

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 6

May/June 2024

FREE

Convention 2024

58th Department of Pacific Areas Convention

55th Grand of the Pacific Areas Grand Scratch

12-16 June Century Hotel, Angeles - Century Complex
Driveway, Angeles City, Pampanga Philippines

Convention Chairman: Jim Collins

Assistant Chairman: Janet Alford

Email: convention@vfwpacific.org

Click [HERE](#) to visit the DPA Website for more information.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Commanders Call | 2 |
| Senior Vice Commander | 3 |
| Junior Vice Commander | 5 |
| In the Spotlight | 6 |
| Adjutant/Quartermaster | 8 |
| National Council Member ... | 10 |
| Year in Review | 13 |
| MoH Recipient | 14 |
| Chaplain/TAPS | 15 |
| DPA Surgeon | 19 |
| DPA Inspector | 21 |
| Women Veterans | 22 |
| MOC Big Bug | 23 |
| Legislative Chairman | 24 |
| Upcoming Dates | 26 |
| Letters of Intent | 27 |
| DPA Website Sponsors | 32 |



COMMANDER'S CALL

As the sun sets on another chapter in the history of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of Pacific Areas, I bid a fond farewell to all the outgoing officers and extend our warmest congratulations to the incoming Department Officers for the 2024-2025 term headed by Incoming Commander Mike Lutman. This transition of leadership marks a time of reflection, gratitude, and renewed commitment to serving those who have served our nation.

To the incoming VFW Officers for the 2024-2025 term, I offer our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes as you embark on this important journey of leadership and service. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and vision will undoubtedly guide the Department of Pacific Areas to new heights of success in supporting our veterans, their families, widows, orphans, and your communities. I look forward in seeing everyone at our Department of Pacific Areas Convention, on 12-15 June 2024, at Century Park Hotel, Angeles City, Philippines.

I also take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to all the outstanding recruiters out there, who have played a vital role in the Department of Pacific Areas membership program, we would not have made the coveted 102% goal of "Meet the Challenge" without your superb recruiting. We showed everyone what we "Team Pacific" truly are the best in the West! Your tireless efforts and unwavering commitment have been instrumental in expanding our reach, strengthening our community ties, and ensuring that no veteran is left behind. Through your hard work and dedication, you have not only helped grow our membership but have also made a profound impact on the lives of veterans and their families across the Pacific region. Your compassion, generosity, and selflessness embody the true spirit of the VFW, and we are immensely grateful for all that you do.

As we look back on the past year, we are reminded of the incredible resilience and unity that defines the Department of Pacific Areas. Together, we have weathered challenges, celebrated victories, and stood shoulder to shoulder in support of our fellow veterans. I would like to thank all the Department Council members who spent tireless hours working together to ensure that Veterans and their Families benefits are protected.

As we move forward into the new term, let us carry forward this spirit of true comradeship, patriotism, selfless service, and dedication to our great organization. Let us continue to uphold "Loyalty, Duty and Honor" the legacy of our veterans, uphold our commitment to our communities, and ensure that no one who has served our country is ever forgotten.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Post, District Officers, especially all the family members who work hand in hand and made sure everything is in working order and to all the Post members, supporters, and friends of the VFW, I bid you a fond farewell and thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to the Department of Pacific Areas. Your generosity and kindness make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve, and we are truly grateful for your continued involvement. As we turn the page to a new chapter, let us stand as one and be united in our mission to take care of our veterans, their families, widows, and orphans. Together we are strong, we can make a lasting impact and ensure that the spirit of service and sacrifice continues to shine brightly in the Pacific region and beyond.

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



Commander

Alex Fores



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

By the time you read this article, many things will have changed. Time, space, the moons orbit, the cost of one jelly donut. Alas, I digress. One thing that will NOT have changed is the fact that the Department of Pacific Areas has MET THE CHALLENGE! We are currently above 102% and INCREASING. As the THIRD department to meet the Commander in Chief's membership challenge, we continue to lead from the FRONT. Having lead the membership statistics for three quarters of the year ACROSS ALL CONFERENCES is in itself a major accomplishment and speaks volumes about your focus of effort. CONGRATULATIONS to the following Posts and District that completed their ALL STATE requirements in time for recognition at the upcoming department convention:

POSTS

1054
9612
8180
9723
9957
11575
12146
9876
124
2485
12130
12224
10223

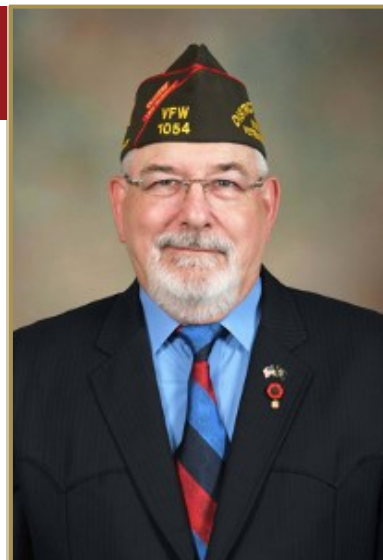


DISTRICTS

7

For those that are close, keep on charging! YOU CAN DO IT! The year does not close out until June 30, 2024. For those that are not so close, it is not too late to support our National Programs and keep pushing for membership. Every member we recruit makes our organization stronger. VFW Posts exist for ONE reason, and that is to assist the National Organization in meeting the aims and goals OF the organization. In doing so, we must strive to serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans. VMS and National Home donations are VERY important parts of our core fund raising effort every year. Buddy Poppy sales help fund local post initiatives and their cost to the Posts provides compensation to the veterans who assembled the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs, and partially supports the VFW National Home for Children, a community of children and families of veterans and active-duty military. I realize I'm preaching to the choir, but not everyone is singing. Take one look at the All State Dashboard and you can see we have done a lot, but there is more left to do.

CONGRATULATIONS again for MEETING THE CHALLENGE but there remains more work to do. Despite having met our membership goal, we are NOT going to give up the fight to support our Commander in Chief and his effort toward MEETING THE CHALLENGE as a National Organization. I applaud you for that and want to congratulate the 120 recruiters that got after it this term (so far). I look forward to seeing you all in Angeles City for our Department Convention and then on to Louisville Kentucky for the National convention.



Senior Vice Commander

Mike Lutman



Sr. Vice Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Until then,

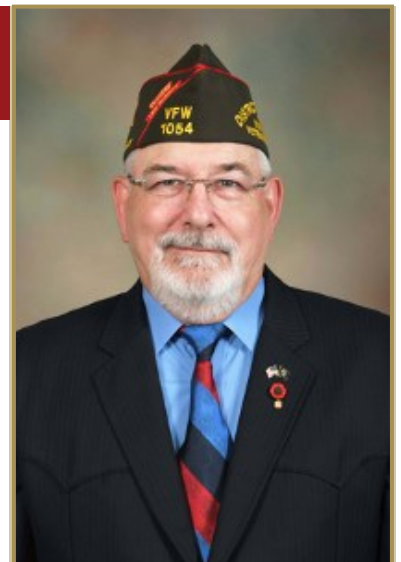
May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

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

MEET THE CHALLENGE



2023-2024



Senior Vice Commander

Mike Lutman



Sr. Vice Commander

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

Once again, I want to thank each of you for the opportunity and trust you have placed in me as your Junior Vice Commander, and I look forward to working with each of you during the upcoming year. Together, everyone achieves more.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all our All-State, and All-American eligible Posts and Districts. Your hard work and dedication to the VFW and the DPA have not gone unnoticed. For those Posts and Districts that are still working the requirements, KEEP CHARGING and don't hesitate to reach out for assistance.

When finishing up your program payment requirements please keep in mind that we are a Veterans Service Organization and as such, these program payments support our Posts, Active Duty, Veterans, Widows, and Orphans.

CSR's

You have once again showcased your post's ability to display and exercise our motto of "Service before Self". It is clear to all that with your community service, you have proven that this is what we do for our local communities.

As we come to the close of our 4th Quarter CSR Reporting, keep submitting your CSR Reports. For those who have not completed their CSR requirements you can still catch up and encourage you to do so.

Awards

As this article goes to print, District Commanders should have already turned in their award packages for Department judging. As I have said before, ALL District Commanders need to have their packages to me NLT 1 May 2024 and ultimately rewarding those who went the extra mile in meeting the award program requirements. When we recognize these Comrades, we have the unique opportunity to thank them for their individual contributions to the VFW, Department, District, and their Post Teams.

On the morning of 2 May 2024 whatever awards packages, I have by that time will be the ONLY awards judged by the Department. There are no exceptions. As you know this is not a new thing. ALL awards will be judged, and the winners will be announced at the Department Convention in June.

We believe the winners of the awards represent just the tip of the spear as they relate to the depth of the outstanding group of dedicated, hardworking comrades in each of our posts and throughout the Department.

I look forward to seeing you all in Angeles as we wrap up the year and prepare for the 2024-2025 VFW Year.

Yours in Comradeship and Service to Veterans.

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



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

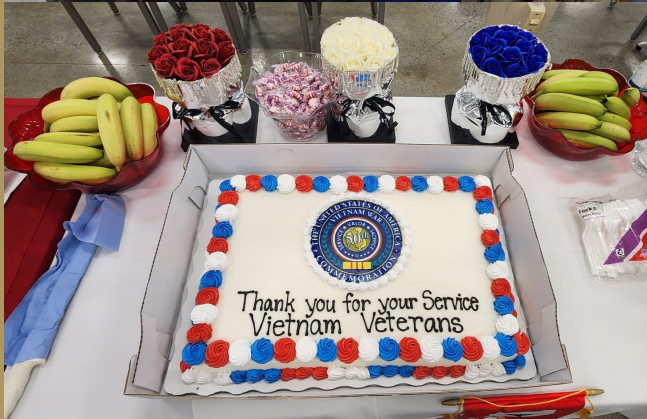


Post 9723 members attend the 79th Ernie Pyle Memorial, an event honoring the man who shared so many individual stories during World War 2. Event was sponsored by the American Legion Post 28.



MCAS Military Retiree Appreciation Day is hosted by our own Comrade Cortez Pree. During this event, agencies like Navy Federal, hospital representatives, and many others will be attending to ensure Veterans are aware of the different benefits available to them. Our Post is supporting this event, and we will have a table so we can provide information to attendees on the benefits of VFW membership.

In the SPOTLIGHT



Post 9723 Vietnam Veterans appreciation pinning ceremony today at Kadena BX in conjunction with DECA. This event was to honor all the Vietnam Veterans in attendance.



Post 9723 conducted a Buddy Poppy drive 27-28 April 2024 at Kadena Commissary.

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

DPA ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

We are coming up on the end of the VFW year. Some things to be thinking about, for those that are looking for All-American and need Buddy Poppies. Order then sooner than later. It takes a few weeks for the system to update. The system does not update until the order is shipped, not when the order is made. Don't forget to email your quarterly audits to me.

The Department Convention is next month. Delegate fees have been emailed out to the Commanders and Quartermasters. Many of you have already transferred the money to the department. Thank you. For those that have not or do not know how much your delegate fees are, email me and I will let you know. Also, for the 2 new Posts, Welcome aboard, if you need the Department bank details, please email me. Failure to pay the delegate fees will result in your Post not being able to vote during our Convention.

There has been no word from Tallman Insurance as of yet. Once I get the information, it will be sent out via email. Please hold all payments until after 1 July.

Almost all elections should be completed by now. Please do not forget to enter your election report into OMS. Also, each Post needs to register at least one person for the National Convention (If you are attending or not). If either one of the actions are not completed, National will suspend you Post until it is completed.

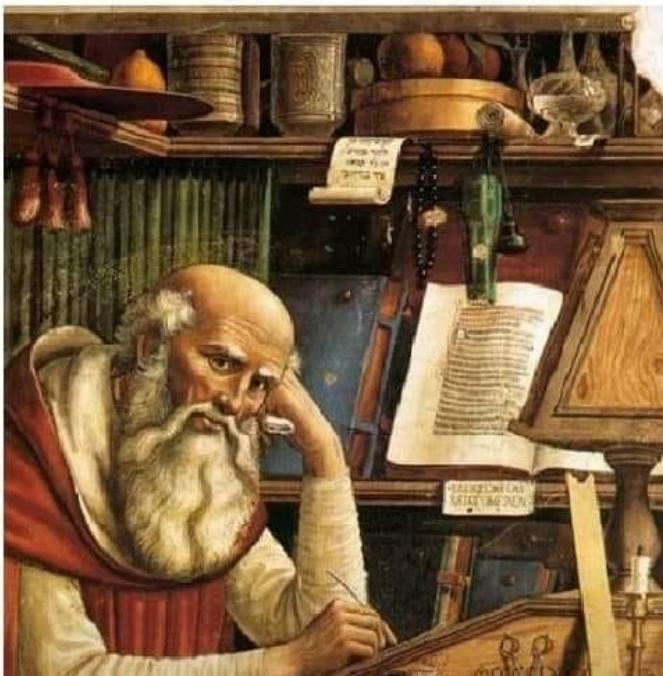
It has been a great year! Congratulations to Commander Fores on leading the Department to another All-American year.

Looking forward to see you all next month.

YIC

Shawn Watson
DPA Adjutant / Quartermaster

I wanted to post a joke about Sodium but
I was like Na, people won't understand.



Department of Pacific Areas

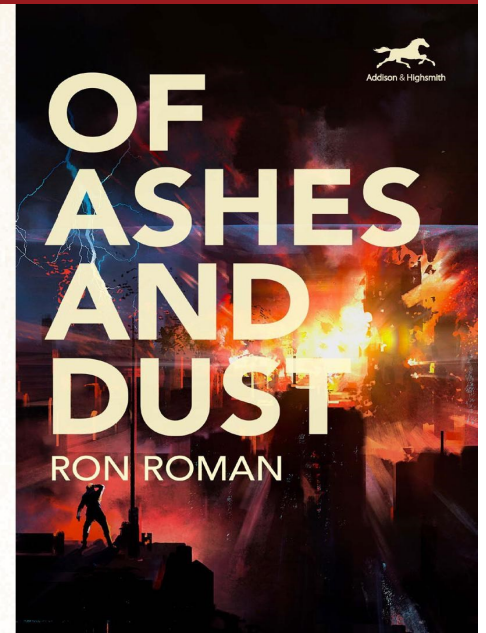
Adjutant / Quartermaster

Shawn C. Watson

OF ASHES AND DUST

BY RON ROMAN

At the time of the Millennium three people struggle for survival in a small New Hampshire town as the world spins into chaos, not realizing that each harbors secrets that will eventually pit them against one another. The story evolves from the U.S. Government's earlier two classified secret projects during the Vietnam War (the USAF's revelation about UFOs and Project Sixty-Seven). *Of Ashes and Dust* is a no-punches-pulled apocalyptic tale of mesmerizing intrigue and gut-retching survival told as an alternate-history thriller during the Last Days of a global Armageddon culminating in a totally unexpected and explosive ending.



“Distinguished by sparkling prose and an immersive narrative style, Roman's story of liberty and revolution offers readers more than a vision of an American dystopia and a terrifying global conflict, reflecting the faultlines of real-world politics. His descriptions of the state's increasing encroachment on civil liberties have persuasive power, as does his plausible portrayal of the failure of governance and a gradual descent into anarchy.

— Publishers Weekly

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

— Midwest Book Review

OF ASHES AND DUST
Ron Roman

Available From

Amazon

Baker & Taylor

Ingram

Libby

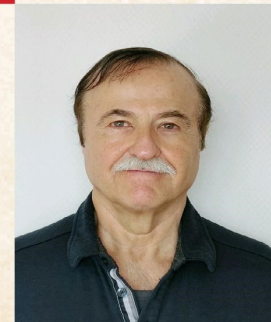
Hoopla

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

ISBN: 9781592111787
November 22, 2022

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ron Roman (WWW.WRITERONROMAN.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 promised, I will provide you with any information gleaned during the Washington Conference in March 2024.

The Foreign Medical Program: We were told by none other than the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that the issue of direct deposit will be resolved in 2025. We can expect payments for medical bills covered under FMP to be paid by EFT rather than a paper check mailed to your home.

Continuing with FMP we have been told an entire new IT system is being developed that will ultimately simplify what we all know is a onerous process. This will allow quicker for FMP to access your VA medical records making it a simpler process to distribute service connected benefit letters,

We had a direct discussion with the Secretary regarding what we see as a benefit for moving the VARO in Pittsburgh which supports 17 of our posts in DPA, to VARO Manila. He was non-committal other than to say he would look into it. He did ask some questions and he seemed pleased with our responses. We will continue to work on this issue.

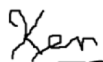
We continue to engage with Senior VFW leaders including the Director of Administration, Directors of Programs and Membership, as well as the Adjutant General and Quartermaster General to ensure the DPA always receives the same opportunities as other departments and ensure it is understood our organization recognizes The Pacific Areas is unique in a variety of ways.

JVCIC Carol Whitmore was in Bangkok visiting with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). She reiterated her commitment to our Department mentioning she is fully aware of the unique challenges we face.

We will continue to engage with fellow Council Members as well as National Leadership in order to ensure we are recognized for our many contributions to our great Organization.

Look forward to seeing you all in Angeles City for our DPA Convention in June.

Best wishes and always yours in comradeship and service,



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



National Council Member

Ken Stein



Veterans Corner Radio
Podcast

Host: Bill Hodges

PODCAST - [FMP Explained by Veterans Corner Radio](#)



VA |
Foreign Medical
Program (FMP)

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

CONVENTION 2024

EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT !



Post ads & ads being sold plus any letter of Intent are due to me by 15 May!

Send them to me at PDCLyons935@gmail.com

Full page ad \$200.00, Half page ad \$100.00, Letters of Intent \$100.00

Post Special 3 pages for \$300.00!

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Jose Calugas was born into a large peasant family in Leon, on Panay Island in the Philippines in 1907. By his own admission, he found life there boring and got a job before finishing school. He later signed up for the U.S. Army's Philippine Scouts at age 23.

Calugas was serving as a mess cook for Battery B, 1st Battalion, 88th Field Artillery, detailed at a battery gun position near Culis, Bataan Province, Philippine Islands, on Jan. 16, 1943. At 2 a.m., the Japanese began an attack on his unit's position. Twelve hours later, Calugas noticed that the crew of one of the guns was out of commission. He organized a new group willing to run through 1,000 yards of withering fire to operate the gun. All but four were forced back. Calugas then effectively led the surviving group through the gun's operation, even though their position was subject to heavy Japanese artillery fire.

The fight was so intense and wide-ranging that Calugas would later say that he was glad that his wife and three children had already left the area to return to his hometown on Panay to wait out the war.

A month later, on February 17, 1942, the U.S. Department of War announced he would receive the Medal of Honor for his actions that day.

However, fate had a different turn in mind. As the Philippines fell to the Japanese in early 1942, Calugas was trapped with other American soldiers. They were forced to undertake the Bataan Death March, a grueling march over 60 miles in which prisoners of war endured beatings, starvation, and random killings.

When Calugas was taken as a prisoner, he and his fellow soldiers carefully guarded the secret of his Medal of Honor award so that he wouldn't be singled out for harsher punishment or death. He survived the March but contracted malaria, which he cleverly used to disguise himself from his captors, pretending his illness lasted longer than it did so the Japanese would not look too closely at him.

When he was released from the camp to a Japanese labor farm, he acted as a spy for the local guerrilla resistance movement and later joined them as a fighter.

Calugas resumed his American service when American troops returned to the area. On April 30, 1945, he was finally presented the Medal of Honor at Camp Olivas in the Philippines by Maj. Gen. Richard Marshall.

After the war, the U.S. offered citizenship to those who fought in the Philippine Scouts as a reward for their service. The offer included a waiver of residency and examination requirements. Calugas jumped at the chance. In 1955, still in service, he was transferred to Fort Louis, Washington, where he earned his GED. He slowly brought the rest of his family over to the U.S., one-by-one. By 1963, his wife and four children had immigrated, and his four children later also became citizens.

When he retired from the Army in 1957, Calugas had risen to the rank of Captain. He subsequently lived in Tacoma, Washington, and earned a degree in business administration from University of Puget Sound. He worked for Boeing Company until 1972. In the summers, he farmed a small plot of land just outside of town.

Jose Calugas died on Jan. 18, 1998, in Tacoma, and he was interred at Mountain View Memorial Park. His Medal of Honor is preserved at the Fort Sam Houston Museum in San Antonio, Texas.

Read full citation here: <https://www.cmoths.org/recipients/jose-calugas>

Jose C. Calugas Sr. VFW POST 12231 Manila, Philippines [Facebook Page](#).



CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrades I pray you and yours are well, in good spirits, able to continue our most important advocacy work while advancing towards achieving Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) / District / Post goals for All State-All American, as we continue to pray that our advocacy grow stronger and more influential with increased recruitment. I reiterate the use of “Buddy checks” for our comrades and families that are sick and shut-in which are important to our mission and a necessary task which can be accomplished with a simple phone call, email, or text to ensure we stay in touch and connected to our Comrades.

As we prepare to close out our 2023-2024 year, I hope we all accomplished the required mission tasks and the Department, District and Post goals. Let this year’s hard work and blessing reflect upon our accomplishments this past year. Congratulations to those that met the Commander’s 102 percent early bird and recruiting goals. Comrades, prayers for the hard work and countless hours spent this year to ensure DPA requirements were met. I extend my prayers to the two new posts in the DPA. Best wishes and good luck!

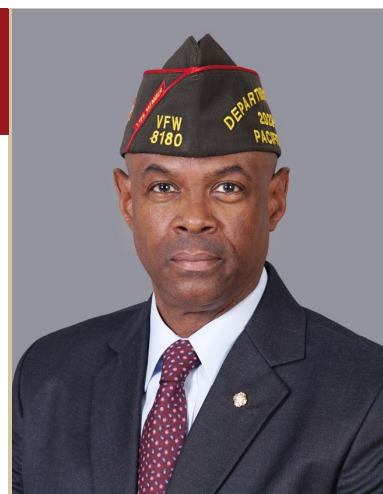
The monthly National Chaplain’s Resource Training meetings are a huge success with many interesting topics and information. Chaplains that are interested in the monthly training are encouraged to participate at the following Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89614800460?pwd=WTAwcEFjbDRGTxBZM0FZWwTWp0Zz09>.

As I stated in the last issue, 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. This project is still a work in progress.

Our thoughts are with those vying for positions in the upcoming nominations and elections for the DPA, Districts, and Posts for the 2024-2025 term. Best wishes to all participants! As we eagerly await the annual Day of Service 2024, prayers resonate throughout the DPA as we join veterans, friends, and like-minded individuals in preparation for the event. This nationwide community service endeavor begins on Saturday, May 4, 2024, and extends throughout the month of May.

Let us remember the following Comrades who passed away during the term June 2023- To Present: (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, Emmitt | 07 November 2023 |
| 12146 | Pickens, Edwin Garnard | 20 October 2023 |
| 2485 | Miller, Willie L. | 19 April 2023 |
| 9951 | Stednick, Thomas | 20 October 2023 |



Chaplain

Robert Chatman

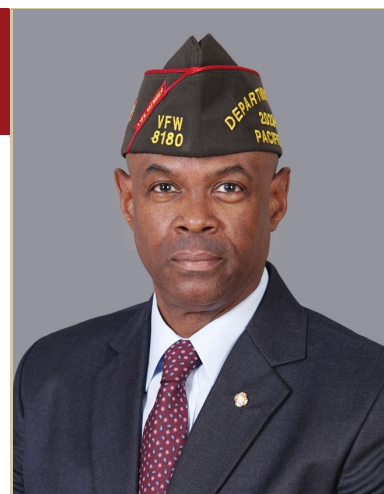


CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

| <u>Post</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Date of Death</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 9951 | Riopel, William John | 12 November 2023 |
| 11447 | Alvarez, Jose | 18 November 2023 |
| 2485 | Platt, Kenneth L. | 20 November 2023 |
| 12130 | Prouse, William E. | 03 December 2023 |
| 2485 | Krolikowski, James G. | 13 December 2023 |
| 2485 | Galvez, Robertyo V. | 11 January 2024 |
| 2485 | Hardecker, William K. | 21 January 2024 |
| 9951 | Funck, John C. M. | 08 February 2024 |
| 10249 | Kim, Randall C. | 26 December 2023 |
| 10033 | Greager, Walter R. | 20 January 2024 |
| 2917 | Bendixson, James C. | |
| 2485 | Hunter, Justin E. | 11 January 2024 |
| 2485 | Olsen, Christopher L. | 27 February 2024 |
| 2485 | Tuquero, Edgardo V. | 15 February 2024 |
| 2485 | Williams, Howard A. | 15 February 2024 |
| 2485 | Whitney, Dale | 07 February 2024 |
| 2485 | Whittle, Charles E. | 05 March 2024 |
| 9876 | Clark, Robert | 08 March 2024 |
| 9876 | Johns, Charles | 27 March 2024 |
| 10033 | Swierzewski, Kenneth | 03 April 2024 |
| 12074 | Filgor, Michael J. | 07 April 2024 |

Let their names, spirit, and memory live so we never forget them and their sacrifices.

Yours in Comradeship
Robert S. Chatman
Chaplain DPA



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!**

Know the Five Signs



Feeling like U?



R U Agitated?



R U Withdrawn?



Caring 4 U?



Feeling Hopeless?



The campaign to
changedirection[™]
A Give an Hour Collective Impact Effort

Healthy Habits of Emotional Well-being



TAKE CARE



CHECK IN



ENGAGE



RELAX



KNOW FIVE SIGNS

#**change**mentalhealth

www.changedirection.org

DEPARTMENT SURGEON

Comrades, hoping you are all healthy and safe, enjoying the springtime and preparing for a hot summer and the Department convention in Angeles City PI. Do continue to take care of your families, fellow comrades, widows orphans, our Active-Duty Service members and never forget the less fortunate in our communities, **Summer is the best time of year to enjoy the great outdoors.** Whether you're swimming, golfing, hiking or barbecuing some basic health & safety precautions should be followed to avoid falling ill. Topping the list are hot temperatures that can pose a hazard for even the healthiest of people — affecting the body's ability to keep cool and possibly leading to a host of complications.

Heat cramps are painful, involuntary muscle spasms that usually occur during heavy exercise in hot environments. Next is heat exhaustion, marked by heavy sweating and a rapid pulse, a result of the body overheating. The most serious is heat stroke, a condition often marked by fever, disorientation, and unconsciousness. It is caused when the body's temperature-regulating mechanism fails. While heat cramps and heat exhaustion can be dangerous, heat stroke can be fatal.”

In addition to the heat, there are other scenarios that can place a person at increased risk this season. Experts offer these tips to enjoy those long summer days in a healthy and safe way:

Slow down when things heat up: When temperatures begin to reach extreme highs, slow down, exercise in moderation, stay in the coolest place available and reduce or eliminate all strenuous activities.

Drink up: but not alcohol, It is especially important during the hot summer months to avoid dehydration by drinking water or sports drinks. Aim for eight, 8-oz. glasses of water a day — more if you can. Avoid alcohol and caffeine, which can dehydrate you. Most importantly, do not drink and drive.

Block the rays: Use a broad-spectrum sunblock with UVA and UVB protection (SPF 30 or greater) when outdoors for prolonged periods of time, even on cloudy days.

Use repellents wisely: Be sure to check the label on insect repellent. Select a product that is safe for the age of the user.

Practice good food hygiene: Always wash hands and counters before preparing food and clean utensils for cooking and serving. Store, cook, and reheat food at the proper temperatures. Refrigerated foods should not be left out at temperatures above 40° F and do not let food sit out at room temperature for more than two hours. Food poisoning can occur with symptoms that include fever, headache, diarrhea, stomach pains, nausea, and vomiting.

By following some simple guidelines and taking the right precautions, summer can be an enjoyable time for the whole family, enjoy memorial day, it's been a pleasure serving as DPA Surgeon, I hope the reports / articles have been informative. See you at the Convention in June.

Yours In Comradeship

Lou Holub
DPA Surgeon



Surgeon

Lou Holub

JUNE IS PTSD AWARENESS MONTH



7 to 8%

of the U.S. population will have PTSD at some point in their lives.



What it's like to have PTSD may be different for everyone. *There are four types of PTSD symptoms.*



Reliving or re-experiencing the event

- Nightmares
- Flashbacks
- Triggers



Hyperarousal or being on guard

- Being jittery or overly alert
- Difficulty sleeping or concentrating
- Feeling angry or irritable



Avoidance

- Avoiding crowds
- Avoiding certain smells, sights, or sounds
- Avoiding talking or thinking about the event



Negative changes in beliefs and feelings

- Losing interest in things you used to enjoy
- Feeling guilty or ashamed
- Unable to trust others

Do you have PTSD Symptoms?

- Hear Veterans share their experiences with PTSD and PTSD treatment at [AboutFace](#)
- Learn about and compare effective treatment options using the [PTSD Treatment Decision Aid](#)
- Explore the National Center for PTSD website for information, videos, and tools to help manage PTSD: <https://www.ptsd.va.gov>



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Comrades,

All inspections in the Department are complete. That means all Districts and Posts have met the requirement for All State. I want to thank all of you for making it happen.

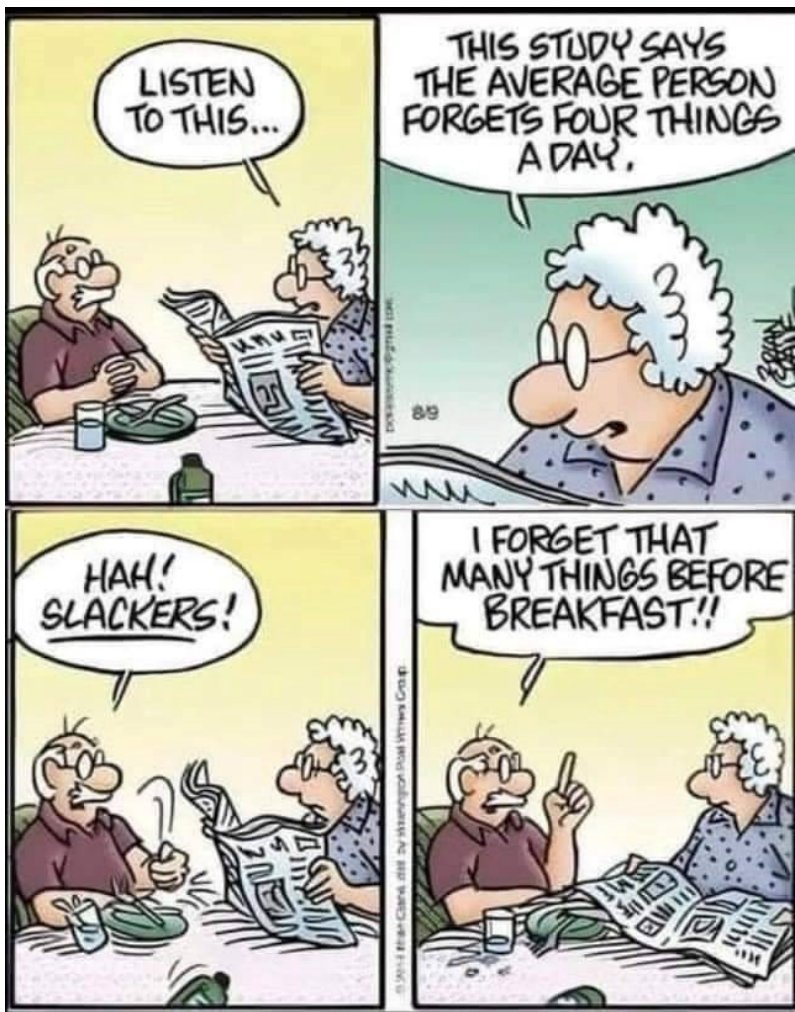
Please be reminded when you read this article, it will be close to the deadline for filing the 990's with the IRS, therefore, if you have not turned one in for your post, please do so immediately. It was an honor to serve as the Department Inspector.

Please continue to stay safe and hope to see many of you at the Department Convention in person or via Zoom in June.

Yours in Comradeship and Service, **Reminder:** IRS Form 990 is due on the 15th day of the 5th month following the end of the organization's taxable year. For organizations on a calendar year, the Form 990 is due on May 15th of the following year.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Barry Larson
Inspector
Department of Pacific Areas



Department Inspector

Barry L. Larson



WOMEN'S VETERAN CHAIRPERSON

On 5 April 2024, a group of women veterans headed by Ms. Elizabeth Harris of Manila VA Outpatient Clinic Assistant Clinic Manager and Janet Alford, DPA Women Veteran Program Coordinator had a chance to meet and share camaraderie with one another. They were given a private tour of the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, followed by a no-host lunch at a nearby restaurant.



Approximately 129 years of military experience were represented. As word spreads of this gathering; the group will undeniably multiply. This is the beginning of many future assemblies.

Janet Alford
Women's Veteran Chairperson
Department of Pacific Areas



Woman's Veteran Chairperson

Janet S. Alford



VA Center for Women Veterans



WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE
PACT Act and Women Veterans



BIG BUG SQUEAKS



Big Bug

David Gley



Click each Logo above
for Websites

Fellow Comrades,

(ST) We are starting to get things locked in for the DPA/GPA convention in Angeles City, Philippines this June. The current Supreme SVC (Middle Bug), Robbie Normand is coming in; he started in the Pacific in Post 8180 / Pup Tent 8 a while back and will be the Supreme commander next year. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones there; see you then.

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://mcpacific.org> or Supreme webpage at <https://www.lotcs.org>.

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

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

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

The Cooties do not recruit just to make numbers; we make sure that 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



LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Comrades, March was a busy time for us in the Legislative Spring visit to Washington DC. Was a pleasure to run our DPA CDR Flores, and National Council member Stein also tagging along with us was Early Bird winner CDR Collins Post 2485 around the congress building.

We had Face-to-Face meetings with both Pacific Area's Representatives in their offices. Mr. Chris Lukas, Legislative Assistant to Congressman James Moylan (District of Guam) and Mr. Herb Yamada Legislative Assistant to Congressman Sablan (Northern Mariana Islands).

During our meeting, we continued to talk about and pushing the VFW Spring Priorities to both of our representatives.

Cracking Down on Predatory Claims Companies. Bill H.R. 1139 / S. 740: Guard VA Benefits Act, to reinstate penalties for charging veterans and survivors, unauthorized fees relating to claims for VA benefits. As of today, both congressmen have Co-signed this bill in full support of it.

VA Benefits Data for Suicide Prevention. Bill H.R. 4157 / 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.

Transition from Service. Bill H.R. 3933/ S. 2888: TAP Promotion Act, to require accredited representatives from national, state, and local organizations to be included in TAP classes.

Retirement and Military Personnel. Bill H.R. 1282 / S. 344: Major Richard Star Act, either as a standalone bill or via the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 to enable Chapter 61 retirees who sustained combat-related injuries to receive their vested DOD retirement pay and VA disability compensation without offset.

Mr. Moylan, (R-GU-At Large) and Mr. Sablan are both pledging to continue to Co-Sign these Bills.

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.

Once you sign up to the Action Corps. Please be so kind and send me a email to I can track the members in the DPA email is: 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



2024 PRIORITY GOALS



SHAWN WATSON FOR VFW NATIONAL JVC 2028

Support Shawn Watson's on his bid for VFW National JVC 2028



Shawn's Polo Shirts
Sizes available
S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X, 4X

Cost \$40.00

Can mail for additional charge or hand carry to June Convention contact
Larry Lyons

PDCLyons935@gmail.com

Shawn's 2024 Cash Calendar

Donation \$10.00 each. Over \$11,000 awarded through-out 2024 your
tickets remain in all 83 drawings!



Fill out the form for as many tickets you want and send \$10.00 each to
George Beck at the following account:

JVC Account number Navy Federal Credit Union

Routing #: 256074974

Account Number: 7171526564 (Association Checking)

Account Name: Committee to Elect Shawn Watson

Once you send the money to George email those forms to Larry & George at

Larry: PDCLyons935@gmail.com George : gbeckjr@gmail.com

Larry will send you copies of the ticket stubs when they are paid.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Name: | Email: |
| Address: | Phone: |
| Post Selling this Calendar: | |
| Ticket Number 3361 | |
| Mail Ticket stubs to: Larry Lyons PSC 301 Box 332 APO, AP 96202 | |

| | |
|---|---|
| SHAWN WATSON as 2028 VFW National Junior Vice Commander in Chief in 2028 with the title of "Self - Family - Veterans" | SHAWN WATSON as 2028 VFW National Junior Vice Commander in Chief in 2028 with the title of "Self - Family - Veterans" |
| Name: | Name: |
| Email: | Email: |
| Address: | Address: |
| Phone: | Phone: |
| Ticket # | Ticket # |

Shawn's DPA June Convention Raffle
Donation \$10.00 each or 3 for \$20.00

Prizes

1st Place \$1,000.00

2nd Place \$500.00

3rd Place \$250.00

Send Funds per tickets to George & emails to Larry and George, then
Larry will send you copies of the ticket stubs when they are paid.

See who is winning on the Cash Calendar

<http://watson4vfwjvcinc.com/>

Thanks for Supporting Shawn on his bid for National JVC

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES*



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



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



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



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



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

Other Important Dates

September 2 - V-J Day: Japan Signed Formal Surrender (1945)*

First Monday of September - Labor Day

September 11 - Patriots Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance* September 14 - VFW Auxiliary Founded (1914)

September 17 - Constitution and Citizenship Day

September 18 - U.S. Air Force Established (1947)

3rd Friday in September - POW/MIA Recognition Day*

September 29 - VFW Founded in 1899

October 9 - Start of Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan 2001*

October 13 - U.S. Navy Established (1775)

October 18 - Recognition of Women in Military Service*

***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

LETTER OF INTENT

Letter of Intent 2024/2025

Greeting Comrades of the Pacific,

Agaian, I have been asked by several Comrades throughout the Pacific Areas to run for a 2nd term as Department Chaplain.

It is my pleasure to accept and run for a second term as Department of Pacific Areas, Chaplain. If elected I look forward to working with the new administration of elected officers.

I earned my eligibility to join the Veterans of Foreign Wars after joining the United States Army in 1977 where I had multiple assignments including a deployment to the Middle East during Desert Shield/Storm before retiring in 2003.

I joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars with Post 1193 in Lawton Oklahoma in 2007 and served as Adjutant and served as two time Commander, 2015 and reelected in 2016 for a second term.

I transferred my VFW Membership in 2017 to VFW Post 10216 in Songtan, South Korea. Since then the Post merged and now is Post 8180. Since then I have been an active member in that post and the community.

At the District III level I was elected as their Chaplain in May 2019 and was reelected in 2020. I am currently District III Chaplain, and, Post 8180 Junior Vice Commander. I have been able to help many Veterans and their family members in their times of need and I am willing to expand that now at the Department level.

Besides the VFW I am also a Life Member in the Military Order of the Cootie with Pup Tent 8 and I am also a Life Member of the VFW National Home along with the Patty Daddy Program that also supports the National Home.

I am fully retired now and willing and able to take on this role and would be honored to serve again, as your Department Chaplain. I thank you for your consideration.

Yours in Comradeship,
Robert S. Chatman
VFW Post 8180



LETTER OF INTENT



I am asking for your support for the position of Quartermaster for the Department of Pacific Areas. I am a Gold Legacy Life Member of Post 2485, Angeles City Philippines. Listed below are the key Positions that I have held:

Post 10216 Korea

Commander (All American – 2010)

Post 2917 Guam

Quartermaster (2014 – 2015)

Commander (2015 – 2018 All American 2018)

Adjutant/Quartermaster (2018 – 2023)

Department

Safety Officer (2010 – 2011)

Commander (All American 2013 – 2014)

Quartermaster (2020 -)

Adjutant (2020 -)

District III

Commander (2011 – 2012)

District VI

Commander (All American 2017-2018)

Adjutant/Quartermaster (2018 – 2023)

National

Council Member (2016 - 2020)

Inspector General (2022 – 2023)

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

Yours in Comradeship,
Shawn Watson

LETTER OF INTENT

**LETTER OF INTENT
DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER
KENNETH A. STEIN**

My Comrades,

In December 2022 I was elected to complete the term of my predecessor, friend, and mentor Pete Callaghan.

Today I am announcing my intent to run for a full term as The National Council of Administration member for the great Department of Pacific Areas.

Comrades, it is essential the DPA National Council Member understands the issues, knows the key people in the National Organization, has served in the highest positions of the Department, and is able to articulate the needs and unique challenges we face when doing the business of our fraternal organization here in the Pacific.

I want to continue this work and based on the relationships I've made over the past eighteen months; I am confident I can represent our amazing Department in a manner we have earned and deserve. Always reminding VFW National leadership and other National Council Members that we must have the same benefits and representations as CONUS based Departments.

I ask for your support in electing me as the DPA National Council Member for a full four year term at our June 2024 convention.

Yours always in service and comradeship,

Ken

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



LETTER OF INTENT

This is my Letter of Intent for my candidacy as the Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) Junior Vice Commander for 2024 through 2025. I am currently the Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars District VII (Philippines) and the Commander of VFW Robert W. Zaher Post 2485 in Angeles City, Philippines. This is a synopsis of my accomplishments in the DPA.



I have been a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars since 1991 and I became an active member of Post 2485 in May 2016 when I signed on as our Post's 100th Legacy Life Gold Member.

I was elected Post 2485 Commander in 2018 & 2019 and in 2022 & 2023. I earned All-American Post Commander status three times and All-American District Commander status once. This year, I will be a 4-time All-American Post Commander and 2-time All-American District Commander.

I provided coordination, logistical, transportation, and administrative support. I managed an \$8000 budget for the VFW CinC's visit to VFW Posts in the Philippines and participation in the 79th Anniversary Celebration of McArthur's landing at Palo Leyte. This trip received compliments from its many participants.

As Post Commander I earned the Post Early Bird Legislative Conference Award for 2 consecutive years (2022-2023 and 2023-2024) and as District VII Commander, the District Early Bird Legislative Conference Award in 2022-2023. Largely at my own expense, I attend two VFW Legislative Conferences in Washington, DC, and four VFW National Conventions; 2017 in New Orleans, LA, 2018 in Kansas City, MO, 2019 in Orlando, FL, and 2023 in Phoenix, AZ.

I initiated the Post 2485 annual September celebration of POW / MIA Recognition Day at Cabanatuan American Memorial. This ceremony commemorates one of the most famous rescue operations in the history of the United States military, conducted by the US Army's 6th Ranger Battalion, reinforced by Alamo Scouts and Filipino Guerilla Units, which liberated 511 surviving POWs. Post 2485 has observed POW / MIA Recognition Day at Cabanatuan American Memorial four times, with increased participation each year. To complete the saga of the American POW's ordeal in the Philippines. Post 2485 observes Armed Forces Day, in May, at Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac. Camp O'Donnell is the location where the infamous "Bataan Death March" terminated. Plus I have supervised four Veterans Day observances at Clark Veterans Cemetery (CVC).

I was the DPA Clark Veterans Cemetery Chairman for 2 years, during the turbulent years when Post 2485 turned over stewardship of CVC to the American Battle Monument Commission (AMBC). I have led the Post Honor Guard in conducting pre-burial rehearsal, rendering Military Honors, and performing dignified graveside services for over 200 fallen veterans at Clark Veterans Cemetery. The Post's Rendering of Military Honors ceremonies have received accolades from the VFW National Leadership.

In Post 2485's conference room, I hosted three US Congressional Delegation information-gathering visits, which discussed veterans' challenges and issues in the Philippines.

I request your support for my candidacy as the next DPA Junior Vice Commander. I pledge to use my experience in the DPA as Post and District Commander to contribute to the continued success of our department.

James E. (Jim) Collins

SGM, US Army (retired)

Commander, VFW DPA District VII (Philippines)

Commander, VFW Robert W. Zaher Post 2485 (Angeles City)

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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.