

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 4

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FREE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE VFW



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Season's Greetings from the VFW Remember our nation's service members bravely serving all over the world Dec 21, 2023 WASHINGTON

With 2023 drawing to a close, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) extends a heartfelt season's greetings and its warmest wishes for a peaceful holiday season to all of our nation's veterans, service members, and their families and advocates. While we enjoy togetherness and celebrate this festive time of year, let us keep a candle lit in our minds and hearts for the thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Guardians who will spend this special time away from friends, family and home. Today, and every day, we remain thankful for their service. It's because of their selflessness that we're able to celebrate from the comfort and safety of our own homes.

From the entire VFW family to you and yours, we wish you all a safe and joyous holiday season.

COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings Comrades,

As we embark on a new VFW year 2024, I do hope you all enjoyed the holiday festivities! The DPA is currently on top of the leader board and continues to lead the way and thanks to you we have achieved this status, but we have our counterparts Alaska, Europe and Montana cruising to overtake us. Currently the VFW National Membership Statistics shows that DPA is at 98.72% with 11,892 members, with 8 Posts at 100% or more, Post 12130 Cebu at 104.58%, Post 12146 Banchang at 104.43%, Post 11575 Cambodia at 104.09%, Post 8180 at 102.47%, Post 124 at 102.04%, Post 1054 Yokosuka at 101.43%, Post 9723 Okinawa at 100.56%.

I would like to thank you for all your hard-working Recruiters for making our Department the best in the entire National roster. The VFW does not exist without its members so this year, to reach the goal of our Commander In Chief Duane Sarmiento of 102% across the board, I am asking each member to not only go out and find a new member but also to work to bring back members who have not renewed their dues for the past year or two. DPA SVC Mike Lutman, is our Membership Charmain and PDC Larry Lyons, is our Certified National Recruiter, look for information from both Chairmen on how we can increase membership and make the Department of Pacific better and stronger. Comrades we are about 6 months to the "Meet the Challenge" for our VFW organization and our Department so let us push forward and get our VFW Programs completed.

We still have the Veterans Assistance Grant funds available to assist any worthy Veterans. Let us help needy Veterans and utilize this Program to the fullest before we lose it again. Let us all congratulate all the DPA Winners for the VOD/PP/ Teachers Award, as you well know that the competition was very tough for all Programs, and we got the winners in all the categories, and I would like to thank all the participants in our book you are all winners. A big shout out to all these winners:

- Voice of Democracy Gwendolen U. Troy, D7/Post 2485, Angeles City, Philippines
- Patriot's Pen – Peeradon J. Bauman, D4/Post 12146, Banchang, Thailand
- Teacher's Award 5th Grade – Shelia N. Fitch, D4/Post 9723, Okinawa, Japan
- Teacher's Award 6-8th Grade – Alexis R. Wilson, District 4/Post 9723, Okinawa, Japan

The upcoming Legislative Conference is scheduled for 2-5 March 2024 in Washington D.C. and I'm looking forward in meeting the VOD/Patriots Pen Award winners and seeing them at the Parade of Winners. The plans for the upcoming Department Convention 2024 are scheduled to be held in Angeles City, Philippines and preparations are underway, our Convention Chairman D7 Commander James Collins, has secured rooms and venue and will look forward for more information.

In closing I would like to thank you all for your trust and confidence to me as your Department Commander and I am looking forward in seeing everyone at the finish line. Wishing you all a great VFW year!

Yours In Comradeship,

Alexander Fores
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
Loyalty, Duty and Honor



Commander

Alex Fores



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

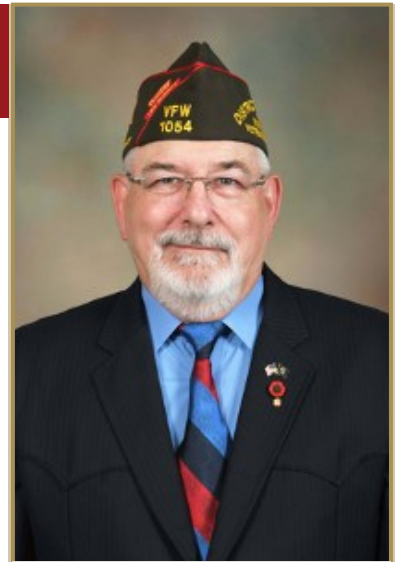
I hope everyone had a Very Merry Christmas. Also, and as they say around these parts, Akemashite omedetou gozaimasu (which is the Japanese greeting ‘A Happy New Year’). Kotoshi mo yoroshiku onegai shimasu (“I’m looking forward to working with you this year as well.”). Yoroshiku onegai shimasu (“Let’s enjoy together this year”)! Hooyah!

Before I get into the meat of my article, I would like to express my gratitude and admiration for a job well done at the Mid-Term by the CofA committee and to VFW Post 3457. The comradery and support was simply outstanding. BZ to Pete Callaghan and Brad (Gary?) Ruzala for hosting the event, all the Comrades at Post 3457 who supported us and a special shout out to “Joe” for his support during the MOC Auction and Social held at “Joe’s Bar.” Special ‘tip’o the brim’ to Augie for jumping in where other webmasters fear to tread and helping out to make sure everyone got registered and on the list.

Comrades, we covered a lot of ground at the CofA, and of course membership was a hot topic as it always is. I covered membership and recruiting a great deal in my last article, so no need to beat that “horse” more than we need to. BUT...that said, if I was calling the race today, it might sound like this: “Ladies and gentleman, the field has made the turn out of the half way mark into the backstretch. Right now, weeeee’ve got DPA in the lead by two lengths with the look of eagles and setting the pace. Alaska is in second place with Europe within a length on the outside in third. Comrades, the track is fast and the going is good with DPA handily in the lead. While they are in the breeze now, the rest of the field is starting to close the gap. If they are going to win this race, they need to stay committed, stay loose in the irons and not shake up the horse just yet. This is a marathon, not a sprint. And now a word from our sponsor, All State.”

For All State, we are making good speed there as well. I broke this into two parts for easy viewing on the next few pages. One of the keys to a successful program is to ensure all reports are turned into the respective chairman so they can enter updates or advise me and I will make the updates. It is a common theme with any database, that being “Garbage in, Garbage out.” The Dashboard itself continues to evolve and there are already a few new ideas in the works to help make it a more timely representation of your hard work and dedication to VFW Programs.

That said, if you have ideas and suggestions on how to improve either the process of the TTP (Tools, Techniques and Procedures) please let me know. It never hurts to ask and even if it isn’t possible to implement in the near term, it could represent a substantial improvement opportunity for the future. And now, back to our regularly scheduled programming.



Senior Vice Commander

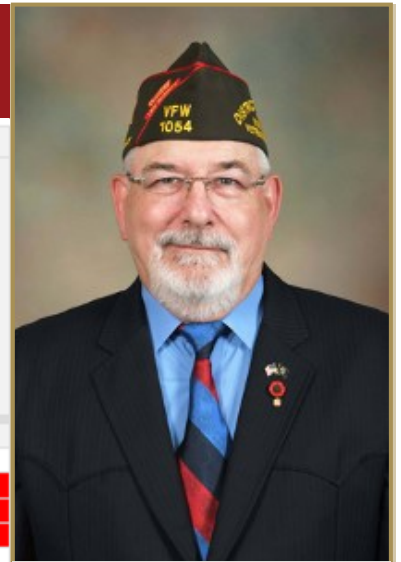
Mike Lutman



Sr. Vice Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Location	Good Standing										Poppies				
	Election Report (June 1, 2023)	QM Bond (Aug. 30, 2023)	School of Instruction (Dec. 31, 2023)	Service Officer	IRS 990 (Dec. 30, 2023)	Inspection Status	Audits				Donation To Programs	Donation To National Home	Buddy Poppy Goal	Buddy Poppies Ordered	Buddy Poppy Drive
							#1 (Due 7/30)	#2 (Due 10/30)	#3 (Due 1/30)	#4 (Due 4/30)					
District 1															
District 2															
1054 Post 1054 John C. Parker Memorial Post												2,505	3,000		
9555 Post 9555 General Claire L. Chennault Post												1,038	500		
9612 Post 9612 Millard F Nixon Post												1,617	500		
District 3															
8180 Post 8180 Colonel Lewis L. Millett Hill 180 Memorial Post												6,309	0		
9985 Post 9985 Freedom Bridge Memorial Post												810	0		
10033 Post 10033 Hill 303 Memorial Post												1,641	2,000		
10223 Post 10223 CWO Benjamin K. Humphreys Memorial Post							L					1,308	0		
District 4															
9723 Post 9723 Okinawa/LCpl Frank C Allen Memorial Post												2,142	0		
9957 Taiwan Post												981	0		
10249 Post 10249 AFTN Memorial Post												750	1,000		
11575 Post 11575 Mayaguez Memorial Post												366	500		
12146 Post 12146 Banchang Utapao												879	1,000		
District 5															
9876 Post 9876 Fred J. Estes												1,206	500		
9951 Post 9951 C. L. Elms												777	500		
10217 Post 10217 Karl W. Ritcher												453	500		
12074 Post 12074 Ken Chapman												375	0		
12163 Post 12163 Western Australia							L					219	0		
District 6															
1509 Post 1509 Hafa Adai Post												783	0		
2917 Post 2917 Ga'An Point Memorial Post												702	0		
3457 Post 3457 Saipan Post												1,092	0		
District 7															
124 Post 124 MOH Telesforo Trinidad												873	1,000		
2485 Post 2485 Robert W. Zaher												4,953	0		
9892 Post 9892 Colonel B. J. Smith Post												678	1,000		
11447 Post 11447 Paul R. Busek Post												1,527	1,500		
12130 Post 12130 Ulysses G. Buzzard Memorial												327	500		
12224 Post 12224 Glenn McDole												81	0		
District 99															



Department of Pacific Areas
Senior Vice Commander

Mike Lutman



Sr. Vice Commander

ELECTION REPORTS: Completed.

BONDS: One post is not fully bonded.

SERVICE OFFICER: Last chance to complete this is 14 FEB 23 (unless otherwise announced by the DSO).

INSPECTION: 7 Posts 2 Districts not yet completed.

AUDITS: 5 Posts and 2 Districts owe Q2 audits and 2 posts for Q1 audits to the DPA QM.

DONATIONS TO PROGRAMS (VMS): 13 Posts and 3 Districts have not donated to VMS.

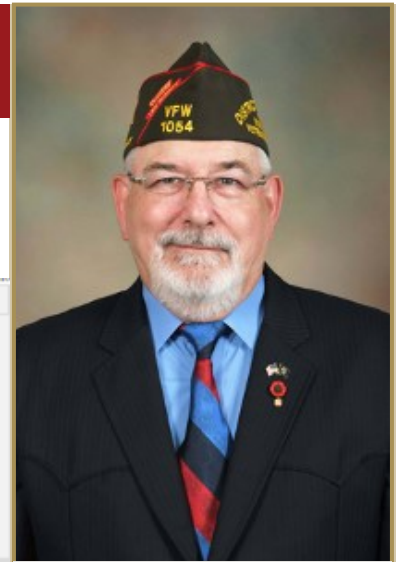
NATIONAL HOME DONATION: 13 Posts and 2 Districts have not yet donated to our National Home.

BUDDY POPPYS: 17 (out of 26) Posts have not yet purchased their MINIMUM number of poppy's.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

We know Posts and Districts are continuing to work toward getting their requirements completed and it is greatly appreciated. Participation is key in sending the right message to VFW National and letting them know we care about VFW Programs and those they support.

Location	Programs													Membership				
	Voice of Democracy	Patriots Pen	LE/FF/EMT	Teacher	Action Corps Program	Partnering Events	Social Media	Q1 (7/1-9/30)		Q2 (10/1-12/30)		Q3 (1/1-3/31)		Q4 (4/1-6/18)		Membership as of June 30 2023	Division	Goal Reached
								Community Service	Veterans Assistance	Community Service	Veterans Assistance	Community Service	Veterans Assistance	Community Service	Veterans Assistance			
District 1							0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
District 2							0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
1054 Post 1054 John C. Parker Memorial Post							40	5	7	4	0	0	0	0	835	2		
9555 Post 9555 General Claire L. Chennault Post							31	41	37	19	0	0	0	0	346	4		
9612 Post 9612 Millard F Nixon Post							7	24	7	8	0	0	0	0	539	3		
District 3							0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
8180 Post 8180 Colonel Lewis L. Millett Hill 180 Memorial Post							21	12	20	19	0	0	0	0	2103	1		
9985 Post 9985 Freedom Bridge Memorial Post							33	5	31	2	0	0	0	0	270	4		
10033 Post 10033 Hill 303 Memorial Post							12	14	1	17	0	0	0	0	547	3		
10223 Post 10223 CWO Benjamin K. Humphreys Memorial Post							22	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	436	3		
District 4							0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
9723 Post 9723 Okinawa/LCPl Frank C Allen Memorial Post							8	5	23	25	0	0	0	0	714	3		
9957 Taiwan Post							12	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	327	4		
10249 Post 10249 AFTN Memorial Post							5	3	0	12	0	0	0	0	250	4		
11575 Post 11575 Mayaguez Memorial Post							9	11	14	9	0	0	0	0	122	7		
12146 Post 12146 Banchang Utapao							83	36	66	16	0	0	0	0	293	4		
District 5							0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
9876 Post 9876 Fred J. Estes							31	56	26	33	0	0	0	0	402	3		
9951 Post 9951 C. L. Elms							8	19	3	2	0	0	0	0	259	4		
10217 Post 10217 Karl W. Ritchoer							29	14	24	6	0	0	0	0	151	6		
12074 Post 12074 Ken Chapman							4	37	27	14	0	0	0	0	125	7		
12163 Post 12163 Western Australia							49	2	43	6	0	0	0	0	73	9		
District 6							0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
1509 Post 1509 Hafa Adai Post							0	6	26	11	0	0	0	0	261	4		
2917 Post 2917 Ga'An Point Memorial Post							22	12	38	21	0	0	0	0	234	5		
3457 Post 3457 Saipan Post							1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	364	3		
District 7							0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
124 Post 124 MOH Telesforo Trinidad							17	3	21	17	0	0	0	0	291	4		
2485 Post 2485 Robert W. Zaher							96	5	96	8	0	0	0	0	1651	1		
9892 Post 9892 Colonel B. J. Smith Post							25	4	25	4	0	0	0	0	226	5		
11447 Post 11447 Paul R. Busek Post							26	3	17	7	0	0	0	0	509	3		
12130 Post 12130 Ulysses G. Buzzard Memorial							11	4	11	8	0	0	0	0	109	8		
12224 Post 12224 Glenn McDole							0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	27	0		
District 99							0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				



Department of Pacific Areas

Senior Vice Commander

Mike Lutman



Sr. Vice Commander

Based on our VOD/PP/TEACHERS Chairman having recently updated the AA Dashboard:

VOD: 9 Posts and 2 Districts need to make donations.

PP: 9 Posts and 1 District need to make donations.

TEACHER: 12 Posts and 3 Districts need to make donations.

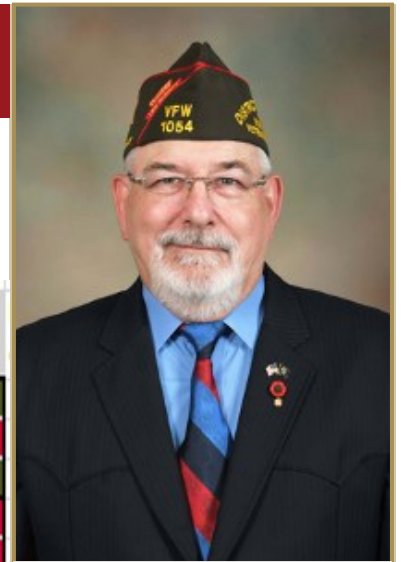
Again, this is based on current reporting and hopefully the District Summary reports will help get everything current. If your status is incorrect, contact the respective Chairman to get your status updated. They will contact me and I will update the AS Dashboard. I would ask all of our District and Post Commanders to review their status and help ensure you are up to date and you are correctly represented in our Dashboard. The good news is that we have WELL OVER half of our 26 posts participating and reporting.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Since the ALL AMERICAN and ALL STATE programs share common requirements, you should see the same indications in both Dashboards. As you know by now, National has fixed most (if not all) of the issues that were holding up status indications for some Posts and Districts. As of 29DEC23, this is what it shows:

Department	District	Post	Community Service	VMS	Voice of Democracy	Patriot's Pen	Teacher Award	Buddy Poppy	Membership	Recruiting Events
Pacific Areas	2	1054	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met
Pacific Areas	2	9555	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	2	9612	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met
Pacific Areas	3	8180	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet
Pacific Areas	3	9985	Met	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	3	10033	Met	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	3	10223	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	4	9723	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met
Pacific Areas	4	9957	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	4	10249	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	4	11575	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
Pacific Areas	4	12146	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet
Pacific Areas	5	9876	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	5	9951	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	5	10217	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	5	12074	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	5	12163	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	6	1509	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	6	2917	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	6	3457	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	7	124	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
Pacific Areas	7	2485	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met
Pacific Areas	7	9892	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	7	11447	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	7	12130	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
Pacific Areas	7	12224	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet

Department	District	Post	Community Service	VMS	Voice of Democracy	Patriot's Pen	Teacher Award	Buddy Poppy	Membership	Recruiting Events
Pacific Areas	2		N/A	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Met
Pacific Areas	3		N/A	N/A	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	4		N/A	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	5		N/A	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	6		N/A	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	7		N/A	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	Met	N/A	Unmet	Unmet



Department of Pacific Areas

Senior Vice Commander

Mike Lutman



Sr. Vice Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades, I am tracking all Posts and Districts and will determine those who have met the minimum ALL STATE criteria. All Districts and Posts that meet the minimum criteria as stated above by 15 April 2024 will be considered for All State recognition at the DPA Convention. All Districts and Posts meeting the minimum criteria by 30 June 2024 will be considered for recognition for All State at the DPA C of A in December 2024.

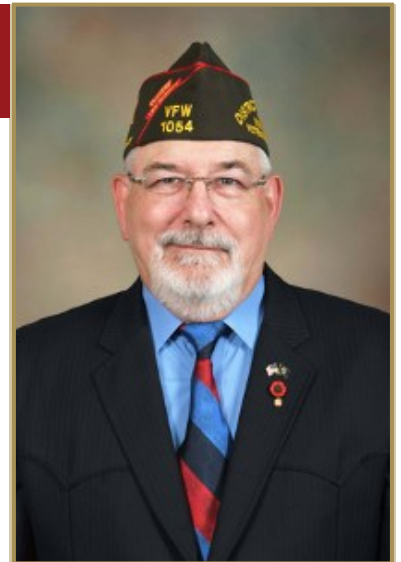
Comrades, lastly I would like to take a second to thank you all for your gracious and invaluable support

of your communities during the Holiday period. Those with less had more, thanks to your compassion and generosity. It is true when we say NOBODY DOES MORE. That applies to our communities as well and I don't care how the dashboards are built, they will never truly provide an expression of the humanity that you display day in and day out in your dealings with Veterans, their families and those less fortunate.

God Bless each and every one of you and your families. Please express our thanks for their support in doing what we do as an organization and what YOU do as the GREAT AMERICANS you are. Shout out to our hard working (and hopefully growing soon) Auxiliary in the DPA. We could not do it without you and as you grow, so shall we.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Mike Lutman
Senior Vice Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
Loyalty, Duty and Honor



Senior Vice Commander

Mike Lutman



Sr. Vice Commander

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

I hope this finds you well and best wishes for a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

A well done goes out to the C of A Chairman Brad Ruzala and his post for an outstanding Midterm that was conducted in Saipan. Now on to Angeles City in the PI for our next convention.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year winners and those that participated this year. Additionally, a well done to the committee chairman David Gley, and the judging committee for a job well done in managing the program.

To the posts that have achieved 100%. Well done! Now let's drive that membership train to meet the Commander in Chiefs goal of 102% membership. Let's get it done for the Pacific areas! Every member we add is another voice to be heard in support of the Department, and VFW's legislative agenda.

Community service reporting, please keep an eye on your All-State Dashboard. We are still seeing a lot of zeros for CSR activity. Additionally, don't forget to submit your Veterans Assistance CSR's. Your contributions to your communities continue to keep the VFW front and center and I commend each of you for your efforts. Let's make sure they get recorded and get the credit that your posts deserve.

In reference to your program payment/participation requirements, if you are struggling with the reporting process, please don't hesitate to contact your District Commander or Department Program Managers for assistance.

Awards, as I have mentioned in the past, do not let your inputs become a last-minute effort. Document successes regularly, and ensure you are capturing the data to support your recommendations to your Districts. I highly encourage Districts to ensure that your judging committees are inclusive of your posts and that we keep the process transparent. District award inputs are due to me **NO LATER THAN 1 MAY 2024**.

As we continue moving forward, let us build on our successes. Your accomplishments are key to the success of the Department and to the VFW. Do not hesitate to reach out. Together, everyone achieves more!

Jack Farrell
Junior Vice Commander,
Department of Pacific Areas
Loyalty, Duty and Honor



Department of Pacific Areas
Junior Vice Commander

Jack Farrell



Jr. Vice Commander



NOTE

As a reminder on the National Dashboard, the CSR button resets quarterly to Red to indicate the start of a new quarter and absence of reports for the current quarter.

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



Previous Commander Kozlesky, Comrade Wilson (Oldest Marine), LCpl Jackson (Youngest Marine), Commander Greene Cutting the cake. Commander Greene recognizes Mr. Karl Franklyn the Store Manager for the event.



Post 9723 was invited to speak and participate in the Kadena BX and the Camp Foster Veterans Day events.

In the SPOTLIGHT



Post donated \$250 to Kadena First Sergeants Council for Operation Warm Heart. This program provides Thanksgiving dinner to enlisted needy families. We also talked about programs the VFW has for active duty members such as the Unmet Needs Grants Program. This helped build awareness of the Post and the VFW as an organization.



Comrade Cabrera, Comrade Wilson, and Sr Vice DeCamp took time to present a check from Post 9723 to support the Kadena Civil Air Patrol. This is a great initiative that the Post hopes to continue each year to help develop our young leaders within our military community.



Post 9723 donated \$300 worth of toys in support of Camp Fosters JROTC Cadets for Toys drive. These toys will be distributed throughout the island in support of needy children within our local and military community.

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

In the SPOTLIGHT

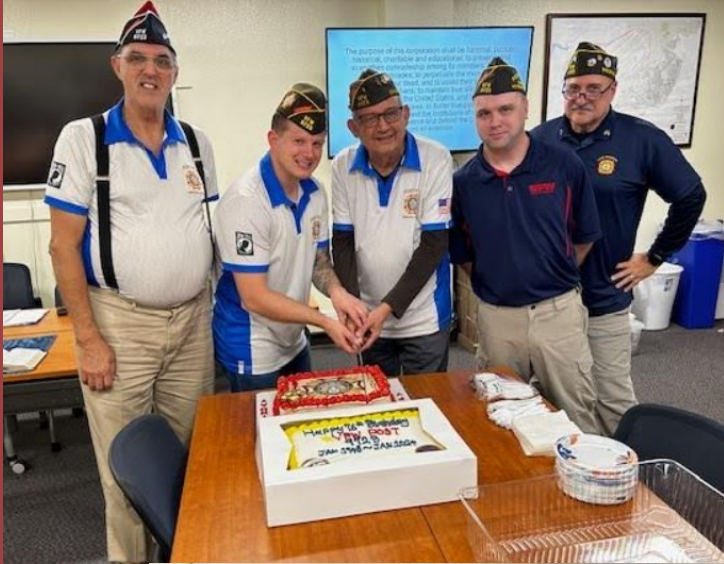
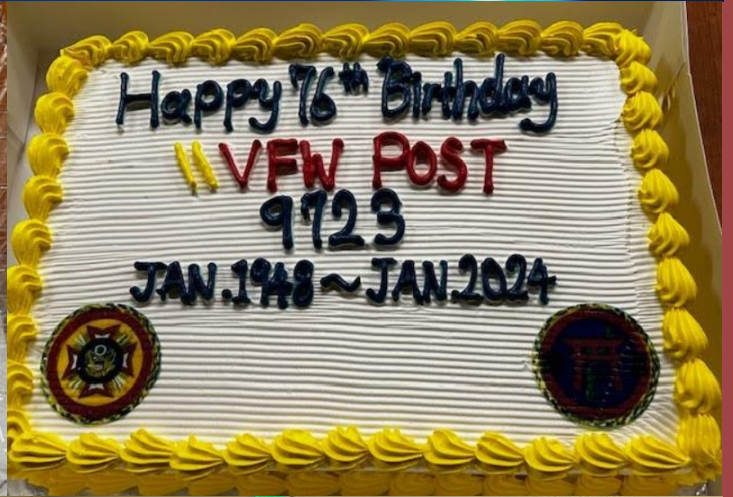


On Thursday, December 21, 2023 Post 12146 held its annual Christmas community service event at the Special Education Center at Wat Samnak Kathon in Ban Chang, Thailand. 20 local children with special needs received a great lunch meal prepared and provided by Kitty from Kitty's House. Santa (Comrade Thomas Scott) took time from his Christmas preparations to deliver gifts to the children. The post also donated needed items to the school including hygiene items, laundry detergents, and snacks. Special thanks to the Post's Christmas Committee Chairman Comrade Valter, Comrade Thomas Scott, and Kitty from Kitty's house for bringing this wonderful event together.



Post Commander Terry Hebron along with other Post members began the new year by donating essential food stuff to the poorest of the poor in our community.

In the SPOTLIGHT



Post 9723 celebrated our 76th birthday. The Post has been in operation since January 28, 1948.

DPA ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year!

As we start the new calendar year, it is important to remind everyone of the All State and All American items. If your Post is looking for All State and All American, ensure that you get your Buddy Poppy orders in as soon as you can. National does not update the All American Dashboard until the Poppies are mailed out. Point being, don't wait for the last moment.

If you are missing items on the All State dashboard and you have sent the audits or buddy poppy orders to me, please send me an email so I can update.

Shawn Watson
DPA Adjutant / Quartermaster



Adjutant / Quartermaster

Shawn C. Watson

**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.

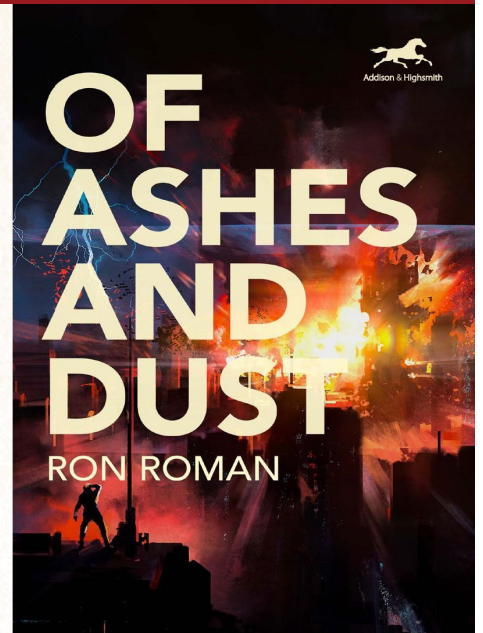
VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

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

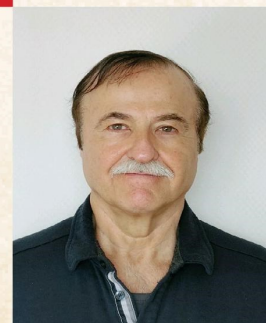
Available From
Amazon
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Ingram
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Addison & Highsmith
Publishers (294 pp.)
\$29.99 hardcover
\$9.99 e-book

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,

As we begin the second half of the 2023-2024 term, we can reflect on the many accomplishments achieved by our great Department.

We lead the entire organization in membership, we continue to assist veterans at an amazing rate, and we are always available to help the communities we live in.

This is a testament to the leadership throughout the DPA. I salute all the officers and comrades who have made the above possible.

Regarding national initiatives that will positively affect us here in the Pacific, I can report [National Veterans Services \(NVS\)](#) will be hosting a virtual benefits forum for DPA in February, date to be determined. You will receive additional information from our Department Service Officer.

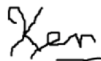
Our National organization continues to fight against Claim Sharks by advising all veterans that assistance with filing VA claims for service-connected injuries or illnesses is an earned benefit and you should not have to pay anyone to file the claim. The VFW provides this assistance at no cost to the veteran, and we view this as a key part of our mission.

The VFW Washington office continues to fight for improving the [Foreign Medical Program \(FMP\)](#), specifically to eliminate check-based reimbursement and allow for direct deposit. In addition, our Washington office is working with the VA and congress on additional reforms in the FMP program. Specifically, veterans with at least a 50% service-connected VA rating will be reimbursed for any health care treatment while overseas. This is a benefit CONUS based veterans receive and we should not be treated any differently when living OCONUS.

We will keep you apprised of progress made and update you on the work our National officers are performing on our behalf.

Together with my wife Malai, we wish you all the happiest and healthiest new year.

Yours in comradeship and service to veterans,



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



National Council Member

Ken Stein



VFW FACT SHEET



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.

152,883

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

\$13 billion

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits in fiscal year 2023.

\$1.6 million+

Amount of academic scholarships awarded to 357 veterans and service members.

19

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.

\$589,007

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 61% of the funds covered basic housing needs in fiscal year 2023.



JOIN THE VFW

Connect With Us



Updated December 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

1.4 million+

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

5,667

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



1899

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



Helping struggling military families

488

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

\$356,512

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

253

Number of military families who received assistance with housing needs.



Cutting red tape

130,000

Approximate number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2023.

Nearly 14,400

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2023 resulting in more than \$82 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.

\$45 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:
\$61.5 Million**



Source: VFW 2023 Annual Report

Updated December 2023

NATIONAL CERTIFIED RECRUITER

Greeting Comrades,

I hope everyone had a great holiday and that they are now ready to get back to the VFW business at hand and that's the Membership Program that we are currently at 98.73% which leaves us short of only 152 members to be 100%. I know we didn't make that by the CofA but that's ok too. We are still leading National in First Place. This is because of our 95 Recruiters out there in the Pacific Area. They have not let up, they are still out there as we speak. Let's look at who are our top 10 Recruiters are this year!

Recruiting 70 Members Larry Lyons, Post 8180, Recruiting 49 Members mostly Life Members, Cliff Wilsey, Post 2485, Recruiting 25 Members Warren Maxson, Post 8180, Recruiting 21 Members Robert Chatman, Post 8180, Recruiting 15 Members Donald Kelley Post 10223, Recruiting 13 Members Dan Delaney Post 8180, Recruiting 13 Members Ron Davis Post 8180, Recruiting 13 Members John Bowers Post 9723 and Recruiting 10 Members Gene DeCamp also from Post 9723. Thanks not only to these Recruiters but thanks to all the 95 Recruiters and all the other Members doing all the other VFW Programs that the community sees that makes our recruiting easier.

We still have till the end of the month for the January DPA/National Life Member Recruiting Drive the Posts that recruits the most Life members and the Recruiter that recruits the most can win win win. Plus, the more members we sign up in reality we all win. So, if you think about it. Recruiting is a win win situation. So, what are you waiting for?

We currently have 8 Posts over 100% and 1 District over 100% along with 5 of these Post's already over the CinC's Goal of 102%. Comrades it takes a WHOLE TEAM PACIFIC to make 100% along with 102% so let get going!

Normally I leave the following for a page in the Convention book but I feel that its time for us to reflect on it and remember it and put in in our daily use:

Do not let jealousies or trivial personalities influence our deliberations. Let us uphold always the obligations of unselfish comradeship and loyalty to our organization and to the government of the United States of America.

Let me know how I can help. I'm just an email away. PDCLyons935@gmail.com

Yours Always in Comradeship,

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



National Certified Recruiter

Larry Lyons

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

President Joseph Biden awarded the Medal of Honor to Spc. 5 Dwight W. Birdwell at a White House ceremony 4 July 2022 for his actions at Tan Son Nhut Airbase near Saigon, Republic of Vietnam, during a massive North Vietnamese attack known as the Tet Offensive. Birdwell was then a tank crewman assigned to Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division.

As part of the countrywide offensive, over a thousand North Vietnamese soldiers attacked the airbase on 31 January 1968, Vietnam's lunar New Year (Tet). About one hundred soldiers from Birdwell's unit responded to the attack in an armored column of tanks and cavalry assault vehicles, driving directly into three enemy battalions. The fierce North Vietnamese attack disabled or destroyed many of the armored vehicles and seriously injured Birdwell's tank commander. Birdwell took action, ignoring heavy small-arms fire to move the commander to safety and take control of the tank.

Although exposed to enemy fire, Birdwell provided situation reports to his squadron commander and fired at the enemy with the tank's main gun and machine gun until both became inoperable and his communications equipment was destroyed. He then continued to fight at the tank with his M-16 rifle.

When the commander's helicopter was shot down, Birdwell moved to the aircraft under fire, retrieved two M-60 machine guns with ammunition, and returned to the tank, where he and a fellow soldier continued to engage the enemy fighters.

Birdwell's machine gun was hit by enemy fire and exploded, injuring him on his face and upper body, but he refused evacuation and continued to fight. Taking charge, he consolidated the remaining soldiers, redistributed ammunition, and moved the wounded to a safer location. He then organized a small counterattack force, which disrupted the enemy attack with small-arms fire and hand grenades until friendly reinforcements arrived. With the airbase secured, Birdwell ignored his own wounds to assist with medical evacuations.

In his remarks at the award ceremony, Biden expressed awe for Birdwell's exploits. The president commented, "He used the tank's cannon. He used the tank's machine gun. He used his personal rifle. He sustained fire, drove back the attackers, and created a place of relative safety for injured men behind the tank to take cover. He provided battlefield updates to his commanders until the enemy shot the communication system right off of his helmet."



Specialist Five Dwight W. Birdwell
MEDAL OF HONOR
VIETNAM WAR

Biden continued, "When he was ordered to load onto the medevac helicopter, he complied—this I find amazing—only to crawl right back off the other side and to keep on fighting. That's what you call 'taking orders and causing trouble.' God love you."

Birdwell originally was awarded two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star for meritorious service, and two Silver Stars for his actions in Vietnam. However, his first Silver Star, for his actions at the airbase, was upgraded to the Medal of Honor in part due to decades-long efforts by Gen. Glenn Otis, Birdwell's commander in Vietnam. Birdwell is the thirty-third Native American to receive the Medal of Honor.

For more on Birdwell's Vietnam experiences, read his autobiography *A Hundred Miles of Bad Road: An Armored Cavalryman in Vietnam, 1967–68*.

Read full citation here: <https://www.cmohs.org/recipients/dwight-w-birdwell>



COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MIDTERM



The Department of Pacific Areas held its Mid-Year/ Council of Administration meeting in Saipan December 8-10 2023. The Council listens to Saipan Mayor Camacho's welcoming remarks.



Department Commander Alex Fores delivers his opening remarks while congratulating all on being # 1 in membership for the first half of the VFW year.

DPA Senior Vice Commander Mike Lutman thanks the Department's Comrades for leading the way in membership as we maintain our # 1 standing into the new year.

DPA Junior Vice Commander Jack Farrell delivers his remarks commenting on the outstanding community service performance throughout the Department

National representative, Junior Vice Commander in Chief Carol Whitmore is presented with a DPA plaque by DPA Commander Alex Fores.

Department of Pacific Areas Convention dates are 12 to 16 June 2024. The convention will be held at the Century Hotel, MacArthur Avenue, Angeles City. (Behind the Casino Filipino).

The Basic Schedule is:

- 11 June: Travel, Early Registration
- 12 June: Registration, Budget Meeting, Social and Auction (Kona Bar)
- 13 June to 15 June: Business Sessions
- 15 June: Banquet
- 16 June: Travel

More will follow as the dates get closer and the schedule is firmed up. Jim Collins is the point of contact.

CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Happy New Year! I wish all the best to you, your family, and friends for 2024. Hopefully, everyone had a safe Holiday Season, and the New Year will bring much joy and happiness.

Commander, Distinguished Guest, Officers, Council members and Comrades, I pray you and yours are well, in good spirits able to continue our most important advocacy work. Congratulations to all who were able attend the Mid-Term Council of Administration (C of A), to achieve the Department goals, AS-AA, continue to take care of Veterans, their families our Active-duty service members and the less fortunate in our communities. As I have continued to “Stress” that “Buddy Checks” are important and the Works of the “Almighty” and will bring blessing as we continue to look after our fellow Comrades.

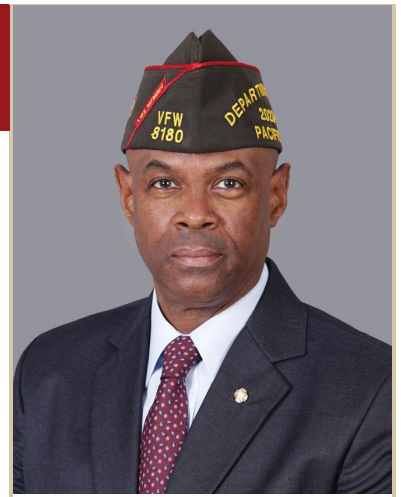
I am Honored and Privilege to serve as the DPA Chaplain, as I have not traveled to other districts but have offered open invitations to visit other Post’s and Districts to assist with Buddy Checks? To date no offers have been extended. My plan is to travel conducting unannounced visits in the future. The monthly National Chaplain’s Resource Training meetings has been a huge success with many interesting topics and information. I will be starting a Chaplains webpage with the help and assistance of our webpage manager which will provide our posts and districts with far more resources beyond the Pacific. The Chaplain position is a rewarding but humbling, pass recording and report of fallen Comrades since June 2023. Let their names, spirit, and memory live so we never forget them and their sacrifices.

Let us remember the following Comrades who passed away 2023-2024

Entries listed by Post in sequence of notification receipt.

<u>Post</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
10217	Hartle, John F.	27 June 2023
12130	Dils, Scott Marshall	07 July 2023
8180	Kallinen, Jim	08 July 2023
12074	Hill, Ronald Ray	31 July 2023
12074	Shepanak, Paul Robert	01 August 2023
12130	Adams, Lee Coleman	18 July 2023
9273	Estil, Elswick	15 September 2023
9951	Mann, Willizam L.	24 September 2023
2985	Williams, Herbert H. IV	21 September 2023
2485	Gilbert, John H.	18 August 2023
12074	Holmes, Michael E.	24 August 2023
2485	Davis, Emmit	07 November 2023
12146	Pickens, Edwin Garnard	20 October 2023
2485	Miller, Willie L.	19 April 2023
9951	Stednick, Thomas	20 October 2023
9951	Riopel, William John	12 November 2023
11447	Alvarez, Jose	18 November 2023
2485	Platt, Kenneth L.	20 November 2023
8180	Michael James Jackson	25 November 2023
8180	Alpheuse E. Malone	28 November 2023

Yours in Comradeship
Robert S. Chatman
Chaplain DPA



Department of Pacific Areas

Chaplain

Robert Chatman



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.

RESOURCES FOR CHAPLAINS



Resources for Chaplains

The Chaplain's Corner - by State of Missouri Chaplain and National Chaplain 2021 - 2023 Debb Halter

Good introduction to chaplain's duties.

<https://movfw.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=76106>

Or the easier to remember link: <https://movfw.org/chaplainscorner>

CHAPLAIN'S GUIDE - by State of Pennsylvania Chaplain and Past National Chaplain Peter Hook

Great resource guide for things you will need along the way.

<https://vfwpa.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=88797>

CHAPLAIN'S RESOURCES - by Chaplain (Sky Pilot) Dale A. Iannello, the Military Order of the Cootie

VFW Chaplain material has been consolidated in one location at the national level at: https://lotcs.org/vfw_chaplain.html There you will find a tabbed panel containing information on *Forms, Handbook, Duties, Ethics, Memorial, Prayer, Links and Training*.

Find a Mentor:

Find a mentor who you are comfortable calling and working with to improve your skills and to learn from. In fact, have more than one of them. Everyone has something they are good at so you can learn something from everyone. **ASK QUESTIONS!**

I recommend you print the newest *Chaplain's handbook* and read it, highlight it, and share it with fellow Chaplains. The latest version can be found at: https://lotcs.org/Forms/Chaplain/VFW_Chaplain/Manuals/VFW%20Chaplain%20Handbook%202023%20May%20VFW%20Standard.pdf. Chaplain Peter Hook worked hard to expand it this year. It is a work that grows with us.

For updates and information on Chaplain items and Zoom training links, email **Chaplain Peter Hook** at: PeterHook@verizon.net and ask him to put you on the newsletter email distribution list. Good information comes through this email.

It is highly recommended that chaplains attend **ZOOM** training which is held online on the third **Wednesday** of each month at **7:30 p.m. CST** starting in **September 2023**. The Zoom link comes through the Chaplain's newsletter, so get signed up! Also Chaplains can obtain the link under the "Training" tab at: https://lotcs.org/vfw_chaplain.html. This gives you an opportunity to get to know other Chaplains and discuss things that are important to our work. **Good ideas are shared!**

DEPARTMENT SURGEON

Comrades, hoping you are all healthy and safe, continue to take care of each other, Veterans, their families our Active-duty service members and the less fortunate in our communities, As we return from our DPA Mid-Year in Saipan (A Job well done by local Post Comrades) holidays, and holiday travels are up on us, last article discussed the common Cold / Flu this month would like to touch on Sore, Scratchy Throat? Click the image in the right hand column for some natural remedies.

Soothing Pain From Illness or Allergy

As the days grow shorter and colder: a scratchy, painful feeling when you swallow, talk, or even just breathe. Sometimes, a sore throat is little more than a nuisance. But it can also be a sign of serious infection. So how do you know which is which? And what can you do to soothe a sore throat? Many things can trigger a sore throat, explains an infectious disease expert “It can be an allergen. It can be an infection, like a virus or bacteria. Sometimes, it’s even just dry air,”.

So, when should you call your health care provider? That depends on how bad the sore throat is and what symptoms come with it, “If it’s a mild sore throat and a runny nose, some congestion, that’s probably a typical cold,” but severe pain plus symptoms like a high fever and a loss of interest in eating or drinking may be serious.

How long a sore throat lasts also matters. “If it’s been more than three days, then you might want to seek medical advice,” but at any time, it’s always reasonable to call your doctor and get an opinion. A very contagious bacterial infection called strep can cause a sore throat, high fever, and swollen glands. Children may also have nausea, vomiting, or stomach pain. Strep can cause other serious health problems so, it’s important to see a doctor as soon as possible if you think someone in your household has strep.

If test results confirm strep, your doctor will prescribe antibiotics. Even if you feel better after a few days, it’s important to finish the entire prescription. Most causes of a sore throat, though, don’t need antibiotics. These include allergies as well as colds and flu, which are all caused by viruses. Antibiotics only work against bacteria. Doctors can sometimes prescribe antiviral medication for certain viruses, like flu.

There is no treatment for the common cold, but over-the-counter products for symptom relief may help. For example, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, or aspirin (not for kids) can reduce pain. Mild allergies can be treated using over-the-counter antihistamines, decongestants, or nasal sprays. But you may need prescription medication or allergy shots for severe allergies.

For most causes of a sore throat, time is the best healer. Lozenges, lollipops, or other hard candies can help soothe your throat. For young kids who might choke on candy, cold liquids or popsicles can help numb the pain. In summary; the best way to prevent a sore throat is to avoid the germs that cause them. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer often. Stay clear of other people who are sick. And stay up to date with the vaccines recommended for your age group,

I wish all a Happy, Healthy Prosperous New Year.

Yours In Comradeship
Lou Holub DPA Surgeon



Surgeon

Lou Holub

**NATURAL
SORE THROAT
REMEDIES**
(That actually work)



CHIEF OF STAFF

From the desk of the Chief-of-Staff,

Commander Fores and Comrades,

VFW National has paid numerous visits to the Department of Pacific Areas already this year.

VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) Director Mike Figlioli, NVS Deputy Director, Field Operations Gregg Orto and NVS Assistant Director, Field Operations Cindy Noel visited Korea from September 24th thru the 30th. Their goal was to meet with United States Forces Korea and 8th Army to establish an office to assist separating service members, veterans and family members filing claims for VA disability benefits. The Benefits Delivery at Discharge Program Team accomplished their mission.

VFW Immediate Past CinC Time Borland visit Korea from October 6th thru the 9th to assist in a Membership Drive at the Dragon Hill Lodge Octoberfest. Our Certified National Recruiter, Larry Lyons, also coordinated a MAP event in support of Active-Duty Military and their Families for this occasion. An information table was set up and over 140 new members were signed up into the VFW. Again, mission accomplished.

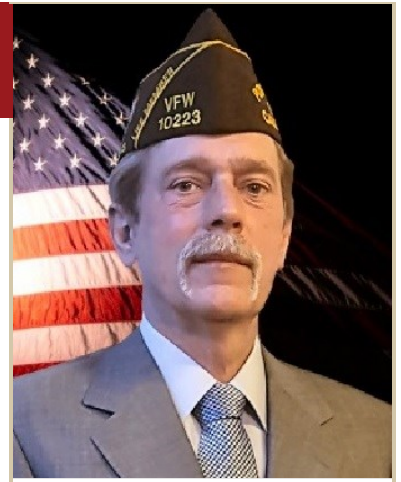
National CinC Duane Sarmiento, National Chief of Staff Carey Pritchett and National Assistant Adjutant Brian Walker, on a Goodwill and Commemorative Tour, visited the Philippines and Thailand from October 20th thru the 25th. The team visited numerous post's in both countries. CinC Sarmiento and his team highlighted the tour participating the 79th Anniversary of the MacArthur Leyte Landing, the institution of our newest VFW Post, Glenn W. McDole VFW Post 12224, in Palawan, Philippine, and took part in a special dedication ceremony at Hellfire Pass, also known as Death Railway in Thailand. Again, mission accomplished.

And finally, VFW National Junior Vice CinC Carol Whitmore, who is with us here at our Department Council of Administration.

I'm sure VFW National representatives will continue to visit our great Department of the Pacific Areas throughout the year.

I encourage all comrades that have the pleasure of hosting VFW National representatives at their Post or Districts to embrace the experience, knowledge, and resources these great comrades bring. Working together, we can all **MEET THE CHALLENGE** through **LOYALTY, DUTY, and HONOR**.

Don Kelley
DPA Chief of Staff
cosdpa@vfwpacific.org



Department of Pacific Areas

Chief of Staff

Donald E. Kelley



2023 - 2024

National Council of Administration



DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Comrades,

Happy New Year! All the best to you and your families, and friends for 2024. Hopefully, everyone had a safe Holiday Season.

I would like to thank all of the Districts and Posts that took the time to complete your inspections prior to the CofA, however, we are not quite there in completing all District and Post inspections. The following Districts and Posts have until 30 April 2024 to complete their inspections to be considered for All State/All American. Please do not wait until the last minute!

District 3 Posts 9985, 10033, 10223

D4 and Post 9957

D6 and Posts 1509 and 2917

District 7 Posts 11447 and 12224

If your District or Post have completed your inspection and the dashboard is not showing GREEN, please let me know.



Department Inspector

Barry L. Larson



Location	Good Standing									
	Election Report (June 17, 2023)	QM Bond (Aug. 30, 2023)	School of Instruction (Dec. 31, 2023)	Service Officer	IRS 990 (Dec. 30, 2023)	Inspection Status	Audits			
							#1 (Due 7/30)	#2 (Due 10/30)	#3 (Due 1/30)	#4 (Due 4/30)
District 1	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
District 2	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1054 Post 1054 John C. Parker Memorial Post	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
9555 Post 9555 General Claire L. Chennault Post	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
9612 Post 9612 Millard F Nixon Post	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
District 3	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
8180 Post 8180 Colonel Lewis L. Millett Hill 180 Memorial Post	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
9985 Post 9985 Freedom Bridge Memorial Post	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
10033 Post 10033 Hill 303 Memorial Post	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
10223 Post 10223 CWO Benjamin K. Humphreys Memorial Post	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
District 4	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
9723 Post 9723 Okinawa/LCpl Frank C Allen Memorial Post	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
9957 Taiwan Post	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
10249 Post 10249 AFTN Memorial Post	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
11575 Post 11575 Mayaguez Memorial Post	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
12146 Post 12146 Banchang Utapao	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
District 5	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
9876 Post 9876 Fred J. Estes	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
9951 Post 9951 C. L. Elms	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
10217 Post 10217 Karl W. Ritcher	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
12074 Post 12074 Ken Chapman	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
12163 Post 12163 Western Australia	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
District 6	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1509 Post 1509 Hafa Adai Post	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
2917 Post 2917 Ga'An Point Memorial Post	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
3457 Post 3457 Saipan Post	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
District 7	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
124 Post 124 MOH Telesforo Trinidad	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
2485 Post 2485 Robert W. Zaher	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
9892 Post 9892 Colonel B. J. Smith Post	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
11447 Post 11447 Paul P. Busek Post	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
12130 Post 12130 Ulysses G. Buzzard Memorial	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
12224 Post 12224 Glenn McDole	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
District 99	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Barry Larson

Inspector

Department of Pacific Areas



JUDGE ADVOCATE

Greetings Comrades,

I hope 2024 brings good health and prosperity to you and your loved ones.

For those of you that would like to propose changes to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, your District Bylaws or our Department Bylaws, or a Resolution to be approved at our Convention, *the time to start is now*. The following procedures outline the requirements and as you can see, proposed changes need to be made available to the membership and routed through channels prior to being submitted to Department for review and consideration.

NOTE: Your existing Post, District, or Department Bylaws may impose additional requirements when submitting proposed changes.

[Guide to Bylaws Amendments and Resolutions](#)

Post Bylaws – Article II, Sec. 202

Requires members be notified at least 20 days in advance and upon request, provide them a copy of the proposed Bylaws or copy of the proposed Amendments.

May be amended at any Regular or Special Meeting.

Requires two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting

Copies of Bylaws, including amendments, adopted by a post, within thirty (30) days be forwarded to the Department Commander for review and forwarding to the Commander-in-Chief.

Bylaws or Amendments adopted by the Post become effective upon approval by the Commander-in-Chief, provided such Bylaws do not conflict with the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual or laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

District Bylaws – Article IV, Sec. 402

May only be adopted or amended by the District Convention

Copies of Bylaws, including amendments, adopted by a District shall be submitted to the Department Commander who shall review them for compliance with the Department Bylaws and shall within thirty (30) days, with a recommendation to the Commander-in-Chief, certifying there is no conflict with the Department Bylaws.

No Bylaws or Amendments adopted by a District shall become effective until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief or their designee for compliance with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual or laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Department Bylaws - Article V, Sec. 502

May only be adopted or amended by the Department Convention

Copies of Bylaws, including amendments, adopted by a Department shall be forwarded to Commander-in-Chief, through channels.

No Bylaws or Amendments adopted by a Department shall become effective until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief or their designee for compliance with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual or laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Amendments – Article XIV, Sec 1401

Any member in good standing in, a Post, a District, or a Department, may propose an amendment to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedures and Ritual.

Proposed amendments must be submitted through channels and before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must be approved by a Department Convention. Immediately following a Department Convention, the proposed amendments must be forwarded to National.

All proposed amendments will be available to each Post by the Adjutant General at least fifteen (15) days before the assembling of the National Convention.

The Adjutant General further requests that all amendments be forwarded to National no later than five (5) working days following the close of the Department Convention.

All amendments adopted at any National Convention according to the provisions of this section shall take effect thirty (30) days after the final adjournment of the National Convention at which they were adopted, unless specifically stated otherwise in the amendment.

Resolutions –

All Resolutions shall be in writing

The policy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is established by resolutions adopted by the delegates attending Department and National Conventions.

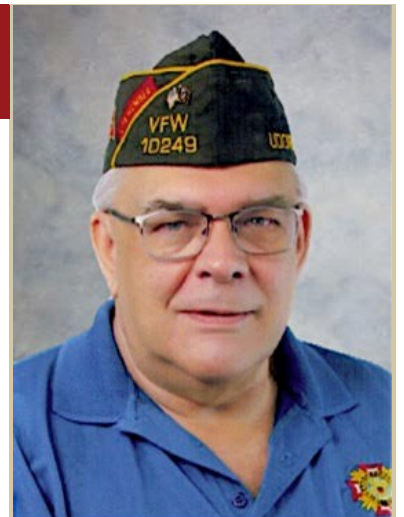
A resolution contains two separate parts; a statement of the problem to be solved, and the proposed solution to the problem.

VFW Guide for Amendment and Resolution is available in the document repository on the www.vfw.org website .

To ensure Delegates to the Department Convention have a chance to review your proposed Amendment and/or Resolution be sure to submit them in final format to the Department Adjutant NLT 31 May 2024.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Delbert “Bert” Marohl
DPA Judge Advocate



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Georgia Ann Thompson, also known as Tiny Broadwick, left an indelible mark as the first female parachutist and the inventor of the rip cord. Born in 1893 in North Carolina, Tiny's life took unexpected turns from a young age. Weighing only three pounds at birth, she never surpassed 5 feet in height or 80 pounds. Married at the tender age of 12, she became a mother at 13 after her husband's tragic accident, compelling her to endure grueling 14-hour workdays in a cotton mill.

Tiny's journey into the world of parachuting began at the 1907 North Carolina State Fair. Witnessing a performance titled 'The Broadwicks and their Famous French Aeronauts,' she was captivated by the spectacle of individuals ascending in hot-air balloons and then parachuting to the ground. Inspired, Tiny approached show owner Charles Broadwick, expressing her desire to join the group. Charles agreed to hire her, provided she left her daughter Verla behind and sent back financial support.

Under Charles Broadwick's guidance, Tiny underwent training in parachute jumping, and in 1908, she was legally adopted by Charles, officially becoming Tiny Broadwick. Performing as "The Doll Girl," Tiny, at the age of 15, made her inaugural parachute jump from a hot-air balloon at the 1908 North Carolina State Fair. Describing the experience as the "most wonderful sensation in the world," she would go on to repeat this thrill over 1,000 times in her career.

Traveling extensively with Charles Broadwick, their balloon act began losing popularity by 1912. However, fortune smiled upon Tiny when she crossed paths with renowned pilot Glenn Martin. Impressed by her balloon jumps, Martin proposed a new venture: parachuting from an airplane. Charles Broadwick crafted a silk parachute for Tiny, and her first jump from Martin's plane in 1913 marked her as the first woman to parachute from an airplane.

As Tiny soared to new heights, her contributions extended beyond entertainment. In 1914, during the onset of World War I, the Army Air Corps sought her expertise to demonstrate safe parachute jumps from military planes. The demonstration proved crucial, showcasing Tiny's remarkable composure when faced with adversity. On the fourth jump, her parachute's line became entangled, forcing her to cut most of it and freefall towards the ground. Exhibiting quick thinking, Tiny pulled the remaining line by hand, demonstrating the rip cord concept that would revolutionize parachute safety.

Tiny Broadwick's final jump in 1922 marked her retirement at 29, plagued by chronic ankle problems from forceful landings. Reflecting on her experiences, she expressed a sense of peace and proximity to God while in the air. Throughout her career, Tiny received numerous honors, including the U.S. Government Pioneer Aviation award, the John Glenn Medal, and induction into the Early Birds of Aviation. In 1964, she became an honorary member of the 82nd Airborne Division, maintaining the privilege to jump whenever she pleased. Tiny passed away at 85 in North Carolina, leaving behind a legacy as a pioneering aviator who soared to great heights, both literally and figuratively.

Read more about this amazing woman [HERE](#).



DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

Greetings Comrades.

FMP “Pre-Determination Letter”

Effective September 2023 FMP has established an office to issue individual coverage letters, guaranteeing payment of a specific service-connected condition. This is not the same as your standard benefit letter you receive from FMP.

If you require a medical procedure for a specific service-connected condition shown on your standard benefits letter, you would now request a “pre-determination letter” which will state that veteran John Doe is entitled to all medical procedures / expenses that are related to the specific service-connected condition. **Example:** *John Doe now requires dialysis for his service-connected kidney condition listed on his FMP Benefit Letter.*

The Veteran can now contact their Veterans Service Officer (VSO) who can check the qualification and forward your request to the appropriate authority at FMP via a special link established specifically for issuing your “pre-determination letter”.

Website Link to Duane Sarmiento’s [Claim Shark Letter](#)

Website Link to VFW [Claim Shark Flyer](#)



HOT! The final DSO Training session for this term will be held on Wednesday, 7 Feb 2024 at 12 noon Thailand Time. ZOOM Link will be sent out to all post commanders and listed service officers in a separate email.

Al Fitchett
Department of Pacific Areas
dsodpa@vfwpacific.org



DSO Pacific Areas

Al Fitchett



Service Officer

VMS/MAP CHAIRMAN

Commander Fores and Comrades,

I would like to touch on two Veterans and Military Assistance Programs that our Posts within the Department of Pacific Areas are supporting.

The first program is Adopt-a-Unit (AAU): AAU provides a link for VFW Posts to work with unit commanders and senior enlisted personnel to develop supportive relationships with units.

The second program is Military Assistance Program (MAP): MAP provides financial assistance to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries who sponsor events with their local military community. These funds are meant to build relationships and provide information on VFW programs and services.

Post 8180 hosted an AAU event with the 2-2 Assault Helicopter Battalion recruiting 12 new members.

Post 11575 received \$350.00 to host a MAP event for the DPAA Remembrance and \$500.00 to host a MAP event for the US Marine Security Detachment Veterans Day Appreciation recruiting 3 new members.

Post 124 received \$1,350.00 to host a MAP Event for the 66th Infantry US Congressional Award Ceremony recruiting 2 new members.

Post 9723 received \$3,000.00 to host a MAP event with their Adopt-a-Unit 320th Special Tactics Squadron for a Thanksgiving dinner at the Kadena Officer Club recruiting 3 new members.

Post 8180 Received \$3,000.00 to host a MAP event at the Dragon Hill Lodge's Octoberfest. I had the privilege to attend this event with our Certified National Recruiter Larry Lyons and Past Commander in Chief Tim Borland. We were able to give 600 \$5.00 coupons to discount the German Food Buffet for Active-Duty members and their dependents during this 3-day event. We also had an information table set up and were able to sign up over 140 new members into the VFW. But the most rewarding part from this event, was seeing the gratitude for what the VFW does in supporting service members and their families and the ability to tell them **"THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE"**. Post 8180 also received \$1,500.00 to host a holiday dinner for their Adopt-A-Unit, 2-2 Assault Helicopter Battalion.

If you add all this up, the Department has received \$9,700.00 in MAP grants so far this year. However, the Department has only donated \$1,375.00. I encourage all Post and Districts to make their donations to the VMS to keep these programs available.

THESE VETERANS AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS PROVIDE A WAY TO THANK OUR ACTIVE-DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS FOR WHAT THEY DO DAY-IN AND DAY-OUT, PROTECTING OUR GREAT NATION, AND ALSO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RECRUITMENT.



VMS/MAP Chairman

Donald Kelley

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT



MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

VMS/MAP CHAIRMAN

Veterans & Military Support Donation 2023-2024

Department	District #	Post #	Donation Amount (\$)
Pacific Areas			\$0.00
Pacific Areas	2		\$100.00
Pacific Areas	2	1054	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	2	9555	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	2	9612	\$25.00
Pacific Areas	3		\$100.00
Pacific Areas	3	8180	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	3	9985	\$25.00
Pacific Areas	3	10033	\$0.00
Pacific Areas	3	10223	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	4		\$0.00
Pacific Areas	4	9723	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	4	9957	\$0.00
Pacific Areas	4	10249	\$0.00
Pacific Areas	4	11575	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	4	12146	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	5		\$0.00
Pacific Areas	5	9876	\$0.00
Pacific Areas	5	9951	\$0.00
Pacific Areas	5	10217	\$0.00
Pacific Areas	5	12074	\$0.00
Pacific Areas	5	12163	\$0.00
Pacific Areas	6		\$0.00
Pacific Areas	6	1509	\$0.00
Pacific Areas	6	2917	\$0.00
Pacific Areas	6	3457	\$0.00
Pacific Areas	7		\$100.00
Pacific Areas	7	124	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	7	2485	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	7	9892	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	7	11447	\$0.00
Pacific Areas	7	12130	\$100.00
Pacific Areas	7	12224	\$25.00



Department of Pacific Areas

VMS/MAP Chairman

Donald Kelley

**VETERANS
& MILITARY
SUPPORT**



MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Don Kelley

mapdpa@vfwpacific.org

Veterans & Military Support (VMS) Chairman

Military Assistance Program (MAP) Chairman

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 CofA in Saipan a few weeks ago. I hope you all had a good time.

What is a Cootie? Cooties 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. 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>.

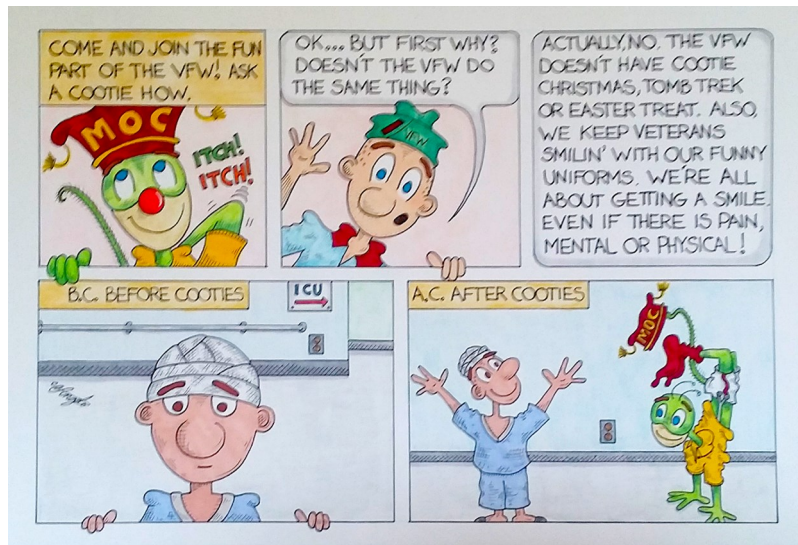
If your Post does not have a Pup Tent and you want to be a Cootie, reach out to a Pup Tent in your area, as you do not need to be a member of a specific Post to be a member of its Pup Tent. Your Post would just need to let the Pup Tent know that you are a hard-working VFW member and deserve to be part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



VOD/PP/TA CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

The All-American Dashboard is now fixed and updated. If your status is incorrect on either dashboard, update it through your Quartermaster/Adjutant or provide me with the necessary information, including Number of Participating Students, Monetary Awards, Additional Money Expended, and the Winners Name/School. To qualify for All-State, each Post and District must submit entries for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen or donate to VFW National. All-American status requires this, along with a Teacher's Award from one category or a donation. Donations can be made on the All-American Dashboard; Post and District donations are \$100. Forward your donation receipt to vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org for credit.

Please look for new topics to come out around April and work with schools to get them added to their curriculum. Remember to review all inputs per the rules on the Entry Forms; I really hate to disqualify an entry at my level when it should have been caught at the Post or District. Time should be provided to the entrant to fix their essay. You cannot help them/tell them what to fix but, you can tell them what is wrong and let them fix it on their own.

This year's winners are:

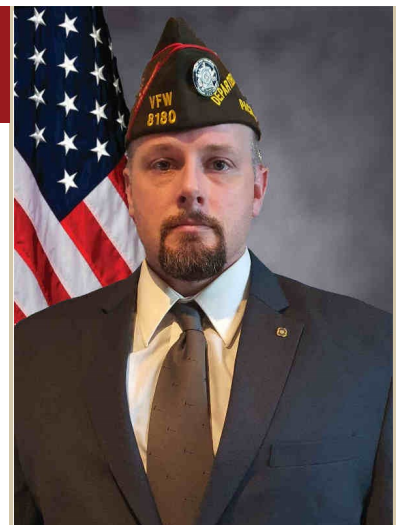
- Patriot's Pen is Peeradon J. Bauman, from District 4, Post 12146, Banchang Rayong, Thailand.
- Voice of Democracy is Gwendolen U. Troy, from District 7, Post 2485, Angeles City, Philippines.
- Teachers Award K-5th grade is Shelia N. Fitch, from District 4, Post 9723, Okinawa, Japan.
- Teachers Award 6th-8th grade is Alexis R. Wilson, from District 4, Post 9723, Okinawa, Japan.
- There was no entry for 9th-12th grade.

Congrats and let us wish them luck at the National level. For the winners, I will need to know the date that you will tell them that they are a Department Winner. Please let it be known that National runs these through plagiarism and AI scans and if there are major refractions, they can disqualify them and ask for the second-place winner to be submitted.

National rolled out a new app this year called "Scholars App", hopefully we can start using it during the 24-25 year once they iron out the potential legal issues of using it overseas. This app will allow all entries and voting to be completed entirely online. **One thing I need from all Posts is a listing of schools you know of that have qualified children in it so that we can make sure they are on the list for the app.**

My three-year appointment will be over after this year; I have enjoyed my time helping to get children the opportunity to receive scholarship funds. I would like to thank all the Post and District Chairs who facilitated and cooperated in this year's Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teachers Award programs. I ask that you do the same for my replacement.

David B. Gley, Jr.
Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen / Teacher's Award Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas
vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org



Department of Pacific Areas

VOD/PP/TA Chairman

David Gley



NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN

OUR COMMUNITY

Families find a healing calm in a tranquil, rural, small-town community. Tree-lined streets connect 42 single-family homes with common areas like our gym, library, computer and science labs, daycare center, playgrounds, fishing pond, hiking trails and more. Click [HERE](#) to see Our Homes.

OUR HISTORY

The origins of today's VFW National Home can be traced to a 23-year-old woman named Amy Ross. In 1922, Ross made it her mission to help find jobs for the thousands of unemployed veterans in Detroit.

THE BEGINNING

News of Ross' efforts reached millionaire cattleman Corey Spencer, who gifted 472 acres of land near Eaton Rapids, Michigan, to build on Ross' vision of supporting veterans.

On Jan. 7, 1925, the VFW National Home was founded, helping to fulfill the VFW pledge to "honor the dead by helping the living." Later that spring, the Home welcomed its first family in an old frame farmhouse, Mrs. Pollett and her six children. Pollett had become suddenly widowed and lost her husband's military pension.



THROUGH THE YEARS

Since its founding, the VFW National Home has grown from an old frame farmhouse to a sprawling campus with playgrounds; park areas; and multiple buildings, including single-family homes, a community center and gymnasium, child care facility, guest lodge, chapel, and administrative offices.

Over the years, the National Home has evolved to meet the changing needs of America's military and veterans' families. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: the National Home's commitment to honor our nation's veterans and active-duty military by providing help and hope for their children and families.

[National Home Website](#)



National Home Chairman

Roscoe McGlynn



VFW
NATIONAL HOME
FOR CHILDREN

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Comrades, with the Holidays just behind us My report is on the happenings within December 2023 and some of the upcoming ones in January 2024.

The VFW is still pushing hard on the following bills. The congressmen of Guam and Saipan have signed on and are giving us their support.

1. Transition from the Military: VFW recommends the Passing of H.R. 3933, *TAP Promotion Act*, to require accredited representatives from national, state, and local organizations to be included in TAP classes.

2. VA Benefits Data for Suicide Prevention: The VFW urges Congress to Pass S. 928, Not Just a Number Act, to direct VA to incorporate benefit usage data into its annual suicide prevention report, and to examine moving the office of suicide prevention to the enterprise level at VA.

3. Cracking Down on Predatory Claims Companies: The VFW urges Congress to Pass S. 740 / H.R. 1139, *GUARD VA Benefits Act*, to reinstate penalties for charging veterans and survivors unauthorized fees relating to claims for VA benefits.

NOTE: Some Local State Government have passed into law, and are starting to take some of these Shark's to court for Fines and punishment. One such States is Texas.

Also, as I reported in a past Pacific Times Congressman Moylan was asking the VFW to support H.R. 522 Bill. Reporting back from VFW NLS office, VFW will support this issue for Guam Veterans.

Comrades, to find out more information on the items that the VFW is supporting, signup for the ACTION CORPS weekly newsletter by clicking on this link: <https://votervoicenet/VFW/register>. Be better informed with pending Legislation that the VFW is supporting and working hard to get signed into LAW, Additionally, you can contact or visit your congressional representatives!

You can also sign up to get VFW ACTION ALERTS to show your support and stand with the VFW National Legislative Service.

I am also making some posts on the DPA Facebook page with information.

Once you sign up to the Action Corps, please be so kind and send me an email so I can track the members in the DPA.

Email: legdpa@vfwpacific.org

Randell E Himes
DPA Legislative Chairman
legdpa@vfwpacific.org
National Legislative Committee
rehimes@gmail.com
1-815-408-2454



Legislative Chairman

Randell Himes





VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

WELCOME HOME

Learn about the VFW
and what WE can do
for YOU.



vfw.org

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

Start enjoying the benefits and camaraderie of belonging to a group of veterans who have earned their membership through service to our country. The Veterans of Foreign Wars has thousands of Posts across the nation and plenty of ways for you to get involved in a way that suits you best. Start making friends and contacts who understand where you've been and can help you get to where you want to go. You've earned this right - join the VFW today!

You can join the VFW if you...

- have served honorably or are currently serving in the US Armed Forces
- received a campaign or service medal for overseas service
- served at least 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea anytime since 1949
- received Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay

Visit vfw.org/Join for a complete list of eligibility.



You've earned it.

As a VFW member, you'll enjoy the benefits of belonging to America's largest combat veterans' organization.

- *A subscription to VFW magazine*
- *Discounts and special offers from a wide range of businesses*
- *No-cost personal accident insurance*
- *Veterans' advocates that can assist with VA claims and other benefits*



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

VFW National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
1.888.JOIN.VFW
membership@vfw.org

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES*



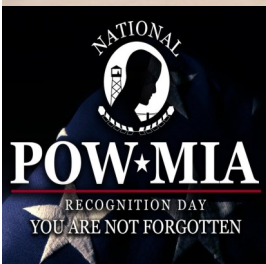
March 24 - Start of Kosovo Campaign 1999 In 1999, once all diplomatic avenues had failed, NATO launched an air campaign to halt the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Kosovo. Operation Allied Force started on 24 March 1999 and was suspended on 10 June, lasting a total of 78 days. On 10 June 1999, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia accepted the withdrawal of its military, police and paramilitary forces and the deployment of an effective international civil and security presence.



March 29 - National Vietnam War Veterans Day* On March 29, 1973, combat and combat support units withdrew from South Vietnam. Generations later, Veterans of this time period are gaining the respect that was not so freely given upon their return. Involving five U.S. presidents, crossing nearly two decades and 500,000 U.S. Military personnel, it left an indelible mark on the American psyche. Returning veterans did not always receive respectful welcomes upon their arrival on American soil. Over 58,000 killed, never to return.



March 31 - End of Operation Restore Hope—Somalia 1995* 25 March 1994 Most of the American troops were out of Somalia, ending Operation Continue Hope the follow-on mission to Restore Hope. Only a few hundred marines remained offshore to assist with any noncombatant evacuation mission that might occur in the event violence broke out that necessitated the removal of the over 1,000 U.S. civilians and military advisers remaining as part of the U.S. liaison mission. All UN and U.S. personnel were finally withdrawn almost a year later in March 1995.



April 9 - National Former POW Recognition Day It was officially designated by Congress in 1988 as a Presidentially-proclaimed observance. National Former POW Recognition Day commemorates the 9 April 1942 surrender of approximately 10,000 United States military personnel and 65,000 Filipino soldiers on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines by Major General Edward P. King to the invading Imperial Japanese Army headed by General Masaharu Homma. This is the largest surrender in US history. The surrender was followed immediately by the infamous Bataan Death March.



11 April - Persian Gulf War Official Cease-Fire On 11 April 1991, less than 90 days after the U.S.-led offensive against Iraq known as Operation Desert Storm began, the United Nations Security Council declared the conditions of Resolution 687 in effect, making the cease fire official and formally ending the Persian Gulf War. The definitive victory elevated the United States as the preeminent global super power and the number one partner of choice for its allies around the world.

Other Important Dates

3rd Monday in January - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 31 - Panama Campaign Ended (1990)

3rd Monday of February - Presidents' Day

March 24 - Start of Kosovo Campaign 1999*

March 29 - National Vietnam War Veterans Day

March 31 - Somalia Campaign Ended (1995)*

April 9 - National Former POW/MIA Recognition Day

April 11 - Persian Gulf War Official Cease-Fire

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

LETTER OF INTENT

LETTER OF INTENT DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER DONALD E. KELLEY



Fellow Comrades,

It is with great honor and a humble heart that I announce my candidacy for the position of VFW Department of Pacific Areas Junior Vice Commander for the 2024-2025 term. I am a 20-year Army Veteran, earning my VFW eligibility from service in Operation Desert Storm.

My VFW experience includes:

- District 3 All-State and All-American Commander, 2022-2023.
- District 3 Commander 2020-2022.
- Two-time Post 10223 All-State and All-American Commander, 2017-2019.
- Department Chief of Staff 2023-2024.
- Department Chairman, VFW National VMS Committee 2021-2024.
- Department VOD/PP/TA Chairman 2018-2021.
- National Aide-De-Camp 2019-2020, 2022-2023.
- National Deputy Chief of Staff 2020-2021.
- National General Resolutions Committee 2019.
- National VFW Programs Committee 2020-2021.

If elected to serve as your Department Junior Vice Commander, I promise to do my best to represent all Veterans in the Department of the Pacific Areas and Veterans worldwide with "Service above Self." I ask for your confidence in allowing me to perform the duties and responsibilities of this position.

Yours in Comradeship and Service

Donald E. Kelley
Gold Legacy Life Member
Candidate for Department of Pacific Areas Junior Vice Commander

DPA WEBSITE SPONSORS



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BANGKOK HOSPITAL
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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.