



No one does more for Veterans

"Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed"

Volume XXIX, Number 7

September/October 2026

FREE

Our 2026 Priority Goals

Carrying the Voice of 18 million Veterans

Budget: To fully fund relevant programs for veterans, service members, and their families.

Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs: To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits.

Education, Employment and Transition Assistance: To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service.

Health Care: To ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares.

Military Readiness: To maintain a strong and ready all-volunteer force capable of protecting America interests.

National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA: To fully support the all-volunteer force, protect our nation's citizens and defend American interests around the world,

Click [HERE](#) For Legislative Priorities and 2026 Priority Goals.

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

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**2026
PRIORITY
GOALS**

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



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



COMMANDER'S CALL

Comrades,

The Department is off to an outstanding start this year. **We currently rank 3rd Nationally in membership at more than 93%**, placing us fewer than 900 members from our National goal. Four Posts have already achieved 100% or more, and **Jose C. Calugas Sr. Post 12231** has officially met its National Membership requirement—congratulations to all! Let's keep the momentum going and work together to reach the National goal for every Post, District, and the Department.

Because mentorship is the lifeblood of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, leadership development is also advancing quickly. Just three months into the term, **more than 60% of Post and District Officer training is complete**. This training equips our elected leaders with the current resources, bylaws, and program knowledge needed to lead effectively. I encourage everyone attending these sessions to participate fully and ask thoughtful questions.

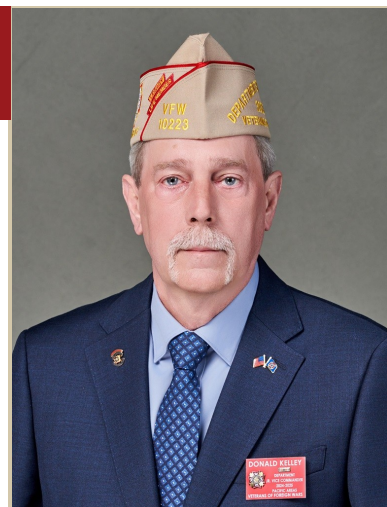
Well-trained officers give our local Posts the tools to mentor, recruit, and retain comrades. I look forward to seeing this leadership in action at our upcoming **Department Mid-Winter Conference this December**, where we will conduct important business, review our mid-year progress, and continue planning for the Department's future.

Officers, this mentorship will do more than keep our Posts open, it will help them thrive as centers of camaraderie and community impact. By sharing our knowledge, we empower the next generation of leaders to step forward.

Let us commit to passing the torch by teaching, training, and mentoring every veteran who needs us. Together, we can build a stronger, more resilient Department of Pacific Areas.

Our **DSO Outreach Program** continues to succeed. The Department DSO recently completed an outreach trip to Japan and is now en route to Guam and Saipan. Additional trips are scheduled for Baguio in October and May, Korea in November and May, and Japan again in April. This program helps VFW members and local veterans file their VA claims correctly—and **at absolutely no cost**.

The best way to defeat predatory "Claim Sharks" is to take away their business. This program is only the beginning. To make this effort lasting, the Department must recruit more Assistant Department Service Officers (ADSOs). If you want to help fellow veterans with their VA claims, **please contact our Department Service Officer today to get involved**.



Department of Pacific Areas

Commander

Don Kelley



COMMANDER'S CALL

As **Veterans Day** approaches, let us honor the achievements and sacrifices of all veterans—past and present—whose service secured the freedoms we enjoy today. I also encourage every Department veteran to support our shared mission by helping fellow veterans in our communities and strengthening the bonds of comradeship.

I urge all Posts and Districts to complete their All-State and All-American requirements early, allowing more time to serve veterans and support the communities we call home.

Across oceans, borders, and cultures, the Department of Pacific Areas continues to demonstrate remarkable resilience.

Our mission is not only to preserve our Posts, but to help them grow through our guiding theme: **“Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed”** through mentorship and top-down training.

“No One Does More for Veterans” starts with each of us.

Together, we live our mission: **“Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed.”**

Respectfully,

Don Kelley
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
“Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed..”



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®



Commander

Don Kelley



DPA BRANDING KIT



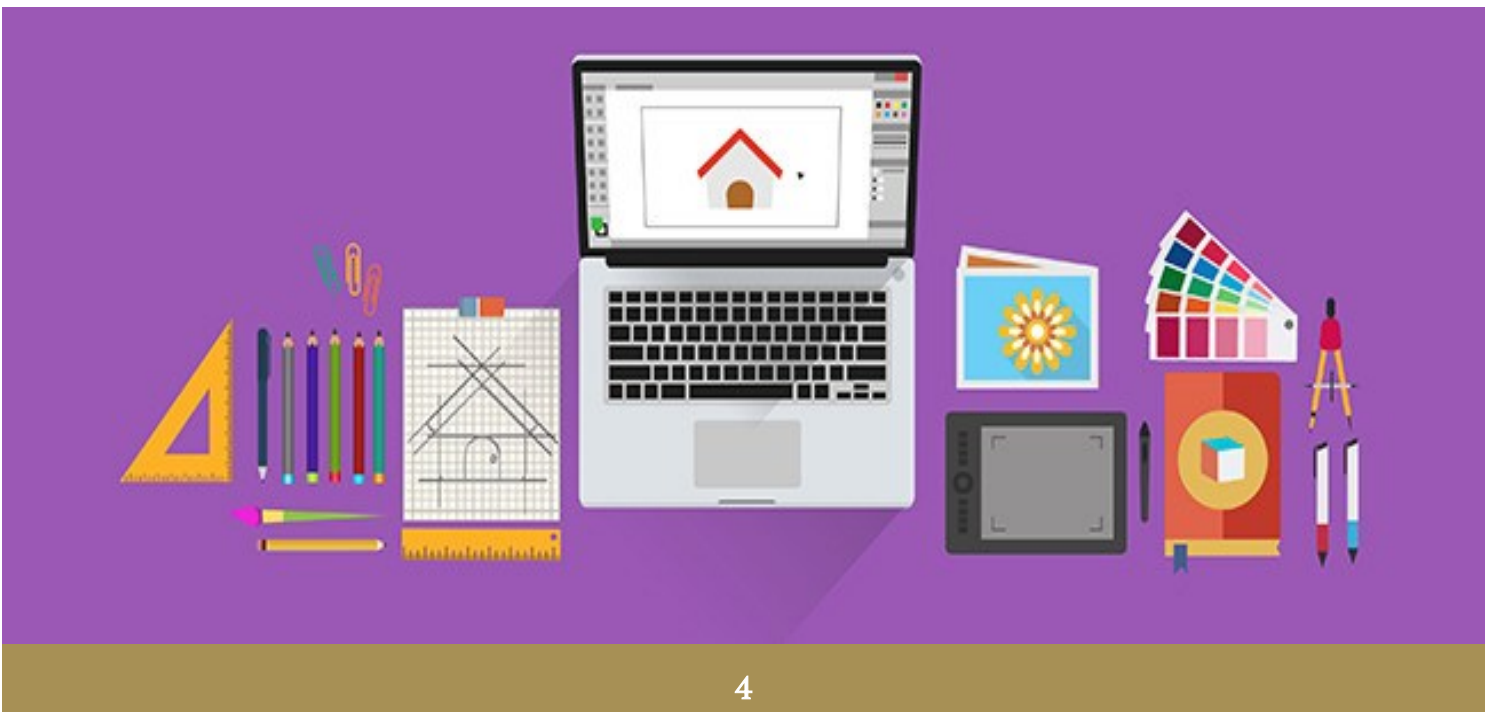
We have created a portal for users to access official artwork, logo's and design guidance. Please click [HERE](#) to access the webpage. You will find links to the following:

[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 pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org.



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS SUCCEED

Greetings Comrades,

I hope everyone that was able to make it to the National Convention had a good time. I wish I was able to make it but, I am still getting settled with my new life in the Philippines. If you have never been to one and have the chance and means to go, I encourage you to do so. I continue to try to meet your expectations as the SVC, please let me know if you need anything; I do work full time but, try to answer within a day. Do not hesitate to poke me if I am missing the ball.

MEMBERSHIP is the life blood of the VFW as numbers speak on Capitol Hill. We need you to get out there and recruit, recruit, recruit, especially with the All-American requirement that the CinC has set. Our numbers are falling fast and we need to get new ones in and train/mentor them to replace us. If you have questions on recruiting, attend one of our National Recruiter, Larry Lyons' Commander Recruiting classes as you will learn from him. I held our first SVC training class on 22 August and have three more scheduled; this training is good and also an All-State requirement. Anyone is able to attend so, if you are interested, join and ask questions. All DPA classes are on the training calendar at [DPA Training](#). Again, if you have any questions on the dashboards or requirements, all you have to do is ask.

The National program book is located at [26-27 National Program Book](#) goes into further detail on the awards.

- ◆ Individual Recruiting awards go to recruiters that hit 5, 10, 15, 25, 50, 75, and 100 members.
- ◆ Early Bird award will go to the top two Posts in each division on 1 Jan.
- ◆ Legacy Life Membership Acquisition awards go to Posts that hit 25, 50, 75, 100, 250, and 500 Legacy life members.
- ◆ Recruiting and Retention award goes to the top two Posts in each division at End-of-Year.
- ◆ Quarterly CIC Challenge awards Posts with the most points earned through membership.
- ◆ For All-American Post commander recognition, the Post must be in the top 20 within the division otherwise, only the Post gets the recognition. For All-American District commander recognition, the District must be in top 10 within the division otherwise, only the District gets the recognition in top 10 within the division otherwise, only the District gets the recognition.

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



Senior Vice Commander

David B. Gley Jr.



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS SUCCEED.

Post All-American Criteria:

- ◆ Posts must meet the divisional membership quota:

Division	Membership	Posts	Quota
1	501 – ---	1054, 9612, 8180, 10033, 10223, 9723, and 2485	103%
2	351 – 500	9555, 9876, 11447, and 3457	104%
3	246 – 350	124, 2917, 9951, 12146, 10249, 9957, and 9985	105%
4	190 – 245	1509 and 9982	106%
5	150 – 189	10217	107%
6	125 – 149	11575	108%
7	105 – 124	12074	109%
8	90 – 104	12163, 12130, and 12231	110%
11	10 – 49	12224	113%

- ◆ Reach 80% retention of Prior year annual members:
 - * Individual Recruiting awards go to recruiters that hit 5, 10, 15, 25, 50, 75, and 100 members.
 - * Retention Rate = $\frac{\text{Prior Year annual Members in Good Standing minus Expired Members}}{\text{Prior Year Annual Members in Good Standing}}$
- ◆ Must have an election report submitted and be in good standing.
- ◆ Meet the following program participation criteria:
 - * Voice of Democracy – 1 entry to District or \$125 donation to the NVS donation link.
 - * Patriots Pen – 1 entry to District or \$125 donation to the NVS donation link.
 - * Teachers Award – 1 entry to District or \$100 donation to the NVS donation link.
 - * Entries submitted to the program dashboard by 31 Jan.
- ◆ National Veterans Service (NVS) program donation of \$125 via the program's dashboard on the NVS (old VMS) donation link.
- ◆ DPAA donation of \$75 via the NVS donation link.
- ◆ Meet the following community service requirements:
 - * Participate in a VFW Day of Service event in May and register by 1 Jun.
 - * Submit at least 1 CSR quarterly (Jul-Sep, Oct-Dec, Jan-Mar, and Apr-Jun) via our Department page.
 - * Show a 5% increase in total community service over last year.
- ◆ Must purchase at least 5 Buddy Poppies per member with a minimum of 500.



Senior Vice Commander

David B. Gley Jr.



Sr. Vice Commander



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS SUCCEED

District All-American Criteria:

- ◆ Membership of 100%+1.
- ◆ Must have an election report submitted and be in good standing.
- ◆ Meet the following program participation criteria:
 - * Voice of Democracy – 1 entry to Department or \$125 donation to the NVS donation link.
 - * Patriots Pen – 1 entry to Department or \$125 donation to the NVS donation link.
 - * Teachers Award – 1 entry to Department or \$100 donation to the NVS donation link.
 - * Entries submitted to the program dashboard by 31 Jan.
- ◆ Must finish in the top 20 Districts in their division.
- ◆ DPAA donation of \$100 via the NVS donation link.

Commander Kelley's All-State program is heavy on mentorship and training at all levels. It will have required training done by December. The training will be provided at least twice from Department Officers to both Districts and Posts.

- ◆ Recruiting from CNR Larry Lyons
- ◆ All-State/All-American Programs and Dashboard from SVC David Gley
- ◆ CSRs from JVC Lou Holub
- ◆ Quartermaster/Trustees from QM George Beck
- ◆ Benefits Advisor from DSO Vern Lask

The Department program book is located at [26-27 Program Book](#) goes into further detail on the awards.

- ◆ Post and District Early Bird membership award ends 10 Dec.
- ◆ 25-member recruiter award by 31 Oct.
- ◆ Individual Recruiting Program awards at every 5 members and additional award at 1-5, 15, 30, 50, 100+, 200+ members.
- ◆ Posts with 500+ members receive a \$400 stipend at every 10 new/reinstated members.
- ◆ Posts with 500 or less members receive a \$400 stipend at every 5 new/reinstated members.
- ◆ Every 5 annual to life conversions, the Post receives a \$250 stipend.

Post All-State Criteria

- ◆ Maintain Nationally approved bylaws.
- ◆ All members responsible for finances or property bonded by 31 Aug.
- ◆ Complete the Department inspection by 31 Dec.
- ◆ Achieve 100%+1 in membership.
- ◆ CDR, SVC, JVC, BA, QM, Trustees attend training NLT 31 Dec.
- ◆ Must have an appointed Benefits Advisor (BA).
- ◆ Must submit all quarterly audits to the Department QM for Jun, Sep, Dec, and Mar. Must be accepted by the Department QM, NLT the final day of the month after the audit: (31 Jul, 31 Oct, 31 Jan, and 30 Apr).
- Voice of Democracy – 1 entry to District or \$125 donation to the NVS donation link.



Senior Vice Commander

David B. Gley Jr.



Sr. Vice Commander



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS SUCCEED.

- * Patriots Pen – 1 entry to District or \$125 donation to the NVS donation link.
- * Teachers Award – 1 entry to District or \$100 donation to the NVS donation link.
- * Entries submitted to the program dashboard by 31 Jan.
- ◆ NVS donation of \$125 via the programs dashboard.
- ◆ Have 1 new or upgraded Legacy Life member.
- ◆ Must purchase 500 Buddy Poppies.
- ◆ Submit a Department award for at least 1 Post nominee to District by 30 Mar.
- ◆ Must purchase a full-page ad in the “*Year in Review*” for \$200.
- ◆ Commander is required to attend all District meetings and present a report; the Post SVC or JVC are the only ones allowed to attend in their stead.

District All-State Criteria

- ◆ Maintain Nationally approved bylaws.
- ◆ All members responsible for finances or property bonded by 31 Aug.
- ◆ Complete the Department inspection by 31 Dec.
 - * All Posts must be inspected as well.
- ◆ Achieve 100%+1 in membership.
- ◆ SVC, BA, QM, Trustees attend training NLT 31 Dec.
- ◆ Must have an appointed Benefits Advisor (BA).
- ◆ Must submit all audits to and be accepted by the Department QM, NLT the final day of the month after the audit is signed.
- ◆ Meet the following program participation criteria:
 - * Voice of Democracy – 1 entry to District or \$125 donation to the NVS donation link.
 - * Patriots Pen – 1 entry to District or \$125 donation to the NVS donation link.
 - * Entries submitted to the program dashboard by 31 Jan.
- ◆ NVS donation of \$125 via the program’s dashboard.
- ◆ Have a new or upgraded Legacy Life member for a number equal to the number of Posts in the District.
- ◆ Submit a Department award for at least 1 District nominee to District by 15 Apr.
- ◆ Each Post must have one member involved in District judging.
- ◆ Must purchase a full-page ad in the “*Year in Review*” for \$200.

I plan on keeping the same schedule as last year with keeping the All-State Dashboard up-to-date by Sunday evening.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

David B. Gley, Jr.

Senior Vice Commander

Department of Pacific Areas

svedpa@vfw-pacific.org

dbgley@gmail.com

“Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed..”



Senior Vice Commander

David B. Gley Jr.



Sr. Vice Commander



JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS SUCCEED.

Comrades 2026-2027 term is well underway Post & District “AS and AA strategies” should be in place, Dist. Commanders & Officers supporting Post Commanders & Officers achieving their goals by the Mid-Winter COFA to avoid any last-minute scrambles. Department training activities & dates are established and ongoing, Post and District inspections, SO & recruiting activities in force, with Students headed back to schools its Essay contest season.

CSRs: Training sessions continue with updated table below, appreciate the Q&A session and continue to be reminded if the activity benefits the community providing, donating gifts / services, volunteering and / or giving information it is a CSR; If the activity benefits the Post meaning receiving funds, services or recruiting it is not a reportable CSR.

I will continue to review each activity subjectively and its promising to note most activities are reported correctly very few rejected. If you need any help, please feel free to contact me jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org; or refer to the VFW CSR Best Practices.

-We plan 2 more training dates in September see dates and times below.

- ALL-AMERICAN: minimum 1 CSR per quarter (1 Jul-30 Jun)
- ALL-STATE: minimum 8 CSRs per quarter or 2 / month (1 Jul -30 Jun)

Overall Post Total Impact shall increase by 5%. review the AA dashboard monthly to ensure the Total Impact is achieving the 5% growth target

Training Dates for **Post JVC's** VIA Google Meets: (others are welcome)

PROGRAMS: We should be engaging with Schools, Scouts, ROTC, CAP, and Emergency

Wed 12 August 2026, (1hr) 16:00 Thai/Cambodia +1 17:00 Aus, PI & Taiwan +2 18:00 Japan (OKI) & Korea +3 19:00 Guam / Saipan	Sat 22 August 2026, (1hr) 12:00 Thai/Cambodia +1 13:00 Aus, PI & Taiwan +2 14:00 Japan (OKI) & Korea +3 15:00 Guam / Saipan
Wed 09 Sep 2026, (1hr) 16:00 Thai/Cambodia +1 17:00 Aus, PI & Taiwan +2 18:00 Japan (OKI) & Korea +3 19:00 Guam / Saipan	Changed to Sat 26 Sep 2026, (1hr) 12:00 Thai/Cambodia +1 13:00 Aus, PI & Taiwan +2 14:00 Japan (OKI) & Korea +3 15:00 Guam / Saipan

Services agencies now to promote the scholarships and awards that the VFW offers.

VOD/PP (AS / AA Requirement) – 1 entry for each or donate \$125. Post and District nominees due to Chairman or payment to the NVS donation link on the AA Dashboard (this also includes the payment for the Teachers Award) by 7 Dec 2026. –refer to the “VOD/PP Guide”.

Action Required: Contact VOD/PP Chairman Bradley E. Harzman early so he can get your post “online program access”. Each Post/District Chairman must test their access and report any issues promptly for quick resolution. vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org;

• **Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award**; Due to the Chairman by 7 Dec 2026 – refer to the “Teacher Award Guide”



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander



Jr. Vice Commander

VFW GUIDE FOR
COMMUNITY SERVICE
BEST PRACTICES



JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS SUCCEED.

- **Updates to VMS regarding the 2026-27 Program Year.** Donating to NVS and DPAA (new for 2026-27) can only be done via the Dashboard by going to the link “NVS Donation”. For the 2026-27 Program Year, \$125 donation to NV, \$75 donation to DPAA meets the eligibility criteria for AA. Donations must be received by June 30, 2027.
 - **Public Servant and Safety Awards;** Departments may submit up to five nominees for the following awards in each Department: National Law Enforcement Award, Firefighter Award, Emergency Medical Technician Award, 911 Dispatcher Award, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician (E.O.D.T.) Award Due to me DPA JVC by 1 Jan 2027 – refer to “Instructions”
 - **Scouting:** Due to Scouting Chairmen Comrade Walter Fahnestock by 1 Apr 2027, CAP, and ROTC Awards – refer to the “Scouting & Youth Activities Guide”
 - **Day of Service Event** in the month of May (All-American Requirement) – Post shall register prior to 15 May 2027 at “DoS Registration”, Don’t wait, select your activity and date by mid-winter COFA, plenty of time for planning/ coordination etc.
- Dept. Awards:** AS requirement: nominate at least one awardee at both Post and District level: Post should appoint an Awards Chairman to track achievements throughout the Year, start now. Award submissions from Districts are due to me DPA JVC by 15 Apr 2027, provide your score sheet showing a vote from each Post Commander and one additional Post member. – refer to “DPA Awards Page”.
- Don’t forget about the **Community Service Award** which are due to me DPA JVC NLT 01 Apr 2027 – reference “Community Service Award”
- Buddy Poppy:** The AS-AA requirement is to order 5 Buddy Poppies per member (min 500). If you have any questions, please contact DPA QM George Beck at gmd-pa@vfpacific.org; — refer to the “Buddy Poppy Guide”

Month of November “Veterans in the Classroom”. VFW / Auxiliary members are encouraged to volunteer in their schools to talk about their military and home front experiences. Invite your local military recruiter or Active Duty member to join, additional information can be found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairperson’s Guide.

Let’s continue to build on our success forging a strong, sustainable Dept. by mentoring future leaders, have a backup for every position to ensure continuity and growth. I am looking forward to attending JVC Training in Kansas City 01 -04 Oct & Western Conference meeting in Phoenix 05-06 Nov spending the Month of Oct. states side.

“Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed”

Louis S. Holub
Junior Vice Commander
jvcdpa@vfpacific.org

“Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed..”



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

Lou Holub



Jr. Vice Commander

**VFW GUIDE FOR
COMMUNITY SERVICE
BEST PRACTICES**



DPA QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

I would like to thank all Posts and Districts for submitting their bond applications in a timely manner, allowing me ample time to process them before the deadline. All should have received their 2026-2027 bonds. If you haven't, let me know and I will send it to you.

Buddy Poppies, some of you have already purchased for you posts, GREAT. For All-State, each post must purchase (or donate) 500 poppies, they must be ordered through me. The order form can be found on the DPA web page under the PROGRAMS tab, look for "BUDDY POPPY". Click the link and scroll down below the graphic and click on Order Form "**HERE**". Please fill out the form fully, transfer the appropriate funds to the DPA NFCU account, and send the order form to me at qmdpa@vfwpacific.org. Verify that the address is not a restricted address as this will delay your order while I attempt to contact you for the required delivery address.

Trustee Report of Audit. Great job for the first audits for this term. All posts and all but one district have submitted their Apr-June 2026 audits. Audits must be emailed to me at qmdpa@vfwpacific.org and accepted prior to the due dates. When I receive an audit, I will review it and accept it, or return it with the reason for non-acceptance. Audit submission is a VFW National and All-State requirement and posts that don't make the deadlines, won't make the cut. The districts no longer have a quarterly deadline for submission to be All-State eligible, but must submit audits to cover the entire year. Post QM's, put the following required dates on your calendar:

Jul-Sep 2025 audit is due to me by Posts - 31 Oct 26

Oct-Dec 2025 audit is due to me by Posts - 31 Jan 27

Jan-Mar 2026 audit is due to me by Posts - 31 Apr 27

When sending me email please use the qmdpa@vfwpacific.org email address. This will help me keep an accurate record of all transactions received. This is important to remember when sending your quarterly audits, ordering buddy poppies, or any other QM services. I say again, please use the qmdpa@vfwpacific.org email address. This will avoid confusing me when I have to forward your mail to my official mail, now it is from me in the "From" line and the subject doesn't always help me identify who/or what it pertains.

If you have any questions on any aspect of the quartermaster duties, please reach out to me. I am here to help, and will do my best to address your concerns.

George E. Beck Jr.
DPA Quartermaster



Quartermaster

George E. Beck Jr.



Quartermaster

INTRODUCTION

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

DPA ADJUTANT

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS SUCCEED.

Comrades,

We've kicked off a new VFW year with remarkable things happening around the Pacific Areas. Mandatory training is well underway with a few kinks in our system being worked out. Please continue to keep in touch with me about any issues that I can try to smooth out to make your jobs easier. A few reminders follow:

- All official correspondence will be sent to Districts and Posts using DPA Webmail. Please ensure that you have access, check it frequently, and that you forward emails to the relevant officer for reply or action.
- If your District or Post Election reports and GO1 change, please email the update to me asap.
- Ensure you have a copy of DD214s for all Elected & Appointed officers on file.
- Email a copy of your 2027 Convention Delegate Letters to me.

Note: Many elected and appointed officers in Election Reports show an old U.S. address. Please ask your QM to update addresses and phone numbers in OMS when members transfer into your Post so Election Reports come out correct.

Yours in Comradeship,

Brian Hamic

Adjutant

adjdpa@vfwpacific.org

Department of Pacific Areas

"Veterans Helping Veterans Succeed."



Adjutant

Brian Hamic



Adjutant



NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Greetings Comrades,

The National Council met on 21-22 August in Kansas City, I attended as your National Council Member. This is an annual meeting that occurs about one month after the annual convention. The purpose of the meeting it to vote on the budget for the new term, amend as necessary the Manual of Procedure and or the Ritual, vote on appointments, and discuss matters of importance to the governance of the organization.

Here is an update on a few issues that were discussed.

- There is an ongoing upgrade to our Washington, D.C. office building that when completed will be a landmark for veterans in Washington, D.C.. In case you are not aware, it is located directly across the street from the U.S. Capitol.
- The 2027 Podium Edition will be published within the next two-three weeks and will be available for purchase through the VFW store..
- Two new committees were formed:

1. Future VFW Committee. The purpose of the committee will be to explore and examine issues and solutions that will create a VFW in 2026 that addresses “Why should the next generation of veterans choose to belong to the VFW:.

2. Leadership and Governance Committee. This committee will explore and examine issues and solutions regarding future leadership development and organizational governance.

We are asking leaders and members from the Department, Districts, and Posts to consider the current state of the VFW and arrive at recommendations as to how we should look during this new term as well as strategize about how our organization should look 5, 10, 20 years from now. You can send your thoughts and recommendations to me and I will forward to the appropriate committee or bring to the National Council at large for discussion.



Ken Stein



VA
Foreign Medical
Program (FMP)



NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

As your National Council Member I spoke during the meeting regarding the unique challenges we face in the Pacific, and how we deal with various regulations and social mores in ten different countries and territories. It is important for the leadership of the VFW to understand programs and directives that are applicable in CONUS may not be functional or appropriate in the Pacific.

We will continue to represent and advocate for the DPA, as well as discuss and legislate issues that affect the entire Veterans of Foreign Wars organization.

Any suggestions, comments, or initiatives you have that could improve the VFW please contact me.

Yours in comradeship, service, and with best wishes,



Kenneth A. Stein

National Council Member 2022-2028
Department of Pacific Areas



National Council Member

Ken Stein



VA |
Foreign Medical
Program (FMP)



CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrades,

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as your Department of Pacific Areas Chaplain for the 2026–2027 year. I sincerely thank our Department Commander and the membership for the confidence placed in me. I look forward to serving each of you and supporting our Districts, Posts, Auxiliaries, and families throughout the coming year.

As Veterans of Foreign Wars members, we are committed not only to serving our communities but also to caring for one another. One of the most meaningful ways we fulfill that obligation is through regular **Buddy Checks**. A simple phone call, text message, email, or visit can brighten someone's day and may even save a life. I encourage every Post to make Buddy Checks a regular part of your monthly activities and to ensure that no comrade feels forgotten.

As your Chaplain, I ask each of you to remember those among us who are ill, recovering from surgery, experiencing hardship, grieving the loss of loved ones, or facing loneliness. Your prayers, compassion, and personal outreach demonstrate the true spirit of the VFW.

Throughout the year, I encourage every Post Chaplain to stay engaged with the National VFW Chaplain's monthly training opportunities. These sessions provide valuable information, resources, and best practices that help us better serve our veterans, families, and communities. Continuing education strengthens our ability to fulfill our mission with excellence.

One of my responsibilities is maintaining our Department's TAPS records and ensuring that every departed comrade is honored with dignity and respect. I respectfully ask each Post Quartermaster and Chaplain to submit TAPS information promptly whenever a member passes away. Accurate and timely reporting ensures that every comrade receives the recognition they have earned through their service and membership.

As we begin this new VFW year, let us recommit ourselves to the principles of **Honor, Service, and Fellowship**. Together we can strengthen our Posts, support our communities, mentor the next generation of veterans, and continue building an even stronger Department of Pacific Areas.

May God bless each of you, your families, our deployed service members, our veterans, and the United States of America.

Please never hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you or your Post.

In Comradeship,

Walter Joseph Fahnestock Jr.
Department Chaplain
Department of Pacific Areas



Department of Pacific Areas

Chaplain

Walter J. Fahnestock Jr.



*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 chil-
dren of our depart-
ed Comrades, we
beseech Thee, and
with Thine own ten-
derness console
and comfort those
who are bereaved."
Amen*

DEPARTMENT SURGEON

Congratulations to all newly elected and appointed officers who attended the 60th Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) Convention and Grand of the Pacific (GPA) 57th MOC Grand Scratch, Pattaya City, Thailand to recognize the hard work our Comrades in achieving the VFW National goals at the Department, Districts and Posts, making All State-All American. As another term has ended, let's focus on 2026-2027 being a successful term. As we start this new term I would like to remind everyone to stay healthy and stay alert.

“Key health alerts across Asia include severe mosquito-borne illnesses, respiratory outbreaks, and climate-related occupational hazards. Travelers and residents in [their] region {s} should take preventive measures against Dengue, Measles, and Heat Stress.”

- **Dengue Fever:** Activity is surging across Southeast Asia. Case numbers are notably higher in Vietnam. Travelers should use repellent and wear protective clothing to prevent mosquito bites.
- **Measles:** Travelers returning to countries like Australia from Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines have sparked localized alerts. **Ensure your MMR (Measles-Mumps-Rubella) vaccinations are up to date.**
- **Extreme Heat:** Heat stress management has become a critical public health concern. Rising temperatures and extreme weather events are significantly impacting worker well-being and general health across the continent.
- **Local Weather & Power Alerts:** In the Philippines, communities are monitoring tropical storms, while the Visayas gride has been frequently placed under alerts due to supply constraints.

For more specific, localized advisories at your exact [local area or] destination, refer to the [World Health Organization Western Pacific](#) or the [CDC Travel Health Notices](#). If you are planning to travel or live in a local area and want updates for a specific city, please let these agencies know where you are located or traveling to. They can provide **tailored disease** prevention guidelines and local advisories.

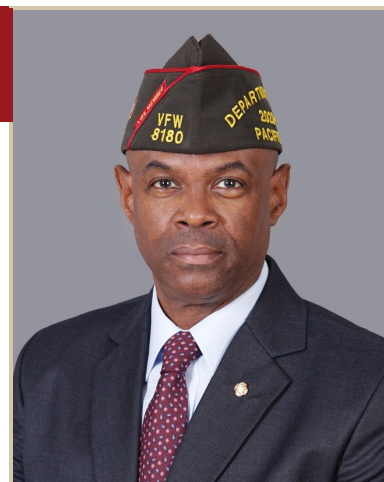
Finally, 2026-2027 Awareness Months, Appreciation weeks & National Days features a wide array of global health, social, and cultural observances. The most prominent designated months span critical issues ranging from mental health and cancer prevention to diversity, heritage, and well-being.

July: Nutrition Month, National Hemochromatosis Awareness Month, and Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month.

August: National Breastfeeding Month, National Immunization Awareness Month, and Sight-Saving Month.

Note: If **You** or there is a Veteran in “**CRISIS**” any time of day or night, you may call the Veterans Crisis Line; Philippines, you can dial #6982 on your cell phone (available on Smart, Globe, and PLDT carriers). For additional contact methods or to chat online, you can visit the official [Veterans Crisis Line](#) website.

Yours in Comradeship
Robert Chatman
DPA Surgeon



Department of Pacific Areas

Surgeon

Robert Chatman



Surgeon



IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Comrades,

As we begin a new membership year, and while Membership Statistics may still be unavailable, now is the time to get a head start and focus on membership. More than ever, our voices need to be heard on Capitol Hill, and the larger our membership, the louder and more influential that voice becomes. Congratulations to Certified National Recruiter Larry Lyons and all our recruiters who have already hit the ground running. Your dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated.

The push to pass the **Major Richard Star Act** has reached a critical moment. Discharge Petition No. 22 has now reached 217 signatures—just one signature short of the 218 required to help clear a path for the House to consider H.R. 2102 as a standalone bill. The VFW continues to urge advocates to contact their representatives and ask them to take the next step needed to advance this important legislation. Depending on your representative's current position, thank them for signing the petition and encourage their continued support, ask current co-sponsors to sign the petition, or urge those who have not yet acted to co-sponsor H.R. 2102 and sign the petition.

Thousands of combat-injured veterans have waited long enough for Congress to end the unfair offset that prevents them from receiving both the military retirement pay and VA disability compensation they earned through their service and sacrifice. One more signature moves this petition forward. Let your voice be heard by your elected representatives. We cannot afford to sit idly by and allow the continued erosion or disregard of veterans' benefits—both today and for future generations.

As we move forward into this year, let us throw our full support behind Department Commander Don Kelly and his leadership team as they work toward the goals established for our Department. Whether your focus is training future leaders, ensuring program participation and payments, strengthening our Posts, or recruiting new members, each of us has a role to play in the success of the Department of Pacific Areas.

Our Mid-Winter Conference is already on the calendar for December in Cebu City, Philippines. Let us get moving and give ourselves every reason to celebrate our successes when we gather there. If you have never experienced a Department conference, I strongly encourage you to attend. While technology allows us to conduct business through video and virtual meetings, one thing it can never replace is the camaraderie, fellowship, and friendships that are strengthened when we come together in person.

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of veterans, their families, and our communities. My best wishes go out to you and your families, and I look forward to seeing you in Cebu. Yours in Comradeship and Service to Veterans,

Jack Farrell

Immediate Past Department Commander
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Pacific Areas



Immediate Past DPA Cdr

John "Jack" Farrell



JUDGE ADVOCATE

Comrades,

Let's start the year off on the right foot. All Commanders and JAGs please take the time to download the VFW Guide to Disciplinary Actions.

This will help you handle issues that may arise in your Posts or Districts. Remember you are dealing with an all-volunteer organization, and you are no longer in the military. So, sit down and deal with your issue at your level. The Department and National must deal with many Posts and members, and you have been elected to the duty of a leadership role.

Asking for help with how to do is welcome, but the actual issue at hand has been delegated to the level at which it has occurred. National is not notified on every little detail that happens in your Post or District. Which leads me to this, the Chain of Command. The first line of command is the Post Commander, Senior Vice and Junior Vice with your JAG being their advisor. The second line of command is the District Commander, Senior Vice and Junior Vice with the JAG being their advisor. The third line of command is the Department Commander, Senior Vice and Junior Vice with the JAG being their advisor.

Once you have exhausted all those positions and feel that your issue has not been handled then you can notify National for help with it. Reason being is the same as when you were active duty, when you had an issue in your section you didn't call the Pentagon.

EVERY complaint to National will automatically get kicked down to the DPA CDR, then he will kick it down to the District CDR, who will then you guessed it -- kick it to the Post CDR to handle. Lowest level is where it needs to be fixed, why let the world know your dirty laundry. BTW is already early in the term and on day 4 CDR Kelley already had a message from National about an issue that should be handled by the Post.

Remember we are all in this to help veterans, not here to punish them.

Warren "Max" Maxson
Judge Advocate
Department of Pacific Areas



Judge Advocate

Warren "Max" Maxson



Official VFW Cover



New Ball Cap Style



DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Comrades,

Greetings! It is inspection season again and we are off and running. I'd like to thank DPA Commander Kelley for appointing me to the position of DPA Inspector for the 2026-2027 year. Inspections are an annual requirement and in order for your post to be designated an ALL STATE Post, the inspection must be completed on time.

Specific related inspection dates are as follows:

- 31 December 2026: Inspections must be completed and reported to the Department Inspector to meet ALL-STATE requirements.
- 31 January 2027: Department inspection report submitted to DPA Commander.
- 30 March 2027: Inspections must be completed for the Posts and District to maintain good standing in the Department and within the VFW.

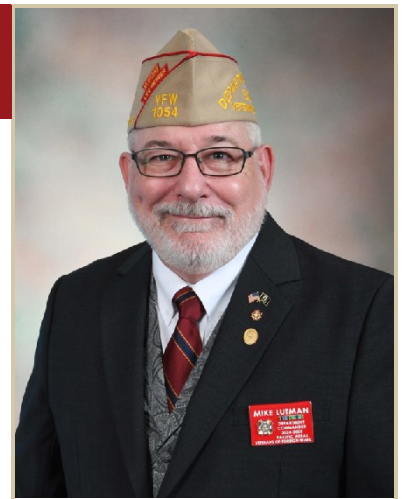
Attached is our status. Note that CDR Kelley's Inspection Procedures for this term include a requirement where the Department Inspector will determine whether a follow-up inspection is needed, so early completion is highly encouraged.

DPA INSPECTIONS 2026-2027									
DISTRICT	DIST CDR	ASST DPA INSPECTOR	ASSISTANT DISTRICT INSPECTOR	PLANNED DISTRICT INSPECTION DATE	DISTRICT INSPECTOR	POST	POST CDR	POST INSPECTOR	PLANNED INSPECTION DATE
2	Albert Luera	Randy Himes	N/A	COMPL 22 AUG	HIMES	1054 Walter Fahnestock	Randy Himes	Randy Himes	22-Aug
						9555 Anthony Cohns	Randy Himes	Randy Himes	29-Aug
						9612 Charlie Brown	Caleb Whitaker	Caleb Whitaker	01-Oct
3	Mike Napsey	K.A. Brady	N/A	BRADY		8180 Robert Chatman	Larry Lyons	Larry Lyons	15-Sep
						9985 Lewis Scruggs	K.A. Brady	K.A. Brady	06-Sep
						10033 Sanders Jones	K.A. Brady	K.A. Brady	09-Oct
						10223 Kha Nguyen	K.A. Brady	K.A. Brady	12-Sep
4	Mike Cooperman	Gary Kidd	Dave Lomeli	LOMEI		9723 Cortez Price	GARY KIDD or DAVE LOMEI	GARY KIDD or DAVE LOMEI	07-Oct
						9957 John J. Kowatch	GARY KIDD or DAVE LOMEI	GARY KIDD or DAVE LOMEI	20-Sep
						10249 Perry F. Jones	GARY KIDD or DAVE LOMEI	GARY KIDD or DAVE LOMEI	17-Oct
						11575 Gary Kidd	GARY KIDD or DAVE LOMEI	GARY KIDD or DAVE LOMEI	14-Nov
						12146 Patrick Brooks	GARY KIDD or DAVE LOMEI	GARY KIDD or DAVE LOMEI	12-Sep
5	Carl Manchester	Steve Salvesen	N/A	PLANNED 21 NOV	SALVESEN	9676 Emanuel Garnuccio	Steve Salvesen	Steve Salvesen	13-Oct
						9951 Thomas Friend	Harvey Gould	Harvey Gould	14-Nov
						10217 Kirk Reed	Tim Stowal	Tim Stowal	12-Oct
						10274 Jason Logan	Tim Stowal	Tim Stowal	07-Nov
						12163 Joseph Ritacca	Steve Salvesen	Steve Salvesen	18-Oct
6	Gary Hendrix	John Pangolinan	N/A	PANGOLINAN		1509 Lonnie Clark	John Pangolinan	John Pangolinan	
						2917 Brian Merenda	John Pangolinan	John Pangolinan	
						3457 Dennis Matsumoto	John Pangolinan	John Pangolinan	
7	Janet Alford	Roscoe McGlynn	N/A	PLANNED 17 OCT	MYGLYNN	124 Jonathan Estoque	Roscoe McGlynn	Roscoe McGlynn	28-Nov
						2485 Brian Hamric	Roscoe McGlynn	Roscoe McGlynn	10-Aug
						9992 Garrett Bridges	Roscoe McGlynn	Roscoe McGlynn	28-Nov
						11447 Troy Derby	Roscoe McGlynn	Roscoe McGlynn	01-Oct
						12130 David Aurringer	Roscoe McGlynn	Roscoe McGlynn	17-Oct
						12224 Roscoe McGlynn	Troy Derby	Troy Derby	01-Oct
						12231 Edward Fern	Roscoe McGlynn	Roscoe McGlynn	09-Sep

After careful review of MOP Sections 418(a)(11) and 518(a)(9), I have allowed our DISTRICT INSPECTORS to inspect their own DISTRICT. As they are entrusted to carefully and thoroughly implement inspection guidance IAW the inspection form and the MOP at the Post level, there is no expectation that would not extend to inspecting their own Districts. If any District Inspector feels they would be better served inspected by a different District Inspector, I will make that assignment as requested. Again, the idea here is to streamline inspections, reduce geographic coordination challenges and reduce an already crowded Zoom/Google collaboration schedule.

Remember that the purpose of inspections by DPA is to ensure that Districts and Posts are operating in accordance with National & DPA By-laws pursuant to our Congressional Charter. Please email all questions, concerns and reports to me at inspdpa@vfwpacific.org and CC to tlamguy@gmail.com.

Yours in Comradeship,
Mike Lutman
DPA Inspector



Judge Advocate

Michael D. Lutman



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.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

DSO PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department of Pacific Areas Service Program continues to deliver strong support across the region. Each month, the DPA team assists **over 300 veterans and dependents**, filing more than **100 claims**.

District and Post Commanders are reminded to ensure their Post Benefits Advisors submit monthly reports. These reports document the impact of our work and highlight community needs. **Submit PBA reports no later than the 10th of each month to dpa.dso72@gmail.com.**

OUTSTANDING PBA REPORT – POST 9985

Post 9985 assisted **over 3,030 veterans, spouses, widows, and dependents** during June. **Thank you, PBA Stephen M. Tharp.**

“During the reporting period, I devoted 33 volunteer hours (and 13 hours of travel time) at Camp Casey, Korea, in my role as the Retired Soldier Casualty Assistance Officer, as recorded in the Army Volunteer Management Information System. This included one special trip to Camp Humphreys to help a widow solve a financial issue. My efforts focused on assisting surviving spouses with completing Social Security paperwork and tax returns.”

Thank you to all who continue to serve our veterans.

DSO OUTREACH TRAVEL SCHEDULE (2026–2027)

The DSO will conduct face-to-face outreach throughout DPA Districts to assist with claims filing. VSO presence will be available in Korea, Japan, Saipan, Guam, and the Philippines.

KOREA

- **November 15–21, 2026** Arrive Nov 15 • Outreach Nov 16–20 (Mon–Fri) • Depart Nov 21
- **May 09–15, 2027** Arrive May 09 • Outreach May 10–14 (Mon–Fri) • Depart May 15

PHILIPPINES (Baguio)

- **October 25–28, 2026** Arrive Oct 25 • Outreach Oct 26–27 (Mon–Tue) • Depart Oct 28
- **May 02–05, 2027** Arrive May 02 • Outreach May 03–04 (Mon–Tue) • Depart May 05

JAPAN

- **September 13–19, 2026** Arrive Sep 13 • Outreach Sep 14–18 (Mon–Fri) • Depart Sep 19
- **April 04–10, 2027** Arrive Apr 04 • Outreach Apr 05–09 (Mon–Fri) • Depart Apr 10



DSO Pacific Areas

Vernon Lask



Service Officer



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DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

SAIPAN

- **September 20–23, 2026** Arrive Sep 20 • Outreach Sep 21–22 (Mon–Tue) • Depart Sep 23
- **April 10–14, 2027** Arrive Apr 10 • Outreach Apr 12–13 (Mon–Tue) • Depart Apr 14

GUAM

- **September 23–26, 2026** Arrive Sep 23 • Outreach Sep 24–25 (Thu–Fri) • Depart Sep 26
- **April 14–17, 2027** Arrive Apr 14 • Outreach Apr 15–16 (Thu–Fri) • Depart Apr 17

IMPORTANT

To ensure access to your file during outreach, please submit **VA Form 21-22 (POA)**. If you are not currently signed up with a DPA VSO, email your form to dpa.dso72@gmail.com.

THANK YOU TO ALL PBAs AND VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all Post Benefits Advisors and volunteers who continue to assist veterans. Your dedication ensures that veterans and their families receive the benefits, support, and advocacy they deserve.

DPA DSO PBA TRAINING PROGRAM (2026–2027)

Training Dates

- Wednesday, **September 09, 2026**
- Wednesday, **October 07, 2026**
- Saturday, **November 14, 2026**

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Wednesdays – September 09 & October 07, 2026

- 4:00 p.m. — Thailand, Cambodia
- 5:00 p.m. — Philippines, Western Australia
- 6:00 p.m. — Japan, Korea
- 7:00 p.m. — Guam

A Zoom meeting notice will be sent to District and Post Advisors.



DSO Pacific Areas

Vernon Lask



2025

Post Benefits

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DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

DPA DSO / ADSO CONTACT LIST

Department Service Officer

- **Vernon Lask** dpa.dso72@gmail.com • OGC # 57444

Assistant Department Service Officers

Japan

- **Earl Jackson** — gysgtjackson2001@gmail.com • OGC # 60714

Guam

- **Genelyn Paz** — GuamVSO@proton.me • OGC # 57509

Thailand

- **Richard Bronson** — richard.j.bronson59@gmail.com • OGC # 54942
- **Michael Clark** — umpyclark@gmail.com • OGC # 39203

Philippines

- **Tony Ritchie** — tonyritchie13@gmail.com • OGC # 53922
- **Steve Perkins** — pso.post2485@gmail.com • OGC # 59451
- **Quan Smith** — pso.vfw2485q@gmail.com • OGC # 59750
- **Terry Robbins** — tlobbins1976@yahoo.com • OGC # 60713
- **Michael Castle** — ml.castle21@icloud.com • OGC # 60712

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



DSO Pacific Areas

Vernon Lask



Service Officer



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LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Comrades, the Fall Legislative conference will be starting on 12 September 2026

I have requested our face-to-face meetings with both of our assigned Congressional Representatives of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). These meetings have been assigned and I have accepted the appointment for this trip.

The NSL team in D.C. is still working on the VFW Priority Goals. However, they are still working hard on getting it done. Currently we are still carrying / holding the line

on the **H.R.9237 - Take Care of America's Veterans Act**. This bill contains some of the following bills. If you want to read on each bill just **CLICK** on the **H.R #** it will take you to each one.

[H.R. 9022](#), **Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2027**

[H.R. 8595](#) **National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2027**

[H.R. 9237](#) **Take Care of America's Veterans Act**

[H.R. 1181](#) **Protecting Privacy in Purchases Act**

The NLS office, it's officially online and live the **VFW Voices of Service – Stories in Action**.

Story Bank submission link: <https://forms.gle/3R4toepnSpDFLpvU6>

Please check out the link and get your story heard.

As I am always asking for everyone to sign up for membership to the Weekly **ACTION CORP** newsletter. Please consider receiving the weekly information to your email box.

Signing up for the **ACTION CORP** newsletter by Click this link: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>. Doing so will get you updates on the VFW Priority Bills.

Randell E Himes
DPA Legislative Chairman
National Legislative Committee
legislative@vfwpacific.org
rehimes@gmail.com
(Voice & Text) 1-815-408-2454



Randell Himes



If you are interested in keeping track of these bills, sign up for the ACTION CORP newsletter. Click this link: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>. Doing so will get you updates on the VFW Priority Bills.

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VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN

Comrades, greetings, I have once again been tasked with the pleasure of being the Departments National Home Chairman. This year for both sides, VFW and MOC.

If your Post makes any Donations to the National Home please let me know in a email to nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org or rehimes@gmail.com as so I can track them for the DPA Commander Don.

Click here to go to the National Home Donation Page.

<https://vfwnationalhome.org/support/donate/#form>

If you are wanting to make a Donation and are having a difficult time please let me know and I will contact the National Home on your behalf and try to get it resolved.

The NH exists so veteran and military families do not face that journey alone.

They provide a place of safety, stability, and understanding—where children can grow, parents can heal, and families can begin again. Through compassionate support and comprehensive services, we help families move forward with dignity, resilience, and renewed hope.

Yours in Comradeship,

Randell E. Himes

nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org

rehimes@gmail.com

<https://www.vfwnationalhome.org/>



VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN
Every child deserves a happy family



Randell Himes



POW / MIA CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

Each year, the Third Friday of September is observed as the **POW/MIA Recognition Day**. This year, it falls on **September 18th**. It is not a passive observance. It is a call to action for all of us to renew our nation's commitment to account for those who did not come home.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day originated from the advocacy of military families following the Vietnam War, leading to an official 1979 proclamation by President Jimmy Carter. It honors former prisoners of war and those still missing in action.

In order to comprehend the importance of this movement, all you need to do is look at the overwhelmingly large number of Americans who are listed as POW/MIAs.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency indicates **more than 81,600 Americans remain missing** from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Out of the more than 81,600 missing, 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea (i.e. ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.).

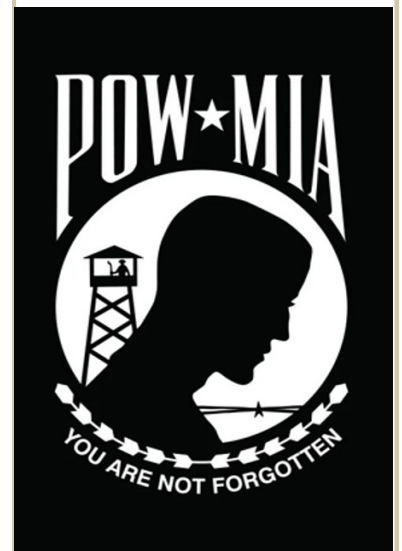
This includes:

- 71694 missing Soldiers from WWII
- 7359 missing Soldiers from the Korean War
- 1565 missing Soldiers from the Vietnam War
- 126 missing Soldiers from the Cold War
- 5 missing Soldiers from the Gulf Wars

Efforts to find those men, identify them and bring them home continues this day. For example, the DPAA said that in the past year it has accounted for 41 men missing during the Korean War: 10 had been previously buried as unknowns, 26 were from remains turned over by North Korea in the 1990s, one was from a recovery operation, and four were combinations of remains and recovery operation



Tony Hu



AMERICANISM / LOYALTY CHAIRMAN

After the appointment by DPA Commander Kelley as the Americanism/Loyalty Day Chairman, I wondered what that would entail. Well today 11 September brought it to light as I think about the horrific events that unfolded 25 years ago on 11 September 2001. Do you remember where you were, what you were doing, I do.

I was stationed at Kadena AFB, Okinawa Japan, it was almost 10pm when my wife and I just returned from having a nice dinner at the NCO Club on base. As we walked into the house, I turned on the TV to see the WTC towers were burning after hijacked planes United Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines flight 175 were flown directly into them setting off a chain reaction of explosions, fires, debris falling from the sky and of course first responders being set in to the towers to try and rescue who they could. Next it American Airlines flight 77 being flown into the Pentagon causing more death and destruction, followed by United flight 93 being flown into the ground in a field in Somerset PA.

I remember telling my wife, put on a pot of coffee and bring me the phone when it rings, I'll be in the shower because I knew what was coming. As expected, my squadron was recalled immediately (as were others) and within 45 minutes we were all getting briefed about what happened and what to expect. After the briefing we were given 1 hour to go home and pack our bags and say goodbye to loved ones. By 7am (9 hours after the mayhem started) we had our mobility pallets ready to go and I was taking off in a H69 Pavehawk helicopter headed to Osan AB Korea to increase our alert there that lasted an additional 2 weeks.

So on this day, I ask each of you as American Veterans to reflect on that day and remember the needless deaths of 2977 innocent mothers, fathers, brothers', sisters, loved ones and first responders caused by 19 ruthless terrorists "Never Forget"

Michael "Coop" Cooperman
DPA Americanism/Loyalty Day Chairman



Michael Cooperman



POW / MIA CHAIRMAN



Tony Hu



Yours in Comradeship,
Tony Hu



SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

For more than a century, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Scouting have shared a commitment to citizenship, leadership, patriotism, and service. The VFW's relationship with Scouting dates back to 1915, when VFW Post 2100 helped establish Troop 1 in Everett, Washington. Today, that tradition continues through VFW Posts around the world, including throughout the Department of Pacific Areas.

As your Department Scouting Chairman, I encourage every Post to consider how Scouting can become an active part of its community-service and youth-development efforts during the 2026–2027 VFW year.

Scout of the Year

One of our greatest opportunities is the VFW Scout of the Year Program. This program recognizes outstanding members of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who demonstrate exceptional citizenship, patriotism, and love of country. National winners have the opportunity to receive college scholarships of up to \$5,000.

Our responsibility begins at the Post level. Posts should identify outstanding Scouts within their communities, encourage them to participate, and ensure eligible applications are submitted through the appropriate VFW channels.

Do not wait until the deadline approaches. **Now is the time to begin looking for our next Department of Pacific Areas Scout of the Year.**

The Department Scouting webpage provides links to current Scout of the Year information, the application, and eligibility requirements.

Connect With Scouting in Your Community

Supporting Scouting does not have to end with the Scout of the Year competition.

Invite Scouts to participate in Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies. Include them in community-service projects, patriotic programs, cemetery remembrance activities, and flag retirement ceremonies. Posts can also support Eagle Scout projects and recognize Scouts who demonstrate exceptional service to their communities.

Our members bring decades of military, professional, and leadership experience to these relationships. That experience provides tremendous opportunities for mentorship and gives young people an opportunity to interact with veterans who continue serving their communities long after leaving military service.

The Far East Council (FEC) webpage includes a **List of BSA Units in the Department of Pacific Areas**, providing Posts with a starting point for identifying Scouting organizations operating throughout our geographically diverse Department. The Department's Scouting page provides a link to that resource.

I encourage every Post to identify at least one local Scouting unit and establish or strengthen a relationship with it.

Tell Us What Your Post Is Doing

Our Department covers an enormous geographic area, and many Posts are already doing great things with Scouts. I would like to hear about them.

If your Post supports an Eagle Scout project, participates in a Scouting ceremony, recognizes an outstanding Scout, conducts a joint community-service project, or develops another successful partnership, **share that story.**



Chaplain

Walter J. Fahnestock Jr.

SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

Your Post's success may provide the idea that another Post needs to begin its own Scouting outreach program.

Our Investment in the Future

Scouting is about more than earning badges and advancing through ranks. At its heart, Scouting develops leadership, character, citizenship, personal responsibility, and service.

Those principles should sound familiar to every VFW member.

The Scouts we support today may become tomorrow's service members, veterans, educators, business leaders, public servants, and community leaders. Supporting them gives us another way to fulfill the VFW tradition of service while investing in the generation that will follow us.

For the 2026–2027 year, I challenge every Post in the Department of Pacific Areas to do three things: **connect with a local Scouting organization, identify qualified candidates for Scout of the Year, and find at least one opportunity to support Scouts in your community.**

Our relationship with Scouting began more than 110 years ago. Together, we can ensure that partnership remains strong for generations to come.

Yours in Comradeship and Scouting,

Walter Joseph Fahnestock Jr.

Scouting Chairman, 2026–2027

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Department of Pacific Areas



Department of Pacific Areas

Chaplain

Walter J. Fahnestock Jr.



THE NATIONAL MILITARY MONUMENT



The National Military Monument™

250 years ago, a new nation was born from the belief that freedom and opportunity belonged to the people. And, if necessary, was worth fighting for. Since then, more than 41 million men and women have answered the call to defend our freedom. This monument honors them.

Standing tall in Washington, D.C., The National Military Monument™ is a living tribute to the generations of military members whose service and sacrifice made this historic milestone possible for our country.



A Record Still Being Restored

No single comprehensive record of every U.S. service member exists that is available to the public. USAA has combined multiple public records and data sources to commemorate as many service members as possible, honoring and remembering their commitment to the United States.



Honoring 250 Years

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

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES*



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*

1st Tuesday of November - Election Day

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

November 11 - Veterans Day; Signing of WWI Armistice (1918)*

November 21 - Grenada Campaign Ended (1983)

December 7 - National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day*

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)

***Posts should arrange special ceremonies and all commanders shall alert comrades to their obligations for**

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Notice

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

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