

THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No One Does More for Veterans
Loyalty, Duty and Honor

Volume XXVII, Number 5

March/April 2024

FREE

Nominations and Elections 2024-2025



We are now in the nomination and election season for all posts and districts in the VFW for the 2024-2025 term.

Nominations are opened at the post general membership meeting in March and remain open until elections at the post general membership meeting in April. Section 215 - 217 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure provides guidance.

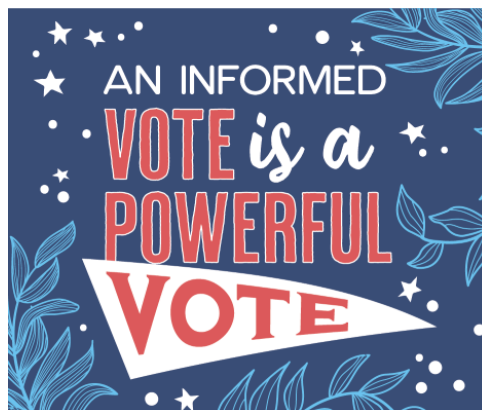
District nominations are opened at the meeting prior to the District Convention and remain open until the election during the District Convention. Section 415 - 417 of the National Bylaws & Manual of Procedure provides guidance.

In April posts will be electing those officers as well as the delegates for districts and department conventions. It is important to carefully consider your nominations and elect worthy leaders for all officer and delegate positions. Remember, you are electing the leaders of your post or district and they set the tone for your organization. It is also helpful to elect a Commander who is familiar with the chain of command within our organization and if possible, someone who is known at the Department level to be an honest, thoughtful, and dedicated comrade.

The process of electing delegates is laid out in the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure, as well as in your District and Department Bylaws. If you have questions or are unsure of the process, go to the District or Department JAG and they will provide answers or get you an answer as required.

Sec. 222 - Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.

VFW National Headquarters Kansas City, MO 64111 has a FREE Electronic Edition that can be downloaded by clicking [HERE](#):



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COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings Comrades!

Department of the Pacific Areas 2nd place in VFW National Membership Statistics as of 29 February 2024. We have 12,094 members or 100.39% and we need 193 members to reach 102% to meet VFW National Commander In Chief's "Meet the Challenge".

As we continue to honor our commitment to veterans and their families, we encourage all current members and family members to actively participate in recruiting new VFW members and re-instating old members to our esteemed organization. By expanding our membership, we can further our impact and support for veterans in the Pacific Areas. If you know of any eligible veterans who would benefit from joining the VFW, please reach out to them and share the valuable resources and camaraderie our organization offers.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming VFW Department of Pacific Areas Convention, 12-15 June 2024, which is scheduled to take place in Angeles City, Philippines. This important gathering will provide an opportunity for VFW members from across the Pacific region to come together, discuss pertinent issues, and shape the future of our Department. More details to follow regarding the convention dates, agenda, and registration will be shared in the coming weeks through our DPA 2.0 Facebook page. Our Convention Chairman for this year is VFW Post 2485 and D7 Commander Jim Collins and his Vice Chair is Post 2485 SVC Janet Alford who are hard at work to ensure that you will enjoy this year's Convention. Our VFW National Commander In Chief Duane Sarmiento will be attending our Convention and so is our friends from the Veterans Council Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and we will all look forward for a fruitful and memorable convention.

This coming March is a very important month for our all Posts, Districts in the Department of Pacific Areas because everyone will be holding their nominations for the 2024-2025 Term. My best wishes to all the nominees and encouraged everyone who wants to affect changes to your Post or District is to make the concerted effort in learning the job or the position that they have been elected. On behalf of the Department Leadership, again I would like to thank you all for your hard work and dedication in taking care of our Veterans, their families, their widows, and orphans. Yours In Comradship,

Alexander Fores
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
Loyalty, Duty and Honor



Commander

Alex Fores



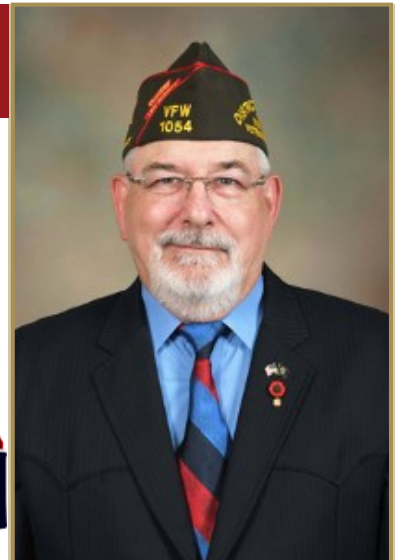
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

My how time does fly. We are a few short months from the Department Convention in Angels City. There is even less time now to meet your All State and All American requirements. Well done and BZ to the Posts and Districts who have put in the time and effort to Meet the Challenge. Now it is up to the rest of us to finish strong and hit the finish line winded.

Included below is an AA snapshot from 22FEB24. There is lots left to get done.

Department	District	Post	Community Service	VMS	Voice of Democracy	Patriot's Pen	Teacher Award	Buddy Poppy	Membership	Recruiting Events
Pacific Areas	2	1054	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
Pacific Areas	2	9555	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	2	9612	Met	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met
Pacific Areas	3	8180	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
Pacific Areas	3	9985	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	3	10033	Met	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	3	10223	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	4	9723	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met
Pacific Areas	4	9957	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met
Pacific Areas	4	10249	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	4	11575	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
Pacific Areas	4	12146	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet
Pacific Areas	5	9876	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	5	9951	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	5	10217	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	5	12074	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	5	12163	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	6	1509	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	6	2917	Met	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	6	3457	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	7	124	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
Pacific Areas	7	2485	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met
Pacific Areas	7	9892	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	7	11447	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	7	12130	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
Pacific Areas	7	12224	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met



Department of Pacific Areas
Senior Vice Commander

Mike Lutman

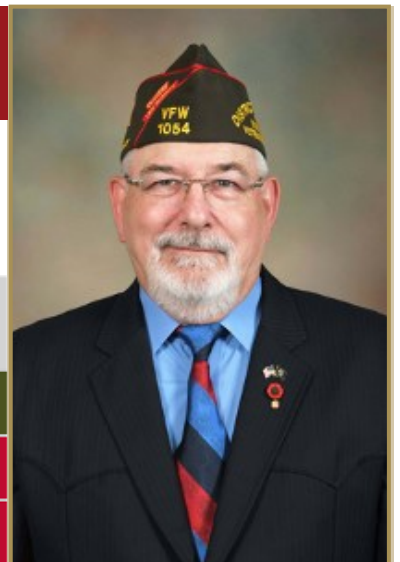


Sr. Vice Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

For our Districts, the same holds true and while they are tied to their posts for membership success, they are NOT with regard to program submissions. For those posts and districts unable to submit entries, the option to make a \$100 donation is available. Do not wait until the last minute to take care of these items.

Department	District	Post	Voice of Democracy	Patriot's Pen	Teacher Award	Membership	Recruiting Events
Pacific Areas	2		Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met
Pacific Areas	3		Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	4		Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet
Pacific Areas	5		Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	6		Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet
Pacific Areas	7		Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met



Mike Lutman

Membership continues to be a challenge and we must find new and innovative ways to recruit. I had the pleasure of teaming up with PDC and CNR Larry Lyons (L3) and DPA Chaplain Robert Chatman during a visit to Korea the week of 12FEB24. Between recruiting tables on OSAN AFB and Army Post CAMP CASEY, we were able to recruit over 50 new members in District 3!



Sr. Vice Commander



"I told you Comrade Lutman, we need to get out and recruit more if we are going to 'Meet the Challenge!' 'Wooooo-wooooo!'"

I believe the recipe for this success is of course the awesome skills brought to the table by our recruiters but it all started with a simple greeting, "Hi, how is it going today? Have you heard about the VFW? If you have a few minutes, we would love to tell you about our organization." If you don't ask, they can't join. Now, I'm not suggesting we use tactics like those employed by Terry Tate: Office Linebacker, but we must first engage to be effective recruiters. We can also be innovative and form local groups of recruiters for District led recruiting events. We CAN and SHOULD help ourselves as a team.

Comrades, while this article focused on the All American Program and recruiting, please stay vigilant and determined in the completion of your All State requirements as well. We will be closing out the All State requirements FOR RECOGNITION AT THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION on 1 April 2024.

Don't forget to have your Election Reports and GO1's ready to go as soon as possible after your elections in April. Prospective Post and District Commanders should already have a general idea of who they want to fill their appointed positions. If you don't, and you plan to run for Commander, then now is the time to get that done and Alert Five, ready for launch.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Oh....and speaking of don't forget, National Convention Registration opens 18 March 2024! Rooms went REALLY fast last year so get your travel plans finalized soon for the convention in Louisville, Kentucky!!!

Remember, if you need assistance please reach out to me and let me know what help you need. If I, another DPA Officer or committee chair can't help you, we can probably find someone that can.

One final note, this isn't the first time we have been asked to "Meet the Challenge." and I am sure it won't be the last. Keep charging! Hooyah DPA!

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Mike Lutman
Senior Vice Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
Loyalty, Duty and Honor

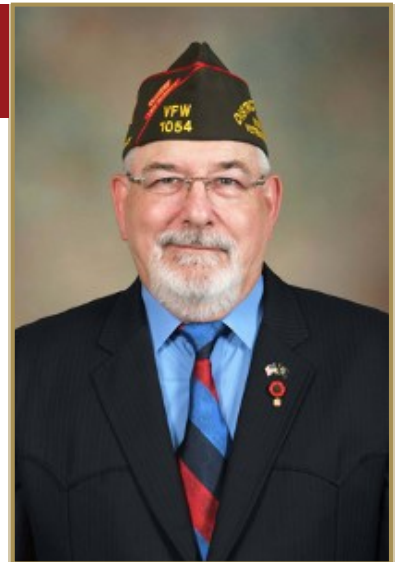


1991

MEET THE CHALLENGE



2023-2024



Senior Vice Commander

Mike Lutman



Sr. Vice Commander

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

I hope this finds you and your families in good health and doing well. As we move closer to our annual convention in Angeles City, I encourage posts and districts to look at both the All-State, and All-American Dashboards. We are still showing a lot of red that indicates incomplete program participation. Let's get on top of it and support the programs that provide assistance to our VFW Families and Veterans.

Department Outstanding Awards Program

Recognizes individual members, organizations and non-member individuals that have made significant contributions in reaching our organizational goals. Awards in each category will be awarded at the Department Convention based on submissions received from your District Judging Committees with their final selection being made by the Department Judging Committee.

Awards for the following will be selected:

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

*** Note ***

The National Community Service Award will be selected based on CSR inputs that have been entered into the system.

Nomination packages for each category shall be submitted by each Post to their District Commanders **NLT 15 April 2024**. Please read and follow the package guidelines.

District Commanders shall email their District winners (ONE for each category) to the Department Junior Vice Commander **NLT 1 May 2024**. Check the DPA Web-site under Programs / Department Outstanding Awards Programs for the current nomination forms.

Post Commanders let's ensure we are documenting and recognizing our Comrades accordingly. It is NOT too soon to get to work on your packages. You can always fine tune them prior to your submission to your Districts for judging.

NJROTC Cadet Awards

District CDR's, as a reminder your NJROTC Cadet award nominations from your selection committees are due to me **NLT 15 April 2024** with the DPA winner submitted to National **NLT 12 May 2024**. Please ensure you engage your posts for their inputs.

Public Servant Awards

The department congratulates the following individuals who have been selected by the Department Awards Committee. They have been advanced to National for continued competition.



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

Jack Farrell



Jr. Vice Commander



NOTE

As a reminder on the National Dashboard, the CSR button resets quarterly to Red to indicate the start of a new quarter and absence of reports for the current quarter.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Dispatcher:	Yasutaka Ota	Post 9723
Firefighter	Nicholas Coury	Post 9723
EMT	Rebecca Hendry	Post 1054
LE	Ma'a S. Taliu	Post 1054

As a reminder to all, if you have an individual that you think is deserving of recognition, they can be considered for a Commander in Chiefs Certificate of recognition.

District Award Committees

District Commanders, I encourage each of you to keep your posts informed of your judging committee make-up and include post members from the posts in your districts on your committees.

Community Service

I want to thank each of you and applaud you on the great job you are doing capturing your community efforts.

As we have now entered a new year, just a word of caution to ensure you select the correct year on your submissions.

Let's ensure your post meets the minimum CSR requirements and getting credit for their efforts. This is a requirement for All-State.

Community Service Reports show how we, as an organization, dedicate our time and money in providing service in our communities, helping our fellow veterans that are in need, their widows, and their orphans.

Look at your dashboards. If something is red, it needs your attention.

As always, if you ever have an issue with program requirements or one of the multi-faceted requirements of the VFW, we are here to assist as needed.

Let's finish the year strong and enjoy the celebration at our convention in Angeles City.

I look forward to seeing each of you. Together Everyone Achieves More!

Yours in Service to Veterans

Jack Farrell
Junior Vice Commander,
Department of Pacific Areas
Loyalty, Duty and Honor



Some things just can't be sold.



Department of Pacific Areas
Junior Vice Commander

Jack Farrell



Jr. Vice Commander



NOTE

As a reminder on the National Dashboard, the CSR button resets quarterly to Red to indicate the start of a new quarter and absence of reports for the current quarter.

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



Post 9723 would like to say congratulations to this year's Patriots Pen Post winners. The essay topic for this year was "How are you inspired by America?". Thank you to the committee chair Comrade Wilson and all the Post members who stepped up to grade this year. Winners were students from Kadena Ryukyu Middle School.

- 1st Place - Jada Current (Not Pictured)
- 2nd Place - Elina McMahon
- 3rd Place - Lilian Hudson



Post 9723 would like to congratulate the Teachers of the Year for the VFW Department of the Pacific. Special thanks to this year's Chairman Comrade Wilson for making this program another success.

- Picture 1: Elementary Teacher Ms. Shelia Fitch of Kinser Elementary School
- Picture 2: Middle School Teacher Ms. Alexis Wilson of Kadena Ryukyu Middle School



Post 9723 accomplished a Buddy Poppy drive on Camp Foster Commissary.

In the SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to this year's Post 9723 winners for this year's Voice of Democracy.

1st Place - Brayden Halle (Kadena High School)

2nd Place - Amara Attia (Camp Foster High School)

3rd Place - Noemi Ung (Camp Foster High School)

Thank you to Comrade Wilson for making this year another success for the Post with this outstanding program.

Justin Greene

Commander Post 9723

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

DPA ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

VFW National Convention will be held in Louisville Kentucky 27 July to August 1, 2024. Post registration should be available soon. As a reminder, ALL Posts need to register at least 1 member for the Convention. For those that have appointments to the Convention, it is important that you reserve your room as soon as possible. The hotels fill up quickly.

Post and District elections are coming around the corner! Please get your election reports submitted and your General Orders are in shortly after the election. This will help to get the Department Memo 1 and General Order out by the end of June.

Our Department Convention will be held in Angeles City Philippines June 12 – 16. Registration will be up shortly as well. I will be sending each Post and email for what their Delegate fees will be. Once you have voted on your delegates, ensure you email a copy of the delegate letter to my adjutant email address.

I need all Commanders' and Quartermaster's to send me their cap size, if you want a cap, or that you want the \$50 gift certificate. Please send this information to me NLT 1 April. These need to be ordered by 20 April so they will arrive prior to the Convention.

I encourage each Post and District to review the All-State Dashboard. If you see an error, get with the Chairman for the program to correct. As for the All-American Dashboard, if you submit a report ensure that the District Adjutant reviews it for approval. Also, send me an email that you have a report for approval.

Shawn Watson
DPA Adjutant / Quartermaster



Adjutant / Quartermaster

Shawn C. Watson

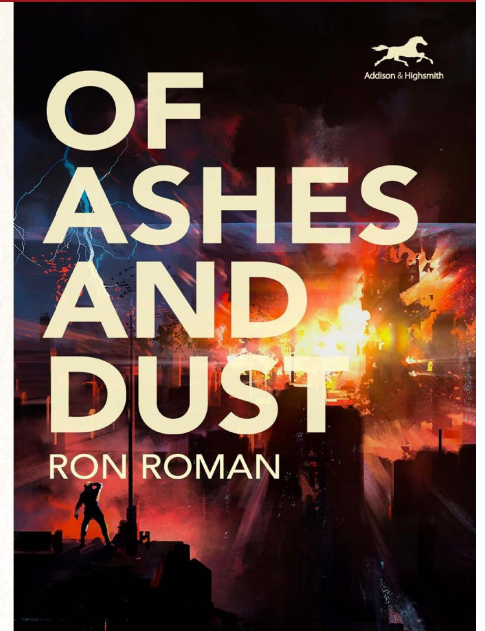
IN-COUNTRY



OF ASHES AND DUST

BY RON ROMAN

At the time of the Millennium three people struggle for survival in a small New Hampshire town as the world spins into chaos, not realizing that each harbors secrets that will eventually pit them against one another. The story evolves from the U.S. Government's earlier two classified secret projects during the Vietnam War (the USAF's revelation about UFOs and Project Sixty-Seven). *Of Ashes and Dust* is a no-punches-pulled apocalyptic tale of mesmerizing intrigue and gut-retching survival told as an alternate-history thriller during the Last Days of a global Armageddon culminating in a totally unexpected and explosive ending.



“Distinguished by sparkling prose and an immersive narrative style, Roman’s story of liberty and revolution offers readers more than a vision of an American dystopia and a terrifying global conflict, reflecting the faultlines of real-world politics. His descriptions of the state’s increasing encroachment on civil liberties have persuasive power, as does his plausible portrayal of the failure of governance and a gradual descent into anarchy.”
— Publishers Weekly

Of special appeal to fans of dystopian novels, *Of Ashes and Dust* is a compelling read that showcases author Ron Roman’s genuine flair as a novelist with respect to his impressive originality and narrative driven storytelling skills...highly recommended, especially for community library **Alternate History** and **Dystopian Fiction** collections.
— Midwest Book Review

OF ASHES AND DUST
Ron Roman

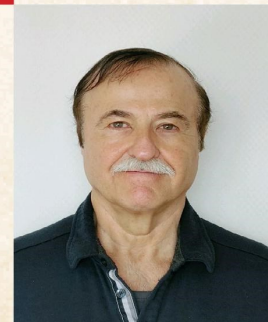
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\$9.99 e-book

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ron Roman (WWW.WRITERRONROMAN.COM) was an Associate Professor of English, ESL, and Humanities who had taught with the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC- Asia) since 1996. He has written extensive travel, academic, and political articles for regional and national publications. He studied writing (both fiction and creative) for his third graduate degree (Humanities) from Wesleyan University. Currently, he resides in South Korea, where he writes and has acted in numerous Korean TV dramas and motion pictures, like *Operation Chromite*, portraying Admiral Forrest Sherman opposite Liam Neeson as General Douglas MacArthur.



NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Hello Comrades,

During the first week of March the National Council will be meeting in Washington, D.C. I will provide you with an update as to what was discussed as it relates to our organization nationally and of course specific discussion points applicable to our great Department. This information will be provided in the May/June Pacific Times.

As to current National initiatives, the VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) office in partnership with our Department Service Officer Al Fitchett, conducted a virtual benefit forum that was available to all veterans living in the Pacific Areas.

The Foreign Medical Program's (FMP) Program Management Officer Andy Szymczak presented a briefing on the FMP program. Specifically, how we arrived at the current situation, while recognizing the many challenges within the program, how those issues will be resolved, and some of the causes of those problems.

The two issues that cause the most consternation for our comrades living in the Pacific are the method of reimbursement for treatment of service connected disabilities, and the lack of response from the FMP office in a timely manner.

Andy reported a new IT system is being worked that will initially help with a better response time to veterans, and ultimately will be able to easily access the VA database.

Regarding the method of reimbursement, i.e., paper checks versus electronic fund transfer (EFT) and how we can have those reimbursements directly deposited electronically into our bank accounts, we were informed it will be resolved, but no date of when is available now.

It is well known this is a major source of financial concern to our comrades and the VA and FMP along with contractors are working towards deciding the best way to move forward and resolve this untenable situation. The new FMP IT system will be part of that solution.

Finally, FMP initially seemed to be focused on resolving payments via EFT to providers, but they were advised veterans should be the priority, or at the very least provide solutions simultaneously to veterans and providers.

The Pacific Areas continues to lead the way Nationally in membership. Bravo Zulu to Membership chair SVC Mike Lutman, and National Recruiter PDC Larry Lyons. But as you know all their hard work and leadership wouldn't mean much without the effort all of you are putting forth in retaining and recruiting. Due to your outstanding efforts our Department is poised to ensure we will grow and be able to meet the challenges of the future.

Best wishes, and always yours in comradeship and service,



Kenneth A. Stein
National Council Member 2022-2024
Pacific Areas



National Council Member

Ken Stein

VFW FACT SHEET



FACT SHEET

As the nation's oldest major war veterans' organization, the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4.4 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.



THE VFW'S VITAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Educate separating service members about their well-earned VA benefits through private benefits counseling sessions with a VFW Accredited Service Officer.

Advocate for America's veterans and their families on Capitol Hill, ensuring *promises made* to veterans are *promises kept*.

Help cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war.

Deliver morale-boosting "welcome home" celebrations for service members who have returned from combat.

2,300+

Number of VA-accredited VFW representatives across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

152,883

Number of service members and their family members hosted at VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) events.

\$13 billion

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits in fiscal year 2023.

\$1.6 million+

Amount of academic scholarships awarded to 357 veterans and service members.

19

Number of times the VFW has testified to Congress in the last 12 months alone. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries.

\$3 million+

Amount of scholarships, monetary awards and other incentives the VFW distributes annually to middle and high school students through two major patriotic essay competitions.

\$589,007

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 61% of the funds covered basic housing needs in fiscal year 2023.



JOIN THE VFW

Connect With Us



Updated December 2023

VFW FACT SHEET



MORE FACTS ABOUT THE VFW

About the VFW

We trace our roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves. In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations that would eventually band together and become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Our Mission: To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

Our Vision: Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.



The VFW by the numbers

1.4 million+

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

5,667

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



1899

Year the VFW started to fight for veterans, service members and their families.



Helping struggling military families

488

Number of grants provided to military families facing financial hardship through *VFW Unmet Needs*.

\$356,512

Amount of grants provided through *VFW Unmet Needs* covering housing for struggling military families.

253

Number of military families who received assistance with housing needs.



Cutting red tape

130,000

Approximate number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2023.

Nearly 14,400

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2023 resulting in more than \$82 million in disability compensation.

20+

Number of VFW Pre-Discharge offices across the nation, including the military district of Washington, D.C., area.



Inspiring patriotism in young people

26,250+

Number of high school students who competed in the 2022-23 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

66,800+

Number of students who competed in the 2022-23 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.



Improving life in America

5 million

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

\$45 million

Amount donated annually to local community service projects by VFW members.

The VFW Relies on Donations

The VFW is a 501(c), and programs are made possible through membership dues and tax-deductible donations from good-hearted Americans.

**Cost of VFW Program Services:
\$61.5 Million**



Source: VFW 2023 Annual Report

Updated December 2023

NATIONAL CERTIFIED RECRUITER

Greeting Comrades,

We had a great last couple of weeks here in the Pacific. We now have 10 Posts over 100% of which 5 of these have passed the CinC's goal of 102%! Plus, we have 4 Districts over 100% and one of them which is D4 which has passed 102% mark. The Posts that have passed the 102 mark are Posts 1054, 8180, 11575, 12146, 124 and 12130. Congratulations to all of these Posts and District 4.

Of course, none of those could not have been possible if not for our 109 Recruiters out there looking and signing up our new members. Our Top 5 Recruiters are:

From Post 8180 Larry Lyons with 81 Recruits, from Post 2485 Cliff Wilsey with 54 Recruits, from Post 8180 Warren Maxson with 26 recruits, from Post 8180 Robert Chatman with 23 Recruits, and rounding out our Top Five our Senior Vice Commander from Post 1054 Mike Lutman.

Thanks to all of our 109 Recruiters out there! As of today 20 February, we are currently 100.12% needing 226 more Members to reach the CinC's Goal of 102%.

Just think if our current 109 Recruiters go out there and get 2 more members each we would be there. Heck think about this if all of our Members would only go and get one Member each could you imagine how big our department could be?

Remember this is an Election year and our Membership equal votes to our politicians! So, go out and Recruit!

It's getting closer every day to Convention time and that means it's time to start thinking about our Convention Book I.E. The *Year in Review*. Everything pretty much stays the same, minus no more Business cards and no more Booster Ads. Prices are as follows:

½ Page \$100.00
Letters of Intent \$100.00 (Full Page VFW & MOC)
Full Page \$200.00
Post Special 3 Pages for \$300.00
Inside Back Hard stock page still open \$300.00
Back Cover \$400.00 already sold

I need VFW and MOC current Top 3 Chairs letters for Convention Book by 1 May or earlier if possible.

All ads must be received by 6 May and sent to me at PDCLyons935@gmail.com
Payment made to Department QM and copied to me by email.

Posts receive Rebates of 50% after selling the first \$600.00 in ads. This can be a great fund raiser for your Post too!

Yours Always in Comradeship,

Larry Lyons
Certified National Recruiter
Year in Review, Editor
Past Department Commander 08/09
Department of Pacific Areas



National Certified Recruiter

Larry Lyons

Comrades, the *Year in Review* is the only fundraiser the DPA has and we have not raised our income besides raising our membership count which does not make up for the decline in the markets which you all have seen. With Airfare and hotel bookings on the rise, please consider each Post and District submitting ads this year and soliciting local businesses in your area to support this years book.



MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

William Shemin (October 14, 1896 – August 15, 1973) was a Sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War I. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery in action at Vesle River, near Bazoches, France. On June 2, 2015, Elsie Shemin-Roth and her sister Ina Bass accepted the nation's highest military award for valor on behalf of their father from President Barack Obama at the White House. Shemin was assigned to Company G, 47th Infantry Regiment, 4th Division, American Expeditionary Forces.[1]

William "Bill" Shemin was born in Bayonne, New Jersey. During his teenage years, he played semi-pro baseball. He graduated from the New York State Ranger School in 1914 and went on to work as a forester in Bayonne. Shemin enlisted in the Army, October 2, 1917. Upon completion of basic training at Camp Greene, North Carolina, he was assigned as a rifleman to Company G, 47th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, American Expeditionary Forces, in France.

While serving as a rifleman from August 7–9, 1918, Shemin left the cover of his platoon's trench and crossed open space, repeatedly exposing himself to heavy machine gun and rifle fire to rescue the wounded. After officers and senior non-commissioned officers had become casualties, Shemin took command of the platoon and displayed great initiative under fire, until he was wounded on August 9. It was for this action that Shemin was originally awarded the Distinguished Service Cross on December 19, 1919. Some 96 years later, this Distinguished Service Cross award would be upgraded to the Medal of Honor. Shemin was hospitalized for three months as a result of the wounds he suffered in this action which included those from shrapnel and a machine gun bullet that pierced his helmet and lodged behind his left ear. Following his recovery, he served on light duty as part of the Army occupation in Germany and Belgium until he completed his tour. Shemin received the Purple Heart for his combat wounds.

Shemin was honorably discharged in August 1919, and went on to get a degree from the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University.[2] After graduation, he started a greenhouse and landscaping business in the Bronx, New York, where he raised three children. Shemin died in 1973.

With the most utter disregard for his own safety, (Shemin) sprang from his position in his platoon trench, dashed out across the open in full sight of the Germans, who opened and maintained a furious burst of machine gun and rifle fire.

—Capt. Rupert Purdon, one of Shemin's superiors.

Read full citation here: <https://www.cmoahs.org/recipients/william-shemin>



CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

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

Wednesday January 31, 2024, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8180, sponsored the Battle of Bayonet Hill, Commemoration Ceremony 73rd Anniversary. Hosted By: 3rd Battlefield Coordination Detachment-Korea. This commemorative ceremony was in honor of Colonel Lewis L. Millett Sr., United States Army officer who received the Medal of Honor during the Korean War for leading the last major American bayonet charge. Long as there are at least two comrades remaining in the VFW we shall not forget our fallen comrades around the world no matter where they might rest. Let us extend our prayers for the fallen comrades around world as they “Rest in Peace”.

These past two months I was able to travel to one of our DPA post in the Philippines for an unannounced visit January/February. My spiritual observation made me proud of how we are taking care of our Service Member’s, families, veterans, and retirees in the DPA.

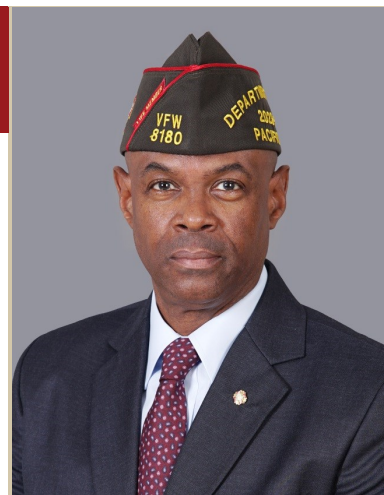
The monthly National Chaplain’s Resource Training meetings are a huge success with many interesting topics and information. Chaplains that are interested in the monthly training are encouraged to participate via Zoom. Join the meeting by clicking [HERE](#).

As I stated previously in the last issue, I will be starting a Chaplains webpage with the help and assistance of our webpage manager which will provide our posts and districts with far more resources beyond the Pacific. This project is still a work in progress.

Prayers are with those that are seeking offices and appointments as the nomination and election season for the DPA, Districts and Posts in the VFW for the 2024-2025 term. And prayers throughout DPA as we prepare for the annual: Day of Service 2024. While we join veterans, friends, and like-minded individuals for Day of Services 2024. This nationwide community service initiative kicks off on Saturday, May 4, 2024, and continues throughout the month of May. Good luck to everyone!

The Chaplain position is rewarding but humbling, it is a pass recording and report of fallen Comrades since June 2023. Let their names, spirit, and memory live so we never forget them and their sacrifices.

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



Chaplain

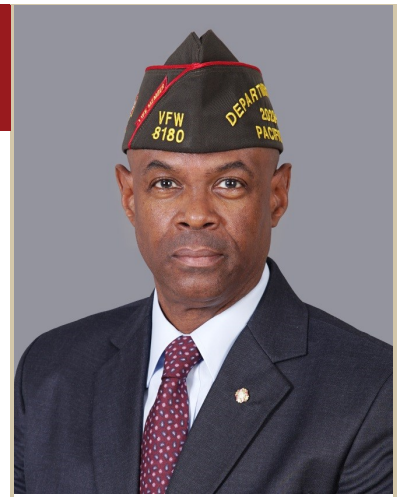
Robert Chatman



CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Let us remember the following Comrades who passed away 2023-2024:

<u>Post</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
2485	Miller, Willie L.	19 April 2023
10217	Hartle, John F.	27 June 2023
12130	Dils, Scott Marshall	07 July 2023
8180	Kallinen, Jim	08 July 2023
12130	Adams, Lee Coleman	18 July 2023
12074	Hill, Ronald Ray	31 July 2023
12074	Shepanak, Paul Robert	01 August 2023
2485	Gilbert, John H.	18 August 2023
12074	Holmes, Michael E.	24 August 2023
9273	Estil, Elswick	15 September 2023
2985	Williams, Herbert H. IV	21 September 2023
9951	Mann, Willizam L.	24 September 2023
9951	Stednick, Thomas	20 October 2023
12146	Pickens, Edwin Garnard	20 October 2023
2485	Davis, Emmit	07 November 2023
9951	Riopel, William John	12 November 2023
11447	Alvarez, Jose	18 November 2023
2485	Platt, Kenneth L.	20 November 2023
12130	Prouse, William E.	03 December 2023
2485	Krolikowski, James G.	13 December 2023
10249	Kim, Randall C.	26 December 2023
2485	Galvez, Robertyo V.	11 January 2024
2485	Hardecker, William K.	21 January 2024
9951	Funck, John C. M.	08 February 2024



Department of Pacific Areas

Chaplain

Robert Chatman



Yours in Comradeship
Robert S. Chatman
Chaplain DPA



RESOURCES FOR CHAPLAINS



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 though 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 though 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!**

DEPARTMENT SURGEON

Comrades, hoping you are all healthy and safe, continue to take care of yourself, your families, fellow comrades, widows orphans and our Active-duty service members and never forget the less fortunate in our communities, Is March “in like a Lion or Lamb” be prepared for April showers springtime around the corner. Considering mild weather is up on us Is Walking Every Day Enough Exercise and why it matters:

Walking is often touted as one of the simplest and most accessible forms of exercise, but is it enough to keep you fit and healthy? First, let's look at the many benefits of walking. Walking is a low-impact exercise that can be done by people of all ages and fitness levels. Here are some of the key benefits of walking:

1. **Improved Cardiovascular Health:** Regular walking can help lower blood pressure, reduce cholesterol levels, and decrease the risk of heart disease.
2. **Weight Loss:** Walking burns calories and can help you create a calorie deficit, which is necessary for weight loss.
3. **Improved Mood:** Exercise releases endorphins, which are natural mood-boosters.
4. **Increased Energy:** Regular exercise can help improve your overall fitness and stamina, making it easier to tackle daily tasks.
5. **Improved Joint Health:** Regular walking can help improve joint mobility and reduce the risk of joint pain and stiffness.

Question, how do I get started: Here are some tips;

1. **Start Slow:** If you're new to exercise, start with a short walk and gradually increase your distance and speed.
2. **Set Goals:** Set goals for yourself, such as walking a certain distance or time each day.
3. **Find a Walking Buddy:** Walking with a Comrade or family member.
4. **Mix It Up:** Try different routes.
5. **Make It a Habit:** Incorporate walking into your daily routine, what's best for you. For me its mornings.

In conclusion, walking every day can be an effective way to improve your overall health and fitness. You can enjoy the many benefits of this simple yet effective form of exercise. Remember to start slowly, set goals, and mix it up! Enjoy a healthier, happier life.

Yours In Comradeship

Lou Holub
DPA Surgeon



Surgeon

Lou Holub

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Comrades,

At the submission of this article, the following District and Posts have until April 30, 2024, to complete their inspection to be considered for All-State/All American.

Please let's not wait until the last minute to complete your inspections.

District 6

Posts 1509 and 2917

Location	Good Standing							Audits		
	Election Report (June 1, 2023)	QM Bond (Aug. 30, 2023)	School of Instruction (Dec. 31, 2023)	Service Officer	IRS 990 (Dec. 30, 2023)	Inspection Status	#1 (Due 7/30)	#2 (Due 10/30)	#3 (Due 1/30)	
District 1										
District 2										
1054 Post 1054 John C. Parker Memorial Post										
9555 Post 9555 General Claire L. Chennault Post										
9612 Post 9612 Millard F Nixon Post										
District 3										
8180 Post 8180 Colonel Lewis L. Millett Hill 180 Memorial Post										
9985 Post 9985 Freedom Bridge Memorial Post										
10033 Post 10033 Hill 303 Memorial Post										
10223 Post 10223 CWO Benjamin K. Humphreys Memorial Post							L			
District 4										
9723 Post 9723 Okinawa/LCpl Frank C Allen Memorial Post										
9957 Taiwan Post										
10249 Post 10249 AFTN Memorial Post										
11575 Post 11575 Mayaguez Memorial Post										
12146 Post 12146 Banchang Utapao										
District 5										
9876 Post 9876 Fred J. Estes										
9951 Post 9951 C. L. Elms										
10217 Post 10217 Karl W. Ritcher										
12074 Post 12074 Ken Chapman										
12163 Post 12163 Western Australia							L			
District 6										
1509 Post 1509 Hafa Adai Post										
2917 Post 2917 Ga'An Point Memorial Post										
3457 Post 3457 Saipan Post										
District 7										
124 Post 124 MOH Telesforo Trinidad										
2485 Post 2485 Robert W. Zaher										
9892 Post 9892 Colonel B. J. Smith Post										
11447 Post 11447 Paul P. Busek Post										
12130 Post 12130 Ulysses G. Buzzard Memorial										
12224 Post 12224 Glenn McDole		L								

Reminder: IRS Form 990 is due on the 15th day of the 5th month following the end of the organization's taxable year. For organizations on a calendar year, the Form 990 is due on May 15th of the following year.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Barry Larson
Inspector
Department of Pacific Areas



Department Inspector

Barry L. Larson



JUDGE ADVOCATE

Greetings Comrades,

Since I've been serving as your Judge Advocate every year brings the same question. How come the Post Counts (members in good standing) is different from the Memstats Counts (Paid for 2024)?

The answer is really quite simple. That old cliché "Follow the Money" If your post receives payment from National for a life or annual member that member counts towards your Memstats Counts. Dues paid for the current term.

If a member transfers out of your post and your post has received dues payment for that member this term, they too are still counted in the Memstats Counts (Paid for 2024). Because that member is no longer a member of your post. He is removed from the Post Counts (members in good standing)

If a member transfers into your post and their previous post was paid for their membership the transferred member will not count on your Memstats Counts roster until the following term.

Annual members that have not paid their dues do not appear on the Post Counts (members in good standing)

Deceased Members do not appear on the Post Counts (members in good standing)

Sec. 222 - Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.

Delegate strength shall be one for every thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing. Delegates and alternates shall be elected in accordance with the Manual of Procedure.

Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of March 31st.

MIGS 245/30 = 8.16 (Rounded Up for the fraction of) = 9 Post Delegates

Delegates and alternates of each Post shall serve as delegates throughout the year provided they remain members in good standing in the respective Post within the District.

Post Quartermasters can access the MIGS stats via the Online Membership System (OMS)

Post 12345

Memstats Counts (Paid for 2024)								
Life	New	Reinstate	Cont.	Total	Prior Year	Percent		
240	0	0	7	247	250	98.80%		
Post Counts (members in good standing)								
Life	New	Reinstate	Cont.	Expiring	Cont. Trans.	Non-Pay Trans.	Installment	Total
238	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	245
Unpaid								
Unpaid 1 Year	Unpaid 2 Years	Total Unpaid	Complete Roster		Deceased			
0	0	0	245		4			



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl



JUDGE ADVOCATE

Membership Eligibility

One of the qualifying conditions for eligibility in the VFW is Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay.

I have received several questions regarding qualifying conditions for VFW Membership using Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger. The only sure way to validate a member has received either of these is to look at their Military Pay records or Leave and Earnings Statements (LES)

Hostile Fire Pay (HFP) not to be confused with Hazardous Duty Pay (HDP) is determined by an Event. To receive HFP, the event, when as certified by the appropriate commander, a member is subjected to, hostile fire, explosion of hostile mines, or other hostile action (a Hostile fire event)

Imminent Danger Pay (IDP) is determined by a Threat. IDP is paid to a service member who is subject to the threat of physical harm or imminent danger on the basis of civil insurrection, civil war, terrorism, or wartime conditions in a designated foreign area. DoD 7000.14-R Volume 7A, Chapter 10 provides a table of the most current listing of the approved designated area.

Proposed Amendments and Resolutions

Now is the time to start working on any Proposed Changes to the Department Bylaws, National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual.

PREPARING A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE NATIONAL BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE OR RITUAL

Bylaws: Any member in good standing, a Post, a District, or a Department, may propose an amendment to the National Bylaws; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must be approved by a Department Convention.

Manual of Procedure and Ritual: Any Post, District, or Department may propose an amendment to the Manual of Procedure or Ritual; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must have been forwarded, through channels and have been properly approved.

This is also that time of year when we hold our District Convention and changes can be made to your District Bylaws. Please refer to the MOP Sec. 402

Changes to our Department Bylaws are covered in the MOP Sec. 502

PREPARING A RESOLUTION TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

The policy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is established by resolutions adopted by the delegates attending Department and National Conventions. Most resolutions originate at the Post level and are passed through the District and Department before being acted upon at a National Convention. Many times, an otherwise worthy idea gets nowhere merely because it is not correctly presented.

Additional information can be found in the Amendments and Resolutions Guide posted on the VFW Website.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Delbert "Bert" Marohl
DPA Judge Advocate



Department of Pacific Areas

Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Buffalo Bill Cody and Texas Jack Omohundro were two legendary figures of the American frontier whose exploits became the stuff of Wild West legend. Their partnership and adventures not only captivated audiences during their time but also left an indelible mark on American popular culture.

William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody was born in 1846 in Iowa Territory. He earned his nickname as a young man while working as a buffalo hunter for the Kansas Pacific Railroad, where he reportedly killed thousands of buffalo to feed the railroad workers. Cody's skills as a hunter and his larger-than-life persona made him a natural showman, and he eventually found fame as the star of Buffalo Bill's Wild West, a traveling extravaganza that showcased cowboy skills, Native American performers, and reenactments of frontier life.



Texas Jack Omohundro, born John Baker Omohundro in 1846 in Virginia, was another larger-than-life character of the American West. Like Cody, Omohundro was a skilled outdoorsman and hunter. He earned the nickname "Texas Jack" during his time as a cowboy in Texas, where he became known for his expert horsemanship and marksmanship.

The paths of Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack crossed in the early 1870s when they both worked as scouts for the U.S. Army during the Indian Wars. Their shared experiences on the frontier forged a strong friendship, and they soon decided to join forces to capitalize on their fame and skills. In 1872, they formed a partnership and began touring with their own stage show, "The Scouts of the Prairie."

"The Scouts of the Prairie" was a theatrical production that featured Cody and Omohundro reenacting their adventures on the frontier. The show was a hit with audiences across the country, who were eager to hear tales of daring buffalo hunts, Indian battles, and other thrilling escapades. Cody's charisma and showmanship complemented Texas Jack's rugged charm, and together they became two of the most famous men in America.

Their partnership was not without its challenges, however. Cody and Omohundro had contrasting personalities – Cody was outgoing and gregarious, while Texas Jack was more reserved – and their egos sometimes clashed. Despite this, they remained loyal friends and business partners, and their partnership continued to flourish.

In 1873, Cody and Omohundro traveled to Europe with their show, where they performed for Queen Victoria and other European dignitaries. The tour was a resounding success and helped solidify their status as international celebrities. Upon their return to the United States, they continued to tour with their show, thrilling audiences from coast to coast.

However, by the late 1870s, tensions between Cody and Omohundro had begun to strain their partnership. Texas Jack's heavy drinking and erratic behavior put a strain on their friendship, and in 1878, the two men decided to part ways professionally. Cody continued to tour with Buffalo Bill's Wild West, while Texas Jack pursued other ventures, including a brief stint as a lawman in Texas.

Despite their eventual split, the partnership between Buffalo Bill Cody and Texas Jack Omohundro left an enduring legacy. Together, they helped shape the image of the American West in the popular imagination and inspired countless dime novels, stage productions, and Hollywood films. Today, their names are synonymous with the spirit of adventure and romance that characterized the Wild West.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

Greetings Comrades.

FMP “Pre-Determination Letter”

Effective September 2023 FMP has established an office to issue individual coverage letters, guaranteeing payment of a specific service-connected condition. This is not the same as your standard benefit letter you receive from FMP.

If you require a medical procedure for a specific service-connected condition shown on your standard benefits letter, you would now request a “pre-determination letter” which will state that veteran John Doe is entitled to all medical procedures / expenses that are related to the specific service-connected condition. **Example:** *John Doe now requires dialysis for his service-connected kidney condition listed on his FMP Benefit Letter.*

The Veteran can now contact their Veterans Service Officer (VSO) who can check the qualification and forward your request to the appropriate authority at FMP via a special link established specifically for issuing your “pre-determination letter”.

Website Link to Duane Sarmiento’s [Claim Shark Letter](#)

Website Link to VFW [Claim Shark Flyer](#)



HOT! The final DSO Training session for this term will be held on Wednesday, 7 Feb 2024 at 12 noon Thailand Time. ZOOM Link will be sent out to all post commanders and listed service officers in a separate email.

Al Fitchett
Department of Pacific Areas
dsodpa@vfwpacific.org



DSO Pacific Areas

Al Fitchett



Service Officer

BIG BUG SQUEAKS



Big Bug

David Gley



Click each Logo above
for Websites

Fellow Comrades,

(ST) We are starting to get things locked in for the DPA/GPA convention in Angeles City, Philippines this June. The current Supreme SVC (Middle Bug), Robbie Normand is coming in; he started in the Pacific in Post 8180 / Pup Tent 8 a while back and will be the Supreme commander next year. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones there; see you then.

What is a Cootie? Cooties are VFW members FIRST and ALWAYS; we are the ones that a VFW Post noticed were consistently active in the Post and decided we deserved to be part of the Honor Degree. Our primary mission is to take care of one another and ensure anyone in the hospital does not miss out on that comradery that we value, "Keep 'em Smilin' in Beds of White"; and we have a little fun while we do this. If you want more information on the Cooties, please ask one or you can go to the Grand webpage at <https://mocpacific.org> or Supreme webpage at <https://lotcs.org>.

If your Post does not have a Pup Tent and you want to be a Cootie, reach out to a Pup Tent in your area, as you do not need to be a member of a specific Post to be a member of its Pup Tent. Your Post would just need to let the Pup Tent know that you are a hard-working VFW member and deserve to be part of the Honor Degree.

If your Post does not have a Pup Tent and think you have enough support to create one, please let us know and we will definitely look into it. As Cooties are always looking to "Increase and Multiply". I ask all of you, learn who volunteers in your areas; if they are not VFW members and eligible, recruit them into your Post or Auxiliary. If they continue to produce, vote them into a Pup Tent.

There is also a Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (M.O.C.A.), if our current or future VFW Auxiliaries want to know more, please contact us. The Supreme M.O.C.A. website is https://www.lotcs.org/MOCA/moca_index.html.

The Cooties do not recruit just to make numbers; we make sure that inductees are hard workers and supporters of the Post; we are all VFW members first. Let us continue to keep our fellow comrades in our thoughts by performing buddy checks, even if you can only reach them by phone or video calls. Through this we will be "Stronger Together"

David B. Gley, Jr.
Commander
Grand Pup Tent of the Pacific Areas



LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Comrades, here is a run-down for this year's VFW 2024 Priority Goals.

Budget

To fully fund programs for veterans, service members, and their families, Congress must:

- Reform the dysfunctional federal budget process.
- Never reduce one veteran's benefits to pay for another.
- Authorize VA to receive reimbursements from TRICARE and Medicare.

Education, Employment, and Transition Assistance

To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service, Congress, VA, DOD, and DOL must:

- Improve education benefits through increased online student housing allowances, childcare stipends, parity for Guard and Reserve members, and elimination of delimiting dates.
- Enhance outreach and counseling to veterans eligible for the Veteran Readiness and Employment program.
- Ensure parity of VA and DOD education programs with other federal programs.
- Expand small business, hiring preference, tax incentives, and entrepreneurship resources for veterans and military spouses.
- Increase funding for HUD-VASH vouchers, grant and per diem payments, and pilot programs to combat veteran homelessness.
- Conduct oversight of VA's Transition Assistance Program to ensure compliance with the law, and require the inclusion of accredited claims representatives.
- Eliminate red tape preventing effective use of education and employment benefits.
- Provide housing relief for surviving spouses.

Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs

To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits, Congress and VA must:

- Crack down on unaccredited claims consultants known as Claim Sharks.
- Study all toxic and environmental exposures and implement programs to ensure health care and benefits are provided to all exposed service members and veterans.
- Properly oversee and update the modernized appeals process and digital claims processing.
- Increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits for survivors.
- Improve the accuracy of disability compensation claims related to military sexual trauma.
- Increase burial allowances to account for inflation.
- Ensure that earned VA benefits are never offset by the use of other federal benefits.

Health Care

To ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares, Congress, VA, and DOD must:



Legislative Chairman

Randell Himes

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

- Eliminate service member and veteran suicide by addressing both clinical and non-clinical needs.
- Strengthen care and research for mental health and traumatic brain injuries.
- Improve oversight of Vet Centers to ensure adequate staffing, resources, and funding.
- Enhance programs and services for women and underserved veterans.
- Eliminate copayment requirements for preventive health care and medications.
- Research the efficacy of medical cannabis and other alternative therapies.
- Preserve the integrity of TRICARE.
- Properly implement VA and DOD health IT systems.
- Expand nursing home eligibility and long-term care options.
- Enhance services for veterans outside of the United States.

Military Quality of Life

To maintain a quality, comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for preserving the all-volunteer force, Congress and DOD must:

- End the military retirement pay and VA disability compensation offset.
- Protect and improve on-base quality of life and support programs.
- Eliminate sexual assault and harassment from the military.
- Increase military base pay comparability with private sector wages.
- Ensure that military housing is safe and free of toxic substances.
- Eliminate food insecurity in the military.
- Ensure equity of benefits for Reserve Component service members.

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, Congress and DOD must:

- Ensure DPAA is fully funded to perform its personnel recovery mission.
- Expand partnerships with host nations and private/public organizations to achieve the fullest possible accounting of U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.
- Deter threats to our national security by supporting our allies in Ukraine, Israel, Korea, and Taiwan.
- Ensure all service members who served in harm's way, to include foreign nationals, receive the recognition, care and benefits they have earned.
- Provide recognition and support for Afghan and Iraqi translators and allies.
- Award the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for operations in Eastern Europe

For further information regarding the Priority Goals, click this link: <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service>

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



Legislative Chairman

Randell Himes



2024 PRIORITY GOALS



VFW ACTION ALERT



ACTION CORPS

Sign up today!

SHAWN WATSON FOR VFW NATIONAL JVC 2028

Support Shawn Watson's on his bid for VFW National JVC 2028



Shawn's Polo Shirts
Sizes available
S, M, L, XL, 2X,3X,4X

Cost \$40.00

Can mail for additional charge or hand carry to June Convention contact
Larry Lyons
PDCLyons935@gmail.com

Shawn's 2024 Cash Calendar
Donation \$10.00 each. Over \$11,000 awarded through-out 2024 your
tickets remain in all 83 drawings!



Fill out the form for as many tickets you want and send \$10.00 each to
George Beck at the following account:

JVC Account number Navy Federal Credit Union
 Routing #: 256074974
 Account Number: 7171526564 (Association Checking)
 Account Name: Committee to Elect Shawn Watson

Once you send the money to George email those forms to Larry & George at
Larry: PDCLyons935@gmail.com George : gbeckjr@gmail.com

Larry will send you copies of the ticket stubs when they are paid.

Name: _____ Email: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 Post Selling this Calendar: _____
 Ticket Number **3361**
 Mail Ticket stubs to: Larry Lyons PSC 301 Box 332 APO, AP 96202

SHAWN WATSON
 as 2028 VFW National Junior Vice Commodore in Chief
 in 2028 with the rank of
"1st - Family - Veterans"

Name: _____
 Email: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Ticket # _____

SHAWN WATSON
 as 2028 VFW National Junior Vice Commodore in Chief
 in 2028 with the rank of
"1st - Family - Veterans"

Drawings to be held in June 2024 at the
 DPA Convention in Negros City, Philippines

1st Prize \$1,000.00
 2nd Prize \$500.00
 3rd Prize \$250.00

Winners need not be present to win!
 Raffle Counter \$2000 each or 3 for \$5000

Thank you for your support!
 Ticket # _____

Shawn's DPA June Convention Raffle
Donation \$10.00 each or 3 for \$20.00

Prizes
1st Place \$1,000.00
2nd Place \$500.00
3rd Place \$250.00

Send Funds per tickets to George & emails to Larry and George, then
Larry will send you copies of the ticket stubs when they are paid.

See who is winning on the Cash Calendar

<http://watson4vfwjvcinc.com/>

Thanks for Supporting Shawn on his bid for National JVC



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Learn about the VFW
and what WE can do
for YOU.



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NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

Start enjoying the benefits and camaraderie of belonging to a group of veterans who have earned their membership through service to our country. The Veterans of Foreign Wars has thousands of Posts across the nation and plenty of ways for you to get involved in a way that suits you best. Start making friends and contacts who understand where you've been and can help you get to where you want to go. You've earned this right - join the VFW today!

You can join the VFW if you...

- have served honorably or are currently serving in the US Armed Forces
- received a campaign or service medal for overseas service
- served at least 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea anytime since 1949
- received Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay

Visit vfw.org/Join for a complete list of eligibility.



You've earned it.

As a VFW member, you'll enjoy the benefits of belonging to America's largest combat veterans' organization.

- *A subscription to VFW magazine*
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- *Veterans' advocates that can assist with VA claims and other benefits*



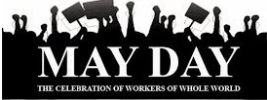
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

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membership@vfw.org

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES*



LOYALTY DAY
"Keeping America Proud"



Memorial Day
REMEMBER AND HONOR



1 May Loyalty Day - Loyalty Day originally began as "Americanization Day" in 1921 as a counter to the Communists' May 1 celebration of the Russian Revolution. On 1 May 1930, 10,000 VFW members staged a rally at New York's Union Square to promote patriotism. Through a resolution adopted in 1949, May 1 evolved into Loyalty Day. Observances began in 1950 on April 28 and climaxed May 1 when more than five million people across the nation held rallies. In 1958 Congress enacted Public Law 529 proclaiming Loyalty Day a permanent fixture on the nation's calendar.

May 8 V-E Day - On May 8, 1945 - known as Victory in Europe Day or V-E Day - celebrations erupted around the world to mark the end of World War II in Europe. The war had been raging for almost five years when U.S. and Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944. The invasion signaled the beginning of the end for Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany. In less than a year, Germany would surrender, and Hitler would be dead.

31 May 2021 Memorial Day - Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

6 June 1944 D-Day - On 6 June 1944, more than 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline, to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which, "we will accept nothing less than full victory." More than 5,000 Ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day's end, the Allies gained a foot-hold in Continental Europe.

14 June Flag Day - Flag Day is celebrated by Americans on June 14 each year and commemorates the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States. Many Americans celebrate Flag Day by displaying the Red, White and Blue in front of homes and businesses. Some communities, schools and veterans' organizations hold Flag Day parades, essay contests, ceremonies and picnics.

Other Important Dates

- March 24 - Start of Kosovo Campaign 1999*
- March 29 - National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- March 31 - Somalia Campaign Ended (1995)*
- April 9 - National Former POW/MIA Recognition Day
- April 11 - Persian Gulf War Official Cease-Fire

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

LETTER OF INTENT

LETTER OF INTENT DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER DONALD E. KELLEY



Fellow Comrades,

It is with great honor and a humble heart that I announce my candidacy for the position of VFW Department of Pacific Areas Junior Vice Commander for the 2024-2025 term. I am a 20-year Army Veteran, earning my VFW eligibility from service in Operation Desert Storm.

My VFW experience includes:

- District 3 All-State and All-American Commander, 2022-2023.
- District 3 Commander 2020-2022.
- Two-time Post 10223 All-State and All-American Commander, 2017-2019.
- Department Chief of Staff 2023-2024.
- Department Chairman, VFW National VMS Committee 2021-2024.
- Department VOD/PP/TA Chairman 2018-2021.
- National Aide-De-Camp 2019-2020, 2022-2023.
- National Deputy Chief of Staff 2020-2021.
- National General Resolutions Committee 2019.
- National VFW Programs Committee 2020-2021.

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

Yours in Comradeship and Service

Donald E. Kelley
Gold Legacy Life Member
Candidate for Department of Pacific Areas Junior Vice Commander

LETTER OF INTENT

Letter of Intent 2024/2025

Greeting Comrades of the Pacific,

Agaian, I have been asked by several Comrades throughout the Pacific Areas to run for a 2nd term as Department Chaplain.

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

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

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

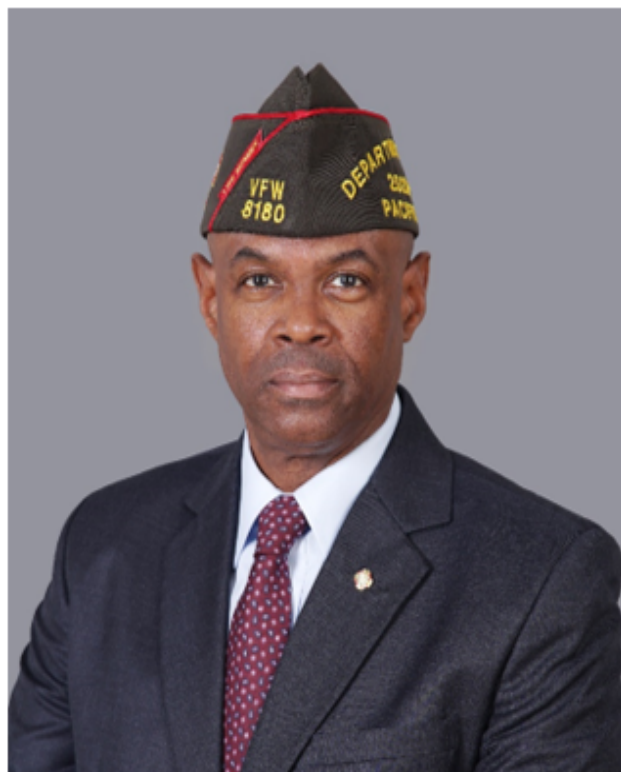
I transferred my VFW Membership in 2017 to VFW Post 10216 in Songtan, South Korea. Since then the Post merged and now is Post 8180. Since then I have been an active member in that post and the community.

At the District III level I was elected as their Chaplain in May 2019 and was reelected in 2020. I am currently District III Chaplain, and, Post 8180 Junior Vice Commander. I have been able to help many Veterans and their family members in their times of need and I am willing to expand that now at the Department level.

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

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

Yours in Comradeship,
Robert S. Chatman
VFW Post 8180



LETTER OF INTENT



I am asking for your support for the position of Quartermaster for the Department of Pacific Areas. I am a Gold Legacy Life Member of Post 2485, Angeles City Philippines. Listed below are the key Positions that I have held:

Post 10216 Korea

Commander (All American – 2010)

Post 2917 Guam

Quartermaster (2014 – 2015)

Commander (2015 – 2018 All American 2018)

Adjutant/Quartermaster (2018 – 2023)

Department

Safety Officer (2010 – 2011)

Commander (All American 2013 – 2014)

Quartermaster (2020 -)

Adjutant (2020 -)

District III

Commander (2011 – 2012)

District VI

Commander (All American 2017-2018)

Adjutant/Quartermaster (2018 – 2023)

National

Council Member (2016 - 2020)

Inspector General (2022 – 2023)

I humbly ask for your continued support for this important Position as your Department Quartermaster.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson

LETTER OF INTENT

**LETTER OF INTENT
DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER
KENNETH A. STEIN**

My Comrades,

In December 2022 I was elected to complete the term of my predecessor, friend, and mentor Pete Callaghan.

Today I am announcing my intent to run for a full term as The National Council of Administration member for the great Department of Pacific Areas.

Comrades, it is essential the DPA National Council Member understands the issues, knows the key people in the National Organization, has served in the highest positions of the Department, and is able to articulate the needs and unique challenges we face when doing the business of our fraternal organization here in the Pacific.

I want to continue this work and based on the relationships I've made over the past eighteen months; I am confident I can represent our amazing Department in a manner we have earned and deserve. Always reminding VFW National leadership and other National Council Members that we must have the same benefits and representations as CONUS based Departments.

I ask for your support in electing me as the DPA National Council Member for a full four year term at our June 2024 convention.

Yours always in service and comradeship,

Ken

**Kenneth A. Stein
National Council Member 2022-2024
Pacific Areas**



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Notice

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

We ask each District to submit at least one DPA Website Sponsor. Each Sponsor must donate a minimum of \$100. The term is one year and their Logo will be included on our Sponsor Website page and here in our Bi-Monthly newsletter. Contact the Webmaster at webdpa@vfwpacific.org or The Pacific Times Editor at pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org for information on how to submit your Sponsors.