

NUMBER 7

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

"Unity Brings Victory"

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

January 1, 2026

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

Articles are listed by number not by pages:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
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| 2. Active Membership | 12. Liability Insurance |
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1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Comrades,

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and that Santa was good to you! We're starting the New Year with a busy month ahead.

In just a few days, the Virginia legislative session begins, and we have three important issues on our radar:

- Anti-Claim Sharks legislation
- Changes to the VMSDEP program
- Charitable Gaming regulations

I will send out email alerts as soon as I know when hearings or votes will occur on each of these priorities. Most of the time, we only get 48 hours' notice, so if you can attend, your presence would be greatly appreciated. Wearing your VFW cover and showing your support goes a long way in influencing how they vote.

If you have any questions about our legislative priorities, please reach out to Rick Raskin, Ron Riffle, Joanne Smith, or myself.

We will also be holding our Mid-Winter Council of Administration meeting along with our Annual VFW Youth-Educator Banquet. Thank you to all the Posts that participated. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Finally, let's start calling the unpaid lists from the first six months of the membership year. A great idea is to make this a Post or District function. Get your membership representatives together for breakfast and make those calls asking members to renew.

Thank you again for all you do. It's your dedication that makes this job worth it!

Yours in Comradeship
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. BONDS:

All bonds expired August 31, 2025.

Please see July or August General Orders for the rate schedule for the cost of your bond and return completed forms and payment to State Headquarters. Please note Quartermaster Bond rate **is for** the Post Officers. There is a separate schedule for your canteen employees and others who are not Post Officers but need to be bonded. Remember that persons on any/or all accounts the Post has **MUST BE BONDED**.

EACH PERSON BONDED MUST BE ON A SEPARATE FORM. EXAMPLE DO NOT PUT QM AND COMMANDER ON SAME FORM, THERE MUST BE TWO FORMS COMPLETED BEFORE BONDS CAN BE PROCESSED. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHICH FORM YOU SHOULD BE USING CONTACT STATE HEADQUARTERS.

4. DELINQUENT:

District	Post	Fee	Audits	District	Post	Fee	Bonds	Audits
2	2296	\$ 10.00	June, Sept	9	1184			September
2	12217		September	9	2719			September
3	7167		June, Sept	9	4667		Expired	
4	7819	\$ 10.00		9	7136			September
5	873		September	11	9339		Expired	September
6	2157		September	12	7360	\$ 10.00		
6	4299	\$ 5.00		12	9864	\$ 10.00		
7	2447		September	13	8947			September
7	8613		September					

5. BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:

All officers should obtain current 2026 copies of the podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. Copies of the revised edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure

and Ritual are available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters. The 2025 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 126th National Convention, which became effective on September 11, 2025.

6. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 st	Date: 5/16/26 Meeting: 10:00 am Location: Post 3219 Phoebe (sponsored by Post 960) 1222 E Mellen St, Hampton Rep:	7 th	Date: 1/17/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 2447 Edinburg 100 Veterans Ways State Cdr Doug Hoffman
2 nd	Date: 2/14/26 Meeting: 9:00 AM Location: Post 2894 Chesapeake 3329 Battlefield Blvd S Rep: St Chief-of-Staff Joanne Smith	8 th	Date: 2/7/26 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 2524 Culpeper 12210 Sperryville Pike Rep:
3 rd	Date: 2/28/26 Meeting: 10:00 AM Lunch: To follow Meeting Location: Post 637 Hopewell 335 South 15 th Ave Rep: State Adj/QM Ed Mann	9 th	Date: 1/17/26 Meeting: 10:00 am Location: Post 9696 Bluefield 131 Lovelane St Rep: St Surgeon Todd Taylor
4 th	Date: 2/14/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 9954 Victoria 1000 Marshal Ave Rep: St Cmdr Doug Hoffman	10 th	Date: 3/14/26 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 1503 Dale City 14631 Minnieville Road Rep:
5 th	Date: 2/21/26 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep: St Inspector Beth Ford	11 th	Date: 1/24/26 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 9339 Stuarts Draft 3251 Stuarts Draft Highway Rep: State Cdr Doug Hoffman
6 th	Date: 4/4/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1264 Roanoke (sponsored Post 4491) 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep:	12 th	Date: 1/17/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1994 Abingdon 18003 Cleveland Church Road Rep: State SVC Mark Maggio
		13 th	Date: 2/28/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1827 Charlottesville 1170 River Road Rep: St Cmdr Doug Hoffman

7. DUTIES OF TRUSTEES:

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 (a)(11) of the National Manual of Procedure, "Duty of Trustees." Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the closed of each quarter, one of which ends December 31, 2025.

Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including the Club Manager, Bingo Chairman and VFW Rider Groups. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster and Adjutant records.

Quarters ending June 2025 and September 2025 are NOW PAST DUE FROM SEVERAL POSTS.

8. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts will reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails the week after the State Convention. 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 Resources, Microsoft 365.
3. The username is your email address; put that on the first line (see below for your new address).
4. Your default password will be **VFW2025!** 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 Post Officers, your address will be cdrrpost176@vfwva.org where the 176 is you replace it with **your** Post number.

adjpost176@vfwva.org
qmpost176@vfwva.org

For District Officers your address will be cdrrdist1@vfwva.org for Districts other than the first just replace the 1 with your district # **Please note District Senior Vice Commander's now have an email address**

srvdist1@vfwva.org
adjdist1@vfwva.org
qmdist1@vfwva.org

9. 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.

10. IMPORTANT DATES:

January 8 - 11, 2026	Winter Council, 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 was Monday, December 8, 2025, by 5:00 pm.
May 27 - 30, 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, AL

January 13 - 15, 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 6 - 12, 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, WI
January 12 - 14, 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 21 – 24, 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, TX

11. 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.

Here is the link to get the form and instructions – <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822b.pdf>. This will also apply to all Auxiliaries that have their own EIN numbers.

12. 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

13. MEMBERSHIP:

To Fellow Commanders and Comrades,

I would like to thank all of you as we start the New Year. YOU have kept Virginia at or near the top of the Southern Conference since the life members were added to Memstats. That in itself is a tremendous accomplishment. You have shown that this State doesn't just talk the talk, we walk the walk as well. We are starting the last six months of Doug's year, but we have to keep in mind that our All State judging is earlier this year due to hotel accommodations. Please continue to work on your unpaid list for your Post while it's cold outside.

I am looking forward to the Mid-Winter Conference to see your smiling faces at the Membership workshop on Saturday. I hope all of you will attend and share your experiences and tips on how to recruit. The Team will be there to answer any questions that you may have. One of the most often asked questions that we get is, how do you close the deal. I will share my ideas and hopefully get some from the attendees. It's quite an honor to have the first Female National Commander at our Conference. I have asked Doug to invite her to our workshop. Hopefully she can find the time to attend.

Remember that Membership is the life blood of our Organization. Without new members we would not be able to continue helping Veterans for very long.

Please continue to stay at or above the State Membership Average. This will continue to push us to our goal of 101% before May 1st. As you can see, we only have four months to get there. If you want or need help with membership, please contact any member of the Team or State Headquarters for assistance.

Tom Hines PSC
Membership Team Chairman
Cell. 434 774 7729

14. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters will be closed January 1, 2026, and reopen on January 5, 2026, in observance of New Year's Day.

State Headquarters will be closed January 8, 2026, and reopen January 12, 2026, for the Winter Council Administration Meeting and State Headquarters will also be closed January 19, 2026, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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

15. PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS:

Posts are asked to submit five nominees (one for each career area) to State Headquarters no later than January 8, 2026.

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

VFW PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATION POST ENTRY FORM. This form was developed to assist VFW Post Safety Chairpersons with an entry form to hand out to the local Fire Department, Police Department, etc. to assist interested individuals in nominating one of their own. Once a winner in each category has been chosen, the Post will forward the winning entries on to the next level of judging.

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

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

16. 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.

17. ROSTER CHANGES:

Eighth District Cmdr
Ashley Gurley
10068 Manning Dr
King George, VA 22485
757-272-2613
cdrdist8@vfwva.org

Eighth District JVC
Daniel L. Lee
206 Yates St
Stafford, VA 22554
540-818-5449
1972danlee@gmail.com

Eighth District SVC
Jason Stewart
5194 Longbow Rd
King George, VA 22485
757-777-6968
srvdist8@vfwva.org

Post 637 QM
Jason K. Hite
2110 Day St
Hopewell, VA 23860
360-972-0164
qmpost637@vfwva.org

Post 8902 JVC
Thomas O. Reardon
231 Ole Briery State Rd
Keysville, VA 23947
317-362-5700
polo44indy@att.net

18. 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>

19. VIRGINIA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

Robert L. Howard earned the Medal of Honor for gallantry displayed on December 30, 1968. He enlisted in the Army in 1956 at Montgomery, Alabama. Howard's service in Vietnam included assignments with 1-327th Airborne Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, 5th Special Forces Group and MACV-SOG.

Assigned to the highly classified Military Assistance Command, Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG), Howard was recommended for the Medal of Honor on three occasions for three individual actions during thirteen months spanning 1967–1968. The first two nominations were downgraded to the Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star due to the covert and top secret nature of the operations. On December 30, 1968, Howard was a Sergeant First Class with the SOG and second in command of a platoon-sized Hatchet Force that was searching for missing American soldier - the action for which he was finally awarded the Medal of Honor. The citation reads as follows:

.....
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. 1st Lt. Howard (then SFC), distinguished himself while serving as platoon sergeant of an American-Vietnamese platoon which was on a mission to rescue a missing American soldier in enemy controlled territory in the Republic of

Vietnam. The platoon had left its helicopter landing zone and was moving out on its mission when it was attacked by an estimated 2-company force. During the initial engagement, 1st Lt. Howard was wounded and his weapon destroyed by a grenade explosion. 1st Lt. Howard saw his platoon leader had been wounded seriously and was exposed to fire. Although unable to walk, and weaponless, 1st Lt. Howard unhesitatingly crawled through a hail of fire to retrieve his wounded leader. As 1st Lt. Howard was administering first aid and removing the officer's equipment, an enemy bullet struck one of the ammunition pouches on the lieutenant's belt, detonating several magazines of ammunition. 1st Lt. Howard momentarily sought cover and then realizing that he must rejoin the platoon, which had been disorganized by the enemy attack, he again began dragging the seriously wounded officer toward the platoon area. Through his outstanding example of indomitable courage and bravery, 1st Lt. Howard was able to rally the platoon into an organized defense force. With complete disregard for his safety, 1st Lt. Howard crawled from position to position, administering first aid to the wounded, giving encouragement to the defenders and directing their fire on the encircling enemy. For 3½ hours 1st Lt. Howard's small force and supporting aircraft successfully repulsed enemy attacks and finally were in sufficient control to permit the landing of rescue helicopters. 1st Lt. Howard personally supervised the loading of his men and did not leave the bullet-swept landing zone until all were aboard safely. 1st Lt. Howard's gallantry in action, his complete devotion to the welfare of his men at the risk of his life were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

.....

Howard received his Medal of Honor from President Nixon at a White House ceremony on March 2nd 1971. He was wounded 14 times during a 54-month period in the Vietnam War. For his distinguished service, Howard received a direct appointment from Master Sergeant to First Lieutenant in December 1969. Howard later graduated from Ranger School class 7-73 in May 1973 and served with the 2nd Ranger Battalion at Fort Lewis, Washington as company commander. From 1977 to 1978 he served as Mountain Ranger Training instructor. Howard later served as officer-in-charge of Special Forces training at Camp Mackall, near Ft. Bragg, N.C., and later commanded the Mountain Ranger Training Camp at Dahlonga, Georgia. Howard graduated from the National War College, Class 1987-1988. He received two master's degrees during his 36-year Army career which spanned 1956 to 1992 and retired as a full colonel.

Robert Howard was arguably the most decorated soldier from the Vietnam War. In addition to the Medal of Honor, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with "V" and 3 Oak Leaf Clusters; the Purple Heart with seven Oak Leaf Clusters; the Air Medal with "V" and 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and the Army Commendation Medal with "V" and six Oak Leaf Clusters plus a host of service medals and foreign decorations. Col Howard died of pancreatic cancer at a hospital in Waco, Texas, on December 23, 2009. Survived by four children and five grandchildren, he was interred at the Arlington National Cemetery on February 22, 2010.

Jeff Dombroff
Chairman

20. VFW/JLC DAY ON THE HILL IN RICHMOND:

Virginia VFW and Auxiliary are invited to VFW/JLC Day on the Hill in Richmond. We will join together on Thursday, January 15, 2026, to show the strength of the VFW is the membership.

Please be at VFW Post 9808 by 0700 to muster. If you plan on attending Day on the Hill please RSVP to Chief of Staff Joanne Smith chiefofstaff@vfwva.org directly. This is the only way to ensure that you will have transportation from VFW 9808 to and from the General Assembly Building. We have 36 seats on the bus and depending on the number of attendees we may have to make two runs with the bus. We don't want anyone to miss a meeting at the General Assembly. The General Assembly Building will be packed with other organizations and there may be a line to enter the building. We don't want to commit to a specific pick-up time because meetings and events may be delayed.

VFW Virginia's membership was 33,645 for 2024-2025. Imagine if 1% were to show up that would be 336 VFW members in Richmond. We have several issues that will be center stage during the session to include: Claim Sharks, Charitable Gaming, and Virginia Military Survivors & Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP.)

VFW Virginia's Commonwealth Legislative Team members are:

Legislative Chairman Ron Riffle
PSC/JLC Representative Rick Raskin
Chief of Staff/JLC Alternate Joanne Smith
PSC Eric Mallett
NCM Ken Wiseman
Public Affairs April Phillips

The Department of Virginia would like VFW members to begin reaching out to their Commonwealth Delegates and Senators and their staffers to bring these talking points to them during the election season and prior to session in January and February. Invite them to visit your Post homes or attend a special event to interact with our members. If we develop relationships early, we may be able to partner with them to advocate for our issues in Richmond.

If you have questions on how to connect with your local representatives or would like to be included in emails from our Department of Virginia Legislative Committee, please email Ron Riffle at vfwvleg@gmail.com.

JLC initiatives for the upcoming legislative session are available at <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/about-us/boards-foundations/joint-leadership-council-of-veterans-service-organizations>.

We are looking forward to the VFW/JLC Day on the Hill and your presence will have a positive impact on veteran's issues in Richmond.

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Douglas Hoffman
State Commander



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
AND
VFW AUXILIARY**

Winter Council of Administration Meeting
January 8 - 11, 2026
Hotel Madison Shenandoah Conference Center
Harrisonburg Virginia
540-564-0200

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

1:00 PM	3:00 PM	Virginia Veterans Foundation Board Meeting	Madison Boardroom
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026

10:00 AM	5:00 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Conf Center Foyer
10:00 AM	1:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Audit (Treasurer and Audit Team)	Madison Boardroom
11:00 AM	11:30 AM	Joint Memorial Service	Shenandoah A
12:30 PM	2:30 PM	Microsoft 365 Training	Allegheny A,B &C
2:00 PM	4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Council Meeting	Shenandoah A
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Charitable Gaming Laws & Regs	Allegheny A,B &C
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	MOC Meeting and Degree Work	Shenandoah B
6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Cornhole Tournament	Shenandoah B

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026

7:30 AM	8:30 PM	PDP Breakfast	Dolley Madison
8:00 AM	12:00 PM	Post Benefits Advisor Training	Allegheny A,B &C
8:00 AM	2:30 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Conf. Center Foyer
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Commanders Club Meeting	Shenandoah B
9:00 AM	12:30 PM	VFW Auxiliary Business/Program Presentation	Shenandoah A
9:30 AM	12:00 PM	VFW Council of Administration Meeting	Shenandoah B
12:30 PM	1:00 PM	VFW Riders Meeting	Allegheny A,B &C
12:30 PM	1:30 PM	Public Affairs and Social Media	Shenandoah B
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	MOCA Meeting	Shenandoah A
1:30 PM	2:30 PM	Membership & Recruiting Workshop	Allegheny A,B&C
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Women's Veterans Forum	Allegheny A,B &C
6:00 PM	8:00 PM	VOD & PP BANQUET	Shenandoah A & B

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Joint Devotional Service	Shenandoah A
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TEACHER OF THE YEAR, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, AND PATRIOT'S PEN BANQUET TICKETS: \$55.00

Department Hospitality Room – Shenandoah C

(Tentative schedule subject to change)

TO BENEFIT VFW POST 12225
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

REGISTER NOW @
IPLAYACL.COM



CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT



\$30 Registration Fee

- Double Elimination Blind Draw
- Open Local Points

Prizes:

- 1st Place - \$600 Cash & Trophy
- 2nd Place - \$400
- 3rd Place - \$200

Date & Time

- January 9th, 2026
- Doors Open @ 6:00pm
- Bags Fly @ 7:00pm

Location

- Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley
Conference Center
- 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Also Offered:

\$10 Air Mail Knockout (6:50pm)

50/50

Door Prizes & Raffles



GTMO VFW
POST 12225



No Outside Food or Beverage

Reach out to Headspace Cornhole on Facebook with any Questions

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

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

The screenshot shows a digital form for a woman's military service record. On the left is a black and white photo of a woman in a flight suit. To the right of the photo is a dark blue sidebar with white text: "Member: CPT Jane Elizabeth Markham", "MEMBER ID: 50095", "SERVICE: Army Air-WAC", and "HIGHEST RANK: CPT". The main area of the form is white with blue headers for each section: "SERVICE DATES" (Army WAC 1942-1945), "MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE" (a paragraph about her service as a flight nurse in England and France), "AWARDS & DECORATIONS" (listing several medals), "WAR/CONFLICTS" (World War II), and "OVERSEAS" (Africa, France). A red banner at the bottom reads "WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL".

Member: CPT Jane Elizabeth Markham	SERVICE DATES Army WAC 1942-1945
MEMBER ID 50095	MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE She joined the Army to serve with the elite group of 500 flight nurses serving overseas. She was stationed in England but flew all over Europe and Africa caring for wounded soldiers. She was on the hills overlooking Normandy Beach only four days after the invasion. She awoke to find her plane had been bombed overnight and was a total loss. On one occasion when flying out of France with a plane loaded with wounded soldiers, Jane gave up her seat and her seatbelt to a reporter who arrived just as they were leaving. The plane crashed on take off and Jane broke a bone in her leg as well as other injuries as she was thrown violently around the plane. Despite her injuries, she continued to care for the wounded. In later years her son found her Air Medal and asked where her Purple Heart was that she received for her injuries in the plane crash? She told her son she had never picked it up because she didn't need a medal for doing her job and helping others.
SERVICE Army Air-WAC	AWARDS & DECORATIONS Air Medal; Purple Heart; American Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal
HIGHEST RANK CPT	WAR/CONFLICTS World War II
	OVERSEAS Africa, France

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL

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 AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

➡ DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA HAS **(57)** VFW UNAFFILIATED POSTS

TOP TEN (10) REASONS FOR YOUR POST TO HAVE AN AUXILIARY

1. Positively reinforces the values and beliefs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
2. Increases the number of advocates to fight for veterans' rights and benefits.
3. Presents an opportunity to serve more veterans, active-duty military, and their families.
4. Increases Program participation and helps to spread the word on Scholarship and Youth Programs.
5. Boosts the Post's visibility in the community by being involved in local activities and events.
6. Provides events and volunteer opportunities for veterans' family members including visiting VA Medical Centers.
7. Assists in recruiting and retaining members to strengthen the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
8. Opens the door to potential members.
9. Assists with "Buddy Poppy" drives.
10. Offers valuable assistance with local events and special ceremonies honoring veterans.

READY TO ADD AN AUXILIARY TO YOUR POST?

1. The VFW Bylaws require that a notice be mailed or emailed to each Post member advising them that a vote to have a Post Auxiliary will take place at a specific meeting.
2. The VFW Bylaws require that a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present at the meeting approve the formation of an Auxiliary.
3. The approval to form the Auxiliary is recorded in the VFW's official meeting minutes.
4. If approved, the Post informs the Department President. The Department President will then assign an Auxiliary organizer who will work to obtain the required number of Charter members (15), and will also ensure that the necessary paperwork is completed.

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.

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

STILL HAVE
QUESTIONS,
CONTACT

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Department Chief of Staff
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"HAPPY 2026 NEW YEAR"

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: _____



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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