



# Typhoon Newsletter

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



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FREE

## “GET IT DONE”

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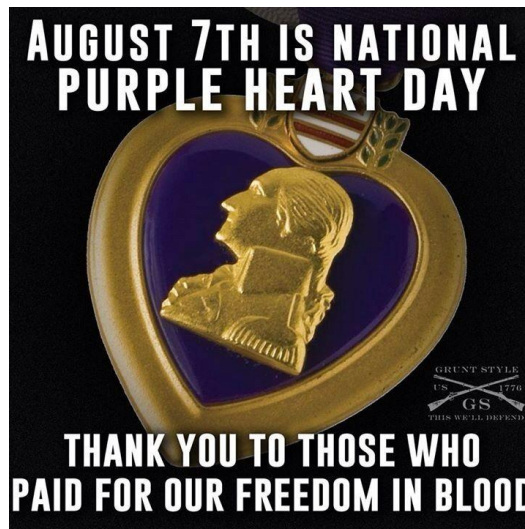
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Inputs for the September Typhoon  
Are due on 05 September 2018.



DEPARTMENT of PACIFIC AREAS





# ***Department Officer's Comments & Department Committee Reports***

## ***From the Commander:***

Comrades,

We are into our 2nd month of the 2018 – 2019 VFW Year and things are popping! I recently returned from the VFW National Convention in Kansas City, MO where we had a very productive convention. The DPA resolution on the return of the Belangiga Bells passed the floor unopposed. We had 15 delegates that represented our Department.

DPA can be proud of our All-American success for the year 2017 - 2018. All-American Awards included the DPA, 4 Districts and 9 Posts. Congratulations to PDC John Gilbert, District Commander (s) Ron Davis (D3), Ken Stein (D5), Shawn Watson (D6), and Charlie Spain (D7). Post Commander (s) included Alex Fores (124), Shawn Watson (2917), Brad Ruszala (3457), "Max" Maxson (8180), Don Kelley (10223), Roy Day (11575), Yusuf Nurridin (12130), Ken Stein (12146) and Larry Lyons (12147). Great work to all of you and your "Teams". A special shout out to Shawn Watson who was one of only six comrades that achieved the "Triple Crown" Award this year!



The new VFW administrative year started 1 July 2018. As I mentioned in my article last month - Membership numbers will once again be a little difficult to track this early until the National Membership Team resets the Online Membership System in September 2018. SVC Farris, CNR Lyons and I will periodically post the Recruiter Report on the DPA Official Communications Page to assist Posts in tracking their New Life Members and Reinstated Life Members. My initial analysis shows we have at least two Posts that should be over 100% the day the "full" MEMSTATS Report is published. Remember you can always do a Post Query! Post should send the SVC, CNR and me an update on your recruiting efforts. I must report the events monthly to VFW National.

Many of you have been using the DPA Communications Group Page. Keep watching it since we will be using it much more this year to get information out to you. We still have several DPA/District/Post Officers/Chairmen who have not yet joined the group, please join our page. All DPA Officers and Chairpersons will submit articles to the Typhoon Editor by NLT than the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please include the DPA Webmaster on your emails so he can post it on the DPA Webpage. My Commander's Face Book Page (Michael Ray Verville) is there if you need to speak to me on any matter involving the Department - send me a private message on my page. I can't fix a problem if you don't tell me. My contact info is [cdrdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:cdrdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org) or +639182491184!

Let's "Get It Done"!

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Michael R. (Mike) Verville  
Commander

Department of Pacific Areas – 2018/2019

## ***"GET IT DONE"***

## ***From the Senior Vice Commander:***

Comrades,

Now that all of the conventions are complete, it's time to get to work. As CDR Verville has mentioned on the Around the Pacific page, Nat'l has not yet gotten the MEMSTATS page up to reflect accurate recruiting numbers. However, we are able to track the recruiters who are starting early. Thanks to you all who are working so hard so early in the year. I anticipate next month's report will reflect our up-to-date status.

The stipends for lifetime membership are pretty much the same as years past. For posts with less than 500 members, a \$400 stipend for every 5 new lifetime members, or a free lifetime membership. For posts with greater than 500 members, a \$400 stipend for every 10 new lifetime members, or a free lifetime membership.

The new addition is for those members who convert their annual membership to lifetime. Department will subsidize a discount for these conversions with Department paying \$50 and the Post paying \$50. The stipend must occur in blocks of five. Once a post reaches 5 conversions, the quartermaster will send the membership numbers and names of those five to the Department Quartermaster, DPA CDR, and DPA SVC, and the DPA QM will then give the Post a \$250 stipend. So, the member gets a total of a \$100 discount for the conversion to life. This is a great way to get the Post's lifetime numbers up, while reducing those pesky annuals. Details are below on all of the membership programs for this year.

Among my responsibilities this year is chairman of the Veterans Assistance Committee. We have already helped three Veterans in need with checks for \$500. I have a \$5000 total budget to help our vets in need of assistance. If you know of a needy Vet, contact you Post Commander, and he can get the request to me.

A recently added duty is the Chairman for New Post Development and Post Revitalization. This is one of our new Commander in Chief, B.J. Lawrence's new programs. I am still looking over the new manual, and as I know more, I will get the information out to you.

The Department of Pacific will have a banner year. Let's GET IT DONE!

### **Department of Pacific Areas Membership Program 2018-2019**

#### **National Direct Dues Program**

Our Department will participate in the National Direct Dues Program. This means the entire transmittal, along with the dues is sent directly to National for both annual and life memberships. The Posts will be paid their portion of the Life Membership and Annual dues from National. Contact the Department Quartermaster or Department Senior Vice Commander for assistance.

#### **VFW Online Dues Processing**

Post Quartermasters are highly encouraged to submit their dues processing using the VFW Online Membership Systems.

#### **New post Institution Program Refund**

Any new Post instituted during the year will receive a rebate of \$6.00 from Department for each new and reinstated member listed on the final Charter Application form submitted to National. When the new Post is officially instituted and chartered – the Department Quartermaster will refund monies for those members shown on the Charter on the closing date (up to 90 days after the institution of the Post). The Life Membership stipend does not apply to the formation of a new Post.



### Life Membership

Life membership recruiting is an important program and we will strive to encourage everyone to become a Life Member. We have to be sure that all new and potential life members understand how strongly the VFW supports them, other veterans and local communities. It goes without saying that without the recruiting of new members, our great organization will not be able to survive. Recruiting must begin at the Post level. It is up to each Comrade to do their part to ensure that our organization continues to grow. We have a proud legacy of leading the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America in membership recruitment throughout the years. Let's go out and show them that the best Department is right here in the Pacific Areas.

(NOTE: N/R = New or Recovered (Reinstated) Life Member)

### Membership Recruiting Reward Program

#### Early Bird Program (Ends November 30, 2018)

##### Post and District Awards

- Posts at 100% plus 10 members will win one Life Membership or 1 Bronze Legacy Life Membership or a \$400 Stipend for its Post Membership Program.
- Districts with all posts over 100% membership will win one free Life Membership or a \$400 Stipend to use for membership recruiting.

### Regular Recruiting Program

##### Individual Recruiter Awards

- 3-5 members – Commander's Pin & DPA Pin
- 10 members - \$25.00 gift certificate
- 25 members - \$50.00 gift certificate
- 50 members - \$75.00 gift certificate
- 100 members - \$100.00 gift certificate

##### Life Member Recruiting Program (Posts)

- Posts at 500 and over members: For every 10 N/R Life Members recruited – 1 \$400 Stipend or 1 DPA paid Life Membership to be used for their membership program.
- Posts under 500 members: For every 5 N/R Life Members recruited – 1 \$400 Stipend or 1 DPA paid Life Membership to be used for their membership program.

##### Legacy Life Membership Program (For the year ending 30 June 2019)

- Posts over 1,000 members: Recruit 5 New Gold Legacy Life Members - Get 1 DPA Paid Bronze Legacy Life Membership or 1 DPA Paid Legacy Life Upgrade.
- Posts 500-999: Recruit 4 New Gold Legacy Life Members - Get 1 DPA Paid Bronze Legacy Life Membership or 1 DPA Paid Legacy Life Upgrade.
- Posts under 500 members: Recruit 3 New Gold Legacy Life Members – Get 1 DPA Paid Bronze Legacy Life Membership or 1 DPA Legacy Life Upgrade.

##### Annual Member to Life Member Conversion (For the year ending 30 June 2019)

- DPA will partner with Posts to provide a matching \$50 stipend to promote their Annual Member to Life Member Conversion Program with a \$100 combined Stipend.
- Posts who achieve 5 Annual Member to Life Member Conversions will be provided a \$250 Stipend.
- Post QMs will provide an email with the names of each of the 5 converted members to the DPA QM, DPA CDR, and the DPA SVC to claim the stipend.



## DPA Membership Program



## Memstats as of 1 AUG 2018

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted	Percent	Div	City	State	N/R	LM	Prior A	Retention	N/R %
Pacific Are	9723	1	0	0	0	2	2	721	0.27%	2	OKINAWA	JAPAN	0		34	5.88%	0.00%
Pacific Are	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	721	0.27%	6						0.00%	
Pacific Are	1054	2	0	0	0	1	1	778	0.12%	1	YOKOSUKA	JAPAN	0		32	12.50%	0.00%
Pacific Are	9555	2	0	0	0	1	1	368	0.27%	2	YOKOTA A	JAPAN	0		24	0.00%	0.00%
Pacific Are	9612	2	0	0	0	2	2	525	0.38%	2	CAMP ZAM	JAPAN	0		48	14.58%	0.00%
Pacific Are	0	2	0	0	0	4	4	1671	0.23%	4						0.00%	
Pacific Are	8180	3	0	14	0	3	17	2033	0.83%	1	SONGTAN	KOREA	0		392	1.28%	0.69%
Pacific Are	9985	3	0	6	0	5	11	273	4.02%	3	TONGDUC	KOREA	0		72	5.56%	2.20%
Pacific Are	10033	3	0	2	0	2	4	553	0.72%	2	TAEGU	KOREA	0		50	6.00%	0.36%
Pacific Are	10223	3	0	5	0	2	7	355	1.97%	3	CAMP HUI	KORE	0		94	6.38%	1.41%
Pacific Are	12147	3	0	1	1	0	2	236	0.84%	4	SEONGNAI	KOREA	0		74	2.70%	0.85%
Pacific Are	0	3	0	28	1	12	41	3450	1.18%	2						0.84%	
Pacific Are	9957	4	0	0	0	0	0	364	0.00%	2	TAIPEI	TAIWAN	0		11	90.91%	0.00%
Pacific Are	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	364	0.00%	6						0.00%	
Pacific Are	9876	5	0	0	0	2	2	406	0.49%	2	PATTAYA C	THAILA	0		45	6.67%	0.00%
Pacific Are	9951	5	0	0	0	0	0	256	0.00%	3	BANGKOK	THAILAND	0		25	8.00%	0.00%
Pacific Are	10217	5	0	0	0	2	2	151	1.32%	5	KORAT AF	THAIL	0		16	12.50%	0.00%
Pacific Are	10249	5	0	1	0	3	4	271	1.47%	3	UDORN	THAILAND	0		29	13.79%	0.37%
Pacific Are	11575	5	0	0	0	1	1	124	0.80%	6	PHNOM PE	CAMBODIA	0		21	4.76%	0.00%
Pacific Are	12074	5	0	1	0	2	3	107	2.80%	7	CHIANG M	THAILAND	0		14	14.29%	0.93%
Pacific Are	12146	5	0	0	0	5	5	164	3.04%	5	BAN CHAN	RAYONG T	0		14	42.86%	0.00%
Pacific Are	12163	5	0	0	0	2	2	42	4.76%	10	PERTH	WESTERN A	0		10	20.00%	0.00%
Pacific Are	0	5	0	2	0	17	19	1521	1.24%	4						0.13%	
Pacific Are	1509	6	0	0	0	2	2	368	0.54%	2	YIGO	GUAM	0		32	6.25%	0.00%
Pacific Are	2917	6	0	1	0	0	1	240	0.41%	4	AGAT	GU	0		46	2.17%	0.42%
Pacific Are	3457	6	0	0	0	1	1	284	0.35%	3	SAIPAN	CNMI	0		39	5.13%	0.00%
Pacific Are	0	6	0	1	0	3	4	892	0.44%	6						0.11%	
Pacific Are	124	7	0	0	0	0	0	178	0.00%	5	BAGUIO C	PHILIPPI	0		1	0.00%	0.00%
Pacific Are	2485	7	0	4	0	8	12	1684	0.71%	1	ANGELES C	PHILIP	0		75	20.00%	0.24%
Pacific Are	9892	7	0	0	0	0	0	234	0.00%	4	BAUANG	LA UNION P	0		4	25.00%	0.00%
Pacific Are	11447	7	0	4	0	1	5	488	1.02%	2	SUBIC BAY	PHILIPPIN	0		21	14.29%	0.82%
Pacific Are	12130	7	0	0	0	2	2	117	1.70%	6	CEBU	PHILIPPINE	0		50	4.00%	0.00%
Pacific Are	0	7	0	8	0	11	19	2701	0.70%	3						0.30%	
Pacific Are	15055	99	0	2	0	1	3	566	0.53%	2	PACIFIC AF PI					0.35%	
Pacific Are	0	99	0	2	0	1	3	566	0.53%	6						0.35%	
Pacific Are	0	##	0	41	1	50	92	11886	0.77%							0.35%	

Rick Farris,  
 Senior Vice Commander  
 Dept. of Pacific Areas  
[svcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:svcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org)

## From the Junior Vice Commander:

Greetings Comrades,

We are off to a good start with our CS Reporting, since I submit the totals NLT the 5th of each month, in order to receive credit for the reporting period please ensure your reports are submitted prior to the 5th. The amount of work performed in our communities by our Posts is truly noteworthy and recording your efforts makes it even more meaningful.

Our outstanding VOD/PP/TA chairman Don Kelly from Post 10223 in Korea is already well into planning our Department program and he will be communicating deadlines and other information in his monthly newsletter/committee report. He can be reached @ [don@vfw10223.org](mailto:don@vfw10223.org).



Please check QM Pete Callaghan's report in the Typhoon and under committee reports to ensure you have received credit for the Buddy Poppies you have purchased.

I was very impressed with our new National Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence's comments regarding where the individual Posts fit into the VFW grand scheme. Specifically, he said in his acceptance speech last week in Kansas City, that he is putting a new focus on supporting the 6,400 existing VFW Posts, on creating new Posts, and on recruiting and retention of new members. He went on to say, there is an energy in this organization that's just chomping at the bit to be released, and it's all happening at the Post level. I couldn't agree more, so to use B. J.'s slogan this year let's "Make It Happen" beginning at our individual Posts.

Remember to follow the leadership and guidance of our Department Commander Mike Verville and "Get it Done" at each and every Post in our outstanding Department.

Have a great VFW month and I'm standing by to assist in any way I can.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT - AS OF 1 AUGUST 2018

Post	Dist	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
9723	1	13	13	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
1054	2	16	9	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
9555		24	18	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58
9612		10	11	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
8180	3	17	9	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
9985		18	12	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
10033		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10223		8	15	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
12147		4	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
9957	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
9876	5	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
9951		20	21	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
10217		17	23	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
10249		10	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24

11575		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12074		0	8	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
12146		11	24	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
12163		15	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
1509	6	7	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
2917		50	8	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69
3457		9	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
124	7	17	10	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
2485		141	128	134	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	403
9892		60	64	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	158
11447		8	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
12130		2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total		491	405	346	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1242

Yours in comradeship, service, and with best wishes,

Kenneth A Stein  
Junior Vice Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas

## From the National Councilmember:

Comrades,

We have started our new year off. Having just returned from the National Convention, we should be ready to start working the programs and membership.

Later this month I will be traveling back to Kansas City for the National Council of Administration. This is one of our most important meetings that we have during the year. I have asked for a breakdown of the money the Departments are given for the Service Officer program, and how the amount is determined. With that, stand by for more information on that front. Even if we are able to have that amount changed, it would likely take a year to implement.

I wish you all a very productive year. Contact me if you have any issues that you would like me to take to National for you.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson  
National Council Member



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

Comrades,

We are off to a strong start to the new VFW year, both in terms of recruiting and programs. I have noted that your recruiting efforts include both annual and life members, with the latter being essential for our long term success. I'm pleased to report that per MEMSTATS 100% of District 3 Posts have recruited one or more new members. Great work getting off to a fast start.

I'm also pleased to note that several Posts have begun meeting their program requirements, and with school starting soon it is time to start working your VOD, PP, and Teacher submissions with your local schools. Consider also your submissions for the other Award programs; Public Safety, (Law Enforcement, Fire and Paramedic), and Scouting. It was disappointing last year that we had no submission for the Scouting Award, even though a number of Posts sponsor Scout Troops. Start early this year and identify those who may be good candidates for these awards.

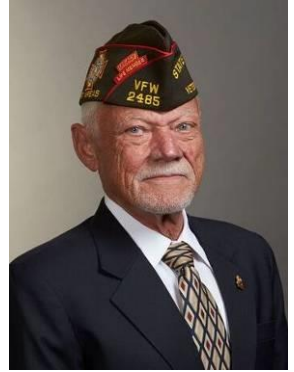
Now is also a good time also to look ahead to the end of year Department Awards and to start mentoring those who will lead your Posts, Districts and the Department into the future. We have not always done well in these areas in the past.

If I can be of assistance, please contact me at [pdcgilbert@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:pdcgilbert@vfwdeptpacific.org)

Yours in Comradeship & Service,

John Gilbert  
Junior Past Department Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas

***Get It Done!***



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

Greetings,

I would like to thank all the Districts and Posts for submitting your General Orders to me. I am still missing a few but I was able to accomplish the Department MEMO ONE utilizing Election Reports.

I have received a few corrections for the MEMO ONE and would ask, if you notice needed corrections to the MEMO ONE, please send them to me. My plan is to include any corrections in an updated MEMO ONE around October time period.

The first couple months of this 2018-2019 VFW year have been quite busy around the Department. Please take time to note, advertise, and report what your Districts and Posts are accomplishing.

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

Yours in Comradeship,

Jerry Chaplin  
Adjutant  
Department of Pacific Areas





## ***From the Judge Advocate:***

Comrades,

Attended the 119th National Convention in St. Louis, Mo and had the privilege to take part in the National By-laws, Manual of Procedures and Ritual Committee. Therefore I would like to provide some information on the numerous National Committees, which review proposed/amended national resolutions, by-laws and rituals at the 119th National Convention.

### **NATIONAL COMMITTEES:**

At National level a standing committee titled the National By-Laws Study Group will review the National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual and then formulate amendments as deemed necessary. These amendments are recommended to the Commander-in-Chief (hereinafter, Chief). The Chief will propose such recommendations nationally to all Posts at least fifteen (15) days prior to the convening of the National Convention. Also, the Chief's proposed resolutions will be submitted nationally to Departments in the early Spring, with no action required other than review and making comments to those delegates going to the National Convention. At Department Conventions all adopted proposed National By-Laws, Manual and Ritual amendments, as well as, resolutions shall be submitted to National for further consideration by committees prior to opening of the National Convention.

Then at the National Convention the various committees as listed below will meet to review the Chief's proposals and those department submissions adopted at their respective conventions, as well as any additional National proposals. The committees are chaired by Past National Commanders, with additional Past Commanders sitting in on the meetings. Also, those Post comrades receiving National appointments to a particular committee shall sit in on the meetings as voting members and represent their Departments. The various committees will meet on Sunday prior to convening of the convention to discuss and debate the by-law amendments or resolutions and vote to recommend acceptance, reject, or set aside. Each committee Chairperson then takes the findings of the committee to the floor of the National Convention, at one of the business secessions. They will express their committee's recommendations for approval or disapproval of proposed by-law amendments or resolutions and if necessary will discuss with convention delegates prior to vote.

The following is a summary of the various National committees that will handle the proposed submissions of by-law amendments and resolutions from Departments and National, which will be reviewed for considered at the National Convention:

#### **National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure, and Ritual Committee:**

This committee considers all proposed amendments to the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure, as well as resolutions having any bearing upon the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. It makes recommendations to the Convention for approval or disapproval of proposed amendments that may be adopted only in accordance with Section 1401, By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. It also considers resolutions or other proposals pertaining to changes in the VFW Ritual and makes recommendations thereon. (Note: The Department has proposed an amendment to the National Manual, Section 520, Vacancies, paragraph 3, item 2, therein, which will be presented in this committee for consideration on the floor of the National Convention.)

#### **Finance and Internal Organization Committee:**

This committee considers resolutions involving financial and organizational policies and procedures, and makes recommendations thereon. (200 series of resolutions that includes the Congressional charter)

#### **General Resolution Committee:**

This committee considers resolutions of a general nature, including those affecting the veterans only as a part of a special group, and those not falling within the category of other committees. (300 series about flags, memorials, firearms, religious freedom, etc...)



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National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee & Sub-Committee on POW/MIA:

This committee considers all resolutions pertaining to national defense, military policy, foreign affairs, POW/MIA'S and civil defense, and makes recommendations thereon. (400 series dealing with war on terrorism, missile defense, homosexuals in armed forces, NATO, awards, medals and recognition badges, etc...)

## Veterans Service Resolution Committee:

This committee considers all resolutions pertaining to Department of Veterans Affairs laws, policy and procedure and laws providing rehabilitation benefits for veterans. It also considers resolutions pertaining to veterans' employment, civil services and housing problems, and resolutions that require legislative action, and makes recommendation thereon. (600 series pertaining to health care, concurrent receipt, VA budget, headstones, disability pensions, death benefits, etc...)

I hope this information is helpful with informing all how National/Department By-Laws and Manual of Procedures amendments that are presented for adoption or amended are approved or disapproved for adoption or amendment. The results of all National/Department /By-Laws, Manual of Procedures and Rituals that were proposed for adoption and amended will be in my next article in September. They will also be posted under The Department Website – Judge Advocate.

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

"Get It Done"

Yours in Comradeship,

Robert "Mo" Moses  
Judge Advocate  
Department of Pacific Areas



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

Comrades,

Time is starting to fly by. For many school is getting ready to start back up, if not already done so. Post Commander should have reviewed the requirements for All American and All State by now. I would like to relay a story that was told at the National Convention last month. There was a State that didn't have any Post make All State or All American. When asked the Post Commander's stated that no one told them what the requirements were. Or that no one told them that they had not met the requirement. Comrades, we are spread throughout the Pacific and have great communications between ourselves. The Department website has all the requirements for both All-American and All-State. Not only should you have reviewed them, you should have a plan in place to "Get it Done"

If you have any questions let me know.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson  
Chief of Staff  
Department of Pacific Areas



## From the Quartermaster:

Comrades,

Quartermaster Bonds for 2018-2019 will be sent to each Post and District Quartermaster's DEPARTMENT email address by August 15. Post and District Commanders will also receive notice that the bonds have been sent. Buddy Poppies will also be ordered this month and will be shipped by National to the Post Quartermaster's mailing address. If you are in Thailand or the Philippines and cannot receive packages at your mailing address, please provide me an alternate address where the Poppies can be shipped. Thanks.

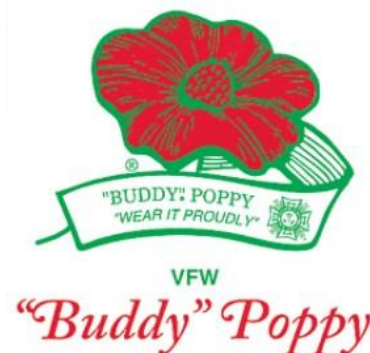


Despite the fact that National has yet to include the Life Members in your MEMSTATS numbers, by accessing the Recruiter Report for your Post I can give you a very good idea where you stand in reaching your goal of 100% +. Just send me an email and I'll give you the latest numbers. The only inaccuracy will be if you had a member join your Post as a Life Member online and no recruiter was involved.

In September, National makes the Life Member payout to each Post and Department. The payout is based on when each member became a Life member. Those joining more recently have the highest payout because they paid more to become a Life member than those who became Life years ago. Nevertheless, payouts range from roughly \$8 per newer member to \$5 for the older ones, with a few other categories in between. If you figure \$6.50 for each Life member, you'll have a pretty good idea what your Post payout will be.

Summer is fading fast so it's time to think about getting to the business of the VFW – recruiting, VOD/Patriot's Pen/Teacher awards. Poppy sales, the annual donations to the National Home and Veterans and Military Support, and helping military members and their families as well as veterans in our community. Department officers stand ready to answer any questions you may have about these programs. Don't forget about the \$1,000 grant from the VFW Foundation to help other non-profits in your community. It's a great way to help others while boosting your Post's visibility in the community.

Have a great month, and "GET IT DONE".



## 2018-2019 POST AND DISTRICT AUDITS/POPPIES/QM BONDS

AUDITS SUBMITTED	JUNE '18	SEP '18	DEC '18	MAR '19	BUDDY POPPIES ORDERED '18-'19	QM BOND ORDERED 2018-'19
9723	X				\$116/1,000	\$100/\$40,000 Pd F*
District I	X				X	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd F*
1054	X				\$174/1,500	\$125/\$50,000 Pd F*
9555	X				\$58/500	\$75/\$30,000 Pd F*
9612					\$58/500	\$65/\$26,000 Pd F*
District II					X	\$17.50/\$5,000 Pd F*
8180	X				\$116/1,000	\$70/\$28,000 Pd F*
9985	X				\$58/500	\$65/\$26,000 Pd F*
10033	X				\$58/500	\$70/\$28,000 Pd F*
10223	X				\$58/500	\$100/\$40,000 Pd F*
12147					\$58/500	\$35/\$10,000 Pd F*
District III					X	\$17.50/\$5,000 Pd F*
9957					\$58/500	\$75/\$30,000 Pd F*
District IV					X	\$52.50/\$15,000 F*
9876	X				\$58/500	\$125/\$50,000 Pd F*
9951	X				\$58/500	\$35/\$10,000 Pd
10217					\$58/500	\$42/\$12,000 Pd F*
10249	X				\$58/500	\$52.50/\$15,000 Pd F*
11575						\$17.50/\$5,000 Pd F*
12074	X				\$58/500	\$42/\$12,000 Pd F*
12146	X				\$58/500	\$70/\$28,000 Pd F*
12163	X				\$58/500	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd F*
District V					X	\$59.50/\$17,000 Pd F*
1509					\$58/500	\$175/\$70,000 Pd F*
2917	X				\$58/500	\$65/\$26,000 Pd F*
3457	X				\$58/500	\$65/\$26,000 Pd F*
District VI					X	\$10.50/\$3,000 F*
124					\$58/500	\$49/\$14,000 Pd F*
2485	X				\$58/500	\$400/\$160,000 Pd F*
9892	X				\$58/500	\$42/\$12,000 Pd F*
11447					\$58/500	\$31.50/\$9,000 Pd
12130	X				\$58/500	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd F*
District VII					X	\$10.50/\$3,000
*F = Bond application form received.						

Yours in Comradeship,

Pete Callaghan  
 Quartermaster  
 Department of Pacific Areas

**“GET IT DONE”**

## ***From the Chaplain:***



Comrades,

Let us pay respect to the following comrades who have left our ranks.

**Joseph Carsley, Past Department of Pacific Areas Commander (Post 2485)**

**Robert (Bob) Ring (Post 8180)**

**James Salerno (Post 8180)**

**Laurie L. Bach (Post 8180)**

**Charles R. Davis (Post 8180)**

**Jackie Moore (Post 8180)**

**Clark Edwards (Post 8180)**

**Michael Lee (Post 8180)**

**Fred O. Simpson (Post 8180)**

**Darwyn L. Venden (Post 8180)**

### ***A Short Prayer for the Deceased:***

*We give them back to thee, dear Lord who gravest them to us; yet as thou does not lose them in giving, so we have not lost them by their return. Life is eternal and love is immortal, and death is only a horizon. Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see further; Cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly; Draw us closer to thyself so that we may know ourselves to be nearer to our loved ones who are with thee.*

Those involved in reporting member deaths, please utilize the Taps Report form available on the Department website, (Forms tab). This will ensure accurate record keeping and submission of required information.

Yours in Comradeship and Service to Veterans.

Ronald J. Davis  
Chaplain  
Department of Pacific Areas



## From the Surgeon:

### An AED in every Post Home?

If you've watched a TV medical drama, you've probably seen someone whose heart stops beating and then is suddenly shocked back to life by a doctor who yells "clear" before delivering a jolt of electricity to the person's chest. This type of procedure isn't limited to the hospital. It can be done anywhere if you have an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) after cardiac arrest can keep blood flowing to your heart and brain for a time. But often only defibrillation can restore the heart's normal rhythm. Together they can improve your chances of survival.

In an emergency, the AED gives you step-by-step voice instructions. It explains how to check for breathing and a pulse and how to position electrode pads on the person's chest.

Once the pads are in place, the AED automatically measures the person's heart rhythm and determines if a shock is needed. If it is, the machine tells the user to stand back and to push a button to deliver the shock. The AED is programmed not to deliver a shock if a shock isn't needed.

The AED will also guide users through CPR. Effective CPR with minimum interruption will maximize the chances of a positive outcome for virtually every sudden cardiac arrest victim. The process can be repeated as needed until emergency crews take over, which as we all know can be a long time in many countries throughout the Pacific Areas.

The CPR guidance alone would be particularly useful to those of us who haven't received First Aid or CPR training since we got out of the military. The CPR guidance varies between AED devices with some offering verbal instructions. The *HeartSine Samaritan PAD 450P* provides the rescuer with continuous real-time verbal prompts of "Push faster," "Push slower," or "Good speed" to help achieve the optimum rate of compressions as defined by the American Heart Association (AHA) guidelines for CPR. Similarly, the SAM 450P detects if CPR has stopped, and prompts the rescuer to "Begin CPR" until CPR has resumed.

Prices vary between 1200-1600 USD for popular AED devices and Heartsmart.com offers discounts & ships FREE to all FPO, APO and US Military addresses. Let's take care of our own by getting as many Comrades as possible CPR certified and by conducting fund-raising activities or soliciting donations to get an AED in every Post Home.

**District & Post Surgeons:** How many Posts already have an AED? How many Post members are CPR qualified? Please send me your ideas about this and then let's make a plan and 'Get it Done'. Also, I'd like to thank Post 2485 Surgeon Anthony Grimm and Post 10249 Surgeon Jacob Thomas for sending me copies of their monthly reports.

Yours in Comradeship & Well-Being,

Brian J. Hamic  
Surgeon  
Department of Pacific Areas  
[surg@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:surg@vfwdeptpacific.org)

More information: [Heartsmart.com](http://Heartsmart.com)



## *From the Inspector:*

Comrades,

I am leaving for the National Convention tomorrow, so I am getting this report out a week early as I will be on an extended vacation in Florida. I have not received any schedule of inspections from any District Inspector to date. Please email your schedules so I can prepare my report. I plan on visiting Japan and Korea in October, so plan accordingly.



District/Post	Received Date	Notes
<b>District I</b>		
9723		
<b>District II</b>		
1054		
9555		
9612		
<b>District III</b>		
8180		
9985		
10033		
10223		
12147		
<b>District IV</b>		
9957		
<b>District V</b>		
9876		
9951		
10217		
10249		
11575		
12074		
12146		
12163		
<b>District VI</b>		Scheduled November 2018
1509		Scheduled November 2018
2917		Scheduled November 2018
3457		Scheduled November 2018
<b>District VII</b>		
124		
2485		
9892		
11447		
12130		

Yours in Comradeship,

Bill Bradford  
Inspector  
Department of Pacific Areas



## ***From the Department Service Officer:***

### **OUR OFFICE –**

We are staffed by four volunteer VA Accredited Veterans Service Officers (e.g., DSO, ADSO-Japan, ADSO-Thailand, and VSO Claims Consultant-Philippines) and an Administrative Assistant.

Office hours in Angeles City are available from 0830 to 1500 hours. The office is staffed from Monday thru Friday. You can make an appointment to see the VSO on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. We assist veterans and their families on a walk-in basis but ask that you call first. During walk-ins we answer questions and screen claimants to determine what is needed and to set up an appointment to complete claims actions. You can be seen by a VSO on Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays in Angeles City except holidays. We are also available for walk-ins on Wednesday at the Retired Activities Office – Subic and Fridays at the Veterans Affairs Regional Office in the VA Medical Center – Manila. You should call the office in Angeles City at SMART 0939-286-5344 or (045) 321-0084 to schedule an appointment to see the Department Service Officer or the VSO Claims Consultant in the Philippines.



Our two ADSOs in Japan and Thailand are available on call and do not keep regular office hours. They can be reached at the following email addresses: [adsojapan@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:adsojapan@vfwdeptpacific.org) or [adsothailand@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:adsothailand@vfwdeptpacific.org).

### **INTENT TO FILE –**

There is no longer an informal claim; it has been replaced by the Intent to File. If you are going to file a claim and need some time to gather your medical evidence then file an Intent to File on VA Form 21-0966. You can mail it or fax it to the intake center in Janesville or submit it to the VARO. Once received by the VA you will have up to one year to file the claim. Two other ways to “file” an Intent to File is to start a claim on E-Benefits or a VSO starts a claim using the Stakeholders Enterprise System. We can usually assist you in submitting this if we represent you. Both representation and an Intent to File can be accomplished on a walk-in basis.

### **REPRESENTATION AND THE POWER OF ATTORNEY –**

We can assist you with your claim/appeal only if we represent you before the VA. There is no charge for representation and you do not have to be a member of the VFW. Representation is accomplished by completing a VA Form 21-22 which is then signed by an Accredited Service Officer. You may also appoint a Service Organization if you have a Prime E-Benefits account. These are placed online for our review and acceptance. The advantage of EBenefits is that once we accept the POA we can see all your files stored at the VA.

### **INQUIRIES AND UPDATES –**

Should you need an update on the status of a claim - the easiest way to do this is through EBenefits. The quickest way to get a prime account for non-retiree personnel is with the VA staff. This can be done at the VARO and at outreaches. Veterans outside the Philippines will need to contact their servicing VARO. You may also contact the Post Service Officer at your local VFW Post. Provide him/her with your complete name, SSN, and nature of your request. This will be securely forwarded to our office and you should receive an answer in the next business day.

### **ONE LINE –**

All VARO's have gone to a single line system to contact them via telephone. The Manila line is (02)-550-3888. This is for the VARO and the OPC. Just follow the instructions once you are connected.

**SUCCESS STORIES –**

**HOMELESS VET** – A homeless Vet contacted us at our Manila office. He had been out of the military for several years and had not filed a claim. He had a tour of duty in the Horn of Africa while on active duty. We filed a claim which was expedited based on his situation. Today, he is back on his feet with the assistance of VA compensation through a properly completed claim and follow-up actions by Service Officers.

**WIDOW** – A widow was granted Dependents Indemnity Compensation (DIC) based on the service-connected death of her Veteran spouse. She received retro-pay exceeding \$20,000 which was deposited in her direct deposit account. The bank refused to release the money to her for over two years before coming to our office. Once we were made aware of this we contacted the Manila VARO and the money was released to the widow less than two weeks later.

We offer these success stories to highlight why you should consider seeking the assistance of an Accredited Veterans Service Officer to assist you with your claim.

**REMINDER –**

The VARO, OPC and our offices are closed on holidays. If you must reschedule an appointment insure you contact the OPC. In any case – please call to ensure that a VSO is available before you travel.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Michael R. (Mike) Verville  
Service Officer  
Department of Pacific Areas

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***From the Legislative Committee Chairman:***

As members of the VFW, we need to make sure our representatives take care of our vets. We can contact them, but we need concrete action to let them know that they must consider our concerns. With that in mind, it is vital that we elect men and women who will further our mission of taking care of our fellow vets. With most of us living in the Pacific away from US districts, we need to make sure all of our members are registered for an absentee ballot. Each state has different requirements, with the first ones closing off absentee registrations in September. It is already August, and those deadlines will upon us before we know it.



You can hold a voter registration drive at your monthly meeting. Set up a computer and simply go to <https://www.fvap.gov/>. The website will take members through the process to register.

With that out of the way, the following are some highlights of what went on in DC over the last month that affect veterans:

1. **Senate Confirms Wilkie as Secretary of Veterans Affairs:** On Monday, July 23, the Senate confirmed Robert Wilkie to be become the secretary of veterans affairs with a vote of 86-9. Wilkie will now be responsible for directing the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is charged with providing veterans and their families the care and benefits they have earned. The VFW looks forward to working with Secretary Wilkie to ensure VA is able to accomplish its mission. [Watch the confirmation hearing.](#)
2. **More Korean and Cold War Family DNA Sought:** Now that North Korea is returning remains, VFW National Commander Vincent "B.J." Lawrence is urging the families of Korean and Cold War missing to ensure the Defense Department has a DNA reference sample on file to help speed the identification process. Family



reference samples currently on file only account for 91 percent of Korean War missing and 85 percent of Cold War losses. "We have to do better than that," he said, and is now calling on more than 1.6 million VFW and VFW Auxiliary members to canvas their neighborhoods and urge every MIA family — even distant relatives — to provide a family reference sample in the hope that the next identification announcement is their long-lost loved one. All immediate family members, as well as maternal and paternal relatives, are eligible to donate a family reference sample, which is essentially a cotton cheek swab. "Identifications can be made through strong circumstantial evidence, but nothing says proof-positive better than an actual DNA match," he said. [Learn more](#)

3. **House Passes Important Veterans Legislation:** During the week of July 23, the House passed nine bipartisan veterans bills. The various bills would improve protections for service members and veterans, transition to civilian life, programs for medical students at VA, and provide relief for Gold Star families. The VFW is especially thankful for Rep. Julia Brownley's bill, H.R. 5452, Reduce Unemployment for Veterans of All Ages Act of 2018, which would eliminate the 12-year limit on use of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program. This has been a VFW priority for many years and we are glad to see this bill being advanced. The VFW applauds the House for making veterans, service members, and their families a priority, and urges the Senate to keep up the momentum to swiftly pass these bills which would greatly impact our country's heroes and their families. [Read more.](#)
4. **Senate Hearing on Blue Water Navy, Korean DMZ & Thailand Vets:** Retired VFW National Veterans Service Director Gerald Manar, a Blue Water Navy veteran, testified on behalf of the VFW in support of several important bills being considered at a Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing on Wednesday, July 29. The primary focus of the hearing was H.R. 299, which would expand Agent Orange-related benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans who served in the coastal waters of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. The VFW-supported bill would also expand benefits to Korean DMZ veterans who were exposed to harmful toxins in 1967, and children born with spina bifida due to a parent's exposure during service in Thailand. While H.R. 299 faced strong opposition by VA, committee members expressed overwhelming support and urged the Senate to pass it soon. H.R. 299 has already cleared the House with a unanimous vote of 382-0. Manar also offered the VFW's support for legislation to expand VA dental care benefits, improve the Transition Assistance Program, increase burial plot allowances for veterans buried in private cemeteries, and a bill to require VA to manage and improve the Mare Island Naval Cemetery, which has fallen into disrepair since the Mare Island Naval Shipyard was closed. [Read the VFW's testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 17:30 mark.

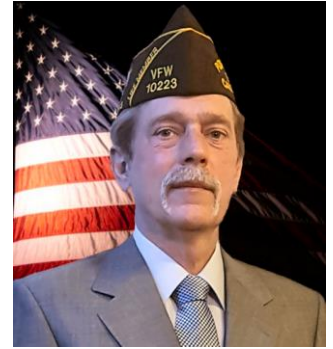
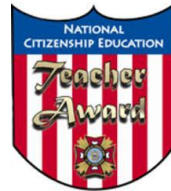
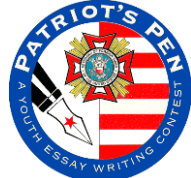
Comrades, this concludes my report on legislative matters concerning veterans. If you have any questions you may contact me at [cortier79@hotmail.com](mailto:cortier79@hotmail.com).

Yours in Comradeship,

Jonathan Brazee  
Legislative Chairman  
Department of Pacific Areas



## ***From the Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen / Teacher's Award Chairman:***



Comrades,

School is starting this month in most areas. So, start making your preparations and making contacts with schools and students in your areas as soon as school is back in session.

The themes for this year's programs are: VOD - "Why My Vote Matters" & PP - "Why I Honor the American Flag"

**\*Notice: Qualifications state that both programs are open to students who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or in an overseas U.S. military/civilian dependent school. However, VFW National Adjutant General and Programs Director agreed that as long as the student is a U.S. citizen then they can participate.**

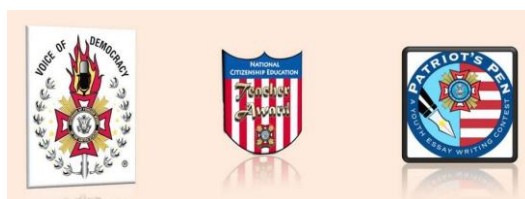
Qualifications and necessary entry forms can be found by going to [www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships](http://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships). More information can also be found at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). Login and go to the My VFW tab, then under "Member Resources" click on "VFW Training and Support", select "Community Service & Youth Programs" then select the "Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Competition", "Patriot's Pen Youth Essay Contest" and "Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award".

Ensure the students understand the rules for each of the programs. We wouldn't like to have anyone disqualified because they didn't read or understand the rules.

Entry deadline to the Post is 31 October 2018. In order to qualify for All-State and All-American, each Post and District must submit entries for all three programs or make a donation to VFW National. If there are Posts or Districts that do not have any entries in their area you may make your donations by going to [https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/programs\\_donation\\_form](https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/programs_donation_form). Post donations are \$50.00 and District donation is \$100.00 for each program. The deadline for donations is also 31 October 2018. Please forward your donation receipt to [vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org) to get credit.

I still need to know who the DISTRICT CHAIRMANS are for the VOD / Patriot Pen / Teachers Award's program as soon as possible. Please send names and email addresses to [vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org).

**"Make It Happen & Get It Done"**



**2018-19 VOD/PP/TEACHERS AWARD DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Post/District	VOD	PP	Teachers Award
9723			
District 1			
1054			
9555			
9612			
District 2			
8180			
9985			
10033			
10223			
12147			
District 3			
9957			
District 4			
9876			
9951			
10217	\$50 Donation to National	\$50 Donation to National	\$50 Donation to National
10249			
11575			
12074			
12146			
12163			
District 5			
1509			
2917			
3457			
District 6			
124			
2495			
9892			
11447			
12130	\$50 Donation to National	\$50 Donation to National	\$50 Donation to National
District 7			

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Don Kelley  
 Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen / Teacher's Award Chairman  
 Department of Pacific Areas  
[vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org)  
 Phone: +82-10-2442-8938

## From the National Home for Children Chairman:



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



Comrades,

The Donations have started to trickle in for the National Home and below is the first report for the 2018-2019 year. I want to thank both Post 10217 and 12130 for being the first to make the yearly donation of \$50.00 to the National Home.

Let me know if you are having a hard time and I can assist you.

From the National Home BLOG site to see more [Click here:](#)

### National Home Donation Report

Report for District and Post as of 31 July 2018. This list has been confirmed by the National Home and by emails received with proof of Donation.

District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated		District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated
District 1	No			10217	YES	\$50.00
9723	No			10249	No	
District 2	No			11575	No	
1054	No			12074	No	
9555	No			12146	No	
9612	No			12163	No	
District 3	No			District 6	No	
8180	No			1509	No	
9985	No			2917	No	
10033	No			3457	No	
10223	No			District 7	No	
12147	No			124	No	
District 4	No			2485	No	
9957	No			9892	No	
District 5	No			11447	No	
9876	No			12130	YES	\$50.00
9951	No					
Post 12147 Project Pacific House				Post 1054 Annual Benefit Concert		
<b>Dist/Post Total</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>Special Projects</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Not Confirmed</b>						

Please report any and all donations that you make to the National Home to me so they can be recorded and tracked. Email them to [nhcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:nhcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org)

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

Yours in Comradeship,

Randell E. Himes

[nhcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:nhcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org)

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

Comrades,

The US Coast Guard will celebrate their birthday on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The Coast guard is one of America's Armed Forces that traces back to 1790. The first Congress authorized the construction of 10 vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling, and protect the collection of federal revenue. Responsibilities added over the years included humanitarian duties such as aiding mariners in distress.

The service received its present name in 1915 when the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the U.S. Life-Saving Service to form a single maritime service dedicated to the safety of life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws.

The Coast Guard is a multi-mission, maritime, military service and the smallest of the five Armed Services. Its mission is to protect the public, the environment and U.S. economic interests in the nation's waterways, along the coast, on international waters, or in any maritime region as required to support national security.

Purple Heart Day is an observance that commemorates the creation of the Purple Heart Medal on 7 August, 1782. The Purple Heart was created by the Commander-In-chief, of the Continental Army, General George Washington. Then known as the Badge of Military Merit, it was awarded to 3 Revolutionary soldiers in 1783.

After the end of the American War of Independence, no medals were awarded until 1932, when the medal was revived on the bicentennial anniversary of George Washington's birth. According to a circular dated February 22, 1932, Purple Heart Medals were to be awarded to those wounded or killed while serving in the United States Armed Forces as a result of enemy action on or after April 5, 1917. The United States officially joined the First World War on April 6, 1917.

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

Comrades, please continue show your loyalty within your communities and your Posts.

Yours in Comradeship,

William Russell  
Americanism and Loyalty Chairman  
Department of Pacific Areas





## From the Veterans and Military Support Chairman:



Comrades,

It is an honor to have been asked to serve as V&MS (Veterans & Military Support) Chairman for the Department of Pacific Areas. My pledge to you is simple; I will get the job done. MAP and AAU are programs I have really enjoyed participating in and I look forward to working with you and the VFW National Programs office as we continue to support our honored Active Duty men and women in the Forward Deployed frontier. I would also like to congratulate PDC Larry Lyons on the completion of his V&MS Chairmanship for the last three years. His leadership and support were instrumental in keeping V&MS programs active in the Department of Pacific Areas. Well done Larry!

As most of you know, the V&MS program is made up of four distinct parts.

1. The first is **"Operation Uplink."** As an organization comprised entirely of combat veterans, we understand the importance of keeping military families in touch. That's why in 1996 the VFW launched the VFW Operation Uplink™ program - a calling program for deployed service members that provides free phone time to active-duty military personnel and hospitalized veterans.

From calling cards for deployed and hospitalized troops, to "Free Call Days" and virtual pins connecting America's heroes with their families across the globe, Operation Uplink has provided more than 10 million free connections for service members and their families. If you have questions or would like to request phone time for your loved one, contact Operation Uplink today at [uplink@vfw.org](mailto:uplink@vfw.org), offering free call days to troops stationed in Middle East countries through more than 600 MWR SPAWAR Internet cafes. Unlimited free calls are available three days each month throughout the year.

2. The second is the **"Unmet Needs"** program. The VFW understands the challenges veterans, service members and military families can face and believe that experiencing financial difficulties should not be one of them. That's the premise behind the VFW's Unmet Needs program. Unmet Needs is there to help America's military families who have run into unexpected financial difficulties as a result of deployment or other military-related activity or injury. The program provides financial aid grants of **up to \$1,500** to assist with basic life needs in the form of a grant - not a loan - so **no repayment** is required. To further ease the burden, we pay the creditor directly.

The needs of our veterans, service members and their families should never go unmet. This program offers them a hand up when they need it! For additional information, please review the Unmet Needs eligibility criteria located at <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants>.

3. The third is the **"Military Assistance Program" (MAP).** It is the outstretched hand between the VFW and the local military, offering support to military members, their units and their family members during all phases of deployments. Since 2005, MAP has sponsored events supporting over 2 million service members and their families.

A large part of MAP is the **"Adopt-a-Unit program" (AAU),** providing VFW Posts and their Auxiliaries the opportunity to adopt hundreds of military units around the world. Adopt-a-Unit's goal is to develop supportive relationships with units before, during and after deployments to help deliver the vast network of resources the VFW has available to the military. MAP and AAU has gotten a lot of use in the DPA and I expect it will continue to do so. Please ensure all MAP and AAU requests are submitted through me at [mapdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:mapdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org).

4. The fourth is the **Sport Clips “Help A Hero Scholarship.”** This program provides service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. It's just another way for us to say “thank you” to those who fought for our freedoms. Go to <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support> to review the scholarship details and eligibility requirements.

There is great good in these programs and we should take advantage of them to the greatest extent possible. Please let me know (via email) what events you are holding to support our military men, women and their families. Most, if not all, should be MAP supported and with an AAU sponsored organization. Even if it is not a MAP event or an AAU sponsored organization, I'd still like to keep track of all the good things you do with your military communities.

One of the other roles I will perform as V&ME Chairman is to track usage of the above programs and donations to the V&MS program. As is our tradition, we support Veterans and their families by donating annually and from the heart. Donations for V&MS are not just ALL STATE or ALL AMERICAN checks in the box. They represent the legacy and heritage of our great organization and that of the Department of Pacific Areas. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR V&MS DONATION NLT 31OCT18 and use the form located at .....wait for it.....  
[https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/programs\\_donation\\_form](https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/programs_donation_form). Be sure to indicate where the donation is coming from: Post, Auxiliary, District, Department or Individual. Then forward me a copy of your email receipt (<mailto:mapdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org>). I really appreciate your help in that regard.

Lastly, as part of OPERATION UPLINK (Connecting those who serve, With those who care), I have arranged to keep on hand a small pool of DOMESTIC Virtual Pins for Comrades, family members of Comrades, Veterans and active duty men and women in distress. Currently, the 1-800 number used to access the 100 free minutes is not free outside of the United States. I will be working with Nicholas Lopez, Special Programs and Projects Coordinator, to see if we can establish a specific number for OCONUS calls (DPA and DPE).

I strongly urge you to consider requesting OPERATION UPLINK Virtual Pins to hand out at special events. The free call days are still available (via DSN and MWR Cafes-Hot Spots), and I will be publishing the schedule soon. I think this would be a nice way to thank our active duty men and women for their service and promote some quality time on the phone with their families back in the states. It may also serve as a good recruiting tool. Just let me know and I will get them ordered for you.

Cheers!

**“VFW – Make It Happen, Get It Done”**

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Mike Lutman

Veterans & Military Support Programs Chairman

Department of Pacific Areas

<mailto:mapdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org>

Phone: +81-9093966628

**Department of Pacific Areas  
Veterans & Military Services**



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

## From the Public Relations Chairman:

Comrades,

Over the last several months, our online presence has been improved and expanded. Let me explain our websites and highlight the ways in which we can communicate and publicize our programs and activities:

➤ <http://vfwdeptpacific.org/>

**Website:** This is our main website and contains the Commander's Message, DPA history, CSR input, program information, committee reports, forms, email access, useful links and more.

➤ <https://www.facebook.com/vfwpacific/>

**VFW Pacific Areas:** This is our Official Organization Facebook Page that was launched just one month ago. Major DPA events and achievements will be posted here. Also, this page is the hub for our Facebook Group Pages (see below). Please visit this site and click Like & Follow and also, while you are there, please invite all of your FB friends to Like & Follow (your friends do not have to be VFW members to be invited to Like this page). When we have 2000 Likes, FB will allow me to add Custom Tabs such as an interactive map with all of our Posts on it, a calendar, and more.

○ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VFWDPA/>

**'Official Communications' Group:** This page is for internal communication within the DPA. DPA leadership will post announcements and information deemed important, or of interest, to Posts and Members within the DPA. This is a Closed Group. Only VFW members can join and make and view postings (not viewable by the general public). Group Members are encouraged to share program information and engage in discussions. Be sure to include your Post name/number and city/country.

○ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DPAATP/>

**'Around the Pacific' Group:** This page showcases current events from VFW DPA Districts & Posts. All Districts & Posts are encouraged to share photos with descriptions that show our support of the VFW's mission and programs to include Veteran & Troop support, Ceremonies, Community initiatives, Support of Youth & Education and Post, District & Department level Events that are of interest to other Posts and to the general public. Only VFW members can join & make postings to this page but all posts are viewable by the public. Please post photos with a description of the activity and be sure to include your District or Post name/number and city.

➤ <https://www.facebook.com/DPACommander>

**DPA Commander's Page:** This is the 'hotline' to the DPA Commander. All VFW DPA officers and members are encouraged to request 'Add Friend' on this page. As part of his "Open Door Policy", once added, you can ask questions or express concerns by Private Message or post on his timeline with non-sensitive issues.

I hope that all Districts and Posts have appointed a proactive, social-media-savvy member as a Public Affairs Officer or Publicity Officer to keep your Post's Facebook pages up to date and to make regular contributions to the DPA Around the Pacific group page. I'll be asking all Districts and Posts soon for contact information so we can share some ideas and information.

Yours in Comradeship,

Brian Hamic  
Public Relations Chairman  
Department of Pacific Areas



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

Dear Comrades,

I am fired up after returning from the 119<sup>th</sup> VFW National Convention that was held in Kansas City. Just getting to see some of our Comrades from the Pacific and many from around the world is just tremendous!!! Trace Adkins performed at our Patriotic Event and was presented with an award for his dedication to Veterans by CINC Keith Harmon. We also had Harris Faulkner of Fox News and Oliver North, (Lt Col Ret, USMC) speak to us along with the President of the United States Donald J. Trump!!! B.J. Lawrence was sworn in as the new CINC on 25 July.



The members from the Pacific who attended the National Convention were:

Mike Verville, James Collins, William Bradford, Pete Callahan, Shawn Watson, Brian Meranda, Homer Kemper, Warren Maxson, Patrick Higgins, Butch Malone, Randel Himes, Robert Moses, Jay Seligman, and Kevin Mitchell.

As of this writing I was very sad to hear of the passing of Past Department Joseph Carsley out of District VII. I have known Joe for almost 20 years. He was a very good man and I always enjoyed my conversations with him. He used to like to bust my chops a bit, but that was okay. I will surely miss him and by best wishes go out to his family and extended family which is many of us. RIP Comrade Joe!!!

In closing, please take care of yourselves and one another. My thoughts and prayers are with each of you and yours!!! I am here to assist in any way possible and my email is [pgcmitchell@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:pgcmitchell@vfwdeptpacific.org). May god continue to bless you, your families, and the good ole USA!!

Yours in Comradeship,

Kevin E. Mitchell  
Roving Ambassador  
Department of Pacific Areas  
"Get it Done"

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

Comrades,

There have been a few people that have asked for a password reset over the last month. As a reminder, if you need a password reset or would like to have your email forwarded to another email account. Please put that email account in your message. Otherwise, I have to open up memo one look up your name to find the position that you have. This slows the response time greatly.

The officers' page has been updated for the 2018-2019 year. If you do not have a picture next to your name or you do not like the picture that I have posted, please resend the picture you would like to have and it will be updated.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson  
Webmaster  
Department of Pacific Areas

