

# THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No one does more for Veterans  
VETERANS are our BUSINESS

Volume XXIV, Number 6

May/June 2021 (Rev 1)

FREE

## VETERANS ARE OUR BUSINESS

Veterans helping Veterans. The Department of Pacific Areas says “what pandemic” as we continue camaraderie and communication throughout the 2020-2021 term.



VFW CDR Message to DPA Membership:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ejq6RM8h9fk>



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**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®**

# COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings Comrades,

Despite the pandemic that has lasted the entire term, the Department of Pacific Areas has continued to do the work of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and do it well.

In each of our communities our members have stepped up and assisted those less fortunate. We have conducted buddy checks, looked in on comrades who are housebound or hospitalized, honored those who have passed on, helped eligible veterans receive their earned benefits from the VA, and have increased our life membership from last term.

In plain English we have not allowed this devastating virus to prevent us from proving No One Does More For Veterans and I could not be prouder to be a part of this Department.

Unfortunately, we will be unable to have an in-person convention this year, so it will be held virtually on 19 June @ 0830 Thailand time. The newly elected and appointed officers will be installed during Good of the Order and the new term begins immediately after the installation ceremony. We expect the convention to last about two hours. DPA Adjutant Shawn will be forwarding the Zoom link over the next few weeks. Due to the nature of the convention we are waiving the per capita tax/delegate fee for the 2021 Convention.

Please keep up the good work you have accomplished all year, and in our final two months of the term continue to do buddy checks, assist your communities as needed, foster camaraderie, remember camaraderie is our mission, help veterans and their families through difficult times, and continue to recruit Life Members.

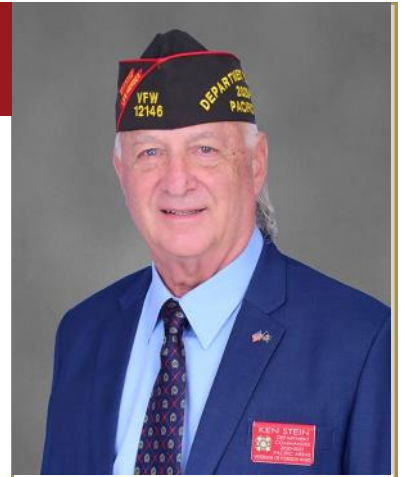
The key to recruiting new Life Members is to review the expired list, the unpaid list, and ask annual members to upgrade to Life.

Life Membership is the foundation of our Department and for that reason we are offering all posts \$100 for every new Life Member recruited, reinstated, or upgraded from annual membership. This program will be in effect until 30 June 2021. With the post matching the Department's \$100 we can save prospective life members \$200 with this initiative. and that is the purpose of this program; to make becoming a life member more affordable.

This issue of Pacific Times will be the final edition for the 2020-2021 term. I want to thank our Editor and Webmaster "Augie" Augustine for doing an exceptional job both as webmaster and Pacific Times editor. Although no one should be surprised by his outstanding efforts, because as Augie always says, "What do you expect, I'm a Seabee".

## SEABEES NOUN.{SEA-BEES}

1. AN ORGANIZED GROUP OF  
WAR FIGHTING, BEER DRINKING,  
COUNTRY SERVING, HIGHLY TRAINED,  
SHARPLY DRESSED, ONE OF A KIND  
DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM



Department of Pacific Areas

Commander

Ken Stein



### 2021 National Publications Contest Winners Named

Congratulations to Department of Pacific Areas Pacific Times Newsletter for earning the Bronze Award for Small Frequency Category

**Bronze Award:**



*The Pacific Times*  
Alan "Augie" Augustine  
Editor: Pacific Times

[See all results here](#)



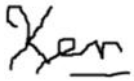
# COMMANDER'S CALL

We have been extremely fortunate this term to have a leadership team that has been nothing short of amazing. Thank you SVC Kevin, JVC Max, QM/ADJ Shawn, COS/NCM Pete, and Advocate Bert. We have worked closely together, well as close as we can while meeting via the Zoom platform every two weeks. Their recommendations, thoughts, and actions always have one thing in mind, how will this help Veterans and our Department. Thank you Comrades for all you do.

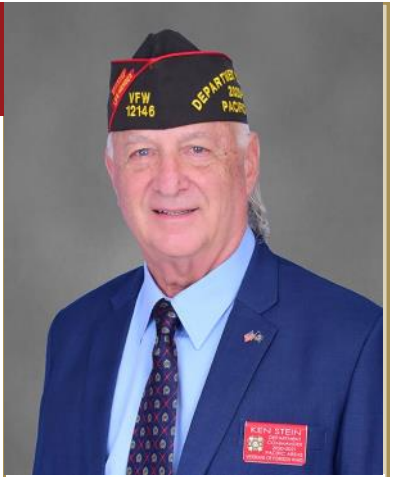
Finally, I thank you for your support this term, for your hard work, and for proving Veterans Are Our Business. We are fortunate to have a dynamic, caring, and dedicated incoming Department Commander in Kevin Mitchell. All the best to him, his team, and the comrades in the Department of Pacific Areas.

With warmest best wishes, and

In comradeship



Kenneth A. Stein  
Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
**Veterans Are Our Business**



Department of Pacific Areas

Commander

**Ken Stein**



Why they don't allow fraternization.

+++ NEWS +++

Please note we have moved the Pacific Times Newsletter from Resources heading to News heading on the DPA Website.

<https://vfwpacific.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=90015>

+++ NEWS +++

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES



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



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



**August 31 - End of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2010**  
August 31, 2021 marks the 11th Anniversary of the End of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On August 31, 2010, President Barack Obama declared the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Learn more:

<https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/military/war-in-iraq.html>

<https://www.cfr.org/timeline/iraq-war>



# 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](mailto:pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org)



Post 12146 Junior Vice Commander and Community Service Chairman Howard Holzworth along with First Lady of the Post Malai Stein, Mrs. Ya Morgan, and Department Commander Ken Stein deliver urgently needed medical and food supplies to a needy family in Banchang. The parents are unable to work due to severe debilitating diseases and their two children suffer from autism. This need was brought to the attention of Post Commander Coop by Friends of the Post.



On April 17, Post 3457 held a recruiting drive at the Saipan Troop Store for its adopted unit, Echo Company of the 442nd Battalion. The result - 4 new Life Members. Pictured are Pete Callaghan, David Apatang (Saipan Mayor and Life Member), Mariano Fajardo, Mike O'Kelley and Post Commander Joey McDoulett. Not pictured are Grand Chef Rob Hazlett and photographer Brad Ruszala.



# In the SPOTLIGHT

Post #9723 conducted successful Buddy Poppy Drives at Camp Foster Okinawa Exchange and Commissary 20 & 21 March 2021. Support provided by fourteen motivated Comrades: David Boughton, Larry Wilson, John Bowers, Carl Chisler, Jeremy Brada, Jeff Runfeldt, Tracy Bender, Jeff Barnes, Tom Quinn, James Terry, George Cabrera, Willie T. Brandon, Marty Roberts and Curtis Kozlesky.





## In the SPOTLIGHT

I am proud to submit this brief biography of Comrade James E. Bogle, a member of VFW Post 12074, a published author, and our post's only WWII veteran who has a very interesting history.



Comrade James E. Bogle enlisted in June 1944 and served with the Army Air Corps during World War II. He also served on active duty with the USAF during the Korean War and remained in the Air Force reserves until honorably discharged in 1972.

James E. Bogle was born in Philadelphia; attended Pennsylvania Military College and after military service in WWII received a BFA from the School of Fine Arts, University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Bogle, a charter member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, spent most of his professional career abroad with assignments in 25 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America. The majority of his work was in Asia. Mr. Bogle's first Asian assignment was that of land planner for the Bangkok-Thonburi City Plan (1958-1960). Mr. Bogle was responsible for the planning of Malaysia's "Jengka Triangle" a 100,000-acre resettlement scheme in Malaysia; which the World Bank considers to be one of its outstanding

Third World projects. Mr. Bogle was active during the war in Vietnam preparing postwar plans for cities and infrastructure. Bogle also worked on new cities in Indonesia, Philippines and was the Chief Planner for the three 'New Industrial Cities' projects in Egypt. He was also director of construction for the \$5 Billion King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Mr. Bogle was cited by the governments of Egypt, Guyana, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and Vietnam for his work in those countries. While stationed in Thailand, Mr. Bogle became a founding member of the Mitrapab (Friendship) Educational Foundation, which raised money for a number of rural schools by holding parachute demonstrations in rural provinces. Mr. Bogle was made an honorary member of the Royal Thai Rangers parachute association.

His travels and interests allowed Mr. Bogle to acquire a collection of Asian art and paintings. In 2010 he gave 50 Southeast Asian paintings to the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, Maryland. His book: "*Thai and Southeast Asian Painting 18 through -20<sup>th</sup> Centuries*" was published in 2011 by Schiffer Publishing. Another book; Buddhist "*Cosmology the Study of a Burmese Manuscript*" was released in July 2016 by Silkworm Books, Chiang Mai. A recent book "*An Irregular Life*", intended for a limited use as a Thai Memorial book was published in 2020 by an established publishing house, Thailand.

Comrade James E. Bogle is an active member of VFW Post 12074; the Army Navy Club, Washington, D.C., and the Royal Bangkok Sports Club; maintains residences in Philadelphia and Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Carl Manchester  
Commander  
Post 12074  
Chiang Mai, Thailand  
VFW12074.org

# In the SPOTLIGHT



VFW Robert W. Zaher Post 2485 “For a Better Vision” project was initially started to provide free eye exams from a licensed Optometrist from AAGO Optical Clinic in Manila to anyone at our Post conference room in Angeles City, Philippines. 40 to 50 people took advantage of this free service at the VFW Post 2485 on one weekend. The free eye exams was then offered to the faculty and students at nearby Malabanas Integrated School (MIS). After 20 faculty members of MIS received their free eye exams, it was offered to needy students in grades 4 and 5.

Post 2485 KIDOP funds were used to purchase single vision eye glasses for 70 deserving students at MIS, AAGO Optical donating 10 of the 70 pairs of eye glasses.

"For a Better Vision" was so successful and well received, that it will be repeated and expanded in the future to help more people in our community.



NOTE: Due to on-going pandemic and Health Protocol restrictions, we were not able to get photos of the children who were supposed to be restricted to their homes in accordance with the government quarantine rules, but were allowed to go out with their parents for necessary medical reasons.





# In the SPOTLIGHT



SSGT JAQUORI L BROOKS AIR BASE KADENA Fire Fighter was presented a Certificate of Appreciation ‘In special recognition and highest praise for alertness, personal courage and ever efficient guardianship of Life and Property ‘.

“SSGT Brooks as a Station Chief provided direction and supervision for 44 Firefighters , managed an 18 million dollar vehicle fleet, responsible for five districts , and protected the Air Force largest Combat Wing . His superb skill set was vital in the extinguishment of a 350 thousand dollar military family housing fire. He employed fire ground tactics, techniques and procedures protecting 28 responders, four families and saved three adjacent units. He battled United States Forces Japan largest Hazmat fire. As Lead Firefighter he directed members during a nine hour blaze, salvage and overhaul. His actions halted the chlorine release safeguarding seven thousand base populace and 134 First Responders “

YIC

Commander  
VFW District1/Post 9723  
National Aide de Camp  
All State 2019-2020  
[curtiskozlesky@gmail.com](mailto:curtiskozlesky@gmail.com)  
090-1945-9306 Okinawa, Japan  
“Veterans are our Business “

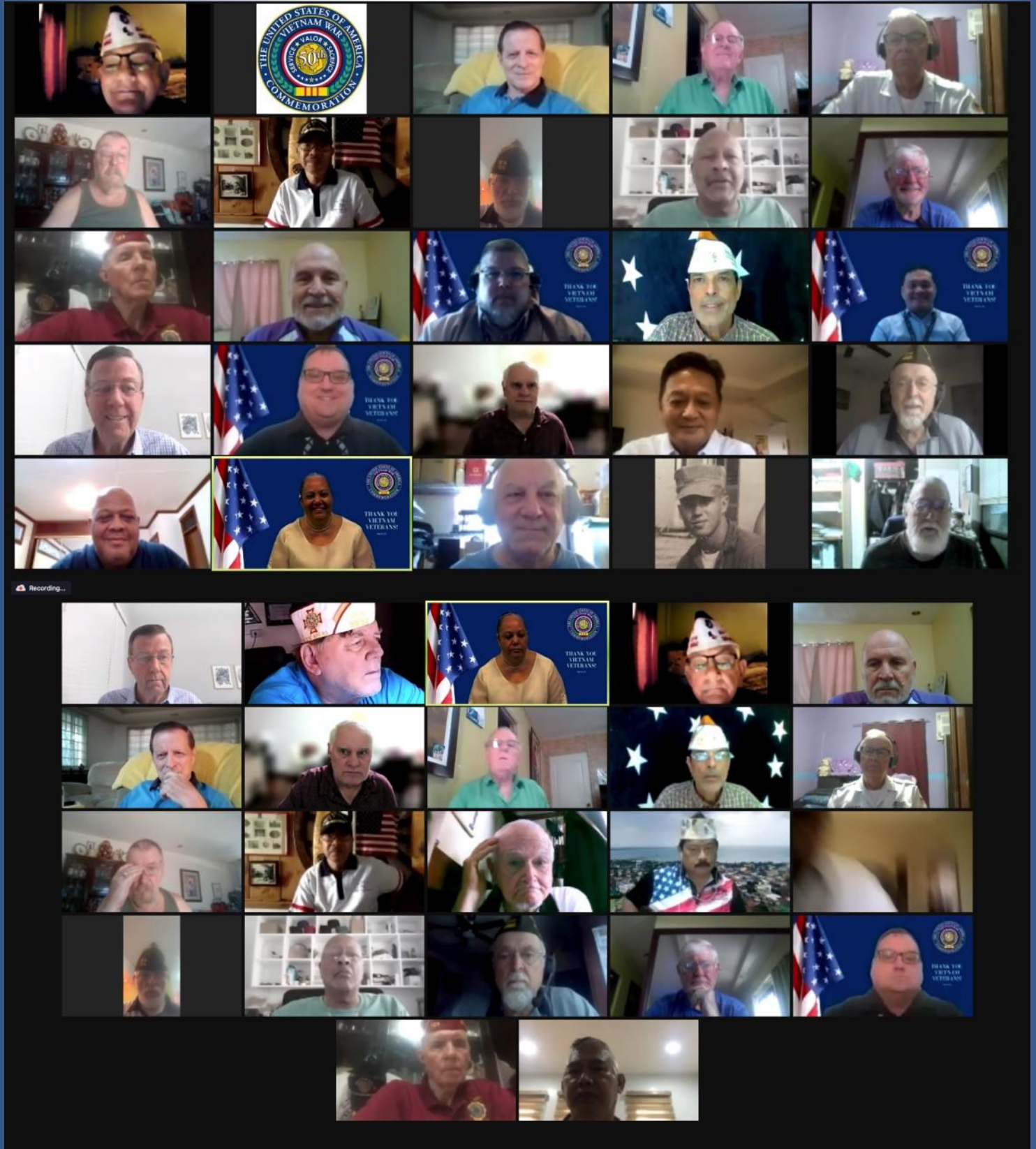


CMSGT Kenneth Wobse Fire Chief, VFW POST #9723 Commander Curtis Kozlesky, SSGT Brooks and Junior Vice Commander Larry Wilson



# In the SPOTLIGHT

On March 29, 2021, in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Veterans Commemoration, with VFW DPA District 7 members being well represented. The US Department of Veterans Affairs Manila Regional Office hosted the on-line celebration with 50 veterans being awarded 50<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Veterans Commemoration lapel pins and acknowledged in a video during the ceremony.





In the SPOTLIGHT

# CHECKPOINT



Click [here](#) to view the March/April 2021 Checkpoint newsletter from VFW National.

We invite you to take this opportunity to see what other Posts around the world are doing to better their communities. Be sure to share the valuable information you get here with your fellow VFW members.

Here are two examples of the tremendous work VFW's men and women are accomplishing:

Post 1533 in San Antonio honors the memory of a deceased veteran through a scholarship program. In Mankato, Kan.,

Post 7830 works with the Boy Scouts in retiring old U.S. flags.

Be sure to let us know what you are doing in your community. We always are looking to promote the great efforts of VFW. Email [jdyhouse@vfw.org](mailto:jdyhouse@vfw.org) your suggestion, and you just might see it in an upcoming issue of Checkpoint.



If any **Department of Pacific Areas Post or District** submits a Checkpoint entry to the above email, please CC or forward a copy to [pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org](mailto:pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org) to be considered for addition in the following issue of :

A banner for "THE PACIFIC TIMES" newsletter. At the top, the title "THE PACIFIC TIMES" is in a large, bold, black serif font. Below it, the subtitle "THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS" is in a smaller, red, sans-serif font. The banner features three logos: on the left, the VFW logo (three gold bars and "VFW" in red, with "VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS." below); in the center, a circular logo for the Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) showing a map of the Pacific region with various national flags; on the right, the DPA logo (a white star on a blue circle and "DPA" in red, with "Department of Pacific Areas" below). At the bottom center, the text "No one does more for Veterans" and "VETERANS are our BUSINESS" is written in a small, black, sans-serif font. The banner is framed by a double-line border at the bottom.

Your feedback is important to us. Please submit your Letters to the Editor or Suggestions by clicking [pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org](mailto:pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org)



# In the SPOTLIGHT

## ERNIE PYLE MEMORIAL EVENT IE SHIMA ISLAND 18 April 2021

**Ernest Taylor Pyle** (August 3, 1900 – April 18, 1945) was a Pulitzer Prize—winning American journalist and war correspondent who is best known for his stories about ordinary American soldiers during World War II. Pyle is also notable for the columns he wrote as a roving human-interest reporter from 1935 through 1941 for the Scripps-Howard newspaper syndicate that earned him wide acclaim for his simple accounts of ordinary people across North America. When the United States entered World War II, he lent the same distinctive, folksy style of his human-interest stories to his wartime reports from the European theater (1942–44) and Pacific theater (1945). Pyle won the Pulitzer Prize in 1944 for his newspaper accounts of "dogface" infantry soldiers from a first-person perspective. He was killed by enemy fire on Iejima (then known as Ie Shima) during the Battle of Okinawa.

At the time of his death in 1945, Pyle was among the best-known American war correspondents. His syndicated column was published in 400 daily and 300 weekly newspapers nationwide. President Harry Truman said of Pyle, "No man in this war has so well told the story of the American fighting man as American fighting men wanted it told. He deserves the gratitude of all his countrymen."



  
Ie Village office  
mayor  
**Hideyuki Shimabukuro**  
38 HIGASHIEMAE, IE-SON,  
OKINAWA-KEN, 〒905-0592  
TEL.(0980)49-2001  
FAX.(0980)49-2003

Outstanding EVENT! Attendees included American Legion Commander and Chaplain, VFW Commander, Mayor, City Council representative, Boy Scout Leader, USMC OIC and IE SHIMA news media.

Respectfully  
YIC  
Curtis Kozlesky

# SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

Wow...time is really fly by quickly!! Again we find ourselves at the end of another tremendous year!! As of this date, the DPA has 11823 members of the 12055 from last year's total. That means we are only 232 members short of reaching 100%. 116 members by the end of May and 116/7 members for June and...we made it!!! As Charles Dickens once said, "**NEVER SAY NEVER!!!**" Our great Department can do it even during a full year of a worldwide pandemic!! I know we will give it all we have!!! We are currently at 98.07% which is just about where we were at this time last year!

Districts and Posts should be informed by now that Department Commander Stein has made a final modification to the Membership Program that will run until June 30th **REPEAT** June 30th. For every Post that recruits "any Life Member", the DPA will give \$100.00 to that Post with the hopes the Post will match that total allowing a total of \$200.00 to be paid on behalf of the Comrade! Since the change on April 11th, the modification has been doing quite well.

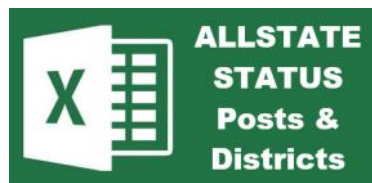
Comrades, as mentioned in the previous Pacific Times, traditionally April 15th is the cutoff date for Posts to meet the All State requirements to have their Caps presented at the Department Convention. Now that we will be holding a Virtual Convention, we will get the word out on how we will handle presenting the Awards for the 2020-21 term. So again, I ask for your patience as we work to find a solution that will best handle this unique situation. The DPA Annual Awards for 2019-20 has been forwarded to the appropriate Posts for presentation.

I would like to sincerely thank our Department Commander Stein for the outstanding leadership he provided during the "**Veterans Are Our Business**" term!!! It has been an honor and privilege serving with him! Dealing with a full year of the pandemic, Commander Ken's guidance and steady hand were both effective and unbelievable!! The mentorship provided to Department JVC Maxson and myself will not be forgotten!! Also, I would like to congratulate all the newly elected Officers in our Districts and Posts. I look forward to working with you during the 2021-22 term!!! Next term I will be using the [cdrdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:cdrdpa@vfwpacific.org) email. I ask for your thoughts, prayers, and support!!!

In closing, wishing each of you, your families, and communities the very best of health and happiness!! May god continue to bless the USA, our dear friends here in our host country of the Philippines, and the world !! I love you all!!!

Yours in Comradeship,

Kevin E. Mitchell  
Senior Vice Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas  
Veterans of Foreign of Wars of the United States



Senior Vice Commander

**Kevin Mitchell**

**Congratulations to the Posts and Districts that made All State status.**

The District Commanders were informed by email and I posted the information as of now on the DPA Facebook page. Post/District Commanders/QMs should send their Caps sizes to DPA QM Watson if they have not done so and a note to any future winners.

**Remember, we have Posts and Districts still in the running and you can still meet the requirements for All State not later than June 30th.**

Information will be forthcoming on how the Caps will be forwarded to the winners.



## SUICIDE PREVENTION

# SAVE 22

## AWARENESS IS THE ANSWER

When someone who has been sad, distant, not themselves for a while suddenly starts going out of their way to see people, often giving them gifts or possessions don't assume they've got 'better'. This is the time to really ask them if they are okay; to reach out and not simply accept the answer of 'fine' or 'great' or 'never better'. Because for some people the relief of having made the decision to end their life can make them happy, euphoric even.

Often this change in the person is such a relief to their friends and family after having seeing someone they love suffer, they just don't realize what has caused the change and frankly they don't want to 'rock the boat' because they are just so happy to have the person they love 'back'. But in reality, the person they love is saying goodbye.

So be there for your friends and family. Tell them what they mean to you. Let them talk to you without fear of judgement. LISTEN. Suggest people get help if you think they need it.

Finally, let me add: The world will not be better off without you in it. You matter. You will be missed. Please don't harm, hurt or kill yourself.

[https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide\\_prevention/docs/Office-of-Mental-Health-and-Suicide-Prevention-National-Strategy-for-Preventing-Veterans-Suicide.pdf](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/docs/Office-of-Mental-Health-and-Suicide-Prevention-National-Strategy-for-Preventing-Veterans-Suicide.pdf)



BeThere

★ YOUR ACTION COULD SAVE A LIFE ★

# JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

Final input for the 2020-2021 PT from your favorite and only Department JVC... HA.. Been a great year across the Department and was a complete honor hold the JVC seat. Wish we could all sit face to face and get business done like humans, but looks like we will have to postpone that for a few more months.

The CSR program started off with a few hitches to our gitty up but Augie worked hard to get all issues fixed. Now that we are at the end of the term most of the emails are about input errors and not system issues. Next year we should be running smooth across the board and should be easier for the incoming DPA JVC.

The Awards program is also finishing up and as of today ALL District Commanders should have their awards in hand and ready to vote on the winners. As I have said before ALL District Commanders need to have their packages to me NLT 1 May 2021. When I wake up the morning of 2 May 2021 whatever awards packages I have by that time will be the ONLY ones judged. There are no exceptions; sorry it is not like this is a new thing. I have beaten the horse on this one. ALL awards will be judged and the winners will be announced ZOOM Department Convention in June.

Again, it has been my pleasure and looking forward to working with and seeing you all in the future.

Yours in Comradeship  
Warren "Max" Maxson  
DPA Junior Vice Commander



INSTA: @COLMSCOM16



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

**Warren "Max" Maxson**

Click the link below to go to the Department Outstanding Awards Program on our Web Page. There you will find information on the program as well as links to the required forms and the most recent winners.

<https://vfwpacific.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=79177>





#STILLSERVING



**IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS  
AMERICA, IN EVERY WAY  
IMAGINABLE, VETERANS ARE  
#STILLSERVING.**

**Click on Either Link Below to Visit Site**

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**OUR #STILLSERVING STORIES**

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**IN THE COMMUNITY**

# DPA ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

We can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Let's hope that it is not a train. By now all Post's should have completed elections for the coming year. I have received some election reports already. If you are having any trouble completing your election report, please email me. I can help. Also, send me the 2021-2022 memo one for you Post/District as soon as you can. This information is need to complete the Department General Order and Memo one. While I can get the information off the election report, this information is sometimes incorrect.

The Department Convention has been changed to a virtual convention that will be held on June 19, 2021. The link for this will be sent to all Commanders and Adjutants Department email account. Delegate fees have been waived again this year. Ensure that you have submitted your delegate letter no later than June 18.

Some Posts are behind in send me their Quarterly Audits. Please check the sheet on the Department website to ensure you reports have been received. Per the Department bylaws, if you Post has not submitted all of the Quarterly Audits, the Post will not be allowed to vote during the Convention. These reports are also need to qualify for All State.

I have not yet received the information for the QM Bonds for the 2021-2022 year. Once the information is received, it will be sent out via email and also posted on the Department website.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Shawn Watson  
Adjutant/Quartermaster



Department of Pacific Areas

Adjutant / Quartermaster

**Shawn Watson**



# #StillServing



U.S. Army veteran Stephanie Wedel is #StillServing by using her powerful story of overcoming drug and alcohol addiction and finding faith to help others do the same.

“I started a nonprofit, Freedom Life Compass, that helps those struggling with addiction, homelessness or other life-controlling issues find resources they need to become productive members of society,” said Wedel, who is a VFW member now living in Niceville, Florida.

In founding Freedom Life Compass, Wedel also wants to bridge the gap in the community for individuals who are incarcerated and about to be released. The nonprofit points people to recovery programs, transitional housing and other resources that will help them change their lives.

In addition, Wedel works with Celebrate Recovery (CR) and the CR Inside program to offer a faith-based process to recover from addiction and trauma, especially for those in jails or prisons. She helps deliver food to low-income areas in her commu-

nity, as well, and recently took on a role with her church to lead a recovery ministry.

“I’ve been honored to see people transformed into who they’re called to be through Celebrate Recovery. With Freedom Life Compass, we’ve helped place over 50 people in recovery programs and provided countless homeless blessings bags,” Wedel stated.

“We’re working to bring awareness to the growing epidemic of lives lost to addiction. We also provide resource packets to our community law enforcement and other social service organizations to help save more lives.”

Wedel’s journey to a life of service was a rough one. She grew up going back and forth between her dad, an alcoholic who sold drugs, and her mom, who worked constantly and couldn’t be fully present or emotionally available for her kids. Wedel battled her own addictions by a young age, and she dropped out of high school.

A friend encouraged Wedel to enlist in the Army. She served for four years and was able to earn her GED and quit using drugs. She still struggled with alcohol use and found herself drinking more while stationed in Germany. Despite her best intentions, she returned home and fell back into destructive patterns.

Eventually, Wedel’s mother reached out and shared her experience of finding help through a church and becoming a Christian. As they reconnected, Wedel followed a similar path. Getting involved with Celebrate Recovery seven years ago has now changed her entire family.

“I was able to convince my mother to begin attending a few years later and now our relationship is completely restored. My brother also started coming and is now three years sober after 17 years of drug use and incarcerations,” shared Wedel.

“My father has also started the CR Inside materials in prison, which I got to send him. He’s currently serving a federal sentence for trafficking drugs, but has overcome addictions and accepted Jesus last year.”

Because of her own experiences, Wedel believes that no one is beyond help and is committed to serving so that more people have the chance to start over in life.

“With these organizations, we can help end the vicious cycle of dysfunction, addiction and the lack of life skills education in our community,” Wedel said.

“We hope to build a better tomorrow for our children and neighbors.”

To find out more about the VFW’s #StillServing campaign or to share your story, visit [vfw.org/StillServing](http://vfw.org/StillServing).

# IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Comrades,

Well, I thought my year was bad, but as they say, “Hold my beer!!!”

CDR Stein was unable to have a CofA and a Convention. A year ago I did not think that would happen, but here we are. Let’s keep December in our prayers to be able to resume international travel again, so a CofA can take place, wherever it happens to be.

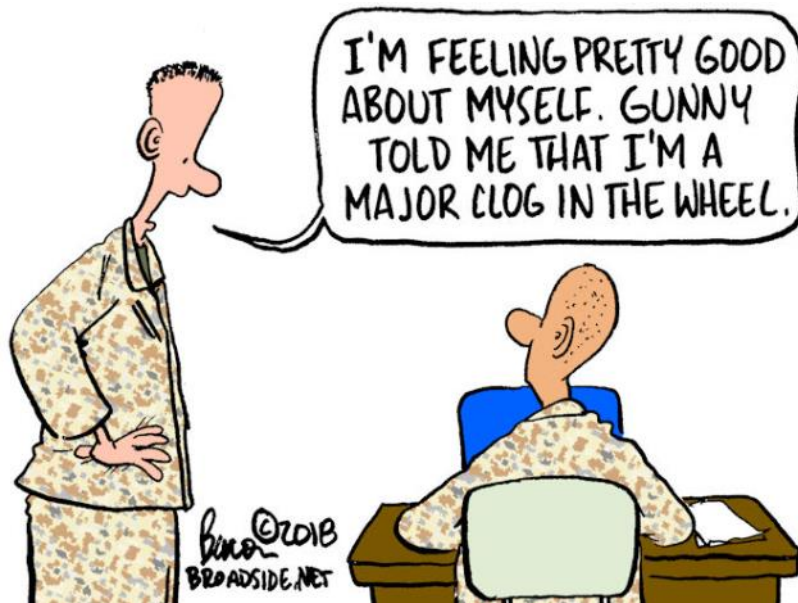
I would like to thank our present Triad for their unrelenting patience during these trying times. CDR Stein, SVC Mitchell, and JVC Maxson have my utmost respect for taking our Department through this difficult period of time. You are all to be commended for what you have accomplished during these COVID years. From my heart, **THANK YOU ALL.**

Let me go ahead and congratulate all of the winners of this year’s Dept. awards. I’m quite certain they are all well deserved.

For those Posts and Districts still lacking in certain areas for All-American, there is still time. And the recently announced extra \$100 towards new Life members should most certainly help out on lacking memberships. Do push those Lifetime membership. It really helps later. I often envied Post 124 for having 100% life members, starting off the year at 100%.

This will be my final report for the Times as your Junior Past DPC, and it has been a pleasure to serve our great Department. I’ll be attending Convention virtually, so for those in attendance, see ya’ there. Any ways, keep your chin up, and support our Vets!!

YIC,  
Rick Farris  
Junior Past Department Commander  
VFW Dept. of Pacific Areas



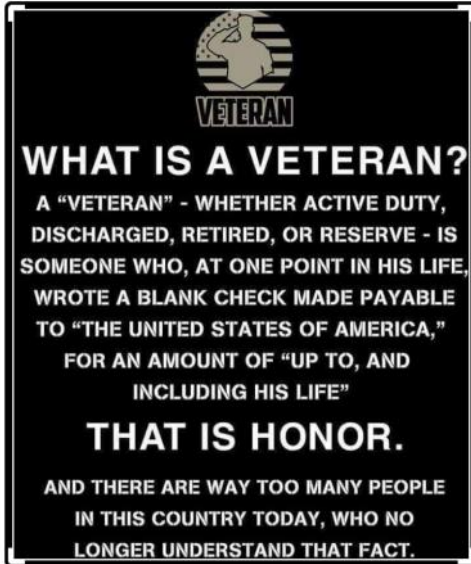
Jr. Past Department Commander

**Rick Farris**





# PROUD TO BE A VETERAN



We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.  
We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.  
We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.  
We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.  
We found new friends and new family.  
We became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race or creed.  
We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.  
We didn't get enough sleep.  
We smoked and drank too much.  
We picked up both good and bad habits.  
We worked hard and played harder.  
We didn't earn a great wage.

We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.  
We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.  
We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.  
We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.  
Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.  
Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.  
Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.  
We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.  
We participated in time honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.  
We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.  
We have dealt with victory and tragedy.  
We have celebrated and mourned.  
We lost a few along the way.  
When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.  
We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.  
We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.  
We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.  
We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.  
Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.  
It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.  
People see a Veteran and they thank them for their service.  
When we see each other, we give that little upwards head nod, or a slight smile, knowing that we have shared and experienced things that most people have not.  
So, from myself to the rest of the veterans out there, I commend and thank you for all that you have done and sacrificed for our country.  
Try to remember the good times and make peace with the bad times.  
Share your stories.  
But most importantly, stand tall and proud, for you have earned the right to be called a VETERAN.

# CHIEF OF STAFF

Comrades,

The following article consists of the two written reports I will be submitting to the DPA Adjutant at our virtual convention on June 19. The first section deals with my observations as your National Council Member.

This past year I have attended 3 National Council meetings, all virtually. The first was basically an introductory meeting right after the National Convention where Hal Roasch took over command of the VFW. The second meeting was in September 2020, when, as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, we received an in-depth look into the VFW's finances. The third meeting was this March, where the budget for the 2021-2022 VFW year was hashed out in detail.

Most of this stuff would probably be of little interest to a member of our Department, but a few things stand out. The Life Member payout received by each Post and DPA will go up slightly this year. There are a couple of reasons for this. One, National is doing a better job of purging deceased members from the Life Member rolls. And two, the investment which holds the Life Member Trust Fund had a very good year, as most of you who have mutual funds investments would know. Finally, National is increasing the grant money dedicated for the Service Officer program. For those of you familiar with the duties our Department Service Officers and the Assistant DSO's, they are the epitome of what the VFW is all about – helping veterans and their families.

A quick observation on virtual meetings: they suck! OK, they are better than no meeting at all, but not by much. The ability to shake a hand, share a beer, judge sincerity, have rambling conversations about nothing (but really everything), share a meal, close a deal, cheat at golf, hug a friend, or confide with a buddy are all gone. And no amount of Zoom in the world will replace these.

As Ken Stein's Chief of Staff, I am happy to report that the Department is positioned to continue our run as one of the elite Departments in the VFW. Despite the scourge of COVID-19, we are going to end the year very close to 100% in membership, and the bulk of the members lost are the One and Done members from Korea. Ken has emphasized Life Membership and given incentives to increase it. I wish National would wake up and do the same thing.

A bright spot in a tough year was the communication fostered by Commander Stein throughout the staff, the Districts and the Posts. If you missed something that was important to your success, that was either your fault or the fault of your District Commander. You can decide who's to blame. Communication is the key to success, and I think our incoming Commander will keep it rolling.

I am still committed to solving the Foreign Medical Program repayment problem, but I need to meet people in person to get anything done. If I try to kick someone's ass using Zoom, I'll just need to buy a new computer.

Thanks Ken for asking me to assist you, and to all of you in our great Department for letting me represent you at National!

Yours in Comradeship,  
Pete Callaghan, CoS, NCM



Chief of Staff

Peter Callaghan



National Council Member

Pete Callaghan



## MEDAL OF HONOR STORIES



Future Master Chief William R. Charette was one of five Navy corpsman to receive the Medal of Honor during the Korean War. He was the only one of the five to survive the experience.

Perhaps it was a miracle that he lived? At one point, he'd deliberately positioned himself between a grenade and a wounded Marine. He bore the brunt of the blast, knowing that his wounded colleague could not survive another blow. But isn't that what heroes do?

Many Medal recipients have been faced with early challenges, and Charette was no exception. He was orphaned early in life and went to live with his uncle when he was only 5 years old. Later, Charette spent some time working aboard a ferryboat on Lake Michigan. It gave him a little taste of life at sea, and he volunteered to serve in the Navy.

Charette worked in a Navy hospital for about a year before asking to serve as a corpsman (a combat medic) in the war zone. By the time he left for Korea with the Marines in 1953, he was a Navy Hospital Corpsman, Third Class.

In late March, Charette was with some Marine platoons in an area near Panmunjom. The Chinese had overrun several Marine outposts, including some on a hill called Vegas. The Marines couldn't let that attack stand, of course. Instead, the Marine units with Charette were pulled out of reserve. The next day, they counterattacked.

"As they neared the battleground," one historical compendium relates, "[their] attention fixed on the horrors remaining from the previous night. The Marines, for all their reputation for getting out their wounded and dead, had been overwhelmed so quickly that they left the field strewn with men, dead and living. Corpses of Americans hung from the barbed wire surrounding the outpost. Men wounded hours earlier groaned for help."

"I must confess this was my first major combat," Charette later reported, "and it was pretty bad."

The Marines were being pounded with small arms and mortar fire. One observer said that the fire was so consistent that it sounded "like a down-pour of rain on dry leaves." Making matters worse, the Chinese began rolling grenades down the hill at the Americans. Charette was trying to help a wounded Marine when a grenade landed near the two men. Charette, according to his citation, "immediately threw himself upon the stricken man and absorbed the entire concussion of the deadly missile with his body." The force of the grenade destroyed Charette's medical kit and ripped the helmet off his head.

He had so many facial wounds that blood dripped into his eyes, temporarily blinding him.

Injured and without his medical kit, Charette continued on. His citation notes that he "resourcefully improvised emergency bandages by tearing off part of his clothing, and gallantly continued to administer medical aid to the wounded in his own unit and to those in adjacent platoon areas as well."

At one point, Charette was helping a Marine who was unable to move himself to safety. Charette lifted the wounded man up, even though it meant standing upright himself. It was a dangerous thing to do! He was making himself a target and exposing himself to enemy fire. He did it anyway and carried the wounded Marine to safety.

"You know, you do a job," Charette said many years after he received his Medal. "I did mine as best I could. And that's all I'll tell ya."

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# DPA JUDGE ADVOCATE

Greetings Comrades,

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Ever Virtual Convention is just around the corner and it's that time of year again where posts and districts should review their Bylaws.

## YOUR BY-LAWS

In accordance with section 202 of the National By-laws a post may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting adopt Bylaws provided each member has been notified at least twenty (20) days in advance and, upon request has been provided a copy of the proposed Bylaws.

Copies of Bylaws, including amendments, adopted by a Post shall within thirty (30) days, be forwarded to the Department Commander for review and forwarding to the Commander-in-Chief. Bylaws do not become effective until approved by National.

**NOTE:** *Post Bylaws, may be submitted for review and approval, anytime during the VFW Term. Since the VFW Bylaws, Manual of Procedures and Rituals are updated annually by the National Convention it would be prudent to delay any changes to your Post Bylaws until after receipt of any changes to the VFW Bylaws.*

Per Sec. 402 – District Bylaws may only be adopted or amended by the District Convention.

Copies of Bylaws, including amendments, adopted by a District shall within thirty (30) days, be forwarded to the Department Commander for review and forwarding to the Commander-in-Chief. Bylaws do not become effective until approved by National. *The date of your Bylaws should coincide with your District Convention which must be held < 10 days nor > 75 days prior to convening of the Department Convention.*

Per Sec. 502 – Department Bylaws may only be adopted or amended by the Department Convention. *Date should coincide with the Department Convention.*

**Click the icon on the right to view the 55th Department of Pacific Areas Convention Rules of Order.**

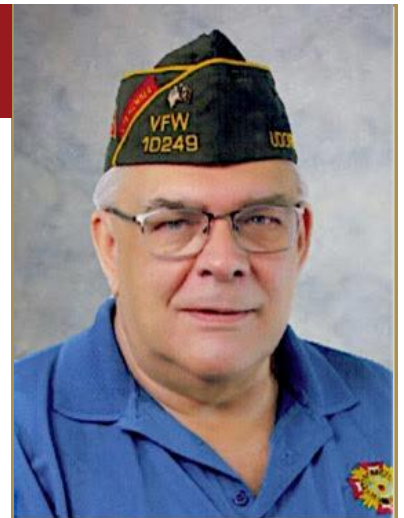
Canteen Bylaws: Any Post or District operating a Canteen/Club Room shall first adopt Bylaws governing the operation, management, and finances of such activity. Such Bylaws and amendments shall be submitted to the Department Commander for review and approval. No such Bylaws or amendments shall become effective until approved by the Department Commander.

The Bylaws of any other subsidiary unit associated with your post and/or district should also be reviewed and approved by the Department Commander.

YIC

D.N. Marohl

Judge Advocate



Judge Advocate

**Delbert "Bert" Marohl**



RULES OF ORDER  
55th Department of Pacific Areas Convention



# DPA JUDGE ADVOCATE

## Bit of D5 History



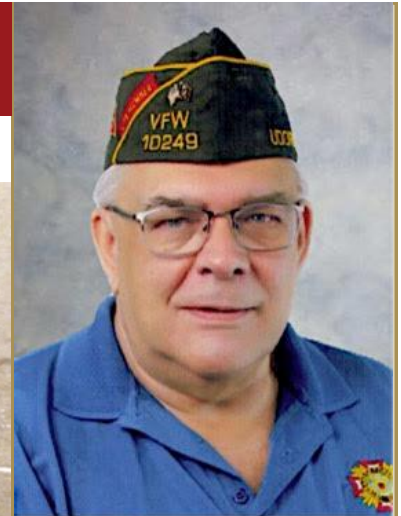
### USS Houston (A-30)

Returning to the Asiatic Fleet in November 1940, The USS Houston (CA-30) was ordered to Australian and Netherlands East Indies waters following the United States' entry into war in December 1941. Despite an enemy bomb disabling her after-gun turret on February 4, 1942, Houston remained in the area and took part in the Battle of Java Sea on February 27. Ordered from the area the following day, and while steaming with the Australian light-cruiser Perth.



### HMA Perth (D29)

They encountered the strong Japanese force supporting an amphibious landing on western Java, resulting in the Battle of Sunda Strait. Valiantly fighting against the enemy, both Houston and Perth were sunk by enemy gunfire and torpedoes.



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl



*Anniversary*

Serving our Veteran's for 50 Years  
DISTRICT V  
THAILAND/CAMBODIA/AUSTRALIA





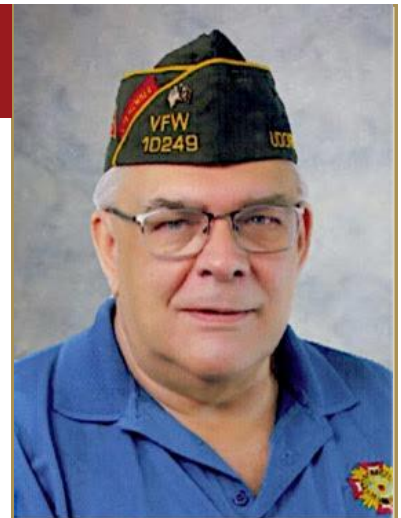
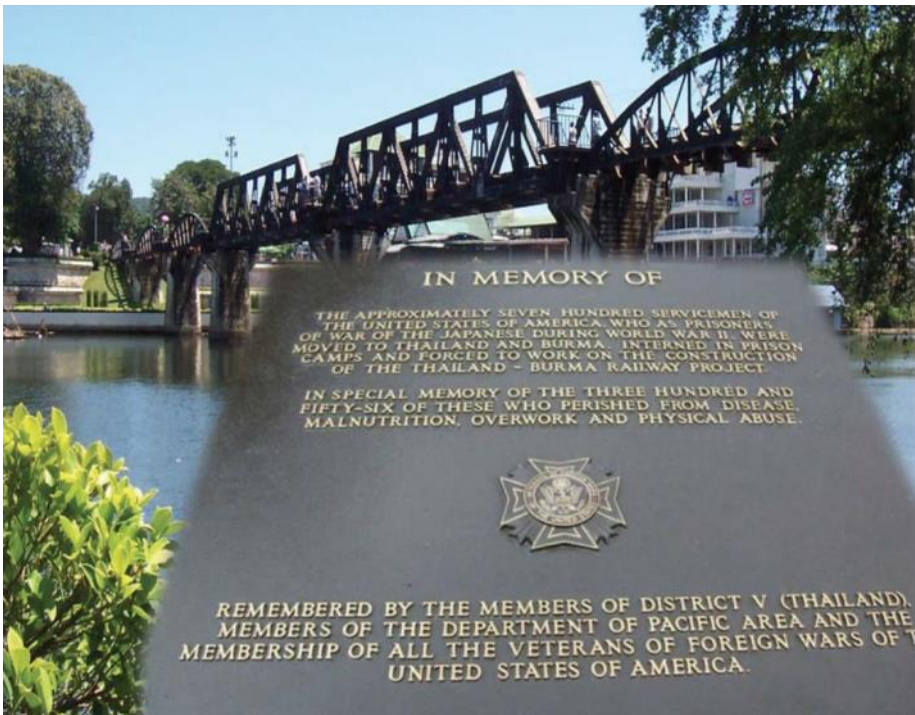
# DPA JUDGE ADVOCATE

## Bit of D5 History (Cont.)

Aboard the USS Houston were men of the 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery also known as "The Lost Battalion". The survivors swam ashore only to face 42 months of "Hell" as prisoners of war.

Moving by ship from Java to Singapore and thence to Burma, Thailand or Japan, the men were packed like cattle in the lower holds, taking turns sitting, squatting, standing or laying down while suffering from sea sickness, dysentery, malaria or other tropical diseases, while standing in their own, or their neighbor's filth, because it was impossible, or not permitted to get to the ship side latrine on the main deck. Then, the men worked in the steaming jungles and the "monsoon" seasons of Burma chopping down jungle trees, hand building road beds and bridges and laying ties and rails with primitive tools in construction of the now infamous "Burma-Siam Death Railway" where starvation was a daily companion. Of the 902 men taken Prisoner, 668 were sent to Burma and Thailand and worked on the "Death Railway" (of Bridge on the River Kwai fame). Of the total 163 men who died in Prisoner of War Camps, 133 died working on the railroad. After completion of the railroad, 236 of the men were disbursed to Japan and other Southeast Asian Countries to work in coal mines, shipyards, docks, etc.

For years the USS Houston Survivors Association along with the VFW tried to erect a monument to honor those U.S. War Veterans that were enslaved to work on the "Death Railway" It would appear that it would never happen as year after year their requests to erect a monument at the bridge were denied. In 1988 negotiation on a site near the Kanchanaburi railway station fell through and attempts to erect a monument that the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, was also denied. When all avenues seemed to be closed the USS Houston Survivors Association erected a monument in 1994, thousands of kilometers away, in Hawaii. However, VFW District 5 Commander Leon (Dick) Vileo and several others did not give up and finally after a decade long struggle, on 14 September 1997 Comrade Vileo and U.S. Ambassador to Thailand William Itoh dedicated the U.S. POW memorial at the bridge.



Department of Pacific Areas

Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl



*Anniversary*

Serving our Veteran's for 50 Years

DISTRICT V  
THAILAND/CAMBODIA/AUSTRALIA





## THE LIGHTER SIDE

When we get older, we think differently, don't we? This letter was sent to the Principal's office after the school had sponsored a luncheon for the elderly. An elderly lady received a new radio at the lunch as a door prize and was writing to say thank you. This story is a credit to all humankind.

Dear Kean Elementary:

God bless you for the beautiful radio I won at your recent senior citizen's luncheon. I am 84 years old and live at the Sprenger Home for the Aged. All of my family has passed away. I am all alone now and it's nice to know that someone is thinking of me. God bless you for your kindness to an old forgotten lady.

My roommate is 95 and has always had her own radio, but before I received one, she would never let me listen to hers, even when she was napping.

The other day her radio fell off the nightstand and broke into a lot of pieces. It was awful and she was in tears. Her distress over the broken radio touched me and I knew this was God's way of answering my prayers. She asked if she could listen to mine, and I told her to kiss my ass. Thank you for that opportunity.

Sincerely,

Agnes



### Buying A Fishing Pole For My Grandson ..

A woman goes into the Bass Pro Shop to buy a rod and reel for her grandson's birthday. She doesn't know which one to get so she just grabs one and goes over to the counter.

A Bass Pro Shop associate is standing there wearing dark shades. She says, "Excuse me, sir. Can you tell me anything about this rod and reel?" He says, "Ma'am, I'm completely blind; but if you'll drop it on the counter, I can tell you everything from the sound it makes."

She doesn't believe him but drops it on the counter anyway? He says, "That's a six-foot Shakespeare graphite rod with a Zebco 404 reel and 10-LB. test line. It's a good all-around combination and it's on sale this week for only \$20.00."

She says, "It's amazing that you can tell all that just by the sound of it dropping on the counter. I'll take it!" As she opens her purse, her credit card drops on the floor. Oh, that sounds like a Master Card," he says. She bends down to pick it up and accidentally farts. At first she is really embarrassed, but then realizes there is no way the blind clerk could tell it was she who farted. Being blind, he wouldn't know that she was the only person around.

The man rings up the sale and says, "That'll be \$34.50 please." The woman is totally confused by this and asks, "Didn't you tell me the rod and reel were on sale for \$20.00? How did you get \$34.50?" He replies, "Yes, Ma'am. The rod and reel are \$20.00, but the Duck Call is \$11.00 and the Bear Repellent is \$3.50.

She just paid the bill and left!!!



# NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

Here we are coming close to the home stretch of this year. Two months left to make it to ALL STATE and All American. It would be great if we can get the last couple of Donation's to the National Home for Children, all that is left to put the DPA at 100% are District 6, and Posts 1509, and 9951.

I hope that we will be allowed to travel soon with the DPA Convention coming up. Would be great to see everyone over there in Bangkok Thailand.

If any of District or Post are having any problems with making their donation to the National Home please let me know so I can assist you. Comrades, I cannot assist you if you do not let me know.

## National Home Donation Report

Report for District and Post as of April 2021. This list has been confirmed by the National Home and by emails received with proof of Donation.

District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated	District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated
District 1	Yes	\$50.00	10217	Yes	\$50.00
9723	Yes	\$50.00	10249	Yes	\$350.00
District 2	Yes	\$50.00	11575	Yes	\$50.00
1054	Yes	\$50.00	12074	Yes	\$50.00
9555	Yes	\$100.00	12146	Yes	\$50.00
9612	Yes	\$50.00	12163	Yes	\$50.00
District 3	Yes	\$50.00	District 6	No	\$0.00
8180	Yes	\$75.00	1509	No	\$0.00
9985	Yes	\$50.00	2917	Yes	\$50.00
10033	Yes	\$50.00	3457	Yes	\$50.00
10223	Yes	\$50.00	District 7	Yes	\$100.00
12147	Yes	\$50.00	124	Yes	\$50.00
District 4	Yes	\$50.00	2485	Yes	\$50.00
9957	Yes	\$50.00	9892	Yes	\$50.00
District 5	Yes	\$50.00	11447	Yes	\$50.00
9876	Yes	\$500.00	12130	Yes	\$50.00
9951	No	\$0.00			
<b>Post 12147 Project Pacific House</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Dist/Post Total</b>	<b>\$2,375.00</b>	<b>Special Projects</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,375.00</b>
<b>Not Confirmed</b>			<b>Working on</b>		

Yours in Comradeship,  
 Randell E. Himes  
[nhcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:nhcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org)  
[rehimes@gmail.com](mailto:rehimes@gmail.com)



VFW National Home Chairman

**Randell E. Himes**

**Please report any and all donations that you make to the National Home to me so they can be recorded and tracked.**

Email them to [nhcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:nhcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org)

*The VFW National Home for Children serves as a living memorial to America's Veterans by helping our nation's veteran and military families during difficult times.*



VFW  
 NATIONAL HOME  
 FOR CHILDREN





## **VA Extends Relief for Borrowers Affected by COVID-19**

*Moratorium includes evictions and foreclosures, and extends loan forbearance opportunities*

**WASHINGTON (Feb. 16, 2021)** — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will extend the existing moratorium on evictions and foreclosures, as well as extend VA loan forbearance requests, to June 30, because of COVID-19.

The current moratorium extensions for evictions and foreclosures were set to end March 31.

“We will do everything in our power to help Veterans, their families, survivors and our caregivers get through this pandemic,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “The department’s moratorium and forbearance extensions support President Biden’s Jan. 22 Executive Order to deliver economic relief to Americans amid the COVID-19 crisis by addressing economic hardships the Veteran community faces, through no fault of its own, during the ongoing pandemic.”

VA borrowers experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 can review [VA guidance for borrowers](#) or call 877.827.3702 for additional information.

-vfw-

**About the VFW:** The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With more than 1.5 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in over 6,000 Posts worldwide, the non-profit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim “NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS” than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans’ service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit our website at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).

VFW Contact: Rob Couture, Director of Communications & Public Affairs Director, [rcouture@vfw.org](mailto:rcouture@vfw.org)

# DPA SURGEON

## Know All The Risk Before Travelling:

**Travel increases your chances of getting and spreading COVID-19. CDC recommends that you do not travel at this time. Delay travel and stay home to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.**

If you **must** travel, learn which travel activities are safer and take the following steps to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Keep in mind that getting from one place to another is just one piece of the travel risk. Your activities and who you interact with before, during, and after travel may increase your risk.

If you are eligible, get fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Wait 2 weeks after getting your second vaccine dose to travel—it takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination.

Get tested with a viral test 1-3 days before you travel. Keep a copy of your test results with you during travel in case you are asked for them. Do NOT travel if you test positive.

Check travel restrictions before you go.

Wear a mask over your nose and mouth when in public settings. **Masks are required** on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.

Avoid crowds and stay at least 6 feet/2 meters (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who did not travel with you. It's important to do this everywhere — both indoors and outdoors.

Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).

Bring extra supplies, such as masks and hand sanitizer.

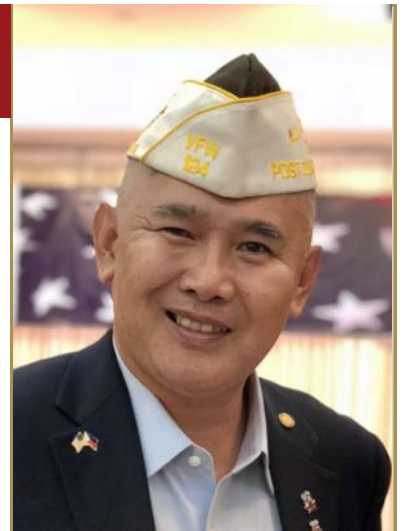
Avoid contact with anyone who is sick.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Know when you should not travel. Do not travel if you or your travel companions are sick, have tested positive for COVID-19, or were exposed to a person with COVID-19.

The transportation you use, type of accommodation you stay in, and the activities you do during travel can increase your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Your chances of getting or spreading COVID-19 while traveling also are higher if you come into close contact with others, especially people you don't know, or use shared public facilities like restrooms. COVID-19 is spreading in the United States and in many international destinations. Visiting locations where there are fewer cases of COVID-19 may be safer than visiting locations where there are more cases of COVID-19.

All air passengers coming to the United States, including U.S. citizens, are required to have a negative COVID-19 test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before boarding a flight to the United States.



Surgeon

**Alex Fores**



# DPA SURGEON

## Transportation

Your chances of getting COVID-19 while traveling depends not only on the length of the trip and the number of stops, but also on whether you and those around you take precautions, such as wearing masks and staying at least 6 feet /2 meters (about 2 arm lengths) from other people. Airports, bus and train stations, and rest stops are all places travelers can be exposed to the virus through respiratory droplets or on surfaces. These are also places where it can be hard to keep your distance. In general, the longer you are around a person with COVID-19, even if they do not have symptoms, the more likely you are to get infected.

When traveling wear a mask for the duration of your trip and at your destination. Masks are required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.

**During car travel**, making stops along the way for gas, food, or bathroom breaks can put you and your traveling companions in close contact with other people and frequently touched surfaces. If traveling in a RV, you may have to stop less often for food or bathroom breaks, but you could still be in close contact with others while staying at RV parks overnight and while getting gas and supplies at public places.

**Traveling on buses and trains** for any length of time can involve sitting or standing within 6 feet/2 meters of others, which may increase your risk of getting COVID-19. If you choose to travel by bus or train, learn what you can do to protect yourself on public transportation.

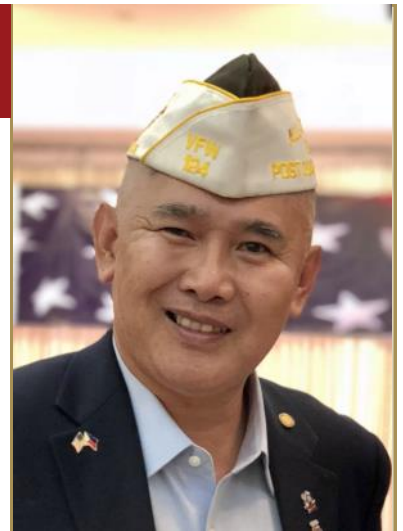
**Air travel** requires spending time in security lines and airport terminals, which can bring you in close contact with other people and frequently touched surfaces. Most viruses and other germs do not spread easily on flights because of how air circulates and is filtered on airplanes. However, keeping your distance is difficult on crowded flights, and sitting within 6 feet/2 meters of others, sometimes for hours, may make you more likely to get COVID-19.

**Traveling Internationally? All air passengers coming to the United States, including U.S. citizens, are required to have a negative COVID-19 test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before boarding a flight to the United States.**

**Check CDC's [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Destination](#) before planning your trip.** (Credit and source from CDC.GOV)

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Department Surgeon and I look forward in serving you in a different capacity this year. My best wishes and you all stay safe! Yours in Comradeship and Well Being!

**Alex Fores**  
**Surgeon**  
**Department of Pacific Areas**



Surgeon

**Alex Fores**

# NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

**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.*

## Who We Are

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a nonprofit veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, guard and reserve forces.

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. After chapters were formed in Ohio, Colorado and Pennsylvania, the movement quickly gained momentum. Today, membership stands at more than 1.5 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary.

Our voice was instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration, development of the national cemetery system, in the fight for compensation for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange and for veterans diagnosed with Gulf War Syndrome. In 2008, we won a long-fought victory with the passing of a GI Bill for the 21st Century, giving expanded educational benefits to America's active duty service members, and members of the guard and reserves, fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. We were the driving force behind the Veterans Access and Accountability Act of 2014, and continually fight for improved VA medical centers services for women veterans.

Besides helping fund the creation of the Vietnam, Korean War, World War II and Women in Military Service memorials, in 2005 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to contribute to building the new Disabled Veterans for Life Memorial, which opened in November 2010. And in 2015, we became the first supporter of the National Desert Storm War Memorial which is planned for construction at our nation's capital.

We have many programs and services that work to support veterans, service members and their families, as well as communities worldwide. Please [check out our latest fact sheet](#) or spend some time browsing our site to learn why **No One Does More For Veterans**. <https://www.vfw.org/>

## Our Core Values:

- Always put the interests of our members first
- Treat donors as partners in our cause
- Promote patriotism
- Honor military service
- Ensure the care of veterans and their families
- Serve our communities
- Promote a positive image of the VFW
- Respect the diversity of veteran opinions





# DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

I would like to thank all of you for taking the time to make this happen. We have been challenged by this pandemic to do good work for the organization and keeping in mind to always stay safe. It was great serving you as your department inspector.

We are not quite there completing the post inspections. As we near the end of our term, let's make it happen and give Commander Ken a 100% check mark in all categories before he leaves his post.

Name	Post	Okinawa	Yes/Da/Mo/Yr
<b>District</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Okinawa</b>	<b>21-10-20</b>
LCpl Frank C. Allen	9723	Okinawa	21-10-20
<b>District</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>03-10-20</b>
John C. Parker	1054	Yokosuka	03-10-20
Gen. Claire L. Chenault	9555	Yokota	07-11-20
Miller F. Nixon	9612	Camp Zama	10-02-21
<b>District</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>South Korea</b>	<b>11-11-20</b>
Col. Lewis L. Miller, Hill 180	8180	Songtan Si, Pyongteak	11-10-20
Freedom Bridge Memorial	9985	Kyonggi Do	01-11-20
Hill 303	10033	Taegu	07-11-20
CWO. Benjamin K. Humphreys	10223	Anjung-Ri	14-11-20
K-16	12147	Seongnam	
<b>District</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>Taiwan</b>	<b>01-11-20</b>
Fly Tigers	9957	Taipei	01-11-20
<b>District</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>18-10-20</b>
Fred J. Estes	9876	Pattaya	08-12-20
C.L. Elms	9951	Bangkok	12-12-20
Karl W. Richter	10217	Korat	22-11-20
AFTN	10249	Udon	10-12-20
Mayaguez	11575	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	14-11-20
Ken Chapman	12074	Chiang Mai	05-12-20
Banchang Utapao	12146	Banchang	25-10-20
Mount Hawthorn	12163	Yangebup, Australia	17-12-20
<b>District</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>Marianas</b>	<b>27-10-20</b>
Hafa Adai	1509	Yigo/Guam	10-01-21
Ga'an Point	2917	Agat/ Guam	13-10-20
Saipan	3457	Garapan/Saipan	21-10-20
<b>District</b>	<b>VII</b>	<b>Philippines</b>	<b>16-11-20</b>
RA. Charles Parson	124	Baguio City	02-10-20
Angeles City	2485	Angeles City	17-10-20
Col. BJ Smith	9892	La Union	11-10-20
Paul P. Busik	11447	Olongapo	14-10-20
Ulysses G. Buzzard	12130	Cebu City	10-10-20



Department Inspector

**Mariano Fajardo**

In order for your post or district to qualify in the All American or All State Team, they must pass the 2020-2021 inspection that is part of the "Core Programs".

Stay safe and let's keep in mind distancing is good for all of our sake.

Yours In Comradeship,

**Mariano Fajardo**  
DPA Inspector



# VOD / PP / TA CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

**POST AND DISTRICT CHAIRMEN:** Let's get prepared for 2021-22 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essay Competitions.

**YOUTH PROGRAMS RESOURCES:** The [Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Chairman's Manual](#) will provide you with some helpful information on promoting and judging your Post's Youth essay competitions.

The **Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition** provides high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors the opportunity to write and record a 3- to 5-minute essay on a patriotic theme, competing for awards at the local, district and department levels. The department winners compete for more than \$2 million in college scholarships and incentives. [Read the rules and eligibility requirements](#) and download the [2021-22 entry form application](#). The 2021-22 Voice of Democracy theme is: *"America: Where do we go from here?"*

The **Patriot's Pen Essay Contest** provides 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to express their opinion on a patriotic theme and improve their writing skills while they compete for worthwhile awards and prizes. Awards can be given at the local, district and department levels. The department winners compete for \$55,000 in awards at the national level. [Read the rules and eligibility requirements](#) and download the [2021-22 entry form application](#). The 2021-22 Patriot's Pen theme is: *"How Can I Be A Good American?"*

[You can watch both the 2020-21 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners deliver their essays here.](#)

Here are the Posts who still need to make their donations to qualify for **2020-21 All-State and All-American:** Post 1509, Post 2917, Post 9876, Post 9951, Post 10249, Post 12147, and Post 12163. You can make your donations by going to: [VFW Programs Donation Form](#).

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING STUDENTS DEVELOP THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND POSSIBLY PAY FOR COLLEGE. A STUDENT YOU HELP TODAY COULD SOMEDAY BECOME PRESIDENT.**

**THE EFFORTS YOU PUT FORTH PROVIDE BENEFITS TO YOUR COMMUNITY, ITS FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE BEYOND ANYTHING YOU CAN SEE OR IMAGINE.**

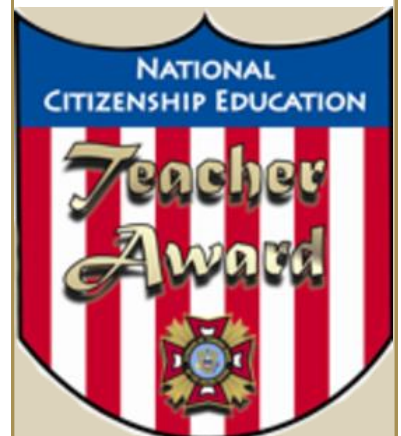
Yours in comradeship and service,

Don Kelley  
Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen / Teacher Award Chairman  
Department of Pacific Areas  
[mail to: DPA VOD / PP / Teacher Award Chairman](mailto:DPA_VOD_PP_TA_Chairman)  
Phone: +82-10-2442-8938



VOD / PP / TA Chairman

Don Kelley





# TAPS FALLEN COMRADES

## January 2021

**Post 2485** – John E. Hance, Robert E. Woolard, James R. Wells Jr., Michael E. Yoder

**Post 1054** - James V. Woodruff

**Post 11575** – Randy Marchant

## February 2021

**Post 2485** – Kamal Abdullah, Rollin O. Gaudin, Charles W. Allison

## March 2021

**Post 1054** – Charles P. Harty

**Post 2485** – Lafayette Donaldson, Donald L. Schultze

**Post 11575** – James Hutsell

**Post 12074** – Roscoe C. Butler

## April 2021

**Post 10223** – Billy Haney

Ron Davis  
Chaplain DPA



Chaplain

**Ron Davis**

Let us bow our heads in prayer to All Mighty God. Remember our fallen comrades and pray for those still missing in action. Pray for them and their families that they may be reunited. Amen



## LETTER OF INTENT

The following pages are Letters of Intent from Department Members running for Office for the VFW Calendar Year 2021-2022





LETTER OF INTENT FOR JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER  
DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



It is with great honor to announce my candidacy for the position of Junior Vice Commander, Department of Pacific Areas for the Term 2021-2022. I'm a Gold Legacy Life member of VFW Post 124 in Baguio City, Philippines and Past District 7 Commander Philippines and currently the Department of Pacific Areas Surgeon, I bring a long and myriad background to this position and I do believe that I can best utilize my wide range of experience to benefit the Department.

My accomplishments in a variety of positions and depth of knowledge in VFW policies and procedures provide the necessary basis for successful service in this position. My record in a range of elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels makes me exceptionally qualified for the position of Department Junior Vice Commander. Please consider my current and previous experiences:

Department Surgeon (Current)  
Department Chairman, Safety/Law Enforcement/EMT (2019-2020)  
All State – All American District 7 Commander (2018-2019)  
All State – All American Post Commander 124 (2016-2017)  
Member, Pup Tent 7 La Union Philippines

If elected to serve as Department Junior Vice Commander, I will do my utmost to represent our Department in an outstanding manner, and will be reactive to all the needs of our membership. I appreciate your support and would like to ask you to place your confidence to me in representing you at the Department. I look forward to seeing each one of you at the upcoming 2020 Department Council of Administration Convention this December.

Yours in Comradeship and Veterans is our Business,

**ALEXANDER B. FORES**  
Candidate for Department Junior Vice Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas

## LETTER OF INTENT



### DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE

**DELBERT N. MAROHL**

I would like to announce my candidacy to serve another term as the Department Judge Advocate. I am a Bronze Legacy Life member of AFTN VFW Memorial Post 10249 in Udorn, Thailand, and a Life Member; Military Order of the Cootie, Pup Tent 1.

*Offices held:*

**Post:** Trustee, Quartermaster, Commander & member of the Post Honor Guard.

**District:** Quartermaster, District 5 Commander, Chief of Staff, Member of the bylaws committee, and Judge Advocate.

**Department:** Department Judge Advocate 2020-21

I am familiar with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws and Rituals and feel that I can render sound advice and unbiased opinion to the Commander, members of the Council of Administration and you. If elected to serve as Department Judge Advocate I will endeavor to represent our Department to the best of my ability.

Thank you,

Yours in Comradeship and Service to Veterans,

Delbert N. Marohl





Comrades,

I would like to thank Commander Stein for the opportunity to serve as the Department Inspector this year. It was a rewarding experience despite the difficulties caused by COVID-19. I have learned through teamwork and dedication that the members of our department can get the job done regardless of the challenges we face.

Therefore, I am asking for your support to become the Department Surgeon for the 2021-2022 term. I would like to work on important health issues affecting veterans in our department. Every country in the Pacific Areas has a different plan for vaccinating its people against the virus. I believe that veterans should be given top priority, especially those over 65. I would welcome input from District Surgeons on how we can make this happen.

Veteran suicide is an issue being addressed at the VFW National level. Our geographical location makes us more vulnerable to suicide and we need to take care of each other by implementing buddy-checks and depression. This is a national issue that needs to be addressed immediately at the department, district, and post level.

Prior to this nomination, I have served multiple roles during my time as a member in the VFW. I have been a member of the Saipan Post since 1995 when I retired from the US Army. In the post level, I have been elected as commander in three separate terms and I was the District 6 Commander for two terms. Finally, I have chaired the DPA VOD/PP/Teacher Chairman position. Currently, I am the District JVC, and Post QM which I have held this position for the last 10 years.

I thank you in advance for your support and promise to make veteran health issues my top priority if given the opportunity to serve as Department Surgeon.

Yours in Comradeship,

Mariano Fajardo



I am asking for your support in election to the honorable position of Quartermaster for the Department of Pacific Areas. I am Gold Legacy member of Post 2917, Agat Guam. Listed below are key positions I have held:

**Post 10216 Korea**

Commander (All American – 2010)

**Post 2917 Guam**

Quartermaster (2014-2015)

Commander (2015-2018 All American 2018)

Quartermaster (2018 - Present)

**Department**

Safety Officer (2010-2011)

Commander (2013-2014 All American)

Quartermaster (2020-2021)

Adjutant (2020-2021)

**District III Korea**

Commander (2010-2011)

**District IV**

Commander (2017-2018 All American)

Quartermaster (2018 – present)

**National**

Council Member (2016- 2020)

Budget & Finance Committee (16 -20)

Aide de Camp

Thank you for electing me to the position of Quartermaster for the 2020/1 year. Now I humbly ask for your support for this important position as your Department Quartermaster.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson

Candidate for Department Quartermaster

Department of Pacific Areas





**HAROLD W. HART**

**DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE CANDIDATE**

### **Letter of Intent**

I would like to announce my candidacy to serve as the Department Judge Advocate. I'm a Life Member of the VFW at Fred J. Estes Post 9876, Pattaya, Thailand.

### **Offices held:**

- Served as Post 9876 Adjutant from 2013 – 2020
- Serving as Post 9876 Judge Advocate since 2020
- Served as District 5 Judge Advocate in 2020
- Served as District 5 Adjutant from 2014-2016
- Served as District 5 Inspector/Assistant 2014-2015

I have decades of experience with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. I believe that our organization is best served having multiple people running for office who have the necessary skills to assist all members at the Post, District, and Department level. I'm well versed with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws and Manual of Procedure and I know that I can render sound advice and unbiased opinions to the Commander, members of the Council of Administration and to all members of the Department of the Pacific. If elected to serve as Department Judge Advocate, I will represent the Department to the best of my ability.

Yours in comradeship and service to veterans.

Harold "Hal" Hart

## DPA WEBSITE SPONSORS



### 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](mailto:webdpa@vfwpacific.org) or The Pacific Times Editor at [pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org](mailto:pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org) for information on how to submit your Sponsors.