

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

NUMBER 9

403 Lee Jackson Highway
(540) 886-8112

**"Veterans Helping Veterans
Dept. of Virginia 100th Anniversary"**

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March 1, 2023

Staunton, Virginia 24401
In Virginia 800-888-3521

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1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

The month of March marks the *Spring Equinox* and the beginning of the spring season. The *Spring Equinox* occurs when the Sun crosses the celestial equator going south to north (an imaginary line in the sky above the Earth's equator). For me, it signifies the coming of warmer weather and the opportunity to do more outdoor VFW events.

As a brief recap of this past month: on February 1st, we held the 100th Anniversary of Department of Virginia in Mechanicsville. We had a stirring ceremony and celebration, as Past CIC Hal Roesch presented the Department with a *Centennial Certificate* and read a letter from CIC Tim Borland. Also, on display was our re-framed, historic, antique charter that reads *February 1, 1923*. This was the first of seven Centennial Celebrations to be held across the Commonwealth this year.

We participated in Yellow Ribbon Events in February; the last one in Williamsburg, where we recruited 13 newly returning veterans, into the VFW. All month, we were very active on Capitol Hill-Richmond working hard on the gaming issue, to safeguard the rights of our veterans. While we were down their lobbying, we were honored, February 15th in the Hall of Delegates; they read a resolution to honor the members of our Post, past and present, on the occasion of our 100th Anniversary.

As part of our continuing effort to provide superior service to veterans we are starting up two new VFW Posts. At the time of this writing, we are preparing to hold the Post 12217 Holland Institution on February 25; and the Post 12218 Haymarket Institution on March 11th. Adding new Posts in strategic areas helps the VFW to accomplish our core mission.

On the horizon, we are looking forward to a great Centennial Celebration on March 4th at VFW Post 1503 Dale City. We are expecting the Commander-In-Chief Tim Borland, Nat'l SVC Duane Sarmiento, Nat'l JVC Al "The Real Deal" Lipphardt, Adjutant General Dan West and Adjutant Quartermaster General Marc Garduno. How's that

for an all-star lineup. Every member who attends will receive a beautiful limited-edition VFW Virginia Centennial Coin and all Posts in attendance, will receive their Post Centennial Medallion.

We are looking forward to our State Convention to be held June 1 - 4, 2023, in Portsmouth, VA. In this edition of the General Orders, you will see hotel and registrations information. You will also see flyers for the Commanders Club Luncheon (June 2nd) and the Commander's/President's Reception & Centennial Celebration (June 3rd). The latter is expected to be one of the biggest events of the year! This free event will include a buffet dinner, entertainment, free Centennial Coins, door prizes and many special guests. The theme for this event is an "All-American Celebration"; the dress is "Western Wear." We are planning to fill the Marriott Renaissance Ballroom, so be sure to get your RSVP in early.

Training & Administration: On February 4th we conducted State Adjutant-Quartermaster Training in Fredericksburg. State Adj/QM Ed Mann conducts this valuable technical training all across the state; training includes topics such as: receipts and expenditures, audits, inspections, State and National webpages, and Post/District Snapshots. If you are interested in getting some expert ADJ/QM Training please contact adj@vfwva.org. If you haven't already done so, please get your Community Reports submitted; correct your inspection discrepancies and continue to review All-State requirements for your Post/District.

We are currently at 96.4 percent in membership, needing 1,143 members to reach 100 percent. We have had a very strong showing this winter, thanks in part to our great Membership Team, increasing our lead over last year. We currently have more recruiters this year than at any time in recent memory. That means, many new recruiters are recruiting at least one new member. As our recruiting pool grows, our total numbers grow simultaneously. I encourage all leaders to start setting up your events for the spring recruiting surge, and all active members to recruit at least one new member. Let's sprint to the finish line and put the Department of Virginia over the top this spring! Have a great month.

Geoffrey Lyster
State Commander
Department of Virginia

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 ends March 31.

4. AWARDS:

MEMBERSHIP PLAQUES

Membership plaques will be presented at the State Convention to the Post with the largest numeric membership increase in each category. The judging will be based on Membership as of May 5, 2023.

- a. Category A – Posts with Membership of 10 thru 75
- b. Category B – Posts with Membership of 76 thru 150
- c. Category C – Posts with Membership of 151 thru 250
- d. Category D – Posts with Membership of 251 thru 500
- e. Category E – Posts with Membership of 501 or more

LIFE MEMBERSHIP INCREASE AWARD

A Life Membership increase award and \$200.00 will be awarded at State Convention to the Post with the greatest increase in Life members (must be at least 3 new Life members) in each category. The judging will be based on Life Membership as of May 5, 2023.

- a. Category A – Posts with Membership of 10 thru 75
- b. Category B – Posts with Membership of 76 thru 150
- c. Category C – Posts with Membership of 151 thru 250
- d. Category D – Posts with Membership of 251 thru 500
- e. Category E – Posts with Membership of 501 or more

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AWARD

A Membership Renewal Award will be awarded to each Post that renews ALL viable Annual Members on its unpaid list who were Annual Members the previous year by membership goal by May 5, 2023. Deceased members and conversions to Life Membership will not count against total.

POST 100% MEMBERSHIP AWARD

In addition, the respective Post Commander and Quartermaster will receive 100% Membership Pins and Tumblers if the Post meets its 2022-2023 100% membership goal by May 5, 2023. These awards will be presented at the Posts' respective District meetings.

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

The Post with the largest increase of new Legacy Life Members will receive a check in the amount of \$200.00. The judging will be based on Legacy Life Membership as of May 5, 2023. The award will be presented at the State Convention.

2022-2023 POST ALL-STATE REQUIREMENTS

There is no limit on the number of Posts that can be All-State.
All State Post Requirements:

1. The Post must meet their 100% Membership Quota by June 30, 2023
2. The Post Quartermaster must be bonded.
3. The Post must have been inspected and the Inspection Reports must be received by State Headquarters no later than 4pm on December 16, 2022, also with all documented discrepancies corrected by May 5, 2023, to complete this requirement.
4. The Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander, or Junior Vice Commander must attend each District meeting.
5. The Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander, or Junior Vice Commander must attend the School of Instruction.
6. The Post must send a Post Officer to the State Recruiting School.
7. All Audit Reports must be turned into State Headquarters as required by Section 218 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. Posts may not have more than one late report out of the four required.
8. The Post must purchase 500 Buddy Poppies per 100 members or fraction thereof.
9. The Post must donate to the Department **Virginia Veterans Foundation** (VVF) Posts with:
 - a. 500 or more members - \$135.00
 - b. 100 to 499 members - \$110.00
 - c. 99 members or less - \$85.00

10. The Post must have submitted the following reports at least **ONCE** during the first half of the year (May 1 thru October 31) and **ONCE** during the second half (November 1 thru April 30)

- a. Hospital Report
- b. Americanism Report
- c. Community Activities Report
- d. Safety Report
- e. Youth Activities Report

11. The Post must participate in at least 2 of the 3 following programs:

- a. Voice of Democracy Program (must submit a student to the District level for District judging)
- b. Patriot's Pen Program (must submit a student to the District level for District judging)
- c. Teacher of the Year Program (must submit at least one Teacher to the District Level for District judging)

12. The Post must recruit at least one new member.

Note1: Five (5) additional points towards the Captain of the All-State Team will be awarded to Posts submitting entries in all three programs.

Note2: One (1) additional point for each of the submission of an entry for EMT, Fireman, Law Enforcement, and/or Scout of the Year.

Note3: Posts will receive additional points towards the Captain of the All-State Team for membership. One fifth (1/5) of one (1) point will be assigned for each additional member above 100%.

Note4: Posts with less than 50 members are not eligible for the All-State Team. To be eligible Posts must increase their membership to 50 or more members.

Note5: A Post with less than 50 members who completes all other requirements of the All State program, achieves 100% in membership, but does not surpass 50 total members will be honored with a certificate and a check for \$300. Posts with less than 50 members are excluded from the requirement to recruit one new member. These Posts will each be known as a "Meritorious Post".

POST ALL STATE TEAM AWARDS

1. All-State Post Commanders who have met all the criteria, including membership, by May 5, 2023 (and have not received an All-State cap for this level of leadership since June 2020) will receive an All-State cap, an All-State pin and citation during the State Convention. Additionally, a check in the amount of \$300.00, to *assist* in payment of expenses while attending and participating at the State Convention will be presented to those Post Commanders who achieve the All-State award by May 5, 2023, and attend all required events at the State Convention. Time of payment will be at the discretion of the Department Commander. All-State Commanders meeting the criteria except for membership by May 5, 2023, and then meet the membership criteria by June 30, 2023 will receive a citation and an All-State pin at their next District meeting but will not receive any monetary award nor a cap.

2. All-State Post Quartermasters who have met all the criteria, including membership, by May 5, 2023 (and have not received an All-State cap for this level of leadership since June 2020) will receive an All-State cap, an All-State pin and citation during the State Convention. Additionally, a check in the amount of \$300.00, to *assist* in payment of expenses while attending and participating at the State Convention will be presented to those Post Quartermasters who achieve the All-State award by May 5, 2023, and attend all required events at the State Convention. Time of payment will be at the discretion of the Department Commander. All-State Quartermasters meeting the criteria except for membership by May 5, 2023, and then meeting the membership criteria by June 30, 2023 will receive a citation and an All-State pin at their next District meeting but will not receive any monetary award nor a cap.

3. From the All-State Team, the Post with the highest points in the All-State judging on May 5, 2023, will be designated as the Outstanding Post of the Year 2022-2023. The Commander and Quartermaster of that Post will be the Captains of the All-State Team.

4. The Awards and Citation Committee will break all ties and their decision will be considered the recommendation to the State Commander.

5. The State Commander shall make the final decision for all recommendations of awards and the decision shall be final.

2022-2023 DISTRICT ALL STATE REQUIREMENTS

There is no limit on the number of Districts that can be All-State.

All State District Requirements:

1. The District must meet their 100% Membership Quota by June 30, 2023
2. All Posts in the District and the District must be inspected; State Headquarters must receive the Inspection Reports no later than December 16, 2022, with all documented discrepancies corrected by May 5, 2023, to complete this requirement.
3. The District Quartermaster must be properly bonded.
4. All Audit Reports for the District must be turned into State Headquarters as required by the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.
5. All Posts in the District must have submitted the following reports at least **once** during the first half of the year (May 1 thru October 31) and **once** during the second half (November 1 thru April 30):
 - a. Hospital Report
 - b. Americanism Report
 - c. Community Activities Report
 - d. Safety Report
 - e. Youth Activities Report
6. The District must conduct a District School of Instruction by the end of September 2022. Department led School of Instruction meets the requirement of the terms stated above.
7. The District must donate \$100.00 to the Department Virginia Veterans Foundation (VVF).

DISTRICT ALL STATE DISTRICT AWARDS

1. All-State District Commanders who have met all the criteria including membership by May 5, 2023 (and have not received an All-State cap for this level of leadership since June 2020) will receive an All-State District Commander's cap, an All-State pin and an All-State Citation during the State Convention. All-State Commanders meeting the criteria, except for membership, by May 5, 2023, and then meet the membership criteria by June 30, 2023 will receive an All-State pin and Citation at their next District meeting but will not receive an All-State cap.
2. All-State District Commanders will receive a VFW jacket if all Posts within their District are 100% or more in membership by May 5, 2023.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

All individual recruiting awards will be awarded by using the National Recruiter Reports dated May 5, 2023. These awards will be presented at the State Convention. Annual members recruiting five (5) New or Reinstated Members will receive:

1. Their Annual Dues (National and Department portions) paid by the Department for the current year.
2. Their name and membership number will be entered in a drawing for a Life Membership.

Note1: For each additional five (5) members recruited, an additional entry will be made in the Life Membership Drawing.

The drawing for *the Life Membership* listed above will be conducted on the day of awards judging.

Life Members recruiting 5 New or Reinstated Members will receive:

- a. Name and membership number will be entered in a drawing for one level of Legacy Life membership equal to \$400.00 or \$200.00 cash if already a Gold member.

Note2: For each additional five (5) members recruited, an additional entry will be made in the drawing.

The drawing for the *Legacy Life Membership* award listed above will be conducted on the day of awards judging May 5, 2023

Members recruiting five (5) New or Reinstated Members will be entered in a drawing for:

- a. Round trip airfare to the 124th National Convention.
- b. Expense check in the amount of for \$599.00 to help defray expenses. Additionally, the winner will receive either the cost of round-trip airfare for one person or the actual cost of gas, not to exceed the cost of round-trip airfare for one person.

Note3: For each additional five (5) members recruited, an additional entry will be made in the drawing. The drawing for this award listed above will be conducted on the day of awards judging May 5, 2023.

POST COMMANDER MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Post Commanders who have their Post 100% in membership by Dec 31, 2022 will receive a Department Commanders jacket. Winners will be announced at Winter Council, jackets will be presented at a District Meeting.

INDIVIDUAL RECRUITER AWARDS

Individual recruiters will also receive for:

- a. 10 New or Reinstated Members – a Pen and Key Chain Set
- b. 20 New or Reinstated Members – State Commander's Challenge Coin
- c. 35 New or Reinstated Members – a Department Aide-de-Camp Recruiting cap and citation
- d. 50 New or Reinstated Members – State Commander's "Top State Recruiter" shirt
- e. 75 New or Reinstated Members – State Commander's jacket

These awards will be presented at the State Convention.

Note: Recruiters must meet the criteria by May 5, 2023, to receive cap, shirt and jacket at convention.

Note: Recruiters who have previously received an Aide-de-Camp cap will only receive citation

THE SAMUEL B. DeVAUGHAN MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

First Place: The Samuel B. DeVaughan Membership Award is presented to the member who recruits the most new and/or reinstated members of the 2023-2023 Membership Year. They will receive the following:

- a. A check in the amount of \$300.00 to help defray expenses of the State Convention.
- b. A Department citation.
- c. A distinctive cap and name badge
- d. A large trophy

There will be **2nd and 3rd place winners** awarded in this competition. The recruiters who finish in second and third place in new and/or reinstated member competition of the 2022-2023 Membership Year will receive the following:

- a. A Department citation.
- b. A large trophy

These awards will be presented at the State Convention.

THE GEORGE C. DALBY AWARD

The George C. Dalby Award is presented to any Post member for outstanding participation in VFW programs. Rules for this contest are sent to each Post in the spring. Deadline for submission to State Headquarters is the day prior to awards judging May 5, 2023. Post and District Commanders are excluded from this award. This award will be presented at the State Convention.

THE W. B. SHAFER, JR. MEMBERSHIP AWARD

The W.B. Shafer, Jr. Membership Award is presented to the Post making the greatest percentage gain in membership as shown by the State Membership Report dated the day prior to awards judging May 5, 2022. This award will be presented at the State Convention.

THE RICHARD A. (AL) GUAGER AMERICANISM AWARD

The Richard A. (Al) Guager Americanism Award is presented annually. Rules for this contest are sent to each Post in the spring. Deadline for submission to State Headquarters is by the day prior to awards judging May 5, 2023. This award will be presented at the State Convention. Posts placing second through tenth will receive a citation.

THE GEORGE E. McCracken Honor Guard/Color Guard Award

The George E. McCracken Honor Guard/Color Guard Award is presented to the most outstanding Post Honor Guard/Color Guard. Deadline for submission to State Headquarters is by the day prior to awards judging May 5, 2023. This award will be presented at the State Convention.

THE W. I. WOODDELL MEMORIAL POST QUARTERMASTER AWARD

The W. I. Wooddell Memorial Post Quartermaster Award is presented to the Post Quartermaster who has shown outstanding dedication to his Post and the Department. The Post Commander must send in a nominating letter on why the Post Quartermaster should be considered for Quartermaster of the year. Submission must be received the day prior to the awards judging May 5, 2023. The recipient is to be selected by a committee headed by the State Quartermaster. The award will consist of a custom lettered citation, plus a check in the amount of \$200.00 from the Department. This award will be presented at the State Convention.

THE ROBERT H. RINER AWARD

The Robert H. Riner Award is presented to the District Commander with the highest percentage gain in membership over the last year. Membership gain will be as shown by the State Membership Report dated the day prior to awards judging May 5, 2023. This award will be presented at the State Convention.

WILLIAM T. (BILL) ALLEN HOSPITAL AWARD

The William T. (Bill) Allen Hospital Award is presented to Posts with outstanding reporting of hospital work. The winning Posts will be determined by the State Hospital Chairman. These awards will be presented at the State Convention. Hospital award categories are:

- a. Category A – Posts with Membership of 10 thru 250
- b. Category B – Posts with Membership of 251 thru 500
- c. Category C – Posts with Membership of 501 or more

SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Scout of the Year Award is presented to the State Scout of the Year winner. A plaque and a \$500.00 monetary award will be presented. This award will be presented at the State Convention. In addition, each Post participating in the Scout Program will receive a citation.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECORD BOOK

The Community Service Record Book should be kept from May 1, 2022, to April 30, 2023 for State judging. Plaques will be awarded to the top three (3) entries at the State Convention. Special Citations will be awarded to the fourth through tenth places. Electronic submissions will be accepted this year. Electronic entries must be submitted on a thumb drive. All Posts entering a Community Service Record Book will have a chance to win a monetary award in the amount of \$200.00 if judged best overall entry in their respective membership category. One (1) check will be issued in each membership category.

- a. Category A – Posts with Membership of 10 thru 250
- b. Category B – Posts with Membership of 251 thru 500
- c. Category C – Posts with Membership of 501 or more

BUDDY POPPY CITATIONS

Buddy Poppy Citations will be presented to the District Commander whose District purchased the most Buddy Poppies and to District Commanders whose Districts had 100% participation in the Buddy Poppy Program. The

Post in each District that purchased the most Buddy Poppies will also be presented a citation. These awards will be presented at their next District Meeting.

5. BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:

All officers should obtain current 2023 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 2023 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 123rd National Convention, which becomes effective on August 20, 2022.

6. CALENDAR RAFFLE:

This year the calendar raffle becomes my responsibility. I wanted to do something a little different this year. This year I want to thank and welcome home all our Vietnam Veterans. This makes the calendar a little more personal to many comrades and Auxiliary Members to buy one for themselves or as a gift to a Vietnam veteran. I have discussed this idea at a few District meetings I have attended and everyone really likes the idea. The previous raffles have been successful, but I want to make this the best calendar raffle we have done so far. But I need your help. What I am looking for is to have your members (that are Vietnam veterans and belong to a Post in Virginia or Auxiliary member of a Vietnam veteran) send me a photo of them while they were in country along with their name, year in country, a brief description or quote for the photo and VFW Post number they belong to. They can send it to my email address (judge@vfwva.org). I look forward to seeing all the photos and I hope for an overwhelming response. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Douglas Hoffman
State Judge Advocate

7. DELINQUENT:

The following is a list of Posts that are still delinquent in Audits.

Dist.	Post	Audits	Dist.	Post	Audits
1	176	Dec	9	4667	Dec
2	993	Sept, Dec	12	8652	Dec
3	7167	Sept	12	9600	Sept, Dec
			13	2613	Dec
7	9292	Dec			

8. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1st Date: 5/6/23
Meeting: 11:00 AM
Location: Post 3219 Phoebus
122 E Mellen Street, Hampton
Rep: PSC Butch Schupska

2nd Date: 5/13/23
Lunch: Noon
Meeting: 1:00 PM
Location: Post 4809 Norfolk
5728 Bartee Street
Rep: State Inspector Charles Bush

3rd Date: 5/6/23
Meeting: 10:00 AM
Location: Post 9808 Mechanicsville
7168 Flag Lan
Rep: PSC Butch Schupska

4th Date: 5/13/23
Meeting: 11:00 AM
Location: Post 7059 Farmville
1616 Graham Road
Rep: St Chief-of-Staff Ken Wiseman

5 th	Date: 5/20/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep: State JVC Gary Adams	9 th	Date: 5/6/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4667 Marion 861 Goolsby Street Rep: St SVC Gary Adams
6 th	Date: 4/1/23 Meeting: Noon Location: Hosted by Post 5895 Buchanan at Post 1264 Roanoke 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: St Chief-of-Staff Ken Wiseman	10 th	Date: 3/26/23 Lunch: 11:30 AM Meeting: 1:00 PM Location: Post 1503 Dale City 14631 Minnieville Road Rep: State Commander Geoffrey Lyster
7 th	Date: 5/20/23 Lunch: 11:30 AM Meeting: To follow Lunch Location: Post 9760 Berryville 425 S. Buckmarsh Street Rep: St Chief-of-Staff Ken Wiseman	11 th	Date: 5/13/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 8644 Bridgewater 118 Dry River Road Rep: State JVC Mitch Rubenstein
8 th	Date: 4/15/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post Culpeper 12210 Sperryville Pike Rep: State Commander Geoffrey Lyster	12 th	Date: 4/1/23 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 9830 Damascus 23489 Mountain City Rd Rep: State Surgeon Mark Maggio
		13 th	Date: 5/13/23 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1827 Charlottesville 1170 River Road Rep: St Judge Advocate Doug Hoffman

9. 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.

10. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

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

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

Here are directions for logging into your new account for the first time.

1. Go to Department web site www.vfwva.org.
2. Click on 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 **VFW2022!** 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 cdrpost176@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 cdrdist1@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**

svdist1@vfwva.org
adjdist1@vfwva.org
qmdist1@vfwva.org

11. 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.

12. IMPORTANT DATES:

June 1 - 4, 2023	State Convention, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA; phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$149.00 per night. Group name "Virginia Department VFW & Auxiliary State Convention 2023"; Cut-off Date April 28, 2023.
July 22 - 27, 2023	National Convention, Phoenix, Arizona
November 1 - 4, 2023	Southern Conference, Tulsa, Oklahoma
January 12 - 14, 2023	Winter Council Meeting, Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA: phone 757-220-2250. Room Rates are \$89.00 per night. Group name "Veterans of Foreign Wars – Winter Council Meeting Group"; Cut-off Date December 11, 2023.
July 27 - Aug 1, 2024	National Convention, Louisville, Kentucky
August 9 - 14, 2025	National Convention, Columbus, Ohio

13. JOB OPENINGS:

Talent Acquisition Sourcing Lead – Americas is looking to hire veterans in the following positions and locations. Please the link for description and information.

Title	Req	Location	Link
Safety Service Patroller 1	J10080420	Virginia Beach	https://smrtr.io/cXWQt
Safety Service Patroller 1	J10075687	Fairfax	https://smrtr.io/cXWQt
Safety Service Patroller 1	J10080579	Colonial Heights	https://smrtr.io/c-DWh
Safety Service Patroller 1	J10079949	Edinburg VA, Staunton VA	https://smrtr.io/cTQ5C
Safety Service Patroller PT	J10068254	Staunton	https://smrtr.io/cbpcM
Control Room Operator	J10080580	Fairfax and Stafford	https://smrtr.io/c-DTS
Control Room Operator	J10075463	Virginia Beach	https://smrtr.io/cgbQq
Control Room Operator	J10073036	Colonial Heights	https://smrtr.io/cbFtS

14. LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

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

Enrollment Cost:

Levels

Gold- \$1,200.00
Silver- \$800.00
Bronze- \$400.00

Posts

\$18.00
\$12.00
\$6.00

Annual Payouts:

Departments

\$18.00
\$12.00
\$6.00

National

\$18.00
\$12.00
\$6.00

What will your Legacy be?

15. MEMBERSHIP:

Comrades and Commanders,

As we go into March, the Department has fared well through the harshest winter months. Now is the time to make plans to finish the year strong. With State Judging in May you want to reach all of your goals, especially membership, to make ALL STATE by then. I would like to thank all of the Posts and Districts that have met their Membership quota's by now.

If any Post would like help from the State Membership Team, please contact State H. Q. or any member of the Team for assistance. Keep working and we will all succeed.

Tom Hines PSC
Membership Team Chairman

16. NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING REGISTRATION:

124th National Convention housing officially opened February 17, 2023. 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 and links to other convention related information for Phoenix, Arizona – July 22-27, 2023, including a tentative agenda.

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 222 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, which provides that 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 National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee. Posts are encouraged to register their Post delegate(s) online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or by submitting their National Convention Post and Delegate Registration form that will be mailed to all Posts as part of the Election Report/Convention Registration mailing going out later this month. Registration forms for the 124th National Convention may be mailed to: Convention Registration, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

17. OFFICE CLOSURE:

Please note the Hopewell Service Office is temporarily closed.

18. 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) or they can complete the form and return directly to National Headquarters immediately following the election of Post Officers but not later than June 1.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. ROSTER CHANGES:

Eighth Dist QM Pro-Tem
Rick Raskin
8767 Bradley Forge Drive
Manassas, VA 20112
703-887-0076
qmdist8@vfwva.org

Lexington, VA 24450
540-319-3737
leihillier@gmail.com

Post 9292
Dues \$35.00

Post 1499 SVC
Apuleius Hillier
3162 W Midland Trl

Post 12200 Cmdr
Robert Estes
804-731-8312

Post 1499 QM
Brandon M. Jones
163 Poplar Hill Rd
Lexington, VA 24450
206-954-3501
qmpost1499@vfwva.org

Churchville, VA 24421
540-448-0511

Post 8902
Meeting Address
4801 Drakes Main Street
Drakes Branch, VA 23937

Post 8479 JVC
Gary Cook
1029 Buffalo Gap Hwy

22. VFW SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRAM:

This program was put in place to recognize VFW units for creating and completing unique and extraordinary community service projects.

Record book entry nominations that are found to be complete and well-substantiated should be endorsed by the Department Adjutant or VFW Department Community Activities Chairperson and forwarded to National Programs Department. Deadline for entries is April 30 of each year.

Every Post Special Project receiving the Award of Excellence in the May judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairperson's Guide.

23. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

I distributed most of my supply of commemorative lapel/hat pins at the Winter Council meeting in January. I have since received a resupply from the National Vietnam War Anniversary Commission so if anyone needs five or so for their Post/District, email me at cdrdist8@vfwva.org and I'll send them to you. As I reported in January (and also told the Commission), opportunities for large-scale presentation ceremonies (at least in Virginia) are becoming scarce. It's more a case of identifying individual Vietnam veterans and making sure they get the pin to which their service entitles them and I'm happy to act as a go-between.

This month's Vietnam War Congressional Medal of Honor winner is George E. "Bud" Day. Born in Sioux City, Iowa in 1925, he enlisted in the USMC in 1942. Day served 30 months in the North Pacific during World War II as a member of a 5-inch gun battery with the 3rd Defense Battalion on Johnston Island, but he never saw combat. He was discharged (the first time) on 24 November 1945. On 11 December 1946, Day joined the Army Reserve, serving until 10 December 1949. On 17 May 1950, Day received a direct commission as a second lieutenant in the Iowa Air National Guard. He was called to active duty on 15 March 1951 for undergraduate pilot training in the U.S. Air Force. He was awarded his pilot wings at Webb Air Force Base, Texas, in September 1952, continuing through December 1952 in All-Weather Interceptor School and Gunnery School. From February 1953 to August 1955 during the Korean War, Day served two tours as a fighter-bomber pilot, flying the Republic F-84 Thunderjet in the 559th Strategic Fighter Squadron. Promoted to captain, he decided to make the Air Force a career and was augmented into the Regular Air Force. He was assigned to the 55th Fighter Bomber Squadron. He then trained to fly the F-100 Super Sabre in 1957 while stationed at Royal Air Force Wethersfield in the United Kingdom through June 1959. During this time he was forced to bail out when his jet fighter caught fire. His parachute canopy failed to blossom, making him the first person to live through such an event. According to Day, a 30-foot pine tree cushioned his fall.

Anticipating retirement in 1968 and now a major, Day volunteered for a tour in South Vietnam and was assigned to the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing at Tuy Hoa Air Base in April 1967. At that time, he had more than 5,000 flying hours, with 4,500 of them in fighters. On 25 June 1967, with extensive previous service flying two tours in F-100s, Major Day was made the first commander of Detachment 1, 416th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 37th Tactical Fighter Wing based at Phu Cat Air Base. Under the project name *Commando Sabre*, twin-seat USAF F-100Fs were

evaluated as a Fast Forward Air Controller (Fast FAC) aircraft in high threat areas, given that F-4 Phantom II aircraft were in high demand for strike and Combat Air Patrol (CAP) roles. Using the call sign *Misty*, the name of Day's favorite song, his detachment of four two-seat F-100Fs and 16 pilots became pioneer "Fast FACs" over Laos and North Vietnam. All Misty FAC crews were volunteers with at least 100 combat missions in Vietnam and 1,000 minimum flight hours. On 26 August 1967, on his 65th mission into North Vietnam, 37 mm antiaircraft fire crippled his aircraft, forcing him to eject and leading to his capture. The events that followed are laid out in the Medal of Honor citation below:

On 26 August 1967, Colonel, then Major, Day was forced to eject from his aircraft over North Vietnam when it was hit by ground fire. His right arm was broken in 3 places, and his left knee was badly sprained. He was immediately captured by hostile forces and taken to a prison camp where he was interrogated and severely tortured. After causing the guards to relax their vigilance, Col. Day escaped into the jungle and began the trek toward South Vietnam. Despite injuries inflicted by fragments of a bomb or rocket, he continued southward surviving only on a few berries and uncooked frogs. He successfully evaded enemy patrols and reached the Bến Hải River, where he encountered U.S. artillery barrages. With the aid of a bamboo log float, Col. Day swam across the river and entered the demilitarized zone. Due to delirium, he lost his sense of direction and wandered aimlessly for several days. After several unsuccessful attempts to signal U.S. aircraft, he was ambushed and recaptured by the Viet Cong, sustaining gunshot wounds to his left hand and thigh. He was returned to the prison from which he had escaped and later was moved to Hanoi after giving his captors false information to questions put before him. Physically, Col. Day was totally debilitated and unable to perform even the simplest task for himself. Despite his many injuries, he continued to offer maximum resistance. His personal bravery in the face of deadly enemy pressure was significant in saving the lives of fellow aviators who were still flying against the enemy. Col. Day's conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Air Force and reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Armed Forces

While a prisoner, Day shared a cell with Navy Lieutenant Commander and future senator and presidential candidate John McCain. On 14 March 1973, Day was released after five years and seven months as a North Vietnamese prisoner. Within three days of his release, Day was reunited with his wife and four children at March Air Force Base, California. On 4 March 1976, President Gerald Ford awarded Day the Medal of Honor for his personal bravery while a captive in North Vietnam.

In addition to the Medal of Honor, Day's personal awards for bravery include the Air Force Cross, the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross; four awards of the Purple Heart; the Bronze Star Medal with "V" and three Oak Leaf Clusters; ten awards of the Air Medal; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" and three Oak Leaf Clusters and numerous service and campaign medals including the Vietnam Service Medal with two silver and four bronze campaign stars.

He'd earned his JD degree prior to the Vietnam war and, upon retirement, returned to practicing law in Shalimar FL. Day passed away in July 2013 and was interred in the Barrancas National Cemetery in Pensacola. Colonel Day was advanced posthumously to Brigadier General in June 2018 in a ceremony attended by numerous dignitaries including his former cellmate John McCain. Bud Day is considered the most decorated airman in history.

Jeff Dombroff
Vietnam War Commemoration Committee Chairman

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Geoffrey D. Lyster
State Commander



Veterans of Foreign Wars
 Department of Virginia
 CDR/ Reception
 & Centennial Celebration

- **Why:** *To Honor the Department Commander & President and Virginia 100th Anniv.*
- **Date/Time:** Saturday, June 3, 2023; 5:30 PM 9:00 PM
- **Location:** Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel, 425 Water St, Portsmouth, VA
- **Cost:** Free (to all VFW & Auxiliary and their families)
- **Dress:** (wear your Cowboy hat; western boots, bolo tie & big belt buckle)
- **Entertainment:** Famous DJ and Featured Speakers
- **Contests:** Awards for Best Dancers; Best Western Outfit
- **Giveaways:** Free Limited Edition Dept. of Virginia Centennial Coin to all attendees.
- **Raffles:** Super 50/50 Drawing; Baskets of Cheer Raffles
- **Menu:** *Famous C Buffet!*

YOU
 FOR
 CENTENNIAL

Salad Shakers: Like out on the Trail includes: Mixed green salads, tomatoes, croutons, goat cheese, spiced pecans, cranberries, roasted peach vinaigrette; assorted dressings

Entrees:

-Texas Barbecue Pork Ribs

-All-Day Smoked Beef Brisket with Kentucky Bourbon BBQ Sauce

Side Dishes: Southern sweet potato casserole; grilled vegetables; garlic red bliss potatoes

Dessert: Assorted Chesapeake mini-dessert shooters, strawberry lemonade cheesecake, Campfire Smores, assorted southern style mini-bundt cakes, crème brule

-Served with fresh baked rolls & butter, freshly brewed gourmet coffee and exotic herbal teas

RSVP to the link by May 27, 2023:

https://VFW_VA_100_Portsmouth.eventbrite.com

Hampton Roads Area
 Centennial Celebration
 All local VFW/Aux Welcome!

Centennial Celebration

*An All-American Salute to Veterans
 The Biggest Veteran Event of the Year!!*

Hospitality Room
 open prior to the
 event And After!



Country Line Dancing

Dept. of Virginia
 Veterans of
 Foreign Wars
 1923-2023

100TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
 DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA
 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
 RENAISSANCE PORTSMOUTH-NORFOLK WATERFRONT HOTEL
 PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA
 JUNE 1– 4, 2023

Eugene Chavis
 Convention Chairman

Kathy Goodall
 Convention Vice Chairman

Tentative Subject to Change

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,
 June 1, 2023**

11:00 AM	NOON	COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING	PORTSMOUTH IV
10:00 AM	4:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	PORTSMOUTH FOYER
12:30 PM	1:30 PM	VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION MEETING	PORTSMOUTH IV
2:30 PM	4:00 PM	JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICES	PORTSMOUTH V-VIII
6:00 PM	9:00 PM	JOINT PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	PORTSMOUTH V-VIII

**Friday,
 June 2, 2023**

8:00 AM	5:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	PORTSMOUTH FOYER
9:00 AM	11:00 AM	OPENING SESSION	PORTSMOUTH V-VIII
11:30 AM	2:00 PM	COMMANDERS CLUB LUNCHEON	PORTSMOUTH I-III
2:30 PM	5:00 PM	BUSINESS SESSION (NOMINATION OF STATE OFFICERS)	PORTSMOUTH IV
7:00 PM	9:00 PM	WOMEN VETERANS FORUM	

**Saturday,
 June 3, 2023**

7:30 AM	9:00 AM	PAST STATE COMMANDERS/PRESIDENTS BREAKFAST	HOLLEY BALLROOM I-III
8:30 AM	10:30 AM	REGISTRATION, VFW	PORTSMOUTH FOYER
9:30 AM	11:00 AM	BUSINESS SESSION	PORTSMOUTH IV
11:00 AM	1:00 PM	ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS	PORTSMOUTH IV
NOON		VFW RIDERS BIKE SHOW	GARAGE TOP FLOOR
1:00 PM	3:00 PM	MOC SCRATCH	PORTSMOUTH I-II
3:00 PM	4:00 PM	VFW RIDERS MEETING	AMPHITHEATER
5:30 PM	9:00 PM	COMMANDERS RECEPTION & CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION	HOLLEY BALLROOM

**Sunday,
 June 4, 2023**

9:00 AM	9:30 AM	JOINT DEVOTIONAL SERVICE	PORTSMOUTH I-II
9:30 AM	12:00 PM	NEW DISTRICT COMMANDERS SCHOOL	AMPHITHEATER
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	COUNCIL MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DISTRICT COMMANDER'S SCHOOL	AMPHITHEATER

Registration \$3.00 (All VFW members are required to register in advance as delegates from their Post)

SATURDAY RECEPTION/DANCE WILL BE FREE TO ALL ATTENDING THE STATE CONVENTION

HOSPITALITY ROOMS
 State – Commodore Room **

Limited Edition

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia

Centennial Anniversary KA-BAR Knife

Celebrating 100 years
Only 100 made
\$100 each



To get yours contact State Headquarters.

(540) 886-8112

Shipping Charges may apply.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA
AMERICANISM
RECORD BOOK GUIDELINES
Post Americanism Record Book Program

There will be a Post somewhere that will be recognized for their efforts in Americanism.

How will this recognition be earned? By participating in the Americanism Program and by being the “Outstanding” Americanism Post in the Department. From the entries received the Post selected number one will receive a trophy at Department Convention. The Post placing second through ten will receive a Department Citation.

The rules governing this completion are relatively simple.

1. To qualify a winner at the Department level, the Post must be selected by the Department’s Awards Committee.
2. After judging the Americanism Book can be picked up at State Headquarters. Any Books left will be taken to the State Convention where it must be picked up. **No** Books will be brought back from the State Convention.
3. Selection by the Department shall be based on Americanism projects performed during May 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023.
4. For the Post to qualify as an entrant, it must be reported in Americanism for the current year.
5. In order for the judges to have something on which to base their decision, some form of substantiating data (newspaper clippings, photographs, correspondence, etc.) must accompany each entry. All substantiating data should be organized into a record book format.

You should record the following programs and any other Americanism Projects completed in your entry.

Independence Day

Parades

Loyalty Day

Legislative Program

Buddy Poppy Education Program

Flag Presentation

Voice of Democracy

POW/MIA Program

Veterans Day

Memorial Day Services

Other Patriotic Holidays

Citizenship Education Programs

Flag Day

Post and District Americanism Chairmen have to begin their program early because the Department entry must be received at Department Headquarters no later than 4:00 pm May 5, 2023.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES 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.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE POST

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 5/1/22 Total Hours (Volunteered)

Total Funds Used/Donated

Total Post Members as of 4/1/23

Total Auxiliary Members as of 4/1/23

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) _____

RULES FOR CONTEST
GEORGE C. DALBY PERPETUAL TROPHY
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

- 1. Post Commanders and District Commanders are excluded from this award because other awards have been set up for them.**
- 2. Contest will run from Convention to Convention - the award to be made at the Annual Department Convention and based on:**
 - A. Number of dues collected;**
 - B. Hospital Visits - (visits to Comrades in hospitals and in homes);**
 - C. Community Activities: Number of projects participated in and what part the contestant performed;**
 - D. Youth Activities: Number of projects in which the contestant participated in and what she/he did;**
 - E. What part the contestant took in Buddy Poppy sales;**
 - F. How much time was lost from work in each project;**
 - G. How much money contestant spent in attending meetings out of her/his area in which she/he was not reimbursed; and**
 - H. Approximately the time, money, and miles traveled in performing tasks beyond the call of duty.**
- 3. Nominee from each Post to be submitted to the District Commander, who will appoint a committee of at least three members to select the winner in her/his District. Each District Commander will be responsible for forwarding the application of the winner in her/his District to Department Headquarters.**

****ENTRIES MUST BE AT STATE HEADQUARTERS BY MAY 5, 2023 by 4:00 PM.**

GEORGE C. DALBY PERPETUAL TROPHY
NOMINATION BLANK
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

Name of Comrade (Post Commanders and District Commanders excluded):

Post Number: _____ Address: _____

A. Number of dues collected: _____

B. Hospital Visits (visits to Comrades in hospitals and in homes):

C. Community Activities (number of projects participated in what part the contestant performed):

D. Youth Activities (number of projects in which the contestant participated and what she/he did):

E. What part the contestant took in the Buddy Poppy Sales: _____

F. How much time missed from work in each project: _____

G. How much money contestant spent in attending meetings out of her/his area in which she/he was not reimbursed:

H. Approximately the time, money, and miles traveled in performing tasked beyond the call of duty: _____

REMARKS:

**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.,
May 5, 2023 for the STATE AWARD JUDGING.**

The Military Order of the Cootie is recognized as a subordinate and auxiliary order to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. It shall be **considered as the "Honor Degree" of the parent organization and shall be** governed by and under the control of the National Convention, the National Council of Administration, and the Commander-in-Chief.

Our service program is described as a directive to "Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White." Each year the Cooties volunteer thousands of hours of time worth over ten million dollars to Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) hospitals and domiciliaries throughout the United States. This work, in addition to the hours of service donated as active members of the VFW, set the members of the MOC apart as Foreign Service and Combat Veterans who are fully engaged in their communities.

Eligibility is determined through being active members for at least 6-months in a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and through completion of satisfactory service on a Post committee or satisfactory performance of Post duties or participating actively as a leader of post functions.

If you are interested in learning more about what it takes to become a Cootie reach out to grandcdr@vfwva.org.

"Neb"

Ben Guinan

Commander, 2022-2023
Grand of Virginia
Military Order of the Cootie





Charles H. Bush, Jr.

Candidate for the High Office of VFW State Surgeon 2023-24

Comrades, my name is Charles Bush, and I am running for State Surgeon. With your help, I want to bring learning, knowledge, recognition, and creditability to each position. I'm passionate about supporting our veterans, impacting our communities with good deeds, honoring our teachers and educators, engaging with our first responders, and encouraging youth activities by setting the example of a good American to all.

My goals are to continue improving our work on the business and administration side of our organization, grow membership and find a way to improve membership retention (I think we are missing out on grooming our next set of VFW leaders). Continue to make the VFW a strong voice for veterans. Create a strategic plan to visualize these goals along with your feedback, comments, and support. On the VFW membership side, embrace the family culture by enhancing members' experiences through recognition and increased learning. We, the VFW family, can uphold the VFW's outstanding achievements of the past with future process improvements.

My eligibility includes joining the Marine Corps and serving two combat tours, Desert Storm/Desert Shield in 1990 and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) in 2003, also deployments in South Korea.

My qualification includes joining the VFW organization as a Life Member in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, in 1997 while on active duty, transferring to Post 3103 Fredericksburg in 2009, and being appointed as the Senior Vice Commander pro temp in 2009 and elected to Post Commander in 2010-2011. Served on the District Eight Staff for over eight years, designated as the Inspector, and elected JVC, SVC. I was elected District 8 Commander and achieved All-State and All-American District Commander as District Commander for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. In 2019 all five posts made 100% membership, and two of five posts made All-American and All-State.

I'm currently serving as the State Inspector. In my positions working with the Posts, Districts, and the State, I have accumulated experience in the business of the VFW. I am ready to serve my comrades at the state surgeon level.

I am a learning member of the State Resolution Committee and the current President of the Commanders Club. I am also a member of the Past Post Commanders Council for Post 3103.

I'm currently employed by the Marine Corps Systems Command as a civilian employee since 2012, working in Acquisition Logistics. My wife Danielle is also a veteran and lifetime member of VFW Post 3103.

Born and raised in Mobile, Alabama (LA Lower Alabama), and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps from June 1981 until July 2011. With over 30 years of active duty military service and achieved the highest enlisted technical rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant/E-9 (MGySgt) in the Tactical Field and Garrison Communications MOS, starting as a basic field wireman to Communications Chief.

My father was Army Vietnam Veteran Airborne; my grandfathers were Veterans, and eight great uncles joined the military. I grew up around veterans and enjoyed the benefits as a dependent of a 100% disabled veteran (father). Now I have the opportunity to serve as a veteran in this organization. Together, Let's keep moving forward!

In Peace and Comradeship, Charles Bush, 540.907.5292 (cell), charlesbush2259@gmail.com.

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



**PHOENIX WEB VERSION
PRE-REGISTRATION BROCHURE
July 22-27,2023**

Note: This information will be updated periodically.

WELCOME TO PHOENIX

It's time to go beyond. Follow trails that reveal mighty mountaintops. Wander among iconic landscapes beneath picture-perfect skies. Let the Sonoran Desert be your guide to limitless adventure. Downtown Phoenix is where you'll find sports arenas, live music, rooftop lounges, museums, theaters, art galleries and more than 200 restaurants. Historic neighborhoods like Roosevelt Row and Grand Avenue share an urban footprint with modern marvels like CityScape and the Phoenix Convention Center.

CONVENTION LOCATION

Convention activities will take place at the Phoenix Convention Center located at 100 North Third Street, (downtown) Phoenix, 85004.

LOCATION

Phoenix is a place where it's easy to migrate between high culture and low, resort escapes and local hangouts, outdoor adventure, and poolside lounging. Start planning your trip at VisitPhoenix.com or [order a travel guide here](#).

WHAT TO WEAR

A general guideline for attire for the convention is business casual for meetings. For VFW members, it is always appropriate to have your cap on hand for meetings. Jackets are not required unless you are, All American Commanders) and may be on stage to receive your award as photographs are taken during those functions.

AIRPORT

Sky Harbor, dubbed America's Friendliest Airport, is the main airport for the Greater Phoenix area. Sky Harbor serves more than 120 domestic and international destinations. With 1,200 daily flights—about 500 of them nonstop—Sky Harbor is one of the most convenient airports in the United States. Sky Harbor is only 4 miles from Phoenix Convention Center and can be accessed via rideshare, taxi, or [public transportation like Light Rail](#).

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Convenient transportation to and from the airport comes by way of PHX Sky Train. This driverless people mover transports Valley Metro Rail passengers to the airport from the 44th Street/Washington Street station. There passenger can take Valley Metro Rail to downtown Phoenix. The 28-mile line links Phoenix to the neighboring communities of Tempe and Mesa, and includes stops at attractions such as Phoenix Art Museum, Heard Museum, Chase Field, Footprint Center and Tempe's Mill Avenue.

PARKING

Check with your assigned hotel for parking availability and costs. Parking information, costs etc., for the convention center can be accessed via this link <https://www.phoenixconventioncenter.com/parking>

REGISTRATION PACKET PICK-UP

See mobile APP for times and locations of registration/packet pick-up. Registration for both VFW for Auxiliary, Hall 5-6.

Note: *Want to miss the crowds/lines and pick-up your name badge & packets early? Try Remote Registration. Both the VFW and Auxiliary will have remote registration for those who are **PRE-REGISTERED ATTENDEES ONLY**. You will be able to do that at the VFW Headquarter hotel, **Hyatt Regency Phoenix** and the Auxiliary Headquarter hotel, **Renaissance**.*

PACKET PICK-UP

VFW - if you are not pre-registered, you will need to go to Hall 5-6 at the convention center on Saturday, July 22 starting at 8a to register and pick-up your convention packet.

VFW & Auxiliary 'remote' **pre-registration**: Friday, July 21, 9a-5p
Renaissance - Locations/times: **Lobby**

VFW & Auxiliary 'remote' **pre-registration**. Friday, July 21, 9a-5p
Hyatt Regency Phoenix- Locations/times: **Lobby**

MOBILE APP

We will NOT be publishing a convention schedule of events in hard-copy. All events and convention information will be contained in the Mobile APP. Go to www.vfw.org/convention for instructions on how to download the mobile APP which will be closer to the dates of the convention. The mobile APP provides immediate updates on any changes that may occur during the convention.

SHUTTLES

The hotels in Phoenix are located in the downtown area and within walking distance from the convention center. Therefore, a **limited shuttle service** will be provided. The following is a **tentative** schedule of days the shuttle will operate. Specific times will be found in the convention mobile app. If you require special transportation (handicap/scooter/wheelchair), contact the shuttle provider at the number provided in the mobile APP event schedule. A final shuttle schedule will be included on the Mobile APP and will be updated on the VFW convention web page prior to the convention dates.

Saturday, July 22, 2023

7a-8p

Sunday, July 23, 2023

7a-5p

Monday, July 24, 2023

7a-6p

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

7a-9p

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

7a-5p

Thursday, July 27, 2023

7a-6:30p

(refer to convention mobile app for complete schedule including pick-up and drop-off points)

HOTEL INFORMATION

Housing opens **2/17/23** and closes **6/21/23**. Go to www.vfw.org at the convention website. The official convention hotels for the 124th National convention are listed on the convention web site.

HOTEL PARKING

Check with your assigned hotel regarding parking availability and costs. Parking charges are set by the individual hotels and are not representative of fees charged by the VFW/Auxiliary.

LUGGAGE STORAGE

If you wish to store your luggage at the hotel before you check in, or after checking out before departure, please make arrangements with guest services.

PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER

Note the Phoenix Convention Center is a 'Cash-less' facility. You will need to pay for any concessions with a credit or debit card. There are 'reverse ATMs' located throughout the convention center. You may put in cash and receive a VISA Card to use at no-charge. Upon leaving Phoenix, any remaining \$\$ on your card can be used anywhere VISA is accepted. Locations for the Reverse ATMS will be published ahead of the convention.

HYDRATION WHILE IN PHOENIX

Please note there are 'water bottle' filling stations located around the center. We encourage you to bring your own water bottles. If you choose not to do that, there will be other options for hydration at the convention center.

GRATUITIES

You are responsible for all gratuities during your stay. Tipping is personal, as a guideline, we recommend gratuities of \$1 per day for your housekeeper and \$1 per bag for taxicab drivers and hotel bell-staff.

PHONE MESSAGES

Messages may be left with the hotel operator, who will make sure you get them as soon as you return to your hotel. In case of emergency, call the VFW National Headquarters 816-756-3390.

SAFETY TIPS (See hotel information located in room)

SPECIAL SERVICES

First Aid Room Location Phoenix Convention Center -Thursday, July 7/20-Thursday, July 27
Emergency--Emergency after hour's numbers provided before convention or call 911.

Scooter rental –Scooter rental information is listed on the convention web page.

If you have not been vaccinated for COVID-19, we encourage you to wear a mask while in attendance of the convention.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Check with VISIT Phoenix for locations of local churches, synagogues, etc. for services. VFW will conduct a Catholic Mass on Saturday, July 22 and Sunday morning, July 23 at the convention center. Protestant service will be held on Saturday 7/22 at 6p in the Convention Center. *Check Mobile APP for locations.*

QUIET ROOM

A QUIET ROOM for reflection will be open 24 hours at the Phoenix Convention Convention Center – *Check Mobile APP for location.*

MOTHERS ROOM

A mothers room will be located on-site at the convention center - *Check Mobile APP for location.*

AGENDA

See tentative web agenda at www.vfw.org 124th VFW National Convention information. A final agenda will be provided within the mobile APP and can be found by downloading the VFW Mobile APP approximately 2 weeks before the convention. Please note a Schedule of Events will **NOT** be printed. If you are unable to download the *Mobile App*. Please pickup a printed copy of the agenda at registration.

VISITOR INFORMATION PHOENIX

Phoenix Deals & Discounts

The deals are instantly delivered to your phone via text message or email, and you can use them right then and there – just show your coupon. So go eat, drink and play in Phoenix, and let our city surprise you.

Experience the best of downtown Phoenix by seeing these highlights!

Things to Do in Downtown: <https://www.visitphoenix.com/stories/post/things-downtown-phoenix/>

Roosevelt Row: <https://www.visitphoenix.com/greater-phoenix/phoenix/downtown-phoenix/roosevelt-row/>

Cityscape: <https://www.visitphoenix.com/greater-phoenix/phoenix/downtown-phoenix/cityscape-area/>

Attractions Closest to Downtown

Phoenix Art Museum <http://www.phxart.org>

Heard Museum <http://www.heard.org>

Arizona Science Center <http://www.azscience.org>

Desert Botanical Gardens <https://dbg.org/>

Explore Greater Phoenix during your stay:

Shopping (Biltmore Fashion Park & Scottsdale Fashion Square closest to Downtown):

<https://www.visitphoenix.com/things-to-do/shopping/>

Local Boutiques <https://www.visitphoenix.com/stories/post/where-to-shop-for-local-phoenix-goods/>

Dining <https://www.visitphoenix.com/things-to-do/restaurants/>

Museums <https://www.visitphoenix.com/things-to-do/arts-culture/museums/>

Sightseeing: <https://www.visitphoenix.com/things-to-do/tours/>

Bringing your family? Here are family-friendly activities sure to be a hit with all ages:

Purchase an [attraction pass here](#)

Children's Museum Downtown <http://www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org>

Arizona Science Center Downtown <http://www.azscience.org>

Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament <https://www.medievaltimes.com/scottsdale>

Mavrix <https://www.mavrix.com>

Main Event <https://www.mainevent.com>

Arizona Boardwalk (Aquarium, Butterfly Wonderland, etc) <https://www.azboardwalk.com/>

VISITOR CENTER

Please visit the Visit Phoenix visitor center on the sixth floor of the One Arizona Center building in the Arizona Center 400 E. Van Buren St., Ste. 600, Phoenix. We are open Monday thru Friday 10 AM to 4 PM.

Visitors can also you the [online chat here](#) or email visitors@visitphoenix.com.

DOWNTOWN AMBASSADORS



Downtown's roving hospitality team is on duty seven days a week, 365 days a year to help you — whether that means walking you to your hotel or simply offering directions. Ambassadors are on-foot or bike in areas of high pedestrian activity. Look for the folks wearing orange shirts with “ASK ME” on the back or call 602-495-1500. Complimentary services provided include:

- Walking Escorts
- Car Battery Jumps
- Umbrella Escorts
- Restaurant Recommendations
- Personalized Tours
- Entertainment Info

TENTATIVE AGENDA

VFW 124th National Convention Phoenix, AZ Phoenix Convention Center July 22-27, 2023

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 21, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Remote registration – VFW/Auxiliary – Hyatt
Regency/Renaissance
Note: *If registered, you can pick-up your badge at either
hotel, if not, you will need to come to registration on
Saturday at the convention center.*

Saturday, July 22, 2023

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. VFW Health Fair
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. VFW/Registration/Exhibits
8:30 a.m. National Veterans Service Advisory Committee
10:00 a.m. Budget and Finance Committee
1:30 p.m. National Council of Administration Meeting
4:00 p.m. Eastern Conference Caucus
4:00 p.m. Southern Conference Caucus
4:00 p.m. Big Ten Conference Caucus
4:00 p.m. Western Conference Caucus
6:00 p.m. Catholic Mass
6:00 p.m. Protestant Service

Sunday, July 23, 2023

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. VFW Health Fair
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. VFW Registration/Exhibits
7:00 a.m. Catholic Mass
8:30 a.m. Annual Memorial Service
10:00 a.m. Membership Seminar
10:00 a.m. VFW Programs, VMS Committee, Town Hall Meeting -
10:00 a.m. VFW Riders National Advisory Committee
11:00 a.m. Update on VFW Legislative Priority Goals
11:00 a.m. VFW Post Service Officer Training
12:30 p.m. First Time Attendees Welcome Orientation
1:00 p.m. VFW Programs Town Hall

Committee Meetings:

2:00 p.m. National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual -
2:00 p.m. Finance and Internal Organization (200 series)
2:00 p.m. General Resolutions (300 Series)
2:00 p.m. National Security and Foreign Affairs (400 series)
Sub Committee – POW/MIA
2:00 p.m. National Veterans Service Resolutions (600 series)
Sub-committee – Health
Sub-committee – Benefits
Sub-committee – Economic Opportunity/Other
4:00 p.m. Membership Seminar – Post Development
4:30 p.m. Department Adjutant Quartermasters Association Meeting -

Monday, July 24, 2023

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. VFW Health Fair
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. VFW Registration/Exhibits
8:00 a.m. Joint Opening Session
(Business session will resume after lunch break)
1:00 p.m. VFW Outstanding Community Service Luncheon
4:30 p.m. Department Adjutant Quartermasters Reception *(by invitation)*

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. VFW Health Fair
8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. VFW Registration/Exhibits
8:00 a.m. VFW Business Session
1:00 p.m. Department Commanders Luncheon – (by invitation) –
1:00 p.m. 2023-2024 Senior Vice Commanders, Senior Vice
Presidents Luncheon (by invite only)
1:00 p.m. 2023-2024 Junior Vice Commanders, Junior Vice
President’s Luncheon (by invite only)
1:00 p.m. Parliamentary Procedure Discussion
1:00 p.m. Update on Federal Benefits and Services for Veterans
1:00 p.m. Grant Seeking & Fundraising Ideas for VFW Posts
2:00 p.m. Parliamentary Procedure Discussion
1:00 p.m. Chaplains Workshop
5:15 p.m. Parade Line-up
6:00 p.m. Patriotic Rally & Entertainment

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	VFW Health Fair
8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	VFW Registration/Exhibits
8:00 a.m.	Business Session /Nomination of Officers
1:00 p.m.	All American Commanders Luncheon (ticketed event)
1:00 p.m.	VFW National Home Workshop
3:30 p.m.	New Council of Administration Member Training

Thursday, July 27, 2023

8:00 a.m.	Business Session: Election/Installation of National Officers National Council of Administration Meeting <i>(Following business session)</i>
4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.	Commander-in-Chief's and National President's Reception (ticketed event) – Sheraton Hotel Phoenix

Updated: 2/1/23