

THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No One Does More for Veterans

Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More

Volume XXIX, Number 6

May/June 2026

FREE

DPA Convention 2026



Welcome to the
**60th Department of Pacific Areas
Convention**
&
57th Grand of the Pacific Scratch



Co-Hosted by
Post 12146 and Post 9876

17 to 21 June 2026



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COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings Comrades,

As this term ends, this message serves as a final note of appreciation and reflection on the accomplishments of our Department. Serving as your Department Commander has been an honor, but the real credit belongs to you—the members—who did the work every day in your communities, Posts, and Districts.

Throughout the term, the Department of Pacific Areas continued to demonstrate why No One Does More for Veterans. Whether facing natural disasters, logistical challenges, or the day-to-day mission of supporting veterans, you stepped up. You conducted buddy checks, supported comrades and their families, assisted veterans with benefits, honored those who passed, and remained visible in your communities. You recruited, mentored, and built stronger Posts while maintaining the camaraderie that defines our organization.

Membership remained a priority, and the results reflect your dedication. The Department pushed toward and exceeded goals, with many Posts reaching or surpassing 100 percent and achieving the Commander-in-Chief's goal of 101 percent. Numerous Districts and Posts achieved All-State and All-American status, while several others came within striking distance. Recruiting teams worked tirelessly under the leadership of Certified National Recruiter Larry Lyons, and life membership initiatives strengthened the long-term stability of the Department. These achievements were not the work of one individual—they were the result of a coordinated team effort across the entire Pacific Areas.

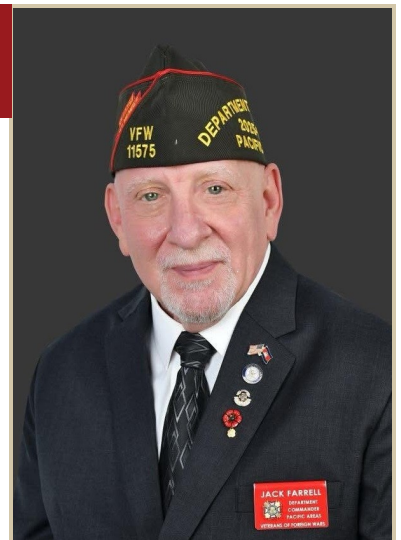
Program participation also remained strong. Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Veterans & Military Support, and Community Outreach efforts showcased the commitment of our members. Posts and Districts supported legislative initiatives, community events, patriotic observances, and assistance programs throughout the region. Our Service Officer program continued to grow stronger, with dedicated Department Service Officers and Assistant Department Service Officers helping veterans access earned benefits while expanding training pipelines for future representatives.

The leadership teams throughout the term were nothing short of outstanding. Council members, District Commanders, Post Commanders, committee chairmen, recruiters, and volunteers executed their responsibilities with professionalism and enthusiasm. Behind the scenes, the work of Adjutants, Quartermasters, Trustees, Post Service Officers, and committee members ensured that operations continued smoothly and effectively. Our Auxiliary members, family supporters, and volunteers also played a critical role in supporting Posts and assisting veterans across the region.

Special appreciation is extended to those who kept the Department informed and connected. The Pacific Times Editor and our webmaster, Augie, consistently produced a quality publication and maintained communication across the Pacific. Their efforts highlighted the accomplishments of our Posts and kept members engaged across multiple countries and time zones.

Conventions—whether in person or virtual—continued to bring the Department together. These gatherings allow us to conduct elections, vote on proposals, recognize achievements, and strengthen camaraderie. Here's to a successful convention in Pataya, Thailand for a celebration of our accomplishments.

As always, elections and reporting remain critical responsibilities, and Posts and



Commander

John "Jack" Farrell



COMMANDER'S CALL

Districts are reminded to submit required election reports and credentials promptly to maintain compliance and voting and award eligibility.

As leadership transitions take place, I ask that the same support given to outgoing teams be extended to our incoming Commanders and officers. The success of this Department has always depended on teamwork, professionalism, and unity. Set aside petty jealousies and trivial personalities, and focus on what matters most—serving veterans, their families, and our communities.

To my staff, thank you for your support and guidance. This term was governed by teamwork, with every voice being heard from across the Pacific.

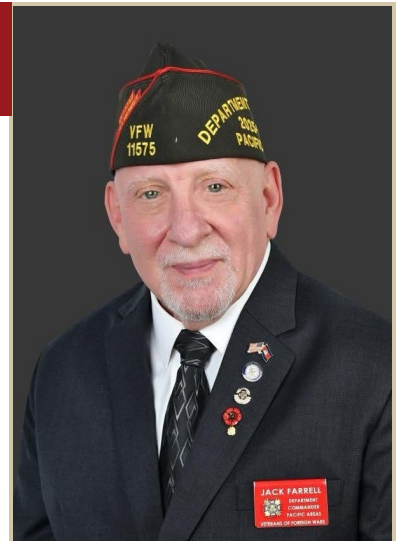
We also pause to remember the many comrades we lost during this term. Their service to our nation and to the Veterans of Foreign Wars will never be forgotten, and we honor their memory by continuing the mission they supported.

In closing, thank you for your trust, your hard work, and your unwavering dedication. Serving as Department Commander has been the honor of a lifetime, but the strength of this Department comes from you. Your commitment to helping veterans, supporting communities, and maintaining camaraderie ensures that the Department of Pacific Areas will continue to lead by example.

Let us move forward together, support the incoming leadership, and continue proving every day that through *Teamwork, Everyone Achieves More.*

Yours in service to veterans.

Jack Farrell
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
"Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More."



Commander

John "Jack" Farrell



DPA BRANDING KIT



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

[VFW Style Guide](#)

[VFW Pacific Google Drive Folder](#)

[Emblem Guidance DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS](#)

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



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades

The Department of Pacific Areas has once again demonstrated success by attaining the VFW National Commander's membership goal. Currently ranked third with a membership rate of 101.42%, this achievement signifies a strong dedication to organizational excellence. Congratulations on successfully addressing this challenge.

With two months remaining in the year, 20 Posts and 5 Districts are making steady progress toward reaching the All-American membership benchmark. There is still ample opportunity for additional Posts and Districts to achieve this distinction.

As outlined in the Department's All-State Membership Requirements, 19 Posts and 5 Districts presently meet the criteria for All-State status. The remaining Posts and Districts have adequate time to work toward attaining the All-State designation.

Please visit the [All-State 2025-2026 Eligible Dashboard Report](#) to view the latest All-State Dashboard.

Let us strive to further our achievements and pursue All-State and All-American recognition for each Post and District throughout this year. If you require support or assistance, please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Comrades, Super Typhoon Sinlaku has caused significant damage on Saipan, and we should keep those affected in our thoughts and prayers. If any Post, District, or comrade wishes to offer support to those impacted by the typhoon, please reach out to the Department Quartermaster at qmdpa@vfwpacific.org.

It has been a genuine privilege to serve as the Senior Vice Commander of the Department. Throughout the past year, the VFW Department of Pacific Areas has made significant advances and achieved notable milestones.

I'm really looking forward to gathering with everyone at our 60th Department Convention in Pattaya, Thailand. This event is a fantastic opportunity for us to reconnect, celebrate our achievements from the past year, and have some fun together. I can't wait to see each of you there.

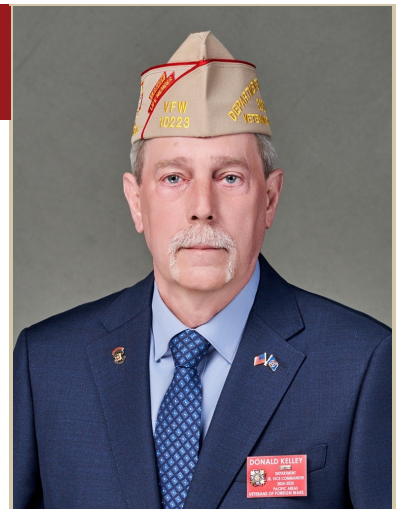
FOR VETERANS, BY VETERANS with TEAMWORK, TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE.

Don Kelley
SVC Commander
Department of Pacific Areas

"Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More."

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

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



Senior Vice Commander

Don Kelley



Sr. Vice Commander

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

The Department of Pacific Areas has had an exceptional year so far as it just reached 101% and is ranked third in membership on the national standings. Additionally, the DPA is on track to make All-American status once the last monthly NLS reports are submitted. This accomplishment truly reflects the spirit of “NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.” Commendations are due to everyone that stepped up to the plate, excellent work.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all our All-American and All-State eligible Posts and Districts. Your hard work and dedication to the VFW and the DPA have not gone unnoticed. For those Posts and Districts that are still working the requirements, KEEP CHARGING AND FINISH STRONG; don't hesitate to reach out for assistance.

As of April 8 All-American shows - We have only eight posts that have met the requirement of one CSR a quarter, and four posts that have not purchased the required 500 Buddy Poppies. There are also 11 Posts that have not registered for their Day of Service Participation; register now but you must perform it in May and get the report to National for credit.

All-State shows – We have six posts that have not met the requirement of eight CSRs a quarter and four posts that have not purchased the required 500 Buddy Poppies. There are nine Posts that do not show that they turned in at least one award from one of ten categories for their personnel that do the good work we do by March 30th; if you did, ensure your District JVC acknowledges it to the DPA SVC. There is also one District that has not donated the \$125 to VMS using the dashboard.

PROGRAMS:

Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen (All-State and All-American Requirement – Complete – Belldandy Lamb, District 3, Post 8180, VoD and Jayce Shaffer, District 7, Post 2485, PP

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award – Complete – No entrants

Public Servant and Safety Awards – Complete – Oliver Verba, Firefighter; Yuhei Tajima, EMT; William Kaiser, EOD Tech; all three from Post 9723

Scouting (Was due to scouting@vfwpacific.org by 10 Apr), CAP, and ROTC Awards – [Youth Activities Guide](#)

Day of Service Event in May (All-American Requirement) – Must register prior to 15 May 2026 at [DoS Registration](#)

Community Service Reports:

A CSR is an act of serving the **common good for your community**. Our relevancy depends on how the community sees the VFW and will care about us if we show that we truly care about them. Please review [CSR Best Practices](#) for National's guidelines; also, look for emails from me when I see issues as I am reaching out to help you understand why a CSR is not legitimate and to provide guidance on how to write it properly so that there is no confusion.

What is **NOT** a CSR - recruiting event, attending a Post meeting, “selling” Buddy Poppies, completing CSRs, etc.



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

David B. Gley Jr.



Jr. Vice Commander

Post Award Submissions: Were due to your District by 30 March
District Award Submissions: Were due to me by 15 April

VFW GUIDE FOR
COMMUNITY SERVICE
BEST PRACTICES



JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

What **IS** a CSR - helping a fellow veteran/surviving family member in need, giving blood, picking up trash around the neighborhood, volunteering at a food drive, etc.

After reading all of the CSRs coming in, I am amazed by how much we are doing in our communities. Please teach your members during a meeting and through information pushes on what is and is not a CSR; it will only benefit the Post. You all are doing great work out there promoting the VFW to the Pacific Areas. I have compiled the 1st All-State Quarter numbers below, which will show where you are at. I know that there are comrades doing good things within your Posts, please get those CSRs in so I can stay busy and approve them.

ALL-AMERICAN: minimum 1 CSR per quarter (1 Jul-30 Jun)

ALL-STATE: minimum 8 CSRs per quarter (1 May-30 Apr)

Awards: Awards for the following will be announced at the convention:

- 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

All-State Requirement: At least **one** awardee nominated at both Post and District levels– [DPA Awards Page](#).

I ask Post/District commanders to ensure that everyone knows where to get information on what is due and when. We should not have Post/District officers not know that this newsletter as well as the National and DPA program guides do not exist. You should also be briefing due dates during Post/District meetings.

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

Let's continue building a strong, sustainable Department by **mentoring future leaders** – have a backup for every position to ensure continuity and growth. As always, I am here to serve you; please do not hesitate to reach out if you need anything.

I do not know if I will make it to the Department convention this year as the contract I was on in Korea is abruptly ending but at the time of me typing this I have signed an offer letter for a position in Subic Bay, Philippines with KBR that hopefully works out. Regardless, it looks like it is time for me to invade Angeles City with a place to kick my heels up. I wish you all a great convention and at the least will see you online. **RECRUIT – MENTOR – RETAIN**

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

“Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More.”



Department of Pacific Areas

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Post Award Submissions: Were due to your District by 30 March
District Award Submissions: Were due to me by 15 April

VFW GUIDE FOR
COMMUNITY SERVICE
BEST PRACTICES



District	Pos
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

All-State CSRs as of 5 April



DPA COMMUNITY SERVICE MONTHLY REPORTING
2025-2026



POST #	# of Projects	Hours Worked	Miles Driven	Volunteers	Total Expended	Left for Quota
D2						
1054	57	319.50	1,175	172	\$5,661.00	0
9555	98	365.50	2,264	392	\$3,096.00	0
9612	60	143.00	510	249	\$9,900.76	0
D3						
8180	83	442.00	35,146	204	\$7,900.20	0
9985	77	580.00	5,548	90	\$1,576.00	0
10033	38	186.50	2,295	83	\$900.00	6
10223	260	1099.50	2,250	420	\$11,719.38	0
D4						
9723	159	1019.00	825	299	\$12,810.00	0
9957	61	113.00	1,244	85	\$940.00	8
10249	51	565.00	1,927	163	\$3,036.00	0
11575	31	105.00	1,403	48	\$1,957.00	12
12146	124	703.00	13,647	601	\$39,174.50	0
D5						
9876	233	1202.00	3,582	629	\$50,134.00	0
9951	135	2146.00	3,227	707	\$12,791.81	0
10217	201	1693.00	3,932	409	\$27,358.43	0
12074	114	315.90	6,196	221	\$7,517.79	0
12163	245	1151.40	9,024	295	\$10,357.00	0
D6						
1509	27	95.00	983	78	\$9,780.00	15
2917	2	65.00	267	28	\$200.00	30
3457	21	315.00	1,040	197	\$1,000.00	0
D7						
124	105	850.00	3,907	324	\$33,221.80	0
2485	325	2790.50	7,551	1355	\$17,202.21	0
9892	170	405.00	9,719	302	\$23,609.70	0
11447	102	433.00	7,657	388	\$5,677.44	0
12130	67	246.45	1,669	155	\$6,549.48	0
12224	39	162.50	2,284	70	\$2,328.91	1
12231	139	1503.00	10,173	587	\$20,953.10	0
Total	3,024	19014.75	139,444	8,551	\$327,352.51	72

David Gley
DPA JVC



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

David B. Gley Jr.



Jr. Vice Commander

Post Award Submissions: Were due to your District by 30 March
District Award Submissions: Were due to me by 15 April

All-American Dashboard as of 8 April

District	Post	Community Service	VMS	Voice of Democracy	Patriot's Pen	Buddy Poppy	Membership	NLS
		N/A	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Met	Unmet
2		N/A	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	Met	N/A
3		N/A	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	Unmet	N/A
4		N/A	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	Met	N/A
5		N/A	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	Met	N/A
6		N/A	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	Unmet	N/A
7		N/A	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	Met	N/A

VFW GUIDE FOR
COMMUNITY SERVICE
BEST PRACTICES



JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

All-American Dashboard as of 8 April

Post	Community Service	VMS	Voice of Democracy	Patriot's Pen	Buddy Poppy	Membership	NLS	Day of Service Participation
1054	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Pending
9555	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Unmet
9612	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet
8180	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Unmet
9985	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	N/A	Pending
10033	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet
10223	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Pending
9723	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Pending
9957	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Pending
10249	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet
11575	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Pending
12146	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Pending
9876	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Pending
9951	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Unmet
10217	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Pending
12074	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Pending
12163	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Unmet
1509	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet
2917	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet
3457	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet
124	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Pending
2485	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Pending
9892	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Pending
11447	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Pending
12130	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Unmet
12224	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Pending
12231	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Pending



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

David B. Gley Jr.



Jr. Vice Commander

Post Award Submissions: Were due to your District by 30 March
District Award Submissions: Were due to me by 15 April

Click [HERE](#) to generate the current All-State Dashboard

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

HERE ARE JUST A FEW WAYS:

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

FOR VETERANS®

VFW GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE BEST PRACTICES



DPA CONVENTION 2026



Welcome to the 60th Department of Pacific Areas Convention & 57th Grand of the Pacific Scratch



Co-Hosted by
Post 12146 and Post 9876

17 to 21 June 2026



Welcome to the “The Land of Smiles”

Bay View Hotel Pattaya Beach, Thailand

*Planning continues with convention hotel, 62 registration received, AA Lunch fully booked, Installation Dinners filling fast, Delegates book rooms directly with hotel, committee follows weekly. Please be advise the Bay View **Deluxe Sea View rooms have showers & are servced with Lift** “all other rooms furnished with Tub”, the Garden rooms are less expensive **but ARE NOT servcided with Lift, 2 level stairs.** Early bird & end of convention golf outing planned via Leweinskis Sports bar (17th & 21st). The Auxiliary is planning daily excursions in and around Pattya beach schedule wil be posted on Face Book page.*

*Travel to and from airport **recommended via AOT (@airport), options include Grab or Bolt apps.***
Plan ahead, Looking forward, Committee Chairman!

DPA CONVENTION 2026

The Bayview Hotel Pattaya Beach, THAILAND

Day / Date	Time	Meeting / Function	Location
Tuesday	16 June	Travel Day	
Wednesday	0800-1500	Registration	Bayview (BV) Hotel Lobby
17 June	0900-1000	DPA Budget	BV 1 st Floor Nautilus Room
	1000-1100	GPA Budget / Audit	BV 1 st Floor Nautilus Room
	1100-1300	PGC Luncheon	Trattoria Toscana Restaurant
	1400-1600	*Auction (See below)	Classroom (Beach rd. Soi 13/4)
	1600-1800	**Social (See below)	Classroom (Beach rd. Soi 13/4)
Thursday	0800-1500	Registration	Bayview Hotel Lobby
18 June	1000-1130	Opening Ceremonies	The View (Pool Level Large meeting Room)
	1130-1300	AA Luncheon	The Garden Restaurant (Pool Level)
	1300-1700	GPA Scratch & Incoming	The View (Pool Level Large meeting Room)
	1700-2000	Hospitality	CHIK-N-Coop Bar (2nd rd. south of hotel)
	1800-2000	PDC's Dinner	Robin Hood Tavern (Ave Mall 2 nd Road)
Friday	0800-1500	Registration	Bayview Hotel (BV) Lobby
19 June	0900-1500	DPA 1st Business	The View (Pool Level Large meeting Room)
	0900-1500	Auxiliary Business	BV 1st Floor Nautilus Room
	1600-2000	Hospitality	Lewinski Sports Bar Beach rd. Soi 13/3
	1730-1800	Cocktails (pay as you go)	BV Exotica Lobby Bar
	1800-2200	GPA CDR's Banquet	The View (Pool Level Large meeting Room)
Saturday	0900-1500	DPA 2nd Business	The View (Pool Level Large meeting Room)
20 June	1130-1300	Lunch	Delegate Choice
	1500-1600	DPA Incoming C of A	BV 1 st Floor Nautilus Room
	1730-1800	Cocktails (pay as you go)	BV Exotica Lobby Bar
	1800-2200	DPA CDR's Banquet	The View (Pool Level Large meeting Room)
Sunday	21 June	Travel Day	

Golf will be coordinated by Lewinski Sport Bar for golf on 17 & 21 June

***Auction – For VFW/MOC Members Only**

****Social – Open to all VFW/MOC members, Spouses & significant others**

*****All Changes will be made through the Department Adjutant*****

DPA QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

Not a lot to put out this time around except “Congratulations QM’s. You have made it to the closing moths of our VFW calendar year.”

AUDITS. All post final audits for the year should have already been submitted to me. Districts have until 30 June to submit their final audits. I you are delinquent any audits **THEY MUST BE SUBMITTED** or punitive action can be taken by the Department Commander.

Now let’s work on delegate fees. ADJ Kevin Mitchell has emailed the fees due to each post and I have been recording payment as I receive them. These fees must be paid prior to the business session at our convention in June. Early payment is authorized and encouraged.

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

George E. Beck Jr.
DPA Quartermaster



Quartermaster

George E. Beck Jr.



Quartermaster

IN-COUNTRY VET



GRANDPA'S PRESCRIPTION FOR SUCCESS!

INTRODUCTION



DPA ADJUTANT

Hello Comrades,

As we get ready for our Department Convention, I would like to congratulate each Post/District for making All American/State. This has been a continuing thread within our Department that reflects well on the leadership from the DPA CDR to the Post CDR's. Let's keep it up!!

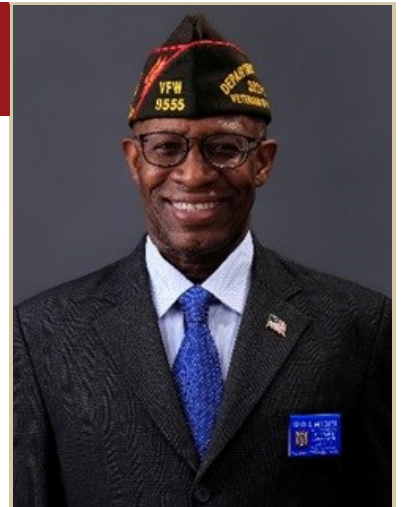
Also, as we prepare for our 60th Convention, I will ask again for those Posts "who has not forwarded me" your Delegate Letters. Post Commanders please ensure your Posts send them to me ASAP, but not later than June 8, 2026, a week prior to the Convention. I am only talking about Delegate Letters to me; Delegate Fees go to our DPA QM George Beck. I will also need a copy of your Post/District General Orders (GO). I receive Election Reports automatically through OMS, however, if your Post QM does not update them in time (June 30th) your Post can/will be placed on suspension by National. It has been a stronger push in recent years to meet MOP standards in this area.

Currently, I do not have any correspondence/information to pass along to you from National Headquarters to share with the Department. However, for Memstats please remember on June 30, 2026, National will close the site down for updating any other membership applications. Several months later we will see the numbers for the 2026-27 term, normally about the first or second week of September. Please be patient until then. Your Post QM will still be able to update applications effective July 1, 2026.

All District/Post Commanders should ensure that your District/Post is receiving the Pacific Times!! It is published every two months, posted on our DPA website, and has a lot of good information that our Comrades need to know. It also saves unnecessary emails and phone calls to leadership and our Committee Chairpersons! Please ensure it is posted on your Bulletin Boards if you have a Canteen or have available to your members at your meetings if you do not email them out to membership. We need to get this information out to our members!!! This includes DPA General Orders. For the many questions, calls, and/or emails, if you look at the General Orders it has all the current Officers and Committee Members. For the end of year, it also includes who is the Awards Chairperson. This information is sent out each year by our DPA JVC and included in our Pacific Times. The DPA Adjutant should not be getting shamed by emails and calls about the Awards Program. That is again the DPA JVC's program. To save time in the future, please look at the General Order or start at the lowest level possible...your Post Commander or the DPA website!!

Every year we are expected to accomplish certain areas, examples inspections, Buddy Poppy, VMS, etc. COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE!! It should be on top of the Post Commanders lists every term and new Post Commanders should be briefed prior to taking over. It's like that passage in the MOP that says, "it will be your duty to assist your successor with all the council and experience you have gained during your term of office." It doesn't change, Comrades it is posted every year in the MOP! The time you knock out these Programs gives you the Post Commander more time to focus on other areas like...MEMBERSHIP or areas of concern!!! Let's work smarter, not harder!!!

During my time as Department JVC in 2019-20 until the close of this term, I have had the pleasure of working with our Pacific Times Editor, Webmaster, great Comrade Alan "Augie" Augustine!! He's had seven years to put up with me to include this article, but I would like to publicly thank him for all of the



Adjutant

Kevin Mitchell



Adjutant

DPA ADJUTANT

support he has provided me over the years, and he will be truly missed by me and hopefully by the Department!!!

In closing, I would like to especially thank our Department Commander Jack Farrell and our Immediate Past Department Commander Mike Lutman for their confidence in selecting me for the prestigious position of Department Adjutant. I am sure that everyone knows I gave my very best to serve the Department with honor and I appreciate all the support I have received from our Comrades over the time in which I served.

As PDC Bob Zaher is known for, I only want what is best for the Department yesterday, today, and tomorrow!!! Please be safe and I wish you and your families all the best of health and happiness for the next term and beyond!!! Congratulations to our Department Commander Jack for making All American and let's support our incoming Commander Donald "Don" Kelley out of Post 10223 in Korea. May god continue to bless America!!!

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Kevin E. Mitchell
Adjutant
Department of Pacific Areas

"Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More."



Adjutant

Kevin Mitchell



Adjutant

A large advertisement for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). On the left side, there is a photograph of a soldier in a camouflage uniform and cap, looking through a rifle scope in a grassy field. The right side of the advertisement has a black background with white and gold text. The text reads: "EVERYTHING WE DO, WE DO FOR VETERANS." Below this, the VFW logo is displayed in white, with "VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS." written in smaller white text underneath.

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

To my comrades,

For many years our focus has been on improving VA's Foreign Medical Program (FMP) reimbursement practices. Our first goal was to eliminate reimbursement to our beneficiaries via paper checks being mailed from the U.S. to the Veteran's home address.

That was accomplished last year. Now when you file a claim with FMP, you will be reimbursed by direct deposit or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). This deposit will go directly to your U.S. bank account.

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

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

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

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

It's important to note we continue to work on all issues that negatively impact our veterans living here in the Pacific Region. This includes Medicare, TRICARE, VA Educational Benefits, among others. What is noteworthy is that although we regularly advocate through our Washington, D.C. office, neither they nor us can make changes. While we work hard and provide significant information and examples of unique challenges we face living overseas, the VA, Congress, or DOW are the ones who have to make the modifications to existing policies, or U.S. law.

So please remember that when changes take longer than we would like as we endeavor to assist our comrades here in the Pacific.

But do continue to keep the leadership team advised of issues adversely affecting you or your family due to residing outside the United States. We will always fight to ensure overseas veterans and their families receive the same benefits as those residing in the U.S.

Best regards,



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



More information [HERE](#).



National Council Member

Ken Stein



VA |
Foreign Medical
Program (FMP)

CERTIFIED NATIONAL RECRUITER

Greeting Comrades of the Pacific, As of today, 13 April we as a Department currently stand at 101.06% meeting our Commander in Chief and Department Commanders Goal! This could not have been done if not for the 132 fine outstanding recruiters we have in the Department! Whether you recruited 1 member or 15 they all count towards our goal. We the Department thank you.

Recruiter this year: Brandon A. Zamora, Chad E. Yeager, Daniel Jonathan Topper, Earl L. Jackson, Michael D. Lutman, Richard Kilanski, Shellie N. Higa, Timothy J. Docherty, Walter J. Fahnstock Jr. Caleb Whitaker Jr., Kevin E. Mitchell, Stephanie Taitano, Ahren G. Leo, Albert C. Luera, Bradley E. Harzman, Guy S. Weaver, Jason C. Huff, Kai T. Yuan, Kristofer A. Murzyn, Randell E. Himes, Richard L. Meeker, Aaron Garcia Gley, Christopher C. Duncan, Cyrus L. Bangunan, David B. Gley Jr., Ellis B. Colton, Ernest W. Lee, Justin M. Canizales, Justin T. Bruschi, Kevin A. Brady, Leterrial J. Ashby, Nick Michael Carnovale, Patrick J. Higgins, Robert S. Chatman, Ronald J. Davis, Terrance T. Smith, Terry L. Rush, Warren Maxson, Wendy Canizales, William B. Quintero, Allen F. McFadden, Andrew R. Greider, Sanders Jones, Andrew T. McGuffey, Chad M. Heiden, Christopher R. Winstead, Angelo A. Alvarez, David W. Morss, Donald E. Kelley, George E. Beck, Ismael G. Bamba, Laurence L. Lyons, Nicholas P. Koziar, Benjamin J. Germano, Cortez L. Pree, Derek Boyd, David A. Bill, John G. Bowers, Lakashka T. Moore, Kyle A. Houseman, Terrell A. Ford, Scott J. Ellinger, Al R. Fitchett, Ashley J. Price, Gary D. Kidd, John P. Farrell Jr., Michael G. Evanoff, Paul M. Baker, David Lomeli, Jerry Sengdara, Louis S. Holub, Michael H. Cooperman, Terrance L. Hebron, Thomas Raymond Migliore, Gary A. Mellor, , Harold W. Hart, Steven R. White, Joseph M. Blasetti, Randy S. Riggs, William L. Reaves, David D. Jordan, Frederick W. Berg Sr, Joel E. Pierson, Jason C. Logan, Robert J. Rositer, Edward T. Bartosh, James D. Maughmer, Kurt E. Sassenfeld, Brian J. Merenda, Dennis M. Polli, Gary D. Hendrix, Genelyn I. Paz, John C. Pangelinan, William Shippey, Brad E. Ruzsala, Peter A. Callaghan, Avelino B. Molintas, Fortunato R. Poyaoan Jr., Jonathan R. Estoque, Jose H G. Agoot, Oscar Manuel Cano Rojas, Brian J. Hamic, Clifton W. Wilsey, Durand A. Phillips, Earl Damron, Janet S. Alford, Norman G. Smith, Quan L. Smith, Shawn C. Watson, Steven L. Perkins, Vernon C. Lask, David A. King, David Garcias, Edward P. Brozowski, Garrett I. Bridges, Keith L. Porter Sr., Michael P. Mummey, Troy J. Derby, Jack C. Kus, Roy E. Gowen Jr., Scott A. Stinson, Thomas E. Ruhl, Ricardo Don Armstead, Arnel Bayutas, Bayani C. Apuya, Danilo De Guzman Jr., Edgardo T. Onas, Edward J. Fern, Golda J. Russell, Jason Drahn, Leandro C. Pinzon and last but not least Michael Lee Castle. What can I say but THANK YOU ALL!

Because of these 132 Recruiters we now have 4 of our 6 Districts meeting our goals and 20 of our 27 Posts meeting our goals. Comrades just because we have met these goals this does not mean we are done for the year. However, this time can be used to recruit Life Members and get our Annual Members to go Life. I look forward to seeing all of you at our June Convention in Pattaya. It's been a great year and Congratulations to Commander Jack on becoming an All-American Department Commander!

Yours Always in Comradeship,

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

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



National Certified Recruiter

Larry Lyons



RECRUITER TRAINING
STUDENT GUIDE

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



rev. April 2023

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Captain Elmer Royce Williams (born April 4, 1925) is a retired United States Navy naval aviator celebrated for one of the most remarkable feats in aviation history. On November 18, 1952, during the Korean War, then-Lieutenant Williams single-handedly engaged seven Soviet MiG-15 fighters in a grueling 35-minute dogfight—the longest in U.S. Navy history. He shot down four MiGs and likely damaged two others while flying a heavily outmatched Grumman F9F-5 Panther. For his actions, he was originally awarded the Silver Star in 1953. This was upgraded to the Navy Cross in 2023, and on February 24, 2026, at age 100, he received the Medal of Honor from First Lady Melania Trump during the State of the Union Address. He is the last living Medal of Honor recipient of the Korean War.



Born in Wilmot, South Dakota, and raised partly in Clinton, Minnesota, Williams earned the rank of Eagle Scout and served as a corporal in the Minnesota State Guard before enlisting in the Navy during World War II. He completed flight training in 1945 at NAS Pensacola and earned his wings as a naval aviator. Early in his career, he flew the F6F Hellcat and F4U Corsair aboard USS Franklin D. Roosevelt and USS Princeton. After earning a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Minnesota and studying at the Naval Postgraduate School, he transitioned to jets.

During the Korean War, Williams was assigned to VF-781 aboard USS Oriskany. On his second mission of the day near Hoeryong, North Korea, his four-plane patrol encountered seven Soviet MiG-15s. When two American pilots had to return to the carrier, Williams found himself virtually alone against superior enemy fighters. Despite the MiG-15's advantages in speed and altitude, Williams used aggressive tactics and precise shooting to down four adversaries. His Panther sustained 263 bullet holes, lost hydraulics, and ran out of ammunition, yet he managed to land safely back aboard the carrier. Uninjured, Williams had just accomplished what no other American naval aviator has ever done: shoot down four MiG-15s in a single engagement.

Because the Soviet Union was not officially at war with the United States, the full details were immediately classified. Williams was debriefed by senior admirals, the Secretary of Defense, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Sworn to secrecy, he never spoke of the battle—even to his wife or pilot brother—until records were declassified in 2002. Soviet archives later confirmed heavy losses, with only one of the MiGs returning safely.

Williams continued his distinguished career through the Vietnam War, flying 110 combat missions in A-4 Skyhawks and F-4 Phantoms as commanding officer of Carrier Air Wing Eleven aboard USS Kitty Hawk. He later served in key leadership roles, including command of VF-33 and USS Eldorado, and held staff positions at the Bureau of Naval Personnel and CINCPAC. He accumulated over 4,500 flight hours and 518 carrier landings before retiring as a captain in 1980.

For decades, Williams kept his extraordinary story private. National attention finally came after a 2017 American Legion Magazine cover story. A determined campaign by supporters, including retired Rear Admiral Doniphan Shelton and Congressman Darrell Issa, eventually led to full recognition. In 2026, Captain Williams was rightfully awarded the Medal of Honor, cementing his legacy as one of the bravest naval aviators in American history.

Read more [HERE](#).

Read full MoH citation [HERE](#).



CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrades,

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

As we are preparing to close out our 2025-2026 year, I hope we all accomplished the required mission tasks, Department, District and Post goals. Let this year’s hard work and blessing reflect upon our accomplishments this past year. Congratulations to those that met the Commander’s early bird and recruiting goals. Comrades, prayers for the hard work and countless hours spent this year to ensure DPA requirements were met.

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

Prayers are with those seeking offices and appointments as the nomination and election season for the DPA, Districts and Posts for the 2026-2027 term. Prayers throughout DPA as we lean forward in preparation for the annual: VFW National Day of Service 2026. While we join veterans, friends, and like-minded individuals for Day of Services 2026. This nationwide community service initiative kicks off Saturday May 2, 2026, and you can participate ALL month. Good luck to everyone!

For those that will be traveling to Pattaya, Thailand for the Department of Pacific Areas 60th Annual Convention and Grand of Pacific Areas 57th Grand Scratch, I pray and wish you safe travels throughout your journey.

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

Let us remember the following Comrades who passed away since our last publication in March 2026:

Entries listed by Post in sequence of notification receipt.

<u>Post</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
8180	Maupin, Robert S.	11 April 2026
12146	Shepherd, Ronald D.	11 September 2025

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

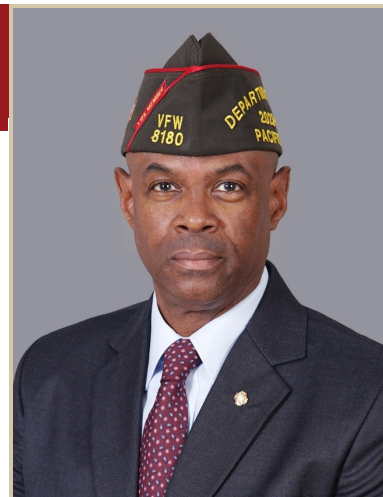
Robert S. Chatman
DPA Chaplain



**SERVICE DOESN'T STOP
WHEN WE'RE DONE SERVING.**



TodaysVFW.org



Chaplain

Robert Chatman



*Let us Pray,
As comrade after comrade departs,
we march on with our ranks growing thinner.
Help us to be faithful to Thee and to one another.
Look in mercy on the surviving spouses and 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!**

CHIEF OF STAFF

Hello my comrades,

Congratulations to all on another successful year.

Thanks to DPA Commander Farrell's leadership, his team, and all the DPA comrades, the Department has achieved the membership goal set by Commander-in-Chief Whitmore. This was done in record time and ensures the Department will be honored with All American recognition. Well done to all.

As we prepare for our annual convention in Pattaya Beach, Thailand June 17-21, please ensure you are registered and have indicated arrival dates, number of shirts with sizes, tickets for the All-American luncheon, as well as the banquet and installation.

We anticipate a great turnout and an outstanding week of camaraderie. Look forward to seeing you all there.

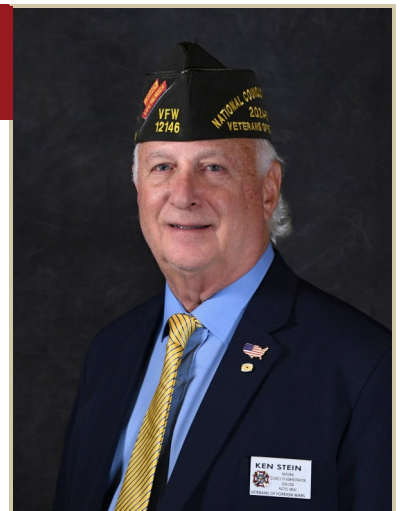
A final note, this edition of Pacific Times will be Editor Augie Augustine's final edition as he moves on to new challenges. He has been both Pacific Times editor and DPA webmaster since 2020. He has done an amazing job in both positions. So, thank you Augie and if you see him at the convention, say hello and thank him for doing a superb job maintaining our website and editing the Pacific Times.

Wishing you all the best. See you in Pattaya Beach,

All the best,



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



Chief of Staff

Ken Stein



Chief of Staff



DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Greetings Fellow Comrades,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to DPA Commander Jack Farrell for granting me the privilege to serve in the position as Department Inspector. This opportunity has been an honor and I am truly grateful for the trust you have placed in me. Throughout my tenure, I have gained invaluable knowledge and experience from serving in this position.

In addition, I would also like to thank all the District Commanders and Inspectors and Post Commanders, Quartermasters and Adjutants for a job well done. Truly it was a TEAM effort by all.

I'll close with DPA Commander's slogan, "Teamwork, Together Everyone Achieves More."

Janet Alford
DPA Inspector



Department Inspector

Janet Alford



To view the 2025-2026 Inspections Procedure, or to Download the current forms, click [HERE](#).



★ ★ ★ I M A ★ ★ ★
VETERAN



I SERVED
I SACRIFICED
I REGRET NOTHING

SOMETHING TO PONDER

Fred Rogers was in Boston for a work trip. A powerful PBS executive had invited him to dinner at his home, and a limousine had been arranged to take him and a young intern from the show. When they arrived at the executive's house, the driver — a man named Billy asked what time he should come back to pick them up.

Rogers told him not to go anywhere. He invited him in to dinner instead.

The executive's wife was bewildered. The table had not been set for three. Rogers did not seem to notice her confusion. He sat down with Billy as if this were the most natural thing in the world, which, for Fred Rogers, it probably was.

After dinner, Rogers sat in the front seat of the limousine to talk to Billy on the drive back. He asked questions. He listened. By the time they were heading toward the hotel, he had learned that their route would take them past the house where Billy's parents lived in West Roxbury. Rogers asked if they could stop.

They stopped.

Billy's parents were not expecting anyone. The door opened and Fred Rogers was on the step. He came in, sat down at the piano, and started playing jazz. Word spread, the way word does in a neighborhood when something unexpected is happening. People came from houses nearby. Someone brought food. The evening stretched late into the night.

According to the driver, it was one of the best nights of his life.

Rogers stayed in touch with Billy after that night. He sent notes. He kept in contact over the years.

A few years later, Rogers received word that Billy was in hospital, dying of AIDS. He called.

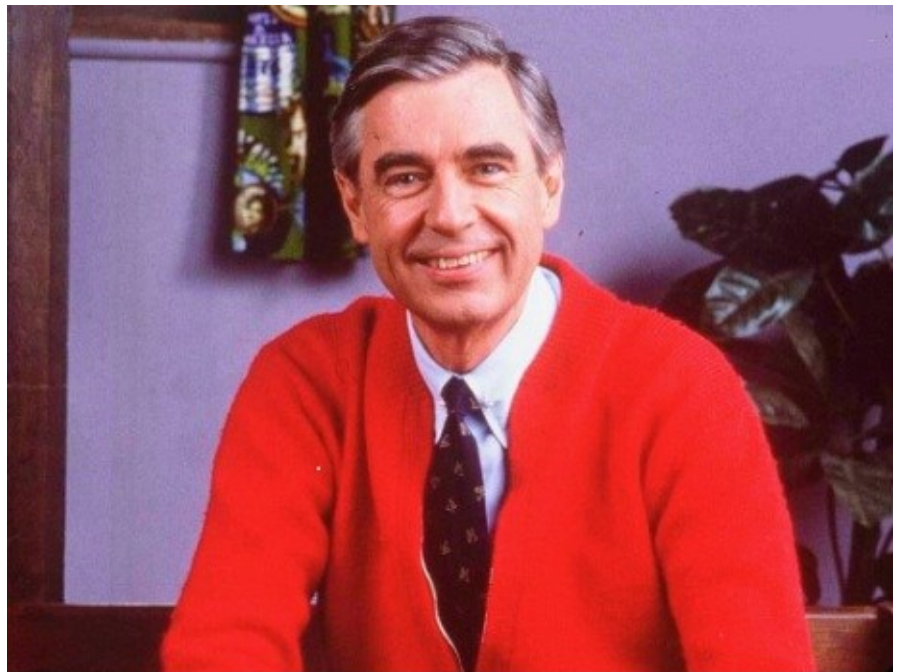
In the early years of the AIDS crisis, many people in Billy's situation were avoided — by neighbors, by employers, sometimes by their own families. The disease carried a stigma that caused people to cross the street rather than make eye contact. Fred Rogers made a phone call across the country to say goodbye to a limousine driver he had met on one overnight trip to Boston, because he had decided that Billy's life mattered and that the end of it deserved witness.

That phone call was not filmed. Nobody was watching. There was no audience.

That is what makes it the truest thing about him.

The story appears in Maxwell King's authorized biography of Rogers, *The Good Neighbor*, published in 2018. It was told by people who were there. It sounds like a parable. It was just a Tuesday.

Share this with someone who needs to be reminded what it looks like when a person means what they say.



When Fred Rogers learned his limo driver would have to wait outside during a dinner at a PBS executive's home, he invited him in—then later asked to stop at the driver's house to meet his family—and he kept in touch with him afterward.

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Comrades,

Short and sweet, here are the proposals for you to review. These will be brought up at the Department Convention June 2026 in Pattaya, Thailand.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- Pay your Post delegate fees or your Post will not be able to vote during the business session.
- Get with DPA QM George Beck before the business sessions start.
- Preferably pay prior to, but as in the past you can pay the day off.
- Bring your checkbooks.

Have a great VFW day and hope to see you all in Pattaya.

Warren “Max” Maxson
Judge Advocate
Department of Pacific Areas

Proposed Resolutions to be voted on at the 2026 DPA Convention SCOUTING AMERICA

WHEREAS; the current Secretary of War (Sec. Peter Hegseth is attempting to stop all funding and resources (personnel, equipment, and facilities) for Scouts America, as of January 1st, 2026.

WHEREAS; critics like the advisor, a former Fox News producer, say the group formerly known as Boy Scouts is too “woke.” (NBC News, 11 April 2025) Essentially, the article is stating how one of Secretary Hegseth’s top advisor had made the recommendation of severing ties with Scouting America as it has gone to woke. Although no decision has been made, it calls into question through specific details how much support scouting would receive going forward.

WHEREAS; U.S. ready to cut support to Scouts, accusing them of ‘boy-friendly spaces’ (NPR, 25 November 2025) The article goes on to state how Peter Hegseth wants to sever ties due to scouting’s current policies.

WHEREAS; Scouting America’s Chief Scout Executive, President, and CEO put out a statement discussing the positive influence that scouting has had on our nations youth. (Scouting.com, 26 November 2025) The statement discussed the issue concerning Sec. Hegseth’s desire to sever ties with scouting and their encouragement for people to contact their legislative representatives.

WHEREAS; GOP co-chair of Scouting Caucus calls Hegseth proposal to cut ties ‘near sighted’ (The Hill, 27 November 2025) The article sights the good scouting does for America’s youth.

WHEREAS; Transatlantic Council Scouting Executive put out a statement concerning the situation between the Department of War and Scouting America. (TAC SEC Memo, 30 November 2025) It discussed what is presently known and what is recommended going forward. The significance of this memo is that it shows there is a real concern in the scouting community over this pending issue.

WHEREAS; a number of United States Senators wrote a note to Sec. Hegseth with concerns over reports that the military may cut ties with Scouting America. (United States Senate, 05 December 2025). The letter goes on to encourage the military’s



Judge Advocate

Warren “Max” Maxson



Official VFW Cover



New Ball Cap Style



JUDGE ADVOCATE

continued involvement with the military.

WHEREAS; there is a lot of discussion regarding the Military and Scouting America cutting ties over current scouting policies. There is so much discussion on the issue that there is genuine concern in scouting that the Department of War may actually decide to actually sever ties with scouting.

WHEREAS; with that being said scouting mission, values, and opportunities are there to support the youth of today develop into quality adults. If, we decrease the number of programs available for our youth how will that affect their growth into quality adults of tomorrow. Scouting is part of the fabric of America and there are many youth and adults involved in the movement.

BE IT RESOLVED: we petition Congress to enact legislation which would guarantee the United States Department of War (DoW) will for now and for all times support at the same levels and encourage Americas youth through their continued support of Scouting America.

EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR OVERSEAS DEPENDENTS

WHEREAS; the GI Bill and related programs are designed to support veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS; veterans and their dependents overseas are required to attend VA-approved education schoolhouses, yet while enrolled in VA-approved training programs, Chapter 35 dependents are still required by law to receive only half the pay compared to those attending similar programs elsewhere in Asia; and

WHEREAS; dependents overseas face additional barriers in accessing approved institutions and programs, creating inequities in educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS; in 2023, Congresswoman Jen Kiggans introduced the Filipino Education Fairness Act (H.R. 1669), which passed the House but was never enacted into law; and

WHEREAS; this legislative attempt demonstrates Congressional recognition of the need to extend Chapter 35 and GI Bill benefits to institutions in the Philippines, but the failure to enact it left overseas dependents without equitable access; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, petition the Department of Veterans Affairs and Congress to expand recognition of overseas institutions, eliminate inequitable pay restrictions, and ensure full and equitable access to Chapter 35 education benefits for dependents abroad, building upon the intent of H.R. 1669.

TRAVEL PAY FOR OVERSEAS VETERANS

WHEREAS; veterans overseas often must travel long distances, sometimes across borders, to access care; and

WHEREAS; current travel pays policies do not adequately reimburse overseas veterans; and

WHEREAS; this creates financial hardship and discourages care-seeking; now, therefore



Judge Advocate

Warren "Max" Maxson



Official VFW Cover



New Ball Cap Style



JUDGE ADVOCATE

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, advocate for expanded travel pay reimbursement policies that account for overseas distances and costs, ensuring veterans abroad can access necessary care without undue burden.

CAREGIVER PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY ABROAD

WHEREAS; the VA Caregiver Program provides critical assistance to veterans with severe service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS; overseas veterans are excluded from caregiver benefits despite having equal need for support; and

WHEREAS; this exclusion places undue burden on families abroad, forcing them to absorb costs and responsibilities without assistance; and

WHEREAS; providing caregiver support overseas could represent a cost-saving measure compared to the higher expenses of administering the stateside caregiver program; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to extend caregiver program eligibility to veterans residing overseas, ensuring equitable family support while potentially reducing overall program costs.

MEDICARE ACCESS FOR OVERSEAS VETERANS

WHEREAS; veterans residing overseas are currently excluded from utilizing Medicare benefits despite paying into the system; and

WHEREAS; this exclusion creates inequity between veterans living in the U.S. and those abroad; and

WHEREAS; Title 38 CFR and U.S.C. §111 establish obligations to provide equitable care for service-connected veterans; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, urges Congress and the Department of Health and Human Services to extend Medicare coverage to eligible veterans residing overseas, ensuring parity with domestic beneficiaries.

TRI-CARE COVERAGE FOR OVERSEAS VETERANS

WHEREAS; Tri-Care provides essential healthcare coverage for military retirees and their dependents; and

WHEREAS; overseas veterans often face limited provider networks and significant reimbursement challenges; and

WHEREAS; when hospitalized abroad, veterans are frequently assigned to non-Tri-Care doctors, forcing them to pay out-of-pocket for care without reimbursement; and

WHEREAS; such circumstances undermine the intent of Tri-Care as a comprehensive and equitable benefit for all beneficiaries; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, advocate for expanded Tri-Care provider networks, equitable coverage for hospitalization abroad, and streamlined reimbursement processes to ensure veterans and their dependents residing overseas receive the same level of care and financial protection as those within the United States.



Judge Advocate

Warren "Max" Maxson



Official VFW Cover



New Ball Cap Style



CHAIN OF COMMAND PROTOCOL

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

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

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

IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

HOOYAH DPA! It has been a privilege to work with Commander Farrell and the “TEAMWORK. TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE” team this term. In keeping with the tradition of success in our department, Jack has led his team to yet another ALL AMERICAN outcome. Regardless of comparison, it has been an extremely successful year, and I salute CDR Farrell and his team. However, there remains some meat on the bone.

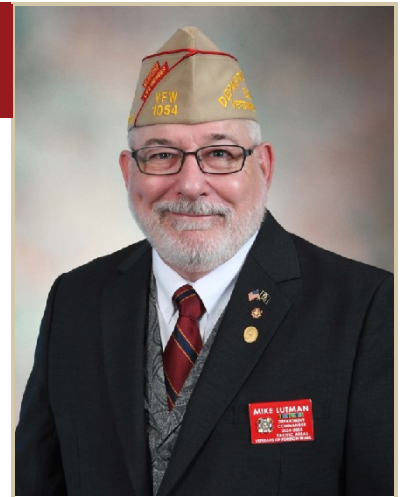
With just a few months remaining, we have the opportunity to “green out” the AS and AA dashboards. Let’s continue to lean into the collective effort and cross the finish line having left it all on the track. Together, Everyone Achieves More. Let’s show the VFW, once again, that Pacific Areas has and will continue to be a leader in our organization. Memstats has us currently in 3rd for all conferences and a solid 2nd in the WEST (which is the best) only behind the annual migration of Comrades in Montana. Once again, top 5. Once again, leading in the front of the pack, and once again relentless in meeting OUR goals and those of the National Commander in Chief.

This will be my last article for a while. I will now begin to focus on my retirement in December. IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR serving our great Department these last 4 years. Thank you for your confidence in me and for allowing me to be a part of something very special. Thank you for your support, your compassion and your friendship. I look forward to seeing you all at the DPA Convention in Pattaya Beach, 17-21 June. Be safe, be well and God Bless each and every one of you.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Michael D. Lutman
Immediate Past Department Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
ADJ/QM Post 1054

TEAMWORK, Together Everyone Achieves More.



Immediate Past DPA Cdr

Michael D. Lutman



DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

Since 1 July, the DPA Service Program has assisted over 2500 veterans and dependents, filing more than 944 claims. District and Post Commanders are encouraged to ensure their Post Benefits Advisors (PBA) submit monthly reports. These reports document the impact of our work and highlight the needs of our communities. Please submit PBA reports NTL the 10th of each month to dpa.dso72@gmail.com.

We will also be traveling to Districts to assist with claims filing. The DPA will have face-to-face contact in Korea May 11-15 and the Philippines May 11 and 12.

I will be at the following areas in Korea:

Camp Humpherys - May 11-13 0900-1730
Osan Air Base- May 14 0900-1730, May 15 0900-1330

ADSO Steve Perkins will be at the following areas in the Philippines:

La Union, Bella's beach Resort Bauang, May 11 0900-1500
Baguio, Travel lite Hotel, May 12 0900-1500

To ensure access to your file please submit a VA form 21-22 (POA). (Only required if you are not already signed up with a DPA VSO. Submit completed forms to dpa.dso72@gmail.com).

District and Post Commanders who require face-to-face support may contact me at dpa.dso72@gmail.com to schedule future visits.

Success Story Across the DPA

Post 2485 – Angeles City, Philippines
Post Benefits Advisor: Steven Perkins and Quan Smith
VFW Post 2485 Service Office – March Activity Summary
Benefits Advisor Office/VSOs:

- Assisted 174 Veterans and 48 dependents
- VSOs supported 62 Veterans with 97 VA claims
- Supported inquiries and assistance with:

VA Benefits, Foreign Medical Program (FMP), Tricare, CHAMPVA, DEERS, ID Cards, Social Security, and Passport Services

Operational Metrics:

- Total Hours Logged: 298
- Miles Traveled: 153
- Hospital Visits: 5
- Donations made from Service Officers: ₱2800

The Will and Durable Power of Attorney Seminar was a success with 16 Veterans and their Dependents attending. The DPA DSO gave the Auxiliary a seminar on Tricare and FMP.

For the VFW year July 2025 – March 2026 Post 2485 has assisted a total of 1427 Veteran and 557 dependents.

Total Hours Logged: 2582

- Miles Traveled: 1,505
- Hospital Visits: 105
- Donations made from Service Officers: ₱28,500.



DSO Pacific Areas

Vernon Lask



Service Officer



2025

Post Benefits

Advisor Guide

**#STILL
SERVING**



DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

I also want to give appreciation for the DPA Administrations Assistant, Ms. Liberty Tullao. Since joining the Department of Pacific Areas in July 2025, Liberty Tullao has brought energy, dedication, and a genuine spirit of teamwork to her role as Administrations Assistant. In just a short time, she has embraced new responsibilities with enthusiasm and continues to grow as she learns the many facets of the DPA. Her willingness to step up wherever needed and her positive attitude have already made her a valued part of the team. We're excited to see Liberty's journey unfold and grateful for the contributions she brings to the DPA family. If you are in the Angeles City area, stop by and give them a holler.

The DPA has gathered concerns from veterans across the DPA region and has assembled five resolutions addressing the following issues:

1. Medicare not usable outside the U.S.
2. Caregiver Program not available outside the U.S.
3. Travel reimbursement not authorized outside the U.S.
4. TRICARE payment disparities in the Philippines
5. Education benefit inequities in the Philippines (the only country where benefits are paid at half the global rate)

These resolutions will be presented at the DPA Convention in June.

If you have any concerns that needs to be addressed, please contact me to assist in resolving your concern be it VA or other US Federal programs.

Thank You to all the PBA's and individuals who are assisting Veterans!!! Your dedication ensures that veterans and their families receive the benefits, support, and advocacy they deserve. Without your commitment, much of this vital work would go undone.

Here is a list of our current DSO and ADSO's for the Department of Pacific Areas:

DSO: Vernon Lask - dpa.dso72@gmail.com - OGC # 57444

ADSO Japan: Earl Jackson - gysgtjackson2001@gmail.com - OGC # 60714

ADSO Guam: Genelyn Paz - GuamVSO@proton.me - OGC # 57509

ADSO Thailand: Richard Bronson - richard.j.bronson59@gmail.com - OGC # 54942

ADSO Thailand: Michael Clark - umpyclark@gmail.com - OGC # 39203

ADSO Philippines: Tony Ritchie - tonyritchie13@gmail.com - OGC # 53922

ADSO Philippines: Steve Perkins - pso.post2485@gmail.com - OGC # 59451

ADSO Philippines: Quan Smith - pso.vfw2485q@gmail.com - OGC # 59750

ADSO Philippines: Terry Robbins - tlobbins1976@yahoo.com - OGC # 60713

ADSO Philippines: Michael Castle - ml.castle21@icloud.com - OGC # 60712

I would also like to say thank you to our DPA Commander John "Jack" Ferrell for allowing me to assist the Veterans and dependents in the DPA. It has been an honor to serve under you.

Further information can be found on our Department Website: <https://vfwpacific.org> under RESOURCES > SERVICE OFFICER

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



DSO Pacific Areas

Vernon Lask



Service Officer



2025

Post Benefits

Advisor Guide

#STILL
SERVING



WOMEN'S VETERAN CHAIRPERSON

Comrades,

It's been a great first year for being your Women's Veteran Chairperson from knowing four women veterans living here in the Philippines, we are now a group of 12 and looking forward to more joining us in our Facebook Group Chat which is, "Women Veterans of the Pacific Areas". If you know of any Woman Veterans who are planning to live in the Pacific Areas specifically in the Philippines, please mention us to them, the more the merrier. Ladies just want to have FUN!

It was a privilege last month to be able to spend a week with my fellow veterans, three women and three men, touring the provinces of Dumaguete, Valencia, Siquijor, and Cebu. We stopped by Cata-al World War II Museum, a vast personal collection of WWII artifacts unearthed over many years by a father-son duo. Lots of historical stuff to see. Below are some of our new memories together. Hoping to do more veteran's trips next year. If you love to travel and want to join us, there's always room for you.



Comrades, I hope you treated your ladies last month to something special for Woman's Month. If you fail to, you are lucky Mother's Day is coming. Happy Mother's Day to all the Moms and all the Dads that play the rule of a Mother.

The whole month of May is the National Military Appreciation Month from Loyalty Day to Military Spouse Appreciation Day to Armed Forces Day and the last, but definitely one of the most important is Memorial Day, a federal holiday which we Remember and Honor all military personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice. We will Never Forget!

Happy Juneteenth National Independence Day. Enjoy the Summer, Stay Safe, and Stay Cool, Comrades!

Golda Russell
Women's Veteran Chairperson
Department of Pacific Areas
Post 12231 Manilla Post Commander



Department of Pacific Areas
Woman's Veteran Chairperson

Golda Russell



VOD/PP/TA CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

The Department still has two Posts that I am not tracking for both a Voice of Democracy (VoD) and Patriot's Pen (PP) National donation on the All-State Dashboard. Remember, to qualify for All-State/American, each Post that did not submit entries for VoD and PP needs to donate to National. Post donations are \$125.00 for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen each. There was no requirement for Teachers Award at the Post or District level so, no donation is required for this program. Please forward your donation receipt to vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org to get credit. Since each District turned one of each in, they do not need to donate. Please remember that your Post/District adjutant needs to update the dashboards if you made a submission. If you donated, it will automatically update All-American, but please send me a copy of the receipt in case of future issues. The Parade of Winners is over and can be viewed on the VFW website. [2025-2026 Youth Scholarship awards](#)

Next year's topics for both the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen is: **"What a Veteran Taught Me about America"**.

The 2025-2026 DPA Voice of Democracy winners:

Placing Sixth Nationally **Makoa Arnett-Cook**, from Honolulu, HI, represented the VFW Department of Hawaii, and was awarded the \$5,000 Rehoboth Beach Post 7447 and Auxiliary Dept. of Delaware Scholarship. Additionally, **Hailey Pangelinan**, from Yigo, Guam, represented the VFW Department of Pacific Areas, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of New Mexico and Auxiliary Scholarship. Listen to this years Winner Olivia Drewniak's Submittal [Here](#).

The 2025-2026 DPA Patriots Pen winners:

Placing Eighth Nationally, **Quinn Wagner**, from Camp Zama, Japan, represented the VFW Department of Pacific Areas, and was awarded the \$1,500 John F. Gwizdak Award. Additionally, **Lariah Trevenen-Ferreira**, from Kailua, HI, represented the VFW Department of Hawaii, and was awarded the \$500 Department of South Carolina and Auxiliary Award.

I want to thank all the Post and District chairmen who facilitated and cooperated in this year's Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teachers Award programs.

Yours in comradeship and service,

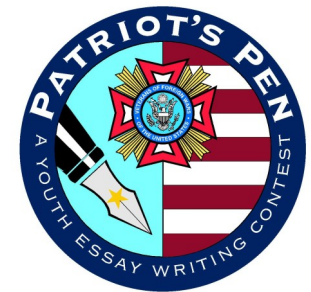
Robert Madison
VoD/PP/TA Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas
vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org



Department of Pacific Areas

VO D/PP/TA Chairman

Robert Madison



2026-2027 Theme
"What a Veteran Taught Me About America"



2026-2027 Theme
"What A Veteran Taught Me About America"

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

This is my final update in the Pacific Times on the status of the Life and Legacy Membership in the Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) for the VFW fiscal year 2025 - 2026.

As of Wednesday, 15 April 2026, the DPA has 12,260 Life Members. This marks an increase of 190 Life Members since 13 June 2025. Notably, 94.5 percent of the DPA's membership consists of Life Members. The DPA warmly invites everyone to consider becoming a Life Member.

Legacy Life membership allows VFW Life members to leave a lasting impression on our great organization. Three prestigious levels of Legacy Life membership are available: Gold, Silver, and Bronze.


Each membership level provides exclusive benefits for Legacy Life members. Once you become a Legacy Life member, an annual endowment will be made in your name to your Post, Department, and the national organization. You can feel assured that your contributions are supporting not only today's veterans but also future generations of veterans.

You can also purchase a Memorial Legacy in honor of a deceased VFW Annual or Life member to help future generations remember their sacrifices and contributions.

The Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) currently has 605 Legacy Life Members, which reflects an increase of 31 since 13 June 2025. This total comprises 215 Bronze members, 45 Silver members, and 345 Gold members. The Legacy Life Membership program enables VFW Life Members to support the long-term success of the VFW. All DPA Life Members are encouraged to become Legacy Life Members and contribute to a legacy that truly makes a difference.

Additionally, Legacy Life Members enjoy discounts on purchases at the VFW Store (<https://www.vfwstore.org/>). Bronze Legacy Life Members enjoy a 5% discount, Silver Legacy Life Members receive a 10% discount, and Gold Legacy Life Members benefit from a 15% discount.

Yours in Comradeship,



James E. (Jim) Collins
DPA Life and Legacy Membership Chairmen
SGM, US Army (retired)

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY



Membership Chairman

James "Jim" Collins



LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

I have continued posting updates on the Department's Facebook pages to help keep our DPA membership informed on important legislative issues and VFW Action Items that require our attention and support.

I also officially re-posted the VFW Voices of Service – Stories in Action initiative online. If you have a story to share, please submit it here: Story Bank Submission Link: <https://forms.gle/3R4toepnSpDFLpvU6>

From March 1–4, I traveled to Washington, DC to attend the VFW Spring Legislative Conference, joined by Department Commander Jack Farrell and National Council Member Ken Stein.

The week was very productive and began on Sunday, March 1st, with the National Council of Administration Meeting, followed by the Newcomers Brief in the early evening.

On Monday, March 2nd, we attended the Advocacy in Action – Legislative Meeting, where we received final training and guidance from the National Legislative Service (NLS) officers. That afternoon, we held our first congressional meeting with Congresswoman King-Hind and her Legislative Assistant, Ms. Samantha Ewing. We were assisted by NLS Staff Member Mr. Joe Grassi and DOE SVC Mr. Bobby White. The meeting took place at 1:30 PM in the Cannon House Office Building. After introductions, we presented the VFW's Legislative Priorities and Talking Points, along with QR codes for easy online access.

On Tuesday, March 3rd, we attended the VFW Commander-in-Chief's Testimony before Congress. There were no afternoon meetings scheduled.

On Wednesday, March 4th, we met with Congressman Moylan and his Legislative Staff Member, Mr. Michael Sciacca. We began by thanking the Congressman for co-sponsoring H.R. 2102. I also spoke with Mr. Sciacca about securing additional co-sponsorships from Congressman Moylan on several other key VFW-supported bills.

Currently, Congressman Moylan has not yet signed onto the following bills: H.R. 740, H.R. 467, H.R. 4837, H.R. 6858, H.R. 2623, H.R. 6444, H.R. 1845, and H.R. 1965. We also asked him to continue to reject H.R. 3132.

We were deeply disappointed to learn that S.1032 / H.R. 2102, the Major Richard Star Act — a bill that would allow concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for combat-related disabled retirees — was defeated in the Senate by a single vote from Senator Johnson of Wisconsin. The VFW and its legislative partners had fought for this bill for over two years, with more than 352 members of Congress co-sponsoring it. Unfortunately, it only took one Senator to stop it.

The VFW National Legislative Service (NLS) continues to encourage all members to sign up for the Weekly ACTION CORP Newsletter. Please sign up by clicking [HERE](#) or on the link in the right hand column.

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



Legislative Chairman

Randell Himes



2025
PRIORITY
GOALS

VFW ACTION ALERT



ACTION CORPS
Sign up today!

This is an excellent way to stay informed on VFW priority bills and legislative developments.

Sign up here: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>

Your support and engagement are greatly appreciated. Together, we can continue fighting for the benefits and rights our veterans have earned.

AMERICANISM & LOYALTY CHAIRMAN

The Spark of Liberty: Reexamining the Dawn of the American Revolution

For the veterans of the VFW, the concepts of service, sacrifice, and the defense of liberty are not mere abstractions—they are lived experiences. As we look back at the origins of our nation, specifically the tumultuous beginnings of the American Revolution, we see a familiar pattern: a group of individuals pushed to their limit, forced to choose between the comfort of the status quo and the perilous pursuit of self-determination.

The American Revolution did not begin with a single gunshot, but with a decade of escalating friction. Following the French and Indian War, Great Britain found itself burdened by immense debt. The subsequent implementation of taxes—the Stamp Act, the Townshend Acts, and the Tea Act, was viewed by the Crown as a fair request for the colonies to pay for their own protection.

To the colonists, however, it was a fundamental breach of their rights as Englishmen. The cry of "No taxation without representation" was a demand for political agency. When peaceful petitions and boycotts failed, the tension shifted from the halls of government to the streets of Boston and the countryside of Virginia.

By April 1775, the situation had reached a critical mass. British General Thomas Gage received orders to seize rebel military supplies stored in Concord and arrest key leaders like Samuel Adams and John Hancock. Paul Revere and William Dawes rode through the night to warn the provincial militia (the Minutemen) that the "Regulars" were coming out. At dawn, a small band of roughly 70 militiamen faced a formidable British column. A shot rang out—its source remains a mystery—and the skirmish left eight Americans dead.

The British pushed on to Concord, but by then, the "hornets' nest" had been stirred. At the Old North Bridge, the militia held their ground and returned fire, forcing a British retreat. The march back to Boston became a gauntlet of fire. Utilizing "Indian-style" tactics—firing from behind stone walls, trees, and houses—the colonial militia harassed the retreating British regulars. By the time the British reached the safety of Boston, they had suffered nearly 300 casualties, compared to fewer than 100 on the American side. This was no longer a riot or a local disturbance; it was the opening movement of a full-scale war.

What began at Lexington and Concord was an ideological shift that changed the world. It transformed a collection of disparate colonies into a unified force capable of challenging the greatest superpower of the 18th century.

For those of us who have served in the Pacific and beyond, the story of 1775 is a reminder that the price of freedom has always been high, and its preservation depends entirely on the resolve of those willing to stand in the gap. The Minutemen were the first in a long, proud line of American defenders—a line that continues through every member of the VFW today.

As we reflect on our history, we honor not just the victory, but the courage it took to fire that first shot when the outcome was anything but certain.

James Snowden
Americanism/Loyalty Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas



Americanism/Loyalty Day Chair

James Snowden

SHAWN WATSON'S NATIONAL JVC FUND RAISER

Shawn Watson's

2026 Cash Calendar National JVC Fund Raiser

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PAYOUTS

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

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

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

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

Thank You for Shawn's Support

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____

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

Help Support Shawn on his bid for VFW National JVC 2028

GRAND SEAMY SQUEAKS

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

“ALWAYS READY”



Big Bug

Patrick "Doc" Higgins



Click each Logo
above
for Websites



Why Join Us?

The Military Order of the Cootie is an organization within an organization. Much like the Rangers, or Airborne, or Special Forces are all part of the Army, the Cooties are a part of the VFW. It is a distinction reserved for "active" members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; those who have succeeded as an officer on any level, or who have demonstrated ability as a leader of a major Post committee or function.

These Comrades-in-arms have a special place reserved for them in the MOC; a place of recognition for efforts made by those who want to make a difference in the world around them. In addition to the important work of the VFW, Cooties take

on the added responsibility of support for the kids at the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, and in the spirit of taking care of our own, we follow our self-appointed directive to **"Keep 'em Smilin' in Beds of White,"** and support the hospitalized veterans in VA Medical Facilities, domiciliary, and hospitals around the United States, and throughout the world. These efforts earned us the title of, "The Honor Degree of the Veterans of Foreign Wars," a title that we hold as precious and one that we take seriously. Our local units or "Pup Tents" as they are commonly known, recruit thousands of new VFW members each year.

Though small in number, we raise thousands of dollars for our local Post programs; thousands more for the National Home, and literally millions of dollars in volunteer credits at VA Medical Centers each year. Our distinctive red hat is earned by effort and a sign of recognition. It is the badge of honor for those committed to the values of the VFW and the extra effort of being a Comrade, "Closer than a Brother - Busier than a Bee." You probably already know some Cooties, since nearly every officer on every level of the VFW is also a member of this elite society.

The prime directive of the Military Order of the Cootie is to Have Fun. It is the Preamble of our Supreme By-Laws. It is the glue that holds us together and makes us special. It is what helps us to hang on and give that last push to get us over the top for a program when things get tough. Our hat, our uniform, even our name is designed to bring a smile to those who come in contact with us. As our hero, The Great Blue Louse instructs us, "A smile is the one thing that you can give that you will always get back," we strive to bring humor to our efforts, to our fellow veterans and to those less fortunate than us.

L.O.T.C.S.

Grand Seamy
Pat "doc" Higgins
aka- the Witch Doctor
cdgrd@vfwpacific.org

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



DR. NITI NAVANIMITKUL

MEN'S HEALTH THAILAND

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

Qualifications & Specialized Training

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

Professional Excellence

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

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

Awards & Recognition

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

Holistic Patient Care

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

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

Community Advocacy

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

DR. NITI NAVANIMITKUL
MEN'S HEALTH THAILAND

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

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

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

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

LETTER'S OF INTENT 2026-2027 TERM



No one does more for Veterans

Letter of Intent 2026/2027 for Department Surgeon

Greeting Comrades of the Pacific,

It is my pleasure to accept and run in the next election term for the Department of Pacific Areas, Surgeon. If elected, I look forward to working with the new administration of elected, appointed officers and Comrades.

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 Post 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 is now Post 8180 and I have been an active member in the post, and the community.

I am currently the Department of Pacific Areas Chaplain 2023-2026. At the District III level, I was elected Chaplain in May 2019 and was reelected in 2020. I am currently District III Chaplain, and Commander of Post 8180. I served as District III Council Member 2023-2025. I have been able to help many Veterans and their families 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. Currently I am the Grand of Pacific Areas (GPA) Hide Gimlet (Lil Bug), and Pup Tent & Blanket Bum. I also served as GPA Hospital Chairman, 2024-2025. 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 Surgeon. I thank you for your consideration.

Yours in Comradeship,
Robert S. Chatman
VFW Post 8180



LETTER'S OF INTENT 2026-2027 TERM

Greeting Comrades of the Pacific,

I am announcing my candidacy for term Pacific Areas Department Chaplain.

It is my pleasure to accept and run for a first 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 Military in 1984. I served in multiple components of the military during that time to include U.S. Naval Reserves, Washington State National Guard, U.S. Navy, U.S. Army Reserves, and the U.S. Army. Where I had multiple overseas assignments including a deployment to the Middle East during Desert Strike and participated with two different units in the Afghanistan Campaign (with 2 Campaign Stars), before retiring in 2020. I have also received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Ribbon (2nd Award), Armed Forces Service Ribbon, and other service/campaign ribbons.



I joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars with Post 1054 in Yokosuka, Japan in 2014. From that time until 2020, I was still on active duty and assigned to Army units in Korea, Arizona, and then I retired out of Kaiserslautern, Germany, at which time I returned home to Japan.

Since my return to Japan, I have served in Post 1054 in various capacities, most recent of which as the Post Commander (2025-26). As well, I have been vary active in District II, in various capicites, most recent of which has been as the District Commander (2024-26).

At the Distict II level I am currently the D2 Commander, and held the same position last year. I am currently the District II Councilman and Post 1054 Post Commander, elect (2025-2026). I am also currently serving as the DPA Scouting Chair. 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 1, Grand of Pacific Areas Hospital Chairman, and a Life Member ith the Patty Daddy Program that also supports the National Home.

Currently, I am workign as a facilitator for the DOL TAP VET progam that facilitates servicements transitioning to civilian life. My company is fully supportive of my work with the VFW. As such, I will have no problems with ensuring I have the time and energy to serve as your Department Chaplain. I thank you for your consideration.

Yours in Comradeship,

Walter Joseph Fahnestock Jr.
District 2, Commander

LETTER'S OF INTENT 2026-2027 TERM

LETTER OF INTENT TERM 2026-2027

Department Junior Vice Commander
Louis S. Holub EMC (SW) USN ret.



I am honored to announce my candidacy for the position of Department of Pacific Areas
Junior Vice Commander term 2026-2027.

A Charter Gold Legacy Life member of the All State-All American Banchang Utapao VFW Post 12146, Past All American Dist. V and Post Commander. I am currently District IV Okinawa, Taiwan, Cambodia and Thailand AS-AA Commander. I have served as DPA Audit Committee Chairman, Assistant QM, Chaplain and Surgeon. Also, the DPA Midwinter Meeting and Convention Chairman and current DPA Council member. Post 12146 Trustee 2-year having held all Post and Dist. level Offices and Chairmanships including Honor Guard Member and the annual Golf Tourney Chair donations >10KUSD annually. I have been awarded by DPA and National for my recruitment efforts, National and Special Aid de Camp, awarded the Honor Degree Pup Tent One.

I bring a varied background to this most important JVC position by building on my Departmental experience. My goal while promoting the National and DPA Commanders programs is to continue to advance camaraderie and teamwork amongst DPA Officers, Districts and Posts, along with the Honored Degreeed and Auxiliary. I have travelled extensively in and around the Pacific Areas having visited all 9 countries with the goal of understanding the Macro and Micro of the VFW, the Dist. and Post local needs such as medical and insurance needs, FMP, Service Officer Programs, Woman Warrior needs, Transition assistance for Active-Duty Military and continue to support our local DPAA POW-MIA missions, youth scholarship programs and scouting.

My Military experience as a Chief Petty Officer USN, qualified Engineer Officer, 1st responder, Fire Marshal and my continuing civilian consultancy career a retired Senior Vice President, GM and Emergency Director of major energy companies has exposed me to many unique local, retiree, expatriate challenges which have prepared my competencies and compassion to fulfill the position as Pacific Areas JVC.

Please consider my previous VFW achievements:

VFW Department of New Jersey (at large) & PB 9876	(1996-2014)
Post 9876 Pattaya Beach, District 5 Trustee (appointed)	(2014-2015)
Post 12146 Charter member/QM, Dist. 5 Adjutant	(2015-2016)
AS/AA QM (National Aid de Camp)	
DPA Budget committee member & Dist. 5 QM	(2017-2018)
AS/AA Post Adjutant, National Aid de Camp	
DPA Assistant QM, Dist. 5 QM, Post JVC	(2018-2019)
AS/AA Post JVC-Dist. 5 QM	
DPA Audit Chairman, Dist. 5 QM, Post SVC elect/Commander	(2019-2020)
AS/AA Post Commander, Dist. QM	
Dist. 5 Commander, Post JA, National Special Aid de Camp	(2020-2021)
AS/AA Dist. 5 Commander	
Post & Dist. 5 VOD/PP Teachers Chairman	(2017-2021)
Post VOD/PP Teachers & Annual golf tourney Chairman	(2021-2026)
DPA Chaplain, Post VOD/PP Teachers Chairmen	(2022-2023)
DPA Surgeon, Dist. IV Trustee Post VOD/PP Teach Chair	(2023-2025)
AS/AA Dist. 4 Commander, DPA Convention Chairman	(2025-2026)

I ask that you place your confidence in me and I look forward to seeing each of you at the upcoming Department Convention in Pattaya Beach Thailand 17-21 June 2026.

Yours in Comradeship and Service to Veterans
Louis Holub
Cmdr. D4

LETTER'S OF INTENT 2026-2027 TERM

Letter of Intent for DPA Junior Vice Commander



My name is James E. Collins. I am a member of VFW Robert W. Zaher Post 2485. I am submitting my Letter of Intent as a candidate for the position of Junior Vice Commander for the Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) for the 2026-2027 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 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. 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 Hide Gimlet

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)
- Legacy and Life Membership Chairman (2025 – 2026)

If elected, I pledge to treat all members with respect, prioritize positive motivation over coercion, and honor the viewpoints of every DPA member. My guiding principle will be to make things better.

Yours in Comradeship

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "James E. Collins".

James E. (Jim) Collins

LETTER'S OF INTENT 2026-2027 TERM

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



Comrades,

I would like to announce my intent to run for another term as Department of Pacific Areas Quartermaster for the 2026-2027 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:

- Department Quartermaster , 2025-2026
- 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, 2020-2025
- Grand Audit Committee, 2021-2024
- Assistant Grand Quartermaster, 2023-2024

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

Yours in Comradeship

George E. Beck Jr.
Gold Legacy Life Member
Candidate for Department of Pacific Areas Quartermaster

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES*



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



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



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



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



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

Other Important Dates

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

First Monday of September - Labor Day

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

September 17 - Constitution and Citizenship Day

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

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

September 29 - VFW Founded in 1899

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

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

October 18 - Recognition of Women in Military Service*

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

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DR. NITI NAVANIMITKUL
MEN'S HEALTH THAILAND



Brass Monkey
黃線子



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.