

# THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No one does more for Veterans  
EVERY Veteran is a HERO

2021 National Publications Winner  
Department Publication Bronze Award.



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FREE

## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022



With 2022 knocking on our doors, there is no better way to remember your special friends and family members than with a thoughtful message or a Happy New Year card. The beginning of a new year is the time to let go of old grudges and old worries and to turn over a new chapter of life. With 2021 coming to an end, people are eager to celebrate the start of something new. However, celebrations are likely to be muted this year as well as the pandemic continues to ride the Omicron wave. Across the country, several restrictions have been put in place to slow the spread of the highly-infectious Omicron variant of Covid-19. In such a scenario, going out and partying may not be advisable, but that doesn't mean you can't celebrate the arrival of 2022. May you find success, happiness and everything your heart desires. Wishing you and your loved ones a very happy new year.

Print out a copy of a 2022 calendar: <https://www.calendardate.com/2021.php>



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# COMMANDER'S CALL

Hello Comrades,

As we come to a close to another outstanding year, I am hoping each of you and yours had a fantastic holiday season and a Merry Christmas!!! The State of the Department is that we continue to be in great shape as we prepare to enter 2022!

The DPA spent the first 78 days of the membership term in first place according to VFW National Headquarters. As of the end of the year, we are currently in second place behind the State of Montana (who is over 100%) with 96.77%. So, we are 3.23% away from 100% with 391 members to reach that goal. There are seven Posts that need less than 10 members to reach 100% plus one with another five Posts needing 15 or less members. I would like to congratulate the five Posts who have reached 100% or more by 31 December. They are; 10217 (Korat), 12146 (Ban Chang), 124 (Baguio), 3457 (Saipan), and 1054 (Yokosuka). However, I would also like to thank all of our recruiters from their efforts that have put our DPA in the position we are currently in!!

To what I just said in the paragraph above, we are 391 members from 100%. Let's do it for the Gipper...in this case the Gipper in the honor of our Vietnam Veterans past and present!!!

Starting on January 1, 2022, National has recently announced a New/Reinstated/Life Membership Grant Initiative that was approved by our National Commander in Chief Mihelcic. In summary, National will provide Grants to all Posts ranging from \$10-\$30 for each member in the categories I have mentioned. Members at Large are not eligible for this Program. This has been posted on the DPA Facebook site by our DPA SVC Maxson. It has also been forwarded to the District Commanders to get this information out to the Posts. This is another membership incentive to assist Posts to gain or reinstate your members or potential members. Not quite the membership modification last year by IPDC Ken Stein, but it is still a great idea. Let's take full advantage of this Grant because it will remain active until funds to support it run out. Additionally, there are 51 other States/Departments vying for the same Grants. Your Posts should receive your Grants no later than the last day of the following month. Example: All of January's transactions would be paid by 28 February.

At this time, I would like to congratulate the DPA Winners for the VOD/PP/Teachers along with our Public Servant Program. I was informed the completion was tough for all Programs which is a good thing. A thank you also goes out to all participants, and I appreciate their contributions.

Voice of Democracy – Samantha Shih (D4/Post 9957) Taipei, Taiwan  
Patriot's Pen – Sawyer S. Stelzig (D5/Post 12074) Chiang Mai Thailand  
Teacher's Award 6th-8th Grade – Randy Schmidt (D4/9957) Taipei, Taiwan

Emergency Medical Technician – HM2 Brandon Mosteiro  
Fire Fighter – SSgt Paul Smith  
Law Enforcement Officer – TSgt Joe Perkins

The Legislative Conference scheduled for 26 Feb – 3 Mar 2022 in Washington D.C. Unfortunately, the Parade of Winners is cancelled due to pandemic concerns in the area. Currently we are awaiting word on whether or not the Council will meet.



Commander

Kevin Mitchell





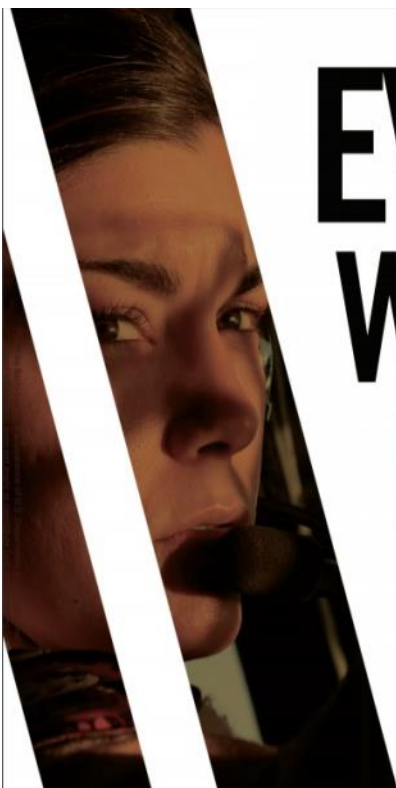
## COMMANDER'S CALL

As you may be aware, our Council of Administrations had to be accomplished on ZOOM. Plans for the Department Convention is going forward. Yes, we are still dealing with the pandemic, however planning is continuing to take place with the hopes we will have one. With probably the exception of the Department of Europe, no Department/State has been affected by the pandemic like we have and National recognizes it!!! It is now about two years and we really need some face to face time!!! Let's stay positive!!! The Department Convention is scheduled for 16-20 June 2022 at the Oasis Hotel in Angeles City, Philippines. More information to come!!!

Comrades in closing, "The Time is Now" for our organization and Department to move forward. Yes, there has been changes like our Dashboard, but it is an example of how we must move towards the future. We also need new active members in our Posts. The average age of a VFW member is 67 so I am sure you know where I am going on that! There will be more changes, but working together our Department can and will overcome the challenges and continue to shine for National to see!! I am hoping you and yours have a pleasant and safe New Year and remember...I LOVE YOU ALL!!!

In Comradeship and Service,

Kevin E. Mitchell  
Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas  
**EVERY Veteran is a HERO**  
**Remembering our DPA Vietnam Veterans Past and Present**



# EVERYTHING WE DO, WE DO FOR VETERANS™



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



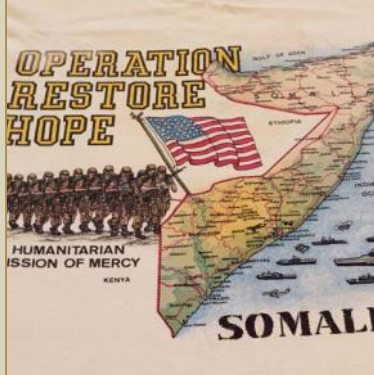
Department of Pacific Areas

Commander

Kevin Mitchell



## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES



### March 5 - US Navy Seabees Birthday

Since March 5, 1942, the U.S. Navy has employed an elite cadre of construction battalion Sailors, better known as Seabees. Guided by the motto, “We Build, We Fight,” Since then the Seabees have been the Navy's construction force, building bases and airfields, conducting underwater construction, and building roads, bridges, and other support facilities. They play a crucial role in supporting the fleet and combatant commands while carrying out the Navy's maritime strategy. Seabees also play an important role in sustaining global relationships. Seabees are forward deployed around the world to provide engineering and construction support while promoting regional stability and improving lives through engineering civic action projects in many countries.

### March 24 - Start of Kosovo Campaign 1999

In 1999, once all diplomatic avenues had failed, NATO launched an air campaign to halt the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Kosovo. Operation Allied Force started on 24 March 1999 and was suspended on 10 June, lasting a total of 78 days. On 10 June 1999, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia accepted the withdrawal of its military, police and paramilitary forces and the deployment of an effective international civil and security presence.

### March 31 - End of Operation Restore Hope—Somalia 1995

25 March 1994 Most of the American troops were out of Somalia, ending Operation Continue Hope the follow-on mission to Restore Hope. Only a few hundred marines remained offshore to assist with any noncombatant evacuation mission that might occur in the event violence broke out that necessitated the removal of the over 1,000 U.S. civilians and military advisers remaining as part of the U.S. liaison mission. All UN and U.S. personnel were finally with-

drawn almost a year later in March 1995.

**MILITARY**  
**ON**  
**SOURCE**

ONE SOURCE CONNECTING YOU  
TO YOUR BEST MILLIFE.

[Website](#)

[Events and Observances](#)



# 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)

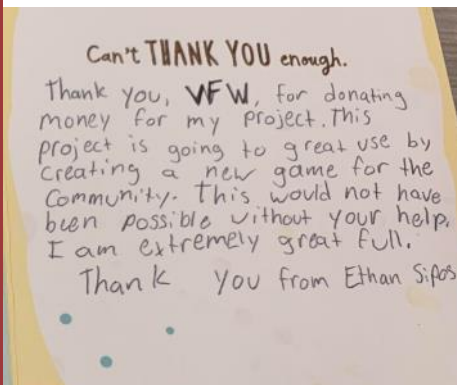


District 1/Post 9723 Commander Curtis Kozlesky introduced Life Scout Ethan SIPOS, a member of Troop 102, Chartered by Post 9723 Okinawa Japan who requested financial support from the Post membership at the 27 Oct monthly meeting. This is a proposal for his Eagle Project (GAGA Ball Course) Kadena Air Base providing an additional recreational opportunity for the Kadena Community. This is one of his last requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout. Request was approved subsequently looking forward to the Final Project.



GA-GA Octagon enclosure @ Kenney Park Kadena Air Base Okinawa Japan  
<https://www.gagacenter.com/nyc/about/what-is-Gaga/>

Scouts, Family members and VFW Post 9723 Comrades Larry Wilson, Jeff Runnfeldt, Curtis Kozlesky



Scoutmaster Marty Roberts (Post 9723) Quarter Master, Post Commander Curtis Kozlesky, Eagle Scout Candidate Ethan SIPOS, Jeffrey SIPES (Father), Bertha SIPOS (Mother).

A Ribbon cutting for an Eagle Scout Project event at Kenney Park Kadena Air Base Okinawa on 5 December 2021 organized by Life Scout Ethan SIPOS to construct a GA-GA Ball Octagon enclosure for Children and Family members to participate/enjoy.

Attendees included:

Beneficiary LTCOL JOO Commander 18th Civil Engineer Squadron  
Engineer TSGT Don Armond Structure, 18th Engineer Squadron

VFW Post 9723 contributed to the majority of the Funds to complete the Project. Outstanding event with unlimited potential.

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



# In the SPOTLIGHT



Quartermaster Mel Stanton (Santa) and Comrade Tony Frey (Santa's Helper) of the Ulysses G. Buzzard Memorial Post VFW 12130, Cebu, Philippines, greeted and passed out about 20 Christmas gifts to children in a nearby barangay to our post home. The smiles of the children were plenty and the hearts of our veterans were full of love. YIC, CDR Kim Osbourn VFW Post 12130, District 7 Pacific Area, Cebu, Philippines

L-R (TSGT Brian Diaz, Comrade John Bowers, MSGT Benjamin Alesse, Comrade Curtis Kozlesky, TSGT Jesus Cintron, MSGT Maurice Monroe, Comrade Larry Wilson, TSGT Elmae Mori

Air Force Sergeants Association presented a \$300 check delivered by AFSA Programs Chairman TSGT Jesus Cintron to VFW Post Commander Curtis Kozlesky for the support and assistance to AFSA during 2021.

AFSA sold POW/MIA T shirts during their annual 24 Hour run/walk event plus reading of names of those listed as POW/MIA's. All proceeds from the sale of T shirts were earmarked for Post 9723! Very much appreciated.



L-R Comrades Larry Wilson, Curtis Kozlesky, John Bowers, CMSGT Smith, Wife Marilyn Smith, Comrades Tracy Lee Bender, Jeff Runnfeldt.

VFW Life Member CMSGT ROBERT V. SMITH Jr. Retirement Event 17 December 2021 Kadena Air Base Okinawa Japan



# In the SPOTLIGHT



Post 9723 Commander Curtis Kozlesky along with Post Chairman Phillip Zoboblish, comrades Larry Wilson and Jeff Runnfeltd presented VOD First place certificate with \$200 check and medal to Kubasaki High School Okinawa Japan student Aidan ETTERER 9 December 2021. His Mother Elaine and classmates were in attendance. Faculty and Students were appreciative of Post 9723 support.

L-R Curtis Kozlesky, Ralph Lyons (Father), Sean Vincent Lyons (Patriots Pen 1st place winner \$200 plus medal), Lisa Lyons (Mother), Chairman Phillip Zoboblish



L-R Comrades Larry Wilson, Curtis Kozlesky, Baden Francis (VOD 3rd Place \$50), Mika Poelma (VOD 2nd Place \$100), Phillip Zoboblish, Jeff Runnfeltd



L-R Comrade Larry Wilson, Curtis Kozlesky, Russell & Anthony (Mother), Phillip Zoboblish, Gracie Pyles (PP 3rd Place \$50, Wanda Jerez (Teacher), Sean Vincent Lyons (PP 2nd Place \$100, Jeff Runnfeltd, Lisa Lyons (Mother), Veronica Finney (Assistant Principal)



L-R Curtis Kozlesky, Kaela Leigh Dwyer (2nd Place \$100) and medal Camp Lester Middle School 2 December 2021 Okinawa Japan.



L-R Comrade Larry Wilson, Curtis Kozlesky, Wanda Jerez (Ryukyu Middle School Teacher Award winner \$300), Phillip Zoboblish, Jeff Runnfeltd



L-R Comrades Jeff Runnfeltd, Curtis Kozlesky, Larry Wilson, Jeanne White (Kubasaki High School Teacher Award winner \$300), Chairman Phillip Zoboblish, James Strait

## In the SPOTLIGHT



CDR Mitchell presented 50kgs of rice to Ms. Andrea Muehlhan, Chairwoman of Mayo Productions. For 28 years, Mayo Productions has promoted goodwill by donating food, clothing etc. to over 500 Filipino families during the holiday season.



On behalf of VFW DISTRICT1 & POST 9723 Comrades Larry Wilson and Curtis Kozlesky presented a \$300 check to AF SMSGT John D. FIRLIK Career Assistance Advisor Professional Development 18th Wing, Kadena AB, Okinawa Japan. Donation is in appreciation for use of their conference and storage areas plus computer equipment throughout the year at THE MCDANIELS CENTER. Sincere thank you to SMSGT FIRLIK and his dynamic Team of professionals.



# SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

The CofA is complete all went well. Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

By the time this hits the newsstands God only knows what variant they have come up with to try and cancel our June Convention in AC. Currently as I write OMICRON is the special of the day. It cannot be a coincidence that when you scrabble OMICRON you get the word MORONIC. Fun facts for all to enjoy.

Half time is over and we are heading towards June 30<sup>th</sup> 2022. Time to start double checking what you need for All American and All State. It is your job to keep an eye on the Dashboards. I have a separate spread sheet so do not panic if on the All State Dashboard you are not showing GREEN. Feel free to send me a message to check and to notify me if you are missing something. I will attach the AA and AS checklists on the following page for you to have handy.

Relax you all know what you need to do and we are all confident you will get it done.

PS: The Commander is dedicating his year to the Veterans of the Vietnam War. So I thought I would add some pics. If you have pics you would like added from your tour or tours in Vietnam, feel free to send them to me with a note/description and I will get it put in the PT.

## MACV SOG OF THE VIETNAM WAR



Warren "Max" Maxson  
Senior Vice Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas  
**EVERY Veteran is a HERO**



Senior Vice Commander

Warren "Max" Maxson



**ALLSTATE  
STATUS  
Posts &  
Districts**

# SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

## VFW ALL AMERICAN DISTRICT CHECKLIST

Membership Greater Than 100% ☐ DATE-----

VOD ☐ DATE-----

Patriot Pen ☐ DATE-----

Remember in **ALL AMERICAN** your membership numbers are in a competition with other Districts and Posts in your Division **WORLD WIDE**.  
Cut off date for that is **JUNE 30 2022 Midnight EST**

## VFW ALL AMERICAN POST CHECKLIST

Membership Greater than 100% ☐ DATE-----

VOD ☐ DATE-----

Patriots Pen ☐ DATE-----

VMS Donation \$100 ☐ DATE-----

Partner with TWO Separate Organizations ☐ DATE-----

Post Social Media ☐ DATE-----

5 NEW Action Corps Weekly ☐ DATE-----

10% Increase in TOTAL Impact in Community Service  
(\$Donated + Hours = Total Impact)  
EX: Last year total money donated \$200 + Hours volunteered 300  
200+300=500 so this year should equal 550.

Remember in **ALL AMERICAN** your membership numbers are in a competition with other Districts and Posts in your Division **WORLD WIDE**.  
Cut off date for that is **JUNE 30 2022 Midnight EST**

## DPA ALL STATE DISTRICT CHECK LIST

Quartemaster Bonded ☐ DATE-----

All Posts Pass Inspection ☐ DATE-----

Service Officer ☐ DATE-----

Membership 100% + 1 ☐ DATE-----

Legacy Life = to Number of Posts ☐ DATE-----

All Posts Submit Qtrly Audits ☐ DATE-----

Course of Instruction ☐ DATE-----

VOD ☐ DATE-----

Patriot Pen ☐ DATE-----

VMS Donation \$100 ☐ DATE-----

National Home Donation \$50 ☐ DATE-----

CSRs + 10% Yearly ☐ DATE-----

## DPA ALL STATE POST CHECK LIST

Membership 100% +1 ☐ DATE-----

One New Legacy Life ☐ DATE-----

Quartemaster Bonded ☐ DATE-----

Pass Inspection ☐ DATE-----

Service Officer ☐ DATE-----

Submit Qtrly Audits ☐ DATE-----

CSRs 3 Monthly +10% Yearly ☐ DATE-----

VOD ☐ DATE-----

Patriot Pen ☐ DATE-----

Buddy Poppy Minimum 1 Box ☐ DATE-----

VMS Donation \$100 ☐ DATE-----

Post Website or Facebook ☐ DATE-----

National Home Donation \$50 ☐ DATE-----

CDR Attends All District Meetings ☐ DATE-----

At Least one of the Following:  
Action Corps Weekly  
MAP Sponsored Event  
Adopt A Unit  
Sponsor a Scout Troop



Senior Vice Commander

Warren "Max" Maxson



**ALLSTATE  
STATUS  
Posts &  
Districts**



## VIETNAM WAR STORIES “THE DRAFT”

Two-thirds of the U.S. military who served in the Vietnam War - and more than half of the names on The Wall - volunteered for duty. The other one-third were drafted, primarily into the Army. The Selective Service System during the Vietnam war was highly controversial, especially because early in the war draftees came disproportionately from poor, working-class, rural, and minority populations.

Military conscription, commonly known as “the draft,” is one of the most complex topics related to the Vietnam War. It is emotional for many people – those who chose to serve when drafted, those who sought deferments to delay or avoid serving, to those who refused to serve and went to jail or left the country. Although statistics from different sources often conflict, it is clear that the draft was grossly unfair to segments of the population, especially early in the war. The majority of those who served during the Vietnam War were volunteers – not draftees – even though our public recollection often tells us just the opposite. Public backlash from draft-eligible men is a primary reason cited by many as to why public sentiment turned against the war effort.

One thing is certain – the Vietnam War was not the first time in our nation’s history that people were drafted, and it may not be the last.

The fact is that military conscription has been a regular practice in the United States since the American Revolution. When there weren’t enough volunteers to meet the needs of the military, the Selective Service System (the draft) was used to cover the shortfall. After WWII, the U.S. maintained a “peacetime” draft, so the draft already was in place as the U.S. deepened its involvement in Vietnam. In 1965, President Johnson doubled monthly draft calls to 35,000.

Local draft boards called up registered males and evaluated them for service. These boards were often made up of military veterans, who granted exemptions and deferments for a variety of reasons such as medical issues and student status. Many people perceived the deferment process to advantage white males with financial privilege or political connections. This perception is supported by race and ethnicity data: an October 1966 report by the National Advisory Commission on Selective Service showed that only 1.3 percent of local board members were African American. By comparison, African Americans constituted 11 percent of the U.S. population, 16.3 percent of all draftees, and 23 percent of all combat troops in Vietnam in 1967.

A 1969 revision of the Selective Service Act diminished the power of local draft boards and instituted a national lottery system. On December 1 of that year, on national television, capsules containing birth dates were pulled out of a large bowl. Those dates were then mounted on a large board, in the order in which they were drawn. September 14<sup>th</sup> was the first date placed on the board, and in 1970 local draft boards began filling their quotas with draft-eligible men born on that date.



SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM  
REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE  
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SELECTIVE SERVICE LAW

(FIRST NAME)	(MIDDLE NAME)	(LAST NAME)
Joseph	Francis	Corrigan, III

SELECTIVE SERVICE NO. 36 6 142 825

(DATE OF BIRTH) (PLACE OF BIRTH)  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

COLOR EYES Blue COLOR HAIR Blond HEIGHT 6 FT - IN. WEIGHT 185

Other obvious physical characteristics  
Scar above right eye - on eyebrow

WAS DULY REGISTERED ON THE 25th DAY OF Nov. 1960

(SIGNATURE OF LOCAL BOARD CLERK)

Thousands of draft-age men refused military service in Vietnam. Burning draft cards, at first a symbolic [protest](#), took on added significance in 1965 when President Johnson signed a law criminalizing the act. Some fled the country, often to Canada. A small number of men served jail sentences in order to protest the war. More than 3,000 men went to prison for some form of draft resistance.

“Conscientious objectors” refused to fight on the basis of conscience or religion. They were exempted from service as combatants but were required to perform two years of alternative service. Some conscientious objectors served in Vietnam as combat [medics](#), not required to fight and not considered combatants.

# JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades!

I'm hoping you and your families had a great time during the Holidays and are all in good health. We are getting close to our halfway point of this administrative year and we should be well on our path forward towards our goals.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the Voice of Democracy/ Patriot Pen/Teacher Of The Year winners as well as the Posts that participated in this great program. I would also like to congratulate the Posts that have already reached 100% in their membership. You can also do it and reach the goal of making All State All American this year. As we all know Community Service Reports (CSRs) is one of a key part in setting this goal but importantly recruiting new members, and retaining our current membership is the main key to our future in our Department. For the Posts that are struggling with the reporting process, please contact your District Commander or Department Program Managers for assistance.

As we continue moving forward, let us build on our successes and our failures as lessons learned. I look forward to hear from you all and we will work as a Team and help you achieve your Goals. If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

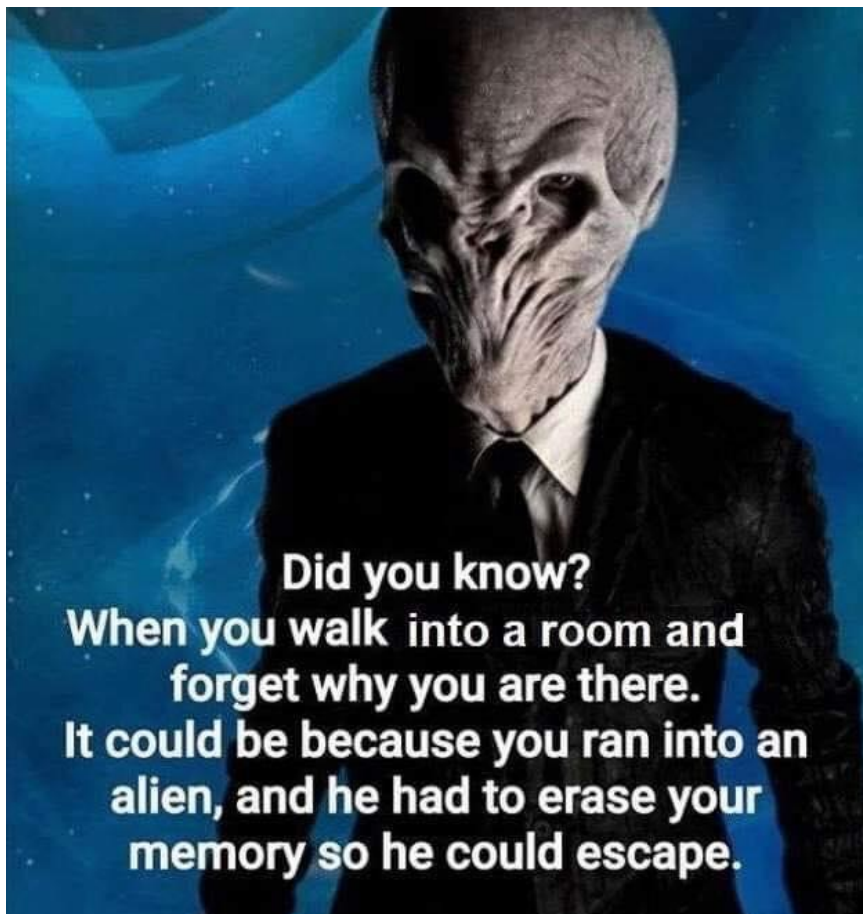
Yours In Comradeship and Service!

Alexander B. Fores

Junior Vice Commander

Department of Pacific Areas

**EVERY Veteran is a HERO**



Junior Vice Commander

**Alex Fores**



Click on the icon above to go to our new **Training and Tutorial** page under **Resources** on the DPA Website



## 2021-22 Dedicated to our DPA



### Vietnam Veterans Past and Present

#### 1967 Vietnam soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division

On September 11, 1965 the 1st Cavalry Division arrived in South Vietnam at Qui Nhon, bringing U.S. troop strength in South Vietnam to more than 125,000. The unit, which had a long and storied history, was the first full U.S. Army division deployed to Vietnam. The division consisted of nine battalions of airmobile infantry, an air reconnaissance squadron, and six battalions of artillery. The division also included the 11th Aviation Group, made up of three aviation battalions consisting of 11 companies of assault helicopters, assault support helicopters, and gunships.

The division used a new concept by which the ground maneuver elements were moved around the battlefield by helicopters. Initially deployed to the II Corps area at Qui Nhon, the division took part in the first major engagement between U.S. and North Vietnamese forces during the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley fought in November, just two months after the division began arriving in Vietnam. Later, the division moved further north to I Corps in 1968 to relieve the embattled U.S. Marines at Hue during the Tet Offensive; in October of the same year, they redeployed to III Corps to conduct operations to protect Saigon; and in 1970, the division took part in the invasion of Cambodia and conducted operations in both III and IV Corps (the Mekong Delta). Thus, the 1st Cavalry Division, popularly known as the "First Team," was the only American division to fight in all four corps tactical zones. The bulk of the division began departing Vietnam in late April 1970, but the 3rd Brigade remained until June 1972. The 1st Cavalry Division was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation and "First Team" soldiers were awarded 25 Medals of Honor, 120 Distinguished Service Crosses, 2,766 Silver Stars, 2,697 Distinguished Flying Crosses, and 8,408 Bronze Stars for Valor.

The Giant Killer book & page honors these incredible war & patriots making sure their stories of valor and sacrifice are never forgotten. God Bless our Vets! Available now on Amazon [https://www.amazon.com/dp/B086VP8R5L/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?\\_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B086VP8R5L/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1),



2021-22 Dedicated to our DPA



Vietnam Veterans Past and Present



**NOBODY WANTED**

**TO BE THERE**



**BUT**



**WE WENT ANYWAY**





## 2021-22 Dedicated to our DPA



### Vietnam Veterans Past and Present

#### Life and Times of Robert "Bob" Andrews in Viet Nam 1967-1968

The pics show my various base camps. My first month in Nam with the 4/39th Infantry. I humped the jungle as a Private First Class E-3 radio operator. The tent with the sandbags was at Bear Cat near Bien Hoa. Sept. 67 I was transferred to the 15th Combat Engineer Battalion with S-2 Intelligence. I was an intelligence analyst and was promoted to Specialist E-4. Still did KP, guard duty and recon patrols. After the Bob Hope Christmas show at Bear Cat my unit moved from Bear Cat to Dong Tam down in the Delta by the Mekong River to support the Riverine forces. This was just before the TET Offensive. Got mortared 21 days and fire fights on the perimeter. My last 5 months 2 story billets were built. Not a good idea. Hard to quickly get down from second floor during a mortar attack, I was promoted to SP-5 E-5 couple of months before my DEROS date. The pic of the flames and smoke was the ever present duty of stirring the cut off 55 gallon drums on the crap burning detail. I left Vietnam on 15Jul68.

Bob is a Life Member of VFW Post 8180 in Songtan Korea. He continues to serve every Friday from spring to winter at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery near Chicago Illinois where he performs Military Honors for our departed Veterans. He turns into a "Snow Bird" on Christmas Day and travels to Florida for the winter! Thanks for your Continued Service Bob!



## REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

Army Ranger Patrick Gavin Tadina is pictured here in an undated photo wearing North Vietnamese Army fatigues and carrying an AK-47. A 30-year Army veteran who was the longest continuously serving Ranger in Vietnam and one of the war's most decorated enlisted soldier.

Patrick Gavin Tadina served in Vietnam for over five years straight between 1965 and 1970, leading long range reconnaissance patrols deep into enemy territory -- often dressed in black pajamas and sandals and carrying an AK-47.

A native of Hawaii, Tadina earned two Silver Stars, 10 Bronze Stars -- seven with valor -- three Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry, four Army Commendation Medals, including two for valor, and three Purple Hearts.

His small stature and dark complexion helped him pass for a Viet Cong soldier on patrols deep into the Central Highlands, during which he preferred to be in the point position. His citations describe him walking to within feet of enemies he knew to be lying in wait for him and leading a pursuing enemy patrol into an ambush set by his team.

In Vietnam he served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol, 74th Infantry Detachment Long Range Patrol and Company N (Ranger), 75th Infantry. Tadina joined the Army in 1962 and served in the Dominican Republic before going to Southeast Asia. He also served with the 82nd Airborne Division in Grenada during Operation Urgent Fury in 1983 and with the 1st Infantry Division during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

A 1995 inductee into the Ranger Hall of Fame, he served with "extreme valor," never losing a man during his years as a team leader in Vietnam, a hall of fame profile at Fort Benning said.

Some 200 men had served under him without "so much as a scratch," said a newspaper clipping his daughter shared, published while Tadina was serving at Landing Zone English in Vietnam's Binh Dinh province, likely in 1969. Tadina himself was shot three times and his only brother was also killed in combat in Vietnam, Stars and Stripes later reported.

The last time he was shot was during an enemy ambush in which he earned his second Silver Star, and the wounds nearly forced him to be evacuated from the country, the LZ English story said.

As the point man, Tadina was already inside the kill zone when he sensed something was wrong, but the enemy did not fire on him, apparently confused about who he was, the article stated. After spotting the enemy, Tadina opened fire and called out the ambush to his teammates before falling to the ground and being shot in both calves.

He refused medical aid and continued to command until the enemy retreated, stated another clipping, quoting from his Silver Star citation. "When you're out there in the deep stuff, there's an unspoken understanding," he told Tate in 1985. "It's caring about troops."

After retiring from the Army in 1992, he continued working security jobs until 2013, Poeschl said, including stints in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Giant Killer page celebrates the histories of these unique warriors. To learn more please check out the book, The Giant Killer available as a Hardcover, Paperback, eBook, & Audiobook on Amazon and other major retailers.

Story Source [Military.com](http://Military.com)





## MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

[#MedalOfHonor](#) Carlos James Lozada was born on September 6, 1946 in Caguas, Puerto Rico. His family moved to New York City in the early 1950s. They settled in the Bronx section of the city, where Lozada received both his primary and secondary education. He graduated from high school in 1966 and soon married. Lozada then joined the Army, intending to use his G.I. benefits to attend college after his term of service.

The United States at that time was involved in the Vietnam War and on June 11, 1967, Lozada was sent to Vietnam and assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 503 Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

On November 20, 1967, at Dak To in the Republic of Vietnam, PFC Lozada spotted a North Vietnamese Army company rapidly approaching his outpost. He alerted his comrades and opened fire with a machine gun, killing at least twenty of the enemy soldiers and disrupting their initial attack. He realized that if he abandoned his position there would be nothing to hold back the surging North Vietnamese soldiers and that his entire company withdrawal would be jeopardized – as a result he told his comrades to move to the back and that he would supply cover for them. He continued to deliver a heavy and accurate volume of suppressive fire against the enemy until he was mortally wounded and had to be carried during the withdrawal.

Lozada was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in December 1969, for distinguishing himself in the Battle of Dak To.

His name is located in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. His name is also inscribed in "El Monumento de la Recordación" (Monument of Remembrance), dedicated to Puerto Rico's fallen soldiers and situated in front of the Capitol Building in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The Bronx honored him by naming a playground in his honor located behind 175 Willis Ave.

On November 11, 2008, the Government of Puerto Rico unveiled in the Capitol Rotunda the oil portrait of PFC Carlos James Lozada.

Lozada was buried with full military honors at the Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale, New York.

Visit the museum and see a tribute to Lozada's brave actions. The Hall of Valor pays tribute to American Infantrymen who have received the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest award for bravery. Open Saturday's 9am-5pm and Sunday's 11am to 5pm.

[#OnThisDayInHistory](#) [#HallofValor](#)  
<http://nationalinfantrymuseum.org/project/hall-of-valor/>



# IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Hello Comrades,

Happy New Year. Here's wishing you and yours a healthy, happy, and successful 2022.

In case you were not aware, at the 2021 National Convention, Section 101 (Eligibility) of the VFW Bylaws was amended as it relates to membership. The change removes the requirement of US citizenship or status as a US national from our eligibility requirements. Important information to remember as you continue recruiting new members.

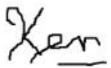
Congratulations to Commander Mitchell and the Department membership team for qualifying for the Department Early Bird Incentive. In order to qualify the Department must achieve 92% in membership by 1 Jan 2022. The DPA achieved this qualification about two months into the term. Great effort by the Every Veteran is a Hero team and our hard-working post recruiters.

It was good to "see" (virtually) many of you on the Council of Administration zoom meeting last month. Hopefully we will have an in-person Department Convention in Angeles City on 12 June 2022.

As we continue experiencing travel restrictions throughout our Department please remember to perform buddy checks. Let's not have any of our comrades feel alone during this challenging pandemic.

Once again, have a great VFW 2022.

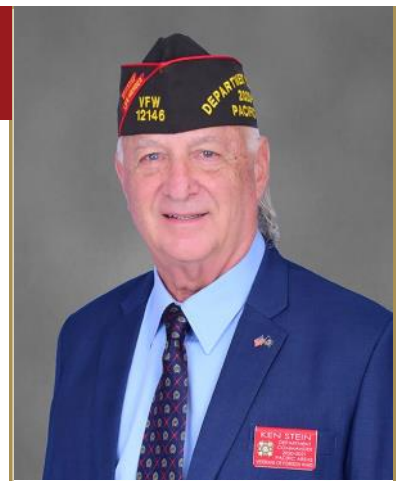
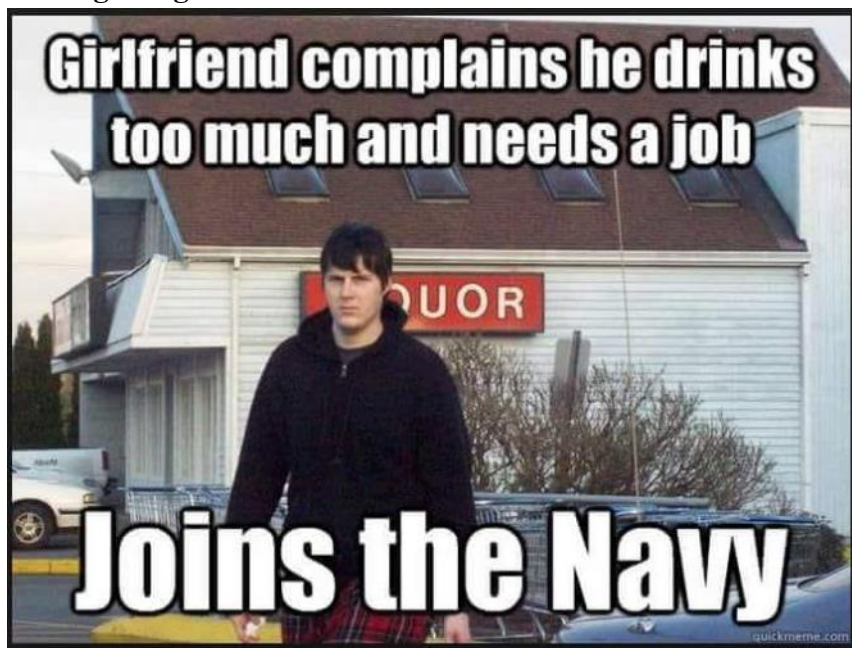
Yours in comradeship and service to veterans,



Kenneth A. Stein  
Past DPA Commander 2020-2021

**EVERY Veteran is a HERO**

**"Remembering our great Vietnam Veterans Past and Present"**



Immediate Past DPA CDR

**Ken Stein**





## CHIEF OF STAFF

Comrades,

Welcome to twenty twenty two. Let's hope it isn't a rerun of 2020. We are one of the few Departments which has been unable to hold a Department-wide in-person meeting for nearly two years. Yet we still rank near the top of the VFW nationally in accomplishing our mission. This is a testament to your commitment to our organization and to the character of leadership we have at every level, most importantly, our Posts. YOU have figured out ways to get new members to join, to help veterans and their families, and to remain active in your communities, even in the face of dictatorial restrictions. WELL DONE!

Fixes to the VA's Foreign Medical Program appear to be at a standstill, and I am running out of ideas on how to proceed. The US Congress seems unwilling or unable to bring any pressure on the VA to fix things. Or, more likely, there are just too many more problems they are facing that have a higher priority than some vets living overseas getting lousy service.

There is a non-profit organization made up of US Veterans whose sole mission is to improve the VA. It is called Concerned Veterans For America, and you can see what they are about at : [www.myvastory.org](http://www.myvastory.org) They are headquartered in Alexandria, VA, not far from the seats of power, but I can't claim to know how effective their lobbying efforts are. I have heard their leaders on national radio, so they have a wide reach. To tell them your VA story, you have to select a State. I recommend using your home of record in the US or the state from which you joined the military. If it appears that I am running out of options on how to kick a bureaucracy in the butt, it's because I am.

The VFW Foundation still has grants to award for Posts seeking to help similar non-profits in their community. The grant program was changed in 2020 because of the Chinese bat fever, also known as Fau-Chi, but has returned to normal operation in 2021. When the money runs out, the grants will stop until next year, so get your applications in soon. Go to: <https://www.vfw.org/community/community-initiatives/post-grants> to learn about the program and to apply for a grant.

I have been told that there will be significant changes to next year's National Membership Program, emphasizing Life Membership. We have used this to great success in our Department so I hope it catches on Nationally.

That's it for now. Using a line from one of my favorite cop shows of the 80's, Hill Street Blues, (showing my age), "Be careful out there!"

Yours In Comradeship,

Pete Callaghan  
CoS, NCM



Chief of Staff

**Peter Callaghan**

# JUDGE ADVOCATE

Greetings Comrades

I hope 2022 brings good health and prosperity to you and your loved ones. Hopefully this pandemic will end or at least lighten up so everyone can return to some form of normality and we can once again conduct an in-person meeting.

For those of you that would like to propose changes to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, your District Bylaws or our Department Bylaws, or a Resolution to be approved at our Convention, the time to start is now. The following procedures outline the requirements and as you can see, proposed changes need to be made available to the membership and routed through channels prior to being submitted to Department for review and consideration.

**NOTE:** Your existing Post, District, or Department Bylaws may impose additional requirements when submitting proposed changes.

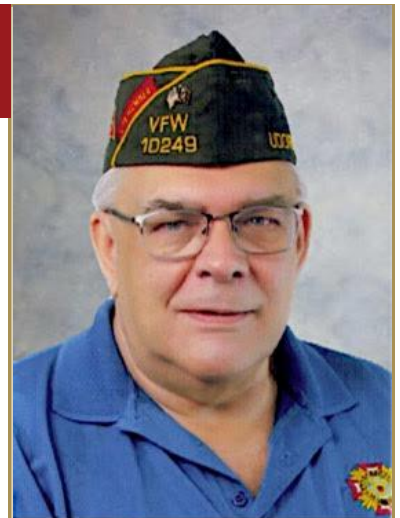
## Guide to Bylaws Amendments and Resolutions

### Post Bylaws – Article II, Sec. 202

- Requires members be notified at least 20 days in advance and upon request, provide them a copy of the proposed Bylaws or copy of the proposed Amendments.
- May be amended at any Regular or Special Meeting.
- Requires two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting
- Copies of Bylaws, including amendments, adopted by a post, within thirty (30) days be forwarded to the Department Commander for review and forwarding to the Commander-in-Chief.
- Bylaws or Amendments adopted by the Post become effective upon approval by the Commander-in-Chief, provided such Bylaws do not conflict with the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual or laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

### District Bylaws – Article IV, Sec. 402

- May only be adopted or amended by the District Convention
- Copies of Bylaws, including amendments, adopted by a District shall be submitted to the Department Commander who shall review them for compliance with the Department Bylaws and shall within thirty (30) days, with a recommendation to the Commander-in-Chief, certifying there is no conflict with the Department Bylaws.
- No Bylaws or Amendments adopted by a District shall become effective until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief or their designee for compliance with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual or laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.



Judge Advocate

**Delbert "Bert" Marohl**



# JUDGE ADVOCATE

## Department Bylaws - Article V, Sec. 502

- May only be adopted or amended by the Department Convention
- Copies of Bylaws, including amendments, adopted by a Department shall be forwarded to Commander-in-Chief, through channels.
- No Bylaws or Amendments adopted by a Department shall become effective until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief or their designee for compliance with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual or laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

## Amendments – Article XIV, Sec 1401

- Any member in good standing in, a Post, a District, or a Department, may propose an amendment to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedures and Ritual.
- Proposed amendments must be submitted through channels and before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must be approved by a Department Convention. Immediately following a Department Convention, the proposed amendments must be forwarded to National.
- All proposed amendments will be available to each Post by the Adjutant General at least fifteen (15) days before the assembling of the National Convention.
- The Adjutant General further requests that all amendments be forwarded to National no later than five (5) working days following the close of the Department Convention.
- All amendments adopted at any National Convention according to the provisions of this section shall take effect thirty (30) days after the final adjournment of the National Convention at which they were adopted, unless specifically stated otherwise in the amendment.

## Resolutions –

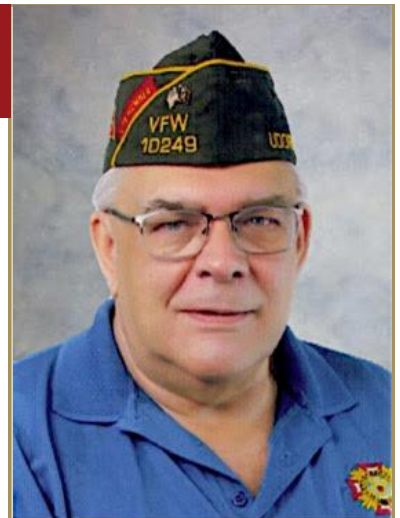
- All Resolutions shall be in writing
- The policy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is established by resolutions adopted by the delegates attending Department and National Conventions.
- A resolution contains two separate parts; a statement of the problem to be solved, and the proposed solution to the problem.
- VFW Guide for Amendment and Resolution is available in the document repository on the vfw.org website.

To ensure Delegates to the Department Convention have a chance to review your proposed Amendment and/or Resolution be sure to submit them to the Department Adjutant NLT forty-five (45) days prior to the Department Convention.

YIC

Bert Marohl

DPA Judge Advocate



Department of Pacific Areas

Judge Advocate

**Delbert "Bert" Marohl**

## STORY TIME: THERE IS A MESSAGE HERE

In Washington DC, at a Metro Station, on a cold January morning in 2007, a man with a violin played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, approximately 2000 people went through the station, most of them on their way to work.

After about four minutes, a middle-aged man noticed that there was a musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds, and then he hurried on to meet his schedule.

About four minutes later, the violinist received his first dollar. A woman threw money in the hat and, without stopping, continued to walk.

At six minutes, a young man leaned against the wall to listen to him, then looked at his watch and started to walk again.

At ten minutes, a three-year old boy stopped, but his mother tugged him along hurriedly. The kid stopped to look at the violinist again, but the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk, turning his head the whole time. This action was repeated by several other children, but every parent - without exception - forced their children to move on quickly.

At forty-five minutes: The musician played continuously. Only six people stopped and listened for a short while. About twenty gave money but continued to walk at their normal pace. The man collected a total of \$32.

After one hour:

He finished playing and silence took over. No one noticed and no one applauded. There was no recognition at all.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the greatest musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written, with a violin worth \$3.5 million dollars. Two days before, Joshua Bell sold-out a theater in Boston where the seats averaged \$100 each to sit and listen to him play the same music.

This is a true story. Joshua Bell, playing incognito in the D.C. Metro Station, was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and people's priorities.

This experiment raised several questions:

In a common-place environment, at an inappropriate hour, do we perceive beauty?

If so, do we stop to appreciate it?

Do we recognize talent in an unexpected context?



One possible conclusion reached from this experiment could be this: If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world, playing some of the finest music ever written, with one of the most beautiful instruments ever made... How many other things are we missing as we rush through life?

[Background and an update click here.](#)



# NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN

Comrades, by the time you all read this the Holiday's will have passed.

I hope that everyone stayed safe and had a great enjoyable time with the family.

This report is a bit early as the National Home is getting ready to start their Christmas and New Year time off. The numbers have changed just a little thanks to Post 12074, sorry you guys have problems each year.

## National Home Donation Report as of 18 December 2021.

District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated	District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated
District 1	Yes	\$50.00	10217	Yes	\$50.00
9723	Yes	\$50.00	10249		
District 2	Yes	\$50.00	11575	Yes	\$50.00
1054	Yes	\$50.00	12074	Yes	\$50.00
9555	Yes	\$100.00	12146	Yes	\$50.00
9612	Yes	\$50.00	12163		
District 3	Yes	\$50.00	District 6	Yes	\$50.00
8180	Yes	\$100.00	1509		
9985			2917	Yes	\$50.00
10033			3457		
10223	Yes	\$50.00	District 7	Yes	\$50.00
District 4			124	Yes	\$50.00
9957			2485	Yes	\$50.00
District 5	Yes	\$50.00	9892	Yes	\$100.00
9876	Yes	\$700.00	11447	Yes	\$50.00
9951	Yes	\$50.00	12130	Yes	\$50.00
<u>Dist/Post</u> Total	\$2,100.00	Special Projects	\$0.00	Grand Total	\$2,100.00
Not Confirmed		Working on			

If any District or Post is having problems, please let me know so I can contact the National Home and try to get it resolved.

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

my dog got a haircut and now it looks like he gave up drinking.



National Home Chairman

Randell Himes

Please report to me any and all donations that you make so I can record and track them. Email the completed form 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.*

Visit their website [here](https://www.vfwnh.org)



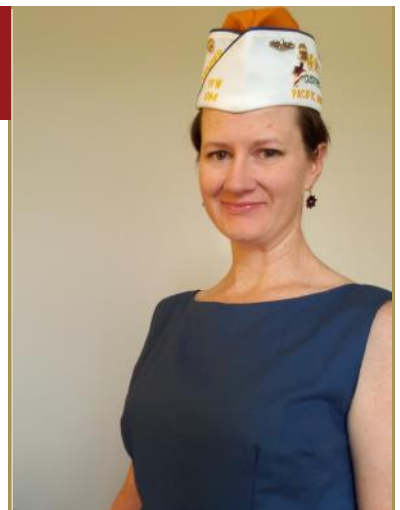
## WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAMS

This article honors the Army and their foresight in relation to the role of women and minorities following the Vietnam War. More specifically it focuses on Desert Storm era soldiers as we remember the conclusion of the “100 hour ground war” that started on 17 January 1991 when Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait and completed 43 days later on 28 February 1991. The Iraqi forces had been trained and supplied by the Soviets and used those skills against Iran and other neighboring countries leading up to the conflict with Kuwait. Iraq was not a Geneva Convention country and was accused of many violations of Human Rights as well as the use of Chemical/biological warfare. Ironically, the U.S. Army was also the cause of many chemical exposures to our Troops in their efforts to combat the peripheral hazards of living in the desert. Some examples include: high concentration of Deet for skin and clothes to ward off nits, fleas and other pests; permethrin laundry treatments applied in bathing tubs; burn pits; energy pills improperly distributed and presented as used to “ward off nerve gas”; expired and ineffective MOPP gear; and being downwind of a targeted chemical munitions plant. We are still learning about the long-term health effects as a result of chemical exposure to our troops.

The US Army was the first branch to really contemplate their current force and projected numbers into the future following the political mess of the Vietnam War. The Draft was abolished in 1973 and the military was back to being a volunteer force. Women had been accepted as nurses, administrative positions and airplane mechanics as far back as WWII so, the idea of having women as part of the mission wasn't farfetched. “Women accounted for over 11 percent of the Regular Army and 8 percent of the regulars deployed to the Persian Gulf.” The issue of debate was Federal Law prohibiting women from serving in direct combat roles in the Navy and Air Force, which the Army, was not technically required to follow. It was more acceptable for a woman to die by accident when a field hospital was hit than for a woman to be an infantryman on guard duty near the “action”. All Army occupations were given point values to determine the fatality risk. Women were included or excluded from the occupation as a result of the point value or, were restricted from hot zones if in a war zone. For example, Helicopter pilots flew into combat zones to move food, ammunition, soldiers (healthy and wounded) but did not participate in direct combat. “Three percent, or 380, of the Army's 13,650 active-duty pilots were women.” The following are some examples of Female Soldiers who served in Operation Desert Storm.



2<sup>nd</sup> LT. Natalie Lonkard and members of the 475<sup>th</sup> Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) outside their tent in Saudi Arabia, Operation Desert Storm, 1991



Women Veterans Programs

**Lauren Wanzer**

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY - A PROUD HERITAGE





# WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAMS

Sgt. Sheri L. Barbato; Records keeper, 1st Cavalry Division. "There wasn't anything over there that happened to the guys that didn't happen to me. Maybe if I was driving a tank, I'd feel like I was doing something more to help than keeping records of spare truck parts. There were times when I would have welcomed the opportunity to fight back.



Soldiers from the 17th Signal Battalion pose in MOPP gear during the ground war. *Photo credit Kelly Kennedy/The War Horse*

Lt. Phoebe Jeter; Air Defense Artillery Officer, D Battery. Known for being "the first female Scud buster," led a platoon of fifteen men assigned to a Patriot missile control team. She identified incoming Scuds, ascertained their location on a computer screen, and gave her men orders to destroy them. As a result of her performance, she became the first Air Defense Artillery Officer to lead a platoon that successfully destroyed a SCUD missile fired against the U.S. military earning an Army Commendation Medal while in Saudi Arabia.

Sgt. Barbara Bates; Meteorologist, 24th Infantry Division. She provided the combat troops of a forward-based self-propelled howitzer artillery unit with swift, precise readouts of local winds, temperature, and other conditions critical to target accuracy. Sgt. Bates was the sole woman serving with more than 700 artillerymen. "When the shells start coming downwind, I will be counting on my flak jacket for protection, not my MOS,"

Maj. Marie Rossi; Helicopter Pilot, XVIII Airborne Corps. Maj. Rossi was one of the first female soldiers over the border into Iraq when she led her company of Chinook helicopters in supplying ammunition to combat troops. "What I'm doing is no greater or less than the man who is flying next to me or in back of me," she said during an interview. Major Rossi died with her three crew members when their Chinook crashed into an unlit microwave tower during bad weather the day after the cease-fire.

Spc. Melissa Rathbun-Nealy, 233d Transportation Company. On 30 January Spc Rathbun-Nealy, Lockett, and two other soldiers went to retrieve two heavy equipment vehicles that were repaired and ready for pick up near Dhahran. They failed to turn west at an intersection, and mistakenly headed toward R'as al Khafji, where they came under fire. Rathbun-Nealy and Lockett's truck became stuck in the sand and enemy troops quickly surrounded the vehicle. Both were wounded and held as prisoners of war in Baghdad for over a month before they were released with other U.S. prisoners on 4 March 1991. As the first American female prisoner of war in fifty years, Rathbun-Nealy rapidly captured the public's imagination.



Department of Pacific Areas  
Women Veterans Programs

**Lauren Wanzer**



# WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAMS

Sgt. Bonnie Riddell; Military Police, 1st Cavalry Division. She worked thirteen-hour shifts on perimeter duty in a sandbagged observation post, which she shared with a male soldier. She carried a .45-caliber pistol at her hip, had an M16 rifle at her side, and manned a light machine gun. Riddell told a reporter who interviewed her while on duty that she was nervous and scared, but added: "If it happens while I'm sitting here, and it's a question of me or them, it's going to be them."

Maj. Rhonda L. Cornum; Flight Surgeon, 229<sup>th</sup> Attack Helicopter Regiment. 27 February 1991 Maj. Cornum had volunteered for a helicopter search-and-rescue mission for a downed F-16 Pilot and crashed behind enemy lines. Five of the helicopter's eight crew members were killed and Cornum suffered two broken arms, a broken finger, a gunshot wound to the back among other injuries. Cornum was captured and taken to Basra followed by a week in Baghdad. During her imprisonment, she was sexually assaulted by an Iraqi captor; watched other servicemen be tortured; and was subjected to mock executions while the Army had her listed as "missing". It was not known that she was a prisoner until about a day before her release on 5 March 1991. She was awarded the Purple Heart along with four other POW's on 13 March 1991 at Walter Reed Medical Center.

These Soldiers proved to the American public that women could serve alongside men and do it well. They were protecting each other with sophisticated computers and 50 caliber weapons. It wasn't perfect, there were issues of sexual harassment and other gender related problems that still are prevalent in today's military. The Army proved that it could be done and the other branches made adjustments to open more doors to women who want to make the military a career.



118<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company Security at Front gate XVIII Airborne Corps, Rafha Airport, Northern Province, Saudi Arabia 8 February 1991. Photograph by SSG LaDona S. Kirkland, DS-F-163-19

Chapter 9 Profile of the New Army <https://history.army.mil/books/www/WWW9.HTM>  
[https://history.army.mil/photos/gulf\\_war/index.htm](https://history.army.mil/photos/gulf_war/index.htm)  
<https://www.nationalguard.mil/Features/2016/Desert-Storm/>  
<https://thewarhorse.org/chemicals-chemicals-and-more-chemicals-a-veteran-reflects-on-her-time-in-desert-storm/>



Department of Pacific Areas  
Women Veterans Programs

**Lauren Wanzer**

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY - A PROUD HERITAGE



[Visit the VFW.org Women Veterans Website](https://www.vfw.org/women)



## THE LIGHTER SIDE

During the second world war, three military prisoners were about to be executed. A private, a sergeant and an officer. Two guards bring the private forward, and the executioner asks if he has any last requests. He says no, and the executioner shouts, "Ready... Aim..." Suddenly the private yells, "Earthquake!" Everyone is startled and looks around, allowing him time to run away as fast as he could.

The angry guards then bring the sergeant forward, and the executioner asks if he has any last requests. He says no, and the executioner shouts, "Ready... Aim..." The sergeant then screams, "Tornado!" Yet again, everyone is startled and looks around, allowing him time to escape in the confusion.

The guards, very angry now, bring the officer forward, and the executioner asks if he has any last requests. He also says no, and the executioner shouts, "Ready... Aim..." The officer shouts, "FIRE!"



You may have heard of the best kept secret of the US army - the infamous area 51 in Nevada, where secret operations are conducted. It was late afternoon when Air Force spotted a Cessna airplane landing right at area 51. Perplexed, they immediately seized the pilot and dragged him into an interrogation room. The pilot's story was that he took off from Vegas, got lost, and spotted the Base just as he was about to run out of fuel.

The Air Force started a full FBI background check on the pilot and held him overnight during the investigation. By the next day, they were finally convinced that the pilot really was lost and wasn't a spy. They gassed up his airplane, gave him a terrifying

"you-did-not-see-a-base" briefing, complete with threats of spending the rest of his life in prison, told him Vegas was that-a-way on such-and-such a heading, and sent him on his way.

The day after that though, to the total disbelief of the Air Force, the same Cessna showed up again. Once again, the MP's surrounded the plane... only this time there were two people in the plane. The pilot and a sour, angry looking woman. The same pilot jumped out and said, "I know I shouldn't be here again, and you can do anything you want to me, but please, please, will you tell my wife that I actually DID spend last night in area 51

A trio of old veterans were bragging and jokes about the heroic exploits of their ancestors one afternoon down at the VFW hall. "My great grandfather, at age 13," one declared proudly, "was a drummer boy at Shiloh."

"Mine," boasts another, "went down with Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn."

"I'm the only soldier in my family," confessed vet number three, "but if my great grandfather was living today, he'd be the most famous man in the world." "Really? What'd he do?" his friends wanted to know. "Nothing much... But he would be 165 years old."



# DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Comrades,

Happy New Year! All the best to you, your family, and friends for 2021. Hopefully, everyone had a safe Holiday Season, and the New Year will bring you and your families much joy and happiness.

I would like to thank all of Districts and Post for taking the time to complete your inspection by the COA. We have been challenged by this pandemic to continue to work for the good of this organization and while keeping in mind to always stay safe.

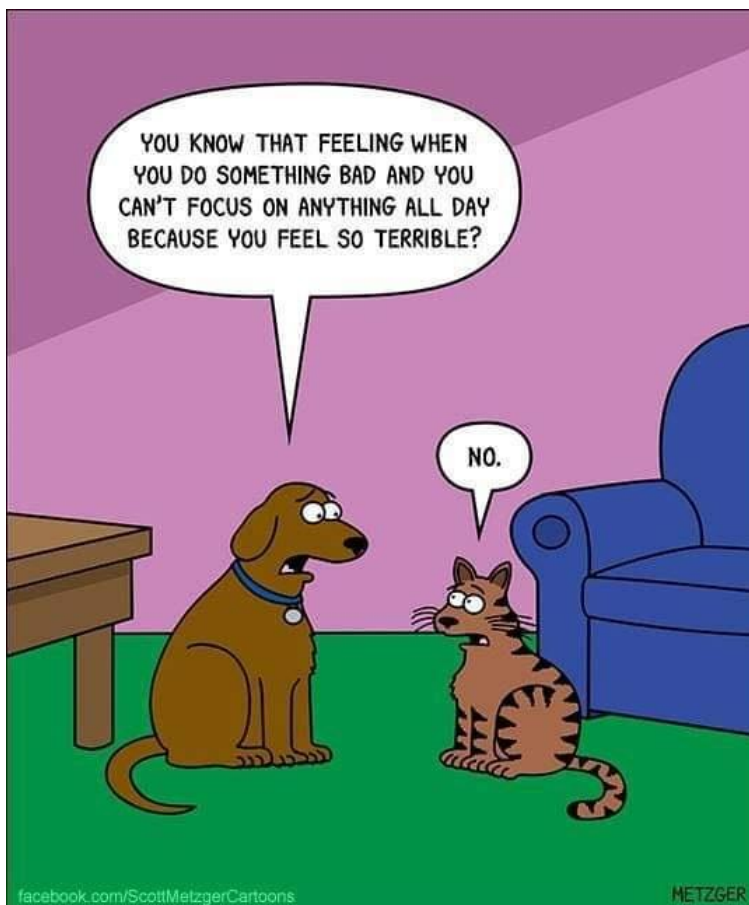
We are not quite there completing the districts and posts inspections. The following Districts and Post have until 30 April 2022 to complete their inspections to be considered for All State/All American. Please let's not wait until the last minute to complete your inspection.

D-3 and All Posts  
D-4 and Post 9957  
D-6 and Posts 1509, 2917

If District or Post have completed your inspection and the dashboard is not showing GREEN, please let me know. Please stay safe and God Bless.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Robert Mo Moses  
DPA Inspector  
[inspdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:inspdpa@vfwpacific.org)



Department Inspector

**Robert "Mo" Moses**





# CERTIFIED NATIONAL RECRUITER

Season Greeting Comrades,

Sorry I missed the CofA but here are the stats for Recruiting in our Membership program for the year. Currently we have 66 recruiters that have recruited 162 members if my addition is correct. Of which 21 of these members have earned the beloved Commanders and DPA pin. In addition to this Joe Perkins from Post 8180 in Korea and John Bowers from Post 9723 in Okinawa have earned Gift Certificates in the amount of \$25.00. Congrats to not only these 2 Comrades but to all the 66 members who have recruited thus far this year.

With these recruiting efforts we have 5 Posts out of our 25 reach 100% or better and they are our most recent one Post 1054 along with Posts 10217, Post 12146, Post 3457 and last but not least Post 124. Congrats to all of these Post's and their members.

As of today as the Department we are in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The norm is once life members are posted we jump into first place this is because of the amount of Life Member we have and we stay there until one of the smaller departments jumps into 1<sup>st</sup> place.

Thus we still have a way to go to reach 100% in DPA currently we are at 96.49 needing 425. So you can see we still have a bit to go.

As a matter of fact this be the season of giving so look in your own family and see if there are any of your relatives that have earned the privilege to join the VFW and purchase a Life Membership in the VFW as their Christmas gift, this can be a present for them that will last their Life Time!

In closing I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year may 2022 be a healthy one!

Yours Always in Comradeship,

Larry Lyons  
Certified National Recruiter  
Department of Pacific Areas  
**EVERY Veteran is a HERO**

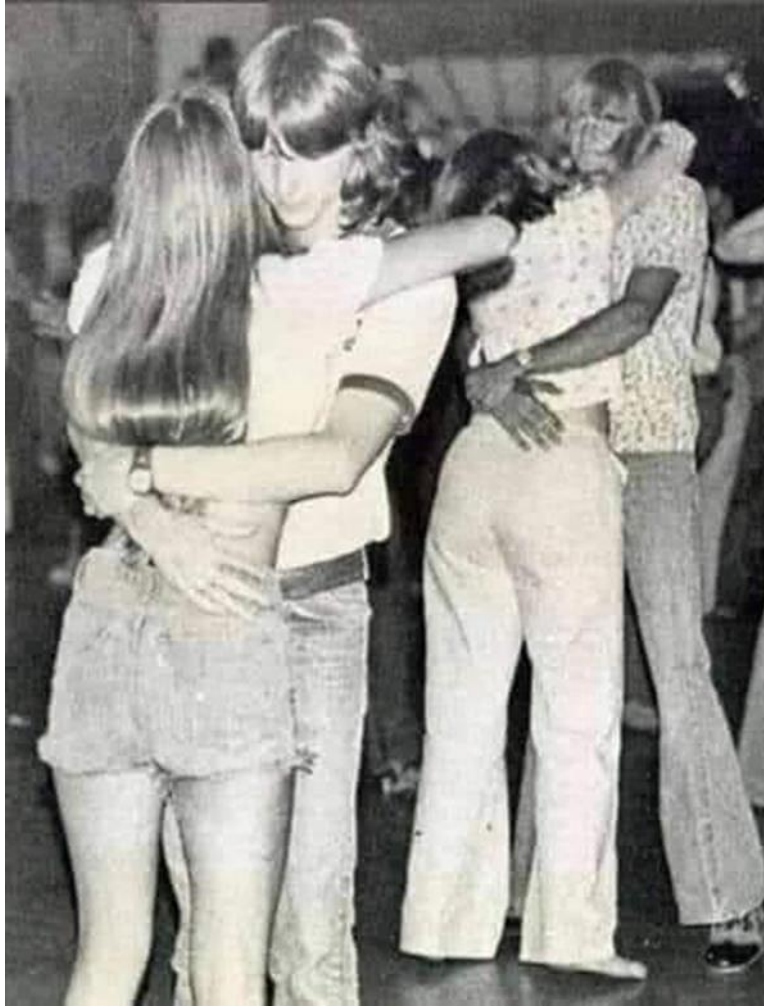


Certified National Recruiter

Larry Lyons

# SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

**WE ARE A GENERATION THAT WILL NEVER COME BACK.**



A generation that went to school and walked back home.  
A generation that did their homework to get out asap to play in the street.  
A generation that spent all their free time on the street.  
A generation that played hide and seek when dark.  
A generation that made mud pies and cakes.  
A generation that collected sports cards.  
A generation that found and sold empty coke bottles to the local grocery store for 5 cents each.  
A generation that made paper toys with their bare hands.  
A generation that bought vinyl albums to play on record players.  
A generation that bought 8-track cartridges to play on 8-track players  
A generation that bought blank cassettes to record our favorite songs on.  
A generation that collected photos and albums of clippings.  
A generation that played board games and cards on rainy days.  
A generation whose TV went off at midnight after playing the National Anthem.  
A generation that had parents who were there when needed.  
A generation that laughed under the covers in bed so parents didn't know we were still awake.  
A generation that is passing and unfortunately will never return!!...



## VOP/PP/TA CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

Thank you for the opportunity and confidence, allowing me to serve as the Department of Pacific Areas Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teachers Award Chairman. Also, thank you for the challenges. Every Committee Chairman in the Department spends a lot of time and effort putting together Committee Reports providing instructions and links to make Post and District Chairman's jobs easier. The Department has multiple avenues to distribute these reports through the DPA Committee Reports and the Pacific Times Newsletter available on the DPA Website. Some of these reports are also available on the Department's Official Communication Facebook Site. Yet these reports do not reach all the Post and District chairmen who need them. All Post and District program chairmen need to be aware of where to find information to perform their chairman duties. I plan on working with the webmaster to adjust the site further prior to next topics being publicly released, this will hopefully alleviate some of the issues we had, along with a full set of fillable forms that actually work properly.

The Department still has 4 Posts that I am not tracking for either a Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen submission or donation on the All-State Dashboard. Remember, to qualify for All-State/American, each Post must submit entries for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen or donate to VFW National. You may make your donations at: [https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/vfwprogramsdonation2021\\_22](https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/vfwprogramsdonation2021_22). Post donations are \$75.00 for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen each. There was no requirement for Teachers Award at the Post or District level so, no donation is required for this program. Please forward your donation receipt to [vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org) to get credit. Please remember that if you made a submission, your Post needs to update the All-American Dashboard. If you made a donation, it will update automatically but please send me a copy of the receipt in case there is future issues.

We received a Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry from all seven Districts this year. We also received Teachers Award entries from five Districts. This year's DPA Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teachers Award winners are:

Patriot's Pen is Sawyer S. Stelzig, from District 5, Post 12074, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Voice of Democracy is Samantha Shih, from District 4, Post 9957, Taipei, Taiwan.

Teachers Award 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade is Randy Schmidt, from District 4, Post 9957, Taipei, Taiwan.

Congrats and let's wish them luck at the National level.

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

Yours in comradeship and service,



David Gley

Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen /  
Teacher's Award Chairman DPA

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

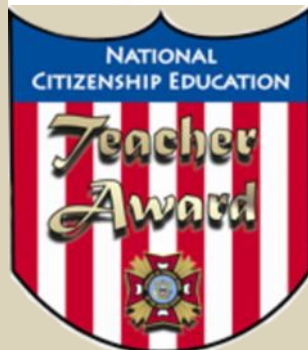
Phone: +82-10-2724-7176

**EVERY Veteran is a HERO**



VOD/PP/TA Chairman

David Gley



## VFW SURGEON GENERAL DENNIS GUTHRIE

Suicide- a very dark subject. One which a lot of people feel extremely uncomfortable speaking about it. Just like in the 1950's, 60's, and 70's speaking about breast cancer, until First Lady Betty Ford brought it out in the open. Today, many lives are being saved because we talk about breast cancer. We have walking and running fund raisers that help with awareness, as well as pink t-shirts and the media talking about it.

We need to start making suicide apart of the conversation. We need to be talking about the "Signs". Knowing the "Signs" can help save the life of a friend or even a loved one. Veterans' families especially need to know the "Signs". Veterans and active-duty military still have extremely high rates of suicide in all age groups. Veterans struggle with the experiences they had while serving our country. Ageing veterans can be dealing with the loss of a spouse and/or health issues.

We all have triggers that can affect how we manage everyday stressors. Stressors such as the Afghanistan withdrawal. How this event was handled by our military and our government affected veterans of all wars. For Vietnam veterans it reminded them of the fall of Saigon. For all post 9-11 veterans they wonder what all the sacrifice was for. Families who lost loved ones are affected.

Another big stressor for many veterans is the holidays. Those veterans that are self-isolated are particularly vulnerable. Some dates or anniversaries of trauma are hard but if they fall during the holidays, it may become more than they can bear. We need to constantly check in on our "buddies" and if they need help get them the help they need.

I recently heard a Director of a VA hospital say we are down to 17 a day from 22 a day committing suicide. I did the math; 17 a day adds up to 6,205 a year! When we were losing 22 a day that added up to 8,030 a year. To put this in perspective we lost 7,000+ in 20 years in the middle east. Better than half of all veterans have never been in the VA system. To me that means there is a lot of work to be done getting veterans connected to the programs that can help. We need to build partnerships to serve the needs of our veterans and their families, for their physical wounds as well as their invisible wounds.

The National VFW, along with other service groups, and state Veteran agencies, all provide training and resources to Veterans Service Officers (VSO's) to help veterans directly create a road map and identify resources to give hope for the future. Programs such as Unmet Needs, employment training, and scholarships for education are just a few examples. Getting every veteran set up at the VA for evaluation of medical and psychological needs is critical. Along with these programs the VSO's can obtain benefits to help stabilize the veteran's finances and give each veteran time to seek support groups. Support can be found at Vet Centers, the VA, and other non-profit groups. Support might be found in another veteran, perhaps that older vet that has managed to make it through to a productive life.

One group of veterans that is often overlooked is our National Guard units. They only meet once a month. They are sent back home after deployment. Sometimes they got out after deployment and are entirely overlooked and fall through the cracks in the system. The VFW in each state needs to make sure our National Guard troops know about and understand what is out there for them. Their families need to know what is out there for them. Too often both National Guard and Active-Duty military that wish to remain in the service do not want to ask for help as it is still a stigma, and they feel it will affect their ability to obtain promotions.

Many VFW Posts have already adopted National Guard units. Checking with the Commanding Officer, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt., as well as the family readiness person to make sure they are using the "Buddy System" can help save lives. The "Buddy System" is simply checking on and talking with those you served with. You were with them when they had good days and when things did not go so well. Talking, listening, and knowing the "Signs" can help.





# VFW SURGEON GENERAL DENNIS GUTHRIE

So, getting back to lowering the number of suicides: It means making sure veterans, their family and friends understand the “Signs” and what to do if they see one or more of these signs is particularly important.

- 1) Thinking about hurting or killing themselves,
- 2) Looking for ways to kill themselves,
- 3) Talking about death, dying, or suicide,
- 4) Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.,
- 5) Hopelessness, feeling like there is no way out,
- 6) Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings,
- 7) Feeling like there is no reason to live,
- 8) Rage or anger,
- 9) Engaging in risky activities without thinking,
- 10) Increasing alcohol and drug abuse,
- 11) Withdrawing from family and friends.

**We have a National Crisis line 1-800-273-8255, or chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net), or text to 838255.**

Some states also have a “hot line”. We need to get these out and keep pushing them. Family and friends need to use the A.C.E. system:

- A Ask directly, “are you thinking about hurting yourself?”
- C Care - calmly control the situation. Listen and show concern. Talk to them and let them talk, **LISTEN**.
- E Escort - do not leave this veteran alone to take care of problems! Get help from a professional. Remove all firearms or other things from this veteran which could be used to harm himself or herself.

These are but a few of the things to look for. Veterans are incredibly good at hiding emotions and saying everything is ok. They have learned to push through to complete the mission. It is when things become so overwhelming that we as friends and family need to help. It is critical to step in and provide the support and professional help necessary at this point.

I was asked, “What should we do?” This is a very good question and I put it back to you, What can we do?

We can get involved, we can educate veterans and their families to know the “Signs”. At our VFW Post we can hand out the cards from the VA with the signs and the Crisis Line information. We can offer to speak at different civic groups. Veterans are everywhere. Just saving ONE life is a huge accomplishment!

Please call me or email me with your questions, ideas, or what has worked for you.

Thank you for all you do for our veterans.

Dennis Guthrie  
Surgeon General 2021-2022  
541-280-5161  
75crazyhorse69@gmail.com

5

Action Steps for Helping Someone in Emotional Pain

 <b>ASK</b> “Are you thinking about killing yourself?”	 <b>KEEP THEM SAFE</b> Reduce access to lethal items or places.	 <b>BE THERE</b> Listen carefully and acknowledge their feelings.	 <b>HELP THEM CONNECT</b> Save the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number 1-800-273-8255.	 <b>STAY CONNECTED</b> Follow up and stay in touch after a crisis.
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NIH National Institute of Mental Health

[www.nimh.nih.gov/suicideprevention](https://www.nimh.nih.gov/suicideprevention)

# DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

## Greetings

Things are changing at the VA. We are all Veterans and although many are fortunate enough not to have disabilities they got in service, we all have potential ties to the VA.

Everyone can use My Healthy VET <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/> even if you just look over the articles on diet and health as we age. You can store your medical records and health history there and if you need it it's easy to get to. Whether you are in Thailand, Japan or Vietnam - some will go back to the US for treatment and the information will be there. You can make your own claims, be your own rep.

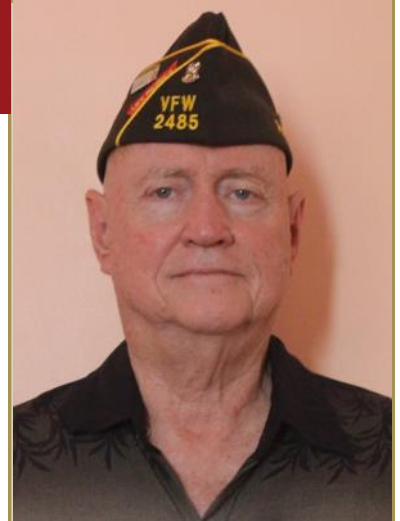
Before you say "I have no claim" – Personally I have this year submitted 2 new claims of my own. As a Vietnam vet they have added 3 new presumptive items in the last year (google - agent orange). Also, the Nehmer lawsuit has forced the VA to look at many previous claims. The VA takes forever but they keep adding things like burn pits, contaminated water, various chemicals and new categories. I am NOT saying just take pot shots in the hopes of free money, but I am saying that you may have a legitimate claim you didn't know about or that wasn't recognized the last time you checked.

If you are going to file a claim or check on a claim already filed then there are many changes in the system either new or coming shortly, and to me they are all good, just be prepared.

Hopefully you already have a My Healthy Vet account. If so, make sure it is a premium account. Once you have signed in if not premium do what is required to upgrade. It is a security issue. All of my HealtheVet accounts must be premium or changed to ID.me or DS logon. This is a change they say is coming soon. This will take you to the new VA.GOV page which will supersede all previous VA 'top pages' and will give you options for Health care, Education, Disability and How to get your records. Everything you need to know about dealing with the VA from one start page. You can go there now without the My Healthy Vet. **VA.GOV** try it. If you can't get in, now is the time to upgrade and/or verify your log in credentials.

If you want to claim something new or make a claim for the first time – like when they name a new presumptive for when you served – use a form 21-526ez to start a new claim – go to your browser and type in 21-526ez and press return – the top choice should be 526ez, click it and the form will come up. You can print it out and fill it out at your leisure or half fill it out online and print it to complete it.

If you want to send in new or additional information or answer a question they sent you, then use a 21-4138 and either fill it out online or print it out and fill it out by hand. List on the 4138 if there are attachments. Attach whatever you need to attach and submit it. Anything you need to attach or that you did by hand must be scanned back into a file. I have seen them take GOOD CLEAR FULL-PAGE photographs that you can submit from your phone using the VA app available for your phone. Don't expect them to try to decipher anything – a few might but most will not. Be clear and send clear readable information.



Department Service Officer (DSO)

**John Dibble**



## DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

For those of us with overseas mail issues (3 weeks if we are lucky) you can see the progress of your claim and address any issues long before the mail gets to you I will attempt to answer questions by email. I am old and slow so follow-up and if you ask the impossible, I will tell you sorry. Use the email [jdibblevfwso@gmail.com](mailto:jdibblevfwso@gmail.com) I may send you back addresses of internet sites that explain things in more detail or I may have other suggestions. You can do this. Use GOOGLE – there is an incredible amount of information on google, much of it put there by lawyers and other knowledgeable people. I will try to help. Do not expect a private secretary. Your Chief Petty Officer, Sergeant or CO did not hold your hand but gave you a hand over the bumps. There is nothing here you can't do. Don't give a lot of money to someone for something you can do yourself. Ask Questions.

Yours in comradeship,

John Dibble

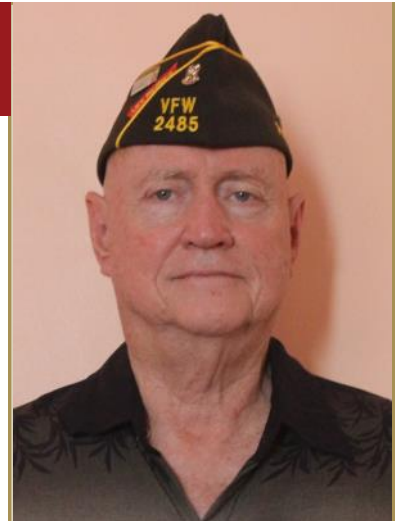
PSO VFW 2485

[adso5@vfwspacific.org](mailto:adso5@vfwspacific.org) (Philippines Area)

On behalf of

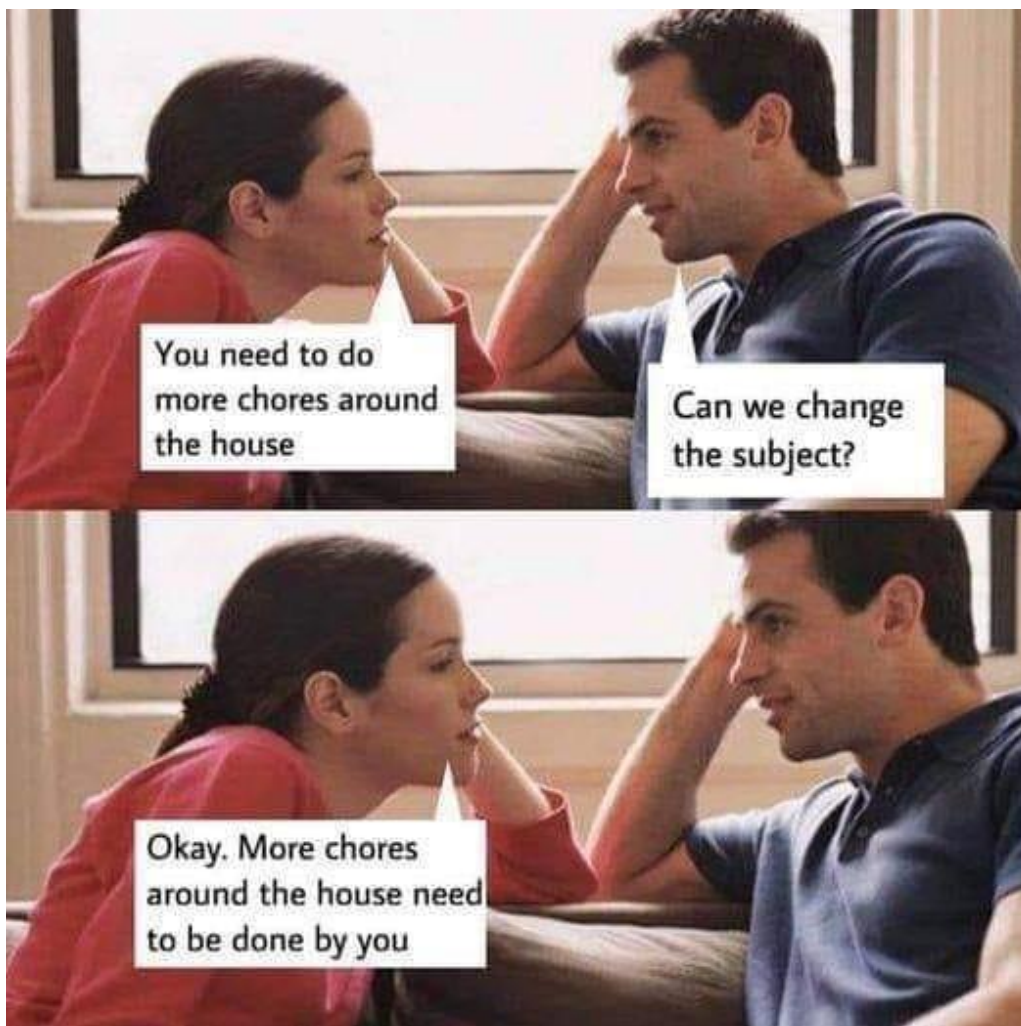
Christopher Pierce - [dsodpa@vfwspacific.org](mailto:dsodpa@vfwspacific.org)

**EVERY Veteran is a HERO**



Department Service Officer (DSO)

**John Dibble**



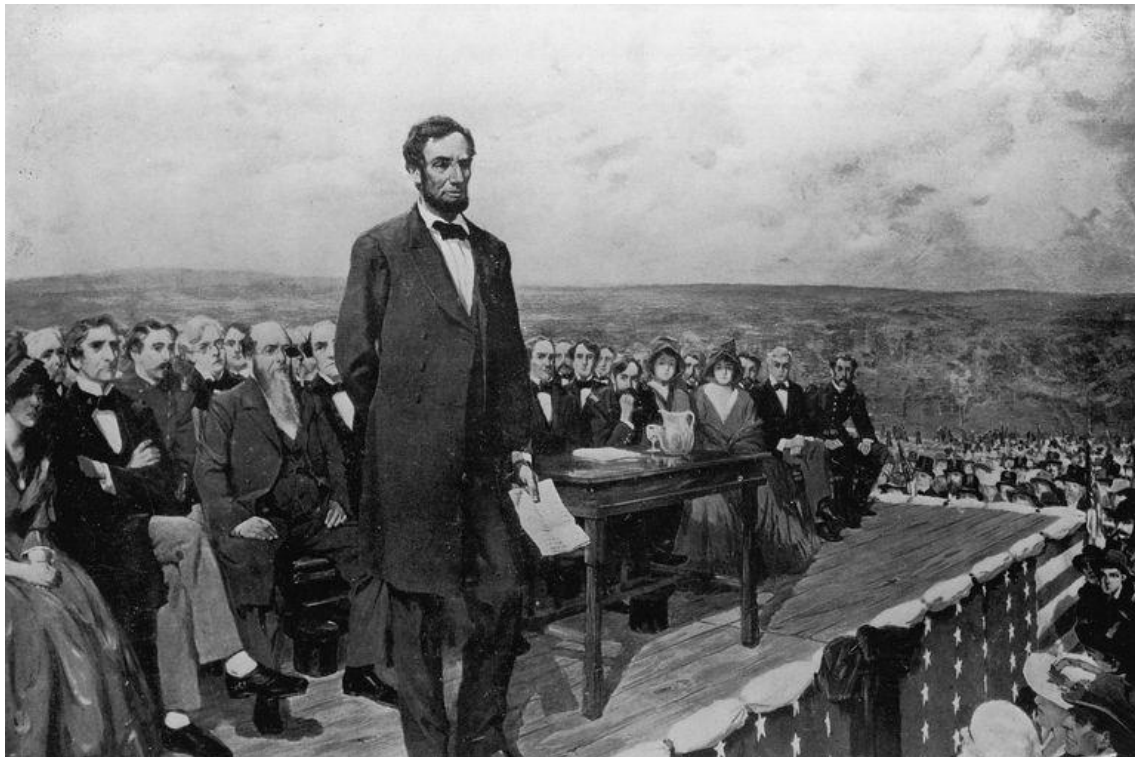
## A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Four and a half months after the Battle of Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln joined a large crowd to dedicate the Soldiers' National Cemetery on the afternoon of November 19, 1863. After the delivering of prayers and the playing of songs, the crowd listened intently to a nearly two-hour speech by the orator, Edward Everett. Then, following a hymn, "The Consecration Chant," President Lincoln stepped forward to deliver the Dedicatory Remarks. In just a matter of 271 words, Lincoln said everything that a broken nation needed to hear. He began by invoking the historical memory of the United States, addressed the conflict, then turned his focus to the present, and in many ways to us. For a speech that Lincoln predicted few would "long remember," the Gettysburg Address should speak to us all today.

**"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.**

**Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.**

**But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."**



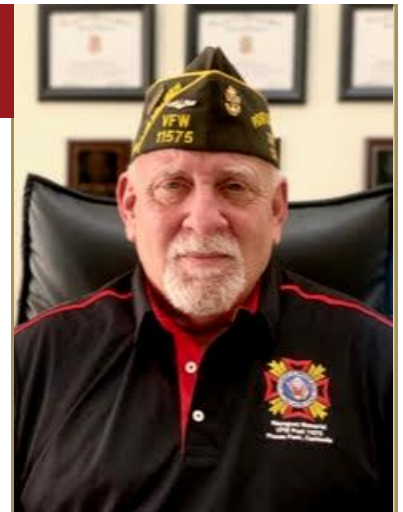


# AMERICANISM/LOYALTY DAY CHAIR

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a joyous and prosperous New Year. With a little luck we will have a lessening of COVID restrictions that will enable us to increase personal participation in several of our meetings and reinvigorate the camaraderie thru out the DPA.

For the months of January and February, we experience somewhat of a lull in National Americanism opportunities. However, all is not lost! Take the opportunity to get out in your communities and advertise your presence not only as a VFW Member, but a US Citizen and Veteran by putting your best foot forward in support of your local Communities.

- Donate/volunteer your time to local charitable events.
- Sponsor a cleanup of a local beach or park.
- Advertise yourself as a VFW member when out amongst your communities by wearing that VFW shirt for all to see.
- Create a Spouse or Service Member [Care Package](#) with items that would help either ease stress during a deployment.
- Create a spouse care package for them to enjoy and help reduce stress during training, deployment, and [PCS moves](#) and relocations.
- Thank an Active-Duty Member, Veteran, Military Spouse, or Military Child for their service.
- Visit war memorials with your family to teach your children the value of service.
- Fly the [U.S. Flag](#).
- Contact your nearest military base [Morale, Welfare, And Recreation \(MWR\)](#) office to see what events or activities might be planned on-post honoring families including special events, contests, or discounts for local businesses or attractions. Sometimes just showing up for an event or ceremony creates a stronger bond in the community.
- Volunteer at a local chapter of a Veterans Service Organization (VSO) such as the Red Cross, AmVets, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), American Legion, etc.
- Donate professional services to military communities. Are you a professional counselor, psychologist, social worker, therapist, childcare professional, or community organizer? Private and chartered organizations serving military families may need your expertise to make an impact in military communities whether active duty, Guard, Reserve, retirees, etc.
- Contact your nearest chapter of the [Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society](#), [Air Force Aid Society](#), [Army Emergency Relief](#), or [Coast Guard Mutual Assistance](#), to volunteer or participate in scheduled events to support their efforts. The winter months are prime fundraising and support time for these societies as they gear up to assist military families over the holiday season. The annual Toys For Tots drives and similar efforts held by these agencies are always in need of volunteer help.
- Visit a veteran receiving care in a VA hospital or nursing home.
- Offer a military neighbor a bit of respite with volunteer childcare to get errands accomplished or to even enjoy a few hours to recharge.
- See someone in uniform? Thank them for their service or surprise them with a free coffee, dessert, or drink if they are in line behind you.
- Donate or volunteer to a military appreciation day event.



Americanism/Loyalty Day Chair

**John "Jack" Farrell**

# AMERICANISM/LOYALTY DAY CHAIR

## Upcoming Americanism/ Loyalty Opportunities

### Martin Luther King Day 18 January

One of the greatest American civil rights leaders of the 20th century, Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929. It's a date honored nationwide on the third Monday in January. He was one of the most important figures in American civil rights history.

### Black History Month

The month of February is a federally recognized commemoration for the contributions and achievements of African American figures in U.S. History. Every year, we remember trailblazers in science, math, arts and culture, politics, religion, and the military—encouraging us to celebrate the influence of African American key figures while overcoming adversity.

### National Salute to Veteran Patients Week 13-19 February

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, this week-long tribute to veteran patients has always been observed the week of Valentine's Day and is intended to:

- Pay tribute to veterans
- Increase community awareness "of the role of the VA medical center"
- Encourage visits to hospitalized veterans
- To encourage volunteerism with the VA

This observation is meant for some nine million veterans getting care in:

- VA medical centers
- VA outpatient clinics
- Those receiving VA domiciliary care
- Veterans in nursing homes

### Presidents Day 21 February

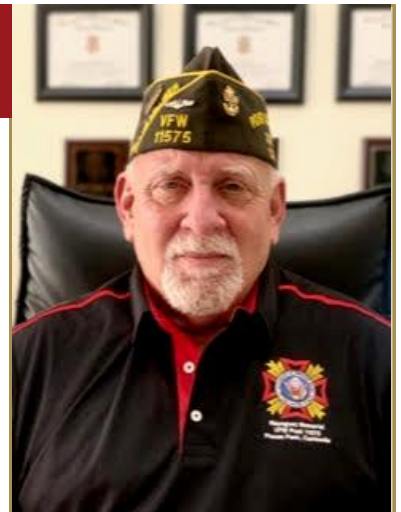
The Federal holiday is officially recognized as Washington's Birthday, though the Federal government has never legally changed the holiday to President's Day. However, where it gets complicated is at the state and local level, as they do not need to abide by Federal holidays. 24 U.S. states recognize President's Day only, while 9 recognize Washington's Birthday only, and 9 states do not observe any form of these holidays.

Ultimately for many, it is how you choose to honor this day. As a day to recognize Washington's birthday, or Lincoln's birthday, or even all American Presidents, past and present.

### Service Branch/Organization Birthdays January and February

USO	04 February
US Coast Guard Reserve	19 February

As we enter this New Year, I wish each of you good health and prosperity. Stay safe out there!



Americanism/Loyalty Day Chair

John "Jack" Farrell



## A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

December 16, 1773, the Boston Tea Party takes place when a group of angry patriots dump the tea from three ships into Boston Harbor to protest Parliament's tax on tea. In 1767, the Townshend Acts placed a tax on tea and other items for the first time, leading to boycotts of English goods in the colonies. The Townshend Acts were finally repealed in 1770, except for the tea tax, which Parliament left in place to assert that it did indeed have the right to tax the colonists.

By 1773, the British East India Company, the main importer of tea to England and the colonies, was suffering a severe financial crisis. The Indemnity Act of 1767, which removed certain taxes on the Company, had expired, causing the price of tea to go up. Tons of tea that could not be sold at the higher price sat in warehouses in London. In order to rescue the Company, Parliament passed the Tea Act of 1773, which removed taxes on the Company, allowed it to export directly to the colonies, thereby bypassing middlemen who raised the price and raised the tax on end-consumers.

The Tea Act actually lowered the price of tea in America, but the colonists stood on the principle that it was unjust for Parliament to tax them at all because they were not represented in Parliament. 7 tea ships left England for America that year. Patriots at Philadelphia and New York successfully prevented the ships from unloading, while the ship at Charleston, South Carolina was confiscated by patriots and the goods resold to aid the patriot cause.

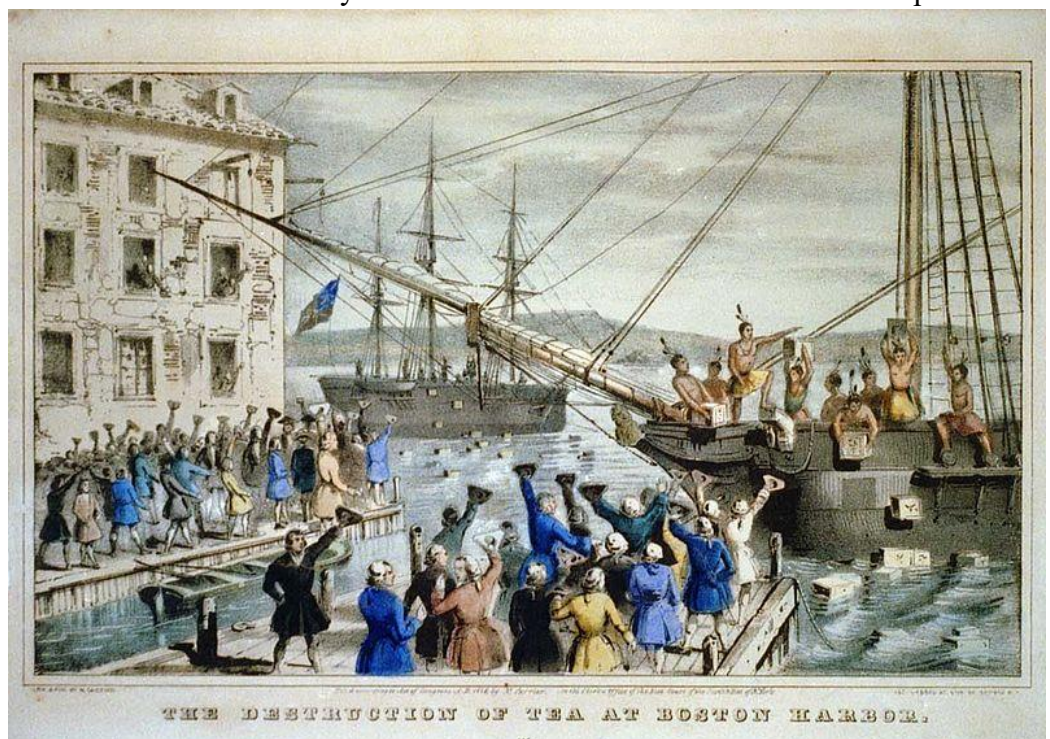
In Boston, the Dartmouth, arrived on November 27 and was prevented from unloading by local patriots. The Eleanor and the Beaver arrived over the next few weeks, but they could not unload either, while a fourth ship was lost in a storm. By law, ships arriving in the Americas had 20 days to pay the required customs duties, meaning the taxes due on the Dartmouth's cargo had to be paid by December 17. The owners and captains of the ships volunteered to return the goods to England, but Royal Governor Thomas Hutchinson would not allow them to leave until the taxes were paid. Local citizens posted sentries around the ships to prevent them from unloading.

On the 16th, a mass meeting of 7,000 people met at the Old South Meeting House in Boston. After the meeting, which was led by Samuel Adams, several dozen men, some dressed as Mohawk Indians, marched to Griffin's Wharf and boarded the ships. 42 tons of tea from all three ships was dumped into the harbor, so much that the water of Boston Harbor was reportedly brown for a week! The dumping of the tea on this date was important because it meant the tea could not be resold to pay the taxes.

The term Boston Tea Party was not used for nearly another century. In fact, many Americans looked down upon the event for the first several decades after the Revolutionary War because it involved the destruction of private property. Eventually, though, the event came to represent a moment of pride in American history as a revolt against tyranny.

Parliament responded to the Boston Tea Party by passing the Coercive Acts, which ended self-government in Massachusetts by disbanding the colonial assembly and shut down the port of Boston until the price of the tea was repaid. These "Intolerable Acts," as the colonists called them, were the direct cause of the calling of the First Continental Congress, which met to coordinate the joint response of the united colonies.

[Revolutionary-War-and-Beyond.com](http://Revolutionary-War-and-Beyond.com)



# POW/MIA CHAIRMAN

Greetings Comrades.

The POW/MIA flag; This traditional POW/MIA flag was created many years ago. It was created for the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia and officially recognized by the United States Congress in conjunction with the Vietnam War POW/MIA issue. It serves as the symbol of our Nation's commitment to resolving, as fully as possible, the fates of Americans still prisoners, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

In 1971, while the Vietnam War was still being fought, Mary Helen Hoff, the wife of a service member missing in action (Commander Michael G. Hoff) and member of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, recognized the need for a reference symbol about U.S. POW/MIAs. As a result of her initiative the POW-MIA flag was created. The flag is black, and bears in the center, in black and white, the emblem of the league.

The emblem was designed by Newton F. Heisley and features a white disk bearing in black silhouette the bust of a man (Jeffery Heisley), watch tower with a guard on patrol, and a strand of barbed wire; above the disk are the white letters POW and MIA framing a white 5-pointed star; below the disk is a black and white wreath above the white motto: "You are not Forgotten." The POW/MIA flag was flown over the White House for the first time in September 1982. The flag has been altered many times; the colors have been switched from black with white – to red, white, and blue – to white with black; the POW/MIA has at times been revised to MIA/POW.

Below are the current totals of those that are still unaccounted for as of December 2021. These totals vary from different resources and are approximate.

WW I ----- 1,648  
WWII ----- 72,159  
Korean War ----- 7,478  
Cold War ----- 125  
Vietnam War/S.E. Asia- - 1,584  
Iraq & Other Conflicts ----- 5

Yours in Comradeship,

Wayne "Bud" St.Onge  
Department of Pacific Areas  
POW/MIA Chairman



POW/MIA Chairman

Wayne "Bud" St.Onge



DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY  
FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE



## VMS CHAIRMAN

The VFW offers a wide range of assistance programs aimed at helping service members and veterans of every generation. As a veteran, you understand better than most what struggles and hurdles today's service members and veterans face. Here are some of the assistance programs offered by the VFW:

**Student Veteran** includes the **Fry Scholarship** - Qualifying children of service members who die in the line of duty after September 10, 2001 are eligible for the Post-911/GI Bill, **Rural Benefit** - Certain veterans who relocate from highly rural areas to attend college may be eligible for a one-time \$500 payment to help defer costs associated with relocation, **Yellow Ribbon** -

Allows approved institutions of higher learning in the US and the VA to partially or fully fund tuition and expenses that exceed the GI Bill limits and **Scholarships** - Several national scholarships may be available to help defray some out-of-pocket costs for higher education.

VFW's "**Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship**" provides service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. It's just another way for us to say "thank you" to those who fought for our freedoms.

**Unmet Needs** provides grants (not loans) and referrals to other organizations to active-duty service members, veterans and their immediate families to assist with basic life needs.

**Military Assistance Program (MAP)** provides financial assistance to VFW Posts/Depts. and Auxiliaries who sponsor events with their local military community. These funds are meant to build relationships and provide information on VFW programs and services.

**Adopt-a-Unit** VFW Posts work with unit commanders and senior enlisted personnel to develop supportive relationships with units before, during and after deployments. We offer a vast network of free resources and a variety of direct support for military members and their families.

**Student Veterans of America (SVA)** provides 10 exemplary VFW members who are student veterans the opportunity to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and in their community.

Don't think of your donation as just an All-American/ALL-State requirement, but as a means in keeping these programs alive at helping service members and veterans of every generation.

**Need to make your Post or District Veterans & Military Support Program donation?** Donations made toward VMS to fulfill the 2020-2021 All-American/All-State requirement will only be accepted through the following links [VMS-Donate Today](#) or [VFW Programs Donation Form](#). Do not donate through the Department or by any other means.

Please email me a copy of all MAP functions, Adopt-a-Unit and VMS donations at [don.kelley@gmail.com](mailto:don.kelley@gmail.com).

Don Kelley  
Veterans & Military Support (VMS) Chairman



Department of Pacific Areas

VMS Chairman

Don Kelley



MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**VA Claims & Separation Benefits**

**Financial Grants**

**Student Veteran Support**

**Mental Wellness**

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Let us remember the following comrades who passed away that were not reported prior to 30 Jun 21.

Post	Name	Date of Death	Post	Name	Date of Death
Post 1054	Castro, Mike	20-Sep-21	Post 3457	Kraus, Gerald (Jerry)	15-Nov-21
Post 2485	Flaherty, John F. Jr.,	15-Jun-21	Post 8180	Miller, Dane A.	02-Nov-21
	Ritzen, Jacob	24-May-21		Ellison, Leon V.	01-Dec-21
	Cayton, Donald E.	05-Aug-21	Post 9555	Gaunce, Humphrey	14-Oct-21
	Harris, Carl A.	13-Jul-21	Post 9612	Gance, Gill	14-Oct-21
	Earley, Larry T.	09-Aug-21	Post 9723	Truesdell, Paul E.	21-Sep-21
	Phillip, Adam B.	01-Aug-21	Post 9876	Kraft, Paul M.	28-Jul-21
	Pasilan, Miguel V.	22-Aug-21	Post 10217	Cook, Jackie Leon	19-Nov-21
	Loyd, John R.	Dec-20	Post 10223	Balligan, Frederick J.	05-Nov-21
	Rasmussen, Waleigh C.	13-Jun-21	Post 10249	Turner, Earl D.	01-Aug-21
	Harrison, Harry C.	24-Sep-21		Cox, Stanley Ray	06-Sep-21
	Gray, Robert W.	30-Sep-21		Prosser, John A.	16-Nov-21
	Murphy, Leo	27-Sep-21	Post 12146	Landis, David	14-Aug-21
	Vincent, Russell C.		Post 12074	Nix, Ernest	06-Aug-21
	Mundy, Edward			Mayo, George	
	Lemm, Harold T.	19-Oct-21	Post 12130	Kelley, Paul F.	06-Aug-21
	Moore, Fred T.	01-Apr-21		Delos Santos, Virgil A.	14-Nov-21
Post 2917	Millard, James H. Jr	11-Jun-21			

Ronald J. Davis  
 Chaplain DPA  
[chapdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:chapdpa@vfwpacific.org) or to [davisronald738@gmail.com](mailto:davisronald738@gmail.com).



Chaplain

**Ron Davis**



Let us bow our heads in prayer to All Mighty God. Remember our fallen comrades and pray for those still missing in action. Pray for them and their families that they may be reunited. Amen





## LETTER OF INTENT

**The following pages are Letters of Intent from  
Department Members running for Office for the  
VFW Calendar Year 2021-2022**



# LETTER OF INTENT DPA SURGEON



It is with great honor to announce my candidacy for the position of Surgeon, Department of Pacific Areas for the Term 2022-2023. I am a Gold Legacy Life member and Commander of All American VFW Post 11575 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Past Commander of All American Post 12146 in Banchang, Thailand, Past Department Assistant Inspector General, and Past District 5 Commander for Thailand, Cambodia, and Australia, and currently the Department of Pacific Areas Americanism/Loyalty Chairman.

As a graduate of Central Texas College and an accredited First Responder I bring a long history of medical related experience to the department and this position and utilize my wide range of experience to benefit the Department.

My accomplishments in a variety of positions and institutional knowledge of VFW policies, procedures and programs provide me with the necessary skills for successful service to the department. My record in a range of elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels makes me exceptionally qualified for the position of Department Surgeon. Please consider my current and previous experiences:

District 5 Commander 2019  
District 5 Senior Vice Commander 2017-2019  
District 5 Inspector 2017-2019  
All American Post 12146 Commander 2018-2019  
National Aide-De-Camp 2019-2020  
All-American Post 11575 Commander 2019-2021

If elected to serve as Department Surgeon, I will do my utmost to represent our department with superior service to our membership. I ask you for your vote of confidence in allowing me to perform the duties and responsibilities of Department Surgeon.

Yours in Comradeship and Service to Veterans,

Jack Farrell  
Candidate for Department Surgeon  
Department of Pacific Areas



# LETTER OF INTENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER



## Letter Of Intent

Comrades,

I would like to thank everyone for their support running for Surgeon's position 2021-2022. I am humbly asking for your support and confidence as I seek the position for DPA Junior Vice Commander (JVC) for the ensuing year 2022-2023. As one of the post charter members for Post 3457, I have been contributing numerous hours and served every position in the Post from 1995 to present.

I have committed my family to support my involvement with the VFW for the good of the community. The VFW has come a long way to where we now, and continues to serve the veterans, active military and the community better than any other veterans organization. This could not happen without the support of our members and without good leadership. Here are the positions I have held:

2021-2022	DPA Surgeon
2020-2021	DPA delegate to VFW National Convention
2020-2021	DPA Inspector
2014-Present	Post QM All State and All American at different times
2011-2012	Post Cdr. All American
2009-2011	Dist. 6 Commander
2006-2009	Post Cdr. All State/All American
2008-2009	DPA VOD/PP Chairman
MOC Pup Tent #13	
Life Member Legacy Bronze	
Member for the last 27 years	

Comrades, I have held other post and districts positions along with volunteering countless hours; my next journey is to serve you. We are leaders; let me lead the way.

Yours In Comradeship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Fajardo'.

Mariano Fajardo

# LETTER OF INTENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

## LETTER OF INTENT DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MICHAEL D. LUTMAN

Comrades,

I am very excited and even more humbled to announce my candidacy for the position of Junior Vice Commander, VFW Department of Pacific Areas. I am a 30-year Navy veteran who retired in 2007 as the Command Master Chief of an afloat training organization. Today I continue to serve as a DoD Contractor in charge of Strike Warfare training in the U.S. Navy's only Forward Deployed Fleet Synthetic Training organization located in Yokosuka, Japan. VFW Positions held include:



- DPA VMS Chairman 2018-2021, DPA Inspector 2019-2020, DPA Safety Chairman 2021-2022
- District 2 Commander 2018-2019 (AA), SVC, JVC, Adjutant, Surgeon, Safety Officer, Inspector, Service Officer, Trustee
- Post 1054 Commander 2008-2009 (AS), 2015-2016 (AA), 2016-2017 (AA), 2019-2020 (AA), SVC, JVC, Adjutant, Surgeon, JAG, Service Officer, Trustee
- National Aide-De-Camp, 2013-2014, 2020-2021, Assistant Inspector General, 2015-2016, National Deputy Chief of Staff, 2017-2018

My width and breadth of service both in the military and the VFW has given me a solid baseline to build upon. Make no mistake, any recognition I have been fortunate to receive has been the work of a team of passionate and dedicated patriots. This was very true as a Sailor and most certainly true as part of being a part of the Department of Pacific Areas. I am truly fortunate to be surrounded by so many dynamic and dedicated Comrades. I will bring all the lessons learned during my 17 years in the VFW, 30 years in the U.S. Navy, and my 15 years as a DoD contractor to the DPA Junior Vice Commander position. I will always be willing to listen and learn.

It is with great humility that I ask for your support. I give you my promise that I shall do my very best if elected to continue to lead us into the future as a high performing department. We are second to none when it comes to supporting our Veterans and their family members. I will also work toward helping us help ourselves with time spent to train and educate ourselves EARLY across the board to infuse our department with the knowledge necessary to improve what we do and how we do it. As sharp as we are now, we can only become increasingly proficient, now and in the future by applying not only the lessons of the past, but the goals of tomorrow both in our beloved Department and at the National level. Veterans First, Comrades Always.

Yours in Comradeship and Service and Lover of the Crummy Shirt,

Mike Lutman, Gold Legacy Life Member, District 2, Mainland Japan, VFW Post 1054  
Candidate for Junior Vice Commander  
VFW Department of Pacific Areas



# LETTER OF INTENT DPA CHAPLAIN



## **LETTER OF INTENT TERM 2022-2023**

### **Department Chaplain**

**Louis S. Holub EMC (SW) USN ret.**

I am Honored to announce my candidacy for the position of the Department of Pacific Areas Chaplain term 2022-2023.

I am a Charter Gold Legacy Life member of the All State-All American Banchang Utapao VFW Post 12146. In addition, I'm the Immediate Past All American Commander DPA District 5 Thailand, Cambodia and Australia, as well as the past DPA Audit Committee Chairman, continuing to serve as an active member and Officer holding many Department, District and Post level Offices and Chairmanships including Honor Guard Member, Convention Chairman (3 terms) and appointed Chaplain during a DPA COFA.

I bring a varied background to this most important non-sectarian and nondenominational Chaplain position. My goal while following the DPA Commanders programs is to advance the Chaplain ministry, always maintaining a positive attitude towards my fellow veterans, widows, orphans and the less fortunate in our areas and to provide ministry to the membership wherever there is a need by coordinating with Service Officers, Surgeons, Safety Chairman, and Chaplains.

My Military experience as a Chief Petty Officer USN and my continuing civilian career as Senior Vice President and General Manager of major Southeast Asian Energy companies has exposed me to many unique local, retiree and expatriate human challenges which have prepared my competencies and compassion to fulfill the position as Pacific Areas Chaplain.

Please consider my previous VFW achievements:

VFW Department of New Jersey Member large	(1996-2014)
Post 9876 Pattaya Beach, District 5 Trustee (appointed)	(2014-2015)
Post 12146 Charter member/QM, Dist. 5 Adjutant	(2015-2016)
AS/AA QM (National Aid de Camp)	
DPA Budget committee member & Dist. 5 QM	(2017-2018)
AS/AA Post Adjutant, National Aid de Camp	
DPA Assistant QM, Dist.5 QM, Post JVC	(2018-2019)
AS/AA Post JVC-Dist. 5 QM	
DPA Audit Chairman, Dist. 5 QM, Post SVC elect/Commander	(2019-2020)
AS/AA Post Commander, Dist. QM	
Dist. 5 Commander, Post JA, National Special Aid de Camp	(2020-2021)
AS/AA Dist. 5 Commander	
Post & Dist. 5 VOD/PP Teachers Chairman	(2017-2021)

I ask that you place your confidence in me and I look forward to seeing each of you at the upcoming 2021-2022 Department Convention in Angels City Philippines June 2022.

**Yours in Comradeship and Service to Veterans**

## DPA WEBSITE SPONSORS



### 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](mailto:webdpa@vfwpacific.org) or The Pacific Times Editor at [pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org](mailto:pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org) for information on how to submit your Sponsors.**