

# THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No One Does More for Veterans  
EXCELLENCE in all we DO

Volume XXVI, Number 5

March/April 2023

FREE

## Nominations and Elections 2023-2024

\*\*\*\*\*  
**YOUR VOICE**  
**YOUR VOTE**  
\*\*\*\*\*

We are now in the nomination and election season for all posts and districts in the VFW for the 2023-2024 term.

Nominations are opened at the post general membership meeting in March and remain open until elections at the post general membership meeting in April. Section 215 - 217 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure provides guidance.

District nominations are opened at the meeting prior to the District Convention and remain open until the election during the District Convention. Section 415 - 417 of the National Bylaws & Manual of Procedure provides guidance.

In April posts will be electing those officers as well as the delegates for districts and department conventions. It is important to carefully consider your nominations and elect worthy leaders for all officer and delegate positions. Remember, you are electing the leaders of your post or district and they set the tone for your organization. It is also helpful to elect a Commander who is familiar with the chain of command within our organization and if possible, someone who is known at the Department level to be an honest, thoughtful, and dedicated comrade.

The process of electing delegates is laid out in the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure, as well as in your District and Department Bylaws. If you have questions or are unsure of the process, go to the District or Department JAG and they will provide answers or get you an answer as required.

Sec. 222 - Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.

Kindle edition of the 2023 National Bylaws can be downloaded using the following DPA Website link:

[Veterans of Foreign Wars \(VFW\) Podium Edition 2023: Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual.](#)



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# COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings Comrades,

Again I want to congratulate you all for your hard work this year. You held being the only Department to reach 100% for 2 months. You owned this year! As of 22 Feb 2023, 1730hrs JKT we have 7 Posts and 3 Districts knocking on the 100% door, simply an amazing feat from you all. Total of 49 members between each of them for a complete 100% across the board year, and you still have 4 months on the books to accomplish that. Like I said, I would love to bust the DPA budget on all of you reaching All State this year. It is in your hands and in reach. GOOD LUCK...

Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent	Div	City
9723	1	678	2	0	15	695	707	98.30%	3	OKINAWA, JAPAN
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>98.30%</b>	<b>6</b>	
1054	2	818	1	1	3	823	826	99.63%	2	YOKOSUKA CITY, JAPAN
9555	2	336	0	0	2	338	346	97.68%	4	YOKOTA AFB, JAPAN
9612	2	515	0	0	3	518	537	96.46%	3	CAMP ZAMA, JAPAN
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1669</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1679</b>	<b>1709</b>	<b>98.24%</b>	<b>4</b>	
2917	6	212	6	3	8	229	230	99.56%	5	AGAT
3457	6	352	0	1	3	356	358	99.44%	3	SAIPAN, CNMI
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>99.64%</b>	<b>6</b>	
9892	7	220	0	0	1	221	225	98.22%	5	BAUANG, LA UNION PHIL

Recently the National Quartermaster Marc Garduno was in Korea with his wife visiting her family. He took the time to visit Posts 8180 Osan Air Base and 10223 USAG Humphreys. He got his VFW start by being recruited in Korea Post 8180 so he has a connection to the DPA family. Him and his wife also came by Post 8180 to watch the Super Bowl and enjoy it with the Troops.

We had a long talk on the Buddy Poppy program and the issues the DPA has been having with it since COVID time period. He understood what was happening and informed us that National has some plans in the works to fix the on going issues.

To some you will love the new system when it takes affect, and some will hate it. But at least they are trying to fix it. And we'll have to roll with what we are handed and keep going.

This past weekend I had the privilege of traveling to Subic Bay, Philippines to attend their Annual three Day Beach Bash. The event was hosted by Post 11447 and Pup Tent 11 and it was a fantastic event. First time they have been able to have since Feb 2020 and it felt like they never missed a beat. Thanks to all for the great time and to see old friends and to meet some new ones.

Lastly we are only a few months out from our DPA Convention and Grand Scratch in Cambodia, I hope to see you all there or as many as can attend. Registration will be up soon.

Yours in Comradeship

Warren 'Max' Maxson  
 Commander  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars  
 Department of Pacific Areas  
**EXCELLENCE in all we DO**



Past National Surgeon Pat Higgins on the Left and National QM Marc Garduno on the right.



Commander

Warren Maxson





# SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

We've got a few more months left to finish all our Posts and Districts for All State and All-American requirements. You can view the VFW National Dashboard, dated 14 February 2023, below and see where you stand. If you need assistance in some areas, please do not hesitate to contact me or the specific Program Managers (i.e., Buddy Poppies, CSRs, Inspection, VOD/PP/TA etc.).

District	Post	Community Service	VMS	Voice of Democracy	Patriot's Pen	Teacher Award	Buddy Poppy	Membership	Recruiting Events
1	9723	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met
2	1054	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met
2	9555	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
2	9612	Met	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
3	8180	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
3	9985	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Met
3	10033	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
3	10223	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
4	9957	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet
5	9876	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Met
5	9951	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
5	10217	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
5	10249	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet
5	11575	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet
5	12074	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
5	12146	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
5	12163	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet
6	1509	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet
6	2917	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet
6	3457	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
7	124	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
7	2485	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
7	9892	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
7	11447	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
7	12130	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met



Senior Vice Commander

Alex Fores



Sr. Vice Commander

For those that have completed their All State and All American Requirements, Bravo Zulu to you for a job well done! Some of these requirements are easy to complete but it takes "Teamwork" to accomplish this taskings and I am fully confident that you will all able complete it. I look forward to seeing everyone in Cambodia for the Department Convention and look forward in working with you in making our Department of Pacific Areas in the top #1 spot again at VFW National level.

Yours In Comradship and Service!

Alexander Fores  
 Senior Vice Commander  
 Department of Pacific Areas  
**EXCELLENCE in all we DO**

# JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

Greetings from the land of the rising sun! We live in some exciting times as members of the world greatest Veterans Support organization. Here are but a few examples:

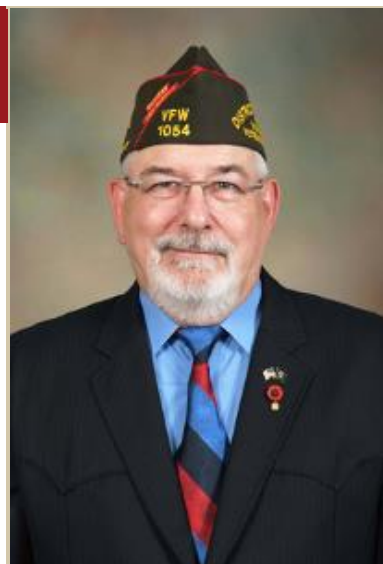
- The Department of Pacific Areas continues to lead in National membership (all conferences) exceeding 101% and on pace to easily exceed 102%!!! Only ONE other department is currently over 100%. Are you not excited? **WAY TO GO DPA!!!**
- After years of advocacy by VFW, the Honoring Our PACT Act became law last August. **“The Most Significant Piece of Veterans Legislation in History”** delivers help to veterans harmed by burn pit fumes or other toxins. This is important, not only in its own right, but in reminding us of the great work done in the halls of Congress by our hard working Legislative Representatives throughout the VFW who will soon meet at the 2023 VFW Legislative Conference held March 5-9, 2023.
- The VA has reported veterans represented by the VFW have recouped more than **\$11.2 billion in compensation and pension** on behalf of veterans and eligible family members in fiscal year 2022. That is truly exceptional and our VFW Accredited Service Officers, much like our legislative representatives, do not get near the recognition they deserve. My hat is off to John Dibble and his entire team of Assistant Department Service Officers.

With the National VOD and PP award winners to be announced soon, there is more excitement to come. That said, we have much left to do as we hit the homestretch on the 2022-2023 term.

- The VFW's Help A Hero Scholarship is still accepting applications for the fall semester. With **scholarships of up to \$5,000**, the VFW can help!
- The Scout of the Year Scholarship Program is hitting deadlines as I write. The deadline for Post entries is 1 March. Posts and Districts must complete judging and forward their winner to the Scouting Chairman NLT 1 April to allow the Department winner to be selected and forwarded to National NLT 1 May. Please confirm and coordinate your submissions with our **Scouting Chairman David Metherell** via email at **SCDPA@VFWPACIFIC.ORG**.
- The NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD – POST submissions are due to me NLT 1 April. Be sure to Cc your District Commanders! This is the only DEPARTMENT award that goes DIRECTLY to the JVC from the Post.

That takes us to the remaining annual Department Awards. The Department Outstanding Awards Programs recognizes individual members, organizations and non-member individuals that have made significant contributions in reaching our organizational goals. Awards in each category will be made yearly at the Department Convention based on District submissions and final selection by the Department Judging Committee.

Outstanding Post Award  
Outstanding Post Member Award  
Outstanding Post Adjutant Award  
Outstanding Post Service Officer Award



Junior Vice Commander

Michael Lutman



Jr. Vice Commander

# JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

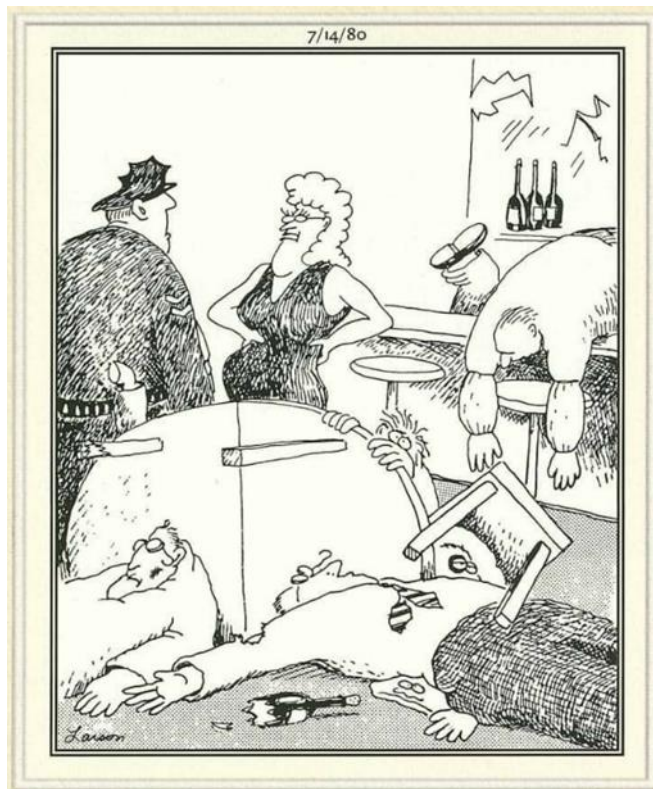
- Outstanding Post Quartermaster Award
- Outstanding Post Commander Award
- Outstanding Post Membership Chairman Award
- Outstanding Contributor Non-Member Award
- Outstanding Contributor Business or Organization Award

Nomination packages for each category shall be submitted by each Post to their District Commanders no later than 15 April 2023. Please read and follow the package guidelines. District Commanders shall email their District winners (ONE for each category) to the Department Junior Vice Commander NLT 1 May 2023. Check the DPA Website under Programs / Department Outstanding Awards Programs for the current nomination packages. I hope that Post Commanders have ALREADY started to get their packages ready. It is NOT too soon. You can buff them up just before submission for District judging.

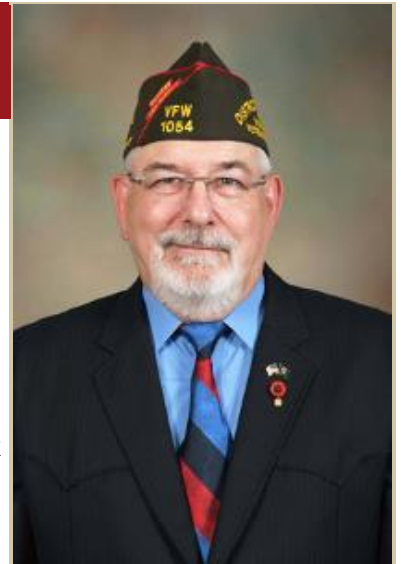
Comrades, our legacy is established through our combined efforts in supporting Veterans and each other. It is not a race nor is it a competition but recognition is and should be an important part of what we do for those that earn it. We reap what we sow and we must be ever mindful of who we are and whom we represent. Please continue your great works and superb efforts in your communities helping those less fortunate. Through your kindness and compassion, you paint the masterpiece that is the image of the VFW throughout the world. God bless every one of you, your families and may God Bless our beloved organization, The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America! HUZDAH!

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Michael D. Lutman  
Junior Vice Commander  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Department of Pacific Areas  
**EXCELLENCE in all we DO**



“So then this little sailor dude whips out this can of spinach, this crazy music starts playin’, and ... well, just look at this place.”



Junior Vice Commander

Michael Lutman



Jr. Vice Commander



# In the SPOTLIGHT

In the VFW, we know our veterans are #StillServing and rising to meet the challenges of this uncertain time. We want you to share your stories and maybe even inspire others across our Department to do the same. Click here to tell us your story. [pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org](mailto:pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org)



Michael Stanley Commander VFW Post 9723 District One presents Certificates of Appreciation to members of VFW Post 9723 District One for unselfishly volunteering their personal time for various events and endeavors. The Comrades left to right are George Cabrera, John Bowers, Adrian Pozo, Curtis Kozlesky, Marty Roberts, and Jeff Rumsfeld.

VFW Post 9723 Comrade John Bowers presenting a certificate of Appreciation to Tech Sergeant Jesus Cintron, President of the Air Force Sergeant's Association (AFSA) Chapter 1553 AFB Kadena. In September 2022, the AFSA donated \$470.85 to our local VFW Post during the POW/MIA walk run on AFB Kadena.



New refrigerator and washing machine for local WAT school for autistic and disabled Children and Adults. Donated by Banchang-Utapao VFW Post 12146 Community Service program.

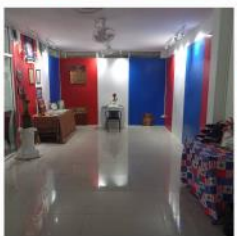


# In the SPOTLIGHT

**Fred J Estes VFW Post 9876 Pattaya Thailand is pleased to announce the opening of its new Post Home.**

On February 14, 2023, a Grand Opening Ceremony was held at our new Post Home in Pattaya Thailand. Post Commander Emanuel “Manny” Guarnuccio, with the leadership of JVC Harry Codman, Chairman of the Relocation and Construction Committee and various Post Members and members of the Auxiliary (Veterans’ Wives Club), put together an extraordinary effort to bring bare walls to life in the form of a Post Home that we can and will be proud of for years to come.

The Ceremony kicked off with the Invocation by Post Chaplain Mike Warner, followed by a speech and Ribbon Cutting by Post Commander Manny Guarnuccio. Afterwards, a buffet style luncheon was opened up to everyone along with chocolate fountains in the Spirit of Valentine’s Day. The Luncheon was arranged by the Auxiliary and catering was provided by Nara Thai Cuisine. After dining and socializing, the first General Membership Meeting was called to order. Distinguished guests attending the meeting were Comrades Ken Stein (National Council), District 5 Post Commander Randy Riggs, Post Commander Howard Holzworth (Banchang Post 12146), Lou Holub (Banchang Post 12146 and DPA Chaplain), and Post Commander Bill Ahlberg (American Legion Post TH02).





# In the SPOTLIGHT



VFW Post 12146 held a MAP event (Sunday Feb. 19) for members of DPAA as they embark on a mission for our fallen comrades in Vietnam. We had over 30 members of the team plus expat US military retirees and active duty military that are currently in Thailand. We raised a glass for the mission as well as a toast to VFW Post 12146 Ban Chang Utapao for their 8th Anniversary.



# In the SPOTLIGHT



Members, Spouses and Friends of the Post celebrated Post 12146 8th Anniversary on February 19th with a camaraderie and social event at a local Ban Chang supporter of the post, “Rainbow’s Pub”. More than 30 people attended the event including a few British Legion members. Post Commander Howard Holzworth thanked all that attended and expressed his appreciation for the support of local Vets and the Thai community. Happy 8th Anniversary Post 12146!

Your feedback is important to us. Please submit your Letters to the Editor or Suggestions by clicking [pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org](mailto:pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org)

# DPA ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

VFW National Convention will be held in Phoenix Arizona 22-27 July 2023. Post registration should be available soon. As a reminder, ALL Posts need to register at least 1 member for the Convention. For those that have appointments to the Convention, it is important that you reserve your room as soon as possible. The hotels fill up quick. We, the Pacific, will be in the Hyatt Regency Phoenix.

Post and District elections are coming around the corner! Please get your election reports submitted and your General Orders in shortly after the election. This will help to get the Department Memo 1 and General Order out by the end of June.

Our Department Convention will be held in Cambodia June 11 – 14. Registration will be up shortly as well. I will be sending each Post an email for what their Delegate fees will be. Once you have voted on your delegates, ensure you email a copy of the delegate letter to my adjutant email address [adjdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:adjdpa@vfwpacific.org).

This year we have a large number of Post's and District's that may qualify for All-State. I need all Commanders' and Quartermaster's to send me their cap size, if you want a cap, or if you want the \$50 gift certificate instead. Please have this information to me NLT 1 April. These need to be on order by 20 April so they will arrive prior to the Convention.

I encourage each Post and District to review the All-State Dashboard. If you see an error, get with the Chairman for the program to correct. As for the All-American Dashboard, if you submit a report ensure that the District Adjutant reviews it for approval. Also, send me an email at [adjdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:adjdpa@vfwpacific.org) that you have a report for approval. The Buddy Poppy field on the All-American Dashboard should be updated shortly. I thought the order was sent in to National the middle of January; however, it seems I sent the order to the wrong address. This has been corrected, thank you QM 1054!

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson  
Adjutant/Quartermaster

*"We used to play spin the bottle when I was a kid. A girl would spin the bottle, and if the bottle pointed to you when it stopped, the girl could either kiss you or give you a nickel. By the time I was 14, I owned my own house."*



Adjutant / Quartermaster

**Shawn Watson**





# PACT ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



**The PACT Act** is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The Act **(1)** expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and **(2)** expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

## What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

VETERANS AND SURVIVORS CAN FILE CLAIMS FOR ALL CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN THE PACT ACT IMMEDIATELY.

### For Gulf War and post 9-11 Veterans, that includes:

Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Respiratory (*breathing-related*) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma (*diagnosed after service*), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis,

Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (*ILD*), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (*COPD*).

### For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (*MGUS*), High blood pressure (*hypertension*).

## How can Veterans apply for VA health care?

Apply **online** at [VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction).

**Call** our toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387, M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET.

**Mail** a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ).

**Bring a completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ** with you to your [nearest medical center or clinic](#) or get help through your [state's Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officer](#).

**Get help** filing your claim by working with an [accredited representative](#).

## What are the PACT Act key components?



The Act **expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures** and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.



VA **will improve the decision-making process** for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.



Every enrolled Veteran will **receive an initial toxic exposure screening** and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



VA health care staff and claims processors will receive **toxic exposure-related education and training**.



The Act requires **research studies** on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.



The Act will help VA **build a stronger, more skilled workforce** to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.



The Act authorizes **31 new medical facilities** across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.

## How can a Veteran file a claim?



Veterans who would like to file a claim must complete [VA Form 21-526EZ](#) to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.



To learn about standard VA disability claims, supplemental claims, secondary claims, and more visit: [VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file](https://va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file).

## If a Veteran was previously denied a claim, what can they do?

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, **Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim** are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)  
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)  
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)  
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)



# NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Dear Comrades,

We continue to communicate with our National Veterans Service (NVS) Office located at the VFW offices in Washington, D.C.

One of the main items for discussion has been the new VA initiative that authorizes payment for any mental health emergency whether in a VA treatment facility or a non VA facility.

Reimbursing veterans living overseas was not considered in this new policy. Through the NVS office we have advised the VA and asked how they plan on resolving this issue. We will stay on top of this and keep you apprised.

The challenges with FMP remain on the radar of NVS as well as your National Council Member. We have been advised the issue of moving to direct deposit for reimbursement rather than having a paper check mailed to the veteran is moving forward to resolution. We will continue working on this as well as other issues affecting our veterans in their dealings with the VA.

We are also working with NVS regarding the contractor responsible for arranging appointments for Compensation & Pension (C&P) exams. The VA has been advised of the apparent inability for the contractor (QTC) to contact the veteran in a timely manner regarding the time and place of the exam appointment.

Finally, a few items from our National Offices.

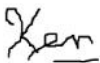
## From National Membership:

*As you are attending Post, District and Department events, we ask that you please work on expiring annual membership rosters by making buddy checks and asking the member to renew their membership, and of course always talk about the long-term savings of a Life membership versus paying dues year after year.*

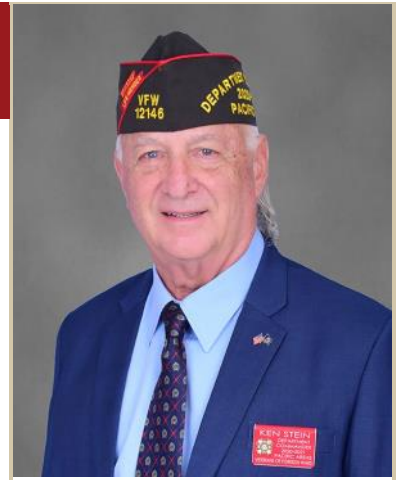
## From our National Administrative Operations Department:

*Currently the organization has 5,757 chartered Posts. In an effort to reduce paper and expedite our process, Departments are encouraged to submit Post, District, and Department bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to Administrative Operations via email to our Post Records Coordinator April Ferreira ([AFerreira@vfw.org](mailto:AFerreira@vfw.org)). Additionally, submitted bylaws or articles in conflict with the National Bylaws will be returned to the unit (Departments will be cc'd) with a list of amendments and a digital copy of our template for resubmittal. For any questions regarding this change, please contact the Administrative Operations Director Johnathan Duncan, [JDuncan@vfw.org](mailto:JDuncan@vfw.org).*

In comradeship,



Kenneth Stein  
National Council Member  
Pacific Areas



Department of Pacific Areas

National Council Member

Ken Stein

## JOIN VFW DAY OF SERVICE

Community service events across the nation & world kick off on May 6, 2023.

Are You Ready to Serve?  
[vfw.org/DayofService](http://vfw.org/DayofService)





# CHIEF OF STAFF

**From the desk of the Chief-of-Staff, DPC Rick Farris,**

I am continually frustrated at those comrades that seem bent on causing troubling issues for our beloved DPA and its Commander. Comrades, we are all members of the same wonderful organization, the VFW, and reside in the DPA. We need to work together to make the system work for our veterans. Please put aside all of your personal issues, and rejoin the rest of the DPA to make our organization better than it already is. It is not that hard, and keeps the DPA on top as it should be.




Chief of Staff

**Rick Farris**



**Chief of Staff**

Andrew Carnegie



Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.

AZ QUOTES

Congrats to all the Posts and Districts on achieving 100%, and well on your way to being All-American. My own District is lagging a bit, but I am confident on reaching it on time.

CofA in December was a great success, and I sure did enjoy seeing all of you again, in person, not on Zoom. I am equally looking forward to Phnom Penh in June. The last trip there was terrific!

Please uphold the integrity and honesty that comes with being a comrade, and member of the VFW.

Rick Farris  
DPA Chief of Staff, 2022-23  
PDC 2019-2020

“

*The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime.*

**-Babe Ruth**



”

VANTAGECIRCLE

## PAID ADVERTISEMENT



NOW AVAILABLE  
-Hardcover & Epub-

Histria Books is pleased to announce the release of **Of Ashes and Dust** by *Ron Roman*. This apocalyptic thriller is published by Addison & Highsmith Publishers, an imprint of Histria Books dedicated to outstanding original works of fiction.

Of Ashes and Dust is a no-punches-pulled apocalyptic tale of mesmerizing intrigue and gut-retching survival told as an alternate-history thriller during the last days of a global Armageddon, culminating in an unexpected and explosive ending.

Publisher's Weekly raves, "Distinguished by sparkling prose and an immersive narrative style, Roman's story of liberty and revolution offers readers more than a vision of an American dystopia and a terrifying global conflict, reflecting the faultiness of real-world politics."

Ron Roman was an Associate Professor of English, ESL, and Humanities with the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC-Asia) since 1996. He has written extensive travel, academic, and political articles for regional and national publications. Currently, he resides in South Korea and is a life member of VFW Post 8180. He writes and has acted in numerous Korean TV dramas and motion pictures. Of Ashes and Dust is his debut novel.

Of Ashes and Dust, 260 pp., ISBN 978-1-59211-178-7, is available at [HistriaBooks.com](https://histriabooks.com) and from all major book retailers. It is also available as an eBook. Titles published under the various imprints of Histria Books are distributed worldwide by the Independent Publishers Group (IPG). For information on publishing with Histria Books, please visit [HistriaBooks.com](https://histriabooks.com) or contact us at [info@histriabooks.com](mailto:info@histriabooks.com)

**Authors Website:** [www.writerronroman.com](http://www.writerronroman.com)

### Purchase Book at the following links

**Histria Books:** <https://histriabooks.com/of-ashes-and-dust-by-ron-roman-now-available-from-histria-books/>

**Amazon:** [https://www.amazon.com/Ashes-Dust-Ron-Roman/dp/1592111785/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=2GIF64421U93N&keywords=of+ashes+and+dust+ron+roman&qid=1671195617&sprefix=of+ashes%2Caps%2C329&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Ashes-Dust-Ron-Roman/dp/1592111785/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2GIF64421U93N&keywords=of+ashes+and+dust+ron+roman&qid=1671195617&sprefix=of+ashes%2Caps%2C329&sr=8-1)



# CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrades I pray you and yours are well, in good spirits able to continue our most important advocacy work while advancing towards achieving Post / District / DPA goals for AS-AA and as we continue to pray that our advocacy grows stronger and more influential with increased recruitment. Continue to take care of Veterans, their families our Active-duty service members and the less fortunate in our communities. Remember “buddy checks” are Gods work!

This past two month we celebrated in the Kingdom Thai Children’s day while gathering with local community in fun games and blessings, we prayed with DPA Webmaster Legacy Life Post member Alan A. his wife Nina and family over the passing of Ninas son Moss, may the young man RIP and the family find comfort.

We conducted a prayer ceremony at the VFW Post 12146 home for the “Four Chaplains Day 05 Feb” thanks to Commander Howard and team (Mr. Ien) for unwavering support of the DPA Chaplains Ministry.



I was able to travel to Olongapo Philippines and join with DPA Commander Max, PDC Kevin, members of Post 8180 and 2485 for the annual VFW Post 11447 Subic Bay “Beach Bash”, host Post Commander Barry L. and team have done a fantastic job reestablishing for the 29th time this local annual event, on Sunday we observed sunrise services by the sea.



Chaplain

**Lou Holub**



Let us remember the following Comrades who passed away since our previous report:

## TAPS REPORT

Date of Report: 20 February 2023

Post	Name	Date of Death	Post	Name	Date of Death
12074	Dunham, Jerry Ray	Dec-22	11447	Morris Arthur M.	01-Feb-23
2485	Parks, Walter F	12-Dec-22	2485	Higginbottom, Craig	24-Jan-23
	Meyers, Edward C.	21-Dec-22		Stants, Walter A. Jr.	04-Feb-23
	Thompson, George	03-Jan-23		Pryor, Larry Rogers Jr	06-Feb-23
	Kelly, Frank P.	23-Jan-23			

Entries listed by Post in sequence notification received

Continue to Email TAPS reports to: [chapdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:chapdpa@vfwpacific.org),

Yours in Comradeship  
 Louis S. Holub  
 DPA Chaplain

*As comrade after comrade departs, we march on with our ranks grown thinner. Help us to be faithful unto Thee and to one another. Look in mercy on the surviving spouses and children of our departed comrades, we beseech Thee, and with Thine own tenderness console and comfort those who are bereaved.” Amen.*



# #STILLSERVING

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## TODAY'S VFW

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (January 1, 2023)** — The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is proud to announce the second annual VFW Day of Service — a dedicated day of service led by veterans throughout the country and the world.

The VFW Day of Service began in 2022 as an outgrowth of the organization's [#StillServing](#) campaign launched in 2020 to recognize the ongoing dedication of veterans and service members who continue to serve their communities. VFW Day of Service, led by veterans and in concert with other organizations and civic groups, is open for anyone to participate. The 2023 VFW Day of Service kicks off the first Saturday in May (May 6), marking the start of veteran-led community service projects to take place throughout the month.

“Last year, veterans across the country turned out in force to show how they are [#StillServing](#) during the first ever VFW Day of Service,” said Timothy Borland, VFW national commander. “They united with one another and their communities to strengthen bonds and help neighbors. This year we have challenged our membership to turn out in even greater amounts.”

Veterans are more likely than civilians to volunteer in their communities, according to a recent civic health survey<sup>1</sup> of veterans. The same study showed veterans donate to charities, register to vote, and are involved in their communities and local government at a greater rate than their civilian counterparts.

“We are calling on veterans across America and around the world to join us in the VFW Day of Service to show that we never stop serving,” said Borland.

The VFW urges its members and all veterans to visit [VFWDayofService.org](https://vfwdayofservice.org) to register their event on the interactive Day of Service map and receive a special participation decal, or find a local event to join and see what other veterans around the country are doing to make a difference.

**About the Veterans of Foreign Wars:** The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans' organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With more than 1.5 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in over 6,000 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim “NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS” than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit our website at [vfw.org](https://vfw.org).

Media Contact: Randi K. Law, communications director, [rlaw@vfw.org](mailto:rlaw@vfw.org), 816.968.1104.

# VFW DAY OF SERVICE



# DEPARTMENT SURGEON

Greetings Comrades,

I hope this finds each of you and your families in good health. For most of us we have left the cooler weather behind, and as we enter the tropical part of year. It is important they we all take the necessary precautions to prevent heat related illness. The following are prevention guidelines that will ensure you get the most out of your outdoor activities.

## Tips for Preventing Heat-Related Illness

Summer heat waves can be dangerous. A very high body temperature can damage the brain and other vital organs. Some health conditions can make it harder for the body to stay cool in hot weather. These include old age, obesity, fever, dehydration, heart disease, poor circulation, sunburn and drug and alcohol use. When temperatures are very high, make sure to:

**Get Plenty to Drink:** Sweating removes needed salt and minerals from the body. When it is hot, drink more water, juice and sports drinks. Avoid drinks with caffeine (tea, coffee, and cola) and alcohol. Be sure to eat regularly.

**Stay Cool Indoors:** The best way to beat the heat is to stay in an air conditioned area. If you don't have an air conditioner, go to a shopping mall or public building for a few hours. A cool shower or bath is also a good way to cool off.

**Wear Light Clothing and Sunscreen:** Wear as little clothing as possible when you are at home. Choose lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing. In the hot sun, a wide-brimmed hat will keep the head cool. If you will be in direct sun, use a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher and follow package directions. Reapply every 2 hours while in the sun.

**Schedule Outdoor Activities Carefully:** Try to be less active during the hottest part of the day, late afternoon. If you must be out in the heat, plan your activities so that you are outdoors either before noon or in the evening. While outdoors, rest often in a shady area. Never leave kids or pets in a parked car.

**Pace Yourself:** If you are not used to working or exercising in hot weather, start slowly and pick up the pace gradually. Take frequent, regularly scheduled breaks. If activity in the heat makes your heart pound or leaves you gasping for breath, stop activity, get into a cool or shady area, and rest. Especially if you become lightheaded, confused, weak or feel faint.

**Use a Buddy System:** During a heat wave, check on your friends and family and have someone do the same for you. If you know someone who is elderly or has a health condition, check on them twice a day during a heat wave. Watch for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. High temperatures can cause serious health problems. Know the symptoms of heat-related illness and be ready to help.

Yours in Service to Veterans

Jack Farrell  
Pacific Areas Surgeon



Surgeon

Jack Farrell



# DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

## 57<sup>th</sup> Department of Pacific Areas Convention

## 54<sup>th</sup> Grand of the Pacific Areas Grand Scratch

*11-15 June Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

Greetings from Cambodia the Kingdom of Wonder. I wanted to take this opportunity to inform the department of the latest developments as they pertain to the upcoming convention.

Our Convention team has been conducting regular meetings with the hotel and staff to ensure that we provide our membership with the best convention experience available.

We are presently in the final phase of contract negotiations which will wrap up in the next few days. Upon completion of negotiations our focus will turn to getting our registration site up and running. The goal is to have the site ready no later than mid to late March.

Our preparations are not only to ensure that our membership has an enjoyable experience. But also, to ensure that your families are provided opportunities to get out and experience Cambodia.

In the coming days I will distribute a list of what to expect during your visit to Cambodia to include the link for Visa application.

The following schedule of events is provided for your information.

Yours in Service to Veterans

Jack Farrell  
Commander, Mayaguez Memorial  
VFW Post 11575 Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
2023 DPA Convention Chairman



**VFW/MOC welcomes you to Cambodia**

**57<sup>th</sup> Department of Pacific Convention & 54<sup>th</sup> MOC Grand Scratch**



# DEPARTMENT CONVENTION (CONT)

## Schedule of Events

11 June 2023	0700 – 0800	PDC Breakfast	Hotel Dining Room
Sunday	0800 – 1600	Registration	Foyer Tonle Chaktomuk Room
	1000 – 1100	DPA Budget	Business Lounge
	1100 – 1200	GPA Budget	Business Lounge
	1530 - 1900	Social/Auction	Secrets Club
	1900 – 2000	Hospitality Room	Poolside Cambodiana
	1800 – 2030	PGC's Dinner	TBD
12 June 2023	0800 – 1600	Registration	Foyer Tonle Chaktomuk Room
Monday	1000 – 1130	Opening Ceremonies	Tonle Chaktomuk Room
	1130 – 1300	VIP Luncheon	Mekong Restaurant Cambodiana
	1300 – 1700	GPA Grand Scratch	Tonle Chaktomuk Room
	1600 – 2000	Hospitality Room	Poolside Cambodiana
	1700 – 1730	GPA Incoming CofA	Tonle Chaktomuk Room
	1800 – 2000	PDC's Dinner	Amigo's Brazilian Steakhouse
13 June 2023	0800 – 1100	Registration	Foyer Tonle Chaktomuk Room
Tuesday	0900 – 1500	DPA 1 <sup>st</sup> Business Session	Tonle Chaktomuk Room
	1500 – 1700	DPA Training Session	Tonle Chaktomuk Room
	1600 – 2000	Hospitality Room	Post Home Shanghai
	1830 – 2130	GPA Commanders Banquet/Installation/Reception	Tonle Chaktomuk Room
14 June 2023	0900 – 1500	DPA 2 <sup>nd</sup> Business Session	Tonle Chaktomuk Room
Wednesday	1130 – 1300	All American Luncheon	Mekong Restaurant Cambodiana
	1500 - 1600	DPA Incoming C of A	Tonle Chaktomuk Room
	1730 – 1800	Cocktails	Tonle Chaktomuk Room
	1800 – 2200	DPA Commanders Dinner/Awards/Installation/Reception	Tonle Chaktomuk Room
15 June 2023	Travel Day		(Check out by noon)
Thursday			

# DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Hello Comrades,

We're happy to report all District inspections have been completed with the inspection reports forwarded to the Department Inspector. Twenty four of the twenty five Posts have been inspected with their reports forwarded to the Department.

Thank you to the District Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors for your commitment to the inspection program.

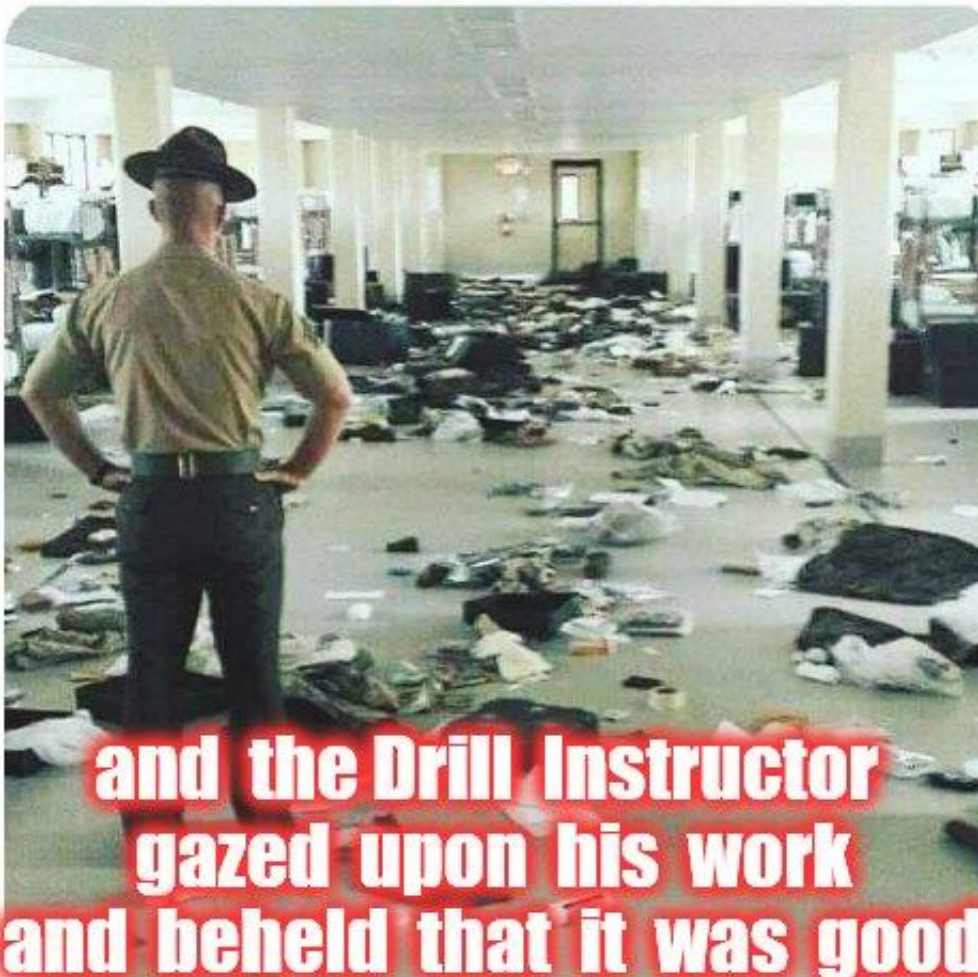
The Department All State Dashboard has been updated to reflect the status of inspections.

Good luck as you continue to meet the requirements for All State.

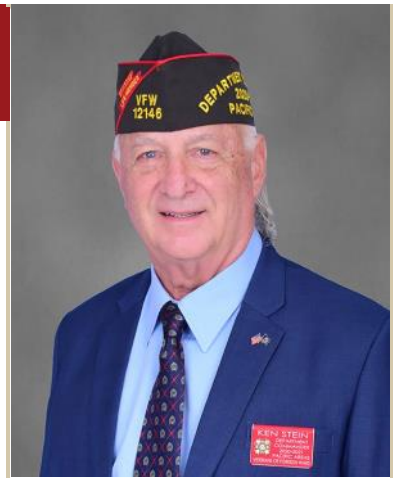
In comradeship and service to veterans,



Kenneth A. Stein  
Inspector  
Department of Pacific Areas  
**EXCELLENCE in all we DO**



imgflip.com



Department Inspector

Ken Stein





## MILITARY BRANCHES EXPLAINED

The Army, The Navy and The Marines are all brothers in a family. The Army is the oldest and mom and dad made all of their parenting mistakes with him. The Navy is the middle son and was the explorer of the family who left home, and nobody cared. The Marines are the youngest and mom and dad let him do whatever he wanted but to this day he still has an inferiority complex due to his size.

Well, mom and dad got divorced once all of the boys were grown. Mom got remarried to a rich guy and quickly gave birth to a fourth son, The Air Force. She loved him the most and showered him with the best toys and whatever his little heart desired. When they travelled, they stayed at 5 Star hotels and enjoyed the finest of meals. The Air Force is spoiled rotten, and the three older boys have bitter resentment towards him because of this.

The Coast Guard is the rich step dad's son from a previous marriage. None of the other family members think or act like he is part of the family.

During a rare family event that the rich step dad hosted, the rich step dad made an off the cuff comment about reaching for the stars. This got mom thinking of adopting a new family member which would be gender neutral so as to not trigger the triggered. After adopting Them, she changed Them's name to Space Force. Nobody in the known universe thinks or acts like Space Force is actually part of any family.



# JUDGE ADVOCATE

Greetings Comrades

It's that time of year again and all post have or will soon open nominations to fill the slate of officers for the 2023-24 VFW term.

If you have adopted procedures that allow for virtual attendance, I encourage you to review your voting procedures as they pertain to the election of officers.

## Post Delegates



Post Delegate strength is based on the number of Member in Good Standing on 31 March each year. The Post Quartermaster can obtain this information by doing a post quarry via the OMS. Calculate the number of authorized delegates by dividing the number of members in good standing by 30 that amount or a fraction thereof, equals your post delegate strength. Example:  $241/30 = 8.03$  or 9 authorized delegates

Per Sec. 222 of the VFW Manual of Procedure, delegates and alternates shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Each post is then required to prepare a delegate letter signed by the Post Commander that lists the names of the elected delegates and alternates authorized to cast votes. This letter becomes effective immediately and is required to be on file with the Department Adjutant Prior to any voting at the Department convention. Your District may also have a similar requirement. (Please refer to your District Bylaws)



There is no requirement to elect the same number of delegates you are authorized. Some posts may decide to elect only a portion of the Delegates and Alternates authorized. Delegates and Alternates serve throughout the year, provided they remain a member in good standing. Keep in mind that post delegates are only elected at your post general meeting in April and your delegate letter should be viable for the ensuing term.

## Amendments and Resolutions

If anyone has a proposed Amendment to our Department Bylaws, National Bylaws or Manual of Procedure or Rituals you are asked to run them through the proper channels and submit them in final format to me Not Later Than the 15th of May 2023. This will ensure all concerned are able to review your proposal prior to our Convention in June. Any questions or concerns please email me at [dmarohl691@gmail.com](mailto:dmarohl691@gmail.com)

Yours in Comradeship,

Delbert "Bert" Marohl  
Judge Advocate



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl

PODIUM EDITION

2023

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
OF THE UNITED STATES



CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER  
BYLAWS  
MANUAL OF PROCEDURE  
RITUAL

As amended July 19, 2022  
Effective August 20, 2022



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## Convention Book 2022 – 2023

All Members who register for the convention and attend the convention will receive a *Year in Review* Convention Book. Every Post will receive an additional 5 books for their members to read.

Posts that have an active US Military Base nearby may ask for an additional 5 books to place in waiting rooms of medical clinics and dental clinics. Those that have Hospitals such as Camp Humphreys may ask for an additional 10 books. These requests must be made to me by 15 April 2023 at the email address at the bottom of this page.

**ALL ADS MUST BE SENT TO PDC LYONS BY 5 MAY 2023**

### Prices:

#### Businesses

1/2 Page \$100.00

Full Page \$200.00

Business Cards \$20.00 (Post will receive \$5.00 rebate after \$600.00 worth of ads sold per card)

#### Posts, Pup Tents and District's

1/2 Page \$100.00

Full Page \$200.00

3 Pages \$300.00 (*Post's, Pup Tents, Districts only*)

Booster Ads \$3.00 per line

#### Individuals

1/2 Page \$100.00

Letters of Intent \$100.00

Full Page \$200.00

Business Cards \$20.00

**REBATES** start **after** the first \$600.00 worth of full-page ads are sold. Booster Ads Rebates start at \$1.00 per line after the 20<sup>th</sup> line sold. Rebates for the Pup Tents will be given to the host Post and they can give the refund to their Pup Tent.

Payment will be sent to DPA QM Navy Federal Account and emailed info to DPA/QM and PDC Lyons or paid at Convention.

\*Request Business cards to be scanned and emailed to me with their ad to me at [PDCLyons935@gmail.com](mailto:PDCLyons935@gmail.com) If they need to mail them, and if they can get them to me by 5 May 2023 then mail them to me at:

Larry Lyons  
PSC 301 Box 332  
APO, AP 96202

Larry Lyons  
Year in Review Chairman



Year in Review Chairman

Larry Lyons

VFW Post 11575  
Welcomes you to

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

A Year in Review 2022/23  
57<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Convention

Grand of the Pacific  
54<sup>th</sup> MOC Grand Scratch

# IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

January to March is annually probably the quietest period of the VFW term, but of course, somethings do pop up. We still have a lot to do, but for the most part it is quiet and we are having a outstanding DPA Term!

We have another Post that reached 100% recently which makes a total of 18 Posts with others zeroing in. Great job!!

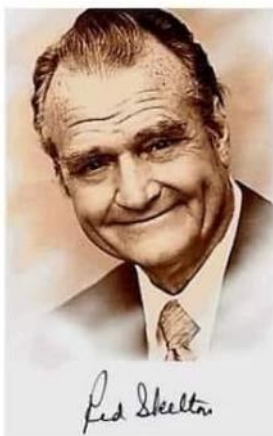
At this posting we will have Comrade PDC's Moses, Stein, and Watson along with DPA Legislative Chairman Brazee representing the DPA at the annual VFW Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. February 17-19 Beach Bash is returning to Barrio Barreto, Philippines. It had to be cancelled the last few years due to the pandemic. It should be a great weekend for all who can attend. Annual Award Packages will be due in April and with the year the DPA is having, hopefully our Commanders will ensure strong packages are submitted for judging.

I am sure sometime in March, the DPA website will go live for Comrades to sign up for the Department Convention in June. Now that travel is even more open, we will see more Comrades. It will also be great to invite some of your younger members so they can get an idea on how business is conduct at the DPA level. We will be conducting important business to include Elections for the 2023-24 term.

I understand I mentioned the following in our last edition but there is a very important statement in which every Commander says during each VFW meeting: **Do not let petty jealousies or trivia personalities influence our deliberations.** It is sad that it must be brought up from time to time from within a meeting and outside of it. I ask the DPA to read and/or listen to the words and ask yourself...**do you comply with highlighted statement???** If we are to meet the Commander's term of the year of "Excellence In All We Do" this is also part of it or should be!! So, let us move away from the conflicts and unite in the spirit of true comradeship to each other!!!

In closing, wishing each of you a healthy and safe couple of months as we approach our last Pacific Times for this Term. Let us continue to check on each other and our families!! **WE ARE THE DPA!!!** Much love!!!

Kevin E. Mitchell  
Immediate Past Department Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas  
**EXCELLENCE in all we DO**



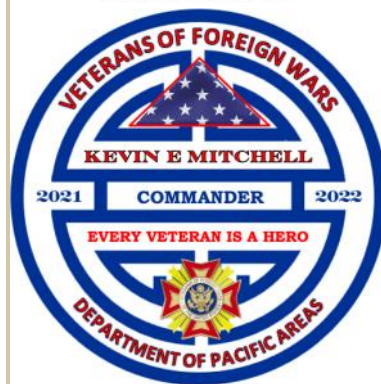
"If I could say one good thing about my wife's cooking, she sure broke that dog from begging at the table!"



Department of Pacific Areas

Immediate Past DPA Cdr

Kevin Mitchell





# NATIONAL ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAMS

Team, just a friendly reminder for this year's Awards nominations. To date we have received 6 nominations. Please help identifying worthy candidates.

The National Awards and Citations Committee will meet via Zoom on April 28th to discuss and choose recipients for the awards to be given at the National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona 2023 upon approval from the National Council of Administration.

Specifically, the awards to be reviewed by the committee were approved by National Council of Administration March 2022:

## **VFW Distinguished Fraternal Award**

To recognize VFW members or citizens who have furthered the aims or ideas of VFW Camaraderie. Applications must show how the nominee displayed efforts to preserve and strengthen a spirit of good friendship and loyalty among VFW members, assisted surviving spouse/orphans of deceased members, or assisted vulnerable and at-risk comrades above and beyond what others would or have done.

## **VFW Distinguished Patriotic Award**

To recognize VFW members or citizens in recognition of their local or national patriotic activities. Applications must show how the nominee displayed efforts that fostered true patriotism by showing and demonstrating a feeling of passion, devotion, and loyalty to America and extended the institutions, traditions, customs, and establishments of American Freedom above and beyond what others would normally do.

## **VFW Distinguished Historical Award**

To recognize VFW members or citizens for contributions to a better understanding of our American way of life, history, and institutions. Applications must show how the nominee displayed efforts that perpetuated the memory and history of our dead and/or displayed the importance of American history and why that history is important in our institutions above and beyond what others would do.

## **VFW Distinguished Citizenship Award**

To recognize VFW members or citizens for service rendered through outstanding charitable endeavors to the country or local efforts. Applications must show how the nominee displayed a high level of benevolent actions and philanthropic allegiance supporting veterans, civil, political, and social rights that exemplifies the duties and privileges of being an American citizen above and beyond what others would do.

## **VFW Distinguished Educational Award**

To recognize VFW members or citizens for outstanding contribution to the education of the intrinsic values of American freedom and citizenship. Applications must show how the nominee exemplified through formal, informal, or non-formal educational work that teaches the best attributes of patriotism and intrinsic values of knowledge through everyday life above and beyond what others would do.

## **VFW Distinguished Service Award**

To recognize VFW members for exemplary or extraordinary service to our country through demonstrated actions that promote the spirit of the VFW. Applications must show how the nominee contributed and exemplified through their volunteer actions of dedication and commitment to the VFW the best attributes in service, companionship, and activities to their local community, state or nation the attributes that define the spirit of a true VFW comrade.

Nominations will only be accepted using this [Online Form](#). The Adjutant General, Dan West, has asked for your recommendations for these awards NLT 31 March 2023. Questions can be submitted directly to me via email [lrolf@vfw.org](mailto:lrolf@vfw.org) or call me at Office: 816.968.1116 Cell: 913.290.1754.

**Lynn W. Rolf III** Programs Director Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

# DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

ENOUGH ALREADY (not really)

Last Fall (2022) I was service connected for 2 very different conditions based on Agent Orange and my service in Vietnam FIFTY YEARS AGO. This stuff will haunt you.

For those of you that are in the periods covered by the Pact Act they may start limiting how long you have to apply. They have already said that if you don't apply within 12 months of the bill being signed (August 8, 2022) you WILL NOT GET RETROACTIVE PAY! Some guys getting 100,000 plus for agent orange by just applying now but in their medical records years ago – that won't happen for Pact Act (or at least that's the current plan).

## YOU CAN'T APPLY FOR THE PACT ACT!

Understand – when you go to McDonalds you don't say “I want a McDonalds with cheese” you want a Big Mac or a Large Fries. With the Pact Act it is a name of a bill signed by the legislature. You want to apply for an item listed as covered by the Pact Act that is afflicting you. Many have come in and said “I want to sign up for the Pact Act”. I give them the list and say “which items have you been diagnosed with” and I swear they say “I don't have any of these I just want to sign up for the pact act, I need more money”!

## Burn Pit items list (The PACT ACT)

Brain cancer - Gastrointestinal cancer of any type - Glioblastoma - Head cancer of any type - Kidney cancer - Lymphatic cancer of any type - Lymphoma of any type - Melanoma - Neck cancer - Pancreatic cancer - Reproductive cancer of any type - Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx - Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea - Adenocarcinoma of the trachea - Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea - Adenocarcinoma of the lung - Large cell carcinoma of the lung - Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung - Sarcomatous carcinoma of the lung - Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung - Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type - Asthma that was diagnosed after service - Chronic bronchitis - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

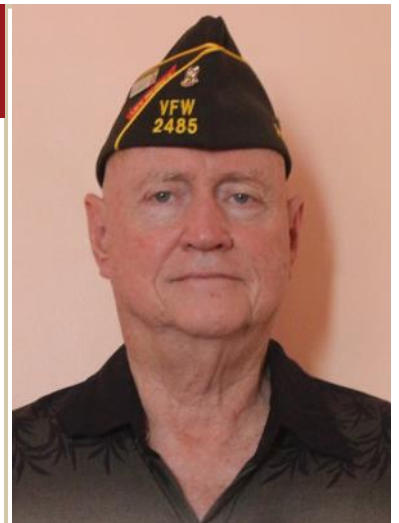
## SIGN UP FOR FMP

Even if you have Tricare you should sign up for FMP – The Foreign Medical Program. You might be traveling and fall ill with something you are service connected for and the hospital you go to says “sorry we don't take Tricare”. Pull out your credit card and since you have to wait to be reimbursed you might as well get reimbursed for 100%. Easy to do. Contact your service officer or Mitch or Do it yourself at <https://www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/veterans/fmp/index.asp>

Although it is wonderful to be able to be reimbursed for treatment on items you are service connected for remember – it is reimbursement and you must pay up front yourself. YOU MUST have a proper receipt for the payment you made and it must meet FMPs requirements SO sign up NOW and learn what you must do instead of having your broken nose set in Singapore and not getting reimbursed after you get back to Calbayog because of an inadequate receipt.

## TAKE CARE OF YOUR DEPENDANTS

We still have a vast number of Vets that have not made any effort to provide for the person that put up with your glorious self after you pass on. Don't be selfish, set them up with a little monthly remembrance of you from Uncle Sam. Go see your



DSO Pacific Areas

John Dibble



Service Officer



# DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

post service officer for information or come see us if in Angeles to help you get started.

Do yourself and your post service officer a favor and go say Hi! That will give him or her a visit to report on the monthly report and will let us know he or she is alive.

## COMPLETE YOUR CLAIM

The VA has spent a lot of money and effort so YOU can do your own claim and it is not difficult. The one thing missing from too many claims is why you waited 33 years to make the claim. You MUST connect an incident or treatment when you were in service to why you want the VA to compensate you all of a sudden after a quarter century of silence. The quality and logic of that letter is the difference between “sorry” and “service-connection”. Do not expect anyone else to do that for you, you are the only person that can do it. After you finish your claim do yourself a favor and write a good nexus letter or statement and put it on a form 4138 “Statement in Support of Claim”.

There is a new company to assist Veterans Evaluation Services ([VES](#)) to “aid” the VA in getting claim exams done. It has a lot of experience working with Tri Care but is new to working with the VA. It is a subsidiary of International SOS and is called [QTC](#). If you are expecting an exam from VES and get a message from QTC, answer it. I had my first QTC exam on Feb 15. I was notified I would be getting one in SEPTEMBER! They are new to our situations and to our demographics. Whatever you want to think it is the way it is and they will get better.

I had to go to Manila from Angeles and it was FAR from the VA clinic. The Doctor I had was great and I was very happy with him. He said the VA was supposed to get him information but had not. They said I would be coming and when but he did not know why he was doing the exam! He asked if I knew. When I got my QTC notification they said bring all my information. So I did.

I knew what my claim was and what I wanted the doctor to know and what I was looking for. Since they didn’t send him anything except a few sheets of information I got to control the exam. I gave him my information; he did an exam and concurred. He thanked me for being prepared and said he saw no problem with my requests. If you get a QTC exam (or a VES for that matter) go prepared. You will be in much better condition if YOU control the exam and provide all the answers.



DSO Pacific Areas

John Dibble



Service Officer



TruHearing



1-866-202-2876



John Dibble  
DSO Department of Pacific Areas

## A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Margaret Bourke-White, one of the pre-eminent photographers of the 20th century, is pictured here atop New York City's Chrysler Building in 1930. A staff photographer for Life magazine since its founding in 1936, one of her photos was featured on the cover of the very first issue of the famous news magazine. For decades, Bourke-White traveled the world photographing key events of her time. Early in her career, she took dramatic pictures of architecture and inside steel mills and factories, pioneering a new style of magnesium flare that allowed her to capture incredible details and earned her national renown. In 1930, she became the first Western photographer allowed to take pictures of Soviet industry during the Soviet five-year plan. Like her contemporary Dorothea Lange, she spent much of the 1930s photographing the downtrodden victims of America's Great Depression.

When World War II broke out, Bourke-White was the first woman permitted to work in combat zones. She was the only foreign photographer in Moscow when German forces invaded and she captured the bombardment of the Kremlin in a series of dramatic photos. LIFE staff started referring to her as "Maggie the Indestructible" after repeatedly coming under fire and surviving being on a torpedoed ship in the Mediterranean, stranded on an Arctic island, and getting pulled out of Chesapeake Bay after a helicopter crash.

While attached to General Patton's forces in Germany, she was one of the first photographers to document the horrors of the Buchenwald concentration camp after it was liberated. The following year, she photographed Mahatma Gandhi in India, including taking a now iconic photo of him at his spinning wheel. She is considered "one of the most effective chroniclers" of the violence that erupted during the partition of India and Pakistan. Bourke-White had a reputation for being relentless in her pursuit of the perfect photograph to embody her subject. "I feel that utter truth is essential," she asserted, "and to get that truth may take a lot of searching and long hours."

Margaret Bourke-White is one of the women featured in "Reporting Under Fire: 16 Daring Women War Correspondents and Photojournalists" for teens and adults, ages 13 and up: <https://www.amightygirl.com/reporting-under-fire>

For a historical fiction novel about Margaret Bourke-White, we also recommend "Girl with a Camera: Margaret Bourke-White, Photographer" for ages 12 and up at <https://www.amightygirl.com/girl-with-a-camera>

For an extraordinary new book for adult readers about three more groundbreaking journalists who paved the way for female war correspondents, we highly recommend "You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War" at <https://www.amightygirl.com/you-don-t-belong-here>

There is also a fantastic book for adult readers about six courageous female journalists who reported on WWII: "The Correspondents: Six Women Writers on the Front Lines of World War II" at <https://www.amightygirl.com/the-correspondents>

For two children's books about another famous female photographer, Dorothea Lange, we recommend "Dorothea's Eyes: Dorothea Lange Photographs the Truth," for ages 6 to 10 (<https://www.amightygirl.com/dorothea-s-eyes>) and "Dorothea Lange" for ages 5 to 8 (<https://www.amightygirl.com/dorothea-lange-faces-of...>)

To introduce children and teens to more trailblazing women like Margaret Bourke-White, visit our "Role Models" biography section at <http://amgrl.co/2wRJudE>

Credit: This photo of Margaret Bourke-White was taken by her dark room assistant Oscar Graubner.





# NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN

Comrades, January has left the house. And February is coming in Strong. Just a reminder we only have two (2) Posts, to go to be at 100% in this year donations. Come on guys let's get it done and have this check off for CDR Max. As everyone knows if your District or Post are trying to make ALL State this donation is required. All donations that have been made I have updated the DPA Dashboard.

If any District or Post is having problems, please let me know so I can contact the National Home and try to get it resolved.

## National Home Donation Report as of 27 January 2023

District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated	District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated
District 1,	Yes	\$50.00	10217	Yes	\$50.00
9723	Yes	\$50.00	10249	Yes	\$50.00
District 2,	Yes	\$50.00	11575	Yes	\$50.00
1054	Yes	\$50.00	12074	Yes	\$100.00
9555	Yes	\$100.00	12146	Yes	\$75.00
9612	Yes	\$200.00	12163	Yes	\$50.00
District 3,	Yes	\$50.00	District 6,	Yes	\$50.00
<del>8180</del>	Yes	\$100.00	1509	Yes / No	\$0.00
9985	Yes	\$50.00	2917	Yes / No	\$0.00
10033	Yes	\$100.00	3457	Yes	\$50.00
10223	Yes	\$200.00	District 7,	Yes	\$50.00
District 4,	Yes	\$50.00	124	Yes	\$50.00
9957	Yes	\$50.00	2485	Yes	\$2,050.00
District 5,	Yes	\$50.00	9892	Yes	\$50.00
9876	Yes	\$700.00	11447	Yes	\$50.00
9951	Yes	\$150.00	12130	Yes	\$50.00
<b>Dist/Post</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,775.00</b>	<b>Grand</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,775.00</b>
<b>Not Confirmed</b>				<b>Working</b>	

Please report to me all donations that you make so I can record and track them. Email the completed form to [nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org).

The VFW National Home for Children serves as a living memorial to America's Veterans by helping our nation's veteran and military families during difficult times. Visit their website: <https://www.vfwnationalhome.org/>.

Yours in Comradeship,

Randell E. Himes  
[nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org)  
[rehimes@gmail.com](mailto:rehimes@gmail.com)

## National Home Community

Families find a healing calm in a tranquil, rural, small-town community. Tree-lined streets connect 42 single-family homes with facilities like our gym, library, computer and science labs, daycare center, playgrounds, fishing pond, hiking trails and more.

[Our Features and Links to our National Homes](#)



National Home Chairman

Randell Himes



V F W  
 NATIONAL HOME  
 FOR CHILDREN

## MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher A. Celiz, a native of Summerville, South Carolina, enlisted in the United States Army in September 2006. He completed Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training as a combat engineer (12B) at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Celiz's first assignment was with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Following this assignment, Celiz was transferred to Company C, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, also at Fort Hood, as a team leader.

Celiz was then assigned to the 530th Engineer Clearance Company, 92nd Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he served as a sapper squad leader and platoon sergeant.

In 2013, Celiz was selected to serve with the 75th Ranger Regiment and was assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia, where he served as the battalion master breacher and engineer. In March 2017, he was assigned to Company D, where he served as the mortar platoon sergeant.

Celiz deployed from 2008 to 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and from 2011 to 2012 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was on his fifth deployment with the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, when he was killed.

Celiz's military education includes the Infantry Mortar Leader Course; Senior, Advanced and Basic Leader Courses; Jumpmaster Course; Sapper Leader Course; Ranger Assessment and Selection Program 2; Basic Airborne Course; U.S. Army Ranger Course; Route Reconnaissance Clearance Course -Sapper and the Combat Lifesaver Course.



His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (2 bronze oak leaf clusters), the Navy Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medals (4 bronze oak leaf clusters), the Meritorious Unit Citation Medal (2), the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star (3), the Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star (2), the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Ranger tab, the Sapper tab, the Combat Action Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

Celiz is survived by his spouse, Katie Celiz, and their daughter.

Read full citation [HERE](#).



# VMS CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

We are in the home stretch and only have four Posts remaining that need to make their donations to the Veterans & Military Support (VMS) Program. You may follow your All State and All American status on the [Department's Dashboard](#). Please note, when clicking the link above, you may be directed to the members area logon. Members Area default logon is your membership number and your password is your last name with first letter capitalized, example Smith.



## Veterans & Military Support Donation 2022-2023

Department	District #	Post #	Donation Amount (\$)
Pacific Areas			\$1,000.00
Pacific Areas	1		\$100.00
Pacific Areas	1	9723	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	2		\$50.00
Pacific Areas	2	1054	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	2	9555	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	2	9612	\$0.00
Pacific Areas	3		\$50.00
Pacific Areas	3	8180	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	3	9985	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	3	10033	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	3	10223	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	4		\$50.00
Pacific Areas	4	9957	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	5		\$50.00
Pacific Areas	5	9876	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	5	9951	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	5	10217	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	5	10249	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	5	11575	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	5	12074	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	5	12146	\$230.00
Pacific Areas	5	12163	\$0.00
Pacific Areas	6		\$50.00
Pacific Areas	6	1509	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	6	2917	\$0.00
Pacific Areas	6	3457	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	7		\$100.00
Pacific Areas	7	124	\$175.00
Pacific Areas	7	2485	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	7	9892	\$0.00
Pacific Areas	7	11447	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	7	12130	\$375.00



Department of Pacific Areas

VMS/MAP Chairman

**Donald Kelley**

As a veteran, you understand better than most what struggles and hurdles today's service members and veterans face. The VFW offers a wide range of assistance programs aimed at helping service members and veterans of every generation through the VMS program. Veterans helping our heroes.

Don Kelley  
Veterans & Military Support Chairman

# LETTER OF INTENT

## Letter of Intent



**Robert Chatman**  
**Position of Dept. Chaplain**

Greetings Comrades of the Pacific,

I have been asked by several of my comrades to take under consideration and run for the position of Department Chaplain. Looking at my life, currently I feel this is the time for me to step up to the plate and take a more active role in our Department.

I earned my eligibility to join the VFW while serving in the United States Army in 1977 and had multiple assignments including a deployment to the Middle East during Desert Shield/Storm before retiring in 2003.

I joined Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1193, Lawton, OK in 2007 and served as Adjutant before being elected Commander in April 2015 and reelected in 2016 for a second term. I transferred membership in 2017 to Post 8180 Songtan, South Korea and has been an active member in the post and community.

At the District level, VFW Department of Pacific Areas District 3 Korea, I was elected as Chaplain in April 2019 and again reelected in 2020. I am also running for District 3 Chaplain again in May. I have been able to help many Veterans and family members in their time of need and I am willing to expand that now at the Department level.

Besides the VFW I am also a Life Member in the Military order of the Cootie and a Life Member of the VFW National Home.

I would be honored to serve the Department as your Chaplain. I thank you for your consideration.

Robert Chatman  
VFW Post 8180



# LETTER OF INTENT



It is a great honor to announce my candidacy for the position of Chaplain, Department of Pacific Areas for the term of 2022-2023. I am a Bronze Legacy Member, Life Member, and Commander of both the All-American and All State, District IV (Taiwan) and Post 9957 (Taipei, Taiwan).

As a retired Lieutenant Colonel (US Army) with OCONUS and CONUS assignments, I bring a depth of international and global experience to this position. Among my career assignments: OEF combat tour with 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Forces Group in Afghanistan; 3-year assignment with 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group in Okinawa, Japan; two assignments in Korea with 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division and 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army (total 5 years); 3-year assignment at the Pentagon on the Joint Chiefs of Staff J5 Directorate as the Taiwan/Mongolia Affairs Director; and 4-year assignment at the U.S. de-facto Embassy in Taipei, Taiwan as the Army Programs Director.

Additionally, I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in East Asian Languages and Literature (Chinese) from Indiana University (Bloomington), 1991; a Master of Arts degree in Asian Studies from Cornell University, 2005; and a Master of Theology from Charles Sturt University, 2020. I was ordained with the Holy Orders of Priesthood on 27 October 2020 as an Anglican/Episcopalian priest.

If elected to serve as Department Chaplain, I will faithfully carry out these duties with the highest levels of pastoral care, professionalism and discretion.

Prior and current positions:

District 4 Commander (2018-present)

Post 9957 Commander (2018-present)

National Aide-de-Camp (2022-2023)

Yours in Comradeship and Service to Veterans,

Scott J. Ellinger  
LTC, U.S. Army (retired)

# LETTER OF INTENT



No one does more for Veterans

## Letter of Intent (Corrected)

Comrades of the Pacific,

It is with great honor to announce my candidacy for the position of Junior Vice Commander, Department of Pacific Areas for the term 2023-2024.

I am currently the Commander of Post 11575 here in Phnom Penh, Cambodia along with being the Department of Pacific Area Surgeon. I am a Gold Legacy Life Member.

As a Retired Navy Submariner, yes sometimes they call me a bubblehead along with being a Country Manager for a Fortune 500 Company working in the Middle East and North Africa, I bring with me over 35 years of Senior Management and Leadership experiences.

My accomplishments in a variety of positions and institutional knowledge of VFW policies, procedures and programs provide me with the necessary skills to provide successful service to the Department as your Junior Vice Commander.



I am a Team Player and can be counted on to do the job at hand. The following are positions and accolades that I have held or been awarded.

Commander, Post 12146 2018/19, All State and All American  
Commander, Post 11575 2019-2021, 2022/23 All State and All American  
District 5 Senior Vice Commander 2017-2019  
Deputy Inspector for District 5 2017-2019  
Department Surgeon 2022/23  
Awarded: National Aide-de-Camp 2019/20 and 2022/23

If elected to serve as your Department Junior Vice Commander, I will do my utmost to represent our Department with superior service and leadership to our membership. I ask you for your vote of confidence in allowing me to perform the duties and responsibilities of this position.

Yours in Comradeship and Service to Veterans,

Jack Farrell  
Candidate for Junior Vice Commander



# LETTER OF INTENT



I am asking for your support in election to the honorable position of Quartermaster for the Department of Pacific Areas. I am Gold Legacy member of Post 2917, Agat Guam. Listed below are key positions I have held:

### **Post 10216 Korea**

Commander (All American – 2010)

### **Post 2917 Guam**

Quartermaster (2014-2015)

Commander (2015-2018 All American 2018)

Quartermaster (2018 - Present)

### **Department**

Safety Officer (2010-2011)

Commander (2013-2014 All American)

Quartermaster (2020-)

Adjutant (2020-)

### **District III Korea**

Commander (2010-2011)

### **District VI**

Commander (2017-2018 All American)

Quartermaster (2018 – present)

### **National**

Council Member (2016- 2020)

Budget & Finance Committee (16 -20)

Aide de Camp

Inspector General (2022-23)

I humbly ask for your continued support for this important position as your Department Quartermaster.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson

Candidate for Department Quartermaster

Department of Pacific Areas

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES



**1 May Loyalty Day** - Loyalty Day originally began as "Americanization Day" in 1921 as a counter to the Communists' May 1 celebration of the Russian Revolution. On 1 May 1930, 10,000 VFW members staged a rally at New York's Union Square to promote patriotism. Through a resolution adopted in 1949, May 1 evolved into Loyalty Day. Observances began in 1950 on April 28 and climaxed May 1 when more than five million people across the nation held rallies. In New York City, more than 100,000 people rallied for America. In 1958 Congress enacted Public Law 529 proclaiming Loyalty Day a permanent fixture on the nation's calendar.

endar.



**May 8 V-E Day** - On May 8, 1945 - known as Victory in Europe Day or V-E Day - celebrations erupted around the world to mark the end of World War II in Europe. The war had been raging for almost five years when U.S. and Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944. The invasion signaled the beginning of the end for Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany. In less than a year, Germany would surrender, and Hitler would be dead.



**31 May 2021 Memorial Day** - Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

season.



**6 June 1944 D-Day** - On 6 June 1944, more than 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline, to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which, "we will accept nothing less than full victory." More than 5,000 Ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day's end, the Allies gained a foot-hold in Continental Europe.



**14 June Flag Day** - Flag Day is celebrated by Americans on June 14 each year and commemorates the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States. Many Americans celebrate Flag Day by displaying the Red, White and Blue in front of homes and businesses. Some communities, schools and veterans' organizations hold Flag Day parades, essay contests, ceremonies and picnics.

**Posts should arrange special ceremonies and all commanders shall alert comrades to their obligations for the appropriate commemoration date.**



## WEBSITE SPONSORS



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พัทยา • PATTAYA



Rdrokit Power  
RockBlues & Roadhouse Music



### Notice

**Districts, to offset the costs of our website and newsletter please find at least one Sponsor of \$100 for a year.**

We ask each District to submit at least one DPA Website Sponsor. Each Sponsor must donate a minimum of \$100. The term is one year and their Logo will be included on our Sponsor Website page and here in our Bi-Monthly newsletter. Contact the Webmaster at [webdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:webdpa@vfwpacific.org) or The Pacific Times Editor at [pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org](mailto:pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org) for information on how to submit your Sponsors.