



Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars



P.O Box 1126 OKC. OK 73101

405 850-0815/ www.vfwoklahoma.org

September 2021

2021-2022 Series

“Integrity is doing the right thing when no one is looking”

C.S. Lewis

DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA HEADQUARTERS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

General Orders No. 03

2021-2022 Series

1. Pursuant to National By-Laws Article VII Miscellaneous Provisions, Section 703, Bonds, “Each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these Bylaws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, they may be accountable. The bond premium shall be paid from the funds of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department, District, County Council or Post, as the case may be, to which each officer is accountable.

The bonds of such accountable officers, in amount and as to surety, shall be approved by their respective units and held by their respective Commanders. The Commander of each unit shall be responsible for the proper and adequate bonding of all accountable officers in their unit.”

2. **Trustee’s Report of Audit:** Posts & Districts are reminded to forward their Trustees’ reports at the end of each quarter of the current year: June 30th, Sep 30th, Dec 31st and March 31st. Send these audit reports to VFW-OK, P.O. Box 1126, Oklahoma City, OK 73101 or emailed to vfwhqokqm@outlook.com

3. **Attention of Post & District Commanders & Quartermasters:** Commanders & Quartermaster are reminded at all levels of the annual requirement to complete an IRS 990, IRS 990N, for tax exemption requirements. Failure to complete the required IRS 990 may result in loss of tax-exemption status.

4. **Department Directory/Roster:** Commanders & Adjutants are asked to send all corrections, changes etc. of the Department Roster to vfwhqoklahoma@outlook.com for changes.

5. **District Meetings Dates & Changes:** District Commanders are reminded to notify the State Adjutant at vfwokadj@outlook.com of any changes to district meetings including new dates for District meetings.

/os/
JAMES BASSETT
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

/ os /
Curtis A. Watts
Adjutant

Commander Jim Bassett

In this time of global uncertainty, we resolutely stand with the VFW in honoring and remembering the those paid the ultimate sacrifice and supporting our comrades in arms. The Commander in Chief, Fritz Mihelcic, has put out a message.

A VFW Message to Veterans in the Wake of Recent Events in Afghanistan

The following is a message from VFW National Commander Fritz Mihelcic

With the recent turn of events in Afghanistan, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) wants the veterans of the war in Afghanistan to know we stand with you. Scores of VFW members know the anger, frustration, and sadness you are experiencing after hearing the troubling reports and seeing the disturbing images coming from lands where we sacrificed so much. From the fall of Saigon in Vietnam, to the withdraw from Somalia after the battle of Mogadishu, to the ISIS take-over of Fallujah, Ramadi, Mosul, and Tikrit, far too many of us have experienced the heavy burden of loss, disappointment, and helplessness our newest generations of veterans may be feeling watching the Taliban return to power.

However, while there is bitter sentiment over this withdrawal, we encourage you to hold your head high. Because of your vigilance, hard work, and selfless sacrifice, you dealt a tremendous blow to Al-Qaeda, taking out its leader Osama Bin Laden, and disrupting its ability to plan and execute another major attack on American soil since September 11, 2001. You who served in Afghanistan with honor, valor, and distinction, our nation owes you a tremendous debt of gratitude for the past twenty years of relative safety and security. Your service was not in vain.

While we continue to watch events unfold in Afghanistan, we remind our brothers and sisters that we are beside you, arm-in-arm, ready to support you. You are not alone.

Please know that through the Department of Veterans Affairs, the VFW, and other non-profit organizations, there are people you or a battle buddy can talk to and resources available to help cope with the stress of the situation.

***** IMPORTANT *****

During these times we need to aware of our surroundings and pay close attention to our fellow members. Reach out and talk to them, let them know we are there for them. Contact the members that have not been with us for a while, check on them. Make sure everyone is ok. Buddy Checks. We all know the feeling and the process.

For some of you this may be the first time to hear this, for others, you may have found out recently. The Department of Oklahoma just went through an investigation/audit concerning recruiting practices. Emails are going out to posts to confirm membership numbers from last year. Please answer truthfully.

Jim Bassett

State Commander
Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars

P. O. Box 1126
Oklahoma City Oklahoma 73101
405.664.3929
Bassettj15@yahoo.com
<https://vfwoklahoma.org/>



Oklahoma

While others talk...do.

While others fear...believe.

While others wait...work.

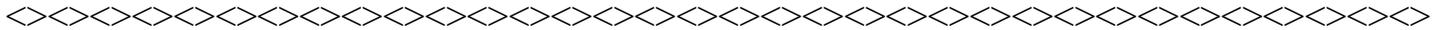


Senior Vice Commander Jeremy Owen

Comrades, first and foremost, I hope this message finds you well. If not, I pray for a speedy recovery and healing. I myself am recovering from COVID. Just make sure to take it easy and rest up! This year has already hit us with challenges, but nothing we as TEAM OKLAHOMA cant take care of! I want to reiterate Commander Bassett's comments and let the whole membership of the Department of Oklahoma know that our state officers are here to support and assist all members, don't be afraid to ask us questions or voice your concerns. Without you we are nothing! As most already know, Stacy Reddig resigned from the office of State Junior Vice Commander due to his health, this means that there is a vacancy at Department that must be filled. Remember that as a member in good standing, you can run for any office that is open! If you are considering running make sure to get a flyer or information sheet on yourself to State A/Q Curt Watts so it can be distributed. Commander Bassett has already discussed the audit/investigation at Department level, I will echo his sentiment that you be honest if asked any questions from national. Now to recruiting. We have to get ahead of the game this year with the outstanding numbers we obtained last year. If you need help with recruiting make sure you contact your deputy chief of staff for your region. These people are ready to assist in anyway they can to help reach your membership goals. We have a very busy schedule coming up and hope our posts will assist with several. Please never hesitate to contact me if needed. With our pandemic on the rise again, let's be safe and continue working our programs and recruiting to make sure this great organization thrives!

Have you thought about supporting our very own Oklahoma VFW Foundation? There are several ways to do it: Amazon smile is a great way. Just go to <https://smile.amazon.com> once there then find Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation. Post donations & personal donations are another great way to support our Foundation. Donations are tax deductible. Donating to the Oklahoma VFW Foundation is a way of donating back to Posts within our department and our programs. Donors may also designate where they want their donation dollars to go toward, for instance, Veterans Services, Honor Guards, etc. Donations can be sent to Oklahoma VFW Foundation, P.O. Box 1126, Oklahoma City, OK or by visiting the Foundation website at <https://okvfwfoundation.org> and the selecting the donate button.

Jeremy Owen
State Senior Vice Commander
Department of Oklahoma



State Surgeon
Erica Traxler

Student Veterans of America Liaison
Citizenship Education Chair

Comrades,

I hope this month's General Orders finds you well because for some we know it will not. We have had to say goodbye to some great comrades. Comrades Jay Hansen and Matthew Sherwood passed and their families that we love and spend time with. There are more out there that we may not have known as well but were on our rosters. We need prayers for Comrades Jeremy Owen, Stacy Reddig, Vern Babcock, and our neighbors in Louisiana. These months have been very hard on us all, but please keep your heads and hearts up and reach out to someone if you need assistance, an ear, anything. We are all family.

With COVID-19 rearing its ugly head again with this new Delta variant please be vigilant when you are out and about in public even if you have received the COVID-19 vaccine. Keep in mind that this virus has not been around very long, nor has the research. Please continue to monitor these websites for the most current information.

CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fyour-health%2Fneed-to-know.html

FEMA website: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/coronavirus/fact-sheets>

World Health Organization: https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1

Quartermaster Side:

Comrades, Auxiliary Brothers & Sisters, Comrade PSC Darryl Mabry & Auxiliary Secretary/Treasurer Debra Miner-Gonzales have found us a GREAT place for our VFW-Oklahoma events this year.

Please spread the word that the decision has been made to have our annual Fall-Festival at the **Embassy Suites by Hilton, Norman Hotel & Conference Center 2501 Conference Drive, Norman, OK. (405.364.8040)**. The dates are from 22-24 Oct, 21. Our block is now open and available to book rooms! If you call to book reservations you will need to call 1-866-577-1273 and give them the group code "VFW" However, it would be easier to book on-line.

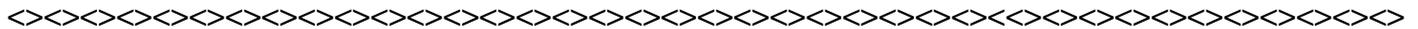
A web link to book rooms is below. We will have until October 1, 2021 to book rooms under the special group rate of \$99.

Group Web Link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=OKCESES&groupCode=CESVFW&arrivaldate=2021-10-22&departuredate=2021-10-24&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Hope to see you there.

Curt



Department Service Officer

Department Service Officer notes:

1. We have been looking for someone to work out of the Regional Office in Muskogee, OK. We have several individuals interested in that position. The Department is sitting a September 7, 2021, date as a cutout for any more individual to forward their resume.
2. Several individuals have expressed interest in the position or getting accreditation, but not in Muskogee. The Department will be developing a plan to present to the National Veterans Services Director in the future to allow for these individuals. If you are interested forward a current resume. Include where and how this would benefit the entire department. This training will cost around 15K for the first two years. National Veterans Service Policy & Procedure outline the guidelines that we as a department must follow.
3. This past month Bill, Robbie, and I visit the OKC VA Center to discuss the New Family Caregivers program. Under the VA MISSION ACT of 2018, The VA has expanded this program. First and foremost, remember that this program is offered from the medical side of the VA. https://www.caregiver.va.gov/pdfs/FactSheets/CSP_Eligibility_Criteria_Factsheet_1-4-21.pdf#

https://www.caregiver.va.gov/pdfs/FactSheets/ApplicationProcessFactsheet_1-13-21.pdf#

A major concern is the 3 Assessment area of the application process. These areas are: The veteran Assessment, Caregiver assessment and the Veteran Functional Assessment Instrument. The VA and a Centralized Eligibility and Appeals Team (CEAT) will conduct a review of the application and the three assessment which is internal to the VA. If the veteran receives a denial letter, they will have to appeal to the medical team. This is not the normal appeal process most veteran is familiar with.

4. Also this past month “The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is issuing this interim final rule to amend its adjudication regulations to establish presumptive service connection for three chronic respiratory health conditions, i.e., asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis, to include rhinosinusitis, in association with presumed exposures to fine, particulate matter. These presumptions would apply to veterans with a qualifying period of service, i.e., who served on active military, naval, or air service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War (hereafter Gulf War), as well as in Afghanistan, Syria, Djibouti, or Uzbekistan, on or after September 19, 2001, during the Gulf War.” We need to apply for these conditions and if they were denied in a pass rating an appeal will need to be developed and forward to our office in Muskogee.

James Dockemeyer DSO (405)850-1108 vfwokdvso@outlook.com

PLEASE SEE THE JOB DESCRIPTIONS OF OUR VETERAN AFFAIRS ACCREDITED SERVICE OFFICERS. THE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR AN ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER LEVEL II (ADSO) TO WORK IN THE VFW OKLAHOMA OFFICE IN MUSKOGEE. ANYONE INTERESTED CAN CONTACT STATE SERVICE OFFICER JAMES DOCKEMEYER AT 405.850.1108

**DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
VETERANS AFFAIRS ACCREDITED SERVICE OFFICERS**

BASIC PURPOSE:

The Veterans Service Officer is assigned responsibilities involving the coordination of benefits and other related services for eligible veterans and their dependents and as a legal representative/Power of Attorney on their behalf before U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Federal boards. The Veterans Service Officer serves as an advocate for eligible veterans to maximize services and benefits for themselves and their families. The Veterans Service Officer also serves as a liaison to other Federal and State agencies in matters related to veterans' services and benefits.

TYPICAL FUNCTIONS:

Functions in this job vary by position, however, will include the following:

1. Interviews veterans and families to assess their needs and eligibility relating to receipt of State and Federal benefits in the areas of medical treatment, disability compensation, insurance, pension, debt management, education, training, and rehabilitation.
2. Performs case management duties throughout assessment by researching information, compiling reports, filing claims, formulating appeals, obtaining benefits, interpreting laws to include rules, regulations, and procedures.
3. Provides assistance in the completion of required forms, counsels and assists clients in utilization of appropriate resources, identifies deficiencies and develops a strategy to initiate actions necessary to obtain maximum benefits.
4. Advises clients regarding documentation needed to support benefit claims which may include making referrals to other agencies and resources.
5. Reviews rating board decisions assuring compliance with Title 38 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, determining if an appeal is warranted.
6. Initiates the appeal process by preparing a written brief outlining the basis of disagreement and obtains client's Power of Attorney to utilize, as necessary.
7. Prepares financial statements and interprets the correlation of Social Security, military retirement, other income, and net worth affecting VA pension and compensation.
8. Assists client in dealing with VA Debt Management Agency by preparing financial reports to support client's request for waiver, postponement, compromise offers, or repayment plan for benefit overpayment.
9. Independently reviews client VA files, evaluating evidence including veteran's service and post service medical records, as well as service history.
10. Research laws, regulations, policies, and case law/precedent decisions from VA Board of Veterans Appeals and U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals.
11. Assists veterans in preparing for hearings, writing appeal briefs on issues that were previously adjudicated at a lower level.
12. Acts as claimant's legal representative during informal hearings before VA decision review officers, formal hearings before VA administrative hearing officers and Board of Veterans Appeals administrative law judges.
13. Presents oral arguments and sworn testimony during hearings through a series of questions that are supportive of the issues on appeal.
14. Plans/develops curriculum, conducts and coordinates training seminars, certification training for Post and District service officers, and others if requested.
15. Develops, maintains, and coordinates comprehensive veterans' outreach and public information programs including certification through Veterans Affairs Regional Office.
16. Serves as agency liaison and guest speaker at civic functions.

LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

The Veterans Service Officer's job consists of three levels which are based on the complexity of work assigned, the level of expertise required to perform assigned duties, the location of specific positions and the responsibility for the leadership of others.

Claim Consultant, Level I

This is the basic level. Employee performs entry level tasks to build skills in the processing of claims and services based on Federal and State laws and regulations endeavoring to assure the entitlement and receipt of appropriate benefits.

Practices counseling veterans and their dependents concerning benefits and services. Under close supervision, limited responsibility pay be assigned for preparation of written briefs outlining evidence supportive of issues.

1. Under appellant review or assignments, act as representative of veteran/client before decision review officers, administrative hearing officers, and administrative law judges
2. Limited responsibilities may be assigned for providing training or assistance to others, including administrative support personnel, in providing appropriate services.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSA)

1. KSA requires knowledge of Federal/State statutes/regulations pertaining to veterans' benefits programs consisting of Social Security, Worker's Compensation and applicable rules, policies, and programs that affect said benefits.
2. Basic benefit counseling and interviewing techniques of common adjustment problems experienced by veterans is the goal.
3. The Claims Consultant must have the ability to independently research laws, regulations, policies, and precedent decisions for appellant cases.
4. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing as well as have the ability to follow written and oral instructions. (Use of various software and agency specific computer programs and establishing/maintaining effective working relationships is needed.)

Education and Experience

Requirements at this level consist of a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university or an equivalent combination of education and experience, substituting one year of work experience in the military or veterans' programs for each year of the required education.

Assistant Department Service Officer, Level II (ADSO)

This is the Specialist level. Employee is assigned responsibilities involving advanced level work requiring a high level of technical expertise, including the leadership skills providing benefits and services to veterans, i.e., a project leader or other comparable duties. ADSO may supervise clerical or administrative support staff.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSA)

KSA required at this level include skills identified in Level I, plus the ability to provide assistance and services to eligible veterans and their families. ADSO must have knowledge of effective supervisory principles and practices, ability to organize and conduct several programs simultaneously and exercise sound judgement analyzing complex situations while adopting appropriate courses of action.

Education and Experience

Huddle in San Antonio, Texas. The C&PA director is planning future media training for new chair officers and social media presentations at fall conferences. **Administrative Operations** There are currently 43 Posts under suspension. We are currently working three Post Consolidations pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws, five charter surrenders pursuant to Section 210 of the National Bylaws, and one charter revocation pursuant to Section 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,977 chartered Posts. Administrative Operations is engaged in 20 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, three of which are pending disciplinary hearings; four administrative actions; and one membership eligibility challenge. Administrative Operations has processed, approved, and distributed 14 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation this week. We have received five new Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions and currently have 10 total pending review and approval. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately eight days. **Meetings and Events Ongoing** Completion of remaining hotel contracts for 2022 Convention – Kansas City that were put on hold to work through 2021 convention contracts. Review and forward to legal contracts – KCI Airport Marriott Hotel for the 2021 Jr. Vice, 2022 Jr. Vice, and 2022 Sr. Vice meetings. Reviewed and forwarded convention 2021 related final invoices to accounting for payment. Schedule meeting with KCI Airport Marriott to review protocols for upcoming September Budget/Finance & Council of Administration meeting. Prepare resume (meeting specifications) for September Budget Finance/Council of Administration meeting. **VFW Foundation** the VFW Foundation conducted a highly successful “Grants and Fundraising Ideas for Posts” workshop at the 122nd VFW National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. If you were unable to attend, please contact the VFW Foundation’s Grants & External Relations Coordinator Jason Couch, at JCouch@vfw.org or 816.968.1174 to request a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. **National Legislative Service** Take Action Now on VFW-Supported Toxic Exposure Bills: If you haven’t already done so, we encourage all veterans, family members, friends, and supporters to [Take Action Now](#). Spread the word so that as many people as possible will contact their senators and representatives to support these important pieces of legislation! VA Begins Processing New Presumptive Conditions for Toxic Exposures: VA has announced that starting Aug. 2, 2021, it began processing disability claims for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and other areas. These conditions must have manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service. Major Medical Facility Bill Signed into Law: President Biden signed into law the *Major Medical Facility Authorization Act of 2021*. This change will authorize VA to carry out specific major medical facilities projects and increase the amount of money that can be spent on each project. The VFW applauds the passage of this legislation and calls on Congress and the Administration to continue rigorous oversight of VA’s infrastructure needs. The VFW has testified numerous times on VA infrastructure and the need for proper attention to aging VA facilities **DUMP Opioids Act** Becomes Law: President Biden has signed S. 957, *DUMP Opioids Act*, into law. This law expands on VA’s program to dispose of controlled substances introduced in the Isakson Roe Act of 2020. It will make VA’s drop boxes accessible to the public with a community information campaign announcing designated times for disposal to improve medication safety in homes.

National Veterans Service National Veterans Service participated in a meeting with Veterans Benefits Administration to discuss the future of electronic notification of VA rating decisions. The VFW has been working closely with VA on standing up a new system through which Service Officers can more easily be notified of decisions for VFW claimants, providing feedback on the potential new system. National Veterans Service leaders met to discuss the upcoming NVS fall training conferences. Students for the accredited Service Officer training taking place in September are already starting to decide and NVS is planning to deliver its first in-person training since January 2020. Last week, NVS was notified that the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals threw out VA's regulations prohibiting veterans from preserving the effective dates of Supplemental Claims through the Intent to File process. The VFW has been vocal that the regulation restricting veterans from preserving effective dates for Supplemental Claims was harmful for veterans and contrary to what the VFW helped negotiate for the Appeals Modernization Act. The VFW is now following up with VA to learn what this change means for veterans affected by the prohibition since February 2019. VFW NVS Pre-Discharge Staff are once again hosting benefits briefings for transitioning service members at Joint Base Andrews and for transitioning Navy flag officers around the country. **Final Notes: In light of all the difficult political situations that have transpired over the last 30 days, please keep focused on the help veterans who now serve in Afghanistan will need upon their return. Let's go all out and do what we can to expedite their issues if possible..... And let's say a pray for those veterans that are no longer with us....** Robbie



Veterans and Military Services Committee Chair
Tony McGrew

Hello Comrades,

VMS Programs are an integral part of the VFW's never-ending obligation to assist members of the active-duty military, national guard and reserves, as well as their families. VMS is broken down into 3 distinct stand-alone programs.

- Unmet Needs
- Military Assistance Program (MAP)
- VFW "Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship" program



This year the focus is on Unmet Needs.

During this year's State Fair, we have a great opportunity to raise a large amount of funds for this worthy program. **Jesse**

James Dupree, Lead Singer of the band Jackyl will have a booth setup on Sept 18th at the fair to raise money for Unmet Needs. We will be raffling off 2 signed bottles of his Jesse James American Outlaw Whiskey and a 30-caliber shell bottle opener from the VFW Store and 2 KA-Bar knives, plus other items. Raffle tickets are available now. The tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20 for both items. The first ticket drawn will have first choice of any of the items and each subsequent ticket will choose from the remaining items. You need not be present to win. As the

year progresses, we will have more items to raffle off. At **this year's** fair we will be allowed to **receive donations**, so it is a great opportunity for your Post to raise funds.

- * Unmet Needs provides financial assistance to service members, veterans, and their families experiencing a financial hardship directly related to their military service.
- * Assistance, not a hand out.
- * The financial assistance is in the form of a one-time grant in an amount up to \$5,000. All grants are paid directly to the "creditor" companies (such as the electric company, mortgage company, landlord, etc.) and not to the individual.
- * Funds can be used for rent, car repairs, medical expenses, infant-care items and many other necessities.
- * Each case is reviewed individually and acceptance determined by a committee.
- * Applied for on line at: <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants>

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities and Events:

- ~~September 12th – The OKANG's 137th SOW Family Day – Cancelled due to COVID.~~
- September 3rd – Dodger Military Celebration Night.

Tickets available for Veterans, Active Duty, Guard and Reserve at reduced rates.

The Department will have two tables for recruitment and donations.

Anyone wishing to volunteer, please contact me asap as we will only have 8 free tickets.

- September 16th - 26th - Oklahoma State Fair

Our booth must be staffed at all times during the fair from open to close each day. If you want to volunteer, please let me know. A Post can volunteer to take a day and fully staff the booth. Remember, the booth cannot be left unstaffed at any time.

Booth Times:

Sunday through Thursday – 10am till 9:00pm.

Friday through Saturday – 10am till 10:00pm.

All for One; One for All

Tony McGrew

State VMS Chair

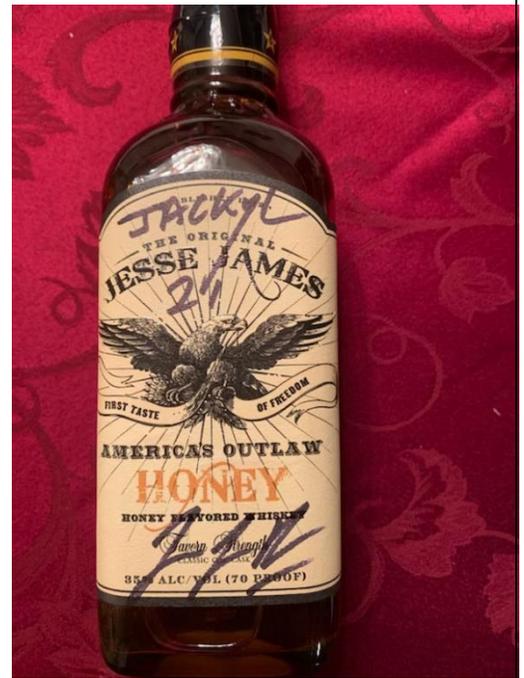
District 10 Commander

Department of Oklahoma

405-820-6467

Tony.vfw8706@gmail.com

<https://www.vfwoklahoma.org>

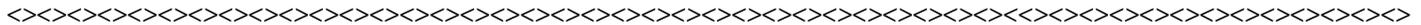


**Help us raise money for
VFW Unmet Needs
Program:**

**JOIN IN ON THE FUN! TRY YOUR
LUCK AT ONE OF THESE ITEMS
WHILE RAISING MONEY FOR THE
VFW UNMET NEEDS PROGRAM:**

**We now have 7 items to date for the
drawing!**

TICKETS: \$5.00 ea/5 for \$20.00



***Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen & Teacher of the Year Chairman
Mike Devenitch***

VFW YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS: Schools have started and they are settled in. Time to get your post programs going. Email, call and visit the schools: a successful program does all three. Remember: Look for that one or two teaches, counselors or administrators that will help you year after year. For the 2021-2022 school year the following topics have been released: Voice of Democracy (VOD) audio-essay program theme is - “America: Where do we go from here?” and the Patriot’s Pen (PP) youth essay – “How Can I Be a Good American?” Both are due to the local VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31. Now is the time to contact summer programs and home schooled students. See <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships> for more info.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR (ToY): Find that teacher that is doing something extra and built a team to work on the package! VFW annually recognizes the nation’s top classroom elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America’s history and traditions. Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. Start asking around to find that key teacher. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, supervisors or other interested individuals. Submit all nomination to me.

For upcoming September events that I am aware of thus far: On the 11th of Sept, in Lawton just north of the water park, the KCA (Kiowa, Comanche, Apache) Veterans will be hosting their 2nd Annual Pow Wow; this year's theme is "Honoring our Women Warriors." See attached flyer below.

Back in July I was approached by ODVA about the HerStory Project. I took that opportunity to learn about the project and be able to have the above picture taken. The note below from the ODVA Women Veterans Program Administrator, Lisa Mussett, gives additional information about the project. For Women's Equality Week (August 23-27th) in the atrium at the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center, ten prominent Oklahoma Women Veteran's pictures were showcased on display for that week. I was honored to be one of those ten that were on display. All women Veterans are encouraged to participate in this HerStory project please contact me so that I can assist ODVA in getting enough participants in each area for the volunteer photographer to be in the various areas so that we can get as many pictures as possible and stories shared before November 11, 2021.



A message from Lisa Mussett, ODVA Women Veterans Program Administrator

We need your help! We want to photograph 300 women veterans between now and Nov 11, 2021! As you know, the state of Oklahoma has a State Veteran Registry. To accompany the Registry, ODVA is creating a Digital Legacy Library, highlighting the service of women veterans. Thus, we've created an **Oklahoma Women Veteran HerStory Project!** We've already taken photographs in Lawton, Norman, Ardmore and OKC. We're scheduling OUTDOOR photo shoots and need your help in sharing the events. The photographer is donating her time to this project, and following the session, she provides a FREE digital image to the woman veteran, via email

State Veteran Registry: <https://oklahoma.gov/veterans/about-odva/veterans-registry.html>

(Please note with 2021 passed SB 415-all veterans in receipt of sales tax exemption required to register by July 2023)

HerStory Project Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/okwvHerStory>

FOR THOSE WANTING TO SCHEDULE A PHOTO SHOOT, PLEASE CONTACT CORAL PORCH OR MYSELF SO THAT WE CAN GET AS MANY IN ONE LOCATION AS POSSIBLE BEFORE 11 NOV 2021.

Lisa M. Mussett

Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs / US Air Force Veteran / Women Veterans Program Administrator /

Email: okwomenvets@odva.ok.gov / Veteran Services Outreach

ODVA Central Office /2132 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City OK 73111 /Phone: 405-523-4020

Email: lisa.mussett@odva.ok.gov / <https://oklahoma.gov/veterans.html>



OK WOMEN VETERANS

HerStory Project

OK Sisters in Service - We Served.

- State of Oklahoma Veteran Registry-Check Yes, I Served!
Register your service today!
- HerStory Project Photos-Professional photographer at locations in the state.
FREE digital image released to the veteran.

Register for photos and Project updates at vets.oklahoma.gov



ODVA Women Veterans Program
Email: okwomenvets@odva.ok.gov
Phone 405-523-4020, 405-523-4023



2ND ANNUAL
KCA VETERANS
KIOWA • COMANCHE • APACHE

POW WOW

"Honoring our Women Warriors"



Save The Date

SEPTEMBER 11, 2021

HEADSTAFF

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

CY AHTONE & EDDY ONCO

HEAD MAN

MIKE NESTELL (ARMY) (R)

HEAD LADY

LISA POCOWATCHIT (AIR FORCE) (ACTIVE DUTY)

HEAD SINGERS

KIOWA - PARKER EMHOO LAH (MARINE)

COMANCHE - ROBERT TEHAUNO (MARINE)

APACHE - KENNETH LOOKINGGLASS (MARINE)

LAWTON, OK
JUST NORTH OF COMANCHE WATER PARK
SPECIAL INVITES TO ALL VETERANS, SERVICE CLUBS AND PRINCESSES

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT KRISTOPHER KILLSFIRST: 580-699-0896 • CLIFFORD TAKAWANA: 940-391-1085

VENDOR INFORMATION CONTACT KAT FUNAKI: 580-647-4632
ALTERNATE CONTACT: CHRISTA KILLSFIRST: 580-699-0841

KCA VETERANS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS, LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS.
ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOL, DRUGS OR FIREARMS WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE PREMISES.

From the National Legislative Committee Member

Team Oklahoma,

It is an honor to be reappointed to the National Legislative Committee to serve not only you and the Department of Oklahoma, but to also work tirelessly with our Congress members to ensure that our military, veterans and their families are receiving what they rightfully deserve. I look forward to interacting with all of you throughout the next three years. We still have a lot of issues we must and will fight for. As I have said before, my voice alone is not enough to change minds. It requires all of your voices to be heard in the halls of Congress to cause real change. So, I ask for your help.

I just received my official appointment from National Monday so, I do not have a lot put together to give to you this month. However, National and State Commander Bassett want us to make a real push for Action Corps signups. If you are not already on the Action Corps mailing list, please sign up. There are several ways you can.

Scan the QR Code

Text "VFW" to 50457

Visit vfw.org/JoinActionCorps



Let's get out there and sign all of our members up so they can also have their own voice heard when National issues Action Alerts. I look forward to a great year working with and for you.

V/R,

Michael L. Merit

All American State Commander 20-21

District 5 Commander

Grand Quartermaster/Adjutant MOCOK

VFW Department of Oklahoma

DISTRICT MEETING INFORMATION

D-1 > 16 Nov 21 1100hrs>Post 5307 Salina>
D-3 > 11 Nov 21 1100hr>Post 4518 Sallisaw>
D-4 > 06 Nov 21 1100hrs>Post 3658 Antlers>
D-5 > 07 Nov 21 1000hrs>Post 10887 Broken Arrow Veteran Center>
D-7 > 06 Nov 21 1100hrs>Post 539 Henryetta>
D-8 > 07 Nov 21 1000hrs>Post 2027 Stillwater>
D-9 > 07 Nov 21 1100hrs>Post 4578 Guthrie>
D-10 >25 Sep 21 1000hrs>Post 1317 Shawnee> St. Sr. Vice Jeremy Owen
D-13 >04 Dec 21 1230hrs>Post 6141 Fairview>
D-14 >07 Nov 21 1100hrs> Post 1192 Duncan>
D-15 >18 Sep 21 1100hrs> Post # 1335 Woodward > St. Surgeon Erica Traxler

DATES TO REMEMBER:

02 Sep> V-J Day: Japan Signed Formal Surrender (1945)
11 Sep> Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance
14 Sep> Ladies Auxiliary VFW Organized (1914)
17 Sep> U.S. Constitution Approved (1787) & POW/MIA Recognition Day
18 Sep> U.S. Air Force Established (1947)
16 Sep Oklahoma State Fair (Oklahoma City) 16-26 Sept 2021 VFW Booth B-1608 Bennet Bldg
17 Sep Oklahoma VFW Riders Group State Rally, Sequoyah State Park
29 Sep VFW Day, VFW Established (1899)
30 Sep Tulsa State Fair, Sept 30- 10 Oct 21

FAIR TIME IS NEAR!

Visit our VFW Booth or Volunteer to assist at one of the Fairs.

OK!LAHOMA
STATE FAIR

Point of Contact for the Oklahoma State Fair in Oklahoma City is:

Tony McGrew, tony.vfw8706@gmail.com,
Andy Kis, kis0011@netzero.com,



Point of Contact for the Tulsa State Fair in Tulsa is:
Mike Merit, Michael.l.merit@gmail.com,

Recruiting Banners! Recruiting Table Cloths!

Customizable 7-foot tall banner. Can order either Oklahoma or city with Post and number. Comes with four point stand or ground stake. Approximately \$190 plus shipping



Table Cloth, 6-foot black with post number, Auxiliary and VFW logos. \$200 plus shipping.



These items are offered at cost and shipping.

Contact Jim Bassett, bassettj15@yahoo.com



OPERATION SEPTEMBER FREEDOM

AUG 1 — SEPT 30, 2021

A national effort to honor America's WWII veterans

OPERATION SEPTEMBER FREEDOM

OPERATION SEPTEMBER FREEDOM is coming to Oklahoma! While the details of the individual events are still being worked on, the dates and locations have been selected. As more details come out, I will let everyone know.

Let's get as many people as possible out to recognize these warriors during this special flight. Tell your friends to come out. Let's make this a memorable event for our WW II veterans!

Dates and locations:

13 September
Edmond
Oklahoma City

14 September
Oklahoma City
Miami

15 September
Lawton
Tulsa
Claremore

16 September
Mannford

