

THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No One Does More for Veterans
LOYALTY, DUTY and HONOR

Volume XXVII, Number 1

July/August 2023

OUR 2023 PRIORITY GOALS

Carrying the Voice of 22 Million Veterans

- **BUDGET:** To fully fund programs for veterans, service members, and their families.
- **DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS:** To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits.
- **EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND TRANSITION ASSISTANCE:** To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service.
- **HEALTH CARE:** To ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares.
- **MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE:** To maintain a quality, comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for an all-volunteer force.
- **NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND POW/MIA:** To fully support service members, and protect our nation's citizens and interests around the world.

Click [HERE](#) Legislative Priorities and the entire 2023 Priority Goals.

Click [HERE](#) to read about the VFW Past Legislative Victories

FREE



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Commanders Call	2
Senior Vice Commander	3
Junior Vice Commander	5
In the Spotlight	6
Adjutant/Quartermaster	12
National Council Member ...	14
MoH Recipient	15
National Recruiter	16
Chaplain/TAPS	20
DPA Surgeon	22
DPA Inspector	24
Judge Advocate	26
Immediate Past DPA Cdr	28
Department DSO	30
MOC Big Bug	32
Convention Roundup	33
Americanism	35
Letter of Intent	38
Upcoming Dates	39
DPA Website Sponsors	40

We are the voice that represents veterans everywhere and defends their rights and benefits. Our representatives stand for veterans every time.

COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings Comrades!

My congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed Posts and District Officers as well as our newly elected/appointed Department Officers. I am confident that you will all serve with honor and distinction. ---As we embarked on this new VFW year, we are all called upon to "Meet the Challenge" by no less other than our VFW National Commander in Chief Duane Sarmiento, by doing so we are given the challenge to meet our Recruiting goals for this VFW year at 102%, rendering more community services and providing added services to our fellow Veterans, their families. I look forward in seeing everyone in making their All State and All-American status this year and I know you all can do it!

I have brought back the Veterans Assistant Grant (VAG), to assist worthy Veterans that are in need and would greatly assist them in their time of need. My motto for the year is going back to basics "Loyalty, Duty and Honor", that is Loyalty to our Constitution and to our VFW organization, Duty to full fill our sworn duty and obligations, and Honor by honoring our fallen comrades by serving the living.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the June 2023 DPA Convention Team, led by our JVC Elect Jack Farrell and Post 11575 members for their hard work in producing such an outstanding Convention and I would like to thank all VFW members who were present during the Convention and for those that were not able to attend that were in Zoom.

I must reiterate what our previous Commanders have been saying for the past years, to leave the petty jealousies and trivial personalities behind, we've been there and done that and we choose to be members of this organization and we should work together as a team and by doing so we can do more for our communities and service to our veterans and their families.

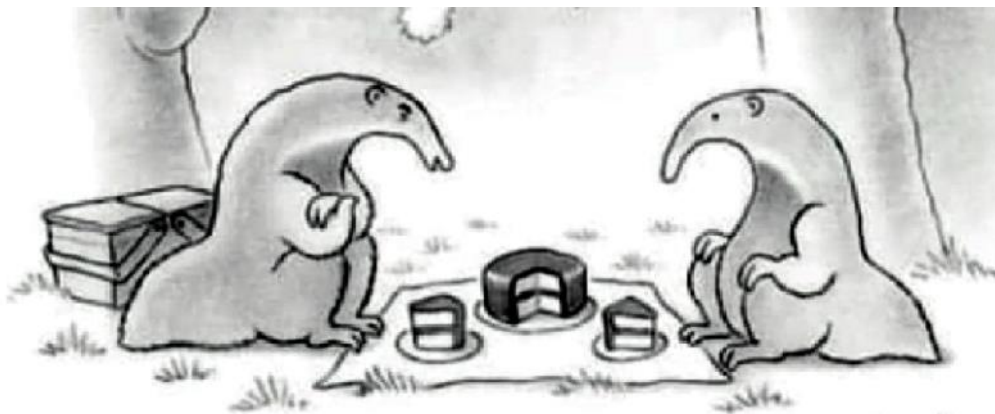
Again, I thank you for this opportunity for electing me as your Department Commander and I look forward to working with you and representing you at the VFW National Convention this July. Yours In Comradeship and Service,

Alexander Fores
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
"LOYALTY, DUTY and HONOR"



Commander

Alex Fores



"Now we wait." Zachary

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

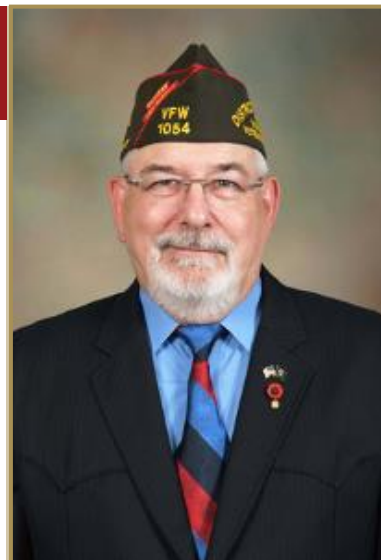
Happy Birthday Americans and greetings one and all! I hope you are all in fine fettle and had a momentous Independence Day celebration. Two Hundred Forty-Seven years ago, one of our founding fathers envisioned the future of this celebration. John Adams said "I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival... It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more." I truly hope your Independence Day was one for the ages.

Speaking of awesome, how about that DPA Convention in Phnom Penh, Cambodia! BRAVO ZULU to JVC Jack Ferrell, the Convention Staff and all the Comrades at Mayaguez Memorial Post 11575 on a job exceptionally well done. Congratulations to All American Triple Crown Commander Warren Maxson and the entire "Excellence in all we do" team on a phenomenal 2022-2023 year. As of 06-30-2023, DPA membership stands at 12,046 and a whopping 103.93 percent. Congratulations also go out to DPA Commander Alex Fores and his "LOYALTY, DUTY & HONOR" team as we lean forward into the 2023-2024 term and embrace the challenges ahead.

The DPA 2023-2024 ALL STATE Membership Program is in the air and if you have not yet seen it, contact your Post Adjutant or Post Commander to get a copy. The DPA AS Membership Program mirrors the VFW AA Membership Program in many respects. I know this isn't your first rodeo, so I'll not belabor the requirements other than to say NOW is the time to ATTACK our membership goals of 100% for All State and 102% for All American. If the early bird does indeed get the worm, then flocking together early and often should yield the results we are looking for. Membership drive materials can be obtained from the VFW Store by submitting the Membership Supplies Order Form located in the Forms Portal on the VFWPACIFIC.ORG website or via the Online Order Form located in the Membership Recruiting & Retention section of the VFW.ORG website.

The All State Dashboard is up and running so now is not too soon to start submitting your completed program requirements. Go after the low hanging fruit like QM Bond (Aug. 30, 2023), Audit #1, Donations, Buddy Poppy orders (THROUGH DPA QM ONLY), Partnering events and anything else you can knock out now. A lot of posts already have approved budgets for the new term that allows for timely expenditure of funds in support of a lot of these programs. PLEASE do notify our respective DPA Program Chairperson when reporting completion of events and please Cc SVCDPA@VFWPACIFIC.ORG. And, as always, please keep those CSR entries coming!

The VETERANS ASSISTANCE GRANT (VAG) is BACK and ready to assist veterans (to include non-VFW Veterans) who have an unexpected financial emergency such as medical expenses. The one-time grant (not to exceed \$500) is not designed to support a veteran who intentionally did not purchase medical insurance or take reasonable care to ensure he can deal with financial emergencies. For this term we are budgeted for \$5,000. Should we approve a grant to a non-VFW member the post should combine this grant with a post fund raising campaign. Email the completed request form and substantiating documents to me at SVCDPA@VFWPACIFIC.ORG. It will then be voted on by the VAG Committee Members: DPA SVC, DPA JVC, DPA QM, DPA COS, Immediate PDPA CMDR, and the DPA ADJ.



Senior Vice Commander

Mike Lutman



Sr. Vice Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

In addition to our regular list of DPA Awards that are ramrodded this term by JVC Farrell, we also have 3 new entries that we will submit to National this year. They are:

- VFW Employer of the Year Award
- VFW JROTC Cadet of the Year Award
- VFW Member of the Year Award

The member of the year will be submitted based on submissions for the DPA Outstanding Member of the Year and I will have more information on the process for Employer and JROTC Cadet of the year in the next exciting issue of the Pacific Times.

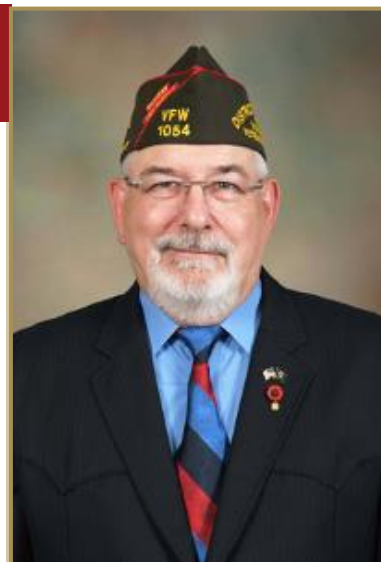
As I close out this riveting article, I stand reminded and thankful to be among so many hard working and dedicated Comrades in our Department. It was a hoot seeing those that could make it to Cambodia, and I look forward to seeing the many that I did not as I get out and about in my travels in the DPA. Until then,

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

YICS and LOTCS,

Mike Lutman
Senior Vice Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
"LOYALTY, DUTY & HONOR"

*But nice try
there Shipmate!!*



Senior Vice Commander

Mike Lutman



Sr. Vice Commander

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

Firstly, I would like to say to each of you. A sincere thank you for your contributions and participation in this year's convention. Your direct and or indirect involvement contributed to the convention's success.

Secondly, Thank you for the honor and privilege in allowing me to serve as your Junior Vice Commander for the 2023-2024 term. Congratulations to all our newly elected and appointed comrades.

As we move into a new VFW year. Let us exceed those contributions we continue to make in our local communities. Your efforts continue to be recognized and as your JVC, I will ensure that your efforts do not go unrecognized. Let us continue to take care of our veterans and maintain and seek out new opportunities to assist those in need in our local communities.

I encourage all Post Commanders to check your yearly checklists and set your goals for both All State and All-American programs. In regard to CSR's, I am your direct contact. Any effort is a possible CSR input. Whether addressing Veteran issues, providing Veteran outreach, or donations to charitable causes in your communities. When in doubt complete a CSR. If you experience any issues or need assistance do not hesitate to reach out to me at <http://jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org>.

Awards. Keep track of your post accomplishments. It is often the case where we tend to wait till the last possible moment to start the collection of data in support of award submission. Let's stay on top of it and ensure we are recognizing those VFW contributors who have gone above and beyond in their efforts.

Award Due Dates:

DPA Community Service Award: Due to DPA JVC NLT 01 April 2024

NOTE: The Community Service Award is submitted directly to the DPA JVC from the Post Commander and NOT the district.

Post Awards: Due to District Award Chairman NLT 15 April 2024

District Awards (1 each category) Due to DPA JVC NLT 01 May 2024

This year will be another outstanding year for our department, and I look forward to working with Commander Fores, Senior Vice Commander Lutman, and each of you. Once again, a sincere thanks for electing me as your Junior Vice Commander.

Yours in Service to Veterans

Jack Farrell
Junior Vice Commander,
Department of Pacific Areas
"LOYALTY, DUTY & HONOR"

you ever take a nap so good that you thought you missed the school bus.. but it's sunday.... and you're 52



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

Jack Farrell



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



Members of the Fred J Estes VFW Post 9876 together with the post's Auxiliary (Veterans Wives Club) pose for a group picture on the day they went out to spruce up the streets around their Post Home.

In support of the VFW Day of Service, Post members of the Fred J Estes VFW Post 9876 led by Commander Manny Emanuel Guarnuccio together with the post's Auxiliary (Veterans Wives Club) organized a "Trash Pick Up Detail" to spruce up the streets around their Post Home located between 2nd Road and Beach Road in Sois 4 and 5 on May 25.

They were supported by Pattaya City Councilors Bunjong Bantunprayuk and Jirawat Plukjai who helped organize the city's garbage truck to haul away the pile of rubbish that was collected.

The objective of this activity was to fulfil a sense of responsibility towards the city of Pattaya, while simultaneously demonstrating unwavering support for military veterans. The association expressed their appreciation to Pattaya City for their invaluable assistance, prioritizing the safety of the staff involved, and ensuring all necessary conveniences were in place.



The Post's Auxiliary (Veterans Wives Club) hard at work cleaning the streets around their home.



Manny Emanuel Guarnuccio thanks Pattaya City Councilors Bunjong Bantunprayuk and Jirawat Plukjai who gave their whole-hearted support to the VFW's community service project.



The Post's Auxiliary (Veterans Wives Club) pose with Pattaya City's sanitary department staff who hauled off the garbage in their trucks.

You can read the article as published in the Pattaya Mail [HERE](#)

In the SPOTLIGHT



Memorial Day Ceremony conducted by the Cebuano Descendants of the Spanish -American War Veterans Group and VFW Post 12130 at Carreta Cemetery, Cebu City, Philippines. Event included personal speeches, placement of flags at each veterans headstone, wreath placement and salute during TAPS from VFW Post 12130 to honor our fallen comrades both past and present.



Quartermaster David Allen Auringer

Ms. Dominica Sare, Darrell Duffy, QM David Allen Auringer, Maria Deborah Auringer, JVC Marshall Dills, Commander Melvin Stanton and SVC Chuck Hayes

In the SPOTLIGHT



Post 12146 members led by incoming Post Commander Terry Hebron distributed school uniforms and shoes to 130 children in need in the Ban Chang and Phala areas. This is an annual Community Outreach helping needy families ensure their children can attend schools, without the uniforms, most children would not be allowed to attend. We would like to thank our sponsors who graciously give every year for this event.

Your feedback is important to us. Please submit your Letters to the Editor or Suggestions by clicking pacifictimes@vfw-pacific.org

In the SPOTLIGHT

The Independence Day event held at the Purimas Hotel by Banchang Utapao VFW Post 12146 on Saturday 01 July 2023 was a great gathering. The outdoor venue with sea views added to the ambiance of the event. We hosted 15 active-duty Seabees from NMCB 3 with a total of about 100 people in attendance.

During the event, Certificates of Appreciation were given to those who supported the 2023 golf tournament which is a significant part of our posts' fund raising activity. Raffles for prizes were held as well as a silent auction for a set of men's and women's golf clubs. Additionally, a 50/50 drawing added to the excitement.

Food-wise, the event offered a variety of options, including hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, macaroni salad, baked beans, and assorted Thai food. The consensus was everyone had a great time enjoying the delicious food and participating in the various activities. Overall, the event was a successful fundraiser and recruiting event to kickstart day one of the 2023-2024 VFW year.



In the SPOTLIGHT

It has been a very busy last two months for the members of Post 9723. We accomplished two Buddy Poppy Drives and collected over \$1500 to support Veterans. A sponsored unit member BBQ for Memorial Day and remembered the members that paid the ultimate sacrifice with a ceremony at Tomori International Cemetery and the Okinawa Peace Park.



Post Members completed two Buddy Poppy Drives. The Post received more than \$1500 in donations to support Veterans.

Post 9723 members joined together with the 320th Special Tactics Squadron at Kadena Air Base for a Memorial Day BBQ.



In the SPOTLIGHT



Post 9723 in junction with the American Legion Post 28 and several other groups took time at Tomari Cemetery to place flags on graves. This culminated with a wreath-laying ceremony.



Post 9723 participated with the American Legion Post OK28 and other veteran organizations on Memorial Day to honor the individuals that paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Battle of Okinawa.

Your feedback is important to us. Please submit your Letters to the Editor or Suggestions by clicking pacifictimes@vfw-pacific.org

DPA ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

It was great seeing everyone at the Convention last month. I would like to thank Post 11575 for hosting a great Convention. And would like to congratulate all the new officers for the 2023-24 year.

There are a few changes that needs to be brought up. Buddy Poppy ordering has changed. Please do not use the current order form on the website. It will be updated soon. The price of the poppy has changed and now shipping will be added to the price as well. OMS is currently down for end of year processing. Once it is back online, I will send an email to all the Quartermasters with the new order form and pricing. I will also be emailing the Quartermaster bond along with the canteen manager forms. The Quartermaster bond pricing is the same as last year, however the canteen manager bond is increasing.

For those that have not provided the general order 1 for the current year, please do so as soon as possible.

YIC

Shawn Watson
DPA Adjutant / Quartermaster



Adjutant / Quartermaster

Shawn C. Watson

**A NEW STUDY FOUND
THAT PEOPLE WHO TAKE THEIR
COFFEE BLACK ARE MORE LIKELY
TO EXHIBIT PSYCHOPATHIC
TRAITS.**

**AND PEOPLE WHO ORDER A QUAD
SHOT, NON-FAT, VANILLA SOY,
EXTRA FOAM, LIGHT WHIP WITH
CARMEL DRIZZLE ARE MORE
LIKELY TO BE THEIR VICTIMS.**

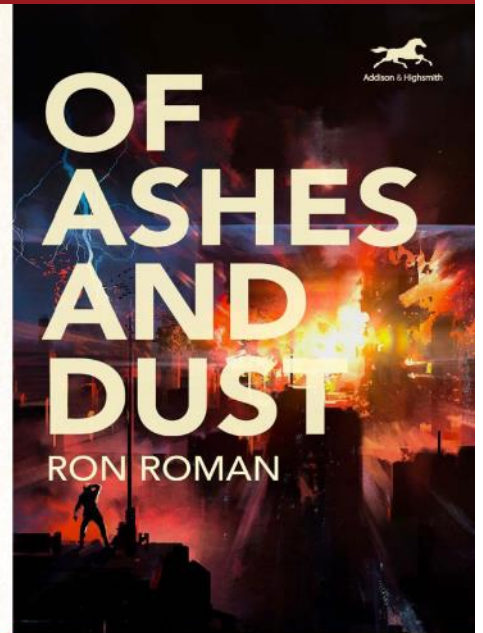


MilitaryGradeCoffee.com

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.)

\$29.99 hardcover

\$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.



NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Hello Comrades,

We will be attending the National Convention from 22 - 27 July. During that time we will be discussing issues that are unique to our Department. This will include meetings with the National Veterans Service (NVS) Director, the National Program Director, the Quartermaster General, and the three top National chairs.

There are also resolutions and Bylaw changes that affect our Department that will be voted on at the Convention, e.g., improvement of FMP, support for Taiwan, and membership eligibility changes.

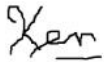
I will report on the results of the above in the next Pacific Times or by email.

The Western Conference where we are one of the 17 Departments assigned, will be selecting their choice for the National JVCIC for VFW year 2024-2025. I will keep you apprised of those results.

In addition, there will be a National Council meeting and will report on any issues that are discussed that impact on our Department.

Finally, good luck to the outstanding new DPA leadership team, CDR Fores, SVC Lutman, and JVC Farrell, as well as the other elected and appointed DPA officers.

Yours in comradeship and service to veterans



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



National Council Member

Ken Stein

U.S. Veterans Living Overseas are Eligible for Benefits

Learn about VA benefits payable regardless of your place of residence or nationality!



If you're a Veteran who lives overseas, you remain entitled to the benefits and services you earned through your military service. Most VA benefits are payable regardless of your place of residence or nationality. VA benefits include [disability compensation](#), [pension](#), [education and training](#), [health care](#), [home loans](#), [insurance](#), [vocational rehabilitation and employment](#) and [burial](#).

Click [HERE](#) for more information

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Raul Perez "Roy" Benavidez, an American war hero, was born on August 5, 1935, in Cuero, Texas. His remarkable courage, unwavering determination, and selfless acts of valor during the Vietnam War made him a legendary figure in military history. Despite facing numerous challenges and adversity, Benavidez's indomitable spirit and commitment to his fellow soldiers embodied the essence of a true hero.

Benavidez's journey to becoming a war hero was not an easy one. Growing up in a poor family, he faced discrimination and was unable to speak English until he reached the first grade. However, his humble beginnings did not deter him from pursuing his dreams. After completing high school, Benavidez joined the Texas Army National Guard in 1952 and later enlisted in the United States Army in 1955.

In 1965, Benavidez was deployed to Vietnam as an advisor to the South Vietnamese Army. On May 2, 1968, his life took a dramatic turn when he volunteered for a helicopter extraction mission to rescue a 12-man Special Forces team that was surrounded by a large enemy force. As they approached the landing zone, their helicopter was met with intense enemy fire, and Benavidez was severely wounded. Despite his injuries, he rallied himself and jumped out of the helicopter, determined to save his comrades.

What followed was an extraordinary display of heroism. Armed with only a knife, Benavidez engaged in hand-to-hand combat, rescuing the wounded and organizing the defense of the team. He called in airstrikes and directed the extraction efforts, all while sustaining multiple gunshot wounds and shrapnel injuries. Despite being shot in the leg, abdomen, and face, Benavidez refused to give up.

After several hours of relentless fighting, a second extraction helicopter arrived, and Benavidez helped load the wounded onto it. Just as he was about to board the helicopter himself, an enemy soldier clubbed him with the butt of a rifle, leaving him with a serious head injury. Miraculously, he regained consciousness moments before the helicopter lifted off.

Once safely back at the base, Benavidez was thought to be dead due to the extent of his injuries. But he was alive, and his incredible acts of heroism that day did not go unnoticed. For his extraordinary valor, Benavidez was eventually awarded the Medal of Honor by President Ronald Reagan on February 24, 1981.

Beyond his Medal of Honor, Benavidez's military career was marked by numerous accolades, including the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. However, it was his unwavering dedication to his fellow soldiers that truly defined him.

After retiring from the military in 1976, Benavidez continued to serve his community. He frequently spoke to young people about the importance of education and staying true to one's values. He also worked as a counselor for veterans and served as a role model for many. *Editor: In 1984 while attending Seabee Chief Petty Officer Management Course in Port Hueneme California, Roy was a featured speaker.*

Raul Perez "Roy" Benavidez passed away on November 29, 1998, but his legacy lives on. His story of courage, resilience, and sacrifice serves as an inspiration to all who hear it. Through his extraordinary acts of valor, Benavidez exemplified the best of the human spirit and the true meaning of heroism. His name will forever be etched in the annals of American military history as one of the bravest soldiers to have ever served.

Read the full citation [here](#).

[How Many Lives Does This Man Have?!](#)



CERTIFIED NATIONAL RECRUITER

Greeting Comrades and Welcome to the New VFW Year,

As we closed out last year with a Super Membership year, we need to keep that same momentum going. Let's continue on a shoot for 100% by Christmas as we did it before so let's do it again!

How do we get there? Plan accordingly. Look at your post and what do you need to accomplish 100%? Now don't wait, how many annual members did you close out last year? How many deaths did you have in your post last year? Those figures added together should come pretty close to what you need to make 100% figuring you didn't have anybody transfer out of your post, but you may have had some transfer in!

- Plan and schedule recruiting drives.
- Make home visits on vets that you haven't seen at the post home in a while.
- Make phone calls and keep members informed on what is going on in the post.
- Get the members involved in post activities.
- Make them a part of the team and let them know they are appreciated and needed.
- Thank them for helping out and encourage them to bring their friends in on board as members.

It's a TEAM effort in the VFW. To make it a winning combination we all have to work together. So, let's get together with our new Department Commander Alex Fores, and his New DPA Team and make this another Team Pacific Year with the attitude and spirit of **"Loyalty, Duty and Honor."**

Just a quick couple notes on my other jobs:

Year in Review

If you took pictures at the convention and they are printable for next years book please send them to me at PDCLyons935@Gmail.com

If you're going to the National Convention and taking pictures, please send them to me too. Thanks

Life Legacy Program

This program is alive and well here in the Pacific and it keeps on giving actually more than the Ever Ready Rabbit. It will **NEVER** run out, it gives money every year to your Post, the Department and to National. Consider putting that in your Post Budget and your personnel budget to make your Post viable in the future!

Yours Always in Comradeship,

Larry Lyons
Certified National Recruiter
Past Department Commander 08/09
Department of Pacific Areas



National Certified Recruiter

Larry Lyons

'Success is the sum of small efforts,
repeated day in and day out.'

Robert Collier

PACIFIC ALL AMERICAN TEAM

Greetings TEAM PACIFIC,

Well, it is now official! Just released today after all your hard work last year. Junior Past Commander Warren "Max" Maxson has been officially notified that he be awarded All American Department Commander as well as our next Triple Crown Commander of the Pacific Area at the VFW National Convention. WELL DONE Commander!

Along with that, according to last years Membership Program, the following District and Post Commanders have also earned their perspective All American Awards as District and Post Commanders.

District All American Commanders

District 2, Japan, **Cdr, David Ingram**

District 3, Korea, **Cdr, Donald Kelley**

District 4, Taiwan, **Cdr, Scott J. Ellinger**

District 5, Thailand, Cambodia, Australia, **Cdr, Randy Riggs**

District 7, Philippines, **Cdr James E. Collins**

Post All American Commanders

LCpl Frank C. Allen Memorial Post 9723, **Cdr Adrian Pozo**

John C. Parker Memorial Post 1054, **Cdr, Murray Simpkins**

Millard F. Nixon Post 9612, **Cdr Matthew M. Maness**

Col Lewis L. Millett, Hill 180 Memorial Post 8180, **Cdr, Joseph Bozsoki**

Freedom Bridge Memorial Post 9985, **Cdr Vernon S. Hill**

CWO Benjamin K. Humphreys Memorial Post 10223, **Cdr David Morss**

Flying Tigers Post 9957, **Cdr Scott J. Ellinger**

C.L. Elms Post 9951, **Cdr Randy Riggs**

Fred J. Estes Post 9876, **Cdr Emanuel M. Guarnuccio**

Karl W. Richter Memorial Post 10217, **Cdr David Borchers**

AFTN Memorial Post 10249, **Cdr Richard J. Bronson**

Ken Chapman Post 12074, **Cdr Hector Robertin**

Ban Chang/Utapao Post 12146, **Cdr Howard F. Holzworth**

Ga'an Post 2917, **Cdr Gary D. Hendrix**

Medal of Honor Telesforo Trinidad Post 124, **Cdr Jonathan Estoque**

VFW Robert W. Zaher Post 2485, **Cdr James E. Collins**

Paul P. Busek Post 11447, **Cdr Barry Larson**

Ulysses G. Buzzard Memorial Post 12130, **Cdr Melvin F. Stanton**

Congratulations to all these Commanders as I am sure they will say it took all the members in their particular Post and Districts to pull together and get those members to renew their dues, sign up new members and do the programs so that the community sees what the VFW is all about that gets them to make the decisions to join the greatest organization that takes care of its Veterans!

I will have your Pacific All American Team Pins at the CofA in Saipan this December. Hope to see you there. Again, let's keep the spirit going for our new Commander Alex and shoot for the Stars and be 100% again by Christmas.

Larry Lyons

Certified National Recruiter

Past Department Cdr 08/09

Team Pacific All American Chairman



Department of Pacific Areas

National Certified Recruiter

Larry Lyons



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 Accredited Service Officer.

Advocate for America's veterans and their families on Capitol Hill, ensuring *promises made* to veterans are *promises kept*.

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.

3.4 million+

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

\$11.2 billion

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

\$12.3 million

Amount of academic scholarships awarded to more than 2,700 veterans and service members since January 2014.

18

Number of times the VFW has testified to 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.

\$3 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. 46% of the funds covered basic housing needs.



JOIN THE VFW

Connect With Us



Updated June 2023

VFW FACT SHEET



MORE FACTS ABOUT THE VFW

About the VFW

We trace our roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves. In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations that would eventually band together and become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Our Mission: To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

Our Vision: Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.



The VFW by the numbers

1.5 million

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

5,754

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.

1899

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



Helping struggling military families

11,509

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

\$5,917,950

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

4,074

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.



Inspiring patriotism in young people

26,250+

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

66,800+

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



Improving life in America

5 million

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

\$44.5 million

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

The VFW Relies on Donations

The VFW is a 501(c), and programs are made possible through membership dues and tax-deductible donations from good-hearted Americans.

**Cost of VFW Program Services:
\$61.4 Million**



Source: VFW 2022 Annual Report

Updated June 2023



SUPPORT THE VFW

Learn more about the VFW at [vfw.org](https://www.vfw.org).

CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrades as we enter a new year, I pray all are well and in good spirits able to continue our work and required missions. Continue to take care of Veterans, their families, our Active-duty service members and the less fortunate in our communities. With a Buddy check this task can be accomplished with a simple phone call, email or text ensure we all stay in touch and connected with our Comrades. This past month I was able to travel to the DPA Convention in Phon Pen, Cambodia and want to congratulate our DPA Commander Alex Flores, Immediate Past Commander Warren Maxon and all in coming and past elected and appointed Officers and council, job well done in difficult times, the Lord is with us! Thank you, to my predecessor Comrade Past DPA Chaplain Louis Holub for his many years of loyal, dedicated years of service and ministry. Again, thank you for a smooth transition of responsibilities as Chaplain.

TAPS reporting process (if it isn't broken, don't fix it) will not change, what is working, works. Continue to Email TAPS reports to: chapdpa@vfwpacific.org (chatmankorea@gmail.com) which is linked to my personal Gmail account. Let us remember the following comrades who passed away since our previous report:

Post	Name	Date of Death
10217	Hartle, John F.	27-Jun-23
12130	Dils, Scott Marshall	07-Jul-23
8180	Kallinen, Jim	08-Jul-23

Entries listed in sequence notification received.

2023-2024 Chaplain goal while following the DPA Commanders programs is to advance the DPA ministry, always maintaining a positive attitude towards my fellow veterans, widows, orphans and the less fortunate and to provide ministry to the membership wherever there is a need. Coordinate with and support the DPA Service Officer, Surgeon, Safety Chairman and Department Chaplains. Ready to travel as required.

Yours in Comradeship

Robert S. Chatman
Chaplain DPA

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.



Chaplain

Robert Chatman



THOUGHT'S FROM A FAMOUS AUTHOR

In 2006 a high school English teacher asked students to write a famous author and ask for advice. Kurt Vonnegut was the only one to respond - and his response is magnificent:

“Dear Xavier High School, and Ms. Lockwood, and Messrs Perin, McFeely, Batten, Maurer and Congiusta:

I thank you for your friendly letters. You sure know how to cheer up a really old geezer (84) in his sunset years. I don't make public appearances any more because I now resemble nothing so much as an iguana.

What I had to say to you, moreover, would not take long, to wit: Practice any art, music, singing, dancing, acting, drawing, painting, sculpting, poetry, fiction, essays, reportage, no matter how well or badly, not to get money and fame, but to experience becoming, to find out what's inside you, to make your soul grow.

Seriously! I mean starting right now, do art and do it for the rest of your lives. Draw a funny or nice picture of Ms. Lockwood, and give it to her. Dance home after school, and sing in the shower and on and on. Make a face in your mashed potatoes. Pretend you're Count Dracula.

Here's an assignment for tonight, and I hope Ms. Lockwood will flunk you if you don't do it: Write a six line poem, about anything, but rhymed. No fair tennis without a net. Make it as good as you possibly can. But don't tell anybody what you're doing. Don't show it or recite it to anybody, not even your girlfriend or parents or whatever, or Ms. Lockwood. OK?

Tear it up into teeny-weeny pieces, and discard them into widely separated trash receptacals. You will find that you have already been gloriously rewarded for your poem. You have experienced becoming, learned a lot more about what's inside you, and you have made your soul grow.

God bless you all!"

Kurt Vonnegut



DEPARTMENT SURGEON

Comrades, as we enter a new year, continue to take care of each other, Veterans, their families our Active-duty service members and the less fortunate in our communities. This past month I was able to travel to the DPA Convention in Phon Penh and want to congratulate our DPA Commander Alex and all new Officers and Council members. Thank you all for having elected me as Department Surgeon.

While following the DPA Commanders programs the Surgeon's 2023-2024 goal is to continue to advance teamwork amongst DPA Officers and support positions coordinating with Chaplain, SO, District and Post Surgeons **ensuring the health and wellbeing of our seasoned members remains in the forefront.** We encourage all to pursue activities such as light work outs, golf, walking, running, cycling & swimming as health prevention routines, as a heart patient and working with my Doctor I understand the importance of routine exercise, proper diet etc. "Get up, get out go for that morning walk" and take a comrade or friend with you! Nothing wrong with a little vino, suds or spirit and if a "roll in the hay is what you fancy" get that heart rate going, all in moderation.

June 27th was **PTSD Screening Day**: If you think you may have PTSD, **take the self-screen listed below.** The self-screen can be a good way to start a conversation with your health care provider. You can share your results to help them decide whether you should be assessed for PTSD or other conditions.

If you think you might have PTSD, you're not alone and with only five questions, the self-screen is quick and easy to take. In the **PAST MONTH**, have you:

- Had nightmares about event or thoughts about events when you did not want to? **Yes or No**
- Tried hard not to think about the event or went out of your way to avoid situations that reminded you of the events? **Yes or No**
- Been constantly on guard, watchful, or easily startled? **Yes or No**
- Felt numb or detached from people, activities, or your surroundings? **Yes or No**
- Felt guilty or unable to stop blaming yourself or others for the event or any problems the events may have caused? **Yes or No**

If you have scored 2 or more YES, your answers suggest you may have PTSD. Your score does not mean that you have PTSD but you should share and talk with a health care provider to get the help you deserve. PTSD treatment works, **a first step toward finding relief is understanding your symptoms**

July and August Summer Tips: Stay Hydrated and Beat the heat, staying hydrated is paramount during summer due to the increased risk of dehydration, Nourish your body with Seasonal foods (fruits and vegies), Protect your skin from the sun, apply that screen, wear a cover, Do stay active and enjoy outdoor activities i.e., round of golf, do some fishing / swimming, hiking camping and summer festivals, Prioritize your mental well-being quite time thoughts, reflections & reading.

See you all in Phoenix, VFW National Convention!

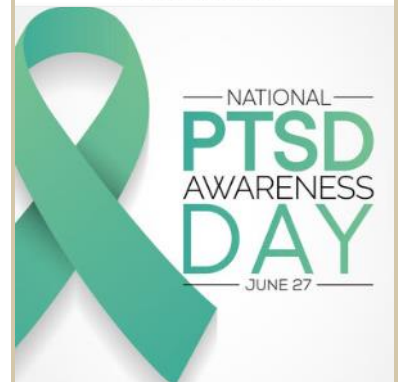
Yours In Comradeship

Lou Holub
DPA Surgeon



Surgeon

Lou Holub



PTSD information:

Voice mail:

(802) 296-6300

email:

ncptsc@va.gov

[VA Mental Health](#)

 Chat
online

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

While a student at the University of Virginia, John Mosby was sent to jail after shooting a man. While in jail he befriended his prosecutor, who taught him law. Despite its unusual beginnings, Mosby went on to a successful legal career.

He opposed secession, but once it occurred and war followed, Mosby joined the Virginia cavalry. In 1863 he took command of a regiment of partisan rangers and discovered that he had a gift for irregular warfare.

Over the next two years Mosby came to be one of the most feared Confederate officers. Mosby's Rangers operated in northern Virginia, behind enemy lines, in an area that came to be called "Mosby's Confederacy." His Rangers would strike suddenly and unexpectedly, then seemingly vanish. Because of his sensational daring raids and the elusiveness of his command, Mosby came to be called "The Gray Ghost."

After Robert E. Lee surrendered in April 1865, U.S. Chief of Staff General Henry Halleck issued an order extending the terms of the surrender to all other detachments of Lee's army, whether they had been at Appomattox or not. He closed his order with one exception: "the guerrilla chief Mosby will not be paroled." Under the circumstances, Mosby declined to surrender, and General Winfield Scott Hancock announced a \$5,000 reward for his capture. In mid-June, General Grant intervened, declaring that Mosby was entitled to surrender on the same terms as everyone else. Mosby turned himself in the next day, was paroled, and promptly resumed his law practice.

To the dismay of many of his former countrymen, after the war Mosby became a Republican and a staunch supporter of U.S. Grant, at a time when almost all white Southerners were Democrats. The former hero Mosby was threatened and harassed, seemingly no longer welcome in the place that had once been known as "Mosby's Confederacy." He wrote in his memoirs, "There was more vindictiveness shown to me by the Virginia people for my voting for Grant than the North showed to me for fighting four years against him."

After an assassination attempt in 1876, Grant convinced President Rutherford B. Hayes to appoint Mosby as U.S. Consul to Hong Kong. When he returned to the States, Mosby lived in San Francisco and served as a railroad president. Later he lived in Washington DC where he worked as a lawyer in the Justice Department until he was 76 years old. He died 107 years ago on May 30, 1916, at age 82.

When the United States Army Ranger Hall of Fame was established in 1992, "The Gray Ghost," John Singleton Mosby, was one of the inaugural inductees.



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/DailyDoseofHistory>

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Comrades,

I am extremely honored to have been appointed as your Department Inspector for the term 2023-2024.

District Commanders please provide your District Inspector(s) names to me if not already done so and provide your district inspection schedule to me no later than 31 August 2023. District and Post Inspections need to start effective 01 October 2023.

Post Commanders please look at your Quartermaster Bond. Last term, some Post's bond amount was not greater than the total of all accounts, including cash on hand.

Effective last term, all Districts and Posts are required to have Bylaws. We had one District and five Posts needing Bylaws, so hopefully those have been created and submitted up to the Department for approval.

I look forward to working with all of you and being 100 percent inspected by the CofA in December 2023.

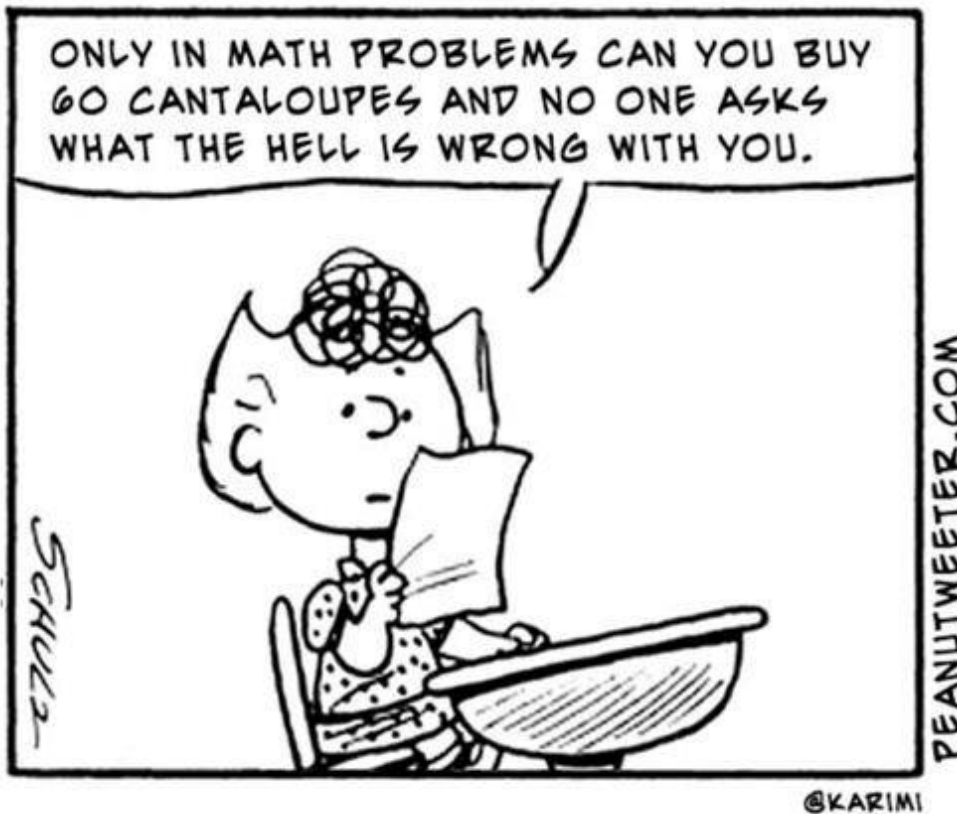
Yours in Comradship and Service,

Barry Larson
Inspector
Department of Pacific Areas



Department Inspector

Barry L. Larson



A VALUABLE LESSON TO BE LEARNED

Iván Fernández Anaya is a Spanish long-distance runner who gained recognition for his display of sportsmanship during a race in 2012. In a cross-country competition held in Burlada, Navarre, Fernández found himself trailing behind the race leader, Abel Mutai of Kenya. As they approached the finish line, Mutai slowed down, mistakenly thinking he had already crossed it. Fernández, realizing the error, could have taken advantage of the situation and overtaken Mutai to secure first place. However, instead of capitalizing on the mistake, Fernández chose to act with integrity.

In an act of selflessness, Fernández caught up to Mutai and gestured for him to continue running. Despite the language barrier, his intentions were clear: he wanted Mutai to finish the race rightfully as the winner. Fernández guided Mutai to the finish line, making sure he crossed it ahead of him. By doing so, he sacrificed his own chance of victory for the sake of fair play and sportsmanship.

This act of integrity by Fernández garnered widespread praise and admiration from both the sporting community and the general public. Many people hailed him as a true embodiment of the Olympic spirit, where the pursuit of victory is balanced with respect and fairness. Fernández's decision to prioritize sportsmanship over personal gain served as a powerful reminder of the values that should be upheld in competitive sports.

Fernández himself has spoken about his actions, emphasizing the importance of honesty and fair play in athletics. He has stated that his objective as a runner is not only to win races but also to serve as a role model for younger athletes. By demonstrating integrity and sportsmanship, Fernández believes he can inspire others to follow suit and uphold these values in their own sporting endeavors.

Beyond the immediate impact of his actions, Fernández's display of sportsmanship has had a lasting effect on the public perception of him as an athlete. He has become known not only for his running abilities but also for his character and moral compass. His act serves as a powerful reminder that winning is not everything and that there are more important values to uphold in the world of sports.

In an era where sports often face scrutiny due to incidents of cheating and unsportsmanlike behavior, Fernández's race serves as a beacon of hope and a testament to the positive aspects of athletic competition. It reminds us that the true essence of sports lies in the pursuit of excellence, respect for opponents, and the display of integrity.

Iván Fernández Anaya's act of sportsmanship during that race in 2012 will forever be remembered as an example of fair play and selflessness. His decision to prioritize integrity over personal gain resonated with people around the world and continues to inspire athletes and sports enthusiasts alike. His story serves as a reminder of the power of sports to not only entertain but also to shape and inspire individuals to be their best selves.



JUDGE ADVOCATE

Greetings Comrades,

Good to see everyone at the DPA Convention in Phnom Penh. Hats off to Comrade Farrell and Post 11575 for doing a great job.

Those Amendments and the Resolution adopted at the Convention have been forwarded to National for consideration.

Our Department Bylaws have also been sent to National for review and approval. Upon approval I will send it to all post commanders and have Augie post them on the DPA website.

National should soon be sending out a list of all proposed amendments being brought before the National Convention for consideration. Upon receipt, I will send it out to all post commanders. It will also be posted on the National website under the Online Documents, Document Repository Tab.

Yours in Comradeship and Service

Delbert "Bert" Marohl
DPA 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

THE DEFINITION OF BULLSHIT



WHEN THE VA SAYS YOUR FEET, KNEE OR BACK PROBLEMS ARE NOT SERVICE RELATED

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

"After several months I finally got my orders to Korea, by way of the El Toro Marine Air Station in California. This was the first time in my adult life I'd been to southern California, and I wanted to see Hollywood. A friend of a friend was the assistant musical director at 20th Century Fox and he invited me onto the lot. We spent a brief time together and then he asked, calmly, as I remember it- much the same way he might have asked if I wanted a cool drink- "Captain McMahon, would you like to meet Marilyn Monroe?"

Calmly, as I remember it- as casually as I might have acted if he had asked me if I would like to be king of England- I said, "Yeah. That'd be great." Meet Marilyn Monroe? Not a difficult question. I probably could even have answered that one in German. I mean, that's like asking someone if they would like to take their next breath.

Marilyn Monroe was shooting *How to Marry a Millionaire*. When she finished her scene, they brought me to her trailer. They explained to her that I was a TV star from Philadelphia who had been recalled and was on his way to Korea. Her face lit up. As soon as she finished the picture, she told me, she was going to go to Korea to entertain the troops. And then she invited me inside her trailer.

It was just the two of us in her trailer, just Marilyn Monroe and Ed McMahon. We spent a half hour together. Marilyn Monroe in person was as beautiful as she was in the fantasies of every American male. She was dressed casually in a pair of slacks and a loose blouse, but she was radiant. She was also sweet. I don't remember what we spoke about, but as I prepared to leave, she said, "It's so nice to meet you. Now I'll know somebody when I get to Korea. How can I find you when I get there?"

The Marine Corps would know where I was stationed, I replied, then said, "I've got to ask you a favor. If I could have a picture of you I could show the guys in the squadron, I'd be the hero of heroes. They'd go wacko!" Actually, looking back, "wacko" was probably a poor word choice.

"I've got a better idea," she said. "Why don't we take a picture? Let me just fix my hair and I'll be right out."

I waited outside for her. When she finally came out, she was dressed in a gorgeous fur coat. She kind of snuggled in next to me and, as the photographer got ready to take our picture, whispered to me, "You know, Ed, I don't have anything on under this."

So that's why I'm smiling so broadly in that photograph."



[For Laughing Out Loud: My Life and Good Times by Ed McMahon \(and David Fisher\)](#)

IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Comrades,

Short note, wishing everyone a prosperous 2023-2024 year. Your hard work never goes unseen, you are always in the front leading the VFW charge. You put forth an amazing amount of work last year, and like I said before the year changes, but the work doesn't stop.

There are new people in new positions like there are every year, help them help you. Give them and our Commander your 100%.

2023 2024 National is shooting for 102% in membership, and I see nothing stopping you from hitting that number. Every Post has the leadership you need to get the job done. Every Post is full of Past, Present and Future leaders that can answer your questions, and if they don't know the answer, they know who to get the answer from. Set your goal early so the 2nd half of the year is a cake walk to All American and All State.

And I hope you all had a great 4th of July, cause by the time this hits the stands it is past. We had a complete Monsoon 4th this year in Korea, no fireworks just soggy shoes. But didn't stop the troops from having a great day. Again, have a great year and Happy 4th of July to you all...

Yours in Comradeship

Max

Commander

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Immediate Past DPA Cdr



Department of Pacific Areas

Immediate Past DPA Cdr

Warren "Max" Maxson



**DON'T USE A BIG WORD
WHEN A SINGULARLY
UNLOQUACIOUS AND
DIMINUTIVE LINGUISTIC
EXPRESSION WILL
SATISFACTORILY
ACCOMPLISH THE
CONTEMPORARY NECESSITY.**

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

One cold night, A billionaire met an old poor man outside. He asked him, "don't you feel cold being outside, and not wearing any coat?"

The old man replied, "I don't have it but I got used to that." The billionaire replied, "Wait for me. I will enter my house now and bring you one. " The poor man got so happy and said he will wait for him. The billionaire entered his house and got busy there and forgot the poor man outside.

In the morning he remembered that poor old man and he went out to search for him, but he found him dead because of the cold, but he had left a NOTE, "When I didn't have any warm clothes, I had the power to fight the cold because I was used to that. But when you promised me to help me, I got attached to your promise and that took my power.

MORAL of the Story:

Don't promise anything if you can't keep your promise. It might not mean anything to you, But it could mean everything to someone else.

Author Unknown



DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

Greetings Comrades,

I have been appointed by Commander Fores as the new Department Service Officer (DSO). I will be working out of Thailand this year and I do not foresee any issues in providing continued services to our Veterans and their dependents.

One of the duties of the DSO is to conduct a School of Instruction for all Post, and District Service Officers in the Department. Of note, attending the PSO School of Instruction is also one of the criteria to qualify your post and/or district for the Department All-State Program.

I plan to conduct three training sessions via zoom and will try to address important issues and update you with the current National Veterans Service (NVS) Policies and Procedures. You need to attend only one of the training sessions.

The first of three training sessions will be held 19 August 2023. It will focus on newly appointed post service officers. The second training session is tentatively scheduled for the middle of November 2023 and the final session is tentatively scheduled for the middle of February 2024.

Upon receipt of the Department Memo No.1 for the 2023 – 2024 Term, I will be contacting all Post, District and Assistant Department Service Officers to provide you with additional information and a link to the first zoom meeting. Attendance will be taken and entered into the DPA Dashboard to verify your attendance.

On 14 June 2023, President Joe Biden signed into law the Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2023, which directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide a cost-of-living adjustment for Veterans benefits in 2024 equal to the COLA applied to Social Security benefits, as determined by the Social Security Administration (SSA).

The legislation, passed with bi-partisan support in the House and Senate, is an annual procedure for Congress but an important one, as it must be accomplished to ensure Veterans receive a COLA, and that it keeps pace with inflationary costs. The COLA will affect certain VA benefits including, but not limited to: disability compensation, clothing allowance and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) for spouses and children.

While the exact amount of next year's adjustment has not been determined, it's based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI measures the average change in prices of goods and services to preceding years and is used by SSA to determine the annual COLA, which, by law, now applies to VA benefits as well. The last adjustment in January 2023, which Veterans are currently receiving, saw an 8.7% increase following a second year of high inflation.

Based on the timeline of previous years, SSA is expected to announce its 2024 COLA early in the next fiscal year, which begins on 01 October 2023. VA will then set its compensation payment rates to match and Veterans can expect to see the new amounts starting with their January 2024 payment.

Feel free to contact me with your questions and concerns at: dsodpa@vfw.org

Al Fitchett
DSO Pacific Areas
VA Accreditation #48980
MJ:850-665-5356



DSO Pacific Areas

Al Fitchett



Service Officer

REFLECTING ON THE PAST

Bruce Springsteen, a legendary rock icon, has captivated audiences for decades with his heartfelt lyrics and electrifying performances. Throughout his career, Springsteen has often delved into personal experiences and emotions, drawing inspiration from his own life. One recurring theme in his music is the complex relationship he had with his father, and how it has shaped his identity and music.

Reflecting on his father, Springsteen's songs reveal a deep sense of longing, understanding, and ultimately, reconciliation. Born into a working-class family in New Jersey, Springsteen's father, Douglas Frederick Springsteen, played a significant role in shaping his son's worldview and artistic sensibilities. However, their relationship was not always easy, and Bruce's songs are a testament to the complexities of their bond.

“This is the final days of Patti's first pregnancy, and I receive a surprise visit from my father at my home in LA. Now, he'd driven 500 miles unannounced to knock on my door, that's his style. So at 11 a.m. we sit Sunday dining room, and we're nursing morning beers, that's his style.

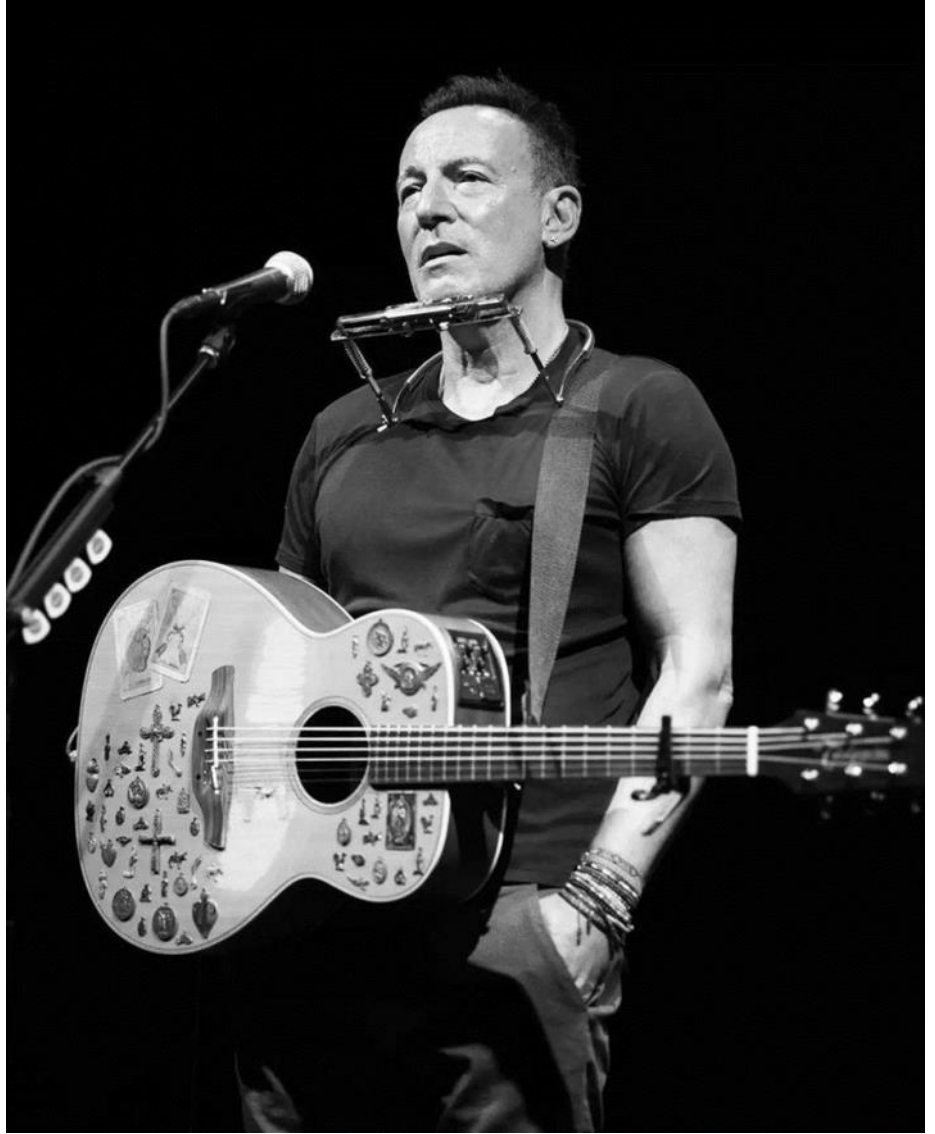
When, my dad, never a talkative man, right, blurted out, "You've been very good to us". And I nodded that, that I had, and he says, "And I wasn't very good to you". And, the room just...stood still. As to my shock, the unacknowledgeable was being acknowledged, if I, if I didn't know better I would've sworn an apology of some sort was being made, and it was.

Here in the last days before I was to become a father, my own father was visiting me to warn me of the mistakes that he had made, and to warn me not to make them with my own children. To release them from the chain of our sins, my fathers of mine and our fathers before, that they may be free, to make their own choices and to live their own lives.

We are ghosts or we are ancestors in our children's lives. We either lay our mistakes, our burdens upon them, and we haunt them, or we assist them in laying those old burdens down, and we free them from the chain of our own flawed behavior. And as ancestors, we walk alongside of them, and we assist them in finding their own way, and some transcendence.

My father, on that day, was petitioning me, for an ancestral role in my life after being a ghost for a long long time. He wanted me to write a new end to our relationship, and he wanted me to be ready for the new beginning that I was about to experience.

It was the greatest moment in my life with my dad, and it was all that I needed.” - Bruce Springsteen



BIG BUG SQUEAKS



Big Bug

David Gley



Click each Logo above
for Websites

Fellow Comrades,

(ST) It was great seeing those of you that made it to the DPA convention in Phnom Phen, Cambodia a few weeks ago. I hope you all had a good time. I know that some of you do not know what the Military Order of the Cootie (M.O.C.) is or what Cooties do and I am going to use this letter to give you a little of that knowledge.

First of all, we are VFW members FIRST and ALWAYS; we are the ones that a VFW Post noticed were consistently active in the Post and decided we deserved to be part of the honor degree. The one that regardless of circumstances will drop everything to help a fellow comrade in need. Our primary mission is to take care of one another and ensure anyone in the hospital does not miss out on that comradery that we value, **“Keep ‘em Smilin’ in Beds of White”**; and we have a little fun while we do this. If you want more information on the Cooties, please ask one or you can go to the Grand webpage at <https://mocpacific.org> or Supreme webpage at <https://www.lotcs.org>.

If your Post does not have a Pup Tent and you want to be a Cootie, reach out to a Pup Tent in your area, as you do not need to be a member of a specific Post to be a member of its Pup Tent. Your Post would just need to let the Pup Tent know that you are a hard-working VFW member and deserve to be part of the honor degree.

If your Post does not have a Pup Tent and think you have enough support to create one, please let us know and we will definitely look into it. As Cooties are always looking to **“Increase and Multiply”**. I ask all of you, learn who volunteers in your areas; if they are not VFW members and eligible, recruit them into your Post or Auxiliary. If they continue to produce, vote them into a Pup Tent.

There is also a Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (M.O.C.A.), if our current or future VFW Auxiliaries want to know more, please contact us. The Supreme M.O.C.A. website is https://www.lotcs.org/MOCA/moca_index.html.

The Cooties do not recruit just to make numbers; we make sure that they are hard workers and supporters of the Post; we are all VFW members first. Let us continue to keep our fellow comrades in our thoughts by performing buddy checks, even if you can only reach them by phone or video calls. Through this we will be **“Stronger Together”**

David B. Gley, Jr.
Commander
Grand Pup Tent of the Pacific Areas

A new feature we are including starting with this issue of the Pacific Times is the Big Bug Squeaks. This will be where the Commander of the Grand of Pacific Areas can address his fellow bugs.

In addition, it will be a place for the Big Bug to inform us remaining humans of **“Just what the hell do those Cooties Do?”**



CONVENTION CHAIRMAN 2022-2023

Officers, Council members and Comrades,

Although it is a lot of work, time, energy and coordination I am proud and honored to have Chaired the DPA 57th Convention Committee in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

I want to thank our Mayaguez Memorial VFW Post 11575 Officers, Members, our Families, Friends, Local Business owners and the Cambodiana Hotel Staff for their dedication and support, the VFW is alive and well here in Phnom Penh!

A special thank you to committee members Comrade Webmaster Augie, Surgeon Holub, Comrade Commander & Mentor Lyons (add book coordinator), DPA ADJ/QM Watson for their preparation and guidance. Thank you to all who supported and donated to the "DPA Year in Review add book", which is our only DPA annual fundraiser.

The Convention was a success with 72 registered only 4 cancellations. 130 shirts sold, 84 Social donors, 57 for Hospitality, over 50 registered for both VIP-AA lunches, 44 for Grand dinner and 96 for the Commanders Dinners.

The Hotel enjoyed over 60 room bookings close to 300 nights of occupancy. Hosting the VFW DPA convention or a midyear does have positive impact on local economy.

The visiting families spent their time visiting the many attractions in Phnom Penh which ranged from our National monuments and Museums, Shopping at the local Market, and a sunset river cruise on the Mekong.

A job well done goes out to Sophanna and the wives who were directly responsible for dedicating their time and effort to ensuring the families experienced the best that Cambodia has to offer. See the following photos that show some of places visited by the families.

Congratulations to Saipan for their selection as host of the Mid Term C of A, and Angeles, PI for their selection as the host of the 58th Convention. This year's committee is standing by to support.

Yours in Comradeship

Jack Farrell
2022-2023 Convention Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas



Convention Chairman

Jack Farrell



CONVENTION 2023 PHNOM PENH CAMBODIA

The visiting families spent their time visiting the many attractions in Phnom Penh which ranged from our National monuments and Museums, Shopping at the local Market, and a sunset river cruise on the Mekong.

A job well done goes out to Sophanna who was directly responsible for dedicating her time and effort to ensuring the families experienced the best that Cambodia has to offer. See the following photos that show some of places visited by the families.



Jack and Sophanna host and hostess extraordinary DPA Convention 2023. Well Done to both of you and a hearty thank you for a Job Well Done!!

From Convention Attendees.

AMERICANISM/LOYALTY DAY CHAIR

What and why is Americanism a concept that is specific to the United States?

Among its key concepts are freedom, equality, individualism, and democracy. America is the country full of choices and opportunities. It is believed that the United States is an exceptional nation because of these values. Yet, the most significant distinctive feature of the USA is the wide diversity of ethnicities and ideologies presented among the country's citizens and residents. Even though people's beliefs differ to some extent, each member of the American community has a right to speak up their mind and state their point of view. This is what makes the country strong and unique; with its astonishing landscapes, tasty cuisine, fascinating traditions, and rich cultural heritage. In short, you can say that Americanism is what makes people in the US American.

“This is not a mere idealistic fancy. It is the natural position of this great republic among the nations of the earth. It is its noblest vocation, and it will be a glorious day for the United States when the good sense and the self-respect of the American people see in this their “manifest destiny.”

[Carl Schurz, True Americanism – April 18, 1859, Massachusetts, Annals of American]

What else makes Americanism unique? It's not at any time dependent on a person's place of birth, but the U.S. values they have accepted. These values include control of one's fate, belief in equal opportunities and not afraid of change. Americanism emphasizes the love for one's country; to include its symbols, such as the flag and the Declaration of Independence. These are the accepted U.S. Values; as you can see, Americanism has a lot in common with nationalism and patriotism. +But, unlike nationalism, Americanism doesn't regard ethnicity as vital.

There are also some other terms associated with Americanism:

Did you know that Americanism has a long and exciting history?

- *Americanism has its roots in the 17th century Protestantism. Back then, people proclaimed the US the “chosen country.” It meant that America, with its morals and democratic principles, should be an example to others.*
- *Later, the colonists won the Revolutionary war. People saw it as proof of the country's special status. They believed that new land offers unlimited opportunities. You only had to work hard.*
- *Soon, the idea of Manifest Destiny was born. The US was supposed to spread its values throughout the continent. When the era of globalization came, Americanism became even more widespread.*
- *After World War I, veterans started an organization called the American Legion. They wanted to promote patriotism, democracy, and freedom. Besides, they came up with the concept of “100 percent Americanism”. By it, they meant the complete adherence to the US values. The organization still exists today and holds annual Americanism essay contests.*
- *Theodore Roosevelt is associated with the popularization of Americanism. He encouraged immigrants to come to the US and adopt the American way of living. People from all over the world moved to the United States in search of a better life.*



Americanism/Loyalty Day Chair

Randy Riggs

Americanism

★ — ★ — ★

...is an unfailing love of Country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies, undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity

★ — ★ — ★

Men and women returning from all quarters of the globe stand before our altars of comradeship, pledging loyalty to the Nation and to one another. Through the generations we give life to our impressive ritual, for it solemnly binds young and old who have fought for America on land, on sea and in the air

AMERICANISM/LOYALTY DAY CHAIR

- *The idea that all men are created equal is written in the Declaration of Independence. While this statement is many centuries old, it still inspires millions of Americans.*

Upcoming Americanism/Loyalty Dates:

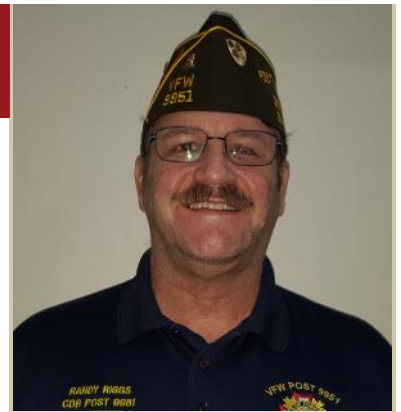
04 AUG Coast Guard Day. Coast Guard Day is primarily an internal activity for active-duty Coast Guard personnel, civilian members, reservists, retirees, auxiliaries, and dependents, but it does have a significant share of interest outside the Service. Grand Haven, Michigan, also known as Coast Guard City, USA, annually sponsors the Coast Guard Festival around August 4. Typically, it is the largest community celebration of a branch of the Armed Forces in the nation.

07 AUG Purple Heart Day is observed every year and is a day to remember and honor the men and women who were wounded, killed, or died in action while serving the U.S. military and received the Purple Heart medal. The Purple Heart is the oldest military award for military merit and was first presented by George Washington in 17821

10 AUG Agent Orange Awareness Day is an annual observation designed to raise awareness of the effects of the herbicide known as Agent Orange, used in Vietnam by American forces to defoliate future and current battlegrounds with the purpose of depriving the enemy ground cover to hide in.

14 AUG Navajo Code Talker Day is a day that holds great importance in the history of the U.S. This is because the day recognizes the contributions of Navajo marines during World War II. Yes, Navajo marines encoded and transmitted messages using a complex Navajo language-based code during a time when secret communication was essential to win a war. And guess what? The code was never broken by Japanese forces in the Pacific and proved to be of great assistance to the U.S. Marines. On this day, celebrate the great American heroes and their service to the nation!

Randy Riggs
Americanism/Loyalty Day Chairman



Americanism/Loyalty Day Chair

Randy Riggs

Americanism

...is an unfailing love of Country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies, undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity

Men and women returning from all quarters of the globe stand before our altars of comradeship, pledging loyalty to the Nation and to one another. Through the generations we give life to our impressive ritual, for it solemnly binds young and old who have fought for America on land, on sea and in the air

AMERICANISM

It is an unfailing love of America, a loyalty to its Ideals and Principles, a readiness to defend America against all enemies both foreign and domestic, an undivided unquestionable allegiance to the American Flag and to the Constitution of the United States, with a desire to secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and posterity.

A decorative graphic featuring a five-pointed star with intricate, swirling flourishes extending from its points, centered below the definition of Americanism.



SOME SAY THEY'VE GOT YOUR BACK. WE PROVE IT.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW WAYS:

- Hosting service members and their families at morale-boosting events
- Providing vital financial assistance to military families in need
- Helping veterans recoup their earned benefits from the VA
- Granting scholarships to student veterans for higher education
- Testifying on Capitol Hill, leading the way for veterans legislation
- Standing at the forefront in the battle

FOR VETERANS.®

WFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

Photo by Gregory Smith, The Operations of Department of Defense (DoD)
visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.

LETTER OF INTENT



June 1, 2023

To: National Home District 11 Commanders/Presidents

Re: Nomination of Carolyn "Carol" Kacal for Trustee for National Home District 11

The VFW Comrades and Auxiliary of Department Alaska, unanimously support and endorse Carolyn "Carol" R. Kacal for the position of National Home Trustee for District 11 for the year 2024-2030.

Comrade Kacal's military service to her country spanned 20 years in the US Air Force, retiring at the rank of Technical Sergeant. She earned her VFW credentials while serving in Republic of Korea at Kunsan Air Force Base from May 2003 to May 2004.

Comrade Kacal is a Life Member of VF W Post 10029, where currently she is the Quarter Master. She has served on numerous committees and has held the following Post Officer positions; Trustee, Adjutant, Jr-Vice, Sr-Vice and Post Commander from 2009-2010, where she achieved All State and All-American status. She has held several Department Chairs, served as National Aid de Camp, and currently serves as Department Chairperson for National Home, which she has been for past 7 years. She has for the past 2 years and to present on the Department Finance Committee, has payroll experience.

Carol and her husband are both Life Members of the National Home. The home is part of both of their hearts. Her and her husband do different information booths to put the word out of what the National Home has to offer and how they can help the veterans and the families. She is very passionate about the support for children and families. She is a go getter, enjoys being a coordinator of events. She is the Coordinator for Fairbanks Memorial Day Services for 5 different cemeteries for the past 2 years and helps wherever is needed.

Carol believes in promoting teamwork, getting the mission done and having fun. Comrade Kacal is very dedicated and loyal. She is committed to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and National Home its members, and families. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

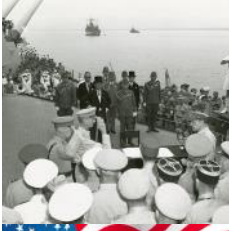
Troy Eck
Commander, Department Alaska

Dave Kacal
President, Department Alaska

Mel Shephard
Adjutant, Department Alaska

Jessica Ahvakana
Secretary, Department Alaska

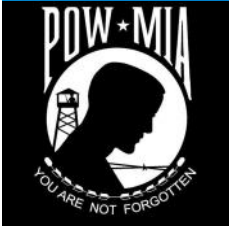
UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES



VJ Day, also known as Victory Over Japan Day, is observed on September 2 every year in the United States. It commemorates the official surrender ceremony of the Japanese aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay—an event that occurred on September 2, 1945. Read more at <https://www.defense.gov/Experience/VJ-Day/>



Patriot Day is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. Many Americans refer to Patriot Day as 9/11 or September 11. Read more at: <https://militarybenefits.info/patriot-day-september-11th-9-11/>



POW/MIA Recognition Day is commemorated on the third Friday of every September, a date that's not associated with any particular war. Resolutions making it official were passed in 1979 by Congress and the president after the families of the more than 2,500 Vietnam War POW/MIAs pushed for full accountability. The remains of almost 82,000 Americans are still missing, according to the [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency \(DPAA\)](#).



Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) was the name used by the US Government for the Global War on Terrorism. On 7 October 2001, in response to the September 11 attacks, President George W. Bush announced that airstrikes targeting Al-Qaeda and the Taliban had begun in Afghanistan. Operation Enduring Freedom primarily refers to the War in Afghanistan, but it is also affiliated with counterterrorism operations in other countries. Read more at <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/u-s-led-attack-on-afghanistan-begins>



18 October Recognition of Women in Military Service. From the Revolutionary War to present day conflicts, women have proudly served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard as nurses, pilots, engineers, soldiers and other specialties. During World War I, about 35,000 women officially served as nurses and support staff. During World War II, 140,000 women served. Read more at: <http://dev.legion.org/womenveterans/248582/%E2%80%98we-can-do-it-history-women-military-service>

Other Important Dates

- July 2 - U.S. Army Air Corps Established (1926)
- August 4 - U.S. Coast Guard Established (1790)
- August 14 - Japan Surrendered, Ending WWII (1945); National Navajo Code Talkers Day
- September First Monday - Labor Day
- September 14 - VFW Auxiliary Founded (1914)
- September 17 - Constitution and Citizenship Day
- September 18 - U.S. Air Force Established (1947)
- September 29 - VFW Founded in 1899
- October 13 - U.S. Navy Established (1775)

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

DPA WEBSITE SPONSORS



โรงพยาบาลกรุงเทพ
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.