

NUMBER 11

403 Lee Jackson Highway
 Staunton, Virginia 24401

"Unity Brings Victory"

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

May 1, 2026

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

GUIDE TO THE GO:

Articles are listed by number not by pages:

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| 1. Commander's Message | 16. Legislative Committee |
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1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Comrades,

This will be my final message through General Orders as your State Commander. I want to sincerely thank each and every one of you for the outstanding support you have given me throughout this year. Serving as your State Commander has been one of the greatest honors of my life.

I now look forward to assuming the title of Past State Commander, and I am truly honored to be joining the ranks of some remarkable individuals who have served our organization with distinction. While this chapter comes to a close, my VFW journey certainly does not. I remain committed to continuing my service to the Department of Virginia and to all the great veterans of our Commonwealth.

I am confident you will continue to provide the same outstanding guidance and support to Mark as you have given me. Your dedication is what makes this Department strong.

I would also like to let everyone know that I have officially moved to Fishersville, Virginia, and have transferred my membership to VFW Post 2216. At the same time, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to VFW Post 3160 for the incredible support and camaraderie over the past 20 years. That Post will always hold a special place in my heart.

Convention is just a few weeks away at the end of this month, and I hope to see as many of you there as possible. I am looking forward to the camaraderie that comes with each convention. Convention is where decisions are made and voices are heard, this is *your* Department, and you do have a say.

The month of May also brings Memorial Day, a time to remember and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. I encourage every Post to take the opportunity to recognize our fallen heroes and to remember the Gold Star families in your communities. Their sacrifice continues every day.

Please continue the hard work on membership, and push to reach the 101% goal for your Posts and Districts so you can be eligible for All-American status. Congratulations to all the Posts and Districts that have already achieved this milestone.

It has truly been a great honor to serve as your State Commander, an experience I will cherish and remember for the rest of my life.

Yours in Comradeship,
Doug Hoffman
State Commander

2. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:

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

3. AUDITS:

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

4. BUDDY POPPIES:

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

A Buddy Poppy order form was enclosed in last month's General Orders.

5. DELEGATE FEES:

In accordance with the National By-Laws Section 222(C), each Post will pay in accordance with Department By-Laws a delegate registration fee for each delegate to which the Post shall be entitled.

Therefore, you must submit your delegates list (form is enclosed) to the Department in accordance with Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure (B) along with a check in the amount of \$5.00 for every delegate your Post is entitled to as of membership status March 31. All delegate lists and monies should be sent to Department Headquarters by May 14, 2026. Failure to do so will put your Post in arrears to the Department and the Post will have no voting strength at the State Convention.

6. DELEGATES TO DISTRICT/DEPARTMENT CONVENTION:

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. 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.

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.

7. DELINQUENT:

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

8. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

1 st	Date: 5/16/26 Meeting: 10:00 am Location: Post 3219 Phoebus (sponsored by Post 960) 1222 E Mellen Street, Hampton Rep: State Surgeon Todd Taylor	5 th	Date: 5/16/26 Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: Post 4637 Martinsville 1425 Greensboro Road Rep: State Adj/QM Ed Mann
2 nd	Date: 5/9/26 Meeting: 9:00 AM Location: Post 392 Virginia Beach 2408 Bowland Parkway Rep: State SVC Mark Maggio	6 th	Date: TBD Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: TBD
3 rd	Date: 5/2/26 Meeting: 10:00 AM Lunch: To follow Meeting Location: Post 9808 Mechanicsville 7168 Flag Lane Rep: State SVC Mark Maggio	7 th	Date: 5/16/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 9660 Broadway 14550 Runion Creek Road Rep: St Judge Advocate Randy Coker
4 th	Date: 5/9/26 Meeting: 11:00 AM Location: Post 7166 South Hill 1472 N Mecklenburg Ave, LaCrosse Rep: St JVC Charles Bush	8 th	Date: TBD Meeting: 10:00 AM Location: TBD
		9 th	Date: 5/16/26 Meeting: 10:00 am Location: Post 4667 Marion 861 Goolsby Street Rep: PSC Gary Adams

10th Date: 5/2/26
Meeting: 10:00 AM
Location: Post 1503 Dale City
14631 Minnieville Road
Rep: St Judge Advocate Randy Coker

12th Date: 7/18/26
Meeting: 11:00 AM
Location: Post 1994 Abingdon
18003 Cleveland Church Rd
Rep:

11th Date: TBD
Meeting: 10:00 AM
Location: TBD

13th Date: 5/16/26
Meeting: 11:00 AM
Location: Post 1827 Charlottesville
1170 River Rd
Rep: PSC Ken Wiseman

9. FLAG DAY, JUNE 14:

All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Saturday, June 14 and to conduct a ceremony or program as feasible. You may contact the VFW Communications Department for a Flag Day speech. It is also suggested Posts should award the VFW Patriotic Citizen Award (Product No. 4385) for those who have daily displayed our national flag.

10. GENERAL ORDERS:

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

11. HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG:

The U.S. Flag should be at half-staff on Memorial Day, the last Monday in May (federal holiday - half-staff until noon). Flags available at VFW Store vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags.

12. JLC:

Claim Sharks

We are deeply disappointed that the Legislature failed to advance (HB 1268) that would have banned claim sharks from operating in Virginia. Despite the fact that the Louisiana Supreme Court ruled that these organizations are unconstitutional, and that California banned companies from operating in-state, and that also under Title 38 of the US Code they are illegal, the Virginia Legislature succumbed to the influence of lobbyists and passed legislation (SB315) that would legitimize these illegal operators.

We are further disappointed that Governor Spanberger signed SB315 into law. The new law does provide some protection, but I see two issues: (1) the exorbitant fees (5 months of compensation) and (2) the lack of text limiting the contract to the initial filing. That text would prevent charging for future increases, even if the chosen firm took no part in helping the veteran obtain them.

Perhaps it is time to address this issue at the Federal level. There is pending Federal legislation (HR1732) "Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act or the GUARD VA Benefits Act" that if passed would ban Claim Sharks nationwide. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1732>. Lobbying is already underway by several VSOs.

Continued funding for VMSDEP

The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program (VMSDEP) is funded for the next two years. However, we have been advised that budget impacting issues would be difficult to advance, and that we should consider raising the issue for the 2028 Legislative session.

Charitable Gaming

The Charitable Gaming Board is considering adjusting Use of Proceeds requirements to 10% of adjusted gross for all gaming, including bingo. Also, under consideration is removing responsibility for charitable gaming from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs and placing it under the Lottery Commission's jurisdiction. Fortunately, we have VSO representation on the Charitable Gaming Board.

Some additional issues being considered for the 2027 session include:

- Midlife Healthcare Gap for Women Veterans
- Veterans Medical Appointment Access: Reducing Transportation Barriers Statewide
- Expedited professional licenses for military spouses.
- USPHS and NOAA commissioned corps retirees to obtain a state income tax exclusion

The JLC will meet in Richmond on June 10.

Rick Raskin
PSC
JLC Representative

13. IMPORTANT DATES:

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

14. INSTALLING OFFICERS:

Installing officers will see that the provisions of Section 216 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to

installing Post officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed.

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

15. IRS FORM 8822-B:

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

16. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

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

Here's the Agenda:

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

Discussion items may be accepted at the meeting time permitting. Ron's email is vfwvaleg@gmail.com

Very Respectfully,
Ron Riffle
State Legislative Chair

17. 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

18. LOYALTY DAY AND MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE:

Section 223 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure provides that each Post shall make the necessary arrangements for proper observance of Loyalty Day and Memorial Day. Officers should see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased veterans.

19. LIFE MEMBER PAYOUT:

The Life Membership Board of Trustees, with the concurrence of the National Council of Administration, pursuant to Section 111 of the VFW Bylaws, has determined that for the 2026-27 membership year, the Life Membership Fund will pay out as follows:

- Plans A, B, C - A total payout of \$10.50 for each life member (\$3.50 to each Post, Department and National)
- Plan D - A total payout of \$12.54 for each life member (\$4.18 to each Post, Department and National)
- Plan E - A total payout of \$24.30 for each life member (\$8.10 to each Post, Department and National)

Note: At-Large Members are corresponding Plan pay out amount divided by two. For example, Plan ABC At-Large Payout is \$5.25.

Payment will be made in September 2026 for all Life Members recorded as of Aug 31, 2026. In addition, a payment will be made in January 2027 for all Life Members processed during the period Sept. 1 through Dec. 31, 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact Marc Garduno, Quartermaster General, MGarduno@vfw.org.

20. MEMBERSHIP:

Comrades,

We are fast approaching the State Convention. Our membership is currently strong state-wide at 99.69% as of April 19th. We have five Districts and 58 Posts who have achieved the goal of 101%. Congratulations to all of them who have made it!

Looking forward, we have a large number of Posts and Districts who are in the hunt for 101% and most are positioned to make it. I encourage you to look at your unpaid list and the membership report to compare where you are to where you want to be.

We can expect a decent rate of renewals in May, but history says that is not the truth for June meaning you will need the unpaid list to make phone calls. However, with 101% in membership being the goal for both All-American and All-State, you can get two birds with one stone by achieving the goal. So, make your plan now to achieve it and quickly move forward to accomplish the goal.

You should be planning your Memorial Day Poppy events and the VFW Day of Service, both being in May and both being great opportunities to recruit. Do not hesitate to reach out to the Membership Team for advice and support.

We will see you at the State Convention.

Tom Hines PSC
Membership Team Chairman
Cell. 434 774 7729

21. NATIONAL CONVENTION:

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

CONVENTION REGISTRATION – Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials, and one identified registered delegate for the VFW National Convention.

Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten-dollar (\$10) delegate fee provided the Post has paid the mandated \$25 advance registration fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. ATTN: Convention Registration. Quartermasters may also register delegates utilizing the online membership system (OMS).

22. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters will be closed May 25, 2026, in observance of Memorial Day.

State Headquarters will be closed May 27 – June 1, 2026, for the State Convention.

23. POST ELECTIONS:

Post Election Reports must be submitted no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters.

Installing officers are directed to see to it that the Post Election Reports have been completed and submitted to National Headquarters. If a Post Election Report has not been forwarded to National Headquarters at the time of installation, the installing officer shall complete and forward such report at the time of the installation of Post Officers no later than June 1. **We encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS)**, which is located behind the member's "LOGIN" at vfw.org. Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters.

24. 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.

25. PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY:

Post, District, Department Commanders, Adjutants and Quartermasters are reminded of the requirements of Sections 216, 416 and 516 of the Manual of Procedure with regard to proof of eligibility for all newly-elected and appointed officers. Elected and appointed officers **shall not be installed** or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Failure or refusal to submit proof of eligibility within thirty (30) days of election or appointment shall result in the office being declared vacant.

26. 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.

27. SCHOLARSHIP THEME:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is now accepting entries for its 80th annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarship competitions. The 2026-2027 theme asks America's students **"What a Veteran Taught Me About America."**

Student entries may be submitted (along with a completed entry form) to their local participating VFW Post. The deadline for both contests is **October 31, 2026**. To read more about the contests or download the entry form, visit vfw.org/YouthScholarships.

28. VETERANS YOGA:

Amazing Event coming up in Washington DC
Celebrating 15 years of Veterans Yoga Project

June 26, 2026

Beveridge & Diamond Rooftop
1900 N St NW
Washington, DC

Join supporters, partners, and community leaders for an evening of reflection, connection, and celebration. This flagship gathering honors the impact of the past 15 years while supporting the continued expansion of trauma-informed wellness programming for those who serve.

We are honored to welcome [Colonel Adam Nestor](#) as our featured speaker whose leadership and service reflect the resilience we gather to honor.

June 27, 2026

9AM-11AM
Global War on Terrorism Memorial
Open to All

Bring your mat and join us for a shared practice grounded in connection and presence. This inclusive yoga session welcomes Veterans, families, supporters, and community members to come together in movement, breath, and reflection.

This gathering embodies the heart of Veterans Yoga Project – accessible practices that foster resilience and belonging.

Registration Link below...

<https://veteransyogaproject.org/vyp15/>

Vance J. Row
PHONE: 410-726-2469
EMAIL: vancerow@gmail.com

29. VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION:

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

30. VIRGINIA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

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

.....
Donald E. (Doc) Ballard was born in Kansas City, MO in 1945. He was married and working in a dental lab when he decided to enlist in the hopes of becoming a dentist. He enlisted in 1965 and following recruit training and Hospital Corps School, he decided that he wanted to a corpsman with the United States Marine Corps. Following

additional training he was assigned as a navy corpsman with M Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Mar Div in Quang Tri province in South Vietnam. On May 16, 1968, Ballard was treating two Marines suffering from heat exhaustion when his unit was attacked by a NVA company. His actions that day earned him the Medal of Honor. The citation reads as follows:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty while serving as a HC2c. with Company M, in connection with operations against enemy aggressor forces. During the afternoon hours, Company M was moving to join the remainder of the 3d Battalion in Quang Tri Province. After treating and evacuating 2 heat casualties, HC2c. Ballard was returning to his platoon from the evacuation landing zone when the company was ambushed by a North Vietnamese Army unit employing automatic weapons and mortars, and sustained numerous casualties. Observing a wounded marine, HC2c. Ballard unhesitatingly moved across the fire swept terrain to the injured man and swiftly rendered medical assistance to his comrade. HC2c. Ballard then directed 4 marines to carry the casualty to a position of relative safety. As the 4 men prepared to move the wounded marine, an enemy soldier suddenly left his concealed position and, after hurling a hand grenade which landed near the casualty, commenced firing upon the small group of men. Instantly shouting a warning to the marines, HC2c. Ballard fearlessly threw himself upon the lethal explosive device to protect his comrades from the deadly blast. When the grenade failed to detonate, he calmly arose from his dangerous position and resolutely continued his determined efforts in treating other marine casualties. HC2c. Ballard's heroic actions and selfless concern for the welfare of his companions served to inspire all who observed him and prevented possible injury or death to his fellow marines. His courage, daring initiative, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of extreme personal danger, sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

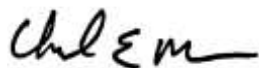
Ballard left the Navy in 1969 and was presented his Medal of Honor by President Nixon at a White House ceremony in 1970. Ballard later joined the Kansas National Guard in 1970 as a commissioned officer and served as an ambulance platoon leader, company commander, and was tasked with creating the new Medical Detachment 5, a unit which performs medicals on guard members in order to save the cost of contracting outside medical help, and of which he was the first member and commander.

On April 5, 1998, Ballard was promoted to colonel and served as Special Assistant to the State's Adjutant General until his retirement in 2000. Inducted into the National Guard Hall of Fame in November 2001, Ballard is the only living Kansas Guardsman to have received the Medal of Honor. He is also the subject of a memorial statue at the National Medical War Memorial in Kansas City, depicting Ballard during the action for which he received the Medal of Honor.

Ballard has been active in providing services to veterans and active duty military, including work towards opening a USO facility in downtown Kansas City.

Jeff Dombroff
Chairman

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Douglas Hoffman
State Commander

PLEASE NOTE

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

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

Kathy Goodall
Convention Chairman

Sandra Terry
Convention Vice Chairman

Tentative Subject to Change

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

**Thursday,
May 28, 2026**

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

**Friday,
May 29, 2026**

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

**Saturday,
May 30, 2026**

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

**Sunday,
May 31, 2026**

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

Registration \$5.00 (All VFW members are required to register in advance as delegates from their Post)

**SATURDAY RECEPTION/DANCE - THERE WILL BE A \$10.00 FEE TO THOSE WANTING TO ATTEND
HOSPITALITY ROOM - Department – APPALACHIAN Ballroom**



STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

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

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

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

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

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

Tickets: \$10.00

Meal will consist of

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

Your choice of Iced Tea, Iced Water

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

Person placing the order (name) _____ Phone: _____

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

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

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

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

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ Zip Code: _____ CCV: _____

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

You may e-mail this form to: statehq@vfwva.org or fax to: 1-866-416-0586

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

CHAIRMAN, CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

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

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

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

Official:

Yours in Comradeship,

Post Adjutant

Post Commander

MAIL TO:

VFW State Headquarters 403 Lee Jackson Hwy Staunton, VA 24401

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

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

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

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

Commanders Club Luncheon

ATTENTION: All Past and Present Commanders

You are invited to attend the Annual Commanders Club Luncheon to be held on **SATURDAY**, May 30, 2026 at the Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. We will have a limit of 70 so register early.

COST: Check \$40.00 Online \$ Check Email in March or April GOs

MENU: Salad, Entrée (Portobello Mushroom, Roasted Panko Crusted Chicken, or Roasted Pork Loin), Whipped Garlic Mashed 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 PAYMENT OPTION INCLUDES A SERVICE FEE:

<https://givebutter.com/cclunch2026>

DEADLINE: May14, 2026 *PRE-REGISTRATION FOR MEAL IS REQUIRED.
NO MEALS WILL BE AVAILABLE UNLESS PRE-REGISTERED.*

Tickets available 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 payment on line instructions to follow in April GOs.

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/Pork Loin)	DATE JOINED
------	--	-------------

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Life Member Dues for _____

For Life Members please include the attached form with 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.

Life Member Dues are \$35.00

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Department of Virginia Commanders Club

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

OR PAY ONLINE WITH A SERVICE FEE:

Check the April General Orders for Online payments.

PLEASE SEND THIS COMPLETED FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK

NAME _____

Post or Pup Tent _____

Dates as Commander or Seam Squirrel _____

Address _____

Personal Email _____

Phone Number _____

DAY OF SERVICE 2026



Kicking off on Saturday, May 2

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

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

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

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



**SCAN TO SIGN
UP FOR 2026!**

vfw.org/DayOfService

**STILL
SERVING**



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

2nd Annual

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

Saturday, May 2nd, 2026

THE WOODLANDS GOLF COURSE

Registration at 0700 | Shotgun Start at 0800



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



Visit: charitygolftoday.com/vfwruppert

Charity Golf Today

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

All Proceeds Support Veterans and Veteran Programs

Date: Saturday, May 23, 2026

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

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

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

Registration/Payment— Forms found on VFW1841.org,



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

Team/Individual Prizes

1st—\$150/golfer

2nd—\$100/golfer

3rd—\$75/golfer

EXTRAS

Raffle Prizes

Longest Drive Prizes

Closest to Pin Prizes

Longest Putt Prize

Buy Mulligans

Boxed Lunch

And much more...

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

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

4 Person Scramble * Shotgun Start

Botetourt Golf Club—Troutville, VA

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



REGISTRATION FORM

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



Team or Individual

Team Name (if applicable): _____

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

Player 1: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Player 2: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Player 3: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Player 4: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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

_____ Mulligan - \$10.00 each

_____ Mulligan 4 Pack - \$30

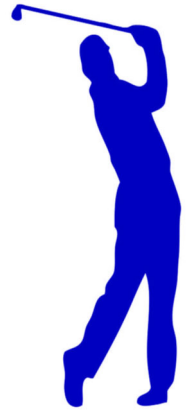
Please make checks payable to: **LORD BOTETOURT POST 1841** | 4902 Roanoke Rd | Daleville, VA 24083



Veterans of Foreign Wars Lord Botetourt Post #1841

Sponsorship Menu Golf Tournament - May 23, 2026

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



First Annual Golf Tournament



Or Sponsor Online!

Company Name: _____ Email: _____

Website: _____ Phone: _____

Contact Name: _____



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



Sponsors

4 Person Scramble * Shotgun Start

Botetourt Golf Club—Troutville, VA

May 23, 2026 * Start - 1:30 pm

More Information vfw1841.org



Golfers

ODE

*They have no grave,
But the cruel sea.*

*No flowers lay at their head.
A rustling hulk is their tombstone,
Afast the ocean bed.*

*They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

Lest We Forget



MEMORIAL CEREMONY

**WFW Post 8644 Myers-
Hodges Post**

Bridgewater, Virginia

May 25, 2026



USS FRANK E. EVANS sailed for Westpac on 19 March 1969. She was ordered to the Combat Zone, the “Gun Line” as a Naval gun-fire support ship between 5-15 May during Operation Rebel. She responded to 86 calls for gunfire and expelled over 3500 rounds. **FRANK E. EVANS** was then ordered to participate in a joint military exercise off the coast of Vietnam titled “Sea Spirit” On 26 May 1969, she departed Manila in the screen of the Australian anti-submarine warfare carrier **HMAS MELBOURNE** bound towards Thailand. In the early morning darkness on 3 June during action of taking a new station 1,000 yards astern of **HMAS MELBOURNE**, the two ships were soon on a collision course. **MELBOURNE** cut **FRANK E. EVANS** in half. 74 men lost their lives.

The names of the “lost 74” sailors are not inscribed upon the Vietnam Memorial Wall because they were killed outside the “Combat Zone,” an area used specifically by the Department of Defense to determine if an individual was a Vietnam conflict fatality. The Department's criteria has been changed/modified in recent years to accommodate additions to the memorial, The USS Frank E. Evans Association believes that had the authors of the original criteria knew that military support exercises, within striking distance of Vietnam, were in direct support of the war they would have included the “Lost 74” names at the time of it's construction. Our Association is working with legislative representatives to create this awareness to the Department of Defense.

Because their names are not on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC an effort has been made to remember these gallant men by having memorials erected throughout the United States and Australia. Today, we honor our “Lost 74” to commemorate the ultimate sacrifice that was made by the lost sailors of USS Frank E. Evans.

“Lest We Forget”

**VFW POST 8644 MYERS-HODGES POST
118 DRY RIVER ROAD
BRIDGEWATER, VA 22812
May 25, 2026
2 PM**

**MEMORIAL CEREMONY
IN HONOR OF 74 FALLEN SAILORS, 3 JUNE 1969
USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754)**

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS



INVOCATION



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



LAYING OF THE WREATH



ODE TO THE FALLEN



THE TURN



BACKGROUND TO THE COLLISION



NAME READING / RINGING OF THE BELL



TAPS



CLOSING REMARKS



BENEDICTION

Women Veterans Forum for Summer Convention

Women veterans are one of the fastest-growing segments of the veteran community. Their service spans every branch and mission, yet many still face unique challenges in recognition, access to care, and building strong support networks after service. That's why opportunities for connection, education, and advocacy are so important.

The VFW Department of Virginia is taking an important step during its Summer Convention by hosting a Women Veterans' Forum on **May 29th from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM**. This forum is a focused effort to bring women veterans and supporters together to address issues that matter most to them.

This year's forum will center on **health and wellness for women veterans**, a topic that continues to demand attention. Attendees will hear directly from experts at the Martinsburg VA Women's Clinic and the DVS Women Veterans Office, offering valuable insight into available resources, care options, and how women veterans can better advocate for their health.

For women veterans, this is a chance to connect, ask questions, and engage in meaningful conversations with others who understand their experiences. For VFW Auxiliary members, attending is equally important as it strengthens the ability to support, advocate, and serve women veterans more effectively within their communities.

Events like this only make an impact when people show up. If you're attending the Summer Convention in May, make it a priority to be there. Your presence supports women veterans, strengthens the VFW community, and helps ensure these critical conversations continue to move forward.

Tarah Jeffery
VFW Dept of VA Women Veterans Committee
Post 12218 Quartermaster

Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation

Every woman veteran has a story worth preserving with one of service, sacrifice, leadership, and resilience. Yet too many of those stories go undocumented, leaving a gap in how our nation understands the full scope of military history. That's why registering through **Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation** at **womensmemorial.org** is so important. It ensures that each woman veteran's service is recognized, recorded, and remembered for generations to come.

The VFW is encouraging both women veterans and VFW Auxiliary members to take part in this effort. Whether you served on active duty, in the Guard, or Reserve YOUR story MATTERS. By registering, you become part of a living historical record housed at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, the only major national memorial dedicated to honoring the contributions of women in the U.S. Armed Forces.

A great example of this commitment comes from Carol Whitmore, our VFW Commander-in-Chief, who has taken the time to register and share her own story through the Memorial. Her contribution highlights not only her personal journey of service, but also reinforces the importance of visibility for women veterans at every level. By stepping forward, she is helping ensure that leadership among women veterans is documented and recognized, while also setting the tone for others to follow.

Chief Whitmore's participation sends a clear message: every story matters. From those who served decades ago to those transitioning out of uniform today, each experience adds to a fuller, more accurate picture of military service. Her example serves as both inspiration and a call to action for women veterans and Auxiliary members alike to make their voices part of this national archive.

Registering is a simple but meaningful step. More importantly, it ensures that future generations, families, researchers, and fellow veterans can see and understand the vital role women have played in defending our nation.

If you need assistance with registering your story, please see Tarah Jeffery (email qmpost12218@vfwva.org) or Joanne Smith.

Register your story here at womensmemorial.org

Tarah Jeffery
VFW Dept of VA Women Veterans Committee
Post 12218 Quartermaster

Join Us For A

Community Dinner

to

Support Veterans Mental Health

Hosted By:

est. 1944

5728 BARTEE ST
NORFOLK, VA
23502



AND



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
POST 4809**

Sunday May 31st, 2026

5pm – 8pm

**Spaghetti
Salad**

Roll and Dessert

ALL for only \$12

ALL proceeds go to

**Riding 22 in 22 VSA to support
veteran's mental health**

**Win a Custom Harley-
Davidson Heritage
Softail Motorcycle!
Raffle tickets are \$22
each or 5 for \$100**



**All are welcome.
Bring your friends,
family, and
community spirit**



**Come Hungry.
Leave Inspired.
Help Save Lives.**



“These practices helped me reconnect with myself and my family.”
~ VYP Veteran

Resilience Rising

15 Years of Strength, Service, and Shared Purpose

For 15 years, Veterans Yoga Project has cultivated resilience at the cellular level. Alongside Veterans, service members, and their families, we practice Mindful Resilience tools that help people navigate challenges, thrive more fully, and strengthen community connections.

Three Ways to Participate. One Shared Mission.

Skyline Social Resilience Rising: An Evening in Support of Veterans

Friday, June 26, at 1800
Beveridge & Diamond Rooftop
1900 N St NW, Washington, DC



*Scan to support
Veteran resilience*



Yoga on the National Mall Global War on Terrorism Memorial Site

Saturday, June 27, at 0900
Join a symbolic yoga session honoring service, sacrifice, and resilience.

Resilience Rising Costa Rica Retreat Sweepstakes

Enter to win a transformative wellness retreat while supporting Veteran programs.



www.veteransyogaproject.org/vyp15



VFW Post 3103

★ 4th Annual ★

STAR SPANGLED

VETERANS

★ GOLF TOURNAMENT ★

SEPTEMBER 11, 2026



THE GAUNTLET GOLF COURSE

18 Fairway Dr.

Fredericksburg, VA

★ **Individual Player - \$125**

Team - \$500



Sponsorship opportunities available!

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

Scan QR code or email us at:

✉ **vfw3103@gmail.com**

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

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

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

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

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



FOR SALE!

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

interested in buying or questions contact our Department Treasurer Cathy Graham

cg12dc12@outlook.com



VFW Music Licensing Exemption Checklist (Virginia)

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

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

1. Organization Status

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

2. Type of Music

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

3. Audience Restrictions

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

4. Admission and Proceeds

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

5. Sponsorship & Control

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

6. Location & Use

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

7. Optional Best Practices

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

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

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

Approved by: _____ Date: _____



FREE — US ARMY MAGAZINE
27 BOUND VOLUMES
1967—1996



Contact Rick Raskin—PSC
rraskin@vfwva.org



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

2026-2030

Ready on Day 1!

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



Years of Service!

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

Committed to Success!

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



Beth A. Ford

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

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

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

My VFW Service is as follows:

Post:

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

District:

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

Department:

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

Appointments:

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

TENTATIVE AGENDA

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

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

Friday, July 24, 2026

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

Saturday, July 25, 2026

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

Sunday, July 26, 2026

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

TENTATIVE AGENDA

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

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

Sunday, July 26, 2026 (cont.)

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

Monday, July 27, 2026

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

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

TENTATIVE AGENDA

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

All meetings are held in the convention center unless otherwise noted.

Times for various functions are subject to change.

Meeting rooms will be posted closer to conference dates and are subject to change.

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

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