

THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No One Does More for Veterans
EXCELLENCE in all we DO

Volume XXVI, Number 4

January/February 2023

FREE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE VFW



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The new year is in full swing, but it's important to remember that the work we do is never done because Every Veteran Counts. We encourage you to take advantage of everything a new year has to offer, like:

- Finding new and modern opportunities to connect with service members and veterans in need of the assistance only our programs and services can provide.
- More ways to become active and make a difference at your Post.
- More opportunities to give back through volunteering and supporting your local community.

Now is the time to take action, to stand up and demand more FOR VETERANS.

Your service to our nation proves you have what it takes to make 2023 the year America does more FOR VETERANS than ever before. Your hard work is what makes our claim that "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS" a fact.

I'm excited to see what 2023 has in store for the VFW and the opportunities the new year will bring for us to show "No One Does More for Veterans" and that "Every Veteran Counts."

On behalf of the leadership and staff of both the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, and the VFW Memorial Building in Washington, D.C., I wish you and yours "Happy Holidays," and a safe and prosperous new year.

Respectfully,

Tim Borland
VFW National Commander 2022

COMMANDER'S CALL

Comrades,

Let me start by saying WOW. We reached our recruiting goal. You did it at a record pace. You are the GREATEST Team in DPA History. 100 Percent before Christmas is unheard of but you proved nothing can slow you down. So I want to say CONGRATs to ALL of YOU. You have all set the standard for the DPA future, great job ALL.

A special thanks to the entire Team of Ban Chang for holding our first CofA since December 2019. Fun time, great to be back around you all, great visit from National SVC "Senior D". You all knew what needed to be done and you did it with no problems, THANK YOU for your continuing support to the VFW.

By the time you all read this, it will be after Christmas and New Year's so I hope you all had fun and made it out safe. We are in the 2nd half of the VFW FY and I wish you all the best of Luck in earning the title of All American and All State. I have seen what you all can do so I know you will be getting it done.



Commander

Warren Maxson



By now you all should have heard Pete Callahan has retired as out National Council Member. Ken Stein was elected to replace him. Wish Ken the best of luck, he has big shoes to fill, but he has our 100% support. That being said, I want to Thank Pete for all his years of service to the VFW, the DPA, and District 6. He has been a mentor to us all and whenever you needed to talk, he would listen and give you his advice. So I want to wish him the best in his future and again THANK YOU PETE...

I kicked a ball into a net the size of a two car garage. I'm a national hero!



You did what?

Remember our Military and our Veterans!



Yours in Comradeship

Warren 'Max' Maxson
Commander
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Pacific Areas
EXCELLENCE in all we DO

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades and a Happy New Year from your DPA Family!

I do hope this letter finds you ready for the New Year 2023! We have made a tremendous stride in our Recruiting efforts making it to the Top #1 and moving forward in making our All-American status, and we owe all these to all of you who took the initiative in Recruiting new members and re-instating old members. One of the hardest questions that prospective members ask me was, what's in it for me joining the VFW and I would like to take a moment and briefly talk about the benefits of being a VFW member. Did you know all VFW members have access to 1) exclusive insurance and life planning products; 2) Cell phone plans; 3) Auto Rental; 4) Hotels and entertainment; 5) Financial planning; 6) Medical Services; 7) Technology and electronics; 8) Retail Discounts; 9) Travel Planning; 10) Transitioning to Civilian Life; 11) VFW Store; and 12) End of Life Services? For more details go to www.vfw.org.

We have a few Posts who have not met some of the All-State Requirements and I do hope you will find the time to complete these requirements. Click the link below to see the latest statues. Please note it takes a minute or so to load the spreadsheet so please be patient.

Veteran of Foreign Wars of the United States Department of Pacific Areas

Department/District/Post Administrative Operations Status

If you need some assistances, please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the Functional Managers (VMS, VOD/PP/TA, Buddy Poppies, CSRs etc.).

Recruiting is our bloodline of this organization and without new members and reinstating old members, we as an Organization will lose our voice in Congress. To continue our legacy, reach out to others to join our VFW and continue supporting our Veterans, their Widows and Orphans.

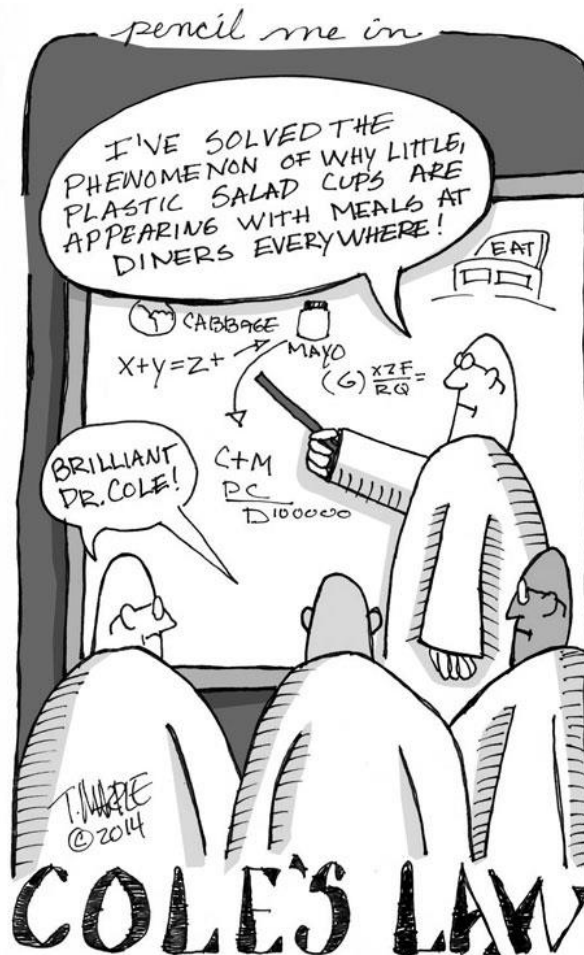
We accomplished a lot last year and I do hope this year we keep the momentum going. I thank you all for your service and especially to your loved one's for their continuing support for this coming year. Yours In Comradeship and Service!

Alexander Fores
Senior Vice Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
EXCELLENCE in all we DO



Senior Vice Commander

Alex Fores



JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

I hope this correspondence finds you well and staying warm or cool...give or take what District you are in. The CofA was awesome in that it was a blast getting to see old faces like they were new again! Just being together again was such a blessing and it was a bona fide hoot. With National Senior Vice Commander in Chief Duane Sarmiento in town, it was only that much better. It was really great having him up in amongst us again.

CONGRATULATIONS to all those recognized as outstanding recruiters and those that received the backlog of All State and All-American awards, well deserved... and about time! In addition, we are very proud of our program winners for this year (to date) as follows:

Patriot's Pen: Peter O. Smith from District 3, Post 10223.

Voice of Democracy: Maribel A. Sikes, from District 2, Post 9612.

Teachers Award 1st – 5th Grade: Michelle Crawford, from District 1, Post 9723.

Teachers Award 6th – 8th Grade: Andrea M. Petz, from District 1, Post 9723

Teachers Award 9th – 12th Grade: Darren Lu, from District 4, Post 9957.

BZ to all the program chairpersons who “got'er done” and made sure we could recognize these outstanding citizens.

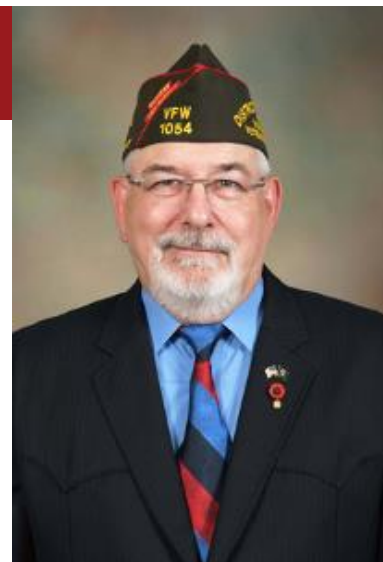
Of course, tip o' the hat to Comrade Lou Holub and his team for an outstanding CoFA. Ban Chang never disappoints and neither does Lou. Well done Comrade to you and your entire team and all the Comrades at Post 12146 who put in the work.

So, let's get down to some other business. First and foremost, WELL DONE DPA! Achieving 100% membership BEFORE Christmas was the best present ever. I am so proud of you all for the hard work, getting out and recruiting and making sure we continue to send the clear and present message – WE are the Department of Pacific Areas, and WE lead this organization (Mic drop).

I was glad to report at the CofA that the Community Service Reporting program is alive and well. Many Comrades have worked with me to help shape some of the inputs, so they correctly reflect the outstanding activities they conduct and the community they serve. I am forever grateful for the support and cooperation from everyone who continues to make sure that our contributions in our communities do not go unnoticed or unappreciated. YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

I would like to be very clear on this point. We, in the Department of Pacific Areas, and in many of the countries we live in, serve a unique and special role in our communities. What we could normally expect a commercial sponsor to provide in assistance to VFW posts in support of the CONUS community is largely unavailable to most posts and districts. It is, in fact, the individual Comrades throughout our department who routinely make up for this missing resource by donating their time, passions, personal finances and resources to provide assistance which otherwise might not be available. YOU ARE EXCEPTIONAL and your communities are so much the better for your compassion and care. THANK YOU for what YOU DO for SO MANY.

On another note, the second annual VFW Day of Service will kick off May 6, 2023. Events will take place throughout the month of May. Please consider signing up for an activity to show our support and inspire others. There are links on the VFW .ORG website where you can get involved and make a difference.



Junior Vice Commander

Michael Lutman

The “C” in CSR is for community, which means there are usually community members, active duty or Veterans involved in your activity. If it is just a post related task (attending a meeting, executing specific duties, etc.) it is most likely not a Community SERVICE-related task.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

The Post Commander (or designated representative) and a guest will receive round-trip airfare, per diem and accommodations to receive the award at the VFW National Convention.

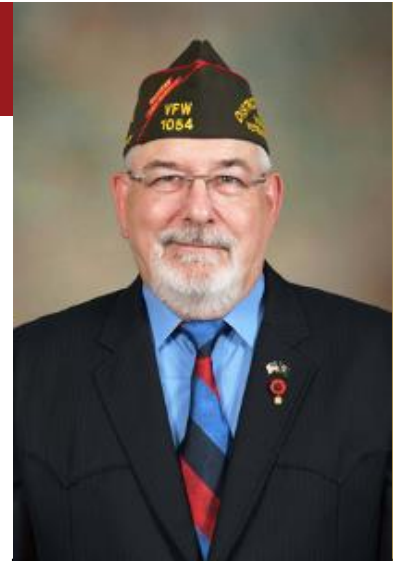
I've probably forgotten something important in my ramblings but the one thing I do know, there is nothing more important than each and every one of you. You are the gas in the tank, the fuel in the furnace and the Viagra in the ... prescription. Without you, we cannot provide the support that our Veterans have earned and deserve. Together, we can and WE DO SO MUCH FOR VETERANS.

I would also like to send a special shout out to Web Master Augie and Department Senior Vice Commander Alex for their support in helping to work through some database/web related issues and working with the website providers to clear up some problems that we have had. Hopefully, CSR entries and reporting is getting better. As always, the CSR system is a work in progress, and we appreciate your patience and support as it continues to evolve.

I am humbled to be a part of this team. It is in true Comradeship and Service that I thank you for this opportunity to serve you and our great department and our beloved organization.

Very Respectfully,

Mike Lutman
Junior Vice Commander
"EXCELLENCE in all we DO"



Junior Vice Commander

Michael Lutman

To See The DCPA's Award Programs, [CLICK HERE](#). Please note, some of these may be out of date do the recent installations of 2022-2023 officers. Check back occasionally or ask the Award Chairman.



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



From L to R - Melvin Stanton, Jean Basbas, Karen and Richard Ballin, Deb and Dave Auringer, Devina Stanton, Sal Salvatore and Post Home owner Mark Alderson.

Post 12130 Halloween 2022 Deb Auringer and Mel Stanton

David Auringer, Deb Auringer, Devina Stanton, Laicka, Sal Salvatore



Post 12130 Thanksgiving 2022 L - R: Kendall Clements, Chuck Hayes, Lihn Bueno, Jovan Bueno, Maria Deborah Auringer, Mel Stanton, Devina Stanton, Ling Fuertes Tipolo, David Auringer, Sid Villarmino, John Lapp, Lorenzo Winns, Marshal Dils.



(Left) L - R: David Auringer, Ester, Lorenzo Winns, Maria Deborah Auringer, Kendall Clements.

(Right) **Post 12130 Thanksgiving 2022** Jovan Bueno W/ Wife And Daughter



In the SPOTLIGHT



Prior to Mid Year Council of Administration meeting Past Department Commander Ken Stein, Senior Vice Commander in Chief Duane Sarmiento, and Department Webmaster and Pacific Times Editor Augie Augustine visit the Banchang Utapao Post 12146 home.

Joining Ken and Duane is District 6 Commander Brad Ruszala, our visitors were suitably impressed with our Post Home.



On Dec 17th the American Legion TH-02 coordinated a tour of the USS Miguel Keith ESB 5 through Crane Corp. VFW post 9876 and VFW post 12146 were invited to attend. The tour was conducted by Captain Patrick Keller and some of the ship's active duty. TH-02 provided American flags for each post. The flags were flown from the ships bridge by members of the American Legion post TH-02, VFW post 9876 and VFW post 12146.



QM Dan Morgan made a trip to visit Post Member Charles Cooksley, a long term resident of a local adult care facility. Dan not only delivered donations of adult briefs for Comrade Cooksley but also a Christmas Letter and gifts (books) from his mother and sister in the US. Unfortunately the facility was in a COVID lockdown so no way to have a good visit.

In the SPOTLIGHT



On 12/23/22, Banchang Utapao VFW Post 12146, Sponsored a Christmas Party at the Wat Sombun Naram School. There were 16 present who all received a gift bags and each teacher received a medallion. Kitty House Grill provided food and snacks to the children.



On 12/24/22, Banchang Utapao VFW Post 12146, Sponsored a Christmas Party at Ann's School. Post and Post members donated to purchase gifts for the children.

In the SPOTLIGHT



(L-R) Jr. Vice Commander Marshall Dills, Sr. Vice Commander Chuck Hayes, (Center) Mark Chase (Santa Claus), Commander Mel Stanton and Sid Villarmino together with the Vicente Sotto Memorial Hospital Doctors and Staffs



(L-R) Jr. Vice Commander Marshall Dills, Sid Villarmino, Mark Chase (Santa Claus) and Commander Mel Stanton at Vicente Sotto Memorial Hospital



Sr. Vice Commander Chuck Hayes is pictured here with the gifts



(L-R) Sr. Vice Commander Chuck Hayes, Jr. Vice Commander Marshall Dills, Commander Mel Stanton together with the Orphanage Social Workers at Little Lamb's Orphanage

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

In the SPOTLIGHT



L - VFP Region 7 Samson, R - VFW Post 12130 QM David Auringer performing Flag Ceremony



VFW Post 12130 Commander Mel Stanton giving speech about Veterans/Remembrance Day

Prayer by VFW Post 12130 Chaplain Jovan Bueno



VFP Region 7 President Leonardo F. Fabiano



VFW Post 12130 together with the Veterans Federation of the Philippines Region 7 at Cebu City Veterans Memorial Park



Laying of Wreath by VFW Post 12130 Sr. Vice Commander and VFP regional President Leonardo F. Fabiano



(Left) From the Left: Marshall Dills (Jr. Vice Commander), Chuck Hayes (Sr. Vice Commander), David Auringer (Quartermaster) and Mel Stanton (Commander) of the VFW Post 12130 paying respects at Carreta Cemetery

(Right) From the Left: Marshall Dills (Jr. Vice Commander), David Auringer (Quartermaster), Mel Stanton (Commander) and Chuck Hayes (Sr. Vice Commander) of the VFW Post 12130 at Carreta Cemetery





PACT ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they’ve earned and deserve.

The Act **(1)** expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and **(2)** expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

VETERANS AND SURVIVORS CAN FILE CLAIMS FOR ALL CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN THE PACT ACT IMMEDIATELY.

For Gulf War and post 9-11 Veterans, that includes:

Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma (diagnosed after service), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis,

Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), High blood pressure (hypertension).

How can Veterans apply for VA health care?

Apply **online** at [VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction).

Call our toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387, M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET.

Mail a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ).

Bring a completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ with you to your [nearest medical center or clinic](#) or get help through your [state's Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officer](#).

Get help filing your claim by working with an [accredited representative](#).

What are the PACT Act key components?



The Act **expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures** and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.



VA **will improve the decision-making process** for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.



Every enrolled Veteran will **receive an initial toxic exposure screening** and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



VA health care staff and claims processors will receive **toxic exposure-related education and training**.



The Act requires **research studies** on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.



The Act will help VA **build a stronger, more skilled workforce** to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.



The Act authorizes **31 new medical facilities** across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.

How can a Veteran file a claim?



Veterans who would like to file a claim must complete [VA Form 21-526EZ](#) to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.



To learn about standard VA disability claims, supplemental claims, secondary claims, and more visit: [VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file](https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file).

If a Veteran was previously denied a claim, what can they do?

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, **Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim** are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT)
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://www.va.gov/find-locations/)

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Dear Comrades,

Thank you to the Department Council of Administration for electing me to complete the nineteen months remaining on Pete Callaghan's four year term on the National Council of Administration. I am humbled and proud to have been elected as the new National Council Member representing the great Department of the Pacific Areas.

As many of you know this election was held due to the recommendation of Pete's physician that he step back and reduce the strain of frequent long distance travel. This was clearly an unfortunate event and certainly not the way any of us would like to be elected to the National Council. Fortunately Pete was able to attend the Department's Mid Year Council of Administration meeting, and by following his physician's advice is feeling much better. Frankly he looks healthier than a lot of us and with his new life style probably is. So we look forward to Pete's continuous involvement and mentorship within our Department.

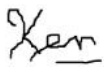
Pete has been instrumental in the success of this Department for many years, serving as the Department QM for eight years and the last two years as our National Council Member. He has been a mentor to virtually every Department Commander during that time and was a great resource to leaders throughout our Department. So on a personal note, thank you Pete for all you have taught me and for always being available for advice and for keeping me on the right track.

To the comrades of the Department of Pacific Areas, my promise to you is this; I will keep the issues that are particularly important to our Department on the radar screen of our National leaders just as Pete and his predecessor Department QM/ADJ Shawn Watson have done. I will continue to raise the issue regarding the lengthy processing of Foreign Medical Program (FMP) reimbursements as well as their issuance of paper checks rather than using direct deposit.

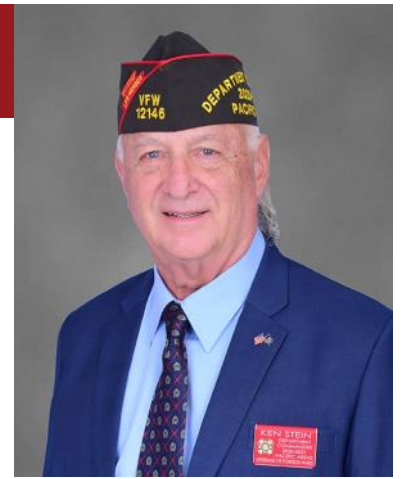
In addition, I will continue letting fellow National Council Members and other National leaders know the unique challenges we face in our Department. So if we ask for a waiver on a certain program, or ask for understanding on how business must be conducted in the Pacific areas, they will be aware of our geographical challenges as well as requirements to follow local laws that might not be applicable in the United States.

Finally, I promise you I will always be a strong and dedicated voice while articulating our concerns to National leadership.

In comradeship,



Kenneth Stein
National Council Member



Ken Stein

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrades I pray you and yours are well, in good spirits able to continue our most important advocacy work while advancing towards achieving Post / District / DPA goals for AS-AA. Congratulations to Commander Max and the DPA team for achieving 100% in membership in record time, the Lord works in all areas including recruitment efforts so continue to pray that our advocacy grows stronger and more influential with increased numbers. Continue to take care of Veterans, their families our Active-duty service members and the less fortunate in our communities.

This past two month I was able to travel to the Philippines visit and pray with our Comrades at Post 2485 the hospitality 2nd to none, their Honor Guard services at the Clark National Cemetery most impressive. Travelled over thanksgiving Holiday to Honolulu Hawaii met with 3 other Banchang Utapao Post 12146 members, the Commander and members of Waikiki VFW Post and celebrated with our most seasoned Legacy Life Post Member Wendel "Chief" Newman WWII D Day survivor his 100th Birthday celebration week. The Chief continues to live his life to the fullest while under the care of Tripler VA Honolulu. The Chief, Marty G, my Nephew USN (SS) and Post member John P. visited the sacred grounds at "Punch Bowl National cemetery" prayed at my brothers Grave, continue to RIP Marine, Richard P. never forgotten.

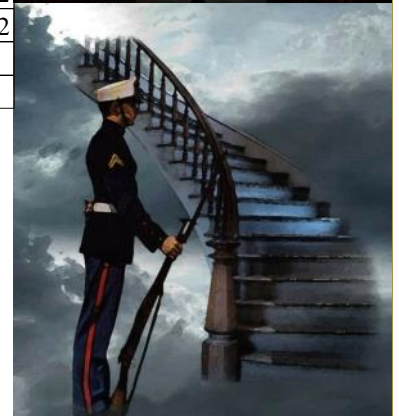
Upon my return to Thailand from Hawaii it was right to work preparing to host the DPA Mid-Year Council in beautiful Banchang Chang Thailand. We continued our DPA Ministry, and I have never been prouder than to lead the Council, friends, families and Active-Duty Service members in Prayers, the memories, comradeship I will cherish forever. Christmas and New Year Celebrations were plentiful it is humbling to see all God's work the Department Post Members Do, Community out-reaches, supporting Active Duty; Thanks be to God! Let us remember the following Comrades who passed away since our previous report:



Chaplain

Lou Holub

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



TAPS REPORT

Date of Report: 25 Dec 2022

Post	Name	Date of Death	Post	Name	Date of Death
1157	Swenson Christopher H.	15-Sep-22	11447	Braxton Terry R.	17-Sep-22
2485	Grubs William R	07-Oct-22		Kelly Denis M	14-Nov-22
	Lawrence George D	06-Oct-22		Panaro Charles	08-Dec-22
	Pavlicko Mathew	08-Aug-22	9951	Hawkins Aroda	18-Oct-22
	Scimone Anthony	15-Oct-22		Neutzler David	23-Oct-22
	Matheson Mark	16-Oct-22	12130	Britt Elvira T.	17-Oct-22
	Kohn John A	07-Oct-22	12074	Duden William F	05-Dec-22
	Walker Donald L.	25-Oct-22		Glatz Michael J	03-Dec-22
	Roth Robert H	14-Jul-22		McGuire Kennith	22-Nov-22
	Brand Charles L	14-Nov-22	9724	Getherall Joe	Dec-22
	Frye Richard H	16-Nov-22	3457	Guerrero Pedro A. Deleon	24-Oct-22
	Flethcher Morris L.	28-Nov-22			
	Hartman Donald C,	28-Nov-22			

Continue to Email TAPS reports to: chapdpa@vfwpacific.org, Don't forget Buddy checks / God's work!

Yours in Comradeship

Louis S. Holub
Chaplain DPA



PAID ADVERTISEMENT



NOW AVAILABLE
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Histria Books is pleased to announce the release of *Of Ashes and Dust* by **Ron Roman**. This apocalyptic thriller is published by Addison & Highsmith Publishers, an imprint of Histria Books dedicated to outstanding original works of fiction.

Of Ashes and Dust is a no-punches-pulled apocalyptic tale of mesmerizing intrigue and gut-retching survival told as an alternate-history thriller during the last days of a global Armageddon, culminating in an unexpected and explosive ending.

Publisher's Weekly raves, "Distinguished by sparkling prose and an immersive narrative style, Roman's story of liberty and revolution offers readers more than a vision of an American dystopia and a terrifying global conflict, reflecting the faultiness of real-world politics."

Ron Roman was an Associate Professor of English, ESL, and Humanities with the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC-Asia) since 1996. He has written extensive travel, academic, and political articles for regional and national publications. Currently, he resides in South Korea and is a life member of VFW Post 8180. He writes and has acted in numerous Korean TV dramas and motion pictures. *Of Ashes and Dust* is his debut novel.

Of Ashes and Dust, 260 pp., ISBN 978-1-59211-178-7, is available at HistriaBooks.com and from all major book retailers. It is also available as an eBook. Titles published under the various imprints of Histria Books are distributed worldwide by the Independent Publishers Group (IPG). For information on publishing with Histria Books, please visit HistriaBooks.com or contact us at info@histriabooks.com

Authors Website: www.writerronroman.com

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DEPARTMENT SURGEON

Greetings Comrades,

I want to wish each of you a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year as we depart another holiday season. The following information is provided to help you battle the never ending challenge of shedding those extra pounds we gather during the holiday season. The Number One Way to Loose Weight During the Holidays.

On average, the typical American gains 1 to 5 pounds over the holidays. The attached information is provided to assist you in reaching your goals in the New Year.

Stay healthy, and I look forward to welcoming each of you to Phnom Penh in June.

Yours in service to Veterans

Jack Farrell
Pacific Areas Surgeon

Looks like one of the guys quit.



Surgeon

Jack Farrell



DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Hello Comrades,

It was great to see all who attended our Mid Year Council of Administration meeting in Banchang, Thailand.

A great job by Chairman Lou Holub, and those who volunteered to assist him.

Kudos to CDR Max and the leadership of the Department for the well run and productive meeting.

Inspections are almost complete. Six of the seven Districts have been completed as well as twenty one of the twenty five posts.

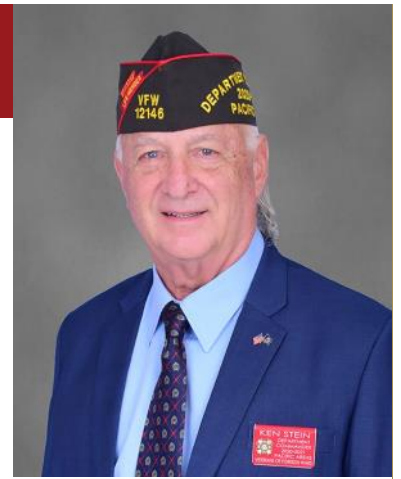
We expect by the end of January the inspections will have been completed.

Thank you for all you do on a daily basis.

For further questions feel free to email me at inspdpa@vfwpacific.org

Yours in comradeship and service to veterans,

Kenneth A. Stein
Inspector
Department of Pacific Areas
EXCELLENCE in all we DO



Department of Pacific Areas

Department Inspector

Ken Stein



CAMOUFLAGE

You're doing it right. Nobody will ever see that tank.



AND GOD MADE IT SO....



And on the 8th day, God created seniors. Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom, God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their eye glasses, keys, and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch more. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find, as you age, you are getting up and down a lot more times, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

Nine Important Facts to Remember as We Grow Older

#9 Death is the number 1 killer in the world.

#8 Life is sexually transmitted.

#7 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

#6 Men have two motivations: hunger and sex, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.

#5 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe they won't bother you for years.

#4 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.

#3 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

#2 In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

#1 Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may burn your ass tomorrow.

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Greetings Comrades

Guide for Electronic Meetings:

I think everyone will agree that in-person meetings are the preferred setting for conducting Post and District Meetings. However, there has been increasing preference among posts and districts to transact business at “electronic meetings,” in which some or all of the members communicate through electronic means. As stated in the VFW National Bylaws, Sec. 203, 403, Regular Meetings, Special Meetings, Committee Meeting, and Conventions, may be conducted or attended electronically providing the Quorum has been met and it allows participating members to communicate with each other simultaneously. Thus, providing a by-law provision for conducting “electronic meetings”

As you can see, this by itself leaves a lot of questions on how to conduct electronic meetings especially those that allow for both in-person and virtual attendance. In this case additional rules should be adopted to govern their conduct. Especially when they involve election of officers or other important issues.

These additional rules may be placed in your bylaws, adopted as special rules of order or standing rules. When developing these rules, there are many factors to consider and please note that one set of rules may not be appropriate for all types of electronic meetings.

The first is what internet platform best suits your needs? Of the options available, the most popular are Google Meet and ZOOM. The FREE versions of these programs normally limit the time and number of participants. In addition, many of the features needed such as share screen and the survey feature, are not active until you purchase the full-featured program. When selecting a program, you should also consider; what program is used by the other posts, districts, and the department? Is there a need of confidentiality? Are the funds available to purchase the program and maintain it? Keep in mind that additional equipment such as audio speakers, microphones and monitors may be needed to support electronic meetings.

Things to consider:

- Is internet service available?
- Does the program support anonymous voting?
- Visible displays identifying those participating?
- Can you identify those seeking recognition to speak?
- Permit the display of pending motions?
- Showing the results of voters?

Voting: The preferred method of voting is the roll call vote. Per Robert’s Newly Revised, any anonymous vote conducted through the designated internet meeting service shall be deemed a ballot vote. Please note that Robert’s also states that all ballots must have the write in capability i.e., you can vote for someone not on the ballot.

Those members attending the meeting in-person would also fill out a ballot, fold it and place it in the ballot box or hand it to a teller to be counted. Some sort of measures should also be in place to ensure no one votes more than once.

Delbert “Bert” Marohl
Judge Advocate



Department of Pacific Areas

Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl

PODIUM EDITION

2023

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES



CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER
BYLAWS
MANUAL OF PROCEDURE
RITUAL

As amended July 19, 2022
Effective August 20, 2022

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Determination of a winner requires a majority of the votes cast. A majority **IS NOT** based on the number present at the meeting. It is based on the number *present and voting*. For instance, a member may abstain from voting. In which case they would not be counted. Example: if there are 40 members present at a meeting. A majority would be 21. If only 39 members vote the majority required would be 20.

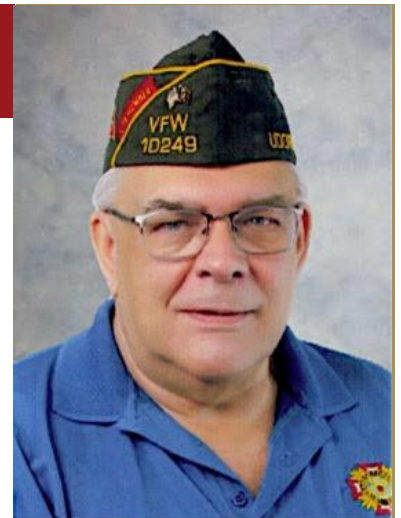
Sometimes two, three or even more members gather together to attend an electronic meeting. To allow each participant to vote using the online survey feature, each participant would need to have and use their own computer, smart phone or other device to vote. Remember, with the exception of delegates, each member is only authorized one vote.

Would it be best to include these additional rules in your bylaws? That's up to you. However, if you decide to include them in your bylaws, each time you amend them they must first need to be reviewed by department and then forwarded to National for final approval.

If you adopt them as a stand-alone document the membership could change them anytime with 2/3 majority of those members present and voting.

Here are some suggestions you may want to consider when developing Additional Rules for electronic meetings:

1. All meetings shall be conducted in-person with authorized virtual attendance. Using the _____ platform.
2. The Chair shall appoint a meeting moderator who, will control the meeting activities per direction of the Chair.
3. The adjutant shall send by e-mail to every (member of the post), (member of the governing body) no later than 15 days prior to the scheduled meeting. (24 hours for special meetings) the applicable date, time, and location of the meeting along with the URL for those wanting to join via virtual attendance.
4. The moderator will activate the meeting link 5 - 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. This allows the mediator time to see who is present and participating members time to check their speakers and mic.
5. Each member is responsible for downloading all required programs and keeping them up to date.
6. Each member is responsible for his or her connection to the meeting; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.
7. The chair may order the meeting host (moderator) to disconnect or mute a member's connection if it is causing undue interference.
8. Should the meeting-room connection be lost any business transacted will continue as long as a quorum is maintained. Should the quorum not be present the meeting will be suspended and will not resume until connection is reestablished. If the connection cannot be restored in a timely manner the meeting shall be declared null and void, and the meeting rescheduled.
9. The chair shall be physically present in the main meeting room for all meetings.



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl

PODIUM EDITION

2023

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES



CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER
BYLAWS
MANUAL OF PROCEDURE
RITUAL

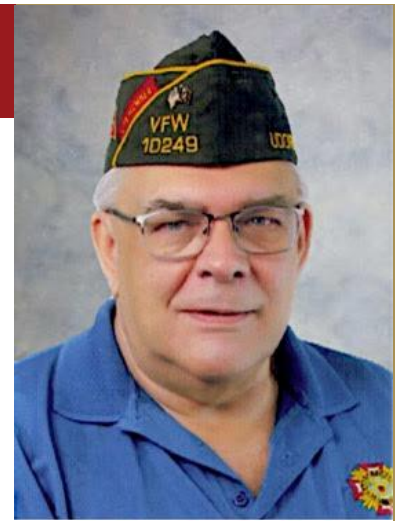
As amended July 19, 2022
Effective August 20, 2022

JUDGE ADVOCATE

10. Members attending the meeting in-person will advance to the designated location so they can be seen and heard by all in attendance.
11. Members in virtual attendance will have their camera turned on when addressing the assembly.
12. Members in virtual attendance will have their microphones muted when not addressing the assembly.
13. All reports will be submitted electronically to the adjutant and kept on file per the DPA document retention policy.
14. Approval of standard reports such as the quartermasters monthly report, trustees report of audit and approval of the minutes shall be done by mutual consent i.e., show of hands.
15. Tailor these additional rules to best fit your needs and the environment.

Yours in comradeship,

Delbert "Bert" Marohl
Judge Advocate



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl

PODIUM EDITION

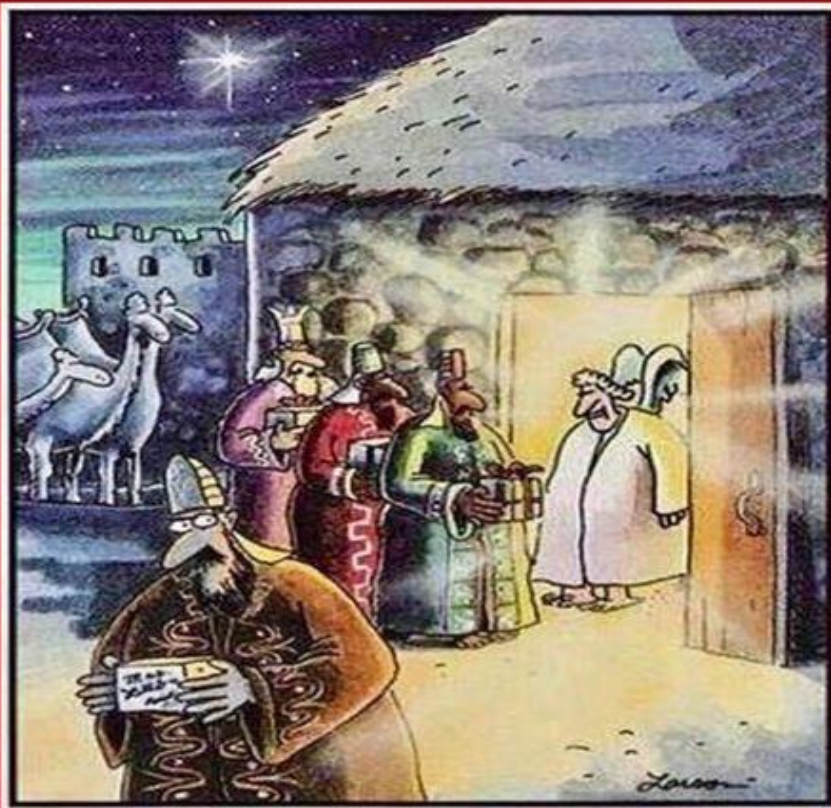
2023

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES



CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER
BYLAWS
MANUAL OF PROCEDURE
RITUAL

As amended July 19, 2022
Effective August 20, 2022



**Unbeknownst to most theologians,
there was a fourth wiseman, who was
turned away for bringing fruitcake**

IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

Hoping you and yours had a nice Christmas and safe New Year!! The DPA is number one in National with well over 100% in membership. Outstanding that we currently have 17 Posts and three Districts [all this time], over the mark and several coming on strong!!! It will be a great time to focus on getting our Comrades of annual and reinstating memberships to go life!

The DPA is on its way to one of our greatest terms in our history...continue to do all the great things you do for our Veterans and our communities.

For the DPA having our first in person Council of Administrations last month in Banchang, Thailand since Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2019, I believe it went very well. It can only get better from here with the help of you our Comrades!!

In closing, I wish for each of you to have a productive 2023 not only for the VFW but for your families. Lets continue to check on each other and remember that petty jealousies and trivia personalities should not be apart of our great organization. We must be better than that!! All the very best...GO DPA, GO 2023!!!

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Kevin E. Mitchell
Immediate Past Department Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
EXCELLENCE in all we DO



Kevin Mitchell



COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION 2022

From the DPA Mid-Year Chairman:
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION 09 – 11 DECEMBER 2022
Banchang Palace Hotel (BC Palace),
Banchang Thailand
Summary report

Commander, DPA Officers, Councilman, Committee Chairman, Comrades and friends, thank you for your unwavering support, positive feedback and lessons learned over the course of the of the Mid Term events. Chairman and Committee will strive to continually improve and pass lessons learned and tools to others who may engage in hosting such events.

Registration for this year’s Mid-Year COFA netted 54 members 3 withdrew for personal reasons. We do recognize the Hotel reservation process was not perfect but we managed to get everyone a room. Both lunch & Commanders Dinner were sold out 42 donated to the Friday Grand Social event, 25 to the evening socials. Shirt sales were over 60 above expectation a few shirts remain / available in limited sizes please contact the chairman direct for mail delivery.

I want to thank the BC Place Hotel staff Khun Aoh for attentive Management of our event, The guest tips and words of thanks to the BCP team well received. Comrade Johnny W. and his DG staff for arranging Transport, airport pick up without issues, Mrs. Malia S. for coordinating the local “Red Pickup truck” (Songtow) transport with BC municipality. BCU Post Commander Howard H. and all Officers, members and friends of BCU Post whom without you we could not execute our plans the success achieved. Thank you for the 50/50 raffle donations our 50/50 volunteers the Post will use the funds wisely.

To all this concludes 2022-2023 Mid-year COFA Chairmen’s report, look forward to seeing as many as possible at the BCU Post 2023 Annual Golf tourney Saturday 04 March, the DPA Convention in June, Phnom Penh Cambodia.

YIC

Lou Holub
DPA Mid-Term COFA Chairman
Convention Co-Chair



**MILITARY FRIENDSHIPS ARE
ORDINARILY BASED ON
CERTAIN FOUNDATIONS**

UNITED STATES

VETERAN



- **ALCOHOL.**
- **A SARCASTIC AND DEPRAVED ABILITY TO LAUGH AT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING.**
- **COMMON EXPERIENCES OF HIGH ADRENALINE SITUATIONS.**
- **A DISLIKE OF SUPERFICIAL PEOPLE.**
- **THE ABILITY TO MEET AGAIN AFTER YEARS APART, HAVING HAD NO CONTACT, AND CARRY ON EXACTLY WHERE YOU LEFT OFF.**

.....LOYALTY.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

DON'T FORGET TO FILE

We have been hearing it for months - PACT ACT. The VFW has been a leader in getting it through congress and is a leader in promoting it. Where the name Agent Orange was named after the orange stripe around the 55-gallon drum that DIOXIN (a deadly poison used as a weed killer) came in, the Pact Act refers to the unwritten pact the American People had with the military to take care of our Veterans. Something that effectively started with Abraham Lincoln after the Civil War. The full name of the law is "The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act".

In the past 2 weeks I have had more people come to the office to apply for agent orange related issues that have come in for Pact Act related issues. Last week I saw three in a row that were in Vietnam, had agent orange health related issues and had never applied before. If you were Vietnam era and never applied before or applied more than 5 years ago you may fall under a court ruling issued in 1989 and modifications as late as December 2021! I got a letter in 2020 on a previous denial and after a new doctor's appointment was awarded service connection.

DO NOT be the veteran that comes into a service officer 30 years from now and says "I am wondering if I should apply for this PACT ACT thingy! "

The PACT ACT currently covers

- Open burn pits and other airborne hazards
- Gulf War-related exposures
- Agent Orange
- Radiation
- Camp Lejeune contaminated water exposure
- Other exposures Service on or after September 11, 2001, in any of these locations:
- Afghanistan * Djibouti * Egypt * Jordan * Lebanon * Syria * Uzbekistan * Yemen
- The airspace above any of these locations Service on or after August 2, 1990, in any of these locations:
- Bahrain * Iraq * Kuwait * Oman * Qatar * Saudi Arabia * Somalia * The United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- The airspace above any of these locations

Do Not Forget Vietnam and Agent Orange. In Comradeship

John Dibble
DSO Department of Pacific Areas



DSO Pacific Areas

John Dibble



Click on the above icons for more info

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

We understand the unique bond you share with other veterans of overseas conflicts because we, too, have been there. No matter which conflict called you to service, we invite you to join us as we continue to fight for all that's good FOR VETERANS.



vfw.org/join

9 Traits of Exceptional Leaders

Respect – They always respect their people

Authenticity – They cannot fake authenticity

Communication – They are great communicators

Humility – Staying humble enables them to stay connected to their team

Accountability – They hold themselves accountable and expect the same of their people

Lead by Example – They model the behavior they expect

Empathy – Without empathy, they cannot build a team or nurture a new generation of leaders

Visionary – They are driven and inspired by what the future can become

Care – They show genuine care for their team

VOP/PP/TA CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

This year's DPA Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teachers Award winners are:

Voice of Democracy is Maribel A. Sikes, from District 2, Post 9612, Camp Zama, Japan.
Patriot's Pen is Peter O. Smith, from District 3, Post 10223, Camp Humphreys, South Korea.
Teachers Award K-5th grade is Dawn M. Crawford, from District 1, Post 9723, Okinawa, Japan.
Teachers Award 6th-8th grade is Andrea M. Petz, from District 1, Post 9723, Okinawa, Japan.
Teachers Award 9th-12th grade is Darren Lu, from District 4, Post 9957, Taipei, Taiwan.

Congrats and let us wish them luck at the National level. For the winners, I will need to know the date that you will tell them that they are a Department Winner.

The Department has two Districts and seven Posts that I am not tracking for either a Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, or Teacher's Award submission or donation.

D2 and D6 need to submit a Teacher's Award donation to qualify for All-American.
9555, 9612, and 3457 need to submit a Teacher's Award donation to qualify for All-American.
12163, 1509, 2917, and 9892 need to submit donations for all three to qualify for All-American and All-State.

Remember, at this time to qualify for All-State, each Post must donate to VFW National; All-American requires this and a Teacher's Award donation. You may make your donations at <https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfwprogramsdonation>. Post donations are \$75.00 and District donations are \$100. Please forward your donation receipt to vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org to get credit. Please remember that if you made a donation, your Post/District Adjutant needs to update the All-State dashboard and National will update the All-American dashboard but, please send me a copy of the receipt in case there are future issues.

Please look for the new topics to come out around April and work with schools to get them added to their curriculum.

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

Yours in comradeship and service,

David Gley
VoD, PP, TA Chairman
vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org
Phone: +82-10-2724-7176



VOD/PP/TA Chairman

David Gley



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

This is Jesse, he is a drifter who lives near the bridge in my area. He owns nothing but a bike, a bird, and a bag of about 10 items!

Yesterday, while I was riding my bike down around the beach – which is about 5km from my house – I got a flat tire. I had no choice but to turn around and wheel my bike the long walk home.

A few people rode past and didn't really pay me any attention and I didn't expect them too, but as I started walking, headphones in my ears, I noticed the homeless guy from under the bridge saying something to me. At first, I thought he was going to ask me for something, so I popped my headphones out and asked him what he wanted? He then replied, "I don't want anything bra but I've got a new tube in my bag and you can have it if ya want!" Shocked at first, I said no thanks but he insisted. So, I walked over to his little clearing where he had his things and his pet bird sat in a busted cage.

He opened up his empty bag and gave me the tube (which was one of the very few things he had) helped me change the tire, even pumped it up! I asked him how I could pay him back and he said to me "don't worry about it bra, this is what it's all about!"

The enormity of his situation and the fact that he went out of his way to help me was so humbling, I mean this guy was willing to give me his stuff and didn't want anything in return. To you and I, a bike tube would probably not mean much but to a guy with so little this item must hold enormous value!

I could go on and on about how selfless this guy was to give me, a total stranger, clearly in a much better position than him some of his possessions, while people like us are so selfishly attached to all our useless crap.

Anyway, I just wanted to show you a pic of Jesse with his new Versace lenses, some fresh Sneakers, a full belly and a cold beer... Felt good to do something for the bloke. I also went up to woollies and got him a couple weeks' worth of food and some seed for his bird lol...

Man, he was ecstatic even had tears in his eyes and couldn't thank me enough, but amidst me sitting there proud of my good deed, and him singing me praises, I suddenly felt pretty bad because the truth is if he didn't go out of his way to help me, I wouldn't of done anything for him.

I ride past this guy all the time and never even think twice! Really knocked me off my high horse! Even though we sit around with all our materialistic needs and pass judgment, this dude has something that none of us can buy! I guess what I'm trying to say is thanks for the lesson in humanity champ!

Credit: Tony Biggs. Follow us at [Awesome Moments](#)



NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN

Comrades, the end of the year is closing in fast. May I wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year.

Below is the report from the National Home on our Departments donations for this year.

I am trying to verify the donation for District 5 and Post 10033 with the NH since they did not show on the last report.

There are only one (1) District and three (3) Posts, left to go to be at 100% in this year donations.

As everyone knows if your District or Post are trying to make ALL State this donation is required. All donations that have been made I have updated the DPA Dashboard.

National Home Donation Report as of 29 December 2022

District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated	District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated
District 1	Yes	\$50.00	10217	Yes	\$50.00
9723	Yes	\$50.00	10249	Yes	\$50.00
District 2	Yes	\$50.00	11575	Yes	\$50.00
1054	Yes	\$50.00	12074	Yes	\$100.00
9555	Yes	\$100.00	12146	Yes	\$75.00
9612	Yes	\$200.00	12163	Yes / No	\$0.00
District 3	Yes	\$50.00	District 6	Yes / No	\$0.00
8180	Yes	\$100.00	1509	Yes / No	\$0.00
9985	Yes	\$50.00	2917	Yes / No	\$0.00
10033	Yes	\$100.00	3457	Yes	\$50.00
10223	Yes	\$200.00	District 7	Yes	\$50.00
District 4	Yes	\$50.00	124	Yes	\$50.00
9957	Yes	\$50.00	2485	Yes	\$2,050.00
District 5	Yes	\$50.00	9892	Yes	\$50.00
9876	Yes	\$600.00	11447	Yes	\$50.00
9951	Yes	\$150.00	12130	Yes	\$50.00
Dist/Post	Total	\$4,575.00	Grand	Total	\$4,575.00
Not Confirmed				Working on	

OUR COMMUNITY

Families find a healing calm in a tranquil, rural, small-town community. Tree-lined streets connect 42 single-family homes with facilities like our gym, library, computer and science labs, daycare center, playgrounds, fishing pond, hiking trails and more.

[Our Features and Links to our National Homes](#)

Randell E. Himes
nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org
rehimes@gmail.com



National Home Chairman

Randell Himes

Please report to me all donations that you make so I can record and track them. Email the completed form to nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org.

The VFW National Home for Children serves as a living memorial to America's Veterans by helping our nation's veteran and military families during difficult times.



VFW
 NATIONAL HOME
 FOR CHILDREN

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Army 1st Sgt. Leonard Funk served in some of the most pivotal campaigns in the European theater of World War II, making him one of the war's most decorated paratroopers. After jumping into Normandy on D-Day with the 82nd Airborne Division, he earned the Distinguished Service Cross during Operation Market Garden. His Medal of Honor was earned toward the end of the war when he led the capture of a German garrison during the Battle of the Bulge.

Funk was born 27 August 1916 and grew up east of Pittsburgh. He enlisted in the Army as a 21-year-old in June 1941, months before the U.S. entered World War II. He volunteered to be a paratrooper and was assigned to Company C of the 82nd's 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Funk was stationed in England for much of the war, although he didn't see action until June 6, 1944 — D-Day, the largest land, air and sea invasion in history.

On that day, the small unit he commanded landed nearly 40 miles inland. They fought for several days before breaking through enemy lines to rejoin their regiments closer to the coast. Everyone in Funk's unit survived that mission, and he earned a Silver Star Medal.

But that's a story for another time. Today we're focused on his heroics during the Battle of the Bulge.

On Jan. 29, 1945, Funk found himself in waist-deep snowdrifts with other American forces who had been fighting a massive contingent of German troops since mid-December. His unit had managed to advance 15 miles in a driving snowstorm so they could attack the German-held town of Holzheim, Belgium.

When the company's executive officer went down, Funk stepped up to take his place. He realized they didn't have enough infantrymen to take out the German garrison, so he gathered a platoon full of clerks — soldiers with noncombat jobs — and turned them into a fighting force.

Despite facing direct artillery shelling and gunfire, Funk's men moved in. They attacked and cleared 15 houses without suffering any injuries. With the help of another American unit, they quickly overran the town, taking about 80 German prisoners who were placed under a four-man guard. The rest of the dilapidated American forces, including Funk, scanned the town to mop up any isolated points of resistance.

A few hours later, an enemy patrol managed to trick the Americans acting as guards, freeing the German prisoners. They had begun to get into place to attack Company C from the rear when Funk returned to check on the prisoners. He walked right into the enemy patrol.

A German officer, poking a pistol into Funk's stomach, ordered him to surrender. The first sergeant pretended to comply with the order, slowly unslinging his submachine gun from his shoulder. But instead of giving it up, he quickly fired, emptying a full magazine into the German officer and his counterparts, all the while shouting to his American comrades to seize the enemy's weapons.

Within minutes, 21 Germans were killed, many more were wounded, and the rest were captured.

Despite being outnumbered and facing certain death, Funk's actions were directly responsible for the recapture of a force that was much larger than his own. His actions also allowed the other units of Company C to continue their attack plans unfettered.

Funk received the Medal of Honor for his actions on Sept. 5, 1945, at a ceremony at the White House. He's one of the most decorated paratroopers of World War II, having also earned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters. To read the citation please visit: <https://www.cmohs.org/recipients/leonard-a-funk-jr>



AMERICANISM/LOYALTY DAY CHAIR

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day will be observed on Monday 16 January 2023, the third Monday every January. “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail”.

The month of February is a federally recognized commemoration for the contributions and achievements of African American figures in U.S. History. Every year, we remember trailblazers in science, math, arts and culture, politics, religion, and the military—encouraging us to celebrate the influence of African American key figures while overcoming adversity. Black History Month officially began almost a century ago and was originally only celebrated in the second week of February. Then named, “Negro History Week,” the events and promotions quickly expanded into the communities and became what we now know as Black History Month.

Four Chaplains Day is observed on 3 February 2023. This day of remembrance is celebrated across the country. It honors four military chaplains who sacrificed their own lives to save the lives of their fellow service members during WWII.

Troops must sacrifice creature comforts and familiar surroundings in order to forward deploy. And, at times, men and women of the military might have to make the ultimate sacrifice for their fellow soldiers, sailors, airmen, or Marines. However these sacrifices may be acknowledged, whether honored publicly or observed privately, they are a part of the reality that is serving in the military.

The National Salute to Veteran Patients takes place during the week of February 14 every year. This year, it takes place from February 12 to 18. The purpose of the holiday is to honor and pay tribute to the brave military veterans who receive medical care at Veterans Affairs (V.A.) medical facilities. The holiday also seeks to create more awareness about the importance of these centers and encourage more people to visit and volunteer.

President’s Day falls on Monday 20 February 2023. The observance of George Washington’s Birthday, 22 February 1732 is always the third Monday in February. The Federal holiday is officially recognized as Washington’s Birthday, though the Federal government has never legally changed the holiday to President’s day. However, where it gets complicated is at the state and local level, as they do not need to abide by Federal holidays. 24 U.S. states recognize President’s Day only, while 9 recognize Washington’s Birthday only, and 9 states do not observe any form of these holidays. Ultimately for many, it is how you choose to honor this day. As a day to recognize Washington’s birthday, or Lincoln’s birthday, or even all American Presidents, past and present.

Rhett Webber
Americanism and
Loyalty Day Chairman



Rhett Webber

LETTER OF INTENT

Letter of Intent



Robert Chatman

Position of Dept. Chaplain

Greetings Comrades of the Pacific,

I have been asked by several of my comrades to take under consideration and run for the position of Department Chaplain. Looking at my life, currently I feel this is the time for me to step up to the plate and take a more active role in our Department.

I earned my eligibility to join the VFW while serving in the United States Army in 1977 and had multiple assignments including a deployment to the Middle East during Desert Shield/Storm before retiring in 2003.

I joined Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1193, Lawton, OK in 2007 and served as Adjutant before being elected Commander in April 2015 and reelected in 2016 for a second term. I transferred membership in 2017 to Post 8180 Songtan, South Korea and has been an active member in the post and community.

At the District level, VFW Department of Pacific Areas District 3 Korea, I was elected as Chaplain in April 2019 and again reelected in 2020. I am also running for District 3 Chaplain again in May. I have been able to help many Veterans and family members in their time of need and I am willing to expand that now at the Department level.

Besides the VFW I am also a Life Member in the Military order of the Cootie and a Life Member of the VFW National Home.

I would be honored to serve the Department as your Chaplain. I thank you for your consideration.

Robert Chatman
VFW Post 8180

LETTER OF INTENT



It is a great honor to announce my candidacy for the position of Chaplain, Department of Pacific Areas for the term of 2022-2023. I am a Bronze Legacy Member, Life Member, and Commander of both the All-American and All State, District IV (Taiwan) and Post 9957 (Taipei, Taiwan).

As a retired Lieutenant Colonel (US Army) with OCONUS and CONUS assignments, I bring a depth of international and global experience to this position. Among my career assignments: OEF combat tour with 3rd Special Forces Group in Afghanistan; 3-year assignment with 1st Special Forces Group in Okinawa, Japan; two assignments in Korea with 2nd Infantry Division and 8th U.S. Army (total 5 years); 3-year assignment at the Pentagon on the Joint Chiefs of Staff J5 Directorate as the Taiwan/Mongolia Affairs Director; and 4-year assignment at the U.S. de-facto Embassy in Taipei, Taiwan as the Army Programs Director.

Additionally, I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in East Asian Languages and Literature (Chinese) from Indiana University (Bloomington), 1991; a Master of Arts degree in Asian Studies from Cornell University, 2005; and a Master of Theology from Charles Sturt University, 2020. I was ordained with the Holy Orders of Priesthood on 27 October 2020 as an Anglican/Episcopalian priest.

If elected to serve as Department Chaplain, I will faithfully carry out these duties with the highest levels of pastoral care, professionalism and discretion.

Prior and current positions:

District 4 Commander (2018-present)

Post 9957 Commander (2018-present)

National Aide-de-Camp (2022-2023)

Yours in Comradeship and Service to Veterans,

Scott J. Ellinger
LTC, U.S. Army (retired)

LETTER OF INTENT



No one does more for Veterans

Letter of Intent

Comrades of the Pacific,

It is with great honor to announce my candidacy for the position of Junior Vice Commander, Department of Pacific Areas for the term 2023-2024.

I am currently the Commander of Post 11575 here in Phnom Penh, Cambodia along with being the Department of Pacific Area Surgeon. I am a Gold Legacy Life Member.

As a Retired Navy Submariner, yes sometimes they call me a bubblehead along with being a Country Manager for a Fortune 500 Company working in the Middle East and North Africa, I bring with me over 35 years of Senior Management and Leadership experiences.

My accomplishments in a variety of positions and institutional knowledge of VFW policies, procedures and programs provide me with the necessary skills to provide successful service to the Department as your Junior Vice Commander.

I am a Team Player and can be accounted on to do the job at hand. The following are positions and accolades that I have held and awarded.

Commander, Post 12146 2018/19, All State and All American
Commander, Post 11575 2019-2021, 2022/23 All State and All American
District 5 Commander 2019/2020 All State and All American
District 5 Senior Vice Commander 2017-2019
Deputy Inspector for District 5 2017-2019
Department Surgeon 2022/23
I have also been awarded: National Aide-de-Camp 2019/20 and 2022/23

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

Yours in Comradeship and Service to Veterans,

Jack Farrell
Candidate for Junior Vice Commander



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES



March 24 - Start of Kosovo Campaign 1999

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



March 29 - National Vietnam War Veterans Day*

On March 29, 1973, combat and combat support units withdrew from South Vietnam. Generations later, Veterans of this time period are gaining the respect that was not so freely given upon their return. Involving five U.S. presidents, crossing nearly two decades and 500,000 U.S. Military personnel, it left an indelible mark on the American psyche. Returning veterans did not always receive respectful welcomes upon their arrival on American soil. Over 58,000 killed, never to return.



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

25 March 1994 Most of the American troops were out of Somalia, ending Operation Continue Hope the follow-on mission to Restore Hope. Only a few hundred marines remained offshore to assist with any noncombatant evacuation mission that might occur in the event violence broke out that necessitated the removal of the over 1,000 U.S. civilians and military advisers remaining as part of the U.S. liaison mission. All UN and U.S. personnel were finally withdrawn almost a year later in March 1995.



April 9 - National Former POW Recognition Day

It was officially designated by Congress in 1988 as a Presidentially-proclaimed observance. National Former POW Recognition Day commemorates the 9 April 1942 surrender of approximately 10,000 United States military personnel and 65,000 Filipino soldiers on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines by Major General Edward P. King to the invading Imperial Japanese Army headed by General Masaharu Homma. This is the largest surrender in US history. The surrender was followed immediately by the infamous Bataan Death March.



11 April - Persian Gulf War Official Cease-Fire

On 11 April 1991, less than 90 days after the U.S.-led offensive against Iraq known as Operation Desert Storm began, the United Nations Security Council declared the conditions of Resolution 687 in effect, making the cease fire official and formally ending the Persian Gulf War. The definitive victory elevated the United States as the preeminent global super power and the number one partner of choice for its allies around the world.

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

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