



# Typhoon Newsletter



Department of Pacific Areas, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

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FREE

## “VFW - Honoring Our Past, Securing Our Future”

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Inputs for the May Typhoon  
Are due on 05 May 2018.

**DON'T MISS THE  
DEADLINE!**

**OUTSTANDING POST  
AWARDS**

**30 April 2018**

**CONVENTION BOOK ADS**

**01 MAY 2018**

**ALL-STATE AWARDS**

for presentation at the convention

**30 April 2018**

for presentation at the Mid-Term

**30 June 2018**



# Department Officer's Comments & Department Committee Reports

## From the Commander:

Greetings Comrades,

I am pleased to note that the Department is now over 97% in membership for the year, thanks to all your efforts. We now have two Districts with all Posts over 100%, thirteen Posts over 100%, and five Posts needing 10 or less new, reinstated, or renewing members for 100%. We had an incredible March, with 193 members added to our rolls. Although we knew this would be a challenging year for membership, based on several factors, you have all proven equal to the task and we are positioned to achieve our goals for the year. Let's continue pushing membership and make a strong finish.



Remember, VFW membership numbers are what allow the VFW to lobby effectively to protect our benefits, correct inequities, and ensure a strong National Defense.

A number of year end suspense's will soon be upon us. SVC Verville has distributed All State checklists for completion and submission by Districts and Posts. If you have specific questions regarding the All State program, please contact him. Also, check for completion of any All American requirements, in addition to membership and category standings. JVC Farris has published a number of reminders for the Department Awards program and depending on your District Judging schedule recommendations are, or will be due very soon. We need to recognize those responsible for our sustained success through these awards.

DPA Convention Chairman Lou Holub and his Committee have made exceptional preparations for our June Convention in Banchang, Thailand. Our VFW National representative will be Past National Commander-in-Chief Ed Banas, a longtime friend of the Department of Pacific Areas, and we are very pleased with his selection. Additionally, this year we will again have representatives of the Taiwan Veterans Affairs Commission attending and we are honored to have them join us. *Please encourage our younger members and Post Officers to attend the Convention, as this is how we grow the future of our Department.*

As always, I am honored to be your Department Commander.

Yours in Comradeship & Service,

John Gilbert  
Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas

## ***VFW – Honoring Our Past, Securing Our Future***

### From the Senior Vice Commander:

Comrades,

The DPA currently stands at 97.47% as of 5 April 2018. We have thirteen Posts over 100%. All Districts 6 & 7 Posts are also Over-The-Top! You can view the current numbers on the DPA Around The Pacific Face Book Page! We are currently 296 members from reaching 100%. Keep pushing your recruiting efforts NOW!



It is time to get your requirements in for the DPA All-State Program. Checklists have been posted on the DPA F/B Page. Submissions have been coming for this year! Once you have achieved a requirement and verified it with the appropriate Committee Chairman – send it to me! I have folders set up on all 26 of our Posts. Please Don't Wait until the end of the year to send me your input! All input for those wanting to be recognized as All State at the Annual Convention must be to me by no later than 30 April 2018. If you have met the requirements – get them to me ASAP so VFW Caps can be ordered for the winning Post Commanders and QMs.

Our 2017 – 2018 Membership Program is posted on the DPA Website and the DPA Face Book Page. Review the changes for this year. The DPA continues to provide much more financial assistance to Posts to use for their recruiting efforts. Our New/Reinstated Life Memberships have topped 233 already this year. Our Legacy Life Membership is a leader among the Top VFW Departments.

We still have 3 months to finish our work for this year! Please don't stop now! I look forward to seeing all of you during my upcoming Department Trips to your area. The Department Leadership asks that you schedule recruiting events during our trips. We need to get the job done by the end of April 2018. The later you recruit this year – the harder it is to renew the same members next year.

The Department of Pacific Areas Team needs to work even harder as a Team and get the job done! Please contact me at [mverville2005@gmail.com](mailto:mverville2005@gmail.com) or +639182491184!

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Michael R. (Mike) Verville  
Senior Vice Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas



## ***From the Junior Vice Commander:***

Last Call for Post Awards!!

### PROCEDURES:

Award Recommendation forms for each category are posted on the Department website. Review each Recommendation form carefully as each has some category unique instructions. Narratives, unless otherwise noted, are limited to a **single typed page** and bullet comments are encouraged.

Districts may submit only one recommendation in each category. Districts should develop a selection process to determine their submissions in cases of multiple recommendations for a given category within the District.

Recommendations for Awards in each category should be submitted by each District no later than **15 April**. Please ensure all submissions are complete and conform to instructions provided. Districts shall submit to the DPA Junior Vice Commander, [jvcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:jvcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org) by **30 April**.

The Department Awards Board shall consist of all District Commanders, (or designated representative), and will be chaired by the Department JVC. The Chairman shall be a non-voting member except in cases of a tie vote. The Board will meet to review the winners prior to the Department Convention. Time and location will be reflected in the Convention schedule.

### CATEGORIES:

OUTSTANDING POST

OUTSTANDING POST COMMANDER

OUTSTANDING ADJUTANT

OUTSTANDING POST QUARTERMASTER

OUTSTANDING SERVICE OFFICER

OUTSTANDING MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

OUTSTANDING MEMBER

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTING BUSINESS

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTING INDIVIDUAL

**Again, I need these early so we can have plaques with nameplates made for convention.**

CSR reports have continued to look very good. There were a lot of new entries this month, and that is a good thing. **I will be closing this on April 30<sup>th</sup> to close out this year. So fill in all of the blanks before then.** I will be verifying All-State eligibility next month.

I sent out Buddy Poppy Memos and Award forms to be completed for the 2017-18 Buddy Poppy year which ends June 30th. Keep in mind these do not need to be returned until July so you still have time through the end of this year to make your decisions.



## CSR Reports as of 02 APR 2018

Post	Dist	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
9723	1	13	14	9	14	12	17	11	12	11	13	13	0	139
1054	2	39	25	30	54	62	61	60	29	14	10	17	0	401
9555		22	20	22	25	24	19	18	17	21	24	22	0	234
9612		24	20	26	36	37	22	35	18	9	18	16	0	261
8180	3	31	13	34	25	51	38	17	16	4	16	16	0	261
9985		7	6	7	5	6	4	10	4	5	0	0	0	54
10033		3	10	3	8	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	0	47
10223		9	7	12	7	11	12	10	6	6	8	9	0	97
12147		7	3	4	4	21	6	7	3	3	5	4	0	67
9957	4	6	1	1	5	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	17
9876	5	36	17	28	24	21	24	27	30	20	15	0	0	242
9951		27	19	24	25	29	15	18	22	17	19	0	0	215
10217		12	8	26	13	18	20	5	15	26	25	25	0	193
10249		12	11	9	7	3	5	10	7	5	5	8	0	82
11575		1	1	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
12074		17	8	16	19	31	22	13	10	8	2	7	0	153
12146		20	19	20	17	17	13	16	15	8	21	8	0	174
12163		0	0	0	0	2	13	16	3	3	0	4	0	41
1509	6	10	14	3	10	4	5	4	3	2	1	3	0	59
2917		104	96	101	147	197	250	108	89	45	80	14	0	1231
3457		22	18	14	17	26	8	18	11	5	5	7	0	151
124	7	12	10	15	17	15	14	18	19	20	20	15	0	175
2485		121	117	86	153	207	246	221	173	147	132	143	0	1746
9892		24	7	11	7	10	12	10	18	43	49	65	0	256
11447		7	6	4	4	8	3	6	5	3	6	5	0	57
12130		4	10	6	7	5	5	3	3	4	5	4	0	56
<b>Total</b>		<b>586</b>	<b>470</b>	518	648	815	834	664	528	428	478	404	0	<b>6373</b>

Yours in Comradeship,

Rick Farris,  
Junior Vice Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas



**THE VFW HONORS  
AMERICA'S VETERANS  
BY GIVING BACK.**

## ***From the National Councilmember:***

Comrades,

We had a great showing for the Department at the Legislative meeting in Washington DC. It may have been the most people from the Dept of Pacific in many years. We had a total of 4 Comrades in attendance.

Each year the Commander in Chief testifies in front of the Joint Committee for Veteran Affairs. If you didn't watch live, there is a recording of it on National's website. The Committee was very receptive to the message that Chief Harmon gave. With many of them echoing the issues that were put before them. Many of these issues affect us here in the Pacific. With the Choice program being one of those.

Commander Gilbert, Doc Higgins and I spent just over an hour and half in Congresswoman Bordallo's office. While most of the topics of discussion dealt with Guam issues. The Congresswoman and her staff were up to the task of answering all issues presented.

During the Council of Administration meeting, the council was informed of the three Service Officers and a two membership team to visit District III. At first there was some question on National spending money for this five man team to visit. As your Councilmember, I spoke in favor of this trip and brief the rest of the Council how vital not to mention invaluable this trip would be. This will be the first such trip that the Pacific has had from National in many many years. I have full faith in our Comrades of District III to maximize the talents of the team's visit.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson  
National Council Member



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## ***From the Adjutant:***

Greetings,

We are closing in on our Department Convention in June. Looking forward to seeing everyone and meeting new faces. If you plan to attend, please register on the Department website, "Convention 2018" tab.

These next couple of months promise to be busy for everyone, with Districts and Posts checking their status for All State and All American. If at all possible do not wait until the last few days to ensure all eligibility requirements have been met.

This has been interesting past nine months for me since becoming your Department Adjutant.

**Thank you ALL for your continuing support.**

Yours in Comradeship,

Jerry Chaplin  
Adjutant  
Department of Pacific Areas



## ***From the Junior Past Department Commander:***

Comrades of the Pacific,

We are three months from the close of the 2017-2018 year. Have you registered for the June Department Convention? Are you actively seeking advertisements for the annual Convention Book?

As we approach convention time Commanders and Committee Chairman should be giving serious consideration in recognizing those comrades who contributed to VFW Post activities during the year. It is time to remember these comrades that took the time to support you and the Post all year long. Take some time and work on the nominations for the Department Awards Committee. Consider the activities accomplished at your post and by whom, submit well thought out nominations in behalf of your team members.

At the time of this writing, the Department is only 333 from 100% in membership. Thanks to all that have helped to get us this far with membership. For those that have not recruited a member I'm requesting that you please reach out to a veteran and ask them to become a member of this great organization. They can't say yes if you don't ask.

If you need any help or have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me. You may email me at: [jpdcmoses@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:jpdcmoses@vfwdeptpacific.org).

Thanks for all that you do for Veterans, active duty members and their widows.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Robert "Mo" Moses  
Junior Past Department Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas



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## ***From the Chief of Staff:***

Comrades,

This VFW year is quickly coming to a close. There are many deadlines that will be coming over the next short few months. The first is the All State deadline. In order to be recognized at the Convention in June. You must have all the requirements done by the end of the month THIS MONTH. This will give the Quartermaster enough time to order the caps to be presented.

As I mentioned earlier, there are only a few short months to the end of this VFW Membership year. As of this writing, we are 302 members away from 100% as a Department. There are 2 Districts and 13 Posts that has reached 100% or better. With another 8 that need 15 or less to attain 100%. Comrades if those 8 Posts reach 100% that would make 21 out of 26 with 100%. Time may be getting short; however, I have faith in the Department of Pacific, in every one of you. The Department has made 100% in membership for 13 years in a row. You all have heard me say this many times over; "The Pacific is the Best in the West". I ask that each Post continue to recruit members for our great organization and push the Department of Pacific over the top in membership.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson  
Chief of Staff  
Department of Pacific Areas



## From the Veterans Assistance Committee Chairman:

Comrades,

We had movement again this month. The Department of Pacific Areas Veteran's Assistance Committee (VAC) has awarded seven (\$500) grants so far this year. We have \$2,500.00 left in the budget for the 2017-2018 year. Post & District Commanders are encouraged to promote this program! The application process is straight forward and easy to put together. All it takes is a one page Grant Application.

**Any VFW Member can nominate a worthy veteran for a VAC Grant.** We have a few more Districts/Posts who have notified us that they want to submit a nomination. In order to receive assistance a veteran must have served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. Each request for assistance will not exceed \$500.00. All assistance will be provided as a grant and will be awarded on a first-come first-served basis. We have less than 4 months to go! Let's kick the program in gear and get out there and help our fellow veterans.

I look forward to seeing all of you on my trips around the Department of Pacific Areas in 2018. You may contact me any time day or night. My contact information is as follows: (1) Email - mverville2005@gmail.com, (2) Telephone - +639182491184.

Yours in Comradeship,

Michael R. (Mike) Verville  
Veterans Assistance Committee Chairman  
Department of Pacific Areas



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## From the Quartermaster:

Greetings Comrades,

With most Posts holding elections this month, I think it is worthwhile to review the duties of the Post Trustees. These duties are spelled out in detail in the Manual Of Procedure, but it seems that most Post members don't have one, and those who do only refer to it when there is a question or debate about policy.

The first sentence is important. "Trustees shall not be eligible to serve as an elected officer, Adjutant or on a committee whose books, records and accounts are audited by the Trustees."

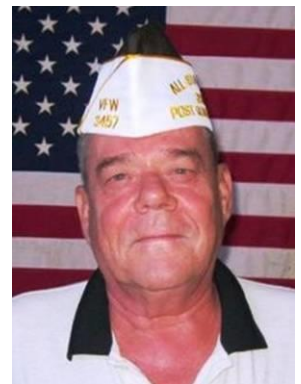
The poor wording of this sentence stands out right away, since the Trustees are elected officers. The intent of the sentence would be clearer by removing "Adjutant or" and putting it somewhere else. Then it would make more sense by saying that a Trustee cannot be an elected office on a committee which he audits. Obviously this is intended to avoid conflicts of interest.

Why can't a Trustee be the Post Adjutant? One is elected and one is appointed, so what's the big deal? The answer is because one of the Trustee's duties is to audit quarterly the books and records of the Adjutant. Does this happen in your Post?

Another duty of the Trustees is to audit quarterly to records of your Canteen or any other "activity, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or on behalf of the Post." If you have an Auxiliary, riding club, shooting club, Little League team, Boy Scout Troop, or any other activity sponsored by your Post, the Trustees should audit that activity once a quarter. So being a Trustee is a responsibility not to be taken lightly.

One more word about Post elections. Quartermasters, you do not need to wait for officer installations to submit you Election Report to National. If something changes before the installation, you can always submit a change to the Election Report with only the position that has changed filled in. The rest remains the same.

I will send an email to all concerned if I receive any changes to next year's QM Bond rates or to Buddy Poppy costs. Have a great month!



## 2017-2018 POST AND DISTRICT AUDITS/POPPIES/QM BONDS

AUDITS SUBMITTED	JUNE '17	SEP '17	DEC '17	MAR '18	BUDDY POPPIES ORDERED '17-'18	QM BOND ORDERED 2017-'18
9723	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$65.00/\$26,000 Pd./F
District I	X	X	X		X	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd.F
1054	X	X	X		\$174/1,500	\$100.00/\$40,000 Pd./F
9555	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$65.00/\$26,000. Pd./F
9612	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$65.00/\$26,000. Pd./F
District II	X	X	X		X	\$17.50/\$5,000. Pd./F
8180					\$348/3,000	\$87.50/\$25,000 Pd./F
9985	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$35.00/\$10,000 Pd./F
10033	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$65.00/\$26,000. Pd./F
40216	Post10216	merged	with	Post 8180	\$116/1,000	<del>\$65.00/\$26,000 Pd./F</del>
10223	X	X	X		\$174/1500	\$65.00/\$26,000 Pd./F
12147	X	X			\$58/500	\$35.00/\$10,000 Pd./F
District III	X	X			X	\$35.00/\$10,000 Pd./F
<del>727</del>	Post 727	merged	with	Post 9957	missing	<del>\$35.00/\$10,000 Pd.</del>
9957	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$75.00/\$30,000 Pd./F
District IV	X	X	X		X	\$35/\$10,000 Pd./F
9876	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$125.00/\$50,000. Pd./F
9951	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$35.00/\$10,000. Pd./F
10217	X	X	X	X	\$58/500	\$42.00/\$12,000. Pd./F
10249	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$52.50/\$15,000 Pd./F
11575	X	X			\$58/500	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd./F
12074	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$52.50/\$15,000 Pd./F
12146	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$70.00/\$20,000 Pd./F
12163	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$52.50/\$15,000 P/F
District V	X	X	X		X	\$52.50/\$15,000 Pd./F
1509	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$70.00/\$28,000 Pd./F
2917	X	X	X		\$232/2,000	\$65.00/\$26,000. Pd./F
3457	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$65.00/\$26,000. Pd./F
District VI	X	X	X		X	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd./F
124	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$48.00/\$13,000. Pd./F
2485	X	X	X	X	\$58/500	\$400.00/\$160,000. Pd./F
9892	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$35.00/ \$10,000. Pd./F
11447	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$35.00/\$10,000 Pd./F
12130	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd./F
District VII	X	X	X		X	\$35.00/\$10,000 Pd./F
*F = Bond application form received.						

Yours in Comradeship,

Pete Callaghan  
 Quartermaster  
 Department of Pacific Areas

## ***From the Surgeon:***

### Department Surgeon focus on Kidney Health

This month I am focusing on Kidney Health with tips for veterans with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and tips that will help you eat right as you manage your CKD along with a guideline on Kidney Test Results from the National Kidney Disease Education Program.

The first steps to eating right are important for all people with CKD. The next steps to eating right may become important as your kidneys slow down.

#### The First Steps to Eating Right:

**Step 1:** Choose and prepare foods with less salt and sodium. This will help control your blood pressure.

- Look for Food Labels that Say: Sodium free, Salt Free, Very low sodium, Low Sodium, Unsalted

**Step 2:** Eat the right amount and the right types of protein. This will help protect your kidneys.

- Animal-protein Foods: chicken, fish, meat, eggs, dairy
- Plant-protein Foods: Beans, Nuts, Grains

**Step 3:** Choose foods that are healthy for your heart. This helps to keep fat from building up in your blood vessels, heart, and kidneys.

- Heart-healthy Foods: Lean cuts of meat, Poultry without skin, Fish, Beans, Vegetables, Fruits

#### The Next Steps to Eating Right:

Step 4: Choose foods with less phosphorus. This helps protect your bones and blood vessels.

Step 5: Choose foods that have the right amount of potassium. This helps your nerves and muscles work the right way.

Go to the web site below and see more information on Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Tests, the type of test, results and "Why it is Important".

<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/communication-programs/nkdep>

Other websites:

[www.move.gov/move23](http://www.move.gov/move23)

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

<https://mobile.va.gov/appstore>

Live a Healthier Life and a Longer Life!

Yours in Comradeship,

Michael S. Napsey  
Surgeon  
Department of Pacific Areas





***Note from the Chaplain:***



Comrades,

Please take the time to say a prayer for the families of our fallen Comrades. Also take a moment to remember the lives of the 17 lost in the shooting at Stone Douglas High School, Parkland Florida. On that day we had some Heroes step up and made the ultimate sacrifice.

JROTC Cadets Peter Wang, Alaina Petty, and Martin Duque are true Heroes. They didn't think twice about protecting their schoolmates. Many things have been said on the news since this tragedy happened, but not enough has been said about these amazing kids. They are what the JROTC program is all about, developing leaders. Sadly, their futures were taken from them, but hopefully their sacrifice will never be forgotten. May God bless their souls and watch over them for all eternity.





Again, please make sure your Post Chaplains get the names of anyone who passes so we make sure they are recognized. If you are unable to attend your Posts meetings to inform your Chaplain email me directly at either [chapdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:chapdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org) or my [warren.maxson@yahoo.com](mailto:warren.maxson@yahoo.com) . Also On Facebook [Chaplains of the Dept. of the Pacific VFW](#).

Send me the Following:

- FULL NAME and NICK NAME (if they have one). Some Comrades are known more by their Nicknames.
- Post Number/Pup Tent
- Army/Navy/Air Force/Marines/Coast Guard

Chaplains continue to send your Taps reports. And again, Thank You for your Service, God Bless you and yours.

Yours in Comradeship,

Warren "MAX" Maxson  
 Chaplain  
 Department of Pacific Areas  
 "Rest Easy, we'll take it from Here"



**From the Convention / Convention Book Chairman:**

Commanders and Comrades,

The Easter Holiday weekend has passed and we are into April the Thai New Year Holiday month or “Songkran”, many local Comrades will travel in and out of Thailand. My VFW Post meeting / business will slow after the 7<sup>th</sup> so I encourage you to submit your District/Post/Pup Tent ads to this year’s Convention book ASAP. As mentioned in previous posting the deadline for submission this year, 01 May 2018, so we have now the month of April approximately 30 days to go. Submit your ads now and pay later.



From District Commanders, we need two pages of photos with captions of the highlights of your District events. Some of the photos could be some special events of the past.

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. Let’s keep the Publisher Mrs. Lenee Zaher hard at work organizing and editing your art work, Ads submitted to [bobzaher@gmail.com](mailto:bobzaher@gmail.com), If you have any question, please contact me at [holublouis@gmail.com](mailto:holublouis@gmail.com) or phone; +66817208124

**The following are the book ad prices:**



<b>1 Page, Color</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>½ Page, Color</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Buisnes Cards</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Boosters Ads</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>



**Note: Convention Book Art (ads) should be JPEG, Publisher no PDF**

**DPA Convention 10 to 14 June 2018 in Banchang Thailand; update**

Planning, organizing and registration remain on schedule, through 01 April 56 Comrades have registered approximately 46 room reservations confirmed, 8 of 39 DOUBLE rooms remain FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE, and others will be assigned rooms with 2 single beds. The correct Banquet dates are 13 and 14 respectively DPA CDR Installation banquet on the 13<sup>th</sup> currently 70 reservations, the MOC installation banquet on the 14<sup>th</sup>, currently 33 reserved. **The VIP lunch is full**; 2 seats remain for the AA lunch. Convention Polo Shirts can be order stating size and number of shirts required, Sizes S, M, L, XL to 5X available, if you require lager size >5X up to 8X “Big Man”, please contact me via email [holublouis@gmail.com](mailto:holublouis@gmail.com). I plan to make order no later than 10 April. Shirts are 1,000THB each.

Airport pick up / transportation request are being placed with “Delta Gulf”, as soon as you have your Airport / flight details, arrival date / time and number of passengers please email [holublouis@gmail.com](mailto:holublouis@gmail.com). or [len.Fernandez@craneww.com](mailto:len.Fernandez@craneww.com)

Counting down to Banchang Thailand in June 2018

Yours in Comradeship,

Lou Holub  
2018 Convention/Convention Book Chairman  
Department of Pacific Areas



## From the Inspector:

Comrades,

All inspections in the Department are complete. April 15 is almost upon us, so insure the 990's are filed with the IRS. Hope you all had a great Easter. Wishing you all the Best in your Post Conventions later in the month.

Yours in Comradeship,

Bill Bradford  
Inspector  
Department of Pacific Areas



## From the Legislative Committee Chairman:

Comrades,

The pace of action in Washington is high, and much of that concerns the military and vets. Here are some of the current legislative highlights concerning vets.

**1. Arlington Launches Second 'Future of the Cemetery' Survey:** Only 1 percent of all veterans are buried or inurned at Arlington National Cemetery, but the cemetery is still projected to run out of space in two decades unless new land is obtained, eligibility requirements change, or some combination of both. That's why Congress asked the Department of the Army to consider what could be done to preserve Arlington as an active military cemetery well into the future, and that's why Arlington has launched a second survey to hear from its stakeholders. The first survey was conducted in July 2017 in partnership with the VFW and other organizations. [Those results can be found here](#). The new survey further refines the first. Finding new land that is adjacent to the cemetery would be extremely difficult in an urban environment, but would closing Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall be a solution or just prolong the inevitable, since one acre extends the service life of the cemetery by only three months? Should Arlington be reserved just for active-duty deaths, combat deaths, former POWs, high heroism medal recipients, or not? "Your opinion matters — not only to us, but to our military and civilian leaders as they face a difficult future for our hallowed national shrine," said Executive Director of Army National Military Cemeteries Karen Durham-Aguilera. [Take the new survey here](#).

**2. Education Information:** For any service member or veteran looking to pursue their educational goals through the use of the GI Bill, there is an important tool offered by VA. The [GI Bill Comparison Tool](#) allows users to compare different programs and institutions that accept the GI Bill. In the past few years, some student veterans have been impacted by the abrupt closures of the schools they were attending. These schools were using predatory business practices and had numerous complaints against them. The GI Bill Comparison Tool gives users the ability to check on the schools they wish to attend, and provides up to date data received from current and past students, helping GI Bill users make better, more informed decisions about where to attend school, and hopefully avoid programs that offer little to no value.

**3. President Nominates New VA Secretary:** The president yesterday nominated Navy Rear Adm. (Dr.) Ronny Jackson to replace Dr. David Shulkin as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Shulkin was brought onboard as VA Undersecretary of Health in the aftermath of a nationwide crisis in care and access that rocked veterans' confidence in their VA. He was retained by President Trump and confirmed as VA Secretary by the Senate 100-0. Under his tenure, the VA achieved a host of successes ranging from increased accountability and transparency to a beefedup education package and increases in overall funding and patient satisfaction. Dr. Jackson joined the Navy in 1995, and according to his official bio, served in Iraq as an emergency physician in charge of resuscitative medicine for a forward deployed surgical shock trauma platoon, and since 2006, has been the White House physician for three presidents. The VFW will closely monitor the Senate confirmation process, because what Dr. Jackson's bio does not reflect is any experience working with the VA or with veterans, or managing any organization of size, much less one as multifaceted as the



Department of Veterans Affairs. Robert Wilkie will serve as acting secretary in the interim. He is currently the Defense Department's Undersecretary for Personnel & Readiness.

**4. DHA Executive Council Meeting:** On Tuesday, March 27, the VFW participated in the quarterly Defense Health Agency (DHA) MSO/VSO Executive Council meeting led by DHA Director Vice Adm. Raquel Bono. She was joined by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Tom McCaffery, Office of Personnel Management Deputy Director for Healthcare & Insurance Laurie Bodenheimer and the Presidents of Humana Military and Health Net Federal Services, who currently hold the TRICARE contracts for the East and West Regions respectively. The briefing included an overview of the role that DHA plays as a Combat Support Agency and an update regarding TRICARE implementation in the East and West service regions. Emphasis was placed on the need for beneficiaries who pay their premiums and fees by credit card to update their billing information with the new contractors. Beneficiaries who fail to do so will no longer be covered by TRICARE. The meeting also included an update on the TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan, which is scheduled to end on December 31, 2018. Eligible beneficiaries will instead be eligible to enroll in the Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). To learn more about how this change may impact you, please [click here](#).

Comrades, this concludes my report on legislative matters concerning veterans. If you have any questions you may contact me at [corter79@hotmail.com](mailto:corter79@hotmail.com).

Yours in Comradeship,

Jonathan Brazee  
Legislative Chairman  
Department of Pacific Areas

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## ***From the Certified National Recruiter:***

Greeting Comrades,

We have grown since my last article so let's get to the point. In our **"Over the Top"** Post's and Districts. We now have 13 Post's that are **"Over the Top"** and they are Post's 10223, 12147, 10217, 11575, 12146, 1509, 2917, 3457, 124, 2485, 9892, 11447 and leading the pack in percentages is **Post 12146 with 126.19%** Congrats to all. We have 3 District that is also **"Over the Top"** and that is Districts 5, 6 and 7 Congrats also to all in these Districts!

In individual recruiting efforts we have increased the numbers of recruiters to 134 in the Pacific Areas that are keeping us in 5th place in the National Standings. We could use some more to help lighten the load here! We have some really super recruiters that I am calling the **"20 Plus Group"** and they are William Russel: Post 9612, Ron Davis: Post 8180, Warren Maxson: Post 8180, Don Kelley: Post 10223, Larry Lyons: Post 12147, Michael O'Kelley: Post 3457: Cliff Wilsey: Post 2485, Mike Verville: Post 11447 and leading this group with 63 recruits thus far this year is some guy named Larry. I want to thank ALL the recruiters for it is definitely a TEAM PACIFIC effort to make this happen year after year.

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Comrades we are nearing the 8<sup>th</sup> inning and even though a lot of our posts have made their goal of 100% and some even more than that, we still have some post that are having a hard time of it. So let's help them out and get a few more recruits so we stay in the top at National. Let me know how I can help. I am only an email away. I can be reached at [PDCLyons@VFWDeptPacific.org](mailto:PDCLyons@VFWDeptPacific.org).

Yours Always in Comradeship,

Larry Lyons  
Certified National Recruiter  
Department of Pacific Areas



## From the Legacy Life Membership Chairman:

Comrades,

Our Department Legacy Program is doing well with 288 Legacy Life Members. Please consider enrolling a worthy member of your Post in-memoriam who has made his final roll call. His Legacy will live on forever. Remember he will be leaving a Legacy and helping the financial future of your Post.



### DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS LEGACY LIFE MEMBERS

#### 2017-2018 TERM 288 LEGACY LIFE MEMBERS

**DISTRICT I - OKINAWA - 7**  
Post 9723 - 7

**DISTRICT 2 - JAPAN - 19**  
Post 1054 - 8  
Post 9555 - 3  
Post 9612 - 8

**DISTRICT III - KOREA - 39**  
Post 8180 - 17  
Post 9985 - 6  
Post 10033 - 7  
Post 10223 - 7  
Post 12147 - 2

**DISTRICT IV - TAIWAN - 3**  
Post 9957 - 3

**DISTRICT V - THAILAND/CAMBODIA - 45**  
Post 9876 - 5  
Post 9951 - 6  
Post 10217 - 5  
Post 10249 - 5  
Post 12074 - 8  
Post 11575 - 0  
Post 12146 - 15  
Post 12163 - 1

**DISTRICT VI - GUAM/SAIPAN - 21**  
Post 1509 - 4  
Post 2917 - 11  
Post 3457 - 6

**DISTRICT VII - PHILIPPINES - 152**  
Post 124 - 7  
Post 2485 - 121  
Post 9892 - 7  
Post 11447 - 9  
Post 12130 - 8

**MEMBER AT LARGE - 2**  
Post 15055 - 2

*As of 31 March 2018*



#### 2016-2017 TERM 264 LEGACY LIFE MEMBERS

**DISTRICT I - OKINAWA - 7**  
Post 9723 - 7

**DISTRICT 2 - JAPAN - 17**  
Post 1054 - 8  
Post 9555 - 3  
Post 9612 - 6

**DISTRICT III - KOREA - 37**  
Post 8180 - 4  
Post 9985 - 6  
Post 10033 - 6  
Post 10216 - 13  
Post 10223 - 6  
Post 12147 - 2

**DISTRICT IV - TAIWAN - 3**  
Post 727 - 1  
Post 9957 - 2

**DISTRICT V - THAILAND/CAMBODIA - 39**  
Post 9876 - 5  
Post 9951 - 6  
Post 10217 - 5  
Post 10249 - 6  
Post 12074 - 7  
Post 11575 - 0  
Post 12146 - 10

**DISTRICT VI - GUAM/SAIPAN - 19**  
Post 1509 - 5  
Post 2917 - 9  
Post 3457 - 5

**DISTRICT VII - PHILIPPINES - 141**  
Post 124 - 6  
Post 2485 - 111  
Post 9892 - 7  
Post 11447 - 9  
Post 12130 - 8

**MEMBER AT LARGE - 1**  
Post 15055 - 1



Yours in Comradeship,

Bob Zaher  
Legacy Life Membership Chairman



**From the National Home for Children Chairman:**



**VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN**  
*Every child deserves a happy family*



Comrades,

April has arrived and the DPA cut off to be recognized for All State is due by the 30<sup>th</sup>. National requirements must be done by 30 June. I have posted on the DPA Facebook page this same report shows in RED the four (4) Districts and nine (9) Posts that are still needing to make their donations to the National Home for Children and to give the Department a 100% participation this 2017-2018 year.

This report is as of March 28, 2018 as received in from the National Home and Post Quartermasters.

District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated	District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated
District 1	No		District 5	No	
9723	No		9876	No	
District 2	YES	\$100.00	9951	No	
1054	YES	\$100.00	10217	YES	\$50.00
9555	YES	\$100.00	10249	No	
9612	YES	\$100.00	11575	No	
District 3	No		12074	YES	\$50.00
10216 Merged with					
8180	YES	\$50.00	12146	YES	\$50.00
9985	No		12163	YES	\$50.00
10033	No		District 6	YES	\$50.00
10223	YES	\$50.00	1509	YES	\$50.00
12109	No		2917	YES	\$50.00
12147	YES	\$50.00	3457	YES	\$50.00
District 4	No		District 7	YES	\$50.00
727 Merged with					
9957	No		124	YES	\$150.00
			2485	YES	\$115.57
			9892	YES	\$175.00
Post 12147 Pacific House		\$100.00	11447	YES	\$50.00
Post 1054 Benefit Concert		\$2,500.00	12130	YES	\$50.00
Sub-Total		\$550.00	Sub-Total		\$990.57
<b>Dist/Post Total</b>	<b>\$1,540.57</b>	<b>Special Projects</b>	<b>\$2,600.00</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$4,140.57</b>
<b>Not Confirmed</b>					

Check out the National Home for Children by [Click here](#) this link will take you to the News and Photo's as to the happenings with the National Home on their web site.

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 challenging times.***

Yours in Comradeship,

Randell E. Himes  
 National Home for Children Chairman

## ***From the Roving Ambassador:***

Hello Comrades,

Another month has passed and we are getting closer to some annual important actions...recruiting, membership, awards and the Convention amongst other programs. I am confident (along with Commander Gilbert) that our Comrades, Posts, and Districts are doing what is necessary for our Department to have another successful year! Are CSR's are looking great and we are over 95% in membership for the year so we are moving in the right direction.

I would like to also continue to ask the Department to take care of each other. Some of our Comrades are either getting up in age or is there. Let us make the time to check on them to ensure their needs are being met. We also need to look at new recruits who we need to mentor to be the future leaders of our organization.

Time is flying so that means the Department Convention is right around the corner. As of 4 April, we have 61 Comrades who has signed up. Let us get the word out in the time we have left to encourage our Comrades to join us in June. Again, speaking about the Convention, I am flying into Bangkok on Saturday 9 June at 2310. If anyone is flying in about that time and we can drive down to Ban Chang together on the VFW Van.

Once more, please be safe and all that you do and remember to check on each other. May God continue to bless you, your families, and the good ole USA!!! See you soon as the countdown commences!!

Yours in Comradeship,

Kevin E. Mitchell  
Roving Ambassador  
"Honoring our Past, Securing our Future"



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## ***From the Americanism and Loyalty Day Chairman:***

Comrades,

Since 1986, the Department of Defense has observed the Month of the Military Child in April. During this month, we observe and recognize the unique challenges faced by Military children, such as: extended separations, frequent moves and the stress of deployments. It is important that we recognize the personal sacrifice and important contribution of the military children. This observance it is an opportunity to recognize military children and youth for their heroism, character, courage, sacrifices and continued resilience. Department of Defense recognizes that the strength of our Military comes from the strengths of our Families.

There are other very important celebrations during the month of April. On 14 April, we also celebrate the Air Force Reserve Birthday. On 23 April, we celebrate the Army Reserve Birthday. Over the years, veterans from both of these groups have served in every major conflict including WWI, WWII, Korea and more recently Iraq and Afghanistan, among others. They have also aided in humanitarian missions and disasters. During this month, take the time to recognize the contributions made by these two groups of Veterans. Happy Birthday Air Force and Army Reserves! VFW is proud of you and thanks you for your services to this Nation.

The VFW remains committed to honoring the service and sacrifices of those who serve our nation, including our Military Families. Take every opportunity to recognize, applaud, and celebrate the dedication of our Service Men and Women - and their families- as they are at the center of ensuring our future.

Yours in Comradeship,

William Russell  
Americanism and Loyalty Chairman



**From the Veterans and Military Support Chairman:**

Comrades,

Just a quick note. This is the time frame that you could be support active duty or reserve outfits with MAP Programs to support their units Organizational Day, get with them and show them that the VFW Thanks them for their Service and offer them a BBQ of sort. Listed below are Posts and Districts that have completed requirements for All State. If I am missing you please send me proof of your donations and I will get it straight prior to the end of the month so your requirements are met.



**2017/2018 MAP Donations/Events/Adopt a Unit**

Post	MAP Donation	MAP Function	Adopt-a-Unit
9723			
1054	\$100.00	YES	YES
9555			
9612		YES	
8180	\$50.00		
9985			
10033	\$50.00		
10223	\$50.00		YES
12147	\$500.00	YES	YES
9957			
9876			
9951			
10217	\$50.00		
10249			
11575			
12074	\$50.00		
12146	\$50.00	YES	
12163			
1509			
2917	\$50.00		
3457	\$50.00		
124	\$50.00		
2485	\$150.00		
9892	\$50.00		
11447	\$50.00		
12130			
D1	\$50.00		
D2			
D3	\$50.00		
D4			
D5			
D6	\$50.00		
D7			

Any questions or concerns please contact me at [PDCLyons@VFWdeptpacific.org](mailto:PDCLyons@VFWdeptpacific.org)

Yours always in Comradeship  
Larry Lyons

## ***From the Outreach Program Chairman:***

Comrades,

As a reminder, the DPA Community Outreach Program has been defined as support to local community organizations, charities, local community members in need, and other Veteran and Fraternal groups. It does not include support to veterans.

A review of CSR event inputs, Post websites and Facebook posts shows that 77% of DPA Posts conducted at least one community outreach event in March. This is slightly higher than the February participation rate (73%). Since July 2017 the monthly average is 72%. The goal is 100% of DPA Posts to conduct at least one community outreach event every month.

I would like to acknowledge Post 2485 Angeles City, Post 9612 Camp Zama and Post 10217 Korat for the wide variety and quantity of community outreach events that they conducted in March. The effort and time these Posts put into community outreach events in March is very impressive.

Below is the only community outreach event that was posted in March on the VFW DPA's Around the Pacific Facebook group page.

- Post 12146 Banchang-Utapao supported the Namrin Beach community clean up.

Besides the above Around the Pacific post, here are the only events I saw posted in March on individual VFW Post's Facebook pages.

- Post 12146 Banchang-Utapao donated a golf bag to Finnegans Saint Patrick's Day golf tournament.
- Post 9876 Pattaya Beach participated in the local Saint Patrick's Day parade.

I saw no community outreach events posted on any Post website.

If you have any suggestions on ways your Post reaches out to the local communities and want to showcase it here, please let me know.

Quote of the month: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others" – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Yours in Comradeship,

Jon Crist  
Outreach Chairman  
Department of Pacific Areas



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## ***From the Webmaster:***

Comrades,

The web registration portal has been opened for a few months now. A few people have raised the issue that they are unable to submit their registration even though it seems that the website processed it. The mostly likely cause of this is using certain punctuation. When you are filling out the form on the website avoid using commas, single quotes, double quotes or apostrophe. This goes for the Community Service Reports as well.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson  
Webmaster





## ***Letters of Intent – 2018-2019 VFW Year***

### **LETTER OF INTENT DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KENNETH A. STEIN**



It is with humility and pride I announce my candidacy for the position of Junior Vice Commander, VFW Department of Pacific Areas. I am a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, retiring in 1996. I'm a Gold Legacy Life member of the VFW, currently serving as District 5 Commander and as Commander of Banchang Post 12146.

I have served in a variety of positions during my twenty-two year membership in the VFW, including; Post Adjutant, JVC, SVC, and CDR. I have been privileged to have been elected three times as CDR of Banchang Utapao Post 12146. I am extremely proud we have been selected as an All-American Post the first two years and, as we have met all requirements, we expect to be awarded All-American Status again this year. I am truly fortunate to be surrounded by so many dynamic, dedicated comrades.

I will bring all the lessons learned during my twenty-two years in the VFW, thirty years in the U.S. Navy, and my ten years as a private business owner to the DPA Junior Vice Commander position. I ask for your support, and pledge if elected to work hard and work smart to make our Department a proactive voice in supporting veterans and their families.

Yours in comradeship, service to veterans, and with best regards,

Kenneth A. Stein  
Candidate for Junior Vice Commander  
VFW Department of Pacific Areas

**LETTER OF INTENT**  
**DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER**  
**PETER CALLAGHAN**

Comrades of the Pacific Areas,

It has been an honor serving as your Quartermaster, and I am asking your support to remain in the position. For those of you who have been active in the Department for a few years, you may remember the time when the Department needed to hold fundraisers (other than the Convention Book) to meet our obligations. Past Commander Barry Hirshbein was the last Commander to hold a raffle in order to keep us afloat.

I took the reigns as Quartermaster at the end of Barry's year as Commander. And I am happy to say that since then, we have not needed to hold any annual fundraisers to pay the bills. The Department has enough money to meet our obligations, and at the same time we have established a Veterans Assistance Fund, a Disaster Relief Fund, and other programs that help fund the core missions of the VFW and the Department (Life Member Stipend Fund, for one).

We have moved our banking procedures into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and we have a healthy investment fund which has earned over \$7,000 interest since I moved our investment money there six years ago. This year we donated \$1,000 to National's appeal for disasters caused by hurricanes and fires. And we have since replaced that money into our own Disaster Fund.

Our Department Service Officer now has the funding to support ADSO's in Japan and Thailand, as well as being able to meet his obligations in the Philippines. Our JVC has the funds to attend the National Home open house along with all the other Department's JVC's. Our Commander now attends the Western Conference meetings, from where National officers are groomed. And our visibility there has helped us, for the first time, have representation with the National leadership. Congratulations "Doc" Higgins.

All of this does not come about by magic. It takes planning, budgeting, and the discipline to stick within the budget to keep us solvent and moving ahead. I hope you think that I've served you well, and that you will lend your support to allow me to continue to do so. Thank you.

Yours in Comradeship,

Peter Callaghan



**LETTER OF INTENT**

**DEPARTMENT SURGEON**

**Michael S. Napsey**



Comrades,

It has been a pleasure serving as your Department Surgeon for the past year. I am looking for your support again this year in running for the Department Surgeon for 2018-2019. This past year we have focused on health issues that our Comrades are experiencing and put a different focus of giving different tools for us to use to better manage our health issues using technology as a basis in providing health programs, self-assessment and way ahead in giving us a better quality of health and hopefully extending our life. We are expanding our Health Programs establishing links that will bring our Comrades in contact with health institutions who can better provide information to our veterans allowing them to make better choices concerning their health. We are moving ahead in our Department Health Program and would like to continue serving as your Department Surgeon for the upcoming year so we can put in place these tools for all of our Posts. Thank you for your support.

Yours in Comradeship and God Bless!

Michael S. Napsey  
Department Surgeon  
Department of Pacific Areas

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**See you in the next edition!**