

Official Publication of the Department of Virginia ★ Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Feb – April 24' April 2024

Commander's Message



State Commander Gary Adams US Navy, Post 1115

Dear Comrades,

I am overjoyed to share that we are well on our way to achieving our All-American goals. Thanks to your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts, we are currently over 99% in membership and have met nearly all the requirements.

This is an incredible accomplishment, and it is all because of you - our dedicated team of passionate individuals who have gone above and beyond to make this dream a reality. I am truly grateful for each and every one of you.

Your hard work, dedication, and team spirit have been the driving force behind our success. Together, we have overcome challenges and pushed the boundaries of what we thought was possible. This achievement is a testament to the power of unity, collaboration, and a shared vision.

To our exceptional Membership Team - your passion, hard work, and commitment to serving our members is truly inspirational. Your contributions have been instrumental in our continued growth and success. Thank you for being the driving force behind our thriving community.

To our esteemed District Commanders - your leadership, guidance, and support are invaluable. I am in awe of the countless hours you pour into this organization, and I am deeply grateful for your unwavering loyalty and vision.

To our remarkable Line Officers - the time and effort you dedicate to your roles is truly remarkable. Your commitment to excellence and your willingness to go above and beyond are what make this organization thrive. Your contributions do not go unnoticed, and I am eternally grateful.

And to our pillars, Ed and Angie - you are the heart and soul of this organization. Your wisdom, expertise, and tireless assistance on so many levels have been instrumental to our success. I am profoundly thankful for your guidance and support, which have been crucial to our growth and development.

Each and every one of you plays a vital role in our shared mission, and I am honored to work alongside such an incredible team. Your dedication, passion, and teamwork are what make this organization truly special.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your unwavering commitment and for being the driving force behind our success. I am truly grateful to have you all as part of our extraordinary team. Virginia Veteran



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The official publication of the Virginia VFW published by the *Department of Virginia, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US*

Please visit our website at

<u>www.vfwva.org</u>

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Randy Coker

April

From the Editor's desk

I am excited to continue as your Newspaper editor for another great year. Please keep the Department of Virginia VFW informed of all your accomplishments by submitting your articles and pictures to me, for the Virginia Veterans Newspaper.



Randy Coker

Virginia Veteran is published tri-annually by the Department of Virginia, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US and is available in electronic format on the Department website:

www.vfwva.org.

Articles may be submitted by email to: news@vfwva.org or rwcoker1@gmail.com

We reserve the right to edit all submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.

Note: Deadline for the next newspaper is:

July 31, 2024



"Of the Veterans For the Veterans"



Veterans of Foreign Wars Department Commander Shirt 2024-2025



Pre- order forms must be sent to **Department Headquarters** <u>no later</u> than March 22nd, 2024 for <u>VFW members</u>

Additional Shirts for the VFW members will be available to order at the 2024 June Convention.

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

Name:		Size: Number of Shirts:	
Address:			
Phone:	Post #	District #	

If you are unable to pick up your shirt at June 2024 Department Convention and have not made prior arrangements to have it picked up. Please add \$9.00 for shipping.

Make checks Payable to:Department of Virginia VFWFor: Commander Shirt 2024-2025

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



According to the Virginia War Memorial there are over 12,000 names of fallen service members on the wall. Only 12 are female with nine of them serving during WWII and three serving during the Global War on Terrorism. On Monday March 18, VFW Post 637 Operations Manager/Department Guard Cara Buckley led a ceremony which paid tribute to 12 fallen female war heroes from Virginia at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia. Remarks were given by the Virginia State Commander Gary Adams, Virginia Department President Victoria Butler, and National Auxiliary President Carla Martinez with heartfelt gratitude in honor and respect of the 12 female fallen war heroes.

These remarkable women displayed unmatched bravery and dedication in their service to our country. VFW and Auxiliary members from VFW Post 637, 9808,7059,3150,1115, and12202 con-



tributed to the ceremony by performing the national anthem, crafting a profound invocation, and paying homage to their former female comrades. The names of these 12 Female Warriors were solemnly read aloud as white roses were laid in their honor by VFW and VFW Auxiliary female veterans in respect for their sacrifices and unwavering courage Displayed front and center was the battlefield cross constructed by Post 637 Fallen Comrade, Steve Cochran. It served as a reminder of resilience, honor, and remembrance of these fallen heroes' contributions to women in the service. Let us never forget the profound impact these heroes had as we continue to honor their legacy of valor and resilience.

2LT Eva Virginia Ageon – WWII – Botetourt County – Army Nurse Corps	CPL Betty Walker Driskill – WWII – Prince Edward County – WAC
2LT Nancy Holden Hedges – WWII – Charlottesville – WAC	PFC Leslie Denise Jackson – GWOT – Richmond – Army - Iraq
1LT Elenora Payne Jones – WWII – Lancaster County – Army Nurse Corps	2LT Joan Windsor Nourse – WWII – Fauquier County – WAC
SGT Caryn Nouv – GWOT – Newport News – Army -Afghanistan	PFC Nan Sue Porter – WWII – Richmond City – WAC
CPL Naoma L. Ridings – WWII – Arlington	ENS Elizabeth Irene Seay – WWII – Fluvanna County – WAVES
Apprentice Seaman Ruth Harrow Stone – WWII – Middlesex County – WAVES	CW5 Sharon T. Swartworth – GWOT - Alexandria – Army – Iraq

Post 3150 honors Oklahoma Freedom Flight



Arlington Post 3150 hosted an Oklahoma Freedom Flight (a cousin of Honor Flights) for three nights ending with the 124th birthday of the VFW (VFW Day). Past State Commanders Cody Mangold (South Dakota) and C. D. "Doc" Crouch (Virginia) cut one of the two cakes which were distributed to the guests and members on the final night. Approximately 15—20 Post and Auxiliary members and a few guests prepared and served spaghetti, burgers, hotdogs, and pulled pork over the three nights to visitors who spent their days visiting the nation's capital's many sights. The Oklahoma veterans served in a number of recent conflicts, compared to Honor Flight which focuses on one or wars with each flight.

Virginia Veteran

VFW Post 9835 Recognized JROTC Cadets

On April 11th, Post 9835 recognized two young citizens for outstanding leadership. Cadet Lt Jacob Sheffield received the Post's Public Safety Cadet of the Year award while Cadet LTCol Whitney D. Sullivan, Liberty HS JROTC Battalion Commander, received the Post's JROTC Award. Attending the ceremonies as honored guests were LTCol John O'Sullivan, SAI of the Liberty HS JROTC Program and Fauquier County Sheriff Jeremy Falls. Both these officers are also Life Members of Post 9835.

On March 9, 2024 Post 9835's leadership team visited the Marshall Middle School to present the National Teacher of the Year Certificates to Department MS winner Lisa St Ledger and the school certificate to Marshall Principal Josh Miller.





(L-R) Cdr. Tony Lunn, Jacob Sheffield, Whitney D. Sullivan and QM Jeff Dombroff

(L-R) JVC Elden Ray, Cdr. Tony Lunn, Mrs. St Ledger, Mr. Miller, SVC Gary Sappington, QM Jeff Dombroff

<image>

On March 14, 2024 The Fauquier Free Clinic was celebrating its

30th Anniversary and Post 9835 used the event to make a \$500 donation to

(L-R) Post JVC Elden Ray, Post SVC Gary Sappington, Post Surgeon Brian Cohen and Clinic Director Rob Marino

Dale City VFW Post 1503 Comrades and Auxiliary retire over 2000 flags





All American Post Commander Bernie Carter participates in the time honored ceremony of retiring flags.

VFW Post 1503 in Dale City, VA partnered with the Prince William County Fire Department's Training Command to hold a flag retirement ceremony on Saturday, 6 April. The PWCS Training Command were excellent hosts and helped members of VFW Post 1503's members and Auxiliary honor our country's flag with a well run and safe retirement ceremony.



All American Past Post Commander and Vietnam Veteran Ron "PaPa-Six" Laney read the script for the time honored ceremony of retiring flags.



Comrades from each of the branches of service, stand by to retire a flag for the official ceremonial start.

Post 3103 announces their adoption of Marine Corps Air Facilities Quantico

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. – The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3103 announced their adoption of Marine Corps Air Facilities Quantico during a ceremony on April 19 in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

This partnership, part of the VFW's Adopt -a-Unit program, is intended to enhance unit cohesion and morale through events and additional opportunities provided to MCAF Marines. Known as "morale, welfare, and recreation" events, they are centered on educating military members and their families.

"We're going to take some young noncommissioned officers, staff NCOs, and officers out to the local battlefields and have a professional tour guide to do a battle study with us," said U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Eric Albright, the executive officer of MCAF.

The VFW's goal is to help organize events and work with the unit to see how they could best help them achieve their desired outcome. Some examples the VFW helps with are: welcome homes, deployment events, family days, holiday events, community projects and others.



"We're not going to be imposing any events on them," said VFW Post 3103 Commander Sheri Moore. "It's whatever they come up with that would be good for them as a unit."

VFW support isn't limited to unit-wide events: individual sections or subsets of the unit can utilize the partnership for their specific needs as well.

"We could help provide the funding for food or non-alcoholic drinks," she said, "and do some of the legwork to help pull it off. It's not just military members either, it's for the families as well."

For more information regarding the Adopt-a-Unit program, please visit https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support, but units should reach out to their local VFW post for details on their potential partnership.

Story by Lance Cpl. David Brandes

Marine Corps Base Quantico

Fredericksburg Post 3103 Supports MILITARY KIDS CLUB at a local elementary school in Stafford.

Friday, 19 April Fredericksburg VFW Post 3103 supported the Military Kids Club (MKC) Breakfast at Margaret Brent Elementary School in Stafford County in support of 'Purple-Up' Week and Military Kids Month. Ms Samantha Schillo spoke and read her Patriot's Pen essay to the group of military parents and kids in attendance. Ms Schillo placed 4th in the VFW National Patriot's Pen competition this year. Comrade Isabel Wyman is Post 3103's Youth Committee Chair and actively supports this and many youth programs.



(L-R) Lisa Duncan, Laura Hoover, Comrade Isabel Wyman, Samantha Schillo, Post 3103 Commander Sheri Moore, Carrie Weir



(L-R) State Surgeon Charles Bush, District 8 Commander Todd Taylor, Samantha Schillo, VFW Post 3103 Commander Sheri Moore.



(L-R) Post Commander Sheri Moore, Comrade Isabel Wyman

Virginia Veteran

April

Fredericksburg VFW Post 3103 and Auxiliary @cookingwithaveteran Fundraiser for the VFW National Home

As we all know the motto: "No One Does More for Veterans" is more than mere words. It is a mission of the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, something that VFW and Auxiliary members at VFW Post 3103 take very seriously. Connections, contacts, and communication were key to accomplishing what was needed in the community and to conduct a successful fundraiser for programs like the VFW National Home.

That is exactly what happened on March 8th when Cooking with a Veteran came to the Post. What started as a simple cooking for local veterans in need has turned into a mission to ensure no veteran goes hungry.

The Post first started communicating with Veteran Chef Rogers through the District 8 CMDR and Past Post CMDR Todd Taylor who talked of doing something together. The District CMDR introduced Rogers to Post CMDR Sheri Moore and a simple email in January from Comrade Chris Cruz got the ball rolling.

Veteran Chef Rogers and his service dog Grunt of @cookingwithaveteran were planning to attend the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, DC in early March. Since he would be in our local area on his way home, he wanted to see if he and the Post could work together on an event.

VFW Post 3103 Canteen is open every Friday evening at 1700 for a homecooked meal, drinks and camaraderie. We quickly came up with the idea of The Grunt Chef helping us do a special dinner for any local veterans that would be a 'by donation only' fundraiser for the VFW National Home. While Veteran Chef Rogers worked with us on the menu, being sure that it was something that we would enjoy, it was up to the Post to plan, make arrangements and spread the word for the event locally. Members and the Auxiliary chimed in helping as they could. Great assistance came from the Auxiliary who worked hard to get donations from local markets and vendors like Weis and Walmart to help cover the costs. Volunteers from both the Post and Auxiliary worked under the tutelage of Veteran Chef Rogers in doing the prep work on Thursday and all the final meal prep and cooking on that Friday.

Everyone learned a lot along the way and the event in the form of photos and videos was featured on @cookingwithaveteran social media. The meal turned out to be a huge success with the Post and Auxiliary serving over 100 meals. The menu consisted of pork schnitzel, mashed potatoes and creamed corn or baked ziti and salad with cheesecake for dessert. We had several raffles that night as well, including Veteran Chef Dave's @cookingwithaveteran cookbooks, k-bar and grill set as some of the raffle items. He also brought along the MOC Tennessee Chess Pie pins for us to purchase to help support the program.

The Post and Auxiliary were able to raise \$2000 for the VFW

National Home. The two days that Chef Dave Rogers spent with us were busy beyond the food preparation. He was able to visit with the Veterans On Board group that meets at our Post Home on that Friday morning. We also took him to visit Black Horse Forge (Black Horse Forge – Veterans Non-Profit), which is run by veterans and serves veterans by teaching them blacksmithing skills. They presented him with a very fancy chef's knife made in the forge by a veteran, which you will see often if you watch his cooking programs on social media.

While visiting Black Horse Forge, we also visited their neighbor, Loyal Drums (Handmade Artisan Products - Rope Tension Drums - Loyal Drums), which is another veteran owned business.

When asked how he thought the event went Rogers commented "Events like this is why I love what I do. We did more than feed the body, we fed the soul, mind, and heart." The Post and Auxiliary showed their appreciation for Veteran Chef Rogers' work and dedication to helping veterans by presenting him with a certificate and a gift basket for him and Grunt. He presented the Post with his challenge coin and engraved

@cookingwithaveteran cleaver. This was Chef Dave's first visit/ event in the state of Virginia, but we are hoping it will not be his last.



7 March 2024: Preparing the Schnitzel



Post Commander Sheri Moore, Comrade Dave Harvey, Auxiliary members: Helen Herring, Kristi Corbett, Sharon Blancard, Liz Seal



Comrade James Herring, Post Commander Sheri Moore, Comrade Dave Harvey, Auxiliary member Josie Torres



Auxiliary members Susan Lee, Sharon Blancard, Liz Seal



Veteran Chef Dave Rogers preparing the sauce for the ziti

Virginia Veteran





Auxiliary Josie Torres, Veteran Chef Dave Rogers and Auxiliary





Veteran Chef Dave Rogers and District 8 Commander Todd Taylor cooking schnitzel



Kristi Corbett chopping vegetables in preparation for the meal



Post Commander Sheri Moore, District 8 Commander Todd Taylor and





Auxiliary member April Plummer trying to keep up with the dishes

The kitchen crew just before opening time. Veteran Chef Dave Rogers, District 8 and Post Auxiliary President Nancy Kearney, Auxiliary Officers/ Members: Helen Herring, Kristi Corbett, Josie Torres, Natalie Foley and Susan Lee

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Virginia Veteran

And so it begins!



Comrades Bob Dixon and Olivia Banks enjoying their meal



King George Post 12202 Comrades Kristina and John Sindel enjoying dinner



Veteran Chef Dave Rogers talking with some of our Canteen regulars: Comrades George Firehammer and Ed Peska with guest Jann.



Veteran Chef Dave Rogers visiting with King George Post 12202 Commander Ashley Gurley



Veteran Chef Dave Rogers and Comrade Chris Cruz, who sent that first email and got the ball rolling

Raffle prizes





Veteran Chef Dave Rogers presenting Post Commander Sheri Moore with an @cookingwithaveteran cleaver for framing and display at the Post.

The Post & Auxiliary presenting a Certificate of Appreciation and gift basket to Veteran Chef Dave Rogers and his service dog, Grunt.



District 8 Commander Todd Taylor, District 8 and Post Auxiliary President Nancy Kearney, Veteran Chef Dave Rogers and Post Commander Sheri Moore

And the why behind the evening. This check shows \$1800, but we ended up with \$2000 for the evening's event for the VFW National Home.



District 8 Commander Todd Taylor, District 8 and Post Auxiliary President Nancy Kearney, Veteran Chef Dave Rogers and Post Commander Sheri Moore



Auxiliary Kristi Corbett, District 8 Commander Todd Taylor, District 8 and Post Auxiliary President Nancy Kearney, Veteran Chef Dave Rogers and Post Commander Sheri Moore



Veteran Chef Dave Rogers visit to Black Horse Forge in Stafford, VA with founder, Comrade Sergio Rangel giving a tour of the facility and explaining their mission. This is where that special chef's knife was made



Veteran Chef Dave Rogers shaking hands with Comrade Nate Singleton after addressing the group. Comrade Nate Singleton is one of the founders and the primary facilitator for the Veterans On Board peer-run support group which meets at Post 3103 every Friday morning

Kathy and Bill Goodall received a recognition award from Veteran Enforcers Motorcycle Association

Article and photos from Facebook 4/27/2024

On April 27 at VFW Post 392 Kathy and Bill Goodall received a recognition award from Veteran Enforcers Motorcycle Association "VEMA" for their service to our country. The VEMA National Commander, Victor M. Pacheco III, also recognized them with awards for Outstanding Volunteerism. VFW Post 4809 Commander Curtis Bobbitt submitted the nominations. VEMA members as far away as Florida rode their bikes for the ceremony. Kathy and Bill are the first husband and wife team to receive this award from VEMA. Thank you Kathy and Bill for all you do.



Auxiliary 7589 and District 8 winner of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest



Patriotism can be expressed in many different ways to love one's country. The most popular symbol of American patriotism is the United States flag, which symbolizes freedom and uncovers America's history, which is an essential part of American identity. In this artwork, the storm clouds in the background reflect the nation's hardships from wars and other crises the U.S. has endured throughout history and symbolize the grief of those lives lost from protecting our country. The military dog licking its military owner represents affection and trust, which illustrates the deep bond of unity and provides comfort from the difficulties faced in the military. The dog licking also signifies the acceptance of loving one's country despite its flaws, depicted as the storm clouds, which capture the patriotism spirit by emphasizing the sacrifices made by those in the military, both human and canine. As well as serving as a constant reminder to never forget what you're fighting for.



Carrie Chiara winner of the VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest

Lianna Cruz sang The National Anthem and won the *Get Excited for the Red, White & Blue* contest



7589 Post & Auxiliary at the AFJROTC Award Ceremony Battlefield High School April 25, 2024



Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, Cadet Gabriella Brown, Trustee 3 Lamar Baker

Scout Leaders continue landscaping project at Manassas Post 7589

3 VFW Members and 1 Auxiliary member planted trees, ground cover, shrubs and also spread dirt and grass seed. The expenditure of \$550 was a gift from the scouts.





ALEX BLIEM



ALEX BLIEM



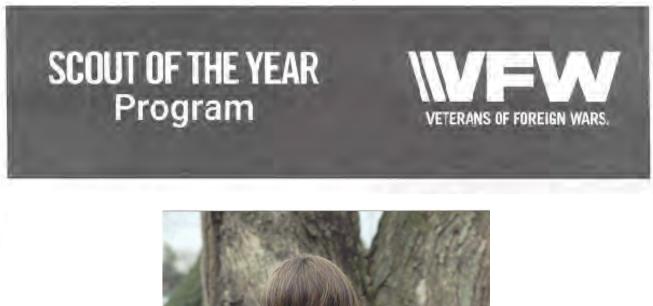
TINA BLIEM



TINA BLIEM



ALEX BLIEM





VFW VIRGINIA SCOUT OF THE YEAR Julie Conrad Sponsored by Dale City, VFW Post 1503

JULIE CONRAD SCOUTING RECORD

petile

I joined Scouts BSA in 2019. I have been a member for five years. I am also involved with Order of the Arrow, Venturing Crew and a Cub Pack.

SCOUTS BSA

FOUNDER TROOP 1196

2019-Present

Sponsored by VFW Post 1503

POSITIONS

- Historian 2019-2021
- Den Chief 2019-Present
- Senior Patrol Leader 2021-2022
- Troop Guide 2022-2023
- Quartermaster 2022-2023
- OA Unit Representative 2022-Present
- Senior Patrol Leader 2023
- Junior Assistant Scout Master 2023-Present

RANK

Eagle Scout - July 16, 2023

- Eagle Palm #1 Bronze 7/16/23
- Eagle Palm #2 Gold 7/16/23
- Eagle Palm #3 Silver 7/16/23
- Eagle Palm #4 Bronze 7/16/23
- Eagle Palm #5 Gold 7/16/23
- Eagle Palm #6 Silver 7/16/23
- Eagle Palm #7 Bronze 7/16/23
- Eagle Palm #8 Gold 11/08/23

TRAININGS

- National Youth Leadership Training
- Youth Protection
- Red Cross First Aid/CPR
- Hazardous Weather
- Safe Swim Defense
- Safety Afloat
- Climb on Safely
- Sexual Abuse
- Bullying

AWARDS

- Totin'Chip
- · Firem'n Chit
- Messengers of Peace (Two times)
- · Cyber Chip
- · Den Chief Service Award
- Religious Emblem
- 50th Anniversary Environmental
 - Protection Agency Award
- National Outdoor Achievement Award Hiking
 - 3 Gold Devices
 - -1 Silver Device
- National Outdoor Achievement Award Camping
 - 3 Gold Devices
 - -1 Silver Device

ORDER OF THE ARROW

2022-Present

- Elected 3/9/22
- Ordeal 4/30/22
- Brotherhood 10/7/23

POSITIONS

- Elangomat Vice Chief 2023-Present
- Ceremonies Team Meteu
 -Pre-Ordeal, Ordeal, & Brotherhood Ceremonies
- OA Elections Team 2024-Present

VENTURE CREW 617

2023-Present

Sponsored by Bethel Lutheran Church

RANK

Venturing

POSITIONS

- Vice President-Program 2024-Present
- Calendar Editor 2024-Present
- OA Unit Representative 2023-Present

CUB SCOUT PACK 1373

Sponsored by VFW Post 1503

Den Chief

2019-Present

MISC.

- Merit Badges 63
- Service Hours 185
- Hiking Miles 390
- Camping Nights 125

SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

SUMMER CAMP STAFF

- Camp Snyder 2022
- Camp Snyder 2023
- Camp Snyder 2024
 Hired for upcoming season

POSITIONS

- STEM Director
- Merit Badge Instructor
 - Pioneering, Lead Instructor
 - -Fishing & Geocaching, Assistant Instructor

As the STEM Director, I was in charge of training staff members and making sure they fulfilled their positions. I taught six STEM classes a day with ten to twelve cub scouts per class. The first year we built trebuchets and practiced shooting pencil top erasers from them. We talked about the best way to build them so the erasers would fly straight and far. The next year we explored "What's that Substance?" We had five substances: sugar, salt, flour, baking soda, and baby powder and through a series of tests, cubs had to determine which was which. I am excited to return as STEM Director again this summer.

Camp Snyder is primarily a Cub Scout Camp for cubs who have finished Kindergarten through 5th grade. One week a year they open for Scouts BSA, scouts aged 11-17 to attend and take merit badge classes. During this time, I taught and trained staff to assist me in teaching the Pioneering Merit Badge. We held two sessions a day with twelve scouts per class. The requirements for Pioneering include knot tying, lashings, and how to care for rope. I have an affinity for knot tying, and being able to share one of my hobbies with others was very fulfilling.

SCOUTING ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

SUMMER CAMP

- Camp Daniel Boone 2019
- Camp Powhatan 2021
- Camp Owassipie 2023

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

FLAGPOLES FOR VFW POST 1503

With the addition of Space Force to the U.S. Armed Forces, the VFW needed a new flagpole base to feature six flags instead of five. I pulled out the original bases, respaced everything, and added the sixth base. From there I purchased all new flags for all six branches of the military. I completed this project before Memorial Day so the VFW flag display could represent everyone for the holiday.

EAGLE PROJECT CONCLUSIONS

I am very proud of what I was able to achieve with my Eagle Project. I love flags and was very happy to be able to combine my love of flags with my love of my country and scouting. It was very rewarding to see all six branches of the service flags flying proudly on Memorial Day Weekend. The most difficult part of the project was keeping everyone on task. Sometimes leading adults can be hard as I feel they should be in charge of me and not the other way around. The most rewarding thing was seeing it all come together after so much planning. We all worked well together as a team.

My takeaway from my Eagle Project is that I found I'm good at problem solving. I can be in charge of adults and not just youth. I liked seeing the growth in the younger scouts and how far they have come since they joined the troop. We needed some knots tied, and they were able to tie them with no issues.