

# THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No one does more for Veterans  
VETERANS are our BUSINESS

Volume XXIV, Number 2

September/October 2020

FREE

## PATRIOTS DAY & POW/MIA DAY

**11 September 2020 Patriots Day** - At 8:45 a.m. on September 11, 2001, an American Airlines Boeing 767, Flight 11, collided into the World Trade Center's north tower in New York City immediately killing hundreds of people and trapping hundreds more in the 110-story skyscraper. Only 18 minutes later, a second Boeing 767, United Airlines Flight 175, flew into the south tower. Both towers afire, burning debris covered the surrounding buildings and the streets below while hundreds jumped from the towers to their deaths in an attempt to escape. About 30 minutes later, a third plane, American Airlines Flight 77, crashed into the west side of the Pentagon near Washington, D.C. and a fourth plane, United Flight 93, crash-landed into a field in Pennsylvania killing all 40 souls on board. Meanwhile, both World Trade Center towers collapsed into a terrifying and deadly inferno of rubble.

**National POW/MIA Recognition Day** was established in 1979 through a proclamation signed by President Jimmy Carter. Since then, each subsequent president has issued an annual proclamation commemorating the **third Friday in September** as **National POW/MIA Recognition Day**. A national-level ceremony is held on every National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Traditionally held at the Pentagon, it features members from each branch of military service and participation from high-ranking officials. In addition to the national-level ceremony, observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities.



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Somerset County, PA      New York, NY      Washington, DC

Through blurred eyes we find the strength and courage to soar beyond the moment.

We look to the future knowing we can never forget the past.

God Bless America

# RELENTLESS PURSUIT



## A DETERMINED NATION

### NATIONAL ★ POW/MIA ★ RECOGNITION DAY

September 18, 2020

[WWW.DPAA.MIL](http://WWW.DPAA.MIL)



# COMMANDER'S CALL

Hello Comrades,

Hope this edition of The Pacific Times finds you all healthy and staying safe during these unprecedented and extremely challenging times.

Our Department officers have been staying in touch with District and Post leadership via telephone calls and various electronic media. Be assured as soon as travel restrictions throughout our region are lifted we will be making visits in person rather than electronically.

Due to the aforementioned travel restrictions we are doing parallel planning for our mid-year (CofA) meeting in early December. If we can have a physically present meeting it will be in Taiwan, hosted by District 4. If we are unable to meet in person we will conduct the meeting via Zoom. A decision will be made by mid October as to how the CofA will be conducted.

September 11 is Patriot Day. The President requests the flag of the United States be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorists attacks on the United States.

On September 18, we remember our prisoners of war and those missing in action by setting aside that date as National POW/MIA Day. An appropriate ceremony should be conducted at each post.


Our great organization celebrates its birthday on 29 Sep 1899, 121 years later we are still proving No One Does More for Veterans.

I ask you to continue working to meet post membership goals, remember to ask every American you meet if they are a veteran and if so determine if they are eligible to join the VFW. Ensure your post is inclusive and friendly in order to make these potential members want to join and want to participate in post activities.

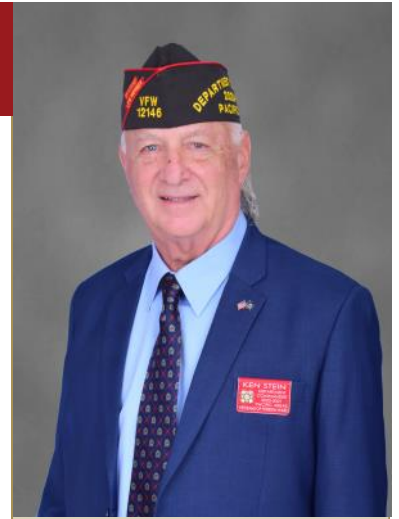
Consider asking your annual members to go Life and ask your life members to step up to Legacy Life. These two programs assist in keeping our organization strong now and help ensure a healthy future.

Remember our mission; to foster camaraderie among veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military, and our communities, and to advocate on behalf of all veterans. Let's also renew our solemn pledge to look out and take care of our fellow veterans.

With warmest best wishes and Yours in comradeship,



Kenneth A. Stein  
Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas



## Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen

One of the VFW's most important programs is the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen competitions.

The 2020–21 Voice of Democracy theme will be “Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?” and the theme for Patriot's Pen is “What is Patriotism to Me?”.

Now is the time to identify students who may be interested in these programs and to meet with school representatives to ensure we have the best possible candidates.

Your post and district VOD/PP chairman can assist in organizing the program or contact our Department VOD/PP Chairman Don Kelley @ [cdrd3@vfwpacific.org](mailto:cdrd3@vfwpacific.org)

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES



Armistice Day is commemorated every year on 11 November to mark the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany at Compiègne, France at 5:45 am for the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I, which took effect at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Now known as Veterans Day

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, also referred to as Pearl Harbor Day, is observed annually in the United States on December 7, to remember and honor the 2,403 US citizens killed in the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941 leading to the United States declaring war on Japan the following day thus entering World War II.

# AMERICAN LOYALTY DAY CHAIRMAN

**11 September**

## **A DAY OF TRAGEDY THAT IS NOW A DAY OF SERVICE**

The idea of turning September 11 into an annual day of service was conceived in 2002. According to the nonprofit MyGoodDeed, the purpose was to transform the anniversary of 9/11 from a day of tragedy into a day of doing good. “We wanted to make sure that the terrorist didn’t have the last word in forever defining for generations to come how America would remember and observe 9/11. It is instead to honor the victims and those who rose in service by keeping alive the spirit of unity and service that arose immediate aftermath of the September 11 attacks.”

The September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance Day or 9/11 Day is a federally-recognized National Day of Service that is observed on the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. It became recognized with the passage of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which was adopted on a bipartisan basis by the U.S. Congress in 2009.

President Barack Obama amended the Patriot Day Presidential Proclamation, first established by President Bush, to officially designate September 11 as a National Day of Service later in 2009. The September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance and Martin Luther King, Jr’s birthday, are the only Days of Service officially recognized and established under federal law and Presidential Proclamation.

The flag of the United States is flown at half staff at the White House and on all U. S. government buildings and establishments throughout the world; Americans are also encouraged to display flags in and outside their homes. A moment of silence is observed to correspond with the attacks, which began at 0846 EDT.

Yours in comradeship,

Tom Friend  
American Loyalty Day Chairman



# THIS WAS OUR FIELD.

There were no fans, timeouts, rainouts or relievers.  
Just our nation's home team at perpetual away games.

But here, every 90 feet still made a difference.  
And coming home safely meant everything.

We are America's largest organization  
of combat veterans.

# WE ARE THE VFW.



# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

USMC Photo by Cpl. Alessandro Penna. The appearance of Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.

<https://vfwpacific.org/>

# IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Comrades,

The new year has begun, and though MEMSTATS may not yet reflect our actual numbers, now is the time to get started. Hit the memberships hard and early, and save yourselves a lot of work later on. I know the COVID-19 restrictions put a damper on things, but do the best you can now.

Speaking of COVID-19, BE SAFE. Here in Japan we see our numbers starting to spike again, and are wondering how long it will be before we are back in lock-down. Recruit at every available opportunity.

Because of COVID-19, there were several items that could not be accomplished. High up on that list were District visits, and those I truly wish I could have made. And the cancellation of our Convention was huge. I had looked forward to personally congratulating everyone for the excellent performance this past year.

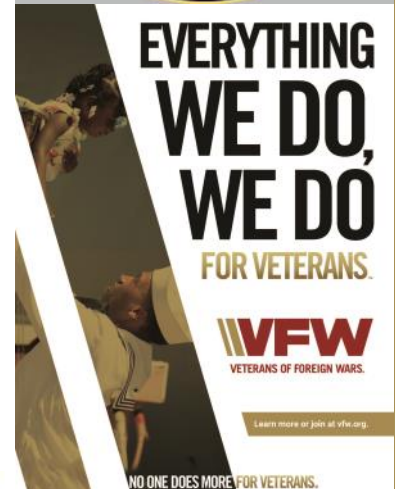
Unfortunately, CDR Stein has begun his year with the same travel restrictions. Please give him your ultimate support. Be flexible in these times. Fortunately, our new CinC, Hal Roesch has issued his first executive order allowing all levels of the VFW to conduct all business by electronic means, assuming there is a quorum. This was lacking in many By-Laws, creating havoc with the ability to conduct elections and normal business affairs. Again, be flexible, but within the rules. Practice good comradeship, and do not let your personal feelings get in the way of getting the VFW mission done.

Together, we weathered the storm through the second half of the 2019-20 year. Now, we must do the same until some semblance of normalcy returns. We will, hopefully, have a CofA. I'm sure I echo CDR Stein's feelings when I say I would be extremely disappointed if that too was taken away, as our summer convention was. But, assuming we have one, I look forward to seeing everyone there, wherever it might be held.

I thank you all for a job well done last year, and let's carry that momentum into this year!!

YIC,

Rick Farris  
Immediate Past Department Commander  
VFW Dept. of Pacific Areas



# In the SPOTLIGHT

In the VFW, we know our veterans are #StillServing and rising to meet the challenges of this uncertain time. We want you to share your stories and maybe even inspire others across our Department to do the same. Click here to tell us your story. [pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org](mailto:pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org)

## COL Lewis L. Millett Hill 180 Memorial Post 8180



The Comrades of COL Lewis L. Millett Hill 180 Memorial Post 8180 congratulate Gen Charles Q. Brown on his installation as the 22<sup>nd</sup> Chief of Staff of the Air Force.



Then Col Brown (Wolf 46) as Commander of the 8<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing, Kunsan AB, Korea assisted in the dedication of the post's Tuskegee Airman Wall honoring our own MSgt (Ret) Jim Price on May 17, 2008.



# In the SPOTLIGHT

On 15 Aug 2020, Department of Pacific Areas Commander, Ken Stein led a US veteran contingent (VFW, District 5 and American Legion, Thailand) during the Victory over Japan (VJ) Day ceremonies in Kanchanaburi, Thailand. This event is held each year in commemoration of the surrender of the Japanese, which ended WWII. Our team participated in three separate ceremonies. The first of which was led by the Dutch at Don Rak War Cemetery, the second led by the British at Chungkai War Cemetery and we finished our day at the VFW Memorial located near the Bridge on the River Kwai. It was truly an honor to participate with our Allied brethren in this truly solemn event.



A special thanks to Colonel Roger Lewis, Great Britain's Defense Attache, Thailand and the Royal British Legion for extending a warm invitation to participate in this time-honored Allied celebration. We enjoyed the Comradery at both the pre-ceremonial evening Social and the BBQ after the ceremony. We made a lot of new friends and we look forward to participating together in veteran oriented events in the future.

# In the SPOTLIGHT

## VFW Post 9876 Charity Food Drive

Once the shutdown of the Thai economy began due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, I realized the economy in Thailand, most importantly the tourist economy in Pattaya would have difficulties. Providing the economic assistance for hundreds of thousands of people is very hard for an individual. As a restaurant, we prepared dinners for seventy persons who live around the Lewinski Sports Bar. This was successful, we then started receiving donations from VFW members frequenting Lewinski's, an hour later Post Commander Emanuel Guarnnccio contacted me and restarted raising funds for continuance of the food drive.

In April, we started the food drive throughout the Lewinski neighborhood which extended through several city blocks. With the major assistance of VFW Post 9876 and other organizations, we served over 5000 meals, often having lines over 200 people.

The VFW Post 9876 and Lewinski's Sports Restaurant ended the charity food drive in May. After thirty six days which ended on 24 May 2020, we decided to shut down the charity food drive. The economy was starting to open up some and some local individuals need to go back to work.

We are very happy to have helped the community and would do it again.



# ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

Let me start by saying that I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. I apologize to all of you for not having an article in the last Pacific Times.

All Quartermaster Bonds have been sent out to your department email accounts. Please review the Bond to ensure that the information is correct. If there is an error please let me know and I will correct it. As a reminder, quarterly audits should be sent after the trustee's have completed the audit. Please use my [qmdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:qmdpa@vfwpacific.org) account for all quartermaster business.

Speaking of audits, I would like to give you a very good tool to help with your quartermaster books. Some of you may have the quartermaster deluxe program. This is a good tool. However, there is an updated version that is, in my opinion, a friendly version. It is free! Here is the link: <http://www.thomasminisystems.com/qmme.html>.

This page has a download for both the program and the manual. If you have any questions on the program, send me an email. This program can be used at both the Post and the District level. Here is a link to my DPA Website page:

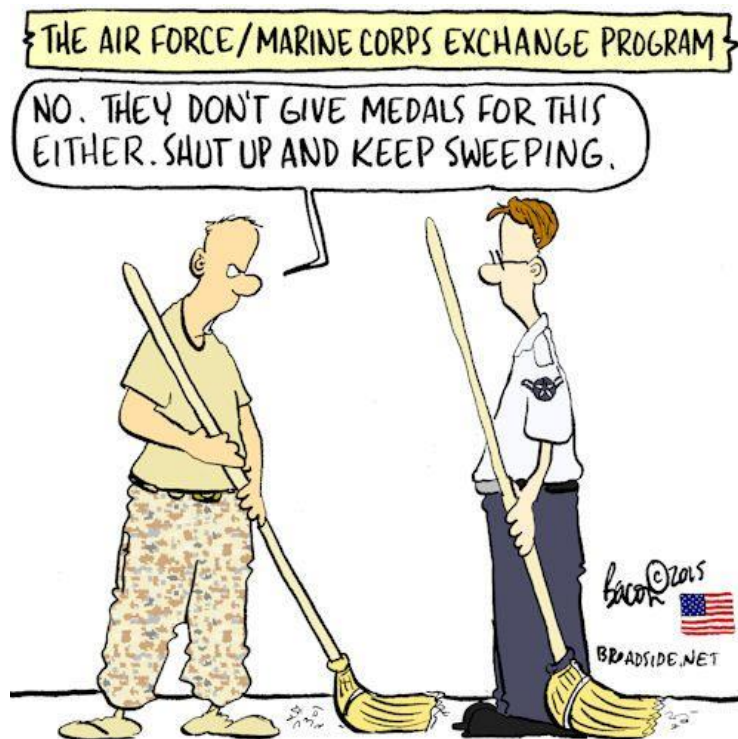
<https://vfwpacific.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=83535>

I would like to thank all Post and Districts for getting me your General Orders. The Department General Order and Memo One will be posted on the website soon. If you have a change in officers, please ensure that you update both the election report and General Order.

Stay safe and healthy. Hope to see you all in December.

YIC

Shawn Watson  
Adjutant/Quartermaster





# COMMUNICATION

Your feedback is important to us. Please submit your Letters to the Editor or Suggestions by clicking [pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org](mailto:pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org)

Really like the new newsletter.  
One thing I would like to see is a list of all of the posts and districts within the Department of Pacific Areas. I think this would be a great benefit to our members.

Fred Grant

*(Great comment Fred, we already have this and more on the DPA Website [vfwpacific.org](http://vfwpacific.org). Click on About—Post Social and Historical Links. Here is the link <https://vfwpacific.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=79163> )*

## Notice

**To be included in the November/December Pacific Times Newsletter, inputs for Articles, Letters to the Editor, Suggestions and In the Spotlight are due by 15 October 2020.**



# POW/MIA CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

As we approach the 40th POW/MIA Recognition Day it is important to remember the origins of this important day. Since World War I, almost 285,000 Americans have been taken as Prisoners of War.

According to the Defense POW/MIA accounting agency, the remains of more than 81,000 Americans still remain unaccounted for. Approximately 75% of those are somewhere in the Asia-Pacific theaters. Upwards of 41,000 soldiers are presumed lost at sea.

POW / MIA Day was officially sanctioned in July 18th 1979 when Congress and President Jimmy Carter passed resolutions making the remembrance official at the urging of the families of more than 2,500 Vietnam War POW/MIAs. The first official remembrance took place July 18th 1980 and was held at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. Later Congress designated the third Friday of September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day and ordered the prominent display of the POW/MIA flag. Since that time in addition to the national ceremony in Washington DC, smaller ceremonies take place all over the US and at Military Installations and VFW Posts around the globe.

2020 has been a busy year for the Defense POW/MIA accounting agency, the remains of 95 missing service members identified and or returned home. Of that number, 25 were from the USS Oklahoma that were lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, 23 remains returned from North Korea were identified, and the remains of 1 Vietnam era MIA that was lost in Laos was returned home. The remaining were from the both the Pacific and European theaters lost during World War II.

To say 2020 has been a challenging year is an understatement. The global pandemic has forced many of us to drastically change our lifestyles and daily routines. As we are getting adjusted to the “new normal”, we should all take time on the 18th of September to pause and remember our fallen comrades that paid the ultimate price to secure freedom for people back home as well as those in faraway lands. These brave individuals answered their country’s call without hesitation knowing full well they might not return home. We are eternally grateful for their sacrifices and will Never Forget!

Yours in Comradeship

Darryl Hamilton  
Department of Pacific Areas  
POW/MIA Chairman



# POST SOCIAL MEDIA AND HISTORY LINKS

## District 1

Post 9723 Okinawa, Japan Website, *Facebook, History*

## District 2 Mainland Japan Website, Facebook, History

Post 1054 Yokosuka, Japan Website, *Facebook, History*

Post 9555 Yokota, Japan Website, *Facebook, History*

Post 9612 Camp Zama, Japan Website, *Facebook, History*

## District 3 South Korea Website, Facebook, History

Post 8180 Songtan, Korea *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 9985 Tongducheon, Korea Website, *Facebook, History*

Post 10033 Taegu, Korea Website, *Facebook, History*

Post 10223 Camp Humphreys *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 12147 Seongnam, Korea *Website, Facebook*

## District 4

Post 9957 Taipei, Taiwan Website, *Facebook, History*

## District 5 Thailand, Cambodia, Australia *Website*, Facebook, *History*

Post 9876 Pattaya, Thailand *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 9951 Bangkok, Thailand *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 10217 Korat, Thailand *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 10249 Udon, Thailand *Websites, Facebook*

Post 11575 Phnom Penh, Cambodia *Websites, Facebook, History*

Post 12074 Chiang Mai, Thailand *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 12146 Banchang Utapao, Thailand *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 12163 Perth, Australia *Website, Facebook*

## District 6 Guam, Saipan Website, Facebook, History

Post 1509 Yigo, Guam *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 2917 Agat, Guam *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 3457 Garapan, Saipan *Website, Facebook, History*

## District 7 Philippines Website, Facebook, History

Post 124 Baguio City, Philippines *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 2485 Angeles City, Philippines *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 9892 La Union, Philippines *Website, Facebook, History*

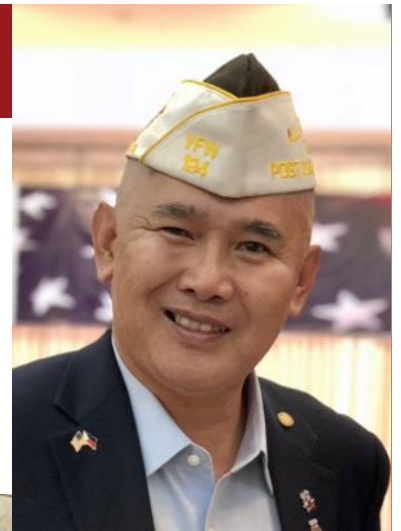
Post 11447 Subic Bay, Philippines *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 12130 Cebu, Philippines Website, Facebook

# DPA SURGEON

Hello Comrades

VFW Post 124, Baguio City, Philippines, Post Commander Willie Gadiano, Post members and DPA Surgeon Alex Fores in cooperation with Wilkins Northern Luzon Distribution Office Business Development Manager Ms. Janeth Martin distributed distilled bottled waters to St. Nino Hospital headed by their Medical Director Dr. Willy Occidental. Previously Post 124 has distributed distilled bottled waters to the following hospitals Baguio General, Benguet General, Notredame and the Cordillera Dialysis Center in support of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In addition, Post members also provided cash assistance to some locally stranded students that they may be able to go back home to their respective provinces.



I highly recommend all District and Post Surgeons to send me all your accomplishments and projects preferably with pictures so we can highlight all your achievements and place it to our Pacific Times newsletter.

Yours in Comradeship & Well-being,

**Alex Fores**  
**Department Surgeon**

Guys, just to let you know I had the Russian Covid19 vaccination yesterday and can tell you there are absolutely no negative sideffski efectovski secundariosvki Кто может это прочитатъ Обожаю Владимира Путина!



# SOME SAY THEY'VE GOT YOUR BACK. WE PROVE IT.

## HERE ARE JUST A FEW WAYS:

- Hosting service members and their families at morale-boosting events
- Providing vital financial assistance to military families in need
- Helping veterans recoup their earned benefits from the VA
- Granting scholarships to student veterans for higher education
- Testifying on Capitol Hill, leading the way for veterans legislation
- Standing – for 120 years – at the forefront in the battle

## FOR VETERANS.®

# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®**

Photo by Gregory Brook. The appearance of Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.



# DPA INSPECTOR

Comrades,

The Department of Pacific Areas will begin the district and post inspection starting in October 2020. This inspection should be completed before the Council of Administration (CofA) which takes place in December this year.

All Quartermasters district and post will be bonded In Accordance With (IAW) National By-Laws.

In order for your post or district to qualify in the All American or All State Team, they must pass the 2020-2021 inspection that is part of the "Core Programs".

We look forward to your participation, and please stay safe!

YIC,

Mariano Fajardo  
DPA Inspector

<https://vfwpacific.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=77934>





## The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

# Commemorative Partner Program



The Commemorative Partner Program is an organizationally based, hometown-centric, veteran-focused program designed for federal, state and local organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families where they live and work. It is the primary vehicle by which our nation thanks and honors our Vietnam veterans and their families. Commemorative Partners participate by planning and conducting events or activities that recognize Vietnam veterans and their families' service and sacrifice. Commemorative Partners must commit to conducting two events or activities each year for a three-year period.

Commemorative events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war, the losses suffered by many and the sacrifices of all who served. Events or activities should meet one or more of the congressionally articulated objectives (below) of the program, and as a minimum, with an emphasis on the first:

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

*It costs nothing to become a Commemorative Partner.* Organizations simply submit a completed application and Statement of Understanding (SOU). To obtain an application, organizations can visit [www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com), then click on the Commemorative Partner Program tab for further information on how to apply. Once a completed application and SOU are submitted, the approval process should take no longer than 30 days. Partners are kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved, organizations will receive a starter kit consisting of a Commemoration flag, Commemorative Partner certificate, and other materials. Additionally, they will have authorization to use The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Commemorative Partner seal for approved purposes and access to the Commemorative Partner Portal to order additional materials for events.

- For questions regarding the application process: [whs.vnwar50th\\_cpp@mail.mil](mailto:whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil)
- For online application forms:  
[www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative\\_partners/online\\_application\\_forms](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative_partners/online_application_forms)
- To download printer-friendly application forms:  
[www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative\\_partners/application\\_forms](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative_partners/application_forms)

## VFW NATIONAL COMMANDER

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Hal Roesch II, of Hampton, Virginia, was installed as the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ 112th national commander today during a change of command ceremony at the VFW National Headquarters.

Roesch assumes command of the oldest combat veterans service organization boasting approximately 1.5 million members, including its Auxiliary.

“I stand before you, humbled, elated and ready to selflessly serve the 1.5 million members and its Auxiliary as we continue the tradition of serving America’s veterans, service members and families worldwide,” said Roesch.

Roesch is a 20-year U.S. Air Force retiree serving from 1982 to 2002. He earned his VFW eligibility during his combat service in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and overseas service as part of Southern Watch. Roesch is a recipient of three Meritorious Service Medals, two Air Force Commendation Medals, two Air Force Achievement Medals, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with valor, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three campaign stars, and numerous other awards and decorations.

Roesch joined the VFW in 1991 at VFW Post 3034 in Sumter, South Carolina, and became a Post commander at VFW Post 4542 in Spring Lake, North Carolina. He now maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership at VFW Post 3219 in Phoebus, Virginia.

Roesch has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as VFW Department of Virginia commander from 2008-2009. On the national level, he has served on the Council of Administration from 2010-2012 and as the inspector general from 2016-2017.

Roesch said the VFW is preparing to build a 20/20 Vision For Veterans and it begins with re-educating and reintroducing the organization to its communities and local and national leaders.

“We are the pillars of our communities,” said Roesch. “We represent the strength of our nation. And we will lead the charge into 2021 and beyond in protecting the very benefits and entitlements that our service members, veterans and military families have earned through their sacrifice, commitment and selfless service in defense of freedom.”

Roesch said the VFW is more vital and instrumental today than it’s ever been because of the veterans serving at Posts around the globe.

“Our VFW remains the resilient force it has always been,” said Roesch. “We are stronger today because of you. Together, our voices will continue to be a dominant force in our communities, on the Hill and within the halls of the White House.”

He also reinforced the organization’s commitment to inclusivity stating, “Our doors are open to ALL eligible veterans, and today I stand here before you and personally invite all eligible veterans to join our organization.”

Roesch replaced William “Doc” Schmitz as national commander.



**‘Our VFW  
remains the  
resilient force it  
has always been’**

# FROM THE VFW COMMANDER IN CHIEF



August 26, 2020

Dear Comrades,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to each of you for your commitment, dedication and selfless service during this very challenging time we live in. We are currently facing an extremely difficult health crisis all while maneuvering through some serious social injustices in our nation.

Last month, during my installment speech, I stated that "Black Lives Do Matter." Unfortunately, a misprint occurred in the print version of the September edition of the *VFW* magazine in which the word "Do" was omitted possibly causing confusion. My complete speech can be viewed here: <https://livestream.com/accounts/8386284/events/9225536/videos/209028335>

To be very clear, this call to action was not to support a specific group or organization, rather to ensure our African-American Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary members, service members, veterans and families clearly understand that their VFW is here to support and serve them without bias, especially through this time of important social change. It is our duty as the VFW to stand with our African-American comrades during this time, as we would with ALL comrades facing any type of systemic injustice.

The VFW has not always been the most inclusive veterans service organization, however, we, much like our country, are in the midst of real change. The VFW has learned and continues to learn that diversity, equality and inclusivity to ALL eligible veterans must remain the hallmark of this great organization's founding principles.

Again, thank you for your continued commitment, dedication and selfless service to our nation's veterans, service members and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Hal Roesch". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Hal Roesch  
Commander-in-Chief, 2020-21  
VFW National Headquarters  
406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64111  
*20/20 Vision For Veterans*

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Fax: 202.543.6719

[info@vfw.org](mailto:info@vfw.org)  
[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

## DPA WEBSITE SPONSORS



### Notice

Districts, to offset the costs of our website and newsletter please find at least one Sponsor of \$100 for a year. Congratulations to District 5 for going above and beyond!!

**We ask each District to submit at least one DPA Website Sponsor. Each Sponsor must donate a minimum of \$100. The term is one year and their Logo will be included on our Sponsor Website page and here in our Bi-Monthly newsletter.**