

THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No One Does More for Veterans
Veterans First, Comrades Always

Volume XXVIII, Number 1

July/August 2024

FREE

OUR 2024 PRIORITY GOALS

Carrying the Voice of 22 Million Veterans

- **Budget:** To fully fund programs for veterans, service members, and their families.
- **Education, Employment and Transition Assistance:** To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service.
- **Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs:** To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits.
- **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 preserving the all-volunteer force.
- **National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA:** To fully support the all-volunteer force, protect our nation's citizens, and defend American interests around the world.

Click [HERE](#) For Legislative Priorities and 2024 Priority Goals.

Click [HERE](#) to read about VFW Pending Legislation.

Click [HERE](#) for the Current VFW Legislation.



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

COMMANDER'S CALL

Comrades,

"There is a tide in the affairs of men / which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." Indeed, we are awash in YOUR achievements (not Ceaser's) and now is the time to leverage that success and sail on to new ventures. To each and every one of you who put in the work, found the courage to do the right thing and stood fast against those who would sway your conviction, THANK YOU!

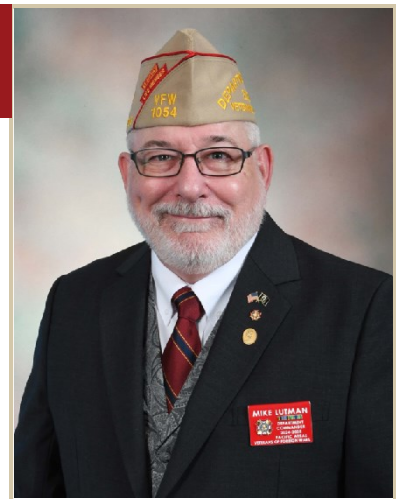
NOW, we must take that momentum and lead on to fortune. What we do, year in and year out, is not for the faint of heart. You are tested and tried. You are by common oath, bound to us all and by common decree, we are a tribe. As a tribe, we succeed as one or fail as one. Through service and sacrifice, we join together as a force for the good of Veterans and their families. With this as our armor, we are a united front capable of much and steadfast in our ability to advance the causes of our great organization. The challenges I have laid out before us are nothing that we have not accomplished before. There are new requirements in the area of training and readiness, and I believe we need to be better. As good as we are, there are always areas for us to improve in. Good, better, best. Never let it rest. 'Til your good is better and your better is best.

To that end we must improve in the area of QM operations, specifically how our Trustees are trained and utilized. The importance of their role should not be overlooked as their position ensures the Post maintains its fiduciary responsibility to its donors, members, and the community it serves. Lack of Post Trustee oversight has and will continue to result in a tarnished reputation for our Posts and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, so it is important that they remain both knowledgeable and engaged with all the tools and knowledge needed to be effective guardians of our books and records. This training is a requirement as part of the District and Post requirements to complete a School of Instruction for their Trustees and general membership.

When it comes to training, our Post Service Officers are no less important and critical to the mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This term, we will continue to have Service Officer training (Post and District Service Officers) as a requirement for All State. Post Service Officers (PSOs) are local advocates who assist Veterans and their loved ones in navigating a complicated benefits landscape. Post Service Officers serve as a conduit to critical programs and services in the community, but they are not accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purposes of representing claimants in their benefit claims before VA. Thus, they also have specific duties:

- Know the VA eligibility rules established by law.
- Provide veterans and survivors basic knowledge about VA benefits.
- Advise veterans to submit all forms to the DSO or a VFW accredited representative for completion.
- Keep Post/Members and survivors aware of events, news, and information relevant to local, state, and federal Veterans services and benefits.

Those positions, my fellow Comrades, are a sizeable responsibility unto themselves and play MAJOR roles in our organization. Yet, much to my dismay, I have heard more than one Comrade say that Trustees and Service Officers are "usually" the best duties to start a new member with. That tells me we may be taking these positions for granted and that there is more training that needs to take place, and in short order, if it is indeed our least knowledgeable members who are filling these critical



Department of Pacific Areas

Commander

Michael Lutman



COMMANDER'S CALL

positions in our organization. To that end, we shall do better, and it starts this term.

Past Department Commander / Past Grand Commander Mitchell (my trusty Adjutant) once wrote in a Pacific Times article, "We have a very capable group of Chairpersons this year and to be a little bias, if I may, the finest in the history of the Department. But that's my opinion!" Indeed, that was his opinion, but I beg to differ. I say the team assembles for this term is by FAR the finest in the history of our great Department and we will PROVE IT.

Again, my opinion and I am indeed BIASED. I look at my GO1 and grin. No, not smile, but a big old Texas grin. We have so much talent at our disposal with sooooo many years of experience and knowledge. And as Past Commander Mitchell wisely pointed out, the General Order One is published and it is on the DPA Website. It will have each Chairperson on it with their contact information. I am asking you to initially go to them for any questions in their areas of responsibilities. I am confident that you will get the answers you need (Thanks Commander Mitchell!).

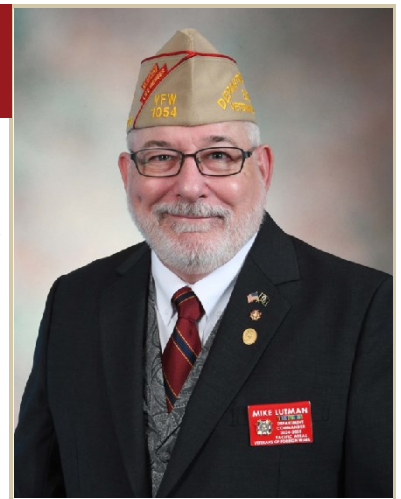
To our Council, my respects and my thanks for all you are about to do. My trust in you is unwavering and WE shall forge the road ahead through YOUR leadership and development efforts.

District and Post Commanders: I charge you to be a leader within the VFW which means connecting with those around you; inspiring them with a shared sense of mission; and through education and engagement, mobilizing them in order to accomplish a common goal.

At the end of the day, if every Post Officer were familiar with their duties and responsibilities and their limitations -- and carried out their duties to the best of their ability -- there would be very few squabbles within a Post and none which would require outside intervention. The National Manual of Procedure specifically lists certain duties for each officer, and, in the normal course of events, this would be sufficient. However, the complex nature of the operation of many Posts makes it necessary that we look beyond a mere listing of duties and fully understand the reasons for the division of authority. In this way we can apply them to the unusual situations which are bound to crop up from time to time and when those situations arise, I'm yer huckleberry. That said, we must always remember, we are Veterans First, Comrades Always. Do unto those as you would have them do unto you.

I would like to start wrapping up this article with my profound thanks to the Post 2485 Convention Team of Collins, Alford, Hamic and Smith. They, and the many other contributing Comrades of Post 2485 once again did a fantastic job hosting a Department Convention in Angeles City, Philippines. This included the AWESOME Post 2485 Auxiliary, led by Madam President Ms. Marjorie Rogers and her team, to include incoming Madam President Ms. Rowena Lancelot. Of course there were many others, and I beg forgiveness in not naming names (64k brain buffer). There is only one thing shorter than my memory and we shall not go into any microscopic details regarding that issue

Veterans, Comrades, members or our Auxiliary, one and all, it is with a profound sense of humility that I accept the responsibility you have bestowed upon me. I will not let you down. We will be successful, not because of me, but because of **YOU and those before us**. We can do anything with Faith, Hope and Great Support. It is the way because "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." — Isaac Newton". Take a look at our previous Department Commander



Commander

Michael Lutman



COMMANDER'S CALL

listing and you shall see where I draw my courage and faith from. Aside from God Almighty, those both departed and living have been my inspiration, as have you all. God Bless each and every one of you and your family members.

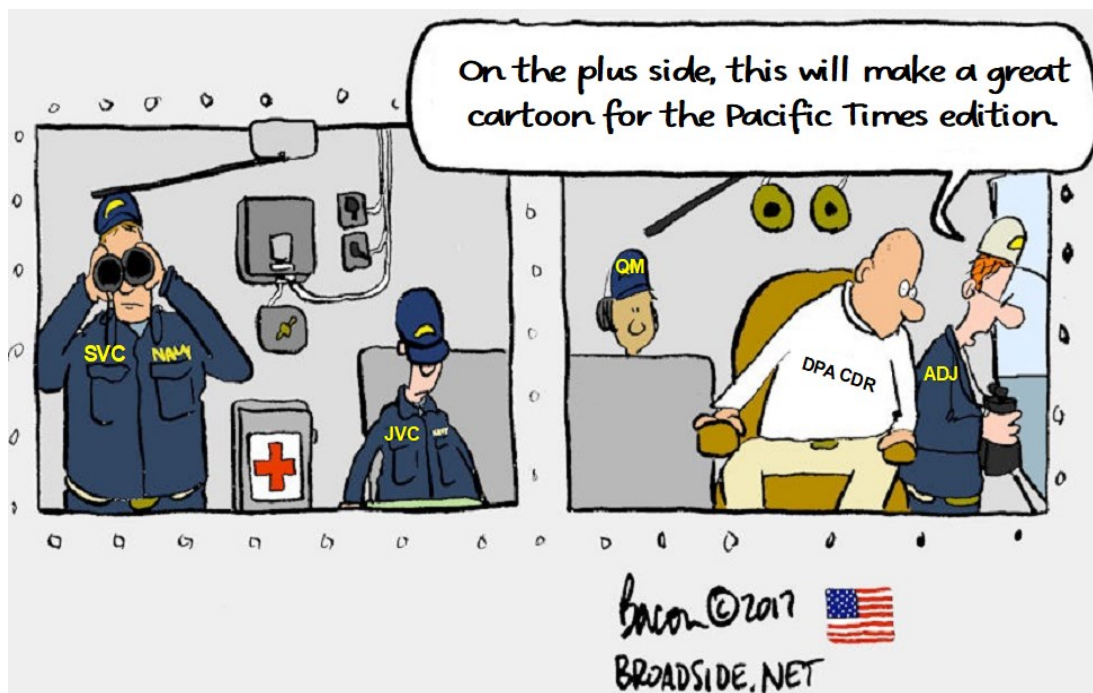
Stay safe and be well as we ride the tide of fortune and put the SMACK DOWN on Louisville, Kentucky as we roll in on the 102% Express and get off at the MET THE CHALLENGE station. Celebrate well your hard earned victory then recharge yourselves for the tasks ahead. I KNOW we are ready for the challenges ahead because we "Believe in what you do, do what you believe in." and because we are **"Veterans First, Comrades Always."**

So say we all!

Hooyah DPA!

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Michael D. Lutman
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Veterans First, Comrades Always



Commander

Michael Lutman



**SERVICE DOESN'T STOP
WHEN WE'RE DONE SERVING.**



TodaysVFW.org

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

I hope that each of you and your families enjoyed the recent holiday weekend.

My best wishes for a successful year, and Congratulations to our newly elected Commander Mike Lutman and the officers elected, and appointed, and thank you for the trust you have placed in me as your Senior Vice Commander. As we move forward with the new year, let's work at building our teams based on mutual respect for each other and remember we are all veterans that are driven by similar interests with one goal of taking care of each other, veterans, and their families.

In my current position, it is my responsibility to drive membership for the department, and as being that person, I will reach out to you regularly on the status of your districts and posts to meet our 102% membership requirements as set forth by our incoming Commander in Chief Al Lipphardt and Department Commander Lutman. The National Membership link is: https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/MY_VFW/Training-and-Support/Membership/VFW-National-Membership-Program-24-25.pdf?v=1&d=20240514T152803Z&la=en By the publishing of this edition of Pacific Times, Commander Lutman's Membership Program should be on the street which will include DPA All-State and All-American requirements for the year.

Membership Tasks:

To recruit, retain and mentor a stable membership base including all generations of eligible veterans. To cultivate a membership that is well versed in institutional knowledge and actively involved at all levels of the organization and in the local community. To establish Posts with a time-honored vision of service, leadership, and community outreach.

Membership Goals and Objectives:

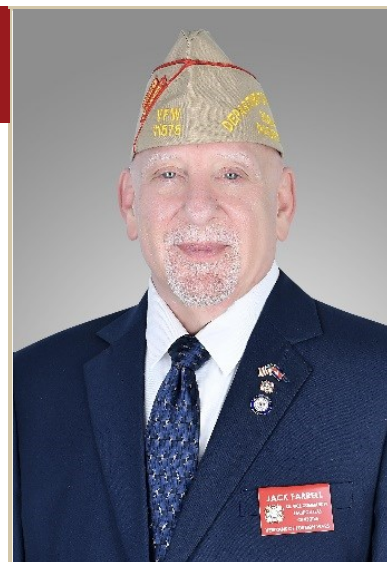
The challenge before us grows ever larger. We must counter declining membership as best we can. By setting our goal at 100% +3, we can achieve that. Overall, the desired goal is to increase each post by at least 2%. However, given the challenges we have in our AOR with Post location and personnel available, our objective must be achievable yet reflect a true desire to increase membership within our department. I believe this is an equitable outcome and recognizes our challenges while pushing us to do more. Of course, this will include Legacy Life Membership and we must continue to show growth across the board. In summary, we must KEEP the members we have, RECRUIT new members and mentor our existing members so they can lead us into the future.

Again, I can be reached at svcdpa@vfwpacific.org and I stand by to assist whenever possible.

In closing, I wish each of you a successful year for your Post, District, and our Department. Now let's get moving!!

Yours in Service to Veterans

John "Jack" Farrell
Senior Vice Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
Veterans First, Comrades Always



Department of Pacific Areas

Senior Vice Commander

John "Jack" Farrell



Sr. Vice Commander

As a Veterans Service organization we have an obligation to support VFW Programs. As such, let's get a head start on meeting program requirements ahead of time.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 **“VETERNAS FIRST, COMRADES ALWAYS”** term. It is an honor and privilege to serve the great comrades of the Department of Pacific Areas as your Junior Vice Commander. Congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed Comrades. Let’s keep this train rolling through what I know will be another great year for the DPA which is in the great hands of Commander Lutman and Senior Vice Commander Farrell.

Let’s get the year started at a steady pace for all Posts and Districts to achieve All-State and All-American this year. With both the All-State and All-American Programs, make a steady effort to get all the requirements accomplished by the C of A. Don’t want to see anyone having to sprint to the finish at the end of the year.

The biggest change in the All-American Program this year is that Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Veterans & Military Support entries to the All-American Dashboard are due January 31st, 2025. Let’s not miss this deadline.

CSRs: There are no differences this year for CSRs. One thing I would like to point out, is the “C” in CSR stands for Community. So, let’s get out and support our local Communities, Active-Duty Members, and Veterans (VFW Member meetings do not count as a CSR). Any effort is a possible CSR and the more information you input on the CSR the easier it is to justify. Don’t forget the 3 CSR input requirement per month. If you need any assistance with CSRs, please feel free to email me.

PROGRAMS: Let’s also get an early start on our programs. Get with the Schools, Scouts, ROTC, and Emergency Services now and promote the scholarships and awards that the VFW offers.

Voice of Democracy/Patriot’s Pen Essay Competitions
Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award
Public Servant and Safety Award
Scouting and ROTC Awards

Awards: Must of all, don’t forget our own comrades. Every Post has members that excel in what they do and deserve the credit for it. I suggest every Post appoint an Award Chairman to keep track of accomplishments throughout the year and ensure Awards don’t get overlooked. I am looking forward to seeing award submissions from every Post this year.

Let us all work together to make this another outstanding year for our department. I am looking forward to working with Commander Lutman, Senior Vice Commander Farrell and all our great members of the DPA.

BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU DO, DO WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN while being a **VETERAN FIRST, COMRADE ALWAYS.**

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Don Kelley
Junior Vice Commander
jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org
Veterans First, Comrades Always



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

Don Kelley



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



Post 9723 conducted a recruitment event at Kadena Air Base's Maintenance Group (MXG) Top III meeting today. Speakers from the Post included retired Air Force Maintenance Senior Non-Commissioned Officers (SNCO) John Bowers and Jeff Runnfeldt and our Commander Cortez Pree, for helping spread the word about the VFW and highlighting the presence of Post 9723.



Post 9723 Commander Justin Greene, as well as post members would like to congratulate our young future leaders from the island of Okinawa on their participation in the JROTC programs.

Ella Johnson - Camp Foster High School Marine Corps ROTC Program

Kira Gillette - Kadena Air Force Base High School Air Force ROTC program



Post 9723 accomplished a Buddy Poppy fund raiser over the Memorial Day weekend.

In the SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to this year's Post 9723 winners for this year's Voice of Democracy.

1st Place - Brayden Halle (Kadena High School)

2nd Place - Amara Attia (Camp Foster High School)

3rd Place - Noemi Ung (Camp Foster High School)

Thank you to Comrade Wilson for making this year another success for the Post with this outstanding program.

Justin Greene

Commander Post 9723

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

DPA QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

First, I would like to congratulate Jr Past Commander Fores on an All American year! And congratulate all the new/returning Officers for the 2024-2025 VFW year. Good luck to all Post, Districts and the Department.

All Quartermasters should have received the Bond information for the new year. Bond prices have not increased. Please send me the application back as soon as you can. I would like to have everything completed by 15 August. Your current bond is good through 31 August of this year.

The Department Quartermaster and Adjutant position is now held by two people. With that, when sending me email please use the qmdpa email address. Otherwise, Kevin will have to forward me your email.

As a reminder, please send me your quarterly audits after they have been completed and signed. This is a requirement for All-State.

If you have any questions on any aspect of the quartermaster duties, please reach out to me. I am here to help.

Shawn Watson
DPA Quartermaster

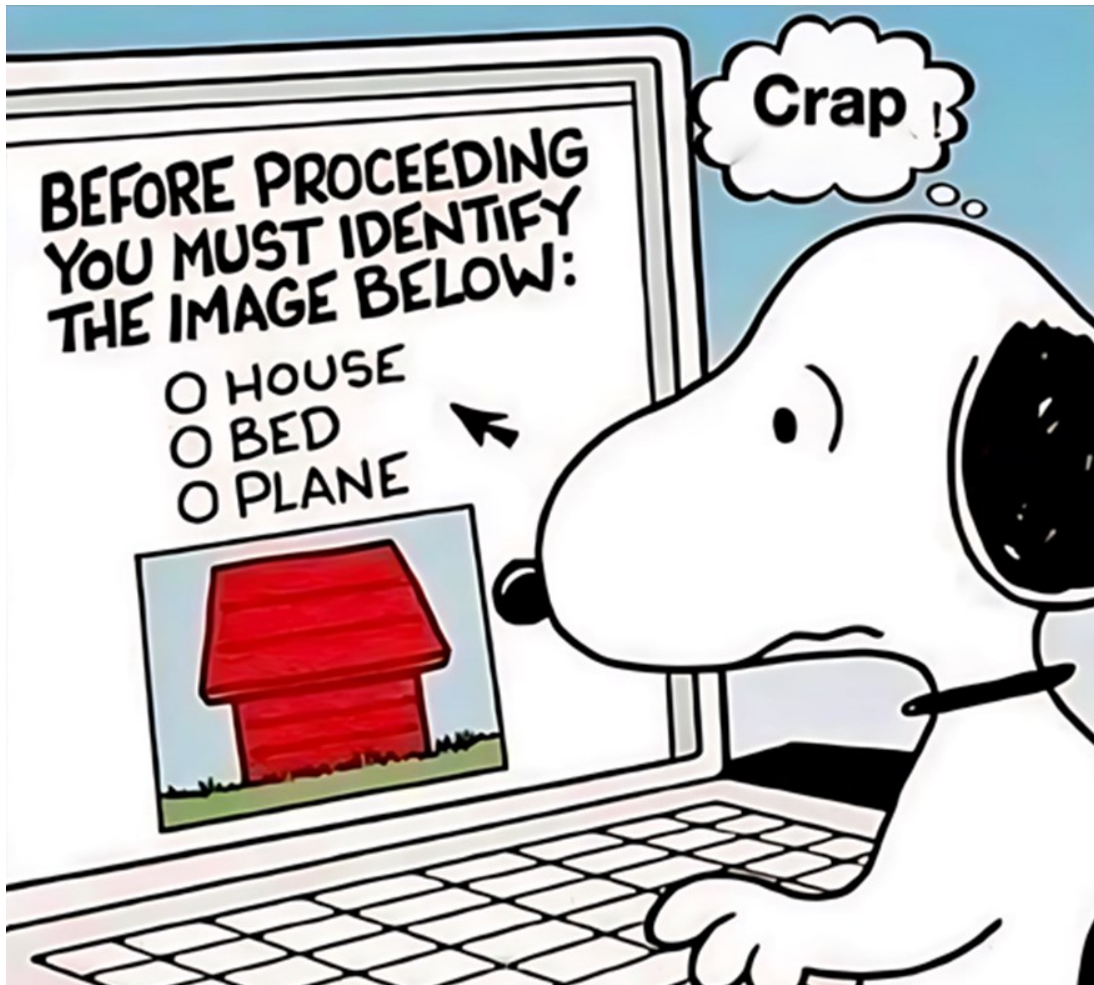


Quartermaster

Shawn Watson



Quartermaster



DPA ADJUTANT

Greetings fellow Comrades,

First, I would like to thank our DPA CDR Lutman for appointing me to this very important position of Adjutant. Also, for his trust and confidence in me to do the job! My promise to the DPA as usual is to give 110%. Any information I need to send to the DPA, I will get it out to you ASAP!!

General Order 1 (GO) and Memorandum 1 (MEMO) have been emailed to the Council and Appointed Officers for the year. They are also posted on the DPA Website. I have asked the District Commanders to pass them along to their Post Commanders. Both documents have our Council and Appointed Officers' information in them. **Please do not pass along to anyone who does not have a need to know!** Also, CDR Lutman has appointed an outstanding group of Comrades for our appointed positions. He has the upmost confidence that they can assist you in any way possible. Please go to the GO first for any questions. If you have not been to the DPA Website before; www.vfwpacific.org. Click on "Members Only". Your login is your Member ID and your password is your last name. Then click on "General Orders".

Because we are in a transition with National and our Solutions program, there has been an issue concerning sending and/or receiving emails on the DPA site. The issue should be resolved by the time this is published and we appreciate your patience and understanding!

I would like to congratulate all our elected and appointed officers for the upcoming year, and I know we will have another outstanding year. Shout out to Post 2485 and District VII for hosting the DPA Convention. Superb job by everyone involved with the coordination.

In closing, I hope everyone, and your families, have a nice and safe 4th of July! Also, let's continue to look after each other, our families, and communities! Always wishing you the very best!!!

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Kevin E. Mitchell
Adjutant
Department of Pacific Areas
Veterans First, Comrades Always



Our technologically disadvantaged armed forces



Adjutant

Kevin Mitchell



Adjutant

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

It was great seeing so many of our comrades at the very successful DPA Convention 12-16 June in Angeles City.

Congratulations to our new Commander Mike Lutman and his team. We are confident this leadership group will continue the legacy of excellence our Department has earned over the years and expect it will exceed all expectations. Let's provide maximum support and effort to our Veterans First, Comrades Always team.

Thank you all for your trust in electing me to be your National Council Member for 2024 - 2028. I will always represent the best interests of our great Department.

The National Convention will be held in Louisville, KY, 27 July - 1 August, looking forward to seeing our comrades there and doing the business of our great organization.

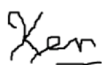
During the Convention we will be speaking with the Executive Director of our Washington, D.C. office, and the Director and key staff members of NVS regarding FMP, using VARO Manila for the seventeen posts that currently use VARO Pittsburgh, and the initiative to modify the law that only allows the VA to pay for service-connected disabilities for those veterans residing overseas. In CONUS if you are 50% or above service connected you can be treated at no cost for any disease, illness, or injury, regardless, if it is part of your service-connected disability.

We will also be discussing with key staff members from our National headquarters that all contests and programs must include those comrades residing OCONUS. Although we appreciate work arounds as we have for membership contests, that is not what we are looking for. We must be included as if we were in CONUS.

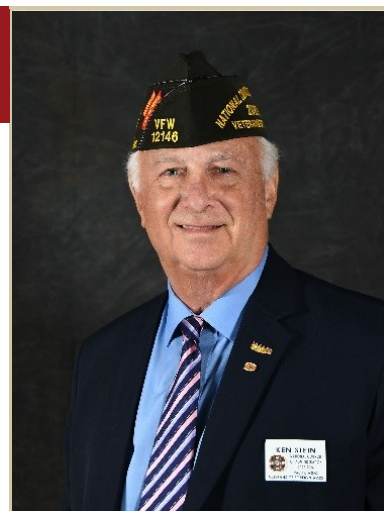
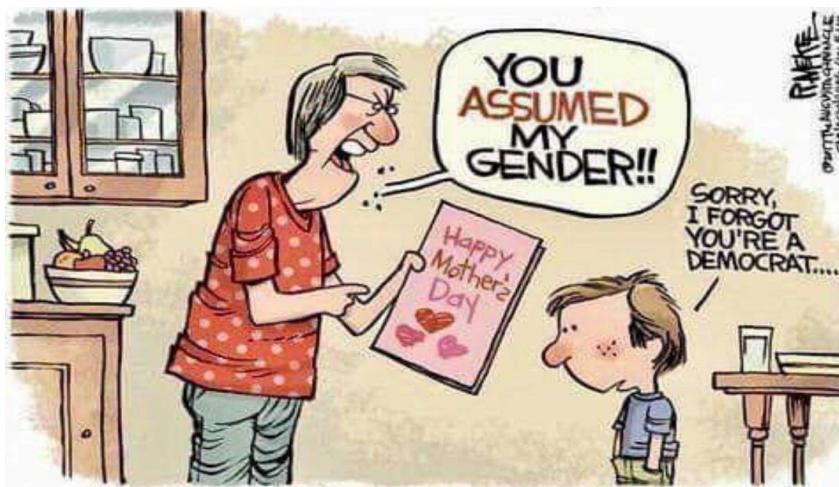
To make the point, when adding the membership numbers of our two OCONUS Departments, DPA and Europe, we would have more members than 42 of the 52 States. We must be treated equally.

Have a safe and enjoyable Independence Day and the rest of your summer.

Best regards and yours always in comradeship and service,



Kenneth A. Stein
National Council Member 2022-2028
Department of Pacific Areas



National Council Member

Ken Stein



NATIONAL CERTIFIED RECRUITER

Greeting Comrades,

It's a new VFW Year out there right now. So, in order to have a productive Membership you need to plan accordingly. You don't have to wait till the last month of the year hoping that some member will go on line and renew their Membership.

You need to plan your membership! For those of you that have military posts nearby. I have found that recruiting Active Duty Members, I have found out through my years of recruiting that signing them up on or after the mid-month pay day is easier than the 1st of the month payday. Why you ask they normally pay their bills at the beginning of the month.

Schedule some weekends near the 15th at PX or BX or for you Navy folks at the NEX. Look at the FMWR schedules for block parties and Summerfest activities. Right now, Post 8180 is scheduled for Osan Air Base Liberty Fest on the 4th of July and that weekend at the Dragon Hill Lodge for their Celebration.

For those that do not have Military Base nearby. You known throughout all the years I've heard a lot of post activities like Chile Cook Off's, Veteran Day Block Parties, Golf Tournaments and Beach Blasts etc. But you know what I have heard at these was nothing said about a Recruiting Table at these events. Does it happen I don't know but there should be at a minimum a table set up with info at these events.

Look at the Embassy or VA outreach events, this is another way to do recruiting out in those areas. I received Recruiting Material last week if you need some just let me know.

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
Year in Review, Editor
Past Department Commander 08/09
Department of Pacific Areas

Membership Recruiting Kit Link [HERE](#).



Department of Pacific Areas

National Certified Recruiter

Larry Lyons



MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

William Shemin (October 14, 1896 – August 15, 1973) was a Sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War I. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery in action at Vesle River, near Bazoches, France. On June 2, 2015, Elsie Shemin-Roth and her sister Ina Bass accepted the nation's highest military award for valor on behalf of their father from President Barack Obama at the White House. Shemin was assigned to Company G, 47th Infantry Regiment, 4th Division, American Expeditionary Forces.[1]

William "Bill" Shemin was born in Bayonne, New Jersey. During his teenage years, he played semi-pro baseball. He graduated from the New York State Ranger School in 1914 and went on to work as a forester in Bayonne. Shemin enlisted in the Army, October 2, 1917. Upon completion of basic training at Camp Greene, North Carolina, he was assigned as a rifleman to Company G, 47th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, American Expeditionary Forces, in France.

While serving as a rifleman from August 7–9, 1918, Shemin left the cover of his platoon's trench and crossed open space, repeatedly exposing himself to heavy machine gun and rifle fire to rescue the wounded. After officers and senior non-commissioned officers had become casualties, Shemin took command of the platoon and displayed great initiative under fire, until he was wounded on August 9. It was for this action that Shemin was originally awarded the Distinguished Service Cross on December 19, 1919. Some 96 years later, this Distinguished Service Cross award would be upgraded to the Medal of Honor. Shemin was hospitalized for three months as a result of the wounds he suffered in this action which included those from shrapnel and a machine gun bullet that pierced his helmet and lodged behind his left ear. Following his recovery, he served on light duty as part of the Army occupation in Germany and Belgium until he completed his tour. Shemin received the Purple Heart for his combat wounds.

Shemin was honorably discharged in August 1919, and went on to get a degree from the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University.[2] After graduation, he started a greenhouse and landscaping business in the Bronx, New York, where he raised three children. Shemin died in 1973.

With the most utter disregard for his own safety, (Shemin) sprang from his position in his platoon trench, dashed out across the open in full sight of the Germans, who opened and maintained a furious burst of machine gun and rifle fire.

—Capt. Rupert Purdon, one of Shemin's superiors.

Read full citation here: <https://www.cmozs.org/recipients/william-shemin>



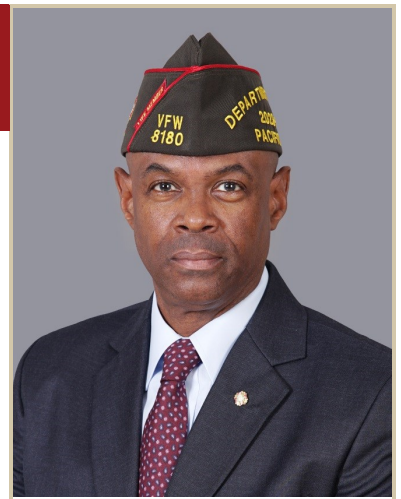
CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

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 58th Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) Convention and Grand of the Pacific (GPA) 55th MOC Grand Scratch, Angeles City, Philippines to recognize the hard work our Comrades in achieving the VFW National goals at the Department, Districts and Posts, making All State-All American. I wish we all could have traveled to the DPA Convention and GPA Scratch, but we all know that most are not able to come for one reason or another. 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 have served as the DPA Chaplain, and I look forward to serving you for a second term 2024-2025. While we celebrated the U.S. Army birthday during our DPA convention in Angeles City, Philippines let us lean forward as we prepare to execute our mission for the pursuing year with other service’s birthdays and major events. I hope and pray all comrades returned home safe and enjoyed a wonderful experience during the DPA Convention and MOC Grand Scratch. During this pursuing year I am optimistic with establishing 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 Chaplin position is a rewarding but humbling, pass recording and report of our fallen Comrades this past term is many. Let their names, spirit, and memory live so we never forget them and their sacrifices.

Final VFW Roll Call for our Departed Comrades from the Pacific Areas 2023-2024

Comrade	Post	Comrade	Post	Comrade	Post	Comrade	Post
Samuel B. Abellera	124	Facundo C. Cabanayan	124	Virgilio R. Gadiano	124	Thomas B. Morado	124
William Prill	124	Gabriel L. Ruliva	124	Garcia S. Wakit	124	Richard J. Middleton	1054
Patrick J. Reidy	1054	Jeffrey F. Stack	1054	Gary L. Avellar	1509	Rick A. Bartosh	1509
William A. Burger	1509	William B. Ray	1509	Ramon A. Baluyot	2485	Randy A. Bridges	2485
Aron L. Brock	2485	James Chambers	2485	Johnson S. Clark	2485	Richard m. Crowley	2485
Melvin J. Crump	2485	Emmit Davis	2485	Walter O. Decker	2485	Melvin D. English	2485
Randy L. Essary	2485	Roberto V. Galvez	2485	John Gilbert	2485	William J. Hardaker	2485
James J. Heffelfinger	2485	Richard W. Hites	2485	Charles C. Hoffman	2485	Jamesm D. Hoggs	2485
Ron H. Holcomb	2485	Justin E. Hunter	2485	James G. Krollowski	2485	Stephen W. Lehto	2485
Vincent R. Libed	2485	Salvador Magana	2485	Endem M. Manabat	2485	Willie A. Martin	2485
John T. Mayberry	2485	Willie L. Miller	2485	James W. Moakley	2485	Larry Naujokas	2485
Christopher L. Olsen	2485	Ken L. Platt	2485	Dulcisimo M. Rosario	2485	Floyd W. Showalter	2485
James F. Speanburg Jr.	2485	Edgardo V. Tuquero	2485	Dale Whitney	2485	Charles E. Whittle	2485
Eamest Williams	2485	Herbert H. Williams III	2485	Howard H. Williams Jr	2485	Gaylord H. Winge III	2485
James C. Bendixsen	2917	Joaquin G. Topasana	2917	Byron H. Coates	3457	David E. Gott	3457
Ed B. Ayers	8180	Ovett G. Chapman	8180	Soonja P. Choi	8180	Michael J. Jackson	8180
Edward Luna	8180	Alpheus Malone	8180	Robert A. Morrison	8180	Meshala D. Williams	8180
Harry R. Bosley	9555	Kennard Howell	9555	Arthur Koshlorian	9555	Robert G. Stelljes	9555
Robert B. Burt	9612	James A. Kennedy	9612	Christopher Mc Guinn	9612	Melanie Sellars	9612
Stephen B. Triggs	9612	Edgar R. Aros	9723	Albert Champion	9723	Paul R. Davenport	9723
Gary E. Dixon	9723	Estil Elswick	9723	George W. Garris Jr.	9723	Robert S. Gromak	9723
Henry F. Hernandez	9723	James k. Koluch	9723	Michael B. Martin	9723	John E. McCollough	9723
James I. McWatters	9723	Roy B. Newsome	9723	Bruce A. Russell	9723	Howard H. Schell	9723
Klyoshi Taira	9723	Katsushi Tsubota	9723	Paul N. Wine	9723	Joseph M. Zych	9723
Bruce E. Cronheim	9876	Wayne Demoss	9876	Llyod K. Flemming	9876	Frederick L. Goodrich	9876
James D. Hamilton	9876	John G. Honse	9876	Charles M. Johns	9876	Mark S. Labahn	9876
Michael D. Collins	9892	Donald S. Mc Colgan	9892	Amando C. Ocampo	9892	David M. Ransom	9892



Chaplain

Robert Chatman

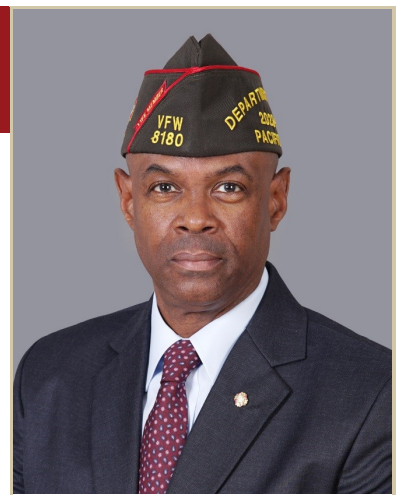


CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrade	Post	Comrade	Post	Comrade	Post	Comrade	Post
Frollan A. Saluta	9892	Robin J. Bergquist	9951	Jerold R. Fisher	9951	William A. Fitzgerald	9951
Jesse J. Henry	9951	Nelson A. Hill	9951	Omon M. Keathley	9951	William I. Mann	9951
Donald M. Raymond	9951	William J. Riopel	9951	Edward J. Smith	9951	Thomas J. Stednick	9951
Goman B. Turner	9951	William J. Cupak Jr.	9957	John Derier	9957	Donald R. Pendarvis	9957
Edward A. Roberts	9957	Paul L. Romble	9957	Robb L. Taylor	9957	Emmett L. Wofford	9957
Clarence Zimmeman	9957	Carlos E. Nieves	9985	Robert J. Riggs	9985	Serge Covington	10033
William J. Fortner	10033	Walter R. Greager	10033	Christopher Henderson	10033	Lawrence A. Noguchi	10033
Kenneth P. Swierzewski	10033	James Rankin	10217	Gary R. Rich	10217	Bruce a. Templeman	10217
David K. wells	10217	Michael J. Connors	10223	Phillip L. Brumbaugh	10249	John D. Burns	10249
Arthur A. Di Donna	10249	Randy C. Kim	10249	Jack A. Weatherford	10249	Jose Alvarez	11447
George L. Freeman	11447	David L. Holiday	11447	Johnnie I. Idenco	11447	Wesley D. Mace	11447
John E. Mc Cormack	11447	John W. Purdie	11447	Francis E. Redmond	11447	Robert H. Schaeffer Jr.	11447
Richard G. Smallwood	11447	Edward H. Smith Jr.	11447	Ronald A. Van Roel	11447	Paul A. Bussiere	11575
Robert C. Dube	11575	James V. Gilmore	11575	Steve H. House	11575	James E. Prothro	11575
Thomas M. Stephens	11575	Kevin Ensunsa	12074	Michael J. Fligor	12074	Ronald R. hill	12074
Michael E. Holmes	12074	Robert Johnson	12074	Paul R. Shepanek	12074	Coleman L. Adams	12130
Eugene R. Burger	12130	Donald K. Carr	12130	Marshall S. Dils	12130	William R. Prouse	12130
William R. Allen II	12146	Terry J. Cameron	12146	Ed G. Pickens	12146	William C. Lewis	15055
Alejandro C. Moniz	15055	Cresencio M. Rios	15055				

Eternal Father, giver and sustainer of life, we come before You in the joy of our Faith and in thanksgiving for the life of Departed Comrades. We commend the souls of our departed Comrades to You. Lord, we ask You to help us honor their memories of them by service to the living. Amen

Yours in Comradeship
Robert S. Chatman
Chaplain DPA



Chaplain

Robert Chatman





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!**



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

DEPARTMENT SURGEON

Comrades, as we enter a new VFW term, continue to take care of each other, Veterans, Widows and Orphans 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 Angels City and want to congratulate our DPA Commander Mike Lutman and all new Officers and Council members, DPA had a successful 2023-2024 term lets carry the convention spirit – momentum forward and thank you all for having elected me as Department Surgeon 2nd term. The Convention was a huge success attended by many and superbly organized by Post 2485, looking forward to the Dec. mid-year Taipei Taiwan.

This year while following the DPA Commanders programs the Surgeon's 2024-2025 goal is to continue to advance teamwork amongst DPA Officers, support positions coordinating with SO, Chaplain, 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,

June was **PTSD awareness month:** If you think you may have PTSD **you're not alone** you should share your symptoms and talk with a health care provider to get the help you deserve. PTSD treatment does work, **a first step toward finding relief is understanding your symptoms.**

PTSD information: Voice mail (802) 296-6300, email: ncptsc@va.gov see: VA Mental Health.

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 sunscreen, wear a cover, **Do stay active** and enjoy outdoor activities i.e., round of golf, do some fishing / swimming, hiking camping and summer festivals & travels.

Prioritize your mental well-being with quite time thoughts, reflections & reading.

See you all in Louisville, VFW National Convention!

Yours In Comradeship

Lou Holub
DPA Surgeon



Surgeon

Lou Holub



Surgeon

**Pretty sure I only
need one more bad
decision and I'll
have the whole set.**

CHIEF OF STAFF

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

I am humbled and honored to be appointed by Commander Lutman to be his Chief of Staff for the 2024-25 DPA year. CDR Lutman will provide great leadership to the DPA, and I am sure he will receive 100% support from all of the DPA membership. His goals and wishes for the DPA have been published, as well as his All-State Program. Hopefully you have had an opportunity to digest it all.

The Convention in Angeles City was a success, and I would like to thank Post 2485 for their hospitality. Also, congratulations to all of the elected and appointed officers for the coming year. I look forward to working with this staff and meeting all of our goals for the year.

The upcoming Council of Administration will be in Taipei, Taiwan in December. Having been there three times, I can assure you, this is a CofA not to be missed. Taipei is a wonderful city, and we will be greeted with open arms.

Rick Farris
DPA Chief of Staff, 2024-25
Past Department Commander 2019-2020



Chief of Staff

Rick Farris



Chief of Staff

What are the skills and qualifications of the chief of staff?

Building on strengths



3

by identifying, maximizing, and leveraging strengths while navigating weaknesses for organizational success.

Managing time



1

by optimizing time, streamlining tasks, and guiding focus for strategic success.

Concentrating on top priorities



4

by advocating prioritization of major opportunities, strategic planning, and fearless pursuit of high-impact actions.

Focusing on results



2

by steering focus toward results, values, and growth, mirroring top management principles.

Reaching effective decisions



5

by serving as a dependable sounding board, testing ideas against facts.

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Comrades,

First of all, I'd like to thank DPA Commander Lutman for appointing me to the position of DPA Inspector for the 2024-25 year. Inspections are an annual routine requirement- and I'll try to help make routine things routine.

The purpose of inspections by DPA is to ensure that Districts and Posts are operating in accordance with National & DPA By-laws pursuant to our Congressional Charter.

Appointed District Inspectors will schedule and conduct District & Post inspections beginning 1 October and will hopefully complete them before the December C of A. Early initiation and completion of inspections will allow problems/issues & areas for improvement to be identified, addressed and fixed before the end of Commander's terms and not carry on into the next VFW year.

All Districts and Posts who submit timely reports, and successfully complete inspections prior to 28 February will meet the Inspection criteria for All-State completion with 30 April being the final deadline. Summary of key dates follows:

- **1 Jul 2024-** All District Inspectors appointed and reported by District Commanders
- **31 Aug 2024-** District & Post Inspections planned, and schedules reported to DPA Inspector
- **1 Oct 2024-** District & Post Inspections begin
- **6 Dec 2024-** DPA goal for successful completion & submission of all inspections
- **28 Feb 2025-** Successful completion and submission of inspections to meet All-State requirement
- **30 Apr 2025-** Final deadline for successful completion of all District & Post inspections

Please email all questions, concerns and reports to me at inspdpa@vfwpacific.org and CC to inspdpa@gmail.com

Yours in Comradeship,

Brian Hamic
Inspector
Department of Pacific Areas



Department of Pacific Areas

Department Inspector

Brian Hamic



JUDGE ADVOCATE

Comrades,

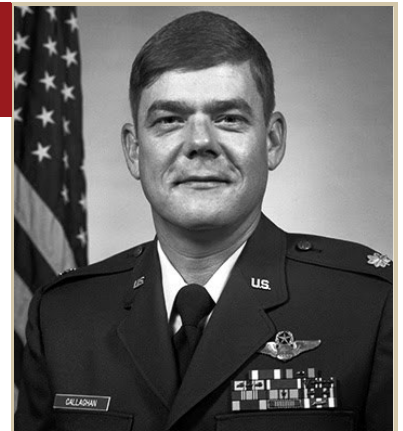
Is your Post registered for the VFW's National Convention to be held in Louisville, Kentucky from July 27 through August 1? Either one person from your Post must be registered, or the Post itself can register without naming an attendee using the VFW's Online Membership System. The cost of registration is \$25 for the first delegate or \$25 to register the Post without a delegate attending. Each additional delegate costs \$10 each to register.

The VFW requires every Post to register, even if no one from your Post plans to attend. The consequences of not registering are fairly severe. Section 213 of the National Bylaws states in part that any Post in arrears for any financial obligation to National for fees, etc., shall be deprived of all representation in District meetings, as well as Department and National Conventions. "Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies."

It is easy to register the Post. Your Post Quartermaster logs on the OMS and there is a drop-down menu for NATIONAL CONVENTION. Click on POST REGISTRATION and pay the \$25 with either the Post's registered credit card or any other valid credit card. Done.

Yours In Comradeship,

Pete Callaghan
Judge Advocate
Department of Pacific Areas



Judge Advocate

Pete Callaghan



VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



PETER A CALLAGHAN

Read more [HERE](#)

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

Comrades,

I have received the honor of being appointed as the Department Service Officer by Commander Lutman. I will do my best to fill the boots that have been bestowed upon me. My first task is to reach out to the Assistant Department Service Officers to learn what tools they need to assist the veterans in their dealings with the VA.

“WITHOUT THE PROPER TOOLS ONE CAN NOT ACHIEVE THE GOALS PLACED BEFORE THEM”

My second task is to reach out to all the Districts and Posts to ensure that they have the necessary tools to accomplish their task. In accordance with National Veterans Service – Policy & Procedure, the Department Service Officer shall conduct at least one VFW Post Service Officers School of Instruction for all Posts and District Service Officers in the Department. I will be sending out a notice of said training in the next couple of months, once I have an opportunity to discuss the needs of the Districts and Posts and plan the appropriate training.

The primary task of Post Service Officers and District Service Officers is to provide information concerning Federal, state and local (international) benefits for veterans, their families and survivors. The best way to accomplish this task is to have outreach events at the Post/District levels. I will be discussing this concept with the Posts/Districts.

Post/District Service Officers are a part of the Department Service Officer organization. By working together in a common goal, we will be able to better service the veterans in need. The Post and District Service Officers are also the link between veterans in need that do not live near an accredited Assistant Service Officer but need the assistance of the Assistant Department Service Officer.

We are here to help you with your issues associated with the VA. If you need help reach out.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

Allen L Turner
Department of Pacific Areas
dsodpa@vfwpacific.org



DSO Pacific Areas

Allen Turner



Service Officer



VOD/PP/TA CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

I have been appointed as Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teachers Award Chairman, Department of Pacific Area. I look forward to working with you in my initial year at this position; let's see if we can get a first-place winner at National for the Pacific. Please send me the name and email address for your District Chairs.

About me, I retired from the Air Force as an E7 after more than 20 years of service. I ended my career in Korea which is where I became a life member of VFW post 8180. I have been an active post member since my induction ceremony. This newly appointed position will be my first role above the post level. I hope to represent myself well.

I do not have the requirements for All-State and All-American yet. Also, as soon as I have the new donation link, I will get it out to all of you. A New digital process will be utilized this year, all entries must be submitted electronically using Scholar-App. Additional information and training for this new process will come out in the very near future.

This year's topics are: VOD — "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?" & PP — "My Voice in America's Democracy?" Please get these out to schools, home-schools, and youth centers so that children can start working on them now. I also want to encourage you to work closely with the schools to try and get them more involved with the program. One way is to get some teachers to help with the voting as it suggests in the VoD/PP Chairman's guide.

Deadlines: 31 October to the Post and 21 November to me from the Districts. This gives three weeks for Post and District level. If there is any doubt if a submission may not be valid, please get with me ASAP so we can check and give a youth plenty of time to fix it before it is too late. The last thing I want to do is invalidate an entry.

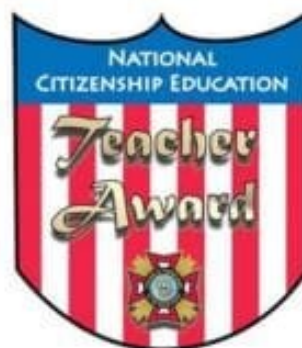
Yours in comradeship and service,

Robert E. Madison, Jr.
VoD/PP/Teacher's Award Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas
vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org
Phone: +82-10-4413-1593



VOD/PP/TA Chairman

Robert Madison Jr.



POW/MIA CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

I am James E. (Jim) Collins, the Immediate Past Commander of District 7 (Philippines) and VFW Robert W. Zaher Post 2485 (Angeles City). I trust everyone who attended enjoyed the Convention and Scratch in Angeles City and had an outstanding time. As a staunch advocate of the POW/MIA mission, a cause that is of utmost importance to us all, I am very grateful to DPA Commander Mike Lutman for placing his trust in me and appointing me DPA POW/MIA Chairman 2024-2025.

The DPA stance on POW/MIA, which mirrors the VFW's commitment, is a testament to our shared dedication. Our collective goal is to achieve a full accounting of all US POW/MIAs from all wars, a mission that requires legislative support and funding. This means returning living POWs, the repatriation of their remains, or finding convincing evidence why neither of these is possible. In its advocacy efforts, the VFW urges Congress to fully fund the requested amounts for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and all supporting agencies involved in the Full Accounting Mission, which is crucial for success.

Understanding the scale of the issue we're dealing with is essential. More than 81,500 Americans, our comrades, remain missing from various wars, including WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Out of these, more than 81,500 are missing, a staggering 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 are presumed lost at sea (i.e., ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.). Therefore, ninety percent of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's missions originate from Hawaii. DPAA estimates that almost 39,000 are recoverable, with the others being mostly deep-sea losses. These numbers underscore the urgency and importance of the mission.

While the DPA does not have the means to undertake recovery missions directly, it plays a crucial role in supporting these efforts. Our primary function is to foster increased awareness about the issue. Situated in the Pacific, we are in close proximity to significant battles, prisoner-of-war camps, and historical war memorials. Organizing community events at these locations is a powerful way to keep the POWs and MIAs in the public's consciousness.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, a significant milestone in our history. While many observances have already occurred in Europe, the ceremonies in the Pacific, where our focus lies, will happen later this year and into 2025. Two events of immense importance are the 80th anniversary of MacArthur's Palo Leyte Landing in October 2024 and the Cabanatuan (Great Raid) POW rescue mission on 1 February 2025. Your active participation and support in these events are encouraged and crucial for us to honor our fallen comrades.

I will discuss September's POW/MIA Recognition Day in the next Pacific Times newsletter. I sincerely appreciate all Districts informing me of any POW/MIA events in your area. Your input is not just valuable but essential in helping us highlight these momentous events. Your contributions are what make our mission possible. Thank You,

James E. Collins

Yours in Comradeship
James (Jim) Collins
POW/MIA Chairman



Department of Pacific Areas

POW/MIA Chairman

James "Jim" Collins



A PRETTY GOOD LYFT

Last week in Baltimore, Uber charged me \$85 for a trip that usually costs \$20. I looked into the way their "surge pricing" model actually works, and didn't like what I learned. So today, after checking out of my hotel in Oklahoma, I called Lyft instead and was picked up by a guy named Mike. He was driving a red F-150. It was clearly a work truck, full of tools and lumber. I sat up front.

"How far to the airport," I asked.

"Fifteen minutes," he said. "You in a hurry?"

"Not really," I said. "Are you?"

"Never."

As we merged onto the highway and settled into the slow lane, I asked Mike if he was a carpenter in real life.

"Among other things," he said.

"Jack of all trades?"

"Well, I don't know about that," he said. "Back in the seventies, I was a plumber's helper. Then I worked for a spell in the heating and air condition game."

"How was that?," I asked.

"Hot and cold," he said.

I honestly couldn't tell if he was making a joke or not. His voice had a classic midwestern drawl, and there was no expression on his face as he stared out the windshield.

"After that, I started carpentry. Trim, then framing. Then I moved on to building custom cabinets in rich people's houses. Figured out how to build spiral staircases and furniture. Did pretty good."

"You retired now?"

"No. I build campers these days."

"What kind of campers?" I asked.

"I build them small ones you can tow pretty much anywhere. They call 'em teardrop trailers. Got really popular during the lockdowns. I build 'em by hand, one at a time."

"Yeah? How's the quality," I asked.

"Pretty good," he said.

"Got a website," I asked.

"Sure," he said. "Gotta have a website these days."

"What's your website called," I asked.

"Mike's Pretty Good Campers."

I still couldn't tell if he was messing with me.

"Your company is called 'Mike's Pretty Good Campers?'"

"I like to manage expectations," said Mike.

"Under promise and over deliver?"

"That's the idea," said Mike.

"Is that what you were doing before you picked me up just now? Building a pretty good camper?"

"Yup. But I was starting to get frustrated. And I don't like to work when I'm frustrated. So, every now and then I gotta step away."

"And drive a stranger to the airport?" I said.

"Never too frustrated to drive," said Mike. "Driving relaxes me. Besides, we ain't strangers no more, are we?"

"No," I said. "I suppose we're not."

As we turned on Airport Road, I said, "So what's the plan? Drop me off and wait for another call? Or head back



A PRETTY GOOD LYFT

to the shop and finish building that pretty good camper?”

“Ain’t decided yet. Guess I’ll see how I feel in a few minutes.”

“Good plan,” I said. “By the way, if I like your website, do you care if I share it on Facebook?”

“Why would you want to do that?” he asked.

“I’ve got a few people who follow me on social media,” I said. “I’m not sure why they do, but they do. Maybe some of them are in the market for a pretty good camper, custom made by a quasi-retired carpenter who drives for Lyft when he’s feeling frustrated?”

“Can’t hurt,” said Mike. “Once people see these things, they fall in love with ‘em. They got whole conventions all over the country for teardrop trailer owners. Thousands show up. You wouldn’t believe how people decorate ‘em and such.”

“I don’t know about that, Mike. I’ll believe pretty much anything these days.”

As we pulled up to the airport, Mike asked me what carrier I was on.

“American,” I said. “Right here is fine.”

“Pre-check?” he asked.

“Yes,” I said.

“Well then, you don’t want to get out at American. Let me take you all the way to the end, otherwise you got a walk across the whole dang terminal.”

We pulled up to the curb at the very end of Will Rogers Airport. I hopped out, as Mike dragged my bags out of the bed of his work truck.

“You look familiar,” he said. “Have I driven you before?”

“I don’t think so,” I said. “I would have remembered. Thanks for the lift.”

“No problem,” he said. “Was the ride okay?”

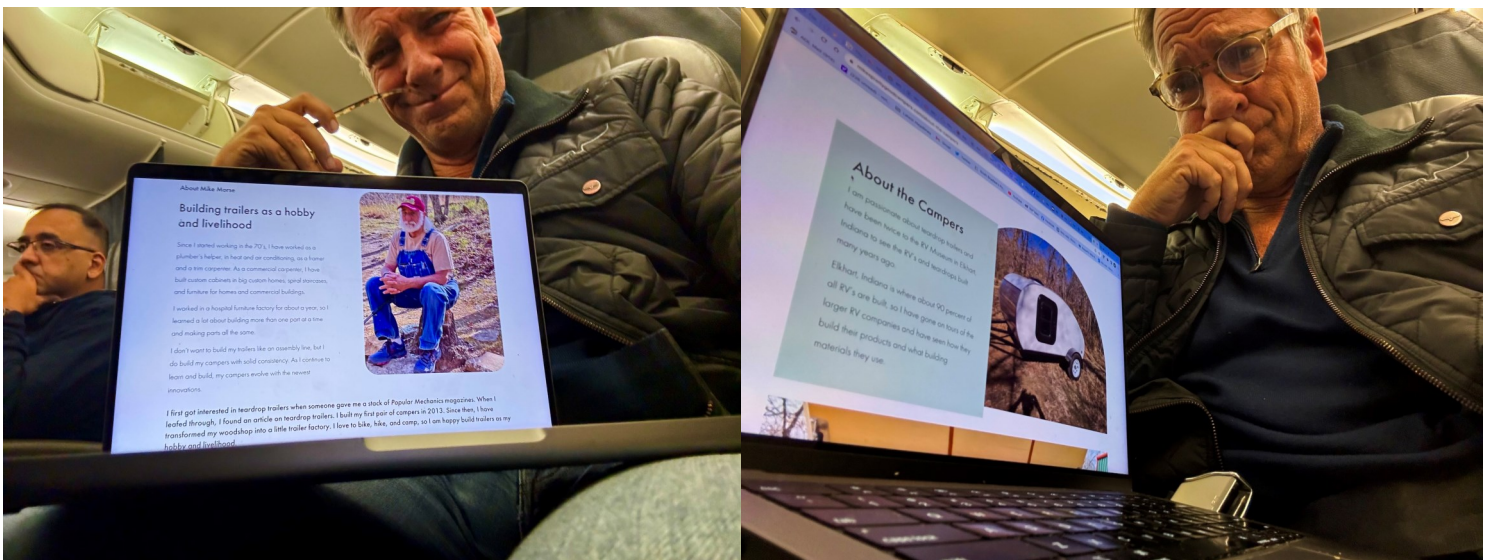
“It was a pretty good lift,” I said.

Somewhere behind his mustache, Mike might have smiled, as I walked into the only airport in America named for a cowboy who never met a man he didn’t like. There, I boarded my plane and checked to see if there really was website called “Mike’s Pretty Good Campers.”

Son of a gun...

Via Mike Rowe

Mikes Pretty Good Campers Website: <https://www.mikesprettygoodcampers.com/>



Story: <https://mikerowe.com/2023/12/a-pretty-good-lyft/>

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Comrades, with the DPA convention now in the books. I wish to say thank you Past CDR Flores for a great job, once again the DPA is in the running for All American. I would also like to give a warm congratulations to our incoming CDR Mike Lutman. I look forward to working with you this year as your Legislative Chairman as well as working beside the DPA and you as the GPA's Big Bug.

Currently, there is one pressing issue and a **Call to Action** for the Passing of **H.R. 8371**. In short this is the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act. Veterans and survivors can benefit from many of the bill's provisions. It would expand the caregiver program to those who serve our Nation's veterans. Ensuring veterans can receive care in the VA or the community is crucial to their quality of life. We must continue to enhance services and benefits to provide all veterans with access to care and prompt mental health services. Caregivers also need the resources required to properly care for our selfless men and women. Additionally, veterans should not be financially burdened when receiving ambulatory services for emergency care. This bill is up in Congress for a Vote soon and I encourage all of us to contact our congressmen and tell them how important it is to **PASS** this bill so it can go on to the Senate and then to the President to become a law for all Veterans, for a better Healthcare.

This week in the VFW Action Corps Weekly:

VA Expands Toxic Exposure Presumptions: VA has added three cancers to the list of presumptive diseases covered under the *Honoring our PACT Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-168)*. Male breast cancer, urethral cancer, and cancer of the parathyroid glands are now presumed service-connected disabilities due to toxic exposure, streamlining the claims process for eligible veterans with evidence of a diagnosis. Learn more about PACT Act benefits or find an accredited service officer to help file a claim.

Vet the Vote: VFW National Legislative Associate Director Joe Grassi participated in a panel discussion hosted by the nonpartisan organization We the Veterans and Military Families during its two-day conference held at Mount Vernon, the historic Virginia home of President George Washington. The main themes of the event were demonstrating the positive impact veterans can have on civic participation and how the military community can be a model for continued service to our country. "We encourage all veterans to get involved and volunteer to serve as poll workers for the upcoming 2024 presidential election," Grassi said. "And, be sure to vote!"

Comrades, to find out more information on the items that the VFW is supporting, click on this link to sign up: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>. For the weekly ACTION CORPS newsletter. Be better informed with pending Legislation that the VFW is supporting and working hard to get signed into LAW. Contact or visit your congressional representatives!

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

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



Legislative Chairman

Randell Himes



2024 PRIORITY GOALS



VFW ACTION ALERT



ACTION CORPS

Sign up today!

WOMEN'S VETERAN CHAIRPERSON

12 June 2024 was Women Veterans Recognition Day. It's a day that is remembered annually, which recognizes and honors the signing of the Women's Armed Forces Integration Act of 1948.

When Congress passed the law, it granted women the right to serve and be permanent regular members of the US Armed Forces: Army, Navy, Marine Corps and the recently formed Air Force.

Throughout US history, women have served in America's wars starting from the Revolutionary War to World War II. They played significant roles such as spying the enemy and even disguised themselves as men, as did Deborah Sampson (1760-1827). She became a hero during the American Revolution and was the only woman to earn a military pension. Her task was to scout British personnel and material movement in a neutral territory, which General George Washington intended to attack.

Other vital roles that women played were nurses, raising morale, to essential support staff like the Hello Girls during WWI. They were switchboard operators formally known as the Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators Unit. They were established in 1917 after General John Pershing obligated to improve the communications in the Western Front.

During WWII, Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS) was established when the Women's Flying Detachment and Women Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron merged together as one unit. They took on a wide range of critical duties that were vital to the war's effort. They tested new aircraft and ferried the planes from the factories to air bases, to include towed targets for live ammo exercises. They also trained the male pilots and served as test pilots as well. The Women Pilots faced a lot of challenges like prejudice and discrimination, and yet it did not deter them. They continued to display their exceptional skill, dedication, and fortitude, which profoundly influenced the war's efforts and on the home front. However, it took 33 years of advocacy for them to earn their Veteran status. These Veteran Women Pilots paved the way for future female pilots and demonstrated that women can excel in aviation along side their male counterparts.

Today, women serve in all military occupational specialties like munitions, logistics, and intelligence to include special tactics, combat rescue and pararescue. They have significantly contributed to the most professional, educated and agile force that the United States has ever seen. Women Veterans are a force to be reckoned with. As a women veteran myself, thank you to the trailblazers and all those that went before us and thank you for passing the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948.

Janet Alford
Women's Veteran Chairperson
Department of Pacific Areas

Resources:

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Womens-Armed-Services-Integration-Act>
www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/deborah-sampson.
<https://news.va.gov/129188/honoring-the-women-airforce-service-pilots-wasp-of-world-war>
<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2024/03/08/few-women-are-trying-for-elite-special-operations-roles-new-data-shows>



Woman's Veteran Chairperson

Janet Alford



**Women's Armed
Forces Integration
Act of 1948**

Click [HERE](#) for the full
story

EMT/FIRE/LAW/SAFETY CHAIRMAN

PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATIONS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, FIREFIGHTERS, DISPATCHERS AND EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TECHNICIANS (EODT)

Posts are encouraged to submit a candidate/group for these awards to Tim Anderson, the Department EMT/Fire/Law/Safety Chairman. Email: <mailto:safetyemtfirele@vfwpacific.org>

Entries are due to the Post NLT Nov 8, 2024. Post Entries are due to the Dept Chairman NLT Nov 15, 2024. Please note that as per the Safety Chairman's guide, the awards do not have to go through District Judging. Entry forms can be downloaded at https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/MY_VFW/Training-and-Support/Community-Service/Public-Servant-Award-Post-Entry-Form.pdf

VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Public Servant Citation: Any individual/group, who actively gives emergency medical treatment, provides rescue service or civil disaster assistance as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to give emergency medical care, provide rescue and civil disaster assistance to our nation's citizens.

VFW National Law Enforcement Public Servant Citation: Any individual/group, who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with enforcement of the laws pertaining to their area of responsibility. This award does not apply to an individual employed by private companies or security services.

VFW National Firefighters Public Servant Citation: Any individual/group, who actively fights fires as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to fight fires and give assistance to our nation's citizens.

VFW National 911 Dispatcher Public Servant Citation: Any individual/group who serves in a municipal, county, state, or federal unit tasked with providing the vital link between callers in distress and emergency response team by obtaining essential information to send the appropriate responders to the right location.

VFW National Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Public Servant Citation: Any individual/group, who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with the enforcement of the laws and special handling pertaining to disposal of explosive threats to our nation's citizens.

Criteria for these awards – Candidates must have demonstrated:

- Recognition by their colleagues or those they serve.
- Consistent excellence in the performance of their duties.
- Consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years an continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession.

Documentation required for all Candidates:

- Public Servant Award Citation Post Entry Form
- Nomination letter containing the candidate's name, title, address, telephone and identifying the award for which the individual should be considered.
- Include justification outlining background in field, accomplishments and awards.

(This can be a separate entry since there's no deadline for the following program)



EMT/Fire/Law/Safety Chairman

Tim Anderson

EMT/FIRE/LAW/SAFETY CHAIRMAN

Life Saving Award

Safety Chairpersons at Posts, Districts and Departments are encouraged to regularly identify and honor individuals throughout the year in their geographic area who have saved a life.

The VFW National Programs office provides the following three different citations and medals, free of charge, for local presentation.

- Regular Life Saving Citation – Honors individuals who have, without regard for their own comfort, taken action resulting in the saving of another human life.
- Line of Duty Life Saving Citation – Honors individuals who, in the execution of their assigned duties, have taken action resulting in the saving of another human life.
- Valor Life Saving Citation – Honors civilians who have taken action resulting in the saving of another human life and have placed their own safety at risk.

Tim Anderson
EMT/Fire/Law/Safety Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas



EMT/Fire/Law/Safety Chairman

Tim Anderson



LEGACY LIFE CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

Legacy Life Membership is a great way to start the new VFW 2024-2025 year!

Your Legacy Life membership helps support the DPA and your Post.

Legacy Life membership enables VFW Life members to leave a lasting impression on our great organization. Three prestigious levels of Legacy Life membership are available: Gold, Silver and Bronze. Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life members.

Once your Legacy Life membership begins, an annual endowment in your name will be made to your Post, Department and the national organization. This endowment begins at \$6 at the Bronze level, increasing to \$12 at Silver and \$18 at Gold. You will feel confident knowing your contributions to our organization are not only helping today's veterans but the veterans of tomorrow.

You may also purchase a Memorial Legacy in the name of a deceased VFW Annual or Life member to help future generations know and remember their sacrifice and contributions.

Sign-up today by clicking [HERE](#).

Member Incentives

	Bronze \$400	Silver \$800	Gold \$1200
Plated Engraved Legacy Life Card*	☐	☐	☐
Legacy Life Lapel Pin*	☐	☐	☐
Legacy Life Hat Pin*	☐	☐	☐
Distinctive VFW Store items for Legacy Life Members*	☐	☐	☐
Legacy Life Membership Certificate	☐	☐	☐
Member Recognition on Internet & Convention Program	☐	☐	☐
Legacy Hat Patch*	☐	☐	☐
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza*	☐	☐	☐
VFW Store Discounts (personal use only)*	5%	10%	15%
Annual Endowment to Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment to Department	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment to National Headquarters	\$6	\$12	\$18

* does not apply to Memorial Legacies

Vernon Lask
Legacy Life Chairman
leglife@vfwpacific.org



Legacy Life Chairman

Vernon Lask





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





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

BIG BUG SQUEAKS



Big Bug

Randell Himes



Click each Logo above
for Websites

Comrades and Cooties, with the DPA convention just being completed there in Angeles City. I would first like to say what an Outstanding job that the Hosting Post 2485 did and long with their Auxiliary.

CDR Flores with his great leadership, has brought another year in the books with 2023-2024 All American..... Incoming CDR Lutman I give you the warmest congratulations as you take the HELM of the Department of Pacific Areas. I look forward to working alongside your team as the Grand Commander of the Pacific (GPA)

I want to get my theme/moto out to all:

“Communicate, Communicate COMMUNICATE”

Both on the DPA side and the GPA side, we all can do a much better job in doing this. We all should strive to work together and make BOTH of our Pacific Areas shine brighter.

The Great Honor Degree of the **Military Order of the Cootie**, is always looking for some of the best workers out there so if you think you have what it takes to be a Cootie, drop by the GPA web site by visiting us at <https://mocpacific.org/Default.asp> and check us out.

Now let's keep doing what we do best by...

KEEP'em SMILING in BEDS of WHITE !!!!!!!!!!!

Yours in L.O.T.C.S.,

Randell E. Himes
GPA Biggest Big Bug
PT 1 CCDB
PT 1 Cootie 1251
rehimes@gmail.com
cdrgdr@vfwpacific.org



SHAWN WATSON FOR VFW NATIONAL JVC 2028

Support
Shawn Watson
For VFW National JVC 2028



DPA
Department of Pacific Areas



Shawn's 2nd Half of the Cash Calander 2024
As of 1 July, there are still 41 drawings.
That add up to \$5,484.00 in prizes
Tickets are
NOW ONLY \$5.00

Calendar Ticket Form

Name: _____	Email: _____
Address: _____	Phone: _____
_____	Post Selling this Calendar: _____
_____	Ticket Number _____

Scan and email ticket stubs to Larry, he will forward
Info that you want to pay for the tickets to George.
His email is PDCLyons935@gmail.com

George will contact you directly on how to transfer funds to Shawn's campaign account.

Note if multiple tickets, fill out form once and state how many tickets you want.

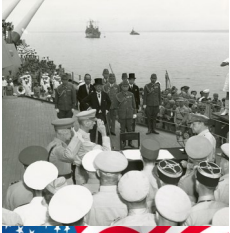
Calendar Tickets \$5.00
Big Bucks Tickets \$20.00

Once George verifies that funds have been transferred he will notify me and I place the tickets in the drum at that time.

Big Bucks Ticket Form

Support Shawn Watson's Bid for National JVC 2028 Self - Family - Veterans Big Bucks Raffle Donation \$20.00 per ticket 1st Prize \$5,000.00 2nd Prize \$3,000.00 3rd Prize \$2,000.00 Ticket # _____ Only 1,000 tickets being sold Drawing as soon as all are sold or at the November 2025 Western Conference		Please print clearly Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____ Ticket # _____
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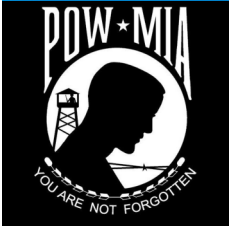
UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES*



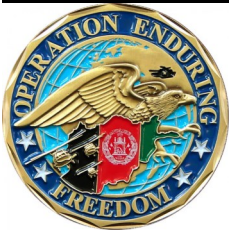
VJ Day, also known as Victory Over Japan Day, is observed on September 2 every year in the United States. It commemorates the official surrender ceremony of the Japanese aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay—an event that occurred on September 2, 1945. Read more at <https://www.defense.gov/Experience/VJ-Day/>



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->



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.**

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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.