

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 3

November/December 2023

FREE

Veterans Day, 11 November Veterans Day is observed every year on November 11th. Veterans Day evolved from Armistice Day, which was proclaimed in 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson. Armistice is when the warring parties agree to stop fighting; Armistice Day recognizes the end of World War One when hostilities ceased on November 11th at 11 A.M, 1918 (11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month). Veterans contribute to American society in many ways; not just during their time on active duty. Veterans are the most active volunteers working to improve communities across our country. Service goes beyond the uniform. This Veteran’s Day, we honor the men and women who have worn their uniform who continue to serve our country.



Throughout our history, military service members have put on their uniforms to protect the values and liberties that this nation was built on. But that doesn’t stop once the uniform comes off and their time in active duty has ended. The veterans take the lessons they have learned and the experiences they’ve gained and continue their service to our nation by strengthening our communities. They become our nation’s leaders, scientists, entrepreneurs.



December Pearl Harbor Day, 7 December Just before 8am on the morning of December 7, 1941, hundreds of Japanese fighter planes carried out a devastating attack on the Pearl Harbor American Naval base in Honolulu, Hawaii, on the island of Oahu. The Japanese aircrews managed to achieve complete surprise, and for two hours, Japanese fighter, bomber and torpedo planes carried out a shocking assault on the naval base. Japan also launched attacks on U.S. troops in Wake Island, Guam, Malaya, Thailand and Midway that same day. Wake Island, Guam, Malaya, and Thailand would all eventually fall to the Japanese. A total of 2,402 Americans were killed, 1,178 wounded.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Commanders Call 2
- Senior Vice Commander 3
- Junior Vice Commander 6
- In the Spotlight 7
- Adjutant/Quartermaster 13
- National Council Member ... 15
- National Recruiter 18
- MoH Recipient 20
- Chaplain/TAPS 21
- DPA Surgeon 24
- DPA Inspector 25
- Judge Advocate 27
- Immediate Past DPA Cdr 30
- Department DSO 32
- MOC Big Bug 34
- VOD/PP/TA 35
- Legislative Chairman 37
- Americanism 38
- Upcoming Dates 39
- DPA Website Sponsors 40

COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings Comrades!

As we enter the month of November, I would like to extend my warmest greetings and gratitude to each one of you for your unwavering commitment to our great nation and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is an honor to serve as your Commander, and I am inspired by the courage and dedication displayed by our members every day.

November holds a very special significance as it is the month when we celebrate Veterans Day. I encourage all of you to actively participate in your communities, to share your stories, and to remind our fellow citizens of the debt of gratitude we owe to those who have served and sacrificed their lives for the freedom we enjoy today.

It is a reminder that we, too, must adapt and evolve to meet the needs of our veterans and their families. As VFW members, it is our duty to support our comrades in every way possible. Reach out to your fellow veterans, check on their well-being, and offer a helping hand whenever needed. Together, we can provide the camaraderie and support that is vital to their overall well-being.

I want to emphasize the importance of continuing our advocacy efforts on behalf of veterans. We must remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that all veterans receive the care, benefits, and support they deserve. Let us engage with lawmakers, community leaders, and the public to raise awareness of the challenges faced by our veterans and work towards practical solutions.

I would like to take this opportunity to Congratulate the following Posts who have made 100% or more in their Membership: Post 124 Baguio City, Philippines, Post 1054 Yokosuka Japan, and Post 12146 Banchang, Thailand. Let us all "Meet the Challenge" and stay focus in making your Post, District, and our Department of Pacific Areas on Top #1 in the VFW. I would also like to thank all the Recruiters who made this possible and encourage everyone, to include all the Post Service Officers, Family Members and Friends of the VFW to actively recruit for our great VFW Organization. A special mention to our Certified National Recruiter and Past Department Commander Larry Lyons for an outstanding and a successful Recruiting Event, he and our **Past Commander In Chief Tim Borland** recently conducted in Korea by recruiting over **150 VFW members!**

Lastly, I urge you to take advantage of the many resources and programs offered by the VFW. I have listed a few links below. Our organization provides a wealth of support, guidance, and opportunities for personal and professional growth. Whether it's accessing benefits, seeking camaraderie, or making a positive impact in your community, the VFW is here for you.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our mission. Together, let us honor the legacy of those who have served and build a brighter future for all veterans. May this November be a month of unity, reflection, and progress.

Yours in comradeship,

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

VFW University YouTube Videos:
[VFW Eligibility Requirements](#)
[VFW New Member Information](#)
[How to Fill out a VFW Membership Application](#)
[Membership Recruiting and Retention](#)
[DPA Training and Tutorial](#)



Commander

Alex Fores



Member Login



Email Address

*Please provide a valid email

Password

*Please enter your password

Login

Forgot username or password?

OR

Sign in with Troop ID

Are you a new user?

Sign up with Troop ID

What is ID.me? * Video Tutorials for ID.me

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

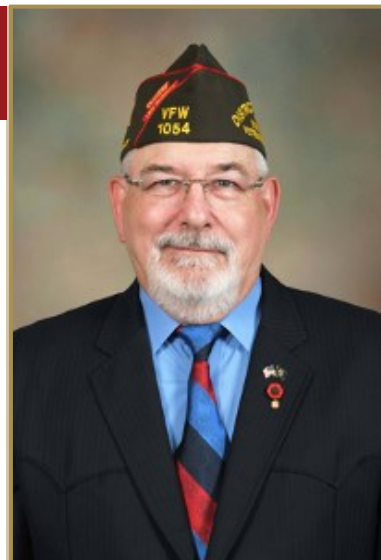
MEMBERSHIP is the lifeblood of any organization. I'm sure you have all heard that a thousand times and IT IS TRUE! The VFW is no different and we will be about a third of our way through this membership term when this issue hits the stands. As of mid-October, we had three Posts at 100% or greater. Congratulations to Post 124 (102.40%) for being the first DPA Post to reach 100% and be the first Post in PACIFIC AREAS to "Meet the Challenge" of 102%. Congratulations also to Post 12146 (101.02%) and Post 1054 (100%) for getting to 100% before the Co-fA. I'm sure there will be other posts joining them as we have 6 Posts that need 10 or less new members for 100%. The thing is, you have to get out and RECRUIT!

Recruiting can be as simple as asking someone if they would like to join the VFW. In a lot of cases I have found there are Veterans interested but they never considered signing up because nobody took the time to **ASK THEM**. I have worked tables where we put up a sign which said ASK ME ABOUT THE VFW. A lot of times we will get Veterans who stop by and let us know they just moved to the area and are VFW members with another post. We welcome them, tell them about our post and ask if they would like to transfer and be active with us. This is obviously good for the post and good for the table since anything that looks like a crowd (even a small one) draws more attention to your table. In almost all cases it helps to draw potential new members to the table and that is where you really have a chance to sign up a new member. When they sit with you and you begin to discuss members benefits and services, we usually see some level of interest but no real intent to commit. When we start talking about Veterans Services, that gets their attention more times than not.

Having someone who is or has been a Post Service Officer (and actually put in the work) are VERY helpful in discussing the Claims and Benefits process, how VFW Service Officers work and why it is so important to document your journey in the military for later use in filing claims. They are also usually well versed in VFW Service to Veterans, to include:

- National Veterans Service (NVS), the accrediting and training arm of the VFW and the global network of professional service officers.
- Department Service Officers (DSOs), another global network of highly trained and accredited service officers that help veterans navigate the complex VA claims process.
- Tactical Assessment Centers (TAC), operates a toll-free hotline for veterans with questions or concerns about VA health care programs and VA benefits.
- Health Screenings held at National Conventions where attendees can receive an array of free services to include health screenings, eye exams, cholesterol checks, respiratory function testing, blood pressure screening and blood glucose testing. Many lives have been saved thanks to these free screenings.
- Pre-Discharge Program (formerly known as Benefits Delivery at Discharge or BDD) provides claims assistance to separating military personnel on more than 20 military installations and military populated regions throughout the country and overseas.

The hard work put in at the Legislative level is also worth bringing up. There are still MANY Veterans who are unfamiliar with VFW PACT Act Information. We refer them to the new website and referral tool at PACTActInfo.org to see if they



Senior Vice Commander

Mike Lutman



Sr. Vice Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

can be referred to a professionally trained, VA accredited VFW Service Officer for assistance and this is usually where we make sure they understand that there is NEVER a cost for this kind of support to the claimant. Additional points often include:

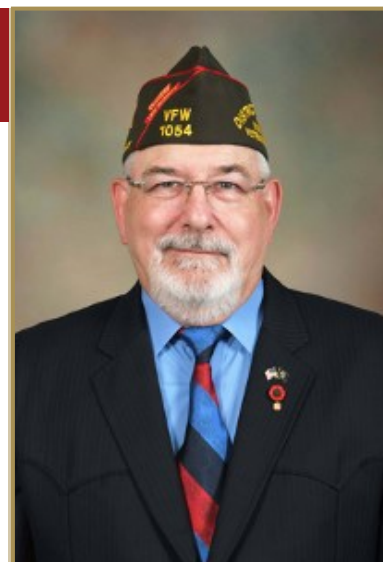
- National Legislative Service (NLS), which educates Congress and advocates for policies that improve the lives of veterans, active-duty military, and their families.
- Action Corps. This is an ongoing lobbying effort which has more than 300,000 volunteer advocates who write, call and visit lawmakers to discuss issues related to veterans.
- POW/MIA, where the VFW national officers visit Asian and European countries to meet with host-country officials to stress the importance of conducting MIA investigation and recovery operations, as well as gaining access to documents and archival research facilities.
- Employment Services. The VFW is a strong supporter of veterans' preference in government positions. The Washington Office actively works to advance veteran-specific employment legislation and works with the U.S. Department of Labor to ensure veterans have resources in their communities to find quality post-military careers.

As you can see, there is a LOT to talk about if you really want to get into the weeds as it were. Setting up a good recruiting table takes a bit of work, but it isn't rocket science. Don't forget to look up the [Membership Recruiting & Retention](#) page on the VFW.ORG website. There is a LOT of information there to help you set up a good table and be conversant and knowledgeable about who we are and what we do. The page includes:

- Training Videos and Webinars.
- Recruiter Training Workshop Guides.
- Applications and Forms: Under Membership Order Form, National makes it easy to order the membership and recruiting supplies you need (posters, flyers, forms, brochures, etc) and a LOT of it is FREE and EASY to order via your VFW.ORG account. Just click the link at the end of the paragraph and you will be on your way.

That only scratches the surface of the information available to you to either download or order. You can also get a MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING KIT from the VFW Store for just \$28.50 (+/- shipping) and it contains a "swell" package of items to run your table AND hold recruiter training!

- 4 World Map of Eligibility posters
- 4 Join Us posters
- 1 pack of 15 Take Pride In Your Service fliers
- 6 issues of the most recent VFW Magazine
- 1 Recruiter Training Student Guide
- 50 New Member Recruiting brochures
- 2 packs of VFW decals
- 100 Member Benefits brochures
- 25 door hangers
- 4 Recruiter Success Pocket Guides



Senior Vice Commander

Mike Lutman



Sr. Vice Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

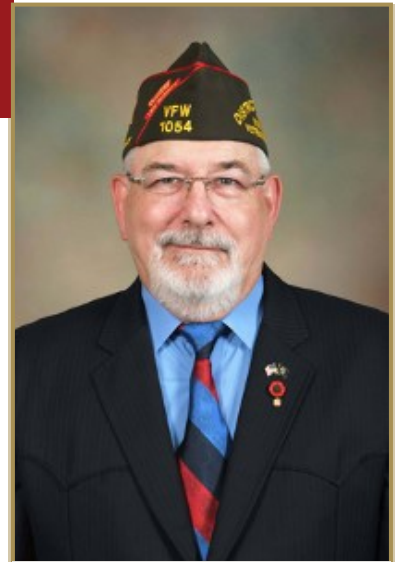
- 4 Membership Campaigning On The Post Level brochures
- 100 membership applications
- 5 eligibility pens
- 1 flash drive with PDF versions of the brochures and training videos
- Nylon carrying bag

Also, consider having a drawing for a prize or money. Even if a potential applicant does not sign up, most will fill out a quick entry form (name, email, phone number) to win a prize. These also serve as contact notes so you can follow up with potential new members later. Ok, almost time for a bathroom break, so I'll touch on one more tool you can use to set up a successful recruiting table or event. How many of you have used any of the RADIO SPOTS available on the Membership Recruiting & Retention page? There are 6 spots, most all 30 second informational audios that can help raise awareness about the VFW in your community. If you are able to get the spot aired, also provide the station with dates, times and locations for your recruiting tables and/or information about your post, meeting dates/times and other community service projects you might be planning. They can air that information right after the audio spot. For those of you who produce and broadcast on the internet, whether as a hobby or professionally, I HIGHLY recommend including these spots in your programming.

We all know Nobody does more for Veterans than the VFW and by bringing in new members, mentoring them and getting them involved in recruiting and Post leadership efforts, the VFW will continue its legacy of unbridled service to Veterans well into the future. Thanks to everyone out there recruiting and getting the word out about Veterans support and the VFW. We CAN and we WILL, MEET THE CHALLENGE. Thank you for your dedication to our organization and if you have any questions about membership, please do not hesitate to contact me or our World Class, Certified National Recruiter, PDC Larry Lyons. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Saipan at the CoFA. Until then, stay safe and God Bless each and every one of you and your family members.

Yours in Comradship and Service,

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



Department of Pacific Areas
Senior Vice Commander

Mike Lutman



Sr. Vice Commander

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

I hope this finds each of you and your families well. A well done goes out to everyone for the timely submission of your CSR reports. We continue to improve on the content of submissions to ensure that the accurate capture of your activities are captured. As a reminder, our CSRs are continually looked at by VFW National leadership and will determine the awarding of the Community Service Award.

Remember to educate and raise awareness of your activities thru your websites and social media. The things that we do, draws new members and allows us to “meet the challenge” of the VFW for membership. Another area that requires a specific selection where inputting your CSR activity is the Veterans Assistance Area. Every post has a service officer and you need to ensure that Veterans Assistance is selected when making your submissions in order to obtain credit.

Additional areas for capture in your CSR reports:

- **Adopt-a-Unit/MAP activities:** Do not claim the money allotted by National, but do claim any and all local funds / material donations (fair commercial value).
- **National Home:** Donations of money and/or other items (again, fair commercial value).
- **Unmet Needs/Relief:** Document specific use of the program and/or local relief provided in conjunction with the program.
- **VFW Mental Wellness:** Buddy Checks via phone or visit, AA Meetings and other groups directly supporting Veteran wellness (VFW and non-VFW Veterans alike).
- **Military & Veterans Support (Women Veterans, Homeless, Iraq/Afghanistan):** Monetary and other items donated in support of needy Veterans. Activities such as building / room repairs, ramp building or any other activity that improves the Veterans quality of life.
- **Claims & Benefits assistance:** Discussion and referrals regarding claims and benefits.
- **Other:** Anything not already covered....BUT....be sure it is not a post activity (meeting, committee, or anything else specifically part of post business).

Each and every month, Post Service Officers report should create a CSR entry for Veterans Assistance. Three SO reports a quarter equals 3 Veterans Assistance CSRs and turns the dashboard green for Veterans Assistance.

Department Awards program:

As we approach the 4-month mark in the term you are hopefully already starting to gather information to support your inputs. Remember, do not make this a last-minute effort. Collect the data needed to support your submissions and ensure your nominees receive the proper recognition they deserve.

I hope to see each of you at the Mid-Term in Saipan. Thank you for your efforts and stay safe out there.

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



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

Jack Farrell



Jr. Vice Commander



NOTE

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

In the SPOTLIGHT

In the VFW, we know our veterans are #StillServing and rising to meet the challenges of this uncertain time. We want you to share your stories and maybe even inspire others across our Department to do the same. Click here to tell us your story. pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org

On behalf of Air Force Sergeant Association (AFSA) Chapter 1553 and VFW Post 9723 we accomplished Kadena Air Base 2023 POW/MIA Remembrance Day events (Sept 14-15, 2023).

Current total of POW/MIA: At present, a little less than 82,000 Americans remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Out of the almost 82,000 missing, 75% of those Americans are somewhere located in the Indo-Pacific and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea.

History of this event: The first POW/MIA Recognition Day was a ceremony held at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., while the 1st Tactical Squadron from Langley Air Force Base in Virginia flew the missing man formation. Now across the nation, military bases observe this POW/MIA Recognition Day with a 24-HR run to ensure that Americans remember to stand behind those who serve and to make sure we do everything we can to account for those who have never returned. History of event on Kadena AB: This event goes back as far as September 2010. This year will be the 14th Annual POW/MIA 24-HR remembrance run



Event SrA Camryn Turan, Post Commander Justin Greene, Event lead and Post member Donald Armond, AIC Christina Senteno

Post Membership that was in attendance for opening ceremony.

Past Commander Curtis Kozlesky reading names of members still POW/MIA



Post Chaplin Derek Boyd



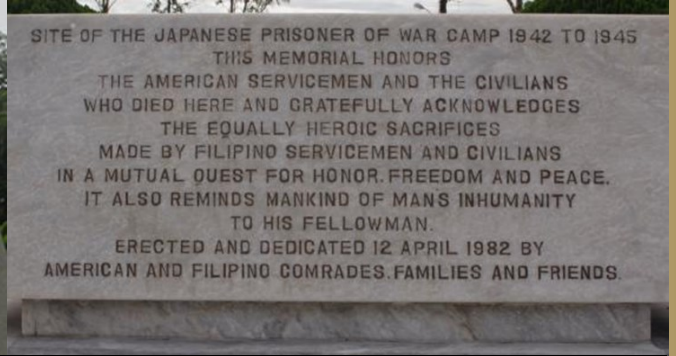
Post member Heidi Hunter



Post members at opening invocation by base Chaplin

In the SPOTLIGHT

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Post 2485 (Angeles City, Philippines) in cooperation with the American Battle Monument Commission marked National POW/MIA Recognition Day on Saturday, September 16, 2023 at Cabanatuan American Memorial, Nueva Ecija, Philippines. National POW/MIA Recognition Day falls on the third Friday in September and has become a fixture on the VFW calendar. Post 2485's event was held on the third Saturday in September which coincided with remembrance ceremonies in the US and allowed Scouts, working veterans, and organization and people to participate. Four of the five DPA District VII Post in the Philippines were represented at the event. The total attendance at the event exceeded 200 individuals



Cabanatuan American Memorial



Scout Troop 485B at Cabanatuan American Memorial

Scout Troop 485G at Cabanatuan American Memorial



**VFW Robert W. Zaher
Post 2485 Auxiliary**



Post Officers and Speakers



Special Guest Speaker was US Air Force Major (retired) John H. (Spike) Nasmyth. Spike was one of the longest held POW in the Vietnam Conflict. He was held in captivity by the Vietnamese in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" for 2,355 days.



American Legion POW/MIA Day Audience



Active-Duty Soldiers

In the SPOTLIGHT



On 15 September 2023, Banchang Utapao VFW Post 12146, held a POW/ MIA Ceremony at the Post Home.



For the second year Banchang-Utapao Post 12146 proudly sponsors a youth soccer team. On 17 September 2023, the Post's committee members and local coordinator presented the girls' team with new uniforms, followed by a scrimmage. An upcoming VFW Cup tournament will continue the support and enthusiasm.



Co Chairman Comrade Dante presents the winner's trophy to the Banchang team that took place in the double elimination youth soccer team tournament.

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

In the SPOTLIGHT



**Mr. John Hall , Cdr Greene
and Post Top Recruiter John
Bowers**

SrA Camryn Turnan A1C Christina Senteno

Comrade John Bowers (right) gathers books to donate to our adopted unit the 320th Special Tactics Squadron on Kadena Air Base. He is presenting the books to Lt. Col Smith (left) to support deployed troops in the Pacific.

Post 9723 received 2 certificates of appreciation from the National Commander to be presented to the young Airmen who coordinated, planned, and executed the Kadena Air Base POW/MIA ceremony. I was honored to give these certificates to them in front of the 18th Civil Engineering Squadron.

I had a great opportunity to meet Mr. John Hall the Director of the Department of Defense Commissaries worldwide. This meeting allowed me to thank his organization for its ongoing support for services here in Okinawa. This event took place at Camp Foster Commissary where the Post has a great working relationship with the Management for planning events and volunteering.



Post 9723 Accomplished a fundraising event on Kadena Commissary. This event took place on 28-29 Oct.



In the SPOTLIGHT



VFW National Commander was on hand for a special ceremony to institute the newest VFW Post in Palawan, located in the Philippine archipelago, Glenn W. McDole VFW Post 12224! Congratulations!

In observance of the 79th anniversary of the historic Leyte Landing, VFW National Commander Duane Sarmiento was joined by dozens of VFW members from the Philippines and Posts across the VFW Department of Pacific Areas, to include Department Commander Alex Flores, and WWII and Korean War veteran Remigio Cabacar, for a special commemoration where the MacArthur Landing Memorial National Park now stands. In 1944, this location became a vital point during WWII when General Douglas MacArthur returned to the Philippines as promised – specifically Leyte’s Red Beach – marking the start of the campaign to recapture and liberate the Philippines.



In the SPOTLIGHT



General MacArthur's withdrawal from the Philippines had a profound impact on the Filipino people. His absence created significant challenges, but his promise to return gave the Filipinos hope and a sense of determination. This promise was not just a statement; it symbolized the eventual liberation of the Philippines and became a rallying cry for the resistance movement, inspiring unity and resilience among Filipinos.

DPA ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

The long awaited for metal Buddy Poppy is here. The order form on the website has been update. When putting your mailing address, ensure that it is an address that does not have restrictions on it. There is a new option this year for the Buddy Poppy. You can do a donation instead of receiving the actual Poppy. This is \$125 per 500.



Quartermasters have a very useful tool in OMS called the MMJ, Monthly Maintenance Journal. This shows the membership activity for the month. This will include new members, memberships that have expired for that month as well as members that have transferred to another Post. Also in OMS, the Quartermaster has access to Vmail. The username and password are listed on the bottom of the page. Any and all monies that your post receives from National an email will be sent to that email box.

Next month will be having our midterm Council of Administration in Saipan. VFW National Jr Vice Commander in Chief will be attending. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

Shawn Watson
DPA Adjutant / Quartermaster

Buddy Poppy's

Before Memorial Day in 1922, we conducted our first poppy distribution, becoming the first veterans' organization to organize a nationwide distribution. The poppy soon was adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, as it remains today.



During our 1923 encampment, we decided that VFW "**Buddy**"® Poppies would be assembled by disabled and needy veterans who would be paid for their work to provide them with financial assistance. The next year, disabled veterans at the Buddy Poppy factory in Pittsburgh assembled VFW Buddy Poppies. The designation "Buddy Poppy" was adopted at that time.

In February 1924, we registered the name Buddy Poppy with the U.S. Patent Office. A certificate was issued on May 20, 1924, granting our organization all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers. No other organization, firm or individual can legally use the name Buddy Poppy.

The VFW Buddy Poppy program provides compensation to those who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the [VFW National Home](#). Show your support today. Host a Buddy Poppy drive in your town, or [have your local government issue a special proclamation](#).

Hear from those who assemble the mighty little flowers in our ["Behind the Buddy Poppy" video](#).



Adjutant / Quartermaster

Shawn C. Watson

"In Flanders fields
the poppies blow
Between the crosses,
row on row,
That mark our place;
and in the sky
The larks, still
bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid
the guns below."

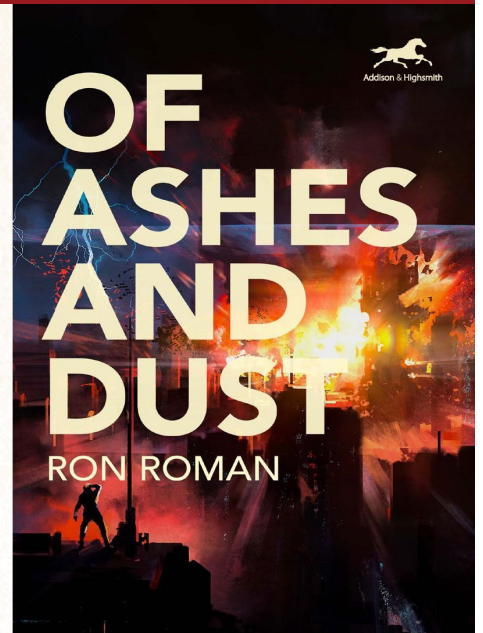
**JOHN MCCRAE, WORLD WAR I
SURGEON AND POET**



OF ASHES AND DUST

BY RON ROMAN

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



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

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

OF ASHES AND DUST
Ron Roman

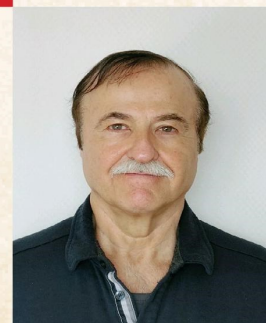
Available From
Amazon
Baker & Taylor
Ingram
Libby
Hoopla

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

ISBN: 9781592111787
November 22, 2022

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ron Roman (WWW.WRITERRONROMAN.COM) was an Associate Professor of English, ESL, and Humanities who had taught with the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC- Asia) since 1996. He has written extensive travel, academic, and political articles for regional and national publications. He studied writing (both fiction and creative) for his third graduate degree (Humanities) from Wesleyan University. Currently, he resides in South Korea, where he writes and has acted in numerous Korean TV dramas and motion pictures, like *Operation Chromite*, portraying Admiral Forrest Sherman opposite Liam Neeson as General Douglas MacArthur.



NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Greetings Comrades,

The National Council of Administration is the board of directors for the VFW. The Council is responsible for administering the affairs of the organization and transacting the business of the VFW in the intervals between conventions. As one of the sixty three Council Members your Department of Pacific Areas National Council Member participates in the three Council meetings held during each term. Some of the specific responsibilities we deal with include approving the annual budget, and being the final appeal authority for article IX issues.

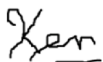
Above is the National responsibility, but the majority of my time is spent advocating for the Department of Pacific Areas when National assistance or support is required.

While functioning as the conduit between Department and National these are some of the issues we have been working on; arranging a VA virtual town hall meeting for Districts 4 and 5, ensuring grants are secured for appropriate projects throughout the Department, working with the Director Manila VA Regional Office and the Director of the Pittsburgh VA Regional Office in order to allow comrades to schedule electronic interviews with Manila VA personnel rather than Pittsburgh, and meeting with the VFW National Veterans Service office in Washington, D.C. on numerous Service Officers issues. Those are just a few examples of how your National Council Member advocates for our Department on a regular basis.

The point of the above paragraph is to advise you that assistance is available when there is a challenge in resolving issues between DPA and National. When that occurs please contact me with a copy to Department leadership and we will work on resolving the problem immediately.

As this the final issue of the Pacific Times for 2023, I wish you and yours the happiest of the upcoming holiday season.

Yours in comradeship and service to veterans,



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



National Council Member

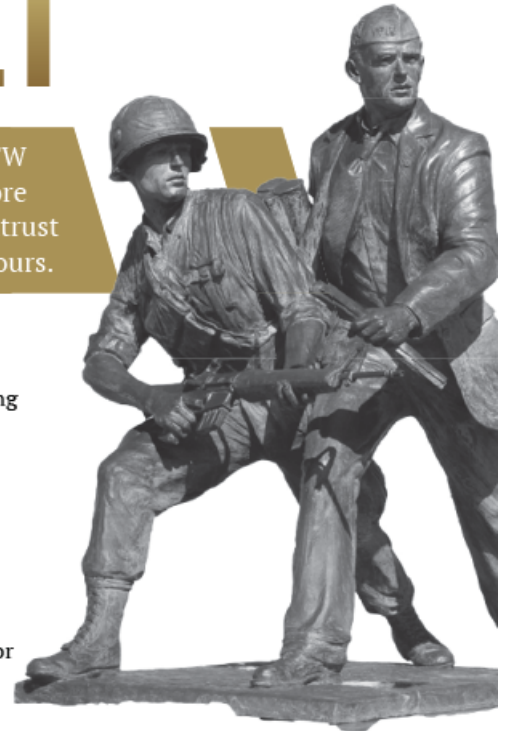
Ken Stein





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.

\$11.2 billion

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits in fiscal year 2022.

\$1.6 million+

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

21

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 September 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.

5,672

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



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

115,000

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

Nearly 13,500

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

20+

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



Inspiring patriotism in young people

26,250+

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

66,800+

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



Improving life in America

5 million

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

\$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:
\$61.4 Million



Source: VFW 2022 Annual Report

CERTIFIED NATIONAL RECRUITER

Good Morning Pacific Areas,

What a great day, it's a beautiful Indian Summer here in Korea. The nights are cool to sleep in and once it a while gets a little colder than you just have to cuddle up to your loved ones. It's also a great day to look at the attached spread sheet and see where your Post or District are in order for you, your District and Department to meet and exceed Commander-in-Chief Duane's goal of 102%.

The stats are as of 1530 hrs. on 30 October. I plan on updating this list on the DPA Web Site every Friday. So, if you are not on Facebook or the DPA WEB site I highly encourage you to do so. Lots of info is put out and you can also see what other Posts in our Department has posted and some of those ideas or events that they do may work for your post.

I would also like to recommend that you take advantage of the 2 Year payment for Annual memberships. Your quartermaster sees this on his portal on the National portion where they do the transmittals online. If you have old applications. Get rid of the old ones, DPA WEB Site has this application on its site or if you prefer the smaller form let me know and I will order some.

My post is offering Active Duty members 2 for 1. If they pay for the first-year cash. We will pay for their second year. I truly feel that after their 2nd year they will be more app to renew or go Life Membership for their 3rd year.

Is recruiting work, you bet! But is it worth it? We have to recruit or (replace our members that PSC out of country, transfer and yes even die). If we want the VFW to be around when our current Active Duty Members retire then we need to continue to get members in our organization in order to continue the great work that the VFW does for our Veterans! It is that simple.

In closing let me know how I can help you. Maybe you need some new Active Duty Members so that your Post can make a Christmas gift for them. Christmas time is coming and what better gift can you give to a Active Duty Member but to help care for their benefits that they have earned. Let me know how I can help you, Once Post 8180 gets to 102%, all they need is 45 more members. I will be more than happy help you recruit here in Korea for your Post. I can even get them faster if your Post or some of your members what to make those paid memberships for their Christmas present this year.

With my retirement and my surgery, I just got done with and another surgery for my wife, I'm sorry to say I will not be able to attend the CofA in Saipan this December. So, the Pacific All American Pins for last year and our current year will be postponed till the June Convention in Angeles City.

Take a look at the stats below. With 8180 now at 100% the most any post needs for 102% is 60 or below which can be gotten, it takes dedication, time and a little elbow grease. In closing have a Happy Thanksgiving, have a Great CofA, a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

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



National Certified Recruiter

Larry Lyons

CERTIFIED NATIONAL RECRUITER STATS

DPA Percentage Membership needed for this Year.
as of 30 October 2023

District	Post	2022/23 Count	Current Count	Current %	Needed for 100%	Needed for 102%
2	1054	835	839	100.47%	0+4	853/-14
	9555	346	332	95.95%	-14	353/-21
	9612	539	533	98.88%	-6	552/-13
	Total	1,720	1,704	99.06%	-16	1,740/-36
3	8180	2,103	2,117	100.66%	0+14	2,148/-45
	9985	270	233	86.29%	-37	276/-43
	10033	547	498	91.04%	-49	558/-60
	10223	436	411	94.26%	-25	445/-34
	Total	3,356	3,259	97.10%	-97	3,444/-88
4	9723	714	702	98.31%	-12	729/-27
	9957	327	299	91.43%	-28	375/-36
	10249	250	240	96.00%	-10	255/-15
	11575	122	119	97.54%	-3	125/-6
	12146	293	296	101.2%	0+3	299/-3
	Total	1,706	1,656	97.06%	-50	1,748/-92
5	9876	402	381	94.77%	-21	411/-30
	9951	259	248	95.75%	-11	265/-17
	10217	151	143	94.70%	-8	155/-12
	12074	125	106	84.80%	-19	128/-22
	12163	73	68	93.15%	-5	75/-7
	Total	1010	946	93.66%	-64	1031/-85
6	1509	261	241	92.33%	-20	267/-26
	2917	234	215	91.88%	-19	240/-25
	3457	364	353	96.97%	-11	372/-19
	Total	859	809	94.17%	-50	877/-68
7	124	291	298	102.40%	0+7	297/+1
	2485	1,651	1,644	99.57%	-7	1,685/-41
	9892	226	216	95.57%	-10	232/-16
	11447	509	473	92.92%	-36	520/-47
	12130	109	97	88.99%	-12	112/-15
	12224	0	10	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	2,786	2,738	98.27%	-48	2,842/-104
DPA	Total	12,046	11,658	96.77%	-388	12287/-629

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

David Gregory Bellavia (born November 10, 1975) is a former United States Army soldier who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Second Battle of Fallujah. Bellavia has also received the Bronze Star Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, and the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross. In 2005, Bellavia was inducted into the New York Veterans' Hall of Fame.^[1] He has subsequently been involved with politics in Western New York State. Upon being awarded the Medal of Honor on June 25, 2019, Bellavia became the first, and currently only living recipient of the Medal of Honor for service during the Iraq War.

Bellavia enlisted in the United States Army in July 1999 and deployed to Iraq after serving in Kosovo.

The actions for which Bellavia earned a Silver Star Medal took place on his 29th birthday. As a member of Company A, Task Force 2-2, 1st Infantry Division, his platoon was assigned during Operation Phantom Fury to clear a block of twelve buildings from which insurgents were firing on American forces. The platoon began searching house-to-house. At the tenth house, Bellavia fatally shot an insurgent preparing to load a rocket-propelled grenade. A second insurgent fired at him, and Bellavia wounded him in the shoulder. When Staff Sergeant Bellavia entered a bedroom, the wounded insurgent followed, forcing Bellavia to kill him. When another insurgent began firing from upstairs, Bellavia returned fire and killed him. A fourth insurgent then jumped out of a closet in the bedroom, yelling and firing his weapon as he leaped over a bed trying to reach Bellavia. The insurgent tripped and Bellavia wounded him. Bellavia chased the insurgent when he ran upstairs. He followed the wounded insurgent's bloody footprints to a room on the left and threw in a fragmentation grenade. Upon entering the room, Bellavia discovered it was filled with propane tanks and plastic explosives. He did not fire his weapon for fear of setting off an explosion and instead then engaged in hand-to-hand combat with the insurgent, which led to Bellavia killing the insurgent by stabbing him in the collarbone.

Bellavia's actions in Fallujah were first documented in the November 22, 2004 *Time* magazine cover story, "Into the Hot Zone", by journalist Michael Ware, who was attached with Bellavia's unit during the fight. Partial video capturing the event can be seen in Michael Ware's documentary *Only The Dead*.

After serving for six years, Bellavia left the service with the rank of staff sergeant in 2005.

On June 7, 2019, it was revealed to the media that Bellavia's Silver Star would be upgraded to the Medal of Honor. Bellavia was awarded the Silver Star for actions clearing houses during the Second Battle of Fallujah in November 2004. The Medal of Honor awarding ceremony took place at the White House on June 25, 2019, and was awarded to Bellavia by President Donald Trump. The ceremony was also attended by former members of Bellavia's platoon in Iraq.

When Bellavia's Silver Star was upgraded to the Medal of Honor in 2019, he became the first living recipient to have a recorded Medal of Honor action. He is also only the second recipient to have their Medal of Honor action filmed, with the first being John A. Chapman who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in Afghanistan in 2002. At the time of the action, Bellavia's Platoon was accompanied by Australian journalist Michael Ware who filmed the action from a downstairs doorway. Ware, who worked for *Time* and CNN at the time, wrote about the action for the cover story of the November 2004 edition of *Time Magazine*. It is unclear if the footage aired on CNN at the time, but it is prominently featured in Michael Ware's 2015 documentary *Only The Dead*.^[6]

A re-enactment of Bellavia's action is also depicted in season 2 episode 10 of The History Channel TV show *Shootout!*. However this aired in 2006, long before he was awarded the MoH so it is not mentioned in the episode.

Read the citation [HERE](#).



CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrades, I pray and hope this letter finds you, your families, and friends well, in good spirits and able to continue our most important advocacy work, advancing towards achieving Department, District / Post goals throughout the year. Continue to take care of Veterans, their families, our Active-duty service members and the less fortunate in our communities. Again, as I stated in my last correspondence, I reiterate the use of “Buddy checks” which are important to our mission and 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. I would like to say that “Buddy checks” are not helpful to our comrades if we are not paying attention to their critical needs if they are unable to conduct their business or affairs appropriately. Meaning if we know of those in crisis (i.e., passports or medical-Tricare/Medicare) let’s do and say something by taking the necessary steps to assist and aid them in correcting the issues.

Additional duties are many but let’s continue to actively participate in Parades, 9/11 Memorial Services, Veterans Day Programs/Services and POW/Mia Services. I have listed a couple of links to the current Chaplain’s Handbook and a Chaplain Resources page.

If there is a Veteran in “CRISIS” please call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 or your country Emergency designated number. If you are eligible file your PACT Act claim-or submit your intent to file for your benefits.

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

Post	Members Name	Date of Death
9273	Estil Elswick	15-Sep-23
9951	William L. Mann	24-Sep-23
2985	Herbert H. Williams IV	21-Sep-23
2485	John H. Gilbert	18-Aug-23
12074	Michael E. Holmes	24-Aug-23

Yours in Comradeship

Robert S. Chatman
Chaplain DPA

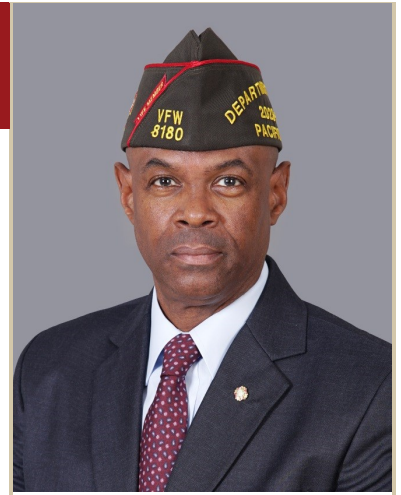


The Chaplain's Handbook

Articles - Information - Prayers - Guidelines

Revised by Rev. Peter R. Hook
Past National Chaplain
August 14, 2023

As comrade after comrade departs, we march on with our ranks grown thinner. Help us to be faithful unto Thee and to one another. Look in mercy on the surviving spouses and children of our departed comrades, we beseech Thee, and with Thine own tenderness console and comfort those who are bereaved.” Amen.



Chaplain

Robert Chatman



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!**

HELLFIRE PASS PLAQUE DEDICATION

Unveiling a Plaque at Hellfire Pass in Kanchanaburi Thailand, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on 25 October 2023.

The Commander in Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Duane Sarmiento, along with the U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, Robert Godec, and The Chief of the Defense Forces of the Kingdom of Thailand, General Songwit, as well as dozens of VFW members, and officials from the Australian and New Zealand embassies attended an unveiling of a plaque that honors the approximately 690 American prisoners of war who labored for their Japanese captors under horrific conditions on the Burma-Thai Railway. Approximately one hundred and thirty-four died during captivity.

Most of the American prisoners of war were captured on Java in the Dutch East Indies (present day Indonesia). They were primarily Soldiers along with Sailors and Marines from the USS Houston, a United States Navy heavy cruiser sunk in the Sunda Strait in the early hours of March 1, 1942. Before sinking, the USS Houston's crew rescued Merchant Mariners and Soldiers of the 2-131st Field Artillery, 36th Division, Texas National Guard, from a torpedoed troop transport ship which had been sent to assist with the defense of the Dutch East Indies. As their fate remained unknown until the end of the war the 2-131st became known as "The Lost Battalion". Aside from United States servicemembers, several American civilians captured by the Japanese on Java were sent to work on the railway. Approximately 134 Americans died on the Burma-Thai Railway, and all were repatriated to American soil following the war.

This section of the railway, known as Hellfire Pass, is a stark reminder of the grueling conditions experienced by allied prisoners of war and the thousands of Asian civilians forced to labor for the Japanese.



To close out the goodwill and commemorative tour in the Pacific, VFW National Commander Duane Sarmiento was invited to take part in a special dedication ceremony at Hellfire Pass, a stretch of railway on the former Burma Railway, also known as the Death Railway in Thailand. The pass was built with forced labor by prisoners of war during WWII and was named as such for the unimaginable working conditions that visually resembled Hell. At the dedication, dignitaries that included the United States Ambassador to Thailand Robert Godec and the Royal Thai Army Chief of Defense Forces General Songwit Noonpackdee, joined together for the somber unveiling of the monument which honors the 690 American prisoners of war who labored along the rail line and the 134 American lives that were lost at Hellfire Pass. [#VFWSalute](#)

DEPARTMENT SURGEON

As we approach the holiday season, let's be mindful of the health and well-being of our comrades, veterans, active-duty service members, their families, and the less fortunate in our communities. Whether you're preparing for travels across Asia or within the United States, it's crucial to do so responsibly. One health concern we should address is the "age-old flu" and its various strains, which can have long-lasting effects, particularly as we age. Getting vaccinated is one way to mitigate these effects, even though some may have reservations about it. Here's some information to help you make an informed decision.

Flu vaccines are developed to combat regional strains. This means that a vaccination received in the Pacific Areas may not be effective in the US. Therefore, consulting your doctor is advisable.

Flu season occurs annually, starting in the fall and continuing into the spring. While most recover from influenza without complications, it can lead to severe illness and even death, especially in older adults, young children, pregnant women, and individuals with certain chronic conditions. The most effective way to prevent influenza is to get a flu vaccine each year.

The influenza virus constantly evolves, leading scientists to identify the strains likely to cause the most illness. Vaccines are then developed based on these recommendations. Key points to consider regarding flu vaccination:

- It is recommended for everyone over the age of 6 months.
- The best time to get vaccinated is before flu becomes widespread in your community, typically in September, October, or November, but later vaccination can still be beneficial.

Pros of the flu shot:

- Reducing the severity of flu symptoms.
- Lowering the risk of transmitting the flu to high-risk individuals.
- Reducing the risk of death in individuals with hypertension.
- Preventing tens of thousands of doctor visits each year.
- Facilitating community immunity, protecting high-risk groups.

Possible cons include:

- Effectiveness varies (about 40-60% each year).
- It may take up to 2 weeks to become fully effective.
- Mild side effects like pain, redness, and swelling at the injection site.
- Some people may experience mild fever, headaches, and muscle aches for 1-2 days.
- Guillain-Barré syndrome, although extremely rare, can develop following a flu shot.

It's important to dispel the misconception that the flu shot can cause the flu. Since the vaccine contains an inactivated or partial virus, it cannot induce the flu.

For more information, refer to the CDC website, and always make informed decisions about your health. In addition to vaccination, regular physical activity, such as walking, cycling, or swimming, can promote cardiovascular health.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

Yours In Comradship
Lou Holub DPA Surgeon



Surgeon

Lou Holub

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Comrades,

The Department of Pacific Areas started the District and Post inspections on 01 October 2023. I'm hoping all inspections can be completed before the Council of Administration (CofA) which takes place 8-10 December 2023.

All completed inspections will be posted in the Department Dashboard. Click here to go to the dashboard: https://vfwpacific.org/di/vfw/v2/include/cr_Pacific_Dashboard.asp. Please allow a few seconds for the Dashboard to generate.

If you have completed your Post or District inspection and it is not reflected on the dashboard, please let me know immediately. As of the submission of this article, I have only received a Post inspection from Post 9876.

Yours in Comradship,

Barry Larson
Inspector
Department of Pacific Areas



Department Inspector

Barry L. Larson



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



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Dr. Frank Mayfield was touring Tewksbury Institute when, on his way out, he accidentally collided with an elderly floor maid. To cover the awkward moment Dr. Mayfield started asking questions. "How long have you worked here?"

"I've worked here almost since the place opened," the maid replied.

"What can you tell me about the history of this place?" he asked.

"I don't think I can tell you anything, but I could show you something."

With that, she took his hand and led him down to the basement under the oldest section of the building. She pointed to one of what looked like small prison cells, their iron bars rusted with age, and said, "That's the cage where they used to keep Annie Sullivan."

"Who's Annie?" the doctor asked.

Annie was a young girl who was brought in here because she was incorrigible—nobody could do anything with her. She'd bite and scream and throw her food at people. The doctors and nurses couldn't even examine her or anything. I'd see them trying with her spitting and scratching at them.

"I was only a few years younger than her myself and I used to think, 'I sure would hate to be locked up in a cage like that.' I wanted to help her, but I didn't have any idea what I could do. I mean, if the doctors and nurses couldn't help her, what could someone like me do?"

"I didn't know what else to do, so I just baked her some brownies one night after work. The next day I brought them in. I walked carefully to her cage and said, 'Annie, I baked these brownies just for you. I'll put them right here on the floor and you can come and get them if you want.'

"Then I got out of there just as fast as I could because I was afraid she might throw them at me. But she didn't. She actually took the brownies and ate them. After that, she was just a little bit nicer to me when I was around. And sometimes I'd talk to her. Once, I even got her laughing.

One of the nurses noticed this and she told the doctor. They asked me if I'd help them with Annie. I said I would if I could. So that's how it came about that. Every time they wanted to see Annie or examine her, I went into the cage first and explained and calmed her down and held her hand. This is how they discovered that Annie was almost blind."

After they'd been working with her for about a year—and it was tough sledding with Annie—the Perkins institute for the Blind opened its doors. They were able to help her and she went on to study and she became a teacher herself.

Annie came back to the Tewksbury Institute to visit, and to see what she could do to help out. At first, the Director didn't say anything and then he thought about a letter he'd just received. A man had written to him about his daughter. She was absolutely unruly—almost like an animal. She was blind and deaf as well as 'deranged.'

He was at his wit's end, but he didn't want to put her in an asylum. So he wrote the Institute to ask if they knew of anyone who would come to his house and work with his daughter.

And that is how Annie Sullivan became the lifelong companion of Helen Keller.

When Helen Keller was nominated for the Nobel Prize, she was asked who had the greatest impact on her life and she said, "Annie Sullivan."

But Annie said, "No Helen. The woman who had the greatest influence on both our lives was a floor maid at the Tewksbury Institute."



JUDGE ADVOCATE

Greetings Comrades,

Approved amendments to the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure have been posted on the VFW website. SEE RESULTS HERE:

https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/MY_VFW/ConventionResolutions/Online-Version_Combined---Final.pdf?v=1&d=20230803T185810Z&la=en

A couple of important changes this year are:

- Bylaws Section 416 has been amended to changing the District Chaplains Office to an appointed position.
- Manual of Procedures Section 706 was renamed as “National Home Funds”
- Manual of Procedures Section 803; Under Cap, “The color shall be green, shade 51; Suntan; or other colors as the National Council of Administration may dictate.”
- And Resolution 610 regarding the Foreign Medical Program (FMP) was approved.

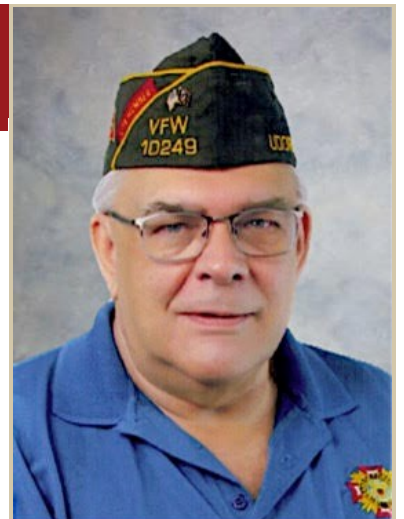
The **2024 PODIUM EDITION** is now available for download on the VFW website. It can be downloaded [HERE](#). There is also a link on our DPA Website under RESOURCES > NATIONAL BYLAWS: TRAINING, FORMS AND TEMPLATES > [2024 Digital Podium Edition](#)

BUDDY POPPY UPDATE: National Headquarters conducted a review of the Buddy Poppy policy and procedures and implemented the following changes effective Aug. 1, 2023:

1. If you do not receive your order within four weeks of placing it with your department, please contact your Department Headquarters to report you have not received your order.
2. If you do not report a missing order within 90 days of processing, the order will NOT be replaced free of charge, and you will have to resubmit your order.

National Parliamentarian Training Series found in My VFW -> VFW Training and Support. This training series contains 10 videos to help you, and all of our Comrades, gain a better understanding of Robert's Rules of Order. The videos are:

- Governing Documents & Rules
- Unnecessary Committee Reports & Shortening your Meeting
- How to Make & Handle Motions
- Misconceptions of the Second
- Nominations & Elections
- How to Close Debate
- Taking a Vote
- Presiding Officer Vote
- Challenge Announced Results of a Voice Vote
- Request for Meeting Minutes



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl

PODIUM EDITION

2024

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES



CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER
BYLAWS
MANUAL OF PROCEDURE
RITUAL

As amended July 23, 2023
Effective August 22, 2023

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Rules of Order Mid-Term December 2023

Composition:

The Council of Administration shall consist of the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Adjutant, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Chief-of-Staff, Inspector, Chaplain, Surgeon, Immediate Past Department Commander, and all District Commanders. In the absence of a District Commander, the District Senior vice Commander, or in their absence, the District Junior Vice Commander, may serve as a member of the Council.

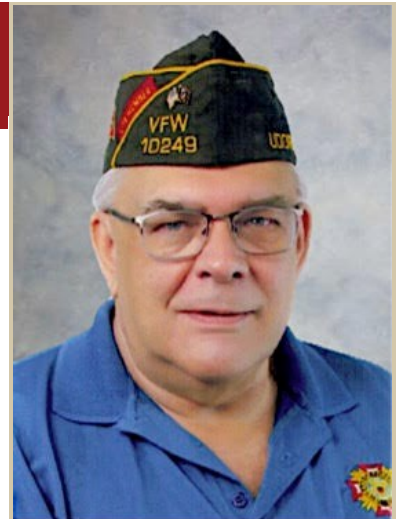
Motion - Procedural Guidelines:

1. Once the Presiding Officer has acknowledged a motion and it has been seconded it may now be open for discussion.
2. Any member, when duly recognized by the Presiding Officer may speak on the motion for clarity, either for or against.
3. Every member is automatically entitled to speak once on a debatable motion before the body unless the body, by a 2/3 vote, has ordered the discussion closed. After discussion has been voted closed, no one can debate a motion—except by unanimous consent.
4. A member is also automatically entitled to speak a second time on the same question the same day, unless other members who have not yet spoken on the question actually rise to claim the floor to speak. If no one rises, he may speak a second time.
5. No member shall speak more than twice on the same question, nor longer than 5 minutes the first time and no more than 3minutes the second time.
6. No one may automatically speak a third or further time if anyone in the assembly objects.
7. Only Council members are allowed to vote on any motion before the body.
8. Prior to any voting the Department Quartermaster will determine the voting strength based on the number present and voting.
9. Each member of the Council will only be entitled to one (1) vote.
10. All voting will be done by Roll Call Vote.

Electronic Attendance:

Pursuant to VFW By-Laws, Section 503, this meeting will also allow for virtual attendance using the Zoom Meeting Platform.

1. Each member is responsible for his or her connection to the meeting; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.
2. To ensure all features are available to the user, each member is responsible for upgrading their zoom app to the latest version.



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl

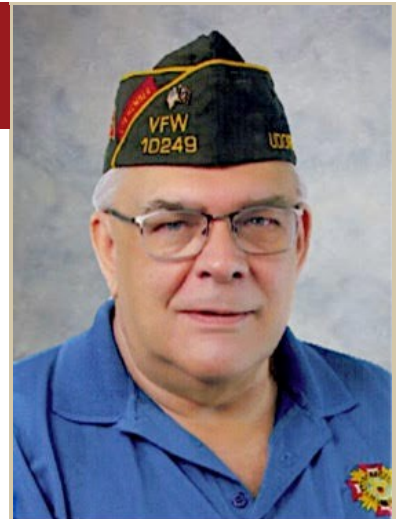
JUDGE ADVOCATE

Meeting Guidelines:

1. Department Adjutant will be the meeting host and is responsible for sending the meeting invitation and the meeting link to all council members and invited guests.
2. The Department Adjutant will also serve as the moderator and control the meeting per direction of the Department Commander.
3. Invited guests, (Non-members of the Department of Pacific, if any) will be preapproved by the Department Commander.
4. Members in virtual attendance wanting to address the assembly, will use the raise hand feature and may address the assembly when recognized.
5. Required reports will be submitted electronically to the Department Adjutant and included as an attachment to the minutes.
6. When addressing the assembly, members should be in camera view while speaking.
7. Members joining us via ZOOM shall have their cameras on when speaking and their mic's muted when not addressing the assembly.

Yours in Comradeship and Service

Delbert "Bert" Marohl
DPA Judge Advocate



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

WELCOME HOME

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

vfw.org

The advertisement features a photograph of a young man in a military uniform (Army) hugging a woman and a young girl. The woman is smiling and holding the girl. The background is a light, neutral color. The VFW logo is prominently displayed in the upper right, followed by the text "WELCOME HOME" and "Learn about the VFW and what WE can do for YOU." The website "vfw.org" is at the bottom right.

IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

Looking at the numbers every day we are well on our way of reaching Nationals 102% Goal for

2023 2024. Keep up the hard work. Not sure if you all saw but Past National Commander Tim Borland travelled to the Pacific just to help on the recruiting drive, he didn't have to do that but he saw after his last trip that the DPA gets overlooked too much by National, and he was saying he sees your work and Thanks you all for it.

Side note, over the past year I have seen comments and emails using words like MAFIA and CLIQUE, and I feel you are doing the DPA an injustice. We are all one team, we are all there for each other, we are all here to help veterans and their families. Using terms like that makes you sound petty, and jealous. Now I understand where things get generated, and I feel you are not that.

The DPA conducts business, the DPA has meetings and votes. Now you may not always agree with the outcomes, and hey sometimes you do agree but the member next to you does not. That is natural, things don't always work in our favor, but that doesn't mean stop trying or using insulting terms. When the DPA votes it is voted on by the masses and pros and cons are brought to the table. The vote is held and then it is done. When you get up from the meeting, walk out the door and say oh well, that is what the members wanted. Then you can sit by the pool or the bar or the dinner table and rediscuss the entire day's events, but remember we are all in this together.

Sometimes a comment or how a proposal is put forward push the vote away from what you intended. Then in that case, you need to fall back, regroup and approach from a different angle. I hope you understand what I am trying to say, but I will leave it with some words a Past DPA Commander told me, if you are making everyone happy, you're not doing the job right. OK the horse is dead, let's all get together in sunny Saipan and have a great CofA.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and see you in December.

Max XXXOOO
Immediate Past DPA Cdr



Immediate Past DPA Cdr

Warren "Max" Maxson





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

HERE ARE JUST A FEW WAYS:

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

FOR VETERANS.®

WFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

Photo by Gregory Binnick. The appearance of Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

Greetings Comrades,

Each month Post Service Officers are required to provide the DSO with a recap of the services they are providing for our Veterans and their families. This data is used to evaluate the workload and determine how many Accredited Service Officers, if any, are needed to enhance serve to our veterans and their families in your area. This is an overview of the reports received.

POST SERVICE OFFICER REPORTING

Post S.O. Reports	Number of Posts		Claims Filed	
	Reporting	No Report	July	This Term
	8	17	27	27

DSO Service Officer Training	Number of Posts		District S.O.	
	Training C/W	Awaiting Training	Training C/W	Awaiting Training
	13	12	3	4

NOTE: One of the requirements to qualify for All-State this term is that your post service officer is required to attend training provided by the Department Service Officer. Attendance is taken and reported to National Veterans Services.

Who should file a supplemental claim?

A Veteran may file a supplemental claim if they have new and relevant evidence related to a previously claim. As part of continued modernization efforts from VA, Veterans can now file supplemental claims online at VA.gov. Filing a supplemental claim is an option for Veterans who disagree with a previously denied claim decision regarding VA disability compensation or pension benefits.

This new functionality enhances the Veteran digital experience while delivering timely and accurate notification to Veterans regarding their claim decisions.

<https://www.va.gov> new online filing tool speeds claims decisions to Veterans by:

- Saving time with supplemental claims submitted directly on VA.gov, with step-by-step, interview-style questions.
- Allowing secure and quick uploads for additional evidence and records.
- Saving progress so Veterans can leave and pick up where they left off.

In addition, Veterans can use their smartphone or other mobile devices to apply online, or if they would prefer, submit supplemental claims by mail if that option better meets their need.

Who should file a supplemental claim?

A Veteran may file a supplemental claim if they have new and relevant evidence related to a previously denied claim for VA disability compensation or pension benefits. New and relevant evidence is defined as evidence not available at the time of the previous claim decision, which may change VA's decision regarding a claim.

Veterans may also file a supplemental claim if they would like VA to review their



DSO Pacific Areas

Al Fitchett



Service Officer

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

claim based on new legislation, for example, the newly implemented PACT Act.

If filing a supplemental claim for a newly presumptive condition due to the passage of the PACT Act or similar legislation, submitting new and relevant evidence may not be required but is still highly recommended. Veterans are encouraged to submit or identify medical evidence documenting the diagnosis and severity of the claimed condition and proof of qualifying military service. Otherwise, the Veteran can ask VA to obtain some documentation, including medical records from a VA Medical Center or private insurance provider.

Filing online provides an improved experience

VA gathered valuable feedback from Veterans, Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs), and VA employees while creating the online application to improve Veterans' digital experience and ensure a smooth, logical and secure process for submitting supplemental claims online.

Filing online reduces the wait time associated with traditional mailed claims since applications are received immediately instead of working with the delay that comes with physically mailed documentation. In addition, records sent through a secure network safeguards Veteran's personal information. Submitting supplemental claims online will help VA quickly deliver the benefits and services Veterans have earned while protecting the security of their confidential information.

To file a supplemental claim online, visit the [File a Supplemental Claim webpage](#) on [VA.gov](#) and complete the form.

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

Al Fitchett
Department of Pacific Areas
dsodpa@vfwpacific.org



DSO Pacific Areas

Al Fitchett



Service Officer

YOU FOUGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY. NOW JOIN US IN THE FIGHT FOR VETERANS.

We understand the unique bond you share with other veterans of overseas conflicts because we, too, have been there. No matter which conflict called you to service, we invite you to join us as we continue to fight for all that's good FOR VETERANS.



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



vfw.org/join

BIG BUG SQUEAKS



Big Bug

David Gley



Click each Logo above
for Websites

Fellow Comrades,

(ST) I am preparing my visit to the Philippines where I will meet with Pup Tent 15 in Angeles City and Pup Tent 11 in Subic Bay. I am also going to be heading down to Tacloban for the Leyte Landing ceremony. I look forward to seeing my fellow Comrades and Cooties.

What is a Cootie: First of all, we are VFW members FIRST and ALWAYS; we are the ones that a VFW Post noticed were consistently active in the Post and decided we deserved to be part of the honor degree. The one that regardless of circumstances will drop everything to help a fellow comrade in need.

Our primary mission is to take care of one another and ensure anyone in the hospital does not miss out on that comradery that we value, "Keep 'em Smilin' in Beds of White"; and we have a little fun while we do this. If you want more information on the Cooties, please ask one or you can go to the Grand webpage at

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

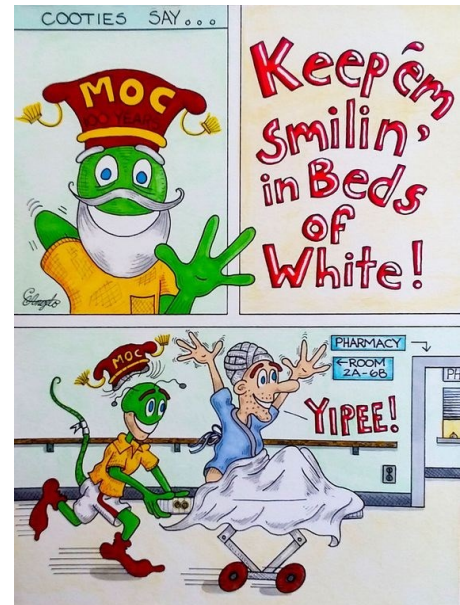
If your Post does not have a Pup Tent and you want to be a Cootie, reach out to a Pup Tent in your area, as you do not need to be a member of a specific Post to be a member of its Pup Tent. Your Post would just need to let the Pup Tent know that you are a hard-working VFW member and deserve to be part 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 they are hard workers and supporters of the Post; we are all VFW members first. Let us continue to keep our fellow comrades in our thoughts by performing buddy checks, even if you can only reach them by phone or video calls. Through this we will be "Stronger Together"

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



VOD/PP/TA CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

The deadline is fast approaching; please make sure to continue hitting up schools and youth organizations to get those last few stragglers on board. Also, please send me the names of your District Chairs.

For All-State, one VoD and one PP needs to be submitted or a \$100 donation for each program on the All-American dashboard. For All-American, one VoD, one PP, and one TA (of any category) or a \$100 donation for each program on the All-American dashboard.

This year's topics are: VoD – *“What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?”* & PP – *“How Are You Inspired by America?”*. Please get these out to schools, homeschools, and youth centers so that children can start working on them now. I also want to encourage you to work with the schools more 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. Please know the rules on what is allowed in the essays. 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,

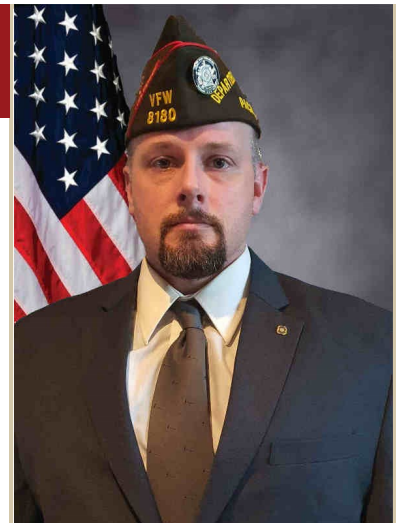


David B. Gley, Jr.
Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen / Teacher's Award Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas
vodppdpa@vfw-pacific.org
Phone: +82-10-2722-7174



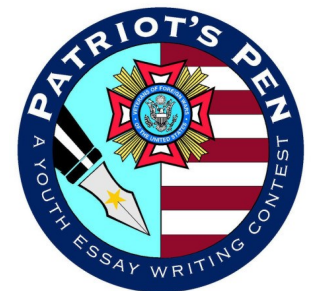
This is last year's Voice of Democracy (VoD) winner-Scotland Stewart, 15-year-old Sophomore from Tennessee, picked up \$35,000.00 for winning first place overall. Naomi Park of Jacksonville, NC won \$2,500 for her submission as the VoD winner for the State of North Carolina.

Seventh grader, Leighton Peters, from Wisconsin, picked up \$5,000 for winning first place in the Patriot Pen award.



VOD/PP/TA Chairman

David Gley



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Mark Twain and his close companion, John T. Lewis, were captured standing side by side at Quarry Farm in Elmira, New York, back in 1903. Many have speculated that Lewis served as the inspiration for the character "Jim" in Twain's famous novel, "Huckleberry Finn."

John T. Lewis, born a freedman in Maryland in 1835, eventually settled in Elmira, NY. One fateful day, as he was returning from the market, his life took an unexpected turn. A carriage pulled by a runaway horse came hurtling down the road towards him, carrying three terrified women. Reacting swiftly, Lewis leaped from his wagon and managed to grasp the bridle, bringing the horse to a stop and saving the lives of the frightened passengers.

The women turned out to be the wife, daughter, and nurse of the wealthy Charles Langdon family, residents of Quarry Farm. As Charles Langdon was related to Samuel Clemens (known by his pen name, Mark Twain), the family was deeply grateful to Lewis for his heroic act. General Langdon presented Lewis with a generous check of one thousand dollars and later gifted him a gold watch engraved with a heartfelt message, commemorating the date of the brave rescue.

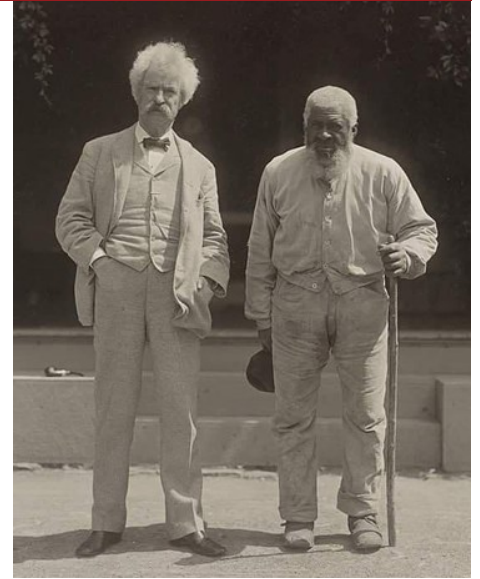
During this incident, Mark Twain happened to be visiting Quarry Farm and witnessed Lewis's heroism. In admiration and appreciation, Twain personally bestowed fifty dollars and a set of books with inscriptions to Lewis. With these gifts, Lewis was able to clear the debt of his entire sixty-four-acre farm. Furthermore, he became employed by the Langdon's on Quarry Farm, strengthening his bond with Mark Twain.

Although the two men surely knew each other since 1868, when Sam was courting Livy, their relationship deepened after the incident. On the evening of 23 August 1877, Sam, Livy, the Cranes, and other members of their extended families and staff watched from the porch as brother-in-law Charles Langdon's wife Ida, their six-year-old daughter Julia, and their nurse Nora started down a long hill in a carriage drawn by a new, spirited horse. Suddenly, Livy cried out, "Ida's driving too fast down that hill!" and then screamed, "Her horse is running away!" Sam and Theodore Crane took off on foot in a desperate but futile pursuit, watching the disappearing carriage pass the front gate "springing high in the air," with Sam expecting a "ghastly spectacle of mutilation and death" as they approached the spot where the road would make a sudden turn near a ravine. But when they got to that spot, the carriage was intact and all was well.

Earlier in the letter, Clemens wrote that John Lewis had been in town that day, three miles away, to pick up a load of manure for his farm in his two-horse wagon. Now John Lewis had performed, in Clemens' words, a "miracle." Twain wrote to Howells:

"You see, Lewis,—the prodigious, humped upon his front seat, had been toiling up, on his load of manure; he saw the frantic horse plunging down the hill toward him, on a full gallop, throwing his heels as high as a man's head at every jump. So Lewis turned his team diagonally across the road just at the 'turn,' thus making a V with the fence—the running horse could not escape that but must enter it. He gathered his vast strength, and with a perfect Creedmoor aim he seized the gray horse's bit as he plunged by & fetched him up standing! It was down hill, mind you; ten feet further down hill neither Lewis nor any other man could have saved them, for they would have been on the abrupt 'turn,' then. But how this miracle was ever accomplished at all, by human strength, generalship & accuracy, is clear[ly] beyond my comprehension—& grows more so the more I go & examine the ground & try to believe it was actually done. I know one thing, well; if Lewis had missed his aim he would have been killed on the spot in the trap he had made for himself, & we should have found the rest of the remains away down at the bottom of the steep ravine."

This bond between Lewis and Twain grew into a close and enduring friendship that lasted for over three decades. The two were often photographed together, especially during Twain's visits to the Langdon residence, where he frequently engaged in his writing. Twain once expressed, "I have not known a honester man or a more respectable one." when referring to his esteemed friend John T. Lewis.



LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

After attending the Legislative Fall conference, I am pleased to report the following. I was able to get a Face to Face meetings with both Pacific Area's Representatives in the office. Mr. Chris Lukas, Legislative Assistant to Congressman James Moylan (District of Guam) and Mr. Herb Yamada Legislative Assistant to Congressman Sablan (Northern Mariana Islands)

After making the pitch of VFW 3 Fall Priorities to both of them in their offices.

Transition from the Military: VFW recommends the Passing H.R. 3933, *TAP Promotion Act*,

to require accredited representatives from national, state, and local organizations to be included in TAP classes.

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

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

I have been informed by the office of Congressman Moylan, that he has co-sponsored all 3 of these bills. In addition, they are requesting VFW look into supporting H.R. 522 Bill, this has been passed up to the VFW NLS office to look into.

The office of Congressman Sablan was looking for some information on a VFW member in Saipan and I made contact, with Pete Callaghan who was able to provide me with this information.

Comrades, to find out more information on the items that the VFW is supporting, click on this link to sign up: <https://votervoicenet.org/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** 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

Yours in Comradeship,

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



Legislative Chairman

Randell Himes

AMERICANISM/LOYALTY DAY CHAIR

Comrades,

As we move to the last quarter of the calendar year; we have to remember the many reasons to show how Americanism is important. Our service members all have the love of our country and devotion to patriotic ideals; which can be traced back to its earliest roots of all Veteran Organizations. The first Americanism resolutions call on to secure, a love and respect of the flag and country, among other items.

The significant events are approaching fast, we need to remember the reasons we have such a great and loyal nation. Some of the significant dates that we need to remember:

- Election Day (1st Tuesday in Nov)
- Veteran's Day (Signing of WWI Armistice (1918))
- National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

With the holidays forthcoming, there are many manners to show our Americanism and Loyalty to our great nation, being that November is Veterans & Military Families Month. Veterans & Military Families Month was established by the U.S. Government with recognition every year.

Some momentous ways to increase awareness, and provide support throughout the holidays:

- Thank an Active-Duty Member, Veteran, Military Spouse, or Military Child for their service.
- Visit war memorials with your family to teach your children the value of service.
- Fly the U.S. Flag.
- Adopt a military family for the holidays by sponsoring a Food Basket or Toys for junior enlisted military families through the Armed Services YMCA's Operation Holiday Joy.
- Contact your nearest military base Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) office to see what events or activities might be planned on-post honoring families including special events, contests, or discounts for local businesses or attractions. Sometimes just showing up for an event or ceremony creates a stronger bond in the community.

Randy Riggs
Americanism/Loyalty Day Chairman

Military Branch Birthdays for November and December



10 November 1775



13 December 1636



20 December 2019



Americanism/Loyalty Day Chair

Randy Riggs

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES*



January 27 - Signing of Vietnam Peace Accords* were a series of agreements signed in 1973 to officially end the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War. These accords were negotiated in Paris, France, and involved the United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and the Viet Cong (the communist forces in South Vietnam). However, the Paris Peace Accords did not lead to a lasting peace in Vietnam. After the U.S. withdrawal, the conflict between North and South Vietnam resumed, ultimately resulting in the reunification of Vietnam under communist control in 1975. The accords remain an important historical milestone in the context of the Vietnam War.



15 February 1898 U.S.S. *Maine** was a United States Navy ship that sank in Havana Harbor in February 1898, contributing to the outbreak of the Spanish–American War in April. American newspapers, engaging in yellow journalism to boost circulation, claimed that the Spanish were responsible for the ship's destruction. The phrase, "Remember the *Maine*! To hell with Spain!" became a rallying cry for action. Although the *Maine* explosion was not a direct cause, it served as a catalyst that accelerated the events leading up to the war.



February 28 - Liberation of Kuwait—Operation Desert Storm* On February 28, 1991, a U.S.-led operation liberated Kuwait from Iraq following a significant air campaign from February 24 to 28. Upon entry, U.S. and Coalition forces encountered mass surrenders by Iraqi troops. Despite this, pockets of resistance, especially at Kuwait International Airport, led to intense battles as some Iraqi troops were unaware of their retreat order. Most of the fighting occurred in Iraq, not Kuwait, and this operation is a part of the Gulf War.

Other Important Dates

1st Tuesday of November – Election Day

November 10 - U.S. Marine Corps Established (1775)

November 21 - Grenada Campaign Ended (1983)

December 13 - National Guard Established (1636)

December 15 - Iraq War Ended (2011)

December 20 – U.S. Space Force Established (2019)

December 31 - Official End of WWII (1946); Kosovo Campaign Ended (2013)

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

January 31 - Panama Campaign Ended (1990)

3rd Monday of February - Presidents' Day

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

DPA WEBSITE SPONSORS



โรงพยาบาลกรุงเทพ
BANGKOK HOSPITAL
พัทยา • PATTAYA



Rdrokit Power
RockBlues & Roadhouse Music



Notice

Districts, to offset the costs of our website and newsletter please find at least one Sponsor of \$100 for a year. Congratulations to District 5 for going above and beyond!!

We ask each District to submit at least one DPA Website Sponsor. Each Sponsor must donate a minimum of \$100. The term is one year and their Logo will be included on our Sponsor Website page and here in our Bi-Monthly newsletter. Contact the Webmaster at webdpa@vfwpacific.org or The Pacific Times Editor at pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org for information on how to submit your Sponsors.