



Department of Oklahoma
Veterans of Foreign Wars



P.O Box 1126 OKC. OK 73101-1126
580 515-0567/ www.vfwoklahoma.org

January 2025 2024-2025 Series

“What’s right about America is that although we have a mess of problems, we have great capacity – intellect and resources – to do something about them.”
~Henry Ford

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

General Orders No. 07 2024-2025 Series

1. Attention is directed to Section 213 of the National Bylaws concerning any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council and District meetings; County Council, District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies. The attention of District and Post Commanders is directed to Section 103 of the Manual of Procedures, which prescribes the manner in which applications for membership will be handled. Applications for membership of new, reinstated or transfer members must be voted on by the members present at a regular Post meeting.
2. Commanders on all levels are reminded that according to Section 105 of the National Bylaws, a member whose dues are unpaid after their anniversary date ceases to be a member in good standing and loses all rights of membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They shall not attend meetings or conventions and shall not participate in Post, County Council, District, Department or National functions.
3. Notice to Commanders and Adjutants: All Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, and Teacher of the Year Reports MUST be submitted via the All-American Dashboard. Post Adjutants must enter their Posts’ report. District Adjutants must approve Post Reports and enter the District Report. Contact Department Adjutant Heidi Teeter for information and/or questions.
4. Trustee’s Report of Audit: Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure, “Duty of Trustees.” Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the close of each quarter, one of which ends December 31, 2024. Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all person handling Post funds, including the Club Manager, Bingo Chairman and VFW Riders Groups. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster and Adjutant. 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 email to vfwhqokqm@outlook.com

5. Proof of Eligibility Requirements for Officers: All Posts, Districts and Departments should be reminded of the provisions of Sections 216, 416, and 516 of the Manual of Procedure that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted to the respective Adjutant and properly reviewed.
6. ***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/
DAN FULLER
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

/ os /
Heidi Teeter
Adjutant

Commander Dan Fuller

Greetings Comrades,

2025 has not started the way anyone of us has anticipated. The terrorist attack in New Orleans has had a traumatic effect on the Nation and its' Veterans. Many of us in the Oklahoma Air/Army National deployed to New Orleans for the Hurricane Katrina. We saw a major American city that was devastated on a scale that had not been seen in decades. The nation rallied to help New Orleans recover and return to the iconic landmark that it has always been. I know that we as members of the Department of Oklahoma will keep all the victims and 1st responders in our prayers.

The AQ will enclose a message from CIC regarding this.

As we enter the month of January, we are doing well on the CIC's mission for all departments to be 102%, Oklahoma has now moved into 8th place in the nation. We will need over 700 more members, which is 100 plus members a month that can be New, Continuous or Reinstated. 3 members a day will get us to our goal. I know that we can get this done!

I am looking forward to our Winter Fest on Feb 21-23 in OKC. I know that there are members that are concerned with the cost of the banquet tickets. The Quartermaster and I are continuing to work with the hotel to improve our costs. I would like to note that we have two full breakfasts and two happy hours that are included with your stay.

I am grateful for all the work that the Post and District have done with the recruiting and with their programs. We have several Post and one District (5) that have 102% in membership.

I have put forth a State Commander Challenge that any Post or District that achieves 102% by Feb 5th, 2025, they we receive one banquet ticket. Also, any Post or District the has an Auxiliary will receive an additional ticket for the Auxiliary President.

Remember the 3 R's Recruit, Retain and Reinstate.

Endeavor To Persevere

Your ability to persist in the face of setbacks and disappointments is vital to all great achievements, and it's always a result of a decision you make. "Unknown author"

Respectfully,

Dan Fuller

State Commander
Department of Oklahoma

*Senior Vice Commander
Jeff Harris*

Comrades,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as well as a safe New Year.

As the new year comes let's put our ideals into action and see if they can help our VFWs. New ideals can be rewarding so let's voice them and see if the state can be better.

The Department had an inspection in December by Quentin Carroll, Director of Administrative Operations and Bill Murphy. They let Commander Fuller know of some ways that may help the Department. Commander Fuller and State Adjutant / QM Teeter will speak of those at the Mid-Winter meeting coming up in Feb. So, make plans to be there to hear this.

The state membership is doing very well. Oklahoma leads the Southern Conference in membership and is in eight place over all Nationally. But let's not slowdown in recruiting, for 102% is still away off . If any post or district needs help with membership, please let us know.

If a Unit that you know of is coming in or a welcome home event let the know state so we can be there. Let's start the new year off with a BANG to show how good OKLAHOMA is doing!!

In closing comrades, I will be a candidate for office of State Commander. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Jeff Harris

State Sr. Vice Commander

*Junior Vice Commander
Tony McGrew*

Brothers and Sisters of the Oklahoma VFW,

2024 has come and gone and 2025 has arrived. As we look forward, I can't help but wonder what good things the New Year will bring.

Whatever it is I hope we all have a hand in making it happen, with this in mind here are a couple of thoughts I have on how we make it happen.

1. "Be" Good and "Do" Good.
2. "To Make a Difference" "Be the Difference"

This may sound a little altruistic even so, I urge you to seize every opportunity to become a difference maker within our VFW and the lives of our veterans and families.

As always, I am available to assist you in any way that I can. I'm just a phone call away. God bless you and your family, the VFW and The United States of America

Respectfully,

Tony McGrew

Candidate: State Senior Vice Commander.

Adjutant/Quartermaster

Heidi Teeter

Comrades,

Welcome to 2025! Let's make this a great year.

We have completed the second quarter, that means it's time to send in those quarterly audits for the December 31, 2024, period end. They are due by January 31, 2025. If you have not sent in your audits for the periods ending June 30, 2024, and September 30, 2024, please do so as soon as possible. Tax returns were due to the IRS by November 15, 2024, for all posts and districts with a tax year ending June 30. If you have filed and have not sent the confirmation to me yet, please get those in. If you had to file an extension, please notify me of that as well.

I have received a few questions regarding the Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) filing that the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network or FinCen of the US Treasury's office has now required for business owners as part of the Corporate Transparency Act. From the US Chamber of Commerce website "Under the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA), which went into effect on January 1, 2024, many U.S. small business owners are required to file corporate transparency reports with beneficial ownership information. For most eligible businesses, the filing deadline is January 13, 2025. Those who fail to file by this deadline — or fail to update this information if needed — could face up to two years imprisonment and fines up to \$10,000, in addition to civil penalties of up to \$591 per day." (<https://www.uschamber.com/co/start/strategy/small-business-corporate-transparency-act>) However, there are exceptions to those who actually have to file. If your Post or District 501c status is good, you DO NOT have to file, if it has been revoked you will be required to file if the U.S. Court of Appeals lifts the current injunction. You can find out more about the BOI [here](#). To find out if your Post or District has valid 501c status you can search the IRS website by following this [link](#). You can search by EIN or by name.

At the end of these general orders, I have include Midwinter information, as well as a bio about our National Rep. Our National Rep this time is going to be Cory L. Geisler, National Councilmember for the Department of Wisconsin. Be sure to give him that big Oklahoma welcome when you see him.

To receive the room rates, rooms will have to be booked no later than January 31, 2025. To book a room, you can call 405-842-6633 and telling them rooms are for the VFW event or use this link; [2025 MID-WINTER VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MEETING](#).

I have the department dashboard and All-American dashboard updated with all information that I input and have as of noon today, January 2, 2025. District and Post Commanders, Quartermasters, and Adjutants please review the information under "Good Standing" if there is something missing (aside from SOI) please let me know. I have included a form that each District and Post needs to fill out and send back to me to receive credit for things like District Meetings, Department Meetings and Donations. Some of you may report this information when doing reporting, however, to pull that information I would need to sort through hundreds of reports. This form will hopefully streamline this portion of reporting and make it more efficient. Feel free to send this form to me as many times as needed to ensure you receive credit for everything.

As always, if anyone has any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Preceding the National General Orders, Bulletin, and calendar is CiC Al Lipphardt's statement concerning the New Orleans terrorist attack on New Years Day, relayed through Adjutant General Dan West.

Charlie Mike,

Heidi Teeter

State Adjutant/Quartermaster
Department of Oklahoma

*Judge Advocate
Randy Traxler*

The holiday season can easily become a whirlwind of shopping, cooking, and planning, but it's important to remember to slow down and be present in the moment. Instead of rushing from one task to the next, take time to enjoy the little things: the twinkling lights, the laughter of friends and family, or the smell of freshly baked cookies. Being present allows us to appreciate the true spirit of the holidays, making memories that last far longer than the wrapping paper.

After all, the holidays are about creating connections, not just checking off lists. So let's *wrap* up the season with more joy than stress, and remember that the best gift you can give this year is your full attention. It's the one thing that can't be returned!

V/r

Randy Traxler

Judge Advocate

Department of Oklahoma

*Voice of Democracy/Patriot Pen
Teacher of the Year
Jim Bassett*

Voice of Democracy:

"Is America Today Our Forefathers Vision?"

Patriots Pen:

"My Voice in America's Democracy?"

201, again, 201 completed applications through the Scholars App. We had a few issues, but the company fixed them on the same day that they were notified. By now, all District judging should have been completed and now the Department judging can start. We should complete the judging by the 10 January deadline.

District participation reports will need to be sent to me by the 15th of January. Send the reports to me. If you send them to the Department, they will just send them to me anyway.

The Teacher of the Year deadline has passed. They should have been in my hands by 1 January. We will get them judged and posts notified by the end of January.

Some things to notice. When doing recruiting, ask about family members. I know that we have received VoD, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year nominations in the past. Using the programs is a great way to encourage potential members to join.

Jim Bassett

State VoD/PP/ToY Chair

Department of Oklahoma

VMS

Jim Bassett

Sadly, MAP grant funds are depleted for the year. To help us plan for the future I need each post that uses them to provide a list of estimated amounts, number of participants and tentative dates to me. The National Programs Director has requested this. I know of some events but not all.

Speaking of MAP grants and working with units, I'm working to get us into Tinker and the Air Force Reserve component. We need to talk to those in uniform or just leaving. These are dedicated individuals, and we need to convince them that the "image" of the VFW and the Auxiliary are not even close to everything that we do to help veterans, their families, and the communities that they live in. Go out into the communities and set up recruitment drives. While certain locations are great, think of others. Fairs, job fairs, home improvement shows are just some examples. I know that at Oklahoma State Fair they recruited approximately 50. They also had a few hundred contacts.) I am probably going to hear that I shortchanged the fair staffing by the numbers.) The importance of contact? They go home, and if you made a positive impression, they spread our information among their friends and family. Those veterans from the Guard and Reserves may come back and ask to join the VFW or Auxiliary.

The Sport Clips Help A Hero fundraising drive is over for the year. Mark your calendars for next year. Starts in October and finishes November 11th. If you're fortunate enough to have a local Sport Clips salon, contact them about supporting them. Set up a table and tell everyone that you're supporting the Help A Hero scholarship. There are 23 locations in Oklahoma. Just so you know, Gordan Logan has given out over \$13 million since this started in 2010. Over \$180,000 in Oklahoma alone. Yet another program to help encourage veterans to join us.

Jim Bassett

State VMS Chair
Department of Oklahoma

Training and Development

Randy Traxler and Jim Bassett

****Finding Connection: Navigating the Holidays as a Veteran****

When faced with a large, complex task—whether at work, school, or even in personal life—it's easy to feel overwhelmed. The challenge seems daunting, and the responsibility heavy. However, one of the best ways to tackle these kinds of tasks is by creating teams that can share the load. By dividing up the work and bringing together different strengths, teams can transform what seems like an insurmountable project into something manageable. Plus, there's the added benefit of collaboration and support, making the process not only easier but also more enjoyable.

The first step in creating a team is recognizing the strengths of those around you. It's not just about finding people to help; it's about finding the right people with skills that complement each other. For example, if you're working on a presentation, you might have one person who's great at research, another who excels at design, and someone else who has a talent for speaking. When these individuals come together, each member can focus on their strengths, ensuring the task is completed more efficiently. Additionally, creating clear roles and responsibilities helps avoid confusion and ensures everyone knows their part. Sharing the responsibility also means sharing the pressure, so when challenges arise, the team can work together to find solutions, rather than feeling isolated in the struggle.

At the heart of it all, creating teams allows you to turn a mountain of work into a series of smaller, more manageable hills. It's much easier to tackle a project when you know you have the support of others who are just as invested in its success. So, whether you're planning an event, working on a big project at work, or organizing a community effort, remember: together, everyone can share both the responsibility and the reward. It's not just about getting the job done—it's about building connections, learning from each other, and sharing the sense of accomplishment when the task is completed.

Respectfully,

Randy Traxler

State Education Co-Chair
Department of Oklahoma

Jim Bassett

State Education Co-Chair
Department of Oklahoma

DISTRICT MEETING INFORMATION

- District 1
 - February 1st
 - Locust Grove 11 am
 -
- District 3
 - February 1st
 - Wilburton 11 am
 -
- District 4
 - February 1st
 - Boswell 11 am
 -
- District 5
 - February 2nd
 - Collinsville 2 pm
 -
- District 7
 - February 1st
 - Eufaula 11 am
 -
- District 8
 - February 8th
 - Ponca City 11 am
 -
- District 9
 - February 15th
 - Oklahoma City, Post 9265 10 am
 -
- District 10
 - January 18th 10 am
 - Midwest City, 9500 NE 10th Street
 - Dept Commander Dan Fuller
- District 13
 - January 11th 11 am
 - El Reno, 1515 S Rock Island Ave
 -
- District 14
 - January 11th

- Marlow 10 am
-
- District 15
 - February 8th 11 am
 - Altus, 500 N Veterans Drive
 - Dept Commander Dan Fuller

DATES TO REMEMBER:

New Year's Day >> January 1st

Martin Luther King Jr. Day >> January 20th

Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge >> January 25th

NVS Virtual Basic Training for New Accredited Representatives >> February 3-7

Valentine's Day >> February 14th

Midwinter Conference >> February 21-23 >> Embassy Suites – NW >> OKC

Voice of Democracy >> March 1st -5th >> Washington DC

Washington Conference >> March 2nd -6th >> Washington DC

U.S. Navy Reserve Birthday >> March 3rd

K9 Veterans Day >> March 13th

Medal of Honor Day >> March 25th

Vietnam War Veterans Day >> March 29th

OFFICE CLOSINGS:

None at this time.



Terrorist attack in New Orleans

From Dan West <DWest@vfw.org>

Date Wed 1/1/2025 7:43 PM

Commanders and Comrades,

In light of the recent terrorist attack in New Orleans yesterday that took the lives of at least 15 the Chief and I have been communicating throughout the day. We will be releasing an official statement sometime tomorrow from the Veterans of Foreign Wars condemning this act of cowardice.

Here is a brief message from the Chief that you may share with your members.

"As our nation's largest Combat Veteran Service organization, we call on our members to be hyper-vigilant. Be aware of your surroundings prepared to call on your training and experiences, and possibly act if capable, to stop cowardly acts by those who attack innocent citizens.

Let there be no misunderstanding. The Global War on Terror is real and here. That means our enemies are on our soil and in our cities. We the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars have faced terrorists and defeated them time and time again as history has confirmed. Thomas Jefferson is quoted as saying that "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance".

If you see something, say something."

The Chief is fighting mad, but that's just my observation.

Dan West

Adjutant General

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

406 W. 34th Street

Kansas City, Missouri 64111

816.968.1110

www.vfw.org

Join at www.vfw.org/join/eligibility.

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General Orders No. 6

2024-25 Series

1. Commanders at all levels should begin organizing their 2025 Memorial Day “Buddy”[®] Poppy Campaign. Every Post is urged to order and distribute VFW “Buddy” Poppies.
2. Attention is directed to Section 213 of the National Bylaws concerning any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council and District meetings; County Council, District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.
3. Trustees shall not be eligible to serve as an elected officer, Adjutant or on a committee whose books, records and accounts are audited by the Trustees. Among the duties of the three (3) elected Post Trustees, they shall:
 - a. At least monthly, review the Monthly Report of Receipts and Expenditures of the Post Quartermaster.
 - b. Within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, properly audit the books and records of the Post Quartermaster, Post Adjutant and any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or on behalf of the Post and submit a Post Trustee’s Report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector.
 - c. The Report shall be in accordance with and upon such form as may be prescribed by the Adjutant General. The audit shall be signed by the Post Commander and Trustees, who shall, by their signatures, certify the accuracy of the information contained therein.
 - d. Perform such other duties as may be incident to the office or may from time to time be required by the laws and usages of the organization or lawful orders from proper authority.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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4. Proof of Eligibility Requirements for Officers: All Posts, Districts and Departments should be reminded of the provisions of Sections 216, 416, and 516 of the Manual of Procedure that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted to the respective Adjutant and properly reviewed.

5. Announcement is made of the authorization of the charter for the following Post:

Post No. 12239 – Jasper, Georgia

BY COMMAND OF
ALFRED J. LIPPHARDT
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan West", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan West
Adjutant General

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 49, NO. 6

JAN. 2025

Membership

Happy new year, VFW! As we continue growth, Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt has instituted a monthly Commander's Challenge. As a reminder, every month we will award points to our Posts as follows:

- Recruit a New Annual Member into the Post: 1 point
- An Annual or Lapsed Member converts to Life: 5 points
- Recruit a New Life Member into the Post: 10 points

For the month of January 2025, the Post that leads each division will receive an 8' VFW table drape customized for the Post to be used for meetings, recruiting events, and other functions. In addition, at the end of the year every Post who has led their division in the monthly challenges will be featured on a video display at the National Convention to recognize their achievements.

Keep it up and we will show everyone how NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!

This contest will run from Jan. 1, 2025, through Jan. 31, 2025. Applications and payments processed online before close of business will be credited that day, payments and applications made through the mail will be processed when received. Questions about this or other membership programs can be sent to membership@vfw.org.

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES:

Do you want to help your Post meet your membership goals? Log into vfw.org and go to <https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/membership-recruiting-and-retention> where you can view training videos, download recruiting materials and posters, and gain access to all the tools you need in order to help recruit, retain, and mentor your members!

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

As the membership year has begun, keep in mind the membership requirements set out by the Commander-in-Chief:

- Achieve 102% in Membership
- For everyone to recruit at least one new member and then mentor that member.
- Increase membership drives and/or events.
- Develop new Posts and/or revitalize existing Posts.
- Increase Life Membership and Legacy Life Membership.

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP MATERIAL ORDER FORM

As you are starting the new membership year, we have made it easier for you to get all the recruiting brochures you will need to make this membership year successful! It's as easy as one two three!

1. Go to vfw.org and click the login link in the upper right corner. Sign in when prompted.
2. Under "Membership Quick Links," select Membership Online Order Form.
3. Use the dropdown list to indicate items you need. The form will automatically calculate the cost of items and shipping. When finished, click SUBMIT and it will take you to a billing page if there are any charges.

Follow these simple steps and if you have any questions, you may contact the Membership department at 1.888.564.6839 or email us at membership@vfw.org.

UPCOMING TRAINING

Our next Membership Monday training webinar will be on Jan. 13, at 2:00 PM, CDT, Topic: "**Bringing Members Back – Focus on Retention**". We will cover how to contact your members when their dues are coming up for renewal, best practices for recovering lapsed members, and the importance of converting them to Life Membership. Follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/VFWMembership> to learn how to attend this online training.

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to vfw.org, click on JOIN, and scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video on the right. This prestigious program is available to all Life Members and is now available in memoriam for past Life Members. There are three levels of membership; each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

<u>Levels</u>	<u>Posts</u>	<u>Departments</u>	<u>National</u>
Gold- \$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver- \$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze- \$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

What will your Legacy be?

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP RECRUITERS!

Top Three Recruiters

Timothy M. Borland – 443
VFW Post 9972, Dept of AZ

Ed Stefanak, Jr. – 230
VFW Post 9539, Dept of SC

Steven L. Woodward – 165
VFW Post 2224, Dept of WA

These comrades are leading the charge for membership growth – will you take up the challenge and see your name on this list?

VFW National Convention

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING

The 126th National Convention housing will open, **Monday, March 17, 2025**. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at vfw.org/convention. The convention website will also have general convention information including the registration form, tentative agenda, and links to other convention related information for Columbus, Ohio - Aug. 9-13, 2025.

Development

As we near the season of giving, here is some helpful information about why the support of every VFW member is vitally important. VFW's life-changing programs are not possible through membership dues alone. In fact, **membership dues alone cover just 18% of the cost of programs**. As a nonprofit organization, the VFW relies heavily on the generosity of its members and patriotic supporters. When members donate, 100% of their net donation goes directly back to support their Department. *Please spread the word and give as generously as you are able.*

2025 VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) Annual Campaign Kick Off – is underway, and we urgently need your support to make a meaningful impact on the lives of America's veterans. This campaign is crucial for assisting veterans from all generations, particularly those returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, in accessing the benefits they rightfully deserve. Your donation ensures the VFW's national force of highly trained and accredited service officers is at the ready to help America's veterans navigate the complicated VA system.

As a token of our appreciation, enclosed in this package, you will find the 2025 Petition to Congress and an "American Hero" Memorial Day Ribbon Card. We urge you to add your signature to the petition and card before returning them to us. The collected petitions will be delivered to Congress, sending a powerful message that any proposed cuts to veterans' benefits are unacceptable to those who have proudly worn the uniform. The signed cards will be distributed to hospitalized veterans and service members, bringing them a heartfelt reminder in time for Memorial Day. Some members will receive the 2025 "Help Our Heroes" Member Survey to fill out and return. Your valuable input, gathered through this survey, will play a crucial role in shaping our ongoing efforts to support veterans.

2025 Label and Certificate of Appreciation – This January, anticipate the arrival of the 2025 Label and Certificate of Appreciation from the VFW. Alongside these tokens of gratitude, you will find a special Memorial Day "American Hero" Ribbon Card. We kindly request you to sign and promptly return the card, as your participation holds the power to bring warmth and solace to our fellow service members and hospitalized veterans this Memorial Day. The act of receiving a Thank You card from a fellow veteran resonates deeply with those who have served.

Your gesture demonstrates that they are remembered and cared for by their comrades, providing a meaningful connection during a time of reflection. In honor of your fellow veterans navigating the long road to recovery from battle injuries, we invite you to make a donation. Your generosity directly contributes to the strength and availability of programs that provide crucial support for veterans across your Department.

Your 2024 Year-End Tax Receipt Is On Its Way! – Late January we will be mailing the 2024 Year-End Tax Receipts to VFW members who have requested to receive one at the end of the year.

How to Keep Control of Your Estate – Planning for the future means taking action now. Once you've created a will that aligns with your values, there are two important steps to take. First, update your will on a regular basis so that any life changes and current wishes are reflected. Next, share your estate plan with your loved ones, including charitable giving to organizations like the VFW. Learn more about why these steps matter: <https://vfw.planmylegacy.org/keep-control-of-your-estate>. The VFW Planned Giving Office is here to help you at 816.968.1119 or plannedgiving@vfw.org.

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Adjutant General Dan West would like you to join him in supporting the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families. The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis, which helps reduce expenses and eliminates the amount of fundraising mail you receive. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible and a Year-End Tax Receipt mailed by the end of January. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department toll-free at 1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483) or email us at partners@vfw.org with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

VFW Friends of Freedom – If you are not already a member of the VFW's online community, please visit vfw.org and look for the gold banner that says "**Find Out What's Happening**" to sign up. As a member of the VFW's Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation's veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit vfw.org/VFWatWork and click on "**Read VFW success stories**" to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans' rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

Department Resources – We encourage all VFW Departments to actively support the VFW Department Fundraising Programs. The success of these initiatives rely on the participation and backing of your department's members. Promotional materials can be accessed by visiting heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools.

Marketing Communications

Join VFW Day of Service 2025

The fourth annual VFW Day of Service – a dedicated day of service led by VFW members throughout the country and around the world – kicks off on May 3, 2025, and marks the start of veteran-led community service projects to take place throughout the month.

VFW Day of Service is an outgrowth of the organization's #StillServing campaign, launched in 2020 to recognize the ongoing dedication of veterans and service members who continue to serve their communities. VFW Day of Service, led by veterans and in concert with fellow veteran-serving organizations and civic groups, is open for anyone to participate.

Veterans & Military Support Programs

2025 VFW Day of Service

Make your state stand out! We're kicking off 2025 VFW Day of Service, a nationwide community service effort, and we are counting on you to help make this year bigger and better. Please visit <https://todaysvfw.org/vfw-day-of-service/> to learn more, check out helpful tools and resources—and most importantly — sign up!

Day of Service events should be scheduled during the month of May 2025 and Dashboard credit for “Day of Service Participation” will not be applied until after May 2025. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Mark Herron at mherron@vfw.org.

Military Assistance Program (MAP) Grant Funds

Be advised that the VFW MAP Grant is now closed for the 2024-25 program year. The 2024-25 MAP Grant funds have been depleted. Any events held after the closure of the MAP grant will not be reimbursed with the 2025-26 funds.

All American Eligibility

To qualify for **All-American**, a **minimum donation of \$125** must be donated to **VMS** by **June 30, 2025**. VMS donations will only be handled through the Dashboard. All Posts must click on the “**VMS Donation**” tab on the **Dashboard** to donate. The link will point them to OMS. Please do not send checks to the National Headquarters. If a Post does not use a credit card, the Post will send their donation to their Department HQs and the Department HQs will submit the donation for their Post. Credit will automatically update on the Dashboard daily. Overseas Departments will donate to the other programs through the link also in lieu of participation. This will automatically update daily.

When you make your **\$125.00** or more donation, all that needs to be entered into the box is 125 or more. The **\$** and **.00** are **not required** in the donation amount box.

Do not use the red donate link in the upper right-hand corner of this webpage. This is for general donation purposes only.

VMS Lapel Pin Payment

If your VFW Department headquarters ordered and received the 2024-25 VMS Lapel Pins, please pay for them as soon as possible. You may utilize the “**VMS Donation**” link on the upper right-hand corner of the **Dashboard**.

VMS Program Tools

The Veterans & Military Support (VMS) Program Tools webpage is updated every month. Link to the webpage is <https://www.vfw.org/VMSPTools>

VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"

The **2025 Fall Semester** opened Jan. 01, 2025, and will close Apr. 30, 2025. The application will be available online only at vfw.org/Scholarship.

Continue to do what you are doing and thank you for your support!

VFW Programs

DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS. Military service flags, insignias, etc. should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag.

VFW 125TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE POST PROGRAM SIGN UP. We encourage as many of our VFW posts to get signed up to become a 125th Anniversary community service Post. To date, we have 89. Please help us spread the word. Our birthday was a couple of days ago, but our celebration will last the rest of the year and conclude at the National Convention in Columbus.

The VFW National Commander invites all VFW Posts to be the catalyst to get their communities involved in commemorating the contributions of all veterans and their family members to our country during the VFW 125th Anniversary year. In addition, it is hoped you will encourage your community to study the history of this era to help ensure a safer and better tomorrow.

Have our posts click this link <https://vfw125.org/get-involved/> and click on the **red** Accept Invitation icon for further information.

PROGRAMS DASHBOARD TOOL. (NOTE: Previously ALL-AMERICAN DASHBOARD) Please encourage Posts to read the 2024-25 Membership program. Military Assistance Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much in grant assistance has been received from National HQs to supplement the Unmet Needs financial grants & VFW Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship statistics. The information charts reside in the KPI tools section.

FLY THE FLAG ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S BIRTHDAY. The U.S. federal flag code has been amended by Congress and signed by the president to add Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to the list of days on which the flag should be displayed. His birthday is observed on the third Monday in January; therefore, the flag should be flown on that day. To purchase a U.S. flag from the VFW Store, go to vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags.

Many communities are conducting community service projects that day. It is highly suggested that all members support this day of service.

SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM DEADLINE REMINDER. Nominations for this award and the judging at Post and District level, if applicable, should be completed at this time and their winners submitted to their VFW Department Headquarters for their judging by Jan. 1.

A completed nomination should consist of a completed official entry form with a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five-pages, including the resume, as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience, (for example: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available at the time.

The corresponding deadlines for the next level of judging are as follows: Dec. 15, 2024, for completion of District judging, if applicable, and their winners forwarded to their Department Headquarters prior to Jan. 1, 2025; and Feb. 1, 2025, for completion of Department judging and their winners forwarded to National Headquarter. Each level may submit one candidate, in each grade category, on to the next level.

NOTE: The VFW National Programs Department requires the Department Headquarters to submit their winners via Formstack, using the link the Department Adjutants/Quartermasters recently received. For each Department winner, they will need to complete a “VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form” located on Formstack, then download the winners’ entry documentation. Once they hit submit, it will arrive at National Headquarters. If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email tbeauchamp@vfw.org or call 816.756.3390 and ask for extension 6287.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN DEPARTMENT DEADLINE REMINDER. The deadline for submitting the Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen winner packets to National Headquarters is Jan. 15, 2025 (even if they have not been personally notified, they are the winner).

The suggested deadline for Departments to have reviewed and approved their District and Post entries in the All-American Dashboard is Jan. 31. This will ensure we have accurate reporting numbers across the organization and allot us the time to remedy errors. If you are unsure how to report your participation in the All-American Dashboard or if you are having login issues to the OMS system, contact John Linstra at jlinstra@vfw.org or 816.968.2787.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN NATIONAL AWARDS. Every Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen first place Department winner will receive a National scholarship or award. The amount for the Voice of Democracy National Awards now totals \$172,000, with the top three awards raised to \$35,000, \$21,000 and \$15,000. The Patriot’s Pen National Awards total is \$55,000.

VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS. Judging at Post level should have been completed at this time or the near future. VFW Post Safety Chairperson’s may submit up to five winning nominees’ documentation (one for each career area) to their Department Headquarters for judging no later than Jan. 1.

Once judging has been completed, Departments may submit their five winning nominees, if available, (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs office, by completing the “VFW Department Public Servant Award Request Form” through Formstack. VFW Programs staff has emailed the form link to Department Adjutants/Quartermasters prior to the deadline of Feb. 1.

VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award
- VFW National 911 Dispatcher Award
- VFW National Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician (E.O.D.T.) Award

Each Department will receive their requested awards and should contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department Commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient's peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters, EMTs, dispatchers and EODTs personnel, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership. Order plaques and citations for public servants from the VFW Store vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=public%20servant.

Simply visit vfw.org, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Public Servant Program**.

NOTE: Remember, the First Responder Medal is available through the VFW Store. To review this item, please click on the following link: vfwstore.org/products/32134.

PLEASE REVIEW UPDATE ON O.C.S.P. PROGRAM. VFW National Programs has updated Outstanding Community Service Post award programs starting this program year. Please share this with your Community Service Chairpersons.

OUTSTANDING NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD. Each year on July 1, the national Programs office will determine the top community service Posts in each conference, based off their community service reporting and total impact, from July 1 to June 30 the previous year. Your community service total impact is figured by the money spent to host and organize the community service event, plus total hours all volunteers participated, plus the mileage for all volunteers (Dollars Donated + Hours + Mileage = Total Impact).

These four Posts will be awarded the Award for Community Service and will be invited to attend the VFW National Convention. The Post Commander (or designated representative) and a guest will receive round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations for five nights, and a \$599 stipend to receive the award at the VFW National Convention.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE POST OF THE YEAR. Each Department will have an NCSP winner based on total impact also. National will select based on end of year reports on July 1. Winners will also be published in the Convention program booklet and receive a street sign identifying this national award for the Post to put up in their community.

“UPDATED” POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Under previous Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 16, 1997), it indicated there were only six days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices were required to display the POW/MIA flag. Now under new law, Public Law 116-67 (Nov. 7, 2019), it is required that the POW/MIA flag, on certain federal properties, be flown on all days on which the flag of the United States is displayed. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to vfwstore.org/products/GP237.

IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW programs Patriot's Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

VFW Member Benefits

A Simple Way to Care for Your Pets and Your Finances

Whether you have a new puppy with kennel cough or a senior cat with kidney disease, it's hard to anticipate accidents and illnesses that might occur in the span of your pets' lives. Pet insurance makes it easier to prepare your finances and care for your pets, whatever issues arise.

Pet insurance often includes coverage for:

- Accidents and injuries, like poisons and sprains
- Serious and chronic illnesses, like cancer, diabetes and allergies
- Prescription medicine
- Common illnesses, like vomiting and diarrhea
- Hereditary conditions, like hip dysplasia and blood disorders
- Testing and diagnostics, like ultrasounds and blood tests
- Procedures, like surgeries and chemotherapy
- Holistic and alternative methods, like acupuncture
- Wellness procedures, like vaccinations and spay/neuter

For additional information about Pet Insurance, call Nationwide at 877.738.7874 or [click here](#).

"Buddy"[®] Poppy

"BUDDY"[®] POPPY CAMPAIGN. Although we emphasize Buddy Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, Buddy Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, Buddy Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as "They Gave, Will You?" is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of three (3) weeks in advance of your distribution date.

BUDDY POPPY POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

- 1) Departments must order poppies through OMS.
- 2) All claims of non-receipt of a Buddy Poppy order must be made within 60 days of the date of the order or will NOT be replaced free of charge.
- 3) All orders for the traditional Buddy Poppy, Anniversary Poppies or tin tab poppies must be placed through your Department Headquarters. Auxiliaries must go through their Post to order all poppies.
- 4) The tin tabs do count towards the Buddy Poppy requirement for the All-American program.

- 5) If you do not receive your order within four weeks of placing it with your department, please contact your Department Headquarters to report you have not received your order.
- 6) All poppies are shipped within 10 days of ordering except orders placed in June and July, due to preparation for National Convention, please allow an additional five business days.

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy or by calling Member Service Center at 1.833.839.8387.

The Manual of Procedure provides that Post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairperson's guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of Buddy Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the Post general fund.

VFW ANNIVERSARY BUDDY POPPIES. Special poppies are available to Posts celebrating their 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th anniversaries. The poppies are the same design as traditional poppies but come in silver for the 25th anniversary Post, gold for the 50th anniversary Post and diamond (iridescent white) for the 75th anniversary Post. Posts currently in their 100th anniversary year can order any color and as many as they need. If not in your 100th anniversary year, please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out. These are ordered through the Department in OMS and processed the same as red poppies and should be distributed and used in displays just like the red poppies. Currently we have no plans to replenish inventory of Anniversary poppies due to increased cost and the small quantities we sell of Anniversary Poppies. Based on the past four years' sales, we have sufficient inventory for the next 2 years of the Gold, 3 years of Diamond and 50 years of the Silver.

National Veterans Service

New Accredited Representative Virtual Basic Training

NVS is excited to announce that Virtual Basic Accredited Representative Training will be available Feb. 3-7, 2025, for newly accredited representatives who have not yet participated in an NVS training conference. This conference will be a hybrid conference, with attendees receiving video training using the VFW Online Learning Portal as well as daily live instruction using Zoom teleconferencing software. Formal notification to students who are required to participate in this conference will be sent in the coming weeks, along with instructions on how to register and access the course.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

VFW Hosts Veterans Justice Commission

The VFW Washington, D.C., office hosted the Veterans Justice Commission to discuss the work it does to examine the extent and nature of veteran involvement in the criminal justice system, and to develop recommendations for evidence-based policy changes that can enhance safety, health, and judicial fairness.

VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray moderated a panel presentation with former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Commission Director Jim Seward during which they presented both state and federal policy proposals.

VFW Speaks at Women Veteran Caucus Event on Transition

VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Kristina Keenan spoke at the final event of the Servicewomen and Women Veterans Caucus of the 118th Congress, led by Reps. Chrissy Houlahan, Jen Kiggans, Derrick Van Orden, and Brad Wenstrup, all of whom are veterans. The discussion centered around the unique challenges that women face when transitioning out of the military such as service-connected injuries that affect fertility, mental health effects of military sexual trauma, and barriers to accessing benefits due to childcare constraints. Keenan explained that it is critical that all transitioning service members have access to a service officer to file their pre-discharge VA disability claims. "We know that veterans are vulnerable to suicide during the first year after separation from the military. We also know that veterans who use their VA benefits and health care have a lower risk of suicide. Eliminating the gap between service and access to VA is incredibly important and our service officers can facilitate that transition."

VFW Store

VFW STORE:

All Ryan Roulette Racing gear is on sale now! Order yours while supplies last. Click vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/racing

Also check out the selection of 125th Anniversary items available. vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/125thanniversary



Roll Call of Departed Comrades

WILLIAMS, LARRY, C., Commander, Department of Arizona, 2021-2022, and a Gold Legacy Life Member of Sgt. J. D. Wadkins Jr. Post No. 3713, Coolidge, Arizona, October 30, 2024.

THOMAS, RAYMOND K. "RAY", National Council of Administration member 2011-2013, National Inspector 2014-2015 Commander, Department of Arizona, 2006-2007, Department Adjutant 2005-2017, and a Gold Legacy Life Member of John M Jackson Post No. 3632, Tempe, Arizona, December 12, 2024.

MCMINDES, ALBERT J. "JACK", Department Adjutant 1979-1980, 1981-2002, 2010-2012, Department Quartermaster, 2008-2012, and a Bronze Legacy Life Member of Kenneth J Booth Post No. 1103, Tonopah, Nevada, December 20, 2024.



PLANNING CALENDAR

SCHEDULE OF VFW MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Rev. January 2025

2025

February 3-7	NVS Virtual Basic Training for New Accredited Representatives
March 1-5	Voice of Democracy Washington, DC
March 2 - 6	Washington Conference Washington, DC
April 10 – 13	Senior Vice Commanders Training Kansas City, MO
April 27-30	NVS Accredited Representative Proficiency Training Conference Annapolis, MD
June 28	VFW National Home 100th Anniversary Celebration Eaton Rapids, MI
August 9 - 13	National Convention Columbus, OH
September 8 – 11	Fall Legislative Committee Washington, DC (Tentative)
September 19	National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Kansas City, MO
September 20 – 21	National Council of Administration Meeting Kansas City, MO
September 21-25	NVS Accredited Representative Skill Training Annapolis, MD
September 21-26	NVS Basic Training for New Accredited Representatives Annapolis, MD
September 25 - 28	Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming Des Moines, IA
October 2 -5	Department Adjutant/Quartermasters Training Kansas City, MO

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Office 816.756.3390
Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

October 16 – 19 Junior Vice Commanders Training
Kansas City, MO

October 17 – 19 Big Ten Conference
Bettendorf, IA

October 24 – 26 Eastern Conference
Wilmington, DE

November 6 – 9 Southern Conference
Montgomery, TX

2026

February 28 – March 5 Washington Conference
Washington, DC

April 16 -19 Senior Vice Training
Kansas City, MO

August 15 - 19 National Convention
Salt Lake City, UT

September 11 National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting
Kansas City, MO (Tentative)

September 12 – 13 National Council of Administration Meeting
Kansas City, MO (Tentative)

September 14 -17 Fall Legislative Committee
Washington, DC (Tentative)

September 24 – 27 Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming
Billings, MT

October 1 – 4 Department Adjutant/Quartermasters Training
Kansas City, MO (Tentative)

October 15 – 18 Junior Vice Training
Kansas City, MO (Tentative)

October 22 - 25 Southern Conference
Mobile, AL

2027

February 27 – March 4 Washington Conference
Washington, DC

July 31 - August 4 National Convention
Milwaukee, WI

2028

August 5 - 10 National Convention
San Antonio, TX



December 16, 2024

Heidi Teeter, Adjutant
Department of Oklahoma, VFW
210 S. 2nd Street
Canute, Oklahoma 73626

Dear Heidi:

This is to confirm Commander-in-Chief Alfred "Al" Lipphardt, has designated Cory Geisler, National Council Member, Department of Wisconsin, to represent the national organization at your Department Mid-Winter Conference, February 20-23, 2025, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Please furnish Cory with information that will assist him in making his travel arrangements. His address is 2512 Horseshoe Bend, Hartland, Wisconsin 53029, cell number 262-853-1811 and email corygeisler@hotmail.com. After his itinerary is established, he will advise you of his arrival and departure times. It is our understanding you will arrange his hotel reservations, king accommodation, and have someone from your staff meet Cory at the airport.

Cory's biography and photograph are being emailed to you for your use.

With best regards.

Yours in comradeship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan West".

Dan West
Adjutant General

DW:bf

cc: Cory Geisler, National Council Member, Wisconsin
Curtis Watts, National Council Member, Oklahoma
Dan Fuller, Department Commander

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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www.vfw.org



Cory L. Geisler
National Council of Administration
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Cory L. Geisler was elected to a four-year term on the VFW's National Council of Administration on July 27, 2023, at the 124th VFW National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, representing the Department of Wisconsin.

Cory served in the United States Army from 2005 to 2012, earning his VFW eligibility serving in Iraq. In recognition of his service, he received the Army Commendation Medal (three), Army Achievement Medal (seven), Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with campaign star, Overseas Service Ribbon (two), Army NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, and the Army Reserve Overseas Training Ribbon.



He joined the VFW in 2008 at Post 721 in Waukesha, Wisconsin, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as the Department of Wisconsin Commander in 2021. On the national level, he served as Aide-de-Camp, and has served on the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual Committee.

Cory received his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Wisconsin in 1998. He completed the USMC Interservice Non-Lethal Weapons Instructors Course in 2010.

He is a member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Association, and Batteries Plus Veterans Business Resource Group. He is employed as a national commercial sales coach with Batteries Plus, LLC.

Cory was selected as the 2006 USO Soldier of the Year (Korea), the 2006 Republic of Korea Military Police Regimental Association Soldier of the Year and was a member of the 8th Army Ten Miler team that won the team competition at the 2006 Army Ten Miler.

Cory and his wife, Beth, reside in Hartland, Wisconsin.

-vfw-



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Oklahoma

VFW-OKLAHOMA MID-WINTER CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Comrades & Auxiliary Sisters & Brothers,

Our Mid-Winter Conference will be held 21-23 February 2025 at the Embassy Suites-Northwest at 3233 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City, OK. Please see the information below to book your hotel room plus see the following **Banquet Announcement & Ticket Information**. The group room rate is available from Friday through Sunday. It is always impossible to get this information to everyone in one email, so we ask for your help in disseminating this information to all those interested.

From the Hotel:

We have a room block reserved at the Embassy Suites-Northwest at 3233 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City, OK for February 21, 2025, through February 23, 2025. Booking your room is simple, just call the hotel at **405-842-6633** and tell them rooms are for the **VFW event** or use the booking link [2025 MID-WINTER VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MEETING](#).

We're looking forward to seeing you in February! We hope you enjoy your stay and your group's event!

Don't Wait, Book Your Room Now!
Event Dates: February 21, 2025 - February 23, 2025

Questions?

Contact:
Heidi Teeter Quartermaster or Hotel



DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA MID-WINTER CONFERENCE 2025 BANQUET TICKETS NOW ON SALE!!!!

**BANQUET WILL BE HELD SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY
2025**

BUFFET DINNER:

- Traditional Caesar Salad
- Caprese Salad
- Penne and Fettuccini Noodles
- Tuscan Chicken
- Italian Meatballs
- Italian Sausage and Peppers
- House Made Marinara
- Creamy Parmesan Alfredo Sauce
- Blistered Herb Roasted Potatoes
- Classic Ratatouille
- Garlic Bread
- Tiramisu and Italian Cream Cake
- Iced Tea, Coffee, & Water

ALL NECESSARY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS MUST BE NOTED ON FORM OR EMAILED TO THE BELOW CONTACT(S).

**TICKETS ARE \$60.00 EACH AND CAN BE PAID BY CHECK,
CREDIT CARD OR BY PAYPAL INVOICE TO VFW-OKLAHOMA,
ATTN: QM HEIDI TEETER@ VFWHQOKQM@OUTLOOK.COM
OR CALL HEIDI @ (580) 515.0567.**

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED PRIOR TO CONFERENCE!

(DEADLINE FOR TICKET PURCHASES ARE CLOSE OF BUSINESS WEDNESDAY, 12 FEB 2025. NO EXCEPTIONS!)

NOTES: A SMALL PROCESSING FEE OF \$3.60 WILL BE APPLIED FOR CREDIT CARD & PAYPAL INVOICE PAYMENTS. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THIS INCONVENIENCE

Jason Burns For Department Surgeon 2025-2026



Qualifying Campaign- Bosnia & Iraq
All State & All American District 14 CMDR
All State & All American Post 1192 CMDR
State Chaplain

My goal as your State Surgeon is to promote and put into effect health programs for the benefit of the membership and their families.

Programs I would like to put into effect are Monthly Support & Awareness Groups like: PTSD, MST, Suicide, Family ECT.

I would also like to partner up with Licensed Counselors to offer services to our membership and their families also. I would also like to have Faith Leaders to offer Spiritual Guidance.

I will also be working on setting up a new Surgeon network that will link up the Districts & Post Surgeons so they can send weekly reports.

I look forward to working with the Chaplains on the care of our membership and families that are in the hospital, long or short term care.

Also I will carry out what needs are called upon me by the Commander.

It has been an honor serving the membership of the Dept of Oklahoma over the past few years and I hope you will consider electing me to the office of State Surgeon to continue serving at the state level.



Dear VFW Members,

My name is Deric Duncan, and I am running for the position of VFW Department of Oklahoma Surgeon. Currently, I serve as the Department Inspector, MIA/POW Chair, OKC State Fair Chairman, Grant Committee Chair, and Building Committee Chair. Previously, I held the position of District 9 Commander.

I am running for this role because I believe there is much more we can achieve together. My primary goal is to reconnect with our veterans who are in VA homes, shut-ins, and those in hospitals, ensuring they feel part of our vibrant community. I believe in starting this work now, not waiting for election outcomes.

Additionally, I am committed to transparency within our department. It is vital for every officer to keep our membership informed, as you are the driving force behind this department. My aim is to refocus our efforts on how we can best serve you and the posts within Oklahoma.

Leadership is about service, not control. My phone and email are always open for your thoughts and concerns. Last year, I advocated for hiring more service personnel and bringing in grant writers. Although I didn't win the election, I utilized my position on the Council of Administration to push these initiatives forward, and I'm pleased to say they were approved.

I will continue to advocate for measures that benefit our membership and ensure your voices are heard. Together, we can create a stronger, more connected veteran community.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Deric E. Duncan

VOTE MARCUS KING



STATE CHAPLAIN

2025-2026

Ephesians 6: 10-20

PROVEN LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION TO SERVICE

★ VFW MEMBER SINCE 2018 ★

★ UNITED STATES ARMY SERVICE ★

- Active Duty: 1996-2004
 - South Korea (1999-2000)
 - Iraq (March-November 2003)

★ LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE ★

- **Post 382 Chaplain**- Serving since 2022
- **District 13 Chaplain**- Serving since 2023
- **Assistant State Chaplain**- 2024-2025

★ COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ★

- Active in Post and District community outreach events
- Supporting Department outreach efforts, including homeless veteran stand downs

★ ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP ★

- President/CEO of Point Man International Ministries - Serving since 2020
- Previous Roles: Outpost Leader and Secretary/Treasurer



RECONSARGE1975@ATT.NET



405.651.5509

Mike Farris For State Chaplain



Vietnam Veteran

Retired Army 1970-1976

Lifetime VFW Member since 12/1984

3 Year Trustee - VFW Post 7180

Ordained Minister - 24th July 2012 - Non Denominational

Currently assisting Post 7180 Chaplain

**Life Member of Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association
(Ch Chaplain 26 July 2014 - 22 July 2019)**

*I would like to help our homeless Veterans and continue my
service of our members who need assistance*



**Erica Traxler
for
Oklahoma National Councilmember
2026-2030
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

Erica Traxler was elected to Past State Commander on June 15, 2024, at the Oklahoma State Convention in Claremore, Oklahoma.

She served in the United States Army from 1999 to 2013, earning her eligibility by serving in Iraq in 2003. In recognition of her service, she received the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Gold Recruiter Badge with Three Sapphire Stars, Driver and Mechanic Badge, USA Recruiter Badge, Total Army Instructor Training Identifier, and the Master Resilience Trainer Identifier. She retired in 2013 while stationed at Fort Hood, Texas.

Erica joined the VFW in 2017 at the Fort Sill Post 5263 in Lawton, Oklahoma, where she maintains her Gold Legacy Life Membership. She has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District, and Department levels, culminating with her election to Junior Vice Commander in September 2021. At the state level she has served as the Student Veterans of America chairwoman 2020 to present, Citizenship Education Chair 2020 to present, Bylaws committee 2022 to 2024, District Commander and has served on multiple committees at the National Convention. Erica was elected to Oklahoma Grand Commander of the Cooties in June 2024 for the ensuing year as well as post 5263 Commander. She is also the OKVFW Riders Group resident/Chairwoman for 2024 and the VFW Riders Adjutant at the national level.

Erica received her master's degree in Clinical Mental Health and Rehabilitation Counseling in December 2022. She currently works for the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services and is working toward getting her license.

Erica is a life member of the Military order of the Cootie, at LMSFT Pup Tent #16 in Lawton, Oklahoma and a life member of the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

Erica, her husband Randy, and their daughters Makayla and Kaylee reside in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Department of Oklahoma Dashboard Reporting Form 2024-2025

District Dashboard Information

	Meeting 1	Meeting 2	Meeting 3
District Meeting Held (Y/N)*			

	State Convention 2024	Fal Fest 2024	Midwinter 2025
Department Meeting Attnded (Y/N)**			

	Post #
District Commander Post Visits	

	How Many?
Recruiting Events Held	

Post Dashboard Information

	Meeting 1	Meeting 2	Meeting 3
District Meeting Attended (Y/N)**			

	State Convention 2024	Fal Fest 2024	Midwinter 2025
Department Meeting Attnded (Y/N)**			

	National Home	Oklahoma VFW Foundation
Donations (Amount)		

	How Many?
Recruiting Events Held	

*To receive credit there must have been a quorum. (at least 1 delegate each from 50% of Posts in the District)

**To receive credit at least 1 delegate must have attended.

Reporting District or Post Number

Signature

District/Post Adjutant