



“Of the Veterans and For the Veterans”

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March 1, 2025
Staunton, Virginia 24401
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GUIDE TO THE GO:

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1. COMMANDER’S MESSAGE:

Comrades,

As I’m sitting in my office (Man Cave) the snow is falling once again, I love the winter and snow so that doesn’t bother me, my concern is the members of this organization that are not mobile and cannot get outside due to the weather. I encourage all members to check on each other especially during these times. See if they need anything or just to say hello, let them know you care about them.

February has been a busy month but a productive one. **Congratulations** to the 20 Posts that have reached 100% and beyond, and the many Posts approaching 100%, great job to this point. As a Department, we are over 94% and need over 2,400 members to make our goal of 102%. Reaching 95% before the end of February would be a major boost, while the weather is not on our side use this time to make calls, and get the one’s that may have gotten away, the renewals, and think out of the box to convince the Annual members to go to a Life Membership. The Membership Team is here to assist you if needed or to help you get there.

As a reminder, read the G.O.’s and look at the National Day of Service and follow the guidelines, check the All-State and All-American checklists and keep working hard to check all the boxes. You heard me say this last month, but it needs to be said again, March 2-6 is the DC Conference, the National C-I-C, Al Lipphardt, would love to see as many VFW members as possible standing at the steps of Congress and walking the halls to speak to your Congressional Representatives. The National C-I-C is scheduled to testify on Tuesday, March 4th members attending should wear their VFW caps.

Saturday, March 22nd is the Homecoming for Dawn Kuhn, the State Auxiliary President and myself will be held at Post 2447, in Edinburg. We hope that you will attend, check the G.O.'s it has all the details, and hotel information, the flyer is listed in the attachments. **You must Contact Liz Wilson** at lizwilson3456@gmail.com to register for this free event **before March 10, 2025, the hotel is taking reservations requests now at a special rate until February 21, 2025.**

Please see the attachment with regards to the **President's Special Project** "The Barns at Blue Mountain" as we help Dawn raise money through donations to reach her target amount.

Thank you all, for everything you continue to do for Veterans and their families. Until next month, be well and stay warm.

Yours in Comradeship, and Service,
Mitch Rubenstein
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. AUDIT REPORTS:

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 **Friday, May 9, 2025.**

Category A – Posts with Membership of **10 thru 75**

Category B – Posts with Membership of **76 thru 150**

Category C – Posts with Membership of **151 thru 250**

Category D – Posts with Membership of **251 thru 500**

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 the 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 **Friday, May 9, 2025.**

Category A – Posts with Membership of **10 thru 75**

Category B – Posts with Membership of **76 thru 150**

Category C – Posts with Membership of **151 thru 250**

Category D – Posts with Membership of **251 thru 500**

Category E – Posts with Membership of **501 or more**

2024-2025 POST ALL-STATE REQUIREMENTS

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

1. The Post must meet their **101% Membership Quota by May 9, 2025, and recruit Three (3) New members, to be recognized**. Achieving 101% after **May 9, 2025**, will be recognized at the next District Meeting (**NO Exceptions**).
2. All Post personnel with access to the assets must be bonded.
3. The Post must have been inspected and the Inspection Reports must be received by State Headquarters no later than **4:00pm on December 13, 2024**, also with all documented discrepancies corrected by **Friday, May 9, 2025**, to complete this requirement.
4. The Post Commander, Quartermaster, and Adjutant must sign into the department email and send one (1) email to either cdr@vfwva.org or mrubenstein@vfwva.org no later than **October 1, 2024**. It is each Post Commander, Quartermaster, and Adjutant's responsibility to ensure this is met and it will be visible in the Online Reports.
5. A minimum of **any, one (1) of all Post officers** must attend each District Meeting and it is highly recommended that every Post officer attending bring at least one (1) up-and-coming member who demonstrates the ability, enthusiasm, and qualities, to be a future officer in your post. **We need to Mentor our officers of the future.**
Note: In the past we have required at least one of the top 5 Post officers to attend District Meetings. That is not a requirement this year as stated above.
6. The Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster or Adjutant must attend the **School of Instruction (SOI)**, this is for your benefit as a learning experience.
7. The Post must send a **Post Member** to the **State Recruiting School of Instruction (RSOI)** (preferably a member from the post membership/recruiting team) that should be listed on your Membership Plan.
8. **All Quarterly 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.
9. The Post must purchase **500 Buddy Poppies per 100 members** or fraction thereof.
10. The Post must donate to the Department Virginia Veterans Foundation (VVF) Posts with:
 - 99 members or less - \$150.00** – For every \$150 above the donation will earn (1) Team Point
 - 100 to 399 members - \$300.00** – For every \$300 above the donation will earn (1) Team Point
 - 400 or more members - \$400.00** – For every \$400 above the donation will earn (1) Team Point
11. The Post must have submitted the following reports **at least once a quarter** by **Sept 30, 2024, Dec 31, 2024, Mar 31, 2025, and June 30, 2025**.
 - Americanism Report
 - Community Activities Report
 - Safety Report
 - Youth Activities Report
 - Hospital Report
12. The Post must participate **in at least 2 of the 4** following programs:
 - Patriot's Pen Program** (must submit a student to the district level for district judging).
 - Voice of Democracy Program** (must submit a student to the district level for district judging).
 - JROTC, Sea Cadets, and Civil Air Patrol** (must submit a student to the district level for district judging).
 - Teacher of the Year Program** (Post must submit at least one Teacher to the district level for district judging).
13. The Post must reach **101% on Memstats by June 30, 2025**.
Note 1: Five (5) additional points towards the Captain of the All-State Team will be awarded to Posts submitting entries in all four (4) programs.
Note 2: Five (5) additional points for each of the submission of an entry for EMT, EOD Technician, Fireman, Law Enforcement, 911 Dispatcher, and/or Scout of the Year.

Note 3: 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 101%.

Note 4: Posts with less than 50 members are now eligible for the All-State Team.

POST ALL STATE TEAM AWARDS

1. All-State Post Commanders who have met all the criteria, including membership, by **Friday, May 9, 2025** (and have not received an All-State cap for this level of leadership since June 2019) 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 **Friday, May 9, 2025**, 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 **Friday, May 9, 2025**, and then meet the membership criteria by **Monday, June 30, 2025**, 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 101% membership, by **Friday, May 9, 2025** (and have not received an All-State cap for this level of leadership since June 2019) 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 **Friday, May 9, 2025**, and attend all required events at the State Convention. Time of payment will be at the discretion of the Department Commander.
3. All-State Quartermasters meeting the criteria except for membership by **Friday, May 9, 2025**, and then meeting the membership criteria by **Monday, June 30, 2025**, will receive a citation and an All-State pin at their next District meeting but will not receive any monetary award nor a cap.
4. From the All-State Team, the Post with the highest points in the All-State judging on **Friday, May 9, 2025**, will be designated as the Outstanding Post of the Year 2024-2025. The Commander and Quartermaster of that Post will be the Captains of the All-State Team.
5. The Awards and Citation Committee will break all ties and their decision will be considered the recommendation to the State Commander.
6. The State Commander shall make the final decision for all recommendations of awards and the decision shall be final.

2024-2025 DISTRICT ALL STATE REQUIREMENTS

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

1. The District must meet their **101% Membership Quota** by **Sunday, June 29, 2025**.
2. All Posts in the District and the District must be inspected; State Headquarters must receive the **Inspection Reports no later than Monday, December 16, 2024**, with all **documented discrepancies corrected by Friday, May 9, 2025**, to complete this requirement.
3. The District Quartermaster and anyone else with access to money must be properly bonded.
4. The District Commander, Sr Vice Commander, Quartermaster, and Adjutant must sign into the dept. email and send one (1) email to either cdr@vfwva.org or mrubenstein@vfwva.org no later than **October 1, 2024** and will ensure that it is listed as done in the Online Reports.
5. All Audit Reports for the District must be turned into State Headquarters as required by the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.
6. All Posts in the District must have submitted the following reports **at least once a quarter** by **Sept 30, 2024, Dec 31, 2024, Mar 31, 2025, and June 30, 2025**.
 - Americanism Report
 - Community Activities Report
 - Safety Report

Youth Activities Report

Hospital Report

7. The District must conduct a **District School of Instruction (SOI)** by the end of **Sunday, October 6, 2024**.

Department led School of Instruction meets the requirement of the terms stated above.

8. The District must donate **\$100.00** to the Department's Virginia Veterans Foundation (VVF).

All-State District Awards

1. All-State District Commanders who have met all the criteria including membership by **Friday, May 9, 2025** (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 Friday, May 9, 2025, and then meet the membership criteria by Monday, June 30, 2025**, 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 Vest if **all Posts within their District are 101%** or more in membership by **Friday, May 9, 2025**.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Be advised that as per the National Commander in Chief any lapsed member (regardless of length of time their dues are lapsed) will be counted as a Continuous member (Annual or Life) - Recruiter credit will only be given for Brand New Members to the VFW.

1. All individual recruiting awards will be awarded by using the National Recruiter Reports dated **Friday, May 9, 2025**. These awards will be presented at the State Convention.

2. **Annual members** recruiting **Three (3) New Members** will receive:

a. Their Annual Dues (National and Department portions) paid by the Department for the current year.

b. Their name and membership number will be entered in a drawing for a Life Membership.

c. For each **additional Three (3) members** recruited, an additional entry will be made in the Life Membership Drawing.

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

3. **Life Members** recruiting **three (3) New 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 if already a gold member, may transfer the award to another post member or receive a check for \$200.00.

b. For each **additional three (3) members recruited**, an additional entry will be made in the drawing.

c. The drawing for the Legacy Life Membership award listed above will be conducted on the day of awards judging **Friday, May 9, 2025**.

4. **Any Member** recruiting **three (3) New Members** will be entered in a drawing for:

a. Round trip airfare to the 126th 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.

c. For each additional three (3) 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 **Friday, May 9, 2025**.

INDIVIDUAL RECRUITER AWARDS

Individual recruiters will also receive for:

1. **15** New Members – a Pen and Key Chain Set

2. **25** New Members – Commander's Challenge Coin

3. **35** New Members – a Department Aide-de-Camp Recruiting cap & citation

4. **75** New Members - \$75 Gift Certificate from the VFW Store

5. **100** New Members – State Commander's "**Top State Recruiter**" Vest

Pens, Keychains, and coins will be presented at the **next district meeting** after the convention.

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

THE SAMUEL B. DeVAUGHAN MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

The Samuel B. DeVaughan Membership Award is presented to the Member who recruits the greatest number of new members in the 2024-2025 Membership Year. The winner of the **First Place** Award will receive the following:

- A check in the amount of \$300.00 to help defray expenses of the Convention.
- A Department citation.
- A distinctive cap and name badge
- A large trophy
- Commander's "Top Recruiter" Vest

2nd and 3rd place winners will be awarded in this competition. The recruiters who finish in second and third place in new member competition of the 2024-2025 Membership Year will receive the following:

- A Department citation
- A large trophy

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 **Friday, May 9, 2025**. This award will be **presented at the State Convention, June 2025**.

THE W. I. WOODDELL MEMORIAL POST QUARTERMASTER AWARD

The W. I. Woodall 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 **Friday, May 9, 2025**. 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, June 2025**.

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, June 2025**. An additional (5) five points will be earned for the submission of an entry for Scout of the Year.

THE CHRIS MULHOLLAND COMMUNITY SERVICE RECORD BOOK

The Chris Mulholland Community Service Record Book should be kept from **May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025**, for State judging. Plaques will be awarded to the top three (3) entries at the **State Convention, June 2025**. 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. The Chris Mulholland Community Service Record Book is **not a requirement to be All-State**.

5. BY-LAWS AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE:

All officers should obtain current 2025 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 125th National Convention, which became effective on Aug. 28, 2024.

6. CLAIM SHARKS:

Over the last two years, we engaged in a legislative effort to ban Claim Sharks from Virginia as they bill veterans for a VA claim act in violation of federal regulations. Our effort was to protect the hundreds of thousands of veterans and their families here in the Commonwealth. Our cause is noble and equal to the other great legislative battles that the VFW is known for and what our members expect from us as an advocacy group.

Our bill to ban these companies in Virginia was unsuccessful this year, but we should not be upset about that. We should be proud to know that we stopped the bill to allow these companies to charge. It is sad that so many Claim Sharks are veterans. They should be helping, not hurting, their fellow veterans. Part of legislative advocacy is that sometimes you work to get good bills passed and sometimes you work to kill bad bills. We did both this year.

I am so proud of the VFW and I thank you for all that you did to help. You wrote letters, spoke in hearings, made phone calls, and showed presence in the room. One can say that Claim Sharks hurt veterans, but you showed it as being a reality and not some hypothetical issue conjured by lobbyists. You showed that average veterans do matter more than company profits and you made those companies spend ungodly amounts of money to stop us. While our bill did not pass, we inflicted pain and showed the world how devious these companies are in their words and deeds.

I want to again express the VFW's undying gratitude for Delegate Brianna Sewell. She has been our champion for this cause and her efforts continue her history of advocacy for veterans and consumers. The daughter of two veterans, Delegate Sewell poured everything she had into this and took on powerful members of the General Assembly and well-funded special interests. Delegate Sewell is an amazing and is all we should hope for in our elected officials

Thank you and let us never stop or be ashamed of our noble efforts.

Doug Hoffman
State Senior Vice Commander

7. DELINQUENT:

Dist.	Post	Audits		Dist.	Post	Audits	Bonds
2	2296	December		9	6000	December	Expired
3	8356	December		9	7136	March	
3	8529	December		9	9640	December	
3	10387	December		9	9696	December	
4	8446	December		10	5412	December	
6	4522	Sept., Dec.		12	1994	December	
7	1860	December		12	5715	December	
				13	2044	December	

8. DISTRICT CONVENTIONS:

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.

9. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 st	Date: 5/17/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 3219, Phoebus 122 E Mellen St, Hampton Rep: State Surgeon Randy Coker	7 th	Date: 5/17/25 Meeting: 11:30 AM Location: Post 9660 Broadway 14550 Runion Creek Rd Rep: St Inspector Ken Shannon
2 nd	Date: 5/10/25 Meeting: 9:00 AM Location: Post 3160 Norfolk 111 A View Avenue Rep: St C-O-S Butch Schupska	8 th	Date: 4/5/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 3103 Fredericksburg 2701 Princess Anne St Rep: St Cmdr Mitch Rubenstein
3 rd	Date: 5/3/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Lunch: To follow Meeting Location: Post 9808 Mechanicsville 7168 Flag Lane Rep: St C-O-S Butch Schupska	9 th	Date: 5/10/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4667 Marion 861 Goolsby St Rep: St JVC Doug Hoffman
4 th	Date: 5/10/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 7166 South Hill 1472 N Mecklenburg Ave, LaCrosse Rep: State JVC Mark Maggio	10 th	Date: 3/8/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 9274 Falls Church 7118 Shreve Rd Rep: State SVC Doug Hoffman
5 th	Date: 5/17/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep: PSC Tom Hines	11 th	Date: 5/10/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 8644 Bridgewater 118 Dry River Rd Rep: St Chaplain Robert Ruffolo
6 th	Date: 4/5/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1264 Roanoke (sponsored Post 1841) 4930 Grandview Avenue NW Rep: State Inspector Ken Shannon	12 th	Date: 5/10/25 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4667 Marion 861 Goolsby St Rep: St Cmdr Mitch Rubenstein
		13 th	Date: 5/17/25 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 1827 Charlottesville 1170 River Rd Rep: St Judge Advocate Charles Bush

10. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts were reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails as of **June 21st**. 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 **VFW2024!** 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 cdmpost176@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 cdmdist1@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:

March 22, 2025	State Commander/President's Homecoming at Post 2447, Edinburg, Holiday Inn Express, 1130 Motel Drive, Woodstock, VA; phone 540-459-5000. Room Rates are \$110.00 (available for Friday and Saturday nights) Cutoff Date is Saturday, February 1, 2025; more details to come.
June 18 - 22, 2025	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 Thursday, May 22, 2025, by 5:00 pm.
August 9 - 13, 2025	National Convention, Columbus, Ohio
January 8 - 11, 2026	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 Monday, December 8, 2025, by 5:00 pm.

13. 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.

<i>Enrollment Cost:</i>		<i>Annual Payouts:</i>	
<i>Levels</i>	<i>Posts</i>	<i>Departments</i>	<i>National</i>
Gold- \$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver- \$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze- \$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

14. **JROTC CADET OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

To make participating in this new State level program for Posts a bit easier for this year, the Department JROTC Committee has adjusted the deadlines for submission.

Deadline for Cadet applications to the local Post: **1 March 2025**

Posts should have their reviews done by the last week in March and must have their Post Cadet Winner submitted to the Department JROTC Committee by **1 April 2025**

The State Winner's sponsoring Post will be notified of the award, and the Post will be responsible for coordinating a place and time to present the State Winner with their State level award.

Note: JROTC cadets, Sea Cadets, and Civil Air Patrol cadets can be nominated for this program.

Information for the Virginia JROTC Cadet of the Year award program can be found on the State website under the Programs tab/drop-down menu: [JROTC](#)

Note: National has discontinued the National JROTC Award this year. As such, Posts should submit their Post level nominees to Deadra Miller at dmlwmavfw@gmail.com for consideration at the State level. Email is the preferred method of submission.

If you have any questions about the program, feel free to contact the Department Chair, Deadra Miller at dmlwmavfw@gmail.com or Committee member, Ben Guinan at bguinan@vfwva.org

Deadra Miller
JROTC Chairman

15. **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

16. MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE:

The Military Order of the Cootie year starts June 1st and continues through May 31st each year. Your Cooties are conducting their Pup Tent elections for the upcoming year and will take command of their Pup Tents after the Grand Installation in June at the Department Convention. Cooties are out supporting Veterans in Hospitals and the grand special project of Equine Therapy. We have contributions going out to support Equine Therapy for Veterans in the Richmond, Williamsburg, and Dale City areas. if you would like to contribute to this special project, please email me and we can discuss locations to contribute in your area.

The new Pup Tent 20 is getting closer to being initiated in Daleville, VA. To be eligible to be a Cootie you need to have completed six months in an officer position or active with your Post. Contact me for information regarding becoming a Cootie in the New Pup Tent.

For more information on the Military Order of the Cootie please contact Ken Shannon Grand Commander at kshannon@vfwva.org or grandcdr@vfwva.org.

Ken Shannon, Grand Commander
Department of Virginia
757-509-3000

17. NATIONAL CONVENTION:

The 126th National Convention housing will officially open March 18, 2025. 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 Columbus, OH – Aug. 9-13, including a tentative agenda.

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

18. OFFICE CLOSURE:

Please note the Norfolk Service Office is temporarily closed.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. RESOLUTIONS:

“Resolutions: Resolutions are the way the rank and file of the VFW can influence the organization’s priorities and processes. Program Resolutions, with the familiar WHEREAS paragraphs, are intended to bring decisionmaker attention to concerns (e.g., asking Congress to pass the PACT Act or asking the VFW National to implement a specific program). Resolutions to change By-Laws, Manual of Procedure, or Ritual take on a different format. For these proposals text to be added is *underlined and italicized* (and can even be **bolded**) whereas the text to be deleted is ~~struck out~~. An example of this type of resolutions was adding Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day to the list of special days of observance in the VFW Ritual. Please see the four-page Amendments and Resolutions Manual, appended to these General Orders.

The time to submit draft Resolutions is **now**. Not only does this permit time for the Posts to work with the Resolutions Committee to smooth wording, focus logic and arguments, and identify sources of information, but it also prevents the Resolutions Committee from being overwhelmed in the week or two prior to the Department Convention, during which period, a late-submitted Resolution may not receive appropriate attention that it is due.

Posts can submit draft resolutions to the Committee prior to formal approval by Post membership so that logic and clarity of the arguments can be finessed and smoothed out. The Post can then vote on whether to approve the returned draft Resolution. Once formally approved by Post membership (at a Post meeting), the Resolution can be forwarded to State Headquarters, who will share with the Resolutions Committee. It is not necessary to submit a

Resolution to District for approval, however, best practices suggest that the Resolution be socialized in order to garner necessary support for an eventual up/down vote at Department Convention.”

M. C. “Connie” Agresti
Chairman, Resolutions Committee
mcagresti@vfwva.org
mcaiii@aol.com

23. ROSTER CHANGES:

Post 2296 Cmdr
Craig L. Baker
PO Box 21
Wachapreague, VA 23480
570-854-1400
cdrpost2296@vfwva.org

Post 2296 SVC
William H. Bannon
PO Box 66
Greenbush, VA 23357
757-710-1811

bbannon@dangerforward.org
Post 2296 JVC
George R. Bennett
27447 Phillips Dr
Melfa, VA 23410
757-710-8498
hablo3310@gmail.com

Post 2296 QM
Joel S. Stokes
25465 Drummondtown Road
Onley, VA 23418

Post 3219 QM
Ashley A. Adkins
120 Challenger Ave
Hampton, VA 23665
478-363-4810
qmpost3219@vfwva.org

Post 4491 JVC
Mike Rivers
732-768-0168
bossybug@hotmail.com

Post 4639 QM
Michael Indyck
5791 Tyshire Pkwy
Providence Forge, VA 23140
508-617-0774
qmpost4639@vfwva.org

Post 8243
Mailing Address
1703 Seymour Dr
South Boston, VA 24592

Post 9339 QM
Kent P. Baisley
55 Princeton Ln
Fishersville, VA 22939
910-381-1876
qmpost9339@vfwva.org

Post 9855 SVC
Michael S. Hodge
124 Foxwood Dr
Goode, VA 24556
434-841-2280
hodgiepoo@aol.com

Post 9855 JVC
Francis C. Henderson
496 Stargaze Ln
Appomattox, VA 24522
434-665-1793
fhenderson991@gmail.com

Post 10840 QM
Andre D. Peery
737 Monroe St
Salem, VA 24153
540-521-0530
qmpost10840@vfwva.org

24. SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD:

The clock is ticking. Scouts who desire to be considered for this high honor should be working on the required documentation NOW.

The deadline for submitting an entry form to a VFW Post is 1 March 2025. Each VFW Post must deliver their selected entry to their respective VFW District by 15 March 2025. The winning VFW District entry needs to be in the hands of the VFW Department Scouting Chair NLT 1 April 2025.

There are six requirements listed on the back of the entry form. Please examine the requirements closely to ensure each entry is fully compliant. The entry form can be downloaded from:

<https://vfw-org-hqagarhxahbybyd9.z01.azurefd.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Scout-of-the-Year/ScoutoftheYearBrochureandEntryForm.pdf?v=1&d=20210708T183715Z&la=en>

Please ensure that each Scout has reviewed the rules and eligibility requirements:

<https://vfw-org-hqagarhxahbybyd9.z01.azurefd.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Scout-of-the-Year/Scout-of-the-Year-Rules-and-Eligibility.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20220914T144112Z>

Request each VFW District submit their winning Scout of the Year entry by mail to:

Bob Fenlason
Dept Scouting Chair
15504 Ridgecrest Drive
Montclair, VA 22025

25. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 176:

Membership Inactive
Lawrence E. Gritton
VFW Post No. 637

Pursuant to the voluntary resignation of their membership upon the ascertainment of their desire to no longer be affiliated with the Veterans of Foreign Wars,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the name of Lawrence E. Gritton, Membership No. 11283533, be removed from the rolls of Jacob J. Pearson Post No. 637, Hopewell, Virginia, and their membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States vacated per member's request.

By order of
Alfred J. Lipphardt
Commander-in-Chief

26. VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING TEAM:

The backbone of the VFW Scouting program is the VFW Scouting Team. Over the past few years, the number of members on the VFW Department Scouting Team has decreased. One of the most important functions of the Scouting Team is reviewing the nominations received for the VFW Scout of the Year in March of every year and completing the standard score sheet. The highest score determines which Scout becomes the Scout of the Year for that year.

There is one position on the Scouting Team for each of the 13 Districts in the Department to promote the values of Scouting to the youth of the community and to the VFW leadership. Request each District Commander select a

VFW Member that has a background in Scouting and submit the name and contact information for their District Scouting Team Chair to:

Bob Fenlason
Dept Scouting Chair
elangomat3@gmail.com
(703) 730-5414

27. VFW DAY OF SERVICE:

Post/District Commanders, and Comrades,

I wanted to make everyone aware of something that was brought to my attention for discussion and clarification. This is worth getting out now and re-enforced to our District Commanders and Post Commanders before May 2025 so you can plan for it.

One of the All-American Program requirements is to participate in the **VFW Day of Service**. This is how it's worded in the program book:

A Post must submit a community service report quarterly to their Department for submission to the All-American Dashboard. The quarters are July-Sept, Oct-Dec, Jan-March, and April-June. **One of these community service activities must be for the VFW Day of Service.** Learn more at: <https://todaysvfw.org/vfw-day-of-service/>

Even though it says to "submit a community service report quarterly **to their Department**", that's NOT how the VFW Day of Service is going to be recorded or tracked.

As per a conversation with Lynn Rolf, VFW Director of Programs, about what we may need to do to adjust our reporting from Virginia to handle this. He stated that Posts will be required to go to <https://todaysvfw.org/vfw-day-of-service/> and enter their event using the "Sign Up Now" button. So, not only do they need to report this directly to National, but it's reported differently than Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, etc. There also will **NOT** be a way of seeing who has or hasn't reported their event on the National Dashboard. Unless something changes at National between now and then, this is how this new requirement will be handled.

The Department IT Committee Chairman Robert "Check" Adamczyk updated the All-State and All-American page on the State website to show where to report it, but the key thing is that there isn't going to be a way to track it.

Therefore, consider this message an early "**heads up**" of what to expect in May 2025. Getting this news out to District Commanders and having them make sure the Posts understand this and when they submit the report to National. State Reps. need to remind the Posts/Districts when they do their first District meeting in 2025. **The Day of Service starts May 3, 2025.** Since there will be no way for Districts or Departments to see who has and who hasn't met this requirement, it's going to be even tougher to track than usual.

28. VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

Remember that March 29th is National Vietnam War Veterans Day and is one of the dates that all Posts should commemorate as per page 3 of the VFW Ritual.

The following historical events for the Vietnam War took place during March:

March 23, 1961 - Seven of the eight U.S. crewmen aboard a C-47 aircraft are killed when the Pathet Lao—Laotian Communist insurgents allied with North Vietnam—shoot them down over the Plain of Jars using antiaircraft artillery. Army Major Lawrence R. Bailey survives and is subsequently captured, becoming the first American prisoner of war in Southeast Asia since the end of World War II. Bailey is held and interrogated for 17 months. He is released in August 1962, and President John F. Kennedy presents him with the Bronze Star.

March 10, 1962 - Members of Navy Sea-Air-Land (SEAL) Team 1 arrive in Saigon to begin training South Vietnamese naval commandos in covert maritime operations. Established only two months earlier, in January 1962, the SEALs are the Navy's experts in special warfare—sabotage, demolition, and other clandestine activities conducted in enemy areas and from restricted seas and waterways.

March 26, 1964 - Viet Cong small arms fire downs a U.S. Air Force observation plane carrying pilot Captain Richard L. Whitesides and U.S. Army Special Forces Captain Floyd J. Thompson near the DMZ. Whitesides is never found and presumed killed. Thompson is severely wounded and eventually captured. Thompson is not released until nine years later on March 16, 1973, becoming the longest held American POW in U.S. history.

March 8, 1965 - U.S. Marines of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) arrive at Da Nang, South Vietnam. The brigade consists of two Marine battalions. One makes an amphibious landing and the other arrives by air. The 9th MEB assumes command of the helicopters of SHUFLY, which becomes Marine Aircraft Group 16.

This is the first deployment of a major U.S. ground combat unit to Vietnam. Although the mission of the 9th MEB is strictly limited to the defense of the air base at Da Nang, it signals another step in the United States' transition from an advisory role to direct participation in the war.

March 1 – 31, 1966 - The remainder of the U.S. Army 25th Infantry Division deploys to South Vietnam, establishing its headquarters at Cu Chi, northwest of Saigon. The 25th's 2d and 3d Brigades, which arrived months earlier, are joined by the rest of the division. The 25th's first major offensive begins at the end of the month. Additionally, the division's commander, General Frederick C. Weyand, is an active proponent of pacification, sometimes known as "the other war" for "hearts and minds." In line with the Johnson administration's renewed emphasis on pacification decided at the Honolulu Conference, Weyand's division carries out both pacification and offensive search-and-destroy operations.

March 4, 1966 - In Operation UTAH between March 4 and 7, units of the U.S. 3d Marine Division and the South Vietnamese 2d Division defeat elements of the 21st North Vietnamese Regiment south of Chu Lai. It is the first engagement between U.S. Marines and the North Vietnamese regular military, illustrating the growing presence of North Vietnamese regular troops operating within the borders of South Vietnam.

March 18, 1967 - Marine Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky arrives in Saigon. She is the first woman Marine to serve in Vietnam. Dulinsky serves at the combat operations center for U.S. MACV.

March 21 – 1967 - The United States directs the Air Force to begin construction of the Infiltration Surveillance Center (ISC) at Nakhon Phanom Air Base, in northeastern Thailand. By 1968, the ISC becomes the monitoring location for Project IGLOO WHITE. This project deploys thousands of acoustic and seismic sensors designed to detect vehicles moving along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos and Cambodia. ISC computers then sift through sensor data and pass it to analysts who assign air strikes against select targets. The ISC also mines sensor data to predict the times and routes of future convoys.

March 16, 1968 - Members of Company C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Brigade of the U.S. Army 23d Infantry Division (Americal) murder up to 500 civilian men, women, and children in the hamlet of My Lai, Quang Ngai Province in I Corps. Army leadership outside of the Americal Division becomes familiar with the event in April 1969 when a U.S. Vietnam veteran writes to General Westmoreland and some congressmen, requesting an investigation. While Army public affairs officers release some information in September 1969, it does not receive widespread attention until journalist Seymour Hersh publishes a detailed account of the charges in November 1969. In the Army's investigation, 13 men are charged with committing these crimes. One, Lieutenant William Calley, is convicted of war crimes and sentenced to life in prison. (*See March 29, 1971 below*) The investigation also finds that the Americal Division's chain of command has suppressed reports of the incident.

March 31, 1968 - The Tet Offensive ends as the fighting in Hue subsides. It is a disastrous tactical defeat for Communist forces. As many as 50,000 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers have been killed, and the offensive achieves none of its major objectives. Viet Cong units are severely crippled and unable to mount new combat operations. The U.S. and South Vietnamese militaries lose more than 2,100 and 4,000 dead, respectively. The other allied nations suffer a total of 214 killed. An estimated 12,500 civilians are dead. Urban warfare in Saigon and other towns and cities produces hundreds of thousands of homeless refugees. Though the offensive is a tactical defeat for Hanoi, it earns Communist forces a strategic victory. The offensive stuns the American public and sows increased doubts about America's chances of winning the war.

March 18, 1969 - The United States conducts the first of a round of bombings against North Vietnamese and Viet Cong sanctuaries in Cambodia. These strikes evolve into the top secret bombing campaign known as Operation MENU, which lasts for 14 months. The Nixon administration hopes the bombings will demonstrate American resolve to Hanoi while also significantly reducing the flow of North Vietnamese troops and supplies into South Vietnam. The administration also believes that the campaign will increase pressure on the North to negotiate more seriously for peace. Although the bombings are a tightly held secret within the U.S. government and military, the New York Times breaks the story of the bombings on May 9. The possible leak prompts the Nixon White House to order wiretaps on the phones of journalists and administration officials, including an official in DoD. This and similar actions by the White House eventually lead to the Watergate scandal in 1972.

March 1, 1971 - A bomb explodes in the Capitol building in Washington D.C., near the Senate chambers. It causes an estimated \$300,000 in damage. No one is hurt in the blast. A group known as the Weather Underground claims credit for the bombing. The Weather Underground is a radical organization that advocates violence as a legitimate means to change American society. They assert that the bombing is in protest of the ongoing U.S.-supported South Vietnamese invasion of Laos.

March 29, 1971 - After a four-month-long court martial, Lieutenant William Calley is convicted of murder for his role in the My Lai massacre. He is sentenced to life in prison. Over time, Calley's sentence is reduced twice and he is ultimately paroled, released in 1974 and died April 28, 2024 age 80.

March 30, 1972 - The North Vietnamese launch the Nguyen Hue Campaign, also known as the Easter Offensive, with a multipronged attack across the DMZ and the Laotian and Cambodian borders into multiple regions of South Vietnam. The attacking forces are well equipped: armed with new weapons, heavy artillery, and tanks from the Soviet Union and China. It is the largest offensive launched by the North Vietnamese Army in the war. There are fewer than 70,000 U.S. troops left in Vietnam. U.S. military advisers play a crucial role rallying South Vietnamese units in retreat. After suffering heavy losses, the South Vietnamese army—with ample help from U.S. air support—slows and reverses the offensive by the end of the summer. They stabilize the front in Quang Tri Province and successfully hold out against attacks around Hue, Kontum, and Saigon. The North Vietnamese lose much of their armor and equipment and as many as 100,000 troops. South Vietnamese casualties are approximately 43,000, including 10,000 killed. The Easter Offensive also results in the deaths of about 25,000 Vietnamese civilians and leaves almost one million homeless.

March 14, 1973 - U.S. Marine Sub Unit One, 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO) is formally deactivated, ending eight years of combat support for the South Vietnamese armed forces. Sub Unit One is the last Fleet Marine Force unit to leave Vietnam.

March 29, 1973 - General Frederick C. Weyand formally deactivates U.S. MACV. Included in this action is the deactivation of CORDS and the U.S. Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps Advisory Groups, Vietnam.

March 24, 1975 - Having been evacuated by the South Vietnamese army, the old Vietnamese imperial capital of Hue falls to North Vietnamese forces. Many of the city's residents join the masses of refugees retreating south and east, to the coast, hoping for evacuation.

March 29, 1975 - North Vietnamese troops, having surrounded Da Nang days earlier, occupy the city. More residents stream to the airport and seaport, hoping for evacuation, and frantic refugees begin rushing planes as they land and take off—some even cling to landing gear. At the harbor, people pile onto large and small vessels while under heavy fire from Communist forces. Over five days, non-combatant ships of the U.S. Military Sealift Command take part in evacuating refugees from Da Nang south to Cam Ranh Bay. The SS *Pioneer Commander*, SS *Pioneer Contender*, USNS *Miller*, and several other vessels evacuate over 30,000 refugees. CIA-owned Air America also helps evacuate refugees by air. U.S. and allied vessels evacuate thousands of additional refugees from several other ports in I and II Corps.

Jeff Dombroff
Vietnam War Commemoration Committee Chairman

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Mitch Rubenstein
State Commander

VFW State Commander & Auxiliary President's Homecoming
Saturday, March 22nd, 2025
VFW POST 2447 100 Veterans Way, Edinburg, VA 22824



This is a FREE EVENT. We encourage everyone to join us in celebrating our year.

Hotel Information:

Holiday Inn Express

11300 Motel Drive, Woodstock, VA 22664 540-459-5000

\$110.00 a night, special rate rooms blocked until February 21st, 2025, regular rates will start after the 2/21/2025

Call now to reserve a room while they last.

Arrivals: Can begin on Friday, March 21st, 2025, and Depart on Sunday, 23rd, 2025

Dress: Casual– Black & Gray Shirt, if you have one.

Cocktail Hour: 3:00-4:00 pm (hors D'oeuvres will be served)

It will be a Cash Bar - 2 free drink tickets will be issued for attendance.

Dinner: 4:00-6:00pm

Menu: Ribs, Chicken, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Macaroni & Cheese, Rolls, Dessert.
Tea, Water, Soda, and Lemonade

DJ: 7:00pm-9:00pm

Please contact Liz Wilson by email lizwilson3456@gmail.com by March 10, 2025, to register for this event. We appreciate your help in this enables us to have a head count for the food.



**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department Commander Shirt
2025-2026**



Pre- order forms must be sent to **Department Headquarters**
no later than March 21, 2025 for VFW members

Additional Shirts for the VFW members will be available to order at the 2026 June Convention.

Cost: Small – Extra Large: \$35.00 2XL: \$36.00 3XL: \$37.00 4XL: \$38.00

Name: _____ Size: ____ Number of Shirts: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Post # _____ District # _____

If you are unable to pick up your shirt at June 2025 Department Convention and have not made prior arrangements to have it picked up. Please add \$9.00 for shipping.

Make checks Payable to: Department of Virginia VFW
For: Commander Shirt 2025-2026

Send Form to: Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Virginia
403 Lee Jackson Hwy
Staunton, VA 22401

THE CHRIS MULHOLLAND COMMUNITY SERVICE RECORD BOOK

RECORD BOOK ENTRY FORM

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

CATEGORIES FOR RECORDING PROJECTS

The Community Activities Program is divided into seven general categories:

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

Post No. _____ City _____ State _____

Total Projects Since 5/1/24 Total Hours (Volunteered)

Total Funds Used/Donated

Total Post Members as of 4/1/25

Total Auxiliary Members as of 4/1/25

City Population

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN

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

JUDGES, NOTE THE FOLLOWING LEADING PROJECTS

Page _____, _____

Page _____, _____

Page _____, _____

Page _____, _____

Books must be picked up at State Convention

Signature - Post Commander _____

Post Commander's Name (Print) _____

THE CHRIS MULHOLLAND COMMUNITY SERVICE RECORD BOOK GUIDELINES

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

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

PREPARING A RECORD BOOK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This contest runs from July 1 to the following April.

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

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

Number of Parades:

Number of Funerals:

Number of Flag Raising Ceremonies:

Number of Members Participating:

Other Activities:

**This report must be submitted to STATE HEADQUARTERS by 4:00 p.m.,
May 9, 2025 for the STATE AWARD JUDGING.**

AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

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**PREPARING A PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE NATIONAL BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE OR RITUAL**

Bylaws: Any member in good standing, a Post, a District, or a Department, may propose an amendment to the National Bylaws; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must be approved by a Department Convention. Immediately following a Department Convention, the proposed amendment(s) must be forwarded to National Headquarters.

Manual of Procedure and Ritual: Any Post, District, or Department may propose an amendment to the Manual of Procedure or Ritual; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must have been forwarded, through channels and have been properly approved.

In order to meet National Bylaw/Manual of Procedure Article XIV requirements, to provide fifteen (15) day notice to all Posts of all amendments, the Adjutant General requests all amendments be forwarded to National Headquarters no later than five (5) working days following the close of the Department Convention.

Bylaw, Manual of Procedure or Ritual changes not in proper form, unclear as to meaning, or concerning matters clearly not within the scope and purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars cannot be considered by the National Convention.

A proposed change to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual must be submitted as such, not as a resolution. Proposed amendments must be definite and specific as to the verbiage to be deleted or added. Use of the most recent amended copy of the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual is encouraged, as proposed changes considered by Convention delegates cannot be amended on the floor.

EXAMPLE 1

Proposed Amendment to National Bylaws proposed by Department of _____.

Section 202 – Bylaws.

Amend Section 202, National Bylaws, by deleting the words “two-thirds (2/3)” in the first sentence of paragraph one, and inserting, in lieu thereof, the following:
“majority”.

EXAMPLE 2

Proposed Amendment to National Manual of Procedure proposed by Department of _____.

Section 518 – Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Section 518, Manual of Procedure, by deleting paragraph (a) (1) d. in its entirety and inserting, in lieu thereof, the following:
“Plan and organize all social functions.”

EXAMPLE 3

Proposed Amendment to National Ritual proposed by Department of _____.

Amend the Ritual by deleting on page 48, in the last sentence of the Member’s Obligation, the words “and a citizen of our great republic.”

Further amend by placing a period after the word “comrade” in the same sentence.

If you require help composing a proposed change to the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual, please contact Administrative Operations at National Headquarters for advice and assistance in properly preparing a proposed amendment to be voted upon by your department convention.

**PREPARING A RESOLUTION
TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION**

The policy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is established by resolutions adopted by the delegates attending Department and National Conventions. Most resolutions originate at the Post level and are passed through the District and Department before being acted upon at a National Convention. Many times, an otherwise worthy idea gets nowhere merely because it is not correctly presented.

A resolution contains two separate parts; a statement of the problem to be solved, and the proposed solution to the problem. The problem is outlined in the “*WHEREAS*” clauses, and the proposed solution is given in the “*RESOLVED*” section.

The “*RESOLVED*” section of a resolution should be complete in itself without depending on the “*WHEREAS*” clauses to give it meaning.

EXAMPLE

WHEREAS, the rising cost of living has created an intense hardship on those disabled veterans whose only income is a meager pension check; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we petition Congress to enact legislation which would provide a substantial increase in non-service connected pension rates.

If a resolution deals with a local problem, it needs no action on a level higher than that of the Post. If the problem concerns an area larger than that served by the Post, it should, after Post approval, be presented before the District or County Council. All resolutions of statewide, regional or national concern must be acted upon by the Department Convention. Those resolutions approved by a Department Convention, which affect persons or matters *outside the state boundaries*, must be forwarded to the National Convention for final disposition.

When submitting a resolution to the Department Convention, a notation on the bottom should show the previous action taken, such as, approval by Post and, if applicable, by the District. A Post or District submitting a resolution to its Department Convention must follow guidelines established by the Department, which may require submitting the resolution to the Department Adjutant prior to the convening of the convention.

Resolutions not in proper form, with unclear meaning, or concerning matters clearly not within the scope and purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars cannot be considered by the National Convention.

Resolutions approved by a Department Convention, which affect matters outside state boundaries, must be forwarded by the Department Adjutant to the National Convention for final disposition. Approved resolutions should be sent to National Headquarters at the close of the Department Convention. The Adjutant General requests all resolutions be forwarded to National Headquarters no later than five (5) working days following the close of the Department Convention. A resolution disapproved by the Department Convention or not acted upon by the Department Convention will not be considered by the National Convention.

Resolutions may also be originated by Department officers or by the Department Convention itself and acted upon by the Department Convention. A National Officer may originate a resolution concerning National affairs and submit it directly to the National Convention without Department action. Likewise, a National Convention Committee may originate a resolution and present it for approval during the National Convention.

Policy set by the National Convention is binding upon all subordinate units of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. No Post or Department is permitted to take any individual action or espouse any cause contrary to the National Bylaws or to the actions of the National Convention except that it may propose changes in policy by the preparation of a resolution for consideration as outlined herein.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- 1) Any member in good standing may propose a National Bylaw, Manual of Procedure, or Ritual amendment directly to the National Convention delegates.
 True
 False
- 2) Article XIV of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure require the Adjutant General to provide ___ day notice to all Posts on any proposed amendment to be decided by the delegates of the National Convention.
A. 10
B. 15
C. 20
D. 30
- 3) National Bylaw, Manual of Procedure, or Ritual amendments are submitted to the Adjutant General in the form of a resolution.
 True
 False
- 4) A resolution adopted by the National Convention sets policy which is binding for all subordinate units of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
 True
 False
- 5) In a resolution the “WHEREAS” represents the issue and the “BE IT RESOLVE” proposes the solution.
 True
 False
- 6) Resolutions approved by a Department Convention that affect matters outside its geographical boundary must be forwarded to the National Convention for final disposition.
 True
 False

1) False – An amendment must be approved by a Department Convention (or be submitted by a National Officer) before it can be considered by the National Convention; 2) 15 days; 3) False, the amendment must be specific; 4) True; 5) True; 6) True

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 637

**IRAQ WAR
VETERAN**

2003 - 2011

WELCOME HOME

YOUR SACRIFICE WILL
NOT BE FORGOTTEN

VFW Post 637 Hopewell

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Ceremony

**PATRICK OLIVIER
MUSIC**

Willie G & Me!

Entertainment starting at 3pm

Guest Speaker



Lt. Gen. Robert D. Harter
Chief of Army Reserve

MARCH 22, 2025
2PM Ceremony 3PM-6PM Live Music

CEREMONY MONGOLIAN BBQ MEAL LIVE MUSIC

1400 Lynchburg Street, Hopewell, VA 23860



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Williamsburg, VA Post 4639

Annual Charity Golf Fundraiser Benefiting Veterans and Their Families

Registration: 8 am

Shotgun Start: 9 am

Kiskiack Golf Course
8104 Club Dr., Williamsburg, VA 23188

A Golf Digest "Place to Play" in Williamsburg

Sat. April 19, 2025

Individual: _____

or

Team Name: _____

Captain: _____

Player #2: _____

Player #3: _____

Player #4: _____

Contact e-mail / phone: _____

Register at
[2025 VFW 4639 Charity Golf](https://www.facebook.com/VFWPost4639/)

or

Send payment and registration to:
VFW Post 4639 Golf
PO Box 1236, Williamsburg VA, 23187

Payment must be received before April 13, 2025
(THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS IS A NON-PROFIT 501 (c) (19)
ORGANIZATION; EIN 75-3187629)

Post media
<https://www.facebook.com/VFWPost4639/>
<https://vfwpost4639.org>
Vfwpost4639@gmail.com (757) 258-9802

Golf Committee: eric.oitzman@yahoo.com
(757) 289-6773

[Extra Sponsorship Options here](#)

Drone Drive Sponsor
(Bring the WOW factor for an organization)
Technology Package
(Exclusive exposure throughout website
& App)
Towels or Balls w/Logo
Closest to the Pin or Long Drive



\$110 per golfer / \$440 per team

- Live Leaderboard
- Flight A & B team prizes
- 2 **Blue Raffle** tickets
- 2 Mulligans per player
- Hole Contest Prizes
- 1 String-it-out per team
- Lunch on-the-turn
- 2 drink tickets

Drone Drive Included with Entry!

Scramble format **Tees:**

Green: Women & Men > 62
B/W combo: All others

Additional Fundraisers

- * Extra **Blue Raffle** Tickets -- 1 = \$5 3 = \$10 8 = \$20
- * 50/50 **Red Tickets** -- 1 = \$1 6 = \$5

Hole Sponsorships:

\$150 – Bronze Sponsor:

- ✓ Sign or sponsor provided banner at 1 hole & live scoring app

\$300 – Silver Sponsor:

- ✓ Sign or sponsor provided banner at 1 hole & live scoring app
- ✓ Logo & name recognition on event & post media outlets
- ✓ Recognition at opening and closing announcements

\$575 – Gold Sponsor:

- ✓ Golf for four (4) in the event
- ✓ Sign or sponsor provided banner at hole, live scoring app & clubhouse
- ✓ Logo & name recognition on event & post media outlets
- ✓ Recognition at opening and closing announcements



Golfing For Veterans

Second Annual Golf Tournament

"All Proceeds Support Veterans & Veteran's Programs"

Date: Friday, April 25, 2025

4-Person Scramble - Shotgun Start @ 9:00am - Check In:0730-0830

Registration Form and Payment Due by - Friday, April 18, 2025

Entry Fee - Individual - \$150.00 - Foursome - \$600.00

Payment - Venmo to @VFW8469 (VFW Post 8469) or

Check to: VFW Post 8469, 5703 Vogue Rd, Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Registration - Electronically at VFWPOST8469.com/golf4vets

Registration fee - Incl Green/Cart Fee Range Balls & Lunch

Twin Lakes Golf Course

6201 Union Mill Road
Clifton VA 20124

Silent Auction

Military and Sports

Memorabilia

Mulligans

50/50 Raffle

Flag of Honor Raffle

Lunch Provided by

Mission BBQ

TEAM PRIZES

FIRST - \$125.00 Gift Card/Golfer
SECOND - \$100.00 Gift Card/Golfer
THIRD - \$75.00 Gift Card/Golfer
FOURTH - \$50.00 Gift Card/Golfer
FIFTH - \$25.00 Gift Card/Golfer

Individual Registration

Player Name _____

Email _____

(Individual registrants will be assigned to a team.)

HOST

VFW POST 8469
FAIRFAX STATION, VA

Team Registration

Team Name: _____

Player 1 (Captain) _____ Email _____

Player 2 Name _____ Email _____

Player 3 Name _____ Email _____

Player 4 Name _____ Email _____

Commanders Club Luncheon

ATTENTION: All Past and Present Commanders

You are invited to attend the Annual Commanders Club Luncheon to be held on **SATURDAY**, June 21, 2025, at the Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. We have changed the day to Saturday and hope to get more attendees. We will have a limit of 70 so register early.

COST: Check \$40.00 Online \$44.52

MENU: Salad, Entrée (Grilled Portobello Mushroom, Roasted Panko Crusted Chicken Piccata, or Beef Medallions), Rosemary Roasted Klondike Potatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots, Sliced Rolls with Butter, Coffee and Iced tea, and Fruit Cobbler

REGISTRATION CAN BE MADE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Department of Virginia Commanders Club
MAIL CHECK TO: Ken Shannon, Commanders Club Treasurer
152 Old Carriage Way, Williamsburg VA 23188

ONLINE AT EVENTBRITE WITH A SERVICE FEE:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/department-of-virginia-commanders-club-lunch-tickets-1256030012579?aff=oddtcreator&utm_campaign=46082713&utm_term=ctabutton&mipa=ABldvVvBuMBQBo0j82UIMa0c_oLpH6jwXzl2WD0Is0jzXcSQ01KfhqeXXrBml2Y0shMmyiTFrZHwbn7qf1x5Hnidyy6VL-D28Wl6VNrVmnNZYvWCxEX6YCFjrsn14ENZ192UvvGI0qknBks5oM6b5Hsl7jHEQg6lYqoWw7Xjp8E-dF1fCBuVR-Nwl7RaFsn8BF5v1kh2iuOKsQYmCKAgZrQKH-iLLTsFgc_Y84Y6J4SWF_4cZdY61d3PhO1ZXo7G4UpQhrVOLEwSNXd3Lf5KStMGjHjsDjA&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=ebcampaigns

**DEADLINE: May 17, 2025 PRE-REGISTRATION FOR MEAL IS REQUIRED.
NO MEALS WILL BE AVAILABLE UNLESS PRE-REGISTERED.**

Tickets available through Eventbrite or pick up your ticket at REGISTRATION

REMEMBER: You can become a LIFE MEMBER for \$35.00; All dues can be sent to Ken Shannon at the address above or pay through the Eventbrite link \$39.19

PLEASE SEND THE FORM BELOW ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK TO ASSURE ACCURACY.

Post No. _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Name of each person attending luncheon (please print clearly)

NAME MEAL CHOICE (Mushroom/Chicken/Beef) DATE JOINED

Life Member Dues for _____

For Life Members please include Name, Post or PT, Address, Email, and Phone Number

Department of Virginia Commanders Club

Commanders and Seam Squirrels join the Department of Virginia Commanders Club

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

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

If you are a current member of the Department of Virginia Commanders Club please assist me by sending your Roster information to treasurerclub@vfwva.org.

Life Member Dues are \$35.00

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Department of Virginia Commanders Club

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

OR PAY ONLINE AT EVENTBRITE WITH A SERVICE FEE:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/department-of-virginia-commanders-club-lunch-tickets-1256030012579?aff=oddtcreator&utm_campaign=46082713&utm_term=ctabutton&mipa=ABIdvVvBuMBQB0j82UIMa0c_oLpH6jwXzl2WD0ls0jzXcSQ01KfhqeXXrBml2Y0shMmyiTFrZHwbn7qf1x5Hnidyy6VL-D28Wl6VNrVmnNZYvWCxEX6YCFjrsn14ENZ192UvvGI0qknBks5oM6b5Hsl7jHEQg6IYqoWw7Xjp8E-dF1fCBuVR-Nwl7RaFsn8BF5v1kh2iuOKsQYmCKAgZzrQKH-iLLTsFgc_Y84Y6J4SWF_4cZdY61d3PhO1ZXo7G4UpQhrVOLEwSNXd3Lf5KStMGjHjsDJA&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=ebcampaigns

PLEASE SEND THIS COMPLETED FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK

NAME _____

Post or Pup Tent _____

Dates as Commander or Seam Squirrel _____

Address _____

Personal Email _____

Phone Number _____



VFW Ruppert L Sargent Post 3219
Presents

ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

24 **MAY**
2025

Woodlands Golf Course
9 Woodland Rd
Hampton, VA 23663
(757) 727-1195



REGISTRATION FEES

Single Player	\$100
4-man Team	\$400
Register before 5-18-25	\$360

AGENDA

7:00 AM	Registration
8:00 AM	Shotgun Start
1:00 PM	Luncheon at Post 3219 122 E Mellen St Hampton, VA 23663 (757) 723-2667

**Proceeds support needy
Veterans in Hampton Roads**



VA VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS



VFW is seeking volunteers for VA Volunteer Service Programs

(VFW Membership not required)

Volunteer Opportunities

(In-person or Online)

Compassionate Contact Corps
Corporate Volunteerism
Physician Ambassador Program
Student Volunteer Program /
James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship
Volunteer Transportation Network
Voter Assistance

Join a Legacy of Service

Volunteer once, occasionally, or regularly — your assistance and time are priceless to the VFW, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and our Nations Veterans.

No Computer? No Problem.

Call 1-800-VFW-1899 for assistance today!

(1-800-839-1899)

Learn How to Spot the Phish!

Look for Spelling and Grammar Errors

Unusual language errors can indicate phishing attempts.

Check Sender's Email Address

Scrutinize the sender's email for odd variations or unfamiliar domains; legitimate emails usually have consistent, recognizable addresses.

Assess the Urgency and Tone

Phishing often uses a high-pressure tone demanding immediate action to create a sense of urgency.

Beware of Suspicious Attachments or Links

Do not open attachments or click links unless you're certain of their safety

Scrutinize the Email's Greeting

Impersonal or generic greetings might signal a phishing attempt.



PACT

FOR ANIMALS



WHAT IS PACT FOR ANIMALS?

PACT for Animals is a non-profit that gives peace of mind to military, veterans, and hospital patients by placing their pets into temporary foster homes until their owners can be reunited with the devoted companions they love. Since its founding in 2011, PACT has facilitated the placements of thousands of pets nationwide.



SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

We offer a letter certifying volunteer hours for your MOVSM to any military member who fosters with PACT and help fellow military families.



WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

We are a FREE service that pairs pets with pre-screened and approved fosters across all 50 US states.

As the ONLY nationwide non-profit to manage the entire foster process, every step of the way, we ensure a positive experience for all parties. We coordinate communication between fosters and owners, conduct monthly check-ins, and facilitate reunions.

WHAT NEXT?

The first step in any PACT for Animals process is our online application. This is true for pet owners and those interested in fostering. Once we have that, things move quickly, and we ask that you pay extra close attention to your inbox.



pactforanimals.org

Help your fellow service members

Foster a pet. Make a friend.
Make a difference.

PACT
forAnimals.org

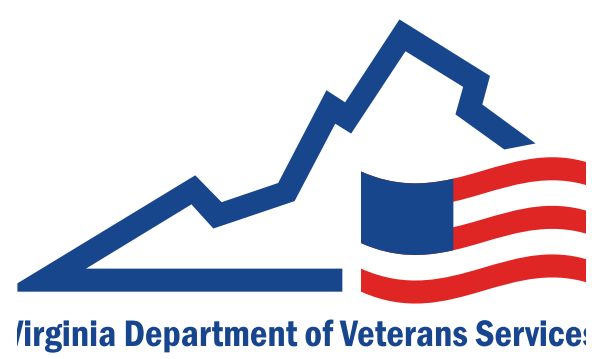
The Virginia Veterans Network is here for you.

Find more information about resources and support at dvs.virginia.gov through the Virginia Veterans Network. Our offerings include:

 Burial Services	 Career Services	 Education	 Entrepreneurship	 Financial Assistance
 Fitness	 Health Services	 Homeless Assistance	 Legal Assistance	 Life Wellness
 Mental Wellness	 Social Life	 Veteran Benefits	 Volunteer Engagements	 Workshops



The Virginia Veterans Network is managed by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.



The Virginia Department of Veterans Services connects Virginia's veterans and their families to the federal and state benefits, support, quality care, and recognition they have earned.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact DVS for assistance at:

 VirginiaVeteransNetwork@dvs.virginia.gov

 804-786-0286

GET CONNECTED.

Here's how: Visit dvs.virginia.gov to create a profile and validate your veteran or service member status. After registering, you'll find services and resources from hundreds of local and nationwide organizations vetted by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS).



Scan QR code to visit the Virginia Veterans Network.

President's Special Project



Please Send donations to Department Treasurer: Cathy Graham 9691 Linden brook Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22031-1132

Facts about The Barns at Blue Mountain: www.barnsatbluemountain.org

They are a 501c3 non-profit, they are a self-sustaining organization that relies on fundraising, donations, and grants to pay staff, care for their horse partners, monthly rent for their facilities, and all other expenses. They do work with Blue Mountain Therapy to provide quality services with their amazing staff. Their services are not billable to insurance companies currently. They are part of an army of equine assisted service providers working hard to supply hard data and results that will push companies to recognize the benefits and pay for these services. This is why they Fundraise so much! Their staff, board members, and volunteers work hard on raising funds all year to help cover the cost of services and care for their horse partners. They ask for no more than 1/3 of the cost of providing an equine assisted service from the family they serve. They have a sliding scale that can take the cost down to as low as \$5 per session. So fundraising and your support makes it possible to provide a trained & healthy equine partner, an equine specialist &/or certified therapeutic riding instructor, a therapist or counsellor in some cases, volunteers or added staff for aid, and the equipment and facility to those benefiting from our programs in your community. They work closely with Physical, occupational, and speech therapists, as well as, behaviour technicians, mental health professionals, and social workers from Blue Mountain Therapy. They collaborate and work closely with Emory & Henry College and their equine, psychology, and therapy departments to both put the most up to date methods into practice and to train upcoming equine assisted services professionals.

Programs they have:

Healing Hooves is a therapeutic riding program serving ages 6& up with a variety of physical & mental disabilities, or cognitive delays.

Changing Strides is an at-risk youth program serving ages 6-19. They work with DSS, foster care agencies, juvenile court, and mental health agencies to provide a safe space for healing and growth. They work on personal growth, healthy relationships and communication, and self-sufficiency.

Serve a Purpose Program serves our veterans, active military, and their families with both community engagement & support, and equine assisted psychotherapy with a mental health professional.

Pony Power Reading Program is for all ages and promotes reading and literacy while being in the calm realm of horses that is judgement free.

Pony Pals Program is an all-inclusive group class that is open to ages 6-15. This group learns horse safety, handling, behaviour, communication, independence, teamwork, social skills, emotional regulation, and leadership.

Barn Buddies Program is for adults with disabilities or cognitive delays to enjoy outdoor and social activities while learning social skills, emotional regulation, and independence.

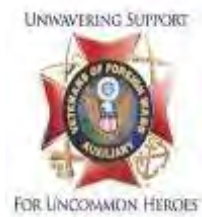
FOR SALE!

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





VFW Auxiliary Department of Virginia

I would like to begin by thanking Department Commander Rubenstein for letting the VFW Auxiliary Virginia provide Post Commanders and members information about forming a new Auxiliary and recruiting Auxiliary members for existing Auxiliaries.

Starting a New Auxiliary

The first step to institute a new Auxiliary begins with Per VFW Bylaws Section XI - no Auxiliary to a Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be formed unless approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Post membership present and voting at a regular or special meeting, due notice of the proposed formation of an Auxiliary having been given the entire membership of the Post, in writing at least twenty (20) days prior to a regular meeting, or special meeting called for the aforementioned purpose. The approval to form a new Auxiliary is to be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

Although the process to form a new Auxiliary sound like a challenge, the benefits of having an Auxiliary affiliated with your Post far outweigh the challenge. You will have a partner to work with to assist the VFW to pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families, provide volunteer hours in the VA Medical Centers and local medical facilities, conduct patriotic programs with thousands of students and offer hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for our nation's youth. We are there to assist Veterans and their families as well as working with other organizations in our communities.

Existing Auxiliary

If your post has an Auxiliary, you already know the benefits of having an affiliated Auxiliary. If you have not already done so, you can show your support by signing up eligible family members. The best resource for new Auxiliary members (must be minimum of 16 years old), either forming a new Auxiliary (which we need fifteen new members) or an existing Auxiliary is the Post members. Included is the VFW Auxiliary Eligibility which shows the relatives to the Veteran who are eligible to become an auxiliary member. If you would like to sign up new Auxiliary members, please contact the Auxiliary President. He or she will be happy to assist you.

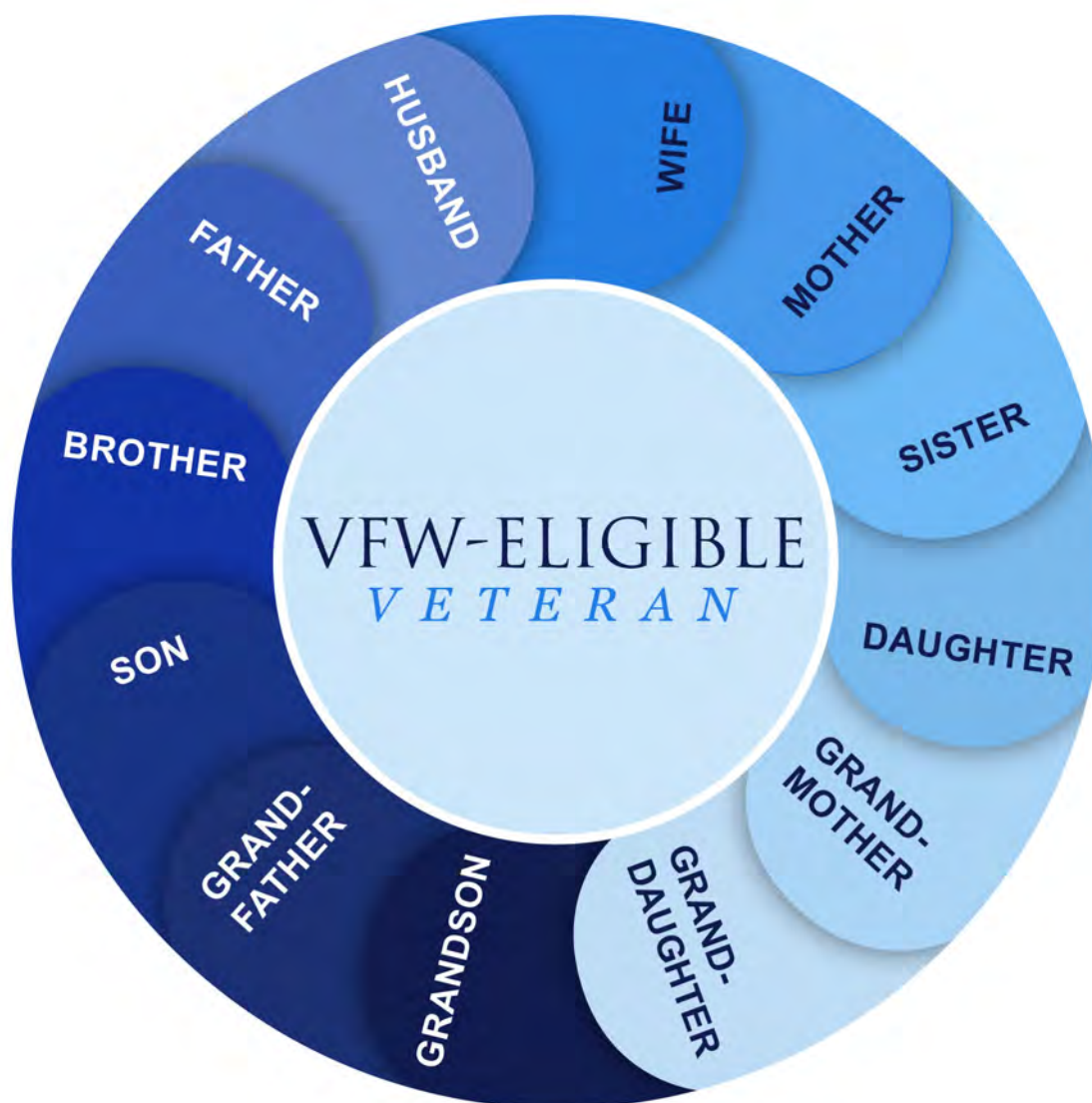
To our "bachelor" posts once your post has approved the formation of the Auxiliary, please contact our Department President Dawn Kuhn or Department Chief of Staff Carol Vangi. We will assist you with the next steps.

Again, thank Commander Rubenstein for allowing us to provide this information.

Dawn Kuhn, Department President
kuhn@comcast.net

Carol Vangi, Chief of Staff
cjonesvangi@gmail.com

VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel



**Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.*



Todd A. Taylor

Candidate for the High Office of VFW State Surgeon 2025-2026

Comrades, for those that don't know me I am Todd Taylor and I am running for State Surgeon for the 2025-2026 term. I am not into recreating the wheel and am looking to continue the great work that we all do for the VFW. I look to continue some of the great practices that were done by my predecessors in ensuring that we are supporting our Veterans, making a positive impact in our communities, and supporting our VFW Programs both at the State and National levels.

My eligibility for the VFW is service in Desert Shield/Desert Storm with 11 years of honorable service in the United States Marine Corps.

My VFW Service is as follows:

Post:

- Service as a Trustee and Adjutant
- All-State and All-American Quartermaster
- All-State and All-American Commander
- MOC Seam Squirrel Puptent 19 2023-Present

District:

- Service within the District for 3 years
- All-State and All-American Commander

Department:

- Sergeant at Arms for Department Ceremonies
- Recruiting Chair North 2024-2025

Appointments:

- Assistant National Aide-De-Camp 2021-2022
- National Finance and Internal Organization Committee 2022
- Assistant Inspector General 2022-2024
- National Bylaws Committee 2023 & 2024

I look forward to serving the VFW to the best of my ability and I am looking forward to the opportunity of becoming the next VFW Department of Virginia Surgeon.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tech for Troops

Contact: Mark Casper, Executive Director

Phone: 804-521-7979

Email: mcasper@techfortroops.org

Website: TechforTroops.org

Tech For Troops Awarded Two Top 2025 Military Friendly® Employer Designations

Richmond, VA — November 20, 2024 — Tech For Troops, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering Veterans through technology, is proud to announce recent recognition as a 2025 Gold Level Military Friendly® Employer and 2025 Military Spouse Friendly Employer®. The 22nd annual list of Military Friendly® Employers was released on www.militaryfriendly.com and is due to be published in the December 2024 issue of G.I. Jobs® magazine recognizing 338 Employers.

In applying to the rigorous and transparent system designed to create real, lasting benefits for those who serve or have served, Tech For Troops was selected after first pledging their commitment to supporting the military community, which includes active duty, reserve, guard, Veterans, and military spouses. The framework for the Military Friendly® Employer standard ensures that organizations are not only committed to supporting the military community but are also held accountable for their efforts and successes.

"We are deeply honored to be recognized as both a Gold Level 2025 Military Friendly® Employer and a Military Spouse Friendly Employer®. This recognition reflects our unwavering pledge to supporting those who have served, as well as their families, by providing the training, resources, and opportunities they need to succeed." said Mark Casper, President and CEO of Tech for Troops. "At Tech For Troops, we strive to break down barriers to employment and access to technology, empowering Veterans and military spouses to thrive in today's digital workforce. This recognition validates the hard work and dedication of our team, and we remain steadfast to making a lasting impact on the military community."

Tech For Troops is dedicated to providing Workforce Development and Mental Wellness programming to military personnel along with environmental and security services related to E-waste Recycling and Data Destruction. With each key focus area, Tech For Troops is able to offer employment positions to Veterans and technology training that provides employment preparation such as resume guidance and virtual interviewing.

About Military Friendly®

Military Friendly® is the standard that measures an organization's commitment, and success in creating sustainable and meaningful benefits for the military community. Over 2,800 organizations compete annually for Military Friendly® designation. Military Friendly® ratings are owned by Viqtory, Inc., a service-disabled, Veteran-owned small business. Viqtory is not affiliated with or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Defense or the federal government. Results are produced via a rules-based algorithm. The data-driven Military Friendly® lists and methodology can be found at <https://www.militaryfriendly.com/mfcguide/>

About Tech for Troops

Tech for Troops is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing Veterans with the technology, training, and resources they need to succeed in a digital world. Through computer refurbishing, technical training, and career support, Tech for Troops helps Veterans overcome the digital divide, ensuring they have access to the tools they need to thrive in today's job market.

For more information, visit TechforTroops.org or contact us at 804-521-7979 or info@TechforTroops.org.

END



Department of Virginia
Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary
November - December 2024

Dear Members:

Where has the 2024 year gone. The fall foliage has faded...the air is cool, and the sun goes down way too soon. Holidays will soon be approaching. What a wonderful time of the year for family, friends & food. Busy, exciting and very festive. Same for our VFW National Home Families.



To see a **VIRTUAL TOUR** of the Virginia House go to vfwnationalhome.org and check out **“OUR COMMUNITY”**. Scroll down to the Virginia House and hit virtual tour. It will also tell you the history of the House, built in 1935, 1,933 Square Feet, 3 Bed, 1.5 Bath. The home itself is in very good shape. You can also take a virtual tour of the entire VFW National Home campus. Check out the **“STORIES”** of how you have made such a difference in the lives of many veterans and their families. There is so much more important information about the home and events. Share it with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Families at the National Home

- There is a female Veteran and her son living at the Virginia House. They are doing well and working on their commitments.
- We have 37 houses occupied, with 82 kids & 52 adults living in the homes.
- 7 Families have graduated and are on their way to a brighter future. Thanks to you!
- There are 5 applications in the works.



The VFW National Home will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 2025, and we want you to be part of it. That's why we are inviting you to join our Centennial Membership. As a token of our appreciation, we are making this special offer available to current and nonmembers. When you apply between April 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025, we offer the following benefits:

- Exclusive Centennial Membership Pin
- 10% Off Souvenirs and Apparel
- Reduced Guest Lodge Rate
- Exclusive Member-only Apparel

Applications can be found on the VFW National Home website: vfnationalhome.org

VFW LIFE MEMBERSHIP

VFW and VFW Auxiliary members and organizations are eligible to become Life Members. Life Members may vote for the trustees who represent their National Home District and approve any proposed changes to our bylaws and articles of incorporation. The National Home Board of Trustees approved the use of electronic voting beginning with the 2022 Trustee District election. Therefore, Life Members must have a valid email and/or a mobile phone number on record in order to vote.

ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Any individual or organization wishing to support the National Home's mission can become an Associate Life Member. Associate Life Members do not have voting privileges.

Applications can be found online at vfnationalhome.org
Purchase National Home Life Membership \$50

GREAT NEWS...

For the 2nd year the VFW National Home has received a 4 Star rating as an organization that can be trusted and exceeds the best practices and industry standards for charity accountability, donor privacy, leadership and organization culture best practices. That is hard to receive and that says a lot about our VFW National Home.

MORE GREAT NEWS....

As of the end of October, roads and stripping are done; electrical infrastructure upgrade is finished; the renovation of the Welcome Center has started and the new Pollett House (1st home and family at the VFW National Home which had to be condemned) is well underway to completion. The Centennial Garden has been completed in time for the new plants, trees and grass before the winter sets in. Bricks that were purchased before July 22nd arrived and installed. A total of 372 bricks have been purchased since April 1, 2024.

Celebrate the National Home's Upcoming Centennial birthday

Celebrate the upcoming VFW National Home Centennial in style with a personalized engraved brick in our 2025 Centennial Garden. Whether it's to honor a loved one, commemorate a special event, or simply leave your mark on this historic occasion, our 8x8 engraved bricks offer a timeless way to do just that. For a limited time only, you can secure your place in history for an unbeatable price of only \$500. The Centennial Garden will be located adjacent to the existing Tribute Park. PS. It is not too late for you, your Post/Auxiliary, to share a Centennial Garden Brick on every level.... Post, District and Dept.



100th Birthday Celebration – 2025

January 7, 2025 - Everyone is encouraged to sponsor a Birthday Celebration

February 8, 2025 - 100th Gala Anniversary Celebration Formal Dinner –Tickets \$125.00 ea

March 7, 2025 - New Pollett House Dedication & Ribbon Cutting

June 28, 2025 - 100th Celebration (Carnival, dedications, cartoon characters, concerts, food vendors, pavilions, vintage baseball & ending with a laser show - 11am–11 pm)



Our newest addition! CIC AI and National President Brenda's Department Commanders and Presidents Class 24-25 project is completed and in the Tribute Park. It is awesome and perfect for the National Home. Job Well Done! Thank you, Team 2024-25 Commanders/Presidents. The dedication will take place during the 100th Celebration on June 28th at the VFW National Home.

Thank you for your continuous support!

Sandi Kriebel, PNP

Board of Trustees #4 VFW National Home

Sr. Vice President, Executive Committee

Representing DE, MD, NC & VA

443-745-9206

***HAVE A BLESSED THANKSGIVING &
BRIGHT HOLIDAY SEASON WITH
FAMILY & FRIENDS***