

# DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

## 2025-2026

(Revision 1)



**JOHN "JACK" P. FARRELL, JR.**  
**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**

***"Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More"***

15 September 2025

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## **Commanders Introduction:**

Jack Farrell was elected Department of Pacific Areas Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States at the 59<sup>th</sup> Department of Pacific Areas Convention in Bangkok, Thailand.

Jack served in the United States Navy Submarine Service completing 22 years of Honorable service. He was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal (2 Awards), Navy Achievement Award (4 Awards), Navy Expeditionary Medal, Arctic Service Medal, Submarine Warfare Designator, Submarine Deterrent Patrol Pin (with 10 Silver Stars), and Good Conduct Medal (4 Awards) during his career.

Commander Farrell upon retiring from the US Navy was employed by Harris Corporation, RF Communications Division as an International Country Manager responsible for the development and execution of Tactical Radio Programs in the Middle East and Northern Africa. He worked there until April 2011 until his retirement after 16 years of service.

Upon his retirement, he relocated to Thailand and subsequently Ban Chang Thailand and Joining VFW Post 12146 Banchang-Utapao, Thailand where he was elected as the Commander of the Post.

Upon completing his term as Commander of the Post and achieving All American and All State status. He relocated to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to assume Command of Mayaguez Memorial VFW Post 11575. Earning both All-State, and All-American Recognition.

He earned his eligibility via the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Fleet Ballistic Deterrent Patrol Pin.

## **Commander's Statement:**

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of Pacific Areas is steadfast in its mission to serve, support, and advocate for veterans, active-duty service members, and their families throughout the Pacific region. We honor the proud legacy of military service by ensuring that those who have worn the uniform receive the recognition, benefits, and support they have rightfully earned.

Central to our purpose is the cultivation of camaraderie—an unbreakable bond formed through shared service, mutual sacrifice, and enduring loyalty. We are committed to fostering a climate of respect, inclusiveness, and unity within our ranks, recognizing that the strength of our organization is built upon the collective character, experience, and dedication of its members.

We believe that teamwork is not merely an ideal, but a responsibility. Rather than allowing individual weaknesses or petty jealousies to divide us, we choose to focus on each member's unique strengths, talents, and contributions. In doing so, we reinforce a culture where collaboration thrives, mutual support is the norm, and every member is empowered to play a vital role in the success of the whole.

By working together in pursuit of our common goals, and through a shared commitment to service above self, we embrace the enduring truth that **"Together. Everyone Achieves More"**.

## **Membership Mission:**

To build a strong organization through recruiting new members while retaining our current membership, building a solid foundation for the Post, District and Departments future. To assist in mentoring our leadership and members, coordinate programs to support our Posts, Districts, and Departments in their membership efforts, and to provide training for all levels of VFW membership.

Due to the steadily declining membership due to the passing of our WWII, Korea, and Vietnam war veterans our membership goals need the help of every VFW member in confronting this decline and ensuring our voices are heard in the halls of the US congress that will ensure that our veterans and active duty personnel receive the benefits they have earned and to allow us to meet our objectives nationally. I am setting our membership goal to **100% + 2** in membership. Additionally, we must maintain our members and mentor them to enable them to fill leadership roles within our organization. Provide a welcoming environment at your posts for your members. This more than anything will maintain your memberships and entice new members to join your posts. Whether you hold a leadership position or are a member. We all need to remember that we are veterans and a singular team that exists to provide veterans services to our membership, widows, orphans, and active duty personnel.

## **DPA MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**

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

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

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

Post Quartermasters shall submit their dues processing using the VFW Online Membership Systems (OMS).

### **New Post Institution Program Refund:**

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

### **Life and Legacy Life Membership:**

Life membership recruiting is an important part of our membership program. We shall strive to **encourage everyone to become a Life Member**. We must be sure that all new and potential life members understand

how strongly the VFW supports them, other veterans and local communities. In addition, we must continue to **grow our Legacy Life membership** in support of Posts into the future. It goes without saying that without the recruiting of **new members**, our great organization will not be able to survive. Recruiting must begin at the Post MEMBER level. It is up to each Comrade to do their part to ensure that our organization continues to grow.

## Membership Recruiting Reward Program

### Early Bird Program (ends 10 December 2025)

#### Post and District Awards

- Posts with over 500 members at 100% plus 10 members will win one Life Membership or 1 Bronze Legacy Life Membership or a \$400 Stipend for its Post Membership Program.
- Posts with under 500 members at 100% plus 5 members will win one Life Membership or 1 Bronze Legacy Life Membership or a \$400 Stipend for its Post Membership Program.
- Districts with all posts over 100% membership will win one free Life Membership or a \$400 Stipend

## Recruiters Early Bird Program

Any member that recruits 25 Members from 1 July to 31 October will receive their Military branch ball cap. These will be presented at the Mid-Winter Conference.

## Regular Recruiting Program

#### Individual Recruiter Awards

- |                 |                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| • 1-5 member's  | Commander's Pin & DPA Pin |
| • 15 member's   | \$25.00 gift certificate  |
| • 30 member's   | \$50.00 gift certificate  |
| • 50 member's   | \$75.00 gift certificate  |
| • 100+ member's | \$150.00 gift certificate |

#### *Note:*

*This is an annual award. The member count DOES NOT reset after the Mid-Winter Conference. Reinstated Members paid for by the post do not count on individual recruiters count, if paid for by the recruiter it will then be counted.*

***"All Gift Certificates will be presented at the June Convention"***

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

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

## **Annual Member to Life Member Conversion (for the year ending 30 June 2026)**

- Posts who achieve 5 Annual Member to Life Member Conversions will be provided a **\$250** Stipend.

## **Important Notes:**

**Post/District:** Membership must be at least **100% +2**.

**Post Member Cap:** Any member in a Post that achieves All-State status can purchase a "Post Member" cap. Those members must be members in good standing in the Post during the membership year.

## **DPA ALL-STATE AWARD PROGRAM**

The DPA Membership Program annually recognizes those high performing Districts and Posts within the DPA and their support of DPA and National Programs. The All-State program exists to recognize leadership, teamwork and accomplishment in membership program goals, objectives and support for VFW core programs.

### **All-State District Requirements:**

- The District and all Posts in the District must have Bylaws approved by the National Commander in Chief.
- The District Quartermaster or any other person accountable for District funds or property must be adequately bonded IAW SEC 703 of the National By-Laws.
- The District and all Posts in the District must have successfully completed the current year DPA inspection **NLT 28 February 2026**.
- The District must reach **100% +2** in membership by 30 June 2026 as posted in National MEMSTATS (or 15 April 2026 for recognition at the DPA Convention if an in-person event).
- The District must have an appointed Service Officer.
- The District and Post Service Officers in the District (as listed in the District/Post Election Report, and GO1) must attend a mandatory DSO Training session.

- The District must conduct a minimum of 3 School of Instructions at a District meeting addressing the duties and responsibilities of District leadership positions. Report completion of training to the **DPA SVC**.
- The District must have submitted all quarterly Audits including March, June, September, and December to the **DPA Quartermaster**. Each Audit is due to [gmdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:gmdpa@vfwpacific.org) no later than the last day of the third month following the last month of the Audit. **ALL audits must be into the DPA QM NLT 30 June 2026. Quarterly due dates are as follows:**

**Apr - Jun Audit is voted on in July and due to the Department QM NLT 30 Sep**

**Jul - Sep Audit is voted on in October and due to the Department QM NLT 31 Dec**

**Oct - Dec Audit is voted on in January and due to the Department QM NLT 31 Mar**

**Jan - Mar Audit is voted on in April and due to the Department QM NLT 30 Jun**

- The District must participate in the **Voice of Democracy (VOD)**, and **Patriots Pen (PP) Programs** by **submitting ONE entry per program to the DPA VOD/PP Chairman for judging**. In lieu of this requirement, the District may elect to send a **\$125** donation per program to the VFW National Director of Programs for each program they do not participate in using the VMS Donation link from the VFW All American Dashboard. **Donations will NOT be accepted by any other means.** After donating, report the donation by forwarding a copy of the email receipt to the DPA VOD/PP Chairman at [vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org).
- The District must donate a minimum of **\$125** to the **National Veterans and Military Support (VMS) Program**. The donation shall be made via the VMS Donation link from the VFW All American Dashboard. **Donations will NOT be accepted by any other means.** After donating, report the donation by forwarding a copy of the email receipt to the DPA VMS Chairman at [mapdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:mapdpa@vfwpacific.org).
- Legacy Life: Each district must at a minimum add a total of New/Upgraded Members equal to the number of posts in their District with notification sent to the Department SVC at [svcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:svcdpa@vfwpacific.org)
- The District will participate in the Department Awards program submitting 1 district nominee to the Department JVC for a minimum of one submission for one of the 10 categories for judging NLT 15 April 2026. **District Award judging panels will include ALL Post Commanders in that District and a Post member from each post to ensure fair representation.**
- The District will participate in the annual DPA fund raiser by purchasing a full page ad for \$200 in the "Year in Review" publication. Send donations to the DPA QM at [gmdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:gmdpa@vfwpacific.org) and send the ad to the Year in Review chairman, PDC Larry Lyons at [pdcl Lyons935@gmail.com](mailto:pdcl Lyons935@gmail.com).

#### **All-State Post Commander Requirements:**

- The Post must have Post Bylaws approved by the National Commander in Chief.

- The Post QM or any other person accountable for Post funds or property must be adequately bonded IAW SEC 703 of the National By Laws.
- The Post must have successfully completed the current year DPA Inspection **NLT 28 February 2026**.
- The Post must be **100% +2** in membership by 15 April 2026 for recognition at the June Department convention. If accomplished by 30 June 2026 recognition will be received at the Mid-Winter conference in December.
- The Post must have an appointed Service Officer.
- The Post Service Officer (as listed in the Post Election Report, and GO1) must attend a mandatory DSO Training session.
- The Post must conduct 3 School of Instructions at a Post meeting addressing Post Leadership Duties and Responsibilities. Report completion of training to the **DPA SVC** at [svcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:svcdpa@vfwpacific.org).
- The Post must have submitted all quarterly Audits including March, June, September, and December to the **DPA QM**. Each Audit is due to the DPA QM at [qmdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:qmdpa@vfwpacific.org) no later than the last day of the second month following the last month of the Audit. **ALL audits must be into the DPA QM NLT 1 June 2026. Quarterly due dates are as follows:**

<b>Apr - Jun Audit is voted on in Jun and due to Department</b>	<b>QM NLT 31 Jul</b>
<b>Jul - Sep Audit is voted on in Sep and due to Department</b>	<b>QM NLT 31 Oct</b>
<b>Oct - Dec Audit is voted on in Dec and due to Department</b>	<b>QM NLT 31 Jan</b>
<b>Jan - Mar Audit is voted on in Mar and due to Department</b>	<b>QM NLT 30 Apr</b>

- The Post must be current in monthly DPA Community Service Reports (CSR) and must submit a **minimum of 8 CSRs per quarter** between 1 May 2025 and 30 April 2026. **Point of contact is DPA JVC** at [jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org).
- The Post must participate in the **Voice of Democracy (VOD), and Patriots Pen (PP) Award Programs by submitting at least one entry per program to the DISTRICT VOD/PP Chairman for judging.** In lieu of this requirement, the **POST** may elect to send a **\$125** donation per program to the VFW National Director of Programs for each program they do not participate in using the VMS Donation link from the VFW All American Dashboard. **Donations will NOT be accepted by any other means.** After donating, **report the donation by forwarding a copy of the email receipt to the DPA VOD/PP Chairman at [vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org).**
- The Post must donate a minimum of **\$125** to the **National Veterans and Military Support Program**. The donation shall be made via the VMS Donation link from the VFW All American Dashboard. **Donations will NOT be accepted by any other means.** After donating, **report the donation by forwarding a copy of the email receipt to the DPA VMS Chairman at [mapdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:mapdpa@vfwpacific.org).**
- Legacy Life: Each post must at a minimum add one New/Upgraded Member with notification sent to the DPA SVC at [svcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:svcdpa@vfwpacific.org).



- The Post must participate in the **Buddy Poppy** program by purchasing 500 Buddy Poppies. Point of contact is DPA QM at [gmdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:gmdpa@vfwpacific.org).
- The Post will participate in the DPA Awards program submitting a minimum of one award nomination for submission for one of the ten department award categories to the District for judging NLT 30 March 2026. **District Award judging panels will include ALL Post Commanders in that District and a Post member from each post to ensure fair representation.**
- The Post must participate in the annual DPA fund raiser by purchasing a full page ad in the amount of \$200 in the “Year in Review” publication. Donations will be transferred to the DPA QM and emailed at [gmdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:gmdpa@vfwpacific.org) and send the ad for the Year in Review chairman, PDC Larry Lyons at [pdcl Lyons935@gmail.com](mailto:pdcl Lyons935@gmail.com).
- The Post Commander will attend **ALL** District meetings. If unavailable, they will send a Post representative, e.g., SVC, JVC or Post member who may attend in the Post Commanders absence and make the Commanders report. Attendance via Zoom is authorized if distance makes physical attendance impractical. Attendance reports will be sent directly to the **DPA SVC** after each District meeting at [svcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:svcdpa@vfwpacific.org).

## All-State Judging:

The **DPA SVC and JVC** shall track their responsible areas for all Posts and Districts and determine who have met the criteria. All Districts and Posts that meet the criteria by 15 April 2026 will be considered for All-State recognition at the DPA Convention. All Districts and Posts meeting the criteria by 30 June 2026 will be considered for recognition for All-State at the Mid-Winter Conference in December 2026.

### Awards for Districts or Posts named All-State by 15 April 2026

- District Commanders: Receive an All-State Caps or **\$50.00 stipend to the VFW Store** and Awards/Installation banquet tickets paid by DPA for winner and a guest.
- Post Commanders: Airfare paid to and from Convention from home District. Receive an All-State Cap or **\$50.00 stipend to the VFW Store** and Awards/Installation Banquet Tickets paid by DPA for winner and one guest. Post Commanders residing in the country hosting the DPA Convention will receive a **\$300** stipend to attend.
- All-State QMs will receive an All-State Cap or **\$50.00 stipend to the VFW Store** and a **\$300** stipend if attending the DPA Convention.

### Awards for Additional Districts or Posts named All-State by 30 June 2026

- District Commanders: Receive an All-State Caps or **\$50.00 stipend to the VFW Store** and DPA Mid-Winter Conference Banquet Tickets paid by DPA for winner and a guest. If no longer a District Commander, airfare to and from the DPA Mid-Winter Conference December 2026 will be paid.

- Post Commanders: Receive Airfare paid to and from the DPA Mid-Winter Conference 2026 from home District. Receive an All-State Cap or **\$50.00 stipend to the VFW Store** and DPA Mid-Winter Conference Banquet Tickets paid by DPA for winner and one guest.
- All-State QMs will receive an All-State Cap or **\$50.00 stipend to the VFW Store** and **\$200** stipend if attending the DPA Mid-Winter Conference in December 2026.

### **Important Notes:**

- All-State District and Post Commanders who have their airfare paid by the Department (DPA Convention and Mid-Winter Conference for those who qualify All State by 30 June 2026) must attend all DPA business meetings (other than Committee Meetings).
- Airfare awards are NOT transferable.

Yours in Comradeship and Service to Veterans,

John "Jack" Farrell

Commander, Department of Pacific Areas

***"Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More"***