

THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No One Does More for Veterans

Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More

Volume XXIX, Number 2

September/October 2025

FREE

PATRIOT DAY & POW/MIA DAY



Patriot Day, holiday observed in the United States on September 11 to commemorate the lives of those who died in the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Virginia and those who perished when the hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in Pennsylvania. The holiday also recognizes those who died attempting to rescue people trapped by the attacks.

By a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress on Dec. 18, 2001, September 11 was designated as Patriot Day. The resolution calls for the president of the United States to issue a yearly proclamation

requesting that all U.S. flags be flown at half-staff. Further, Americans are asked to honor the dead with a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 AM, Eastern Standard Time, the time that the first airplane struck the World Trade Center, and to respect the ceremonies of remembrance when they are conducted.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

The third Friday in September is recognized as POW/MIA Day, a time to remember the sacrifices of prisoners of war (POW) and servicemembers who are missing in action (MIA). Until 1979, there was no formal recognition day set aside for these important men and women in uniform. POW/MIA Day will be observed on Friday, September 17, 2021.



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COMMANDER'S CALL

Comrades,

As we reflect on the challenges and triumphs of this year's National Convention, our focus must remain steadfast on serving veterans, their families, and the communities that rely on our advocacy. The election of Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore—a historic milestone as our first female leader—symbolizes both progress and continuity. Her success will depend on our collective commitment: delegates must ensure consistent convention attendance to guarantee every post's voice is heard, and every vote shapes policies critical to veterans' welfare.

Membership remains the bedrock of our mission, yet recent audits reveal avoidable setbacks. Multiple posts lost All-State eligibility due to missed deadlines for trustee reports—a stark reminder that administrative diligence directly impacts our operational capacity. I urge every post to implement calendar alerts and accountability partnerships to safeguard compliance. Beyond paperwork, membership growth demands qualitative focus. Recruiting even one new member per post can amplify our congressional influence, but retention hinges on fostering inclusive environments. Posts that prioritize camaraderie, mentorship, and shared purpose become magnets for sustained engagement, proving that our strength lies not in rosters but in the bonds we nurture.

Program execution defines our credibility. Timely submission of payments secures both post-level recognition and the Department's national standing. Delays risk eroding community trust—whether in funding scholarships or disaster relief, prompt action demonstrates that the VFW honors its promises. Program Chairs stand ready to assist, but proactive communication is essential to resolve hurdles swiftly.

Adaptability emerged as a theme this year. Alternate ball caps (estimated cost ~~\$45–\$50~~) are now approved for general members, while leadership retains traditional caps during formal meetings. This balance respects heritage while embracing member feedback—a small but symbolic step toward evolving without losing our identity.

Finally, teamwork transforms recruitment into retention. Shared responsibilities, mentorship programs, and support networks ensure members feel valued beyond their initial enrollment. Hosting events that celebrate veterans' stories—not just obligations—builds pride in belonging. When we work collectively across posts and districts, we create a culture where participation thrives, hardships are met with solidarity, and every comrade contributes to a louder, more impactful advocacy machine.

As we embark on this new year, let unity drive action. Meet deadlines with precision. Fill convention halls with engaged delegates. Support Cmdr. Whitmore's vision while holding leadership accountable. Most critically, ensure every member knows their value—because our power to protect veterans grows not from numbers alone, but from the unbreakable commitment we forge together. Let 2025–2026 be remembered as the year the VFW turned unity into unstoppable advocacy.

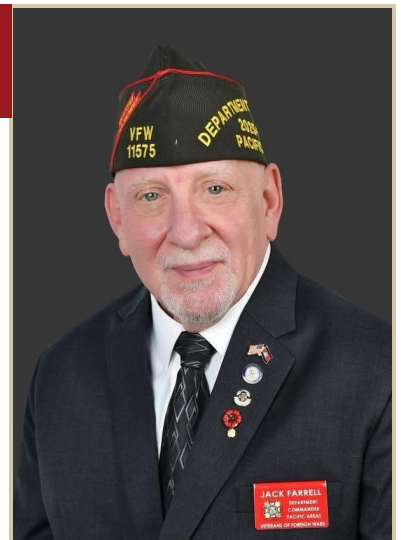
I wish you and your families a safe, successful, and prosperous year ahead.

Jack Farrell

Commander

Department of Pacific Areas

"Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More."



Department of Pacific Areas

Commander

John "Jack" Farrell



DPA BRANDING KIT



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

[VFW Style Guide](#)

[VFW Pacific Google Drive Folder](#)

[Emblem Guidance DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS](#)

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



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

In this edition, I would like to concentrate on the Department's All-State Program and where the data comes from to determine qualification. Please pay attention to the **RED BOLD HIGHLIGHTS**, these are the requirements that I need information from the Posts or Districts.

This year's All-State Membership Program:

All-State District Requirements:

- The District and all Posts in the District must have Bylaws approved by the National Commander in Chief. **PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL WITH THE DATE OF YOUR CURRENT BYLAWS.**
- The District Quartermaster or any other person accountable for District funds or property must be adequately bonded IAW SEC 703 of the National By-Laws. **Received from the DPA Quartermaster.**
- The District and all Posts in the District must have successfully completed the current year DPA inspection NLT 28 February 2026. **Received from the DPA Inspector.**
- The District must reach 100% +2 in membership by 30 June 2026 as posted in National MEMSTATS (or 15 April 2026 for recognition at the DPA Convention if an in-person event). **Received from OMS.**
- The District must have an appointed Service Officer. **Received from Election Report.**
- The District and Post Service Officers in the District (as listed in the District/Post Election Report, and GO1) must attend a mandatory DSO Training session. **Received from the DSO.**
- The District must conduct a minimum of 3 School of Instructions at a District meeting addressing the duties and responsibilities of District leadership positions. Report completion of training to the DPA SVC. **PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL WITH THE DATE AND SUBJECT OF YOUR SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTIONS.**
- The District must have submitted all quarterly Audits including March, June, September, and December to the DPA Quartermaster. Each Audit is due to qmdpa@vfwpacific.org no later than the last day of the third month following the last month of the Audit. **ALL audits must be into the DPA QM NLT 30 June 2026.** Quarterly due dates are as follows:
 - Apr - Jun Audit is voted on in Jul, due to DPA QM NLT 30 Sep
 - Jul - Sep Audit is voted on in Oct, due to DPA QM NLT 31 Dec
 - Oct - Dec Audit is voted on in Jan, due to DPA QM NLT 31 Mar
 - Jan - Mar Audit is voted on in Apr, due to DPA QM NLT 30 Jun**Received from the DPA Quartermaster.**
- The District must participate in the Voice of Democracy (VOD), and Patriots Pen (PP) Programs by submitting ONE entry per program to the DPA VOD/PP Chairman for judging. In lieu of this requirement, the District may elect to send a \$125 donation per program to the VFW National Director of Programs for each program they do not participate in using the VMS Donation link from the VFW All American Dashboard. **Donations will NOT be accepted by any**



Senior Vice Commander

Don Kelley



Sr. Vice Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

- **other means.** After donating, report the donation by forwarding a copy of the email receipt to the DPA VOD/PP Chairman at vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org. **Received from the All-American Dashboard.**
- The District must donate a minimum of \$125 to the National Veterans and Military Support (VMS) Program. The donation shall be made via the VMS Donation link from the VFW All American Dashboard. **Donations will NOT be accepted by any other means.** After donating, report the donation by forwarding a copy of the email receipt to the DPA VMS Chairman at mapdpa@vfwpacific.org. **Received from the All-American Dashboard.**
- Legacy Life: Each district must at a minimum add a total of New/Upgraded Members equal to the number of posts in their District with notification sent to the Department SVC at svcdpa@vfwpacific.org. **Received from OMS.**
- The District will participate in the Department Awards program submitting 1 district nominee to the Department JVC for a minimum of one submission for one of the 10 categories for judging NLT 15 April 2026. District Award judging panels will include ALL Post Commanders in that District and a Post member from each post to ensure fair representation. **Received from the DPA JVC.**
- The District will participate in the annual DPA fund raiser by purchasing a full -page ad for \$200 in the “Year in Review” publication. Send donations to the DPA QM at qmdpa@vfwpacific.org and send the ad to the Year in Review chairman, PDC Larry Lyons at pdcl Lyons935@gmail.com. **Received from the DPA Quartermaster.**

All-State Post Commander Requirements:

- The Post must have Post Bylaws approved by the National Commander in Chief. **PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL WITH THE DATE OF YOUR CURRENT BYLAWS.**
- The Post QM or any other person accountable for Post funds or property must be adequately bonded IAW SEC 703 of the National By Laws. **Received from the DPA Quartermaster.**
- The Post must have successfully completed the current year DPA Inspection NLT 28 February 2026. **Received from the DPA Inspector.**
- The Post must be 100% +2 in membership by 15 April 2026 for recognition at the June Department convention. If accomplished by 30 June 2026 recognition will be received at the Mid-Winter conference in December. **Received from OMS.**
- The Post must have an appointed Service Officer. **Received from Election Report.**
- The Post Service Officer (as listed in the Post Election Report, and GO1) must attend a mandatory DSO Training session. **Received from the DSO.**
- The Post must conduct 3 School of Instructions at a Post meeting addressing Post Leadership Duties and Responsibilities. Report completion of training to the DPA SVC at svcdpa@vfwpacific.org. **PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL WITH THE DATE AND SUBJECT OF YOUR SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTIONS.**



Don Kelley



Sr. Vice Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

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Oct - Dec Audit is voted on in Dec, due to DPA QM NLT 31 Jan
Jan - Mar Audit is voted on in Mar, due to DPA QM NLT 30 Apr
Received from the DPA Quartermaster.
- The Post must be current in monthly DPA Community Service Reports (CSR) and must submit a minimum of 8 CSRs per quarter between 1 May 2025 and 30 April 2026. Point of contact is DPA JVC at jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org. **Received from the DPA CSR Report.**
- The Post must participate in the Voice of Democracy (VOD), and Patriots Pen (PP) Award Programs by submitting at least one entry per program to the DISTRICT VOD/PP Chairman for judging. In lieu of this requirement, the POST may elect to send a \$125 donation per program to the VFW National Director of Programs for each program they do not participate in using the VMS Donation link from the VFW All American Dashboard. **Donations will NOT be accepted by any other means.** After donating, report the donation by forwarding a copy of the email receipt to the DPA VOD/PP Chairman at vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org. **Received from the All-American Dashboard.**
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- Legacy Life: Each post must at a minimum add one New/Upgraded Member with notification sent to the DPA SVC at svcdpa@vfwpacific.org. **Received from OMS.**
- The Post must participate in the Buddy Poppy program by purchasing 500 Buddy Poppies. Point of contact is DPA QM at qmdpa@vfwpacific.org. **Received from the All-American Dashboard.**
- The Post will participate in the DPA Awards program submitting a minimum of one award nomination for submission for one of the ten department award categories to the District for judging NLT 30 March 2026. District Award judging panels will include ALL Post Commanders in that District and a Post member from each post to ensure fair representation. **Received from the DPA JVC.**
- The Post must participate in the annual DPA fund raiser by purchasing by purchasing a full-page ad in the amount of \$200 in the "Year in Review" publication. Donations will be transferred to the DPA QM and emailed at qmdpa@vfwpacific.org and send the ad for the Year in Review chairman, PDC Larry Lyons at pdcl Lyons935@gmail.com. **Received from the DPA**



Senior Vice Commander

Don Kelley



Sr. Vice Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Quartermaster.

- The Post must be current in monthly DPA Community Service Reports (CSR) and must submit a minimum of 8 CSRs per quarter between 1 May 2025 and 30 April 2026. Point of contact is DPA JVC at jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org. **Received from the DPA CSR Report.**
- The Post must participate in the Voice of Democracy (VOD), and Patriots Pen (PP) Award Programs by submitting at least one entry per program to the DISTRICT VOD/PP Chairman for judging. In lieu of this requirement, the POST may elect to send a \$125 donation per program to the VFW National Director of Programs for each program they do not participate in using the VMS Donation link from the VFW All American Dashboard. **Donations will NOT be accepted by any other means.** After donating, report the donation by forwarding a copy of the email receipt to the DPA VOD/PP Chairman at vodppd-pa@vfwpacific.org. **Received from the All-American Dashboard.**
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- The Post Commander will attend ALL District meetings. If unavailable, they will send a Post representative, e.g., SVC, JVC or Post member who may attend in the Post Commanders absence and make the Commanders report. Attendance via Zoom is authorized if distance makes physical attendance impractical. Attendance reports will be sent directly to the DPA SVC after each District meeting at svcdpa@vfwpacific.org. **PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL WITH THE POSTS PRESENT AT YOUR QUARTERLY DISTRICT MEETINGS.**
- The Post Commander will attend ALL District meetings. If unavailable



Senior Vice Commander

Don Kelley



Sr. Vice Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

- They will send a Post representative, e.g., SVC, JVC or Post member who may attend in the Post Commanders absence and make the Commanders report. Attendance via Zoom is authorized if distance makes physical attendance impractical. Attendance reports will be sent directly to the DPA SVC after each District meeting at svcdpa@vfwpacific.org. **PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL WITH THE POSTS PRESENT AT YOUR QUARTERLY DISTRICT MEETINGS.**
- The new All-State Program Dashboard can be found on the DPA Website at [DPA All-State Dashboard](#)
- Please complete these All-State requirements early.
- **FOR VETERANS, BY VETERANS with TEAMWORK, TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE.**

Don Kelley
SVC Commander
Department of Pacific Areas

"Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More."



Senior Vice Commander

Don Kelley



Sr. Vice Commander

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

I hope everyone is doing well as we continue to move into our 2025-26 year. For those who attended National, I trust it was a great time with safe travels. Unfortunately, August is a crazy month for me due to work.

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

What is NOT a CSR - recruiting event, attending a Post meeting, "selling" Buddy Poppys, completing CSRs, etc.

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

After reading all of the CSRs coming in, I am amazed by how much we are doing in our communities. Also, there are four Posts that have not input the required eight CSR entries yet for All-State; I know that there are comrades doing good things within your Posts, please get those CSRs in so I can stay busy and approve them. Please teach your members during a meeting and through information pushes on what is and is not a CSR; it will only benefit the Post.

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

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

PROGRAMS: Let's get a head start by engaging early with **Schools, Scouts, ROTC, CAP, and Emergency Services** agencies now to promote the scholarships and awards that the VFW offers.

Make it a priority to reach out to **international and DODEA schools** in your area; encourage participation in essay contests rather than just paying the donation. This boosts visibility for your Post and the VFW; it also provides meaningful opportunities for our youth.

Action Required: Contact **VOD/PP Chairman Robert Madison** at vodppd-pa@vfwpacific.org early so he can get your online access set up early.

Each Post/District Chairman must test their access and report any issues promptly for quicker resolution.

Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen (All-State and All-American Requirement – 1 entry for each or \$125 each for Post and District); Due to me by 7 Dec – [VoD/PP Guide](#)

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award; Due to me by 7 Dec – [Teacher Award Guide](#)

Public Servant and Safety Awards; Due to me by 1 Jan – [Instructions](#)

Scouting (Due to me by 1 Apr), CAP, and ROTC Awards – [Youth Activities Guide](#)

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



David B. Gley Jr.



Jr. Vice Commander

**VFW GUIDE FOR
COMMUNITY SERVICE
BEST PRACTICES**



JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Awards: Let's not overlook the outstanding efforts of our own comrades. Recognizing excellence isn't just about ceremony—it's how we retain and motivate members by showing appreciation for their contributions. I feel that we do our members an injustice by not recognizing them.

Each Post should appoint an **Awards Chairman** to track achievements throughout the year.

Award submissions from Districts are **due to me by 15 Apr**, along with a score sheet showing a vote from each Post commander and one additional Post member.

All-State Requirement: nominate at least one awardee at both Post and District Levels (**Due to me NLT 01 May**) – [DPA Awards Page](#).

Also remember the **Community Service Award Due to me NLT 01 Apr** – [Community Service Award](#).

Let's make sure every deserving member gets the recognition they've earned.

Post and District commanders, please ensure that you have a plan in place to grade your programs and awards so that there is time to get them to me a little early to provide time to fix any potential issues.

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

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

RECRUIT – MENTOR – RETAIN

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

"Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More."



Junior Vice Commander

David B. Gley Jr.



Jr. Vice Commander



EVERYTHING WE DO, WE DO FOR VETERANS.®



Learn more or join at vfw.org.

VFW GUIDE FOR
COMMUNITY SERVICE
BEST PRACTICES



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



Post 8180 awarding the VFW Life Savers Award to AMN Samuel Laguerre on 26 August at his squadron's commander's call. AMN Laguerre saved a fellow Airman's life on 2 June 2025 at the Osan Air Base Ginko Tree Dining Facility. He responded while 30 other bystanders remained inactive and administered the Heimlich Maneuver, dislodging the obstruction, allowing his fellow Airman to recover and resume breathing after three minutes of airway obstruction.

UPDATED

VETERAN OF FOREIGN WARS
POST 9723
LCPL FRANK G. ALLEN
PRESENTS
DA SCOOP

RETIRES ACTIVE DUTY VETERANS DEPENDENTS

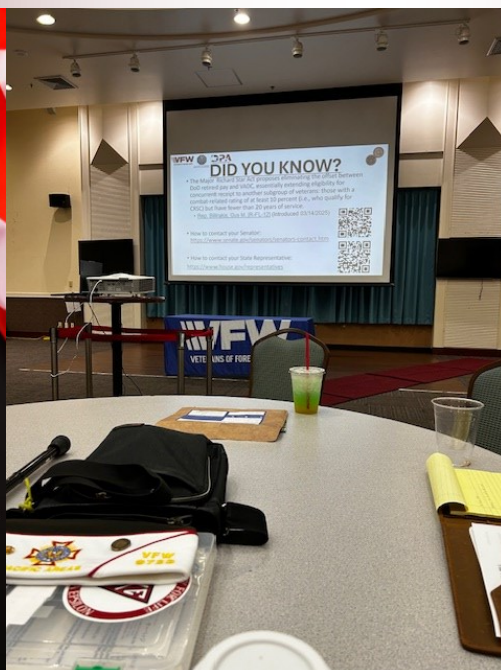
1130 - 1300
THURSDAY
AUGUST 28, 2025
CROW'S NEST ON CAMP SHIELDS

A monthly seminar will be held to discuss your benefits, whether you are staying in the military or separating, or what your options are if you have already separated from the military. Learn how to contact your congressional spokesperson to advocate for your benefits.

POC: Cortez Pree : 080 - 3526 - 0358
 Terrell Ford : 080 - 7625 - 1775

THANK YOU MILITARY
 SERVING OUR VETERANS THE MILITARY AND OUR COMMUNITY

THIS IS A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION. IT IS NOT A PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR ANY OF ITS COMPONENTS AND IT HAS NO GOVERNMENTAL STATUS.



VFW Monthly Benefits Seminar 28 August 2025 conducted by Pree Cortez Commander Post 9723 Okinawa Japan

In the SPOTLIGHT



LON C. KINDER, JR. Chief Master Sergeant, USAF, Retired

CMSGT Lon Clark Kinder, Jr., was born on December 14, 1939 in Charleston, West Virginia. He was the son of Lon Kinder Sr. and Lillian Kinder and had two siblings, Joyce and Tim. Lon graduated from Stonewall Jackson High School in 1957. He enlisted in the United States Air Force and completed Basic Military Training in March 1958.

Lon was initially assigned to Travis Air Force Base California but soon left for Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan in April 1959. He served as a Transportation Specialist with the 60th Squadron until returning to the United States for separation in February 1962. From February to September 1962, Lon worked for American Airlines at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago as a Flight Dispatch Agent. While stationed in Okinawa in 1959, Lon met Hideko Teruya. Neither spoke each other's language but, as his son explained, they had their own language and his dad pursued Hideko "with persistence". Hideko told stories about how Lon had special suits made for their dates and he always showed up with flowers. Upon returning to the US and living in Chicago, Lon and Hideko remained in touch. They wrote letters with the help of translation services.

In September 1962, while working in Chicago, Lon accompanied a friend to the Air Force recruiters office to enlist. The recruiter pointed at Lon and asked "What about him?" Lon said he would re-enlist but only if he could be stationed in Japan. The recruiter agreed. Lon re-enlisted and was assigned to the 1503rd Air Terminal Squadron at Tachikawa Air Base. He and Hideko married on April 15, 1963 and exactly one year later their son Lon Clark Kinder III was born.

In September 1966 Lon returned to the United States to attend training as an Administration Specialist at Otis Air Force Base, Massachusetts. In February 1968, he was stationed in Danang, Vietnam as NCOIC of Passenger Processing. In December of that year Lon was transferred to Naha Air Base Okinawa, then Travis AFB, California and eventually Kadena AB where he spent a large portion of his military career. Other duty stations included Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, Osan AB Korea and Travis AFB California. In September 1988 after 30 years and 6 months of service in the United States Air Force, CMSGT Lon Kinder Jr. retired and made Okinawa his permanent residence. For the next 10 years he worked for the club system enjoying civilian life while remaining connected to Kadena AB.

For the next 20 years, CMSGT Kinder devoted his off duty hours to spending time with his son and their bikes. CMSGT Kinder lived a relatively quiet life. His wife, Hideko, passed away in 1995 and while he sometimes gathered with acquaintances at the NCO Club on Kadena and the Crow's Nest on Camp Shields, he enjoyed his solitude and privacy. That is, until 2022 when not only did his son move to Okinawa but his granddaughter and her family ALSO moved to the island. The once quiet home now had four generations of Kinders either living with him or visiting regularly: son Lon III, daughter-in-law Ronnie, granddaughter Kayte, grandson-in-law Seth and great grandson Kawika. In his later years, CMSGT Kinder enjoyed sitting in his rocking chair on his front deck with his son Lon, drinking coffee, talking through home project ideas and recapping the latest Yankees game. He will truly be missed.

His awards include: Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal w/ 3 OLC, Air Force Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal (Army) w/ 1 silver and 1 Bronze OLC, Air Force Presidential Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross w/ palm, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Air Force Long Tour Ribbon.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome	VFW Post 9723 CMDR Cortez Pree
Invocation	Chaplain Tamara Rowe, Maj, USAF
National Anthem	Kadena Honor Guard (Posting Colors)
Biography	VFW Post 9723 CMDR Cortez Pree
Lord's Prayer	VFW Post 9723 SVC, Terrell Ford
Psalm 23:	VFW Post 9723 Quartermaster, Derrick Boyd
Isaiah 40	VFW Post 9723 Comrade Curtis Kozlesky
Psalm 133	
Airman's Prayer	

Words of Comfort

TAPS	Kadena Honor Guard
Flag Presentation	Kadena Honor Guard
Retiring of the colors	Kadena Honor Guard
Benediction	Chaplain Tamara Rowe, Maj, USAF

Special presentation from the VFW Post 9723

Psalm 23

1. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Isaiah 40

A voice of one calling: In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

2. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

3. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together: For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Lord's Prayer

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

2. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

3. Give us this day our daily bread.

4. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

5. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen.

6. And grace will lead me home.

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me

I once was lost, but now I am found Was blind, but now I see.

Psalm 133

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

3. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: For You are with me;

Airman's Prayer

God guard and guide us as we fly through the great spaces of the sky; Be with us as we take to air. In morning light and sunshine fair. Eternal Father, strong to save, Give us courage and make us brave; Protect us whereso'er we go, From shell and flak and fire and foe. Most loved member of our crew. Ride with us up in the blue. Direct our bombs upon the foe But shelter those whom Thou dost know. Keep us together on our way, Grant our work success today. Deliver us from hate and sin, And bring us safely down again. O God protect us as we fly through lonely ways across the sky.

Memorial Service for Post Member Lon C. Kinder Jr. CMSGT USAF Retired with Special Presentation from the Post 9723 Okinawa Japan

In the SPOTLIGHT



On August 8, 2025, VFW Post 12146 members, with families, unveiled garden beds at Ban Payoon School in Ban Chang, Thailand. The event fostered heartfelt connections between veterans, students, and staff, highlighting community service's impact. These gardens offer hands-on agricultural education, teaching sustainable food cultivation while promoting outdoor activity and environmental stewardship. Students will grow produce to sell, with profits funding school initiatives—learning financial responsibility, work ethic, and community interdependence through this micro-economy. The project equips youth with practical skills for future self-sufficiency while strengthening ties between generations. Veterans expressed pride in cultivating both crops and life skills, nurturing holistic growth for Thailand's next generation.



Ken and his wife Malai donated in the name of Post 12146, 100 kg of rice for Thai people displaced due to the conflict with Cambodia.

Your feedback is important to us. Please submit your Letters to the Editor or Suggestions by clicking pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org

In the SPOTLIGHT



Kadena 2025 Inductees

353rd SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING

CHRISTOPHER AUBUCHON
TYRECE BOLEN
COLLIN EDDINGTON
EVAN MONIZ-HOLE
CHRISTEN NAIL
JOSHUA KINDELL
JENA ACEVES
CHARLES ALLEN
DONALD DUNCAN
JARED TODD
AARON USTASZEWSKI
ADAM WILSON

18th WING

FITZROY WILKS
AMANDA SKIDMORE
MATTHEW HURLESS
MOLLY FLETCHALL
TYLER HOLZWORTH
MARCY KAWAGUCHI
MICHAEL RISKY
SAMANTHA GARVER
ARNOLD LAGAJENO
NICOLI LEUTERIO
STEPHANIE PORTELL
REYJEE QULLA
JUSTEN RODRIGUEZ
AARON WILLIAMS
ERIKA WILLIAMS
MELODY HOUSTON
JOSHUA BASINGER
AARON GRAY
VANESSA ORITZ
MICHAEL HOLT
JOSHUA JENKINS
JADE MCGILL
STEVEN SMITH
JUSTIN SPRINKEL

Kadena 2025 Inductees

18th WING

AUSTIN WISSHACK-KURZ
ALEX ALEGRIA
MANUEL NAVARRO
LELAND SCHAAP
CHAD OWENS
NICO VALENZUELA
TERRANCE WILBURN
SERGEY AUCOIN
CHAD OSENBAGH
DOUGLAS ASH
KAZUKI BUCCAT
DANIEL COUGHLIN
KYLE HOUSEHOLDER
JASON MESSERLEY
MARK MOCERI
JOHN PLESS
NATHANIEL PUGH
JAMES GILREATH
SHANE PAGE
HAROLD TAMONDONG
LOREN KING
MATTHEW BORQUEZ

THAO CHAU
FALEENA FARRIS-WAHL
CODY FREDIANI
JAMIE SMITH
MARY ALLEN
MICAIAH ANTHONY
TIMOTHY ANTHONY
MICHAEL ESPINOZA
ANASTASIA LONG

TENANT UNITS

JOHN WEN
DEREK MCLEMORE
NICHOLAS KELLEY
SEAN MCNULTY
ANTONIO PORTUGAL
JUSTIN KUGELMAN
MICHAEL ROBY
VICTOR TORRES

SISTER SERVICE

BENJAMIN PARDO

Host

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN B. GALLEMORE
Commander
18th Wing



Brig. Gen. John Gallemore is the Commander, 18th Wing, Kadena Air Base, Japan. The 18th Wing, the largest combat wing in the U.S. Air Force, provides the Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, trained and equipped tactical air superiority forces; combat search and rescue forces; command and control platforms; aeromedical evacuation capability; and global mobility resources for contingency operations. The Wing flies the F-15C/E, F-22, F-35, KC-135, HH-60 and E-3 aircraft. Additionally, the Wing provides the 5th Air Force Commander a responsive, staging and operational air base with integrated, deployable, forward-based air power.

Brig. Gen. Gallemore holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Business from Texas A&M University. He has commanded at the Wing, Group, and Fighter Squadron levels, as well as served in a variety of leadership positions including Operations Officer, Instructor, Evaluator and Thunderbird pilot. Prior to his current assignment, Brig. Gen. Gallemore served as the Inspector General, Air Combat Command.

Brig. Gen. Gallemore's operational experiences include Operations IRAQI FREEDOM, FREEDOM'S SENTINEL, ATLANTIC RESOLVE and INHERENT RESOLVE. He is a command pilot with more than 4,400 flying hours in the F-16, F-15E, T-38 and T-37.

Guest Speaker

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT WILLIAM L. CUPP
Command Chief Master Sergeant
18th Wing



Chief Master Sergeant William L. Cupp is the Command Chief, 18th Wing, Kadena Air Force Base, Japan. The 18th Wing, the largest combat wing, U.S. Pacific Command trained and equip the U.S. Air Force, provides the Commander tactical air superiority forces; combat search and rescue forces; command and control platforms; aeromedical evacuation capability; and global mobility resources for contingency operations. Chief Cupp serves as the installation's senior enlisted liaison between the 18th Wing and enlisted personnel from five other Air Force major commands and joint partner units. The wing flies the KC-135, HH-60 and E-3 aircraft. Additionally, the wing provides the 5th Air Force Commander a responsive, staging and operational air base with integrated, deployable, forward-based air power. Chief Cupp is the principal advisor to the commander and senior staff on operational matters and issues affecting the morale, welfare, safety compliance, readiness, and effective utilization of more than 6,000 total force personnel.

Chief Cupp is from Monterey, California, and enlisted in May of 1999. He has expertise across a wide range of special operations, special mission, and mobility airframes and mission sets, including MH-53J/M, MC-130H, RC-135V/W, C-130H3, C-17, KC-135R/T, MC-130J, and C-130J employment and sustainment tactics. Additionally, he has held leadership positions in Operations Groups, Maintenance Groups, Air Expeditionary Groups, and Task Forces. He has significant experience in joint and combined operating environments across deployments to Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, INHERENT RESOLVE and other named operations and exercises.

You are charged with integrating the talents, skills, and abilities of your subordinates with other teams to accomplish our mission with excellence while maintaining flexibility in execution. Be the bridge that connects our force, ensuring unity in purpose and action.

You are charged with effectively communicating across the chain of command, translating orders into actionable tasks and advocating for your Airmen and their families.

You are charged with the development of self, others, ideas, and organizations. Capitalize on Joint, Interagency, Interorganizational and Multinational development opportunities, building partnership capacity in defense of our Nation.

You are charged with demonstrating the principles of self-discipline and independent action through continued education, training, and career broadening. In all facets showcase a willingness to do what the mission demands.

You are charged with fulfilling a unique and critical role in officer development at the squadron, group, wing and higher headquarter levels. Utilize your extensive experience and expertise in supporting and advising officers to successfully lead Airmen of all ranks and backgrounds.

You are charged with honoring our heritage while also serving as a leader for the next generation. Embrace our Core Values while modeling a comprehensive knowledge of Air Force foundational competencies.

You are charged with cultivating a professional climate and culture within your teams, enforcing high standards and combined focus on mission execution. Clarify leadership orders, expectations, and swiftly correct behaviors that detract from good order and discipline.

Your role as a Senior Noncommissioned Officer is pivotal in shaping the future of our force. In accepting these responsibilities, you pledge your dedication to the United States Air Force and its enduring mission for our Nation to Fly,

Fight and Win – Airpower anytime, anywhere!

In the SPOTLIGHT



The Lance Corporal Frank C. Allen Post 9723 sponsored the Air Force Community College Graduation Ceremony on August 6, 2025, at Kadena Airbase, Okinawa. Thirty-six graduates attended. The Comrades shared the post's history and membership details. Commander Pree praised the event for showcasing the airmen's achievements.



Post 9723 collaborated with Okinawa-based non-profit Help Oki on August 23, 2025, delivering furniture, cleaning supplies, and painting rooms at a local group home to create a welcoming environment. Commander Pree emphasized the Post's commitment to serving as U.S. ambassadors through community volunteerism.



Post 9723 supported Okinawa youth by distributing school supplies (backpacks, notebooks, rulers, pens, crayons) at Foster Commissary on August 17, 2025. Partnering with the commissary, they aided families in need. One recipient called the initiative "a blessing during hard times," thanking the post for community assistance.

In the SPOTLIGHT



DPA CDR Farrell leads Comrades Lutman, Kelley, Morrissey, Alford, Damron Osborne, Mitchell, Collins, McGlynn, Seligman, Lancelot, Hamic, and Phillips in the congratulatory march of CIC Carol Whitmore.

Comrades Osborne, Himes, Lancelot, Hamic, Phillips, Seligman, Damron, Alford, and McGlynn.



Comrades Stinson, McGlynn, Morrissey, Alford, Phillips, Mitchell, Collins, and Auxiliary member Alma Damron at Opening Ceremonies.



Breakfast anyone? IPDC Mike Lutman with SoPhanna Farrell and Butch Mitchell.



DPA Comrades who represented us at the Supreme Convention: R. Himes, K. Mitchell, Kerbrat-Gonzales, and E. Gonzales.



Butch "where is my Cap" Mitchell and Alma Damron at Opening Ceremonies.

126TH VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION



126th National Convention Proposed Bylaws, MOP and Ritual Amendments and All National Resolutions Results

126th VFW National Convention – Columbus, Ohio

Listed below are the results to the proposed National Bylaw, Manual of Procedure and Ritual amendments to include all National Resolutions that were considered and voted on during the 126th VFW National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 9-13, 2025.

[Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual Amendments and all National Resolutions - **Proposed**](#)

[Finance & Internal Organization Resolutions \(200 series\) - **Results**](#)

[General Resolutions \(300 series\) - **Results**](#)

[National Security & Foreign Affairs Resolutions \(400 series\) - **Results**](#)

[Veterans Service Resolutions \(600 series\) - **Results**](#)

[**View the final results for all proposed National Bylaw, Manual of Procedure and Ritual amendments considered and voted on during the 126th VFW National Convention here.**](#)

Click [HERE](#) to go the VFW National Convention Website



DPA QUARtermaster

Comrades,

All Quartermasters who submitted their bond questionnaire should have received their Bond for the 2025-2026 year. It was sent to your QM....@vfwpacific.org account. Please look it over and ensure that all the information is correct and has been signed. If there is a discrepancy send me an email with the needed change. District 6, Post 1509 and Post 2907 have not submitted for their bonds at this time.

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

Speaking of Buddy Poppies, they must be ordered through me, your friendly DPA Quartermaster. The order form can be found on the DPA web page under the PROGRAMS tab, look for "BUDDY POPPY". Click the link and scroll down below the graphic and click on Order Form "HERE". Please fill out the form fully, transfer the appropriate funds to the DPA NFCU account, and send it to me at qmdpa@vfwpacific.org. Verify that the address is not a restricted address as this will delay your order while I attempt to contact you for the required delivery address.

Now let's talk quarterly audits. As of the writing of this article, 3 Posts and 1 District have not yet submitted their 1st quarterly (Apr-Jun 2025) audits to me at qmdpa@vfwpacific.org. Audit submission is an All-State requirement and the posts that didn't make the 31 July deadline, are not going to make the cut. The district has until 30 Sep for submission to be All-State eligible. Put the next Following required dates on your calendar:

Jul-Sep 2025 audit is due to me by Posts - 31 Oct 25 and District - 31 Dec 25
Oct-Dec 2025 audit is due to me by Posts - 31 Jan 26 and District - 31 Mar 26
Jan-Mar 2026 audit is due to me by Posts - 31 Apr 26 and District - 30 Jun 26

You may have noticed I included my full qmdpa@vfwpacific.org throughout this article. I did this to reinforce the use of this address for all things DPA Quartermaster related.

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

George E. Beck Jr.
DPA Quartermaster



Quartermaster

George E. Beck Jr.



Quartermaster

INTRODUCTION

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

DPA ADJUTANT

Hello Comrades,

We had the most interesting National Convention of my total of 12 times attending. However, it was very nice to see many of our Comrades there and our continued comradeship. I believe we had over 25 Comrades and family members in Columbus, OH.

Now that we are past our Department and National Conventions, many Comrades will now focus on our Mid-Winter Conference (formerly known as the C of A). Comrades, before you contact us with emails and phone calls wondering when the Conference info will be placed on the DPA Website, please give us the room to work on it without distractions. Once everything is completed, we will post it on the DPA Website at once and you will be informed through your CDRs. We are shooting for Mid-October which is the normal time we have posted it in the past. Deal... DEAL!!! Committee Chairman Paul Baker and Post 11575 CDR Gary Kidd will do an outstanding job, and Comrade Baker has an Article in this Newsletter.

I know many are awaiting the release of MEMSTATS, we should know our numbers on the first or second week this month.

Some notes about Election Reports (ER). District & Post CDR's/Adjutants, before you submit your ERs now and, in the future, please ensure that your members' contact information is correct prior to updating it on OMS. What I believe is happening is a Comrade has been with a District/Post for years as an Officer and has moved once or several times, but the same old address is submitted because that is what National has on the Comrade. After your Elections, please confirm the addresses for your next year's team. This will save you and the DPA Adjutant extra work. During the year changes because of moves are understandable.

In closing, the next Pacific Times Articles are due to our Webmaster Augie at augiesr@gmail.com by October 15th. Just after Columbus Day on the 13th. I would like to wish those of us Comrades who are still working, a very happy Labor Day on the 1st and enjoy your day off. We also have some high-level days like Patriot's Day on the 11th, Happy Birthday to the US Air Force (since 1947) on the 18th and POW/MIA day on the 19th. I wish the DPA a fantastic couple of months until we meet again. Let's continue to take care of our families, communities, and ourselves. God bless the USA!!! All the best!!!

Yours in Comradeship,

Kevin E. Mitchell
Adjutant
Department of Pacific Areas
***"Teamwork. Together
Everyone Achieves More."***



Adjutant

Kevin Mitchell



Adjutant

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Hello Comrades,

To say our National Convention was interesting and full of surprises would be an understatement. I won't go into the sordid details, Commander Farrell and others will discuss some of the machinations involving the top three elected National Officers.

I will focus on updating the issues of interest to our Department.

FMP. It appears those who have a U.S. bank account are now receiving, via electronic funds transfer, reimbursement from FMP to the Veterans U.S. bank account. Veterans in that category have not reported any problems. Next on the FMP agenda will be EFT reimbursement to those Veterans who have overseas bank accounts. That is expected to happen in 2026.

Moving the VA Regional Office that serves 17 of our 27 posts from Pittsburgh to Manila has had no movement. It has been addressed by our Washington, D.C. staff to the VA point of contact for Veteran Service Organizations. We will continue pushing this and keep all advised.

The unfair requirement to pay into Medicare in order to stay enrolled in TRICARE for Life has been gaining traction. It is understood Medicare cannot be used outside the U.S. This issue has been included in a broader bill as more key congressmen become aware of this inequity.

The issue regarding overseas Veterans being unable to receive care or reimbursement except for service connected disabilities is part of the same bill where the Medicare issue is addressed. The fact that Veterans residing in the U.S. with 50% or greater service connected disabilities are treated at no cost, while overseas Veterans in the same category do not have this earned benefit is another injustice that is being addressed.

Benefits Delivery @ Discharge (BDD) Korea. It appears all hurdles have been resolved, now we just need to fill the position. A job notice has been posted and the goal is to have the position filled at Camp Humphries, Korea by the end of this year.

Those are the five key items we are tracking. Remember even though the VFW may work very hard and be extremely tenacious in addressing these important issues, we are at the mercy of two of the largest bureaucracies in the world, The VA and the U.S. Congress.

You can be sure we will keep pushing and fighting for earned benefits for all Veterans and their families.

Best regards,

In comradeship and service to Veterans,



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



Ken Stein



VA |
Foreign Medical
Program (FMP)



CERTIFIED NATIONAL RECRUITER

Good morning, Comrades of the Pacific,

By the time you read this your Life Members in your Post will have been posted. You will be able to figure out what new members and continuous members you need to meet our Department Commanders Goal this year.

So far this year we already have over 15 Recruiters doing their thing and have earned the Commander Pin and Department Pin already this year. I have already started to pass out some of these awards at the National Convention to pass on to their recruiters. I am doing this this year so we can award these individuals in a timely fashion and this will also speed up the time I have for my reports at the Mid Term and June Conventions.

Leading the pack this year in Life Members is Post 12231 in Manila, Philippines with 12 New Life Members. Leading Posts this year with New Annual Members is Post 10223 at Camp Humphreys, Korea with 17 New Annual Members. Also leading the Post with Continuous Members is Post 8180 in Songtan, Korea with 59 Continuous Members.

My hat goes off to these recruiters. A reminder to Post Quartermaster to send in a list of names 5 or 10 New Life Members. This way QM George can send you the money for meeting those criteria's as outlined in this year's Membership Program.

Remember recruiting is every member's responsibility.

Thus **TEAMWORK, Together Everyone Achieves More.**

Yours Always in Comradeship,

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



National Certified Recruiter

Larry Lyons



IF YOU'VE EARNED THESE



THEN YOU BELONG HERE



RECRUITER TRAINING STUDENT GUIDE

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



rev. April 2023

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

July 25, 1944, 24-year-old Captain Louis H. Wilson Jr. received orders to take a vital portion of Fonte Hill on Guam. Leading Company F, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, he advanced through 300 yards of rugged, open terrain under intense Japanese machine-gun and rifle fire. Wilson pressed forward despite sniper fire that pinned down his men and mortars bursting overhead. During the advance, he personally shot three Japanese snipers. His company suffered heavy losses, more in one hour than in the entire previous month at Bougainville.

After seizing the objective, which included the enemy's command post, Wilson took command of not only his company but also disorganized Marine units and scattered motorized equipment in the area. Under continuous hostile fire, he arranged defensive positions, placed men and guns strategically, and prepared for the expected night battle. For five hours, Wilson worked under the constant enemy attack. He was wounded three times by shrapnel and bullets but refused medical treatment until every position was secured. Only then did he withdraw to the command post for care.

When night came, the Japanese launched intense counterattacks on the Marines' line. Wilson abandoned medical treatment to return to the front. Moving from position to position under constant shrapnel and bullet fire, he reinforced the defenses during repeated enemy assaults. At one point, he spotted a wounded Marine lying far beyond the front lines, about 50 yards away. Wilson ran through exposed ground, despite the bullets snapping past, and carried the Marine to safety.

Wilson led from the front for nearly 10 hours. The enemy attacked in waves, plunging the battlefield into chaos. Fighting turned to brutal hand-to-hand combat in foxholes. Wilson used his rifle butt to kill two enemy soldiers trying to overrun his position. Throughout the night, he encouraged his men to hold their ground. Again and again, the Japanese attacks were repelled.

At dawn, Japanese resistance eased but a nearby slope still threatened the Marines' position. Wilson gathered a patrol of 17 men and advanced under heavy fire from mortars, machine guns, and rifles. Thirteen men were killed in the attack, leaving just four including Wilson. Despite the losses, he pressed forward, seized the key ground, and secured the battalion's flank.

By the end of the fight, half of Wilson's company was dead or wounded. His leadership and courage resulted in the deaths of 350 Japanese soldiers and the capture of a critical position essential to the regimental mission. Louis H. Wilson Jr. survived this battle and went on to have a distinguished Marine Corps career. He died on June 14, 2005, of natural causes long after the war ended. For his actions on this day, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Read more [HERE](#).

Read full MoH citation [HERE](#).

Flight III Arleigh-Burke guided-missile destroyer [USS Louis H. Wilson \(DDG-126\)](#)



CHAPLAINS CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrades,

July and August allowed us to transition into the new VFW year with a newly elected and installed Department of Pacific Area Commander, John “Jack” Farrell and National Commander in Chief, Carol Whitmore. I pray and hope all Comrades that had the opportunity to travel to the 126th VFW National Convention experienced a rewarding and informative conference. I hope it gave an opportunity to meet fellow comrades from across United States and foreign posts to share and practice common VFW comradeship.

As each of us prepares to execute our individual office in which we were elected or appointed let’s not lose focus on our purpose to assist and help our veterans. As I will continue to reiterate throughout my term of office; to continue to take care of our Veterans, their families, our Active-duty service members and those less fortunate in our communities.

With a “Buddy check” this task can be accomplished with a simple phone call, email, or text to ensure we all stay in touch and connected to our Comrades.

And let’s not forget our Sick and Shut-in with home and hospital visits. If there is a Veteran in **“CRISIS”** any time of day or night, you may call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 or your country Emergency designated number. If you are eligible file your PACT Act claim-or submit your intent to file for your VA benefits.

September and October are followed by Commemorative and Memorial events:

POW/MIA Recognition Day. Salute veterans who sacrificed for freedom and families keeping hope alive. Urge communities to share their stories publicly, ensuring future generations understand military service's profound costs.

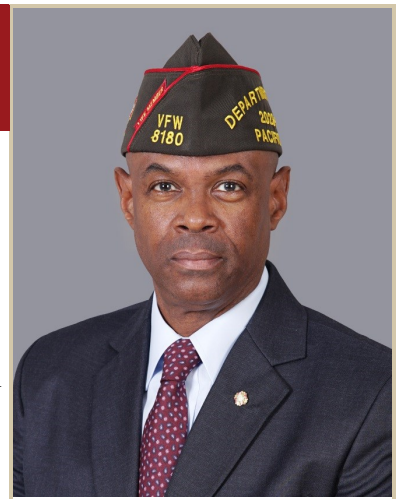
Patriot Day and National Day of Remembrance, commemorating 9/11’s tragedy while celebrating America’s enduring unity and service spirit. Remember lives lost and resilience that unites the nation.

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

VFW Final Roll Call for our Departed Comrades this issue from the Pacific Areas

Comrade	Post	Comrade	Post
Timothy Unger	10033	Dale, James Joseph Jr.	2485
Austin, Authur Richard	2485	Edward Compo	10033

Robert S. Chatman
DPA Chaplain



Chaplain

Robert Chatman



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



Resources for Chaplains

The Chaplain's Corner - by State of Missouri Chaplain and National Chaplain 2021 - 2023 Debb Halter

Good introduction to chaplain's duties.

<https://movfw.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=76106>

Or the easier to remember link: <https://movfw.org/chaplainscorner>

CHAPLAIN'S GUIDE - by State of Pennsylvania Chaplain and Past National Chaplain Peter Hook

Great resource guide for things you will need along the way.

<https://vfwpa.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=88797>

CHAPLAIN'S RESOURCES - by Chaplain (Sky Pilot) Dale A. Iannello, the Military Order of the Cootie

VFW Chaplain material has been consolidated in one location at the national level at: https://lotcs.org/vfw_chaplain.html There you will find a tabbed panel containing information on *Forms, Handbook, Duties, Ethics, Memorial, Prayer, Links and Training*.

Find a Mentor:

Find a mentor who you are comfortable calling and working with to improve your skills and to learn from. In fact, have more than one of them. Everyone has something they are good at so you can learn something from everyone. **ASK QUESTIONS!**

I recommend you print the newest *Chaplain's handbook* and read it, highlight it, and share it with fellow Chaplains. The latest version can be found at: https://lotcs.org/Forms/Chaplain/VFW_Chaplain/Manuals/VFW%20Chaplain%20Handbook%202023%20May%20VFW%20Standard.pdf. Chaplain Peter Hook worked hard to expand it this year. It is a work that grows with us.

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

It is highly recommended that chaplains attend **ZOOM** training which is held online on the third **Wednesday** of each month at **7:30 p.m. CST** starting in **September 2023**. The Zoom link comes through the Chaplain's newsletter, so get signed up! Also Chaplains can obtain the link under the "Training" tab at: https://lotcs.org/vfw_chaplain.html. This gives you an opportunity to get to know other Chaplains and discuss things that are important to our work. **Good ideas are shared!**

DEPARTMENT SURGEON

Good morning Commander Jack, SVC, JVC and National Rep,

Hope everyone is having a good summer and surviving the heat where you live. As we are getting older and running into issues today that we didn't have 20 years ago. Our primary medical problem is usually related to cardiovascular issues. Below are some numbers related to Heart Disease.

- 20% - Percentage of heart attacks that are silent
- 18.2 million – Americans, aged 20 and older, with coronary heart disease
- #1 – Primary leading cause of death in men AND women in the US
- 647K – Number of Americans who die from Heart Disease each year
- 80% - Percentage of Preventable Cases of Heart Disease and Stroke

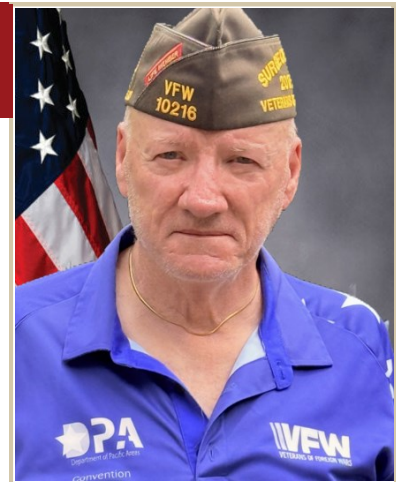
Part 1 was just giving you some statistics to help you acknowledge and motivate everyone with information to hopefully not become a statistic in Part 1.

1. Eat Better – Balance things out (whole foods, fruits and Vegetables, nuts and seeds)
2. Be More Active – Adults should participate in 150 minutes of moderate OR 75 minutes of vigorous activity. Walking is a great moderate activity for 60 minutes
3. Quit tobacco usage – statement is obvious and includes Vaping
4. Get Healthy Sleep – Good sleep is vital to Cardiovascular Health (7-8 hours)
5. Manage Blood Sugar – Most food we eat is usually turned to glucose. If not managed it can damage your heart, kidneys, eyes and nerves. If you have a family history of diabetes please keep checking with your primary care provider
6. Manage Blood Pressure – Monitoring keeps Heart Healthy and maintains healthy blood vessels
7. Manage Weight – BMI (body Mass Index) maintained between 18.5 and 25. Maintaining BMI can improve physical fitness and also improve wear and tear musculoskeletal structures
8. Control Cholesterol – Keeps control of Cholesterol in organs and great arteries must maintain balance between “good” and “bad” cholesterol

Thank you for your time Commander Jack and your team

Patrick “Doc” Higgins

DPA Surgeon



Patrick “Doc” Higgins



Nearly 800,000 Americans die each year from heart disease and stroke. Most of the major risk factors can be managed or prevented.

Risk factors and solutions for managing them



High blood pressure – Make control your goal.



High cholesterol – Work with your doctor on a treatment plan to manage your cholesterol.



Diabetes – Work with your doctor on a treatment plan to manage your diabetes.



Tobacco use – If you don't smoke, don't start. If you do smoke get help to quit.



Unhealthy diet – Eat a healthy diet, low in sodium and trans fats and high in fresh fruits and vegetables.



Physical inactivity – The Surgeon General recommends adults engage in moderate-intensity exercise for 2 hours and 30 minutes every week.



Obesity – Work to maintain a healthy weight.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Hello Comrades,

As we move along into the new term, let's recommit to the core values of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; that is, camaraderie, assisting veterans and their families, and advocating for earned benefits for all veterans.

If we focus on our mission, membership will follow. Certainly, we should support key programs such as VOD/PP, Buddy Poppies, and the Military Appreciation Program (MAP).

Our Mid-Year meeting is only a short three and half months away. Currently scheduled for December 11-15 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Information and registration will be online in the coming months.

Stay safe, keep charging.



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



DPA National Council Member spoke on the floor of the convention in support of JVCIC Tim Peters

The VFW thank you was a sign at a popular breakfast place in Columbus Ohio where many delegates met in the morning.

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



Chief of Staff

Ken Stein



Chief of Staff

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Greetings Comrades,

Inspection season is fastly approaching, commencing on 1 October 2025. As a Department, our primary goal is to complete inspections and submit them by the Mid-Winter Conference in December 2025.

We trust that within your respective Districts, inspection schedules have been finalized. Kindly forward these schedules to include the inspector's name, date and location for each District and Post inspection to inspdpa@vfwpacific.org and cc jsalford2017@gmail.com soon as possible.

Other important dates are:

28 February 2026 - Inspections completed and submitted to meet All-State requirement

30 April 2026 - Final inspection deadline for all Districts and Post

The inspection format for Districts is as follows:

District 2: Inspects District 3
District 3: Inspects District 4
District 4: Inspects District 5
District 5: Inspects District 6
District 6: Inspects District 7
District 7: Inspects District 2

Note: Face-to-face inspections are recommended, however due to geographical location you can use Zoom or similar methods.

Tips for a successful inspection: Be prepared and have all documents available for the inspection.

Let us collectively strive to make this inspection year a resounding success.

“Teamwork: Together, Everyone Achieves More.”

For any questions or concerns and all report submissions, kindly send them to the email address stated above.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Janet Alford
DPA Inspector



Inspection Procedures 2025-26

The following are some of the key points regarding the Inspection Program for the 2025-26 term:

Inspections are designed to identify problems and resolve them before the end of the term or initiate administrative action necessary to correct deficiencies during the next term. This is not designed to be a pretext for Districts or Posts to allow deficiencies to carry over into the following term. Districts or Posts who fail to comply with the inspection procedures or who fail to meet inspection criteria may be subject to suspension.

Inspections are a Department Program, MOP Sec 418 (11) and Sec 518 (9).


No later than 1 July, each District Commanders SHALL appoint an Inspector and if warranted an Assistant Inspector(s). Also, no later than 31 August 2025, each District Commander SHALL provide the inspection schedule for their District to the Department Inspector. Each District Commander shall provide the Department Inspector the schedule with the name(s) and contact information for all appointed Inspectors to inspdpa@vfwpacific.org. The Department Inspector will be the approving authority for all inspector appointments.

Inspectors SHALL be thoroughly familiar with all VFW National and Department Programs, Policies, Bylaws, and Ritual, preferably with experience as a District or Department Officer, Quartermaster, or Trustee.

All inspections SHALL be accomplished no earlier than 1 October 2025 and completed no later than 30 April 2026. Although the initial submission goal is prior to the Mid-Winter Conference so there is sufficient time to correct deficiencies. Inspections must be completed and submitted prior to 28 February 2026 to be eligible for All-State status.

The complete DPA Inspection Program guidelines, as well as the inspection form with instructions, are available on the DPA website under programs/inspections.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,


John "Jack" Farrell, Jr.
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas



Department Inspector

Janet Alford



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



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

You're a 19 year old kid. You are critically wounded and dying in the jungle somewhere in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam. Its November 14, 1965. LZ (landing zone) X-ray. Your unit is outnumbered 8-1 and the enemy fire is so intense from 100 yards away, that your CO (commanding officer) has ordered the MedEvac helicopters to stop coming in.

You're lying there, listening to the enemy machine guns and you know you're not getting out. Your family is half way around the world, 12,000 miles away, and you'll never see them again. As the world starts to fade in and out, you know this is the day. Then - over the machine gun noise - you faintly hear that sound of a helicopter.

You look up to see a Huey coming in. But.. It doesn't seem real because no MedEvac markings are on it. Captain Ed Freeman is coming in for you. He's not MedEvac so it's not his job, but he heard the radio call and decided he's flying his Huey down into the machine gun fire anyway.

Even after the MedEvacs were ordered not to come. He's coming anyway. And he drops it in and sits there in the machine gun fire, as they load 3 of you at a time on board.

Then he flies you up and out through the gunfire to the doctors and nurses and safety. And, he kept coming back!! 13 more times!!

Until all the wounded were out. No one knew until the mission was over that the Captain had been hit 4 times in the legs and left arm.

He took 29 of you and your buddies out that day. Some would not have made it without the Captain and his Huey.

Medal of Honor Recipient, Captain Ed Freeman, United States Army, died at the age of 81, in Boise, Idaho.

Read more about Ed Freeman [HERE](#).



JUDGE ADVOCATE

Comrades,

I'll keep this short and sweet. Proposals, please start working any Proposals your Post or District wish to be reviewed. Have anything you want read at the Mid Term in Cambodia in my email box NLT 1 December 2025. I will read out all, just to get people's intel, but they do not get voted on until the Department convention in June 2026.

ALL Proposals that will be brought before the Department members for a vote need to be to me NLT 1 May 2026, reason being is they need to be sent out to the membership 30 days prior to the convention.

As always thank you for all your hard work.

Yours in Comradeship

Warren "Max" Maxson

Judge Advocate

Department of Pacific Areas



Judge Advocate

Warren "Max" Maxson



CHAIN OF COMMAND PROTOCOL

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

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

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

IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Comrades,

Hooyah DPA! The 126th VFW Convention is in the books and PACIFIC AREAS showed out yet once again. I want to congratulate you all for earning the title of All American Department, District and Post. Also, both of our resolutions were approved! I also want to send a shout out to all the comrades who were able to attend and do so in FORCE! YOU WERE NOTICED! Your accomplishment in membership alone, again born of efforts through programs and community service, set a new record for the Pacific Areas at 105 percent. We need to build on that effort and continue to show why PACIFIC AREAS is a perennial top 5 Department in the VFW and a part of the best conference in the VFW, the Western Conference, where we say the WEST is the BEST!

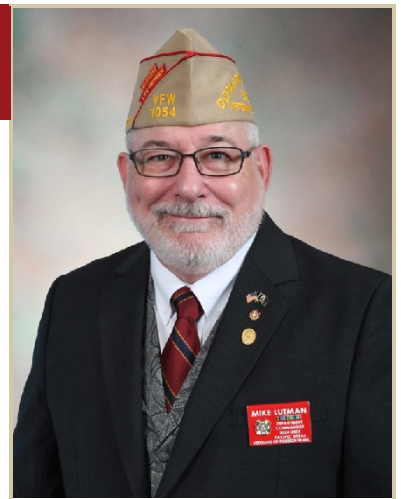
It was TRULY an amazing year but now we must carry that momentum forward as we strive to meet the new CIC's goal of 101% for All American. Congratulations to CINC Carol Whitmore and her **"For Veterans, By Veterans"** team. Huzzah out to DPA Commander John "Jack" Farrell and his **"Teamwork. Together Everyone Achieves More"** team. With those two teams working in tandem pulling the VFW freight, I can't imagine any obstacle or challenge we can't overcome in supporting Veterans and their family members.

Programs this year have changed a bit. VOD, PP are still a core focus of effort with the online process entering its' second year. Already, posts are getting acquainted with the system (QR Codes) and we hope this year's process will evolve and become much more intuitive for not only posts and districts, but entrants as well. Of note for the VOD program, state/department winners will attend the Founding Forward Spirit of America Leadership trip to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania as a guest of the VFW National Organization. This is a change to previous trips which were centered on events in Washington, D.C.

Be sure to read and understand the requirement for DPA AWARDS Program submissions this term. Having been the awards chairman as your DPA JVC, you would be EMBARRASSED by the lack of inputs we receive from our All State and All American posts. It makes me think we are TOO LAZY of DON'T CARE about those who put in the effort. If you intend, and as you should, to be recognized as a DPA ALL STATE Post or District, then you need to coordinate your awards programs entries NOW! Get you awards boards in order. Get you coordinator identified. Start taking notes at meetings and events about who is doing the heavy lifting and/or coordination. Get this published in your minutes so you have references when you fill out the award entries. This is about recognizing those Comrades that make a difference day in and day out in your communities, in your Posts and in your Districts. DO THE RIGHT THING! Recognize them and those that support them.

Pay special attention to DPA ALL STATE Program requirements for INSPECTIONS. They are due NLT 28 February 2026. AUDIT submission dates are different for Post and District so don't get them confused. The solution is simple. Quartermasters, submit your audits right after your Post or District meeting. DON'T WAIT! Don't put yourselves in uncomfortable situations. Avoid complacency!!!

Also be aware of increased TRAINING REQUIREMENTS which are better accomplished sooner than later. One final item is the contribution amount to the Around the Pacific yearbook. This is our ONLY fund raiser, so your participation is HUGE. Costs for travel continue to rise so we must use this as our single fund raising arm to increase funding for travel. More importantly, it gets you, your posts and your



Immediate Past DPA Cdr

Michael D. Lutman



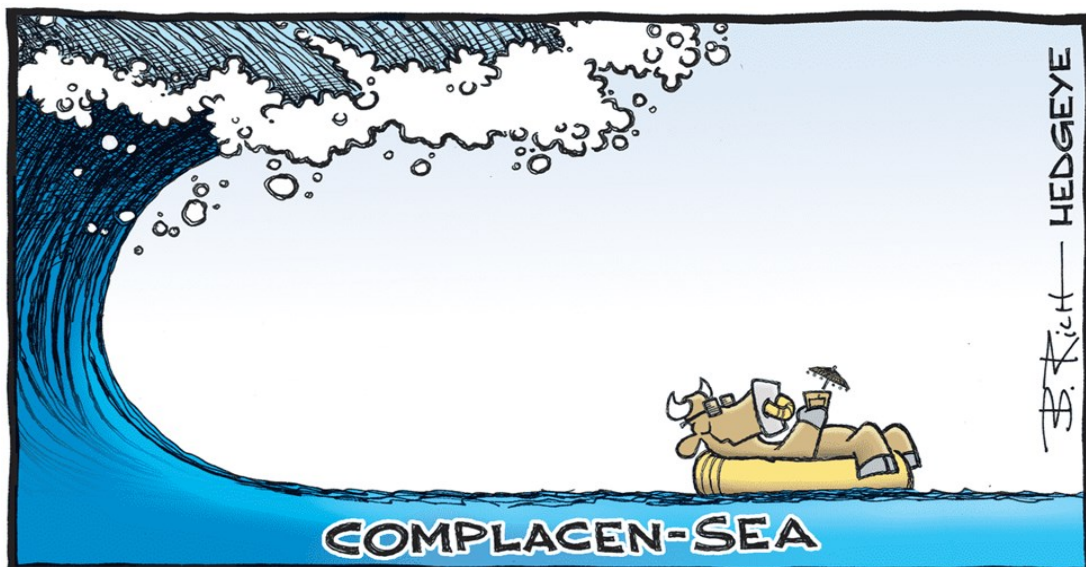
IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

districts out in the media stream. The last term publication was the largest yet ever and it illustrated a lot of the things you do in your communities in a way the CSR just does not capture.

Comrades, we were unable to achieve 100% Post/District All State and All American last term. I feel strongly that WE CAN achieve that goal this term. The things that held us back last term are in the past and the course plotted and laid in by our Department Commander is straight and true. We need but put in the work, as we do every year, and believe that through **“Teamwork, Together Everyone Achieves More.”** Stay safe, hydrate (is it hot or what?) and be of good cheer. God Bless each and every one of you.

All the best,

Michael D. Lutman
Immediate Past Department Commander
Department of Pacific Areas



**EVERYTHING
WE DO, WE DO
FOR VETERANS.®**



Learn more or join at vfw.org.



Immediate Past DPA Cdr

Michael D. Lutman



LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Flight Officer Jackie Coogan: Leading the Way During the Invasion of Burma

John Leslie Coogan was born on October 26, 1914 in Los Angeles California. Some may remember him as the sidekick of Charlie Chaplin in the classic "The Kid" others may remember him as one of the stars of the television series "The Addams Family" - but we remember Jackie Coogan as the fearless pilot who led the way during the Invasion of Burma.

According to the National Museum of the US Air Force: "Jackie Coogan enlisted in the Army on March 4, 1941. When the US entered the war after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Jackie requested a transfer to the AAF on December 9th, 1941. He would serve as a glider pilot due to his civilian flying training and experience.



"Flight Officer Coogan graduated from Victorville Air Field, California. He was promoted to Flight Officer, class 43-2, on January 18, 1943." - The National WWII Glider Pilots Committee of the Silent Wings Museum Foundation

"Jackie then volunteered for hazardous duty with the 1st Air Commando Group being formed by Colonel Phil Cochran. In December 1943, the unit was sent to India where, using Waco CG-4A gliders, it airlifted British troops under General Orde Wingate during the night aerial invasion of Burma on March 5, 1944."

"Flight Officer Coogan flew the Chindits, landing the first glider plane of the raid in a small jungle clearing 100 miles behind Japanese lines."

A recipient of the Air Medal, Flight Officer Coogan returned to the United States in May 1944 and was discharged in December, 1945 with the rank of Second Lieutenant.

After the war Jackie resumed his career in entertainment. He may be best known for his role as Uncle Fester on the television show "The Addams Family" but he is remembered as a decorated World War II veteran.

Flight Officer Jackie Coogan passed on March 1, 1984 at the age of 69. He lies in rest at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City California. Lest We Forget.

WWII uncovered© original description and photos sourced by National Museum of the US Air Force, Desert Sun Newspaper, Volume 40 Number 85, November 11, 1966, Ancestry Database and The National WWII Glider Pilots Committee of the Silent Wings Museum Foundation.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

Greetings and good day to you all,

First, I'm proud to report that during the month of July 2025, the DPA team served over 235 veterans and family members. This is just the beginning, as our DSO team is actively working to expand support by adding ADSOs in Japan, Korea, Thailand, Guam, and the Philippines.

I would like to highlight the outstanding work of FREEDOM BRIDGE MEMORIAL POST 9985 Benefits Advisor, Michael S. Napsey, for his accomplishments in July. The following Post report speaks volumes about the dedication and impact being made at the local level:

“During the reporting period, I devoted 45.5 volunteer hours (not including travel time) at Camp Casey, Korea, in my role as the Retired Soldier Casualty Assistance Officer, as recorded in the Army Volunteer Management Information System. Most of my efforts focused on assisting surviving spouses with completing Social Security paperwork and navigating the related benefits process.

In one case, I worked closely with the spouse of a recently deceased retired Soldier and VFW Comrade to help her secure both her Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) entitlements. I also provided transportation for two spouses from Dongducheon to Seoul and back to attend interviews with the visiting Social Security FBU team from the Philippines.

Additionally, on July 12, one of our local retired Soldiers—who served in the Korean War—passed away. I assisted his family by reporting the death to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul and by coordinating with local mortuary and cemetery officials to ensure they had the necessary information to proceed with arrangements. I also attended the encasing of his remains in the casket. I will remain involved in this effort until his ashes are interred at the United Nations Cemetery in Busan on November 11, 2025.

To ensure the community is aware of my availability and ongoing efforts, I distribute schedules of my support activities through the local Retirees Council and other official and unofficial distribution channels.

Thank you, Michael, for your exceptional service and dedication.

Post Benefits Advisor Update

The renaming of the Post Service Officer to Post Benefits Advisor is now complete. As a reminder, here is a summary of the Post Benefits Policy and Procedures:

The primary role of a Post or District Benefits Advisor is to inform Post members, their families, and survivors about available community resources, including housing assistance, employment programs, and veteran discounts. While they serve as a local point of contact for general benefits information, any inquiries related to federal benefits must be referred to the Department Service Officer or an accredited representative. Advisors are expected to follow the guidelines outlined in the current VFW Guide for Post Service Officers and operate under the supervision of the Post Commander. They must also participate in scheduled training sessions coordinated by the Department Service Officer.

Post and District Benefits Advisors are prohibited from establishing office hours at VA facilities or initiating direct contact with government



DSO Pacific Areas

Vernon Lask



Service Officer

**#STILL
SERVING**



DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

agencies regarding claims without proper consent.

Their role is strictly informational and administrative—they may transcribe claimant-provided details but must not offer advice, retain personal records, or handle any documentation intended for submission. All inquiries and updates must be routed through the Department Service Officer, and any reports submitted during Post meetings must exclude personally identifiable information. District-level Advisors are responsible for supporting Post-level counterparts, ensuring they receive proper training and adhere to procedural standards.

Post Benefits Advisor Training Schedule

I will be conducting PSO training on the following dates:

Wednesdays

September 10

- 4:00 p.m. (UTC+07:00) – Thailand, Cambodia
- 5:00 p.m. (UTC+08:00) – Philippines, Western Australia
- 6:00 p.m. (UTC+09:00) – Japan, Korea
- 7:00 p.m. (UTC+10:00) - Guam

October 8

Same time zones as above

Saturday

November 15

- 2:00 p.m. (UTC+07:00) – Thailand, Cambodia
- 3:00 p.m. (UTC+08:00) – Philippines, Western Australia
- 4:00 p.m. (UTC+09:00) – Japan, Korea
- 5:00 p.m. (UTC+10:00) - Guam

You are required to attend at least one session, but you are encouraged to attend all, as each session will include updates. All ADSOs and I are available to assist in any capacity. A Zoom meeting request will be sent out for each session.

Thank you all for your continued efforts—without you, so much would go undone.

Until my next report,

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



DSO Pacific Areas

Vernon Lask



Service Officer

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NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

DELIVERING ON THE NATION'S PROMISE



NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

WORLD WAR II + COLD WAR + KOREAN WAR
VIETNAM WAR + PERSIAN GULF WAR

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

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WOMEN'S VETERAN CHAIRPERSON

VFW Elects Carol Whitmore as New National Commander

The Iowa native is the first woman elected to lead the 125-year-old organization.

August 13, 2025

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Carol Whitmore of Des Moines, Iowa, was elected today as the new national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), a congressionally chartered veterans service organization comprised of approximately 1 million eligible combat veterans and military service members from all six branches of the armed forces.

“Standing here today, surrounded by such incredible people — fellow veterans, families and friends — I am filled with a deep sense of pride and humility,” said Whitmore during her acceptance speech. “This is not just a recognition of me, but of all the men and women who have served in our armed forces.”

Whitmore’s election as the VFW’s 117th commander-in-chief occurred at the conclusion of the organization’s 126th National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. More than 10,000 members of the VFW and its Auxiliary converged on the city to conduct the business of the organization, recognize individuals and organizations for excellence and to elect new leadership for the 2025 – 2026 year.

Whitmore is the first woman elected to lead the more than 125-year-old organization. She delivered remarks to those attending in person at the Greater Columbus Convention Center and watching via livestreaming video.

“When I think back on my journey, I am sure it was just like many others — my reality is not necessarily the VFW reality,” said Whitmore. “But I was driven by a sense of duty, a desire to serve something greater than myself. And little did I know that decision would shape me in ways I could never have imagined.”

Enlisting in the Women’s Army Corps in 1977, Carol’s 36-year military career was marked by significant milestones, from integrating with men into the regular Army to becoming an Army nurse and later serving as a first sergeant for her unit while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It was there that she earned her VFW eligibility. In recognition of her service, she received the Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal (six), Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (two), National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Non-Commissioned Professional Development Ribbon (three), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon (three), Armed Forces Reserve Medal with “M” device and the Combat Action Badge.

“As we look to the future, I believe that the strength of our veteran community is our greatest asset. We have so much to offer,” said Whitmore. “We have lived through adversity, we have faced challenges that many can’t even imagine and we’ve come out on the other side stronger. It’s because of that strength that we are still serving our communities and our nation.”



Woman's Veteran Chairperson

Golda Russell



WOMEN'S VETERAN CHAIRPERSON

She joined the VFW in 2012 at Post 9127 in Des Moines, Iowa, where she maintains her Gold Legacy Life membership. She has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with her election as the VFW Department of Iowa Commander from 2018 to 2019, in which she achieved All-American status. On the national level, she served on the Legislative Committee, the General Resolutions Committee and on the National Council of Administration from 2019 to 2023. In 2022, she was elected as designee for National VFW Commander-in-Chief for the year 2025, becoming the first woman and first Iowan to hold the position. She is also a life member of the Military Order of the Cootie, the VFW National Home, and the American Legion and its Auxiliary.

During the speech, Whitmore emphasized legislative advocacy as a priority for her year, with a focus on fighting to get Congress to grant concurrent receipt for select combat-injured veterans through the Major Richard Star Act.

"Through advocacy, our legislative efforts need to be resolute," said Whitmore. "The [Major] Richard Star Act must pass this year. This effort was started in 2004, and the bill has repeatedly and shamelessly been voted down. Let's get this done already. Honor the Contract!"

Whitmore also spoke passionately about the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) mission and the key diplomatic role the VFW played in Southeast Asia during the early 1990s.

"More than 30 years ago, it was VFW Vietnam War veterans who led the mission back to the country that cost them so much to extend a hand of peace to their former adversaries," said Whitmore. "This tremendously brave effort opened U.S. relations with Vietnam and access to the country so DPAA could find and bring home our comrades who were missing in action."

In addition to Whitmore, other national officers elected were Cory Geisler, an Iraq War veteran from the Department of Wisconsin, as senior vice commander-in-chief, and Glenn Umberger Jr., from the Department of Pennsylvania, who is also a veteran from Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, as junior vice commander-in-chief. The final day of the convention also saw Adjutant General Dan West and Quartermaster General Marc Garduno reassume their posts.

"I may be the first veteran to have been elected VFW commander-in-chief while wearing a dress ... the first female veteran, but I will not be the last," said Whitmore. "And as I have said while campaigning, I am your comrade by mud, by blood, by dust, by dirt, by sand, by land, by sea, by air ... I am a veteran first."

Carol, a retired nurse, attended the University of Northern Iowa and Hawkeye Community College. She and her husband, Brad, reside in Des Moines, Iowa.

Golda Russell
Women's Veteran Chairperson
Department of Pacific Areas

If you weren't able to join us in Columbus, you can catch up on everything that happened at vfw.org/Convention

To view all VFW National Officers and all 2025-2026 National Counsel of Administration Members click [HERE](#)



Woman's Veteran Chairperson

Golda Russell



VMS/MAP CHAIRMAN

As the DPA VMS and MAP Chairman for this term, I'd like to remind everyone of a couple important requirements and opportunities.

Each Post must donate a minimum of \$125 to the National Veterans and Military Support (VMS) Program. This donation must be made via the [VMS Donation link](#) on the [VFW All American Dashboard](#). This is an All-State requirement. To donate to any of the VFW programs, please visit the [VFW Programs Donations page](#).

For Posts located near active military installations, the Military Assistance Program (MAP) offers an excellent opportunity to engage directly with service members. Hosting MAP events helps them see firsthand the work we do for veterans and our communities, which can make recruitment efforts much easier. If you're planning a MAP event, remember to apply for a MAP grant. Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, and funding often runs out before the end of the year.

Patrick S. Brooks
VMS/MAP Chairman



Taking Care Of Our Own

Veterans have always watched out for each other. When veterans of the Spanish-American War returned home in 1899, there was no guarantee of medical care, no veterans' pension, and many veterans and their families were left to fend for themselves after their sacrifice. A visionary band of veterans formed what would eventually become the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and through hard-fought determination established the veterans benefits we enjoy today. We exist to protect and defend those who have sacrificed for our nation. You've earned that.



Department of Pacific Areas

VMS/MAP Chairman

Patrick S. Brooks



MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

MAP Grant Application
Form [HERE](#)

**MILITARY
ONE
SOURCE**

SOMETHING TO PONDER

Katharine Hepburn, in her own words:

"Once, when I was a teenager, my father and I were standing in line to buy tickets for the circus. Finally, there was only one family between us and the ticket counter. That family made a lasting impression on me.

There were eight children, all under the age of 12. From the way they were dressed, you could tell they didn't have much money, but their clothes were clean, very clean. The children were well-behaved, standing in pairs behind their parents, holding hands.

They were so excited about the clowns, the animals, and all the acts they would see that night. From their excitement, you could tell they had never been to a circus before. It was going to be a highlight of their lives.

The father and mother stood proudly at the front of their little group. The mother was holding her husband's hand, looking at him as if to say, 'You're my knight in shining armor.' He was smiling, enjoying seeing his family happy.

The ticket lady asked how many tickets he wanted, and he proudly responded, 'I want eight children's tickets and two adult tickets.' Then she announced the price.

The wife let go of her husband's hand, her head dropped, and the man's lip began to quiver. He leaned in closer and asked, 'How much did you say?'

The ticket lady repeated the price.

He didn't have enough money. How was he supposed to turn around and tell his eight kids that he couldn't afford to take them to the circus?

Seeing what was happening, my dad reached into his pocket, pulled out a \$20 bill, and dropped it on the ground. We weren't rich by any means. My father bent down, picked up the \$20 bill, tapped the man on the shoulder, and said, 'Excuse me, sir, this fell out of your pocket.'

The man understood what was happening. He wasn't being handed charity, but he gratefully accepted the help in his desperate, heartbreaking, and embarrassing situation. He looked straight into my father's eyes, took my dad's hand in both of his, squeezed the bill tightly, and with trembling lips and a tear streaming down his cheek, he replied, 'Thank you, sir. This really means so much to me and my family.'

My father and I went back to our car and drove home. The \$20 my dad gave away was what we had planned to use for our own tickets.

Although we didn't see the circus that night, we felt a joy inside us that was far greater than seeing the circus.

That day, I learned the true value of giving. The Giver is greater than the Receiver.

If you want to be great, greater than life itself, learn to give. Love has nothing to do with what you expect to get, only with what you expect to give—everything.

The importance of giving and blessing others cannot be overstated because there is always joy in giving. Learn to make someone happy through acts of giving."

Katharine Hepburn



LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Comrades, with VFW National / Military Order of Cooties Conference's is completed and I am getting ready to go back to Capitol Hill for the 2025 September Washington Conference 07 – 11 Sept.

Here are a few items that are on the docket that will be pushed out to our Senator's and Congressmen.

H.R. 467: Foreign Medical Program Modernization Act of 2025

This bill expands eligibility for care under the Foreign Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) by removing certain eligibility requirements. The program authorizes the VA to furnish care and services to veterans abroad (i.e., outside any state) for the treatment of service-connected disabilities or as part of a Veteran Readiness and Employment rehabilitation program. The bill expands eligibility for care by removing the requirement that a veteran have a service-connected disability or be participating in a rehabilitation program.

The bill also requires the VA to update its payment system to allow for reimbursements through electronic fund transfer.

UPDATE: Electronic fund transfer has already taken effect for people with Stateside banks; Foreign Banks should be completed by middle of 2026.

H.R. 1423 / S 649: Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025

To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to members of the National Guard who perform certain full-time duty, and for other purposes.

UPDATE: Subcommittee pass to full Committed for voice vote.

H.R. 1845: TAP Promotion Act

This bill requires that pre-separation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program include a presentation that promotes the benefits available to veterans from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The bill also requires the VA to annually report on the presentation to (1) identify veterans service organizations that participate, (2) provide the number of members of the Armed Forces who attend, and (3) provide any recommendations for changes to the presentation.

UPDATE: Sent to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. By: Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3833 / S 2055: Veterans' Caregiver Appeals Modernization Act of 2025

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

UPDATE: Hearings held: House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs

H.R. 1423 / S. 649: Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to members of the National Guard who perform certain full-time duty, and for other purposes.



Department of Pacific Areas

Legislative Chairman

Randell Himes



**2025
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VFW ACTION ALERT



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If you are interested in keeping track of these bills. Signing up for the ACTION CORP newsletter. Click this link: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>.

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

UPDATE: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.

H.R. 2102 / S. 1032: Major Richard Star Act

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with combat-related disabilities, and for other purposes.

UPDATE: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. By: Committee on Veterans' Affairs

H.R. 3400: TRAVEL Act of 2025

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assign physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs to temporarily serve as traveling physicians in the territories and possessions of the United States, and for other purposes.

UPDATE: Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote. By: Committee on Veterans' Affairs

This year I will once again have meetings with Legislative Assistant from the Office of Congresswoman King-Hinds, Ms. Ewing and Legislative Assistants from the office of Congressman Moylan, Mr. Lukas and Ms. Braiotta.

Signing up for the **ACTION CORP** newsletter by Click this link: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>. Doing so will get you update on the Bills straight to your email address.

Randell E Himes
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Legislative Chairman

Randell Himes



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AMERICANISM & LOYALTY CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

Never Forgotten: The Critical Role of the VFW in DPAA's Accounting Efforts

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) carries a sacred mission: to recover and identify America's missing service members through historical research, forensic science, and diplomacy. Yet this monumental task cannot succeed without the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), whose motto—"never forget"—fuels a partnership that bridges generations and continents.

Bridging the Gap

The VFW's multifaceted role connects the DPAA to critical stakeholders, ensuring collaboration across three key fronts:

Advocacy on Capitol Hill The VFW secures vital funding and legislative support for DPAA operations. Through relentless lobbying, it educates Congress on the moral imperative of accounting for the missing, enabling missions ranging from underwater recoveries to jungle excavations.

Grassroots Global Diplomacy With international posts and local networks, the VFW provides informal diplomatic channels in regions where service members vanished. Members leverage pre-existing ties with local officials and communities to access restricted areas, identify burial sites, and gather witness accounts—advantages often unattainable through formal government avenues.

Community Mobilization As a trusted liaison for families of the missing, the VFW offers emotional support and disseminates DPAA updates. Its newsletters and outreach campaigns spark breakthroughs—like a veteran recalling a crucial detail about a comrade's last known location—turning community knowledge into actionable leads.

A Partnership of Purpose

While the DPAA handles scientific recovery, the VFW safeguards the human element of this mission. They amplify the voices of families, preserve collective memory, and ensure no service member is forgotten. Together, they embody America's unyielding pledge: no hero left behind, no story untold.

This collaboration transcends logistics—it is a testament to national honor. Through the VFW's advocacy, diplomacy, and community ties, the DPAA moves closer to fulfilling its promise: bringing every hero home, no matter how many decades pass.

James Snowden
Americanism/Loyalty Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas



Americanism/Loyalty Day Chair

James Snowden



DPA MID-WINTER CONFERENCE



No one does more for Veterans

2025 VFW DPA Mid-Winter Conference **The Cambodiana Hotel in Phnom Penh** **10-15 December 2025** **Phnom Penh, Cambodia.**

The 2025 VFW DPA Mid-Winter Conference will be hosted by Mayaguez Memorial VFW Post 11575 and take place from Wednesday, Dec 10th through Monday, 15th in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. December 10th and the 15th are travel days. The Cambodiana Hotel in Phnom Penh will be site of the Conference, the purpose of which is to develop goals and strategies for addressing the issues facing veterans in the Pacific Areas.

Comrades may remember the Cambodiana Hotel as also being the site for the 2023 Department Convention and the 2019 Council of Administration. A deposit has been placed with the hotel and a schedule, and activities are being developed. The website for the conference will be online by mid October.

Past National Commander Duane Sarmiento will be the VFW National Representative at the conference.

Comrades need to be aware that the current Airport at Pochentong (PNH) in Phnom Penh is closing. The new airport, Krong Ta Mau/Techo (TKI), will open on September 9th and be located outside of the city in Takeo Province. Transportation options from the Airport are not known at this time but will be posted on the DPA website.

Questions about the Conference can be addressed to either Post 11575 Commander Gary Kidd gdkidd@gmail.com or Mid-Winter Chairman Paul Baker radarking@icloud.com.

Yours in Comradeship,

Paul Baker
Mid-Winter Chairman



GRAND SEAMY SQUEAKS

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

"ALWAYS READY"

Good morning boys and girls, Moms and Dads, children of all ages which includes all Cootie and Cootiette.

It is great to have everyone returned Happy, Healthy and Rejuvenated and ready to press forward with our year.

As I said in the previous edition "Always Ready". That is true of all we do to keep this as a good (not well, lol) oiled machine. We have two projects for this year above all our usual projects and programs. Please look over our dashboards and look for areas we can fill out to meet our basic goals.

Section 1 of this addresses our second special project to grow our PupTents (PT). Our goal is to grow each PT by two Nits. This should be easy as we have Nits all around our PT homes. Just hanging out in one of our seams. If you have any Nits in your seams that have shown motivation to join us. They are just hanging around for an invitation.

Section 2 goal is to make "AllStar" Grand. So, Stay on top of our everyday items on our individual dashboards.

Thanks for your time and look forward to meeting up in a couple months

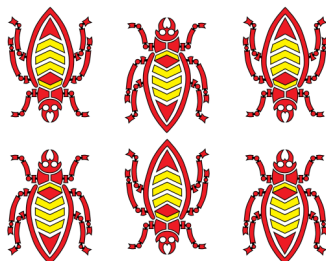
L.O.T.C.S.

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

Honor Degree



**KEEP'em
SMILING in
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Big Bug

Patrick "Doc" Higgins



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DR. NITI NAVANIMITKUL

MEN'S HEALTH THAILAND

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

Qualifications & Specialized Training

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

Professional Excellence

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

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

Awards & Recognition

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

Holistic Patient Care

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

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

Community Advocacy

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

DR. NITI NAVANIMITKUL
MEN'S HEALTH THAILAND

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

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

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for a one-time free consultation on your first visit.

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

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES*



Veterans Day, a federal holiday that falls on November 11, is designated as a day to honor the more than 19 million men and women who have served in the U.S. military.

It was first observed on November 11, 1919, as Armistice Day in honor of the first anniversary of the end of World War I, which officially ended on the “eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” in 1918. In 1926, Congress called for an annual observance of the anniversary and by 1938 it was an official federal holiday. A few decades



National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day in 2023 will be observed on Thursday, December 7th. This day commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese Imperial Navy during World War II on December 7, 1941. It is a day to honor and remember the lives lost and the sacrifices made during the attack. Various events and ceremonies are held across the United States to remember this historic event and pay tribute to those who were affected.*

Other Important Dates

1st Monday of September - **Labor Day**
 September 14 - **VFW Auxiliary Founded (1914)**
 September 17 - **Constitution and Citizenship Day**
 September 18 - **U.S. Air Force Established (1947)**
 September 29 - **VFW Founded in 1899**
 October 13 - **U.S. Navy Established (1775)**
 1st Tuesday of November - **Election Day**
 November 10 - **U.S. Marine Corps Established (1775)**
 November 21 - **Grenada Campaign Ended (1983)**
 December 13 - **National Guard Established (1636)**
 December 15 - **Iraq War Ended (2011)**
 December 20 - **U.S. Space Force Established (2019)**
 December 31 - **Official End of WWII (1946); Kosovo Campaign Ended (2013)**

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

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Notice

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