

THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No One Does More for Veterans
Veterans First, Comrades Always

Volume XXVIII, Number 5

March/April 2025

FREE

Nominations and Elections 2025-2026



We are now in the nomination and election season for all posts and districts in the VFW for the 2025-2026 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

Comrades!

Hooyah DPA! WAY TO GO! WE are the second department to reach the Commander in Chief's goal of 102% (but to be clear, we were the FIRST to 100%). This was ONLY possible as a result of the many recruiters out there getting after it, the Post Commanders supporting them and the District Commanders making sure we had an actionable plan. It is, and has always been (at least on my watch) due to the leadership of our Certified National Recruiter Larry Lawrence Lyons (thus....L3). Hooyah L3 and ALL of the recruiters in the DPA.

I am also very proud of ALL of the DPA Posts as we have 100% support for VFW programs. THANK YOU POST COMMANDERS for making this happen! I understand there are membership challenges, but that is how we grow. What is not a challenge is making sure we support the program that the VFW asks us to support because IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO! We, as Posts, exist to support our District and in turn our Departments. Thus we are all a vital part and piece of what makes our National Organization run.

Upcoming events include our DPA Convention in Bangkok, Thailand, 18-21 June (22 June is a travel day). This is shaping up to be an awesome event with the registration page coming online VERY soon. 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 but we plan to get them out sooner than later. Chairman Randy Riggs and his team are working hard to get things finalized.

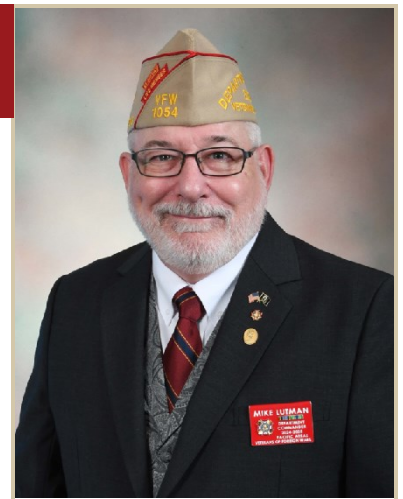
We don't know yet who our National Representative will be at the DPA Convention, but we look forward to hosting whomever that will be. The DPA has a great relationship with many of our current and past National leaders and it should be a homecoming for many of them whomever attends.

Speaking of important, don't forget about the upcoming month of March as it 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 2025-2026 Term. All the best to those who accept their nominations to serve and THANK YOU! We only grow from within and having those who step up to lead our great Department are to be THANKED and HONORED for their commitment to our Posts, Districts and Department.

In May we have our (what is shaping up to be) the annual Day of Service. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Day of Service takes place on the first Saturday of May, and is part of a month of community service projects led by veterans. The 2025 VFW Day of Service will be on May 3. Why the VFW Day of Service?

- To recognize veterans' continued service to their communities after leaving the military.
- To highlight the role veterans play in their communities.
- To encourage community service and civic engagement.

Personally, I can't THANK YOU enough for all you do. By you I mean YOU. Nothing gets done without each and everyone of us putting forth the effort. Many of you, that being MOST of you, get this. For those of you who don't, please reach out to me and convince me why we should do less. I'm sure we will reach a reasonable point where we can agree that doing more is better than doing less.



Commander

Michael Lutman



COMMANDER'S CALL

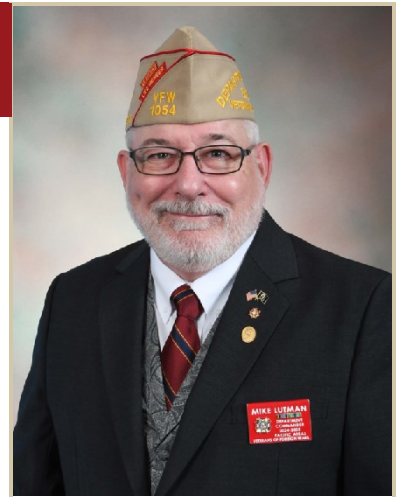
While I'm at it, I have to thank my horses for pulling their freight through out the year. SVC Jack Farrell, JVC Don Kelley, ADJ Kevin Mitchell, QM Shawn Watson, the entire council and the Chairman running our committees.

Well done DPA! I am so VERY PROUD of all you do in your Posts, Districts and across our department. You are SECOND TO NONE in what you do, SECOND TO NONE in your capacity to support Veterans and SECOND TO NONE when it comes to supporting your communities.

Stay safe, be well and take care of each other!

Hooyah DPA! CARRY ON!

Michael D. Lutman
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas VFW
"Veterans First, Comrades Always"

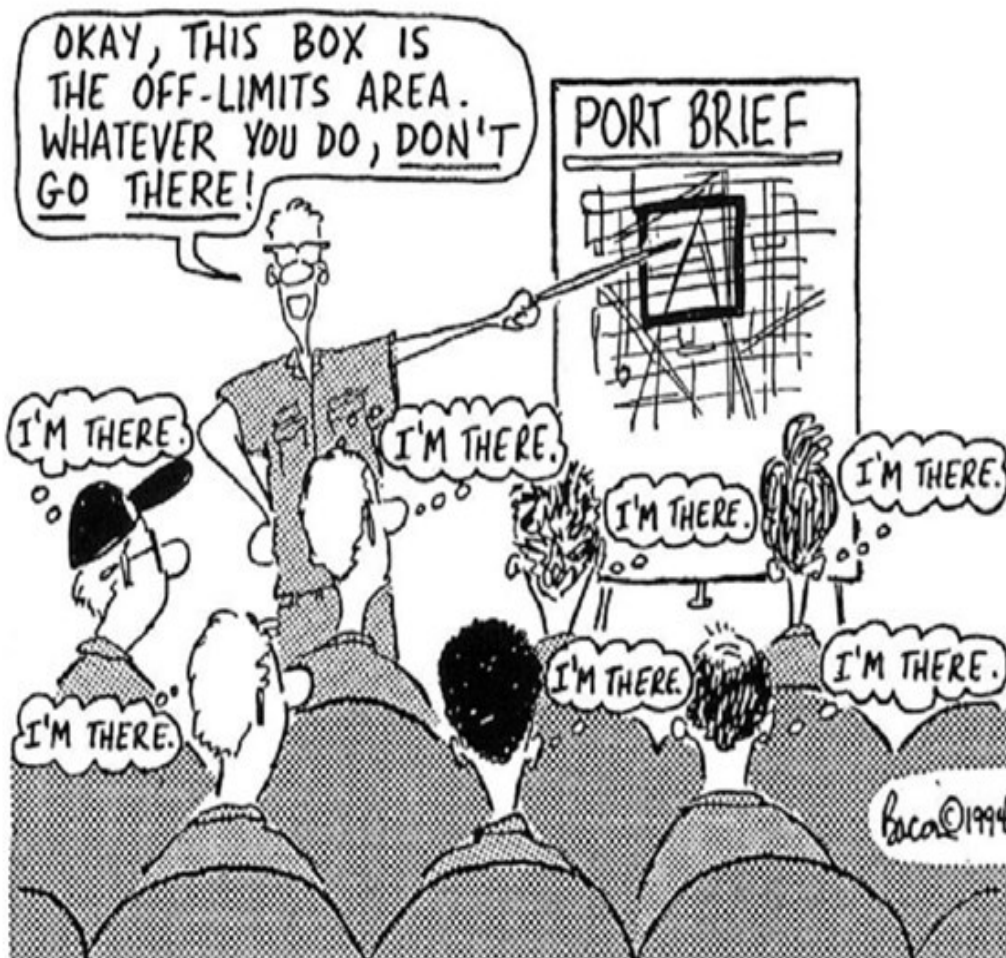


Commander

Michael Lutman



DPA CONVENTION SAFETY BRIEF



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to the families and friends of the Pacifica areas for the outpouring of love and support that you have provided to both Sophanna and I during my surgical procedure. It has helped in so many ways that we could not be more appreciative of our Pacific Areas family. Another true showing of what we do for our veterans and their families. Thank you all for your incredible efforts in achieving this year's milestones. Wow!! 100% in membership prior to the Mid-Term Conference. What an outstanding display of why we are the best at what we do.

All-State

For those posts that are still missing some key items which are required for the all-state program. Keep charging, and don't hesitate to reach out to either the program chairman or me as needed for assistance. It would be awful to see a post not make All-State for something as simple as not completing Trustee or Service officer requirements.

Please take the time to review the attached All-State tracker for your post and district status. Drive to meet your requirements by 15 April to receive acknowledgement at June's convention, or June to receive acknowledgement at the December Mid-Term Conference. Click [HERE](#) to see the file.

All-American

With just a few months until our June convention. You still have time to complete your post requirements

Well done and BZ to the Posts and Districts who have put in the time and effort to Meet All-American requirements. It is now up to the rest of you to complete the requirements and finish strong.

Nominations and Elections

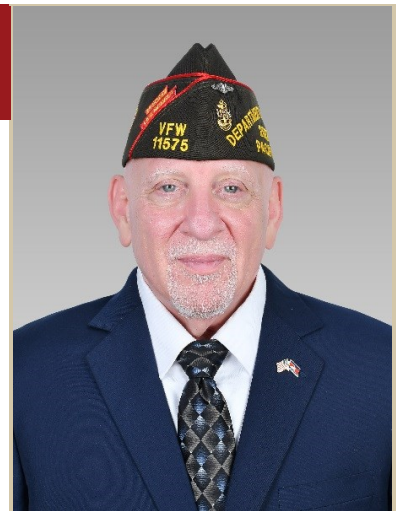
We are now in the nomination and election season for the VFW 2024-2025 term. Nominations open at the March post meeting and close at the April post meeting during elections. District nominations open at the meeting before the District Convention and close during the District Convention elections. Refer to Sections 215-217 and 415-417 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure for guidance.

In April, posts will elect officers and delegates for district and department conventions. Carefully consider nominations and elect capable leaders who set the tone for your organization. Elect a Commander familiar with the organization's chain of command.

Ensure election reports and General Order Number 1 are completed before the June convention.

Once again, thank you for the trust and privilege you have placed in me as your Senior Vice Commander.

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



Senior Vice Commander

John "Jack" Farrell



Sr. Vice Commander

All State Tracker,
click [HERE](#)

All State Dashboard,
click [HERE](#)

All American Dash-
board, click [HERE](#)

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

Congratulations to the Department of Pacific Areas for meeting the requirements for VFW Programs. This achievement truly embodies the spirit of “**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**” Great job to all Posts and Districts.

Public Servant Awards:

The Department would like to congratulate the following individuals who have been selected for the following Public Servant Awards. Congratulations to all the awardees for their outstanding service!

EMT:	HN Ta’niya Moore	Post 1054
Firefighter:	Kyong Chol Chong	Post 9985
Law Enforcement:	SSGT Kandice Miller	Post 9723
Dispatcher:	SSGT Dempsey Cooney	Post 9723

There are a few important tasks left to wrap up the year.

Scouting of the Year Award: This award is due to the Department NLT **1 April 2025**.

Department Outstanding Awards Program: Every Post has members that excel in what they do and deserve the credit for it. I suggest every Post appoint an Award Chairman to keep track of accomplishments throughout the year and ensure Awards don’t get overlooked. Don’t let just a few Posts take all the awards again this year. I am looking forward to seeing award submissions from every Post.

Awards for the following categories will be selected:

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

Nomination packages for each category should be submitted by each Post to their District NLT **15 April 2025**.

District should email their District winners (ONE for each category) to the Department Junior Vice Commander NLT **1 May 2025**. Check the DPA Website under Resources / Forms Portal for the current nomination forms.

Community Service Reports (CSRs): Some Posts are lacking the minimum of three CSRs per month to meet the All-State requirement. Let’s get these caught up. I would hate to see a Post miss out on All-State just for a few CSRs. The CSR cut-off date for the year is April 30th, and inputs must be entered no later than April 15, 2025, for All-State recognition at the DPA Convention. Follow the guidelines in the [VFW GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE BEST PRACTICES](#) for your inputs.

One new item this year in the All-American Program is that one community service activity must be for a **VFW Day of Service** event held during the month of May.



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

Don Kelley



Jr. Vice Commander

**VFW GUIDE FOR
COMMUNITY SERVICE
BEST PRACTICES**



JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

well as something that fellow veterans can be invited to take part. **“Buddy”® Poppy, recruiting and events which raise monetary donations do not qualify as a Day of Service event.**

Some examples of community services events include:

- Drives – food, personal hygiene products, diapers
- Home repair
- Highway clean up
- Street / park / cemetery / vacant lot clean up
- Health fairs
- Backpack / snack
- Houseless to home support
- Playground rehab / installation
- Accessibility initiatives

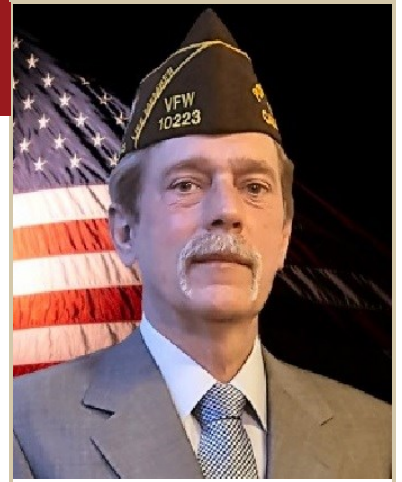
Can my Post’s Day of Service event help us achieve All-American?

Absolutely! Simply log your hours into your state community service reporting system to ensure you get credit for your impact.

BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU DO, DO WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN while being a **VETERAN FIRST AND COMRADE ALWAYS.**

Don Kelley
Junior Vice Commander
jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org

Veterans First, Comrades Always



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

Don Kelley



Jr. Vice Commander

JOIN VFW DAY OF SERVICE
Community service events across the nation & world kick off on May 3, 2025.

Are You Ready to Serve?
vfw.org/DayofService

**VFW GUIDE FOR
COMMUNITY SERVICE
BEST PRACTICES**

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

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

VFW Post 2485, Auxiliary, Scouts, Comrades from several District 7 Posts, and many others attended the 80th Anniversary of the raid and liberation of the Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp at the Cabanatuan American Memorial this morning. Hosted by the American Battle Monuments Commission, Her Excellency Mary Kay L. Carlson, Ambassador US Embassy Philippines, provided special remarks. Immediate Past VFW Commander-In-Chief Duane Sarmiento was also an invited guest and gave an introductory message. Post 2485 Chaplain Charles Connors gave the invocation and benediction. Mr. Tim Pratt, Superintendent, Clark Veterans Cemetery, was the Master of Ceremonies.



Paying tribute to the valiant US Army Rangers, Alamo Scouts, and Filipino Resistance fighters, we remember their courageous mission to rescue over 500 Prisoners of War from the Cabanatuan War camp, an event that would forever be etched in history as the Great Raid. This remarkable rescue operation stands as the most successful rescue mission in US military history.



In the SPOTLIGHT



VFW Post 2485 members and Scouts attended the 80th Commemoration of the Liberation of Manila luncheon Honoring WWII Veteran Liberators: Corporal John L. Hodges, USA, WWII, Yeoman 2nd Class Arthur Grabiner, USN, WWII and Prospero Evangelista, Philippine Resistance Fighter, WWII. The event was sponsored by the Manila Elks Lodge 761 and VFW Post 12231, Manila

In the SPOTLIGHT

On 9 February 2025 (after the General Monthly Meeting), Post 12146 held a ceremony to honor a Friend of the Post and celebrate a major milestone. The Post presented Malai Stein with a special crystal award in recognition of her 10 years of support to the Post and its members. Thank you Khun Malai!

Immediately following the ceremony, the Post celebrated the 10th Anniversary of its inception. The Post's first elected Commander, Comrade Ken Stein, kicked things off with a history of the Post and thanked specific Comrades that have been instrumental in the progress of the Post over the last 10 years. Post 12146 has been an All State and All American Post every single year since its inception. This is a major achievement and not common across the VFW.

After the opening comments, members continued the celebration at Kitty House with food and beverages. Kitty (owner of Kitty House) presented the Post with an anniversary cake. Thank you, Kitty!



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

DPA QUARtermaster

Comrades,

The Department of Pacific areas has just undergone its first Inspection from National in many years. This month I want to focus on some of the findings in the Quartermaster/Trustee report of audit. Overall, there were very few items that were noted. But the ones noted seem to be a common occurrence. But before I get into that, I would like to thank each Quartermaster and trustee for the excellent work they do.

The most common problem is block 16, this block has questions about Post Canteen, employees, taxes. Please review and accurately answer these questions. Block 17, Reconciliation, this block should have the totals from the bank statement. Also, the total at the bottom of this block should match the total at the bottom of block 13. The bottom of the form should have the total of your Bond and the expiration date of the Bond. This date for everyone should be 31 Aug 2025.

Most of these are very minor and often not checked every audit. However, the quarterly audit is a snapshot in time and is kept on file for many years. If someone were to request to see an audit from 7 years ago, the quartermaster position could have changed many times and the ones that signed it may have moved on as well. When completing your next quarterly audit, please verify that all the information is correct and complete.

If you have any questions on any aspect of the quartermaster duties, please reach out to me. I am here to help.

Shawn Watson
DPA Quartermaster



Quartermaster

Shawn Watson



Quartermaster

DPA ADJUTANT

Hello Comrades,

Time is flying and the end of the 2024-25 term is coming fast!!! I would like to give you a few reminders as we close out another outstanding year! For the month of March, our Posts will be accepting nominations of Officers for the 2025-26 term, Elections will be held in April, and we have installation of officers, too. Please submit your Election Reports on vfw.org as soon as possible! Please send our Post GO's to me also as soon as you can. We are having a super term, so please start looking at your stars and recognizing them for awards! Also remember to submit your Delegate Letters.

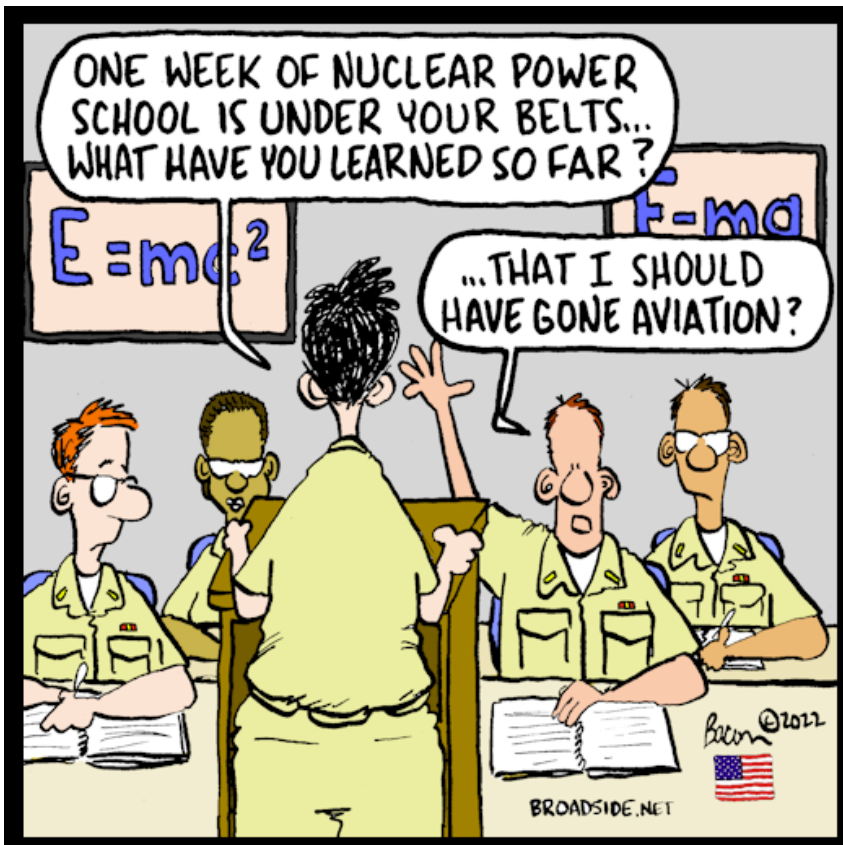
The DPA is really firing on all cylinders! Over 102% in membership, many Posts in position for All American/State, excellence in all Programs...way to go DPA!!

At this typing, Post 11447 put on an outstanding Beach Bash over the weekend and kudos to Post CDR Troy Derby and members!! It's always nice to see all the Comrades who made it to Barrio Barretto from within the country and especially outside travelers.

In closing, I am hoping you and yours are doing great! My prayers go out to the DPA with special thoughts of our Comrades in Distress. All the best until next time!!!

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Kevin E. Mitchell
Adjutant
Department of Pacific Areas
Veterans First, Comrades Always



Adjutant

Kevin Mitchell



Adjutant

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Hello Comrades,

The VFW Washington Conference begins 1 March, I'll report in the next edition of The Pacific Times on what was discussed at the National Council Meeting and at the National Veterans Service Advisory Committee meeting. In addition will report on our meetings with the Representatives from Saipan and Guam.

Attended the annual Post 11447 Beach Bash in Subic Bay Philippines and the D7 District meeting. Appreciate the hospitality by Post CDR Troy and District VII CDR Roscoe as well as all the comrades attending the meetings and festivities.

We will continue to represent the Department at the National level ensuring our voices are heard and reminding our National Officers and the staffs at our Kansas City HQ and our Washington, D.C. offices of our unique situation out here in the Pacific.

Yours in comradeship and service to veterans.

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



National Council Member

Ken Stein



"You will never understand bureaucracies until you understand that for bureaucrats, procedure is everything and outcomes are nothing." - **Thomas Sowell**



NATIONAL CERTIFIED RECRUITER

Greeting Comrades of the Pacific,

As the norm we continue to excel here in the Pacific. Back at the CofA, I mean our Mid Term Convention we had 90 recruiters doing their thing now almost 90 days later we have increased the number of recruiters to 119 and have reached our Commanders in Chief Goal of 102% and still growing.

This was just recently done this past weekend when Post 8180 reached 102% making District III having all its Posts at 102% or better. That brings a total of 21 Posts that have made 102% or better and 4 Districts that have made that goal.

Comrade's that ain't bad at all! We are currently at 102.50 %. On 26 February I am heading to Guam to help them do some recruiting so hopefully we will see a lot more numbers in the near future from there.

Comrades as I said before, Recruiting is a year-round event. Just because you have reached your goal for the year, sign them up for their home of record, our Department Membership at Large and keep their email, phone number info and when their membership is due next year contact them get them to renew their membership with your post!

I would like to thank everyone in the Department at this time for working all the Programs so the Recruiters out there can boast what your Post Members are doing in the Community because it takes a whole Post Team effort to make the VFW work!

I am just an email away to help contact me at PDCLyons935@gmail.com.

Department of Pacific Areas Year in Review 2024/2025

With June right around the corner it's time to get serious on this Years Convention Book I.E. "***A Year in Review***". As you know it is a requirement to make All State to make a donation to the Convention Book of \$100.00. If you are looking to have your hat presented at the June Convention, then this donation needs to be donated by **15 April** so your hat can be ordered figuring that all the other blocks have been checked off. This \$100.00 will count as part of your ad that you would be submitting if you do not submit an ad I will submit a half page generic one for your post. If you are doing a Full-page ad the cost is \$200.00 or 3 pages for \$300.00, again the \$100.00 donation would be counted in this. You QM may just want to make one payment.

The ad will be emailed to me by 15 May so you could include any picture of a Day of Service. However, the sooner the better. Payment would be sent to the Department QM and send me an email of the payment at PDCLyons935@gmail.com.

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.

[Membership Recruiting and Retention LINK](#)

VFW DAY OF SERVICE 2025!



VFW DAY OF SERVICE 2025



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

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

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

Sign Up for Day of Service 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Army Sgt. Maj. Thomas "Patrick" Payne received the Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony for helping liberate over 70 hostages from an ISIS prison compound in Iraq.

President Donald Trump draped the nation's highest military award around Payne's neck during a ceremony on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks — a day that compelled Payne to enlist.

Sgt. Maj. Thomas "Patrick" Payne, an instructor assigned to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, grew up in Batesburg-Leesville and Lugoff, South Carolina, and graduated from high school in 2002. Part of the 9/11 generation, Payne felt a strong sense of duty to serve his country. After high school, he enlisted in the Army as an Infantryman 11B and completed the Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, in 2002 and the Ranger Indoctrination Program (now known as the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program) in early 2003.

He was then assigned as a rifleman to A Co., 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, where he also served as a sniper and sniper team leader until November 2007, the year he was selected for assignment to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Since then, he has served within USASOC as a special operations team member, assistant team sergeant, team sergeant and instructor.

In 2012, Payne and his teammate won the Best Ranger Competition – a grueling contest that places extreme demands on buddy teams' physical, mental, technical and tactical skills as Rangers – at Fort Benning.

Throughout his career, Payne deployed 17 times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn and Operation Inherent Resolve, and to the U.S. Africa Command area of responsibility.

Payne is a graduate of numerous military schools and courses, including Basic Airborne Course; Ranger Indoctrination Program; Ranger School; Sniper Course; Basic Leader Course; Basic Demolition Course; Advanced Demolition Course; Advanced Land Navigation; Survive, Evasion, Resistance and Escape; Free Fall Parachutist; Advanced Leader Course; Jumpmaster Course; Free Fall Jumpmaster Course; Joint Military Tandem Master Course; Senior Leader Course; Defense Language Institute (French); Special Forces Sniper Course; and Joint Special Operations Senior Enlisted Academy.

Payne's awards and decorations include the Medal of Honor; Bronze Star Medal with Bronze "V" device and three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters; the Purple Heart; Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters; Meritorious Service Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster; Joint Service Commendation Medal with Bronze "V" device; Army Commendation Medal with Bronze "V" device and one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster; Navy and Marine Corps Presidential Unit Citation; Joint Meritorious Unit Award; Valorous Unit Award; Meritorious Unit Commendation; Army Good Conduct Medal with Bronze Clasp and five Loops; National Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars; Iraq Campaign Medal with five Bronze Stars; Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with Numeral "3"; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; NATO Medal; Ranger Tab; Combat Infantryman Badge; Expert Infantryman Badge; Military Free Fall Jumpmaster Badge and Parachutist Badge.

Payne graduated from Norwich University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science degree in strategic studies and defense analysis. He is stationed at Fort Bragg, where he lives with his wife and three children.

Read full citation here: <https://www.cmohs.org/recipients/thomas-p-payne>



CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrades, I hope you and your families are well and in good spirits, enabling you to continue our vital advocacy work while striving to achieve the Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) / District / Post goals for All State/All American. Let us also continue to pray that our advocacy grows stronger and more influential with increased recruitment.

As mentioned in my last correspondence, I emphasize the importance of "Buddy checks" for our comrades and families who are sick or shut-in. This is crucial to our mission and can be accomplished with a simple phone call, email, or text to ensure we stay connected with our comrades.

This edition is dedicated to sharing some inspiring words from our National Chaplain, Reverend Peter R. Hook: "In our role as VFW Post, District, and Department Chaplains, our goal is to support leadership and fellow chaplains in their vital work of ministering to veterans and their families." This can be done through various resources, including regular emails, live and Zoom training sessions, writing articles, and developing materials tailored to the unique needs of our community. Alongside the DPA chaplain team, which includes Post Chaplains, District Chaplains, and past chaplains, we should be encouraged by the "importance of interfaith cooperation, selfless service, and unity in all our efforts, fostering an inclusive and compassionate environment for all those we serve."

Prayers are with those seeking offices and appointments as the nomination and election season for the DPA, Districts, and Posts in the VFW for the 2025-2026 term approaches. Let us also keep our prayers strong throughout the DPA as we prepare for the annual Day of Service 2024. As we join veterans, friends, and like-minded individuals for the Day of Service 2025, this nationwide community service initiative kicks off on Saturday, May 3, 2025, and continues throughout the month of May. Good luck to everyone!

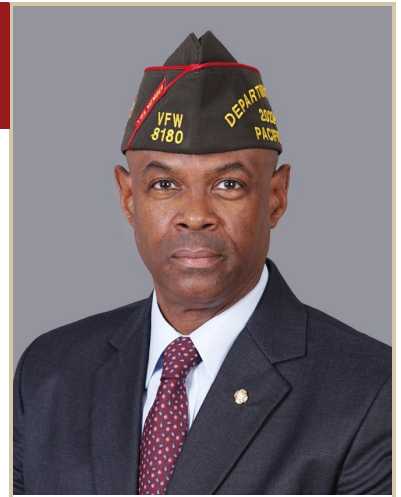
The Chaplain position is rewarding but humbling. With that said, let us honor those in this past TAPs recording and the report of fallen Comrades. Let their names, spirit, and memory live on so we never forget them and their sacrifices.

Let us remember the following Comrades who passed away since our last edition 2024-2025: (Entries listed by Post in sequence of notification receipt.)

Post	Name	Date of Death
12074	Pfeiffer, John L.	31 May 2024
9985	Lucas, Jerry W.	28 November 2024
2485	Patterson, Blain G.	29 December 2024
2485	Crumrine, David L.	08 January 2025
2485	Harvey, Ronnie E.	14 January 2025
2485	Jefferson, Arthur L.	12 February 2025

Yours in Comradeship

Robert S. Chatman
DPA Chaplain



Chaplain

Robert Chatman



Let us Pray

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



Resources for Chaplains

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

Good introduction to chaplain's duties.

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

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

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!**

DEPARTMENT SURGEON

Comrades remain healthy and safe. continue to take care of each other, your families our Active-duty service members and the less fortunate in our communities, As we settle in the stretch before DPA convention and considering the location “Bangkok Thailand” I think it fitting to discuss a sometimes-awkward topic the Symptoms & Causes of [Erectile Dysfunction](#).

ED may be a symptom of another health problem, symptoms of ED may include getting an erection sometimes, but not every time you want to have sex, getting an erection, but it doesn't last long enough for sex, being unable to get an erection at any time so what causes ED?

ED can have different causes. Some diseases or health conditions that affect your blood vessels, nerves, or hormones can lead to ED. Also, certain medicines, mental or emotional issues, and lifestyle behaviors may lead to ED.

Diseases and conditions, the most common diseases and conditions that can lead to ED include diabetes, chronic health conditions, such as chronic kidney disease, obesity and overweight, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart and blood vessel diseases, such as atherosclerosis, high blood pressure and stroke, hormone issues, such as low testosterone and thyroid imbalance. nerve damage or disorders, such as multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries, and damage from pelvic surgery problems of the male reproductive system, such as enlarged prostate and penile curvature, also called Peyronie's disease.

Medicines, ED can be a side effect of many common prescription and over-the-counter medicines, such as antidepressants, appetite suppressants, or medicines that make you less hungry, antihistamines, or medicines for allergies or heartburn, blood pressure medicines and diuretics, or water pills, chemotherapy and hormone medicines, some pain relievers, such as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, codeine, and oxycodone, sedatives, or medicines that make you calm or sleepy and / or, ulcer medicines.

Mental health or emotional issues, some mental health or emotional issues can either cause ED or make it worse, including anxiety, depression or stress. Feeling isolated or lonely, low self-esteem, lack of confidence, or negative body image.

Lifestyle behaviors, Certain lifestyle behaviors may contribute to ED, including not getting enough physical activity, drinking too much alcohol, smoking cigarettes, using recreational and illicit drugs.

Treatment for Erectile Dysfunction, Life Style Changes, counseling, medicines, phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitors, testosterone, injectable medicines and suppositories and / or alternative medicines. Do not order ED medicine online before talking with your Doctor, tell your Doctor about all the medicines you are taking and “happy hunting?”

Yours In Comradeship

Lou Holub
DPA Surgeon



Surgeon

Lou Holub



Surgeon

Treatment Options for Sudden ED



Eat a healthy diet



Avoid alcohol and red meat



Seek mental health treatment



Consult a healthcare provider about medication



Exercise



Treat underlying conditions

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Commanders, Inspectors & Comrades,

DPA Inspections are conducted annually, and the purpose of the inspections is to ensure that all of our Districts & Posts are operating in accordance with our National & DPA by-laws, procedures and policies.

The DPA sets a goal for Successful Completion as prior to the C of A and the reason for establishing that completion goal is to assist in identifying and quickly resolving any issues before they become larger, and to ensure that any problems do not carry over into the next VFW year.

The Current inspection status follows:

D2	D2 & 3 Posts	All Successfully Completed & Reported	D Insp. Randell Himes
D3	D3 & 4 Posts	All Successfully Completed & Reported	D Insp. George Beck
D4	D4 & 5 Posts	All Successfully Completed & Reported	D Insp. Dan Morgan
D5	D5 & 5 Posts	All Successfully Completed & Reported	D Insp. Marcus Earp
D6	D6 & 3 Posts	All Successfully Completed & Reported	D Insp Pete Callaghan
D7	D7 & 7 Posts	All Successfully Completed & Reported	D Insp. Vern Lask

All DPA Districts & Posts successfully completed inspections and submitted reports prior to 28 Feb - meeting one of the many requirements for 2024-25 All-State eligibility.

My thanks go out to all District Commanders and to all of the appointed Inspectors who worked with Post Commanders, Quartermasters & Adjutants to make that happen.

Yours in Comradeship & Service,

Brian Hamic
DPA Inspector
Department of Pacific Areas

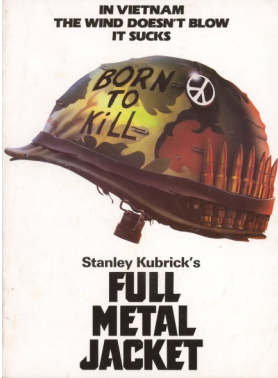


Department Inspector

Brian Hamic



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

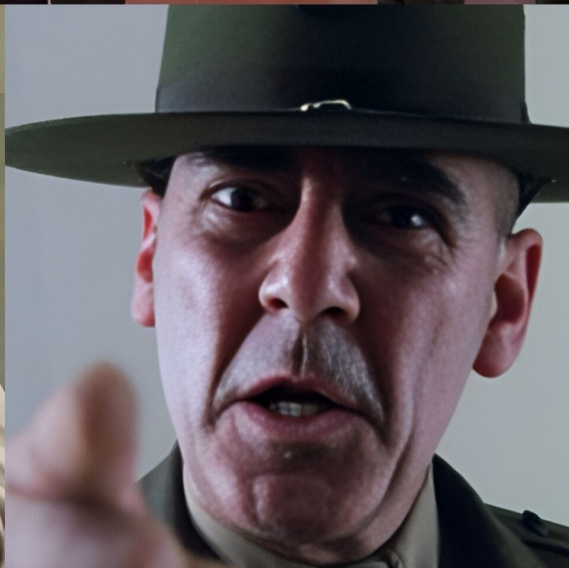
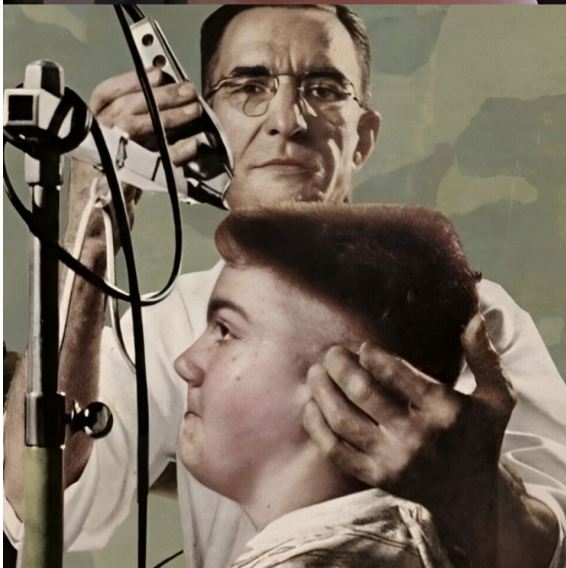


Full Metal Jacket (1987) is a war film directed by Stanley Kubrick, based on Gustav Hasford's novel *The Short-Timers*. It is known for its stark realism, psychological depth, and unflinching portrayal of the Vietnam War. The film is divided into two distinct parts: Marine Corps boot camp and the Vietnam War itself.

The first half follows a group of Marine recruits undergoing brutal training at Parris Island under the relentless Gunnery Sergeant Hartman (R. Lee Ermey). His harsh methods break and mold the recruits, particularly focusing on the naive but competent Joker (Matthew Modine) and the mentally unstable Private Pyle (Vincent D'Onofrio). Hartman's relentless abuse drives Pyle to insanity, culminating in a shocking murder-suicide.

The second half shifts to Vietnam, where Joker, now a military journalist, is stationed in Da Nang. He reunites with fellow Marine, Rafterman, and joins a combat unit led by Animal Mother (Adam Baldwin). As they navigate the war's chaos, Joker's sarcastic persona is tested when his unit engages in a deadly battle in Hue City against a lone but deadly Viet Cong sniper. The climactic moment forces Joker to confront the brutal reality of war, marking his loss of innocence.

Kubrick's meticulous direction, Ermey's unforgettable performance, and the film's haunting exploration of war's dehumanizing effects make *Full Metal Jacket* a landmark war movie. Its themes of identity, psychological warfare, and the cost of violence continue to resonate, cementing it as a cinematic masterpiece.



JUDGE ADVOCATE

Comrades,

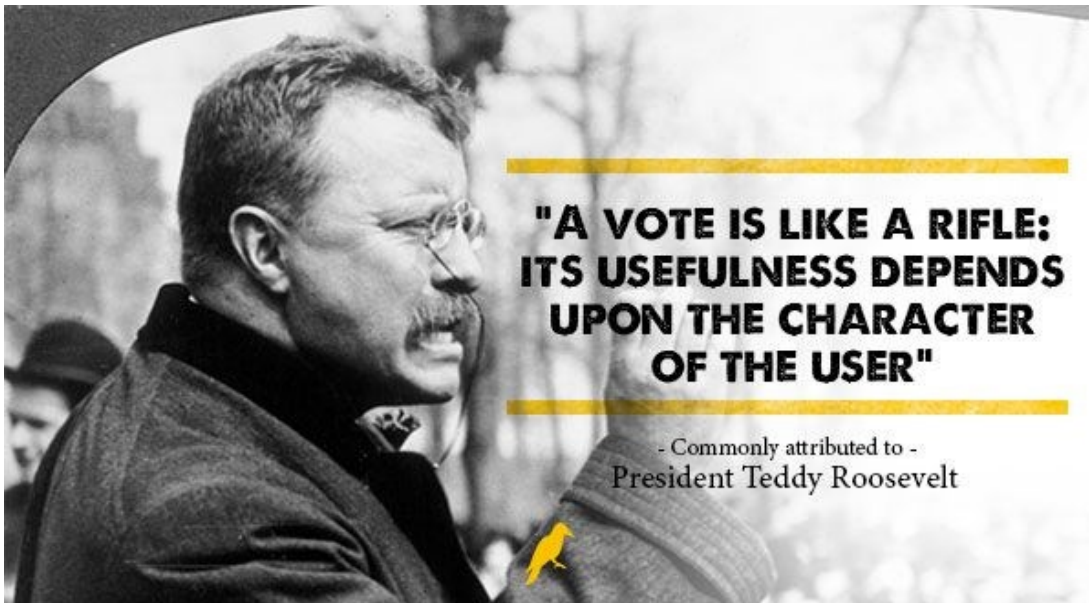
The theme for this edition of the Pacific Times is Nominations and Elections. The future success of your Post relies on choosing the right people to lead you. In some Posts (I would contend that this happens to every Post at some time or another) this can present a real challenge. So how do you choose a good leader?

Every one of us has been in the military. We have had more bosses than we can count. But only a few stand out in our minds, the really good ones and the really bad ones. We tried to absorb the qualities of the good leader that we liked, and avoid the qualities of the bad leader that we disliked. We carry those lessons into our post-military careers.

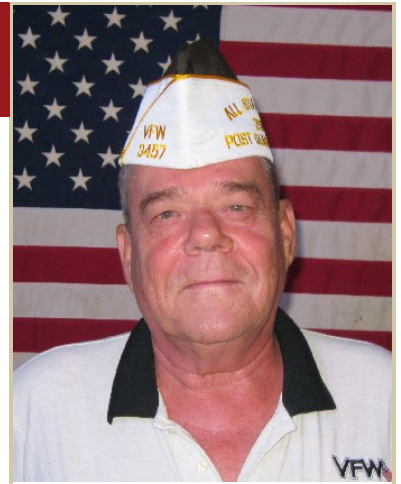
So in March, when nominating comrades to be future leaders in your Post, remember the lessons from your experiences in the military. Pick people with the qualities you admire. You already know who they are.

Yours In Comradeship,

Pete Callaghan
Judge Advocate
Department of Pacific Areas



2025/2026 Post and District Elections



Judge Advocate

Pete Callaghan



DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

We held the Post Service Officer/District Training on December 14th and January 8th. Currently 90% of the Department Post Service Officers have completed their required annual training. We will be conducting one more training session for the three remaining Post Service Officers that need Post Service Officer Training to attain 100% attendance. The training date will be set upon concurrence of the availability of the remaining Post Service Officers.

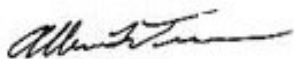
I would like to congratulate Genelyn Paz on her completion of Veteran Service Officer Basic Training. As previously stated, we are looking to increase the number of Assistant Department Service Officers (ADSO) throughout the Department to better serve our veterans. We currently have potential Assistant Department Service Officers in Thailand (2 ea.), Philippines (3 ea.), Korea (2 ea.), Cambodia (1 ea.), Japan (1 ea.). We are currently vetting the potential ADSOs.

The process for Assistant Department Service Officer (ADSO) Candidates to be enrolled in the training is as follows.

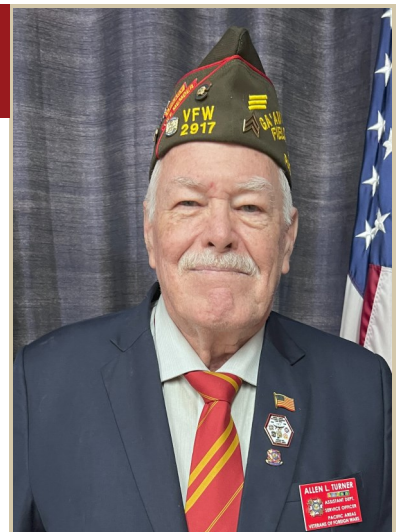
- Recommendation of individual candidate to Department Service Officer
- Interview by Department DSO
- Candidate completion of VA TRIP (Training, Responsibility, Involvement and Preparation of Claims) Please note this could take between 1 week to 1 month depending on how much time the candidate puts into the training on a daily basis. I recommend that one month be allocated for this process. Planning for only one week would require almost 100%-time dedication to complete the course.
- Completion of Background Investigation
- Submission of VA Form 21
- VFW Application for Accreditation
- Letter from Department Commander submitting candidates' application documentation to NVS

Our ADSOs assist veterans regardless of their affiliation with VFW and their place of residence. If a veteran does not live close to one of our Department Service Officers, in most cases we can help them virtually. If the veteran needs assistance but is not computer literate and lives near a VFW Post, the Post Service Officer can be our link between the veteran needing help and the ADSO. If a veteran does not live close to a Post, we can still help. The veteran will need to have a trustworthy family member or friend that is computer literate and willing to be the link between the veteran and the ADSO via computer.

I recently discovered a discrepancy in the Department Web Site. I have been directing the Post Service Officers to the "Resources / Service Officer" section of the web site to download the most current version of the Post Service Officer Report. I recently discovered that under the "Forms Portal" on the web site it also has a Post Service Officer Report. Unfortunately, the "Forms Portal" does not have the updated Post Service Officer Report. Thus, we experienced some confusion. I have requested that the Webmaster and Adjutant ensure that the Forms Portal has the most current Post Service Officer Report.



Allen L Turner VA-OGC#49546
Department of Pacific Areas
dsodpa@vfwpacific.org



DSO Pacific Areas

Allen Turner



Service Officer

**#STILL
SERVING**



SOMETHING TO PONDER

20 SENTENCES THAT WILL MAXIMIZE YOUR SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE



1. To solve an issue quickly, be soft on the person and hard on the problem.
2. Pretend everyone was sent to teach you something.
3. Pause in speaking + eye contact = confidence.
4. Make people feel important with the SHR Method: Seen, Heard, Remembered.
5. A person's favorite sound is their name, so remember it (h/t Dale Carnegie).
6. "Praise publicly. Criticize privately." —Warren Buffett
7. To give feedback, first make the other person know you're about them.
8. "Unspoken expectations are premeditated resentments." —Neil Strauss
9. The best networking strategy is a helping others first strategy.
10. Loneliness is a silent pandemic; assume people want to meet you.
11. Practice going first, e.g., "Hi, I'm Ben."
12. Build the habit of responding with "Yes, and" because it advances their idea.
13. Avoid complaining or gossiping (nobody likes to hear it).
14. Storytelling is a superpower; use a structure like setup, tension, & resolution.
15. Every dog has its day because dogs are friendly (lesson in there).
16. "The quality of your relationships determines the quality of your life." —E. Perel
17. To discover blindspots, build an inner circle that will give you honest feedback.
18. Normalize "I don't know anything about that" as a successful answer.
19. Record and study your speaking like an athlete watching game film.
20. "Great leaders create more leaders, not followers." —Roy T. Bennett

Enjoy this? Follow me for me



BEN MEER

POW/MIA CHAIRMAN

In 2025, the Pacific region will celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the climax of the Second World War. Numerous ceremonies will honor this historically significant event, many of which occur in the Philippines.

Since the last edition of the Pacific Times, VFW Post members in the Philippines have participated in several ceremonies. Notably, they attended the 80th Anniversary Celebration of the MacArthur Landing at Lingayen Gulf on January 9 and the 80th Anniversary Celebration of the United States Army's 40th Division's liberation of Bamban Township during World War II on January 23. These events marked a significant milestone in the campaign to liberate the Philippines.

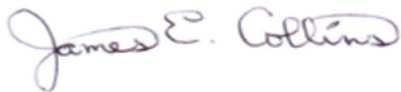
On February 1, 2025, American and Filipino dignitaries, military leaders, and local officials gathered at the Cabanatuan American Memorial to honor the 80th anniversary of the Cabanatuan Raid. This daring World War II rescue mission successfully saved 511 Allied prisoners of war. The event celebrated the courage, sacrifice, and partnership that characterized this historic operation.

The Cabanatuan Raid, also known as “The Great Raid,” demonstrated the unmatched coordination and bravery of the United States Army 6th Ranger Battalion, Filipino guerrillas, and local resistance fighters. Conducted on Jan. 30, 1945, by elements of the 6th Ranger Battalion after rigorous training under LTC Henry Mucci and led by CPT Robert Prince.

Myca Elizabeth Vergara, the mayor of Cabanatuan City, and Duane Sarmiento, the Immediate Past Commander in Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, delivered speeches. The U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines, Mary Kay Carlson, also provided special remarks. The ceremony included an invocation and benediction by VFW Post 2485 Chaplain Charles Conners. The event also featured the posting and retiring of the POW/MIA flag, a youth rose-laying tribute by Troops 485 and 409, and the laying of wreaths by various VFW Posts.

On February 20, the newest DPA post, VFW Manila Post 12231 Jose C. Calugas Sr., in collaboration with the Manila Elks Lodge Veterans Committee, hosted a lunch for two U.S. World War II veterans visiting the Philippines to commemorate the liberation of Manila. Yeoman Albert Grabiner, U.S. Navy (age 99), and Corporal John Hodges, U.S. Army (age 100), served in the Philippine campaigns during WWII and have not returned in 80 years. They represent a living testament to that era.

The United States Embassy in Manila and the American Battle Monuments Commission commemorated the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of Manila at Manila American Cemetery on Feb. 22. U.S. representatives and dignitaries from the Philippines, U.S., Veteran Service Organizations, and Filipino World War II veterans attended the event. The liberation of Manila in 1945 was a symbolic turning point in World War II.



Yours in Comradeship,
James (Jim) Collins
DPA POW/MIA Chairman



POW/MIA Chairman

James “Jim” Collins



WOMEN'S VETERAN CHAIRPERSON

Women veterans are the fastest growing segment in the veteran population, come with their own set of challenges. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); 1 in 3 women veterans tell their VA health care provider that they have experienced sexual harassment or assault while serving in the military and that women veterans are more likely to experience depression, anxiety, and PTSD than their male counterparts.

As women veterans return to civilian life, they often face challenges that can be just as daunting as their military service. The unseen battles of mental health struggles can be debilitating and must be brought to the forefront and made known.

The mental health challenges faced by women veterans are Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety and Military Sexual Trauma (MST).

According to the Mayo Clinic, PTSD is a mental health condition that's caused by an intensely stressful ordeal — either experiencing or witnessing it. Some of the symptoms may include flashbacks, nightmares, difficulty in sleeping and concentrating, and hyper vigilance. Women veterans are at higher risk for developing PTSD due to their exposure to combat, MST, and other traumatic incidents.

Depression is a common mental health challenge faced by women veterans. As mentioned earlier, the transition to civilian life can be daunting, and the loss of identity and purpose can cause feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and disconnection. This can manifest in loss of interest in activities they normally do, altered sleep patterns and difficulty concentrating and making decisions.

Another common mental health challenge faced by women veterans is anxiety. The combination of military life and with transition to civilian life can cause a sense of uncertainty and fear. Women veterans who suffer from anxiety may experience, restlessness and irritability, difficulty in sleeping and concentrating and persistent feelings of worry and fear.

Lastly, MST as defined by the VA are experiences of sexual assault, or repeated threatening sexual harassment that occurred while the women veteran was serving in the military. It is a unique challenge that can have severe and life long effects on their mental health.

Woman veterans who are struggling with mental health challenges can get the help they need from the VA. The VA has The Women's Health Clinic that can address these unique challenges faced by women veterans. The following are resources for women:

- Women Veterans Call Center: 855-VA-WOMEN
- Veteran Crisis Hotline: 988 (press 1)
- National Center for PTSD: <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/>
- Service Women's Action Network (SWAN) Hotline: 1 888 669 0907

By recognizing and understanding the unique mental health challenges, we can encourage and promote a more inclusive environment for women veterans.

Janet Alford
Women's Veteran Chairperson
Department of Pacific Areas

References: VA.gov and mayoclinic.org



Woman's Veteran Chairperson

Janet S. Alford



**VA Center
for Women
Veterans**



**WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE
PACT Act and Women Veterans**

VA  U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs
Click to View Video

FAMOUS QUOTES TO PONDER

“Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.” **Oscar Wilde**

“I'm selfish, impatient and a little insecure. I make mistakes, I am out of control and at times hard to handle. But if you can't handle me at my worst, then you sure as hell don't deserve me at my best.” **Marilyn Monroe**

“So many books, so little time.” **Frank Zappa**

“Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe.” **Albert Einstein**

“A room without books is like a body without a soul.” **Marcus Tullius Cicero**

“Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind.” **Bernard M. Baruch**

“You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching, Love like you'll never be hurt, Sing like there's nobody listening, and live like it's heaven on earth.” **William W. Purkey**

“You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.” **Mae West**

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” **Mahatma Gandhi**

“In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on.” **Robert Frost**

“If you want to know what a man's like, take a good look at how he treats his inferiors, not his equals.” **J.K. Rowling**

“If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.” **Mark Twain**

“I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” **Maya Angelou**

“To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all.” **Oscar Wilde**

“A friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you.” **Elbert Hubbard**

“Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.” **Oscar Wilde**

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.” **Martin Luther King Jr.**

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.” **Mahatma Gandhi**

“I am so clever that sometimes I don't understand a single word of what I am saying.” **Oscar Wilde**

“To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.” **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

“Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.” **Steve Jobs**

“I believe that everything happens for a reason. People change so that you can learn to let go, things go wrong so that you appreciate them when they're right, you believe lies so you eventually learn to trust no one but yourself, and sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together.” **Marilyn Monroe**

“It is better to be hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not.” **Andre Gide**

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.” **H. Jackson Brown Jr.**

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Comrades, as of this writing I am preparing to attend the Washington DC March Legislative conference. The VFW has pushed out the PRIORITIES that we want Congress to look at.

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.

The VFW Urges Congress to, Require VA to publicly post announcements, updates, and the current status of research pertaining to presumptive conditions stemming from service-connected exposures. Conduct oversight hearings to ensure VA's compliance with the PACT Act's Presumption Decision Process for the ongoing evaluation of conditions associated with toxic exposures.

Transition from Service: Leaving service is often complicated by service-related ailments, family needs, loss of identity and support networks, and the required training to enter a new career field. Sadly, the initial year following discharge also comes with increased suicide risk among veterans, heightening the need to ensure all transitioning service members are connected to post-service benefits and resources as quickly as possible.

The VFW Urges Congress to, pass legislation such as the TAP Promotion Act to codify VA's practice of including accredited claims representatives from national, state, and local organizations in TAP classes.

Exploring Alternative PTSD Treatments: According to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), more than 40 percent of veterans in the VA system have a service-connected disability rating for mental health. The VFW acknowledges there is a growing need for alternative treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)/mental health conditions. Currently, veterans seeking mental health care are predominantly directed to two types of medications—selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs).

The VFW Urges Congress to, 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. Claim Sharks often charge veterans the equivalent of 5-10 months of their future disability payments. This is money these veterans may not have, which could put them in debt simply for trying to access their earned benefits. This is unethical and illegal. The VFW Urges Congress to, Pass legislation that would prohibit the exploitation of veterans and survivors by unscrupulous Claim Sharks and strengthen the accreditation system.

Randell E Himes
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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!

Again, one-way, to keep track of these bills for yourself would be to sign up for the ACTION CORP newsletter. Click this link:

<https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>

BIG BUG SQUEAKS

Grand Commander Himes (A.K.A., Biggest Big Bug)

“communicate, Communicate, COMMUNICATE”

Comrades & Cooties, well just came back from the Subic Bay Beach Bash. Need to say a job well done once again to Post 1147 and Pup Tent 11. I was able to sit and be a judge, with all the fun.

Gents, Brother and Sisters in arms. I must again put out. For the call we all need to make to our VETERAN's that are sick, or laying in the Beds of WHITE.

The need is there and a few are making the calls or visit but we as a Whole VFW and MOC can make a more and meet the challenges of taking care of our older VETERAN BROTHERS in their time of need. Show support to their spouses and children.

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

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

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

Randell E. Himes
GPA Biggest Big Bug
PT 1 CCDB
PT 1 Cootie 1251
rehimes@gmail.com
cdgrd@vfwpacific.org



Randell Himes



Click each Logo above
for Websites





DR. NITI NAVANIMITKUL

MEN'S HEALTH THAILAND

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

Qualifications & Specialized Training

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

Professional Excellence

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

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

Awards & Recognition

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

Holistic Patient Care

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

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

Community Advocacy

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

DR. NITI NAVANIMITKUL
MEN'S HEALTH THAILAND

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

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

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

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



Need tickets for Shawns BIG BUCKS Raffle?

Contact Larry Lyons at

PDCLyons935@gmail.com

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

LETTERS OF INTENT

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

Fellow Comrades,

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

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

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

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

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

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

YIC

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

LETTERS OF INTENT

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



Fellow Comrades,

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

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

My VFW/MOC experience includes:

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

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

Yours in comradeship and service,

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

David B. Gley, Jr.
Gold Legacy Life Member
Candidate for Department of Pacific Areas Junior Vice Commander

LETTERS OF INTENT



No one does more for Veterans

Letter of Intent 2025/2026

Greeting Comrades of the Pacific,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours in Comradeship,
Robert S. Chatman
VFW Post 8180



LETTERS OF INTENT

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



Comrades,

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

My VFW/MOC experience includes:

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

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

Yours in Comradeship

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Beck Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

George E. Beck Jr.

Gold Legacy Life Member

Candidate for Department of Pacific Areas Quartermaster

LETTERS OF INTENT

My name is James E. Collins and I am a member of VFW Robert W. Zaher Post 2485. I am formally submitting my Letter of Intent to run for the position of Junior Vice Commander for the Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) for the 2025-2026 term.

I enlisted in the U.S. Army in September 1974 and retired in October 2004 after 30 years of continuous military service, achieving the rank of Sergeant Major. I graduated from several prestigious schools throughout my career, including the U.S. Army Airborne School, Ranger School, the Special Forces Qualification Course, Pathfinder School, and the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy. I also earned numerous awards, including the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the U.S. Army Meritorious Service Medal (fifth award).

While serving on active duty and fulfilling my military responsibilities, I earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of the State of New York, which I completed in May 1990. Additionally, I obtained a Master of Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma in May 1998.

After retiring from the military service in 2004, I worked for 10 years as a U.S. military contractor in Iraq and Afghanistan, providing atmospheric and media operations support for U.S. and NATO forces.

My commitment to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is unwavering. I often joke that I am single because I am married to the VFW. Being fully retired allows me to dedicate all my time and efforts to this organization. I have been a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars since 1991. After completely retiring in 2015, I became an active member of Post 2485. In May 2016, I became VFW Post 2485's 100th Legacy Life Gold Member. Since then, I have held several leadership roles and achieved various accomplishments, including:

VFW Robert W. Zaher Post 2485, Angeles City

- Commander (2018-20 and 2022-24)
- 4 Time All American Commander
- Early Bird Legislative Award (2022-2024)
- Consecutive National Community Service Awards (2022-2024)
- Life Member of the Military Order of the Cootie - Pup Tent 15

District VII, Philippines

- Commander (2022 - 2024)
- All American 2 years consecutively
- Early Bird Legislative Award (2022-2023)

Department of Pacific Areas

- Clark Veterans Cemetery Chairman
- 2024 DPA Convention Chairmen
- POW/MIA Chairmen (2024 – 2025)

If elected, I pledge to treat all members with respect, prioritizing positive motivation over coercion and honoring the viewpoints of every DPA member. My guiding principle will be "the hard right over the easy wrong." I will choose the morally correct or ethical action over the easier option, even if it is more complex. As our current Commander-in-Chief says, "Do what you believe and believe in what you do!"

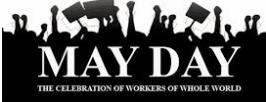


Yours in Comradeship
James E. (Jim) Collins

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES*



LOYALTY DAY
"Keeping America Proud"



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.**

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BANGKOK HOSPITAL
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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.