

THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No One Does More for Veterans

Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More

Volume XXIX, Number 1

July/August 2025

FREE

Our 2025 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 quality, comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for preserving the all-volunteer force.

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 2025 Priority Goals.

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

Click [HERE](#) for the Current VFW Legislation.

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2025
PRIORITY
GOALS

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



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

COMMANDER'S CALL

Comrades, Family, and Friends,

It is with deep gratitude and unwavering resolve that I step into the role of Commander for the Department of Pacific Areas. I am truly honored by the trust you have placed in me, and I am committed to leading this Department with humility, integrity, and a clear focus on our shared purpose.

As we begin this new administrative year, I want to emphasize the foundation of my leadership vision: Teamwork and Camaraderie. These values are not just principles—they are the heartbeat of who we are and what we stand for. That is why my guiding motto is:

“Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More.”

Throughout the Pacific, our strength lies not only in our shared mission but in the relationships we forge with one another. Camaraderie is the glue that binds us as Comrades—it is what transforms our organization from a collection of Posts into a unified and purposeful community. When we care for each other, when we show up for one another, when we build bonds through service and shared experience, we become more than just members—we become family.

This camaraderie is also our greatest tool for growth. Veterans are looking for connection, for a place where their service is understood and honored. When we foster an environment where all feel welcome, valued, and supported, we naturally attract new members. And just as importantly, we retain those who are already among us—by reminding them why they joined and showing them they belong.

Every Post, every District, and every Comrade contributes to this culture. When we commit to collaboration, communication, and mutual support, we lay the foundation for real progress. Whether it's advancing legislative priorities, expanding community outreach, or providing vital support to our fellow veterans, we are at our best when we move forward as one.

This year, I call on all of you to strengthen the ties that bind us. Let's focus not on differences or divisions but on what unites us—our service, our values, and our dedication to each other. Let's recognize and celebrate the diversity and talents across our Department, and lift up those around us with encouragement, respect, and trust.

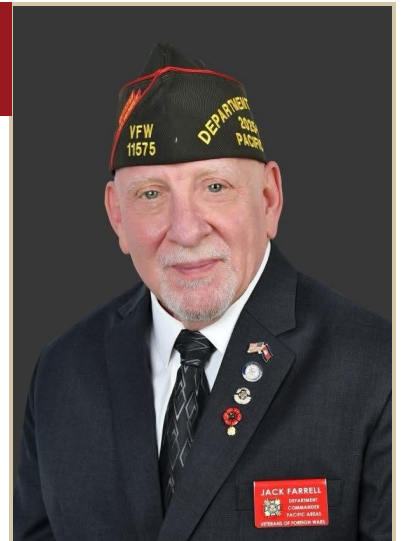
As your Commander, I look forward to working with each of you, listening to your ideas, and supporting your efforts. I am confident that with teamwork, camaraderie, and a renewed sense of purpose, we will build on our proud legacy and ensure a vibrant future for the Department of Pacific Areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I am proud to be on this journey with all of you—and I know that, Together, Everyone Achieves More.

In comradeship,

Jack Farrell
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas

“Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More.”



Commander

John “Jack” Farrell



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

Firstly, **WOW**, I would like to acknowledge the exceptional accomplishments of the Department of Pacific Areas during the 2024-2025 year. The department achieved over 105% in membership and secured 100% participation in four VFW Program categories. These accomplishments truly reflect the spirit of

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Commendations are due to all Posts and Districts for their excellent work. Congratulations to Commander Mike Lutman and the Department of Pacific Areas.

Staying connected is crucial for communicating VFW and DPA goals. We have multiple methods to achieve this.

VFW.org: Offers Online Membership System (OMS), MemStats Reports, All-American Dashboard, VFW Training & Support, Bylaws, and additional resources. Elected or appointed comrades are encouraged to visit the VFW Training & Support to understand their roles better.

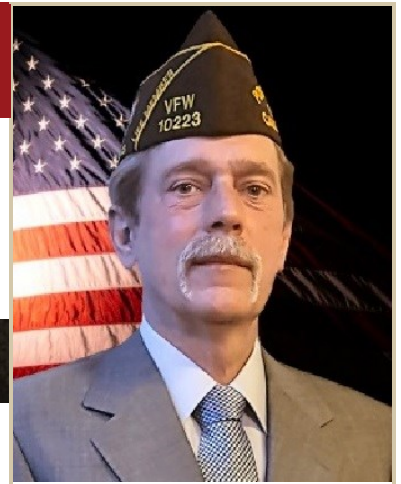
VFWpacific.org: Offers detailed information related to the Department of Pacific Areas. It covers various aspects such as Programs, Resources, News, and the All-State Dashboard, among others. To access the site your Member Number as your user ID and your last name first letter capitalized as in Smith is your password.

DPA Around the Pacific Facebook: Stay informed about Department activities and share events and achievements. If you are not a member, request to join.

This year's All State Membership Program

All State District Requirements

- The District and all Posts in the District must have Bylaws approved by the National Commander in Chief.
- The District Quartermaster or any other person accountable for District funds or property must be adequately bonded IAW SEC 703 of the National By-Laws.
- The District and all Posts in the District must have successfully completed the current year DPA inspection NLT 28 February 2026.
- The District must reach 100% +2 in membership by 30 June 2026 as posted in National MEMSTATS (or 15 April 2026 for recognition at the DPA Convention if an in-person event).
- The District must have an appointed Service Officer.
- The District and Post Service Officers in the District (as listed in the District/Post Election Report, and GO1) must attend a mandatory DSO Training session.
- The District must conduct a minimum of 3 School of Instructions at a District meeting addressing the duties and responsibilities of District leadership positions. Report completion of training to the DPA SVC.
- The District must have submitted all quarterly Audits for March, June, September, and December to the DPA Quartermaster (QM) at gmd-pa@vfwpacific.org. Each Audit is due to no later than the last day of the



Department of Pacific Areas

Senior Vice Commander

Don Kelley



Sr. Vice Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

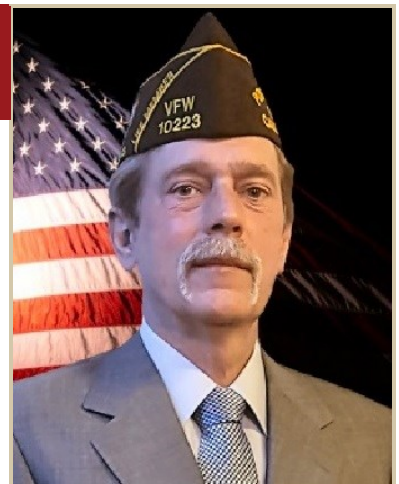
third month following the last month of the Audit. ALL audits must be into the DPA QM NLT 30 June 2026. Quarterly due dates are as follows:

Apr - Jun Voted on in July, Due to the DPA QM NLT 30 Sep
Jul - Sep Voted on in October and due to the DPA QM NLT 31 Dec
Oct - Dec Voted on in January and due to the DPA QM NLT 31 Mar
Jan - Mar Voted on in April and due to the DPA QM NLT 30 Jun

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

All-State Post Commander Requirements

- The Post must have Post Bylaws approved by the National Commander in Chief.
- The Post QM or any other person accountable for Post funds or property must be adequately bonded IAW SEC 703 of the National By Laws.
- The Post must have successfully completed the current year DPA Inspection NLT 28 February 2026.
- The Post must be 100% +2 in membership by 15 April 2026 for recognition at the June Department convention. If accomplished by 30 June 2026 recognition will be received at the Mid-Winter conference in December.
- The Post must have an appointed Service Officer.
- The Post Service Officer (as listed in the Post Election Report, and GO1) must attend a mandatory DSO Training session.



Senior Vice Commander

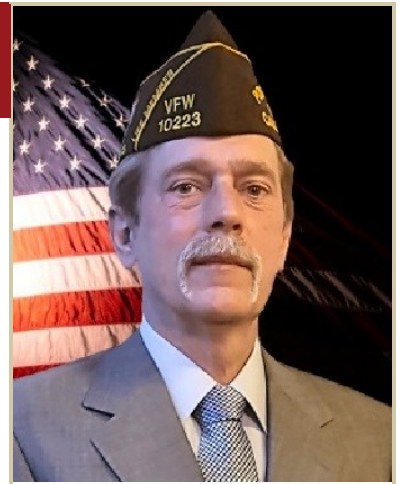
Don Kelley



Sr. Vice Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

- The Post must conduct 3 School of Instructions at a Post meeting addressing Post Leadership Duties and Responsibilities. Report completion of training to the DPA SVC at svcdpa@vfwpacific.org.
- The Post must have submitted all quarterly Audits including March, June, September, and December to the DPA QM. Each Audit is due to the DPA QM no later than the last day of the second month following the last month of the Audit. ALL audits must be into the DPA QM NLT 1 June 2026. Quarterly due dates are as follows:
 - Apr - Jun Voted on in Jun and due to DPA QM NLT 31 Jul
 - Jul - Sep Voted on in Sep and due to DPA QM NLT 31 Oct
 - Oct - Dec Voted on in Dec and due to DPA QM NLT 31 Jan
 - Jan - Mar Voted on in Mar and due to DPA QM NLT 30 Apr
- The Post must be current in monthly DPA Community Service Reports (CSR) and must submit a minimum of 8 CSRs per quarter between 1 May 2025 and 30 April 2026. Point of contact is DPA JVC at jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org.
- The Post must participate in the Voice of Democracy (VOD), and Patriots Pen (PP) Award Programs by submitting at least one entry per program to the DISTRICT VOD/PP Chairman for judging. In lieu of this requirement, the Post may elect to send a \$125 donation per program to the VFW National Director of Programs for each program they do not participate in using the VMS Donation link from the [VFW All American Dashboard](#). **Donations will NOT be accepted by any other means.** After donating, report the donation by forwarding a copy of the email receipt to the DPA VOD/PP Chairman at vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org.
- The Post must donate a minimum of \$125 to the National Veterans and Military Support (VMS) Program. The donation shall be made via the VMS Donation link from the [VFW All American Dashboard](#). **Donations will NOT be accepted by any other means.** After donating, report the donation by forwarding a copy of the email receipt to the DPA VMS Chairman at mapdpa@vfwpacific.org.
- Legacy Life: Each post must at a minimum add one New/Upgraded Member with notification sent to the DPA SVC at svcdpa@vfwpacific.org.
- The Post must participate in the Buddy Poppy program by purchasing 500 Buddy Poppies. Point of contact is DPA QM at qmdpa@vfwpacific.org.
- The Post will participate in the DPA Awards program submitting a minimum of one award nomination for submission for one of the ten department award categories to the District for judging NLT 30 March 2026. District Award judging panels will include ALL Post Commanders in that District and a Post member from each post to ensure fair representation.
- The Post must participate in the annual DPA fund raiser by purchasing a full page ad in the amount of \$200 in the "Year in Review" publication. Donations will be transferred to the DPA QM and emailed at qmdpa@vfwpacific.org and send the ad to the Year in Review chairman, PDC Larry Lyons at pdcl Lyons935@gmail.com.
- The Post Commander will attend ALL District meetings. If unavailable, they will send a Post representative, e.g., SVC, JVC or Post member who may attend in the Post Commanders absence and make the Commanders report.



Don Kelley



Sr. Vice Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Attendance via Zoom is authorized if distance makes physical attendance impractical. Attendance reports will be sent directly to the DPA SVC after each District meeting at svcdpa@vfwpacific.org.

Please complete these All-State requirements early.

**for Veterans, by Veterans with
Teamwork, Together Everyone Achieves More.**

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Don Kelley
SVC Commander
Department of Pacific Areas

"Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More."



Department of Pacific Areas

Senior Vice Commander

Don Kelley



Sr. Vice Commander

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

HERE ARE JUST A FEW WAYS:

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

FOR VETERANS®

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

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

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 ***“Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More”*** term. It’s an honor to serve as your Junior Vice Commander. Congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed Comrades!

This year is already in great hands with **Commander Farrell** and **Senior Vice Commander Kelley**. Let’s continue our momentum and “Aim High” across all Posts and Districts.

Let’s begin the year at a steady pace toward achieving All-State and All-American this year. Aim to complete requirements by the mid-winter conference to avoid the last-minute scramble.

CSRs: Please remember that the “C” in CSR stands for Community. So, let’s get out and support our local Communities, Active-Duty Members, and Veterans. If it benefits the community (money out/volunteering/information out), it is a CSR; if it benefits the Post (money in/recruiting), it is not. If you need any help, please feel free to email me. [CSR Best Practices](#).

- **ALL-AMERICAN: minimum 1 CSR per quarter (1 Jul-30 Jun)**
- **ALL-STATE: minimum 8 CSRs per quarter (1 May-30 Apr)**

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 **international and DODEA schools** in your area; encourage participation in essay contests rather than just paying the donation. This boosts visibility for your Post and the VFW; it also provides meaningful opportunities for our youth.

- **Action Required:** Contact **VOD/PP Chairman Robert Madison** at vodppd-pa@vfwpacific.org early so he can get your online access set up early.
- **Each Post/District Chairman** must test their access and report any issues promptly for quicker resolution.
- **Voice of Democracy/Patriot’s Pen (All-State and All-American Requirement – 1 entry for each or \$125 each for Post and District); Due to me by 7 Dec – [VoD/PP Guide](#)**
- **Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award; Due to me by 7 Dec – [Teacher Award Guide](#)**
- **Public Servant and Safety Awards; Due to me by 1 Jan – [Instructions](#)**
- **Scouting (Due to me by 1 Apr), CAP, and ROTC Awards – [Youth Activities Guide](#)**
- **Day of Service Event in May (All-American Requirement) – Must register prior to 15 May 2026 at [DoS Registration](#)**

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. I feel that we do our members an injustice by not recognizing them.

- Post should appoint an **Awards Chairman** to track achievements throughout



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

David B. Gley Jr.



Jr. Vice Commander

**VFW GUIDE FOR
COMMUNITY SERVICE
BEST PRACTICES**



JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

the year.

- Award submissions from Districts are **due to me by 15 Apr**, along with a 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 Levels and are **due to me NLT 01 May** – [DPA Awards Page](#).
- Don't forget about the Community Service Award which are **due to me NLT 01 Apr** – [Community Service Award](#).

Let's make sure every deserving member gets the recognition they've earned.

BUDDY POPPY: The All-American requirement is to order 500 Buddy Poppies. If you have any questions, please contact DPA QM George Beck at gmd-pa@vfwpacific.org — [Buddy Poppy Guide](#)

Let's continue building 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 Farrell, Senior Vice Commander Kelley, and all our exceptional DPA comrades.

RECRUIT – MENTOR – RETAIN - RECRUIT – MENTOR – RETAIN

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

David B. Gley Jr.
Junior Vice Commander
jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org

“Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More.”



David B. Gley Jr.



Jr. Vice Commander

**VFW GUIDE FOR
COMMUNITY SERVICE
BEST PRACTICES**



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



On May 3, 2025, 8 Post members and many friends of the Post visited Ban Phayun School in Ban Chang, Thailand, to hand out brand-new VFW backpacks to every student. The Post has proudly supported this wonderful school in previous years and was honored to continue that support in 2025 as part of the VFW's National Day of Service initiative. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this event possible — especially the incredible students and dedicated staff of Ban Phayun School.

In the SPOTLIGHT

LANCE CORPORAL FRANK C. ALLEN
POST 9723
MONTHLY MEETING
 1800 (Dinner from 1700 - 1800)
 Wednesday,
 June 4, 2025
 Kadena Officer Club, Kadena Airbase, Okinawa, Japan
 Zoom option available, click on QR code for Zoom access.

VACANCIES:
 House Committee
 Fundraiser
 Ways and Means
 Community Service



THIS IS A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION. IT IS NOT A PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR ANY OF ITS COMPONENTS AND IT HAS NO GOVERNMENTAL STATUS.

VETERAN OF FOREIGN WARS
LCPL FRANK C. ALLEN POST 9723

UPCOMING EVENTS

26 MAY (0900 - 1500)	BUDDY POPPY	CAMP FOSTER COMMISSARY
26 MAY (1000 - 1100)	CEMETERY CLEAN UP	TOMORI CEMETERY
26 MAY (1200 - 1230)	WREATH CEREMONY	PEACE PARK
27 MAY (1230 - 1500)	MCCS MILITARY RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY	
	CAMP FOSTER COMMUNITY CENTER	
31 MAY (1400 - 1600)	DAY OF SERVICE	
	KINTANAKAGUSKU COMMUNITY CENTER	



VFW Post 9723 and American Legion Post 28 Okinawa Co-Partnered to support Memorial Day events at TOMORI cemetery Naha and International Peace Park Okinawa.



PGC Bradford and Mitchell - Long-time DPA Life Member and PGC William "B4" Bradford dropped in to visit our DPA ADJ Kevin Mitchell from Florida recently.



CDR's - DPA PDC's James Morrissey, Shawn Watson, Kevin Mitchell, Rhett Webber, and Warren "Max" Maxson welcomed VFW National Junior Vice Commander in Chief Timothy Peters at Post 2485 in Angeles City as part of his visit to and talk with our Comrades.



PDC Kevin Mitchell and his wife Butch visited Comrade Linus Travers, Sr. on a home visit to check on his status. Lin is doing okay. He has his good and bad days. His wife Lindsay is on the left.

In the SPOTLIGHT



On Saturday, July 5, 2025, Post 12146 hosted its annual Independence Day event at the Hideaway Resort in Ban Chang, Thailand. Over 70 Post members, family, and friends gathered to celebrate together. The Post was honored to welcome several distinguished guests:

- Jack Farrell, [VFW Department of Pacific Areas](#) Commander, accompanied by his wife Sophanna
- Ken Stein, National Council Member and Past DPA Commander
- Lou Holub, District 4 Commander
- Augie Augustine, DPA Webmaster
- Terrance Hebron, Past Commander of Post 12146

During the event, the Post conducted a brief change of command ceremony, expressing gratitude to outgoing Commander Hebron for his dedicated leadership over the past two years and welcoming incoming Commander Brooks. Additionally, the Post presented a special award to long-time friend and supporter, Kitty from Kitty House (Yossawadee Prajuntasen) who was recognized at the District level as Outstanding Non-Member. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Kitty for her years of unwavering support.

Your feedback is important to us. Please submit your Letters to the Editor or Suggestions by clicking pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org

DPA QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

I would like to congratulate all the new/returning Officers of the Department of Pacific Areas for the 2025-2026 VFW year. Good luck to all Post, Districts and the Department.

All Quartermasters will be receiving the Bond information for the 2025-26 new year. Bond prices have not increased. Please send me the application back as soon as you can. I would like to have everything completed by 15 August. Your current bond is good through 31 August of this year.

With me being new to this position of enormous responsibility, I would ask that when transmitting funds to the DPA Navy Fed account, please send an email to the qmdpa email address and CC my Gmail account (gbeckjr@gmail.com) with an explanation of the transmittal. This will help me keep my head on in the right direction and allow me to properly account for your funds. I check my Gmail daily and will respond as quickly as I can.

As a reminder, please send me your quarterly audits after they have been completed and signed. This is a requirement 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 Watsons help) to help you.

George E. Beck Jr.
DPA Quartermaster



Quartermaster

George E. Beck Jr.



Quartermaster

**THERE IS NO SUCH
THING AS A GROUCHY
OLD PERSON. THE
TRUTH IS ONCE YOU
GET OLD, YOU STOP
BEING POLITE AND
START BEING HONEST.**

DPA ADJUTANT

Greetings Comrades,

It seems like yesterday that we were going home after another successful Department Convention less than two weeks ago. In my 25 years of going to our Conventions, it is always great to see the many friends I have throughout the DPA and meet some new ones. Thanks to Convention Chairman Randy Riggs, Post Commander Thomas Friend, and the members of Post 9951 for an outstanding Convention.

I would like to take a moment to speak about the upcoming Mid-Winter Conference. It will be held from December 12th-15th (Friday-Sunday) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia at the Hotel Cambodian which is where we have been each time we have gone to Cambodia. December 11th and 15th (Thursday and Monday) will be travel days. Although Post Commander of 11575 Gary Kidd gave the presentation at the Convention, you can still Google Hotel Cambodian and look at what the Hotel has to offer, especially if you have never been to Phnom Penh before.

The Mid-Winter Chairman is Paul Baker and the Co-Chair is Lou Holub. Please do not bombard the Mid-Winter Chairman, Co-Chair Holub, Post Commander Kidd, or myself with questions. We are working on it and will get the necessary information out to you as soon as possible. We will let you know ASAP through emails, DPA Facebook page, DPA Website, Grand Webpage, etc. Please understand that we are very busy and we will not withhold anything from you. We understand you want to make travel plans ASAP, so just a little more patience, please!!!

Thank you to the Post/Districts for submitting your Election Reports on time. Comment on next year's edition and your GO's, please get with your Post QM/ADJ to ensure your information is correct!!! On our GO1, there were many changes, and the addresses (for the most part) did not match what is on your Post/District Election Report. It is obvious that some Comrades have been involved with their Post/District positions for years, so their information is carried over to the next term. But then you change addresses, etc. and you do not notify your Post QM/ADJ and we have a mismatch.

By ensuring your information is correct, it will save the Department, District, and Post QM/ADJ plenty of time. I am sure the same will be for the Memo One which I hope to have finished by July 7th. Thank you. You can review the GO and Memo on the DPA Webpage at www.vfwpacific.org. Click on Login (far right of page) and then "Members Only". Put your Member ID and your last name first letter capitalized and click enter. Then click on "General Orders" and there you go!! It is recommended that you download a copy of the GO1 so you will know who to contact for any questions concerning our Programs.

Comrades, whether you served a single term or 30 years in the military, we all have been taught to use the Chain of Command. Even though it is not said like the military, there is still a Chain of Command in the Civilian sector. Quentin Carroll from National informed me to tell the Department, that any correspondence that you would like to go over Department level, you are not to go straight to National Headquarters!! What's going to happen is that National will return your documents straight back to me with no action and asking the Department to handle it. All you are doing is making the Department look bad by going over our heads and wasting time because you probably will have to resubmit your information anyway. Please use your chain Post to District, District to Department. We will then see if your request needs more information, parts needing rewriting, etc. Then we can go forward to National, if we believe that is where it should go or we can handle it in house. Basically, we the Department is here to help, but we need you to allow us to do so!!



Adjutant

Kevin Mitchell



Adjutant

DPA ADJUTANT

We are not picking on anyone, but this needs to be told!

In closing, we had a truly “TREMENDOUS YEAR” during our last term and congratulations to Immediate Past Department Commander Mike Lutman and his “Veterans FIRST, Comrades ALWAYS” team for leading our Department to probably our greatest year ever!!! Also, Comrade Lutman is a Triple Crown Commander and the 15th Comrade in our Department to do so! But now the clock has started clicking for the new year and with that we must support our new Commander Jack Farrell and his “Teamwork, Together Everyone Achieves More” team for the 2025-26 term!!! His All State/Membership Program should be out shortly and will be on the DPA and Facebook Webpage. Wishing you and yours good health, safety, and much love as we move forward! Go USA!!!

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Kevin E. Mitchell
Adjutant
Department of Pacific Areas

“Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More.”



Adjutant

Kevin Mitchell



Adjutant

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Greetings Comrades,

Congratulations to our new Department Commander Jack Farrell and the outstanding team he has put together.

During my report at the Department Convention, I updated five issues we are working on. As it's only been a week or so since the Convention, there is nothing new to report.

In the next edition of the Pacific Times, I will provide updates gleaned during the National Convention.

Looking forward to a successful year as we work towards ensuring Veterans residing overseas have the same benefits as those living in the United States.

In comradeship and service to Veterans,



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



Latest Releases

Read about the important military and veteran issues we've been advocating for, and the ways we're actively supporting our military and veteran family, and local communities every day.

Click [HERE](#) to visit the VFW Latest Releases.



National Council Member

Ken Stein



CERTIFIED NATIONAL RECRUITER

Happy New VFW Year,

After a very successful convention most of us should be back at our home station. It was great seeing old friends and meeting new ones. I would like to congratulate all the soon to be All American Posts, Districts and our Department Commanders it has been an exceptional year. All though I mainly thank the recruiters which we had, 42 of them recruiting working their tails off this year. Sometimes I also forget to thank the other Comrades out there for working on our VFW Programs, doing Buddy Checks attending Funerals, and donating to our Communities just to say a few of these programs in our Posts. So, thank you all by you doing the other programs it shows our communities what we are about and do, which makes recruiting easier.

So, let's get down to brass tacks. Hopefully you have already started your Recruiting Plan throughout the year. Realizing that all our Posts do not have a Military Posts nearby so it would be good to get your Embassy in the country you are in along with the VA and assist them with their outreach programs and they probably will also do let you do some recruiting there.

I have yet to be turned down by any PX or BX here in Korea to do recruiting. It has been my experience that recruiting on the GI's Mid-Month paycheck works the best. They normally spend a lot of their paycheck on rent/commissary during the first of the month. Then again everyone does not live off base/post. Find out what works for you.

The National Membership Program is already online. I encourage everyone to review it. Besides the individual recruiting awards from VFW National there are cash awards to the department on reaching certain percentages. For reaching 102% the department will get \$2,000.00, for reaching 103% we would get \$4,000.00 and if we reach 105% like it looks like we will this year the Department would get \$7,500.00 in next year's program. Comrades that ain't bad!

If you recall a few months ago I stated in the Pacific Times that what Past Department Commander Dick Keeley use to say and that was 100% mean no growth. I have changed that for my saying and goal that 105% means that you are looking at the future of your post!

I will be busy next weekend recruiting at Dragon Hill Lodge 4th of July Festival. Remember I am only an email away let me know how I can help you and your Post. I can be reached at PDCLyons935@gmail.com.

Happy Birthday America!

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

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Benjamin Franklin Wilson (June 2, 1921 – March 1, 1988) was a soldier in the United States Army during the Korean War. He received the Medal of Honor for his actions on June 5, 1951, during the UN May–June 1951 counteroffensive. Master Sergeant Benjamin F. Wilson, age 30, led Company I, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, in a direct assault against fortified enemy positions near Hwach'on-Myon, Korea.

Company I was ordered to take a heavily defended hill. The enemy outnumbered Wilson's unit. As the lead elements moved uphill, they came under intense automatic weapon and grenade fire. The attack stalled. Wilson took action. He moved forward alone under fire, charged the enemy machine gun nest, fired his rifle at close range, and threw grenades. He killed four enemy soldiers. He broke the enemy line.

He regrouped his men and led a bayonet charge directly into enemy trenches. In the close fighting, they killed roughly 27 enemy soldiers and drove the rest off the ridge. Wilson began organizing defenses. The enemy counterattacked almost immediately with another wave of soldiers.

Wilson moved out of cover alone again. He charged the enemy line and killed seven more enemy soldiers, wounded two others, and forced the rest to retreat. As he returned to his position, a third counterattack hit the company. Wilson directed the defense while under fire.

Company I pushed again toward the final objective. As they reached within 15 yards of the next ridge, they came under heavy fire. Wilson gave the order to withdraw. He stayed behind alone and delivered covering fire so the rest of the men could fall back without being cut down.

Then another counterattack hit. The company commander and 1st Platoon leader were both incapacitated. Wilson assumed command. He moved to the front and charged the enemy line. He killed three soldiers with his rifle. His rifle was knocked from his hands in the melee. He grabbed his entrenching tool, a small shovel, and continued fighting. He killed four more enemy soldiers in hand-to-hand combat.

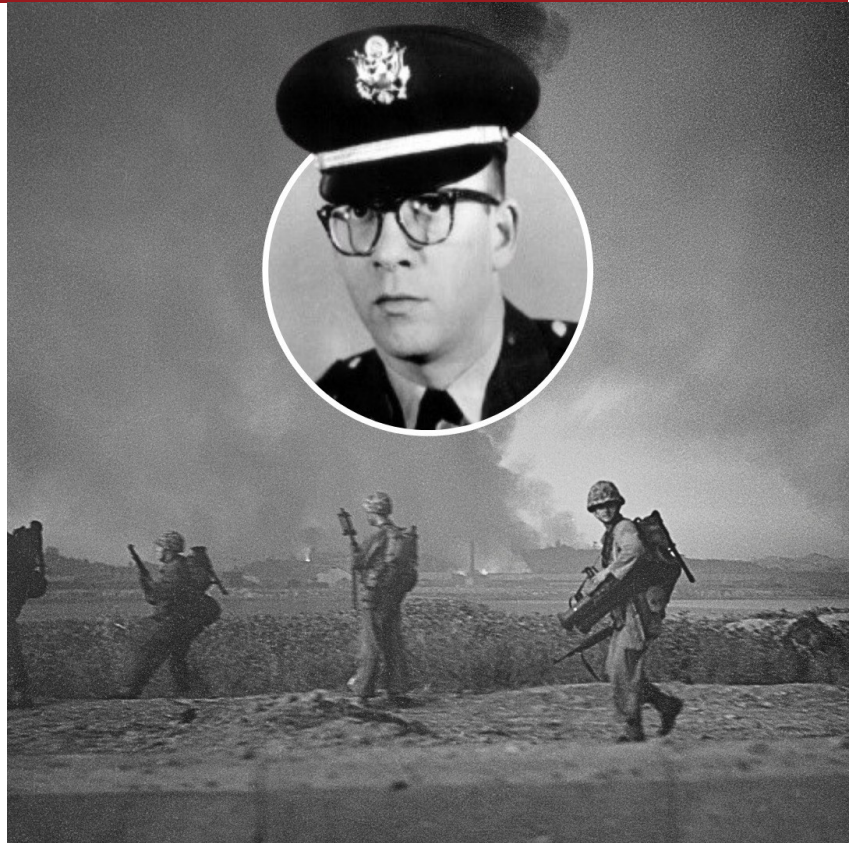
With the enemy drive stopped, Wilson organized the company's defense and coordinated the evacuation of the wounded. He was hit again by enemy fire. He refused evacuation. He stayed on the line until all wounded were pulled back to safety.

His actions on June 5, 1951, resulted in at least 35 confirmed enemy dead. His aggression and control allowed Company I to hold their position and survive multiple counterattacks from a numerically superior force.

For his actions, Master Sergeant Benjamin F. Wilson was awarded the Medal of Honor.

On June 6, 1951, despite his injuries, Wilson returned to the front lines. He led another assault against enemy positions, killing 33 enemy soldiers using his rifle, bayonet, and grenades. During this engagement, he reopened his previous wounds and was finally evacuated to a hospital. For his actions on June 6, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Read the full citation [HERE](#)



CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrades,

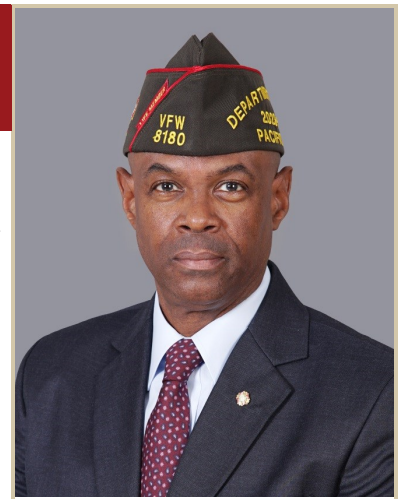
I pray you and yours are well, in good spirits, able to continue our most important advocacy work. Congratulations to all who were able attend the 59th Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) Convention and Grand of the Pacific (GPA) 56th MOC Grand Scratch, Bangkok, Thailand to recognize the hard work our Comrades in achieving the VFW National goals at the Department, Districts and Posts, making All State-All American. I wish you all could have traveled to the DPA Convention and GPA Scratch, but we all know that most are not able to come for one reason or another. Continue to take care of Veterans, their families, our Active-duty service members and the less fortunate in our communities. As I have continued to “Stress” that “Buddy Checks” are important and the Works of the “Almighty” and will bring blessing as we continue to look after our fellow Comrades.

I am Honored and Humble for your support by electing me as your DPA Chaplain for the pursuing 2025-2026 term. Let’s give thanks as we have recently celebrated the U.S. Army 250th birthday and let us lean forward as we prepare to execute our mission for the pursuing year with other service’s birthdays and major events. I hope and pray all comrades returned home safe and enjoyed a wonderful experience during the DPA Convention and MOC Grand Scratch.

During this pursuing year I am optimistic about establishing a Chaplains webpage with the help and assistance of our webpage manager which will provide our posts and districts Chaplains with far more resources beyond the Pacific. The Chaplain position is a rewarding but humbling, pass recording and report of our fallen Comrades this past term is many. Let their names, spirit, and memory live so we never forget them and their sacrifices. Let us remember the following Comrades who passed away 2024-2025.

VFW Final Roll Call for our Departed Comrades this Year from the Pacific Areas

Comrade	Post	Comrade	Post
Caparas, Rolando S.	124	Bonafede, Vincent T	1509
Pimental, Orlando C.	124	Hernandez, Loreto R.	1509
Saley, Joseph	124	Leonard, Ed	1509
Blanton, Matthew C.	1054	Sillkski, Chet A.	1509
Boyce, Kenneth W.	1054	Adams, David C.	2485
Davis Jr., Kenneth	1054	Bowie, Raymond L.	2485
Deth, Danith B.	1054	Evans, Wayne D.	2485
Favors, Raquez M.	1054	Flynn, Errol T.	2485
Gordon, Robert H.	1054	Gage, Ralph H.	2485
Green, Hank	1054	Galbraith, Charles W.	2485
Holtz, Christian M.	1054	Giancarlo, Joseph G.	2485
Hook II, Luther H.	1054	Graue, Walter H.	2485
Mayo, Michael T.	1054	Grommon, Delmer O.	2485
Millar, Robert N.	1054	Hamilton, David S.	2485
Morris, Geoffrey L.	1054	Harvey, Ronnie E.	2485
Reitnauer, Siton M.	1054	Koslovski, Werner I	2485



Chaplain

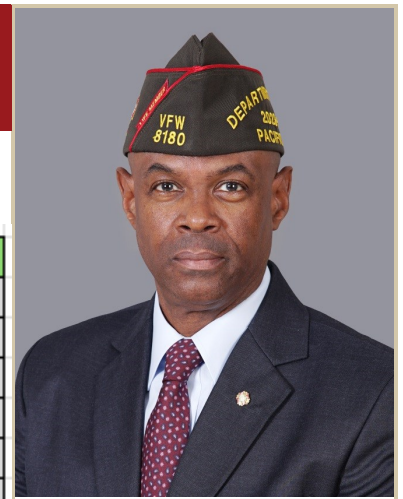
Robert Chatman



CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

VFW Final Roll Call for our Departed Comrades this Year from the Pacific Areas

Comrade	Post	Comrade	Post
Luther, James H.	2485	Brosius, Matthew J.	8180
Mason, David J.	2485	Browning, Chad L.	8180
Mithcell, David B.	2485	Buxton, Ralph L.	8180
Mohn, Jr., Stanley	2485	Chism, Alan B.	8180
Moore, Ronald k.	2485	Cunningham, Charles D.	8180
Nelson, Jimmie	2485	Daubenire, Jared C.	8180
Pittman, Michael B.	2485	Davis, Fredrick M.	8180
Pjosek, Albert A.	2485	Denham, Cody J.	8180
Roberts Jr., Harcourt B.	2485	Dickson, David K.	8180
Rubio Jr., Eduardo	2485	Hoover, James C.	8180
Soliven, Larry A.	2485	Hoover, Scott L.	8180
Stelle, Leslie E.	2485	Hopkins, Andrew C.	8180
Tilby, James L.	2485	Jablonski, Gregory W.	8180
Truax, Rich B.	2485	Jefcoat Jr., Jerry A.	8180
Wetherington, Walter W	2485	Latimer, Marc A.	8180
Wiley, Billy R.	2485	Luedemann, Erik	8180
Wood, Edwin N.	2485	McDonald, David M.	8180
Bressie, Charles W.	2917	Peters, James L..	8180
Buchta, Rudolph D.	2917	Schenetzke, Chance	8180
Espinosa, Frankie D.	2917	Shirley, Anthony R.	8180
Grigley, Willie P.	2917	Silpasomprasit, Paradon	8180
Sullenger, James D.	2917	Silverman, Joshua B.	8180
Albright, Thomas E.	3457	Sims, Bruce E.	8180
Bracken, Robert J.	3457	Smith, Charles H.	8180
Cavalear, Ryan D.	3457	Sprayberry, Billy F.	8180
Ehrman, Tommy	3457	Stannard, Todd D.	8180
Gage, James D.	3457	Swift Jr., Thomas L.	8180
Graves, Tyrone	3457	Swiger, Richard S.	8180
Manglona, Julian A.	3457	Thomas, Mark E.	8180
Pineda, John E.	3457	Towery III, William D.	8180
Sablan, Eric C.	3457	Tucker, Kevin S.	8180
Stout, Joshua E.	3457	Twilds, Keith R.	8180
Vaughn, David R.	3457	Wagner, Richard A.	8180
White, Sean	3457	Wildig, Devon J.	8180
Agius, Joseph M.	8180	Winger, Monte D.	8180
Anthony, Eric B.	8180	Cosgrove, Richard R.	9555
Barber, Jared N.	8180	Dunn, Alfred H.	9555
Benyamen, Riniete A.	8180	Florendo, Vicki P.	9555
Billetdeaux, James R.	8180	Hager, keith L.	9555
Bradson, Lawrence E	8180	Keener, Jerry L.	9555



Department of Pacific Areas

Chaplain

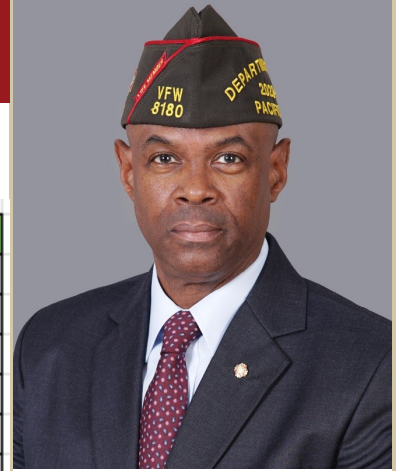
Robert Chatman



CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

VFW Final Roll Call for our Departed Comrades this Year from the Pacific Areas

Comrade	Post	Comrade	Post
Naranjo, Brian K.	9555	Stoker, Laron, L.	9951
Robinson Jr., Alfred	9555	Urban, Craig J.	9951
Vogt, Earl M.	9555	Bankhead Jr., William H	9957
Campbell, James H.	9612	Kemper, Robert E.	9957
Castro, David J.	9612	Thomas, Tommy	9957
Mattingly, Theodore E.	9612	Webster, Bobby J.	9957
Richmond, Frederick K.	9612	Barron, Nate A.	9985
Barnes, Jeffery U.	9723	Blea, Ronnie M.	9985
Dukes Jr., Josef L.	9723	Burge, Anthony C.	9985
Harris Jr., Benjamin E.	9723	Crabill, Jay E.	9985
Hatfield, Stephen L.	9723	Diaz, Carlos A.	9985
Hecox, William J.	9723	Estes, Timothy S.	9985
Holland, Steven E.	9723	Evilsizer, Aaron M.	9985
Madamba, Victor H.	9723	Faamausili, Christina F.	9985
Morris, Craig S.	9723	Galloway, Christopher T	9985
Qujezdsky, Jonathan W.	9723	Gilbert, Jesse A.	9985
Steers, Michael B.	9723	Gullett, Jeremy R.	9985
Swartz, Donald R.	9723	Gustave, Cedric D.	9985
Treherne, Thomas A.	9723	Harman, Nicholas A.	9985
Voight, Kenneth R.	9723	Helmuth, Brooks P.	9985
Walker, James W.	9723	Katz, Noah J.	9985
Wilson, Lawrence W.	9723	Lahaie, Cody A.	9985
Hagerman, Clifford A.	9876	Lowe, Derek M.	9985
Stewart, Ira L.	9876	Lucas, Christopher A.	9985
Boronot, George E.	9892	Lucas, Jerry W.	9985
Brendt, Max C.	9892	Matthew, Richard F.	9985
Cutler, Bruce H.	9892	Medina, Rafael D.	9985
Hogle, Paul D.	9892	Milan, Jose L.	9985
Hopkins Sr., Charles R.	9892	Pergstrom, Brian R.	9985
Maxey, Jennings R.	9892	Rhodes, Wendell V.	9985
Annas, Themistocles T.	9951	Ross, Shaun M.	9985
Brunner, Richard A.	9951	Saywers, Kenneth L.	9985
Funk, John C.	9951	Sheeler, Mark A.	9985
Geiger, James D.	9951	Shields, Kevin R.	9985
Hardesty, Robefrt W.	9951	Shoulders, Henry R.	9985
Hull, Douglas E.	9951	Smythers, Christopher W	9985
Lemon, George W.	9951	Snow, Mark A.	9985
Nault, Richard P.	9951	Stephenson, Eli E.	9985
Puckett, James B.	9951	Thrush, Chad N.	9985
Rice, Charles S.	9951	Tipton III, Kenneth G.	9985



Department of Pacific Areas

Chaplain

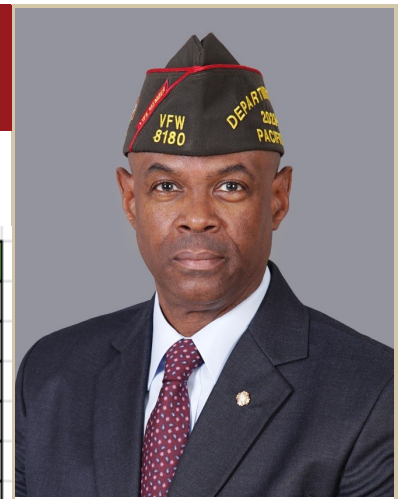
Robert Chatman



CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

VFW Final Roll Call for our Departed Comrades this Year from the Pacific Areas

Comrade	Post	Comrade	Post
Ahue, Aaron K.	10033	Smith, Cedric L.	10033
Berry, Christopher L.	10033	Smith, David A.	10033
Burnett Jr., Robert	10033	Snow, Charles C.	10033
Carr, Robert E.	10033	Tanner, Phillip	10033
Corral, Dennis A.	10033	Tecson, Andres C.	10033
Doughty, Claude R.	10033	Thompkins, Howard J.	10033
Doyle, Kevin W.	10033	Thompson, Kenneth R.	10033
Febbo, Anthony	10033	Tijerina Jr., Jerry L.	10033
Friley, Dale R.	10033	Towne, Brent L.	10033
Goodloe Jr., Edward	10033	Welch, Lindsay A.	10033
Gortz, Brian J.	10033	Wickersham, Philip L.	10033
Haas, David C.	10033	Wilkus, Eric R.	10033
Hansen, Bryan K.	10033	Wolfsteller, Calvin	10033
Hattendorf, Robert A.	10033	Borchers, David L.	10217
Heighway, Chris	10033	Comey, Robert E.	10217
Hesterman, James L.	10033	Horning, James R.	10217
Holman, Kyle	10033	Baker, Brian E.	10223
Howard, Brian O.	10033	Blair, Edward J.	10223
Jennings, David	10033	Clark, Dusty M.	10223
Johnson, Kenneth E.	10033	Clark, Eric R.	10223
Jones, Thomas D.	10033	Cunningham Jr., Timothy L.	10223
Kanning, Scott R.	10033	Dennis, Matthew R.	10223
Litman Jr., Gabriel	10033	Edson, Eric W.	10223
Little, Jered D.	10033	Elliott, Steven J.	10223
Malotte, Andrew J J.	10033	Glenn, Danny C.	10223
Marsh, Wallace P.	10033	Hagler, Greg L.	10223
McCorle, Rachel	10033	Hayes, Stanley W.	10223
Nelson, Steven P.	10033	Helff, Keith R.	10223
Neraz, Kristy A.	10033	Loflin, Joshua J.	10223
Perez, Griselda	10033	Lovell, Robert M.	10223
Presley, Levi A.	10033	Majek, Joseph J.	10223
Pruitt, Ricky D.	10033	Mamangon, Francis A.	10223
Rhoads, Burke J.	10033	Matgeews, Matt M.	10223
Roberts, Joe D.	10033	Mueller, Nickolas A.	10223
Rousseau, John A.	10033	Reilly, George R.	10223
Russell, Lindsay M.	10033	Rivera, Johnathan	10223
Sajewicz, Troy	10033	Rust, Gregory S.	10223
Seeley, Michael T.	10033	Senter, Joseph J.	10223
Shaw II, Jerold	10033	Swayne, James B.	10223
Silver, Michael	10033	Walley, Timothy W.	10223



Chaplain

Robert Chatman

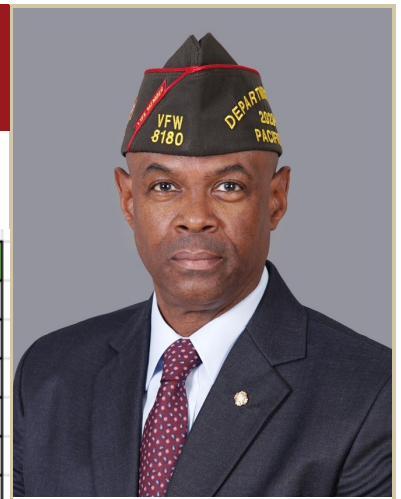


CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

VFW Final Roll Call for our Departed Comrades this Year from the Pacific Areas

Comrade	Post	Comrade	Post
Wynn, William L.	10223	Bayating, Andrew Winston	*15055
Mollenhauer, Alan W.	10249	Brown, Xavier A.	*15055
Ralston, Gary G.	10249	Clary, Christopher T.	*15055
Aceron, Ben M.	11447	Cresanto, Matthew R.	*15055
Buchanan, James M.	11447	Gardener, Joshua U.	*15055
Donoghue, Richard B.	11447	Gozdan, Adam J.	*15055
Hicks, Raymond E.	11447	Hazelbaker, Mark E.	*15055
Landry, William F.	11447	Hemingshaw, Stewart R.	*15055
Lew, Harold	11447	Hernandez, Johnny M.	*15055
Miller Jr., Frank J.	11447	Holtslander, David C.	*15055
Murray, Joseph N.	11447	Kelly, Daniel P.	*15055
Radona, Alfred C.	11447	Langley, Garold V.	*15055
Rodlyn, Thomas D.	11447	Lopez, Theodore C.	*15055
Rohrmann, Carl R.	11447	Lozads, Angelo L.	*15055
Taylor, Robert C.	11447	Lumpkin, Jonathan B.	*15055
Lucas, John P.	11575	Mizelle, David R.	*15055
Manning, Lee A.	11575	Morelli, Thomas J.	*15055
Richards, Andrew T.	11575	Mullin, James D.	*15055
O'Hara, Phillip W.	12074	Ortiz, Miguel J.	*15055
Stewart, Craig M.	12130	Rodriguez Jr., Ramiro R.	*15055
Delomba, Donald A.	12146	Scott, Gregory W.	*15055
Walker, Larry D.	12146	Warmbir, Robert L.	*15055
Libo-On, Erol Jesse R.	12231	Young II, Richard L.	*15055
Addie III, James L.	*15055	* Member at Large	

Robert S. Chatman
DPA Chaplain



Chaplain

Robert Chatman



Let Us Pray

Eternal Father, giver and sustainer of life, we come before You in the joy of our Faith and in thanksgiving for the life of our Departed Comrades. We commend the souls of our Departed Comrades to You. Lord, we ask You to help us honor their memories of them by service to the living. 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>

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>

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 There you will find a tabbed panel containing information on *Forms, Handbook, Duties, Ethics, Memorial, Prayer, Links and Training*.

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!**

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. Chaplain Peter Hook worked hard to expand it this year. It is a work that grows with us.

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

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. This gives you an opportunity to get to know other Chaplains and discuss things that are important to our work. **Good ideas are shared!**

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DPA

VFW Department Commander – Pacific Areas Post 12146, Utapao-Banchang

Comrades, Friends, and Distinguished Guests,

First and foremost, I'd like to extend a heartfelt welcome to some very special individuals joining us today—National Council Member Ken Stein, District 4 Commander Lou Holub, and Post 12146 Commander Patrick Brooks. Gentlemen, thank you for your leadership, dedication, and continued service to our organization and to our great nation.

Today, we gather not only as veterans and comrades—but as proud Americans—honoring 249 years of freedom, sacrifice, and unyielding spirit. Independence Day is more than fireworks and barbecues. It's a solemn reminder of the price of liberty and the enduring values we were called to defend—freedom, democracy, and unity.

Across this Department and especially here at Post 12146, you all exemplify those values every day. You serve your community, support one another, and carry forward the legacy of our brothers and sisters in arms who are no longer with us. On this day, we reflect on those sacrifices and recommit ourselves to preserving the ideals for which we served.

But we must also look ahead—and that means continuing to build and strengthen our organization. One of the most powerful tools we have is camaraderie. The bond we share as veterans is unlike any other. When we foster that bond—when we reach out, stay connected, and make each member feel welcomed and valued—we naturally grow stronger.

Camaraderie leads to connection, and connection leads to commitment. That's how we bring in new members, and that's how we keep the ones we have. Veterans are looking for a place where they belong, where they are understood, and where their continued service can make a difference. The VFW should be that place. And right here at Post 12146, I see that spirit alive and well.

That's why I stand behind our Department motto:

“Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More.”

Because it's not about any one of us—it's about all of us, working side by side. When we act with purpose, lift each other up, and move forward as a team, there's nothing we can't achieve—whether it's building membership, supporting our comrades, or strengthening our communities.

Our nation may be far from here, but our hearts remain close to home—bound by our shared service, our love for country, and our commitment to each other. That's what the VFW stands for. That's what Independence Day means.

So as we raise our flags, let us also raise our voices—not just in celebration, but in unity. Let us never forget that freedom is not free—and let us honor all those who paid the ultimate price to secure it.

May God bless Post 12146, the Department of Pacific Areas, and the United States of America.

Happy Independence Day.

John “Jack” Farrell

Commander,

VFW Department of Pacific Areas

cdrdpa@vfwpacific.org

john.p.farrell@icloud.com

“Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More”



DEPARTMENT SURGEON

Fellow Comrades,

None of us are getting any younger and for that reason I am giving advice on how to care for our bodies so we will have a place to live when we get older. Please review the age group you fit in so you may live a longer, healthier life.

Female

Bone density test, discuss with provider at least once between 18 and 64. Get at least once age > 65 and discuss with provider. Breast tissue tests (Mammogram & self-care), test every 3 years ages 20 to 40 then testing every 2 years. Reproductive health PAP Test, done every 1 to 3 years if sexually active (18 to 64) then every 1 to 3 years. Pelvic Exam every year if sexually active (18 to 64) then discuss with provider.

Male

Prosthetic Health can be checked with a digital prostate exam (finger wave) if below 40 discuss with provider. If ≥ 50 then check with provider to be tested every 5 or 10 years. Lastly for final checks men should do testicular checks.

Male/Female

ColoRectal exams are an all inclusive set of tests to check your colon top to bottom (sorry, couldn't resist) there is the fecal occult test to check blood in your stool, flexSig is checking one area for any issues and colonoscopy is checking another area for issues. Most times not an issue until >50 y/o so discuss with provider and adjustments will be made to test every 5 or 10 years. Discuss results with provider. Diabetes is performed as a blood test. Checked to see if there are issues with maintaining blood sugars. General Health exam is performed every 5 yrs after 35 y/o and discuss with provider along with Thyroid tests. Eyes and ears are usually tested at least once in your 20s and then every 2 to 4 years. Heart Health are usually monitored through BP testing and Cholesterol. If there are issues usually evaluated every 2 years but if no issues evaluated as normal every 5 years. Dental evaluation and treatment is evaluated twice per year. Mental Health screening is done as necessary. Examples are Anxiety, Depression, Addiction, etc. Discuss all issues with providers.

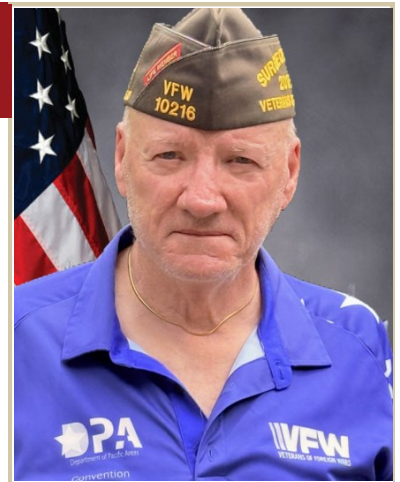
Immunizations

Flu vaccination is yearly. Pneumonia recommended for high risk patients. DPT is given every 10 years, Usually after an injury. Meningitis given per discussion with provider. HPV as discussed with providers. Shingles Vaccine >than age 60 and only 1 time after discussion with provider.

This is not an all-inclusive listing, but it gives basic information and guidance to help us have longer, happier and healthier lives.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Patrick "Doc" Higgins
DPA Surgeon



Department of Pacific Areas

Surgeon

Patrick "Doc" Higgins



Surgeon

CHIEF OF STAFF

Greetings Comrades,

Looking forward to working with our new Department Commander Jack Farrell and his team as we continue to advocate and support veterans and their families.

I ask you all to support Jack and his team by participating in VFW programs, being active in your community, assisting Veterans and their families in need and working towards the membership goal of 101%.

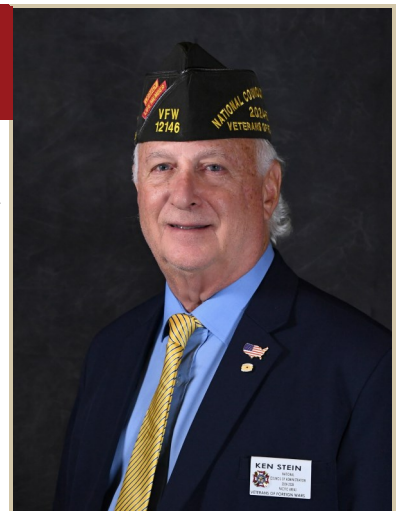
The best way to meet membership goals is to be a friendly and welcoming post. Once you recruit a new member, we must mentor them and get them involved in what we do in our post and community.

I have full confidence in all of you and know we will have an outstanding year.

Yours in comradeship and service to veterans,



Kenneth A. Stein
Chief of Staff 2025-2026 Term
Department of Pacific Areas



Chief of Staff

Ken Stein



Chief of Staff

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Greetings Comrades,

First, I would like to congratulate and thank Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) Commander Jack Farrell for this opportunity. I am extremely honored and grateful to be appointed as the Department Inspector for 2025-2026 year.

Inspections are important and are integral to our success as a department. With that in mind knowledgeable inspectors that are familiar with the National and DPA By-laws should be appointed. No later than 1 July 2025, each District Commander shall appoint an Inspector and provide their names and contact information to the DPA Inspector at inspdpa@gmail.com. This also includes the inspection schedules of their Districts by end of August.

District and Post Inspections need to commence 1 October 2025 through December and hopefully completed before the Mid-Winter Conference in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

District and Post inspections are done to ensure that our processes and operations are congruent and aligned with the National and DPA By-laws. Inspection means careful evaluation to identify any deficiencies and properly correct them within the current year. Should any issues be found; this will allow sufficient time to correct and resolve any deficiencies by 30 April 2026.

However, to achieve All-State; the District and all Post in the District must have successfully completed the inspections NLT 28 February 2026. Hopefully we all share and have this goal in mind and I know we can achieve it.

The DPA Inspection Program procedures and guidelines to include the forms are located on the DPA website under the header Programs/Inspections.

I look forward to working with the District Commanders and their Inspectors. For any questions or concerns, and send all inspections reports to:

inspdpa@vfwpacific.org and cc to inspdpa@gmail.com.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Janet Alford
DPA Inspector

"Sarcasm doesn't get you anywhere"

Me: Well it got me to the Sarcasm
World Championships in Peru in 98

"Really?"

Me: No



Janet Alford

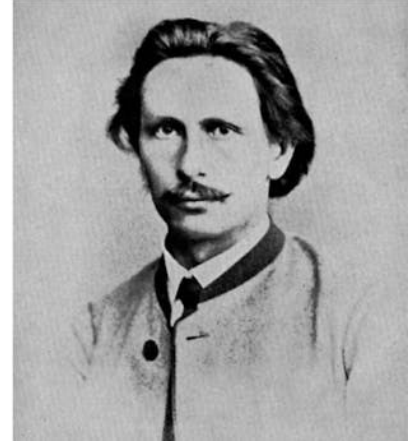


A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Bertha Benz and her husband Karl Benz had invented the first gasoline-powered automobile, but no one knew how to use it, leaving the invention unused. Everyone called Karl a fool for creating what they considered a ridiculous tricycle

To make matters worse, Karl took refuge in alcohol to accompany his depression.

The Benz family lived in Mannheim with their five children, and Bertha had to visit her parents in Pforzheim, almost 100 kilometers to the south. To support her husband and make sure that his work was not in vain, Bertha took courage and decided to set off on the tricycle to visit them.



The journey took almost a full day, a reasonable amount of time considering the power of the vehicle in the late 19th century. Bertha had to stop several times at pharmacies to refuel with gasoline, which was sold there at the time. She visited two tanners to repair the brakes, thus inventing brake pads, and a blacksmith to fix the transmission chain. When a fuel line clogged, Bertha used a pin to repair it and insulated a wire with a makeshift tie.

After arriving at her destination, Bertha informed her husband of the success of the trip by telegram. The next day, she set off for Mannheim, completing the return journey.

The trip attracted a lot of attention, as Bertha met many curious people along the way. It was then that people began to understand that the automobile was not just a curious toy, but a practical and fast means of transportation.

Karl became instantly famous and soon everyone wanted a replica of his car, leading to numerous orders. Bertha's trip was also an opportunity for her to test the vehicle from a user's perspective, identifying potential improvements. She suggested adding a gear to the transmission to increase speed, thus reducing travel time and allowing it to overtake wagons, adding a fourth wheel for greater stability, improving the brakes, and installing a fuel filter. From there, what would become a large automobile empire, known to this day, was born.



JUDGE ADVOCATE

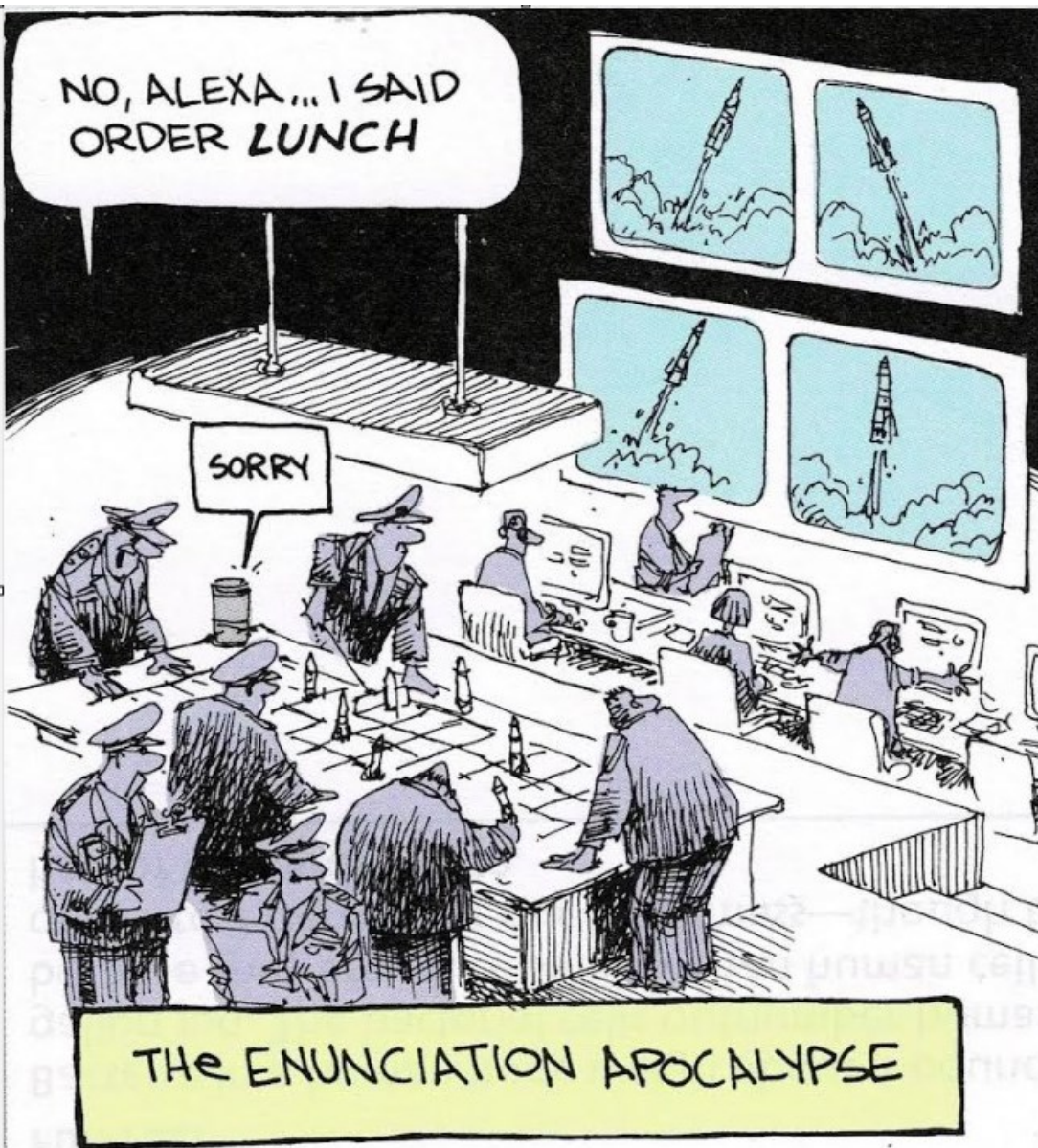
Comrades,

Welcome to 2025 2026. Let's work together this year. Let's not turn on each other and try to cause unneeded turmoil. And let's not do what many have done in the past and skip the Chain of Command. You are all prior so why do we need to remind you? Why are you the special one who does not need to do it the right way? Why? Basically what I am saying is going directly to National without going up the chain will not be tolerated. Actions will be taken.

Put away your petty jealousy and work together to get the job done. Remember CDR Farrell's moto. TEAMWORK, TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE.

Yours in comradeship Max

Warren "Max" Maxson
Judge Advocate
Department of Pacific Areas



Judge Advocate

Warren "Max" Maxson



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.

IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Greetings ALL AMERICAN Comrades,

YES! Through your hard work and perseverance, WE are an ALL AMERICAN DEPARTMENT.! This is not a me award, this is all about YOU and one I wear in YOUR honor. Wow. What you have accomplished this term is record breaking in many ways. I'll not get into ALL of that but let's take a small peek back then start focusing on the long view forward.

Our Department Convention! WOW! What a great convention we had in Bangkok, Thailand. MAD props to Randy Riggs, Tom Friend and the entire Bangkok team, to include the supporters of the VFW supporters' group (hopefully an Auxiliary someday) for ALL their great support during the event. Even though the hotel threw us a splitter toward the end (not even knowing what the pitch count was), our schedule worked out and we accomplished our mission. THANK YOU to them and the entire hotel staff for their support and outstanding service. We enjoyed GREAT camaraderie, got ALL our business done and the MOC was able to ensure we infested ALL our seams! We can work on the audio video stuff later.

That said, I'm still looking for 2 ounces of Blue Ointment to calm my rash. Butt... hey....wow, that was pretty lousy. The last thing I need is Doc "The Big Bug" Higgins checking MY seams to be sure. Congrats to you Doc and I look "backward" to my next regular examination. Also gotta shout out to my good friend Randell "Busta" Himes (aka, Past Big Bug) on a fantastic term. You were the WURST Randy and the stench will remain for many years to come. Please DO NOT thank your awesome wife for having dealt with our lousy seams for so many years. She is just HORRIBLE!

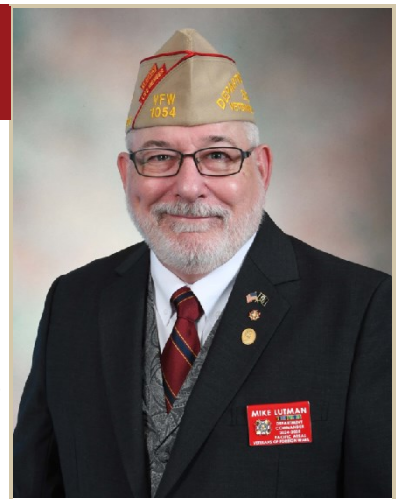
I can't overstate the accomplishments of our team, and I remain so very thankful, and humbled, for what all our Post and Districts did to once again prove that NOBODY DOES MORE TO SUPPORT VETERANS than the PACIFIC AREAS.

What we do: Advocacy, Assistance, and Camaraderie

Advocacy: Brought forth a well prepared team to deliver a forceful message with regard to those things we feel are at the forefront of those that impact Veterans Overseas. Despite limited focus and participation at their level, we engaged at each and every opportunity to ensure that whomever received our message, it was with the same passion and focus intended. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Assistance: Once again, a leader in submission only because of what we DO day in and day out. We don't have to make it up... WE LIVE IT. The CSR numbers speak for themselves. Yet, the numbers do not reconcile the true impact of what our Veterans and their family members do day in and day out. YOU are force multipliers when it comes to making an impact on your communities and the many who would otherwise be unassisted. IF there was an award for Global Impact, YOU would be perennial awardees. You make me so proud. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Camaraderie: There are many ways to come together and establish the mutual trust and friendship among people who spend a lot of time together. One of them, at least in the VFW, is through programs and other assistance. We led over 2/3 of all Departments throughout the organization. Between VOD/PP/TEACHERS/BUDDY POPPY and VMS, we SMOKED the organization. And we party like it is 1999! To coin a phrase, NOBODY HAS MORE FUN THAN THE PACIFIC AREAS! MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



Immediate Past DPA Cdr

Michael D. Lutman



IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

AND through those tenants as our core focus of effort, we were able to hit 105.05% in membership! I can go on and on about who I need to thank, and I humbly hope you know who you are. However, this is about the way forward and our incoming team.

Three cheers for our incoming Commander John “Jack” Farrell. Commander Jack and his team of bilge rats are poised, ready and able to lead us through this next term and into the future. He has assembled a cracker jack team of Comrades to ensure that the Pacific Areas will once again meet and/or exceed the goals set forth by our incoming National Commander In Chief, Carrol Whitmore. With JVC David Gley and SVC Don Kelly minding his baffles, this will be an outstanding patrol. Together, they will ensure the ongoing success of our great organization and I stand ready, with each and every one of you, to assist them in that endeavor because through TEAMWORK, TOGETHER WE ALL ACHIEVE MORE.

You would think it would not be necessary for me to waste your valuable time in reading this article to point out that we must come together in true comradeship and dismiss the trivial personalities and petty jealousies that so often take up SO much of our and our leaderships time. It is true, and remains so today, that the hardest part of running the VFW is at the POST level! So, we must ensure that we work to resolve ALL our issues there. HANDLE YOUR BUSINESS! JAG MAX is on point. Post CDRs, If you can’t handle it, then maybe we need to get someone who can. THAT does not mean you are in the fight ALONE! NO! Reach out to MAX for advice as needed (ask Pete Callaghan, he can count on his fingers and toes how many times I asked him for advice). Ask your fellow Post CDRs for advice, seek the guidance of your District CDRs and their assistance. Reach out to the Chief of Staff. Those were my requirements as well, so nothing new.

I also ask you to be compassionate and endearing toward those who may have not always presented a good front, but who now choose to make a new path in service and dedication to our organization. The path to salvation is not always an easy one, but should we listen, and the effort is made, we might understand the effort. Once we silence the egos of the past, we can come together in true comradeship and peace.

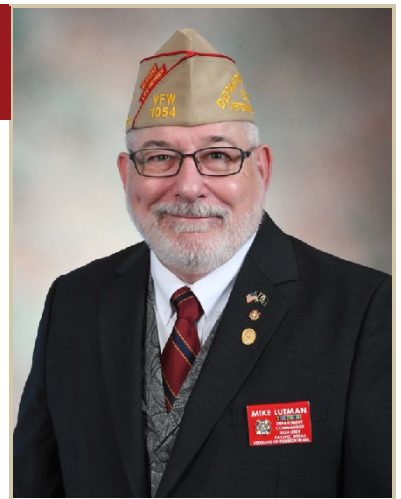
Also, please say a silent prayer for PVT DAVID A. TUROVH, US ARMY, KOREA. As part of an Eagle Scout project presented by Connor Nicol, and as presented a few VFW Conventions ago, Connor gave me PVT Turovh’s memorial dog tag, and I have worn it for the last 3 years. It served to remind me that no matter how bad a day I might be having, his was a LOT worse. It now holds a place of honor in my home. Thank you for your support David, thank you for your service and thank you for making the ultimate sacrifice in support of freedom throughout the world.

Comrades, I wish each and every one of you our Lord’s presence and his compassion. Give unto others as you would have them give unto you. Be courageous, be bold and be of good cheer. Until we meet again, may the good Lord hold you in the palm of his hand. I am and shall remain forever grateful to you for a fantastic year. LET’S DO IT AGAIN!

THANK YOU and HOOYAH DPA!

In Comradeship and Service,

Michael D. Lutman
Immediate Past Department Commander
Department of Pacific Areas



Department of Pacific Areas

Immediate Past DPA Cdr

Michael D. Lutman



#STILLSERVING

A LITTLE BIT OF ANCIENT WISDOM



There's a Japanese legend that says,

"If you feel like you're losing everything,
remember, trees lose their leaves
every year, yet they still stand tall and
wait for better days to come."

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

Good day,

I'm Vernon Lask, your new Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) Service Officer (DSO). I am honored to have been asked to serve in this role by Commander Farrell.

I first joined the VFW while on active duty, stationed in Yokosuka, Japan. In November 1993, I became a member of Yokohama Post 9467, later transferring to Yokosuka Post 1054. I eventually moved to Angeles Post 2485 in November 2017. Since then, I've proudly served as Post 2485 Trustee since 2018, and most recently as Post Service Officer from 2023 to 2024.

As your DSO, my goal is to ensure we have at least one—ideally two—Assistant Department Service Officers (ADSOs) in every country that has a DPA District. I'm setting my sights high: I aim to conduct face-to-face engagements with an ADSO in each District three times a week. Yes, it's ambitious—but we have to start somewhere, and that time is now.

I'm always available and strive to respond to all emails within three days of receipt. On occasion, due to the volume of Veterans, Service Members, and their families I support, it may take a few extra days. But rest assured—I will respond.

Very respectfully,

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



DSO Pacific Areas

Vernon Lask



Service Officer

**#STILL
SERVING**



VOD/PP/TEACHER'S AWARD CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

I am returning for my second year in the role of Voice of Democracy (VoD), Patriot's Pen (PP), and Teachers Award Chairman for the Department of Pacific Areas. I look forward to working with you again this year. In last year's competition, a couple of our students placed nationally receiving over \$3,000 in scholarship prizes; let's see if we can get a first-place National winner for the 2025 – 2026 campaign.

2024-2025 marked the first time Pacific Area Posts were allowed to use the web-based application process; ScholarsApp (<https://scholarsapp.com>). I need to complete organizational structure for this year's effort so please email me a minimum of two representatives for each for each Post in our department. My goal is to ensure each student submits their own application electronically. I encourage constant monitoring and quick resolution to ensure that each contestant has sufficient time to complete their package.

Both the Patriots Pen and Voic of Democracy share a single theme this year– “How are you showing patriotism and support for our country?” Please log into the website to download, print, and deliver the flyers to each school, homeschools, and youth centers in your area. Getting posters out right away allows children to start working on their presentation early. I also want to encourage you to work closely with the schools to try and get them more involved with the program. One way is to get some teachers to help with the voting as it suggests in the VoD/PP Chairman's guide.

Deadlines: All applications must be submitted to the **Posts by 31 October**. Each **District must submit their winner to me by 21 November**. This gives three weeks for Post and District level processing. If there is any doubt about the validity of an application, please get with me ASAP so we can check and give the youth plenty of time to fix their entry before it is too late. The last thing I want to do is void an entry.

Yours in comradeship and service,

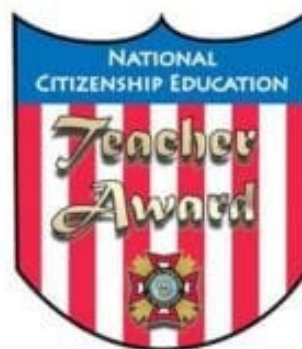
Robert E. Madison, Jr.
VoD/PP/Teacher's Award Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas
vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org
Phone: +82-10-4413-1593



Department of Pacific Areas

VOD/PP/TA Chairman

Robert E. Madison Jr.



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Unsung Heroes!

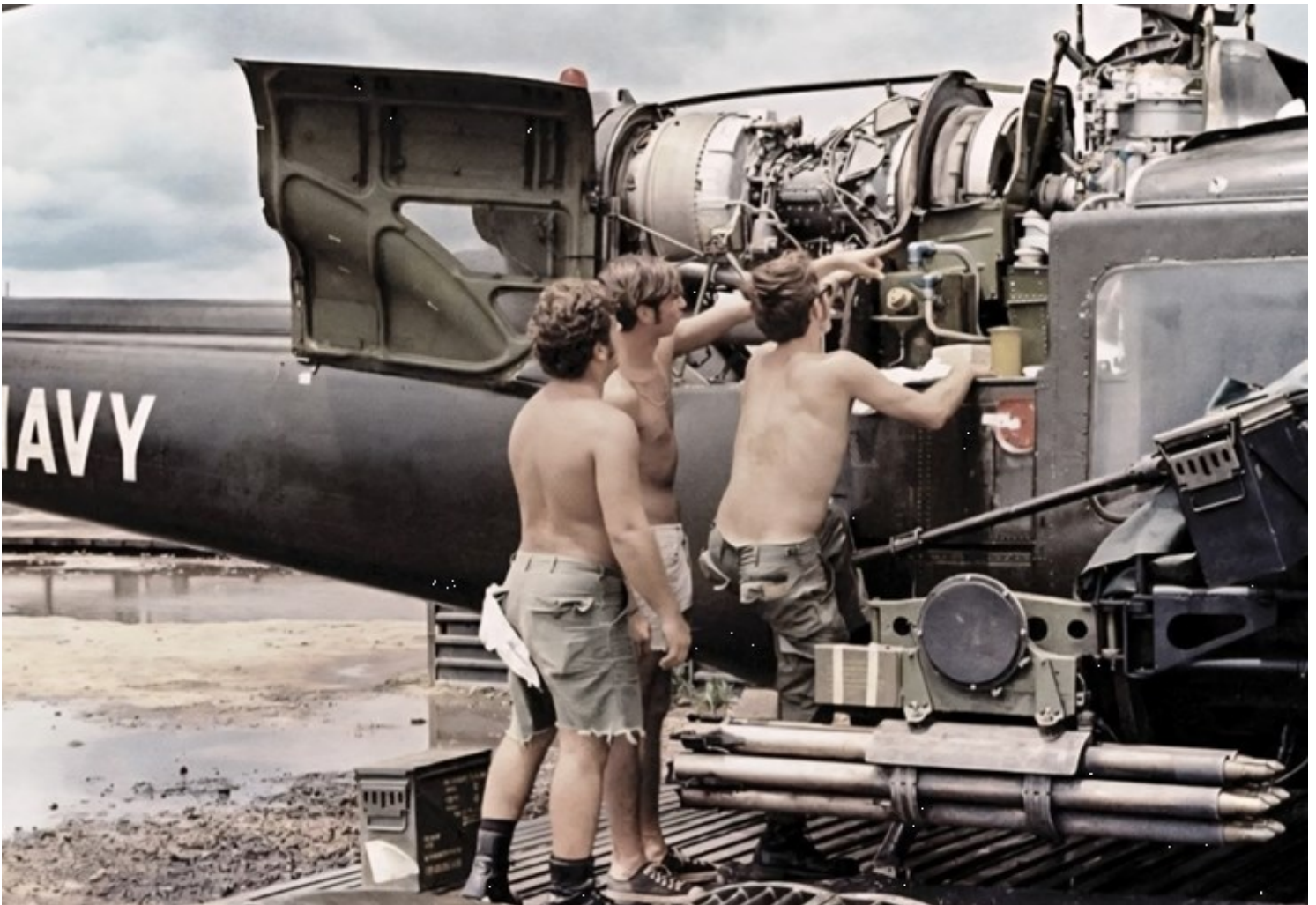
During the Vietnam War, the mechanics who maintained helicopters and fighter jets were vital yet often overlooked heroes, ensuring the air mobility that defined US military strategy. Working in harsh conditions at bases like Da Nang and Bien Hoa, these skilled technicians kept aircraft like the UH-1 Huey, AH-1 Cobra, and F-4 Phantom operational despite intense heat, monsoon rains, and constant enemy threats.

They performed complex repairs under tight deadlines, often salvaging damaged aircraft from rice paddies using Sikorsky Skycranes or improvising fixes with limited parts. Their expertise was critical for missions ranging from troop transport to close air support, with aircraft availability directly impacting battlefield outcomes. For instance, during the Battle of Ia Drang in 1965, mechanics worked around the clock to keep Hueys flying, enabling critical resupply and medical evacuations under heavy fire.

These mechanics, many of whom were young enlistees or draftees trained at places like Fort Wolters, Texas, faced immense pressure to maintain high operational readiness. They dealt with battle-damaged aircraft, trouble-shooting turbine engines and hydraulic systems while under the threat of mortar attacks or Viet Cong sabotage.

Their ingenuity was legendary—some fabricated tools from scrap metal or adapted civilian parts to keep aircraft aloft. Despite their critical role, few received recognition like the pilots they supported, yet their dedication saved countless lives by ensuring aircraft were ready for daring rescues and combat missions.

Their unsung efforts, often performed in grueling 12-hour shifts, were a backbone of the air war, enabling the U.S. to maintain air superiority and support ground forces across Vietnam's challenging terrain.



VMS/MAP CHAIRMAN

As the DPA VMS and MAP Chairman for this term, I'd like to remind everyone of a couple important requirements and opportunities.

Each Post must donate a minimum of \$125 to the National Veterans and Military Support (VMS) Program. This donation must be made via the [VMS Donation link](#) on the [VFW All American Dashboard](#). This is an All-State requirement. To donate to any of the VFW programs, please visit the [VFW Programs Donations page](#).

For Posts located near active military installations, the Military Assistance Program (MAP) offers an excellent opportunity to engage directly with service members. Hosting MAP events helps them see firsthand the work we do for veterans and our communities, which can make recruitment efforts much easier. If you're planning a MAP event, remember to apply for a MAP grant. Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, and funding often runs out before the end of the year.

Patrick S. Brooks
VMS/MAP Chairman



Taking Care Of Our Own

Veterans have always watched out for each other. When veterans of the Spanish-American War returned home in 1899, there was no guarantee of medical care, no veterans' pension, and many veterans and their families were left to fend for themselves after their sacrifice. A visionary band of veterans formed what would eventually become the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and through hard-fought determination established the veterans benefits we enjoy today. We exist to protect and defend those who have sacrificed for our nation. You've earned that.



Department of Pacific Areas

VMS/MAP Chairman

Patrick S. Brooks



MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

MAP Grant Application
Form [HERE](#)

**MILITARY
ONE
SOURCE**

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 (~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,

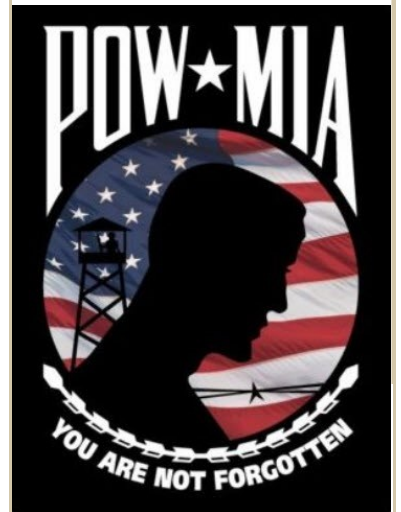


James (Jim) Collins
DPA POW/MIA Chairman



POW/MIA Chairman

James "Jim" Collins



LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Comrades, it was nice to see everyone that attended the DPA Convention in Bangkok. This is just a short take of my report that I gave there. With the March 2025 Washington Conference now if the books. It was a pleasure, taking DPA CDR Lutman, National Council member Stein and 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

As we did the briefing on the above, we asked the Congress person to take a look at the Bill and to cosponsor them on behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Randell E Himes
DPA Legislative Chairman
legdpa@vfwpacific.org
National Legislative Committee
rehimes@gmail.com 1-815-408-2454



Legislative Chairman

Randell Himes



**2025
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>.

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

The Horse Manure Problem of 1894 The 15 to 30 pounds of manure produced daily by each beast multiplied by the 150,000+ horses in New York city resulted in more than three million pounds of horse manure per day that somehow needed to be disposed of. That's not to mention the daily 40,000 gallons of horse urine.

In other words, cities reeked. As Morris says, the "stench was omnipresent." Here are some fun bits from his article:

Urban streets were minefields that needed to be navigated with the greatest care. "Crossing sweepers" stood on street corners; for a fee they would clear a path through the mire for pedestrians. Wet weather turned the streets into swamps and rivers of muck, but dry weather brought little improvement; the manure turned to dust, which was then whipped up by the wind, choking pedestrians and coating buildings.

... even when it had been removed from the streets the manure piled up faster than it could be disposed of ... early in the century farmers were happy to pay good money for the manure, by the end of the 1800s stable owners had to pay to have it carted off. As a result of this glut ... vacant lots in cities across America became piled high with manure; in New York these sometimes rose to forty and even sixty feet.

We need to remind ourselves that horse manure is an ideal breeding ground for flies, which spread disease. Morris reports that deadly outbreaks of typhoid and "infant diarrheal diseases can be traced to spikes in the fly population."

Comparing fatalities associated with horse-related accidents in 1916 Chicago versus automobile accidents in 1997, he concludes that people were killed nearly seven times more often back in the good old days. The reasons for this are straightforward:

... horse-drawn vehicles have an engine with a mind of its own. The skittishness of horses added a dangerous level of unpredictability to nineteenth-century transportation. This was particularly true in a bustling urban environment, full of surprises that could shock and spook the animals. Horses often stampeded, but a more common danger came from horses kicking, biting, or trampling bystanders. Children were particularly at risk.

Falls, injuries, and maltreatment also took a toll on the horses themselves. Data cited by Morris indicates that, in 1880, more than 3 dozen dead horses were cleared from New York streets each day (nearly 15,000 a year).



NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN

I would like to welcome everyone to our new year of supporting Our VFW National Home. As you know the VFW National Home assists Military, Veterans, and their Families with Children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment.

We as a Department, Districts and Posts, I would like to see us outshine and do our part in supporting the VFW National Home more than any other Department, District and Post in the VFW this year.

Department of Pacific Areas has the Heart and the Fight to be the best so let's show the VFW National Home how we can support them also!

Yours in Comradeship,

Roscoe McGlynn

DPA National Home Chairman

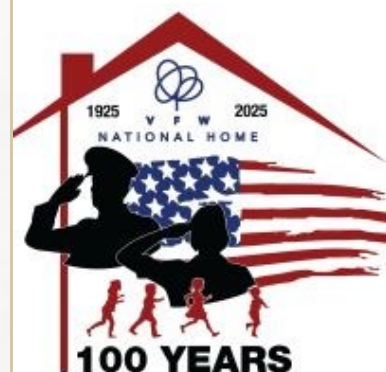
[National Home Website](#)



Department of Pacific Areas

National Home Chairman

Roscoe McGlynn



1925 Happy New Year's 2025

RINGING IN THE VFW NATIONAL HOME CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!



VFW NATIONAL HOME

WOMEN'S VETERAN CHAIRPERSON

Hello everyone!

I'm super excited to be part of this awesome TEAM! At first, I was a little hesitant — like, "Do I really want to do this?" — but I'm so glad I said YES to becoming the new Women's Veterans Program Chairperson. A big shoutout to Sister and Comrade Commander Janet Alford for sharing the load and passing me the torch (and maybe a few laughs along the way)! Joke aside, I'm genuinely happy to help and be part of the Department of Pacific Areas counsel.

Here's a quick intro about me: I retired in 2020 after serving 25 years in the U.S. Navy as an Aviation Structural Mechanic. (HOOYAH, Airdale!) Currently, I serve as the second Post Commander of VFW Manila Post 12231, MOH Jose C. Calugas Sr. As the first female Commander of a relatively new VFW member, I know there will be some bumps in the road — lessons learned, and maybe some funny stories too. But I trust that our mentors will guide us on the right path to accomplish our mission - To pay it forward — helping veterans, active duty service members, and our community, just like we started.

Behind every strong Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post, there are leaders who inspire, uplift, and serve their fellow veterans and communities. Today, we celebrate five remarkable women service members who have risen to the position of Post Commander in the Department of Pacific Areas — trailblazers whose stories of dedication, resilience, and leadership are shaping a brighter future for all veterans. As the fifth women Post Commander in the Pacific Areas, I hope I can continue what the first four Commanders did before me. I thank them for paving the way for veterans like me to follow.

- Past CDR of Post 10216 (now Post 8180), Colonel Lewis L. Millett Hill 180 Memorial, District 3, Songtan, Korea, - Cynthia Schmitz, 2016 - 2017, a USAF Retired
- Past CDR of Post 1054, John C. Parker Memorial, District 2, Yokosuka, Japan, - Lauren Wanzer, 2021 - 2022, a USN Retired
- Past CDR of Post 12130, Ulysses G. Buzzard Memorial, District 7, Cebu, Philippines, - Kimberly Osborn-Burleson, 2022-2023, a USAF Retired
- She is going on her second year as CDR of Post 2485, Robert W. Zaher, District 7, Angeles City, Philippines, - Janet Alford, 2023 - 2024, 2024 - 2025, a USAF Retired

These women leaders view their roles as more than titles — they see themselves as champions for veterans' welfare, community builders, and mentors for future generations. Their initiatives include veteran outreach, health and wellness programs, and fostering a welcoming environment for all members. They believe that diversity in leadership strengthens the organization, enriches the community, and encourages others to serve and lead with integrity.

I look forward to working with all of you! I hope I can do my part and make a meaningful difference.

Again, thanks for welcoming me — I look forward to working with all of you!

Golda Russell
Women's Veteran Chairperson
Department of Pacific Areas



Department of Pacific Areas

Woman's Veteran Chairperson

Golda Russell



To add a little flavor from around the Pacific Areas:

English: Let's do this!

Filipino: Tara na, laban na!
(Let's go, let's fight!)

Thai: ไปด้วยกันนะ! (Pai duay kan na! — Let's go together!)

Cambodian: មកមុខ
មកទៀត! (Mak muk

mak tiet! — Let's move forward!)

Vietnamese: Cùng nhau nào! (Let's do this together!)

Japanese: 頑張ろう!
(Ganbarou! — Let's do our best!)

SOMETHING TO PONDER

"When 79-year-old George retired, he didn't buy a golf club or a hammock. He hung a handmade sign in his garage window: "Broken things? Bring 'em here. No charge. Just tea and talk."

His neighbors in the faded mill town of Maple Grove thought he'd lost it. "Who fixes stuff for free?" grumbled the barber. But George had a reason. His wife, Ruth, had spent decades repairing torn coats and cracked picture frames for anyone who knocked. "Waste is a habit," she'd say. "Kindness is the cure." She'd died the year before, and George's hands itched to mend what she'd left behind.

The first visitor was 8-year-old Mia, dragging a plastic toy truck with a missing wheel. "Dad says we can't afford a new one," she mumbled. George rummaged through his toolbox, humming. An hour later, the truck rolled again—this time with a bottle cap for a wheel and a stripe of silver duct tape. "Now it's custom," he winked. Mia left smiling, but her mother lingered. "Can you... fix a résumé?" she asked. "I've been stuck on the couch since the factory closed."

By noon, George's garage buzzed. A widow brought a shattered clock ("My husband wound it every Sunday"). A teen carried a leaky backpack. George fixed them all, but he didn't work alone. Retired teachers proofread résumés. A former seamstress stitched torn backpacks. Even Mia returned, handing him a jar of jam: "Mom says thanks for the job interview."

Then came the complaint.

"Unlicensed business," snapped the city inspector. "You're violating zoning laws."

Maple Grove's mayor, a man with a spreadsheet heart, demanded George shut down. The next morning, 40 townsfolk stood on George's lawn, holding broken toasters, torn quilts, and protest signs: "Fix the law, not just stuff!" A local reporter filmed a segment: "Is kindness illegal?"

The mayor caved. Sort of.

"If you want to 'fix' things, do it downtown," he said. "Rent the old firehouse. But no guarantees."

The firehouse became a hive. Volunteers gutted it, painted it sunshine yellow, and dubbed it "Ruth's Hub." Plumbers taught plumbing. Teenagers learned to darn socks. A baker swapped muffins for repaired microwaves. The town's waste dropped by 30%.

But the real magic? Conversations. A lonely widow fixed a lamp while a single dad patched a bike tire. They talked about Ruth. About loss. About hope.

Last week, George found a note in his mailbox. It was from Mia, now 16, interning at a robotics lab. "You taught me to see value in broken things. I'm building a solar-powered prosthetic arm. PS: The truck still runs!"

Today, 12 towns across the state have "Fix-It Hubs." None charge money. All serve tea.

Funny, isn't it? How a man with a screwdriver can rebuild a world."

<https://www.hennepin.us/fixitclinic>



GRAND SEAMY SQUEAKS

Grand Commander Higgins (A.K.A., Witch Doctor)

“ALWAYS READY”

Good morning Moms and Dads, Grandparents, Kids and Cooties of all shapes and sizes.

First, I want to thank everyone who has put me at this place and time. I look forward to increasing our seams and meeting requirements for all PupTents to achieve “All Star” status.

It was a great Convention and seeing everyone in Thailand and seeing everyone happy and energized was awesome.

Several people have asked about a motto that each Grand Seamy has put for each Cootie year. Last year was Communicate, Communicate and Communicate even more and it helped to keep us focused. I am proposing the motto for this year builds on Grand Seamy Randell’s Communicate motto. I am proposing for my year motto

“ALWAYS READY”

This is the marching order to blend with Communicating.

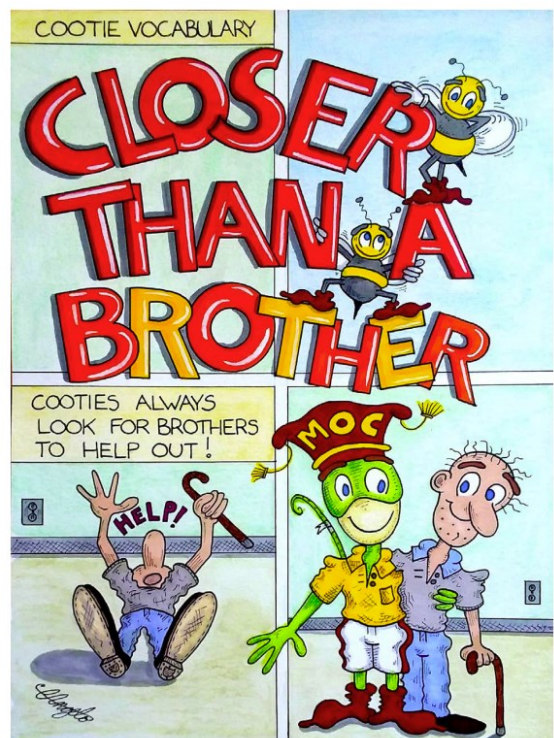
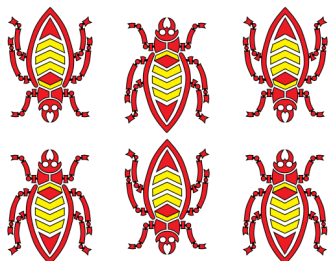
I believe Communicating is the preparatory command and “Be Ready” is the Operational Command. We need to “Be Ready” to act on the communicated information if we are going to keep our brothers and sisters ‘smiling in beds of white, chairs of silver and darkest of night’. We need to also be ready “to assist other PupTents in our Grand as well as others around the world and have the opportunity to achieve “All-Star” status.

Once again, I thank everyone’s support and look forward to support increasing Cootie hiding places around the Pacific Areas.

L.O.T.C.S.

Grand Seamy
Pat “doc” Higgins
aka- the Witch Doctor
cdrgdr@vfwpacific.org

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



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

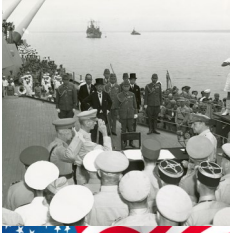
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UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES*



VJ Day, also known as Victory Over Japan Day, is observed on September 2 every year in the United States. It commemorates the official surrender ceremony of the Japanese aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay—an event that occurred on September 2, 1945. Read more at <https://www.defense.gov/Experience/VJ-Day/>



Patriot Day is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. Many Americans refer to Patriot Day as 9/11 or September 11. Read more at: <https://militarybenefits.info/patriot-day-september-11th-9-11/>



POW/MIA Recognition Day is commemorated on the third Friday of every September, a date that's not associated with any particular war. Resolutions making it official were passed in 1979 by Congress and the president after the families of the more than 2,500 Vietnam War POW/MIAs pushed for full accountability. The remains of almost 82,000 Americans are still missing, according to the [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency \(DPAA\)](#).



Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) was the name used by the US Government for the Global War on Terrorism. On 7 October 2001, in response to the September 11 attacks, President George W. Bush announced that airstrikes targeting Al-Qaeda and the Taliban had begun in Afghanistan. OEF primarily refers to the War in Afghanistan, but it is also affiliated with counterterrorism operations in other countries. Read more at <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/u-s-led-attack-on-afghanistan-begins>



18 October Recognition of Women in Military Service. From the Revolutionary War to present day conflicts, women have proudly served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard as nurses, pilots, engineers, soldiers and other specialties. During World War I, about 35,000 women officially served as nurses and support staff. During World War II, 140,000 women served. Read more at: <http://dev.legion.org/womenveterans/248582/%E2%80%98we-can-do-it-history-women-military-service>

Other Important Dates

August 4 - U.S. Coast Guard Established (1790)

August 14 - Japan Surrendered, Ending WWII (1945); National Navajo Code Talkers Day

September First Monday - Labor Day

September 14 - VFW Auxiliary Founded (1914)

September 17 - Constitution and Citizenship Day

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

September 29 - VFW Founded in 1899

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

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

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