



Typhoon Newsletter

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



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FREE

“THE RIGHT THING TO DO”

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Inputs for the October Typhoon
Are due on 05 October 2019.

Celebrate

CONSTITUTION
DAY

September 17

ALL GAVE SOME
SOME GAVE ALL



POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY



Department Officer's Comments & Department Committee Reports

From the Commander:

Comrades,

I was hoping MEMSTATS would be up and running by the time I needed to submit this report, but, like everyone else, we are eagerly awaiting its return. I am anxious to see where we stand to start the year. I anticipate really good results, as I have seen that many of our Posts have been very active already. Keep entering in the new members and let's all get the department a quick start out of the gate.

I would like to express my sincere condolences to the family of Past National Commander-in-Chief John A. Biedrzycki, Jr., who passed away last week. I met him in Pittsburgh a few years ago and really enjoyed speaking with him. He will be missed.



Hopefully, everyone has started their VOD/PP drives, along with the Teacher's packages. Do not forget, if you do not submit a package for one of the categories, you **MUST** submit the required amount to National by October 31st. There will be no exceptions. I would hate to see some Post miss out because they forgot, or did not realize this. **SPREAD THE WORD!**

I have a busy schedule for the remainder of the year. I plan on visiting District 1 this month, and will travel to Taiwan for their Double Ten celebration next month. Fortunately for me District 4 will be having their October meeting before I return to Japan. So, that'll be two of our seven Districts out of the way. I will be sending the anticipated schedule for the top three to the District Commanders. Please show them you support as we begin our tours of the Department.

SVC Stein put out a very good report that I hope you will read. Ken and JVC Mitchell are doing an outstanding job, and I truly rely on them to do what they do. My entire staff has really hit the new year running.

Keep on working and Helping our Vets. As we all know, It's The Right Thing To Do!!

Yours in comradeship,

Rick Farris
Commander
VFW Dept. of Pacific Areas



From the Senior Vice Commander:

Hello Comrades,

This month has two commemorative tribute days; they are, September 11 - Patriot's Day, and September 20 - POW/MIA Recognition Day. Please ensure all Posts arrange special ceremonies in order to properly commemorate those two special days.

As we wait for the updated MEMSTATS, which we expect to be posted early this month, let's continue looking for opportunities to recruit new members, upgrade annual members to life membership, and encourage life members to become Legacy Life members. Don't forget for those annual (continuous) members who will not be upgrading, ensure they are retained and their annual dues are collected.



When planning your recruiting campaign consider these tried and true methods to ensure a successful campaign and bear in mind:

1. SELECT AND ORGANIZE A MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE WITH A CHAIRMAN WHO IS WELL SPOKEN KNOWLEDGEABLE, DEDICATED AND ORGANIZED.
2. DEVELOP A RECRUITING PLAN, THERE ARE 5 ELEMENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL RECRUITING PLAN:
 - a. ANALYZE YOUR CURRENT SITUATION
 - b. SET GOALS; I.E., WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO
 - c. DEVELOP PLAN OF ACTION
 - d. IMPLEMENT THE PLAN
 - e. TRACK THE RESULTS
3. SET REALISTIC GOALS.
4. PLAN YOUR ACTIVITIES, RETAIN CONTINUOUS MEMBERS, RECOVER FORMER MEMBERS, RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS. USE PERSONAL CONTACT, EMAIL REFERRALS, TELEPHONE.

Finally, two points:

Remember everyone is a Recruiter!

All eligible veterans are future VFW members, THEY JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET!

Another outstanding tool available to us is the All American Dashboard. This is located on the VFW website and can be used by posts and districts to track their progress towards All American Recognition. Go to vfw.org then login, you will now be on the My VFW page. You will see Membership Quick Links, go to the third item which is All-American Dashboard, click on that and your post should be displayed with green color representing met requirements and red color representing unmet or not as yet reported. Any questions please contact me.

In order for proper credit to be applied to the Dashboard ensure the National program director has acknowledged your donation or completion of the program. In addition, advise the DPA chairman of the particular program and Cc the DPA SVC that would be me @ svcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org.

Have a great month and see you in October.

Yours in comradeship and service to veterans,

Kenneth A. Stein
Senior Vice Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

From the Junior Vice Commander:

Comrades,

Hope everyone had a nice and safe Labor Day!!!

Looking at our CSR's for August, the Department is still performing outstanding service to our Comrades, their families and their communities. Keep up the great work!! As you will note on the spreadsheet below, there are some Post who has not reported any community activities and sometimes reported zero for previous months. I just want to reemphasize that any Post can submit an activity for previous months. If you do, please submit and let me know because it will be my way of tracking it to give your Post/member credit. Also if you submit an item and you discover it is in error, please send me an email with the item number and I will delete it and then you can submit it correctly. The 5th of each month is the date I use to run the CSR totals. So please submit by then or it will have to reflect in the next month's totals.



District/Post Commanders please ensure your GO's are in to our Adjutant Jerry to ensure your Buddy Poppies are ordered by our QM Pete. Our VOD/Patriot's Pen/Teacher Program will be in full swing now that Schools have started back up for another exciting year!! Comrade Don Kelley is heading the Program again this year. For someone who has worked the Program at the Post level, you just have to keep engaged with the schools to ensure we get nomination packages. The more the better!!! Although the committee would have to work harder, competition is good!! Commanders should also be hearing about our Public Safety Awards Program shortly from our Chairman Comrade Alex Fores.

Last month, I had the pleasure of attending Post 2485's monthly meeting that was run by JVC Dave Mason and attended two funerals of fallen comrades at Clark Cemetery.

This month we have 9/11 Patriot's (11th) and POW/MIA (20th) Recognition days. I hope many of our Comrades will be able to participate in these importance remembrances. If you cannot due to your schedules or health, please pause in thought. Remember to submit your CSR inputs for the events. Also for our Air Force Veterans, our 72d birthday is on the 18th.

In closing, please have a great month!! The work and support you give to our communities is tremendous!! You do it because it's "The Right Thing to Do!" If I can be of assistance, please contact me at jvcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org. May god bless you, your families, and the good ole USA!!! I love you all!!!

CSR Reports as of 1 September 2019														
Post	Dist	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
9723	1	13	17	19	16									65
1054	2	17	4	25	20									66
9555		48	19	20	26									113
9612		12	15	1	3									31
8180	3	38	5	7	13									63
9985		10	9	9	13									41
10033		4	5	4	0									13
10223		20	5	7	4									36
12147		18	15	3	2									38
9957	4	12	4	2	6									24
9876	5	2	0	0	0									2
9951		28	33	5	1									67

10217		28	32	26	35									121
10249		8	6	5	4									23
11575		0	0	7	9									16
12074		0	0	10	0									10
12146		7	7	3	11									28
12163		18	23	8	0									49
1509	6	0	3	17	5									25
2917		64	118	129	94									405
3457		6	9	14	6									35
124	7	20	15	17	16									68
2485		120	111	119	97									447
9892		25	64	64	49									202
11447		31	59	34	20									144
12130		0	0	0	1									1
Total		549	578	555	451	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2133

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Kevin E. Mitchell
 Junior Vice Commander 2019-20
 Department of Pacific Areas
 "The Right Thing to Do"

From the National Council Member:

Comrades,

Having just returned from the Council Meeting in Kansas City, I would like to report a few items to you.

First, the Council has voted to allow non-member to wear the VFW logo. This means the new VFW logo not the Cross of Malta. This is to allow non-member that support the VFW to wear the brand which they support.

Next is, the Council voted to change the company that was researching our membership rolls for deceased members. Since returning I was contacted by National, the company we have switched to was able to go back 40 years. Thus they have found 88,000 members that they say are deceased. With this happening, we are going to have a rough time with membership. As of this writing, I am still waiting to hear from the Commander in Chief on how he is going to move forward. Thinking is, he will do amnesty for those members.

Another concern is life membership payouts. Again as of this writing, I am waiting for an email vote (National Council) to pay for this life members this year. Once the payout has happened, memstats will be updated. At that time, your Quartermaster will have access to your Post members that were deceased. I encourage every Post to scrub this listing. If a name shows up on the list and you know that person is not deceased, let National know to reinstate that/those members.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson
 National Council Member



From the Junior Past Department Commander:

Comrades,

You should soon be able to access the MEMSTATS numbers for this year! Life Member Payouts should be completed by the time you read this letter. It is important that we all take the time to make contact with our annual members. There are some who will contact you, however, most will need to be encouraged to pay their dues. Send them a copy of the Post General Membership Meeting Minutes or a newsletter if you publish one. Let them know that the Post is actively working the programs. Many of the other programs such as Voice Of Democracy/Patriots Pen/Teachers Awards have had their donation suspense dates moved up to 31 October 2019.



The dates for the Mid-Term C of A have been finalized. Many of us have never had the chance to visit Cambodia. The District V Team and Post 11575 are working hard to make it a productive and enjoyable event. Don't forget to register early so that you will be able to reserve the rooms and events that you wish to partake of while in Cambodia. I am looking forward to seeing all of you again. The DPA will be presenting some of the All-State Awards that your Posts/Districts earned after 30 April 2019 and prior to the year-end cutoff of 30 June 2019.

That's all for this month! Keep working hard by supporting Commander Farris and his team! You can contact me anytime by email or F/B Messenger if you have questions or you just need to talk.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Michael R. (Mike) Verville
Junior Past Department Commander
Department of Pacific Areas – 2019/2020

From the Outreach Chairman:

Comrades:

We are constantly seeking opportunities to reach out to, and assist, our Veteran population in the Department area. Many of these Veterans reside well beyond the immediate service area of one of our existing Posts. Working with other organizations and utilizing social media contacts can be effective in contacting, meeting with them when possible, and better serving these Veterans.

Recently we were invited to assist the Manila Elks Club in conducting their first Veterans Outreach for Metro Manila area Veterans on 24 August 2019. Held at their facility in Makati, Metro Manila, the event was very well attended, and many expressed their appreciation for the information provided. Representatives of the Manila VA Regional Office, VFW Department of Pacific Areas, American Legion, and the Philippine Retirement Authority participated. DPA JVC Kevin Mitchell and I were very well received in presenting the services and programs of the VFW.



If I can be of assistance in the planning or conduct of Outreach Events, please contact me at pdcgilbert@vfwdeptpacific.org or johngphil@gmail.com

Yours in Comradeship & Service,

John Gilbert
Outreach Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas

From the Chief of Staff:

Comrades,

Things are moving forward with starting a new Post in Palau. They are working on recruiting members. Once they reach 25 members, we will be submitting to National. If you know anyone in Palau that would like to join, please let me know.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson
Chief of Staff
Department of Pacific Areas



From the Quartermaster:

Comrades,

Why does the VFW have Districts? They have no money, unless they enforce a per capita tax or have a fund raiser. They have no disciplinary power. Are they just another layer of bureaucracy? I don't think so. I think that the main purpose of a District is to HELP the Posts within the District. A District should be comprised of officers who have proven themselves successful within their Post, and have the heart of a teacher, not a disciplinarian.

A District Commander should have the skill to gauge the progress of the Posts under his care; and the wisdom to see when a Post may need a nudge, a reminder, a pep talk, or some training from the many resources at his disposal. If a District just exists to have quarterly meetings and submit reports to Department, then the District is just another layer of bureaucracy.

As we begin September, we have thirteen Posts (and Districts!) which have not submitted a Trustees Audit for June. Enough said.

This month we reap the rewards for your dedication in recruiting Life Members. The annual Life Member payout is usually distributed during the third week of the month. At the same time MEMSTATS will reveal what our membership goal is for achieving 100% for this VFW year. I've never understood the wisdom of waiting three months to reveal a recruiting goal when the membership computers should have the number in early July.

Did you know that our Department budget has a line item for MVS/MAP events held by your Post? It is not a huge amount, but if you want to host a cookout or party for your adopted military unit, Department can help defray some of the expense.

Did you know that your Post can receive \$1,000 from the VFW Foundation for a charity of your choice within the geographical area of your Post? The VFW Foundation is the charitable arm of the organization, and makes these funds available on a first come, first served basis. They give out roughly 300 of these grants annually.

Thank you for all you do helping veterans and their families. This is what makes our organization great.



2019-2020 POST AND DISTRICT AUDITS/POPPIES/QM BONDS

AUDITS SUBMITTED	JUNE '19	SEP '19	DEC '19	MAR '20	BUDDY POPPIES ORDERED '19-'20	QM BOND ORDERED 2019-'20
9723					\$174/1,500	\$125/\$50,000 Pd. F*
District I					X	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd. F*
1054	X				\$174/1,500	\$100/\$40,000(x2) Pd. F*
9555					\$58/500	\$67.50/\$19,000 Pd. F*
9612					\$58/500	\$100/\$40,000 Pd. F*
District II					X	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd. F*
8180	X				\$116/1,000	\$65.00/\$26,000 Pd. F*
9985	X				\$116/1,000	\$65.00/\$26,000 Pd. F*
10033	X				\$58/500	\$52.50/\$15,000 Pd. F*
10223	X				\$174/1,500	\$65.00/\$26,000 Pd. F*
12147					\$58/500	\$14.00/\$4,000 Pd. F*
District III	X				X	\$14.00/\$4,000 Pd. F*
9957					\$58/500	\$70/\$20,000 Pd. F*
District IV					X	\$52.50/\$15,000 Pd. F*
9876					\$58/500	\$125/\$50,000 Pd. F*
9951	X				\$58/500	\$35.00/\$10,000 Pd. F*
10217	X				\$58/500	\$42.00/12,000 Pd. F*
10249	X				\$58/500	\$52.50/\$15,000 Pd. F*
11575	X					\$70/\$20,000 Pd. F*
12074	X					\$70.00/\$28,000 Pd. F*
12146	X				\$58/500	\$175/\$70,000 Pd. F*
12163	X				\$58/500	\$35.00/\$10,000 Pd. F*
District V	X				X	\$59.50/\$17,000 Pd. F*
1509					\$58/500	\$200/\$80,000 Pd. F*
2917	X				\$58/500	\$67.50/\$27,000 Pd. F*
3457	X				\$58/500	\$150/\$60,000 Pd. F*
District VI	X				X	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd. F*
124	X				\$58/500	\$52.50/\$15,000 Pd. F*
2485	X				\$116/1,000	\$275/\$110,000 Pd. F*
9892					\$58/500	\$42/\$12,000(x2) Pd. F*
11447	X				\$58/500	\$31.50/\$9,000 Pd.
12130						\$17.50/\$5,000 F*
District VII					X	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd. F*
*F = Bond application form received.						

Yours in Comradeship,

Pete Callaghan
Quartermaster

From the Mid-Term C of A Chairman:

DPA Mid-Term Council of Administration

06-08 December 2019 – Phnom Penh Cambodia

Commanders and Comrades, Mayaguez Memorial VFW Post 11575 Commander Jack continues to coordinate locally with Cambodiana Hotel, a conference call this past week allowed us to finalize “lock” VFW room rates at \$85 night / single or double, there is a 2% accommodation tax however the 10% VAT is included in the negotiated rate. Saturday lunch, Saturday night Commanders Dinner and airport transfers will be book/reserved through the hotel, payment at check in. The international Buffet lunch \$20, Commanders Asian & Western dinner Buffet \$30 per person. Airport transports \$15 for car, \$20 for 15PAX Van.



Room booking includes breakfast buffet, newspaper, Internet access, Fitness club, Swimming pool and tennis courts. Rooms equipped with tea/coffee making facilities, Hotel offers 24-hour room service. Upgraded rooms such as Mekong club, Junior & Executive suites are available at VFW rates and will be posted on the DPA Websites “Hotel Registration form”, upgrades are at Members / guest expense.

Preliminary discussions with WEBMASTER Shawn to “GO LIVE” with registrations by Mid-September. Social Ticket, Hospitality donations and Shirt sales will be included on the DPA Registration WEBSITE.

Entry VISA is available on line (recommended) <https://www.evvisa.gov.kh> \$36 or can be purchased upon arrival. We plan to include further details, the meeting schedule and locations in the October Typhoon but will post any updates on the DPA Face Book “Around the Pacific”. Hoping to see you in Phnom Penh Cambodia 06 – 08 December 2019.

Shirt “Sneak Peak”

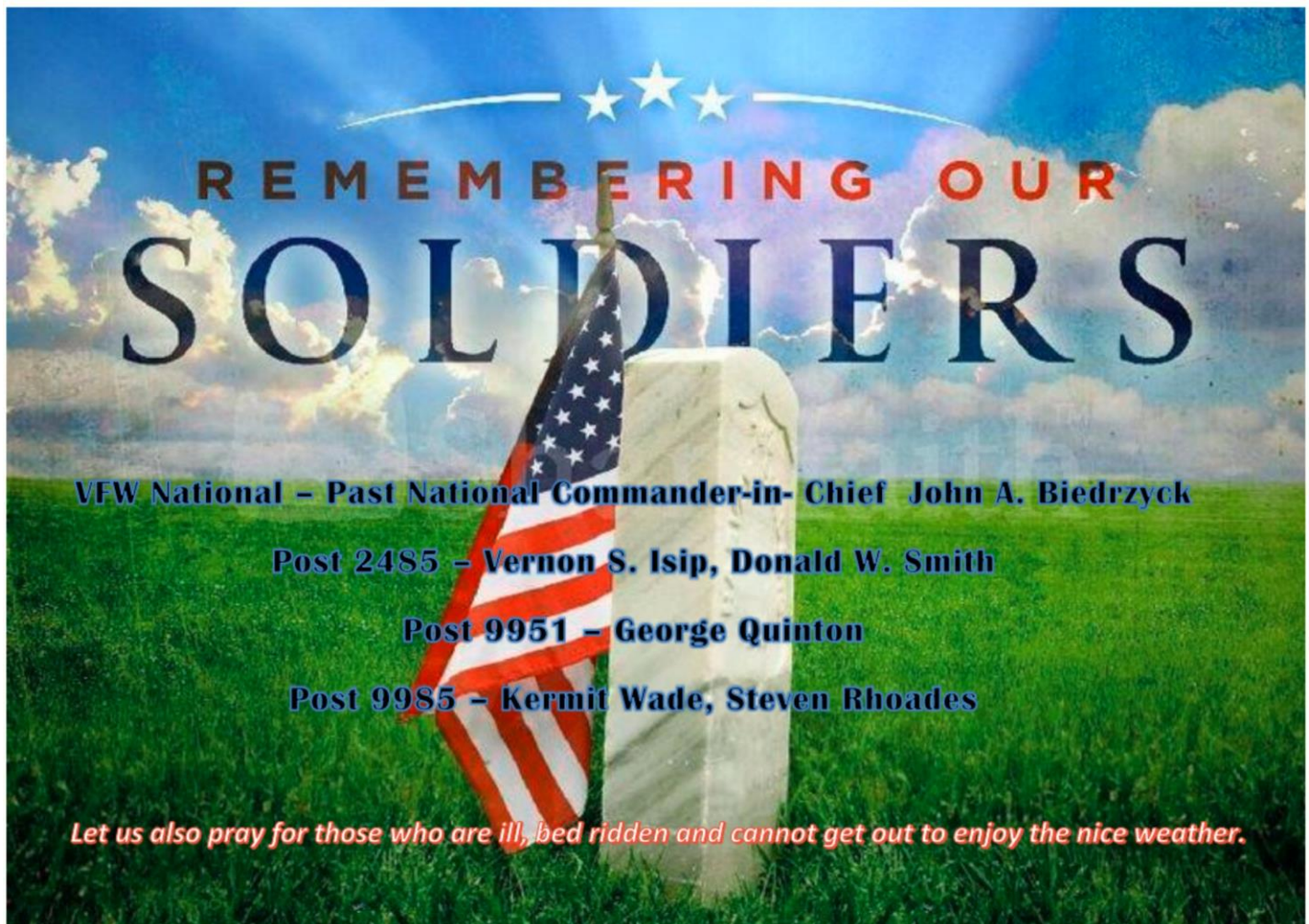


Yours in Comradeship,

Lou Holub
Mid-Term C of A Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas



From the Chaplain:



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. Email me at chapdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org or at davisronald738@gmail.com

I have seen people place Deaths on Facebook, but I have yet to receive the official TAPS Reports.

Ronald J. Davis
Chaplain
Department of Pacific Areas

From the DPA Department Service Officer:

Comrades,

This month's update will be a little lengthy, but it will address some of the questions I have received over the last few months from DPA comrades. I have been working hard with the VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) Office to get additional funding for an additional ADSO in Korea and the Philippines. The DPA recently submitted a candidate to fill the ADSO-Thailand position which became vacant in May. The DSO Office annual budget is \$26,100 which is used to pay many things in the DSO budget to include one full-time employee salary (Administrative Assistant), some expenses for the VSOs, internet requirements where we have an ADSO, office supplies, travel by the DSO to our 10 Countries or Territories, and other annual requirements. The availability of qualified Accredited VSOs in Asia is very limited. The standard VSO stateside makes an annual salary of \$50K+. Questions have been asked why Guam has no Accredited VFW VSO. The reason is that Guam and Saipan are territories of the US and have Veterans Affairs County Offices that are staffed full-time to support US veterans. When we propose a candidate for any of our regions in the DPA - We must be able to show a workload requirement. The average number of contacts (email & in-person) reported to me from Guam has been about 5 per month over the last 2 years. That clearly does not validate a need for an Accredited Veteran's Service representative for Guam. If the numbers change, we will relook their situation. The four major areas with the largest ex-pat populations in the DPA are the Philippines, Thailand, Japan and Korea. Our current staffing for all the DPA includes 3 people - the DSO, the Administrative Assistant and an ADSO in Japan. In March I briefed the VFW National Veterans Service Office Advisory Council in Washington, DC and as stated above - have been working on getting an additional allocation of funding to place an NVS BDD representative in Korea to handle pre-discharge processing of active duty military and a DPA ADSO. The bottom line is that we are working to get the resources to fill the vacancies in the areas that have the highest population and need. Filling a vacancy for an Accredited VSO is time consuming and requires an extensive Background Investigation and months of processing from the DPA, to the VFW National Veterans Service (NVS), and then to the Office of General Council (OGC) in the Department of Veteran's Affairs.



There are two jurisdiction paths that we follow for assisting veterans! One for VA organization's claims processing and one for VFW organizations chain of command. ALL claims are submitted to the VA Intake Center in Janesville, Wisconsin where the VA then assigns the veteran's claims from overseas areas to VARO Pittsburg for processing. The exception is the Philippines who has the only VARO (VARO-Manila) outside of the USA and its territories. Their claims are processed by VARO-Manila. Under VFW NVS policy - ALL DPA Post/District Service Officers must work through the Department Service Officer or Assistant Department Service Officers in their Department area of responsibility. Although the DSO lives in the Philippines - he has responsibility for oversight of all of our Post/District Service Officers/ADSOs. Their reporting and funding come to and through the DPA DSO. The ADSO-Japan, ADSO-Thailand, and the ADSO-Philippines report to the DPA DSO! When an ADSO-Korea is authorized - they too will report to the DPA DSO.

My travel schedule as the DSO is as follows: (1) Commute to Angeles City from Subic for duty on Mondays & Tuesdays each week; (2) Office hours at the Retired Activity Office in Olongapo on Wednesdays; (3) Travel to Manila on Thursday afternoon for duty on Friday in the VARO-Manila; (4) Office hours at my home office on Saturdays & Sundays. My official email is dsodpa@vfwdeptpacific.org or my F/B Page (MICHAELRAYVERVILLE). Send me a friend request. My telephone number is +63-918-249-1184. Hope this answers your questions.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Michael R. (Mike) Verville
Department Service Officer
Department of Pacific Areas – 2019/2020

From the Surgeon:

Dengue Fever Overview

Dengue Fever is a threat throughout the Department of Pacific Areas

The current Dengue outbreak is reaching epidemic proportions in the Philippines with the number of deaths rising daily and the threat of exposure is also very real within almost all Districts in the Department of Pacific Areas.

Overview: Dengue is the fastest spreading vector-borne disease in the world. Dengue is a flu-like viral infection spread mainly through the day-biting female Aedes Aegypti mosquito. While dengue is a highly infectious disease, it is not contagious - which means the virus cannot be passed on from one person to another. But when a mosquito bites a person with dengue, the insect becomes a carrier of the virus. That infected mosquito can pass on the virus by biting another person.

Symptoms: Symptoms include sudden high fever, severe headaches, pain behind the eyes, severe joint and muscle pain, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, skin rash which appears two to five days after the onset of fever and mild bleeding (such as a nose bleed, bleeding gums, or easy bruising). Sometimes, symptoms are mild and can be mistaken for those of the flu or another viral infection. Young children and people who have never had the infection before tend to have milder cases than older children and adults. However, serious problems can develop. These include dengue hemorrhagic fever, a complication characterized by high fever, damage to lymph and blood vessels, bleeding from the nose and gums, enlargement of the liver, and failure of the circulatory system. The symptoms may progress to massive bleeding, shock, and death. This is called dengue shock syndrome (DSS). People with weakened immune systems as well as those with a second or subsequent dengue infection are believed to be at greater risk for developing dengue hemorrhagic fever.

Treatment: There is no cure and no specific medicine to treat dengue infection. If you think you may have dengue fever, you should use pain relievers with acetaminophen and avoid medicines with aspirin, which could worsen bleeding. You should also rest, drink plenty of fluids, and see your doctor. If you start to feel worse in the first 24 hours after your fever goes down, you should get to a hospital immediately to be checked for complications.

Prevention: Simple. 1.) The most effective way of preventing dengue is using mosquito repellent with DEET on exposed skin from dawn to dusk. 2.) Wear protective clothing. Cover as much of your skin as possible. Wear long sleeves, socks and covered shoes. Light colored clothing is less attractive to mosquitoes than dark colors. 3.) Avoid mosquito-attracting smells. Perfume and sweat attract mosquitos. Shower to remove sweat and use unscented sunscreen, soap & shampoo.

In conclusion, be wary & stay healthy. Dengue symptoms are similar to some other diseases so see your doctor asap if you experience symptoms.

Article resources: CDC, WebMD, WHO

Yours in Comradeship & Well-Being,

Brian J. Hamic
Surgeon
Department of Pacific Areas



From the Legacy Life Membership Chairman:

Comrades,

Please consider becoming a Legacy Life Member of your Post. You would be leaving a legacy and helping the financial future of your post and our department forever.

As of 10 September the Department has **324 Legacy Life Members**.



DISTRICT I - OKINAWA - 8
Post 9723 - 8

DISTRICT 2 - JAPAN - 20
Post 1054 - 7
Post 9555 - 4
Post 9612 - 9

DISTRICT III - KOREA - 45
Post 8180 - 20
Post 9985 - 6
Post 10033 - 7
Post 10223 - 9
Post 12147 - 3

DISTRICT IV - TAIWAN - 3
Post 9957 - 3

DISTRICT V - THAILAND/CAMBODIA - 56
Post 9876 - 6
Post 9951 - 7
Post 10217 - 7
Post 10249 - 5
Post 11575 - 4
Post 12074 - 8
Post 12146 - 17
Post 12163 - 2

DISTRICT VI - GUAM/SAIPAN - 25
Post 1509 - 6
Post 2917 - 12
Post 3457 - 7

DISTRICT VII - PHILIPPINES - 165
Post 124 - 8
Post 2485 - 129
Post 9892 - 7
Post 11447 - 13
Post 12130 - 7

MEMBER AT LARGE - 3
Post 15055 - 3



LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR VETERANS

Under this program, VFW life members have the opportunity to further contribute to VFW programs and services by choosing Gold, Silver or Bronze levels, each with great benefits. For more information, contact the VFW Membership Department at membership@vfw.org, or go to www.vfw.org and type "Legacy Life" in the search box.

MEMBER INCENTIVES

	BRONZE \$400	SILVER \$800	GOLD \$1200
Plated Engraved Life Member Card			
Lapel Pin			
Hat Pin			
Distinctive Emblem & Supply Line for Legacy Life Members			
Framed Certificate for Legacy Life Membership			
Recognition on Internet & Convention Program			
Recognition at Kiosks at Memorial Building in Washington, D.C. And Museum at National Headquarters			
Special Plaque			
Hat Patch			
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza			
Emblem & Supply Discounts (For Personal Use Only)	5%	10%	15%
Increased Level of No-Cost AD&D Insurance	\$2000	\$3500	\$5000
Annual Endowment: Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment: Dept.	\$6	\$12	\$18

Bob Zaher
Legacy Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas

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



Comrades,

POST AND DISTRICT CHAIRMEN: School has started, so everyone should be in contact with the schools in your area to promote the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essay Competitions.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES: The 2019-20 themes have been chosen by Commander-in-Chief, William J. "Doc" Schmitz. The Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "What Makes America Great?" The new 2019-20 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website. Entry deadline to the Post is 31 October 2019.

***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, they can participate.

Additionally, anyone (including students, parents, teachers and chairmen) can download and print the student entry forms for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen.

Voice of Democracy Rules and Eligibility can be found by going to: [VOD Rules and Eligibility](#). The Voice of Democracy Entry Form can be found by going to: [VOD Entry Form](#).

Patriot's Pen Rules and Eligibility can be found by going to: [PP Rules and Eligibility](#). The Patriot's Pen Entry Form can be found by going to: [PP Entry Form](#).

To assist the students, have them watch the 2018-2019 winners deliver their essays by going to: [VFW Legislative Conference](#); scroll down and select either the "2018-2019 Voice of Democracy Winner" or the "2018-2019 Patriot's Pen Winner" video.

Ensure the students understand the rules for each of the programs. All Patriot's Pen essays and Voice of Democracy audio essays should be reviewed by the chairman several days before the judging, so that small errors such as too many words, an audio CD or USB drive that will not play on your equipment, a Voice of Democracy audio essay that is a bit too long/short, or a reference that inadvertently identifies them might be corrected by the student rather than the chairman eliminating them from the competition. Chairman should never forget that our priority is to increase the number of students participating, rather than eliminating them.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN BROCHURES. For Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store:

<http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy> for Voice of Democracy and

<http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen> for Patriot's Pen.

Let's not forget about the Smart / Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. The Entry Form can be found by going to: <https://www.vfw.org/TeacheroftheYear/> Entry deadline to the Post is 31 October 2019.

CHANGES TO ALL-STATE AND ALL-AMERICAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS: For National Citizenship Education Teacher Award each Post and District must submit an entry in all three categories (K-5, 6-8 & 9-12). Also, in lieu of an entry, any Post can donate \$75.00 while any District can donate \$100.00 each for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and each category of the National Citizenship Education Teacher Award (K-5, 6-8 & 9-12).

FOR DONATIONS: For the 2019-2020 year, there is a new donation form for VFW Programs and Veterans & Military Support Programs. If you know that your Post or District will not have any entries, let's get the donations submitted now. Donation deadline for the Posts is 31 October 2019. The new donations form can be found by going to: https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation

***Notice: Please forward me the receipt email you receive from VFW National to get credit.**

I 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.

Post Deadline: November the 9th

Post Level Judging:

For Patriot's Pen essays and Voice of Democracy audio essays, posts should have their judging done and winners forwarded to their district by November the 9th. Each post can forward one (1) essay for every 15 entries received; 1-15 essays – one (1) entry to district, 16-30 essays – two (2) entries, 31-45 essays – three (3) entries and so on for Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy. Refer to the student entry forms to review the complete rules and guidelines.

For Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teachers Award, posts should have their judging completed and winners forwarded to their district by November the 7th. Each post can forward one (1) entry to district for each grade level; K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Refer to the teacher entry form to review the complete rules and guidelines.

District Deadline: November the 16th

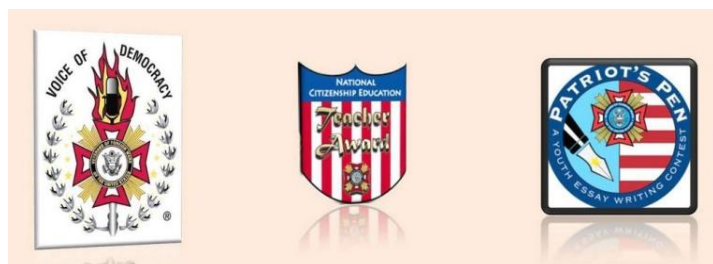
District Level Judging:

For Patriot's Pen essays and Voice of Democracy audio essays, districts should have their judging completed and winners forwarded to department by November the 16th. Each district can forward one (1) essay each for Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy to department. Scan and email me your winning Patriot's Pen essay entry form along with the essay and scan your winning Voice of Democracy audio essay entry form along with a copy of the audio file. Maintain the original entry forms, essays and audio files to be brought to the CofA along with the student's head & shoulders photo.

For Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teachers Award, districts should have their judging done and winners forwarded to department by November the 16th. Each district can forward one (1) entry to district for each grade level; K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Scan and email me your winning Teachers Award entry form, essay, resume and other supporting documentation for each grade level. Maintain the original entry forms, essays, resumes and other supporting documentation to be brought to the CofA along with the teacher's head & shoulders photo.

Yours in comradeship and service,

Don Kelley
VOD / Patriot's Pen / Teacher's Award Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas
vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org
Phone: +82-10-2442-8938



2019-20 VOD/PP/TEACHERS AWARD DEPARTMENT DASHBOARD					
Post/District	VOD	PP	Teachers Award		
			Elementary	Middle	High
District 1	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
9723	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
District 2	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
1054	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
9555	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
9612	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
District 3	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
8180	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
9985	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00
10033	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
10223	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
12147	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
District 4	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
9957	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
District 5	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
9876	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00
9951	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00
10217	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00
10249	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
11575	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00
12074	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
12146	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
12163	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
District 6	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
1509	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
2917	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
3457	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
District 7	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
124	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
2485	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
9892	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET
11447	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00	MET/\$75.00
12130	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET	UNMET

From the National Home for Children Chairman:



VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN
Every child deserves a happy family

Comrades,

I would like to say thank you for Post 8180 for pointing out, donations being made my members is no longer credited to the Post they are from. However, if the member marks the on BEHALF and put there Post number there it will be credit at that time.

The National Home is once again experiencing a problem with accepting some donations due to our overseas addresses and I am working with them on that issue.

If any of District or Post are having any problems with making their donation to the National home please let me know so I can assist you.

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

National Home Donation Report

Report for District and Post as of 27 August 2019. 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	Yes	\$50.00	11575	Yes	\$50.00
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	Pacific House	124	No	
District 4	No		2485	No	
9957	No		9892	No	
District 5	No		11447	Yes	\$50.00
9876	No		12130	No	
9951	Yes	\$50.00			
Post 12147 Project Pacific House			Post 1054 Annual Benefit Concert		
Dist/Post Total	\$225.00	Special Projects	\$0.00	Grand Total	\$225.00
Not Confirmed			Working on		

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 difficult times.

Yours in Comradeship,

Randell E. Himes

nhcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org

From the Women's Veterans Chair:

Each generation has at least one moment that defines them: "Where were you when...?" For my grandparents it was Pearl Harbor; my parents it was that word of President J.F. Kennedy was assassinated in Texas; for my generation it will be September 11, 2001. Between the 2,753 people who perished at the World Trade Center site, 184 personnel at the Pentagon and 40 casualties of Airline Flight 93 that crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, the total casualty of 2,977 represents the largest loss of life in a single event on American Soil. 9/11 changed the way we saw homeland security and all branches of the military and emergency response teams experienced a surge of recruits in response. It would be impossible to show an adequate tribute to all who served, and continue to serve. Below is a small sample of stories of our departed Heroes.



- Police Officer Moira Smith, New York Police Department: A 13 year veteran, Officer Smith was among the first to respond to the September 11 attack at the World Trade Center and was last seen evacuating people out of Tower Two, saving hundreds of lives. Throughout her police career, Officer Smith exhibited extreme valor, and among her awards was the department's Distinguished Duty Medal, which she received in 1991 for saving dozens of lives after a subway crash. Posthumously awarded: 2011 Women of Distinction; NYPD's Medal of Honor; Glamour and Ms. magazines' Women of the Year for 2001; Woman of the Year by the NYPD's Policewomen's Endowment Association; 9/11 Heroes Medal of Valor.

-Captain Kathy Mazza, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department: A 13 year veteran, Captain Mazza was the first female commanding officer of the Port Authority Police Academy. She was killed while leading a group of people downstairs when the World Trade Center started to collapse. Using her 9mm sidearm, Captain Mazza shot out glass walls, enabling many to escape.

-Special Investigator Diane DiGiacomo, ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement Division: A 17 year veteran, Investigator DiGiacomo was assigned to search for abandoned animals in homes in the restricted area around the WTC site for 3 months following 9/11. She was regularly seen on Animal Planet on the TV series Animal Precinct. She developed cancer directly attributed to exposure to toxins in the air near ground zero.

-Special Agent Melissa Morrow, US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations: A 22 year veteran, assigned to FBI Washington Field Office's Evidence Response Team, Special Agent Morrow processed evidence from the Pentagon crash site. Exposure to contaminated conditions led to the development of brain cancer.

Where the Towers represented our economy and civilian workforce, the Pentagon is where military decisions are made. The third plane crashed into the west side of the Pentagon resulting in a partial collapse and the following service members lives lost: YN3 Melissa Rose Barnes, US Navy, served in telecommunications at the Pentagon and reported to the Chief of Naval Operations; IT1 Marsha D. Ratchford, US Navy, handled crucial military messages at the Navy Command Center in the Pentagon; SGT Tamara C. Thurman, US Army, worked as an assistant in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel; Lt. Col. Karen J Wagner, US Army, Medical Personnel Officer in the Office of the Army Surgeon General and Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel; SPC. Chin Sun Pak Wells, US Army, Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel at the Pentagon; SSG Maudlyn A. White, US Army, Administrative specialist Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs. In addition to active duty, the lives of 21 female civilians working for the US Army and US Navy were lost.

The list of emergency response personnel effected by cancer associated with toxic air and contaminated conditions will soon be a longer list than those that died on 9/11. The Victim Compensation Fund received national attention after a heartfelt plea by Jon Stewart, political commentator, to members of US Congress. With the passing of the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, there is now a permanent line item in the budget and will be available to aid in the monitoring and treatment of first responders. If you would like to contribute to benefit funds for the 911 Memorial in NYC or the Pentagon see the links below. May we never forget the lasting impact and sacrifice endured on this date.

Works Cited

<https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/articles/moira-smith;>
<https://www.odmp.org/search/incident/september-11-terrorist-attack;>
[https://www.911memorial.org/;](https://www.911memorial.org/)
<https://pentagonmemorial.org/>

Yours in Comradeship,

STG1 (SW) Lauren Wanzer
Women's Veterans Chair
Department of Pacific Areas

From the Americanism and Loyalty Chairman:

Comrades,

There are over ten events in September that we can observe. Here are four that I will recognize for you.

Air Force Birthday – The official Air Force Birthday is recognized as September 18, 1947. This was the date of the passage of the National Security Act of 1947. That legislation created what would become known as the United States Department of Defense. This established the United States Air Force as a separate branch of military service. The 71st Air Force Day will be celebrated on September 18, 2019.



Citizenship Day/Constitution Day – September 17th is the day when two important observances take place. Citizenship Day and Constitution Day. There is also Constitution Week which is observed the week of September 17 – 23. These observances were created to both commemorate the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, and to “recognize all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become citizens.” During this time, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services “encourages” Americans to reflect on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and what it means to be a U.S. Citizen.

POW/MIA Recognition Day – Third Friday in September – The familiar POW/MIA flag, so closely associated with the observance, actually pre-dates it. According to DoDLive.Mil, in 1971 a military spouse named Mary Hoff contacted a private company to request a flag to honor those missing in action or prisoner of war (one of whom was her husband). A World War 2 pilot named Newt Heisly created the now iconic design. Many Americans take this time to not only remember the POW/MIA, but their family members who fought and or died for our country.

National Day of Service at VA Cemeteries on 9/11 – On Wednesday, September 11, 2019, from 0900 until 1300, the National Cemetery Administration and carry the Load will partner on a national day of service with headstone and marker cleaning and grounds beautification at 40 national cemeteries across the country. Honor our men and women buried in VA national cemeteries and commemorate the heroism of September 11, 2001.

Comrades, hopefully, some of you will find the time to show your loyalty and observe one of these events.

Yours in Comradeship.

Tom Friend
Americanism and Loyalty Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas

From the Safety Chairman:

Comrades,

Yearly, we the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects emergency medical technicians, law enforcement and firefighter personnel to receive VFW Public Servant Awards. Post Safety Chairmen are encouraged to submit a candidate for these awards to the Department of Pacific Areas Headquarters by November 29, 2019. The DPA will select a single candidate for each of the three awards during the Mid Term C of A, 6-8 December 2019 and submit those to VFW National Headquarters by February 1, 2019.



NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the "VFW Department Public Servant Award Citation Request Form" which is now available on the VFW website. You can locate this form by logging in to www.vfw.org and searching under "My VFW" in the Training & Support section.

VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Public Servant Citation: Any individual, who actively gives emergency medical treatment, provides rescue service or civil disaster assistance as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to give emergency medical care, provide rescue and civil disaster assistance to our nation's citizens.

VFW National Law Enforcement Public Servant Citation:

Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with enforcement of the laws pertaining to their area of responsibility. This award does not apply to individual employed by private companies or security services.

VFW National Firefighters Public Servant Citation: Any individual who actively fights fires as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to fight fires and give assistance to our nation's citizens.

Criteria for these awards – Candidates must have demonstrated:

- 1) Recognition by their colleagues or those they serve.
- 2) Consistent excellence in the performance of their duties.
- 3) Consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession.

Documentation required for all Candidates:

- 1) Nomination letter containing the candidate's name, title, address, telephone and identifying the award for which the individual should be considered.
 - a. Include justification outlining background in field, accomplishments and awards.

NOTE: NEW (not required) One (1) page VFW Public Servant Award Citation Post Entry Form is now available on the VFW website. You can locate this form by logging in to <http://www.vfw.org> and searching under "My VFW" in the Training & Support section. If you have any questions contact Tammy Beauchamp at 816-756-3390 x 6287, e-mail tbeauchamp@vfw.org. If you have any further questions, please contact me at +63 905-349-2424 or via email.

Yours in Comradeship!

Alexander Fores
Safety, EMT, Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas

From the Legislative Committee Chairman:

Just a reminder, it is never too early to think about your post's All-State requirements, and 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. to either



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. **DOD to Divert \$3.6 Billion to Fund Barrier Projects:** On Wednesday, September 4, DOD announced that \$3.6 billion will be diverted from 125 military construction projects in both the U.S. and overseas to fund 11 fencing and barrier projects along the southern U.S. border. In total, this reprogramming will suspend programs in 23 states, three U.S. territories, and 19 nations. These projects include schools, dining and maintenance facilities, upgrades to flight line infrastructure, and upgrades to ballistic missile defense infrastructure. See the [full list of projects](#) slated for deferment. Read the [official DOD press release](#).
2. **VFW Supports Relief Efforts for Hurricane Dorian:** The VFW is accepting donations to help veterans, service members, and military families impacted by Hurricane Dorian. From hurricanes to raging wildfires, each year natural disasters leave many in desperate need of assistance. The VFW's Disaster Relief Fund provides our organization the opportunity to react quickly with immediate relief to those in the affected areas. You can [donate to the VFW Disaster Relief Fund](#). [Learn more](#) about the hurricane's impact on your respective VA facility.
3. **On-Base Shopping Eligibility Expands Jan. 1:** Beginning in the new year more than 3 million service-connected disabled veterans with VA ratings from zero to 90 percent will be authorized on-base exchange and commissary shopping privileges, as well as access to certain MWR facilities, but you must have a VA-issued Veteran Health Identification Card, or VHIC, to gain access. The VHIC is issued only to veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system. You can [apply online](#), or in person at your local VA medical facility. Family members of the newly eligible veterans will not be authorized to shop, but will be permitted on-base as guests of the VHIC-carrying veteran. Veterans who do not reside near a military installation can still shop online at the four military exchanges. Search for stores at [ShopMyExchange](#), [Marine Corps Exchange](#), [Navy Exchange](#), and [Coast Guard Exchange](#). Caregivers will be processed differently, initially, since they have no military or VA affiliation. The VA will post a memo to [VA.gov](#) for caregivers to be used for access at the front gate, along with a driver's license. This process is expected to transition to a caregiver-type ID card, which will have scanning swipe capability. One hundred percent disabled veterans, their spouses, and eligible dependents already have access because they are issued military identification cards.

4. **Retirees Enrolled in TRICARE Prime May Get a Refund:** On Thursday, TRICARE released a policy manual update that will be beneficial to some retirees who are enrolled in TRICARE Prime. Prior to the TRICARE reforms that went into effect in 2018, enrollment fees were included in the maximum out-of-pocket payment or catastrophic cap; after the reforms, they were no longer counted toward the cap which effectively increased the cost for some families. The new change, which is retroactive to 2018, will allow the annual enrollment payment to be counted toward the cap again. This means retirees who paid the enrollment fee and exceeded their catastrophic cap could get a refund. The update explains that the contractor will be responsible for notifying the beneficiaries who are affected by the policy change. The outreach letter will explain the credit, how the credit was applied, and the steps to request a refund. [Learn more.](#)
5. **Legislation Introduced for Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits:** VFW-supported H.R. 4137, Jennifer Kepner HOPE Act, has been introduced. This important legislation would make individuals eligible for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care provided the individual served as a member of the Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation and was based or stationed at a location where an open air burn pit was in use after Jan. 1, 1990. The eligibility for care would be open even for those who have insufficient medical evidence to conclude that a disease or disability is associated with burn pit exposure. [Learn more](#)

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

Yours in comradeship,

Jonathan Brazee
Legislative Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas

From the Webmaster:

Comrades,

There have been a lot going on with the web. The Department email system is having a hard time sending to Yahoo. This seems to be a problem on the Yahoo side. They have changed something on the servers and it is causing emails to bounce back. This is not just a DPA problem. I'm having problems with my Gmail account as well, when it comes to yahoo.

The registration page should be up and running prior to the release of this month's Typhoon. Do to the hotel requirements, once you get to the registration page, please download the form, fill it out and email it into convention@vfwdeptpacific.org. This will in turn email to all the people that need the form.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson
Webmaster
Department of Pacific Areas

