

NUMBER 5

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

"Unity Brings Victory"

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

November 1, 2025

Staunton, Virginia 24401
 In Virginia 800-888-3521

GUIDE TO THE GO:

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1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

Comrades and Auxiliary,

I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler temperatures—it's the perfect time to get out and recruit new members, as well as conduct Buddy Poppy drives. While the holiday season brings many family obligations, let's not forget the importance of timely reporting. This season offers countless opportunities to support veterans and families in our communities, and your efforts truly make a difference.

November is all about veterans.

We observe Veterans Day, Warrior Care Month, and National Veterans and Military Families Month—each one a chance to honor and uplift those who have served and those who continue to serve alongside them.

- Warrior Care Month, established by the Department of Defense, highlights the strength and resilience of our wounded, ill, and injured service members. It also recognizes the caregivers and families who support them. Events and programs throughout the month focus on recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

- National Veterans and Military Families Month honors the sacrifices and strength of military families. These families endure deployments, relocations, and the emotional toll of service. Throughout November, organizations nationwide offer resources, events, and support to help families thrive.

I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended the Homecoming at Post 1503 last month. Your support means a great deal. A special thank you to Tom and Kelli Levitt for organizing an outstanding evening—it was truly appreciated.

And don't forget—get out and vote!

Election Day in Virginia is Tuesday, November 4, 2025. Let's make sure our voices are heard at the ballot box.

Let's continue to lead with purpose and compassion.

Yours in Comradeship
Douglas "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. 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 ended June 2025 and September 2025 and are **NOW PAST DUE**.

4. BONDS:

All bonds expired August 31, 2025.

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

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

5. BUDDY POPPY:

Although we emphasize Buddy Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, Buddy Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, Buddy Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as "They Gave, Will You?" is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of three (3) weeks in advance of your distribution date. Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy or by calling Member Service Center at 1.833.839.8387. The Manual of Procedure provides that Post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairperson's guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of Buddy Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the Post general fund.

6. 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. 13, 2025.

7. DELINQUENT:

District	Post	Fee	Bonds	Audits	District	Post	Fee	Bonds
2	2296	\$ 10.00	Expired	June	12	District		Expired
3	7167			June	12	4301	\$ 10.00	
4	7819	\$ 10.00			12	6975		Expired
4	7897		Expired		12	7360	\$ 10.00	
6	4299	\$ 5.00			12	9600		Expired
7	8613	\$ 15.00			12	9830		Expired
9	4667		Expired		12	9864	\$ 10.00	
11	8479		Expired		13	District		Expired
11	9339		Expired		13	8947		Expired

8. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1st Date: 12/6/25
 Meeting: 10:00 am
 Location: Post 176 Newport News
 21 Forest Drive
 Rep: St Surgeon Todd Taylor</p> | <p>5th Date: 11/15/25
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Location: Post 4637 Martinsville
 1425 Greensboro Road
 Rep: State JVC Charles Bush</p> |
| <p>2nd Date: 11/8/25
 Meeting: 9:00 AM
 Location: Post 4809 Norfolk
 5728 Bartee Street
 Rep: PSC Eric Mallett</p> | <p>6th Date: 12/6/25
 Meeting: 11:00 AM
 Location: Post 1264 Roanoke (sponsored Post 4299)
 4930 Grandview Avenue NW
 Rep: PSC Mitch Rubenstein</p> |
| <p>3rd Date: 11/8/25
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Lunch: To follow Meeting
 Location: Post 9808 Mechanicsville
 7168 Flag Lane
 Rep: St Adj/QM Mann</p> | <p>7th Date: 1/17/26
 Meeting: 11:00 AM
 Location: Post 2447 Edinburg
 100 Veterans Ways
 Rep: State Cdr Doug Hoffman</p> |
| <p>4th Date: 11/15/25
 Meeting: 11:00 AM
 Location: Post 8759 Amelia
 16440 Five Forks Road
 Rep: State Cdr Doug Hoffman</p> | <p>8th Date: 12/6/25
 Meeting: 10:00 AM
 Location: Post 7728 Bealeton
 12496 Harpers Run Rd
 Rep: TBD</p> |

9th Date: 1/17/26
Meeting: 10:00 am
Location: Post 9696 Bluefield
131 Loverslane St
Rep: St Surgeon Todd Taylor

11th Date: 1/24/26
Meeting: 10:00 AM
Location: Post 9339 Stuarts Draft
3251 Stuarts Draft Highway
Rep: State Cdr Doug Hoffman

10th Date: 12/6/25
Meeting: 10:00 AM
Location: Post 8241 McLean
1051 Springhill Rd
Rep: St JVC Charles Bush

12th Date: 11/15/25
Meeting: 11:00 AM
Location: Post 1994 Abingdon
17581 Lee Highway
Rep: St Judge Advocate Randy Coker

13th Date: 11/15/25
Meeting: 11:00 AM
Location: Post 1827 Charlottesville
1170 River Road
Rep: St SVC Mark Maggio

9. E-MAIL ACCOUNT ACCESS:

All email accounts will reset so the new Officers could take control of their emails the week after the State Convention. This will be the primary means of sending correspondence from State Headquarters to Post and District Officers.

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

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

1. Go to Department web site www.vfwva.org.
2. Click on Resources, Microsoft 365.
3. The username is your email address; put that on the first line (see below for your new address).
4. Your default password will be **VFW2025!** once you have accessed the mail program you will be asked to change it; it must contain at least one uppercase letter and one number.

For Post Officers, your address will be cdrpost176@vfwva.org where the 176 is you replace it with **your** Post number.

adjpost176@vfwva.org
qmpost176@vfwva.org

For District Officers your address will be cdrdist1@vfwva.org for Districts other than the first just replace the 1 with your district # **Please note District Senior Vice Commander's now have an email address**

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

10. GENERAL ORDERS:

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

11. IMPORTANT DATES:

November 6 - 9, 2025	Southern Conference, Montgomery, TX (see Department of Texas website for more information)
January 8 - 11, 2026	Winter Council, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$129.00 per night. Cutoff Date is Monday, December 8, 2025, by 5:00 pm.
May 27 - 30, 2026	State Convention, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$99.00 per night. Cutoff Date is April 26, 2026, by 5:00 pm.
July 25 - 29, 2026	National Convention, Reno, Nevada
October 22 - 25, 2026	Southern Conference, Mobile, AL
January 13 - 15, 2027	Winter Council, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$110.00 per night. Cutoff Date is December 12, 2027, by 5:00 pm.
June 6 - 12, 2027	State Convention, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$119.00 per night. Cutoff Date is May 5, 2027, by 5:00 pm.
July 31 - August 4, 2027	National Convention, Milwaukee, WI
January 12 - 14, 2028	Winter Council, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$119.00 per night. Cutoff Date is December 11, 2028, by 5:00 pm.
June 21 - 24, 2028	State Convention, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$129.00 per night. Cutoff Date is May 20, 2028, by 5:00 pm.
August 5 - 10, 2028	National Convention, San Antonio, TX

12. INCORPORATION:

The attention of the Post Commander is directed to section 708 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, which prescribes the procedure for the Incorporation of Units. It shall be the responsibility of the Post Commander to ensure full compliance with both sections and to ensure that all state requirements for annual filing, fees, etc., are met in a timely manner.

Posts should take the necessary steps to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the Post is located. Financial responsibility laws, as interpreted by the courts, may cause members of unincorporated Posts to be at risk. Incorporating under the provisions of section 708 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure and the laws of the state will provide protection for Post members. Posts are urged to contact their Department Adjutant to obtain the proper forms for incorporating. The Articles of Incorporation must be reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief prior to forwarding them to the proper state authorities.

13. IRS FORM 8822-B:

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

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

14. 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

15. LIFE DRAWING:

Congratulations to Western Prince William County Post 12218, Haymarket as the winner of a free Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Virginia. Haymarket Post 12218 was made eligible for this Free Life Membership for having 75% of their membership reported to State Headquarters by September 30, 2025, deadline.

16. MEMBERSHIP:

Commanders and Comrades,

Greetings from the State Membership Team. I hope all Posts are actively working on their unpaid list as well as looking for new members. Remember that Veterans Day is close and I'm sure all have Poppy and recruiting events scheduled. It's a great time to show the community the face of the VFW. I have great news from our efforts at the State Fair this year. We helped 51 of our Posts across 12 Districts with at least one member. This year's big winner was Post 9808 in Mechanicsville with over 20 new members. It usually comes down to Post 9808 or Post 3103 Fredericksburg, and this year was no different. We had the best year on record with 171 new members with all processing at National. I certainly want to thank a brand-new recruiter at the Fair, Melissa Patrick who stepped in as a replacement for my long-time recruiter Kathy Goodall and did an outstanding job. Also, David Jarrett worked his second fair with us and as usual was a tremendous asset. As usual Ken Wiseman worked both weekends and was a large reason that we set a new record. We had the fewest recruiters this year that I have ever had, 5 overall, counting State Commander Hoffman helping out the last weekend. This is good news for a small Post with only a few active members. You can accomplish your goals; all it takes is effort.

Please look at the National Memstats often and if your Post or District is below the State Average, do everything within your power to catch up and help us push the State over our 101% goal early next year. The Membership

Team is here to help and assist you in your efforts. Please do not hesitate to contact any member or State Headquarters for planning or assistance.

Tom Hines PSC
Membership Team Chairman
Cell. 434 774 7729

17. OFFICE CLOSURE:

State Headquarters will be closed November 10-11, 2025, in observance of Veterans Day and will also close at noon on November 26 and reopen on December 1, 2025, in observance of Thanksgiving.

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

18. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY:

Procedure and Ritual establish that *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12th Edition* shall be the parliamentary authority on procedural matters not governed by VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. This edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* is readily available at local bookstores and online retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

19. PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS:

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

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

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

Simply visit vfw.org, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Public Servant Program**. NOTE: Remember, the First Responder Medal is available through the VFW Store. To review this item, please click on the following link: vfwstore.org/products/32134.

20. REPORTING:

Comrades to view whether your Post has submitted an Audit Report, Americanism, Community Service, Safety, Youth or Hospital report you should visit the Department website (www.vfwva.org). The website is updated daily. If you have any questions, please call State Headquarters. There will be no form for Homeless when reporting for assistance to a homeless veteran please put it on a Community Activity report under aid to others.

21. ROSTER CHANGES:

Post 637 QM
Dennis C. Kennedy
4511 Tatum Road
Disputanta, VA 23842
804-926-6553
qmpost637@vfwva.org

Post 873 Cmdr
Ethan E. Chewning
30981 US Highway 29
Gretna, VA 24557
786-371-3138
cdrpost873@vfwva.org

Post 7819
Post Mailing address
PO Box 271
Crewe, VA 23930

Post 8545 JVC
Shaun A. Powell
310 Red Point Dr
Smithfield, VA 23430
757-354-7121
shwepowell@gmail.com

22. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 55:

Membership Inactive
Corinne Marshall
Member at Large

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 Corinne Marshall, Membership No. 11774358, be removed from the rolls as a Member at Large for the Department of Virginia, and their membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States placed in an inactive status per member's request.

By order of
Carol L. Whitmore
Commander-in-Chief

23. STATE CONVENTION:

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

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

24. TEACHER RECOGNITION:

By now Posts should have received entries from schools in your operational area and are getting ready to conduct your judging. Remember that your winning entries have to be sent to your District Chairmen(sic) for judging no later than November 14th. From that point, please ensure that all entries being forwarded to the Department contain the necessary documentation (including a photograph) and mail them to me at VFW Post 9835, PO Box 163, Warrenton, VA 20188. Department judging will take place sometime in early December in Warrenton.

J. I. Dombroff
Chairman

25. STATE SURGEON:

Comrades,

I watched a couple of movies this week that just made me want to share... The first was 12 Strong, the story of the first Special Forces Green Beret Team (Team 595) sent into Afghanistan. Waging war on horseback against armored columns. The second was Apollo 13. Two very dissimilar movies, but they both had distinct and similar characteristics. Both teams supported great camaraderie. All were U.S. Service members. And in both we see American achievement against great odds.

If we think about it, this is no different that what we all have encountered. We all had camaraderie in the service, and we have it now in the VFW. It just requires a little more effort to not sequester ourselves and be active in our Posts and the organization as a whole. There is someone always in need if we look, and in many cases it is just lending an ear. Make the effort to be an asset to your fellow comrades, even if its just to tell a few off the cuff jokes.

By now we are deep into Youth Scholarships and Teacher submissions that were due to the Post on 10/31. I hope everyone worked with your Post and District Youth Chairs so that each Post could have a submission. It is about getting as many kids to have a chance and truly get our best and brightest Virginia students in the mix with the rest of the Nation.

November is National Diabetes Month, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, and Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. All three are common among Veterans exposed to various toxins, so there is a good chance we know someone that is fighting any one of these... Let's give them a moment of our day and say a prayer for them and their families.

I hope you all stay well and as we move into Thanksgiving that we all have something to be thankful for. I will first tell you all that I am thankful for the opportunity that was presented to me to be your Surgeon. Thank you to you all.

Todd Taylor
State Surgeon

26. VETERANS DAY ON NOVEMBER 11:

Organize a community event on Veterans Day honoring all veterans. For a ceremonial procedure, refer to the information found in the VFW Community Activities and citizenship Education VFW Chairperson's Guide. If you should need a Veterans Day speech, please go to: vfw.org/MY-VFW/Patriotic-Holiday-Speeches. The 2025 Veterans Day speech will be available no later than two weeks prior to November 11. Click here for Veterans Day merchandise vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday.

27. VIRGINIA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION:

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

Colonel (then a sergeant) Gordon R. Roberts was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry displayed on July 11, 1969. Born in Ohio in June 1950, Roberts enlisted three days after his high school graduation. Following basic training, he was assigned to Company B, 1st Bn, 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division and deployed to Vietnam in April 1969. By July, he'd already earned the Silver Star and Bronze Star medals when the action for which he received the Medal of Honor occurred. The citation follows:

.....
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sgt. Roberts distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company B, during combat operations. Sgt. Roberts' platoon was maneuvering along a ridge to attack heavily fortified enemy bunker positions which had pinned down an adjoining friendly company. As the platoon approached the enemy positions, it was suddenly

pinned down by heavy automatic weapons and grenade fire from camouflaged enemy fortifications atop the overlooking hill. Seeing his platoon immobilized and in danger of failing in its mission, Sgt. Roberts crawled rapidly toward the closest enemy bunker. With complete disregard for his safety, he leaped to his feet and charged the bunker, firing as he ran. Despite the intense enemy fire directed at him, Sgt. Roberts silenced the 2-man bunker. Without hesitation, Sgt. Roberts continued his 1-man assault on a second bunker. As he neared the second bunker, a burst of enemy fire knocked his rifle from his hands. Sgt. Roberts picked up a rifle dropped by a comrade and continued his assault, silencing the bunker.

He continued his charge against a third bunker and destroyed it with well-thrown hand grenades. Although Sgt. Roberts was now cut off from his platoon, he continued his assault against a fourth enemy emplacement. He fought through a heavy hail of fire to join elements of the adjoining company which had been pinned down by the enemy fire. Although continually exposed to hostile fire, he assisted in moving wounded personnel from exposed positions on the hilltop to an evacuation area before returning to his unit.

By his gallant and selfless actions, Sgt. Roberts contributed directly to saving the lives of his comrades and served as an inspiration to his fellow soldiers in the defeat of the enemy force. Sgt. Roberts' extraordinary heroism in action at the risk of his life were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

Roberts remained in Vietnam until June 1970. Following separation from the service, he attended the University of Dayton and received a BS in Sociology in 1974. On March 2, 1971, Roberts received his Medal of Honor from President Nixon at a White House ceremony. After 18 years as a social worker, he returned to the Army, received a direct commission and served in numerous assignments, retiring in May 2012 as a full colonel with 44 years of service. In addition to the Medal of Honor, Colonel Roberts was awarded two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars, the Air Medal (3), five Meritorious Service Medals and the Legion of Merit. Roberts still resides in Ohio.

Jeff Dombroff
Chairman

28. VVF COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANT:

The Virginia Veterans, the official foundation of the Virginia VFW, as opened the window to apply for a grant to perform community service. There will be of ten (10) grants worth up to \$300 each for the 2025-2026 year. Should any money remain after the ten grants are paid out, those not selected in the first round of grants will be considered a second time. The requirements and application are in the attachments. While the project can be completed anytime between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, the application is **due no later than November 30, 2025**. Posts AND Auxiliaries can apply for this grant, but only one grant will be given to an individual Post or their Auxiliary, regardless of who applies. Entries can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to State Headquarters.

29. VFW POST HOME IMPROVEMENT AND ASSISTANCE GRANT:

The Virginia Veterans, the official foundation of the Virginia VFW, as opened the window to apply for a grant to perform improvements on your Post home. There will be ten (10) grants worth up to \$500 each for the 2025-2026 year. All requirements and application are in the attachments. While the project can be completed anytime between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, the **application is due no later than November 30, 2025**. Entries can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to State Headquarters.

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

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

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

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

VFW Virginia's Commonwealth Legislative Team members are:

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

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

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

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

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

31. WINTER COUNCIL:

Below is the booking link for the January 2026 Winter Council of Administration Meeting. This block's cutoff date is **December 8, 2025**.

Booking link: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/110365?groupID=4636143>

Official:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant

By Order of:

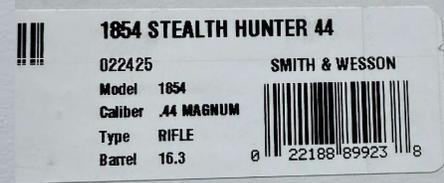


Douglas Hoffman
State Commander



VFW Post 2894 Chesapeake, VA Fall Rifle Raffle

Smith & Wesson Model 1854 .44 Magnum *Stealth Hunter!*



This NEW weapon features:

- 11/16-24 Threaded Barrel
- Accepts mounts compatible with Marlin® 1894 hole patterns
- Black synthetic stock with textured grip panels
- M-LOK® synthetic for end with textured grip panels
- Gold bead front sight
- XS Sights ghost ring rear sight
- 1:20" RH Twist 8-Groove Rifling
- Large loop operating lever
- Forged 416 SS Receiver
- 19.25" 410 SS Barrel

Raffle Tickets - \$10

Drawing to be conducted at the Chesapeake City Hall, Veterans Day, 11 November 2025. Do not need not be present to win.

Contact VFW Post 2894 Members for Raffle Tickets or email: vfw2894mkust@gmail.com

PayPal: post2894qm@gmail.com

Winner is subject to firearm eligibility

Sponsored by Freedom Outdoors

REGISTRATION DEADLINE DECEMBER 18TH

WINTER COUNCIL MEETING

January 8 – 11, 2026
Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley Conference Center ~ Harrisonburg, Virginia ~
540-564-0200
\$129.00 Per night

(Hotel Group Rate Deadline is December 8th)

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR BANQUET TICKET
\$55.00

**ALL TICKETS MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED. THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS
SOLD AT THE WINTER COUNCIL MEETING.**

Dinner Menu

Marinated Pork Loin with Apple Cider Reduction

Served with:
Market Fresh Greens
Roasted Asparagus Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Freshly Bake Bread and Butter
Flourless Chocolate Torte with Raspberry Sauce
Coffee Regular and Decaffeinated Iced Tea Iced Water

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY **DECEMBER 18, 2025** (NO EXCEPTIONS)
Check, Discover, American Express, Visa, or MasterCard Accepted

Person placing the order (name) _____ Phone: _____

Please fill out completely for each person you are registering including Post number or Auxilliary number:

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

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

Please Circle One: Discover American Express MasterCard Visa SIGNATURE: _____

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV Code _____ Billing Zip Code _____

Mail form to: State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401
You may also e-mail this form to: statehq@vfwva.org or fax it to 1-866-416-0586 if paying by Credit Card only

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



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AND VFW AUXILIARY

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

1:00 PM 3:00 PM Virginia Veterans Foundation Board Meeting Madison Boardroom

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

9:00 AM 9:30 AM Joint Devotional Service Shenandoah A

TEACHER OF THE YEAR, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, AND PATRIOT'S PEN BANQUET TICKETS: \$55.00

Department Hospitality Room - Shenandoah C

(Tentative schedule subject to change)



Roll Call!

WE SERVE THOSE THAT SERVED. VETERAN LED PROGRAMS

We recognize that veterans have distinct experiences that require customized outpatient care for addiction. At Master Center, we offer services and programs specifically designed to meet your unique needs.

Veteran Led Support Groups

Veteran Staff

Convenient Veteran Programs

Customized Outpatient Treatment Plans

Confidential & Judgment-Free Support

Recovered Peers/Coaches Assigned

Military Spouse, Survivor & Caregiver Resources

Rapid Appointments Available

Support for All Eras of Service

Easy Access - No Referral Needed

Reach out to Kelly Freel, Veteran Outreach Coordinator

E: kfreel@mastercenter.com | P: 804.944.0274

MC Master
Center
For Addiction Medicine

mastercenter.com
888.Try.MCAM | 888.879.6226

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



THE VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION

VFW Community Service Grant

The purpose of the VFW Community Service Grant is to assist VFW Posts and Auxiliaries in Virginia who need assistance with funding community service projects. There will be of ten(10) grants worth up to \$300 each for the 2025-2026 year. All requirements must be met, or the grant must be returned, in part or in whole, depending on the circumstances. **Grant application is due no later than November 30, 2025.**

The requirements of the grant are as follows:

- 1) The project must be initiated, completed and receipts submitted in the period of July 1, 2025, through June 1, 2026.
- 2) The VFW Post or Auxiliary in question must have a current non-profit status on file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Post must provide the IRS paperwork proving this.
- 3) The Post or Auxiliary must be in good standing with the VFW National Headquarters and the Department of Virginia.
- 4) If the project is hosted at a building, it must be a non-smoking building regardless of the owner's rules for the use of the building.
- 5) The grant is not to be used for work on a VFW Post home or the property owned by any membership-based organization.
- 6) Receipts for the project must be provided and payment of the grant will not occur until this is done with all payments coming after project completion.
- 7) Should the project costs total less than \$300 once completed, the balance of the grant will not be paid. Additional projects may not be added to an approved grant. Alterations to an approved grant require approval by the Virginia Veterans Foundation before the grant can be claimed.
- 8) The VFW Post or Auxiliary receiving the grant must agree to allow the VFW Department of Virginia and Virginia Veterans Foundation the opportunity to promote the project on social media, in official communications, and in other forms of marketing.
- 9) The grant will only cover materials and the Post is responsible for providing labor. This can be done through paying for labor or by doing the work themselves.
- 10) All decisions on grants are final and will be made by the Board of Directors for the Virginia Veterans Foundation.
- 11) Funding from this grant program may be combined with other grants but the total of the funding received cannot exceed actual costs and the amount received from this grant may be reduced accordingly.
- 12) Only one grant per year will be provided to an individual Post or Auxiliary, regardless of who applies for the grant.

THE VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION

VFW Community Service Grant

Official Grant Application

(All questions must be answered in full)

Name and number of the Post/Auxiliary: _____

Mailing address: _____

Physical address of the event: _____

Commander/President name, phone number, and email address: _____

Quartermaster/Treasurer name, phone number, and email address: _____

Description of the project to be completed: _____

Estimated cost of the project: _____

How will labor be provided: _____

By signing below, you acknowledge the requirements of the grant program. Furthermore, you acknowledge that you have provided all needed documents and that the decision on this grant application rests solely with the Virginia Veterans Foundation. Finally, you agree to provide all needed receipts for the project and to cooperate with the Virginia Veterans Foundation and the VFW Department of Virginia in promoting the project and grant.

Commander/President: _____ QM/Treasurer: _____

THE VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION

VFW Post Home Improvement and Assistance Grant

The purpose of the VFW Post Home Improvement and Assistance Grant is to assist VFW Posts in Virginia who need assistance with funding projects to improve, expand, or repair their Post home as well as assisting those Posts in financial need. There will be ten (10) grants worth up to \$500 each for the 2025-2026 year. All requirements must be met, or the Post will be required to return the grant, in part or in whole, depending on the circumstances. **Grant application is due no later than November 30, 2025.**

The requirements of the grant are as follows:

- 1) If funding a project, it must be initiated and completed in the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Post must submit a thorough justification for the grant.
- 2) If asking for emergency assistance, the Post must explain the reason for the emergency and provide a plan for how the Post will raise money in the future and prepare for future problems.
- 3) The VFW Post in question must have a current non-profit status on file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and must provide the IRS paperwork proving this.
- 4) The Post must be in good standing with the VFW National and Department Headquarters.
- 5) If funding a project, the Post must own or lease the Post and must provide a copy of the documents showing either ownership or a current lease. For Posts who lease the property, there must be at least 2 years remaining on the lease to receive a grant.
- 6) The Post must not allow smoking in their Post building but may use the grant to repair damage after voting to ban smoking. A ban on smoking is defined as no smoking allowed inside the building of the Post home. It may be allowed outside of the building.
- 7) Receipts for the project or bills covered by the assistance requested must be provided and payment of the grant will not occur until this is done with all payments coming after project completion or for bills already paid.
- 8) Should the project costs or assistance requested total less than \$500.00 once complete, the balance of the grant will not be paid.
- 9) The VFW Post receiving the grant must agree to allow the VFW Department of Virginia and Virginia Veterans Foundation the opportunity to promote the funded project on social media, in official communications, and in other forms of marketing.
- 10) The grant will only cover materials and the Post is responsible for providing labor. This can be done through paying for labor or by doing the work themselves.
- 11) All decisions on grants are final and will be made by the Board of Directors for the Virginia Veterans Foundation.
- 12) Funding from this grant program may be combined with other grants but the total of the funding received cannot exceed actual costs and the amount received from this grant may be reduced accordingly.

THE VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION

VFW Post Home Improvement and Assistance Grant

Official Grant Application

(All questions must be answered in full)

Name and number of the Post: _____

Post mailing address: _____

Physical address of the Post: _____

Post Commander name, phone number, and email address: _____

Post Quartermaster name, phone number, and email address: _____

Estimated cost of the project or assistance requested: _____

How will labor be provided: _____

On a separate page, give either a description of the project to be completed or justification for assistance requested. For emergency assistance, also include in your description a plan for how the Post will raise money in the future and prepare for future problems.

By signing below, you acknowledge the requirements of the grant program. Furthermore, you acknowledge that you have provided all needed documents and that the decision on this grant application rests solely with the Virginia Veterans Foundation. Finally, you agree to provide all needed receipts for the project and to cooperate with the Virginia Veterans Foundation and the VFW Department of Virginia in promoting the project and grant.

Post Commander: _____ Post Quartermaster: _____



MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR[®]



**Help us find
Operation
Homefront's next
award recipients!**



For more information,
scan the QR code or visit
operationhomefront.org/mcoy

WHAT

Operation Homefront's Military Child of the Year Awards celebrate and recognize the tremendous achievements of outstanding military children.

WHO

Each year, hundreds of military teens (ages 13–18) are nominated by a parent, teacher, mentor or guardian. Candidates for the Military Child of the Year Awards demonstrate resilience, strength of character, and the ability to thrive in the face of the challenges of military life.

WHEN

The Awards Gala will be held in Washington, D.C. on April 23, 2026 during the Month of the Military Child.

RECIPIENTS

Military Child of the Year Award recipients receive a \$10,000 cash award, a laptop computer, and are flown with a parent or guardian for a 3-night stay in Washington, D.C.

**Nominations accepted
September 3 to
December 2, 2025**

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

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

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

The

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Let's get every VFW Woman Registered

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

For New Additions to the Register:

Register her service for free at
womensmemorial.org



VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

WHAT IS THE NUMBER OF UNAFFILIATED POSTS IN VA?

- THERE ARE **57** UNAFFILIATED POSTS.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO JOIN THE VFW AUXILIARY?

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

- Members must be at least 16 years old.
- Husband/wife; widower/widow; father/mother; brother/sister; son/daughter; grandfather/grandmother; grandson & granddaughter.

VFW STEPS TO START AN AUXILIARY

1. A VFW Post must by 2/3 majority vote of the membership present at a regular meeting (or a special meeting) to have an Auxiliary.
2. Consults the **VFW Bylaws** regarding required notice to the Post membership when voting to form an Auxiliary to the Post.
3. The approval to form an Auxiliary must be recorded in the VFW meeting minutes.
4. If the Post votes to approve an Auxiliary, then the Post notifies the Department President who will appoint an official organizer, and the organizer must be a **VFW Auxiliary** member.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Does it cost the Post anything?**
The VFW Auxiliary Charter Kit Fee is \$100.00. The Post and/or Department and/or the interested eligible applicants may pay the Charter fee. The Charter fee accompanies the completed Charter application.
- **How long does it take to start an Auxiliary?**
From the time your Post votes to have an Auxiliary, it could take from two (2) to four (4) months to get an Auxiliary up and running.

BENEFITS OF AN AUXILIARY TO A VFW POST

A FEW EXAMPLES OF HOW AN AUXILIARY CAN HELP THE POST:

1. Positively reinforces the values and beliefs of the VFW.
2. Provides events for veterans' family members.
3. Boosts the Post's visibility in the community by being involved in more local activities and events.
4. Increases Program participation and helps spread the word on Scholarship and Youth programs.
5. Increases the number of advocates to fight for veterans' rights and benefits.

WHO TO CONTACT REGARDING FORMING AN AUXILIARY?

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

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: _____

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