

# THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No One Does More for Veterans  
Veterans First, Comrades Always

Volume XXVIII, Number 3

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FREE

Veterans Day originated in the Armistice Day holiday commemorating the November 11, 1918, armistice at 11 a.m. (hence “the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month”), which suspended active hostilities and effectively ended the First World War.

President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11, 1919, the first Armistice Day with the following words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations ....”

Unlike several other U.S. holidays now celebrated on Mondays to create long holiday weekends, Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11. This preserves the historical significance of the date and helps focus attention on the holiday’s important purpose: to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.



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## Remembering Pearl Harbor

December 7, 1941

“A Date That Will Live in Infamy.”



# COMMANDER'S CALL

Comrades,

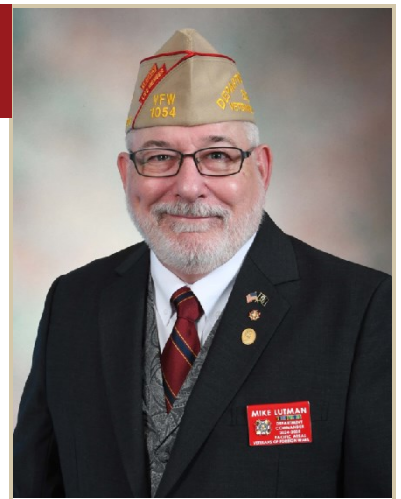
It's just a jump to the left, And then a step to the right. With your hands on your hips, You bring your knees in tight. But it's the pelvic thrust, That really drives you insane. Let's do the Time Warp again, Let's do the Time Warp again.

Indeed, a time warp it has been as so described in the lyrics of the Rocky Horror Picture Show from 1975. The leap for us has been since the DPA Convention in Angeles City, to now where we prepare to touch down in Barrio Baretto for the Council of Administration. Despite the best efforts of those associated with the effort, the Taiwan effort did not work out as the hotel, among a few other items, did not meet our requirements for costs as related to rooms and venues. Indeed, the major sticking point was how much this was going to cost attendees and it was decided that it was too much. Thanks to the leadership of SVC Jack Farrell, ADJ Kevin Mitchell and QM Shawn Watson, they were able to negotiate a contract that meets our requirements in Barrio Barretta. Comrades, we have learned a lesson here and we will be bringing a new policy to the CofA for a vote regarding conventions and the expectations regarding costs and services to be applied in advance of future bids for other venues in other years. Many thanks to the Comrades in Barrio Barretta who helped us get this venue established for the CofA and I have no doubt they will ensure that we all have a great time in the conduct of our business.

In addition, as it stands as of this publication, we have the afternoon Cootie Social / Cootie Auction at the RED BAR on Friday 1330-1700. The first two hours are for Cooties only. The Hospitality room at VFW Post 11447 is from 1700 to 2000. Saturday will cover the DPA business session and Commander's dinner. VFW attire is casual. VFW/DPA shirts, pants if you want but not a requirement, cargo shorts are all good. This is a time to relax enjoy good food and share stories with Comrades. Sunday will be the Grand Scratch held by Big Bug Randell "I Need TeePee for me Bung Hole" Himes. I can only hope that your expectations are not any higher than a crickets buttocks.

So, how goes it? It goes well! Membership wise, we (the DPA) are (as of this writing) almost 100% in membership! Wow. It is amazing to see how many posts have already hit 100%, 102% and the Early bird Award. For those of you close for Early Bird, keep pushing as you have until the end of November to meet the Early bird Award criteria. Also, we have recently just changed the Commander's Pin and DPA Pin Award from 3-5 NEW members to 1-5 NEW members. Thanks to our CNR, PDC Larry Lawrence Lyons (L3), for that great suggestion.

What a great job by every recruiter out there who is getting after it. A special thanks is in order for Past Commander In Chief Timothy Borland and Certified National Recruiter Larry Lyons for their efforts during Chief Borland's swing through Korea to recruit new members. THEIR efforts have led to getting almost all of the Korea posts and others DPA posts to 100%, enabling them get to 102% on their own. In addition, they not only signed up new members for the DPA but also VFW Posts throughout the 5,600 posts worldwide (for those transferring to new locations). This was a Nationally sponsored recruiting effort which benefited not only the DPA, but Posts worldwide as directed by our National Commander In Chief Al Lippardt. I was privileged to join L3 and PCINC Tim for a few days in Korea and I can tell you for certain, Tim Borland can recruit ANYWHERE! Ask me when we next meet again and I will share some "Classified" specifics. Nobody is safe even in the restroom.



Commander

**Michael Lutman**



# COMMANDER'S CALL

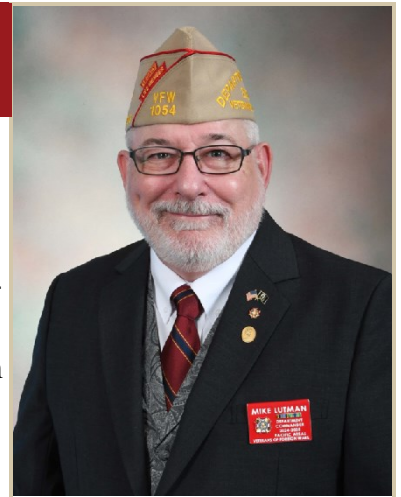
This year continues with updates and changes in the way we do business. The VOD and PP programs are now being submitted online and by the time this article publishes, you will have hopefully gotten your submissions completed. Our VOD/PP Chairman has been very active in getting the word out, so we should not expect to have any issues. That said, nothing new is easy. Push forward with grace and humility. We will work through the hard spots, learn from today and plan for tomorrow.

Nothing remains the same for long as time and distance seem to either interfere with intentions or just plain knock us off course. That and other issues can also cause havoc and to that end our Public Servant Chairman will change shortly. I'll get the word out to all CDR's ASAP as this was just a recent development.

Please remember that whatever business we have at the CofA comes with rules. VOTING during business session will be held by the Council of Administration members ONLY. So, if you want to support a proposal or resolution, make sure you talk to your District Commanders ahead of time and let them know how you feel about any given proposal or resolution. That being said, if you are on the Council, it is your job to VOTE. Voting on items will be throughout your term, either in email form or at an event. So do not blow it off, VOTE!!!

Thank you so much for all you do. By you, I mean YOU. The little adds to more and the more adds to a lot. To speak your mind and act in accordance with bylaws and ritual is the core of how we move forward each day in our beloved organization. Ignorance or outright disregard for the rules and regulations can only bring us harm and discord as an organization. I can't count the number of Comrades that have asked me WHY we need to cite our national charter at each meeting. You know, the one about Petty Jealousies and Trivial Personalities. God help us if we ever stop saying the words. We might well fade off the face of the earth to only become a shadow of our former self and prove that because of our Petty Jealousies and Trivial Personalities we became the organization that wound up doing less for Veterans than anyone. Think about that should you ever find yourself being coerced into a direction not meant to take us where we need to go. We are not perfect, but WE continue to stand up for Veterans and we always try to be better. Being better sometimes means trying new things and sometimes something new, isn't always better. Stand up, fight back and NEVER give up on what made YOU a Veteran and/or what made YOU a Veterans advocate. NOBODY DOES MORE FOR VETERANS than we do. FOLLOW ME!

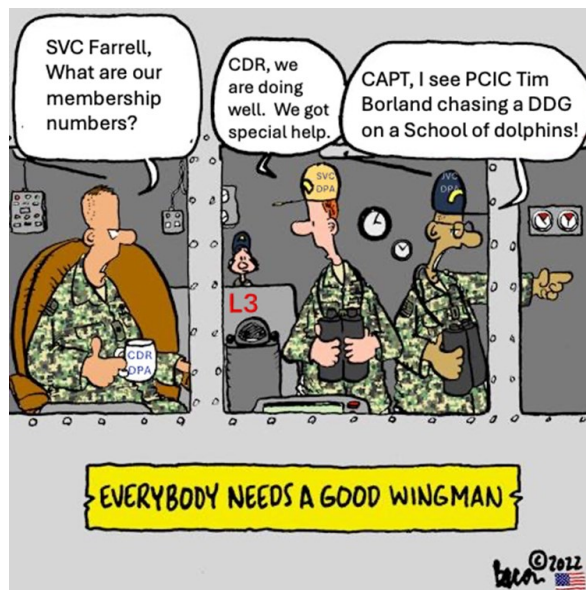
Michael D. Lutman  
Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas VFW  
**"Veterans First, Comrades Always"**



Department of Pacific Areas

Commander

**Michael Lutman**



# SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

As we approach our Mid-Term Conference in Subic, Philippines and the end of another outstanding year, Memstats have been updated by National with the Department of Pacific Areas leading all states and departments in the VFW. An outstanding effort by all and a well done goes out to our Certified National Recruiter Larry Lyons and our Post Recruiters for their tremendous efforts.

As of October 16, 2024, the District averages for Membership are as follows:

- D2 – 100.45%
- D3 – 100.25%
- D4 – 99.24%
- D5 – 102.02%
- D6 – 95.64%
- D7 – 100.92%

As of 31 October 2024, the Department stands at 99.79%. Congratulations go out to the following Post for meeting and exceeding the Commander in Chiefs membership challenge:

Post 12231	Manila, Philippines	(294.11%)
Post 12224	Puerto Princessa, Philippines	(119.23%)
Post 10217	Korat, Thailand	(104.16%)
Post 10223	Camp Humphreys, South Korea	(105.88%)
Post 124	Baguio, Philippines	(104.26%)
Post 9985	Tongducheon-up, Korea	(102.94%)
Post 9951	Bangkok, Thailand	(102.42%)
Post 11575	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	(102.4%)
Post 9876	Pattaya, Thailand	(102.48%)
Post 12163	Perth, Western Australia	(102.38%)
Post 9957	Taipei, Taiwan	(102.13%)

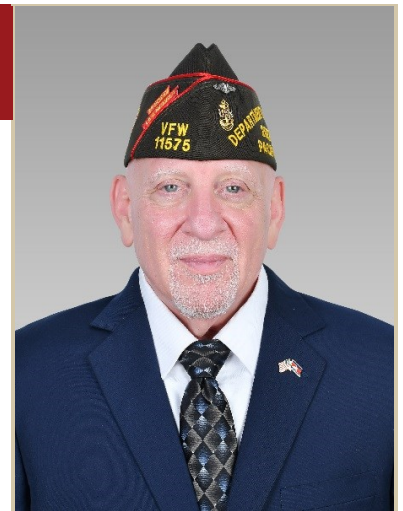
The All-State Dashboard can be seen [HERE](#). Please allow a minute or so for it to generate. You may also be asked to sign in to the Members Only area. Your default login and password are your Membership Number and your Last Name, first letter capitalized. As you complete your program payments, and All-State requirements I will update the Dashboard. As a reminder, completion of your Trustee training and meeting the one (1) New or Upgraded Legacy life member requires the Posts and Districts to inform me directly. Please contact me at [svcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:svcdpa@vfwpacific.org)

Don't forget your program payments. As you can see from the links we are still showing a lot of Red. Don't hesitate to reach out to your program chairman or me if you are experiencing any difficulties.

In closing, I am proud to be a part of the best department in the VFW. Daily you continue to show your communities what the VFW stands for. I wish you and your families the best and will see you in Subic for our Mid-Term Conference.

Yours in service to veterans.

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



Senior Vice Commander

**John "Jack" Farrell**



**Sr. Vice Commander**

**All State Dashboard, click [HERE](#)**

**All American Dashboard, click [HERE](#)**

**It was a tremendous honor to represent the Department at the D4 (Cambodia, Okinawa, Taiwan and Thailand) quarterly meeting that was conducted in Udorn, Thailand.**

**Jack**

# JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

First, I would like to say how proud I am to be a member of the Department of Pacific Areas who is leading the way in VFW membership. Let's keep it up to meet the Commander's goal.

**Programs:** Over half the Posts in the Department have already met the requirements for donations to programs. **Great Job and Thanks.** These programs are not just an All-State and All-American requirement, but as a member of the VFW you have an obligation to support these programs. **No One Does More For Veterans.**

By now everyone should have their **Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Essay Competitions** and **Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Awards** entries for judging. Remember to make your All-American Dashboard entries after judging. If your post did not receive any entries, please get your donations in. Also, get with the Scouts, ROTC, and Emergency Services and promote the awards that the VFW offers.

## VFW PROGRAMS DEADLINE DATES

**Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Essay Competitions** (Entries to Department November 21<sup>st</sup>)

**Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award** (Entries to Department November 21<sup>st</sup>)

**Public Servant and Safety Award** (Entries to Department November 15<sup>th</sup>)

**Scouting of the Year Award** (Entries to Department April 1<sup>st</sup>)

One new item this year in the All-American Program is that one community service activity must be for a VFW Day of Service event held during the month of May. This event must be registered at [VFW Day of Service Sign Up Now](#) no later the June 1<sup>st</sup>. Learn more at [VFW Day of Service](#).

Last issue, I discussed the basics of Community Service Reporting. Please make sure this information is getting to the members that are inputting the CSRs and following the guidelines in [VFW GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE BEST PRACTICES](#). We still have more work to do in cleaning up our CSRs to reflect the true value of caring and impact we have on our communities.

**Awards:** Must of all, don't forget our own comrades. Every Post has members that excel in what they do and deserve the credit for it. I suggest every Post appoint an Award Chairman to keep track of accomplishments throughout the year and ensure Awards don't get overlooked. I am looking forward to seeing award submissions from every Post this year.

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

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Don Kelley

Junior Vice Commander

[jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org)

**Veterans First, Comrades Always**



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

**Don Kelley**



**Jr. Vice Commander**

# In the SPOTLIGHT

In the VFW, we know our veterans are #StillServing and rising to meet the challenges of this uncertain time. We want you to share your stories and maybe even inspire others across our Department to do the same. Click here to tell us your story. [pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org](mailto:pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org)



This table is reserved to honor our missing comrades in arms.

The table is round - to show our everlasting concern for our missing men.

The tablecloth is white - symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty.

The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing and their loved ones and friends of these Americans who keep the faith, awaiting answers.

The vase is tied with a red ribbon, symbol of our continued determination to account for our missing.

A slice of lemon on the bread plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.

A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers.

The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.

The glass is inverted - to symbolize their inability to share this evening's toast.

The chair is empty - they are missing.

Let us now raise our glasses in a toast to honor America's POW/MIAs and to the success of our efforts to account for them.

## Veteran Tributes Honoring Those Who Served

Home View Tributes Request a Tribute News Veterans Links Reference Contact Us

### Donald G. Waltman

**Rank, Service**  
Colonel O-6, U.S. Air Force

**Veteran of:**  
Idaho Air National Guard 1954-1955  
U.S. Air Force 1955-1985  
Cold War 1954-1985  
Vietnam War 1966-1973 (POW)

**Tribute:**



Donald Waltman was born on December 17, 1930, in Kellogg, Idaho. He attended the University of Idaho, and entered the Idaho Air National Guard on August 2, 1954, receiving his commission as a 2d Lt through the Air Force ROTC program on March 14, 1955. Lt Waltman remained in the Idaho ANG on active duty as an Adjutant until going on active duty in the U.S. Air Force on August 29, 1955. He served as an Adjutant with the 84th Material Squadron at Geiger Field, Washington, from August 1955 to May 1957, followed by pilot training from May 1957 until he was awarded his pilot wings at Laredo AFB, Texas, in June 1958. Lt Waltman attended All-Weather Interceptor training at Moody AFB, Georgia, from June to November 1958, and then Advanced Survival School at Stead AFB, Nevada, from November to December 1958. His next assignment was as an F-86D Sabre pilot with the 324th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Sidi Slimane AB, Morocco, from January 1959 to March 1960, and then with the 7221st Air Base Squadron at Sidi Slimane from March to April 1960. Capt Waltman served as an F-102 Delta Dagger pilot with the 525th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Bitburg AB, West Germany, from April 1960 to July 1962, followed by service as an F-102 pilot with the 460th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Portland International Airport, Oregon, from July 1962 to March 1965. His next assignment was with the 4625th Support Squadron at Portland International Airport from March to September 1966, and during this time he completed F-105 Thunderchief Combat Crew Training. Capt Waltman deployed to Southeast Asia in September 1966, and served as an F-105 pilot with the 13th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Korat Royal Thai AFB, Thailand, from September 7, 1966, until he was forced to eject over North Vietnam and was taken as a Prisoner of War on September 19, 1966. After spending 2,359 days in captivity, Lt Col Waltman was released during Operation Homecoming on March 4, 1973. He was briefly hospitalized to recover from his injuries at Travis AFB, California, and then attended Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, from August 1973 to June 1974. He attended F-111 Aardvark Combat Crew Training at Nellis AFB, Nevada, from June 1974 to February 1975, followed by service as Chief of the Operations Plans Division with the 474th Tactical Fighter Wing at Nellis from February to June 1975. His next assignment was as Commander of the 426th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Nellis AFB from June 1975 to March 1976, and then as Assistant Deputy Commander for Operations of the 474th Tactical Fighter Wing at Nellis from March 1976 to January 1977. Col Waltman served as Assistant Deputy Commander for Operations of the 20th Tactical Fighter Wing at RAF Upper Heyford, England, from January 1977 to May 1979, followed by service as Deputy Commander of the 406th Tactical Fighter Wing at Zaragoza AB, Spain, from May 1979 to May 1980. His next assignment was as Deputy Commander and then Commander of the 20th Tactical Fighter Wing at RAF Upper Heyford from May 1980 to May 1981, and then as Chief of the European Officer Exchange Program in London, England, from July 1981 until his retirement from the Air Force on May 1, 1985. Donald Waltman died on September 5, 1997, and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



**His 1st Silver Star Citation reads:**

Captain Donald G. Waltman distinguished himself by gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force over North Vietnam on 19 September 1966. On that date, Captain Waltman was the pilot of an F-105 that struck and destroyed a heavily defended target deep in hostile territory. Despite the intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire, Captain Waltman pressed the attack and delivered his ordnance squarely on target rendering it unusable. He demonstrated heroism of the highest order and distinctive professional airmanship as he directed his aircraft against his target. By his gallantry and devotion to duty, Captain Waltman has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



In observance of National POW/MIA Recognition Day 20 September 2024 Kadena Exchange Okinawa Japan displayed an Informative Exhibit located at the Entrance of the Exchange Honoring the Commitment, and sacrifice made by Prisoners of War and those still missing in action. Click [HERE](#) to see the full Veteran Tribute Article.

# In the SPOTLIGHT



*Sunday 27 October 2024: A joint Community Service between VFW Banchang-Utapao Post 12146 and Kitty House was carried out at Wat Kiripawanaram. The Post provided Free Popcorn while Kitty House provided free sodas and bottled water*

Your feedback is important to us. Please submit your Letters to the Editor or Suggestions by clicking [pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org](mailto:pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org)

# DPA QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

The first quarter of the year has come and gone. It sure did go fast. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone that will be attending the Council of Administration next month in Subic.

Many Posts have already ordered Buddy Poppies for their Posts. For those that have not, please fill the form out and email it me. The requirement this year is for 500 poppies. Do not wait until the last minute to order. While the All-State dashboard is updated when I receive the form and submit the order for your Poppies, National does not update the Dashboard until those orders are processed and the poppies have been sent. Once you notice that the All-American dashboard has turn green and you have not received the order within 2 months. Email me so I can follow up with National. National will only track the order for 90 days.

There have been a couple problems with the Quarterly audits that I have noticed. Thought I would take the time to point these out. You should have the amount of coverage you have from your Bond. The lowest amount in the Department is \$3000 which has a premium of \$10.50. Question time. Which of these two numbers would you put on the Quarterly Audit, \$3000 or \$10.50? For those of you that said \$3000, good for you, this is the correct answer. Another item is Bank account totals. You must have the total of your bank accounts on the audit as well. The list of funds at the top of the audit should match the list of funds from your monthly audit.

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

Shawn Watson  
DPA Quartermaster

**A priest, a pastor and a rabbit walked into a blood donation clinic.**

**The Nurse asked the rabbit: "What is your blood type?"**

**"I am probably a type O" said the rabbit.**



Quartermaster

**Shawn Watson**



Quartermaster



# DPA ADJUTANT

Hello my fellow Comrades,

Since our last Pacific Times, we now know where our Posts start with membership. So, I would like to send my congratulations to each Post that has already met our NCIC goal of 102% in membership and the others who have reached 100% or more. Great start of the term and we have more to follow!

To put any rumors to rest, the Midterm Council will be held December 6-9, 2024, in Barrio Barretto (Subic) Philippines. It will be held in the Suzuki Beach Resort Hotel just down the road from the Arizona Hotel on the left side of the road. Just look for the large sign which says, "Suzuki Beach Resort". By the time our Pacific Times is published, the registration page should be up and running. Past National CIC Duane Sarmiento will be the National Representative at our Conference. The Conference is sponsored by District VII and Post 11447.

In closing, I would like to wish each of you a very happy Veterans Day and thank you for your service!! Hope you can make it out to ceremonies in our communities and if you can not to make sometime to remember all of us who served honorably! I look forward to seeing you the first weekend of December!!!

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

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



Adjutant

**Kevin Mitchell**



Adjutant

I'm no geologist but this is quite an interesting Rock formation.



# DPA COFA MIDTERM 2024 OLONGAPO PH



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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Suzukibeachhotel/about>

**Hosting Post: Post 11447 Subic Bay, Philippines**

**CofA Chairman: Troy Derby [derbyt@hotmail.com](mailto:derbyt@hotmail.com)**



## Department of Pacific and **Grand of Pacific** Mid-Term Council of Administrations

6 – 9 December 2024,  
Suzuki Beach Hotel, Barrio Barretto, Philippines

DATE	TIME	Meeting/Function	Location
Thursday			
5 Dec	1200-1600	Registration	Suzuki Beach Hotel
Friday	0730-1130	Registration	Suzuki Beach Hotel
6 Dec	0900-1000	<b>DPA Budget Meeting</b>	Suzuki Beach Hotel
	1000-1100	<b>MOC Grand Audit / Budget Meeting</b>	Suzuki Beach Hotel
	1330-1600	<b>Afternoon Social / Cootie Auction</b>	<b>Red Bar</b>
	1600-1800	<b>Cootie Swarm</b>	<b>Red Bar</b>
	1700-2000	Hospitality Room	VFW Post 11447
Saturday			
7 Dec	0730-0900	Registration	Suzuki Beach Hotel
	0930-1130	<b>DPA Business Session</b>	Suzuki Beach Hotel
	1130-1300	Lunch Break	Self-Choice
	1300-1600	<b>DPA Business Session (Continued)</b>	Suzuki Beach Hotel
	1700-1800	Cocktails	Suzuki Beach Hotel
	1800-2100	Commander Appreciation Night Dinner	Suzuki Beach Hotel
Sunday			
8 Dec	0900-1300	<b>MOC Grand Mid-Term Council Scratch</b>	Suzuki Beach Hotel
Monday			
9 Dec		TRAVEL DAY	

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

# NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Hello My Comrades,

Along with our National Officers and staff in both Kansas City and Washington, D.C. we continue to work with the VA, and Congress to advocate for veterans living outside the U.S.

We have made some progress with FMP as we expect those veterans using FMP and have a U.S. bank account to be reimbursed via electronic transfer rather than a paper check in the first quarter of 2025.

In the U.S. if a veteran has at least a 50% service connected disability he is entitled to health care regardless whether or not it is connected to his disability. For veterans living outside the U.S. this health care benefit is not available, as it is prohibited by U.S. law under title 38 of the U.S. code. In order to rectify this unfair section of title 38, Past National Commander Duane Sarmiento and Executive Director of our D.C. office Ryan Gallucci have submitted a bill to congress and have obtained a sponsor that will amend title 38. The language calls for eliminating the requirement of a service-connected disability in order to furnish veterans with medical care outside of a State, and for other purposes. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs. The official title of the bill is H.R. 9177, the Foreign Medical Program Modernization Act of 2024.

MEDICARE is not available OCONUS; however for those veterans who use TRI-CARE For LIFE (TFL) they are required to pay for MEDICARE Part B. Paying for MEDICARE Part B would be ok as a prerequisite for enrolling in TFL except for the fact MEDICARE including Part B is not authorized outside CONUS. The net effect is we are paying for something we cannot use. This anomaly has been addressed to our legislative folks in the VFW Washington, D.C. office and we expect them to work on correcting this anomaly.

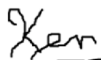
Our Washington, D.C. office continues questioning the VA as to why we are represented by the VA Regional Office in Pittsburgh rather than the Regional Office in Manila. This is a big deal and we will continue to work this issue.

Any questions, concerns, or suggestions on National issues, please contact me at [ncmdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:ncmdpa@vfwpacific.org)

In the meantime, let's focus on the VFW mission: "foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts"; to "serve our veterans, the military and our communities"; and to "advocate on behalf of all veterans."

In that vein I look forward to seeing you all at the Mid-Year Meeting in Subic Bay, Philippines 6-9 December. It will be a great chance for camaraderie while we conduct our Department Council of Administration meeting.

Yours always in comradeship and service to veterans,



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



National Council Member

**Ken Stein**



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

# NATIONAL CERTIFIED RECRUITER

Greeting Comrades of the Pacific,

Fall has set here in Korea, and I had to double up on the blankets last night. Starting next month, we have our favorite Holiday and that's Veterans Day, this is an ideal time to do some Recruiting besides your Buddy Poppy Distribution. After that we have Thanksgiving. Both these days are great ways to thank our Active Duty Members and local Veterans for their service.

Veterans Day would also be a great day for those who do not have Active Military Members in their local area to purchase an Annual VFW Membership for them. Just let me know how many members you or your post would like to purchase for them. I will recruit them for you. I will then email the apps to your Post Commander/ Quartermaster for them to process into your Post.

Currently we are looking rather good in membership, however we still have posts that really need to get going. Our current DPA Percentage is 99.42% with the norm of DPA leading VFW National in Membership. Comrades we have made 100% in Membership prior to the CofA in the past and we are in striking distance of that again this year. We also have 8 Posts needing less than 10 Members to be 100%.

To the 72 Recruiters, Commander Mike and I pass on **A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!** To show our appreciation we are changing the 3-5 Membership Recruiting Award to 1-5 members recruited. This will give all our Recruiters a Commanders Pin and DPA pin. We will issue these out at the CofA in December in Subic Bay. These 72 Recruiters have recruited 339 new members into our Department!

***HOT OFF THE PRESS Just approved November Recruiting Program with CASH Dollars going to the recruiters. See the next page for info!***

Let me know how I can help your Post in membership just contact me at [PDCLyons935@gmail.com](mailto:PDCLyons935@gmail.com). In closing I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Yours Always in Comradeship,

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

Membership Recruiting Kit Link [HERE](#).



National Certified Recruiter

**Larry Lyons**



**Membership**  
**Recruiting and**  
**Retention**  
**LINK**



## DEPARTMENT INFORMATION



## *Recruiters Christmas Membership Drive*

DPA Recruiters,

In appreciation of all the work you have done thus far this year. DPA is having a Special Membership Recruiting drive just for you. Realizing that December and January are slow recruiting months, basically because of the Christmas bills. We are having this drive for a big push to finish out the year in November. ***(Everyone in DPA is a Recruiter!)***

### **Recruiters Win CASH for your Christmas Present**

For every New fully paid Life Membership the Recruiter will receive 3 chits

For every New Annual Member, to include Installment Life Members the Recruiter will receive 2 chits

For every Reinstated Member the Recruiter will receive 1 chit

The members recruited must be recruited in November and inputted and processed from 1 November to 29 November. On 30 November, Pacific time the CNR will run a report and make chits for all those recruited during this time frame.

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$500.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$300.00

3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$200.00

4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Places: Consolation Prizes will receive VFW specially designed 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 3D Christmas Ornaments.

Drawing to be conducted during the CNR report this December at the CofA in Subic Bay.

*Merry Christmas*

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

# VFW DAY OF SERVICE 2025!



# VFW DAY OF SERVICE 2025



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

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

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

## Sign Up for Day of Service 2025

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

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

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

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

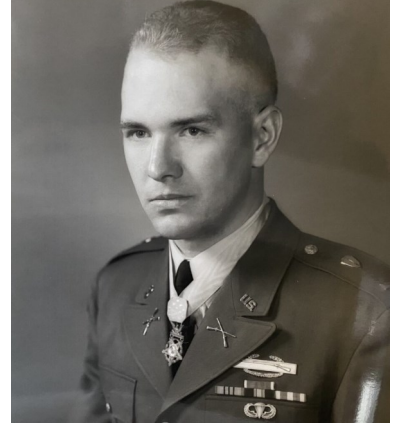
Post 2639, located in Neptune, New Jersey, is distributing hygiene kits to the unhoused in their community.

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

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

## MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Walter "Joe" Marm, a Pennsylvania native, found his courage tested in the battlefield just one year after joining the Army. Born and raised in Washington, PA, where his father served as a State Trooper, Marm spent his youth immersed in activities like competitive shooting on the rifle team and exploring the great outdoors as a Boy Scout. He studied finance at Duquesne University and, upon graduating in 1964, made a pivotal decision: rather than wait to be drafted into military service amid the escalating Vietnam War, he voluntarily enlisted.



Graduating from Officer Candidate School, Marm earned his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry. His training included the Army Ranger School, which would fortify his skills as he prepared for a critical mission in Vietnam. Assigned to the 1/7th Cavalry of the First Cavalry Division, he joined a unit tasked with incorporating a new warfare tactic involving helicopters, known as the airmobile assault. This method allowed troops to be swiftly inserted into combat zones, fundamentally changing battlefield tactics.

By late 1965, much of South Vietnam was under the control of the Viet Cong, supported by the North Vietnamese Army (NVA). The Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) struggled to reclaim lost territory, prompting General William Westmoreland to develop a strategy that would see American troops take a more active combat role. The 1st Cavalry Division was among the first units deployed following this new approach.

The Ia Drang Valley, located about 30 miles northwest of Pleiku, became a hotbed of military action. Intelligence operatives reported that the NVA was preparing to launch an assault on Pleiku's provincial capital. Lieutenant Colonel Hal Moore commanded the 1/7th Cavalry, which was ordered to clear the valley effectively before the assault could take place. This encounter would mark a significant moment as the first major combat operation for U.S. forces in the Vietnam War and showcase the capabilities of the airmobile concept.

Upon arrival in the valley, Marm's unit quickly encountered trouble. A platoon became cut off from the battalion and was under heavy enemy fire. LTC Moore prioritized their rescue, and Marm was selected to lead the effort. "My company commander assigned me to Bravo Company for the assault," he recounted. "Our first attempt failed, forcing us to pull back." Undeterred, they made a second attempt later that afternoon, an artillery barrage preceding their advance.

As they approached the enemy's position, Marm and his men faced a formidable fortress—a rock-solid ant hill that the troops dubbed a bunker. Realizing they needed to neutralize the threat, Marm encouraged his men to throw a grenade, but its trajectory fell short. "It landed right in front of us with a big boom," he recalled, assessing the situation for a better approach. Taking matters into his own hands, he charged across the open terrain, rifle and grenades in hand, mindful of friendly fire.

Marm hurled a grenade over the bunker, which exploded with a satisfying boom. Yet enemy fire surged as they pressed forward. "I managed to take out a couple of their shooters with my M-16," he said. However, in the midst of the battle, he was struck by enemy fire. "It went in my left jaw and out the right," he noted, realizing he had to hold on. Fortunately, a medic and fellow soldiers rushed to his aid.

Though his injuries required evacuation, Marm's brave actions did not go unnoticed. Witnessed by others, including United Press International correspondent Joe Galloway, his valorous conduct earned him the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest accolade for bravery. "I wear this Medal for all the Soldiers in the 1st Cav who fought that day," Marm humbly stated, recognizing the collective heroism among his comrades.

After recuperating, Marm returned to active duty and in 1969, feeling a sense of obligation, requested another deployment to Vietnam, receiving a steadfast acknowledgment from the Army. He rose through the ranks, eventually retiring as a Colonel in 1995. Walter "Joe" Marm's story exemplifies not just personal bravery, but a profound respect for those who fought alongside him, embodying the spirit of camaraderie that defines military service.

Read full citation here: <https://www.cmoah.org/recipients/walter-j-marm-jr>



# CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrades, I pray and hope this letter finds you, your families, and friends well, in good spirits and able to continue our most important advocacy work, advancing towards achieving Department, District / Post goals throughout the year. Continue to take care of Veterans, their families, our Active-duty service members and the less fortunate in our communities. Again, as I stated in my last correspondence, I reiterate the use of “Buddy checks” which are important to our mission and 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. I would like to say that “Buddy checks” are not helpful to our comrades if we are not paying attention to their critical needs if they are unable to conduct their business or affairs appropriately. Meaning if we know of those in crisis (i.e., passports or medical-Tricare/Medicare) let’s do and say something by taking the necessary steps to assist and aid them in correcting the issues.

If there is a Veteran in “CRISIS” please call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 or your country Emergency designated number. If you are eligible, file your PACT Act claim-or submit your intent to file for your benefits.

November and December are followed with Commemorative and Memorial events: Veterans Day (or Armistice Day). Join me as we “Salute the men and women who served and sacrificed to keep America free” ...marking the anniversary of the end of “World War I were formally ended at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect.” Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is observed annually on December 7, to remember and honor the 2,403 Americans who were killed in the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, which led to the United States declaring war on Japan the next day and thus entering World War II. And, Christmas, an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25<sup>th</sup> (also observed by Christians, and many non-Christians on different dates), as we prepare to close out the year while celebrating the incoming of a “New Year”. These significant days hold a special place in our hearts as they not only commemorate the tragic events of sacrifice but days of celebration.

Let us Always remember, “Recruiting”, is our number one priority! “Strength in Numbers”!

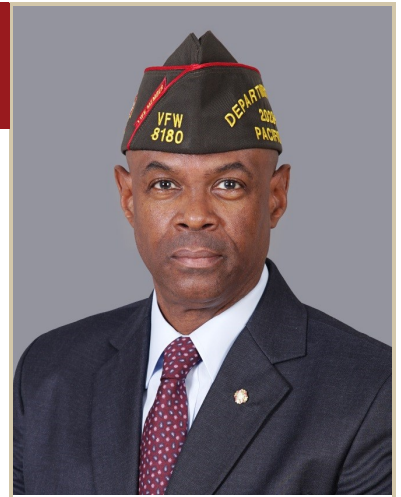
Let us remember the following Comrades who passed away since our last report

Comrade	Post	Comrade	Post	Comrade	Post
Rubio, Edurado	2485	Adams, David C.	2485	Stone, Roger C.	2485
Gage, Ralph H.	2485	Pittman, Michael B.	2485	Roberts Jr., Harcourt B.	2485
Koslovski, Wernder I.	2485	Saywers, Kenneth	9985	Lib-on, Erol Jesse R.	2485
Wiley, Billy R.	2485				

Yours in Comradeship

Robert S. Chatman  
DPA Chaplain

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



Department of Pacific Areas

Chaplain

**Robert Chatman**





## 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>

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### **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>

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### **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](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*.

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#### **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!**

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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](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.

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

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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](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!**

# VOTING WHILE ABROAD IS SIMPLE



**In fact, it's easier than you think!**

If you are abroad, you can fill out a single form that will both **register you to vote and request an absentee ballot.**

## You don't need a U.S. mailing address to vote from abroad

There is no requirement for overseas voters to continue to maintain a residence or own property in the U.S. to vote.

## You only need to file one form to vote from abroad/overseas

You should send in a

**New Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request form**

to your local election official every calendar year during which you would like to vote, and whenever you change your address.\*

***\*You should send in your form as early as possible to ensure that your ballot has time to make the round trip!***

## Overseas absentee ballots count in every election

Absentee ballots submitted in compliance with state and federal election laws are counted in the totals for all elections, **and every vote, whether cast as absentee or in-person, counts the same!**



**U.S. VOTE**  
FOUNDATION

[usvotefoundation.org](http://usvotefoundation.org)

# DEPARTMENT SURGEON

Comrades enjoy upcoming Veterans day observance, ceremonies & activities, Happy Thanksgiving to all remain healthy and safe. continue to take care of each other, your families our Active-duty service members and the less fortunate in our communities, As we all prepare for the upcoming holidays, travels throughout Asia and further abroad including trips Stateside let's do so in a healthy and responsible manner.

Flu season (influenza) is up on us with potential for sustained negative effects on our health consider the annual flu vaccination. I know this prevention measure can be viewed and interpreted in many ways do what is right for you but consider the following.

When exploring the possibility of being vaccinated be aware that vaccines are developed for the regional strains, if you receive a vaccination here in the Pacific Areas it may not be effective in the US, it may not provide you with the protection desired so consult your Doctor.

Although most people with flu will recover without additional medical issues, influenza can cause serious illness and death, particularly among older adults, very young children, pregnant women, and those with certain chronic medical conditions. The best way to prevent influenza is to get a flu vaccine every year.

The virus is constantly changing so scientists work together to identify the virus strains that they believe will cause the most illness, and a new vaccine is made based on their recommendations.

- It is recommended that everyone over the age of 6 months receive an annual flu vaccine.
- The best time to get the vaccine is before flu starts circulating in your community in October or November, however, later vaccination can still be beneficial.

One common worry is that the flu shot can cause a person to get the flu however, as the vaccine contains either the inactivated virus or only part of the virus, this is not possible. Review the CDC website for more information, and as always when related to your health make informed decisions.

I hope you are exercising walking, cycling, swimming or other activities to stimulate your heart, your cardio, see u at the DPA Mid-Year meeting.

Yours In Comradeship,

Lou Holub  
DPA Surgeon



Surgeon

**Lou Holub**



Surgeon



## A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

'Driving around the old streets reminds me of a time when I was afraid to walk them. I was 16. In the gym, in boxing tournaments, in Central High, I was recognized as The King. I took on any fighter. I walked proud and confident, except when I heard Corky Baker was out on the streets. Whenever I walked through Snake Town or West End, with or without my gang, Corky was undisputed Lord of the Streets and wouldn't tolerate any rival. I had the Golden Gloves ahead of me, the AAU, the Olympics, all of which was confident I'd win. But the crown that would make me feel most confident as a fighter was held by Corky. He terrorized everyone, including me, and beat up everyone, including me. Already I'd made it known that my ambition was to become the world heavyweight champion, but this made Corky laugh.



His steady job was bouncer for the Dreamland Tavern, where he lifted rowdies and drunkards by the scruff of the neck and tossed them out. He made side money betting how high he could lift the front end of Cadillacs from a flat stance, or occasionally a truck if the bet was good enough. I'd had several run-ins with him, and each time I came out on the bottom. It was beginning to shake me up. I had the feeling that unless I could whip Corky, with all my training, roadwork and boxing science, it really wasn't much use going into boxing as a profession. On the other hand, I felt if I could whip Corky, I could beat anyone in the world.

I had enough confidence to brag about how I might whip him if we ever got into the ring, but someone overheard me and went back and told Corky. He was outraged, indignant, insulted; in fact, he got mad. For weeks, rumors circulated around Louisville's black community about the coming bloody showdown between Cassius Clay and Corky Baker. It created as much stir in the little town as a big fight did years later between Joe Frazier and me, and in its way it was just as important to me. I knew it was suicide to fight him on the streets with no rules or referee or regulations, so I took him on for a fight in the Columbia Gym. 'That's not real fighting,' Corky said, but the hecklers laughed at him and he quickly accepted.

When the bell rang, Corky rushed out, swinging rights and lefts that nearly took off the referee's head but missed mine. By then I had perfected the art of leaning back, circling, jabbing, and in a few minutes I was pouring lefts into his face from every angle, while nothing he threw hit me. When the round ended, he had thrown so many punches so fast and furious that he was breathing like he had gone 10 rounds. My right crosses had blackened his eye and bloodied his nose, and his mouth was bleeding. Before the second round was over he suddenly stopped in the middle of the round, screamed out, 'Hell, no! This ain't fair!' and staggered out of the ring into the dressing room, got his clothes on and left the gym. My classmates from Central High shouted and jumped for joy, lifted me up on their shoulders. I was the new king of both the gym and the streets.

Later, I asked an old friend where Corky was now. Through the years Corky had kept up with my career and we'd gotten to be friends of a sort. 'Corky's dead'. Got killed a week ago. 'He went out the way he came in, fighting in the streets.'

- Muhammad Ali

# DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Comrades,

District and Post inspections began 1 October and are well underway with one District and eight Posts having successfully completed inspections and submitted reports at the time of this submission.

Posts Commanders, Quartermasters and Adjutants can simplify the inspection process by preparing for the inspection and having all required documents on hand for your Inspector's review.

A reminder to District Inspectors:

- Inspectors should ensure all Inspection Forms are fully and properly completed.
- Any discrepancies or issues should be noted in the Comments and Recommendations block (continue on an additional page if necessary).
- Ensure forms are properly signed.
- Email scanned copies of the inspection forms to [inspdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:inspdpa@vfwpacific.org) and CC to [inspdpa@gmail.com](mailto:inspdpa@gmail.com) (also CC the Post and District Commanders).

All Districts and Posts are scheduled to complete their inspections prior to the C of A in December and thanks go out to all District Commanders and Inspectors for their time and effort in ensuring that all of our Districts and Posts within the Pacific Areas are functioning in accordance with our National and Department by-laws.

Yours in Comradeship & Service,

Brian Hamic  
DPA Inspector  
Department of Pacific Areas



Department Inspector

**Brian Hamic**



## A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

This story is true. I know, I am alive today because of the heroic and amazing flying by a young Air Force Helicopter pilot who saved my life and the lives of almost 80 Marines forty years ago.

It was May of 1975, just two weeks after the dramatic evacuation of Saigon at the end of the Vietnam War. Southeast Asia was in turmoil and after American Forces had withdrawn from the area, rouge elements of the Khmer Rouge, Cambodian Navy captured an unarmed American Merchant Vessel.

The S.S. MAYAGUEZ was seized in an act of piracy in international waters and taken to a small island named Koh Tang that was 29 miles off the Vietnam Cambodian border in the Gulf of Thailand. Fearing that the ship and crew would be taken to mainland Cambodia, an ill-advised and hastily planned operation was quickly thrown together to rescue the crew and recapture the MAYAGUEZ.

The only ground forces available in the area were Marines stationed on Okinawa, Japan. I was a 2nd Lieutenant Platoon Commander with the 2nd Battalion Ninth Marines. We were quickly pulled out of the field and were flown to a USAF air base in Utapao, Thailand from which the attack would be launched. The only available air assets that could be used to put the Marines on Koh Tang Island were Air Force CH and HH-53 helicopters, called Jolly Green Giants, which were used for special operations and search and rescue. This was before the advent of joint military training and these Air Force crews had never flown or trained with Marines. The Marines were told they would be going up against lightly armed and poorly trained fishermen and pirates. Instead, because of poor intelligence, the Marines were inserted on this five mile long island which was defended by a reinforced Khmer Rouge Battalion exceeding 400 highly experienced men with heavy weapons. It was an immediate disaster with the first four helicopters of the first wave being shot down with significant loss of life. The last 41 names on "The Wall", the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, are from the MAYAGUEZ Operation. Long story short, the ship was recaptured, and the crew rescued. But then the problem was getting the remaining Marines off the Island once the mission had been accomplished. With all but three Jolly Green Giants shot down or so severely damaged they couldn't fly, the extraction of the Marines of 2/9 under heavy fire would prove to be a difficult task.

After dusk, two 53's came in under heavy fire and each loaded up as many Marines as they could get aboard. The aircraft carrier U.S.S Coral Sea had been steaming towards the island all day and by nightfall, when the extraction began, she was only about a 30 minute flight time away. As the Marines fell back, they reduced their defensive positions. The enemy moved up into the collapsed lines and the dug in positions the Marines had held most of the day. The enemy had a lot of close up fire power they were shooting into the helicopters coming in and the Marines desperate to get off the island. Coming into this heavy fire was a HH-53, callsign Jolly-44, piloted by 1st Lt. Robert Blough. I was ordered to get on this helicopter as were 36 other Marines. We overloaded the chopper as the recommended maximum load was 25 Marines. Lt. Blough brought his chopper in and held it there under heavy fire as the Marines rushed aboard and then somehow took off in the heavy fire and got us off the island. Several of the Marines were wounded during this extraction. Once we were out of range of enemy guns and after congratulating each other for making it out alive, we settled down for what we understood would be about a twenty minute ride to the nearby aircraft carrier. It was a very dark night, overcast with no moon or starlight. I was sitting in the rear of the helicopter by the exit ramp and occasionally could see the waves below. Suddenly the helicopter is vibrating heavily, bouncing left and right and losing altitude. We thought we were going down! I shouted to those near me to be ready to go into the water. A minute or two later we were pushed to the front of the chopper where we jumped out. But instead of jumping into the water we were on a US naval vessel. I knew immediately it was not an aircraft carrier. It was the U.S.S. Harold E. HOLT, a small Destroyer Escort that had been involved with the rescue of the MAYAGUEZ earlier that day. The Holt had a very small helipad in the rear of the ship. The helicopter we were on was so much larger than the ship's helipad that when it landed I was looking out the back end of the chopper, hanging off the side of a ship I couldn't even see.

I'm an Infantry guy so I don't understand the technical aspects of a helicopter but this I know. Lt. Blough knew that the Marines were outnumbered and under fire on Koh Tang and that by dropping us off on that very small ship, the Holt, he could save the more than 30 minutes it would take to fly to the CORAL SEA and back. He was able to make a quick turn around and quickly return to Koh Tang to extract 35 more Marines out of that heavy fire and off the island. Here is what is so amazing. The HH-53 helicopter is a very large helicopter and the flight deck on the HOLT is not made for a chopper of that size. In order to drop us Marines off, this heroic pilot had to

## A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

inch his chopper onto the flight deck area. He had to put the nose of the chopper in one corner of the helipad and the two large wheels in opposite corners with the tail hanging off over the end of the ship. Not easy as there was less than six inches of clearance. If a helicopter blade had hit any part of the ship, many lives would have been lost. It is way more complicated than that. The HH-53 was so heavy they knew he could not put its full weight down on the deck, so Lt. Blough didn't land, he just sort of hovered there keeping 50 percent power on the wheels, all the while steadying his helicopter while literally flying it forward, at a 45 degree angle from the direction the ship was moving in. Yeah the ship is underway in a combat zone. The wind was blowing, and the ship was moving up and down and back and forth, with the rough seas, in the dark! A most amazing feat of flying! Topped off by the fact that as soon as he dropped us off he immediately went right back into heavy fire to extract another load of Marines.

Bob Blough was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his heroic actions but the almost 80 Marines whose lives he saved that day felt he was short changed and deserved a higher decoration. Today Bob is an active member of the Koh Tang/MAYAGUEZ Veterans Organization, and you can bet when he is around us Marines he never has to pay for a drink.

By Daniel J. Hoffman: combat vet from the MAYAGUEZ Operation, the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.



Read the Silver Star Citation [HERE](#).



# JUDGE ADVOCATE

Comrades,

Many of you have seen these rules before but remembering them from meeting to meeting can be a challenge. There are also new members on the Council this year, so they bear repeating. I will not be reading these at the December Council meeting, so you may want to print them out for reference

Rules of Order Winter Council Meeting in December 2024:

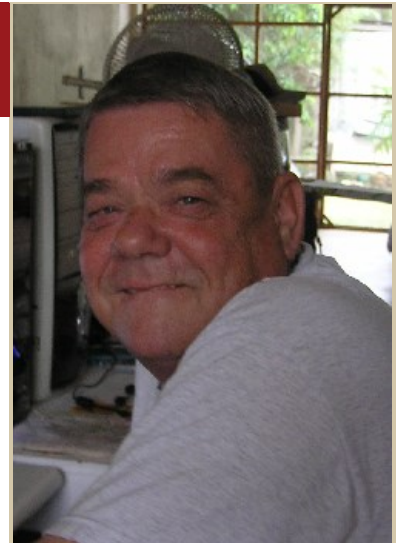
The Council of Administration shall consist of the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Adjutant, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Chief-of-Staff, Inspector, Chaplain, Surgeon, Immediate Past Department Commander, and all District Commanders. In the absence of a District Commander, the District Senior Vice Commander, or in their absence, the District Junior Vice Commander, may serve as a member of the Council.

## Motion - Procedural Guidelines:

1. Once the Presiding Officer has acknowledged a motion and it has been seconded it may now be open for discussion.
2. Any member, when duly recognized by the Presiding Officer may speak on the motion for clarity, either for or against.
3. Every member is automatically entitled to speak once on a debatable motion before the body unless the body, by a 2/3 vote, has ordered the discussion closed. After discussion has been voted closed, no one can debate a motion—except by unanimous consent.
4. A member is also automatically entitled to speak a second time on the same question the same day, unless other members who have not yet spoken on the question actually rise to claim the floor to speak. If no one rises, he may speak a second time.
5. No member shall speak more than twice on the same question, and for no longer than 5 minutes the first time and no more than 3 minutes the second time. No one may automatically speak a third or further time if anyone in the assembly objects.
6. Only Council members are allowed to vote on any motion before the body. Prior to any voting the Department Quartermaster will determine the voting strength based on the number present and voting.
7. Each member of the Council will only be entitled to one (1) vote. 10. All voting will be done by Roll Call Vote.
8. Electronic Attendance: Pursuant to VFW By-Laws, Section 503, this meeting will also allow for virtual attendance using the Zoom Meeting Platform. Each member is responsible for his or her connection to the meeting; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting. To ensure all features are available to the user, each member is responsible for upgrading their zoom app to the latest version.

Yours In Comradeship,

Pete Callaghan  
Judge Advocate  
Department of Pacific Areas



Judge Advocate

**Pete Callaghan**



# VOD/PP/TA CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

The deadline is fast approaching; please make sure to continue hitting up schools and youth organizations to get those last few stragglers on board. Also, please send me the names of your District Chairs.

For All-State, one VoD and one PP needs to be submitted or a \$125 donation for each program on the All-American dashboard. For All-American, one VoD, one PP, and one TA (of any category) or a \$125 donation for each program on the All-American dashboard.

This year's topics are:

**VoD – “Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?”**

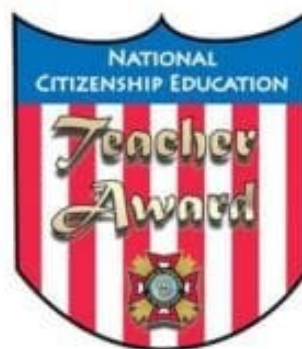
**PP – “My Voice in America’s Democracy?”**

Please get these out to schools, homeschools, and youth centers so that children can start working on them now. I also want to encourage you to work with the schools more to try and get them more involved with the program. One way is to get some teachers to help with the voting as it suggests in the VoD/PP Chairman’s guide.

Deadlines: The initial submission deadline of 31 October has come and gone. Post level winners need to be submitted NLT 24 November, after that, a panel will select one Department level winner for each program. This gives three weeks at the Post and two weeks at the District levels. Please know the rules on what is allowed in the essays. If there is any doubt if a submission may not be valid, please get with me ASAP so we can check and give a youth plenty of time to fix it before it is too late. The last thing I want to do is invalidate an entry.

Yours in comradeship and service,

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



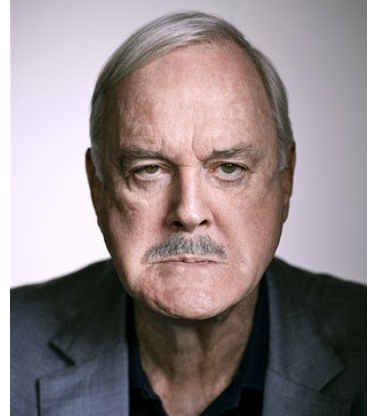
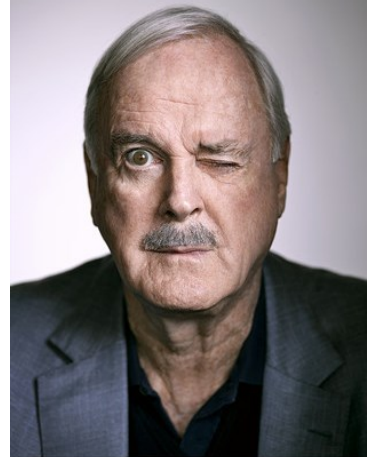
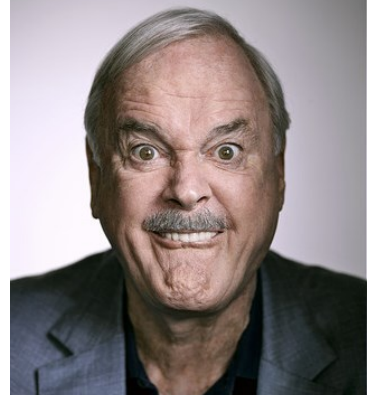
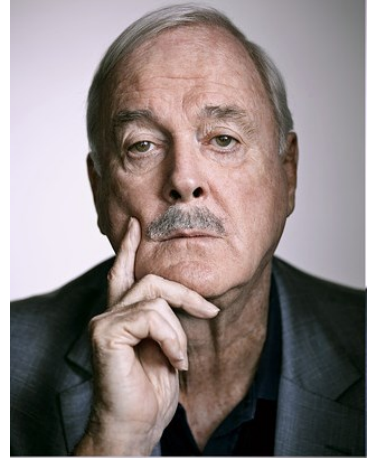
VOD/PP/TA Chairman

**Robert Madison**

## A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR

1. When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
2. To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
3. Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.
4. It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
5. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
6. When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
7. I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
8. I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
9. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
10. If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
11. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
12. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
13. I run like the winded.
14. I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
15. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
16. When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery?
17. I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
18. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."
19. Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.
20. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.
21. My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.

More from John Cleese [HERE](#)



# POW/MIA CHAIRMAN

Greetings Comrades,

In September, the VFW Department of Pacific Areas commemorated Patriot Day and National POW/MIA Recognition Day, both of which are significant for the veteran community.

Patriot Day, observed on September 11th, honors the lives lost during the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93, as well as those who died in rescue efforts. This day serves as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by many.

The third Friday in September is designated as POW/MIA Recognition Day, a time to honor the sacrifices of Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. Prior to 1979, there was no formal recognition for these brave individuals. In 2024, this day was observed on September 20th.

Posts within the Department of Pacific Areas marked these occasions in meaningful and creative ways. For instance, the LCpl Frank C. Allen Memorial Post VFW Post 9723 in District 1 collaborated with the Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1553 for the Kadena Air Base Remembrance Run/Walk in Okinawa, Japan. This event symbolically honored the sacrifices of those who served.

Meanwhile, VFW Robert W. Zaher Post 2485 in District 7 hosted a POW/MIA Missing Man Table ceremony alongside a continental breakfast. The ceremony included a reading of the Missing Man Table script and a toast to the missing. Attendees also viewed "The Great Raid," a film about the WWII POW rescue mission at Cabanatuan, enhancing the observance with historical context.

VFW Mayaguez Memorial Post 11575 in District 3, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, held a joint ceremony for both Patriot Day and National POW/MIA Recognition Day with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Detachment 1. The ceremony was led by Lt. Col. Aaron Thomas, featuring remarks from Chargé d'Affaires Bridgette Walker and VFW DPA Senior Vice Commander Jack Farrell, further emphasizing the importance of these commemorations.

Looking ahead, DPA Posts will observe Veterans Day on November 11, 2024. Initially known as Armistice Day, this day honors military veterans of the United States Armed Forces. It coincides with similar observances in allied countries, marking the end of World War I. The major hostilities concluded at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, when the Armistice with Germany took effect. In 1954, the day was renamed Veterans Day to honor all veterans, not just those from World War I.

Additionally, November is recognized as Military Family Appreciation Month, a time to acknowledge the sacrifices and commitments of military families. Established in 1993 by the U.S. Government, this month-long celebration highlights the vital role military families play in our communities and the nation.

Yours in Comradeship,



James (Jim) Collins  
DPA POW/MIA Chairman



Department of Pacific Areas

POW/MIA Chairman

**James "Jim" Collins**



# SOMETHING TO PONDER

## IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER

Someone asked me the other day if I had my life to live over would I change anything. My answer was no, but then I thought about it and changed my mind.

If I had my life to live over again I would have waxed less and listened more.

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy and complaining about the shadow over my feet, I'd have cherished every minute of it and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was to be my only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained and the sofa faded.

I would have eaten popcorn in the "good" living room and worried less about the dirt when you lit the fireplace.

I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.

I would have burnt the pink candle that was sculptured like a rose before it melted while being stored.

I would have sat cross-legged on the lawn with my children and never worried about grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television ... and more while watching real life.

I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband which I took for granted.

I would have eaten less cottage cheese and more ice cream.

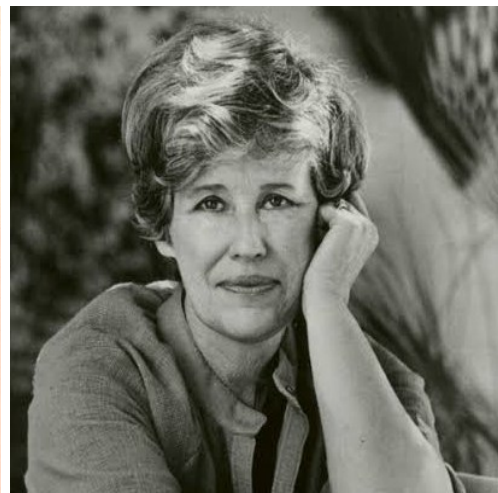
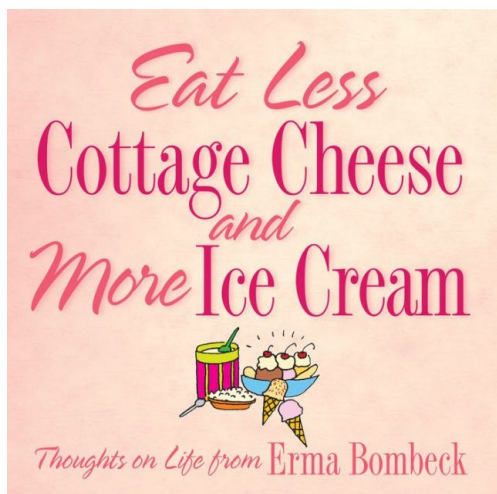
I would have gone to bed when I was sick, instead of pretending the Earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for a day.

I would never have bought ANYTHING just because it was practical/wouldn't show soil/guaranteed to last a lifetime.

When my child kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now, go get washed up for dinner."

There would have been more I love yous ... more I'm sorrys ... more I'm listenings ... but mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute of it ... look at it and really see it ... try it on ... live it ... exhaust it ... and never give that minute back until there was nothing left of it.

From Erma Bombeck's book: *Eat Less Cottage Cheese and More Ice Cream: Thoughts on Life* from Erma Bombeck. Buy it [HERE](#).



# LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Comrades, another busy two months have went by and wow how does the time fly. One way, if you would like to keep track yourself, would be to sign up for the ACTION CORP newsletter. Click this link: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>

As I stated in the last Pacific Time Issue I attended the Fall Legislative conference in Washington D.C. Here are some of the topics I was able to talk and explain to the Congressional Offices, which is covered by the Department of Pacific Areas.

- H.R. 8371 bill (The Elizabeth Dole Act); I explained that this bill would provide health care and benefits for veterans, caregivers, and survivors, something VFW thinks is long due. I ask for both Congressmen Moylan (Guam) and Sablan (Saipan) to look at and consider being a part of this bill as a co-sponsored it. Told them we have support in the Senate side but not much on the House side.
- Unaddressed Toxic Exposures: part of the PACT Act, explained that the VFW is just looking at getting congress to enforce the VA to report all possible existing and added to the list of exposures.
- Exploring Alternative PTSD Treatments: since this would take funding, he said further research would have to be done on it but was receptive on this issue. If any more information can be provided, he would like to be informed.
- S. 740 / H.R. 1139 GUARD VA Benefits Act (Cracking Down on Predatory Claims Companies): Both congressmen have already co-sponsored this bill and I again thanked them for their supporting of this bill.

In addition to our 2 Congressmen, I was invited to attend a meeting with NLS member from Hawaii, Jami Schaefer. This meeting was with Congresswoman Ms. Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R) from American Samoa.

Listened and participated in talks with them about the VFW Fall priority's goals.

Lastly, again I urge each of you to sign up and get the VFW ACTION Alerts. To sign up, just click this link: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>. Lets all show our support and stand with the VFW National Legislative Service (NSL).

Randell E Himes  
DPA Legislative Chairman  
[legdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:legdpa@vfwpacific.org)  
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Legislative Chairman

**Randell Himes**



**2024 PRIORITY GOALS**



**VFW ACTION ALERT**



**ACTION CORPS**



**Sign up today!**

# BIG BUG SQUEAKS

## Grand Commander Himes

(A.K.A., Biggest Big Bug)

“communicate, Communicate, COMMUNICATE”



Randell Himes



Click each Logo above for Websites

Comrades and Cooties, if you were able to attend the 125<sup>th</sup> VFW National Convention, I am sure you had a outstanding time. The **105<sup>th</sup> Supreme Scratch** was held right after, and a lousy time was had by all.

With the year goals almost the same for the DPA and the GPA, I would like to extend my had to all the DPA’s Brother and Sisters. If you are doing the work of the VFW, come and join us in the Grand and help us continue the work of a busy Bee. We are always looking for hard workers to join the Great Honor Degree of the **Military Order of the Cootie**.

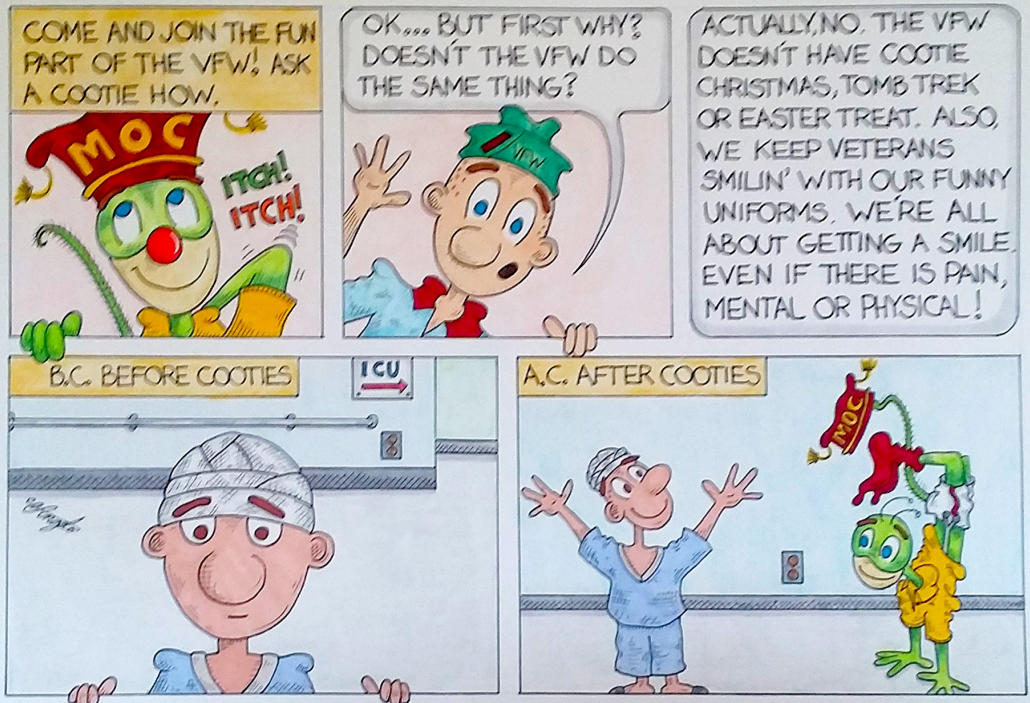
If you think you have what it takes to be a Cootie, drop by the GPA web site by visiting us at <https://mocpacific.org/Default.asp> and check us out.

Now let’s keep doing what we do best by...

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

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

Randell E. Himes  
GPA Biggest Big Bug  
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PT 1 Cootie 1251  
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# SHAWN WATSON FOR VFW NATIONAL JVC 2028

Support  
**Shawn Watson**  
 For VFW National JVC 2028



Shawn's 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of the Cash Calander 2024  
 As of 1 July, there are still 41 drawings.  
 That add up to \$5,484.00 in prizes  
 Tickets are  
**NOW ONLY \$5.00**

### Calendar Ticket Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Post Selling this Calendar: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket Number \_\_\_\_\_

Scan and email ticket stubs to Larry, he will forward  
 info that you want to pay for the tickets to George.  
 His email is [PDCLyons935@gmail.com](mailto:PDCLyons935@gmail.com)

George will contact you directly on how to transfer funds to Shawn's campaign account.

Note if multiple tickets, fill out form once and state how many tickets you want.

Calendar Tickets \$5.00  
**Big Bucks Tickets \$20.00**

Once George verifies that funds have been transferred he will notify me and I place the tickets in the drum at that time.

### Big Bucks Ticket Form

**Support Shawn Watson's Bid for National JVC 2028**  
*Self - Family - Veterans*

**Big Bucks Raffle**

Donation \$20.00 per ticket

1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$5,000.00  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$3,000.00  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$2,000.00

Ticket # .....

Only 1,000 tickets being sold  
 Drawing as soon as all are sold or at the November 2025 Western Conference

Please print clearly

Name: .....

Phone Number: .....

Email Address: .....

Ticket # .....



## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES\*



**January 27 - Signing of Vietnam Peace Accords\*** were a series of agreements signed in 1973 to officially end the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War. These accords were negotiated in Paris, France, and involved the United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and the Viet Cong (the communist forces in South Vietnam). However, the Paris Peace Accords did not lead to a lasting peace in Vietnam. After the U.S. withdrawal, the conflict between North and South Vietnam resumed, ultimately resulting in the reunification of Vietnam under communist control in 1975. The accords remain an



**15 February 1898 U.S.S. *Maine*\*** was a United States Navy ship that sank in Havana Harbor in February 1898, contributing to the outbreak of the Spanish–American War in April. American newspapers, engaging in yellow journalism to boost circulation, claimed that the Spanish were responsible for the ship's destruction. The phrase, "Remember the *Maine*! To hell with Spain!" became a rallying cry for action. Although the *Maine* explosion was not a direct cause, it served as a catalyst that accelerated the events leading up to the war.



**February 28 - Liberation of Kuwait—Operation Desert Storm\*** On February 28, 1991, a U.S.-led operation liberated Kuwait from Iraq following a significant air campaign from February 24 to 28. Upon entry, U.S. and Coalition forces encountered mass surrenders by Iraqi troops. Despite this, pockets of resistance, especially at Kuwait International Airport, led to intense battles as some Iraqi troops were unaware of their retreat order. Most of the fighting occurred in Iraq, not Kuwait, and this operation is a part of the Gulf War.

### Other Important Dates

**1st Tuesday of November – Election Day**

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

**November 21 - Grenada Campaign Ended (1983)**

**December 13 - National Guard Established (1636)**

**December 15 - Iraq War Ended (2011)**

**December 20 – U.S. Space Force Established (2019)**

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

**3rd Monday in January - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

**January 31 - Panama Campaign Ended (1990)**

**3rd Monday of February - Presidents' Day**

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

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