

# THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No one does more for Veterans  
VETERANS are our BUSINESS

Volume XXIV, Number 3

November/December 2020

FREE

## VETERANS & PEARL HARBOR DAYS



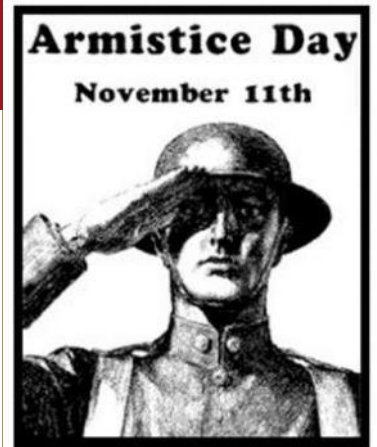
Armistice Day, now known as Veterans Day is commemorated every year on 11 November to mark [the armistice](#) signed between the [Allies of World War I](#) and [Germany](#) at [Compiègne, France](#) at 5:45 am, for the cessation of hostilities on the [Western Front of World War I](#), which took effect at eleven o'clock in the morning—the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918. But, according to Thomas R. Gowenlock, an intelligence officer with the U.S. First Division, shelling from both sides continued for the rest of the day, only ending at nightfall. Fighting continued up to 11 o'clock with 2,738 men dying on the last day of the war.



National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, also referred to as **Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day** or **Pearl Harbor Day**, is observed annually in the [United States](#) on December 7, to remember and honor the 2,403 United States citizens 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](#).

In 1994, the [United States Congress](#), designated December 7 of each year as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. On November 29, President Clinton issued a proclamation declaring December 7, 1994, the first National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

On Pearl Harbor Day, the [American flag](#) should be flown at half-staff until sunset to honor those who died as a result of the attack on U.S. military forces in Hawaii. Pearl Harbor Day is not a federal holiday – government offices, schools, and businesses do not close. Some organizations may hold special events in memory of those killed or injured at Pearl Harbor.



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### **The VFW Podcast Debuts Today** *‘Our hope is that it allows for a new conversation’*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (Oct. 7, 2020)** – The Veterans of Foreign Wars began its next journey of communicating with veterans, service members and military families through The VFW Podcast, its newest communication platform today.

The VFW Podcast is the official podcast of the VFW, the oldest combat veterans service organization advocating for and serving our veterans, service members and military families worldwide. You may download episode one of The VFW Podcast [here](#).

“The VFW Podcast will feature one-of-a-kind perspectives and insightful conversations concerning veteran legislation, educational and financial assistance programs, national veterans’ services, and critical initiatives from my lens,” said VFW National Commander Harold “Hal” Roesch II.

The VFW Podcast will be available the first Wednesday of each month for the remainder of 2020 and will be found on all major platforms to include Apple Podcasts, Google Play, Spotify, Deezer, Stitcher, Pandora and [here](#) at the VFW website. Beginning in 2021, The VFW Podcast will air the first and third Wednesday of the month.

“We are excited about the potential of The VFW Podcast and look forward to engaging our veterans, service members and families in a new way,” said podcast host and VFW Director of Communications Terrence Hayes. “Our hope is that it allows for a new conversation – one that will carry over to social media and can deliver the information and resources our veterans require. The VFW is in the midst of a paradigm shift and I am very excited to be part of this transformational change within our organization.”

The VFW Podcast guest list will consist of congressional leadership, Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs senior officials, VFW national leaders and everyday veterans doing amazing work in their communities.

**About the VFW:** The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With more than 1.5 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in over 6,000 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim “NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS” than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans’ service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit our website at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).

**Media Contact:** Terrence L. Hayes, Director of Communication & Public Affairs, [thayes@vfw.org](mailto:thayes@vfw.org),

(o) 202.608.8357

# COMMANDER'S CALL

Hello Comrades,

I want to thank all of you for continuing the work of the VFW during this unprecedented pandemic. Despite the challenges of this virus you steadfastly assist veterans, perform buddy checks, remain involved in your communities, and make a difference in the lives of our members and their families. Truly amazing and a testament to your commitment to veterans, their families, and our communities. I could not be prouder to be a part of this great Department.

In line with the VFW National Commanders goal of Communication, please check out the link below to the VFW Action Corps Weekly which is a weekly update of what VFW National is working on:

<https://vfwpacific.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=80045>

As we continue to do the work of our organization please remember recruiting new members, upgrading annual members to life, and having life members join the Legacy Life program is an important mission for all of us. We are doing quite well so far this year. I ask you to continue working your membership program and meeting the challenge of recruiting new members, retaining annual members in this environment. The goal should be to have as many life members as possible in your post. As our life membership chairman always says: "Go Life".

Our mid year meeting has officially been announced as a virtual event using the Zoom platform. It will be held on 5 December 2020 @ 0900 Thailand time. A suggestion from one of our Post Commanders, thank you Mike Cooperman Post 12146, those posts and districts that can meet together should consider having a social event the night of the 4th so we can add camaraderie to our CofA. In addition, for those that can meet as a group, use your post home or other venue to attend the Zoom CofA together. Individuals attending from your home or office is perfectly acceptable as well. Further details on the mid term meeting will be forthcoming, including the zoom link.

Due to the challenge of producing buddy poppies, the requirement noted in this year's national membership program is waived. You can remove the buddy poppy requirement from the All American program. Purchasing one box of buddy poppies is still required for All State recognition.

This will be the last issue of the Pacific Times for 2020, the next issue will be January 2021. Despite the restrictions relating to COVID-19, I hope you are able to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with your families, comrades, and friends.

It continues to be a privilege to be Commander of our outstanding Department. While speaking to our members it continues to amazes me the level of work done to assist veterans, their families, and our communities.

Thanks so much for all you do.

With warmest best wishes, and in comradeship

Kenneth A. Stein  
Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas



Commander

**Ken Stein**





## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES



successful offensive that ended South Vietnam's status as an independent country. Fighting began almost immediately after the agreement was signed, due to a series of mutual retaliations, and by March 1973, full-fledged war had resumed.



ing up to the war.



**27 January 1973 signing of the Paris Peace Accords** effectively removed the U.S. from the conflict in Vietnam. However, the agreement's provisions were routinely flouted by both the North Vietnamese and the South Vietnamese government, eliciting no response from the United States, and ultimately resulting in the communists enlarging the area under their control by the end of 1973. North Vietnamese military forces gradually built up their military infrastructure in the areas they controlled and two years later were in a position to launch the

**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 lead-

**28 February 1991 The Liberation of Kuwait** was a U.S.-led military operation to retake Kuwait from Iraq after the [massive air campaign](#), between 24–28 February 1991. U.S. troops and the Coalition entered to find the Iraqis surrendering en masse; however, pockets of resistance existed, particularly at [Kuwait International Airport](#) where Iraqi troops, seemingly unaware that a retreat order had been issued to them, continued to fight, resulting in a fierce battle over the airport itself. The majority of the fighting took place in Iraq, rather than Kuwait.

<sup>[2]</sup> The operation is part of what is commonly known as the [Gulf War](#).



## 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)



Friends of Posts 12146 along with Post members Trustee Norbert, Life Members Jim and Sid visit Wat Somnatom School for severely disabled children and provide lunch and gifts for twenty five students and staff.

**National POW/MIA Recognition Day** is observed on the third Friday of September each year. This day was established by an Act of Congress, by the passage of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act. The day honors those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families. It is one of the six days specified by law on which the black POW/MIA flag is flown over federal facilities, cemeteries, and military installations. This year, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Detachment One hosted a brief ceremony on the morning of Friday, September 18, at 10:00 a.m. The ceremony consisted of remarks from guest speaker, Air Chief Marshal (Retired) Sakpinit Promthep, a former director of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) Museum in Bangkok and remarks by the U.S. Ambassador to Thailand, Mr. Michael George DeSombre. The program concluded with the "Missing Man Table" ceremony, and the playing of "Taps."



This day raises awareness of the tens of thousands of heroes who answered the call to duty, but are MIA, never having returned home. They made the supreme sacrifice for their nation, yet today their families are burdened with both the grief of their loss and the inherent uncertainty. And it is this special group -- our missing and their families -- who we in DPAA are honored and dedicated to serve. Each day, around the world, we dutifully put into action the words on the poignant POW/MIA flag - You Are Not Forgotten.



# In the SPOTLIGHT



Charter member and World War II veteran **Victor Cross** was honored at his funeral by the Banchang Utapao Post 12146 honor guard and other officers and members. Pictured with the

folded flag is Post SVC John Kelsch and Honor Guard Leader Steve Kausal. Two of the honor guard members pictured are Erle Kershaw and Gary Steuer longtime friends of Vic Cross. Department of the Pacific Areas Commander Ken Stein is pictured giving the eulogy and Commander Post 12146 Mike Coop Cooperman rendering hand salute during playing of TAPS.



Past Post Commander Dennis Provencher at home and explaining to service members who visited with him on 23 December 2019

**Retired U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Dennis Provencher, airborne and ground radio operator**, right talks with Lt Col. Denial Waid, 18<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron commander, left about how much has changed since Provencher initially joined in 1951 on 23 December 2019 in Okinawa City, Dennis Provencher is a one time Guinness Book of World Records holder for most amount of blood donated. He has donated 34 gallons of blood over 50 years. **He passed away on 4 June 2020**





## In the SPOTLIGHT

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of September, Members of **Mayaguez Memorial Post 11575 Phnom Penh, Cambodia** gathered at the Children's Surgical Center (CSC) in Phnom Penh to present a \$1000 Community Service Grant from VFW National.



Many people experience mild scoliosis that does not require surgery. Others, however, have significant changes to the spine over time where the scoliosis curve gets worse, leading the spine to twist or rotate. If untreated, patients can experience chronic back pain, lung and heart damage, and they will not be able to sit up straight. If the condition worsens significantly over time, surgery is necessary. Soream to whom this grant is provided for is one of the many serious and complex spinal cases that CSC treats every year.

Soream is a 9th grade student from Siem Reap Province. His favorite activities include reading books and spending time on the computer. Ever since Soream was a year old, his spine formed into a severe condition of scoliosis known as Kyphoscoliosis. He struggles with sitting in the classroom for long periods of time, and finds it difficult to partake in the same activities as his friends.

Back in January of 2019, he was CSC's first patient fitted with a halo gravity traction. This halo traction was attached to Soream's head, where he was required to wear it for most waking hours of the day. Over several months, the traction assisted in elongating Soream's spine prior to surgery, reducing the curvature from 120 degrees to 80 degrees. The team is already seeing improvements in the elongation of his spine, which helped in maximizing the outcome of his first spinal operation last June.

Surgery reduced the curvature in his spine significantly; however, a slight curve still remains and causes Soream pain when he walks and difficulty when he sleeps. Soream is set for another operation which will further correct his spine and allow Soream to walk and rest comfortably.

The Grant will be used for Soream's upcoming operation to help cover expenses related to medical equipment and supplies, medical staff, utilities, food, and other related costs outlined in the budget below.

Presenting the Grant was District 5 Chief of Staff / Post 11575 Commander Jack Farrell and Post Members. Accepting the grant on behalf of the Children's Surgical Center was Dr Jim Gollogly, the managing hospital director.

Additionally, the Post presented a Certificate of appreciation from the VFW to the CSC in recognition of their selfless contributions of healthcare services to the needy children and families of Cambodia.





# In the SPOTLIGHT



VFW DPA DIST V Quarterly Meeting sponsored by Banchang Utapao VFW Post 12146 Post home with over 40 in attendance including "Live VDO Streams" 4 Countries, 2 continents. DPA Cdr Ken S. & SVC Kevin M. in attendance, meeting preceded by online TRICARE Training guest speaker Comrade John L. The District mandate Membership, Training & Convention alive & well. Post & D5 inspections completed, VOD/PP judging concluded winners to be announced/nominated to DPA this week.

Thank you for all who travelled, attended supported local business, to Finnigan, Pup Tent #6 and Post 12146 for their generous donations.

YIC D5 Cdr Lou Holub





## In the SPOTLIGHT



VFW Post #9723 Okinawa Japan comrades Larry Wilson, John Bowers, Andrew Young and Curtis Kozlesky attended and provided support to the POW/MIA 24 hour run event sponsored by Air Force Sgt's Association conducted at Marek Park Track Kadena Air Force Base 17 September 2020. Click on the link to view a video:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheInfographicsShow/videos/1761890497310602>



# COMMUNICATION

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

# SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Hello and greetings Comrades,

As we are nearing the end of another tremendous year (even with a pandemic), with Memstats loaded by National the Membership year is now in full swing. I want to update you on some numbers as of October 29, 2020. The Department has a total of 11,077 Life Members.

As of today, the District averages for Membership are as follows:

D1 – 97.16%  
D2 – 96.59%  
D3 – 87.16%  
D4 – 97.10%  
D5 – 92.81%  
D6 – 94.26%  
D7 – 99.89%

Overall as of today the Department stands at 93.86%. With the continued lockdowns and restricted travel, the numbers above shows the Department is still in great shape. Many thanks to our recruiters for their dedication!!! Also congratulations to Post 124, 12146, and 12163 for reaching over 100% in membership at this point of the term. We have several Posts knocking at the door and will soon be the 100% club. Great job!!!

All State/All American Caps: At this time, they will be presented at the Department Convention in June 2020. Annual Awards Plaques will also be presented at the Department Convention.

It was a tremendous honor to represent the Department at D5 Thailand Quarterly Meeting on 17 October and D4 Taiwan on 18 October. Very good and productive Meetings. Thank you and Kudos to District Commanders Holub and Ellinger and the Comrades of D4/5.

Just a special request to pass out District 4 - Taiwan. The Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation is an outstanding organization. Please check out the website below. Donations go to a great cause. If you have any questions, please contact Comrade Tim Ohno at [sofintek@yahoo.com](mailto:sofintek@yahoo.com)

<http://hwwmohf.org/monuments/hagatna-gu.html>

If a Post would like to make a VAG request, please go to [vfwpacific.org](http://vfwpacific.org) click on “Programs” on the upper bar and then click on “Veteran Assist Grant Request” for more information and the Request Form. The purpose of this Program is to assist a veteran who becomes burdened with medical bills or other emergencies. The request should come from the Post Commander or the Acting (in his/her absence). Please complete the Form and return to me promptly at [svcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:svcdpa@vfwpacific.org). There will be a quick turnout to inform you whether or not the request was approved/disapproved. A change for this year is the Voting Committee consists of the DPA SVC, DPA JVC, DPA QM, DPA COS, DPA IPDPA CMDR, DPA ADJ. Voting is done by email.



Senior Vice Commander

**Kevin Mitchell**





Senior Vice Commander

**Kevin Mitchell**

## SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Below I am attaching the All State Spreadsheet in which I will be working from this year. Again, I will be filling in as I receive information from the Posts/Districts. Chairman/District/Post Commanders, please contact me at [svcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:svcdpa@vfwpacific.org) or [pgcmitchell@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:pgcmitchell@vfwdeptpacific.org) with updates. If you show a blank below and it was performed, I will not know unless you inform me.

	Membership	Legacy New or upgrade	QM Bond	Inspection	Service Officer	QM Audits	CSR	VOD/PP	Buddy Poppy	VMS	Website or Facebook	National Home	Commander at District meeting	Action Core Weekly	Map event	Adopt a unit	Scouting
9723			MET														
1054			MET														
9555			MET														
9612			MET														
8180			MET									MET	MET				
9985			MET										MET				
10033			MET										MET				
10223			MET										MET				
12147			MET										MET				
9957			MET										MET				
9876			MET									MET	MET				
9951			MET										MET				
10217			MET										MET	MET			
10249			MET										MET				
11575			MET										MET				
12074			MET										MET	MET			
12146	MET		MET										MET				
12163	MET		MET										MET				
1509			MET														
2917			MET														
3457			MET														
124	MET		MET														
2485			MET										MET				
9892			MET										MET				
11447			MET														
12130			MET										MET				

	District and Post			Legacy	District and Post	Course of	All Post			National
	QM Bond	Inspection	Membership	Life	QM Audits	Instruction	CSRs	VOD/PP	VMS	Home
District I	MET									
District II	MET									
District III	MET									
District IV	MET									
District V	MET									
District VI	MET									
District VII	MET									

In closing, **“Veterans Are Our Business”** and thank you Comrades of our great Department for making it happen in your Posts and communities. Please continue to be safe and check on each other especially our older Veterans. Again I can be reached at [svcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:svcdpa@vfwpacific.org) and I stand by to assist whenever possible. Wishing everyone the best and your families as the countdown to the C of A commences!! May god continue to bless our great country and our people!! I love you all!!!

Yours in Comradeship,

Kevin E. Mitchell  
Senior Vice Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas  
Veterans of Foreign of Wars of the United States

# JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

I have been looking over the CSR stats. You all are doing great work out there promoting the VFW to the Pacific Areas. I have compiled each Posts inputs and below will show where you are missing the minimum three per Post.

Please understand what shows below **MAY NOT MATCH YOUR RECORDS**. This is why I said for you to maintain a copy of the **CONFIRMATION** emails you receive after you input.

I have noticed when using the filter the inputs are showing the **CORRECT** month but they may not show in that months filter. They are filtering for **WHEN** you input instead of the event month. **EX. I use the filter for July and it only shows 2 inputs for a Post, BUT when I filter for August some July inputs show up there.** Let Augie know if this is happening when you filter as well so he can verify with National.

DATES OF COLLECTION		01 MAY 2020			22 OCT 2020		
DIST/POST		MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT
D1 9723		X	X	X	X	X	X
D2 1054		X	X	X	X	X	N
9555		N	N	X	X	X	N
9612		X	X	X	X	X	X
D3 8180		X	X	X	X	X	X
9985		X	X	X	X	X	N
10033		N	N	X	N	X	N
10223		X	X	N	X	X	N
12147		X	X	X	N	N	N
D4 9957		X	X	X	X	X	X
D5 9876		X	X	X	X	X	N
9951		X	X	X	X	X	N
10217		X	X	X	X	X	N
10249		X	X	X	X	X	X
11575		X	X	X	X	X	N
12074		X	X	X	X	X	X
12146		X	X	X	X	X	X
12163		X	X	X	X	X	N
D6 1509		X	N	X	X	X	N
2917		N	X	N	N	N	N
3457		X	X	N	N	X	N
D7 124		X	X	X	X	X	N
2485		X	X	X	X	X	X
9892		X	X	X	X	X	X
11447		X	X	X	X	X	X
12130		X	N	X	X	X	N

**PLEASE VERIFY YOUR INPUTS AND LET ME KNOW IF THIS IS NOT SHOWING CORRECT FOR YOUR POST.**



Junior Vice Commander

**Warren "Max" Maxson**

**This chart is collected from 1 May 2020 to 22 Oct 2020.** Again if you have a different count please let me know. I am NOT saying this is 100% correct due to the filter system, but if I show "N" for a month then I could NOT find three inputs in the records for your Post that month. An "X" means you are good for that month.

Thank you for your continuing support to this great organization and to our Veterans

YIC  
Warren "Max" Maxson  
Junior Vice Commander





# FACT SHEET

*As the nation's oldest major war veterans' organization*, the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4.5 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.

YOUR DONATION OF

**\$20**

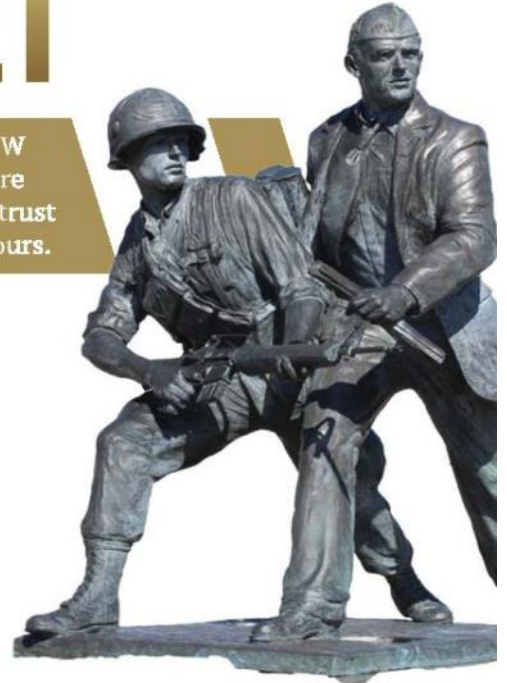
ENSURES THE VFW CAN

**Educate** a separating service member about his or her well-earned VA benefits through a private benefits counseling session with a VFW Service Officer.

**Provide** training to 4 VFW Service Officers on signs of emotional suffering so they can better direct veterans to programs and services.

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

**Deliver** 4 morale-boosting "welcome home" celebrations for service members who have returned from combat.



**2,100+**

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

**56**

Number of VFW-SVA Fellows (student veterans) who have traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for veterans' rights.

**\$9 billion+**

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits — which includes \$1.6 billion in new benefits paid to veterans in fiscal year 2019.

**2.3 million+**

Number of service members and their family members hosted at VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) events since 2005.

**20**

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

**\$3.5 million**

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

**\$11.9 million**

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 44% of the funds covered basic housing needs.

**\$7.9 million**

Amount of scholarships awarded to more than 1,764 veterans and service members through VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" since January 2014.

Updated September 2020

Learn more about the VFW's programs and services at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).

## DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

For many of us in The Pacific Regions, our medical well-being may eventually depend on the **Foreign Medical Program** or **FMP** completely. I don't know the percentage of vets in the area that have [TRICARE](#) versus those that left the service prior to retirement. I do know that TRICARE seems to implement changes from time to time and reliance on FMP seems to be growing.

Whether you have TRICARE or not, if you have any service connected conditions you should apply for FMP TODAY. There is no good reason not to be enrolled in FMP and every reason why tomorrow is too late.

FMP covers S/C – Service-Connected disabilities, whether 100% or 0% (zero), but only service-connected and for services considered clinically necessary. There are no programs for non-service-connected issues unless you have TRICARE. There are doctors and hospitals that will bill FMP direct, check your local area now, before you need them. If the provider you choose will not bill direct, you can submit the bills you have for reimbursement. You must use the appropriate form for submitting bills. Bills submitted for services that are not service connected or not listed on your FMP authorization letter will be rejected. You may not get treatment today then apply tomorrow! Applying for FMP is fast and easy. Do it now! VA Form 10-7959f-1 it takes about a minute!

<https://www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/veterans/fmp/index.asp>

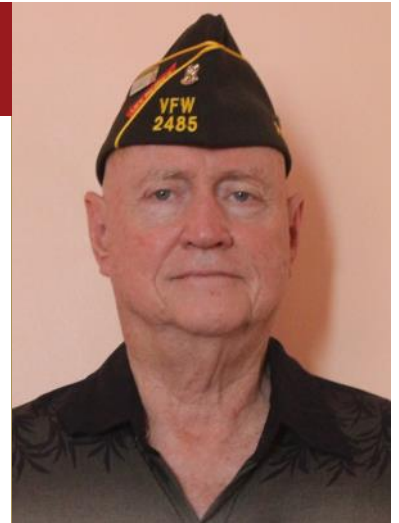
FMP covers necessary medicines also, but only for service-connected disabilities and only those approved by FDA – Food and Drug Administration.

I have a .PDF document on FMP if you e-mail [dsodpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:dsodpa@vfwpacific.org) I will attach it return e-mail. Full of good information.

The National Archives is digitizing more than 1,800 deck logs to determine ship locations, which helps VA confirm service. VA estimates there are between 420-560k Vietnam-era Veterans who may be considered Blue Water Navy Veterans.

The VA does not recognize the Vietnam Service Medal as presumptive agent orange exposure. The word presumptive is further defined by the VA and you must explain how you were exposed. Boots on the ground is not enough for presumptive inclusion. I have at least 2 veterans a week come in that have applied for service connection for something on the list of presumptive conditions and been denied and they want to know how they could be denied if it's on the "presumptive" list. The VA wants to know how you were exposed. I will not give examples because each claim is different. All I can say is get this 6-page document and if you think you have a claim then submit it and let the VA decide. As the pamphlet says, things change constantly and claims that were denied years ago may be awarded now because research or new information has changed the VA's approach on that item.

John Dibble  
Service Officer  
Department of Pacific Areas



DPA Service Officer

**John Dibble**

I have a .PDF document discussing Blue Water Navy and agent orange if you e-mail [dsodpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:dsodpa@vfwpacific.org) I will attach it return e-mail. If you think you were exposed and have not filed, read this document before you file. Not to keep you from filing but so your claim will have a better chance of being adjudicated in your favor.





# MORE FACTS ABOUT THE VFW



## The VFW by the numbers

**1.5 million**

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

**6,092**

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



## Helping veterans get justice

**108,000+**

Number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2019.

**15,000+**

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2019 resulting in more than \$136 million in disability compensation.

**25**

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



## Helping struggling military families

**10,614**

Number of grants provided to military families facing financial hardship through **VFW Unmet Needs** since 2004.

**\$5,246,634**

Amount of grants provided through **VFW Unmet Needs** covering housing for struggling military families since 2004.

**3,575**

Number of military families who received assistance with housing needs since 2004.



## Improving life in America

**9.4 million**

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

**\$44.1 million**

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



**1899**

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



## Honoring the fallen

**8.7 million**

Number of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies distributed by the VFW last year.

**\$8 million**

Amount raised through the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy program for needy veterans.



## Inspiring patriotism in young people

**64,000+**

Number of high school students who competed in the 2019–20 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

**164,000+**

Number of students who competed in the 2019–20 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.

Updated September 2020

Learn more about the VFW's programs and services at [vfw.org](https://www.vfw.org).

# LIFE LEGACY PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

First of all I would like to say Happy Veterans Day and Thank You for your Service. With a lot of us getting a little bit older each and every day I would like to recommend that you leave little bit of yourself and think about the future of your VFW Post. That can be done with the Life Legacy Program where there are 3 levels, Gold, Silver and Bronze. With each level there are funds that are given to your Post and Department once a year in your name. Those funds are in the about of \$6.00, &12.00 and \$18.00. This will be given for every year FOREVER. What will you get in the meantime while you are still living see below:

Member Incentives	Bronze \$400	Silver \$800	Gold \$1200
Plated Engraved Legacy Life Card*			
Lapel Pin			
Hat Pin			
Distinctive VFW Store Line for Legacy Life members*			
Framed Legacy Life membership Certificate			
Member Recognition on Internet & Convention Program			
Special Legacy Life Plaque			
Hat Patch*			
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza			
VFW Store Discounts (for personal use only) *	5%	10%	15%
Increased Level of No-Cost AD&D Insurance *	\$2000	\$3500	\$5000
Annual Endowment: Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment: Department	\$6	\$12	\$18

\* does not apply to Memorial Legacies

As a reminder it is in our All State Program this year in increase or upgrade by one member into the Life Legacy Program to be consider for All State Commander or Quartermaster this year. It is also required to inform me of your comrades enrolled in this program so I can keep up the records of this requirement. In the next Pacific Times I will list the Posts that have met this requirement for the year. Thank you for Your Service.

Larry Lyons  
Legacy Life Program Chairman  
Department of Pacific Areas



Life Legacy Program Chairman

**Larry Lyons**

Each year, your post will receive two membership rebates for your membership. One for being a "Life Member" and another for being a "Legacy Life Member".

Unlike the Life Membership where the Post no longer is the recipient of an annual dues rebate when a member passes, the Post continues to receive a return of dues from National for Legacy members who pass thus leaving a lasting positive impact on the Post's financial wellbeing. The Legacy Membership is tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law. Like the Life Memberships, an installment plan is available. This is a great way to continue giving to the Post and to VFW long after you and I are gone and have left the Post to the next generation of veterans. You can get with the Post Quartermaster for becoming a Legacy Member, or go to VFW.org and setup a payment plan to have this paid in four quarterly payments.





VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

## WELCOME HOME

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

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

## NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

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

### You can join the VFW if you...

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

Visit [vfw.org/join](http://vfw.org/join) for a complete list of eligibility.

### You've earned it.

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

- A subscription to VFW magazine
- Discounts and special offers from a wide range of businesses
- No-cost personal accident insurance
- Veterans' advocates that can assist with VA claims and other benefits



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

VFW National Headquarters  
406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
1.888.JOIN.VFW  
[membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org)

# CERTIFIED NATIONAL RECRUITER

Greeting Comrades of the Pacific,

As we are in our second Membership year fighting COVID 19 I realize some of our Post's because of restrictions passed on to us by the military or the government, recruiting can be another challenge this year. However we being prior military we have the ability to adapt and overcome!

We soon will be entering our best month for recruiting and that is November with our sacred holiday of VETERANS DAY along with our Buddy Poppy drives during this month. We are a little bit behind the 8 ball so this is our chance to get caught up.

Currently we have 68 of our comrades doing the recruiting thus far this month and our Top Five recruiters are as follows: from Post 12147 Larry Lyons with 22 recruits followed by Cliff Wilsey of Post 2485 with 18 recruits, then we have Joseph Bandao of Post 124 with 8 recruits followed by Roger Davis of Post 10033 with 5 recruits and finishing our Top Five is David Ingram of Post 9612 recruiting 4 members. I thank not only these five recruiters but all 68 of you for it takes a Team Pacific to make this happen!

Overall in Membership our Department stands as of 23 October at 93.76%. I would like to congratulate our Post that already have made 100% or better and they are Post 12163 in Perth, Australia with 116.98% Post 124 in Baguio, the Philippines, with 116.44% and Post 12146 in Ban Chang, Thailand with 101.31% in all three of these posts Life Membership is a key factor in their Membership.

So let's shake those bushes, find our lost members that need to renew their membership and welcome new members into our posts! So when you see your fellow Veterans in November thank them for their Service and add to that statement: *Are you a VFW Member? If so are you current in your dues?* Again November is our most active month of the year in recruiting. Remember they cannot say yes unless you ask them.

Thank you for Your Service,

Larry Lyons  
Certified National Recruiter  
Department of Pacific Areas



**Larry Lyons**

**WE ARE RECRUITING**





Jr. Past Department Commander

**Rick Farris**

## JR. PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Comrades,

Well...Here all are, still on lockdown, for the most part. And, still unable to travel pretty much anywhere. I know how hard it is to conduct the usual Department business under these conditions. But please, do the best you can. We have numerous deadlines coming up for submission of VOD/PP and Civil Service. I know the submissions will be really down this year due to COVID-19, but do what you can.

Memberships will, no doubt, be a real issue this year. Here in Japan, it has been impossible to hold any sort of recruiting drive. I am sure that in many of our countries in the Pacific, the Posts are facing the same dilemma. Take full advantage of every opportunity, and maybe we can keep our streak alive of continuous 100% membership.

As we look to a Zoom CofA, we will again be rescheduling the awards that were first due to be presented at our cancelled convention, and deferred to the now cancelled CofA. Hopefully we can get these presented at a Convention next summer. If so, we may have to add a day or so. There is a lot to present from my year, and this term.

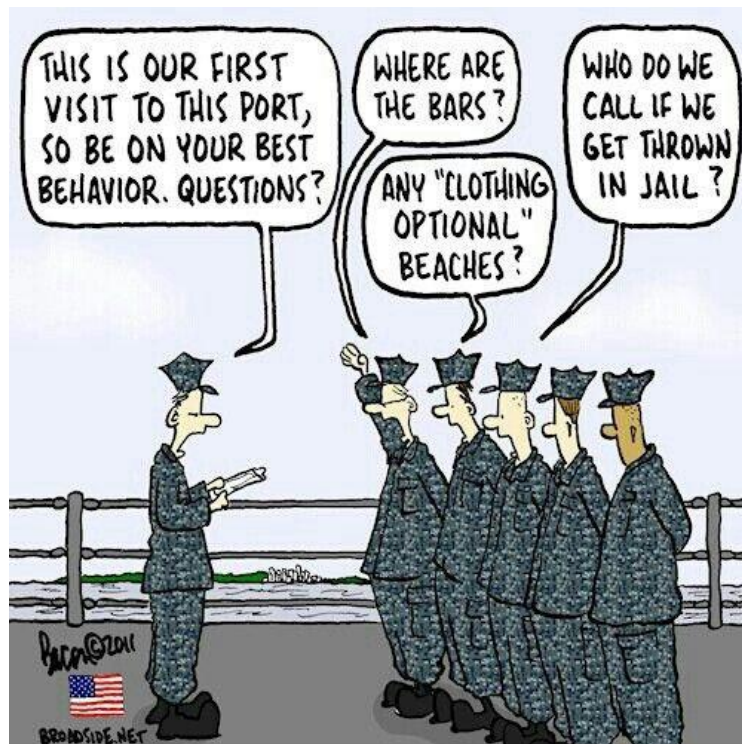
Any ways, keep your chin up, and support our Vets the best you can.

YIC,

Rick Farris

Junior Past Department Commander

VFW Dept. of Pacific Areas



The Chief wasn't convinced his message was getting through.

# NATIONAL COUNSEL MEMBER

Comrades,

This article is about how the VFW Foundation can help your Post. The VFW Foundation is the charitable arm of the VFW. It is the only IRS designated 501(c)3 part of the VFW. As such, it is a not for profit corporation specifically designed for charitable purposes. Most VFW Posts, Districts and Departments, if they are incorporated, are designated by the IRS as 501(c)19 organizations, designated specifically for US veterans.

If your Post has a fund-raising event, you would naturally solicit donations from the largest corporations in your area, and smaller ones if they are particular friends of the VFW. In today's world, many large corporations have rules that say they can only donate to 501(c)3 qualifying organizations, and they usually ask for proof that your Post is a 501(c)3 or a receipt stating the same. This is where the VFW Foundation can help.

Just ask the people who would donate to your Post to make the check out to the VFW Foundation. Either you or the donor can mail the check to the VFW Foundation in Kansas City with a note that it is a donation to your Post. The VFW Foundation will issue a receipt and a thank you letter to the donor, and then deposit the money into your Post's checking account. 100% of it!

Some of our Posts in the past have taken advantage of the VFW Foundation's \$1,000 grant program for a non-profit organization in your area. Since COVID-19 has caused many of our Posts to close their doors and suffer economic hardship, the VFW Foundation has started another program specifically to help VFW Posts weather the storm.

It is called the VFW Foundation Post Pandemic Relief Grant, and the application can be found here <https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/VFW-PPRG-Application.pdf?v=1&d=20200901T151838Z&la=en> This grant provides up to \$2,500 to your Post that must be used to cover specific expenses for mortgage payments, rent if leasing a building, utilities, and insurance or property tax. Expenses that do NOT qualify are employee wages, building improvements or repair materials, and food or beverage expenses.

One more thing, and this may be a deal breaker, to qualify your Post must not have more than \$10,000 in unrestricted bank accounts. Because the VFW Foundation expects many Posts to qualify for this grant, they have suspended their two other grant programs for this entire fiscal year.

If you think your Post may qualify, go to the link above and read all the details and complete the application. The grant became available on Oct.1, 2020.

Yours In Comradeship,  
Peter Callaghan, NCM, CoS



National Council Member

**Peter Callaghan**



# DPA SCOUT PROGRAM



Scout BSA Troop 102 Open Water Scuba Certification Course. This will be an amazing opportunity for scouts to get there Scuba Certification while interacting with other scouts. The course is broken up into 3 parts Classroom, Pool, and Ocean Schedule.

Nov 02-04 - Scuba Diving Certification Opportunity (Classroom Portion) @ Kadena Marina Classroom 1800 - 2100

Nov 07-08 - Scuba Diving Certification Opportunity (Pool Portion) @ Fairchild Pool

Nov 14 - Scuba Diving Certification Opportunity (Ocean Portion) @ TBD

Scout BSA Troop 102 Deep Sea Fishing Adventure. This adventure will be broken up by patrols on separate dates to accommodate max capacity on the boat, cost will be Y5000 yen per Scout and will include fishing gear. It is recommended that motion sickness medication be taken 24 hours prior to the event until the start and through completion of the event. We will also need at least 2 adults to assist with each date.

Nov 07 - Deep Sea Fishing Trip 6am @ Awase Port, “Ya Like Jazz Patrol”

Nov 14 - Deep Sea Fishing Trip 6am @ Awase Port, “New Scout (Wolf) Patrol”

Nov 21 - Deep Sea Fishing Trip 6am @ Awase Port, “Senior Leadership Patrol”

Nov 28 - Deep Sea Fishing Trip 6am @ Awase Port, “Pepe Patrol”

Scout BSA Troop 102 is also attempting to coordinate a joint program with the SAJ (Scouting Association of Japan) unit to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of the war. We had planned to hold our Joint BSA/SAJ Friendship Jamborette, but due to the pandemic, with restrictions on maximum number of participants, we were forced to postpone the event for next year. In light of this, we decided to hold smaller, individual unit size events, and call it a day of service. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions on activities off base, this may not be possible.

SAJ (Scouting Association of Japan) has invited Pack and Troop 102 to join them for a Christmas Party. This is an annual event, we always celebrate Christmas with the Japanese. It is a potluck event, with a gift exchange. However, again, COVID-19 restrictions may foil this activity as well since it is off base.

Scout BSA Troop 102 is planning an Astronomy Camp for December. Date and location to be determined. It was planned for off base, but we may have to move it on base due to COVID-19 restrictions.

**Scoutmaster Marty Roberts**  
**Post 9723 Okinawa Japan**

# NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN

Comrades

November is coming up and this report will cover both, October and November. I will also start send reminder emails out to the Post and District that have yet to make this year's Donations to the National Home as a little reminder.

With the virus it seem like everything is slowing down and it would be great if we could get all the District and Post to get this year completed by the December CofA.

Again, I want to put out if you are making the Donation on BEHALF of your District or Post please Mark the donations block as so and send me a copy of the email that you receive from the National Home. If any of District or Post are having any problems with making their donation to the National home, please let me know so I can assist you.

From the National Home BLOG site to see more [Click here:](#)

## National Home Donation Report

Report for District and Post as of 23 October 2020. This list has been confirmed by the National Home and by emails received with proof of Donation.

District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated		District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated
District 1	No			10217	Yes	\$50.00
9723	No			10249	Yes	\$200.00
District 2	No			11575	No	
1054	No			12074	Yes	\$50.00
9555	No			12146	No	
9612	No			12163	No	
District 3	No			District 6	No	
8180	Yes	\$75.00		1509	No	
9985	No			2917	No	
10033	No			3457	No	
10223	No			District 7	No	
12147	No	Pacific House		124	No	
District 4	No			2485	Yes	\$50.00
9957	No			9892	Yes	\$50.00
District 5	No			11447	No	
9876	Yes	\$250.00		12130	Yes	\$50.00
9951	No					
Post 12147 Project Pacific House				Yokosuka Scouts via Post 1054		\$0.00
<b>Dist/Post Total</b>	<b>\$775.00</b>	<b>Special Projects</b>		<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$775.00</b>

Yours in Comradeship,  
Randell E. Himes  
[nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org)



VFW National Home Chairman

**Randell E. Himes**

Please report any and all donations that you make to the National Home to me so they can be recorded and tracked.

Email them to [nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org) The VFW National Home for Children serves as a living memorial to America's Veterans by helping our nation's veteran and military families during difficult times.



V F W  
NATIONAL HOME  
FOR CHILDREN



# POST SOCIAL MEDIA AND HISTORY LINKS

## District 1

Post 9723 Okinawa, Japan Website, *Facebook, History*

## District 2 Mainland Japan Website, Facebook, History

Post 1054 Yokosuka, Japan Website, *Facebook, History*

Post 9555 Yokota, Japan Website, *Facebook, History*

Post 9612 Camp Zama, Japan Website, *Facebook, History*

## District 3 South Korea Website, Facebook, History

Post 8180 Songtan, Korea *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 9985 Tongducheon, Korea Website, *Facebook, History*

Post 10033 Taegu, Korea Website, *Facebook, History*

Post 10223 Camp Humphreys *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 12147 Seongnam, Korea *Website, Facebook*

## District 4

Post 9957 Taipei, Taiwan Website, *Facebook, History*

## District 5 Thailand, Cambodia, Australia *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 9876 Pattaya, Thailand *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 9951 Bangkok, Thailand *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 10217 Korat, Thailand *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 10249 Udon, Thailand *Websites, Facebook*

Post 11575 Phnom Penh, Cambodia *Websites, Facebook, History*

Post 12074 Chiang Mai, Thailand *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 12146 Banchang Utapao, Thailand *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 12163 Perth, Australia *Website, Facebook*

## District 6 Guam, Saipan Website, Facebook, History

Post 1509 Yigo, Guam *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 2917 Agat, Guam *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 3457 Garapan, Saipan *Website, Facebook, History*

## District 7 Philippines Website, Facebook, History

Post 124 Baguio City, Philippines *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 2485 Angeles City, Philippines *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 9892 La Union, Philippines *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 11447 Subic Bay, Philippines *Website, Facebook, History*

Post 12130 Cebu, Philippines Website, Facebook

# DPA JUDGE ADVOCATE

Greetings Comrades,

Normally about this time of year you would be reading about the rules of order for the mid-term C-of-A. Unfortunately, it looks like we will be meeting via zoom.

Travel restriction for entry into Thailand makes it extremely difficult. Most of the flights are for repatriation only and should you be lucky enough to meet all the requirements you have the pleasure of facing two (2) weeks of quarantine. With any luck, we will be able to meet in person for The DPA Convention in June.

I have recently received a couple of inquiries regarding item # 27 on the Post Inspection Checklist and item # 22 on the District Inspection Checklist.

## ***Do the District and/or Post retain documents in accordance with the Departments Document Retention Policy?***

A good rule of thumb in determining what files and records to keep is that if the file or record has no financial or historical significance, then it is probably time to dispose of it.

The NEW Departments Policy for Document Retention has just been revised, it was sent out and has also been posted to the web. Follow the link below to view the document.

<https://vfwpacific.org/uploads/Documents/DocumentPolicy.pdf>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

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

Happy Veterans Day! Thank you for your Service and have a great Holiday

Season.

YIC

Bert Marohl

Judge Advocate

Department of Pacific Areas



A bad time for Sudoku



DPA Judge Advocate

**Delbert "Bert" Marohl**







# EVERYTHING WE DO, WE DO

FOR VETERANS™

**VFW**

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Learn more or join at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS®

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emblems and insignia does not imply or constitute DOD endorsement.

# DPA INSPECTOR

Comrades,

The Department of Pacific Areas started the district and post inspections in October 2020. This inspection should be completed before the Council of Administration (CofA) which takes place in December this year.

All Quartermasters district and post will be bonded In Accordance With (IAW) National By-Laws.

Name			Yes/Mo/Yr
<b>District</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Okinawa</b>	<b>21-10-20</b>
LCpl Frank C. Allen	9723	Okinawa	21-10-20
<b>District</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>03-10-20</b>
John C. Parker	1054	Yokosuka	03-10-20
Gen. Claire L. Chenault	9555	Yokota	
Miller F. Nixon	9612	Camp Zama	
<b>District</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>S. Korea</b>	
Col. Lewis L. Miller, Hill 180	8180	Songtan Si, Pyongteak	
Freedom Bridge Memorial	9985	Kyonggi Do	
Hill 303	10033	Taegu	
CWO. Benjamin K. Humphreys	10223	Anjung-Ri	
K-16	12147	Seongnam	
<b>District</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>Taiwan</b>	
Fly Tigers	9957	Taipei	
<b>District</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	
Fred J. Estes	9876	Pattaya	
C.L. Elms	9951	Bangkok	
Karl W. Richter	10217	Korat	
AFTN	10249	Udon	
Mayaguez	11575	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	
Ken Chapman	12074	Chiang Mai	
Banchang Utapao	12146	Banchang	
Mount Hawthorn	12163	Yangebup, Australia	
<b>District</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>Marianas</b>	
Hafa Adai	1509	Yigo/Guam	
Ga'an Point	2917	Agat/ Guam	
Saipan	3457	Garapan/Saipan	
<b>District</b>	<b>VII</b>	<b>Phillipines</b>	
RA. Charles Parson	124	Baguio City	
Angeles City	2485	Angeles City	
Col. BJ Smith	9892	La Union	11-10-20
Paul P. Busik	11447	Olongapo	14-10-20
Ulysses G. Buzzard	12130	Cebu City	10-10-20



DPA Inspector

**Mariano Fajardo**

In order for your post or district to qualify in the All American or All State Team, they must pass the 2020-2021 inspection that is part of the "Core Programs".

Take a look and see where DPA stand with inspections. If you have questions let me know.

We look forward to your participation, and please stay safe!

**Mariano Fajardo**  
DPA Inspector





## VOD / PP / TA CHAIRMAN

**POST AND DISTRICT CHAIRMEN.** School has started, so everyone should be in contact with the schools in your area to promote the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essay Competitions and the Smart / Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Even though most schools are utilizing Distance/Home School Learning Programs, this should not stop us. Follow the instruction below to get all the program materials:

**YOUTH PROGRAMS RESOURCES.** The [Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Chairman's Manual](#) will provide you with some helpful information on promoting and judging your Post's Youth essay competitions.

**THE NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES.** The 2020-21 themes have been chosen by Commander-in-Chief Harold J. "Hal" Roesch, II. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "*Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?*" [Read the rules and eligibility requirements](#) and download the [2020-21 entry form application](#). The Patriot's Pen theme will be "*What is Patriotism to Me?*" [Read the rules and eligibility requirements](#) and download the [2020-21 entry form application](#).

**TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM RESOURCES.** The [Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Chairman's Manual](#) will provide you with some helpful information on recognizing teachers in your community for promoting citizenship education. [Review the rules and eligibility requirements](#) and nominate a teacher by submitting the [2020-21 nomination form](#).

**ELECTRONIC ENTRIES DUE TO PANDEMIC:** Due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic, entries and essays for all programs can be submitted to Posts electronically, via email.

**DISTRICT COMMANDERS:** I need to know who the **DISTRICT CHAIRMEN** are and who will be your **DISTRICT JUDGE** at the department level for the VOD / Patriot Pen / Teachers Award's programs as soon as possible. Please send names and email addresses to the [DPA VOD / PP / Teacher Award Chairman](#).

**CHANGES TO ALL-STATE AND ALL-AMERICAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS:** This year there is no requirement to participate in the National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. However, I encourage all Posts to honor those deserving teachers and submit entries.

**FOR DONATIONS:** For the 2020-2021 year, there is a new [VFW Programs Donation Form](#). If you know that your Post or District will not have any entries, let's get the donations done now. Please forward me the receipt email you receive from VFW National to get credit.

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, PATRIOT'S PEN AND TEACHERS AWARD MERCHANDISE.** For Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher Award brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store:

[VFW Store Voice of Democracy](#) for Voice of Democracy, [VFW Store Patriot's Pen](#) for Patriot's Pen and [VFW Store Teacher Award](#) for Teacher Award Programs.

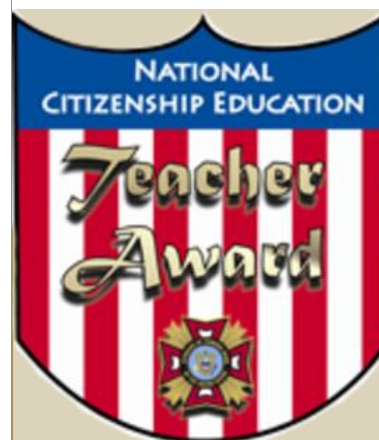
**POST CHAIRMEN:** please share this report and the National Scholarship Programs Brochure with Schools, Teachers and Youth Leaders so they can [get acquainted with VFW's Programs](#).

**DEPARTMENT LEVEL JUDGING WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED VIA EMAIL.**



VOD / PP / TA Chairman

Don Kelley





VOD / PP / TA Chairman

**Don Kelley**

## VOD / PP CHAIRMAN CONT.

**District Deadline: November the 14<sup>th</sup>**

### District Level Judging:

For Patriot's Pen essays and Voice of Democracy audio essays, districts should have their judging completed and winners forwarded to department by November the 14<sup>th</sup>. Each district can forward one (1) essay each for Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy to department. Scan and email me your winning Patriot's Pen essay entry form along with the essay and scan your winning Voice of Democracy audio essay entry form along with a copy of the audio file. Also, I will need a head & shoulders photo for each District's Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy winning student.

For Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teachers Award, districts should have their judging done and winners forwarded to department by November the 14<sup>th</sup>. Each district can forward one (1) entry to district for each grade level; K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Scan and email me your winning Teachers Award entry form, essay, resume and other supporting documentation for each grade level. Also, I will need a head & shoulders photo for each District winning teacher.

**Department Deadline November the 21<sup>st</sup>**

### Department Level Judging:

I will require each district to provide the contact information (email address) of who will represent your district as a Department Level Judge. I will email all Patriot's Pen essays, Voice of Democracy audio essays and scoresheets to each judge. Each judge can score and fill out the score sheets prior to the CofA. Scan and email me each score sheet so I can tally up the scores.

For Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teachers Award, I will evaluate depending on how many entries I receive for each Grade Level. If there is two (2) or more for any Grade Level, I will also be emailing the entry forms, resumes, supporting documentation and scoresheets to each judge. Each judge can score and fill out the score sheets prior to the CofA. Scan and email me each score sheet so I can tally up the scores.

So, we do not overload the DPA mail server, request that everyone email all entry forms, essays, audio files, resume and other supporting documentation to my Gmail account at [don.kelley@gmail.com](mailto:don.kelley@gmail.com).

**DO NOT ALLOW THIS PANDEMIC FROM HELPING STUDENTS DEVELOP THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND POSSIBLY PAY FOR COLLEGE. A STUDENT YOU HELP TODAY COULD SOMEDAY BECOME PRESIDENT.**

**THE EFFORTS YOU PUT FORTH PROVIDE BENEFITS TO YOUR COMMUNITY, ITS FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE BEYOND ANYTHING YOU CAN SEE OR IMAGINE.**

**Don Kelley**

Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Teacher Award Chairman

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

Phone: +82-10-2442-8938



# ADSO THAILAND



## Words of Wisdom from the Assistant Department Service Officer (ADSO)

When filing a claim with the VA, it is incumbent on you as the claimant to provide supporting evidence to substantiate your claim. As every claim is different there is no standard to follow. However, the following is a listing of things you can do to make the process easier for you, your dependents and the service officer.

- Setup an account in E-benefits.
- Setup an account in VA.gov
- Setup a DFAS account if eligible.
- Keep your contact information current with the VA if you're living overseas you should not be using a stateside address. What ever is on file is where the VA is going to set up your medical exam if needed. Miss an appointment the VA will stop payment and it will take time to get it reinstated.
- Keep a copy of your DD-214, check it to ensure it is correct. If it's not submit a DD Form 149 to have it corrected.
- Request a copy of your military records to include medical (even if you do not intend to file a claim right now).
- When you see a local doctor be sure to keep a copy for your records. It may be of use to support your current claim or one you may submit later on.
- Obtain a copy of all marriage certificates. (Both current and previous).
- Obtain a copy of all divorce judgments.
- Obtain a copy of dependent birth certificates.
- Obtain a copy of adoption papers.
- Keep a copy of your last will and testament readily available.
- Keep a copy of any power of attorney you might have.
- If you have a bank in the United States and it is not a joint account, check with your bank to setup a payable upon death (POD) agreement.
- If you have stocks make sure someone has the capability to redeem them after your death. Very difficult to deal with if not properly dealt with beforehand.

\* Any documents written in a foreign language should be translated to English. If the VA is required to translate them it will only increase your claim time.

**Don't pass on your problems for someone else to deal with. Take care of them now while you can.**

YIC  
Al Fitchett  
ADSO Thailand  
[adso3@vfwpacific.org](mailto:adso3@vfwpacific.org)



ADSO Thailand

**Al Fitchett**



# AMERICAN LOYALTY DAY CHAIRMAN

Comrades, we are approaching the “Holidays Season”! There are almost as many holidays and observances in November and December as there are days in a month!

We are all aware that the Marine Corps Birthday is November 10<sup>th</sup> and that Veterans Day and Armistice/Remembrance Day is on 11 November. But did you know that the entire month of November is National Veterans & Military Family Month?

Veterans & Military Families Month was established in 1996 with the Armed Services, YMCA and the US Government recognizing the occasion every year since. The President signs a proclamation declaring November National Veterans & Military Families Month. With the thousands of service members deployed overseas, recognizing the daily sacrifices made by active duty, National Guard and Reserve military families has never been more important.

And the Holiday that we all love, Thanksgiving!! This year it will be on 26 November. Once you have eaten the turkey and consumed the pumpkin pie, make sure to give thanks to our men and women in uniform that are making it possible for us to enjoy this day!!

Just before 8am on the morning of 7 Dec 1941, hundreds of Japanese fighter planes carried out a devastating attack on the Pearl Harbor Naval Base in Hawaii. The Japanese aircrews managed to achieve complete surprise and for two hours, they carried out a shocking assault on the naval base.

Pearl Harbor survivors, associations and the military community commemorate the day with memorial services, wreath laying ceremonies and the retelling of the day's events. Many schools and museums have activities to educate students and the public of the historical importance of Pearl Harbor.

National Wreaths across America is an event, usually held in mid December, to remember the sacrifices veterans have made in wars since the American Revolution. Wreaths across America (WAA) Day pay tribute in veteran's cemeteries nationwide. The WAA mission is to raise awareness of the sacrifices veterans make for the country and encourage more people to remember.

Christmas will be celebrated on 25 December 2020. Christmas has deep roots in our nation's sense of tradition and celebration. When combined with military efforts, there is a strong presence of strength, unity and cheer permeates all American families, unifying both military and non-military families with an awareness of the spirit of giving and hope.

**“MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY 2021”**

YIC,  
Tom Friend  
Americanism and Loyalty Chairman



American Loyalty Day Chairman

**Tom Friend**





## DPA WEBSITE SPONSORS



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