

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

CHAIRMAN, CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

104th Annual State Convention, Harrisonburg, Virginia May 28 – 31, 2026

Below are listed the Delegates and alternates duly elected at a regular meeting of Post _____ on the _____ day of _____, 2026.

	Name - Delegates	Title		Name - Alternates	Title
	Example – John Smith	Cmdr		Example – John Doe	Trustee
1			1		
2			2		
3			3		
4			4		
5			5		
6			6		
7			7		
8			8		
9			9		
10			10		
11			11		
12			12		
13			13		
14			14		
15			15		
16			16		
17			17		
18			18		
19			19		
20			20		

Official:

Yours in Comradeship,

Post Adjutant

Post Commander

MAIL TO:

VFW State Headquarters 403 Lee Jackson Hwy Staunton, VA 24401

Elect one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for each 30 members or fraction thereof in Memstats in the Post at the date of election. Delegate strength to be based on State Quartermasters records as of March 31, 2026, with the exception of New Posts organized after that date and prior to opening date of State Convention – May 28, 2026. **Each Post must pay \$5.00 for every delegate that they are entitled to.** Please send **form and check** to State Headquarters by May 14, 2026.

Please make sure you put Comrades that **ARE ATTENDING** the State Convention first.

Delegate fees **must be paid regardless** of whether anyone is attending the State Convention or not.

If there are any questions, please contact State Headquarters at 540-886-8112 or email statehq@vfwva.org

NUMBER 10

403 Lee Jackson Highway
 Staunton, Virginia 24401

"Unity Brings Victory"

FAX: 866-416-0586
 Website: www.vfwva.org
 Email: statehq@vfwva.org

April 1, 2026

(540) 886-8112
 Hours M – F
 8:00am – 4:00 pm

GUIDE TO THE GO:

Articles are listed by number not by pages:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Commander's Message | 15. Legislative Committee |
| 2. Active Membership | 16. Liability Insurance |
| 3. Audits | 17. Life Member Winner |
| 4. Awards | 18. National Convention |
| 5. Buddy Poppies | 19. Membership |
| 6. Delegates to District/Department Convention | 20. Office Closure |
| 7. Delinquent | 21. Post Elections |
| 8. District Meetings | 22. Post in Arrears for Financial Obligations |
| 9. E-Mail Account Access | 23. Reporting |
| 10. General Orders | 24. Roster Changes |
| 11. Important Dates | 25. State Convention |
| 12. Installing Officers | 26. Virginia Veterans Foundation |
| 13. IRS Form 8822-B | 27. Virginia Vietnam War Commemoration |
| 14. JLC | |

1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Comrades,

Recently, I had the honor of traveling to Naval Station Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, a visit that left a lasting impression on me, both personally and professionally. I am especially grateful to Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore for inviting me to accompany her on this important visit. Her leadership, vision, and commitment to ensuring the VFW remains engaged with our veterans and service members, no matter where they serve, made this trip possible, and I am thankful for the opportunity.

GTMO is a place few get to see firsthand, and even fewer truly understand. What I witnessed there was a remarkable display of dedication, professionalism, and resilience by the men and women who serve and support our nation in one of its most remote assignments.

During my visit, I had the privilege of meeting with the commanding officers of Joint Task Force Guantánamo, leadership from the Naval Hospital, representatives of the United States Marines, and base leadership across multiple commands. In every meeting, one theme was constant: mission first, people always. Despite the isolation and unique challenges of the installation, the professionalism and morale of those serving at GTMO were outstanding.

Equally impressive was the work being done by the VFW Post 12225 Guantánamo Bay, led by Post Commander Matt Mayer and his team. Commander Mayer exemplifies what it means to lead from the front. His commitment to the Post, its members, and the broader GTMO community is nothing short of exceptional. Under his leadership, the Post continues to serve as a vital source of camaraderie, support, and advocacy for veterans and service members stationed there.

What struck me most is how much this Post accomplishes with so little external support. Resources are limited. Distance makes coordination difficult. Yet the members of this Post consistently step up, supporting morale events, assisting service members, engaging with the community, and upholding the values of the VFW. They do not ask for recognition; they simply do the work because it matters.

This visit reinforced something I have long believed: our Posts are strongest when they are visible, engaged, and accountable. That is why I want to emphasize the importance of accurately reporting our work through the VFW Community Service Reporting on our State Website. The hours we volunteer, the events we support, and the lives we impact tell the true story of the VFW. If we do not report what we do, then from the outside, it appears as if we are doing nothing at all.

Community reporting is not just about numbers, it is about demonstrating our relevance, justifying funding and grants, strengthening our credibility, and ensuring the VFW's voice remains strong at every level. The outstanding work being done at GTMO deserves to be seen, recognized, and counted, just like the work being done at Posts across Virginia and around the world.

This trip also reaffirmed the critical importance of membership. Membership is not simply a membership card; it is our lifeblood. Every member strengthens our ability to advocate for veterans, support our communities, and maintain Posts like the one at GTMO. Recruitment brings new energy, but retention is equally vital.

I urge every Post to focus on retaining our annual members. Too often, good members are lost simply because no one reached out. A personal phone call, a simple "how are you doing?" can make all the difference. Veterans want to know they matter. They want to know they are missed. And they want to feel connected to something larger than themselves.

If you are an annual member, I ask you personally: please renew your membership. Your continued involvement ensures that Posts can continue to operate, support their members, and represent the VFW with pride.

My visit to Guantánamo Bay reminded me that the VFW is not defined by buildings or budgets. It is defined by people, leaders like Post Commander Matt Mayer, dedicated members who serve without recognition, and veterans who remain committed to one another long after the uniform comes off.

We owe it to them and to the future of the VFW to stay engaged, stay accountable, and stay united.

Doug Hoffman
State Commander

2. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:

The National Bylaws provide for only one type of membership: active membership. There are no provisions in the National Bylaws, nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Member cards, Honorary Membership cards, Courtesy Membership cards or any other special type of cards. Any Post issuing such unauthorized cards, or conducting club operations open to the general public, endangers its standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting non-members to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW Bylaws or procedures.

3. AUDITS:

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 (a)(11) of the National Manual of Procedure, Officers: Duties and Obligations. Trustees Report of Audit must be prepared in detail within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, one of which ended March 31.

4. AWARDS:

Awards and All State judging information was in last month’s General Orders, along with the Chris Mulholland Community Service Record Book Guidelines and the George E. McCracken Honor Guard/Color Guard Entry Forms.

Deadline is April 30, 2026.

5. BUDDY POPPIES:

The price for the original buddy poppies (red ones) are \$160.00 per 500. The price for metal poppies are \$70.00 per 500. As a reminder, poppies must be paid for before they can be shipped.

A Buddy Poppy order form is enclosed.

6. DELEGATES TO DISTRICT/DEPARTMENT CONVENTION:

Section 222 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure provides that delegates and alternates for the District Convention and meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post as of March 31.

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, each District shall hold an annual District Convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention.

Pursuant to Section 403 of the National Bylaws – Regular Meeting, Districts shall hold at least two (2) regular meetings each year for purposes of transacting business and conducting schools of instruction.

Pursuant to Section 417 of the National Manual of Procedure, District officers shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed.

District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed in accordance with Section 416 of the Manual of Procedure.

7. DELINQUENT:

District	Post	Audits	District	Post	Fee	Bonds	Audits
4	9855	December	9	7726			December
6	4522	December	11	9339		Expired	
6	5895	December	12	7360	\$ 10.00		
7	8613	December	12	9830			December
7	9760	December	12	9864	\$ 10.00		
9	2719	Sept, Dec	13	8947			Sept, Dec
9	7136	September					

8. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1st Date: 5/16/26
Meeting: 10:00 am
Location: Post 3219 Phoebus (sponsored by Post 960)
 1222 E Mellen Street, Hampton
Rep: State Surgeon Todd Taylor

2nd Date: 5/9/26
Meeting: 9:00 AM
Location: Post 392 Virginia Beach
 2408 Bowland Parkway
Rep: State SVC Mark Maggio

3 rd	Date: 5/2/26 Meeting: 10:00 AM Lunch: To follow Meeting Location: Post 9808 Mechanicsville 7168 Flag Lane Rep: State SVC Mark Maggio	8 th	Date: 4/25/26 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 9835 Warrenton 18 Court Street Rep: PSC Rick Raskin
4 th	Date: 5/9/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 7166 South Hill 1472 N Mecklenburg Ave, LaCrosse Rep: St JVC Charles Bush	9 th	Date: 5/16/26 Meeting: 10:00 am Location: Post 4667 Marion 861 Goolsby Street Rep: PSC Gary Adams
5 th	Date: 5/16/26 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep:	10 th	Date: 5/2/26 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 1503 Dale City 14631 Minnieville Road Rep: St Judge Advocate Randy Coker
6 th	Date: 4/25/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1264 Roanoke (sponsored Post 4491) 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: State Surgeon Todd Taylor	11 th	Date: 4/25/26 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 8644 Bridgewater 118 Dry River Road Rep: State Commander Doug Hoffman
7 th	Date: 5/16/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 9660 Broadway 14550 Runion Creek Road Rep: St Judge Advocate Randy Coker	12 th	Date: 4/11/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1994 Abingdon 18003 Cleveland Church Rd Rep: State Commander Doug Hoffman
		13 th	Date: 5/16/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1827 Charlottesville 1170 River Rd Rep: PSC Ken Wiseman

9. E-MAIL ACCOUNTS:

As most should be aware by now, the grant from which the Department received 900 Microsoft 365 Licenses will no longer be available after March 31st of this year. A new Grant is available but there is a cost for each license. The old Grant cost \$349 total for the 900 licenses. The new cost per even discounted is significant. Your Council of Administration has made the decision to fund the Licenses for the Council Members and Post Commanders and others deemed essential to the operation of the Department. This cost will now be more than \$5000. As the licenses are for official Department use only the CoA also adopted the attached SOP as guidance for usage. For Post and Districts who would like to get a license for any additional officers they will need to fill out the attached application for the license and justify the reason and need for it. The State Commander will make the determination on approval. If approved the submitting Post or District will have to fund it at an annual cost of \$40 per license. We know that many were getting comfortable with utilizing this in their Post business, and this was not something we needed to happen. But here we are, and your Council had to make some difficult choices for going forward. With patience we will get through this difficult transition and move the Department forward.

Doug Hoffman
State Commander

10. GENERAL ORDERS:

The cut off for the General Orders is the 20th of the month. No EXCEPTIONS. Subscriptions for hard copy General Orders are \$30.00 for the year. Contact State Headquarters for more info.

11. IMPORTANT DATES:

May 28 - 31, 2026	State Convention, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$99.00 per night. Cutoff Date is April 26, 2026, by 5:00 pm.
July 25 - 29, 2026	National Convention, Reno, Nevada
October 22 - 25, 2026	Southern Conference, Mobile, Alabama
January 14 - 17, 2027	Winter Council, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$110.00 per night. Cutoff Date is December 12, 2026, by 5:00 pm.
June 10 - 13, 2027	State Convention, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$119.00 per night. Cutoff Date is May 5, 2027, by 5:00 pm.
July 31 - August 4, 2027	National Convention, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
January 13 - 16, 2028	Winter Council, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$119.00 per night. Cutoff Date is December 11, 2027, by 5:00 pm.
June 22 – 25, 2028	State Convention, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$129.00 per night. Cutoff Date is May 20, 2028, by 5:00 pm.
August 5 - 10, 2028	National Convention, San Antonio, Texas

12. INSTALLING OFFICERS:

Installing officers will see that the provisions of Section 216 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed.

Post-Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We highly encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters.

13. IRS FORM 8822-B:

IRS Form 8822-B, it is now a requirement by the IRS that all Posts submit this form. This form must be submitted anytime the Post Quartermaster changes and/or the Post address changes. This has been effective January 1, 2014.

14. JLC:

The JLC met on March 17 in Richmond, Va. Reports were presented by Timothy Williams, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs and John Maxwell, DVS Commissioner. Both stressed making access to benefits easier including community involvement. Following their comments reports were presented by the Board of Veterans Services and The Virginia Veterans Services Foundation.

View full comments at [https://www.vfw7589.org/JLC Reports 3-17-2026.pdf](https://www.vfw7589.org/JLC%20Reports%203-17-2026.pdf).

Following those comments, an after-action review was conducted on this year's JLC initiatives. The two top priority issues, VMSDEP and Claim Sharks were discussed at length. VMSDEP needs further defining to determine what level of coverage is possible, given the budget impact the program requires.

On Claim Sharks I spoke of the VFW's frustration that the Legislature would want to legitimize operations that have already been determined to be unconstitutional (Louisiana) and illegal (USC Title 38). Additionally, I mentioned that the VA is now pursuing action against veterans who have had their compensation increased through inflated submissions prompted by Claim Sharks. As was highlighted in the JLC's position paper, *"the veteran files their own claim with 'assistance' from the Claim Shark and if anything goes wrong, the veteran is solely responsible for the error and could owe the Veterans Administration money."* This apparently had no impact on legislators. Delegate Amy Laufer's bill that would ban Claim Sharks unfortunately failed to make it out of committee. The legislation that legitimizes Claim Sharks is now on Governor Spanberger's desk. Depending on her action we will consider bringing a renewed initiative for the next legislative session.

Of note, there is pending Federal legislation (HR1732) "Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act or the GUARD VA Benefits Act" that if passed would ban Claim Sharks nationwide. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1732>

The JLC initiative to provide veteran suicide death information (HB529) passed and is on the Governor's desk.

There was also discussion about Charitable Gaming. Our request that 501 C 19 be recognized as a charity in Virginia as it already is in the Federal Tax Code went nowhere. According to a colleague from the American Legion, one legislator even questioned how having C19 recognized as a charity would affect other gaming operations. This demonstrated that he clearly did not understand the issue.

There will be an interim JLC meeting on April 14 to discuss initiatives for the next session. The next regular JLC meeting will be on June 10.

Rick Raskin, PSC
JLC Representative

15. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

At the Department Convention, the National and Department Legislative Committees will be hosting a one-hour focused discussion on VFW Department of Virginia Legislative Priorities. It is tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 29, 2026, at 1800. This session is open to Post and Auxiliary members in good standing.

Here's the Agenda:

- 1- Introduction
- 2- Summary of National Issues
- 3- Summary of Commonwealth Issues
- 4- Virginia Joint Leadership Issues
- 5- Open discussion

Please send any open discussion items with a short statement of why we should focus on an issue to Ron Riffle, Department State Legislative Chair by April 30. Discussion items may be accepted at the meeting time permitting. Ron's email is vfwvaleg@gmail.com

Very Respectfully,
Ron Riffle
State Legislative Chair

16. **LIABILITY INSURANCE:**

Posts with Post Homes must have liability insurance and list State Headquarters and VFW National Headquarters as additional insurers. State Headquarters does not need a copy of your whole insurance policy, only a copy of the Certificate of Insurance listing State Headquarters and VFW National Headquarters as additional insurers.

The Certificate of Insurance needs to be sent to State Headquarters every year and it can be emailed to statehq@vfwva.org, faxed 1-866-416-0586 or regular mail to VFW State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at State Headquarters.

Ed Mann
State Adj/QM

17. **LIFE MEMBERSHIP:**

Congratulations to Comer-Jones Post 621, Luray as the winner of a free Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Virginia. Comer-Jones Post 621 was made eligible for this Free Life Membership for having 93% of their membership reported to State Headquarters by March 27, 2026, deadline.

18. **NATIONAL CONVENTION:**

The 127th National Convention housing will open, **Tuesday, March 18, 2026**. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at vfw.org/convention. The convention website will also have general convention information including the registration form, tentative agenda, and links to other convention related information for Reno, Nevada – July 24 - 29, 2026.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION – Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials, and one identified registered delegate for the VFW National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten-dollar (\$10) delegate fee provided the Post has paid the mandated \$25 advance registration fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. ATTN: Convention Registration. Quartermasters may also register delegates utilizing the online membership system (OMS).

19. **MEMBERSHIP:**

Commanders and Comrades,

As we start April, we are less than two months until the State Convention. Time stands still for no one, and neither does membership. You have earned my praise and gratitude all year. You have led the Southern Conference and worked tirelessly to stay within striking distance of the top spot when not leading. Today, March 18th, we are at 97.94% still in fourth place but just .44 hundredths behind Florida, who has taken over first place from Louisiana. I believe we will continue to be the State that pushes all others to stay ahead of us.

This morning, we have two Districts over 101 percent; we have two Districts over 100%, and all other Districts are in the 90-percentile range. So, if your Post percentage is lower than this, you have some work to do. Don't be the Post that keeps us from reaching 101% before the State Convention. We have a great Membership Team this year and have worked to help you succeed. As we close out Doug's year, please don't hesitate to call on us to assist you

in reaching our goal of 101%. Thank you for your effort, drive, and determination to continue making this State an All American State every year.

Tom Hines PSC
Membership Team Chairman
Cell. 434 774 7729

20. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters will be closed April 3, 206 in observance of Good Friday.

State Headquarters will be closed April 6, 2026.

State Adjutant/Quartermaster Mann will be available by phone and email.

21. POST ELECTIONS:

Attention is directed to Section 217 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure covering the nomination, election and installation of Post Officers. Post Election Report forms are being mailed to Post Quartermasters with instructions that they complete the form online through the Online Membership System (OMS) immediately following the election of Post Officers but not later than June 1.

22. POSTS IN ARREARS FOR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

Attention is directed to Section 213 of the National Bylaws concerning any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council and District meetings; County Council, District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

23. REPORTING:

Comrades to view whether your Post has submitted an Audit Report, Americanism, Community Service, Safety, Youth or Hospital report you should 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.

24. ROSTER CHANGES:

Sixth District Cmdr
Isaiah Hugger
3196 Dryburg Road
Scottsburg, VA 24589
cdrdist6@vfwva.org

Post 2447 JVC
William H. Ettinger
1717 S Ox Road
Edinburg, VA 22824
540-630-1818
citadelbill@gmail.com

Post 1264 SVC
Bryan H. Niemiec
1515 Blair Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073
540-449-6795
bryan.h.niemiec.civ@army.mil

Post 2447 QM
Pierre D. Jutras
935 Hickory Lane
Fort Valley, VA 22652
540-933-6711
cdrdist7@vfwva.org

Post 1264 JVC
David Hagee
3416 Oaklawn Avenue NW
Roanoke, VA 24012
540-521-5947
dehiraq@gmail.com

Post 9760 Cmdr
David D. Troxell
104 Isaac Court
Berryville, VA 22611
907-229-6552
cdrpost9760@vfwva.org

Post 2447 SVC
Gerald L. Racey
352 Mill Road
Woodstock, VA 22664
516-607-3755
copterjg@shentel.net

Post 9760 SVC
Jonathan E. Westbrook
225 Summer Springs Lane
Paris, VA 20130
202-708-8400
westbrook.jonathan@gmail.com

25. STATE CONVENTION:

The link for VFW's 2026 State Convention below. This block's cutoff date is **April 26th, 2026**.

Booking link: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/110365?groupID=4846760>

26. VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION:

The Virginia Veterans Foundation is pleased to announce you may know make your donations online. Go to the Department of Virginia's website – www.vfwva.org, then click on About and then click on Virginia Veterans Foundation. Scroll to middle of the page and click on here to donate and follow the directions.

27. VIRGINIA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

As part of a continuing effort to recognize those who earned the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War, I submit the following:

.....
Terry Richardson was born in January 1948 in Cass City, MI. Following high school, he was drafted and entered the army in May 1967, completing basic training at Ft Knox KY. Following AIT, he was selected to attend Non-Commissioned Officer School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He graduated with honors and was promoted to Staff sergeant on 22 January 1968. He was then assigned as a tactical non-commissioned officer at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He received orders to deploy to South Vietnam and was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division in May 1968. During a reconnaissance mission between Lộc Ninh and the Cambodian border on 14 September 1968, his unit was engaged by intense automatic weapons and small-arms fire from a well-entrenched North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) battalion. His actions this day earned him the Medal of Honor. The citation reads as follows:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress March 3rd, 1863, has awarded in the name of Congress the Medal of Honor to then-Staff Sgt. Terry P. Richardson who distinguished himself by acts of gallantry on Sept. 14, 1968, while serving with Company A, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, near Loc Ninh, Vietnam. During a fierce battle for Hill 222, a piece of high ground just north of the Loc Ninh controlled by elements of the North Vietnamese 7th Division, Richardson's company attempted to

advance up the hill in tandem with several other companies from the 1st Infantry Division. During the assault, Richardson's platoon became separated from the rest of the company and got pinned down by ferocious enemy fire which wounded three American soldiers.

Without hesitation, Richardson went to the aid of one soldier while he organized the withdrawal of his platoon. Moving three times through the hail of machine gun and rifle fire, Richardson rescued each of the wounded soldiers and then marked the nearest enemy machine gun bunkers with smoke grenades so they could be targeted by air strikes. His platoon rejoined the company and continued the attack, but it was still dangerously exposed on the lower slopes of the hill with enemy positions all around. Realizing that his company and the other American units would find it nearly impossible to take the hill unless the main North Vietnamese bunkers were destroyed, Richardson picked up a radio and then sneaked up the hill to a shallow irrigation ditch from where he could direct air strikes. Getting on the radio, he began directing U.S. fighter bombers as they dropped their ordnance on enemy positions across Hill 222.

The irrigation ditch gave Richardson a degree of cover as the bombs exploded all around his position, but an hour into his targeting efforts a North Vietnamese shot his right leg. Ignoring the pain of the wound, Richardson remained on the radio for seven more hours as the battle raged around him. When the enemy withdrew from the hill later that day, he had directed no less than 32 air strikes and guided more than 75,000 pounds of ordnance onto enemy positions. His efforts proved instrumental in saving his company and breaking the North Vietnamese grip on Hill 222.

Richardson's extraordinary heroism and selflessness beyond the call of duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the U.S. Army.

Richardson was honorably discharged from active duty on 9 May 1969, and returned to Michigan. He worked in the construction and gas industry, married in 1971, and joined the Michigan National Guard in 1978 after a nine-year break in service. He became the post Command sergeant major of the Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center. He retired from military service on 31 January 2008. Although recognition was long-delayed, CSM Richardson was presented his Medal of Honor by President Trump at a White House ceremony on March 2nd, 2026. In addition to the Medal of Honor, CSM Richardson also earned the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit (OLC); Bronze Star Medal; Purple Heart and numerous other decorations and service/campaign medals.

Jeff Dombroff
Chairman

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Douglas Hoffman
State Commander

PLEASE NOTE

Only the 2025-2026 All State Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters **Must attend AND sign in** to all highlighted Meetings on the Convention Agenda to receive the \$300.00 stipend.

104th ANNUAL CONVENTION
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOTEL MADISON
HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA
May 28-31, 2026

Kathy Goodall
Convention Chairman

Sandra Terry
Convention Vice Chairman

Tentative Subject to Change

The 2025-2026 All State Post Commanders and All State Post Quartermasters **Must attend AND sign in** to all highlighted Meetings on the Convention Agenda to receive the \$300.00 stipend.

**Thursday,
May 28, 2026**

11:00 AM	NOON	COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING	MADISON BOARDROOM
10:00 AM	4:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	CONF CENTER FOYER
12:30 PM	2:00 PM	VIRGINIA VETERAN'S FOUNDATION MEETING	MADISON BOARDROOM
2:30 PM	4:00 PM	JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICES	SHENANDOAH A&B
6:00 PM	9:00 PM	JOINT PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	SHENANDOAH A&B

**Friday,
May 29, 2026**

7:30 AM	8:30 AM	PAST STATE COMMANDERS/PRESIDENTS BREAKFAST	DOLLEY MADISON DINING ROOM
8:00 AM	5:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	CONF CENTER FOYER
9:00 AM	11:00 AM	JOINT OPENING SESSION	SHENANDOAH A&B
12:30 PM	3:30 PM	VFW BUSINESS SESSION (NOMINATION OF STATE OFFICERS)	SHENANDOAH B
4:00 PM	5:30 PM	WOMEN VETERAN'S FORUM	SHENANDOAH B
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	LEGISLATIVE GOALS AND PRIORITIES	SHENANDOAH B
7:30 PM	9:30 PM	MOC DEGREE WORK	ALLEGHENY

**Saturday,
May 30, 2026**

8:30 AM	10:30 AM	REGISTRATION, VFW	CONF CENTER FOYER
9:00 AM	11:00 AM	BUSINESS SESSION	SHENANDOAH B
11:30 AM	1:00 PM	COMMANDERS CLUB LUNCH	ALLEGHENY A,B&C
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS	SHENANDOAH B
3:15 PM	4:30 PM	MOC SCRATCH	ALLEGHENY A,B &C
4:45 PM	5:30 PM	VFW RIDERS MEETING	MADISON BOARDROOM
6:30 PM	9:00 PM	COMMANDERS RECEPTION	SHENANDOAH A&B

**Sunday,
May 31, 2026**

9:00 AM	9:30 AM	FAREWELL PRAYER BREAKFAST	APPALACHIAN
9:30 AM	11:00 AM	COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION	MADISON BOARDROOM

Registration \$5.00 (All VFW members are required to register in advance as delegates from their Post)
SATURDAY RECEPTION/DANCE - THERE WILL BE A \$10.00 FEE TO THOSE WANTING TO ATTEND
HOSPITALITY ROOM - Department – APPALACHIAN Ballroom



STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

State Convention will be held May 28 – 31, 2026 at the

Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley
Conference Center
710 S Main Street
Harrisonburg – 540-564-0200

The Commanders/Presidents Reception will be held on May 30th.
You will **NOT** be able to purchase tickets the weekend of the Convention.
Pre-purchased tickets will be available at the registration table.

You **MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR THE RECEPTION (NO REFUNDS)**

Please wear your new Commander's/President's Shirt

Tickets: \$10.00

Meal will consist of

Salad (*Mixed Greens, Tomatoes, Shaved Parmesan, Kalamata Olives, served with Balsamic Garlic Vinaigrette*)
Tomato, Basil, and Feta Salad with Citrus Vinaigrette
Roasted Sliced Italian Beef
Chicken Piccata with Lemon Caper Pinot Grigio Sauce
Penne Bolognese
Roasted Vegetable Medley with Italian Herbs
Garlic Parmesan Bread sticks
Tiramisu and Cannoli

Your choice of Iced Tea, Iced Water

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401 BY May 14, 2026
No Exceptions No Refunds after May 14th Check, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express Accepted

Person placing the order (name) _____ Phone: _____

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

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Please charge my card: \$ _____ Name on Card: _____

Please Circle One: MasterCard or Visa or Discover or American Express

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ Zip Code: _____ CCV: _____

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

Department of Virginia Commanders Club

Commanders and Seam Squirrels join the Department of Virginia Commanders Club

We promote the interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in accordance with the By-Laws of the Department of Virginia and in addition to fostering esprit de corps provide additional scholarships for youth (VOD/PP/SOY).

All Past, Present, and Elected Post, District, Department, and National Commanders, Seam Squirrels, Grand Commanders, and Supreme Commanders are eligible.

Life Member Dues are \$35.00

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Department of Virginia Commanders Club

MAIL CHECK TO: Ken Shannon
Commanders Club Treasurer
152 Old Carriage Way
Williamsburg VA 23188

OR PAY ONLINE WITH A SERVICE FEE:

Check the April General Orders for Online payments.

PLEASE SEND THIS COMPLETED FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK

NAME _____

Post or Pup Tent _____

Dates as Commander or Seam Squirrel _____

Address _____

Personal Email _____

Phone Number _____

VFW Department of Virginia

Official Email Policy

Purpose:

To ensure all Department email accounts are used professionally and securely for official VFW business.

Scope:

Applies to all officers, staff, and volunteers using Department-provided email addresses.

Policy:

1. **Official Use Only**
 - Department email addresses must be used solely for VFW-related communications.
 2. **Professional Standards**
 - Maintain respectful and professional tone in all messages.
 - Use the approved signature block with name, title, and Department contact info.
 3. **Security Requirements**
 - Enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA).
 - Use strong passwords and do not share credentials.
 - Do not auto-forward all emails to personal accounts.
 4. **Confidentiality**
 - Do not share member data or sensitive information without authorization.
 - Encrypt emails containing personal or financial data.
 5. **Prohibited Activities**
 - No personal, political, or commercial use.
 - No harassment, offensive content, or unauthorized disclosures.
 6. **Compliance**
 - Bulk emails to non-members must comply with CAN-SPAM (accurate headers, unsubscribe option, physical address).
 7. **Monitoring & Enforcement**
 - The Department may monitor email usage.
 - Violations may result in revoked access or disciplinary action.
-

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia Official Email License Application Form

This application is for obtaining an official Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of Virginia email address. The email address and associated license are for **official VFW business only**. Misuse of this email address may result in immediate revocation of the license without refund.

Full Name:		VFW Position/Role:	
Post Number:		Phone Number:	
Current Email:		Preferred Username:	

Justification for Needing Official Email:

Reason:	
---------	--

By signing below, I acknowledge:

- Official use only.
- License can be revoked anytime.
- Cost: **\$40.00/year**.
- Compliance with VFW policies.

Applicant Signature:		Date:	
----------------------	--	-------	--

State Cmdr Name:		Signature:		Date:	
Adj/QM Name:		Signature:		Date:	

Payment: \$40.00	Method: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Card <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Transaction ID:	
Cardholder Name:		Card Number:	
Expiration Date:		CVV:	



**COMBAT
TESTED
GAMING**

DIVISION
VIRGINIA
2

By the **VFW**
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



MADDEN

TOURNAMENT

VFW POST 392

2408 Bowland Parkway,
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

APRIL 4TH @ 12 PM



SIGN UP & PLAY!

PRIZES AVAILABLE

ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME!

THE CHRIS MULHOLLAND COMMUNITY SERVICE RECORD BOOK

RECORD BOOK ENTRY FORM

1. This form must be filled in and attached to the inside cover of the Community Activities Record Book that your Post enters in the Department Community Activities Record Book Contest.
2. This form must be signed by the Post Commander.
3. After judging the Record Book, books can be picked at State Headquarters. Any Record Books left will be taken to the State Convention where it must be picked up. **No** Record Books will be brought back from the State Convention.

CATEGORIES FOR RECORDING PROJECTS

The Community Activities Program is divided into seven general categories:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Community Involvement | 4. School and Church Assistance |
| 2. Cooperation with other organizations | 5. Safety |
| 3. Aide to others | 6. Americanism |
| | 7. Youth and Voice of Democracy |

Post No. _____ City _____ State _____

Total Projects Since 5/1/25 Total Hours (Volunteered)

Total Funds Used/Donated

Total Post Members as of 4/1/26

Total Auxiliary Members as of 4/1/26

City Population

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN

Post _____ Auxiliary _____
(Name of Chairman) (Name of Chairman)

JUDGES, NOTE THE FOLLOWING LEADING PROJECTS

Page _____, _____

Page _____, _____

Page _____, _____

Page _____, _____

Books must be picked up at State Convention

Signature - Post Commander _____

Post Commander's Name (Print) _____

THE CHRIS MULHOLLAND COMMUNITY SERVICE RECORD BOOK GUIDELINES

1. Record books should contain community service projects that are completed during the period May 1, through April 30.
2. FASTENER and COVER: If books have metal posts, steel is preferable to brass or aluminum. If covers have decals, place self-adhesive clear plastic over the decals so they will not be damaged during shipping and handling. Please use superior quality page dividers and index tabbing; the extensive handling that the record books experience must be considered.
3. CLIPPINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS: Show dates and captions. Include supporting information.
4. ACCOUNTING OF EXPENSES: In a brief statement show how money was spent for each category (one or two pages at the most for each category).
5. ARRANGEMENT OF BOOK: Enter each project by category. (Chronological or month by month listing makes your entry more difficult for the judges to evaluate.)
6. ENTRY FORM: Complete and fasten inside front cover of volume one.
7. MAIL OR SHIP RECORD BOOK ENTRY FOR THE DEPARTMENT CONTEST to your Department Headquarters or the address they designate.
8. Avoid non-community service related items in your record book entry. Pictures of Post Officers, installation of officers, meeting, etc., will not be credited.

(This material should be assembled in a separate section and kept by the Post until the record book is returned after the competition, then it can be added to the record book for permanent reference).

PREPARING A RECORD BOOK

Posts and Auxiliaries carry on many projects which are of public service. The best way to tell the story of your Post and Auxiliary's work in the community is through a Community Activity record book that contains evidence of the many projects and programs your Post and Auxiliary perform.

The contents of your record book should be arranged and in such detail that it tells the story of each project, clearly and completely, to those who may read and judge it.

Posts and Auxiliaries should combine their community activity programs into one book or one set of books the Post and its Auxiliary are judged as a unit.

When making up a record book it is advisable to group your projects and programs into one of the seven categories. If a project qualifies for more than one category, select and list it under one category. It will be given credit, regardless of whether it is listed under the proper category.

For example:

Lite-a-Bike could be listed under categories five or seven.

Do not duplicate your efforts by placing them in each of the categories.

Remember, when compiling your community service record book you are telling a story of your work to judges who generally are not familiar with your efforts or community. The easier it is for the judges to read the facts, the easier it is for them to evaluate your work.

Some Community Activity record book entries have an additional index for each category which lists the subgroups within the categories. Some entries have an index only in the front of volume one.

Remember, also if you enter your record book in other competitions, the judges will be less likely to know about the VFW Community Activities Program. Just like composing a good letter, let your record book present the story so there will be no misunderstanding.

**GEORGE E. McCracken HONOR GUARD/COLOR GUARD PLAQUE
ENTRY FORM**

George E. McCracken served for over 30 years as the State Honor Guard Captain and -knew of the many hours, out-of-pocket funds given by these truly special groups, who serve with pride, dignity, and honor throughout the state, representing their Post- and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

This contest runs from July 1 to the following April.

To enter, a Post must submit a complete detailed report of the participation and activities of their Post Honor/Color Guard, including the following:

Post Number: _____ **Post Name:** _____

Number of Parades:

Number of Funerals:

Number of Flag Raising Ceremonies:

Number of Members Participating:

Other Activities:

**This report must be submitted to STATE HEADQUARTERS by 4:00 p.m.,
April 30, 2026, for the STATE AWARD JUDGING.**

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Virginia
403 Lee Jackson Highway
Staunton Virginia 24401

Buddy Poppy Order Form

Post Number _____

Ship To Address _____

Date Ordered _____

Date of Sale _____

Name on Card _____

Credit Card Number _____

Exp Date _____

Zip Code _____

CVV _____

Card Type (Circle One) Visa Master Card Discover American Express

Make checks payable to: Department of Virginia, VFW with buddy poppies on the memo line.

State Headquarters now has Buddy Poppies (old or new) in stock. The new price for the original buddy poppies (red ones) \$160.00 per 500. The price for the new metal poppies is \$70.00 per 500. As a reminder, poppies must be paid for before they can be shipped.

POSTS MUST ORDER FIVE POPPYS PER MEMBER MUST BE ORDERED IN ORDER TO MEET ALL STATE/ALL AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS.

Quantity of Boxes (500 Per Box) _____ Total Number of Poppies _____

Total amount paid _____

***Example: If a post has more than 100 members but less than 200, then 1000 poppies must be ordered to meet the five poppy per member requirement, due to the fact they only come in boxes of 500.

Name _____ Commander or Quartermaster

Signature _____



VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

April 2026

THE VFW DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA HAS **57** UNAFFILIATED POSTS

Since 1914, the VFW Auxiliary has been fulfilling its original objectives by supporting the Veterans of Foreign Wars, serving veterans and active-duty military and their families, and spreading patriotism nationwide.

WHO IS
ELIGIBLE TO
JOIN THE
VFW
AUXILIARY?

Male and female relatives (listed below) of persons who served in a war, campaign, or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters.

- Members must be at least 16 years old.
- Husband/wife; widower/widow; father/mother; brothers/sisters; sons/daughters; grandfathers/grandmothers; grandsons & granddaughters.

VFW STEPS
TO START
AN
AUXILIARY

1. A VFW Post must by 2/3 majority vote of the membership present at a regular meeting (or a special meeting) to have an Auxiliary.
2. Consult the **VFW Bylaws** regarding required notice to the Post membership when voting to form an Auxiliary to the Post.
3. The approval to form a Post Auxiliary is to be recorded in the VFW meeting minutes.



If the Post votes to approve an Auxiliary, then the Post notifies the Department President who will appoint an official organizer, and the organizer must be a **VFW Auxiliary** member.

WHO TO
CONTACT
REGARDING
FORMING
AN
AUXILIARY?

Patricia Jurgensen
Department Chief of Staff
Email: pjurgy@aol.com
Phone: (703) 380-3024

NOTICE

This is the last letter that will be printed in the VFW's General Orders this year regarding the steps to form an Auxiliary to your Post.

But --- it's "never too late" to reach out to Patricia with any questions you have regarding the steps required to form an Auxiliary to your Post.

DAY OF SERVICE 2026



Kicking off on Saturday, May 2

**Save the Date and
Let Us Know You're
All In Next Year!**

Sign up today at
vfw.org/DayofService or
scan the QR code below.

Register early to give
yourself more time to
plan — and give us more
time to help promote
and support your event.

**MORE EVENTS,
MORE RESOURCES,
MORE PROMOTION
& EVEN MORE
COMMUNITY IMPACT.**



**SCAN TO SIGN
UP FOR 2026!**

vfw.org/DayOfService

**STILL
SERVING**



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

2nd Annual

**VFW Ruppert L. Sargent Post 3219
GOLF CLASSIC**

Saturday, May 2nd, 2026

THE WOODLANDS GOLF COURSE

Registration at 0700 | Shotgun Start at 0800



- ✓ View the agenda & location
- ✓ Register for the event
- ✓ Check out our sponsors
- ✓ Check out our sponsorship opportunities
- ✓ Donate to the cause
- ✓ Volunteer!



Visit: charitygolftoday.com/vfwruppert

Charity Golf Today

Veterans of Foreign Wars Lord Botetourt Post #1841 1st Annual Golf Tournament

All Proceeds Support Veterans and Veteran Programs

Date: Saturday, May 23, 2026

Location: Botetourt Golf Club, 2414 Country Club Rd, Troutville, VA 24175

4 Person Scramble—Shotgun Start @ 1:30pm—Check in 11:00

Team Entry Fee—Individual: \$100 Foursome: \$400

Registration/Payment— Forms found on VFW1841.org,



Registration Form and Payment Due By—Friday, May 15, 2026

Team/Individual Prizes

1st—\$150/golfer

2nd—\$100/golfer

3rd—\$75/golfer

EXTRAS

Raffle Prizes

Longest Drive Prizes

Closest to Pin Prizes

Longest Putt Prize

Buy Mulligans

Boxed Lunch

And much more...

Want to be a Gold, Silver or Bronze Sponsor? Maybe you just want to sponsor a hole? See our sponsor options on our web page VFW1841.org.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Lord Botetourt Post #1841 1st Annual Golf Tournament

4 Person Scramble * Shotgun Start

Botetourt Golf Club—Troutville, VA

May 23, 2026 * Registration Opens - 11:00 am * Start - 1:30 pm



REGISTRATION FORM

*Please complete and return to the VFW Post 1841 with payment
Individual Golfers will be teamed with others*



Team or Individual

Team Name (if applicable): _____

\$100 Per Golfer/\$400 Per Team * Includes: Cart, Green Fees, Boxed Lunch, Player Gift Bag, Raffle Ticket, and Drink Tickets

Player 1: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Player 2: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Player 3: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Player 4: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Extras - Indicate the number of each extra on the line. You can buy more at the event.

_____ Mulligan - \$10.00 each

_____ Mulligan 4 Pack - \$30

Please make checks payable to: **LORD BOTETOURT POST 1841** | 4902 Roanoke Rd | Daleville, VA 24083



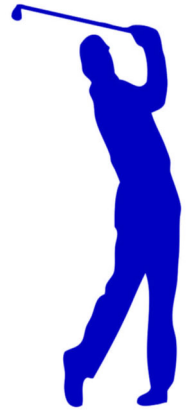
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Lord Botetourt Post #1841

Sponsorship Menu

Golf Tournament - May 23, 2026

<p>Gold Sponsor</p> <p>\$700</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company logo and name on 4 holes • Company logo and name on website • Name on posted social media • Foursome entry with 4 golfer gift bags
<p>Silver Sponsor</p> <p>\$400</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company logo and name on 2 holes • Company logo and name on website • Name on posted social media • 2 Golfer entries with 2 golfer gift bags
<p>Bronze Sponsor</p> <p>\$200</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company logo and name on 1 hole • Company logo and name on website • Name on posted social media • Single Golfer entry with 1 golfer gift bag
<p>Hole Sponsor</p> <p>\$50</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name on 1 hole



First Annual Golf Tournament



Or Sponsor Online!

Company Name: _____ Email: _____

Website: _____ Phone: _____

Contact Name: _____



Veterans of Foreign Wars Lord Botetourt Post #1841 1st Annual Golf Tournament



Sponsors

4 Person Scramble * Shotgun Start

Botetourt Golf Club—Troutville, VA

May 23, 2026 * Start - 1:30 pm

More Information vfw1841.org



Golfers



VFW Post 3103

★ 4th Annual ★

STAR SPANGLED

VETERANS

★ GOLF TOURNAMENT ★

SEPTEMBER 11, 2026



THE GAUNTLET GOLF COURSE

18 Fairway Dr.

Fredericksburg, VA

★ **Individual Player - \$125**

Team - \$500



Sponsorship opportunities available!

[HTTPS://VFW3103.ORG](https://vfw3103.org)

Scan QR code or email us at:

✉ vfw3103@gmail.com

We honor the courage of those who have served — and recognize that bravery continues long after the battlefield. 🙌 us

At Recovery for Life, we stand beside our veterans on their journey to healing and wholeness. Through our Affordable Substance Abuse Treatment (ASAT) program, we offer:

- ✅ Centrally located office
- ✅ Affordable assessments
- ✅ Veteran discounts
- ✅ Individualized treatment plans
- ✅ Treatment groups & peer support

Because recovery takes courage — and no one should fight alone. 💙

#VeteransDay #RecoveryForLife #AffordableRecovery #VeteranSupport #FaithBasedRecovery
#SubstanceAbuseRecovery



FOR SALE!

The Department of Virginia Auxiliary has a QuickBooks program (never been used) for sale for \$500.

interested in buying or questions contact our Department Treasurer Cathy Graham

cg12dc12@outlook.com



Calling all VFW/Aux Women Veterans to Register for the Women In
Military Service For America Memorial
Register her service for free at womensmemorial.org

Our *Register* is a one-of-a-kind interactive database that records and preserves the names, service information, photographs and memorable experiences of each registered servicewoman.

The screenshot shows a profile page for CPT Jane Elizabeth Markham. On the left is a black and white photograph of her in military uniform. To the right of the photo is a dark blue sidebar with white text: 'Member: CPT Jane Elizabeth Markham', 'MEMBER ID: 58095', 'SERVICE: Army Air-WAC', and 'HIGHEST RANK: CPT'. The main content area is white with a blue header 'WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL' at the top right. The profile is organized into sections: 'SERVICE DATES' (Army WAC 1942-1945), 'MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE' (a detailed paragraph about her service as a flight nurse, including a plane crash in Africa), 'AWARDS & DECORATIONS' (listing the Air Medal, Purple Heart, and several Campaign Medals), 'WAR/CONFLICTS' (World War II), and 'OVERSEAS' (Africa, France). A small logo for the Memorial is in the top right corner.

The

Register records and preserves the history of the powerful women who have defended this country—both past and present.

From the earliest days of the nation, women have been serving alongside men to gain and preserve liberty, but it was difficult to find them in our history books. There was no repository of women's service to the United States. That all changed in April 1987.

Not long after legislation authorized the Women In Military Service For America Memorial and ten years before the Memorial would open to the public in 1997, the *Register* was created. Servicewomen and women veterans were invited to make their military experiences visible by "registering" their service. By completing a simple form with their dates of service, branch of service, awards and decorations, at least one memorable experience, and a picture in uniform, women took their rightful and visible place in history for all time. For the first time in American history, there was a place to learn about the extraordinary servicewomen who defend or have defended our country.

For more than 30 years, the Memorial has been permanently documenting military women's experiences and their impact on American, military and women's history. Visitors are invited to look up

servicewomen in the *Register*, learn about their impact on our collective history, and purchase a print of individual profiles as a keepsake.

If you know a servicewoman or woman veteran, please take advantage of the FREE registration to ensure HERstory joins hundreds of thousands of individual stories that make up our *Register*.

History is not complete until every military woman's story is told.

Let's get every VFW Woman Registered

I know we have a large number of Charter Members and Members out there, please reach out to Tara Jeffries or Joanne Smith to start our Department list.

For New Additions to the Register:

Register her service for free at
womensmemorial.org

VFW Music Licensing Exemption Checklist (Virginia)

Based on Federal Copyright Law – 17 U.S.C. § 110(10)

This checklist helps determine whether a Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post event qualifies as a non-public performance and is therefore exempt from paying ASCAP, BMI, or SESAC public performance licenses.

1. Organization Status

- The event is organized by a nonprofit veterans' organization (chartered VFW Post).
- The Post is in good standing as a 501(c)(19) or operates under the national VFW's nonprofit umbrella.
- Why it matters: The exemption specifically applies to nonprofit veterans', fraternal, and membership organizations.

2. Type of Music

- The performance involves nondramatic musical works (recorded, live band, DJ, or karaoke).
- No theatrical or dramatic performances are included.
- Examples allowed: jukebox, live band, DJ, karaoke, background music.
- Not covered: musicals, operas, or dramatic performances.

3. Audience Restrictions

- Attendance limited to members and immediate guests.
- Not advertised to or open to the general public.
- Access controlled (membership card or guest list).
- Members-only events qualify; public dances or rentals do not.

4. Admission and Proceeds

- No admission charge or fees only cover reasonable costs (food, DJ, decorations).
- All proceeds used solely for charitable or Post purposes (no private profit).
- 'At cost' events are fine; proceeds can support veterans' programs.

5. Sponsorship & Control

- The Post organizes and manages the event (not an outside promoter).
- If a DJ or band is hired, they are under Post supervision.
- The music is incidental to a social function, not business activity.

6. Location & Use

- Event held in Post-controlled facility (canteen, hall, or grounds).
- Facility not rented to outside groups for public use.
- Music played on-premises only (not broadcast or streamed).

7. Optional Best Practices

- Keep documentation of nonprofit status (IRS letter or VFW charter).
- Record event details in Post minutes (date, audience type, purpose).
- If any public events occur during the year, consider a low-cost blanket license (~\$300-\$600/yr).

If all boxes are checked → No license is required under 17 U.S.C. § 110(10).

If any are unchecked → The Post likely needs a license (ASCAP, BMI, SESAC nonprofit rate).

Approved by: _____ Date: _____



FREE — US ARMY MAGAZINE
27 BOUND VOLUMES
1967—1996



Contact Rick Raskin—PSC
rraskin@vfwva.org



Vote for Experience! Elect Doug Hoffman to the National Council of Administration

2026-2030

Ready on Day 1!

Doug will be ready to go to work from the moment he is installed. He has held numerous positions at the Post, District, and State levels of the organization culminating with his recent election to be the State Commander. He will bring all of that knowledge to help National HQs.



Years of Service!

Doug earned All-American and All-State honors leading Post 3160 and District 2, which are both among the largest in Virginia. He also serves as the Treasurer for the Virginia VFW Riders ensuring their financial success. Doug also has experience in the private sector supervising people and overseeing large projects for the U.S. Navy, which is practical experience he will draw upon when studying the issues the VFW will face. With over 200 employees and a budget over \$100 million, The VFW needs experienced Council Members like Doug.

Committed to Success!

Doug will ensure decisions made are for the betterment of the entire organization, not just a few inside it. Most importantly, he will ensure that the VFW continues to stand tall for veterans!



Beth A. Ford

Candidate for the High Office of the VFW State Surgeon 2026-2027

Comrades, for those that don't know me I am Beth Ford and I am running for State Surgeon for the 2026-2027 term. I am not focused on recreating this organization as I believe that we are all doing great work. I am focused on keeping us great, focused on veterans, youth programs, membership, and true mentorship that inspires others to continue to lead and make meaningful differences and impacts for our future, communities, and programs. I look forward to serving the VFW to the best of my ability and the opportunity of being the next VFW Department of Virginia Surgeon.

My eligibility for the VFW was service during Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) where I was awarded the Air Force Combat Action Medal and the Broze Star. I retired after 22 years and 1 month of honorable service.

My VFW Service is as follows:

Post:

- Service as a Trustee and Adjutant 2024 to 2025
- Service and Jr. and Sr. Vice (Post 3219) 2020 to 2022
- All-State and All-American Commander (Post 3219) 2022 to 2024
- Current Post Commander for Post 176

District:

- Jr. Vice District 1 2023-2024
- Sr. Vice District 1 2024-2025
- Current District 1 Commander for 2025-2026

Department:

- VFW Riders Treasurer 2019 – 2023
- Currently State Inspector
- Currently Sr. Vice for Commanders Club

Appointments:

- Assistant National Aide-De-Camp
- National Bylaws Committee 2019 and 2024

TENTATIVE AGENDA

VFW 127th National Convention Reno, Nevada Reno Sparks Convention Center July 25-29, 2026

*All meetings are held in the convention center unless otherwise noted.
Times for various functions are subject to change.
Meeting rooms will be posted closer to conference dates and are subject to change.*

Friday, July 24, 2026

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	VFW Pre-Registration	Silver Legacy-Lobby
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	National Veterans Service Advisory Committee	A7-9

Saturday, July 25, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	VFW Registration/Exhibits	Hall 2-3
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Buddy Poppy Display/Silent Auction	Hall 2-3
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Budget and Finance Committee	A7-9
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	VA Walk-in Claims Clinic	Hall 2-3
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Uniting to Combat Hunger (Community Service Activity)	Hall 2-3
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Vander Clute Memorial Ride	Off-Site
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	First Time Attendees Welcome Orientation	Hall 4-5
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	National Council of Administration Meeting	A2-5
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Eastern Conference	A1/A6
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Southern Conference	C1-3
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Big Ten Conference	C4
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Western Conference	D1-3

Sunday, July 26, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	VFW Registration/Exhibits	Hall 2-3
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Buddy Poppy Display/Silent Auction	Hall 2-3
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Joint Memorial Service	Hall 4-5
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	VA Walk-in Claims Clinic	Hall 2-3
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	VFW Riders National Advisory Committee	A7-8
10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	District Commander Responsibilities Workshop	A10-11
10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Member Rights & Post Commander Authority	A16-17
10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	QMG Workshop	A12-13
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Update on VFW Legislative Priority Goals	C3
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Providing Local Benefits Assistance	A18-20
1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	All Committee Member Briefing	Hall 4-5
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Finance and Internal Organization (200 series)	A10-11
1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	General Resolutions (300 Series)	A16-17
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual	A7-8
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	National Veterans Service Resolutions (600 series)	A12-13
	Sub-committee – Health	
	Sub-committee – Benefits	
	Sub-committee – Economic Opportunity/Other	
1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	National Security and Foreign Affairs (400 series)	C3
	Sub-committee – POW/MIA	
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Women's Veterans Committee	A9
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	VFW Programs Town Hall	A1/A6
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Parliamentary Procedure Workshop	C1

TENTATIVE AGENDA

VFW 127th National Convention Reno, Nevada Reno Sparks Convention Center July 25-29, 2026

*All meetings are held in the convention center unless otherwise noted.
Times for various functions are subject to change.
Meeting rooms will be posted closer to conference dates and are subject to change.*

Sunday, July 26, 2026 (cont.)

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	OMS for Quartermasters Workshop	A16-17
3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Convention Voting Procedures	A7-8
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	2026-2027 Membership Program Review	A10-11
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	127 th VFW National Convention Awards Banquet <i>(ticketed event)</i>	Silver Legacy Reno Ballroom

Monday, July 27, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	VFW Registration/Exhibits	Hall 2-3
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Joint Opening Session	Hall 4-5
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	VA Walk-in Claims Clinic	Hall 2-3
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	VFW Business Session	Hall 4-5
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Cornhole Tournament Championship	TBD

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	VFW Registration/Exhibits <i>(EXHIBIT HALL CLOSSES AT NOON)</i>	Hall 2-3
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	VFW Business Session (Nominations)	Hall 4-5
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	VA Walk-in Claims Clinic	Hall 2-3
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	2026-2027 Department Commanders Luncheon <i>(by invite only)</i>	D4-5
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	2026-2027 Department Sr. Vice Commanders/ Sr. Vice President's Luncheon <i>(by invite only)</i>	D3
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	2026-2027 Department Jr. Vice Commanders/ Jr. Vice President's Luncheon <i>(by invite only)</i>	D2
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	All-American Commanders Luncheon <i>(ticketed event)</i>	C1-3
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Department Adjutant/Quartermasters Association Lunch <i>(by invite only)</i>	D1
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Afghanistan War Commission Briefing	A7-8
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Chaplains Workshop	D7
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Recruiting at the Post Level Workshop	A10-11
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	VFW National Home	A16-17
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	QMG Workshop	A12-13
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Grant Seeking & Fundraising Ideas for VFW & Auxiliary Posts	A1/A6
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Retention and Recovery of Members Workshop	A10-11
5:15 p.m.	Parade Line-up	Hall 2
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Patriotic Rally & Entertainment <i>(concessions available for purchase)</i>	Hall 4-5

TENTATIVE AGENDA

**VFW 127th National Convention
Reno, Nevada
Reno Sparks Convention Center
July 25-29, 2026**

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Wednesday, July 29, 2026

8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.	VFW Business Session	Hall 4-5
	Election/Installation of National Officers	
TBA	National Council of Administration Meeting	A2-5
	<i>(one-hour following close of the business session)</i>	
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Commander-in-Chief's and National President's Reception	RSCC Ballroom
	<i>(ticketed event)</i>	