



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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2017 – 2018

Department of Pacific Areas

Convention

10 – 14 June 2018

Banchang, Thailand



Inputs for the February edition
are due on 05 Feb 2018.

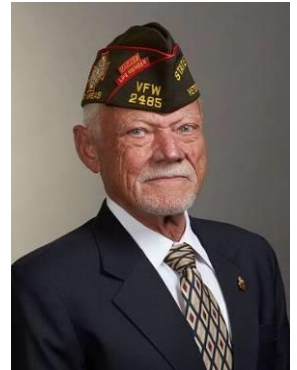


Department Officer's Comments & Department Committee Reports

From the Commander:

Greetings Comrades:

I Hope you all enjoyed a Merry Christmas and a Joyous Holiday season. We have enjoyed a very successful first half of the VFW year, and have laid the foundations for another outstanding year. A special thanks to all who attended the Council of Administration meeting in Cebu City, Philippines. I was pleased to note that not only did we have a record number attending, many were Post Officers and younger members. This is a very positive indicator for the future of our Department. Special thanks to VFW Post 12130 in Cebu City for hosting this first class event.



You have no doubt heard, or noticed by now, the Typhoon features a new look and will be shorter and more focused on current Department business and need to know information. Some features that are primarily general interest, or photo based, will be moved to an on-line format currently being developed. This should serve to raise our visibility and reach a wider audience. *Department Officers, Chairman, and others who routinely submit reports and articles should have received new submission guidance by email.*

Our recruiting efforts are meeting with success as we are now over 93%, and retain our third place ranking among the 52 VFW Departments. Congratulations to our six Posts that are over 100% in membership prior to 1 January; Posts 10223, 10217, 12146, 3457, 124 and 11447. A dual strategy will enable us to reach our goals and bring the year to a successful close: 1) Plan and conduct effective recruiting drives in January, February, and March; 2) Reach out to members due for renewal and those whose memberships have lapsed. It will take both new members and a high renewal rate to reach our goals.

As always, thank you for all you do on a daily basis to make the Department of Pacific Areas a high performing organization. I wish you all a very happy and productive New Year.

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 in 2nd place at VFW National with 93.16% as of 3 January 2019. We have six posts (Post 124 - Baguio City; Post 3457 – Saipan; Post 10223 – Camp Humphries; Post 10217 – Korat; Post 11447 - Subic; and Post 12146 - Bang Chang) over 100%. There are 16 Posts and 6 Districts with more than 90%. We are currently 800 members from reaching 100% and 1,092 members from reaching our goal this year of 12,000 members for the Department. Increasing our Life Membership and our Legacy Life Membership numbers is a priority and will help stabilize the Department's Membership and assist in reducing the burden of chasing annual members who rotate out of our area of responsibility each year. Keep up the great work! Let's work as a Team and Get The Job Done!



The DPA has established a new Face Book Page! It has two Closed Groups that were established. The first group is the DPA Around The Pacific! This group will replace the old "Around The Pacific" that was on our DPA Website. You can post pictures, webpage links, F/B page links, past and upcoming events and anything else that you feel might benefit our fellow comrades. The second group is the Department of Pacific Areas "Official Communications Page". We plan to use this as a means of communicating with our members on a daily basis. You can ask the DPA Leadership questions, share program information, send private messages and post any other info that may be important to all of our members. I encourage DPA Officers and Committee Chairman to use this tool for real-time updates on your areas of responsibility.

The DPA Staff would like to welcome our new Typhoon Editor, Mrs. Lenee Antiporta Zaher. The January Edition will be her first month! We will be streamlining the Typhoon by shifting the Around The Pacific info to our DPA Face Book Page.

Finally, continue working your All-State and All-American "Checklists". Once you have achieved a requirement and verified it with the appropriate Committee Chairmen – send it to me! Don't wait until the end of the year!

The Department Leadership has been coming out to visit your area. Do not hesitate to schedule recruiting events when we visit your post or district. The DPA continues to be among the leaders of the VFW National Organization. Please contact me any time at mverville2005@gmail.com or +639182491184!

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

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



MEMBERSHIP!!!

Did you recruit anyone today?

From the Junior Vice Commander:

Comrades,

I hope everyone has had a nice and safe holiday period. Happy New Year to you all. I really enjoyed the C of A. I only get the chance to see most of you but twice a year, and it is always the most enjoyable time for me.

I spent quite a bit of time cleaning up the CSR database, and the below table reflects the new totals. I must say, the entries from Nov. and Dec. were much easier to go through than the previous months. All of the District Commanders and those Post Commanders in attendance, were briefed on the guidelines on good CSR entries. They were also sent out via email to all commanders. Good job on keeping the entries precise, reasonable, and responsible. There are still a few Posts with missing entries. Please do your best to get them filled in, as it is an All-State requirement. When the time comes to choose our CSR winner, I will not be looking at the amount of entries, but more at the content of the CSRs. CSRs should be a reflection on what you are actually doing for your community, and shows the value to the community from the VFW.



Now is the time to start preparing your end-of-year award forms. Please abide by the instructions. Award forms are available on the DPA website under forms. Please note, in order for the engraving to be finished and ready for presentation at Convention in Ban Chang, I need these to me on April 30th. I will hold an electronic vote by email from the District Commanders to choose the winners. Speaking of District Commanders, there will be one additional award to the District Commander we fill has done the best job within his/her area. More on that later.

Congratulations to the winners of our Department VOD/Patriot Pen contest. As discussed during C of A, the voting was unusually tight this year, and an additional judge had to be called in to place his votes to determine a winner.

I look forward to the next six months. I believe we have made great strides so far this year in number of ways. Please keep up the good work.

CSR Reports as of 30 DEC2017

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	0	0	0	0	102
1054	2	39	25	30	54	62	61	60	27	0	0	0	0	358
9555		22	20	22	25	24	19	18	13	0	0	0	0	163
9612		24	20	26	36	37	22	35	13	0	0	0	0	213
8180	3	31	13	34	25	51	38	17	22	0	0	0	0	231
9985		7	6	7	5	6	4	10	0	0	0	0	0	45
10033		3	10	1	8	1	1	4	3	0	0	0	0	31
10223		9	7	12	7	11	12	10	6	0	0	0	0	74
12147		7	3	4	4	21	6	7	3	0	0	0	0	55
9957	4	6	1	1	5	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	17
9876	5	36	17	28	24	21	24	27	1	0	0	0	0	178
9951		27	19	24	25	29	15	18	11	0	0	0	0	168
10217		12	8	26	13	18	20	5	9	0	0	0	0	111
10249		12	11	9	7	3	5	10	7	0	0	0	0	64
11575		1	1	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
12074		17	8	16	19	31	22	13	10	0	0	0	0	136
12146		20	19	20	17	17	13	16	6	0	0	0	0	128
12163		0	0	0	0	2	13	16	3	0	0	0	0	34
1509	6	10	14	3	10	4	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	50
2917		104	96	101	147	197	250	108	21	0	0	0	0	1024
3457		22	18	14	17	26	8	18	11	0	0	0	0	134

124	7	12	10	15	17	15	14	18	15	0	0	0	0	116
2485		121	117	86	153	207	246	221	158	0	0	0	0	1309
9892		24	7	11	7	10	12	10	1	0	0	0	0	82
11447		7	6	4	4	8	3	6	5	0	0	0	0	43
12130		4	10	6	7	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
Total		586	470	516	648	813	832	664	357	0	0	0	0	4886

Yours in Comradeship,

Rick Farris,
 Junior Vice Commander
 Department of Pacific Areas

From the Junior Past Department Commander:

Comrades,

Happy New Year to the comrades and their families of the Department of the Pacific Areas! I wish you all a very prosperous and healthy new year.

Much work has been accomplished by our Posts and with all that they have accomplished thus far it is time for the Commanders to review the dedication and hard work the Post members have and are accomplishing for our organization. Commanders, please let's not wait until the end of the year to work on your nominations for the Awards Committee. Do not let the opportunity pass by to recognize those who have helped to make your post and district meet all the activities required by the Department. You owe it to them as much as you owe it to yourself. Take this opportunity to recognize and thank them by starting right now to compile your thoughts and notes to submit your awards nomination forms to the Department Award Chairman.



Membership continues to look good, but work is still left to be done to get to 100 percent. Please keep it up and let's try to get 100 percent before the June deadline. We have two National holidays coming up this month and next month. Please let's try to make it a three day weekend for recruiting and not a weekend to take off.

It was so good to see all of you who attended the Department C of A last month in Cebu and looking forward to seeing many of you at the Department Convention in Thailand in June. Please start now with getting your convention ad's and booster list done. Please do not wait to the last minute to send those in to the Convention book chairman.

Thanks for all you do to show all the great work that happens here in the Department of the Pacific Areas.

If you need any help or have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours Always in Comradeship,

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



VFW – Honoring Our Past, Securing Our Future

From the Adjutant:

Greetings,

Hope your Holiday Season was enjoyable and looking forward to a New Year.

Would like to remind all that when Posts make changes to their election report, using the VFW National On-Line Membership System (OMS), I receive a copy of the election report from National. For Districts, you need to submit your District election report to me, because nothing is received from National.

Following any changes to your Post and/or District General Orders, please forward me a copy of the General Order as that document is what I use to update the Department MEMO ONE. (General Orders are usually more accurate than the Election Report received from National as info in the National system is not always up to date).

At this time, I am in the process of updating both the Department General Order and the Department MEMO ONE. There are numerous changes to both. I would like to complete these updates by 12 January, so if you have any changes, please forward to me as soon as possible.

Thanks to all for your continuing support.

Yours in Comradeship,

Gerald (Jerry) Chaplin
Adjutant
Department of Pacific Areas



From the Chief of Staff:

Comrades,

I hope that everyone had a great Holiday season! It was great seeing everyone that attended the Council of Administration in Cebu Philippines. Post 12130 did a great job hosting.

Now that the Holiday season is over, we need to continue to focus on our VFW projects and membership. While most of the program projects are over for the year, it is never too late to get ready for the next cycle. Create a turn over to the next Chairman, or notes for yourself if you are going to continue as the Chairman. As of this writing we are 800 members from 100%. Let's beat the bushes and recruit. The Pacific has been over 100% in membership for the past 6 years. There is still 6 months left for recruiting.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson
Chief of Staff
Department of Pacific Areas



From the Quartermaster:

Comrades,

Happy New Year! This month I'd like to get into a subject that is of special interest to Quartermasters, and should be a priority for every member of your Post – recruiting. New membership is what keeps us alive and gives us the people we need to carry out our mission of helping veterans. Not everyone has access to the Recruiter Report generated by National, so I've included a chart of every Post and the number of members in that Post who have recruited at least one new member since July 1, 2017. It also gives the Post percentage as of Dec. 30, and the number of new, reinstated and annual renewals needed to reach 100%.



POST	RECRUITERS	PERCENT	NEEDED FOR 100%
9723	3	94.6	40
1054	7	91.2	72
9555	2	94.8	19
9612	3	85.5	80
8180	10	85.9	283
9985	4	63.4	135
10033	5	95.7	23
10223	10	100%	0
12147	1	98.2	3
9876	2	94.4	22
9951	1	93.7	16
10217	1	101.4%	0
10249	3	96	11
11575	2	97.2	3
12146	7	112.7%	0
12163	2	72.2	10
1509	3	95.8	15
2917	3	95.4	9
3457	6	100.3%	0
124	11	113.7%	0
2485	1	99.8	3
11447	5	102.7%	0
12130	1	73	27

It's obvious that the more recruiters a Post has, the easier it will be to reach 100%. It's been my experience that many members don't know how to fill out a new member application, and will often refer new prospects to someone who will fill out the form. So I have an idea for your next Post meeting. Spend 10 minutes under "Good of the Order", hand out a membership application form to everyone there, and have your QM or other experienced recruiter explain how to fill it out. Then let everyone keep the blank form with his membership number and name already filled in where it says "Recruiter". This may be the incentive they need to get one or more new members for the Post.

Have a safe, happy, healthy and productive New Year.

Yours in Comradeship,

Pete Callaghan
 Quartermaster
 Department of Pacific Areas

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					\$58/500	\$65.00/\$26,000 Pd./F
District I					X	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd./F
1054	X	X			\$174/1,500	\$100.00/\$40,000 Pd./F
9555	X	X			\$58/500	\$65.00/\$26,000. Pd./F
9612	X				\$58/500	\$65.00/\$26,000. Pd./F
District II	X	X			X	\$17.50/\$5,000. Pd./F
8180					\$348/3,000	\$87.50/\$25,000 Pd./F
9985	X	X			\$58/500	\$35.00/\$10,000 Pd./F
10033	X	X			\$58/500	\$65.00/\$26,000. Pd./F
40246	Post 10216	merged	with	Post 8180	\$416/4,000	\$65.00/\$26,000 Pd./F
10223	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
727	Post 727	merged	with	Post 9957	missing	\$35.00/\$10,000 Pd.
9957	X				\$58/500	\$75.00/\$30,000 Pd./F
District IV					X	\$35/\$10,000 Pd./F
9876	X	X			\$58/500	\$125.00/\$50,000. Pd./F
9951	X	X			\$58/500	\$35.00/\$10,000. Pd./F
10217	X	X			\$58/500	\$42.00/\$12,000. Pd./F
10249	X	X			\$58/500	\$52.50/\$15,000 Pd./F
11575					\$58/500	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd./F
12074	X	X			\$58/500	\$52.50/\$15,000 Pd./F
12146	X	X			\$58/500	\$35.00/\$10,000 Pd./F
12163	X	X			\$58/500	\$52.50/\$15,000 Pd./F
District V	X				X	\$52.50/\$15,000 Pd./F
1509					\$58/500	\$70.00/\$28,000 Pd./F
2917	X	X			\$232/2,000	\$65.00/\$26,000. Pd./F
3457	X	X			\$58/500	\$65.00/\$26,000. Pd./F
District VI	X	X			X	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd./F
124	X	X			\$58/500	\$48.00/\$13,000. Pd./F
2485	X	X			\$58/500	\$400.00/\$160,000. Pd./F
9892	X	X			\$58/500	\$35.00/ \$10,000. Pd./F
11447	X	X			\$58/500	\$35.00/\$10,000 Pd./F
12130	X	X			\$58/500	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd./F
District VII		X			X	\$35.00/\$10,000 Pd./F
*F = Bond application form received.						

From the Surgeon:

Department Surgeon New Year Healthy Resolutions

Eat Better, Lose Weight, Exercise More and Quit Smoking

Every New Year we all make our Resolutions. This year let us choose the Healthy Resolutions. Eating better, losing weight, exercising more and quitting smoking always are on the top of the list. The Department of Veterans Affairs is helping Veterans achieve their goals with online tools. They have established a new program called **VA MOVE! Weight Management Program**. Below is the link:
www.move.gov/move23



MOVE! has reached more than 700,000 veterans since 2006. In 2015 VA released MOVE! Coach, a mobile app for iOS devices that can be used alone or as part of MOVE! Participation. MOVE! Has two overarching recommendations for weight loss: First, reduce the number of calories consumed by 500-750 per day, and second, make time for physical activity. Losing as little as 5% of your body weight can reduce your chances of heart disease, diabetes, gallstones, sleep apnea and cancers.

MOVE! Encourages Veterans to select a healthy diet plan and provides guidance on ways to modify eating habits to reduce excess calories.

MOVE! Physical Activity Program recommends 2 ½ hours of moderate-intensity physical activity or 1 ¼ hours of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity per week. Moderate intensity means you can talk while being active.

Quitting Smoking is always healthier and we should stop smoking for better health for the Veterans both also for the family and friends that have to inhale second hand smoke which is proven to be just as bad.

Finally I strongly encourage all Post Surgeons to start their own MOVE! Programs with their Comrades to promote a Healthier Life Style. All Post Surgeons can contact me at michaelnapsey@hotmail.com for guidance on this new program.

Let us have a Healthy Year and Life!

Yours in Comradeship,

Michael S. Napsey
Surgeon
Department of Pacific Areas



From the Chaplain:

Comrades,

The Holidays are passed, but remember we leave no one behind, we all have Comrades in need. Suicide is always a big issue with Vets, the strain of memories, finances, home sick are all contributing factors to the loss of a Comrade. Take a look around and ask little questions. If you see something not like it was, you may save the life of a friend, loved one and in some cases the life you save may be your own. Get in touch with the Post Chaplain, local Chaplains, a Hospital, email me, we can find the right road for them, and sometimes that is all they are looking for. We all know as Veterans we are tough as nails, and there is nothing we can't handle, but remember sometimes you need to delegate to get things done. There is no weakness by asking for help.



Since the CofA in Cebu we have lost 3 Comrades, please keep them and their families in your Prayers. Tom Harris, Richard Corni, and Donald Wilson.

One last thing, Yusef is one tough man, he put service before self to make sure we all had a great CofA. He suffered through a C2 fracture till we were all done, then he finally went to the Hospital. When you see him please make sure to say thank you and if you are not going to be able to see him send an email.

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 chapidpa@vfwdeptpacific.org or my warren.maxson@yahoo.com. Also on Facebook [Chaplains of the Dept. of the Pacific VFW](#).

Send me the Following:

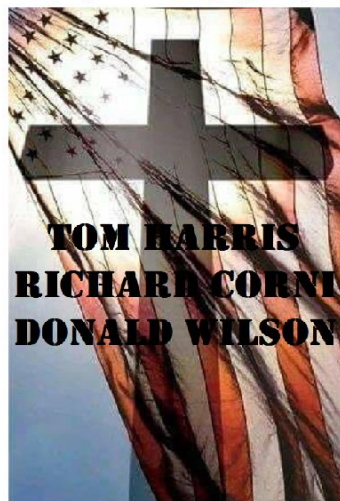
- FULL NAME and NICK NAME (if they have one). Some Comrades are known more by their Nicknames.
- Post Number/Pup Tent
- Army/Navy/Air Force/Marines/Coast Guard

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"

COMRADES STILL OUT ON PATROL



REST EASY COMRADES, WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE



From the Convention / Convention Book Chairman:

Commanders and Comrades,

We have four months and counting down in order to submit your Post / District DPA convention book ads, due to potential conveyance issues the deadline for submission is early this year, 01 May 2018.

We would request from District Commanders; two pages of photos with captions of the highlights of your District events. Photos could be current or some special events of the past. If you have any question, please contact me at HolubLouis@gmail.com. or phone; +66817208124



The following are the book ad prices:

1 Page, Color	\$200.00
½ Page, Color	\$100.00
Buisnes Cards	\$10.00
Boosters Ads	\$2.00

“E” Mail ADS to: bobzaher@gmail.com

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



DPA Convention 10 to 14 June 2018 in Banchang Thailand - update

It was a pleasure to attend and present the Convention preparation update during the Midterm in CEBU. We returned home to Banchang and have followed up with the hotel finalizing details and reserving “all of the 43 Deluxe rooms”. We shared our lessons learned with the hotel staff - mostly good a few improvement areas. Our plan remains on schedule with Department Commander Gilbert visiting 1st week of January then we are prepared to provide final details to Department Webmaster to “GO LIVE” with Hotel /Convention registration by early February. I plan to include detail in the February Typhoon but will post any updates on the newly launched DPA Face Book page.

We continue to follow the expansion and scheduled flights in and out of Pattaya Utapoa International airport and will keep you posted on updated flight information.

Hoping to see you in Banchang Thailand in June 2018.

Yours in Comradeship,

Lou Holub
Convention/Convention Book Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas

From the Inspector:

Comrades,

Happy New Year. Thank you to all the inspectors for an outstanding job in completing the inspections by the Mid Term. All Post Commanders, lets ensure that we continue to maintain our books and documents in good order. You all have done an exceptional job. If anyone has a concern, please let me know.



District/Post	Received Date	Notes
District I	01-Oct-17	Completed
9723	01-Oct-17	Completed
District II	28-Oct-17	Completed
1054	17-Aug	Completed
9555	28-Oct-17	Completed
9612	01-Dec-17	Completed
District III	14-Nov-17	Completed
8180	14-Nov-17	Completed
9985	19-Nov-17	Completed
10033	07-Oct-17	Completed
10223	14-Oct-17	Completed
12147	19-Nov-17	Completed
District IV	in progress	Scheduled Jan2018
9957	in progress	Scheduled Jan 2018
District V	19-Aug-17	Completed
9876	12-Dec-17	Completed
9951	14-Oct-17	Completed
10217	13-Nov-17	Completed
10249	13-Sep-17	Completed
11575	12-Oct-17	Completed
12074	14-Sep-17	Completed
12146	14-Sep-17	Completed
12163	17-Oct-17	Completed
District VI	17-Nov-17	Completed
1509	18-Nov	Completed
2917	17-Nov-17	Completed
3457	12-Oct-17	Completed
District VII	10-Nov-17	Completed
124	29-Nov-17	Completed
2485	10-Nov-17	Completed
9892	26-Nov-17	Completed
11447	13-Sep-17	Completed
12130	13-Oct-17	Completed

Yours in Comradeship,

Bill Bradford
Inspector
Department of Pacific Areas

From the Legislative Committee Chairman:

Comrades,

Once again, I'd like to point out that it isn't too early to start thinking of our All-State requirements. As a reminder, one of our requirements for All-State and All-American is as follows:

Post participation in one or more of the following activities:

1. Support an ongoing "VFW Action Corps Weekly" registration drive reporting to the Department National Legislative Chairman.

OR

2. Hold a Deployment or Welcome Home event (Department will help fund via the Department Veterans & Military Support Chairman).

OR

3. Adopt a Unit, reporting to the Department Veterans & Military Support Chairman.

If it is difficult for your post to hold a Welcome Home Event or Adopt a Unit, then holding a VFW Action Corps Weekly is a simple and relatively easy task to accomplish. Once you complete the drive, please email me at the below email address. Holding the drive is not merely a checkmark, though. The weekly is the best way that we, as VFW members, can keep track of legislative action that matters to the VFW and all vets. So even if your post has completed either of the second two requirements, I urge all posts to still hold their registration drive.

Here are some of the current legislative highlights concerning vets.

1. **VFW Helps Lower TRICARE Select Copayments:** On January 5, after months of pressure by the VFW and other veteran, military and family service organizations, the Defense Health Agency (DHA) reduced copayments for the new TRICARE Select plan. DHA initially announced the new copay concept and costs, which will replace the percent-of-services-used model in place under TRICARE Standard and Extra, in the Interim Final Rule released in September. The new copay scale released today shows a reduction in the cost of Group A primary care visits from \$27 to \$21 for active-duty family members, and from \$35 to \$28 for retirees. Group A beneficiaries are those who were in uniform or retired prior to the Jan. 1, 2018, implementation date. Similar reductions will be seen in specialty care, urgent care, emergency room visits, and ambulance service. The new copay amounts were included in the "Notice of TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select Plan Information for Calendar Year 2018." The document also includes details on new covered care, enrollment requirements, and a change in the urgent care referral requirements. [Read the full details.](#)

2. **VFW Welcomes New Army Secretary:** The VFW joined with other veteran and military service organization leaders today to welcome aboard Dr. Mark T. Esper as the 23rd secretary of the U.S. Army. The secretary was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1986 from West Point. He would go on to serve with the 101st Airborne Division in Operations Desert Shield/Storm, as well as command an airborne rifle company in Europe before retiring from the Reserve Component in 2007. He is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He is also a Life member of the VFW Department of Pennsylvania. Esper has served in senior positions with Raytheon, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Aerospace Industries Association, the House Armed Services Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations and Government Affairs Committee. He also served as a deputy assistant secretary of defense for negotiations policy, and was the legislative director and senior policy advisor to another VFW Life member, Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska.

3. **VFW Sets the Record Straight on Decision Ready Claims:** On Dec. 14, VA sent veterans an email promising they would receive claim decisions in 30 days by working with organizations like the VFW through the Decision Ready Claims (DRC) process. To set the record straight, VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci put together a video explaining why the 30-day promise is misleading, and what the DRC process really means for veterans seeking to access their earned benefits. Gallucci also joined CBS Radio's Connecting Vets on Friday morning to spread the word on how this program really works and why veterans need to have a candid conversation with their accredited VFW Service Officer about whether or not DRC is right for them. Watch the video or listen to Ryan's Connecting Vets interview.



4. **VFW Delivers Petition Urging Congress to Expand VA Caregiver Program:** The VFW, Disabled American Veterans, The American Legion and Paralyzed Veterans of America joined forces in support of pre-9/11 caregivers who are unjustly denied access to the comprehensive caregiver services VA provides the caregivers of post-9/11 veterans. Together, they delivered a petition with more than 182,000 signatures calling on Congress to expand VA comprehensive caregiver assistance benefits to disabled veterans of all eras. They were joined by Senate and House members also calling on their colleagues to pass caregiver extension legislation. "Caregivers of military veterans, the overwhelming majority of whom are family members, put their lives and careers on hold, often accepting great emotional and financial burdens to ensure their veterans have a meaningful quality of life and stay in their homes instead of having to receive institutional nursing home care," said Bob Wallace, VFW's assistant adjutant general and executive director, Washington Office. Read the press release. Airforce Service Pilots, the 65th Infantry Regiment, Doolittle Raiders, Montford Point Marines, Native American Code Talkers, and the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service, among many others. Read more about the presentation and how to obtain a replica of from the U.S. Mint and watch the Wednesday ceremony.

Comrades, this concludes my report on legislative matters concerning veterans. If you have any questions you may contact me at cortez79@hotmail.com.

Yours in Comradeship,

Jonathan Brazee
Legislative Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas

From the Legacy Life Membership Chairman:

Comrades who are serving in the Pacific Area,

Our Legacy Program is doing well at 284 legacy life members. We now have 20 new legacy members since Commander Gilbert has taken the helm and we have had many upgrades. As the Department Legacy Chairman I have set a goal for our Department to reach 300 level of legacy life members this VFW year June 2017 – June 2018 and we are well on the way.

Post Commanders we need your help. If you have a past Post member that has served your Post above and beyond and has made his final roll call, have your Post purchase a legacy life membership in memoriam for this worthy comrade. Our Department is at the top of the National Legacy Program, please help our Department to stay there. Think positive!

Yours in Comradeship,

Bob Zaher
Legacy Life Membership Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas



From the National Home for Children Chairman:

Comrades,

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. With the CofA behind us and around five months before cut off for the All State and All American criteria's. Currently there have been little changes since my report at the CofA. District and Post Commander's please take a look and see where you post are at on the Donations to the National Home. There are four (4) DISTRICT's and thirteen (13) POST's that have not stepped up and committed for a donation to the National Home. If you're Post is trying to make All-State and All-American criteria's. Please have your post make this small donation to the National Home and send me their reports. This should be one of the easiest check off you can do.



This report is as of December 21, 2017 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	YES	\$50.00	12146	YES	\$50.00
8180			12163	YES	\$50.00
9985	No		District 6	YES	\$50.00
10033	No		1509	No	
10223	YES	\$50.00	2917	YES	\$50.00
12109	No		3457	No	
12147	No		District 7	YES	\$50.00
District 4	No				
727			124	YES	\$100.00
Merged with	No		2485	No	
9957			9892	YES	\$125.00
			11447	YES	\$50.00
			12130	YES	\$50.00
Post 12147 Pacific House		\$100.00	Sub-Total		\$675.00
Post 1054 Benefit Concert		\$2,500.00			
Sub-Total		\$500.00			
Dist./Post Total	\$1,175.00	Special Projects	\$2,600.00	Grand Total	\$3,775.00

As per guidance from the Department Commander I have removed the Picture's on the National Home for Children. News and pictures on the National home can be found by [Click here](#) this will take you to 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

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



VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN
Every child deserves a happy family

From the Roving Ambassador:

Happy New Year Comrades,

Hope the Christmas and New Year's holiday was a nice and healthy time for each of you and your families. It was great to see the Comrades who were able to attend the C of A last month and thank you to the Cebu Post for hosting the event. There were great Reports given at the C of A and all appears like we will have an outstanding second portion of the year!!! Let's continue our recruitment efforts, but focusing on future leaders within our great Department!!!

I had the awesome occasion to sit in on a Post 9555 meeting for the first time since I left Japan in April 2009 and my special thanks to our Comrades for making me feel like I never departed!!!

Big time thank you goes out to the many Comrades who sent me best wishes after I lost my oldest brother on 20 December by a heart attack. My brother Jonathan was a retired E-7 USMC, so Semper Fi Big Brother!!! It's shocking to lose a brother, but to lose a second brother in a year and a half is a bit overwhelming right now. Also most of you know I am a Casualty Assistance Representative. Sandwiched between my brother's death was a Civilian and Active Duty death by suicides so it was rough!!! But again thanks for the prayers, I really appreciated them!!!

In closing, I would like to wish each of you and your families a nice, great, and safe 2018!!! May god continue to bless you and the good ole USA!!! I love you all!!!

Yours in Comradeship,

Kevin E. Mitchell
Roving Ambassador
Department of Pacific Areas
"Honoring our Past, Securing our Future"



From the Veterans Assistance Committee Chairman:

Comrades,

Very little change for this month! The Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) Veteran's Assistance Committee (VAC) has awarded three \$500.00 grants so far this year. We have \$4,500.00 left in the budget for the 2017-2018 year. Please keep looking for needy veterans in your Districts.

I will once again remind all members that the Committee will once again consist of the Committee Chairman and all seven of the District Commanders in the DPA. **Any VFW Member in their District can nominate a worthy veteran for a VAC Grant.** Just let your Post Commander or District Commander know of anyone who needs our help. It is a simple process that requires only a one page nomination form. 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 on a Grant basis. 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



From POW/MIA Chairman:

HAPPY NEW YEAR, COMMRADRES!! At the DPA Convention and at the Council of Administration Meeting, Committee Chairmen are required to present a report to the assembled personnel. I would like to share with those of you who were not able to attend the C of A, that was held in Cebu in December, my report.

“Good morning, Commander Thien, Commander Gilbert, and Comrades!

For those of you that heard my report at the Convention at Subic, you may remember that I spoke about the great work that the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) was doing identifying remains because of the advancement in forensics.

Today, I will relate to you some astounding figures for Fiscal year 2017.

The DPAA identified the remains of 183 US Americans unaccounted for from past conflicts and made 18 individual identifications of remains included in previous internments for a total of 201 identifications.

In June the total MIA from the Korean War was 7, 747. That number has been reduced to 7, 715!! That's thirty-two Comrades that are now resting in the land that they fought and died for.

Once again, I applaud DPAA for the tireless effort to identify our dead and bring closure to their family and friends. May they find new scientific means to identify remains quicker and by doing so, identify three hundred, four hundred or more MIA in Fiscal 2018!!

As of 06 December 2017, the number of missing is:

WWII – 72, 969
Korea - 7, 715
Viet- 1, 602
Cold War – 126
Iraq/Other – 6

TOTAL: 82, 418

Yours in Comradeship,

Tom Friend
POW/MIA Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas”



From the Clark Veterans Cemetery Chairman:



VFW POST 2485
ANGELES CITY, PHILIPPINES
CLARK VETERANS CEMETERY DECEMBER 2017



All veterans are encouraged to have a clean and readable copy of their DD214 on file both at home and with their veteran's organization. Not finding a deceased veteran's DD214 causes delays in burial and other benefits.

The last wishes of the deceased veteran need to be made known either through a last will and testament or by the next of kin. If wishes are not known, normally the wife or child of age residing in the Philippines will have lawful authority over a veteran's disposition as next of kin. Barring either, the next of kin residing abroad will have authority and may issue a Letter of Authorization assigning someone to act as administrator and executor for burial purposes in their absence.

Significant Activities (5):

- 5 Dec - VFW Post 2485 provided burial services and military honors for Keith Clark, YN1, USN at Clark Veterans Cemetery.
- 13 Dec - VFW Post 2485 provided burial services and military honors for Donald Wilson, TSgt, USAF at Clark Veterans Cemetery.
- 14 Dec - VFW Post 2485 provided military honors for John Rappel, LCpl, USMC at Clark Veterans Cemetery. Burial approval is pending signed transit permit from Bulacan (See paragraph 4.)
- 18 Dec - VFW Post 11447 provided burial services and military honors for Rodney Shockley, Lt, USN at Clark Veterans Cemetery.
- 30 Dec - VFW Post 2485 provided military honors for Rodolfo Manuntag, SKCS, USN at La Pieta Funeral Home. He is interred at La Pieta in Angeles City.

John Rappel was issued a receipt for transit from Bulacan to Angeles City by the municipality. According to CDC, the paid receipt indicating transit was insufficient permission to transit his remains to Angeles City. CDC is requesting a transit permit signed by the health officer in Bulacan before approving burial. We have not been able to secure the permit, so I asked CDC to speak with Bulacan on the matter.

VFW Post 2485 will no longer submit burial requests directly to ABMC. Our involvement is redundant with the Cemetery Administrative hire. Our Post has no authority in the intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to schedule or approve burials; in fact the MOU makes no mention of our Post whatsoever. As we have no authority, no mention, and no responsibility in the MOU, the transition to ABMC management of the cemetery is a natural consequence of the MOU as they near completion of the grounds. Our Post considers the transition of responsibility to ABMC, which began in 2014, to be complete as of 1 Jan 2018 in line with the revised ABMC burial policy (I believe to be) effective the same day. VFW Post 2485 will continue working closely with the families of our fallen veterans.

As of 31 Dec 2017, Grave Digger life membership stands at 1399 with one grave digger added in December. Grave Digger Memberships will continue to be offered as a legacy commemorative program with donations used for indigent Veteran burials, upgrade of burial equipment, and to help defray the expenses of our annual Veterans Day Ceremony.

- David Mason VFW Post 2485

Information is available on the new VFW Post 2485 website <https://vfwpost2485.org/clark-veterans-cemetery>.

Yours in comradeship,

Norman G. Smith
Clark Veterans Cemetery Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas

From the Americanism and Loyalty Day Chairman:

Comrades,

It is an honor for me to step in as your Americanism and Loyalty Chairman for the rest of the year. Comrade Butch Malone did an excellent job at it; however, his health is a priority at this point. Please continue to pray for him and his family as he continues to get better and stronger, making the greatest comeback we've ever seen. For those of us that know Comrade Butch, we know he does not stay down for long.

It is a great privilege to be a part of an organization that values the most deepest and important beliefs of veterans. Our Nation is living some hard times. We might have different opinions about the past, present and future of our Country, but we all come together when it involves our brothers and sisters at arms. As we celebrate the birthday of the Great Martin Luther King Jr., don't forget his famous speech from 1963 - "I have a dream". Like Dr. King, I also have a dream. I have a dream that one days our Veterans will have all their needs met. I have a dream that our Veterans will not be homeless and suffering for medical care or lack of employment. I have a dream that our brothers and sisters will have enough food, water and clothes. I know each one of us is a patriot. I know each one of us has an immense love for our country. We are committed totally and irrevocably to making our country greater each day than it was the previous day. Don't let a day go by without lending a helping hand to a fellow veteran. Do not let a minute go by without acknowledging the sacrifices that have been made by our comrades. Don't let a minute go by without knowing that we are all proud of you and we thank you for your service.

Yours in Comradeship,

William Russell
Americanism and Loyalty Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas



From the Youth Activities and Scouting Chairman:

Comrades,

Earlier in the year I posted a committee report on our Department website in an effort to find out just who is active in scouting and what Troop, Pack or Crew they are sponsoring. The information provided came directly from the Far East Council. To date, only two posts have replied. So, I will forward that information to Post Commanders in an attempt to complete the effort.

There are other areas for us to focus on as well as we head for the back end of the term. Nominations for Youth Cadet Awards are coming up. Posts should complete their nomination review and select their winner not later than 1 May. That will allow posts to order their respective medal and certificate in time for presentation before the school year ends. You do not need to send nominations to me or National. Should you like me to review them for any reason, "I'm yer huckleberry."

May 1st also represents the deadline for Department Scout of the Year winner submission to VFW National. Posts must receive entries by March 1st and submit their winning entry to me not later than April 1st. All of the criteria must be met for entries to be considered at the DPA level. These criteria are contained within the Youth Activities Chairman's Manual. I cannot stress the need to be thorough. Neatness and format count as well. This is one of the most competitive scholarship programs in the VFW and every advantage should be taken to enhance the nominee's chances. Please keep in mind you only have January and February to help your nominee craft a good submission before it is turned over to the post on 1 March. Submit your post winner via email to scdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org. Submissions after 1 April will not be considered.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Michael D. Lutman
Youth Activities / Scouting Chairman



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 shows that 73% of DPA Posts conducted at least one community outreach event in December. Since July the monthly average is 72%. These figures have basically not changed since October. The goal is 100% of DPA Posts to conduct at least one community outreach event every month.



Here are some events that were posted in December on individual Post's websites, Facebook pages and/or CSR inputs.

- Post 10033 Daegu Korea: Distributed gift bags containing winter clothing and snacks for 74 children at the Daegu Children's Welfare Center.
- Post 12074 Chiang Mai Thailand: At the request of Bangkok Hospital Chiang Mai, post members assisted the hospital in a mass casualty drill. The members were given fictitious injuries sustained in a bus accident and then played the part to help train ER personnel. A short article on this event can be found at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uTPcrj9qXSB06CGw-8Ek-qLBkEMLd3WA/view>.
- Post 2485 Angeles City Philippines: Funded numerous cleft lip operations for local children. This is a routine outreach event for this Post at a cost of thousands of dollars annually.
- Numerous Posts assisted with getting out the word events such as home safety, contributed funds and material items to various local charities and organizations, and manpower support to other fraternal organizations.

A suggestion for an easy community outreach event is to adapt a local orphanage or school and donate funds, cloths or serve them a meal every month. This will not take a lot of time and it is an easy way to achieve the DPA goal of 100% of Posts conducting at least one event every month.

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.

Yours in Comradeship,

Jon Crist
Outreach Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas



See you in the next edition!