



No one does more for Veterans

"Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed"

Volume XXIX, Number 6

July/August 2026

FREE

Our 2026 Priority Goals

Carrying the Voice of 18 million Veterans

Budget: To fully fund relevant programs for veterans, service members, and their families.

Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs: To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits.

Education, Employment and Transition Assistance: To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service.

Health Care: To ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares.

Military Readiness: To maintain a strong and ready all-volunteer force capable of protecting America interests.

National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA: To fully support the all-volunteer force, protect our nation's citizens and defend American interests around the world,

Click [HERE](#) For Legislative Priorities and 2026 Priority Goals.

Click [HERE](#) to read about VFW Pending Legislation.

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**2026
PRIORITY
GOALS**

*Delivering the promise to our
veterans, service members,
and their families.*



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



COMMANDER'S CALL

Comrades,

I am deeply humbled by the trust you have placed in me to lead the great Department of Pacific Areas for the 2026–2027 term.

We stand on a unique and powerful foundation. Across oceans, borders, and cultures, the Department of Pacific Areas has consistently demonstrated true resilience.

As we look ahead, our focus must remain firmly on our core mission: fostering camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts, serving veterans, the military, and our communities, and advocating for all veterans.

Our mission is not only to preserve our Posts, but to help them grow through one guiding theme: “**Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed**” through mentorship and top-down training.

We know the transition from military to civilian life can be difficult. Many of our newest veterans from post-9/11 conflicts face challenges with employment, VA claims, and mental health. Who better to guide them through civilian life than those who have worn the uniform and walked that road before?

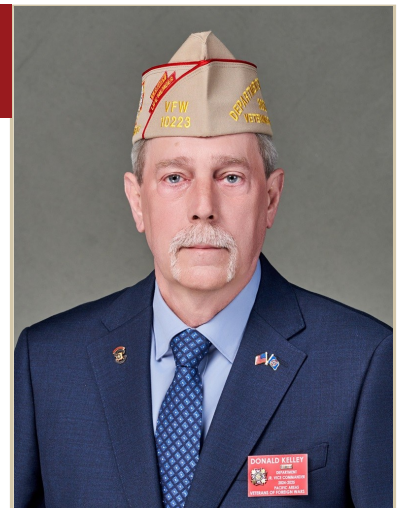
Mentorship is the lifeblood of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It ensures no comrade is left behind. But we cannot depend on informal, inconsistent mentorship. To truly succeed, we will implement a deliberate system of top-down training.

What does this mean for our Department?

- **Department-to-District and Post Leadership:** We will require structured leadership training beginning at the Department level. Our elected officers will have the latest resources, bylaws, and program knowledge needed to guide District and Post leaders effectively.
- **Post-to-Member Mentorship:** Every new member who walks through our doors—or joins our virtual ranks—will be paired with a seasoned veteran. We will use the CARE concept: Catch them when they join, Ask them to participate, Remember what it felt like to be new, and Engage them.
- **Mentoring Future Leaders:** The future of our Posts, Districts, and Department depends on training those who will follow us. I challenge every seasoned leader to take a newer comrade under your wing this year. Teach our programs, share our legacy, and prepare them to take the guidon.
- **Peer-to-Peer Wellness Mentorship:** The fight against veteran isolation and suicide is won through personal connection. By serving as battle buddies and mentors, we ensure no comrade—no matter how remote their island or country—feels forgotten or left behind.

Through this top-down approach, every leader in the Department of Pacific Areas will know how to mentor, recruit, and retain our comrades.

This mentorship will do more than keep our Posts open—it will make them vibrant centers of camaraderie and community impact. By sharing our knowledge, we empower the next generation of leaders to step forward tomorrow.



Commander

Don Kelley



COMMANDER'S CALL

Let us commit to passing the torch. Let us teach, train, and mentor every veteran who needs us. Together, we can build a stronger, more resilient Department of Pacific Areas.

I urge every seasoned veteran to embrace the role of mentor. Reach into your communities and seek out veterans who need guidance. Remind them that the bond we share did not end with active duty—and it does not fade with distance across oceans.

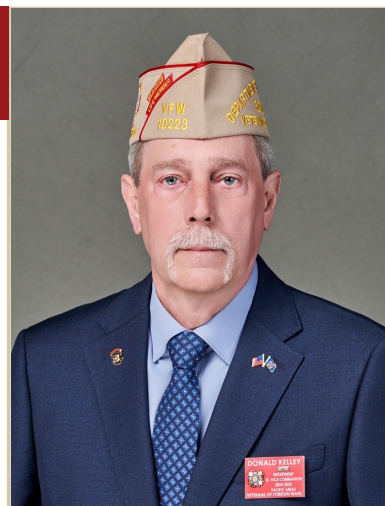
Thank you for this incredible honor. Let us be united, focused, and ready to work.

“No One Does More for Veterans” starts with all of us.

We are the “Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed”.

Respectfully.

Don Kelley
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
“Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed..”



Commander

Don Kelley



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

DPA BRANDING KIT



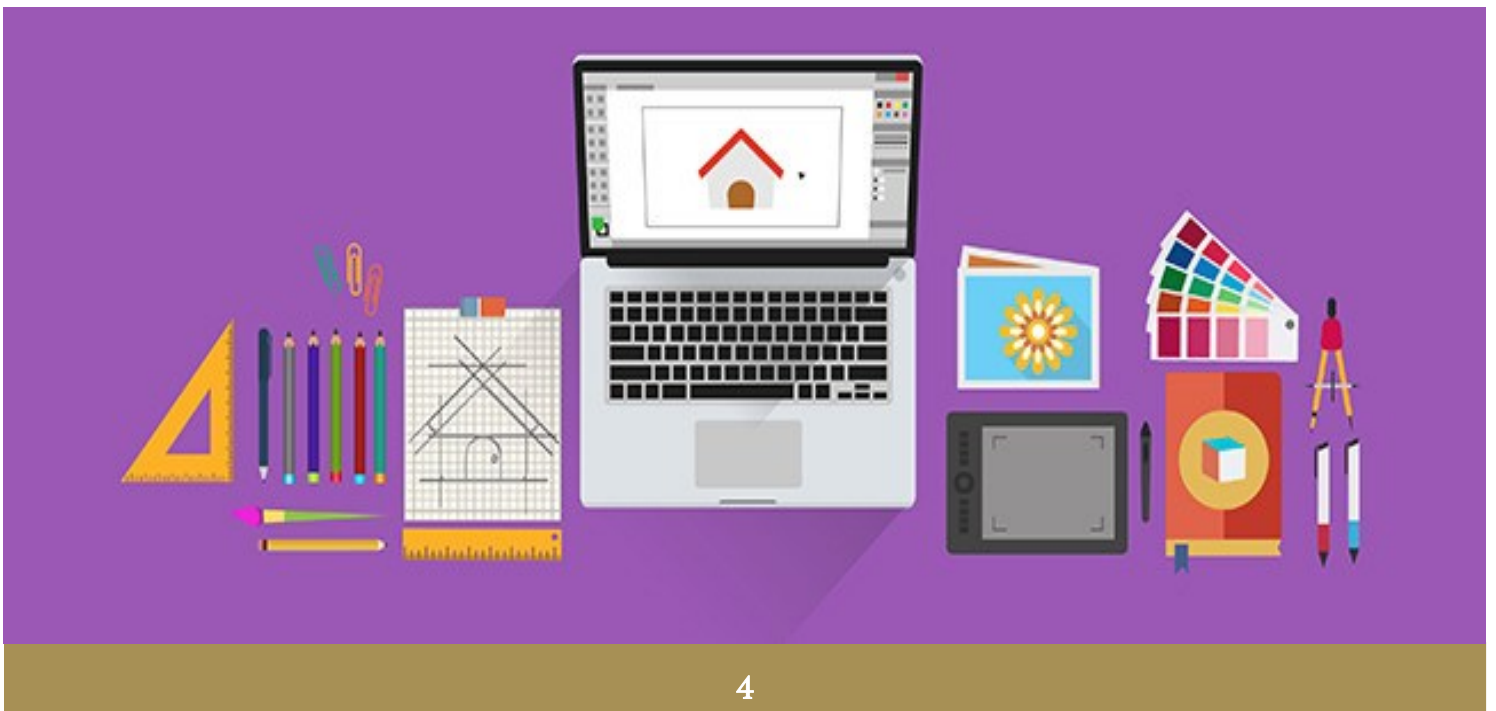
We have created a portal for users to access official artwork, logo's and design guidance. Please click [HERE](#) to access the webpage. You will find links to the following:

[VFW Style Guide](#)

[VFW Pacific Google Drive Folder](#)

[Emblem Guidance DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS](#)

In the future we hope to add all DPA, District and Post's logo's and artwork for users to access when they are creating artwork for flyers, announcements, official items such as convention shirts, etc. Please send all of your inputs to the DPA Webmaster at pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org.



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS SUCCEED

Greetings Comrades,

I want to start with a Happy 250th Birthday, America; I hope everyone had a great 4th of July holiday.

Congratulations to our new commander, Don Kelley and all the other officers elected and appointed to this term, I know we will continue to do great things under your leadership. Congratulations also go out to All-American Immediate Past Commander, Jack Farrell and his team for a great 2025-2026 team. We again solidified the spirit of *"NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS"*. I want to thank the DPA for electing me as your SVC; I pledge to do my best and execute CDR Kelley's goals for the coming year.

The All-American and All-State program books are available, please make sure to review them and ensure your Post and District leadership has them and understands them. I also encourage you to read the requirements out during your first meeting of the year. Start strategizing and attacking now and not wait until after the Mid-Winter Conference to figure it out. Below are the requirements, please read carefully as there are some changes from the normal on dates.

The National program book is located at <https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/membership-recruiting-and-retention> goes into further detail on the awards.

- ◆ Individual Recruiting awards go to recruiters that hit 5, 10, 15, 25, 50, 75, and 100 members.
- ◆ Early Bird award will go to the top two Posts in each division on 1 Jan.
- ◆ Legacy Life Membership Acquisition awards go to Posts that hit 25, 50, 75, 100, 250, and 500 Legacy life members.
- ◆ Recruiting and Retention award goes to the top two Posts in each division at End-of-Year.
- ◆ Quarterly CIC Challenge awards Posts with the most points earned through membership.
- ◆ For All-American Post commander recognition, the Post must be in the top 20 within the division otherwise, only the Post gets the recognition.

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



Department of Pacific Areas

Senior Vice Commander

David B. Gley Jr.



Sr. Vice Commander



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS SUCCEED.

- ◆ For All-American District commander recognition, the District must be in top 10 within the division otherwise, only the District gets the recognition in top 10 within the division otherwise, only the District gets the recognition.

Post All-American Criteria:

- ◆ Posts must meet the divisional membership quota:

Division	Membership	Posts	Quota
1	501 – ---	1054, 9612, 8180, 10033, 10223, 9723, and 2485	103%
2	351 – 500	9555, 9876, 11447, and 3457	104%
3	246 – 350	124, 2917, 9951, 12146, 10249, 9957, and 9985	105%
4	190 – 245	1509 and 9982	106%
5	150 – 189	10217	107%
6	125 – 149	11575	108%
7	105 – 124	12074	109%
8	90 – 104	12163, 12130, and 12231	110%
11	10 – 49	12224	113%

- ◆ Reach 80% retention of Prior year annual members:
 - * Individual Recruiting awards go to recruiters that hit 5, 10, 15, 25, 50, 75, and 100 members.
 - * Retention Rate =
$$\frac{\text{Prior Year annual Members in Good Standing minus Expired Members}}{\text{Prior Year Annual Members in Good Standing}}$$
- ◆ Must have an election report submitted and be in good standing.
- ◆ Meet the following program participation criteria:
 - * Voice of Democracy – 1 entry to District or \$125 donation to the NVS donation link.
 - * Patriots Pen – 1 entry to District or \$125 donation to the NVS donation link.
 - * Teachers Award – 1 entry to District or \$100 donation to the NVS donation link.
 - * Entries submitted to the program dashboard by 31 Jan.
- ◆ National Veterans Service (NVS) program donation of \$125 via the programs dashboard on the NVS (old VMS) donation link.
- ◆ DPAA donation of \$75 via the NVS donation link.
- ◆ Meet the following community service requirements:
 - * Participate in a VFW Day of Service event in May and register by 1 Jun.
 - * Submit at least 1 CSR quarterly (Jul-Sep, Oct-Dec, Jan-Mar, and Apr-Jun) via our Department page.
 - * Show a 5% increase in total community service over last year.
- ◆ Must purchase at least 5 Buddy Poppies per member with a minimum of 500.



David B. Gley Jr.



Sr. Vice Commander



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS SUCCEED

District All-American Criteria:

- ◆ Membership of 100%+1.
- ◆ Must have an election report submitted and be in good standing.
- ◆ Meet the following program participation criteria:
 - * Voice of Democracy – 1 entry to Department or \$125 donation to the NVS donation link.
 - * Patriots Pen – 1 entry to Department or \$125 donation to the NVS donation link.
 - * Teachers Award – 1 entry to Department or \$100 donation to the NVS donation link.
 - * Entries submitted to the program dashboard by 31 Jan.
- ◆ Must finish in the top 20 Districts in their division.

Commander Kelley's All-State program is heavy on mentorship and training at all levels. It will have required training done by December. The training will be provided at least twice from Department Officers to both Districts and Posts.

- ◆ Recruiting from CNR Larry Lyons
- ◆ All-State/All-American Programs and Dashboard from SVC David Gley
- ◆ CSRs from JVC Lou Holub
- ◆ Quartermaster/Trustees from QM George Beck
- ◆ Benefits Advisor from DSO Vern Lask

The Department program book is located at <https://vfwpacific.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=156026> goes into further detail on the awards.

- ◆ Post and District Early Bird membership award ends 10 Dec.
- ◆ 25-member recruiter award by 31 Oct.
- ◆ Individual Recruiting Program awards at every 5 members and additional award at 1-5, 15, 30, 50, 100+, 200+ members.
- ◆ Posts with 500+ members receive a \$400 stipend at every 10 new/reinstated members.
- ◆ Posts with 500 or less members receive a \$400 stipend at every 5 new/reinstated members.
- ◆ Every 5 annual to life conversions, the Post receives a \$250 stipend.

Post All-State Criteria

- ◆ Maintain Nationally approved bylaws.
- ◆ All members responsible for finances or property bonded by 31 Aug.
- ◆ Complete the Department inspection by 31 Dec.
- ◆ Achieve 100%+1 in membership.
- ◆ CDR, SVC, JVC, BA, QM, Trustees attend training NLT 31 Dec.
- ◆ Must have an appointed Benefits Advisor (BA).
- ◆ Must submit all quarterly audits to the Department QM for Jun, Sep, Dec, and Mar.
 - * Must be accepted by the Department QM, NLT the final day of the month after the audit: (31 Jul, 31 Oct, 31 Jan, and 30 Apr).
 - * Patriots Pen – 1 entry to District or \$125 donation to the NVS donation link.



Department of Pacific Areas

Senior Vice Commander

David B. Gley Jr.



Sr. Vice Commander



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS SUCCEED.

- * Teachers Award – 1 entry to District or \$100 donation to the NVS donation link.
- * Entries submitted to the program dashboard by 31 Jan.
- ◆ Must submit 8 CSRs per quarter 1 Jul-30 Jun (Jul-Sep, Oct-Dec, Jan-Mar, Apr-Jun).
- ◆ Meet the following program participation criteria:
 - * Voice of Democracy – 1 entry to District or \$125 donation to the NVS donation link.
- ◆ NVS donation of \$125 via the programs dashboard.
- ◆ Have 1 new or upgraded Legacy Life member.
- ◆ Must purchase 500 Buddy Poppies.
- ◆ Submit a Department award for at least 1 Post nominee to District by 30 Mar.
- ◆ Must purchase a full-page ad in the “Year in Review” for \$200.
- ◆ Commander required to attend all District meetings and present a report; the Post SVC or JVC are the only ones allowed to attend in their stead.

District All-State Criteria

- ◆ Maintain Nationally approved bylaws.
- ◆ All members responsible for finances or property bonded by 31 Aug.
- ◆ Complete the Department inspection by 31 Dec.
 - * All Posts must be inspected as well.
- ◆ Achieve 100%+1 in membership.
- ◆ SVC, BA, QM, Trustees attend training NLT 31 Dec.
- ◆ Must have an appointed Benefits Advisor (BA).
- ◆ Must submit all audits to and be accepted by the Department QM, NLT the final day of the month after the audit is signed.
- ◆ Meet the following program participation criteria:
 - * Voice of Democracy – 1 entry to District or \$125 donation to the NVS donation link.
 - * Patriots Pen – 1 entry to District or \$125 donation to the NVS donation link.
 - * Entries submitted to the program dashboard by 31 Jan.
- ◆ NVS donation of \$125 via the programs dashboard.
- ◆ Have a new or upgraded Legacy Life member for a number equal to the number of Posts in the District.
- ◆ Submit a Department award for at least 1 District nominee to District by 15 Apr.
- ◆ Each Post must have one member involved in District judging.
- ◆ Must purchase a full-page ad in the “Year in Review” for \$200.

I plan on keeping the same schedule as last year with keeping the All-State Dashboard up-to-date by Sunday evening.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

David B. Gley, Jr.

Senior Vice Commander

Department of Pacific Areas

svedpa@vfwpacific.org

dbgley@gmail.com

“Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed..”



Department of Pacific Areas

Senior Vice Commander

David B. Gley Jr.



Sr. Vice Commander



JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS SUCCEED.

Comrades,

It's an honor to serve as your Junior Vice Commander. Congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed Officers, Committee Chairs and Comrades!

This year begins with seasoned leadership Commander Kelley and Senior Vice Commander Gley at the helm. Let's embrace the momentum from an outstanding 2025-2026 term "Aiming High" across all Districts and Posts while maintaining a steady pace with targets/objectives towards achieving "All-State and All-American". (AS-AA).

Strategize to complete AS-AA requirements by the Mid-Winter COFA to avoid the last-minute scramble.

CSRs: have been reset to match National quarterly counts: 1st qtr. Jul -Sep, Oct to Dec, etc., Let's be reminded that the **"C" in CSR** stands for Community "giving; not receiving", if the activity benefits the community providing, donating gifts/services, volunteering and /or giving information it is a CSR;

If the activity benefits the Post receiving funds, services or recruiting it is not a reportable CSR.

I will review each activity subjectively in an attempt to provide feedback. If you need any help, please feel free to contact me jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org; or refer to the VFW CSR Best Practices.

-We plan 4 training dates starting in August through Oct. see dates and times below.

- ALL-AMERICAN: minimum 1 CSR per quarter (1 Jul-30 Jun)
- ALL-STATE: minimum 8 CSRs per quarter or 2 /month (1 Jul -30 Jun)

Wed 12 August 2026, (1hr) 16:00 Thai/Cambodia +1 17:00 Aus, PI & Taiwan +2 18:00 Japan (OKI) & Korea +3 19:00 Guam / Saipan	Sat 22 August 2026, (1hr) 12:00 Thai/Cambodia +1 13:00 Aus, PI & Taiwan +2 14:00 Japan (OKI) & Korea +3 15:00 Guam / Saipan
Wed 09 Sep 2026, (1hr) 16:00 Thai/Cambodia +1 17:00 Aus, PI & Taiwan +2 18:00 Japan (OKI) & Korea +3 19:00 Guam / Saipan	Sun 11 Oct 2026, (1hr) 12:00 Thai/Cambodia +1 13:00 Aus, PI & Taiwan +2 14:00 Japan (OKI) & Korea +3 15:00 Guam / Saipan

Training Dates for **Dist., Post JVC's** VIA ZOOM: (others are welcome)

PROGRAMS: Let's get a head start by engaging early with Schools, Scouts, ROTC, CAP, and Emergency Services agencies now to promote the scholarships and awards that the VFW offers.

Make it a priority to reach out to DODEA, international schools and home-schooled students/parents in your area; encourage participation in essay contests rather than just making donations. The scholarship programs boosts visibility for your Post and the VFW; it also provides meaningful scholarship opportunities for our youth.

- Action Required: Contact VOD/PP Chairman Bradley E. Harzman early so he can get your post "online program access". Each Post/District Chairman must test their access and report any issues promptly for quick resolution. vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org;



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

Lou Holub



Jr. Vice Commander

**VFW GUIDE FOR
COMMUNITY SERVICE
BEST PRACTICES**



JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS SUCCEED.

- **VOD/PP** (All-State and All-American Requirement – 1 entry for each VOD/PP or donate \$125. Post and District nominees due to Chairman or payment to the NVS donation link off the AA Dashboard (this also includes the payment for the Teachers Award) by 7 Dec 2026. –refer to the “VOD/PP Guide”.
- **Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award**; Due to the Chairman by 7 Dec 2026 – refer to the “Teacher Award Guide”
- **Public Servant and Safety Awards**; Due to me DPA JVC by 1 Jan 2027 – refer to “Instructions”
- **Scouting**: Due to Scouting Chairmen Comrade Walter Fahnestock by 1 Apr 2027, CAP, and ROTC Awards – refer to the “Scouting & Youth Activities Guide”
- **Day of Service Event** in the month of May (All-American Requirement) – Post shall register prior to 15 May 2027 at “DoS Registration”, Don’t wait, select your activity and date by mid-winter COFA, plenty of time for planning/ coordination etc.

Awards: Let’s not overlook the outstanding efforts of our own comrades. Recognizing excellence isn’t just about ceremony—it’s how we retain and motivate members by showing appreciation for their contributions.

- Post should appoint an Awards Chairman to track achievements throughout the Year, start now. Award submissions from Districts are due to me DPA JVC by 15 Apr 2027, provide your score sheet showing a vote from each Post Commander and one additional Post member. All-State Requirement: nominate at least one awardee at both Post and District, due to me DPA JVC NLT 01 May 2027 – refer to “DPA Awards Page”.
- Don’t forget about the **Community Service Award** which are due to me DPA JVC NLT 01 Apr 2027 – reference “Community Service Award”

Buddy Poppy: The All-American requirement is to order 5 Buddy Poppies per member (min 500), All State 500 Buddy Poppies. If you have any questions, please contact DPA QM George Beck at gmdpa@vfpacific.org; — refer to the “Buddy Poppy Guide”

Let’s continue to build on our success forging a strong, sustainable Department by mentoring future leaders – have a backup for every position to ensure continuity and growth. I am looking forward to an outstanding year working alongside Commander Kelly, SVC Gley, and all our exceptional DPA Comrades.

Louis S. Holub
Junior Vice Commander
jvcdpa@vfpacific.org

“Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed..”



Junior Vice Commander

Lou Holub



Jr. Vice Commander

**VFW GUIDE FOR
COMMUNITY SERVICE
BEST PRACTICES**



DPA QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

I would like to congratulate all the new/returning Officers of the Department of Pacific Areas for the 2026-2027 VFW year. Good luck to all Post, Districts and the Department.

BONDS: All Quartermasters have received (email sent on 5 July) the Bond information for the 2026-27 year. If you or any QM you have contact with, did not receive my email, contact me at: qmdpa@vfwpacific.org and I will resend the bonding documents. Bond prices are the same as last year and the process is also the same. Transfer the fee to the DPA Navy Fed CU account and send me the completed application as soon as you can. As I said last year, I would like to have everything completed by 15 August. Your current bond is only good through 31 August of this year. In order to be All State eligible, “Quartermaster, as well as any individual responsible for District finances or assets, shall be properly bonded in accordance with Section 703 of the National By-Laws no later than 31 August 2026.”

AUDITS: Per the All State Program and National Bylaws, Post “Must submit all quarterly Audits—June, September, December, and March to the Department Quartermaster. Each Audit must be sent to and accepted by the Department Quartermaster at: qmdpa@vfwpacific.org no later than the final day of the first month after the Audit period ends. Quarterly due dates are as follows:

Apr - Jun 2026 Audit is due to Department QM NLT 31 Jul 26

Jul - Sep 2026 Audit is due to Department QM NLT 31 Oct 26

Oct - Dec 2026 Audit is due to Department QM NLT 31 Jan 27

Jan - Mar 2027 Audit is due to Department QM NLT 30 Apr 27

Buddy Poppies: Also on the All-State requirements. “Must purchase 500 Buddy Poppies through the Department Quartermaster (form available on the Department website). For questions, contact the Department Quartermaster at: qmdpa@vfwpacific.org“. The order form is available on the DPA web site <https://vfwpacific.org/uploads/Documents/Forms/Buddy-Poppy-Order-Form-2026.pdf>. Just fill out the form and transfer the funds then send it to me at: qmdpa@vfwpacific.org



Quartermaster

George E. Beck Jr.



Quartermaster

INTRODUCTION

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

DPA QUARTERMASTER

I would ask that when transmitting funds to the DPA Navy Fed account, for any reason, please send an email to the gmdpa@vfwpacific.org email address with an explanation of the transmittal. This will help me accurately, and properly, account for your funds. I check my email frequently and will respond as quickly as I can.

As a reminder, please send me your bond applications and quarterly audits as quickly as you can. These are both on a short suspense's and are required for All-State.

If you have any questions on any aspect of the quartermaster duties, please reach out to me. I am here (with Shawn Watson's help) to help you.

George E. Beck Jr.
DPA Quartermaster



George E. Beck Jr.



Quartermaster



INTRODUCTION



DPA ADJUTANT

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS SUCCEED.

Comrades,

As I assume the position of DPA Adjutant, I'd like to thank Commander Don Kelley for appointing me & for the trust he has placed in me. I'll do my best to make routine things routine and to help keep simple things simple. A few administrative notes to District and Post Adjutants:

- All official correspondence will be sent to Districts and Posts using DPA Webmail. Please ensure that you have access, check it frequently, and that you forward emails to the relevant officer for reply or action.
- If your District or Post Election reports and GO1 change, please email the update to me asap.
- Ensure you have a copy of DD214s for all Elected & Appointed officers on file.
- Email a copy of your 2027 Convention Delegate Letters to me.

Note: Many elected and appointed officers in Election Reports show an old U.S. address. Please ask your QM to update addresses and phone numbers in OMS when members transfer into your Post so Election Reports come out correct.

I look forward to another GREAT VFW year serving alongside all of you Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed.

Yours in Comradeship,

Brian Hamic

Adjutant

adjdpa@vfwpacific.org

Department of Pacific Areas

"Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed."



Adjutant

Brian Hamic



Adjutant



NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Greetings Comrades,

We continue to advocate for our comrades here in the Pacific Areas. For issues that are internal to the VFW we communicate with the VFW HQ in KC. But historically most of our advocacy is done through our Washington D.C. Office where they communicate our concerns to Congress, the VA, and the DOW.

When it comes to external issues, please remember we are at the mercy of those three entities, the VFW cannot make changes to US laws, or VA policies. We forward issues that negatively impact on our members to our D.C. office and follow up with them as to how our concerns are addressed.

The message I'm trying to communicate is don't let the naysayers get away with saying the VFW is not doing anything to help our members; we are and we do every day. So let me remind you of our many successes by giving you a few examples of what we have accomplished over the past year.

The most recent example concerns the issue of MAP funding. You may remember at the beginning of this term, all MAP funding was gone by August. So at the National Council Meeting in March, we advised the Council members that this was unsatisfactory for overseas posts. We reminded the other 62 Council members that unlike stateside bases, where troops are in garrison or ships are home-ported, we don't have that luxury here in the Pacific. Due to Operational Security we typically don't know when a unit or ship is arriving in one of our 10 countries or territories, so our MAP requests cannot be pre-planned. Well, we just received an email from the Adjutant General advising that 15,000 USD has been set aside for the exclusive use of posts outside the U.S. So we are no longer competing with U.S. based posts for MAP dollars. Our only competition is the 15 posts in Europe. Comrades, this is a big win for our Department.

Let me give you another success story. For many years our focus has been on improving VA's Foreign Medical Program (FMP) reimbursement practices. Our first goal was to eliminate reimbursement to our beneficiaries via paper checks that were being mailed from the U.S. to the Veteran's home address somewhere here in the Pacific. Well that goal was accomplished last year. Now when you file a claim with FMP, you will be reimbursed by direct deposit or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). This deposit will go directly to your U.S. bank account.

The next goal was to ensure providers received reimbursement via EFT, as they were also being paid via paper checks mailed internationally through the U.S. postal service. Due to this archaic practice many health care facilities and physicians began refusing to bill FMP and required payment prior to services being rendered.

That issue will be resolved next month. FMP has announced that beginning in July 2026 overseas providers will be able to receive payment via EFT once they provide the necessary banking information and tax ID number. Another win for the DPA.



Ken Stein



VA
Foreign Medical
Program (FMP)



NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

The other part of the FMP initiative is the establishment of an FMP claims portal that can now be used by beneficiaries for FMP reimbursement. The expectation is this will expedite reimbursement as well as making it easier and more secure.

For additional information and specific instructions on how to use this portal, please contact your post service officer (benefits advisor), or one of our many Assistant Department Service Officers, or Vern Lask our Department Service Officer.

In summary, your Department continues to advocate for all issues that negatively impact our veterans living here in the Pacific Region. These issues include Medicare, TRICARE, VA Educational Benefits, among others. While we work hard and provide significant information and examples of the unique challenges we face living overseas, I ask you again to remember the VA, Congress, or DOW are the ones who make the modifications to existing policies or establish new U.S. laws.

Please continue to keep the leadership team advised of issues adversely affecting you or your family due to the unique nature of residing outside the continental United States. And remember we will always fight to ensure overseas veterans and their families receive the same benefits as those residing in the U.S.

To my comrades,

Best regards,



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

More information [HERE](#).



National Council Member

Ken Stein



VA |
Foreign Medical
Program (FMP)



CERTIFIED NATIONAL RECRUITER

A New Year, A New Commander, however we have the same requirements as years past **RE-CRUIT and RETAIN!**

Where do we start? Before you even begin to start recruiting you need to set your Post Goals for the Year. What do you plan on accomplishing this year? Do you want to make your Post to be All State this year? If so, you need to know what the requirements are to set your Post Goals. The All State and Membership program for the year are already on the DPA WEB Site. Recommend that all members be familiar with these programs.

Do you want your Post to be a VFW National All-American Post or District. Then you also need to be aware of this program. The division size of the larger Posts have changed! Again, I recommend that all Members be aware of this Program. It is on the VFW National WEB Site.

Once you have figured out where you want your Post or District to end up at the end of the year you now need to schedule your recruiting drives. Realizing that all Post do not have military bases out their back door. But there are other ways to recruit at events such as Embassy Outreach Programs, VA Outreach Programs. Shopping Mall and even Hospitals that cater to the Veterans in your area.

In the next couple of weeks I will be scheduling recruiter training, this again is not limited to top 3 chairs. Everyone has been recruited. The knowledge that you have learned now can help you recruit new members. I recommend that all Post set a goal of 105% this will ensure that your Post will continue to grow into the future.

At the Convention in Pattaya last month I passed out Recruiting Material to your District Commanders to pass down to the Posts. One thing That I recommend that your Post orders **"Recruiter Success Pocket Guide"** They are only a dollar a piece and they should be given to new members and maybe some old members that have forgot about recruiting.

In closing the Main thing, you need to know about recruiting is **Knowing the VFW Programs and What We Do!** I am just an email away. Let me know how I can help you. PDCLyons935@gmail.com

Yours always in Comradeship,

Larry Lyons
Certified National Recruiter
Past Department Commander 08/09
Department of Pacific Areas



National Certified Recruiter

Larry Lyons



RECRUITER TRAINING STUDENT GUIDE

Your path toward the skills that you need to recruit new members for your Post.



rev. April 2023

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



MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

James Capers Jr. was born on August 25, 1939, in Bishopville, South Carolina. He currently resides in North Carolina and remains active in the special operations community, mentoring younger Marines and participating in commemorative events. He has also been featured in the documentary “**Iron Major**”, which chronicles his life and military service.

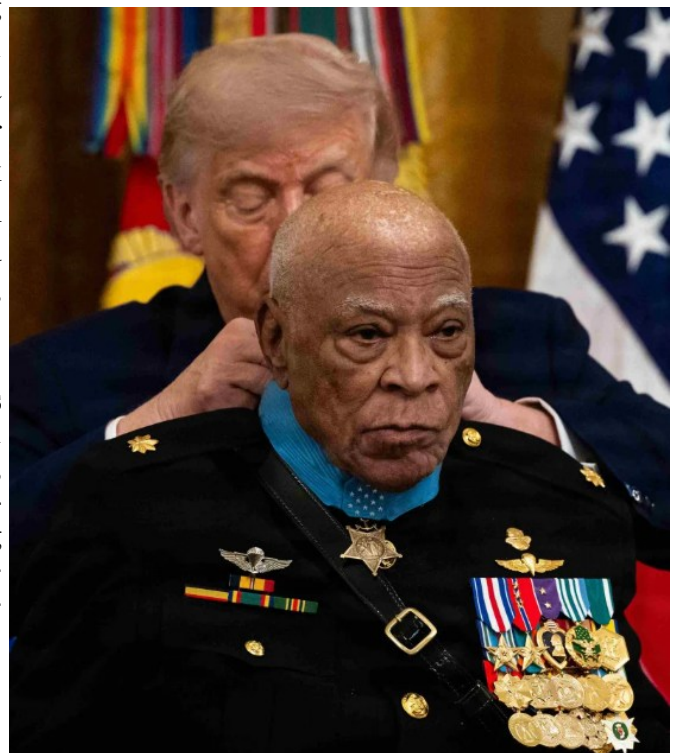
His enlistment marked the beginning of a distinguished military career that would span over two decades. Capers became one of the first African American Marines to receive a **battlefield commission**, rising from enlisted sergeant to officer rank.

He led **Team Broadminded**, a nine-man reconnaissance patrol, on high-risk missions including POW rescues, amphibious assaults, and intelligence-gathering operations deep behind enemy lines. During a mission near **Phu Loc, Vietnam**, from March 31 to April 3, 1967, Capers’ team was ambushed by a numerically superior North Vietnamese force. Despite sustaining 17 wounds, including a broken leg and shrapnel injuries, he continued to lead, coordinate artillery support, and ensure the safe evacuation of all his Marines and their military working dog, King. His actions prevented further casualties and exemplified extraordinary courage and leadership.

Initially awarded the **Bronze Star with “V”** for valor, Capers’ award was later upgraded to the **Silver Star** in 2010. After decades of advocacy by veterans, historians, and congressional action, he was awarded the **Medal of Honor** on June 18, 2026, by President Donald Trump at the White House, nearly 59 years after his heroic actions. He also received multiple Purple Hearts, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and numerous commendations for his service.

Capers broke racial barriers in the Marine Corps, becoming the **first African American to command a Force Recon company** and the first Black enlisted Marine to receive a battlefield commission. He also became the face of a major Marine Corps recruiting campaign targeting young Black men in 1967, symbolizing progress and opportunity within the military. His contributions to reconnaissance tactics and leadership continue to influence modern special operations training.

The Medal of Honor recognizes Capers for “**conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty**” while leading his team in Vietnam, ensuring the survival of all his men despite severe injuries and overwhelming enemy forces cmohs.org. His story exemplifies courage, leadership, and dedication to fellow Marines and the nation.



CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrades,

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as your Department of Pacific Areas Chaplain for the 2026–2027 year. I sincerely thank our Department Commander and the membership for the confidence placed in me. I look forward to serving each of you and supporting our Districts, Posts, Auxiliaries, and families throughout the coming year.

As Veterans of Foreign Wars members, we are committed not only to serving our communities but also to caring for one another. One of the most meaningful ways we fulfill that obligation is through regular **Buddy Checks**. A simple phone call, text message, email, or visit can brighten someone's day and may even save a life. I encourage every Post to make Buddy Checks a regular part of your monthly activities and to ensure that no comrade feels forgotten.

As your Chaplain, I ask each of you to remember those among us who are ill, recovering from surgery, experiencing hardship, grieving the loss of loved ones, or facing loneliness. Your prayers, compassion, and personal outreach demonstrate the true spirit of the VFW.

Throughout the year, I encourage every Post Chaplain to stay engaged with the National VFW Chaplain's monthly training opportunities. These sessions provide valuable information, resources, and best practices that help us better serve our veterans, families, and communities. Continuing education strengthens our ability to fulfill our mission with excellence.

One of my responsibilities is maintaining our Department's TAPS records and ensuring that every departed comrade is honored with dignity and respect. I respectfully ask each Post Quartermaster and Chaplain to submit TAPS information promptly whenever a member passes away. Accurate and timely reporting ensures that every comrade receives the recognition they have earned through their service and membership.

As we begin this new VFW year, let us recommit ourselves to the principles of **Honor, Service, and Fellowship**. Together we can strengthen our Posts, support our communities, mentor the next generation of veterans, and continue building an even stronger Department of Pacific Areas.

May God bless each of you, your families, our deployed service members, our veterans, and the United States of America.

Please never hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you or your Post.

In Comradeship,

Walter Joseph Fahnestock Jr.
Department Chaplain
Department of Pacific Areas



Department of Pacific Areas

Chaplain

Walter J. Fahnestock Jr.



*Let us Pray,
As comrade after
comrade departs,
we march on with
our ranks growing
thinner. Help us to
be faithful to Thee
and to one another.
Look in mercy on
the surviving
spouses and chil-
dren of our depart-
ed Comrades, we
beseech Thee, and
with Thine own ten-
derness console
and comfort those
who are bereaved."
Amen*

DEPARTMENT SURGEON

Congratulations to all newly elected and appointed officers who attended the 60th Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) Convention and Grand of the Pacific (GPA) 57th MOC Grand Scratch, Pattaya City, Thailand to recognize the hard work our Comrades in achieving the VFW National goals at the Department, Districts and Posts, making All State-All American. As another term has ended, let's focus on 2026-2027 being a successful term. As we start this new term I would like to remind everyone to stay healthy and stay alert.

“Key health alerts across Asia include severe mosquito-borne illnesses, respiratory outbreaks, and climate-related occupational hazards. Travelers and residents in [their] region {s} should take preventive measures against Dengue, Measles, and Heat Stress.”

- **Dengue Fever:** Activity is surging across Southeast Asia. Case numbers are notably higher in Vietnam. Travelers should use repellent and wear protective clothing to prevent mosquito bites.
- **Measles:** Travelers returning to countries like Australia from Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines have sparked localized alerts. **Ensure your MMR (Measles-Mumps-Rubella) vaccinations are up to date.**
- **Extreme Heat:** Heat stress management has become a critical public health concern. Rising temperatures and extreme weather events are significantly impacting worker well-being and general health across the continent.
- **Local Weather & Power Alerts:** In the Philippines, communities are monitoring tropical storms, while the Visayas gride has been frequently placed under alerts due to supply constraints.

For more specific, localized advisories at your exact [local area or] destination, refer to the [World Health Organization Western Pacific](#) or the [CDC Travel Health Notices](#). If you are planning to travel or live in a local area and want updates for a specific city, please let these agencies know where you are located or traveling to. They can provide **tailored disease** prevention guidelines and local advisories.

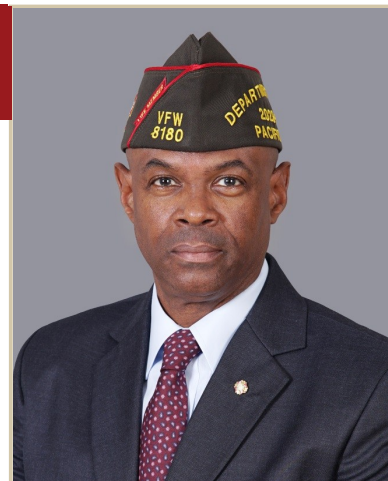
Finally, 2026-2027 Awareness Months, Appreciation weeks & National Days features a wide array of global health, social, and cultural observances. The most prominent designated months span critical issues ranging from mental health and cancer prevention to diversity, heritage, and well-being.

July: Nutrition Month, National Hemochromatosis Awareness Month, and Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month.

August: National Breastfeeding Month, National Immunization Awareness Month, and Sight-Saving Month.

Note: If **You** or there is a Veteran in “**CRISIS**” any time of day or night, you may call the Veterans Crisis Line; Philippines, you can dial #6982 on your cell phone (available on Smart, Globe, and PLDT carriers). For additional contact methods or to chat online, you can visit the official [Veterans Crisis Line](#) website.

Yours in Comradeship
Robert Chatman
DPA Surgeon



Department of Pacific Areas

Surgeon

Robert Chatman



Surgeon



CHIEF OF STAFF

Good Morning Pacific, Areas,

First, I would like to congratulate Commander Don Kelley and his *Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed Team*. I am grateful to Commander Don for appointing me as Chief of Staff for the 2026/27 VFW year.

You may ask well, what does the Chief of Staff do? For a long time that was the person that would coordinate the opening of a new VFW Post in the Department. But in reality I am here at the beckon call of the Commander to assist him in making the Department stronger than the year before and to mentor him as a PDC.

As some of you have already seen on the DPA FACEBOOK Site we need to be conscious of what we say out loud whether in fun or jest. Plus, we need to handle any Post problems at the lowest level. Just as in the military.

I strongly recommend that all Members look at the All State and Membership Program on the DPA Web Site don't wait till a Program Report is due.

The National Membership and All-American Program for the new year is also posted on the National Web Site.

If I may be of assistance to any of the Posts or Districts, I am just an email away. You can always reach me at PDCLyons935@gmail.com.

Yours Always in Comradeship,

Larry Lyons
Chief of Staff 2026-27
Past Department Commander 08/09
Department of Pacific Areas



Chief of Staff

Larry Lyons



Chief of Staff



JUDGE ADVOCATE

Comrades,

Let's start the year off on the right foot. All Commanders and JAGs please take the time to download the VFW Guide to Disciplinary Actions.

This will help you handle issues that may arise in your Posts or Districts. Remember you are dealing with an all-volunteer organization, and you are no longer in the military. So, sit down and deal with your issue at your level. The Department and National must deal with many Posts and members, and you have been elected to the duty of a leadership role.

Asking for help with how to do is welcome, but the actual issue at hand has been delegated to the level at which it has occurred. National is not notified on every little detail that happens in your Post or District. Which leads me to this, the Chain of Command. The first line of command is the Post Commander, Senior Vice and Junior Vice with your JAG being their advisor. The second line of command is the District Commander, Senior Vice and Junior Vice with the JAG being their advisor. The third line of command is the Department Commander, Senior Vice and Junior Vice with the JAG being their advisor.

Once you have exhausted all those positions and feel that your issue has not been handled then you can notify National for help with it. Reason being is the same as when you were active duty, when you had an issue in your section you didn't call the Pentagon.

EVERY complaint to National will automatically get kicked down to the DPA CDR, then he will kick it down to the District CDR, who will then you guessed it -- kick it to the Post CDR to handle. Lowest level is where it needs to be fixed, why let the world know your dirty laundry. BTW is already early in the term and on day 4 CDR Kelley already had a message from National about an issue that should be handled by the Post.

Remember we are all in this to help veterans, not here to punish them.

Warren "Max" Maxson
Judge Advocate
Department of Pacific Areas



Judge Advocate

Warren "Max" Maxson



Official VFW Cover



New Ball Cap Style



IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Hello, My Fellow Comrades,

What a year—and what a convention we experienced in Pattaya Beach. A heartfelt well done to Convention Chairman Lou Holub, Marcus Earp, and the members of the Ban Chang and Pattaya Posts for hosting another outstanding Department of Pacific Areas Convention. For those who have not yet attended a DPA Convention, you are truly missing an exceptional opportunity to experience the camaraderie, fellowship, and shared commitment that make our organization so special.

Congratulations to incoming Department Commander Don Kelly and his leadership team. I extend my very best wishes for a successful and productive year. Please know that I stand ready to assist and support the Department whenever needed.

To our All-State and All-American Posts and Districts, congratulations on an outstanding year. The leadership, dedication, and perseverance demonstrated throughout the year were reflected in your commitment to achieving the goals established by both VFW National and the Department of Pacific Areas.

As we move into the coming year, let us not lose sight of our primary mission as a veterans service organization: supporting the programs and activities that directly benefit our fellow comrades, their families, and the surviving spouses and children of those who have served.

The stage is now set for our Mid-Winter Conference in Cebu, Philippines. I encourage each of you to take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments, share best practices, strengthen friendships, and enjoy the camaraderie that makes the VFW such a remarkable organization.

If you have not yet reviewed Commander Kelly's membership program, I strongly encourage you to do so. Several important deadlines are approaching, and meeting them will be essential to maintaining All-State eligibility. Let's stay focused, work together, and get it done.

My best wishes go out to each of you for another successful year. Thank you for your dedication to the principles of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and your unwavering commitment to veterans helping veterans. Yours in Comradeship and Service to Veterans,

Jack Farrell
Immediate Past Department Commander
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Pacific Areas



Immediate Past DPA Cdr

John "Jack" Farrell



CHAIN OF COMMAND PROTOCOL

The Commander is the arbitrator of arguments and the judge in disputes. As a general rule, their decisions are considered correct until over-ruled by the Post meeting, the District, Department Commander or Commander-in-Chief. That being said, it is important to resolve issues at the lowest level possible. However, there are certain times when it is necessary to elevate your concerns to the next level.

- Local issues are not the responsibility of the District or Department Commander.
 - Try to resolve them in-house.
- Never bypass anyone in the chain of command.
- If the alleged allegations involve the Commander, immediately notify the Commander next in the chain.
- Should there be irregular identified during a routine audit, any noted discrepancies must be reported immediately to the Post/District membership.
- If you believe that the problem cannot be resolved at your level or may result in a more serious situation by all means elevate your concerns to the next appropriate level (District and/or Department) Commander so they are not blindsided.
- A written report shall be generated for every investigation.
 - The investigator or investigating committee will present their findings to the post membership, District Governing Body or Department Council as applicable.
- Record relevant issues in your minutes. Include the motion and the approval or disapproval as applicable.
- If the Post or District fails to act to correct noted deficiencies, immediately inform the Department Commander for further guidance.
- Issues brought before the Department Commander for action, shall be supported by all relevant documents. i.e., Investigation Report (with supporting documents), Copy of the Minutes showing approved action(s), and the Commanders recommendations.
- Educate yourself on the procedures for removing an elected officer of their duties.
 - Post Level, MOP - Article II, Sec. 220
 - District Level, MOP – Article IV, Sec. 420
- Educate yourself on the procedures for initiating disciplinary action and the members right to appeal. There is a fine line that separates the need for a simple corrective action and the need to initiate disciplinary action under Article IX. *As an example: Misappropriation of funds is one of the offenses punishable by Article IX, Discipline. Do you simply remove the accused from office or Initiate Disciplinary action under Article IX? If initiated, it is imperative that proper procedures be followed.*
 - MOP -Article IX, Sec. 902 Provides a list of offenses recognized by the VFW that may be subject to Disciplinary Action.
 - MOP – Article IX, Sec. 907 Provides a list of Penalties that may be imposed for those offenses.
 - No member shall be subject to the penalties authorized in Section 907 unless such member has been advised in writing of the Charges and Specifications.
- Ensure any action taken is properly documented and withing the timelines specified in the MOP. Maintain a file copy of all correspondence to include receipts for certified mail (if applicable).
- Control Posts to Social-Media. Once it's posted the whole world knows. **(Don't air your dirty laundry)**

All Commanders are welcome to seek advice and guidance from the Department. If additional information is required or clarification is required, Department will reach out to National for assistance. We too have a Chain of Command.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

DSO PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department of Pacific Areas Service Program continues to deliver strong support across the region. Each month, the DPA team assists **over 300 veterans and dependents**, filing more than **100 claims**.

District and Post Commanders are reminded to ensure their Post Benefits Advisors submit monthly reports. These reports document the impact of our work and highlight community needs. **Submit PBA reports no later than the 10th of each month to dpa.dso72@gmail.com.**

OUTSTANDING PBA REPORT – POST 9985

Post 9985 assisted **over 3,030 veterans, spouses, widows, and dependents** during June. **Thank you, PBA Stephen M. Tharp.**

“During the reporting period, I devoted 33 volunteer hours (and 13 hours of travel time) at Camp Casey, Korea, in my role as the Retired Soldier Casualty Assistance Officer, as recorded in the Army Volunteer Management Information System. This included one special trip to Camp Humphreys to help a widow solve a financial issue. My efforts focused on assisting surviving spouses with completing Social Security paperwork and tax returns.”

Thank you to all who continue to serve our veterans.

DSO OUTREACH TRAVEL SCHEDULE (2026–2027)

The DSO will conduct face-to-face outreach throughout DPA Districts to assist with claims filing. VSO presence will be available in Korea, Japan, Saipan, Guam, and the Philippines.

KOREA

- **November 15–21, 2026** Arrive Nov 15 • Outreach Nov 16–20 (Mon–Fri) • Depart Nov 21
- **May 09–15, 2027** Arrive May 09 • Outreach May 10–14 (Mon–Fri) • Depart May 15

PHILIPPINES (Baguio)

- **October 25–28, 2026** Arrive Oct 25 • Outreach Oct 26–27 (Mon–Tue) • Depart Oct 28
- **May 02–05, 2027** Arrive May 02 • Outreach May 03–04 (Mon–Tue) • Depart May 05

JAPAN

- **September 13–19, 2026** Arrive Sep 13 • Outreach Sep 14–18 (Mon–Fri) • Depart Sep 19
- **April 04–10, 2027** Arrive Apr 04 • Outreach Apr 05–09 (Mon–Fri) • Depart Apr 10



DSO Pacific Areas

Vernon Lask



Service Officer



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DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

SAIPAN

- **September 20–23, 2026** Arrive Sep 20 • Outreach Sep 21–22 (Mon–Tue) • Depart Sep 23
- **April 10–14, 2027** Arrive Apr 10 • Outreach Apr 12–13 (Mon–Tue) • Depart Apr 14

GUAM

- **September 23–26, 2026** Arrive Sep 23 • Outreach Sep 24–25 (Thu–Fri) • Depart Sep 26
- **April 14–17, 2027** Arrive Apr 14 • Outreach Apr 15–16 (Thu–Fri) • Depart Apr 17

IMPORTANT

To ensure access to your file during outreach, please submit **VA Form 21-22 (POA)**. If you are not currently signed up with a DPA VSO, email your form to dpa.dso72@gmail.com.

THANK YOU TO ALL PBAs AND VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all Post Benefits Advisors and volunteers who continue to assist veterans. Your dedication ensures that veterans and their families receive the benefits, support, and advocacy they deserve.

DPA DSO PBA TRAINING PROGRAM (2026–2027)

Training Dates

- Wednesday, **September 09, 2026**
- Wednesday, **October 07, 2026**
- Saturday, **November 14, 2026**

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Wednesdays – September 09 & October 07, 2026

- 4:00 p.m. — Thailand, Cambodia
- 5:00 p.m. — Philippines, Western Australia
- 6:00 p.m. — Japan, Korea
- 7:00 p.m. — Guam

A Zoom meeting notice will be sent to District and Post Advisors.



DSO Pacific Areas

Vernon Lask



Service Officer



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DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

DPA DSO / ADSO CONTACT LIST

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Assistant Department Service Officers

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- **Michael Castle** — ml.castle21@icloud.com • OGC # 60712

Vernon C. Lask
Department Service Officer
Department of Pacific Areas
dsodpa@vfwpacific.org



DSO Pacific Areas

Vernon Lask



Service Officer



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LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Comrades, upcoming soon will be the VFW National Convention this year being held in Reno, Nevada. It will be nice to see some familiar faces, having just come out of our June DPA Convention.

This is information before our upcoming Legislative Conference to be held in the 2nd week in September in Washington D.C..

Currently the congress is working on a Combined Bill that was submitted, this bill is called:

H.R.9237 - Take Care of America's Veterans Act contains the following bills: If you want to read on each bill just, **CLICK** on the **H.R #** below in **BLUE** it will take you to each one.

H.R. 9237, Take Care of America's Veterans Act

This bill addresses veterans' benefits, health care, counseling, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) personnel, VA infrastructure, and the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP).

The bill modifies various compensation programs for veterans, including by (1) allowing concurrent receipt of disability compensation and military retired pay for certain retirees with a combat-related disability, (2) extending entitlement for various benefits and services to remarried surviving spouses, (3) increasing the rate of dependency and indemnity compensation, and (4) establishing a supplemental monthly allowance for certain disabled veterans.

The bill also addresses VA education and training benefits, including by (1) modifying which independent study programs are covered under veterans' educational assistance benefits, (2) requiring Transition Assistance Program counseling to include a presentation about VA benefits, and (3) increasing the housing allowance rate for individuals pursuing apprenticeships.

The bill revises health care provisions, including by (1) expanding support and assistance provided to family caregivers, (2) extending the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program, and (3) expanding the scope of VA mental health research.

Among other elements, **section 108** of the bill revises VA disability ratings for sleep apnea and tinnitus; expands eligibility for a memorial headstone or marker for the spouse, surviving spouse, child, or dependent of a veteran or member of the Armed Forces; addresses the administration of the VCCP and codifies the eligibility standards; establishes a standardized screening process for priority or routine admission to certain mental health care programs; and addresses VA personnel, hiring and infrastructure matters.

H.R. 9022, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2027

This bill provides FY2027 appropriations for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civil works projects, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Energy (DOE), and several Independent agencies.



Randell Himes



If you are interested in keeping track of these bills, sign up for the ACTION CORP newsletter. Click this link: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>. Doing so will get you updates on the VFW Priority Bills.

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LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

[H.R. 8595](#), National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2027

This bill provides FY2027 appropriations for national security, the Department of State, and related programs. The bill provides appropriations to the State Department for Administration of Foreign Affairs.

[H.R. 1181](#), Protecting Privacy in Purchases Act

This bill prohibits payment card networks from using merchant codes that distinguish firearms retailers from general-merchandise retailers or sporting-goods retailers.

The VFW's Concern: The VFW strongly opposes provisions within H.R.9237 / S.4744, Take Care of America's Veterans Act, that would reduce future veterans' disability compensation to pay for other veteran programs. While the VFW supports many of the bill's underlying goals, we cannot support financing those priorities by reducing earned benefits for future disabled veterans.

The VFW Urges Congress to:

- Remove Section 108 of H.R.9237 / S.4744, Take Care of America's Veterans Act, and reject any provisions that reduce or offset future veterans' disability compensation to finance other legislation.
- **VOTE NO** to advance the Take Care of America's Veterans Act if **Section 108 is not removed**.
- Pass a clean and complete Major Richard Star Act and other veterans' priorities without reducing earned disability benefits for current or future veterans.
- Preserve the integrity of the VASRD by allowing disability rating changes to proceed through the established evidence-based regulatory process.
- Reject the use of veterans' disability compensation as a budgetary pay-for and reaffirm that earned veterans' benefits are an obligation of the nation, not a source of savings to fund unrelated priorities.

[S.1032 / H.R. 2102](#), Major Richard Star Act

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veteran's disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with combat-related disabilities, and for other purposes.

Current Status: The discharge petition for the Major Richard Star Act (House Resolution 1247) requires 218 signatures to force a floor vote. The petition has 213 signatures, leaving it just five signatures away from triggering the vote to end the deduction on combat-disabled veterans' retirement pay

The NLS office, it's officially online and live the VFW Voices of Service – Stories in Action.

Story Bank submission link: <https://forms.gle/3R4toepnSpDFLpvU6>



Randell Himes



If you are interested in keeping track of these bills, sign up for the ACTION CORP newsletter. Click this link: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>. Doing so will get you updates on the VFW Priority Bills.

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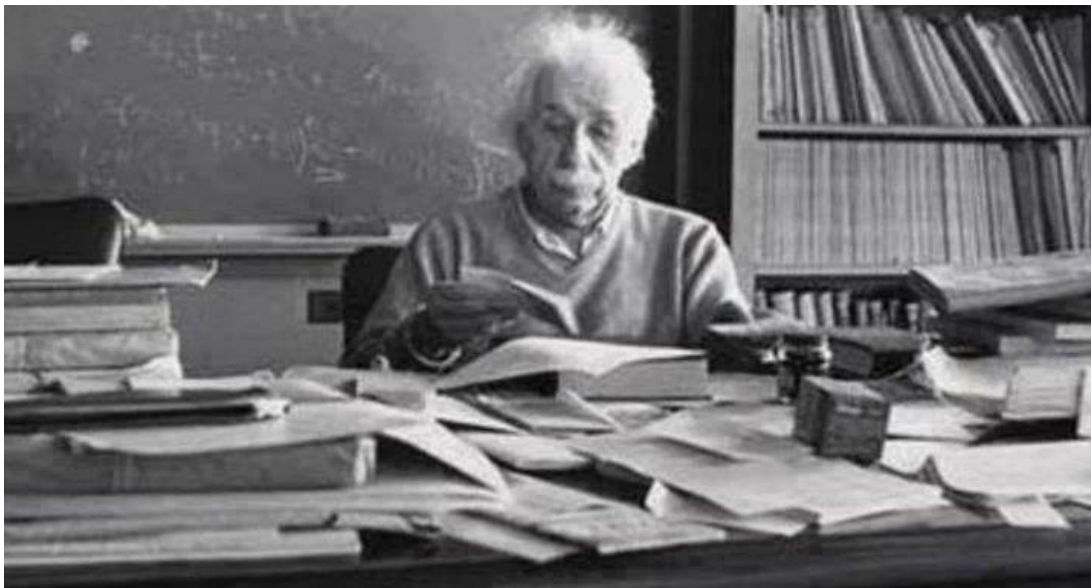
LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

This is a new, permanent way for veterans, service members, caregivers, survivors, and families to share their real-life experiences directly with VFW National so those stories can be used (with permission) to educate Congress and strengthen our legislative advocacy. There are no deadlines, quotas, or reporting requirements. This is an ongoing effort meant to strengthen our advocacy over time.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Service (NLS) is asking for membership to sign up for the Weekly **ACTION CORP** newsletter. Please consider receiving the weekly information to your email box.

Signing up for the **ACTION CORP** newsletter by Click this link: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>. Doing so will get you updates on the VFW Priority Bills.

Randell E Himes
DPA Legislative Chairman
National Legislative Committee
legislative@vfwpacific.org
rehimes@gmail.com
(Voice & Text) 1-815-408-2454



“If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?”

— Albert Einstein



Randell Himes



If you are interested in keeping track of these bills, sign up for the ACTION CORP newsletter. Click this link: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>. Doing so will get you updates on the VFW Priority Bills.

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SHAWN WATSON'S NATIONAL JVC FUND RAISER

Shawn Watson's

2026 Cash Calendar National JVC Fund Raiser

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PAYOUTS

51 Fridays \$50.00 = \$2,550.00, 11 \$300.00 = \$3,300.00,
 12 \$26.00 = \$312.00, 6 \$500.00 = \$3,000.00, 1 \$1,000.00

Donations are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$20.00

Scan tickets to Larry at PDCLyons935@gmail.com and coordinate funds transfer with George at gbeckjr@gmail.com. Email all to both.

Your tickets are good for all 81 drawings for a total of \$10,162.00!

Thank You for Shawn's Support

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____

Only need to scan bottom portion of this ticket and email to Larry as per above. One for each ticket desired.

**Help Support Shawn on his bid
for VFW National JVC 2028**

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

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES*



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*

1st Tuesday of November - Election Day

November 10 - U.S. Marine Corps Established (1775)

November 11 - Veterans Day; Signing of WWI Armistice (1918)*

November 21 - Grenada Campaign Ended (1983)

December 7 - National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day*

December 13 - National Guard Established (1636)

December 15 - Iraq War Ended (2011)

December 20 - U.S. Space Force Established (2019)

December 31 - Official End of WWII (1946); Kosovo Campaign Ended (2013)

***Posts should arrange special ceremonies and all commanders shall alert comrades to their obligations for**

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