

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 6

May/June 2023

DPA 2023 Annual Convention

57th Department of Pacific Areas Convention

54th Grand of the Pacific Areas Grand Scratch

11-15 June Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Mayaguez Memorial VFW Post 11575 Phnom Penh, Cambodia will be hosting the 57th Annual VFW Department of Pacific Areas Convention and 54th Annual Military Order of the Cootie Grand Scratch scheduled for 11-15 June 2023 at the Hotel Cambodiana Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Click [HERE](#) for more information.



FREE



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COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings Comrades,

Let me start by saying Rest in Peace to our two Past Department commanders who passed away on our watch. PDC Paul Gasperson and PDC/PGC Robert "MO" Moses. Both have been mentors to many of us over our VFW time. God Bless their families and they will be missed. Let us also say Rest in Peace to all the Pacific Areas members who passed during our term of 2022 to 2023. Rest easy Comrades we will take it from here.

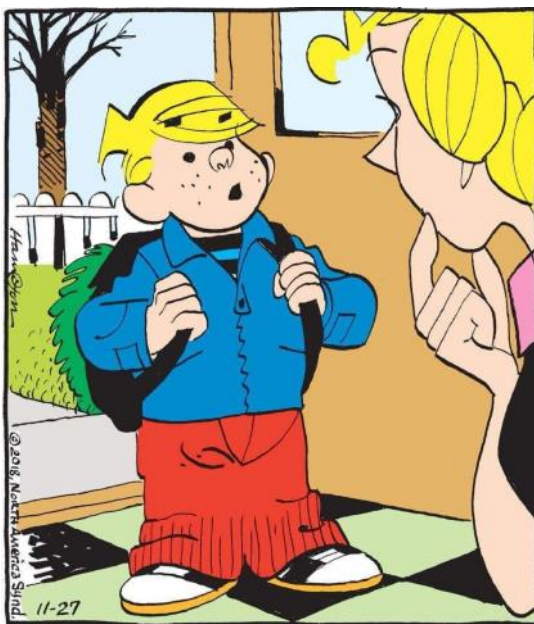
This will be my last input as your Commander. I can say without a doubt it has been my honor to hold this seat. But in all fairness, you are the ones who did all the heavy lifting. You are the ones who recruited, and you are the ones who went out and let the people know the VFW cares. All I really needed to do was stand back and watch you all get it done. Like we all knew you would. You don't quit, you wake up every day and make things happen. Either helping vets in need or helping their families in times of hardship. You showed people the work you all do every day and you showed them you can have fun doing it. I want to personally thank you all for making this the easiest job I had.

We are only weeks and days from our Convention in Cambodia. I hope to be putting All State hats on all of you but if you didn't reach the goal just yet, don't worry, last count is 30 June 2023. You are all still in the fight, don't stop now.

We will be having our elections and I hope you support the incoming officers the way you supported me. I will always be an email or phone call away so never worry about reaching out to ask a question. We will also be voting on proposals from across the Department, and all I ask is for everyone to set aside petty jealousies and trivial personalities and vote for the good of the Department. Voting just to spite someone is not how we do business. We will also be holding our MOC elections and the same rules apply there. Remember, everyone is welcome to attend the Social and the Grand banquet. Get out there, show your face, show that even though you may not be a Cooties, you have fellow members who will also be coming into office in support of the Greatest Department in the WORLD.

Again, Thank You for all you do.

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



"THEY'RE GONNA TEACH US CURSIVE IN SCHOOL, BUT I TOLD 'EM I'M NOT ALLOWED TO TALK THAT WAY."



Department of Pacific Areas

Commander

Warren Maxson



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

We're about 1 month and half months in counting till our next Department Convention in Cambodia and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there! Currently Department of Pacific Areas is at 102.63% and number 3 in the VFW National Membership Rankings and I would like to thank each one of you for your outstanding Recruiting efforts. We have a few Posts who have not made their All-State requirements, but I urged you to finish it and for those who made it again Congratulations and now you can work on your All-American requirements.

I just recently returned from my Senior Vice Commander's Training in Kansas City and there's a lot of changes coming through the horizon but we as "Team Pacific" will Meet the Challenge! Our Incoming Commander in Chief Duane Sarmiento and his VFW National Team are looking forward to traveling around the Pacific and meet some of you and he has given his best to support our mission here. Recruiting is still our focus to increase our membership to keep our voice in Washington DC but helping our communities, taking care of our Veterans, their widows and orphans are still our primary mission.

Again, I look forward to the next ensuring year 2023-2024 in serving with you as your Department Commander and we will have fun together while doing our mission. Let's all be one and work together for the common good of our VFW organization!

Yours In Comradeship and Service!

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

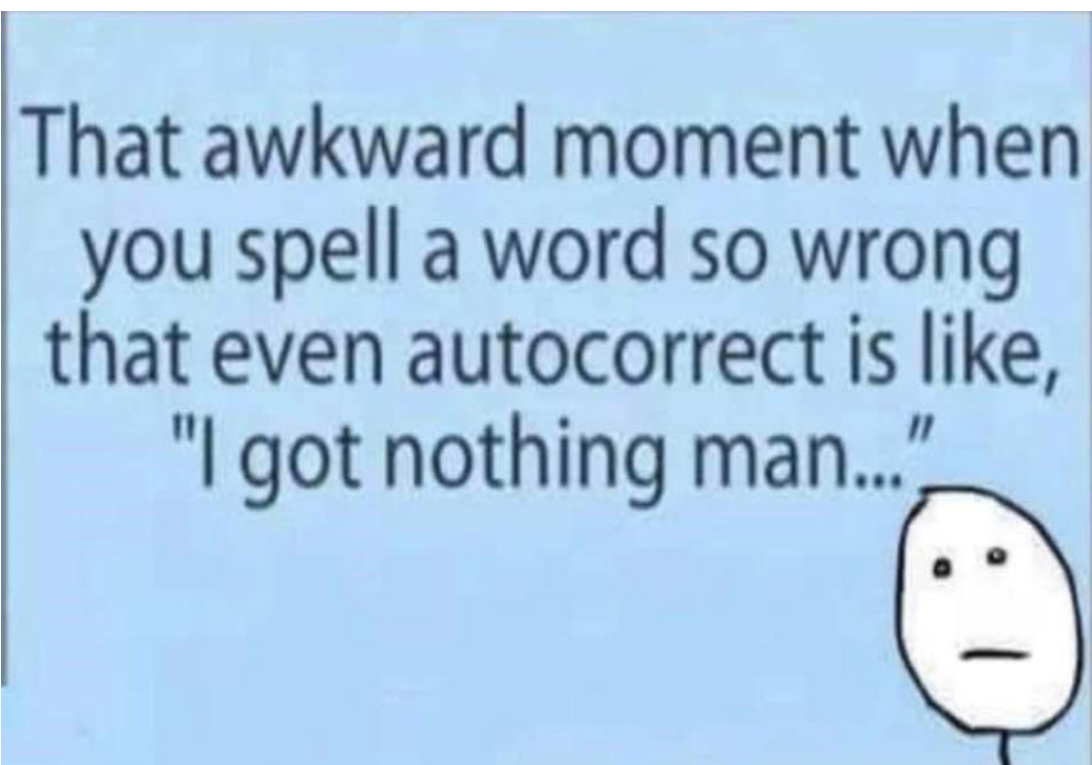


Senior Vice Commander

Alex Fores



Sr. Vice Commander



JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

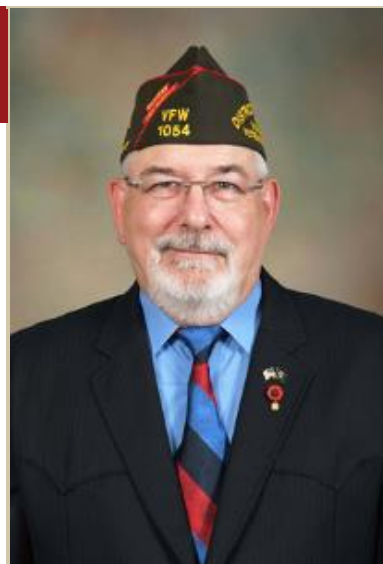
Where has the time gone? In some cases, it seems like there is never enough. In others, it begs the question about why we are not moving as fast as we should be. Both are often driven by circumstance and individual situations, but we can be sure of one thing. The Department of Pacific Areas waits for no man or person to accomplish the things that are necessary to support Veterans, their families and our community. You have proven once again that no matter the investment in time, energy, resources or compassion, our department always has the time to do what is right and fitting as our charter dictates.

When you think about it, our charter (which was signed in 1936 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt) sets the stage for who and what we are. We have come a long way since 1936 and in that space of time, we have continued unerringly in meeting our obligations to preserve and strengthen comradeship among our members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans. Your actions, as documented in your CSR entries speak loudly and plainly to those points. **THESE ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS EVER COULD.**

Of course, in doing so you continue to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; foster true patriotism; maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and preserve and defend the United States from all enemies. Let that last point sink in a bit. In doing the things you do to support your communities and those less fortunate, YOU are defending the United States from all enemies by winning the hearts and minds of those you touch with your kindness and benevolence. I think what you do matters to those you touch, and it brings great credit upon YOU, the Veterans of Foreign Wars AND the United States of America. Who better to represent our great nation...than YOU and I am so very proud of what you have accomplished during this last year. America can have no greater ambassadors than you, as you have proven time and time again.

Congratulations to all our ALL STATE and ALL AMERICAN eligible Posts and Districts. Once again, as with your community service, you have proven that it is SERVICE before SELF in our great department. It is plain to me that we are not a program driven group. It is what we do that defines us and the results, regardless of program definitions or stipulations speak for themselves. As this article goes to print, you will have already turned in your award packages for District judging and ultimately rewarding those who went the extra mile in demonstrating Excellence In All We Do. In recognizing these Comrades, we all are recognized since we know it takes a tribe to make things run. You are, and always have been the pulse of our great organization and I thank you for all your hard work, sacrifice and dedication to others over the last year, all the years before and all the years to come.

As we wrap up our 4th Quarter of CSR Reporting, I encourage everyone to keep submitting their CSR Reports. Remember, the Community Service Report (CSR) period starts from 1 May 2022 and ends 30 April 2023 for the term. For those Posts who have not completed their CSR requirements you can still catch up and I highly encourage you to do so. So, enjoy the 7th inning stretch. Take a short but well-deserved breather as we head into the final innings for this term. Congratulate your fellow Comrades on their efforts and encourage them to continue doing great things for their communities and each other. I look forward to seeing you all in Cambodia as we close out this year and prepare for a new season.



Junior Vice Commander

Michael Lutman



Jr. Vice Commander

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Dos and Don'ts in Cambodia

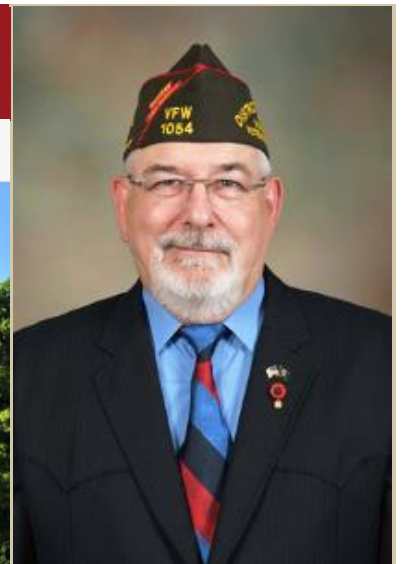


Read more about the Do's and Don'ts in Cambodia [HERE](#).

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

Interviewer: Can you tell me about your tasks in the military?

Me: I carried out daily biological decontamination at critical military facilities using a specialized mobile hydraulic dispensing unit



Department of Pacific Areas

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



Through the combine efforts of both Commander Holzworth, Post 12146 Ban Chang-Utapao and Commander Guarnuccio, Post 9876 Pattaya, partnering to assist the “Take Care Kids Thailand Foundation” with each Post donating 30,000 baht in purchase cards for Home Pro and Big C Stores.

The donation will be used to purchase furnishing and other items needed for their new under-construction shelter in Huai Yai, ChonBuri area. The shelter cares and houses children rescued from child prostitution, human trafficking, and several other form of illegal and immoral activity. Currently the shelter is capable of housing 14 children, the new building when completed will increase their ability to care for up to 45 children and mothers.

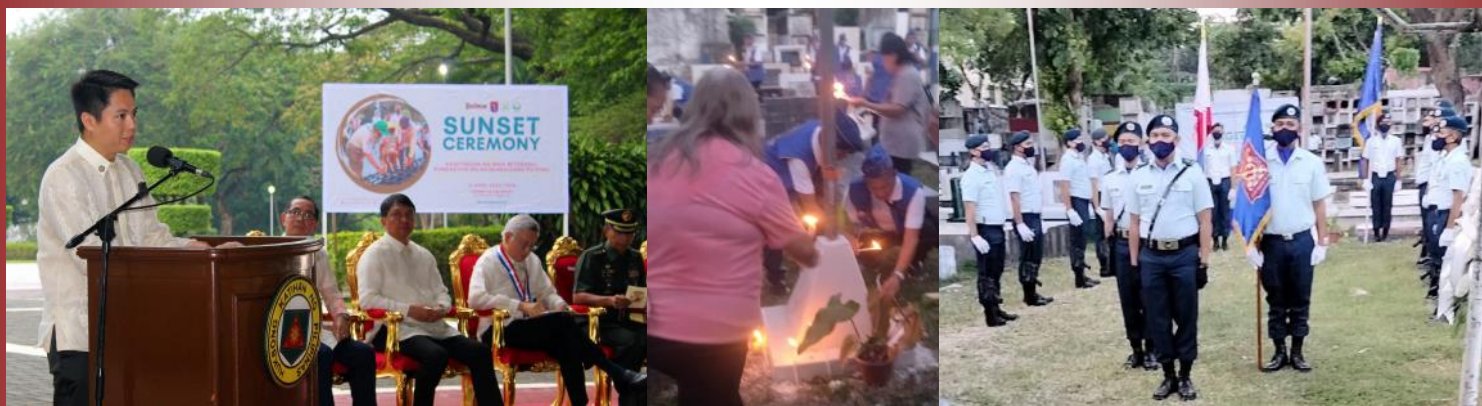
Photo: Back row (L to R) Gary Coon 9876, Emanuel Guar-nuccio (CDR Post 9876), Mr. Juergen Lusardi (Director Shelter & Foundation), Howard Holzworth (CDR Post 12146), and Roger Knorr (9876).

<http://www.takecarekids.org/en/home-en/>



TAKE CARE KIDS

THAILAND



On 12 April 2023, Post 12130 attended the week long national observance of the 2023 Philippine Veterans Week that began at sunrise and ended with a Sunset Ceremony at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City. Representative Mark O. Go, Chairperson of the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education served as the Guest of Honor and Speaker during the ceremony. The ceremony was hosted by the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) Region VII. Veterans, Widows, children, and great-grandchildren of veterans – both the alive and the fallen, gathered before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and shared their personal reflections on how their lives were touched by a veteran in the family. Read more [HERE](#).

In the SPOTLIGHT



April 28, 2023. Veterans, Spouses, and Widows of VFW Post 9876 Pattaya, VFW Post 12146 Banchang, VFW Post 9951 Bangkok and American Legion Post TH02 Pattaya visited the American aircraft carrier USS Nimitz. Many Thanks to all who made the visit possible and Best Wishes to the Crew for a safe deployment.

DPA ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Convention in Cambodia next month! Congratulations to all the All State Post's. For those that have not reached the All-State mark, you still have time!!!!

All Post's should have held their elections by now. Some have already submitted your election reports, however there are still quite a bit that have not. If you have not done it yet, please report this ASAP. This will take care of a few things. First and foremost, it will keep you from being suspended by National. Second, it will allow me to publish Memorandum One quicker. Please send me your General Order's as well. Many times, the election report has the wrong contact information.

All Post Commanders and Quartermasters have been sent an email with the information on the number of delegates and fees. If you have not transferred the money to Department yet, please have your Quartermaster do so prior to the Convention. This will streamline the process.

Post and Canteen Manager Bonds: We are still waiting on the forms for next year. However, the price for the Post Quartermaster bonds will remain the same. However, the price for Canteen Manager Bonds is going to increase. Once I have the forms and prices, they will be emailed out to the Post Quartermaster's Department email address.

Let's discuss the Buddy Poppy. From 15 April to 1 July the price of 500 Buddy Poppies is \$125. The price will change 1 July, however I do not have the price as of this writing. Once the price is announced, the order form on the DPA website will be updated. I will talk more on this point at the Department Convention.

Again, Congratulations to all the Posts that have been named All-State.

Shawn Watson
DPA Adjutant / Quartermaster

We were the most physically fit
group of alcoholics ever!



Adjutant / Quartermaster

Shawn Watson



PACT ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



.... VIETNAM GULF WAR POST-9/11

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/)

IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Comrades,

The end of a truly great term is coming to an end. We have 22 of 25 Posts at or above 100% in membership and these Posts/Districts are in great position for All American and/or All State!! Congratulations to each of the Post/District Commanders for their leadership and to our DPA CDR Maxson who guided the ship!!!

The DPA Convention is up and running so if you have not and plan to attend, please sign up as soon as you can. Hopefully we will have a very nice turnout in Cambodia. It will be our first full Convention since 2019 in Saipan. Our Convention will be held from June 11-15. DPA SVC Alex Fores will be sworn in as our Commander for the 2023-24 term and we wish him and staff a successful term.

The 124th VFW National Convention will be from July 22-27 in Phoenix, Arizona. The DPA Hotel will be the Hyatt Regency. All are invited to come as National will swear in our new Commander in Chief Duane Sarmiento of New Jersey and a friend of the DPA!!!

On April 6th, VFW Post 9555, District II, the DPA, and National lost a truly great Comrade in PDC Robert Moses. On behalf of the entire Moses family, I would like to thank the DPA for your love and kind words that really benefited the family during a time of need. I would like to especially thank Comrade Willie Hunter who assisted me each step of the way in helping the Moses family. PDC Moses will be extremely missed. PDC Moses as many of you knew was my FRIEND!!!

In closing, it has been an honor serving with CDR Maxson and the Excellence in all we do Team! Congratulations again for leading the DPA to such a great term!!! I like all of our PDC's will pledge our support for incoming CDR Fores and the 2023-24 team! Wishing each of you and yours good health and stay safe. Hope to see you in Cambodia and Phoenix!!! And finally, since this will be the last post I will have for a while, I'll say it again...I LOVE YOU ALL!!!

Yours in Comradship and Service,

Kevin E. Mitchell
Immediate Past Department Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
"Excellence in All We Do"



Immediate Past DPA Cdr

Kevin Mitchell

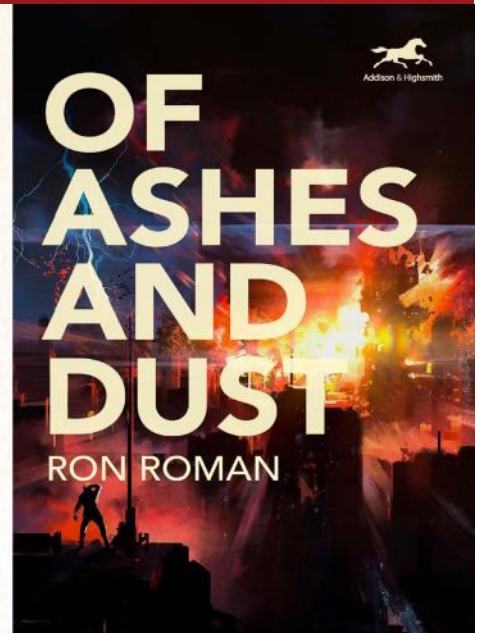


CDR Mitchell and PDC Moses at the 56th DPA Convention, Angeles City, PI June 2022

OF ASHES AND DUST

BY RON ROMAN

At the time of the Millennium three people struggle for survival in a small New Hampshire town as the world spins into chaos, not realizing that each harbors secrets that will eventually pit them against one another. The story evolves from the U.S. Government's earlier two classified secret projects during the Vietnam War (the USAF's revelation about UFOs and Project Sixty-Seven). *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 a totally unexpected and explosive ending.



“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 faultlines of real-world politics. His descriptions of the state's increasing encroachment on civil liberties have persuasive power, as does his plausible portrayal of the failure of governance and a gradual descent into anarchy.

— Publishers Weekly

Of special appeal to fans of dystopian novels, *Of Ashes and Dust* is a compelling read that showcases author Ron Roman's genuine flair as a novelist with respect to his impressive originality and narrative driven storytelling skills...highly recommended, especially for community library Alternate History and Dystopian Fiction collections.

— Midwest Book Review

OF ASHES AND DUST
Ron Roman

Available From

Amazon

Baker & Taylor

Ingram

Libby

Hoopla

Addison & Highsmith

Publishers (294 pp.)

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\$9.99 e-book

ISBN: 9781592111787

November 22, 2022

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ron Roman (WWW.WRITERRONROMAN.COM) was an Associate Professor of English, ESL, and Humanities who had taught 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. He studied writing (both fiction and creative) for his third graduate degree (Humanities) from Wesleyan University. Currently, he resides in South Korea, where he writes and has acted in numerous Korean TV dramas and motion pictures, like *Operation Chromite*, portraying Admiral Forrest Sherman opposite Liam Neeson as General Douglas MacArthur.



CHIEF OF STAFF

From the desk of the Chief-of-Staff & PDC Rick Farris,

While it can be difficult to define a successful year, there is little doubt that Department of Pacific, and Cdr. Max, have had a most successful year, perhaps one of the most successful ever. Membership stats are again, over the top, surpassing 102% as of this writing. As I have said, I have never seen us break the 100% barrier so early in the year. We are helping more Vets than ever before, and being a model for our communities. SVC Fores and JVC Lutman will have some real work to do to match the year we have had this year.

So, I would like to congratulate Cdr. Maxson, SVC Fores, and Jvc Lutman on an outstanding 2022-23 year, and what is almost certainly, another All-American Department.

I look forward to our return to Cambodia. My CofA was in Phnom Pehn and I had a wonderful time. The people were friendly and the sights scenic. Comrade Farrell did a great job in preparations and I expect even more the second time around. I am excited to see everyone one again, and hoist a few cocktails in the Library (eh, Ken).

Congrats to all in our department who made this year so great. There is no better department than the Department of Pacific Areas!!!

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



Chief of Staff

Rick Farris



Chief of Staff

THOUGHT'S ABOUT BOOKS

“When our genes could not store all the information necessary for survival, we slowly invented them. But then the time came, perhaps ten thousand years ago, when we needed to know more than could conveniently be contained in brains. So we learned to stockpile enormous quantities of information outside our bodies. We are the only species on the planet, so far as we know, to have invented a communal memory stored neither in our genes nor in our brains. The warehouse of that memory is called the library. A book is made from a tree. One glance at it and you hear the voice of another person perhaps someone dead for thousands of years. Across the millennia, the author is speaking, clearly and silently, inside your head, directly to you. Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people, citizens of distant epochs who never knew one another. Books break the shackles of time, proof that humans can work magic.” - Carl Sagan, *Cosmos*



“One glance at a book and you hear the voice of another person, perhaps someone dead for a 1,000 years. To read is to voyage through time.” - Carl Sagan

“Books are like seeds: they can lie dormant for centuries, but they may also produce flowers in the most unpromising soil.” And, if we want to hearken back to the Library of Alexandria: books are also “nourishment for the soul.” - Lee Mandelo

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go. Fill your house with stacks of books, in all the crannies and all the nooks.” - Dr. Seuss

“A capacity, and taste, for reading gives access to whatever has already been discovered by others.” - Abraham Lincoln

“I have a passion for teaching kids to become readers, to become comfortable with a book, not daunted. Books shouldn’t be daunting, they should be funny, exciting and wonderful; and learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage.” - Roald Dahl

“To acquire the habit of reading is to construct for yourself a refuge from almost all the miseries of life.” - W. Somerset Maugham

“Once you have read a book you care about, some part of it is always with you.” - Louis L’Amour

“Not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers.” - President Harry Truman

“A children’s story that can only be enjoyed by children is not a good children’s story in the slightest.” - *C.S. Lewis*

“The man who does not read good books is no better than the man who can’t.” - Mark Twain

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Greetings Comrades,

Below is an update on some of the initiatives our National organization is addressing with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Be aware these are PROPOSED resolutions that require approval by the National Convention.

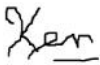
Proposed National Commander in Chief Resolutions:

- Fully fund VA to support all programs and health care systems.
- Congress should establish a VA nursing home entitlement.
- Urge the VA to revise the FMP inadequate paper-based system and utilize Electronic Funds transfer in order for veterans and service providers to file claims electronically direct to the VA.
- Urge the VA to revise the FMPs banking system to align with the Veterans Benefits Administration's banking system, in order to provide electronic fund transfer of reimbursement to veterans and service providers, eliminating the mailing of US Treasury checks.
- Urge Congress to pass legislation protecting VA beneficiaries from predatory companies attempting to by-pass the VA accreditation process, and authorize federal law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute companies that prey on our nation's veterans and their dependents by charging exorbitant fees under the guise of providing claims assistance.
- Urge the VA to collaborate with Veteran Service Organizations prior to proposing any regulation or policy changes which impact our nation's veterans.
- Rather than relying on the antiquated Personal Identity Verification (PIV) credentialing process, we urge the VA to assist in developing cutting-edge digital tools for VA accredited representatives to provide high quality assistance anytime or anywhere.

The VFW Washington Office is working on all these issues with their counterparts in the Congress and at the VA. We are fortunate to have a great leadership team made up of our nationally elected and appointed officers both in our VFW HQ in Kansas City as well as in our VFW Washington Office. They understand the unique nature of carrying out the mission of the VFW here in the Pacific.

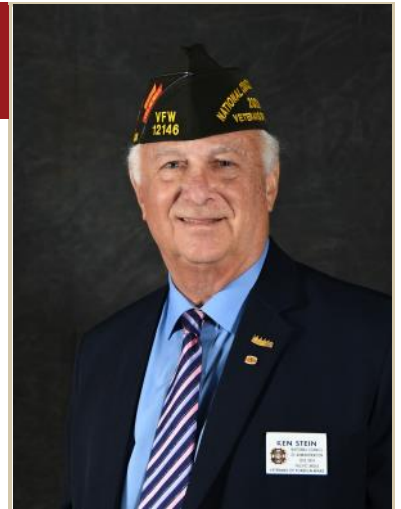
Please contact me if you have an issue that you would like raised with the National leadership. Look forward to seeing you at our convention in Phnom Penh in June 2023.

Yours in comradeship and service to veterans



Kenneth A. Stein
National Council Member 2022-2024
Pacific Areas

**I don't understand
why people have to
"get ready" for bed.
I'm ALWAYS ready
for bed.**



National Council Member

Ken Stein

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY



CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

IT'S IN THE CREED



DECKPLATE LEADERS

CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS MAKE UP THE HIGHEST ENLISTED RANKS IN THE U.S. NAVY. KNOWN AS "DECKPLATE LEADERS" CHIEFS ACT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN OFFICERS AND JUNIOR ENLISTED.

APRIL 1, 1893

DATE PROCLAIMED BY NAVY CIRCULAR #1 (EARLY NAVADMIN MESSAGE) THAT CREATED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHIEF PETTY OFFICER RANK.



55

NUMBER OF CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS THAT HAVE EARNED THE MEDAL OF HONOR.



DECKPLATES TO KEELS

CHIEFS ARE SO VITAL TO THE NAVY THAT TWO SHIPS HAVE BEEN NAMED USS CHIEF (BOTH MINESWEEPERS).



OLDEST RATINGS

SINCE 1797, ONLY TWO RATINGS HAVE CONTINUOUSLY INCLUDED CHIEFS AMONG THEIR RANKS: BOATSWAIN'S MATE AND GUNNER'S MATE.

GOATLOCKER

FROM THE AGE OF SAIL TO STEAM, GOATS WERE KEPT ABOARD SHIPS IN SEPARATE COMPARTMENTS KNOWN AS "GOAT LOCKERS." STUBBORN, SURE-FOOTED AND TOUGH, GOATS WERE USED FOR THEIR FRESH MILK AND MEAT - THEY ALSO HELPED LIFT UP MORALE. GOAT LOCKERS WERE EVENTUALLY ADOPTED BY CHIEFS WHO KEPT THE NAME AND ADOPTED THE GOAT MONIKER.



FIRST FEMALE CHIEF

ON MARCH 21, 1917, LORETTA WALSH BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN NAVY CHIEF PETTY OFFICER WHEN SWORN IN AS A CHIEF YEOMAN.

FOULED ANCHOR

THE CHIEF PETTY OFFICER CAP DEVICE WAS AUTHORIZED IN 1897. CPO COLLAR DEVICES WERE INTRODUCED IN 1959.

ROCKER DEVICE

THE ADVENT OF A ROCKER DEVICE WAS THE FIRST INSIGNIA FOR CHIEFS TO WEAR, AND WAS ORIGINALLY BORROWED FROM THE MASTER-AT-ARMS RATING. IT BECAME OFFICIAL IN 1894.



CREED

THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF THE CPO CREED WAS WRITTEN IN THE LATE 1940S. READING THE CREED BECAME A FIXTURE IN THE TRANSITION OF A FIRST CLASS TO THE VISIBLE. CONFIDENTLY HUMBLE DECKPLATE LEADERS CHIEFS STRIVE TO BE.

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 striving to ensure that our advocacy grows stronger and more influential through prayer. Keep recruiting take care of fellow Veterans, their families our Active-duty service members and the less fortunate in our communities and remember “buddy checks” are the Lord’s work!

The past two months have been active with many Post & District members participating in St. Patrick day activities, D-5 hosted in Bangkok the annual National CINC luncheon, a focus of the mission was to visit with DPAA Leadership and active recovery sites in Loa and Vietnam, CINC and team observed the Lord’s work in action. I had the distinct pleasure of lunch, dinner and breakfast, attending the Q&A sessions knowing 1st hand our DPA unique Veterans issues such as Tricare/ FMP program shortfalls are understood and being addressed. We prayed and blessed our Vietnam Veterans day activities “Welcome home and thank you for your service”, congratulations to Post newly elected officers may the Lord guide and bless you in the coming year and do include your Chaplain in Post activities-decisions. Many observed Holy days (Easter Ramadan), Thai/ Khmer New Year celebrated, I took the opportunity to travel to Angeles and Subic Bay PI in support of annual charitable events. Prayer, comradery and fun had by all.

I would like to share Chiang Mai Post 12074 Chaplain Brian Walters craftsmanship a beautiful Chaplains Stole he made and donated to his Post. The Stole includes, POW/MIA, VFW Cross of Malta & 6 Service patches, Well done!



Our heartfelt prayers and condolences go out to Past DPA Commander Robert Moses’ family, friends and comrades, may “Mo” Rest In Peace.

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

TAPS REPORT Date of Report: 17 Apr 2023

Post	Name	Date of Death	Post	Name	Date of Death
2485	Romer, Robert R.	10-Feb-23	2485	Serrano, Adrian V.	16-Feb-23
	Larkin, Stanley	21-Feb-23		Grey, Charles R.	28-Feb-23
	Quinn, James B	17-Mar-23		Williams, Carlton P	28-Feb-23
	Sullivan, Kenneth A	20-Mar-23		Herron, Patrick	09-Apr-23
11575	Regan, Carl	28-Jan-23	9723	Evers, Albert F.	24-Feb-23
10223	Spearman, Billie	29-Jan-23			

Entries listed by Post in sequence notification received.

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.



Department of Pacific Areas

Chaplain

Lou Holub



DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

57th Department of Pacific Areas Convention

54th Grand of the Pacific Areas Grand Scratch

11-15 June Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Comrades,

Convention registration and hotel bookings are well underway. I encourage you to act quickly to get the best choice of rooms available. Additionally, convention shirt sales are exceeding expectations. To receive a shirt at the convention the cut-off date is 2 May. Shirts ordered after this date will be shipped to you 6 weeks later. So please get your registration completed as soon as possible to allow us to satisfy your individual requirements.

Note:

Convention Registration will close on 15 May. Registrations received after this date will have limited lunch and dinner availability.

The hotel continues to be proactive in ensuring that we receive the best convention experience available.

US Embassy support for the convention has been outstanding. At this time the embassy has committed to the US Ambassadors or the Deputy Chief of Missions attendance at the opening ceremony to include the USMC Color Guard.

Post members continue to reach out to local business owners and have received commitments to provide discounts to our members for those select businesses which have also committed to the Year in Review book ads.

Our spouses and significant others are standing by and prepared to provide your families with options to enjoy when visiting the Kingdom of Wonder.

As always, The Post here is available to support and provide assistance as needed. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at: convention@vfwpacific.org Yours in Service to Veterans.

For registration and hotel bookings please click [HERE](#).

Dress code for the convention is: Head Table: Suits during the Opening Ceremony and Commanders Dinner. Other attendees: VFW Shirt, pants, or shorts. Business Sessions: VFW shirt, pants, or shorts.

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



JUDGE ADVOCATE

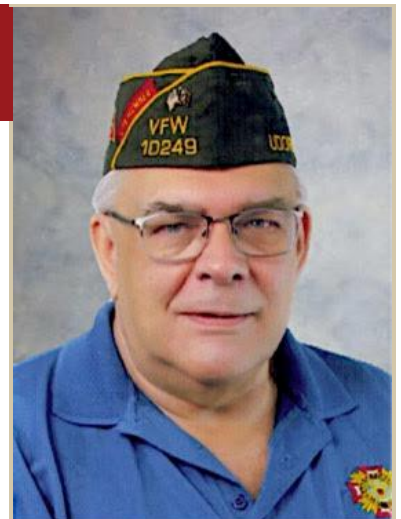
Greetings Comrades

Resolutions and Amendments: By now, I should be in receipt of any proposed amendments and resolutions you wish brought before convention for approval. To ensure members of the Convention has a chance to review your proposals they will be sent out to all concerned around the middle of May.

RULES OF ORDER

57th Department of Pacific Areas Convention 11-15 June 2023, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

1. **Composition:** The Department Convention shall consist of:
 - a. The Commander-in-Chief, Past Commander-in-Chief, and any current National Council Member, providing they are member in good standing of a Post within Department.
 - b. The Department Commander and all Past Department Commanders who are members in good standing in a Post within Department; all elective officers of the Department, Adjutant, Chief of Staff, Department Service Officer, and Inspector.
 - c. District Commanders in the Department. If a District Commander is absent, the District Senior vice Commander, or in his absence the District Junior vice Commander may register and function as a member of the Convention
 - d. All Post Commanders in the Department. If a Post Commander is absent, the Post Senior Vice Commander, or in his absence the Post Junior vice Commander may register and function as a member of the Convention.
 - e. Department Service Officer (DSO), in the absence of the DSO, one of the Assistant Department Service Officers (ADSO) may be registered and function as a member of the Convention by appointment of the Department Commander.
 - f. Delegates to be elected by the Post as prescribed in Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure.
2. **Voting:** Only members listed above may vote on matters brought before the Convention. The authorized voting shall be:
 - a. Each voting member of the Convention, except delegates elected by a Post will have one (1) vote. Attendee who are listed in paragraph 1. (a through e) above named as delegates by their Posts shall be entitled to cast their pro rata share of the Post's votes, if so desired. However, each attendee may only cast a single vote as an individual or with the Post as a delegate, but not both.
 - b. The delegate or delegates of a Post present may vote the Post's full delegate strength. If there is a division among the delegation of a Post each delegate present may cast his or her vote pro rata shares of the Post authorized votes.
 - c. If a Post Commander or in his absence the Senior Vice Commander, or in his absence the Junior Vice Commander is the only person in attendance at the Convention from a Post, he/she shall be entitled to one (1) vote plus the authorized delegate voting strength of the Post, providing that his/her name appears on the Post delegate letter as a delegate or alternate.



Department of Pacific Areas

Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl

PODIUM EDITION

2023

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES

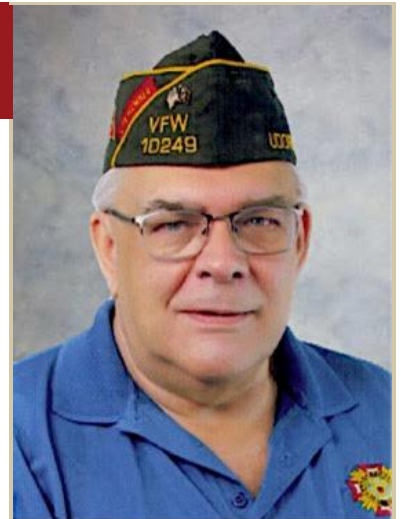


CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER
BYLAWS
MANUAL OF PROCEDURE
RITUAL

As amended July 19, 2022
Effective August 20, 2022

JUDGE ADVOCATE

- d. The Credentials Committee prior to the first vote shall review the membership figures given by the Department Quartermaster and will poll the Posts to determine which members with separate votes are present, whether they will vote with their Post or separately, and determine total voting strength for each Post. The authorized voting strength for each Post at the Convention will be given in a report of Credentials Committee and shall be approved by the Convention.
 - e. Roll call votes are governed as follows:
 - i. For the election of officers when two (2) or more persons have been nominated for the same office, voting shall be by roll call of Post's and any other member(s) who may vote separately.
 - ii. A roll call vote may be called for on any subject (question) to be voted on during the Convention at the discretion of any three (3) officers or delegates representing three (3) different Posts.
 - iii. On roll call vote any delegate voting separately, and delegation casting its authorized votes together, or any member of the delegation voting separately may pass on the first roll call. If any individual or delegations abstains from voting on the second roll call vote, only the affirmative and negative votes cast will be counted to determine the number of votes necessary for a majority.
3. **Arrearages:** The Credentials Committee will report on any Posts or Districts in arrears under the provisions of Sections 213 and 413 of the National By-Laws.
4. **Quorum:** A quorum for transacting business at the Convention will be not less than one (1) delegate from a majority of the Post's in good standing at the time of the Convention and not less than four (4) members of the Department Council of Administration, one of whom must be the Commander, Senior Vice Commander or Junior Vice Commander.
5. **Discussion of Motions:**
- a. Any matter brought before the Convention for consideration must be presented as a motion and that motion must be seconded prior to any discussion. Acceptation to this is a motion from a committee does not require a second.
 - b. No member of the Convention may speak more than once on any motion until other members present have been given the opportunity to speak.
 - c. No member of the Convention may speak more than twice on the same question.
 - d. In that this is also a virtual Convention, each member shall be limited to 5 minutes each time. The presiding officer may further limit the time of discussion on a motion.
6. **Election of Department Officers:**
- a. The Department Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain and Surgeon shall be elected by the Convention. District Commanders, by virtue of their office, shall be officers of the Department Convention and voting members of the Council of



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl

PODIUM EDITION

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
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CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER
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As amended July 19, 2022
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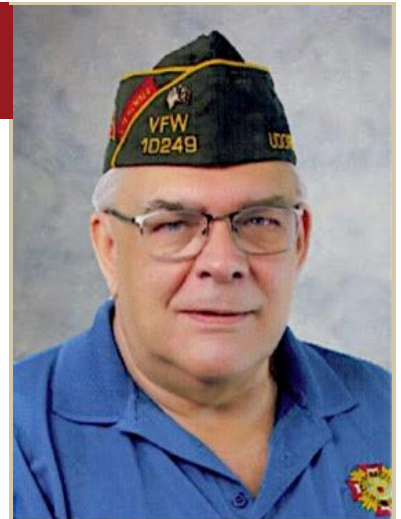
JUDGE ADVOCATE

Administration. District Commanders shall be ineligible to simultaneously hold an elected Department Office.

- b. Any member in good standing in a post in the department is eligible to hold a department office. A member may hold one (1) elected and one or more appointed offices, no member may simultaneously hold two (2) elected department offices.
 - c. Before nominations are closed, any nominee to a department office must have the opportunity to decline nomination to the office to which he or she has been nominated.
 - d. Any member absent from the convention who is nominated for an office must have written consent to such nomination in the hands of the department adjutant before nominations for that office.
 - e. Nominations will remain open until the presiding officer declares them closed and the convention is ready to vote. A majority of all votes cast is necessary to elect, and voting will continue until an election is declared. Should there be no election on the first roll call the name of the nominee receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and so on in successive roll calls until a majority vote is reached.
 - f. Officers will be installed before the Convention is adjourned.
7. **Caucus:** Any member of the Convention may call for a caucus to discuss with his fellow delegates any matter to be voted on by the Convention. The residing officer may limit the time for a caucus.
8. **Electronic Attendance:** Pursuant to VFW By-Laws, Section 503, this meeting will also allow for virtual attendance using the Zoom Meeting Platform.
- a. Each member is responsible for his or her connection to the meeting; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.
 - b. To ensure all features are available to the user, each member is responsible for upgrading their zoom app to the latest version.
 - c. When addressing the assembly, members shall be in camera view while speaking.
 - d. Members joining us via ZOOM shall have their cameras on when speaking and their mic's muted when not addressing the assembly.
9. **Other:** Matters not covered by these Rules of Order, the provisions of the Congressional Charter, By-Laws and the Manual of Procedures of the VFW. Roberts Rules of Order shall be the authority.

Yours in comradeship,

Delbert "Bert" Marohl
DPA Judge Advocate



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl

PODIUM EDITION

2023

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES



CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER
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A RECOLLECTION BY J CHRIS HANEY



J Chris Haney

Message

I was doing my job at China Beach in Vietnam. It came over the radio that Martin Luther King Jr had been killed. Then over my walkie-talkie I heard there was a large group of Black Marines were going to march up the local beach to China Beach, where I was, to Honor MLK.

My Commander sent someone to find me as I was the ranking NCO of emergency services based there. I was ordered to draw heavy weapons from the armory and create a firing position with sandbags and grab 3-4 other guys (I would have been prosecuted if I had refused) so I did as ordered. We only had time to barely get some sandbags filled up.

I asked my Commander what my rules of engagement were and asked him to put it in writing which he refused. He gave me a Direct Order to stop this group that had grown to approximately 300 Black Marines by then. We saw them coming up the beach and I got the radio and told the other guys not to fire unless fired upon. Then I got word that no one saw a single weapon. I radioed all my guys to stand down immediately.

Clearly, all these guys were doing was honoring MLK. But my commander got on the radio and gave me a direct order to open fire on them if they tried to come past me or turn towards China Beach.

I had four guys, 2 Cases of Hand grenades, 5000 M-16 rounds, a mortar and rounds and I forget what else. When they got within about 100 yards I got on my binoculars and didn't see a single weapon.

I ordered everyone to stand down but had to physically restrain one of the guys, in fact we had to take his weapon and had a big guy sit on him as we didn't have cuffs. As the Marines got closer, we all stood up and held our weapons in the air. I'm stopping to cry awhile before I can continue.

When the Marines, my brothers got to us we stood up and gave everyone the Peace Sign and let them pass slowly. I went out to their front guys and told them we were not going to fire on them, but I had orders to stop them there.

We all hugged each other and he ordered "about face" to his men. I would never have fired on my fellow troops. I was a Seabee, and our job was to help Marines, not kill them and my Commander gave me those orders then threatened to court martial me. I'm 75 and have cancer and still scream at night but we didn't follow his orders.

It hit most of us in the last 15-20 years. I've never gotten this far before but I'm probably not much longer for this world. This has been over 50 years ago and I've never told a soul. I can never stop crying long enough to get finished. I'm finally going to get it off my chest and anyone that was there that day has probably cried a river over it too. If you were there, PLEASE contact me. I had to get it off my chest. We were just heavily armed kids. I am CE2 Chris Haney of I corps out of DaNang born in Duncan, Oklahoma. This was by no means the end of the war for us. We'll all be fighting on the inside to the day we die. This is the first time I've ever told anyone about this. If you were there, I was the skinny Seabee in charge at China Beach. I'll try to write a few more things about my 20 months of laughing and crying before I go to see my fellow troops waiting for us in heaven.

To you 300 Marines, I apologize for kind of sort of following orders.

Contact me at: <https://www.facebook.com/jchrishaney>

DEPARTMENT SURGEON

Greetings Comrades,

I hope this finds each of you and your families in good health. As we leave the winter months behind us and look for ways to shed those unwanted pounds gained over the winter months the following information is provided to aid you in identifying what may be options as we look to shed those pounds using healthier dietary plans.

- An American Heart Association report analyzed 10 popular dietary patterns, ranking them for heart health.
- The DASH and Mediterranean diets scored high on the list while the keto and paleo plans scored poorly.
- In general, nutritionists and dietitians recommend a diet high in whole grains, non-starchy vegetables, and lean meat and fish while avoiding saturated fats, refined sugars, and processed foods.
- They say it's healthier in the long run to find a sustainable diet pattern rather than a "quick fix" crash diet.

An analysis from the American Heart Association (AHA) has taken a close look and ranked some of today's most popular dietary patterns.

The statement Trusted Source, published today in the journal Circulation, looked at 10 dietary patterns for healthiness, finding a few plans that don't make the cut when it comes to heart health.

Christopher Gardner, PhD, the chair of the writing committee for the statement and a professor of medicine at Stanford University in California, told Medical News Today that the statement is intended to provide guidance not just for people looking to change up their eating habits but physicians as well.

"We thought this paper would be practical for clinicians and medical doctors, as they don't necessarily get much nutrition training," Gardner explained. "We have a whole section explaining questions a doctor might want to ask a patient, including common misunderstandings that can be cleared up."

A Guide to Heart Health

In line with the AHA's recommendations, the research assesses diets for heart health, specifically rating dietary patterns for their impact on cardiometabolic health.

The highest rated eating plans included DASH style diets, which are low in salt, added sugar, alcohol and processed foods with an emphasis on whole grains, legumes, fruit and veggies. Meat can be part of a DASH style diet, but lean meats and seafood are generally recommended.

Mediterranean-style diets are similar, but allow for alcohol consumption and don't address saturated fats, so although it ranked highly, it did not top the list.

"It's agnostic about saturated fat and as much as the AHA has praised the diet for its unsaturated fat, olive oil, avocados, nuts and seeds, [the AHA] is still very compelled by the evidence that saturated fat, especially for heart disease, is really bad for LDL cholesterol," Gardner said.

A range of low-fat and low-carb diets made up the middle of the ranking, while the paleo, very low-carb, and ketogenic diets were at the bottom of the list for their restrictions on fruit and whole grain along with high levels of saturated fat.



Surgeon

Jack Farrell



DEPARTMENT SURGEON

“Certainly, the AHA is opposed to sodium for high blood pressure and sodium is an important part of a ketogenic diet,” Gardner said. “Keto in particular really missed the mark on the majority of the data points and paleo missed the second-highest amount.”

Dietary patterns versus crash diets

While assessing the various dietary patterns available might seem overwhelming, it isn’t necessary to strictly follow one diet. Gardner says there are a number of things that heart-healthy diets all tend to have in common. “Eating whole foods, non-starchy vegetables, and cutting back on your refined grain and sugar are all important. The thing I think is actually so striking about the average diet is how many calories come from fine grains and added sugar, so that’s a huge opportunity for change,” he said.

It’s also important to recognize the difference between adopting a new dietary pattern that can be maintained versus going on a crash diet for a few weeks or a few months. Change can happen, but asking your body to do too many things in too short a period of time — which generally happens with crash diets — can be a recipe for eventual failure, according to experts. “We know from research around behavior changes that people are more successful when working on two to four changes at a time,” said Molly Rapozo, a nutritionist, registered dietitian and senior nutrition and health educator at Pacific Neuroscience Institute in Santa Monica, California. “Changing your meal plan to something dramatically different results in much more than just a handful of changes, which may result in burnout and discouragement,” Rapozo told Medical News Today. “Taking small, obtainable steps toward the goal of a balanced diet can be enjoyable and sustainable.”

To that end, Rapozo says, it’s worth looking at what you’re currently eating to figure out what you’re already doing well. “First, I like to get a good idea of what my clients are currently eating. I often find they are already making healthful choices to celebrate and build on,” she said. “With that baseline information, I seek opportunities to make supportive shifts which can be anything from experimenting with a new food to ordering prepared meals.”

Julianna Coughlin, a nutritionist and registered dietician based in Massachusetts, told Medical News Today that changing eating patterns is akin to changing the body’s default settings. “By this I mean we need to think about the things that you do every day that affect your health day after day after day and see how we can change those to affect your health in the long term,” she explained. “Essentially that is prioritizing lifestyle changes over quick craft, diets, and things like that.”

“I like to say that one step in the right direction is one step in the right direction, no matter how small, so take everything one step at a time,” she added.

Yours in Service to Veterans

Jack Farrell
Pacific Areas Surgeon



“Finally, to help those of us counting carbs, we’ve moved to bar graphs instead of pie charts.”



Surgeon

Jack Farrell



DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS VISITORS

BANGKOK (March 21, 2023) —

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland and a VFW delegation arrived in Thailand for the first leg of their three-country diplomatic and fact-finding mission to South-east Asia, the first of its kind since 2019.

“I am so proud to be a part of this very honorable mission back to Southeast Asia,” Borland said. “This is my first visit ever to the region, and in just the day and a half of being in Thailand, I have already gained some valuable knowledge I will take back with me and help educate our organization that every veteran counts, to include those living here.”

During the first 36 hours on the ground, the delegation, which also includes VFW Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento, VFW Executive Director Ryan Gallucci and VFW Washington Office Communications and Public Affairs Director Rob Couture, completed a robust schedule of engagements. On Monday, the delegation met members of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Detachment 1 and received a mission briefing about their area of responsibility. They also had a chance to visit members of the Joint United States Military Advisory Group Thailand as well as had an office call with the U.S. Ambassador to Thailand Robert Godec.

“I’m looking forward to learning so much more in the coming days,” Borland said. “I’m so glad we can get back to business, especially after being held back due to the pandemic.”

For almost 30 years, the annual trip to Southeast Asia was intended to prepare VFW leadership for the advocacy work they would do during their year as the organization’s national commander. Then in early 2020, COVID restrictions kept the VFW from traveling abroad. Now with nearly all restrictions lifted, VFW delegates will again be able to observe and learn more about search and recovery operations in person.

“For the first time in four years, the VFW is meeting the challenge of seeing firsthand the critical humanitarian work that DPAA does in Southeast Asia,” said Sarmiento. “We are eager get out to DPAA field sites and to meet with the American service members, civilians, and host nation counterparts who make recovering our missing Americans a priority.”

Another opportunity the delegation was able to take advantage of was visiting with members of the VFW Department of Pacific Areas' District 5. During a luncheon on Tuesday, local VFW Post members living in Thailand and Cambodia shared the challenges faced by the veteran community living there.

“It was great to connect with VFW comrades who are on the ground in Thailand and around the region,” said Gallucci, who is on his first Southeast Asia trip in his new role as executive director. “They are serving the thousands of veterans who live in this part of the world, many of whom support American interests abroad.

“Whether it’s VA disability claims, VA’s foreign medical program, or simply access to mail, we are eager to learn about the challenges our veterans face so that we can explore solutions on their behalf when we return stateside,” said Gallucci.



(From left to right) VFW Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland, Executive Director Ryan Gallucci, and Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento, listen to Col. Kurtis Leffler, commanding officer, Joint United States Military Group Thailand, as he discusses the security cooperation relationship with the Royal Thai Armed Forces, Bangkok, Thailand, Mar. 20, 2023. The visit is the first for a VFW delegation following 4

DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS VISITORS

In partnership with the Departments of Defense and State, directors of the VFW Washington Office plan and coordinate VFW command visits so the organization can better advocate on behalf of veterans, service members and their families, serving as their voice to Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the DOD.

After their time in Thailand, the delegation will travel to Laos and Vietnam to visit DPAA Detachments 2 and 3, joint field activities and U.S. embassies as well as assigned American service members in each country.

In February, Borland and Gallucci traveled to Poznan, Poland, to visit with U.S. service members supporting the defense of NATO against Russian aggression, and to Italy to visit with American soldiers, airmen, veterans and their families in the Vicenza and Aviano military communities.

Photos of the VFW fact-finding mission to Southeast Asia can be found [HERE](#). We'll continue to add pictures as they complete their trip.



VFW Commander in Chief Tim Borland, VFW Senior Vice Commander in Chief Duane Sarmiento, VFW Executive Director Washington Office Ryan Gallucci, and VFW Public Affairs Director Rob Couture visit the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Detachment 1 in Bangkok on Thailand on their first leg of their three-country diplomatic and fact-finding mission to Southeast Asia.



VFW Commander in Chief Tim Borland, VFW Senior Vice Commander in Chief Duane Sarmiento, VFW Executive Director Washington Office Ryan Gallucci, and VFW Public Affairs Director Rob Couture meet with twenty five comrades from VFW Department of Pacific Areas, District 5 for a lunch, briefing by CIC Borland followed by a Q&A period.

[Click Here](#) to visit the Department of Pacific Areas DPAA Page located under Programs > Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

[Click Here](#) to visit the Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Facebook Home Page

About the VFW: 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 approximately 1.5 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in nearly 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.

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Hello Comrades,

Congratulations to all DPA Districts and Posts. Inspections have been completed, we thank the District Inspectors for their diligent work and commitment to ensuring our Districts and Posts are following National and Department Bylaws. Well done to all.

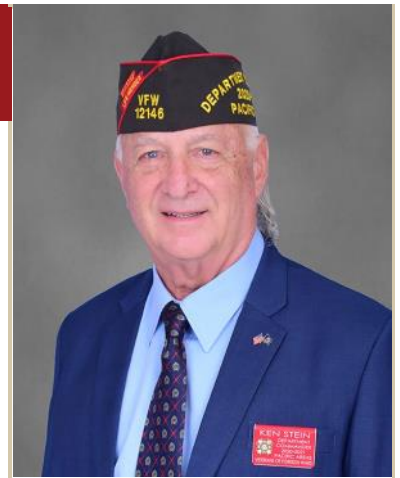
I would like to take a moment to recognize and remember a dear Comrade and my predecessor as Department Inspector.

Past Department Commander “Mo” Moses passed away in April. A finer gentleman you couldn’t find., or one that was more considerate and compassionate anywhere in our organization.

Although Mo was a USAF retiree, I hope he won’t mind a simple saying from the U.S. Marine Corps: “If they are remembered, they are not gone truly, they simply change duty assignments and are amongst our best”. Rest in Peace comrade, with fare winds and following seas.

Look forward to seeing you all at our Convention in Phnom Penh in June.

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



Department of Pacific Areas

Department Inspector

Ken Stein



VFW DAY OF SERVICE CAMPAIGN

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (April 28, 2023) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) was named the winner of a Gold Stevie® Award in the Corporate & Community - Community Engagement Event category for its inaugural VFW Day of Service campaign in The 21st Annual American Business Awards® yesterday.

The American Business Awards (ABA) is the nation’s premier business awards program. All organizations operating in the U.S. are eligible to submit nominations – public and private, for profit and nonprofit, large, and small.

This is the first award for the VFW Day of Service campaign, which is part of the VFW’s #StillServing initiative. The VFW #StillServing campaign earned several prestigious awards to include: The Internal Business Awards 2022 Grand Stevie® Award for the Highest-rated Nomination of the Year and the 2022 Gold Stevie® Award for Communications or PR Campaign of the Year (Nonprofit/Charity); and the Kansas City’s Data-Driven Marketers Association’s 2022 Silver AMBIT Award for Response-driven Web Campaign, and the Public Relations Society of America Greater Kansas City Chapter’s 2022 PRISM Award for Best in Show.

More than 3,700 nominations from organizations of all sizes and in virtually every industry were submitted this year for consideration in a wide range of categories, including Startup of the Year, Best New Product or Service of the Year, Thought Leader of the Year, and App of the Year, among others. The VFW was nominated in the Community Engagement Event category for Corporate & Community.

Among the judges’ feedback, one stated, “The everlasting effect on those who served, those they protected, and the togetherness of the community due to the VFW Day of Service is remarkable. Salute to a stellar submission and continued service to our great nation!”

“We already owe our veterans and servicemen and women a huge debt of gratitude – this initiative gives even more reason to appreciate their service and now contributions to our communities,” said another judge.

More than 230 professionals worldwide participated in the judging process to select this year’s Stevie Award winners.

“It is very gratifying for us to be able to recognize the achievements of such a wide variety of organizations, teams, and individuals in the 21st ABAs, and we look forward to bringing them together in New York on June 13 to celebrate with them,” said Maggie Miller, president of the Stevie Awards.

Details about The American Business Awards and the list of 2023 Stevie winners are available at StevieAwards.com/ABA.



NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN

With DPA Convention coming up I wanted to get a most updated National Home report out so I am submitting for the Pacific Times newsletter. See everyone over in Cambodia. There is only One (1) Post yet to make the yearly NH Donation. 100% is right there in our reach this year. Come on guys let's give CDR Max a NH 100%.

I would like to recognize Post 9876 out of D5 Thailand they have given so far this year \$1000.00 to the NH. District / Post that wish to make ALL State, this is a required donation.

All donations that have been made I have updated the DPA Dashboard.

National Home Donation Report as of 07 April 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	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	\$100.00
8180	Yes	\$100.00	1509	Yes / No	\$0.00
9985	Yes	\$50.00	2917	Yes	\$50.00
10033	Yes	\$50.00	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	\$1000.00	11447	Yes	\$50.00
9951	Yes	\$150.00	12130	Yes	\$50.00
Not Confirmed	Working		Grand Totals		\$5,125.00

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

Yours in Comradeship,

Randell E. Himes
nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org
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

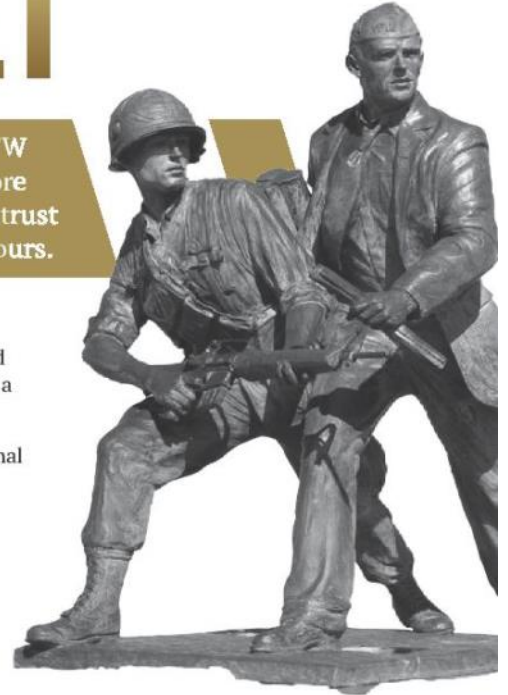


V F W
 NATIONAL HOME
 FOR CHILDREN



FACT SHEET

As the nation's oldest major war veterans' organization, the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4.4 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.



THE VFW'S VITAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Educate separating service members about their well-earned VA benefits through private benefits counseling sessions with a VFW Service Officer.

Provide training to VFW Service Officers on signs of emotional suffering so they can better direct veterans to programs and services.

Help cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war.

Deliver morale-boosting "welcome home" celebrations for service members who have returned from combat.

2,300+

Number of VA-accredited VFW representatives across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

\$11.55 million

Amount of scholarships awarded to more than 2,567 veterans and service members through VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" since January 2014.

\$11.2 billion

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits.

69

Number of VFW-SVA Fellows (student veterans) who have traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for veterans' rights.

19

Number of times the VFW has testified before Congress in the last 12 months alone. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries.

\$2.7 million+

Amount of scholarships, monetary awards and other incentives the VFW distributes annually to middle and high school students through two major patriotic essay competitions.

\$12.9 million+

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 45% of the funds covered basic housing needs.

3.4 million+

Number of service members and their family members hosted at VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) events since 2005.

Updated March 2023

Learn more about the VFW's programs and services at vfw.org.



MORE FACTS ABOUT THE VFW



The VFW by the numbers

1.5 million

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

5,771

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



1899

Year the VFW started to fight for veterans, service members and their families.



Helping struggling military families

11,432

Number of grants provided to military families facing financial hardship through *VFW Unmet Needs* since 2004.

\$5,848,090

Amount of grants provided through *VFW Unmet Needs* covering housing for struggling military families since 2004.

4,024

Number of military families who received assistance with housing needs since 2004.



Cutting red tape

115,000

Approximate number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2022.

Nearly 13,500

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2022 resulting in more than \$64 million in disability compensation.

20+

Number of VFW Pre-Discharge offices across the nation, including the military district of Washington, D.C., area.



Improving life in America

3.9 million

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

\$35.9 million

Amount donated annually to local community service projects by VFW members.



Inspiring patriotism in young people

24,500+

Number of high school students who competed in the 2022–23 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

64,300+

Number of students who competed in the 2022–23 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.

Updated March 2023



JOIN THE VFW

Learn more about the VFW at vfw.org.



@vfwfans



@vfwhq

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 old 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 20th 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 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

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

March 4, 2002, was a deadly day for American troops on a mountaintop mission in Afghanistan. Several men lost their lives, but two earned the nation's highest honor for their bravery and leadership. One of them was Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Britt Slabinski, a SEAL.

In the early morning of March 4, 2002, Slabinski found himself on one of those deployments in Afghanistan. The then-senior chief was leading a reconnaissance team onto the top of Takur Ghar, a 10,000-foot snowy mountain, to set up a post where they could report on the movement of al-Qaida terrorists. But as their insertion helicopter went to land, it was hit by an enemy rocket-propelled grenade. Slabinski's SEAL teammate, Petty Officer 1st Class Neil Roberts, fell out onto the enemy-infested mountaintop shortly before the chopper crashed in the valley below.

Slabinski grew up in Northampton, Massachusetts, and was a high achiever from the start, becoming an Eagle Scout at 14. He immediately joined the Navy after graduating high school in 1988 and wanted to become a SEAL — something he made a reality two years later. During his 25 years in the Navy, Slabinski deployed 24 times — 15 of which were combat assignments for operations supporting the war on terror.

Slabinski led the team to a more defensible position, where he radioed in for reinforcements and close-air support while helping his wounded teammates.

Their position started getting hit with fire again, so they were forced to move further down the mountainside. Slabinski led the survivors across rough terrain, carrying one of his seriously wounded teammates through waist-deep snow. He continued to call in for support as the enemy kept firing on them.

It took 14 hours for the team to be extracted. While they waited, Slabinski continued to fight and helped stabilize the injured men on his team. His dedication, bravery and tactical leadership through this arduous assault made him worthy of the nation's highest award for valor.

But it took 16 years for him to get it. He was initially awarded the Navy Cross for his actions before it was upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

In a ceremony at the White House on May 24, 2018, President Donald J. Trump put the medal around Slabinski's neck. The former SEAL was quick to give credit to the men who lost their lives: Roberts, who fell out of the helicopter; Chapman, who joined Slabinski on that last push up the mountain; as well as Air Force Senior Airman Jason Cunningham, Army Cpl. Matthew Commons, Army Sgt. Bradley Crose, Army Spc. Marc Anderson and Army Sgt. Philip Svitak.

"This Medal of Honor belongs to the seven Americans killed in action on that mountain top: Neil, John, Phil, Marc, Matt, Brad and Jason," Slabinski said during the White House ceremony. "They gave all, for all of us. This honor is yours, for you are the true heroes."

That August, Chapman's Air Force Cross was posthumously upgraded to the Medal of Honor for his role in their defense at Takur Ghar.

Slabinski continued his Navy career for many more years, retiring in 2014. He now works for himself and raises his son, who followed his footsteps to become an Eagle Scout.

Read the full citation [here](#).



DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

PACT ACT – Again?!

The Pact Act is still getting prime play and for good reason. As I write this the third week of April I have had three people this week that are over 60 and NEVER filed a claim for anything with the VA. Two Vietnam and one Thailand. All three had legitimate claims for items under the Pact Act and Agent orange. There are still too many Vets out there that think “oh I really don’t have a problem, and I don’t want to take money from guys that deserve it more. BS – whatever you deserve does not come from someone else’s pockets.

SURVIVERS

We still have too many vets that are dying and not leaving their loved ones adequately prepared for their radically changed life. I have heard this one myself. “I do not care what happens after my death. I am going to have fun and they can figure it out for themselves. Please do not be that guy. Have a will made in the Philippines that follows Philippines laws. Have at least some money hidden in a coffee can or something for immediate bills. Consider prepaying mortuary services and cremation if that is your desire. Be sure your wife or loved on has a copy of your DD-214. Don’t be the guy whose ashes are thrown in the dump!

Best Doctors

Many of us are of the age that stuff goes wrong. Previous repairs are worn out. Depression and anxiety over our age, our medical problems and sometimes our relationships just are satisfying.

We are trying to build a list of the best doctors for aging vets. We will not publish it but when someone comes in a says I think I have diabetes or my artificial knee is acting up, who can I see”, we would like to be able to say “some vets seem to really like DR Im.a.star” you might like to see him/her. Whether you are small post or a large one and help yourself or a friend it’s nice to be able to go to a doctor and have a certain level of comfort that you might actually get some help.

Yours in Comradeship and Service

John Dibble
DSO Department of Pacific Areas



DSO Pacific Areas

John Dibble



Service Officer



EVERYTHING WE DO, WE DO FOR VETERANS.®

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

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 3rd Special Forces Group in Afghanistan; 3-year assignment with 1st Special Forces Group in Okinawa, Japan; two assignments in Korea with 2nd Infantry Division and 8th 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

LETTER OF INTENT



LETTER OF INTENT TERM 2023-2024

Department Surgeon
Louis S. Holub EMC (SW) USN ret.

I am Honored to announce my candidacy for the position of the Department of Pacific Areas Surgeon term 2023-2024.

I am a Charter Gold Legacy Life member of the All State-All American Banchang Utapao VFW Post 12146, the immediate Past All American Commander D-5 Thailand, Cambodia & Australia, as well as the past DPA Audit Committee Chairman, Midyear COFA & Convention Chairman (4 events), current DPA Chaplain continuing to serve as an active member holding many Post level Offices & Chairmanships including Honor Guard Member and annual Golf Tourney Chair (major fund raiser). I have been awarded by DPA & Nat. for my recruitment efforts & continue to seek new members in order to strengthen VFW advocacy.

I bring a varied background to this most important Surgeon Position building on my Departmental experience. My goal while following the DPA Commanders programs is to continue to advance teamwork amongst DPA support positions coordinating with Chaplain, SO, Safety Chairman, District and Post Surgeons ensuring the health and wellbeing of our seasoned members remains in the forefront. Pursuing programs such as light work outs, golf, walking, running, cycling & swimming as health issue prevention.

My Military experience as a Chief Petty Officer USN, qualified 1st responder, Fire Marshal & my continuing civilian career as Senior Vice President, GM & Emergency Director of major Energy company has exposed me to many unique local, retiree, Expatriate medical response (medical services) challenges which have prepared my competencies & compassion to fulfill the position as Pacific Areas Surgeon.

Please consider my previous VFW achievements:

VFW Department of New Jersey (at large) & PB 9876	(1996-2014)
Post 9876 Pattaya Beach, District 5 Trustee (appointed)	(2014-2015)
Post 12146 Charter member/QM, Dist. 5 Adjutant	(2015-2016)
AS/AA QM (National Aid de Camp)	
DPA Budget committee member & Dist. 5 QM	(2017-2018)
AS/AA Post Adjutant, National Aid de Camp	
DPA Assistant QM, Dist.5 QM, Post JVC	(2018-2019)
AS/AA Post JVC-Dist. 5 QM	
DPA Audit Chairman, Dist. 5 QM, Post SVC elect/Commander	(2019-2020)
AS/AA Post Commander, Dist. QM	
Dist. 5 Commander, Post JA, National Special Aid de Camp	(2020-2021)
AS/AA Dist. 5 Commander	
Post & Dist. 5 VOD/PP Teachers Chairman	(2017-2021)
Post VOD/PP Teachers & Annual golf tourney Chairman	(2021-2022)
DPA Chaplain, Post VOD/PP Teachers Chairmen	(2022-2023)

I ask that you place your confidence in [me](#) and I look forward to seeing each of you at the upcoming 2023-2024 Department Convention in Phnom Penh Cambodia June 2023.

Yours in Comradeship and Service to Veterans

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES



Independence Day the Fourth of July or July 4* is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence of the United States, on July 4, 1776. The Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states. The Congress had voted to declare independence two days earlier, on July 2, but it was not declared until July 4.



The Korean Armistice signed on 27 July 1953* After three years of a bloody and frustrating war, the United States, the People's Republic of China, North Korea, and South Korea agree to an armistice, bringing the fighting of the Korean War to an end. The armistice ended America's first experiment with the Cold War concept of "limited war."



4 August 1790 - The United States Coast Guard, one of the country's six armed services, is a unique agency of the federal government. We trace our history to 4 August 1790, when the first Congress authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. Known variously through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the Revenue Marine and the Revenue Cutter Service, we expanded in size and responsibilities as the nation grew. Learn more: <https://www.history.uscg.mil/home/history-program/>



14 August 1945 - On August 14, 1945, it was [announced that Japan had surrendered](#) unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War II. Since then, both August 14 and August 15 have been known as "Victory over Japan Day," or simply "V-J Day." The term has also been used for September 2, 1945, when Japan's formal surrender took place aboard the U.S.S. Missouri, anchored in Tokyo Bay. Coming several months after the surrender of Nazi Germany, Japan's capitulation in the Pacific brought six years of hostilities to a final and highly anticipated close.



August 31 - End of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2010* August 31, 2021 marks the 11th Anniversary of the End of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On August 31, 2010, President Barack Obama declared the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Learn more: <https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/military/war-in-iraq.html> <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/iraq-war>

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

DPA WEBSITE SPONSORS



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BANGKOK HOSPITAL
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. Congratulations to District 5 for going above and beyond!!

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 or The Pacific Times Editor at pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org for information on how to submit your Sponsors.