

 <p>Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States</p> <p>Read Editor's Newsletter Notes</p>	 <p>I II III IV</p>		 <p>V VI VII</p>	 <p>Around the Pacific bi-monthly newsletter on VFW activities</p> <p>A non-profit official publication of the Department of Pacific Areas</p>
<p align="center">"Proud to Serve!"</p>				

Key Dates

Feb 12th
Lincoln's Birthday



Feb 13th
Taichung Taiwan Post
Post 727 Chartered 1970

Feb 20th
Washington's Birthday
President's Day



Feb 21st
Millard F. Nixon Post
Post 9612 Chartered 1952

Mar 2nd
Vietnam War Began 1965

Mar 3rd
"Star Spangled Banner"
Made U.S. National Anthem 1931

Mar 7th
Fred J. Estes Post
Post 9876 Chartered 1981

Mar 12th
Girl Scouts of U.S.A. Founded 1912

Mar 19th
Operation Iraqi Freedom Began 2003

Mar 31st
Somalia Campaign Ended 1995

Fly the Flag



Fly the Flag at half staff

**Commander Barry Hirshbein**

Comrades,

I hope you have all been successful in keeping your New Year's resolutions. As we move past the holiday season, we can heave a sigh of relief with VOD; Patriots Pen; Teachers; and Public Servant National Awards behind us. Now we move on to the second half programs and activities.



Thailand Disaster Relief. The fundraising to assist VFW members is ongoing. Area Coordinators, Jim Oden and Al Serrato, should soon be able to give an assessment of the damage. After that, we will give a notice to all Commanders and request that all donations be sent to the Department QM. After that we will submit a request for matching funds to National. Then we will begin the process of providing financial relief to our members. The Department QM reports around \$4,000.00 in donations already received.

Member Recognition. Every Post knows who their outstanding members and supporters are. Begin preparing nominations soon. The nominating letters are the key to the selection process.

National Programs. Here are some of the National programs deadlines: Scout of the year nominations must be submitted to the Post by 1 March. Post winners must be submitted to Department by 1 April; National Certificates of Recognition must be submitted to National by 1 March so that certificates can be ready for distribution at our Convention. Your list of awardees should be submitted to Department at the earliest possible time; the deadline for the Department submission of the Fred C. Hall Post Special Project is 30 April. We have a number of Posts with outstanding projects that fall within this category.

Recruiting. If one of your resolutions this year was to move forward with recruiting I would have to say that you were definitely successful. In January the Department added 225 members to the roster. This was the best month (so far) for recruiting.

As of 1 February we had nine Posts and one District at, or over, 100%. Fifteen Posts are in the 90th percentile. Seven Posts are within 10 members of reaching 100%. Only two Posts are in the 80th percentile and I feel confident that they will get over that hump very soon.

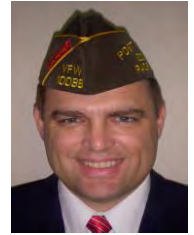
In the National standings we are still doing well, holding on to the number two position. Nevada sprinted ahead of us and is holding a 1.5% lead. If we can keep up our current level of recruiting we still have a good chance at the top spot.

Thank you all for everything that you are doing. Keep up the good work. God Bless America

Yours in Comradeship,

Barry Hirshbein



Sr. Vice Commander Darin Combs

Comrades,

We had a good recruiting month with an increase of 225 members bringing our Department to 96.97% with only 323 needed for the 100% mark. We have nine posts over 100% and nine more that are over 95%. If we continue like we did in January, we will be over 100% by April. Let's not ease up and finish strong with 100% in the Department. Don't forget to push the Legacy Life Memberships. I plan to list those in our Department who have attained Legacy Life Member status soon.

So far, I have not received any Scout of the Year nominations. The nominations need to be in my hands ASAP. We had nominations in all three categories of the Community Service Awards. The winners of the Department of the Pacific Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter, and Emergency Medical Technician of the Year are:

Firefighter: Mr. George Salcedo, Post 1054

Emergency Medical Technician: Mr. Pat Null, Post 1509

Law Enforcement Officer: Master at Arms 1st Class Petty Officer Jon Brock, Post 1054

Thank you all for all of the hard work in getting your nominations into the District and then to the Department.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns at svcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org

YIC and Service,



Darin Combs

Jr. Vice Commander Shawn Watson

Comrades,

We are now in the last quarter for Community Service Reporting. Let's make that final push to make it to the end of the year. We all have heard this time and time again. But, the job is never done until the paper is finished. I would like to remind you all, Post and District meetings do not count as Community Service. I would like to thank the Junior Vice Commanders that have been reviewing there entries and letting me know when they find the errors or duplicate entries.

Post	Dist	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
9723	1	20	10	13	15	11	15	12	15	9	0	0	0	120
1054	2	16	23	10	21	26	14	44	41	37	2	0	0	234
9450		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9555		8	3	9	8	9	6	6	11	0	0	0	0	60
9612		2	0	18	44	0	0	13	0	24	0	0	0	101
8180	3	4	9	8	23	29	10	25	19	17	7	0	0	151
9985		21	7	17	23	16	12	10	10	7	0	0	0	123
10033		0	0	0	4	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
10215		0	0	6	0	5	6	6	5	0	0	0	0	28
10216		7	19	22	16	15	13	12	12	5	0	0	0	110
10223	4	13	12	6	6	10	10	9	0	5	0	0	0	71
727		10	6	6	6	6	7	9	9	9	0	0	0	68
9957		3	5	58	49	1	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	124
9876	5	31	30	35	41	30	36	35	28	0	0	0	0	266
9951		7	4	14	13	14	7	8	8	0	0	0	0	75
10217		11	14	13	10	6	9	9	6	9	0	0	0	87

10249		9	0	14	12	14	14	20	6	6	0	0	0	95
11575		4	3	3	3	3	1	2	2	13	1	0	0	35
12074		96	73	62	51	48	69	44	60	39	0	0	0	542
1509	6	11	2	9	6	13	6	17	6	1	0	0	0	71
2917		13	3	8	2	5	6	16	2	5	1	0	0	61
3457		23	22	27	12	26	28	21	25	7	0	0	0	191
124	7	7	1	1	4	8	13	9	10	7	0	0	0	60
2485		15	15	19	27	20	33	21	33	13	0	0	0	196
9892		44	13	13	58	34	62	68	47	42	0	0	0	381
11447		13	9	7	8	10	5	10	7	5	0	0	0	74
Total		388	283	398	462	366	386	431	362	260	11	0	0	3347

We are coming up on the end of the year; this means that it is now time to start looking at award packages. All the forms are on the Dept website. These completed forms are due to me NLT 31 May. The categories are:

OUTSTANDING ADJUTANT
OUTSTANDING POST
OUTSTANDING MEMBER

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTING BUSINESS
OUTSTANDING POST COMMANDER
OUTSTANDING MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTING INDIVIDUAL
OUTSTANDING POST QUARTERMASTER
OUTSTANDING SERVICE OFFICER

If you have any questions or comments please email me.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson



Jr. Past Dept. Commander

Comrades of the Pacific,

The holidays are behind us and everyone is on track to go forward and finish the year with vigor. The year is more than half past and its time to look at where we stand as a Post, District and Department and ensure that if we completed all our programs and have membership under control we have completed all requirements for All-State and/or All American. Don't leave anything to chance or for others to accomplish. Make sure you have all requirements completed and slide into home with vigor.



While doing all the great things that VFW asks from us, don't forget the active duty personnel and veterans that have made it all possible. Make an effort to visit hospitals and units to thank those from past conflicts and those currently in uniform. Using words from a Past Department Commander "Reach Out" to our military members by visiting them through activities encompassed under the Outreach Program. It really means a lot to so many of them. It provides you an opportunity to share the VFW story and what we do for them and our communities. Many do not know about our elite organization of combat veterans."

Make a difference in your community through your continued service as Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Have a great year!!

Yours in Comradeship,



Jim Oden

Chief of Staff Robert Zaher

Comrades,

A big salute to District and Post Commanders of District VI and I for reaching 100% in membership. District II and VII Commanders are marching right behind and they will achieved 100% soon. Press on, Commanders! District V Commander, Al Serrato, is leaving no stone unturned in his effort to reach the lofty goal of 100%. Good luck, Commander Al.



Comrades, we are on the final leg of this years membership drive. It's very important that our Department reaches its goal of 100% in membership. Our Department needs our help.

Last week I attended the Post 124 Fun Day and the District VII quarterly meeting attended by all District Commanders and their comrades. During the meeting, it was resolved that the District provide funds to each Post to help in their membership programs. This assistance from the District to the Posts is much appreciated. Comrades, it's time to be thinking about making plans on attending the Department convention at Subic Bay this coming June.

YIC,

Bob Zaher



PDC Corner

Comrades,

Department Elections

It is that time of the year to begin thinking about the coming Department elections in June. There are elected and appointed positions to be filled each year. So, think it over. Talk to others about your interests. Many of us never thought we would have served in some of the positions we have held when we first joined the VFW. Some comrades are content with serving at the Post level, which is where the real support for our organization comes from.



Tradition

- an inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior (as a religious practice or a social custom)

Some positions are filled through tradition in our Department. Rarely would a comrade just come out and run for Commander without first working through the other top chairs of Jr. Vice and Sr. Vice Commander.

At times there seems to be no one interested or having time to serve. Perhaps they think too many others will be running and they do not have a chance to win election. Put this aside and if interested, run for office.

I mentioned tradition and that has a lot of meaning in our organization. It is the unwritten custom that unofficially guides an organization from year to year. It is seen in some of our ceremonial activities and blends into some of our official functions. One way that it blends into an organization is as I mentioned in the election of Sr. Vice Commander and Commander. Over the years it also was unofficially applied to other elected positions such as Quartermaster and Judge Advocate. As long as they were serving us well and had the desire to keep on, basically it was theirs by a unanimous vote. Once in a while someone would run against them. Periodically over the years as it came time for our Department to elect a District 16 Councilman, we would by tradition look to the senior Past Department Commander who had not yet served in that position. If not available, then we would go down through the line to the next senior PDC until one was identified who was available and willing to serve. It is done the same way in the MOC Grand of Pacific Areas for the Supreme District 15 Councilman from Past Grand Commanders.

These examples are not written in our bylaws. They are not official, but have evolved over many years and came to be a tradition we went by. At times the Department has had to reach out and elect comrades who had not given it consideration at first. But the need was there when tradition could not be followed for reasons that the anticipated comrade was not available for significant reason, other dedicated comrades accepted the call and served us well.

Yours in Comradeship,

Jim Malott
PDC 2009-10

Adjutant Richard Keeley

Greetings Comrades,

As you should already be aware, the Department Convention will be coming up soon in Barrio Barretto, Philippines. I am really looking forward to seeing you all there this year and hope you can make it. We always have a good time there and this should be no exception.



Just as a reminder, all annual dues expired on the 31st of December. All annual members that have not paid their dues are not considered to be in "good standing" and cannot vote or take part in any official meetings to include the Post monthly meeting. Commanders, Quartermasters and membership chairmen should make every effort to renew these Comrades and all continuous members. While you're at it, let's recruit, recruit and recruit some more. Our numbers are looking good this year, but we need them and more to maintain our strength at the National Convention and within the Western Conference.

If you are interested in running for a Department position please take the time to write your resume and submit it to the editor for the April and May editions of the Typhoon. Also, if you are planning on presenting yourself for a Post or District position, take the time to find out what you will be required to do. If you feel you cannot fulfill the position requirements, please do not accept the nomination. Many positions require considerable work and the welfare of the Post, District and Department are at stake. Then too, if you think you can do the job better, do not hesitate to run for that position. New ideas are always needed and welcomed.

The yearly publication contest is closing fast and, if you are interested, please submit your publication to me by the 5th of March. The entry application is printed in this month's Typhoon and deadlines are extremely important. We have won this numerous times and I hope to see someone do it again.

Let's all work together and make this year another great one for the Department of Pacific Areas. I look forward to continue working with all of you and assisting Commander Barry to keep us all "**Proud to Serve**". As always, your Department staff is on hand to help in any way we can. If you need any assistance, please contact me at adjdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org. Be safe and take care.

Yours in Comradeship,

Richard A. Keeley



Chaplain Thomas Darkus

Comrades,

Valentine's Day, February 14*, is the holiday when many celebrate romantic love and relationships. Too often, Valentine's Day is a rush to buy gifts rather than a time to thank God for love in one's own life.



"God of love, thank you for those that we love. Let Your compassion, generosity, and power continue to shine in our life long after the flowers and chocolates are gone, that we and all who we love might remember that You love us, now and always. Amen."

District Chaplains [District Commanders]* please remind all Post Chaplains that an orderly list of all departed comrades will need to be submitted to their District Chaplain for the rendering of honors at the District Conventions. Please review: MANUAL OF PROCEDURE, ARTICLE IV--DISTRICTS, Sec. 418-Officers: Duties and Obligations, (a) Officers, (8) Chaplain: During the annual District Convention, the District Chaplain shall see that a fitting tribute is paid to our departed comrades. {That List is then forwarded or hand delivered to the Department Chaplain for use at our Department Convention. Art.5, Sec. 518,(a)(6) The Department Chaplain shall, during the annual Department Convention, see that fitting tribute is paid to our departed comrades.}

Yours in Comradeship, Keep the Faith,

Rt. Rev. Thomas "Tom" Darkus



Historian “JJ” Johnson

UPDATE YOUR HISTORIES — Same song, umpteenth verse. JUST DO IT...The new Department History page has been completed and posted. I encourage all to read it. You may just find a few things you did not know. I am currently working on a couple of Post histories sent to me. It is a little hard. As I have said before, if you don't give me something to work with, it is a little tough filling in the blanks. I shall continue working to update our History and the history of our Posts but.....I need a little bit of cooperation and help from all involved to make our history the best it can be.



Yours in Comradeship,

“JJ” Johnson

Judge Advocate William Wichmann

Comrades, in a few months it will be time to consider nominations and election of officers for both Posts and Districts for 2012-13 term of office. So, in this month's issue I will present questions and render answers on some by-laws and parliamentary procedures concerning the forthcoming elections.



101 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

The following are questions with answers that may come up at nominations and election time:

Question: When do nominations commence and for how long?

Answer: Nominations for Posts normally shall start in March and end in April at election time. Districts may open nominations in the meeting prior to their Convention and then continue at the annual Convention prior to elections.

Question: Does a member have to be at a meeting or Convention to be nominated?

Answer: No, if the comrade making the nomination of an absentee for any office presents to the Adjutant, in writing, the consent of the member being nominated prior to the opening of nominations.

Question: If I'm nominated for office do I have the right to decline the position for which I was nominated?

Answer: Yes, any nominee may have the opportunity to decline the position for which he has been nominated before the close of nominations.

Question: Who determines what form of elections shall be used?

Answer: The membership at the March Post meeting prior to opening nominations or governing body to a Convention shall decide the form of election to use, unless By-Laws indicate the manner of elections. Normally, balloting for officers may be conducted by open or written secret ballot. Another method of balloting that may be used is the poll system and preprint ballots.

Question: If the Post decides at the March meeting to use the poll system with preprint ballots, are nominations held open until the April meeting?

Answer: No, in the poll system, nominations are closed at the March meeting. Then the Post shall determine certain procedures used to conduct polling of the vote.

Question: What kinds of procedures are used in the poll system?

Answer: The Post may determine procedures such as date, time and where polling shall take place, who does the tallying and what happens in case of a tie. A Notice and preprinted ballots shall be distributed to members in good standing within a reasonable time prior to the date of voting. The notice shall contain the names of the candidates and a space for write-in candidates. There shall be no absentee or proxy votes when the poll system is used. Also, the greater number of votes rules when using the poll system.

Question: What's the difference between a majority vote and plurality vote?

Answer: A majority vote at election time is considered more than half of all votes actually cast. Whereas, a plurality vote means a person having more votes than any other person is the winner. (Note: National By-Laws call for majority vote of all votes cast, except where otherwise designated, shall be necessary to elect.)

Question: Who is eligible to vote at election time?

Answer: In Posts any member in good standing at the time of elections and at District Conventions those members in good standing that are part of the governing body defined in the District and/or National By-Laws.

Question: When is a member considered to be in good standing to vote at elections?

Answer: All Life members and annual members who have paid current annual dues to December 31 the year of **elections**.

Question: If I'm an elected two year Post House Committee member can I be elected to another Post office?

Answer: Yes, as elected committee members are not considered Post Officers, so you may concurrently hold an elected Post office.

Question: What happens when more than two candidates are nominated and there is no majority vote realized?

Answer: You would drop the comrade with the lowest amount of votes and continue successive ballots until the election is made.

Question: If the final vote is deadlocked, how is it decided?

Answer: There are two ways to decide a tie which are; 1) the units by-laws specify that in event of a tie vote, the candidates or their nominator or designated representative shall determine the result by lot or toss of the coin, or 2) if the by-laws are silent, a motion can be adopted in advance of vote stating in the event of a tie vote for a final choice, the candidates or their representatives or nominator shall decide the result by lot, or toss of the coin. (Note: Normally at conventions, the Rules of Order for the convention will state the second choice and shall be voted at start of the convention.)

Question: What happens if the By-Laws are silent and no motion was made in advance of voting concerning a deadlock and the vote is tied?

Answer: Pursuant to Demeter's Manual the Chair can't break a tie in elections, however, the Chair can call for unanimous consent, which means everyone in the meeting or delegates to a convention must be in favor for the candidates or their representatives or nominator to decide the election by lot, or toss of the coin. E.g., the Chair should normally ask; "is there any objection to having the method of deciding the election by lot, or toss of the coin in case of a tie". If there is one objection then a motion shall have to be made in advance of election for the method of breaking a tie and then re-election at the current meeting or convention shall be held.

Question: Who do I submit my grievances' to as I want to challenge the Post elections for irregularities?

Answer: Any challenge must be made in writing containing specific details concerning the irregularities, signed, and forwarded to the District Commander by mail no later than three (3) days after the election. (Note: If District election is challenged for irregularities the procedures are similar except an appeal shall be to the Department Commander.)

Question: What if I'm elected to a Post officer's position and can't make the installation?

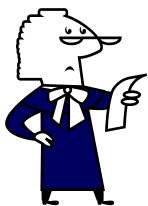
Answer: If you're an officer-elect and absent for good reason you may be installed at any regular or special meeting prior to the convening of the Department Convention. If not installed your office is automatically vacant. Then after the Department Convention the Post shall go through the election process to fill the position and if elected you would be installed.

Question: What happens if a District officer-elect can't be at the District installation?

Answer: In the case of a District officer-elect not being installed for good reason shall be installed at any succeeding regular or special meeting of a unit of the organization, within sixty (60) days of the date of installation. If not installed, the office will automatically become vacant.

As you can see comrades there are various questions that may come up during the course of nominations and voting during election time that can be answered by reviewing the various by-laws at different levels of command, as well as consulting Demeter's Manual of Parliamentary Law and Procedure. If you have any questions concerning by-laws and procedures during your upcoming elections you may contact me at advdp@vfwdeptpacific.org or bill.wichman@msa.hinet.net. God bless you comrades, God bless America.

THE JUDGE'S SAYING AT ELECTION TIME:



*"Let every man vote according to his own standards,
by what he has himself perceived, not
by what others tell him."*



Yours in Comradeship,

Bill Wichmann



Certified National Recruiter Joe Mortimer

***“Did you ask someone to join today? All you have to do is ask.
All they can do is say, YES!”***



Comrades of the Pacific Areas,

First, as always, I would like to say thank you for all you do for our nation's Active Duty Personnel, Veterans, and families! I hope you and your families had a great new year and are all doing well.

MEMSTATS

You have really rolled up your sleeves and put on your war faces! That said, the Department of Nevada has slipped ahead of us at 98.47%. The Department of Pacific Areas is now #2 at 96.97%. Keep up the great work!!!!

VFW PACIFIC AREAS RECRUITMENT		
District #	03 Jan 2012	05 Feb 2012
District 1	97.23%	99.88%
District 2	97.95%	99.15%
District 3	90.03%	93.58%
District 4	93.00%	93.62%
District 5	93.87%	95.64%
District 6	105.55%	106.21%
District 7	97.42%	98.45%
Department	94.91%	96.97%

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!!!

RETENTION IDEAS

Talk about what the VFW has accomplished:

ADVOCACY for veterans and service members

- Won passage of 21st Century GI Bill after 10 year battle
- Got airlines to stop charging service members for baggage while on orders
- Fighting for better veteran health benefits, including improved benefits for female veterans

SUPPORT to military and civilian communities

- Hosted over 270,000 service members and their families at Welcome Homes and military appreciation events last year
- Free Call Day programs made over 2.7 million connections between deployed service members and those back home possible

WELCOMING to you and your family

- All of our members have been there when our nation called
- Over 7,600 posts world wide
- On Facebook, Myspace, and Twitter
- You can now go online to control your membership at emem.vfw.org

WOMEN VETERANS



Lets not forget the ladies! There are just under 2 million female veterans out there and lets not forget those who are currently on active duty who have served in harms way!! For more information, logon to:

<http://joinsheserves.org/>

DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION

Share your recruiting successes along with failures. It might help others. If you have a great idea that worked for you, share it with me, and I will pass it along to the other Districts and Posts. If there is anything you need to make your recruiting year a success, please contact me. I always value your feedback.

If you need any assistance or advice, please feel free to contact me.

Stay the course! Roll up your sleeves, put on your “War Faces,” and keep recruiting!!

Good hunting!

Yours in comradeship,
Joseph F. Mortimer, Jr.
Certified National Recruiter
Department of Pacific Areas
recdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org



Synonymous with volunteerism and community service, membership in the VFW is a way for veterans to continue to make a difference.

Department Surgeon Joe Mortimer

“Medically Speaking”



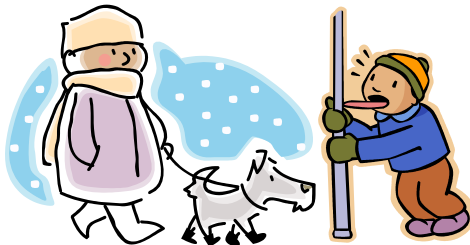
Comrades of the Pacific Areas,

First, as always, thank you for your service to our nation and to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. I hope everyone had a great holiday season and I wish you and your families all the best for the 2012 year!

I will be e-mailing the draft of the Department Department-wide Health Program (DHP) this first week of February 2012 for your review and input ideas. When you receive them understand it is a DRAFT copy and may not cover all situation in all areas. This is why you get to make an input. Once I receive your inputs, I will review and place accordingly in the smooth DRAFT for Department approval. All who provide inputs will receive credit in the in the Credit section of the guide.

I still need the contact information of some of our Post and District Surgeons, so I may communicate directly with them. If you have not already done so, please provide me with your Surgeon's names and e-mail addresses.

COLD WEATHER HEALTH TIPS



The dangers of cold weather and how to stay warm.

In some areas of the Department of Pacific Areas, Comrades are experiencing some very cold weather. I would like to remind everyone of the health dangers of extreme low temperatures and tips on how to stay warm.

Frostbite / Hypothermia:

Without heat, exposure to cold temperatures can lead to frostbite and/or hypothermia. Parts of the body most commonly affected by frostbite include the face, ears, hands and feet. Frostbitten skin is whitish and stiff, and the area will feel numb rather than painful. To treat frostbite, warm the affected part of the body gradually. Wrap the frostbitten area in blankets, sweaters, coats, etc. and seek medical attention immediately. Do not rub frostbitten areas because the friction can damage the tissue.

Hypothermia is caused by a drop in body temperature to 95 degrees Fahrenheit (F) or less and can be fatal if not detected promptly and treated properly. The condition usually develops over a period of time, anywhere from a few days to several weeks. Even mildly cool indoor temperatures of 60 degrees to 65 degrees F can trigger hypothermia. Infants and the elderly are particularly at risk of hypothermia. Signs of hypothermia include:

- Forgetfulness

- Drowsiness
- Slurred Speech
- Weak Pulse
- Slow Heartbeat
- Very Slow, Shallow Breathing

Do not give a hypothermia victim a hot shower or bath because it could cause shock and do not try to treat hypothermia at home. The condition should be treated in a hospital.

Dressing for the cold:



If you need to be outside, the following suggestions will help keep you warm and protect your body from excessive heat loss.

- Wear several layers of lightweight clothing rather than one or two layers of heavy garments. The air between the layers of clothing acts as insulation to keep you warmer.
- Cover your head. You lose as much as 50 percent of your body heat through your head.
- Wear mittens rather than fingered gloves.
- Wear warm leg coverings and heavy socks or two pairs of lightweight socks.
- Wear waterproof boots or sturdy shoes that give you maximum traction.
- Cover your ears and the lower part of your face. The ears, nose, chin and forehead are most susceptible to frostbite. Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect the lungs from directly inhaling extremely cold air.

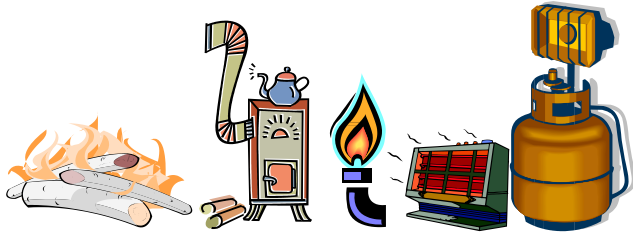
Shoveling:



Cold weather itself, without any physical exertion, puts an extra strain on your heart so know your limits when shoveling snow, especially if you do not exercise regularly. If you have a history of heart trouble or any chronic health concerns, talk to your health care provider before

shoveling snow. You should rest frequently and pace yourself when shoveling. Remember to lift the snow with your legs, not your back. If you use a snow blower, never use your hands to unclog the machine. If you become breathless, stop, go indoors and warm up before continuing. If you experience chest or arm pain or numbness, stop immediately and go indoors; you may need to call 911. Overexertion can cause sore muscles, falls and heart attacks.

Heating Safety:



For people still needing to use alternative sources of heat, here are a few reminders:

- Any heater that uses wood, coal, natural gas or kerosene produces carbon monoxide (CO), so adequate ventilation is essential.

- Never use a generator indoors, even with open doors or windows.
- Do not use charcoal or gas grills indoors.
- Do not use a gas oven to heat your home.

You cannot see or smell carbon monoxide, but at high levels it can kill a person in minutes. Symptoms of mild to moderate CO poisoning include headaches, dizziness, nausea and lethargy. Higher levels of CO exposure can cause fainting, confusion and collapse and if exposure continues, death can result.

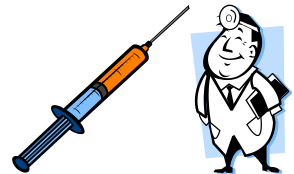
TOGETHER WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS! If you need any assistance or advice, please feel free to contact me.

Be well!

Yours in Comradeship,

Joseph F. Mortimer, Jr.

surgdpaa@vfwdeptpacific.org



"Never go to a Doctor whose plants in the office have died."

Safety Chairman Robert Henault

Comrades of the Pacific Areas,

Plug Into the Facts

Electricity is there to help brew your morning coffee, operate your computer, heat your home, and run your television. We use electricity so often that we seldom think about the dangers.

Take a moment to think about how often you depend upon electricity and answer the following questions. Every question you answer with "no", is an opportunity for you to make your home a safer place to live.

- Are heat producing electrical appliances unplugged when you are not using them?
- Are electrical cords in good condition, not frayed or cracked?
- Are electrical outlets overloaded in your home?
- Are electrical cords kept out from beneath furniture and rugs?
- Do all outlets and light switches work?

Never use water on an electrical fire, you could get shocked. If the fire is small, turn the power off and use a multi-purpose (ABC) dry-chemical extinguisher to put out the fire. If you can't turn the power off, or the fire is large, evacuate your home and the **emergency number for your location** from a safe phone.

YIC,

Bob Henault



Service Officer Peter Scalzo

Comrades,



Service Officer Bits... News you may not be aware of...

1. House VA Discusses VA Rating Schedule: A little over a week ago ... the House Veterans Affairs' Subcommittee on Disability and Memorial Affairs discussed VA's Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD). The Subcommittee members questioned witnesses on the differences between DOD and VA ratings systems, ratings they feel are often in direct conflict with each other, causing confusion for the veteran. VSO representatives highlighted equitable compensation for like injuries and that the VASRD has not been reviewed or updated to ensure that disability categories, rating percentages and compensation levels remain accurate. **Other areas discussed by all included possible restructuring of the Individual Unemployability (IU) benefit,** accuracy of claims and measuring quality of life payments. To view the recorded webcast or for more information from the hearing visit the House VA website at: <http://veterans.house.gov/>

2. VA Extends Emergency Care Policy: A change in regulations the second week of January this year (2012), extends VA's authority to pay for emergency care provided to eligible veterans in non-VA facilities. More than 100,000 veterans are estimated to benefit by the new rule. **"This provision helps ensure eligible veterans continue to get the emergency care they need when VA facilities are not available,"** said VA Secretary Eric Shinseki. VA currently operates 121 emergency departments across the country that are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, plus 46 urgent care units, which provide care for patients without scheduled appointments. For more information, go to: <http://www.nonvacare.va.gov>.

3. Retirement Changes Threaten All-Volunteer Force: In an opinion editorial just posted on the Stars & Stripes website, Our Commander, Richard DeNoyer is very concerned that negative quality-of-life changes on a military still at war will destroy the all-volunteer force. He said constantly comparing civilian programs with military pay, retirement and health care plans --- while calling the military programs "too generous" --- is insulting, and so is any proposal that requires those who sacrifice the most for our nation to sacrifice even more. He said the VFW opposes all plans to change the military retirement system, and "we reject any proposal that would require military retirees to pay more for their earned healthcare programs." Read his OpEd at: <http://www.stripes.com/vfw-retirement-changes-could-hurt-recruitment-1.167633>.

4. VA Adds 47 Ships to Agent Orange List: The VA has added 47 vessels to its list of Navy and Coast Guard ships whose crews may have been exposed to the defoliant Agent Orange. Former service members who served aboard these "blue water" ships as well as the more than 200 others listed in VA's database from 1962 to 1975 may be eligible for disability compensation. According to The Military Times, vessels recently added to the roster include the hospital ship Repose, which operated in close coastal waters from 1966 to 1970, and the transport ship General R.M. Blatchford, which landed elements of the 1st Infantry Division at Vung Tau in October 1965. Read more at: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp>.

5. Physical Disability Board Review Update: Congress established a Physical Disability Board Review (PDBR) in 2008 to review disability determinations of veterans discharged between September 11, 2001, and December 31, 2009. Those with a combined disability rating of 20 percent or less who did not retire can apply for a review. Since the programs creation, only 5 percent of those eligible have applied to have their status reviewed. DOD is partnering with VA to reach out to others to notify them about the PDBR by sending letters to veterans this year. While the collaboration will help ensure that veterans have access to their benefits, eligible veterans can also directly contact the PDBR immediately through their website. We also ask you share this information with everyone you know. For more, go to: http://www.health.mil/About_MHS/Organizations/MHS_Offices_and_Programs/PDBR/pdbr-faqs.aspx.

TRICARE PROVIDER LIST PHILIPPINES: The 1 February 2012 TMA and ISOS provided Certified Provider list available at <http://www.tricare.mil/tma/pacific/pacificCertifiedProviders.aspx> still does not offer any mechanism to easily identify added or removed providers nor is there any way to determine when existing previously certified provider's addresses or cities have changed. This is of concern to beneficiaries who have submitted or will be submitting claims because:

- Providers that have changes made to their addresses or city are of some importance as the changes may trigger disapprovals of previously approved claims for a provider when the receipts may no longer match the new addresses.
- Beneficiaries should be able to easily identify providers that have been decertified without having to check every provider on the list in their provider base every two weeks.
- Beneficiaries should be able to easily find added providers for those that have claims pending certification of a provider.
- There should be a convenient way for beneficiaries to determine new additions to the provider base in their area without having to review each and every provider in the entire list every two weeks.

Because of these concerns and to assist TRICARE beneficiaries residing in the Philippines the U.S. Military Retirees of the Philippines organization has provided a supplemental list to the 1 February 2012 Certified Provider List. The supplement is in 7 sections:

- Introduction
- Data Caveats

- Providers Added Since 17 January 2012
- Providers Removed Since 17 January 2012
- Providers with Changed Addresses Since 17 January 2012
- Providers with Changed Cities Since 17 January 2012
- Providers with Phony Singapore addresses changed since 17 January 2012

This listing with each TMA/ISOS update of the certified provider list and the updates can be accessed at <http://db.tt/3fROsC4T> or viewed by opening the attachment to this message. Questions or comments regarding the updates list should be sent to us_mil_ret_of_the_pi@fastmail.fm.

When the names or addresses of your providers do not match the “official” list, WPS must send ISOS a request to conduct a “new provider” certification, which has and will slow the reimbursement of the claim. It is recommended that beneficiaries verify the name, (spelling), and how it is listed on the certified provider list. Some examples of variance of the official receipts verses the certified provider list that have caused delays in the past are;

- Santos, John R., MD instead of Santos, John R., MD, (the missing space after the comma between the last and first name has caused the claims processor to request a new certification);
- Santos, John Reyes, MD instead of Santos, John R., MD, which will also cause the claims processor to request a new certification.

The same problem will occur with addresses that are not identical on the “official receipt” as to that of the official certified provider list. Beneficiaries are encouraged to check the newest certified provider list for any provider that they have or are going to use and ensure that the official receipt name and address is identical to the certified provider list. If they find that it is not identical they should request the provider to give them a receipt that is identical. If that is not possible, then it is suggested they annotate the variances on the copy of the receipt sent with the claim and explain that this is the same provider as listed on the certified provider list. [Source: U.S. Military Retirees of the Philippines notice 3 Feb 2012 ++]

Yours in Comradeship & Service,

Pete Scalzo

Inspector Larry Lyons

Greetings Comrades of the Pacific,

It's been a while since I put an article in the Typhoon for your District Inspectors have been doing a great job making my job easier this year. The only District working on Inspections right now is District 2 main land Japan, I have heard from PDC Dick Keeley and they have them scheduled and we will be 100% by the end of March.

Again thanks to all the District Inspectors

Yours in Comradeship,

Larry Lyons



VOD/Patriot Pen/Teacher Chairman Peter Callaghan

Comrades,

The Department's work for this year's Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher Award programs is just about finished. Congratulations to all the winners and to the Posts which supported them. Here is the final list of winners:



Voice of Democracy	Mikinzi C. Harvis	Yokota High School	Post 9555
Patriots Pen	Kenasya L. Lealie	Yokosuka Middle School	Post 1054
Teacher (Elementary)	Wendy Tougher	Andersen Elementary	Post 1509
Teacher (Middle School)	Roger L. Hack	Andersen Middle School	Post 1509
Teacher (High School)	Mark Franchino	Guam High School	Post 2917

Now it's on to National for the final judging. We have strong entries this year, and I am especially hopeful for our Voice of Democracy entry. Mikinzie did a great job.

Thanks again to all of the Post and District Chairmen, and to everyone who contributed to this year's programs. In total, we had 273 students enter the Voice of Democracy competition; 420 student enter the Patriots Pen program; and five teachers were submitted for the Citizenship Education awards. This is excellent considering the geography of our Department.

I would ask Posts and districts to please email me pictures of your award ceremonies so we can put them in the Convention Book to be distributed in June.

Thanking you in Comradeship,

Peter Callaghan

Convention Book Chairman Robert Zaher

Commanders your Department needs your support

As a District or Post Commander you only have a one-year window to accomplish your established goals. It is important to show your colors and to be proud of your officers. Remember, it's your year and your team, be proud of them and their accomplishments. A good way to demonstrate your pride is to illustrate your unit in the Department convention book.



Department Commander Barry Hirshbein requests the support of all of us for this important Department program. Let's make the 2012 convention book the best ever! An essential step in accomplishing this goal is for each organization to create an eye-catching portrayal of its operation and to buy and sell as many ads as possible. It's a good way to raise funds for your post.

The following are the prices for convention book ads for this year. I ask you to jot down or cut out this price list and display it prominently in your Post Home or file it for easy access when needed.

1 page, color	\$200.00
½ page color	100.00
1 page, b/w	100.00
½ page, b/w	50.00
¼ page, b/w	30.00
Business cards	10.00
Booster ads	2.00

Rebates of 50% per ad start once your Post, District, or Pup Tent gets \$500.00 worth of ads. Rebates of 50 cents per booster ad begin after 35 names.

Besides the ads, captioned photographs of Post and District commanders in action with their unit members always enliven and add spice to the convention book. Send in your best and we will do our best to include them in the book, though we cannot promise to publish all photos submitted. Also, if you need any help designing your Post, District or Pup Tent ads, the convention book staff can assist you in this regard. You can contact me at <bobzaher@gmail.com>

Yours in Comradeship,

Bob Zaher
Proud to Serve

Clark Cemetery Committee Chairman John Gilbert

VFW POST 2485
ANGELES CITY, PHILIPPINES

CLARK CEMETERY 2012

This is the VFW Post 2485 Clark Veterans Cemetery Report for January 2012.

Five local hire employees worked 896 man-hours maintaining the grounds of Clark Veterans Cemetery. Peregrine Corporation, with assistance from Clark Development Corporation, maintains the outside area.

Total cemetery expenses for January 2012 were \$1,712.

Burials and VIP Visit:

January 10 ...VIP visit and tour of Clark Veterans Cemetery for Darrell Dorgan, member of the American Battle Monuments Commission (Clark)

January 19 ...VFW Post 2485 conducted military burial honors for Robert B. Balthrope, PVT, USMC. (Clark)

Donations:

Received \$3005 from organizations.

Received \$270 from individuals.

Received \$250 from Grave Diggers memberships.

As of 31 January 2012, Grave Digger membership stands at 1063, an increase of 10 from the previous month.

New Grave Diggers:

Roy D. Fisher	Supporter	Shawn J. Fyffe	MOC Pup Tent 8
Joe G. Chambers	Supporter	Jason R. Stone	MOC Pup Tent 8
Richard C. "Hank" Haugh	VFW Post 9951	Paul D. Farrell	VFW Post 4526
Raymond J. Papp	VFW Post 9951	Michael Terrell	Supporter
James M. Picha	VFW Post 9951	Rosario B. Webber	Supporter – VFW Post 9892

If you would like to receive a copy of this report, you can download it from the VFW Post 2485 website at:

http://www.vfwpost2485.com/cemetery_report.doc

Yours in Comradeship,

John H. Gilbert



POW/MIA Program Chairman

Comrades,

As we progress into the New Year I would like to thank all Comrades of the Pacific for supporting this most valuable and much needed program.



89 Service Members Accounted For in 2011

In 2011, 89 service members were accounted for from past conflicts. Of those accounted for, 26 were from World War II, 39 were from the Korean War, and 24 were from the Vietnam War. A service member becomes "accounted for" only after their remains have been identified and the next of kin have been notified. For the past four years, there has been an increase in the number of service members accounted-for, a trend we hope will continue as the accounting community begins to increase its capacity in 2012.

Fiscal Year 2012 Budget for the Accounting Community

In FY2012, Secretary Panetta and the Department of Defense remain fully committed to supporting the accounting mission for all past conflicts. With the passage of the recent Defense budget, the DoD has increased funding for JPAC to meet statutory requirements to increase accounting from all past conflicts, including the emergent North Korea requirement.

Remains Recovery Operations in Laos

JPAC operations are temporarily suspended in Laos due to JPAC's decision not to renew the contract with the Lao company providing helicopter support to its operations there, and the Lao Government's subsequent rejection of JPAC's request to move the teams by vehicle. The decision not to renew the contract was prompted by safety concerns created when the Lao company began using helicopters not meeting Department of Defense safety standards for the JPAC mission. The Lao denied the subsequent JPAC request to move teams by vehicle, claiming road safety and security issues. If JPAC is able to renegotiate a helicopter contract with the Lao company for only those helicopters meeting U.S. Government safety standards, they may be able to resume operations later this spring. Alternately, Lao approval to move teams by vehicle will enable JPAC to resume limited operations in the country. The rugged terrain and lack of road network in areas where Americans went missing during the war make helicopter support to the JPAC mission in Laos critical. U.S. Ambassador Karen Stewart is fully engaged in these discussions with Laos, and the issue will be on the agenda during the Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue with Laos, scheduled for February, in Washington.

Joint Personnel Recovery Agency Opens Training Facilities

In December, DASD Newberry traveled to Spokane, Wash. to participate in the ribbon cutting of the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency's (JPRA) three newest training facilities. These facilities provide more than 40,000 square feet of space for conducting specialized survival, evasion, resistance and escapes training (SERE). The unique design, tailored environmental conditions, and support areas of the facilities will allow instructors to create teaching environments, both academic and experiential, that are vital to specialized SERE training for U.S. personnel. The new facilities will also help JPRA provide research and development for SERE courses, curriculum design, and a myriad of additional support products to the Services and the Combatant Commands to meet their training requirements. These new structures are model examples that will meet current and emerging training requirements well into the 21st century.

Comrades remember our Nations fullest possible accounting mission is a sacred obligation to never leave a fallen service member behind. There is no compromise in fulfilling that mission. It is also a national priority that the President is committed to, a mission that other Nations wish they could emulate, and a mission in which success can only be measured by recovering, indentifying, and returning those we send to war back to their families and their country.

May God Bless Our Great Nation and please pass on the word let our voices be heard to help bring our Veterans Home!

Yours in Comradeship,

Homer B. Kemper
powdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org



Pacific Areas General Announcements

DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS CLARK CEMETERY



Clark Cemetery Maintenance Fund donations accepted to support the maintenance of this cemetery, which is completely dependent on individual and group donations. VFW Post 2485, located in Angeles City, Philippines, is the caretaker of Clark Cemetery for the VFW Department of Pacific Areas and is in need of your help. <http://www.vfwpost2485.com/cemetery.htm>

DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS GRAVE DIGGERS



Become a member and support the Department of Pacific Areas Grave Diggers Program which is open to anyone who has a desire to support the Clark Cemetery. To use our PDF "fill-able" application form log:

http://www.vfwpost2485.com/grave_diggers.pdf

- Please mail your application and membership fee, as well as any future donations to:

VFW Post 2485
Attn: Grave Diggers
PSC 517, Box RC-V
FPO AP 96517-1000

If you make a donation or become a member of the Grave Diggers, we thank you very much and ask you to please inform your Post Adjutant / Quartermaster.



VFW Pacific Areas Membership Information

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE

Are you a member in good standing? Look at your membership card. If it is about to expire, renew it today or better yet, go **LIFE MEMBERSHIP** and save money over time. It's never too late to switch to a Life Membership and you never have to worry about rate increases or remembering to renew! Log onto:

<http://emem.vfw.org/>

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING AND APPLICATION PROCESSING

Membership Card from the VFW National Headquarters with full membership benefits.

***"It's not what you paid to be a member,
it is what you paid to be eligible."***

VFW LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP



Legacy Life Member levels (left to right) are Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

VFW Life Members can now take the next step in ensuring veterans a better tomorrow by becoming a Legacy Life Member today. Be remembered for your service as a veteran and VFW member. It's easy to get started. Choose from Gold, Silver or Bronze, each with its own prestigious benefits.

Gold \$1,200, Silver \$800, Bronze \$400

For more information logon to: <http://emem.vfw.org/>

Membership is the future of our organization. All comrades should be willing assist with a membership growth and/or help the post in whatever needs to be done. When you are submitting an application for membership for a perspective new member, it is important to ensure you have it completed properly so as not to delay the processing. At the next Post Monthly General Business Meeting, the applications will be reviewed for completeness and voted on before submission to the VFW National Headquarters. To ensure no delays in processing:

- Ensure you complete the application fully,
- Include proof of eligibility,
- Payment in the form of a check, money order, credit card, or cash for either Life Membership or Annual Membership. (Checks and money orders will be made out to "VFW Post _____.") Temporary membership is then granted to attend VFW Meetings and events with the Post until such time as the newly recruited Comrade receives their VFW



VFW Cootie Corner Announcements

MOC PADDY DADDY PROGRAM

M.O.C. Grand of the Pacific is asking you to help support the Paddy Daddy Program. Applications are available online on the VFW Department of Pacific Areas website. The Paddy Daddy Application for signing up Comrades, Cooties, Friends, Family, and yes, even your Pets can be signed up!

Please fill out as many applications as you like for a very good cause. The VFW National Home Special Project is the recipient of the proceeds from our very own program in the Pacific Areas. Send the application to me along with a check made out to "Ee CHI GAE Pup Tent #2, in the amount of US\$25.00, and I will promptly prepare your Certificate, Card and Pin and mail them to you. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to e-mail bthaney@vfw10223.org.

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

Billy Haney
Pup Tent #2
Military order of the Cootie
Paddy Daddy Chairman



**VFW National Announcements**

Jan. 3, 2012

Contact: Kelly Gibson
kgibson@vfw.org**VFW ANNOUNCES ANNUAL PUBLICATIONS CONTEST**

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—The VFW Publications Department announced today that it is accepting submissions for VFW's 2012 National Publications Contest. All publications will be categorized by the membership size of the Department, District or Post they represent. For the contest,

Departments will be defined as:

- large (24,000 or more members),
- medium (10,000-23,999) and
- small (9,999 or fewer).

Districts will be defined as:

- large (2,100 or more),
- medium (1,300-2,099) and
- small (1,299 or fewer).

Posts will be defined as:

- large (180 or more),
- medium (100-179) and
- small (99 or fewer).

All national entries must place first in Department-level contests. One copy of each winning Post and District publication—as well as one issue of the Department newspaper—must be mailed by **Department adjutants, Department quartermasters or Department editors** by April 6, 2012, to:

Publications Contest

406 W. 34th St., Suite 523

Kansas City, MO 64111

Issues published between Jan. 1, 2011, and Dec. 31, 2011, are eligible.

-vfw-

2012 NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Department Adjutants: Please include a copy of this form with each winning entry. Include a separate form for each entry. For example: one copy with Department entry, one with District and one with Post. Indicate membership size for each publication.

DEPARTMENT PUBLICATION

Name of Publication: _____

Editor: _____

Editor's address (street): _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Large (24,000 or more) ____ Medium (10,000-23,999) ____ Small (9,999 or fewer) ____

DISTRICT PUBLICATION

Name of Publication: _____

Editor: _____

Editor's address (street): _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Large (2,100 or more) ____ Medium (1,300-2,099) ____ Small (1,299 or fewer) ____

POST PUBLICATION

Name of Publication: _____

Editor: _____

Editor's address (street): _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Large (180 or more) ____ Medium (100-179) ____ Small (99 or fewer) ____



Photograph of the Edition



Jim Malott in Bagdad, Iraq 2004 U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Memorial Day Ceremony

**Yes, it was HOT that day, but then most of the days there are in the Summer.
I wasn't squinting just for the sun either. The dust was everywhere!**

**Some may ask "Where is the helmet and armor jacket?"
We took them off for the ceremony...
Someone must have cut a deal for us.....**

NOTE

*Comrades please share some photos from your archives... I only have so much to draw from and many of you have some real interesting photos to share. Maybe some photo from Boot Camp??? Please take time and dig deep seeking those old foot lockers.
Also, you can send photos of your members who are deployed serving around the world.*

Photographs significant to the VFW, veterans and active duty men and women are desired. Please email to Typhoon Editor.

Editor James Malott

Comrades,

Soon another year in the Pacific will come to a close, kicking off a new one. We only need a few more members to achieve 100%. If each Post recruited ten plus more members we would be very close.



Keep preparing your inputs for the Around the Pacific newsletter. Your activities are of interest to all of us, especially those comrades who have had to leave the Pacific. It is also a great contribution to Post history.

Department Letters of Intent

In April we will start publishing Letters of Intent for Department offices. They will be published in April, May and June newsletters. Please consider serving our Department at a level that benefits our entire membership.

Thank you for your support for of our newsletters, our Department and the VFW.

Yours in Comradeship,



James D. Malott
