



*Department of Oklahoma  
Veterans of Foreign Wars*



P.O Box 1126 OKC. OK 73101-1126

580 515-0567/ [www.vfwoklahoma.org](http://www.vfwoklahoma.org)

October 2025

2025-2026 Series

*"Never allow a person to tell you no who doesn't have the power to say yes."  
—Eleanor Roosevelt*

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

**General Orders No. 04**

**2025-2026 Series**

1. **Attention of Post & District Commanders & Quartermasters:** Commanders & Quartermasters 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.
2. **Department Directory/Roster:** Commanders & Adjutants are asked to send all corrections, changes etc. of the Department Roster to [okadj@vfw-oklahoma.org](mailto:okadj@vfw-oklahoma.org) for changes.
3. **District Meetings Dates & Changes:** District Commanders are reminded to notify the State Adjutant at [okadj@vfw-oklahoma.org](mailto:okadj@vfw-oklahoma.org) of any changes to district meetings including new dates for District meetings.

/os/  
Jeff Harris  
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

/ os /  
Heidi Teeter  
Adjutant

# *Commander Jeff Harris*

Howdy TEAM OKLAHOMA,

I am praying everyone is doing ok and you are not down. As this this next month is coming in remember to wear socks as the mornings are a little chilly, but then the sun comes out. So be safe and enjoy life.

I want to thank everyone that helped out at the Oklahoma State fair. The membership booth looked really good, and I know it was a huge success, Deric Duncan always does a great job at the fair, so thank you Deric. And now the Tulsa State fair is going on. District 5 Commander Frank Whitlock has asked comrades in his area to help there. The fairs are always a great place to talk to veterans, so please help out if you can. I am sure Tulsa fair will be as good as the Oklahoma fair. I just want to say thanks to everyone that helps out.

As we get into the programs now, Patriotic Pen and Voice of Democracy are a big thing to get out to all the schools. The Buddy Poppy can be ordered from the State QM/Adj, each post has to order at least 500 poppies for All State. So I hope everyone is working on the programs and thanks. I cannot say thanks enough!!

The Fall Fest is in a couple of weeks. It will be at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Norman again. This is a very good Hotel that everyone likes. There will be more training for the ones that missed the School of Instructions. So, this is your chance to catch up. Edmond post 4938 will have a hospitality room there for your enjoyment and there will be a Halloween costumes contest, so I hope yours is better than mine.

The VFW is all about helping Veterans! So, the Department of Europe Commander, John Casey asked TEAM OKLAHOMA if we could help a comrade coming to Tulsa get to the Veteran Center in Claremore. I said YES, so I asked Frank Whitlock if he could help me at Tulsa airport to pick the comrade as he comes in. So, we get Mr. Hightower and load his stuff on the back of my truck. As we were going to the veteran center, he said he was hungry, so we stopped at Whataburger and got him something to eat, and he said there was no Whataburger's in Germany. We took Mr. Hightower to the veteran center and more members from the Claremore post helped him get into the veteran center. So, this was any Honor to help the Department of Europe get this all done. So, TEAM OKLAHOMA please let's not give up a chance to help someone.

T.E.A.M. Oklahoma,

*Jeff Harris*

State Commander  
Department of Oklahoma

# *Senior Vice Commander*

## *Tony McGrew*

Hi Comrades,

October is well underway and so far, this year, we have faced many trials and tribulations but thankfully not in the biblical sense.

Ok, now that the door is open, I would clarify the trials and tribulations as experiences or difficult situations that test our endurance, self-control .and patience.

I recognize that some of the difficult situations could be devastating to our organization and demand your immediate attention. If we fail to find a solution, we the OK VFW may be looking at consequences we do not want to face!

I think everyone knows what I am talking about and that is the rift between the VFW and the VFWA. It has been said many times recently that when two sides stop talking, war breaks out and nobody really wins when that happens. You are the answer and the only way we are going to survive is through your efforts.

Let's review the VFW mission. To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans. Are we doing this?

How can we? When we are at odds with a vital part of our organization. I urge each one of us to search our hearts and become the solution or at least work toward a solution and talk.

Our Vision: Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

At the moment, I can only encourage everyone to stop the finger pointing, re-read the oath you took to become a member of America's greatest Veteran Organization and reaffirm our core values below.

Our Core Values:

- ☐ Always put the interests of our members first
- ☐ Treat donors as partners in our cause
- ☐ Promote patriotism
- ☐ Honor military service
- ☐ Ensure the care of veterans and their families
- ☐ Serve our communities
- ☐ Promote a positive image of the VFW
- ☐ Respect the diversity of veteran opinions

Sincerely,

*Tony McGrew*

State Senior Vice Commander  
Department of Oklahoma  
Candidate for State Commander

## *Junior Vice Commander Larry Hurd*

Comrades,

Hello from the paw-paw patch. Well fall is almost here. The temperature is getting a lot nicer.

With district meetings going on and Fall Fest is close if any new VFW members are interested on how voting works in the post, district or department there is some good bedtime reading in the VFW by-laws sections 221, 222, 421 and 521. The matching sections in the manual of procedures will have additional information. The new 2026 Podium Edition is available from the VFW website at VFW.org. Log in and go to the by-laws section and you can find the downloadable edition there. If you use this before you hit the print button, make sure you select the fit to page bottom.

State Surgeon said the OKC state fair was pretty successful as they signed up 65 to 70 new members for posts around the state. Check with your post adjutant to see if they received the copies of the last National and the first New COA meeting that were held at the National Convention. The new state COA members were installed and were seated to represent their departments.

Comrade Paul Herrera from the Western Conference has announced candidacy for the VFW Junior Vice Commander for the 2028-2029 membership year. The Fall Fest location, agenda and the Halloween get together are available. Again, check with your post for the information. Fall Fest will be October 17, 18 and 19. Please check your calendar and see if you make one of the dates at the convention. I hope to see you at Fall Fest

Respectfully,

*Larry Hurd*

State Junior Vice Commander  
Department of Oklahoma

## *Surgeon Deric Duncan*

Comrades,

### **1. Appreciation for State Fair Volunteers**

First and foremost, I want to thank all those who volunteered at the Oklahoma State Fair. Your dedication and participation were the driving reason this year's effort was a success. You truly exemplify the VFW spirit of service.

### **2. Post-Level Program Deadlines – October 31**

I encourage all Posts to focus on the programs due at the Post level by October 31:

- Patriot's Pen
- Voice of Democracy
- Teacher of the Year
- Safety Programs

These outreach efforts help grow the VFW by connecting us to our communities and supporting our youth and educators.

### **3. Fall Community Engagement**

We are officially in Fall, and with the change of season comes great opportunities for Posts to engage with their communities through family-friendly activities. These events not only serve our veterans and neighbors but also create valuable chances for membership growth and visibility.

Some ideas to consider include:

- Hosting a Trunk-or-Treats event at your Post for local families.
- Organizing Post Open Houses that offer a safe space for smaller children to enjoy trick-or-treating indoors.
- Coordinating visits to nursing homes to share candy or seasonal treats with residents.
- Providing volunteers to serve as cross guards or safety watch for local trick-or-treating routes.

These activities highlight the VFW's commitment to community safety, outreach, and family-friendly traditions.

### **4. Health Reminder – Flu Shots**

Flu shot season has begun. If you need one, please see your nearest VA clinic for vaccination to protect yourself and those you serve.

### **5. Fall Fest 2025**

Fall Fest is right around the corner! Please make plans to attend and see all the amazing things happening throughout our Department.

- A Hospitality Room offering alcohol-free drinks.
- A Chili Cookoff with prizes for the winners.
- Seasonal decorations for a scary good time.

If you, your Post, or your District would like to compete in the Chili Cookoff, please reach out to me to sign up.

Together we "Bring the Spark, Ignite the Flame" by supporting our programs, caring for our veterans' health, and celebrating our shared traditions. I look forward to seeing everyone at Fall Fest!

**Bring the Spark. Build the Flame.**

Respectfully,

*Deric Duncan*

State Surgeon  
Department of Oklahoma

☎ 405-250-4887

✉ dericduncan@gmail.com

## *Adjutant/Quartermaster* *Heidi Teeter*

Comrades,

My entry will be short this month as I have been sick the last 2 days and just pushing through to ensure our members get the vital information we have for you.

Fall Fest is October 17-19 and will be held at the Embassy Suites in Norman. I will be heading to KC Thursday (October 2<sup>nd</sup>) morning for my annual Adjutant/Quartermaster training. I look forward to this every year because it gives me a chance to reconnect with my fellow Dept AQs in a less busy environment than National Convention.

The building committee has looked at a few buildings and we continue to find leads. We want to ensure that what we find will be fitting for Oklahoma for years to come. If you have any office building leads you can send them to the Building Committee Chair Tony McGrew at [tony.vfw8706@gmail.com](mailto:tony.vfw8706@gmail.com) or to me at [okadj@vfw-oklahoma.org](mailto:okadj@vfw-oklahoma.org).

The digital edition of the 2026 Podium: Bylaws, MOP, and Ritual is [here](#), or they can be found by signing into vfw.org, and going to “**Bylaws: Training, Forms & Templates**”. I have ordered physical copies. They are first come first serve, I have had some members and posts pre-order them. They cost \$10 per copy if you would like to order copy/copies please email me.

I look forward to working with each one of you throughout the year. Again, if you need anything please reach out.

Charlie Mike,  
*Heidi Teeter*

State Adjutant/Quartermaster  
Department of Oklahoma

## *Judge Advocate* *Randy Traxler*

Lessons in Resiliency, Procedure, Mentorship, Accessibility, and the Role of the District as a Hub

Comrades,

The recent District meeting provides us with an important teachable moment—one that blends the strength of tradition, the resiliency of leadership, the value of mentorship, the growing need for accessibility, and the unique role of the District in connecting Posts with Department efforts.

First, it is never easy to recapture or reinvigorate a group after the passing of a valued comrade. The District demonstrated that while honoring Russ, they maintained focus on both current issues and future priorities. This balance is essential. Our duty is not only to memorialize and respect those who served before us but also to ensure that the work of the Veterans of Foreign Wars continues with energy and direction. A District that can honor the past while advancing the mission demonstrates the strength of our chartered responsibilities.

Second, the meeting itself offered an example of how adherence to our governing documents can coexist with a vibrant and engaging atmosphere. The flow of discussion was enjoyable, even exciting, yet it remained grounded in the foundations of our bylaws. This balance reflects proper leadership and the importance of Robert's Rules of Order as a framework, not a hindrance. At the same time, there was a key area for improvement: committee reports. These reports should always be submitted in writing, signed by a majority of the committee members. This simple practice ensures accountability, consistency, and accuracy. When committees submit written reports, the District creates a record that can be referenced in the future and avoids the loss of critical information.

Third, we saw the value of knowledge-sharing within the District. The commanders and officers leveraged their expertise, ensuring that the agenda was not just a sequence of items but a meaningful learning opportunity for all present. This is particularly significant for Posts that are working toward full viability. Elk City Post, for example, showed strong participation. Through their own efforts to engage, they not only learned a great deal but also benefited from mentorship from surrounding Posts and District leaders. This mentorship is a hidden gem within our organization—an informal but powerful way to strengthen Posts and ensure continuity of leadership and knowledge.

Fourth, the District's role as a hub was clear. It often becomes the place where gaps in Department-level efforts are identified, discussed, and addressed. Because the District sits at the intersection of local Posts and Department leadership, it is uniquely positioned to capture what may fall through the cracks. This hub function is vital: it ensures Posts do not feel disconnected, and it provides Department with the insights needed to adjust priorities, improve training, and offer timely resources. In this way, the District is not only a meeting space but also a critical feedback loop that strengthens the entire organization.

Finally, this meeting highlighted the importance of accessibility. A virtual option would have been helpful for remote Posts such as Boise City, where travel often presents significant challenges. While we must acknowledge the potential difficulties in resourcing and sustaining a reliable virtual component—whether due to internet availability, equipment, or technical support—it remains a goal worth pursuing. Expanding access through virtual participation ensures that no Post feels isolated, and it helps integrate every member into the life of the District. Even incremental steps toward this capability can build stronger connections across our wide geography.

The lessons here are fivefold:

**Resiliency**—Leadership must honor the past while advancing the mission.

**Procedure**—Written, signed committee reports protect accountability and enhance the flow of meetings.

**Mentorship**—Strong Posts support growing Posts, creating an environment where knowledge is shared and success multiplies across the District.

**Accessibility**—Virtual options, even when resource-intensive, can bring remote Posts into fuller participation, ensuring no comrade or Post is left behind.

**The District as Hub**—Districts serve as the essential link between Department and Posts, capturing gaps in Department efforts and ensuring no need goes unnoticed.

Commanders and Judge Advocates should reflect on this meeting as a model of how to balance tradition with innovation. It reminds us that bylaws and procedures are not mere rules, but tools to strengthen our organization and empower our members. It also highlights that every District contains within it the resources needed to grow its Posts—expertise, mentorship, and camaraderie. And finally, it underscores the dual responsibility of accessibility and advocacy: to ensure remote Posts can participate fully, and to ensure Department hears the real challenges and opportunities faced on the ground.

Let us continue to take these lessons forward, ensuring that every meeting, every District, and every Post reflects the best of who we are: veterans united in service, bound by tradition, committed to accessibility, and dedicated to strengthening the connection between Department and Posts.

v/r,  
*Randy Traxler*  
Judge Advocate  
Department of Oklahoma

## *Training* *Randy Traxler and Jim Bassett*

Comrades,

The Cobra Effect describes a situation where a well-intentioned solution creates unintended consequences that make the original problem worse.

The term comes from colonial India. To reduce the number of cobras in Delhi, the government offered a bounty for every dead cobra. At first, this encouraged people to kill cobras. Over time, however, some began breeding cobras solely to turn them in for the reward. When the government discovered this and ended the program, breeders released their now-worthless snakes. The result was more cobras than before the policy began.

In the VFW, the Cobra Effect can occur when leaders focus on rigid adherence to bylaws without pairing enforcement with education and mentorship. The intent is to maintain fairness and order, but the unintended result is that members may feel policed instead of supported. New leaders may hesitate to participate, fearing mistakes, and bylaws can begin to feel like weapons rather than tools for fairness.

Examples include:

- Quizzing members on bylaws without explaining the purpose behind them, which produces memorization without true understanding.
- Correcting every mistake during a meeting without providing context, which discourages participation.



- Strictly applying discipline without using it as an opportunity to teach others, which can erode trust.
- Conducting training that only recites rules rather than walking through real Post scenarios, leaving officers unprepared for practical application.

The way to avoid this Cobra Effect is to balance enforcement with mentorship. Bylaws should be explained as safeguards that protect fairness and member rights, not as traps for mistakes. Scenario-based training, positive reinforcement, and recognition for correct practices build confidence and trust.

Modern engagement tools can also help. Facebook polls tied to weekly “Bylaw Bytes” provide a low-stakes way for members to test their knowledge. Discord discussions allow officers and future leaders to work through real-world scenarios, ask questions, and learn from one another. In both cases, errors become learning opportunities rather than sources of embarrassment.

By combining bylaws, mentorship, and engagement, we prevent the Cobra Effect from taking hold in the VFW and instead build stronger leaders, greater confidence, and healthier Posts.

Development in Motion,

*Randy Traxler*

*Jim Bassett*

Chairs, Training & Education Committee

✉ oktraining@vfw-oklahoma.org

## *Chaplain Marcus King*

Comrades,

As we step into October, I want to begin by expressing heartfelt thanks to all who showed up and supported the Sooner Stand-Down. Your presence made a tangible difference for our veterans in need, and your willingness to serve continues to reflect the very best of our VFW mission.

Looking ahead, I encourage everyone to attend this year’s Fall Fest. One key event to highlight is the Peer Support Training, scheduled for Friday, October 17th from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. This training is not just for chaplains—all members are encouraged to attend. It’s a valuable opportunity to learn practical ways to support one another and strengthen our ability to serve those around us.

Our Tuesday evening Chaplain Calls remain active at 7:00 PM. These calls are open to all post and district chaplains. If you haven’t received the meeting link, please reach out to me directly—but first, check your spam folder. Every chaplain in the state is on my distribution list, and sometimes those emails get misrouted.

Finally, I want to offer a word of encouragement. Many among us are facing challenges we may not see. A simple smile or kind word can shift someone’s entire day—and the reverse is also true.


Proverbs 18:21 reminds us that “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” Let’s choose to speak life into one another. Our words matter.


In service,

*Marcus King*

State Chaplain

Department of Oklahoma

 [vfwokchaplain@outlook.com](mailto:vfwokchaplain@outlook.com)

 405.651.5509

## ***Voice of Democracy/Patriot’s Pen/Teacher of the Year***

### ***Jim Bassett***

As of 28 September, we have had 761 views and 24 applications so far. We had 240 views and 3 applications so far last month. If your post or district wants to participate in the Scholars App process, let me know by sending a name, valid email, and what post or district they are chair of.

Teacher of the Year, remember it is for instilling patriotism in class. If you are unsure of a teacher to nominate, watch the news. A lot of times they run an article on a local teacher who is making a difference. And you just found your candidate.

Voice of Democracy, Teacher of the Year, and Patriots Pen time is coming up in a few months. National has already released the themes for next year. They are:

#### **Voice of Democracy:**

“How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?”

#### **Patriot’s Pen:**

“How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?”

If your post wants to work with your Auxiliary and have them with your program, that is allowed. We can enter them into the Scholars App program. My contact information has not changed, [bassettj15@yahoo.com](mailto:bassettj15@yahoo.com).

The other members of the VoD/PP and ToY committee are Frank Whitlock, [fwusmc@yahoo.com](mailto:fwusmc@yahoo.com), and Mike Devenitch, [sentrymike@yahoo.com](mailto:sentrymike@yahoo.com), who you can also reach out to for assistance.

*Jim Bassett*

State VoD/PP/ToY Chair

Department of Oklahoma

# *Veterans and Military Support*

## *Jim Bassett*

Last month we sponsored two major events. We also supported the 137th Special Operations Wing with their family night out at the zoo. I want to thank the volunteers who came out and made all of them a success. I would also like to remind you that starting this month, SportClips will start their Help-A-Hero fundraising.

These events have resulted in many VFW and Auxiliary recruits. It is our best interest to work with the local units to help them with their events. If you are unsure on how to contact a local unit, let me know and I can make the introductions.

Like I said, SportClips Help-A-Hero fundraising is here, this is one of the main points that I talk to potential members interested in joining the VFW. \$195,900 to 47 military recipients in Oklahoma as part of the Help-A-Hero Scholarships. When you tell them that this can be used in conjunction with other scholarships piques their interest. They do not need to be VFW members, reminding them that we work for them whether or not they join us. This means a lot to them, usually ending up with them join our organization. Education is something important to most military, Active, Reserves, or Guard. Talk to them about Help-A-Hero scholarships, or the VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship program, Voice of Democracy, or Patriot's Pen. The VFW Auxiliary even offers a continuing education scholarship as well as Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest. Inform everyone you can about the opportunities.

*Jim Bassett*

State VMS Chair  
Department of Oklahoma

## *Historian*

### *Richard Elsheimer*

Marcus King was elected State Chaplain of the Oklahoma Department of Oklahoma on June 28th, 2025, in Norman, Ok.

Marcus served in the U.S. Army from 1996-2004, earning his VFW eligibility through service in South Korea and Iraq.

Marcus joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 2018 with Post 382 in El Reno, OK. He was elected Post Chaplain of Post 382 in 2022 and shortly afterward he was elected as District 13 Trustee. In 2023 he was elected as District 13 Chaplain as well as post 382 Quartermaster. In 2024 he was appointed Assistant State Chaplain. In 2025, Marcus transitioned to Post 4938 following the merger with Post 382 and joined the team as Post Chaplain for Post 4938.

Marcus has been a Cootie since 2023 and currently serves as Sky Pilot for Oklahoma Pup Tent #1.

In 2020 Marcus was elected President/CEO of Point Man International Ministries, where he had served as a board member since 2009 and as an outpost leader since 2006.

Marcus has been married to his wife Stephanie since February 17, 1996. Together, they have three adult children and one grandchild who remain central to their family life.

Marcus has lived in Minco, OK since 2009.

Chaplain King is continuing and improving on the VFW history of providing spiritual support for our members.

*Richard Elsheimer*

State Historian

## ***Redistricting*** ***Deric Duncan***

### **Overview**

The Redistricting Committee is actively engaged in an inclusive, data informed process to ensure our district structure supports current needs and future growth across the Department of Oklahoma. Our guiding principles are member input, transparency, and mission readiness.

### **Purpose of Redistricting**

- Encourage sustainable growth across Posts and Districts.
- Smooth out boundary and representation issues that hinder cooperation or service delivery.
- Prepare the Department of Oklahoma for continued expansion in membership, programs, and community impact.

### **Current Work in Progress**

- **First Look Map for Fall Fest:** The Committee is developing at least a first look map to present at Fall Fest. This preliminary view is intended to spark discussion, surface boundary considerations, and gather actionable feedback before any final recommendations are made.
- **Data Collection:** Evaluating membership distribution, travel logistics, post density, legacy boundaries, and program delivery considerations to inform potential adjustments.
- **Stakeholder Outreach:** Coordinating with District Commanders, Post leadership, and program chairs to understand on-the-ground realities and opportunities.

### **Meetings & Engagement**

- **Monthly Open Meeting for District Commanders:** I will host a standing monthly open meeting specifically for District Commanders to review progress, share insights, and address concerns. Calendar invites and agendas will be distributed in advance.
- **Open Member Input Sessions (Coming Soon):** We will also hold open meetings for broad membership input in the near future. These sessions will be announced with sufficient lead time and

include multiple ways to participate (live discussion and written submission options).

### **Member Input is Paramount**

The most important factor in this process is the **input of our members**—how you want **your Department and Districts to function**. Redistricting is a means to:

- Strengthen community service and veterans' support,
- Improve collaboration between Posts and Districts, and
- Ensure fair representation and practical travel/logistical alignment.

Your feedback will guide the final recommendations. Please share specific observations about boundaries, travel corridors, program coverage gaps, and growth opportunities.

### **Next Steps & Timeline**

**1 Fall Fest:** Present first look district map and capture structured feedback.

**2 Post-Fall Fest:** Incorporate feedback and refine scenarios for review in monthly commander sessions.

**3 Member Listening Sessions:** Launch open input meetings and written feedback channel.

**4 Draft Recommendation:** Compile a draft proposal with rationale, impact notes, and transition considerations.

**5 Final Proposal:** Submit to Department leadership per bylaws and established timelines.

### **How to Contribute**

- Attend the monthly District Commander meetings (for commanders and designees).
- Participate in upcoming open member sessions.
- Send written input (maps, notes, suggestions, concerns) via email.

Contact: Deric Duncan — [dericduncan@gmail.com](mailto:dericduncan@gmail.com)

### **Chairman's Statement**

Our objective is to **encourage growth, smooth out problems, and prepare the Department of Oklahoma for the future**. We will move at the speed of trust, grounded in our shared mission and the wisdom of our members. Thank you in advance for your candid input and partnership.

Respectfully,

*Deric Duncan*

State Surgeon

Department of Oklahoma

☎ 405-250-4887

✉ [dericduncan@gmail.com](mailto:dericduncan@gmail.com)

***District 14 Commander***  
***Erica Traxler***  
***Credentials Chair***  
***Redistricting Committee***  
***Student Veterans of America Liaison***

District 14 meeting is being held at 5263 in Lawton at 1000.

v/r

***Erica L. Traxler***

Past State Commander  
District 14 Commander  
Post 5263 Service officer  
Department of Oklahoma  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
989-239-5999

[ericatraxlervfw@gmail.com](mailto:ericatraxlervfw@gmail.com)

<https://vfwoklahoma.org/>



Oklahoma

# From the Desks of the Department Adjutant Teeter and Public Relations Chair R. Traxler:

## Stay Connected – Update Your Email and Check Your Inbox!

We want every member to receive the Department's *General Orders* and important updates without interruption. Please take a moment today to ensure we can reach you:

1. **Verify your email address** with your Post and on your VFW member record.
2. **Check your spam and junk folders** – if you find any Department emails there, mark them as “Not Spam” so future messages go directly to your inbox.

Your involvement starts with staying informed. Help us strengthen communication across the Department by making sure you and your fellow members are connected and receiving the information you need.

## We Want to Feature YOU for Warrior Wednesday!

Every week, we're spotlighting the dedicated veterans and leaders who make our organization stronger — and we want your story to be next. “Warrior Wednesday” is our way of celebrating the service, sacrifice, and continued commitment of VFW members across the Department.

### 📌 Here's how you can be featured:

- Send us your **name, current position, Post number, and location**
- Share your **branch of service, years served, MOS, and eligibility details**
- Tell us **why you're active in the VFW** and what keeps you engaged
- Add a few **hobbies or interests** that show who you are beyond the uniform
- Include **1–2 high-quality photos** — one from your time in service and one current

Submit your information to [okadj@vfw-oklahoma.org](mailto:okadj@vfw-oklahoma.org) or [oktraining@vfw-oklahoma.org](mailto:oktraining@vfw-oklahoma.org) and join us in highlighting the stories that inspire, connect, and strengthen our VFW family. Let's make every Wednesday a celebration of the warriors among us!

## DISTRICT MEETING INFORMATION

**D-1** >

**D-3** >

**D-4** >

**D-5** > November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Collinsville, 1400, State Chaplain Marcus King

**D-7** >

**D-8** > November 8<sup>th</sup>, Bristow, 11000

**D-9** >

**D-10** > January 24<sup>th</sup>, Midwest City, 1000,

**D-13** > November 15<sup>th</sup>, Fairview, 1100,

**D-14** > October 4<sup>th</sup>, Ft. Sill 5263, 1000, State Junior Vice Larry Hurd

**D-15** >

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

**Dept Adjutant/Quartermaster Training** >> October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, Kansas City, MO

**Dept Junior Vice Training** >> October 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, Kansas City, MO

**Navy Birthday** >> October 13<sup>th</sup> >> 250 years young

**Southern Conference** >> November 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Montgomery, TX

**Marine Corps Birthday** >> November 10<sup>th</sup> >> 250 years young

**Veterans Day** >> November 11<sup>th</sup>

**Thanksgiving** >> November 27<sup>th</sup> >> HQ (National) Closed 26<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>, HQ (Dept) Closed 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>

**Native American Heritage Day** >> November 29<sup>th</sup>

**Pearl Harbor Day** >> December 7<sup>th</sup>

**National Guard Birthday** >> December 13<sup>th</sup> >> 389 years young

**Space Force Birthday** >> December 20<sup>th</sup> >> 6 years young

**Christmas Eve** >> December 24<sup>th</sup> HQ (National\* and Dept) Closed

**Christmas Day** >> December 25<sup>th</sup> HQ (National\* and Dept) Closed

**New Years Eve** >> December 31<sup>st</sup> HQ (National\* and Dept)

**New Years Day** >> January 1<sup>st</sup> HQ (National\* and Dept) Closed

\*National HQ will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.