

# THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No One Does More for Veterans  
Veterans First, Comrades Always

Volume XXVIII, Number 6

May/June 2025

## DPA CONVENTION 2025

**59<sup>th</sup> Department of Pacific Areas Convention**  
**56<sup>th</sup> Grand of the Pacific Areas Grand Scratch**  
18-21 June Novotel Hotel, Bangkok Thailand

Convention Chairman: Randy Riggs

Assistant Chairman: Tom Friend

Email: [Convention@vfwpacific.org](mailto:Convention@vfwpacific.org)

DPA Convention Webpage, Click [HERE](#)

FREE



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# COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings Comrades,

I hope this article finds you well and in good spirits. 'Tis the season for change and this marks my last article as your Department Commander. As I mentioned when I assumed command, there is one thing that we don't do often enough and that is thanking those who put in the work. So, to ALL of you who supported our efforts this year in meeting the aims and goals of our Department and the National Organization, THANK YOU! The results speak for themselves.

The Department of Pacific Areas EXCELLED at not only MEMBERSHIP (103.88% and still going up), but we lead the way for about three quarters of the term. Programs achieved full participation in VOD/PP/VMS, and Community Support/Outreach was exceptionally effective. In addition, you took the time to get educated on important matters such as how Trustees are supposed to function and ensure what your Post Benefits Advisors (formally Post Service Officer) are supposed to do and NOT do.

**As of 30 April 2025 (and with two months to go):**

- 5 of 6 Districts are qualified for **ALL STATE** / All 6 are qualified for **ALL AMERICAN!**
- 20 of 27 Posts are qualified for **ALL STATE** / Potentially 26 of 27 can make **ALL AMERICAN!**

It is simply amazing what we can accomplish AS A TEAM. Troy Derby and his team in Subic put on a great Mid Term Convention! Our recruiting team this term (139 recruiters and counting) really got after it. Our Legislative team made a difference in the halls of Congress! Our team of Council Members executed their responsibilities independently, effectively and aggressively. Our teams of District and Post Commanders lead from the front and the core of our organization, our members, did what they always do. They got after it in their communities, in their posts, in their Districts and in their countries supporting those in need and demonstrating why the VFW continues to be the leading Veterans support organization in the world and the Department of Pacific Areas continues to LEAD that organization by demonstrating on a daily basis that NOBODY DOES MORE FOR VETERANS than we do.

To the DREAM TEAM of 2024-2025, I'm obliged to you all. I knew going in this was going to be a one for the ages, an ALL DPA Team, but you exceeded all expectations and knocked it out of the DPA ballpark.

**Senior Vice Commander** Jack Farrell, THANK YOU!

**Junior Vice Commander** Don Kelley, THANK YOU!

**Quartermaster** Shawn Watson, THANK YOU!

**Chaplain** Robert Chatman, THANK YOU!

**Judge Advocate** Pete Callaghan, THANK YOU!

**Surgeon** Lou Holub, THANK YOU!

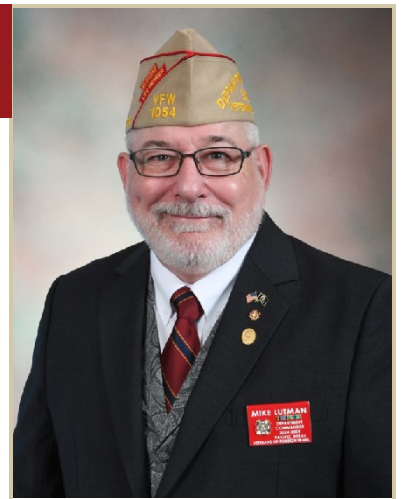
**Adjutant** Kevin Mitchell, THANK YOU!

**Inspector** Brian Hamic, THANK YOU!

**IPDC** Alex Fores THANK YOU!

**Chief of Staff / Historian** Rhett Webber, THANK YOU!

**District Commanders** Walter Fahnstock, David Gley, Delbert Marohl, Manny Guarnuccio, Gary Hendrix and Roscoe McGlynn, THANK YOU! PLEASE personally pass on my thanks to your Post Commanders.



Commander

**Michael Lutman**





# COMMANDER'S CALL

**National Council Member** Ken Stein, THANK YOU!  
**VOD/PP/Teachers Chairman** Robert Madison, THANK YOU!  
**Legacy Life Chairman** Vern Lask, THANK YOU!  
**Life Membership Chairman** Cliff Wilsey, THANK YOU!  
**National/DPA Legislative Chairman** and **MOC BIG BUG** Randy Himes, THANK YOU!  
**National Recruiter** Larry "L3" Lyons, THANK YOU!  
**Americanism / Loyalty Day Chairman** Caleb Whitaker, THANK YOU!  
**POW/MIA Chairman** Jimmy Collins, THANK YOU!  
**Scouting Chairman** David Metherell, THANK YOU!  
**Woman's Veterans Programs Chairman** Janet Alford, THANK YOU!

A special shout out to my DPA DSO, Al Turner and his team. Al has worked miracles in restoring and maintaining our Service Officer Program. He has ensured we are on a continued course to grow new ADSOs from within and that effort is bearing fruit even now with several new ADSOs in the pipeline for acceptance and training toward their accreditation. Of course, the core of that team is our HARD WORKING (read that as OVERWORKED) ADSOs. Richard Bronson, Jeff Hanscom, Tony Ritchie, Vern Lask and Genelyn Paz, THANK YOU!!! Without EACH OF YOU, our program does not exist.

A special "THANK YOU" to our webmaster and publisher Alan "Augie" Augustine for the tremendous work he consistently does maintaining our website and putting our Pacific Times Newsletter together. Thanks for the support, Augie. Working with you these last 3 years has been a hoot!

I'd also like to recognize Post 2485 Auxiliary President Rowena Lancelot, her hard working team and all of the family members throughout the DPA who form groups that support their local posts and hopefully, someday, this will all come together to form a DPA Auxiliary. THANK YOU to all those who support VFW Posts and Veterans in the DPA.

Speaking of teams, preparations for the DPA Convention are ongoing and a big THANK YOU to Randy Riggs and his Bangkok, Thailand DPA Convention team for the work they are putting in. Right now, we have about 79 folks attending and this is shaping up to be a very nice convention. The VFW National representative to the DPA Convention this term will be National Junior Vice Commander in Chief Tim Peters. We are also confirming if His Excellency, the United States Ambassador to Thailand, The Honorable Robert Frank Godec will be attending our opening session or not.

One final bit of business (bidness!), Post/District elections should have been completed at this time and congratulations and best wishes to the 2025-26 Team!!! Post Adjutants, please ensure you submit your Election Reports online and to our DPA Adjutant (along with your GO1). As of this writing, we have about 15 posts who have not yet filed an election report. Remember, Post/District-Election Reports must be submitted to National Headquarters to qualify for **ALL AMERICAN**.

Before I close out this article and set the sea and anchor detail one last time, I would like to take a moment to pause and remember the many Comrades we lost this term. As of 30 APR 2025, we lost 368 of our fellow DPA Comrades who are now serving on the staff of the Supreme Commander. Some of them we knew well and loved like brothers and sisters. A great many of them had moved on to other places in the world but they ALL were honored Veterans FIRST and Comrades ALWAYS.



Commander

**Michael Lutman**



# COMMANDER'S CALL

Fair winds and following seas Comrades. See you at Fiddler's Green to splice the mainbrace once again.

From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU! It has been the HONOR of a lifetime to serve as your Commander this term and our great Department these last three years. I respectfully request that you show the same enthusiasm, support and consideration to our incoming Department Commander John "Jack" Farrell and his team as they lead us into the future. Let us come together again in TRUE Comradeship and set aside petty jealousies and trivial personalities for the good of the Department. Let us always be reminded that in serving our country and as VFW members, we share a common bond as Veterans FIRST, Comrades ALWAYS!

THANK YOU ALL!

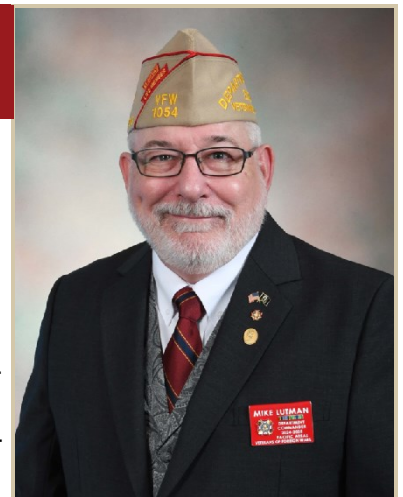
Hooyah DPA! I AM PROUD OF YOU! Carry on!

Michael D. Lutman

Commander

Department of Pacific Areas VFW

**"Veterans First, Comrades Always"**



Department of Pacific Areas

Commander

**Michael Lutman**





# SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

What a year thus far. All due to the efforts of your District and Posts driving hard to reach this years' All-State and All-American requirements. Our ability to meet and exceed the commander in chiefs' goal of 102% has been nothing short of astounding. Not only did we make it, but we also made it by the Mid-Winter Conference and continue to increase. "Well Done" to all our recruiters for their outstanding effort in meeting the goal.

For All-State recognition, we have 2 milestone dates. 15 April to obtain recognition at the DPA Convention in June and 30 June to receive recognition at the Mid-Winter Conference in December.

I send my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Districts and Post that have achieved All-State status by the 15 April milestone and will receive recognition at the June Convention.

## DPA All-State Districts and Posts

- District 2: 1054, 9555, 9612
- District 3: 8180, 9985, 10033, 10223
- District 4: 9957, 10249, 11575, 12146
- District 5: 9876, 9951, 10217, 12074,
- District 7: 124, 2485, 9892, 12224, 12231

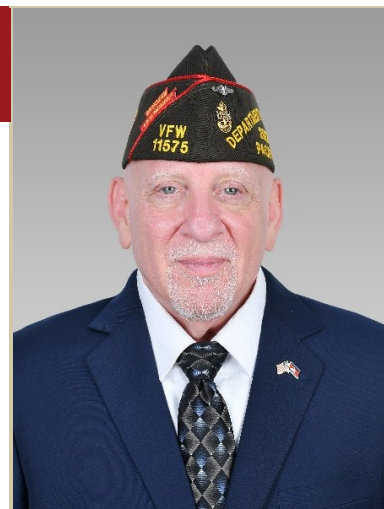
Again, **WELL DONE!!** For those Post, with the exception of 1 Post. You still have time to make it by the second milestone date of 30 June. Keep Charging and don't hesitate to reach out if needed.

**REMINDER:** Please remember to get the hat size or VFW Store certificate request for both your Commander and QM to DPA QM Shawn Watson.

As we look into the new term. Let's keep up the momentum and ever assistance as needed to our fellow Comrades in achieving our goals and support of our programs, Veterans, and Their Families.

Once again, thank you for the trust you have placed in me as your Senior Vice. I hope to see everyone in Bangkok for the celebration of our combined achievements.

John "Jack" Farrell  
Senior Vice Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas  
**Veterans First, Comrades Always**



Senior Vice Commander

**John "Jack" Farrell**

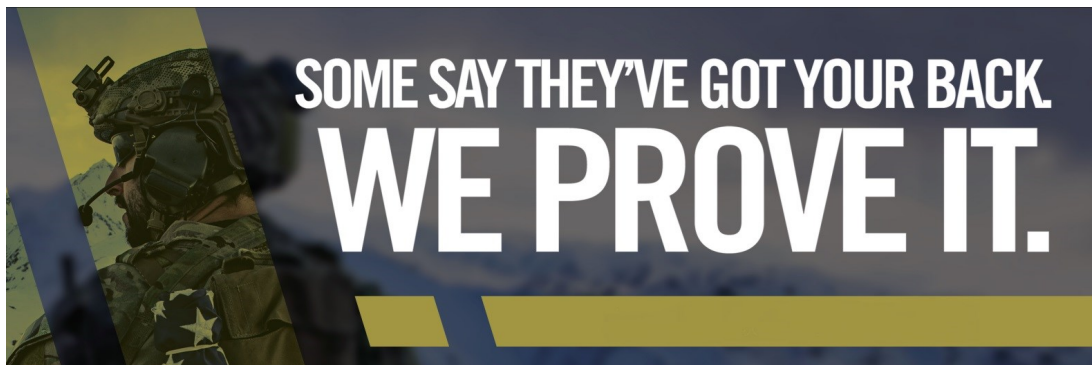


**Sr. Vice Commander**

All State Tracker,  
click [HERE](#)

All State Dashboard,  
click [HERE](#)

All American Dashboard,  
click [HERE](#)



# JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

The Department of Pacific Areas has had an exceptional year so far. The DPA is currently ranked second in membership on the national standings. Additionally, the DPA has achieved 100% in VFW Programs (VOD/PP and VMS) and Buddy Poppies. This accomplishment truly reflects the spirit of "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS." Commendations are due to all Posts and Districts for their excellent work.

A few key tasks remain to finish the year.

Department Outstanding Awards Program: At this stage, I should have received all submissions from the districts. The Awards Committee will review and vote on these entries, with the results to be announced at the DPA Convention.

Awards for the following categories will be selected:

- Outstanding Post Award
- Outstanding Post Member Award
- Outstanding Post Adjutant Award
- Outstanding Post Service Officer Award
- Outstanding Post Quartermaster Award
- Outstanding Post Commander Award
- Outstanding Post Membership Chairman Award
- Outstanding Contributor Non-Member Award
- Outstanding Contributor Business Award
- Outstanding Community Service (Department)

The final requirement for this year's All-American Program is that one community service activity must be conducted as part of a VFW Day of Service event in May. This event must also be registered at VFW Day of Service Sign Up Now no later the June 1st. Please note that the Event Map updates weekly. Therefore, your post event may not appear immediately.



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

**Don Kelley**



**Jr. Vice Commander**

**VFW GUIDE FOR  
COMMUNITY SERVICE  
BEST PRACTICES**



## VFW DAY OF SERVICE — LEADING THE CHARGE TO SERVE

I am anticipating the opportunity to meet with our esteemed DPA colleagues at the convention in Bangkok.

**BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU DO, DO WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN WHILE BEING A  
VETERAN FIRST AND COMRADE ALWAYS.**

Don Kelley  
Junior Vice Commander

[jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org)

**Veterans First, Comrades Always**

**Veteran-led community  
service events kick off  
May 3, 2025.**

**GET INVOLVED NOW**

[vfw.org/DayofService](http://vfw.org/DayofService)

# 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)

*Today, we had the privilege of welcoming U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth to the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial. While here, he paid tribute to the more than 50,000 American and Filipino service members who fought—and fell—in the Pacific during World War II. We shared with him the story of fellow Minnesota native and Medal of Honor recipient Capt. Willibald Bianchi, who's valorous actions on Bataan are some of the most heroic during the War. In addition, the Secretary did the honor of installing the bronze rosette for 2nd Lt. William Bucey, a recently identified Philippine Army officer who was formerly an Unknown buried at the cemetery. The Secretary's visit is a powerful reminder of our shared history and the unbreakable ties between our two nations. Lest We Forget!*





# In the SPOTLIGHT

Volunteer Recognition Ceremony April 18, 2025 at Camp Butler Officers Club



**Cortez Pree**

Since 1997, Cortez has dedicated 16,409 volunteer hours, making a significant impact in Okinawa's community. A Marine Corps retiree with 24 years of service, he has created mentorship programs, coached youth sports, and led initiatives benefiting both military and local communities. Cortez has held leadership roles, including president of the Okinawa Diversity Council and lead volunteer for the Retired Activities Office. His dedication has earned multiple awards, including two Presidential Volunteer Service Gold Medals.

**VOLUNTEERS**

**PROGRAM**

1000 CEREMONY COMMENCEMENT  
1005 OPENING REMARKS BY MR. MICHAEL GIESSEK, DEPUTY ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, MCCS AND DIRECTOR, HCLCS, MCB BUTLER  
1045 GUEST SPEAKER  
1045 HONORARY GENERAL BRIAN N. WOLFORD, MCRPAC  
1050 PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS  
1100 PRESENTATION OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS  
1150 PRESENTATION OF SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM AWARDS  
1205 OPENING REMARKS  
CAPTAIN JERRY DUNHAM, CHAPLAIN  
1210 RECEPTION

**PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**Bronze**

1. Brian Armenta
2. Cortez Pree
3. Shinya Aoki
4. Shinya Bono
5. Travis Bonwell
6. Alicia Bowman
7. Jennifer Brantley
8. Benjamin Castillo
9. Sarah Cormier
10. Anne E. Fong
11. Malaya Glover
12. Jafarua Guerrero-Ahrens
13. Patty Hardisty
14. Lauren Harris
15. Carter Hart
16. Juan Hernandez
17. Jany Hernandez
18. Michelle Horton
19. Jayana Keith
20. Nicole Kuter
21. Christina King
22. Katie Lettichy
23. Danielle Lunsford
24. Jessica Martinez
25. Erin McCracken
26. Isabel McKeith
27. Mary Metellus
28. David Mendez
29. Celine Nigh
30. Micah Rabine
31. Irene Yanezeta Reinos
32. Penelope Riglos
33. Danielle Scott
34. Latoria Scott
35. Kevin Shimko
36. Neely Silva-Zavala
37. Stephanie Singleton
38. Trina Simard
39. John Staves
40. Ashleigh Sweeney
41. Rachael Tipton
42. New Troncoso
43. Brimide Tsuchiko

**Silver**

1. Kimberly Allison
2. Coralya Arceaga
3. Karma Black
4. Weston Brown
5. Resurrection Team Camp
6. Foster Bass
7. Chelsea Couson
8. Beaven Cox
9. Annamaria Eckes
10. Jesus Garduno
11. Jennifer Echete
12. Whitney Geller
13. Lauren Greene
14. Jennifer Hall
15. Terrell Harris
16. Cassandra Holsten
17. Jesse Housh
18. Daymon Jones
19. Jennifer Kennedy
20. Anthony C. Martinoli
21. Alyssa McCoy
22. John Pleson
23. Charles Rabine
24. Seth Rosantoni
25. Sasha Renthro
26. Eric Reyes
27. Raven Ridge
28. Hayleigh Robinson
29. Anthony Rodriguez
30. Marlon Strieke
31. Gabrielle M. Tarr
32. Edgar Cardoso Valsquez
33. Dody Wilson
34. Victor Zazueta

**GOLD**

1. COMMITTEE 3D MLC  
2. J. R. All  
3. Omar Alvarez  
4. Cheryl Aoki  
5. Lailah Aziz  
6. Carline Bone  
7. Joshua Carr  
8. William Clark  
9. Angel I. Conzajo-Valles  
10. Eric Co  
11. Elizabeth Enquist  
12. Eijah T. Farish  
13. Bunty Fang  
14. Paley Farmer  
15. Edgar Rafael Figueroa  
16. Alvarez Flores  
17. James Fortune  
18. Dominique W. Gallimore  
19. Jared Golda  
20. Jessica Gutierrez  
21. Priya Hasham  
22. Julio Mejia Hernandez  
23. Matthew Hicks  
24. Lucas Hicks  
25. Aaliyah Hunt  
26. Little Jimenez-Guzman  
27. Lisa Johnson  
28. Jay McChie  
29. Matthew Morgan  
30. Odessa Sosa  
31. Sara Orizco for Navy Marine Corps Relief Society  
32. Michael Navaras  
33. Peter PenaZasso  
34. Patricia Starratt  
35. Maxwell B. Ballewanger  
36. Jairo J. Rivera  
37. Isabel Salre Sanchezpablo  
38. Arnulfo Sanchezpablo  
39. Hikari Savoy  
40. Emily Schetter  
41. Seyha Seabolt  
42. Keyshawn Shaw  
43. Odessa Sosa  
44. Dawson Tedesco  
45. Alex Trujillo  
46. Jennifer Tucker  
47. Sammy Van  
48. Koven Vanorman  
49. Gustavo Ventura  
50. Nathan Vicente  
51. Justin Vinton  
52. Taylor Weeden  
53. Dylan Witt  
54. Zero Excuses Riders of Okinawa

**VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

1. Omar Alvarez
2. Trevor Ballegasma
3. Isobahn Cherry
4. Carolina Clements
5. Sarah Marie Cormier
6. Beaven Cox
7. Sarah Eady
8. Gabriel Estrada
9. Elise Fembro
10. Bunty Fang
11. Yoko Friesler
12. Jared M. Goffa
13. Marissa Hayler
14. Julio Mejia Hernandez
15. Hannah Hicks
16. Misa Id-Deen
17. Eri Isreal
18. Latoria Jones
19. Izumi Keane
20. Vanita Large
21. Anthony Lemrick
22. David Mendez
23. Kerina Morales
24. Yuriko Powers
25. Morgan Prikin
26. Taylor Rader
27. Sasha Renthro
28. Patrick Sherrick
29. Maria Soeder
30. Odessa Sosa
31. Jessi Stegall
32. Anthony Tamblo
33. Britin Thompson
34. Megumi Tsuchiya-Quinn
35. Jennifer Tucker
36. Kaitlin Vargas
37. Crystal Verplanck
38. Hayden Watson
39. Beavyn Weeks
40. Isaka Welch
41. Brandon Williams

**SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENTS**

1. J. R. All
2. Brian Armenta
3. Solomon Blake
4. Veronica Mamaliga
5. Emmanuel Migiano
6. Sergio Alariz Nava
7. Justin Peterson-Balbuena
8. Alan Sandy Petty
9. Jessi Stegall
10. Jesse Vu

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

**William & Cierra Shanahan**

William Shanahan began volunteering in 2010 with the PTO at Johnson Primary School and later joined Cub Scout Pack 90, after relocating to Okinawa, the contributed to Pack 1 and the Asia Committee. Cierra also volunteers with the Okinawa Pheasant League, dedicating 6,974 hours of service.

**Harold Crawley**

For his exceptional dedication to the Okinawa 1218 Basketball Club, Harold has contributed 4,432 hours from October 5, 2017, to January 22, 2025. As president of two basketball organizations, he organized leagues, tournaments and clinics, recruited coaches and players, and led community outreach. Harold's leadership and commitment to basketball have made a lasting impact, and we are proud to honor his service today.

**Cortez Pree**

Since 1997, Cortez has dedicated 16,409 volunteer hours, making a significant impact in Okinawa's community. A Marine Corps retiree with 24 years of service, he has created mentorship programs, coached youth sports, and led initiatives benefiting both military and local communities. Cortez has held leadership roles, including president of the Okinawa Diversity Council and lead volunteer for the Retired Activities Office. His dedication has earned multiple awards, including two Presidential Volunteer Service Gold Medals.

**VOLUNTEERS**



# DPA QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

Normally I would say that I would be looking forward to seeing everyone at the Department Convention next month. However, I will be on the campaign trail visiting Wyoming and California. I want to wish everyone a very successful Convention.

Speaking of Convention: If you have not paid your Post Delegate fees, please do so prior to the Convention. As of 1 May, 7 Posts have not yet paid. Also, all Posts need to ensure that all quarterly audits have been completed and submitted to me. Per National bylaws, if you have not submitted the quarterly audit reports your Post is in arrears. This would cause your Post to lose its vote. The dashboard on the Department website is up to date.

Since I am not seeking re-election for the Department Quartermaster position, I would like to thank you all for your vote over the last 5 years. It has been an honor.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson  
DPA Quartermaster

**IF YOU'RE EVER WITH  
ME AND SOMEONE  
COMES UP TO ME AND  
STARTS TALKING AND  
I DON'T INTRODUCE YOU,  
IT'S STRICTLY BECAUSE  
I DON'T REMEMBER THEIR  
NAME. SO PLEASE FEEL  
FREE TO BE AWESOME  
AND INTRODUCE  
YOURSELF SO I CAN  
THEN HEAR THEIR NAME  
AND PRETEND I KNEW  
IT ALL ALONG.**



Quartermaster

**Shawn Watson**



Quartermaster

# DPA ADJUTANT

Greetings Comrades,

As we read in this article, the DPA is having another outstanding year led by our Commander Mike Lutman. Just a tremendous year with most of our Programs and, to top it off, we are closing in on 104% good for second place with National. Currently at this writing, we are at 103.69%.

Time is flying, which means our 59th Department Convention is right around the corner. All elections should be completed as you have read this. Please do not forget to enter your Election Report into OMS. This pertains to our Districts also. Remember, each Post needs to register at least one person for the National Convention regardless of if you attend or not. If you fail to complete, National will suspend your Post until your situation is settled.

In closing, this maybe the greatest year of our DPA. Congratulations go out to our Commander Lutman and all members of the DPA who worked so hard this year. We should see our Commander Lutman not only make All-American, but also Triple Crown. Awesome achievement!! Remember **“Veterans FIRST, Comrades ALWAYS”** a fitting theme for any Veterans organization. Wishing you and yours all the best and I hope to see many of you at the Department Convention. Go USA!!!

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Kevin E. Mitchell

Adjutant

Department of Pacific Areas

**Veterans First, Comrades Always**



Adjutant

**Kevin Mitchell**



Adjutant

How to tell you're an adult:

- You gain 30lbs overnight.
- You'd rather sleep than go out.
- Everything hurts.
- Comfort comes before style.
- You have a favorite spatula.
- Everything feels like a chore.
- College students look like 12yr olds.
- You're always annoyed



## NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Hello Comrades,

As promised, I will provide you with any information gleaned during the Washington Conference in March 2025.

**The Foreign Medical Program (FMP):** We were advised the original time frame of 1st quarter 2025 for having direct deposit for reimbursement has slipped until June 2025.

We discussed what we see as a benefit for moving the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Regional Office (RO) or VARO in Pittsburgh which supports 17 of our posts in DPA, to VARO Manila. Our National Veterans Service (NVS) team in our DC office continues to work this with the VA and is waiting for a new Undersecretary for Benefits to be appointed so that can bring this issue directly to him. We will continue to work on this issue.

As always we reminded VFW senior leaders and staff in both our KC & DC offices of the unique nature of our operation out here in the Pacific. Specifically we reminded all they need to ensure the DPA always receives the same opportunities as other departments JVCIC Tim Peters, Assistant Adjutant General Brian Walker, and Director of Public Affairs Rob Couture were in Bangkok visiting with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) where they received a briefing as well as visited a site in Northern Thailand where remains are being recovered. They also visited Korea, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

We will continue to engage with fellow National Council Members as well as National Leadership in order to ensure we are recognized for our Department's many contributions to our great Organization.

Look forward to seeing you all in Bangkok for our DPA Convention in June.

Best wishes and, in comradeship and service,



Kenneth A. Stein  
National Council Member 2022-2028  
Department of Pacific Areas



National Council Member

**Ken Stein**



# YOU FOUGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY. NOW JOIN US IN THE FIGHT FOR VETERANS.

We understand the unique bond you share with other veterans of overseas conflicts because we, too, have been there. No matter which conflict called you to service, we invite you to join us as we continue to fight for all that's good FOR VETERANS.



## VFW DAY OF SERVICE 2025!



# VFW DAY OF SERVICE 2025



From coast to coast, and around the world, VFW members and fellow veterans united with one another to strengthen bonds in their communities as part of the VFW Day of Service in May of 2024.

Now, it's time to gear up for 2025!

The fourth annual VFW Day of Service will kick off May 3, 2025, but the event lasts for the full month. Be sure to let your fellow veterans and Posts know and encourage them to [sign up](#).

### Sign Up for Day of Service 2025

Participating in Day of Service 2025 puts your Post one step closer to achieving All-American status. While you're working toward All-American, your community is benefiting. It's a win-win!

Other Posts and veteran groups are already signing up. Check out what a few of them are doing to get inspiration for your own service project:

Post 6603 in Mansfield, Missouri, is partnering with its local Lions Club to clean up the city's park.

In Fairbanks, Alaska, Post 3269 is cleaning up along a nearby riverbank, and partnering with a fellow VFW Post.

Post 2639, located in Neptune, New Jersey, is distributing hygiene kits to the unhoused in their community.

Did we mention Posts that confirm their events, and participation early will be more likely to have support from our team to earn media coverage? The sooner you confirm participation, the more support we can provide. What will you plan? [We can help you get started!](#)

P.S. Don't miss out on your chance to show America how you're #StillServing with your fellow veterans. [Start making plans now to participate in the 2025 VFW Day of Service!](#)



## MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Willibald Charles Bianchi was born on March 12, 1915, in New Ulm, Minnesota. The only boy among four siblings, he grew up on a poultry farm. After his father's tragic death in a farming accident, Bianchi left high school to take over the farm and support his family. Later, he completed his education at the University of Minnesota Farm School and enrolled at South Dakota State University, majoring in animal science while participating in ROTC and playing football.

Upon graduating in June 1940, Bianchi was commissioned as an Army second lieutenant. Eager to see action, he was deployed to the Philippines in April 1941, joining the 45th Infantry and the Philippine Scouts. His unit was among the first to engage in World War II's Pacific battles after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and invaded the Philippines. Allied forces withdrew to Bataan Peninsula to hold off the enemy.

On February 3, 1942, Bianchi led troops to eliminate two Japanese machine gun nests. Despite being shot twice in the left hand, he switched to his pistol and took out the first nest with grenades. He was shot twice more in the chest but continued fighting from atop a U.S. tank before being critically wounded. After a month of recovery, he returned to duty and was promoted to captain.

On April 9, 1942, Bianchi was captured following the fall of the Philippines, enduring the brutal Bataan Death March. He became a pillar of support for fellow prisoners, helping to lift their spirits and barter for food. Many credited him with saving their lives.

By December 1944, as Allied forces reclaimed the Philippines, Bianchi was transferred to Japan on overcrowded "hell ships." He survived the bombing of one ship, the Oryoku Maru, but was later placed on another, possibly the Enoura Maru, anchored off Taiwan. Tragically, on January 9, 1945, an unmarked ship carrying him was bombed by U.S. Navy aircraft, killing Bianchi.

His bravery was recognized posthumously, and on June 7, 1945, his mother received his Medal of Honor. General Douglas MacArthur later praised Bianchi's sacrifice, crediting soldiers like him for delaying the Japanese advance and aiding the U.S. war effort. His body was never recovered, but his name is memorialized at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu and the Manila American Cemetery.

Bianchi's legacy endures through numerous honors, including a street named after him in New Ulm, the renaming of its American Legion post, and a memorial and scholarship at South Dakota State University. His Medal of Honor and decorations remain on display at the Brown County Historical Society Museum, preserving the memory of his extraordinary valor.

Read full citation here: <https://www.cmoths.org/recipient/willibald-c-bianchi>



# CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrades I pray you and yours are well, in good spirits able to continue our most important advocacy work while advancing towards achieving Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) / District / Post goals for All State-All American and as we continue to pray that our advocacy grow stronger and more influential with increased recruitment. As I reiterate the use of “Buddy checks” for our comrades and families that are sick and shut-in which are important to our mission and a necessary task which can be accomplished with a simple phone call, email, or text to ensure we stay in touch and connected to our Comrades.

As we are preparing to close out our 2024-2025 year, I hope we all accomplished the required mission tasks, Department, District and Post goals. Let this year’s hard work and blessing reflect upon our accomplishments this past year. Congratulations to those that met the Commander’s early bird and recruiting goals. Comrades, prayers for the hard work and countless hours spent this year to ensure DPA requirements were met.

The monthly National Chaplain’s Resource Training meetings are a huge success with many interesting topics and information. Chaplains that are interested in the monthly training are encouraged to participate at the following link [HERE](#).

Prayers are with those seeking offices and appointments as the nomination and election season for the DPA, Districts and Posts for the 2025-2026 term. Prayers throughout DPA as we lean forward in preparation for the annual: Day of Service 2025. While we join veterans, friends, and like-minded individuals for Day of Services 2025. This nationwide community service initiative kicks off Saturday of May 3, 2025, and you can participate ALL month. Good luck to everyone!

For those that will be traveling to Bangkok, Thailand for the Department of Pacific Areas 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Grand of Pacific Areas 56<sup>th</sup> Grand Scratch, I pray and wish you safe travels throughout your journey.

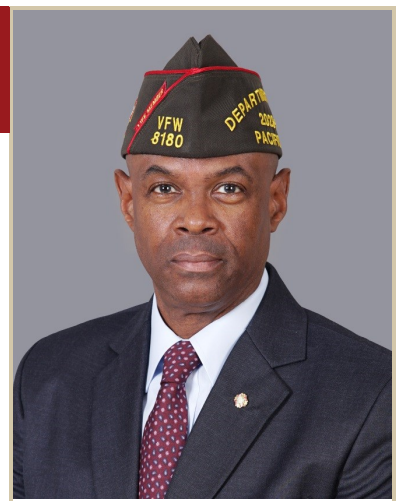
The Chaplain role is both deeply rewarding and profoundly humbling. Since June 2023, I have been tasked with documenting and honoring fallen comrades. Our mission: To ensure their names, spirit, and memory endure – a lasting testament to their sacrifices that we may never forget.

Let us remember the following Comrades who passed away since our last publication March 2025.

Post	Name	Date of Death
9876	Jones, Harley Terrell	12 February 2025
2485	Rathburn, Lex R.	08 April 2025

Cumulative deaths will be published in the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Department of Pacific Areas Convention Book!

Robert S. Chatman  
DPA Chaplain



Chaplain

**Robert Chatman**



*Let us Pray*

*“As comrade after comrade departs, we march on with our ranks growing thinner. Help us to be faithful unto Thee and to one another. Look in mercy on the surviving spouses and children of our departed Comrades, we beseech Thee, and with Thine own tenderness console and comfort those who are bereaved. Amen.”*





## Resources for Chaplains

### The Chaplain's Corner - by State of Missouri Chaplain and National Chaplain 2021 - 2023 Debb Halter

Good introduction to chaplain's duties.

<https://movfw.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=76106>

Or the easier to remember link: <https://movfw.org/chaplainscorner>

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### CHAPLAIN'S GUIDE - by State of Pennsylvania Chaplain and Past National Chaplain Peter Hook

Great resource guide for things you will need along the way.

<https://vfwpa.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=88797>

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### CHAPLAIN'S RESOURCES - by Chaplain (Sky Pilot) Dale A. Iannello, the Military Order of the Cootie

VFW Chaplain material has been consolidated in one location at the national level at: [https://lotcs.org/vfw\\_chaplain.html](https://lotcs.org/vfw_chaplain.html) There you will find a tabbed panel containing information on *Forms, Handbook, Duties, Ethics, Memorial, Prayer, Links and Training*.

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#### Find a Mentor:

Find a mentor who you are comfortable calling and working with to improve your skills and to learn from. In fact, have more than one of them. Everyone has something they are good at so you can learn something from everyone. **ASK QUESTIONS!**

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I recommend you print the newest *Chaplain's handbook* and read it, highlight it, and share it with fellow Chaplains. The latest version can be found at: [https://lotcs.org/Forms/Chaplain/VFW\\_Chaplain/Manuals/VFW%20Chaplain%20Handbook%202023%20May%20VFW%20Standard.pdf](https://lotcs.org/Forms/Chaplain/VFW_Chaplain/Manuals/VFW%20Chaplain%20Handbook%202023%20May%20VFW%20Standard.pdf). Chaplain Peter Hook worked hard to expand it this year. It is a work that grows with us.

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For updates and information on Chaplain items and Zoom training links, email **Chaplain Peter Hook** at: [PeterHook@verizon.net](mailto:PeterHook@verizon.net) and ask him to put you on the newsletter email distribution list. Good information comes through this email.

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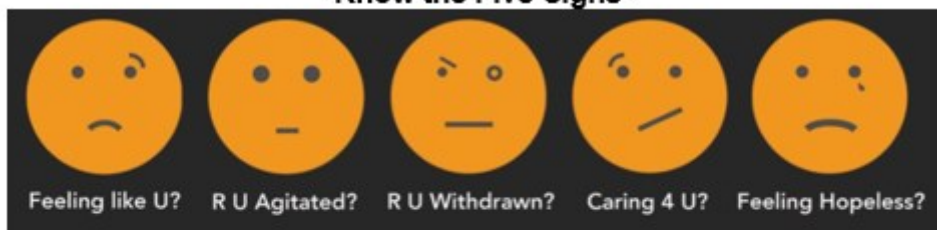
It is highly recommended that chaplains attend **ZOOM** training which is held online on the third **Wednesday** of each month at **7:30 p.m. CST** starting in **September 2023**. The Zoom link comes through the Chaplain's newsletter, so get signed up! Also Chaplains can obtain the link under the "Training" tab at: [https://lotcs.org/vfw\\_chaplain.html](https://lotcs.org/vfw_chaplain.html). This gives you an opportunity to get to know other Chaplains and discuss things that are important to our work. **Good ideas are shared!**

## DEPARTMENT SURGEON

Comrades remain healthy and safe. continue to take care of each other, your families, our Active-duty service members and the less fortunate in our communities, good luck to all completing requirements for All State, All-American programs and complete “Day of Service”.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month (also referred to as Mental Health Month) observed in the US since 1949. The 2025 theme is “Turning Awareness into Action” in addition to Mental Health our awareness should draw attention to Veterans PTSD and suicide, which can be precipitated by mental illnesses. Additionally, Mental Health Awareness Month strives to reduce the stigma (negative attitudes and misconceptions) that surrounds mental illnesses.

### “Know the Five Signs”



### “Practice Healthy Habits of Emotional Wellbeing”



If traveling to Bangkok in June (DPA Convention) be prepared for rainy season, with warm temperatures and occasional showers, temperatures between 26C to 32C, with approximately 7 hours of direct sunlight daily.

CDC Travelers health suggest Delegates should be vigilant about the following disease risk: Measles, Chikungunya / Dengue fever, food poisoning and respiratory illnesses. Don't forget ample supply of your personal prescription, there are many Pharmacies and world class medical facilities located in Bangkok should health issues arise.

This is my last “PT Surgeons Article” for current term, appreciate all the positive feedback and discussions throughout the year as I have learned a lot in my attempt to keep the Commander and Counsel informed. I wish my successor and all elected and appointed DPA Officers a huge success. It has been an Honor and privilege to have served.

Yours In Comradeship

Lou Holub  
DPA Surgeon



# EVERYTHING WE DO, WE DO FOR VETERANS®



Surgeon

**Lou Holub**



Surgeon



# SUCCESS DEMANDS THESE 6 THINGS

## Hard Work

**Success demands hard work.** It's the sweat-equity invested in honing your craft, the countless hours spent perfecting your skills, and the willingness to go the extra mile. Hard work is the cornerstone of achievement, but that doesn't mean your work has to be harder than it needs to be. Work smart and work efficiently. Use your time well. Strive to become a master of your craft.

## Patience

**Success demands patience.** It is rarely an overnight phenomenon. Significant progress is created over a period of time with small daily commitments and actions. Don't underestimate the value of your 1% growth. Be patient, and keep your eyes focused on the long game. Trust that the journey will unfold step by step.

## Sacrifice

**Success demands sacrifice.** Sacrifice means having the willingness to forgo short-term gratification for the promise of greater rewards down the road. If you don't sacrifice for what you want, what you want will become the sacrifice.

*One important thing to remember about sacrifice is that it comes in seasons – it is not a lifestyle. Making sacrifices does not mean that you cannot enjoy life. Work hard when it is time to work hard. Be efficient with your time. Be intentional about what you give your energy to. And remember to reward your sacrifices along the way.*

## Consistency

**Success demands consistency.** Progress is the culmination of hard work and sacrifice over an extended period. Focus on correct repetitions and perform them consistently. Consistency breeds habits that drive you forward, ensuring progress is made even in the smallest increments.

## Discipline

**Success demands discipline.** It is important to understand that discipline is distinct from motivation. Motivation comes and goes, but discipline is a decision. Discipline enables you to stay on track even when distractions appear, and motivation weakens. Make that decision daily. Commit to the actions that are going to propel you toward the goals you desire.

## Self-Confidence

**Self-confidence is where the formula of success comes full circle.** Confidence is gained through consistency over time. Be patient and disciplined during this time. Work hard, make smart sacrifices, and trust that the rewards of your efforts will reveal themselves in due time.

Hard work paves the path, while patience sustains progress. Sacrifice fuels dedication, and consistency propels you forward. Discipline ensures you stay on course, and self-confidence propels you beyond limitations.



## A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

April 11 marked the 34th anniversary of the formal end to the Persian Gulf War, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) continues to honor and pay tribute to the nearly 700,000 military men and women who served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.



On April 11, 1991, less than 90 days after the U.S.-led offensive against Iraq known as Operation Desert Storm began, the United Nations Security Council declared the conditions of Resolution 687 in effect, making the cease-fire official and formally ending the Persian Gulf War. The definitive victory elevated the United States as the preeminent global superpower and the number one partner of choice for its allies around the world.

American soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen served in the Gulf War, ensuring one of the swiftest, most decisive victories in U.S. history. However, the price paid for this victory is often overlooked. We must never forget the cost of war and the 374 dead, 467 wounded, and the two servicemen whose remains have yet to come home.

On behalf of a grateful nation, the VFW remembers this momentous event for our country and for liberty. We continue to recognize the courage of these brave men and women who fought to liberate a nation more than 7,000 miles away from American shores, and whose service left an indelible mark on history.

We honor all Gulf War veterans – men and women who dedicated themselves to accomplishing their mission and protecting freedom halfway around the world. We stay committed to the fight for their health care and benefits on Capitol Hill and say “thank you” for their service and sacrifice more than 34 years ago.

Further reading here: [Office of the Historian—The Gulf Was 1991](#)





# JUDGE ADVOCATE

Comrades,

It's been one heck of a year for Commander Lutman and the Department of Pacific Areas. Recruiting has been over the top and QM Watson will probably go broke buying All-State caps! It just proves what we already know – DPA is consistently one of the top Departments in the VFW. This doesn't happen because we are "lucky". It comes from hard work, concern for other veterans, and commitment to the communities where we live. Despite our geographical challenges, we have been an All-American Department for so many years in a row that I've lost count. We should be proud of what we do.

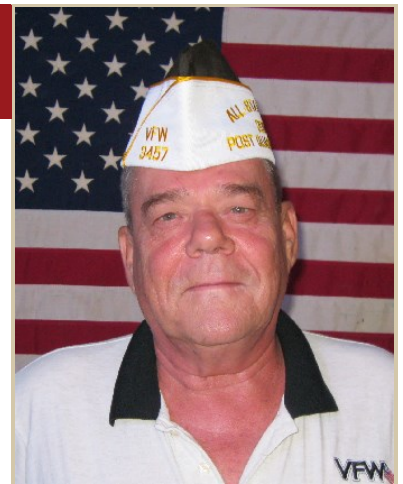
The rules for our Convention in Bangkok are contained in the [DPA By-Laws](#), available on the [DPA website](#). They are pretty simple so if you are planning to attend, you should give them a read. Voting strength is determined by the QM and Adjutant. Remember, there are no longer extra votes for Council members or PDCs. Don't forget to have someone pay the Post per capita tax so you will be able to vote.

It's been a quiet year on the Disciplinary action front; and that's a good thing. We have been following the sage advice of Rodney King.

One final note for Post Commanders and QMs, every Post must register at least one person for the National Convention, whether or not anyone from the Post is attending. Posts failing to do this are considered in arrears, and will not be eligible to vote in District, Department or National Conventions.

Yours In Comradeship,

Pete Callaghan  
Judge Advocate  
Department of Pacific Areas



Judge Advocate

**Pete Callaghan**



## SOME AMAZING FACTS

In September 2005, on the first day of school at Robinson High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, history teacher Martha Cothren did something that left a lasting impression.

With permission from the school superintendent, principal, and building staff, she had every desk removed from her classroom before students arrived. So when her first-period students walked in, they were met with a completely empty room.

Confused, one of them asked, “Ms. Cothren, where are our desks?”

She answered, “You won’t have a desk until you tell me how you’ve earned the right to sit at one.”

They guessed — maybe it was good grades? Good behavior? Each time, she simply said, “No.”

As the day went on, each class came in, puzzled, and left without answers. Word spread quickly. Parents started calling the school. Local news crews even showed up, curious about the teacher who had taken all the desks away.

Finally, during the last period of the day, the mystery was solved.

Ms. Cothren stood at the front of the class and said, “Throughout the entire day, not one of you has been able to tell me what you did to earn the right to sit at these desks. Now I’m going to show you.”

She walked to the classroom door and opened it.

Twenty-seven U.S. military veterans, all in uniform, entered the room — each one carrying a student desk. In silence, they placed the desks in neat rows and then stood along the walls.

As the students watched, realization began to set in.

“These men and women,” Ms. Cothren said, “earned your right to sit at these desks. They gave up their own education, put their lives on hold, and traveled around the world — many into combat — so that you could have the freedom to learn in a safe place.”

She paused, letting it sink in.

“It’s your responsibility now — to be good students, to be responsible citizens. Never forget that your freedoms were paid for by others. Always remember who earned them for you.”

This powerful moment was very real. Martha Cothren, the daughter of a WWII prisoner of war, was later honored as Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year for Arkansas in 2006.

Freedom isn’t free, it’s worth remembering the people who sacrificed so we can enjoy it.





# POW/MIA CHAIRMAN

In 2024 and 2025, numerous events commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II in the Pacific Theater were held. Many of these events focused on the treatment of prisoners of war (POWs) and the issue of missing in action (MIA) personnel. Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) throughout the Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) actively participated in these observances, showcasing their commitment to the motto, **"No One Does More for Veterans"**.

As my term as the DPA POW/MIA Chairman comes to an end, I would like to offer an overview of the United States personnel missing in Action (MIA) in the Pacific Theater during World War II, the Korean War, and the Cold War.

## American Missing in Action

At the end of World War II, 78,750 Americans were classified as MIA, with half lost in the Indo-Pacific. The Korean War added over 8,000 MIAs. The U.S. honors fallen service members through Memorial Day (last Monday in May) and National POW/MIA Recognition Day (third Friday in September), the latter established by President Carter. The 2019 National POW/MIA Flag Act mandates displaying the POW/MIA flag at federal sites like the Capitol and White House.

Post-war recovery transitioned to the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS), now managed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). Ongoing efforts have reduced MIA numbers through remains identification and site investigations.

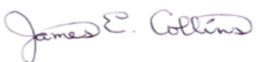
## Current MIA Statistics (2025):

World War II: 71,986 unaccounted ( $\approx 65\%$  in Indo-Pacific)  
Korean War: 7,446  
Vietnam War: 1,544  
Cold War: 126 (108 in Asia, 8 in Europe)  
Gulf Wars/Other: 6

Approximately 75% of unresolved cases are concentrated in the Indo-Pacific, with over 41,000 presumed lost at sea. The DPAA reports 81,137 total unaccounted personnel across all conflicts, while the American Battle Monuments Commission cites 84,768 MIAs (including 4,423 from WWI). These figures reflect the enduring legacy of U.S. military sacrifices and the persistent mission to achieve full accountability.

A reliable source for information on ongoing recovery efforts is the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's Year in Review: <https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Year-In-Review/>

Yours in Comradeship,



James (Jim) Collins  
DPA POW/MIA Chairman



POW/MIA Chairman

**James "Jim" Collins**



## A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Johnny Cash Once Demanded that Kris Kristofferson, who was a janitor at the time for Columbia Records, Be allowed to sit in on one of his recording sessions. And it all started with Kristofferson being banned from Johnny's recording sessions...Kris in his own words.

Kristofferson: "I almost got fired one time because a couple of songwriters crashed the session, and they were trying to pitch him a gospel album. And for some reason the woman who was the secretary to the producer blamed me for letting them in there and tried to get me fired.

And so the next night my boss came down and said "I don't think you should go to John's session tonight," which was heartbreaking for me because I lived for those recording sessions....But I understood it."

Johnny was not happy to hear that Kris wouldn't be sitting in on the recording session.

Kristofferson: "I hid down in the vault of the recording studio and was erasing tapes down there or doing some kind of busy work, and John appeared down there in the basement.

He said "I understand you're not coming to the session."

I said "No, I've got a lot of work to do down here, I can't.

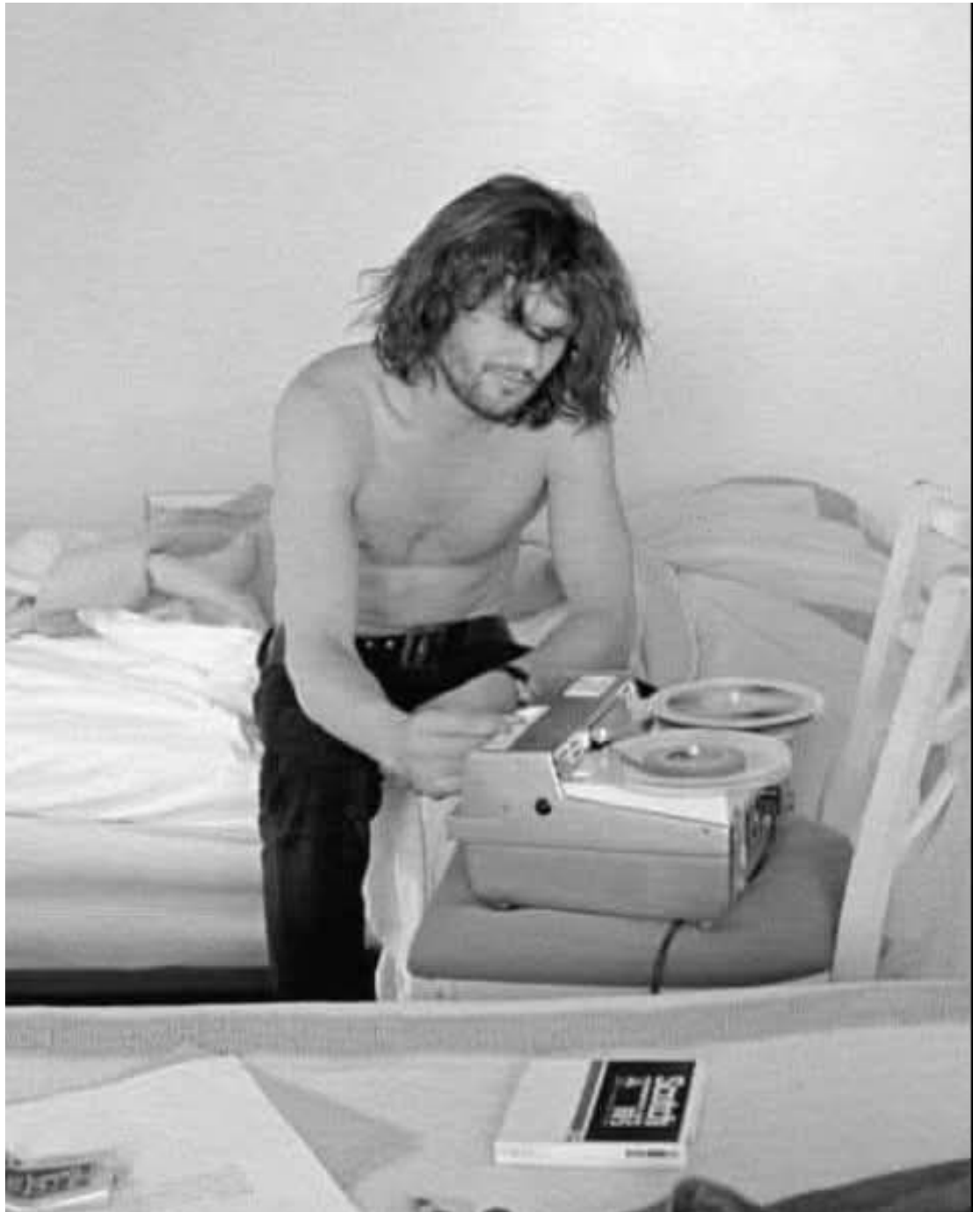
He said "Well I just wanted to tell you I'm not gonna record until you come up there.

So I had to go up there and sit on the floor.

Kristofferson: "And here I was, the janitor, and I'm sitting on the floor and this woman who tried to get me fired was watching me and the whole session. It was the most uncomfortable I've ever been in my life.

But I thought it was the measure of the man. He always stood up for the underdog....And that's something I've tried to live up to. He's been a good example."

Kristofferson said this whole experience was an example of who Johnny Cash really was.





# LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Comrades, with the March 2025 Washington Conference now in the books, it was a pleasure taking DPA CDR Lutman, National Council member Stine and the Early Bird winner around the halls of congress. This year we had schedules to meet with the Legislative Assistant from the Office of Congresswoman King-Hinds, Ms. Ewing and Legislative Assistant from the office of Congressman Moylan, Mr. Lukas and Ms. Braiotta. We pitched the VFW March PRIORITIES which consist of the following issues:

- Unaddressed Toxic Exposures: this is an extension to the PACT Act bill to have the VA report on all newly found toxic exposures to be added.
- Transition from Service: (TAP Promotion Act) to codify VA's practice of including accredited claims representatives from national, state, and local organizations in joining TAP classes.
- **UPDATE:** Congress re-introduced on 03/05/2025, bill H.R. 1845 TAP Promotion Act.
- Exploring Alternative PTSD Treatments: Direct the Department of Defense and VA to implement innovative PTSD treatments currently used in the private sector. Direct VA to review its current mental health treatments and prescribing practices to address the possible over-reliance on pharmaceutical interventions.
- Cracking Down on Predatory Claims Companies: The VFW is concerned that bad actors are preying on veterans by skimming their earned Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits. Pass legislation that would prohibit the exploitation of veterans and survivors by unscrupulous Claim Sharks and strengthen the accreditation system.
- **UPDATE:** Under the 119th Congress (2025-2026) re-introduced as, H.R.1732 - GUARD VA Benefits Act.
- Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025: To allow any day in uniform for which military pay is received to count toward Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility, creating equity for National Guard and Reserve members
- Retirement and Military Personnel: For more than two decades, Congress has failed to address the long-standing injustice of withholding military retirement pay from disabled veterans. Department of Defense (DOD) military retirement pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation are separate, distinct benefits earned for different reasons, yet
- Congress continues to wrongly treat their concurrent receipt as "double-dipping." The VFW believes this policy
- is fundamentally unfair,
- **UPDATE:** Congress re-introduced, bill H.R. 2102 Major Richard Star Act

Randell E Himes  
DPA Legislative Chairman  
[legdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:legdpa@vfwpacific.org)  
National Legislative Committee  
[rehimes@gmail.com](mailto:rehimes@gmail.com)  
1-815-408-2454



Legislative Chairman

**Randell Himes**



**2024 PRIORITY GOALS**



**VFW ACTION ALERT**



**ACTION CORPS**  
*Sign up today!*

If you are interested in keeping track of these bills. Signing up for the ACTION CORP newsletter. Click this link: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>.

# BIG BUG SQUEAKS

## Grand Commander Himes

(A.K.A., Biggest Big Bug)

**“communicate, Communicate, COMMUNICATE”**

Comrades & Cooties, well this is the last input I will have being the Biggest Big Bug for the Grand of Pacific Areas. Just to let everyone know it looks like we will have three or four of our Pup Tents in the running for Supreme ALL STAR. PT 1, PT, 6 and PT 15. In a close running is PT 7. Let's get on the ball and finish this year off with a bang.

As I always say, Gents, Ladies, and most of all my Brother and Sisters in arms, we all need to make the TIME to visit or CALL, those VETERANS's that are sick or laying in the Beds of WHITE.

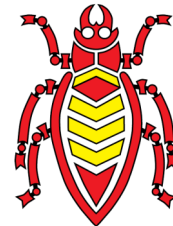
There have been call out for the Donation of BLOOD and other items for our Brothers..... Comrades & Cooties, we need to strive to the challenges and take care of our older VETERAN BROTHERS in their time of need. Show support to their spouses and children.

If you think you have been doing the hard work and would like to join the ranks of the Honor Side of the VFW, contact one of our Cooties and let us know.

**KEEP'em SMILING in BEDS of WHITE !!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Yours in L.O.T.C.S.,

Randell E. Himes  
GPA Biggest Big Bug  
PT 1 CCDB  
PT 1 Cootie 1251  
[rehimes@gmail.com](mailto:rehimes@gmail.com)  
[cdgrd@vfwpacific.org](mailto:cdgrd@vfwpacific.org)

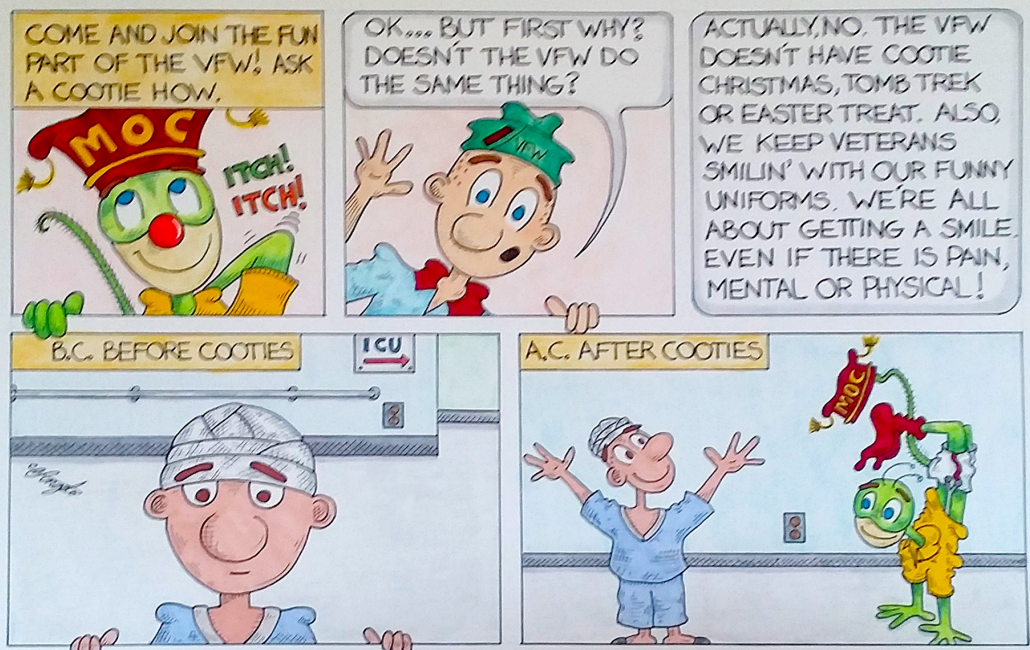


**Big Bug**

**Randell Himes**



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for Websites





## PAID ADVERTISEMENT



# DR. NITI NAVANIMITKUL

## MEN'S HEALTH THAILAND

Dr. Niti Navanimitkul stands as a leading authority in men's health in Thailand, combining advanced medical expertise with a patient-centered philosophy. His career reflects a commitment to innovation, education, and holistic care, positioning him as a trusted figure in urology and male wellness.

### Qualifications & Specialized Training

Dr. Niti's journey began at a top Thai university, where he earned his medical degree and discovered his passion for urology. He pursued advanced training in men's health, focusing on reproductive, urinary, and sexual health. His fellowships at renowned institutions equipped him with cutting-edge techniques, particularly in minimally invasive procedures.

### Professional Excellence

As a full-time physician at Bangkok Hospital Pattaya, Dr. Niti collaborates with multidisciplinary teams to address complex cases. His practice emphasizes:

- Penile Prosthesis Surgery: Thailand's foremost specialist, with over 70 successful cases and a 99.99% success rate.
- UroLift for BPH: Performed 50+ cases (Oct 2024–Jan 2025) with a 99.99% success rate, offering rapid recovery.
- ED Solutions: Stem cell therapy, shockwave treatment, and medication.
- Male Infertility: Diagnostic testing and advanced fertility procedures.
- Prostate Care: Screening, BPH management, and cancer prevention.

### Awards & Recognition

Dr. Niti's contributions have earned accolades for patient care, research, and medical education. He actively shares insights at international conferences, driving advancements in men's health across Southeast Asia.

### Holistic Patient Care

Beyond physical treatment, Dr. Niti prioritizes emotional well-being. His approach includes:

- Personalized consultations to address psychological impacts of conditions like ED or infertility.
- Empowering patients through education on preventive health and lifestyle changes.
- Collaborative care models at Bangkok Hospital Pattaya, ensuring comprehensive support.

### Community Advocacy

Dr. Niti champions men's health awareness through public seminars.

**DR. NITI NAVANIMITKUL**  
MEN'S HEALTH THAILAND

*"If Men's Health is Life's Answer: Restoring masculine wellness with compassionate care, tailored to your needs by a team of US-Certified medical specialists with over a decade of experience."*

- Penile Prosthesis Surgeon
- Sexual Dysfunction Specialist
- Water Vapor Therapy (Rezum) Specialist
- Urologist
- UroLift Specialist

**Refer code "VFW"**  
for a one-time free consultation on your first visit.

Offer applies to the doctor's fee only at the first visit.  
Valid until: December 31, 2025.  
Booking at [niti.menshealth@gmail.com](mailto:niti.menshealth@gmail.com)

# SHAWN WATSON FOR VFW NATIONAL JVC 2028



**Need tickets for Shawns BIG BUCKS Raffle?**

**Contact Larry Lyons at**

**[PDCLyons935@gmail.com](mailto:PDCLyons935@gmail.com)**

<p><b><i>Support Shawn Watson's Bid for National JVC 2028 Self - Family - Veterans</i></b></p> <p><b>Big Bucks Raffle</b></p> <p>Donation \$20,00 per ticket</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Prize    \$5,000,00 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize    \$3,000,00 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize    \$2,000,00</p> <p>Ticket # .....</p> <p>Only 1,000 tickets being sold Drawing as soon as all are sold or at the November 2025 Western Conference</p>	<p>Please print clearly</p> <p>Name: .....</p> <p>Phone Number: .....</p> <p>Email Address: .....</p> <p>Ticket # .....</p>
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**Visit Shawn at his Hospitality Suite at the  
VFW National Convention in Columbus Ohio**



# LETTERS OF INTENT

**LETTER OF INTENT  
DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS  
DEPARTMENT SURGEON  
Patrick "Doc" Higgins**

**Fellow Comrades,**

**I am humbled and honored to once again submit my name for candidacy for Department of Pacific Areas Surgeon for the 2025-2026 term.**

**I have been asked if I am interested in filling this position and I have accepted.**

**I am a 27 year Air Force Veteran and earned eligibility in the VFW through two tours service in Korea. I am proud to be a Silver Legacy Life Member and have been a Life Member since 1994 and having been active in VFW Post 10033 as Commander and as going through the Chairs for Post 10216/8180. I have been Chairman of multiple projects over the years, see list below.**

- **National Aide-De-Camp 2022-2023**
- **All-State Team Post Commanders 2022-2023**
- **National Surgeon General 2017-2018**
- **National Aide-De-Camp 2015-2016**
- **Department Surgeon 2008/09, 2013/14, 2014/15**
- **District III Commander 2011-2012**
- **Post Commander 2010-2011**
- **PT 8 Seam Squirrel 2011-2012**
- **PT 8 Pill Pusher 2013-2015**
- **PP/VOD, Teachers Award**
- **1st Responders, (Fire, EMT, Security Forces, EOD and CBRNE)**

**If elected to serve as the Department Surgeon I pledge to have current and pertinent articles to promote healthy lifestyles for inclusion in our Monthly communication for all Post Surgeons to disseminate.**

**Once again, this is my letter of intent for the Surgeon position and I thank you for your support.**

**YIC**

**Patrick "doc" Higgins  
Department of Pacific Areas**

# LETTERS OF INTENT

## LETTER OF INTENT DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER DAVID B. GLEY, JR.



Fellow Comrades,

With great honor and a humble heart, I am excited to announce my candidacy for Department of Pacific Areas Junior Vice Commander for the 2025-2026 term. Several comrades have encouraged me to step forward, and I am deeply grateful for their support.

I am a 24-year Air Force veteran, having earned my VFW eligibility from service in Operations Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, the Global War on Terrorism, and four tours in South Korea. I am proud to be a Gold Legacy Life member and have been a VFW member since 2014 and active with Post 10216/8180 since 2016.

My VFW/MOC experience includes:

- National Aide-De-Camp, 2021-2023
- National General Resolutions Committee, 2021-2024
- Department VoD/PP/TA Chairman, 2021-2024
- District 3 Commander, 2024-present
- District 3 Trustee, 2019-2021
- District 3 Youth Programs Chairman, 2021-2024
- Post 8180 All-State and All-American Commander, 2019-2020
- Post 8180 Judge Advocate, 2023-present
- Post 8180 Youth Programs Chairman, 2018-2024
- Post 8180 Historian, 2017-present
- Grand All-Star Commander, 2023-2024
- Grand Surgeon, 2020-2021
- Pup Tent Commander, 2020-2021
- Pup Tent Quartermaster, 2023-present

If elected to serve as your Department Junior Vice Commander, I pledge to represent all Veterans in the Department of Pacific Areas and worldwide with "Service above Self." I humbly ask for your confidence and support in allowing me to perform the duties and responsibilities of this position.

Yours in comradeship and service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Gley, Jr."

David B. Gley, Jr.

Gold Legacy Life Member

Candidate for Department of Pacific Areas Junior Vice Commander



# LETTERS OF INTENT



No one does more for Veterans



## Letter of Intent 2025/2026

Greeting Comrades of the Pacific,

Agaian, I have been asked by the incoming CoA of the Pacific Areas to servie as a 3<sup>rd</sup> term Department Chaplain.

It is my pleasure to accept and run for a third term as Department of Pacific Areas, Chaplain. If elected I look forward to working with the new administration of elected officers.

I earned my eligibility to join the Veterans of Foreign Wars after joining the United States Army in 1977 where I had multiple assignments including a deployment to the Middle East during Desert Shield/Storm before retiring in 2003.

I joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars with Post 1193 in Lawton Oklahoma in 2007 and served as Adjutant and served as two time Commander, 2015 and reelected in 2016 for a second term.

I transferred my VFW Membership in 2017 to VFW Post 10216 in Songtan, South Korea. Since then the Post merged and now is Post 8180. Since then I have been an active member in that post and the community.

At the Distict III level I am currently the D3 Chaplain, and held the position in June 2019 and was reelected in 2020. I am currently District III Councilman and Post 8180 Senior Vice Commander. I have been able to help many Veterans and their family members in their times of need and I am willing to expand that now at the Department level.

Besides the VFW I am also a Life Member in the Military Order of the Cootie with Pup Tent 8, Grand of Pacific Areas Hospital Chairman and a Life Member of the VFW National Home along with the Patty Daddy Program that also supports the National Home.

I am fully retired now and willing and able to take on this role and would be honored to serve again, as your Department Chaplain. I thank you for your consideration.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Robert S. Chatman  
VFW Post 8180



# LETTERS OF INTENT

LETTER OF INTENT  
DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS  
QUARTERMASTER  
GEORGE E. BECK JR.



Comrades,

I would like to announce my intent to run for Department of Pacific Areas Quartermaster for the 2025-2026 term. I am a retired Army veteran of 21 years' service. I am a Gold Legacy Life member of the VFW and have been a member since 1997.

My VFW/MOC experience includes:

- Post 10223 Quartermaster, 2003-2010 and 2011-2015
- Post 10223 All American Commander, 2010-2011
- District 3 Quartermaster, 2005-2009 and 2014-present
- District 3 All American Commander, 2011-2012
- DPA Audit Committee, 2020-2024
- Pup Tent Quartermaster, 2006-2020
- Pup Tent Commander, 2020-present
- Grand Audit Committee, 2021-2024
- Assistant Grand Quartermaster, 2023-2024

If elected to serve this great department as your quartermaster I promise to fulfil the requirements of the office to the best of my ability. I respectfully ask for your support and confidence in allowing me to serve the comrades of the Department of the Pacific as their Quartermaster.

Yours in Comradeship



George E. Beck Jr.

Gold Legacy Life Member

Candidate for Department of Pacific Areas Quartermaster



# LETTERS OF INTENT

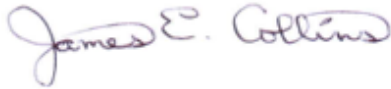
## WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDACY

I, James E. (Jim) Collins, am officially withdrawing my name from consideration for the Department of Pacific (DPA) Junior Vice Commander position for the 2025-2026 term.

I fully support David Glays's nomination to serve as the next Junior Vice Commander of the DPA. I also want to wish the incoming DPA Commander, Jack Farrell, and his team a very productive year.

I will continue to be active in the VFW at the Department, District, and Post levels. After consulting with the DPA leadership and influential VFW members, I may consider resubmitting my nomination for DPA Junior Vice Commander in future years.

Yours in Comradeship,



James (Jim) Collins



# UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES\*



**Independence Day the Fourth of July or July 4\*** is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence of the United States, on July 4, 1776. The Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states. The Congress had voted to declare independence two days earlier, on July 2, but it was not declared until July 4.



**The Korean Armistice signed on 27 July 1953\*** After three years of a bloody and frustrating war, the United States, the People's Republic of China, North Korea, and South Korea agree to an armistice, bringing the fighting of the Korean War to an end. The armistice ended America's first experiment with the Cold War concept of "limited war."



**4 August 1790** - The United States Coast Guard, one of the country's six armed services, is a unique agency of the federal government. We trace our history to 4 August 1790, when the first Congress authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. Known variously through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the Revenue Marine and the Revenue Cutter Service, we expanded in size and responsibilities as the nation grew. Learn more: <https://www.history.uscg.mil/home/history-program/>



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



**August 31 - End of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2010\*** August 31, 2021 marks the 11th Anniversary of the End of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On August 31, 2010, President Barack Obama declared the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Learn more: <https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/military/war-in-iraq.html> <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/iraq-war>

## Other Important Dates

### September 2 - V-J Day: Japan Signed Formal Surrender (1945)\*

First Monday of September - Labor Day

September 11 - Patriots Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance\* September 14 - VFW Auxiliary Founded (1914)

September 17 - Constitution and Citizenship Day

September 18 - U.S. Air Force Established (1947)

### 3rd Friday in September - POW/MIA Recognition Day\*

September 29 - VFW Founded in 1899

### October 9 - Start of Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan 2001\*

October 13 - U.S. Navy Established (1775)

### October 18 - Recognition of Women in Military Service\*

**\*Posts should arrange special ceremonies and all commanders shall alert comrades to their obligations for the appropriate commemoration date.**



## DPA WEBSITE SPONSORS



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### 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. Contact the Webmaster at [webdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:webdpa@vfwpacific.org) or The Pacific Times Editor at [pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org](mailto:pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org) for information on how to submit your Sponsors.