafing mission over Guadalcanal on Oct. 15, 1942. He was assigned to the 67th Fighter Squadron, 347th Fighter Group, 13th Air Force.

-- Army Pvt. James M. Smith, 19, of Wilcox County, Ga., was lost fighting in South Korea on Feb. 12, 1951. He was assigned to Company K, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.

December 19, 2015

In 1992, former POW John G. Sparks left a folded American flag, a cross and a letter at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

This flag was presented to me on my return from Vietnam after spending 5 years as a prisoner of war. It represents to me a commitment of this nation to ensure the return of those lost or captured during time of war; it represents an appreciation the American people have for the sacrifices given by its sons and daughters; and it represents to me a continued commitment we have to preserve the ideals we have fought for and pass on to our youth as they are the future of the United States of America, and the hope of the world.

The cross was made from a toothpaste tube and tie from my prison uniform. It represents the faith I had in God and country and it continues to represent the faith I have that the issue of those still missing will soon be resolved; that those still alive will be returned to their families for they have suffered more than we can know. I pray for them. I pray for their families, for the anguish of not knowing can only be greater than their loss. And I pray for the men and women that are gone and that some day we will be reunited on a higher plane, one in which we will no longer have to experience the pain, suffering and loss we are now required to preserve freedom. To you I salute.

Forever with us, John G. Sparks

"Until They Are Home"
Joe Martin
Chairman
22. REPORTING:

Comrades to view whether your Post has submitted an Audit Report, Americanism, Community Service, Safety, Youth or Hospital report you will have to visit the Department website (www.vfwva.org).

The website is updated daily. If you have any questions please call State Headquarters.

There will be no form for Homeless when reporting for assistance to a homeless veteran please put it on a Community Activity report under aid to others.

23. ROSTER UPDATES:

District 3 Headquarters has been sold
All correspondences should go to New Jr. Vice Commander
District Quartermaster VFW Post 9696
Carroll Neuner Reese Moore
2711 Buford Road #183 313 Valleydale St.
Richmond, VA 23235 Bluefield, VA 24605
804-467-6148 304-920-2007

New Jr. Vice Commander
District 7 New Quartermaster
Marshall John Brown Michael Jamison
7994 Main Street 1105 S. 3rd Ave.
Middletown, VA 22645 Hopewell, VA 23860
540-686-2006 804-277-7867

New Quartermaster
VFW Post 1211 New Jr. Vice Commander
Gilbert Garcia VFW Post 10574
900 Ringfield Rd Robert McKenney
Virginia Beach, VA 23454 114 Washington Ave.
757-404-4313 Colonial Beach, VA 22443

New Sr. Vice Commander New Jr. Vice Commander
VFW Post 9696 VFW Post 12145
Arnold Yost David Dudley
102 Montgomery St. 25907 Smith Grove Road
Bluefield, VA 24605 North Dinwiddie, VA 23805
276-322-4264 804-861-1488

New Post
VFW Post 12154, Salem VA New Jr. Vice Commander
Commander VFW Post 12154
David Perkins Jr. Vice Commander
1023 Wasena Ave SW Paul N. Moore
Roanoke, VA 24015 2775 Loch Haven Lake Dr. Apt 2
502-381-2061 Roanoke, VA 24019

VFW Post 12154
Sr. Vice Commander VFW Post 12154
Michael Rindorf Quartermaster
5115 Twelve Oclock Knob Rd Richard Wheeler
Roanoke, VA 24018 2706 Fletcher St.
540-239-2567 Salem, VA 24153

24. SCOUT OF THE YEAR:

Every VFW Post in Virginia should have a goal to support Scouting in one or more ways:
Sponsor, Partner, and Recognize:
Sponsor a Scouting Unit - Virginia VFW Posts sponsor over 20 Units of Cubs, Scouts and Venture/Sea Scout Crews. Post 7916 organized Virginia’s first VFW Sea Scout Ship and in 2013 recognized our first Gold Award Girl Scout: Katie Thompson.

Partner in supporting a Scouting Unit - Virginia VFW Posts work with other organizations (church, fraternal, school, etc.) to provide regular sponsorship support to a unit.

Recognize the successes of Scouts and their leaders - Make presentations to Scouts who earn Eagle, Silver Award, Quartermaster award and Girl Scout Gold award. Recognize leaders supporting Scouting in your community and report to our scouting team.

Provide Scouts with opportunities to earn service hours - Scouts are ready to assist your Post with flag retirements, participate with the Post in parades, assist with Flag Day and other ceremonies and assist your Post with visits to veterans in hospitals and nursing homes.

Recognize an Eagle Scout of the Year (SOY) - Scouts holding the Eagle Scout Award and Girl Scouts with the GSA Gold award and Venture/ Sea Scouts with the venturing Silver award, Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.

Final date for Scouts to submit entries to a VFW Post is 1 Mar 2016
Posts submit their winners to District for judging by 15 March 2016
Each District submits a winner to the Department by 1 April 2016

Visit our web site www.vfwvascouting.org for information, SOY applications and a list of District and Scouting Team members. Please send all Scouting articles and pictures to Stan Hunter. Please do not imbed photos in your article. Send them instead as separate attachments at the highest resolution you can provide.

Stan Hunter
Virginia Scouting Chair
540-347-1093 rangerstan@msn.com

25. TWITTER:

VFW VIRGINIA JOINS TWITTER

All of those who are supporters of the VFW in Virginia are invited to follow our Twitter page. We are using @virginiavfw as our call-sign and we will be promoting things that impact our Department from wherever they may occur.

Ken Wiseman
State Judge Advocate

26. VFW PROGRAM CHANGES:

At the Jr. Vice Commanders/Quartermaster’s Conference recently held in Kansas City, we announced some changes that affect our VFW programs. These changes take effect March 1. The first change is the changing of the National Team Scouter title to Department Scouting Chairman. This positions this chairmanship in-line with all other programmatic chairmanships and eliminates any confusion that may have been associated with “National” in the old title.

Additionally, as a result of National Military Service no longer being a directorate and now a classification of programs, we’re renaming that classification of programs from National Military Services to Veterans & Military Support Programs. We believe the new classification will better resonate with our Posts and also the public. Those programs under Veterans & Military Support classification have not changed. They still consist of; Unmet Needs; Operation Uplink; VFW Sport Clip’s Help A Hero Scholarship program; and the Military Assistance Program. There will be more details to follow concerning the 3-year appointment and whether there will be a Veterans & Military Support Committee. Equally important to note, this change will not affect those persons currently appointed this year as part of the National Military Services Committee.

Lastly, a couple changes were made to the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award program. We are now allowing past state winners who were not selected as a National winner to be eligible for the program. Furthermore, we are changing the deadline date for this program for nominations to the Post from
November 1 to February 15, with Department winners to National now April 5. Here are the following deadlines for this program:

*February 15 - Teacher nominations to the Post
February 28 – Completion of Post judging
March 15 – Completion of District judging
March 30 – Completion of Department judging
*April 5 – Department winners to National
*April 15 – Department reports to National

* Required deadline. All other deadlines are suggested, and can be internally set at the discretion of the Department leadership.

We ask for your assistance in making these changes known to your Posts. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of our VFW programs.

Kevin C. Jones
Director, VFW Programs/NMS

27. **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNER:**

Congratulations to District 8 for submitting the 1st place VOD competition winning entry.

First Place: George P Tryfiates, VFW Post 3103; District 8
Second Place: Abigail E. Mills, VFW Post 7327, District 10
Third Place: Caitlin M. Head, VFW Post 2894, District 2

Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported this important youth program. All of the audio essays were of excellent quality.

Geoffrey D. Lyster
VOD Chairman

Official:      By Order of:
Kim A. DeShano    Douglas R Keller
State Adjutant    State Commander
Could your Post/Aux use $500 for a Community Service Project?

Contact Jason Couch at the VFW Foundation for information on how to apply for the Community Service Matching Grant.

(816) 968-1174   Jcouch@vfw.org
Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Advancement Form (Post Teacher Entry Form)

(Attach to original Post entry documentation for each teacher nominated.)

Nominee’s Full Name
_________________________________________________________________________________________

Street ______________________________ City __________________ State _____________ Zip_____________

Home Phone ____________________ Social Security Number ____________________ Grade level
❍ K-5   ○ 6-8   ○ 9-12

Name of School______________________________________________________ School’s Phone____________________

School Address _____________________________________________________________________________________________

Post/Ladies Auxiliary Chairman Section

I certify that the teacher named above is the duly selected Post winner of the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education
Teacher Award Program in his/her grade level category and is our Post’s authorized entry into the District finals.

Signature of Post Commander/Chairman ____________________________ VFW Post No. ___________ Phone_____________

Post Address ______________________________________________________________________________________________

Signature of Ladies Auxiliary President/Chairman ________________________ Auxiliary No.___________ Phone ______________

Address __________________________________________________________________________________________________

Total number of teacher nominations for all categories _______    Total dollar amount spent by Post/Ladies Auxiliary for awards for all
categories and other (citations, gifts, medals, banquet) $__________

District/Ladies Auxiliary Chairman Section

I certify that the teacher named above is the duly selected District winner of the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education
Teacher Award in his/her grade level category and is our District’s entry into the Department finals.

Signature of Dist. Commander/Chairman ____________________________ Dist. No._________________ Phone ______________

Address __________________________________________________________________________________________________

Signature of Auxiliary Dist. President/Chairman ____________________ Dist. No._________________ Phone _______________

Address __________________________________________________________________________________________________

List all Posts participating in program______________________________

Total dollar amount spent by Posts/Auxiliaries for awards for all categories and other (citations, gifts, medals, banquet) $ __________

VFW Department Commander/Chairman Section

I certify that the teacher listed above is the duly selected winner of the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher
Award in our Department in his/her grade level and is our official entry into the National judging.  This winner will be/was notified that
they are the first place state winner in their grade level on the following date:  ___________________________

Signature of Dept. Commander/Chairman ____________________________ Phone __________________________

Address ______________________________________________________________________________________________

Note: Be sure this form is entirely completed before sending to National Headquarters with your state winner’s original
nomination form, essay, one page resume, up to five pages of documentation and a good quality head and shoulders
photograph. Remember this form is due back to VFW National Headquarters Programs Department by April 5th.

Mail to:  VFW PROGRAMS, VFW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, 406 W. 34TH ST., KANSAS CITY, MO 64111.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016

3:00 PM  5:00 PM   VFW Headquarters Table Open   Petersburg Hall Foyer
5:00 PM  6:00 PM   VFW Auxiliary Line Officers Meeting   Dept. President’s Room
6:30 PM  7:00 PM   District Presidents’ Meeting   General Hill’s/McClellan’s
7:00 PM  9:00 PM   VFW Auxiliary Council Meeting   General Hill’s/McClellan’s
9:00 PM  1:00 AM   Military Order of the Cootie Dance   McClellan’s

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2016

8:00 AM  3:00 PM   VFW Headquarters Table Open   Petersburg Hall Foyer
8:30 AM  9:00 AM   Commanders Club Meeting   Petersburg Hall
8:15 AM  8:45 AM   VFW Auxiliary Floor Practice   General Hill’s/McClellan’s
9:00 AM  9:30 AM   National Military Services Workshop  Petersburg Hall
9:00 AM  2:00 PM   VFW Auxiliary Conference Meeting   General Hill’s/McClellan’s
9:00 AM  4:00 PM   Service Officer Training   Jefferson Davis Amphitheater
9:30 AM 10:30 AM   Open forum (VFW members questions)   Petersburg Hall
10:00 AM  NOON   MOC Council of Administration Meeting  Lees
10:30 AM 11:30 AM Membership & Recruiting Workshop   Petersburg Hall
11:30 AM  1:00 PM   Cash Lunch furnished by Hotel
1:00 PM  4:00 PM   VFW Council of Administration Meeting   Petersburg Hall
2:30 PM  3:00 PM   VFW Auxiliary Program Chairmen   Dept. President’s Room
3:00 PM  5:00 PM   MOCA Council of Administration Meeting   Lees
5:30 PM  6:30 PM   Reception   General Emory’s
6:30 PM  9:00 PM   Banquet-Guest Speaker – John E. Hamilton   Richmond Hall

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2016

9:00 AM  9:30 AM   Joint Devotional Service   Longstreet
9:30 AM  NOON    VFW Auxiliary Conference, if needed   Richmond Hall
9:30 AM  NOON    VFW Council of Admin. Meeting, if needed   Petersburg Hall

BANQUET TICKETS: $45.00
Includes Reception and Banquet. THERE WILL BE NO SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE.
FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE MUST BE PURCHASED FROM THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE.

Department Hospitality Room - Kearney’s
Tenth District Hospitality Room – 367
Third District Hospitality Room – 467

(Tentative schedule subject to change)
**REGISTRATION DEADLINE JANUARY 8th**

**WINTER COUNCIL MEETING**

January 15 – 17, 2016
Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center ~ Williamsburg, Virginia ~ 757-220-2250 ~ $76.00 Per night

(Group Rate Deadline is December 23rd)

PRE REGISTRATION FOR BANQUET TICKET
$45.00 INCLUDES RECEPTION AND DINNER BANQUET

**ALL TICKETS MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED. THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE WINTER COUNCIL MEETING.**

There will be no Dance Saturday night.

**Dinner Menu**

*Boneless Breast of Chicken with Chef's Choice of Sauce*

*OR*

*Pork Loin topped with Herbed Garlic Cream Sauce*

Served with:
- Chef’s Choice of Starch and Vegetable
- Mixed Greens Salad with Ranch and Italian Dressings
- Warm Rolls and Butter
- Dessert
- Coffee/Decaffeinated Coffee/Hot Tea

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY **JANUARY 8, 2016** *(NO EXCEPTIONS)*

Check, Discover, American Express, Visa, or MasterCard Accepted

Person placing the order (name)__________________________________ Phone:___________________________

Please fill out completely for each person you are registering including Post number or Auxiliary number:

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Please charge my card: $____________________  Name on Card: _________________________________________________________

Please Circle One:  Discover  American Express  MasterCard  Visa  SIGNATURE: __________________________________________

Card Number: __________________________________________ Exp. Date: __________ Billing Zip Code________________

Mail form to:  State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401

You may also e-mail this form to: stateheadquarters@va.vfwwebmail.com or fax it to: 1-866-416-0586 if paying by Credit Card only

**Pre-paid tickets will not be mailed to you; they will be available for pick up at registration.**