

THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No one does more for Veterans
EVERY Veteran is a HERO

2021 National Publications Winner
Department Publication Bronze Award.

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FREE

PATRIOTS DAY & POW/MIA DAY



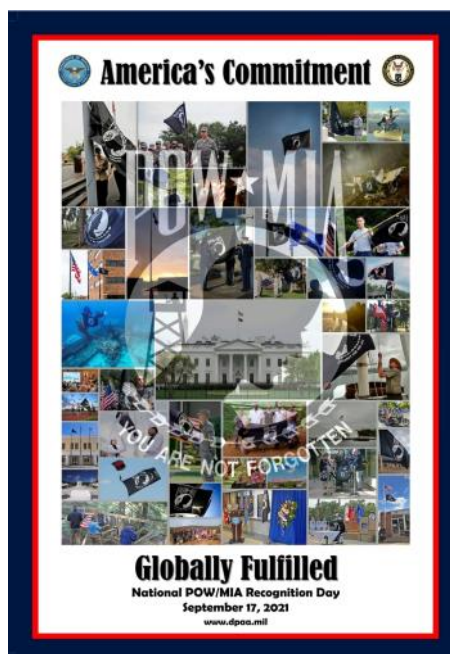
Patriot Day, holiday observed in the United States on September 11 to commemorate the lives of those who died in the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Virginia and those who perished when the hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in Pennsylvania.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

By a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress on Dec. 18, 2001, September 11 was designated as Patriot Day. The resolution calls for the president of the United States to issue a yearly proclamation requesting that all U.S. flags be flown at half-staff. Further, Americans are asked to honor the dead with a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 AM, Eastern Standard Time, the

time that the first airplane struck the World Trade Center, and to respect the ceremonies of remembrance when they are conducted.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

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



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COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings Comrades,

The 122d VFW National Convention in Kansas City, MO has wrapped up and although it was put together on very short notice, I believe those who joined would agree with me that it was a great experience. I would like to thank the Comrades of the DPA who were able to attend and they represented the Department very well. On behalf of the DPA, I would like to congratulate the new National leadership. Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic from Illinois is the National Commander in Chief, National SVC is Timothy Borland (Western Conference) from Arizona and the National JVC is Duane Sarmiento from New Jersey.

Comrades, I have been working with Chief Mihelcic for over two years and I am proud to be a part of his Class 122 Team!!! I am not grandstanding to say in my opinion he is the kind of leader the VFW needs right now. The National theme he has chosen for the 2021-22 term is "The Time is Now!" I am hoping all of our members and in particular our District and Post Commanders has or will read the National All American Plan which is on the DPA Website under Programs (third icon down). The Handout will provide valuable information to assist our Posts/Districts this year!

I would like to comment of a couple of areas I have been hearing from our Comrades prior to the National Convention. First in the partnership with a Veterans Service Organization. Chief Mihelcic understands the uniqueness of being in the Pacific Areas. What he is asking is for our Posts to partner with the American Legion, The Elks, The Masons, Veteran Motorcycle groups, The Scouts, etc to conduct at least two (2) community events. Most of our Posts have been doing this for years!! Second, the 10% increase of last year's CSR's. For example, if you Post conducted 100 CSR Reports for the 2020-21 term, your Post will be required to submit 110 to qualify in that area for All American. National will send out last year's figures to the Departments very soon so we can let the Posts know where they stand for this year.

Membership is very important to the new National Chief!!! However, he believes if we are visible in our communities, gaining new members will take care of itself. The two items I mentioned in the previous paragraph goes to the heart of what he is asking from our Posts. Again concerning the VSO's, we have been doing it for years only this term the Post will submit on the National Dashboard for credit.

Speaking of Membership, National will release the Life Membership numbers within the first few weeks in September and the DPA will know where each Post stands. Looking at the Membership numbers as of 30 June, each Post should be in very good position for a successful term. What I am hoping for is that each Post focus on getting the Programs completed and reported like VMS donation, VOD/PP/Teacher, Action Corp Weekly, reporting your Facebook page, Scouting, Adopt a Unit, etc so you can then concentrate on your membership. The General Order is published and on the DPA Website. Please look at it to contact the Point of Contacts for each Program if you any questions.

My vision for the year is to see each Post reach 100% plus one in Membership and complete all the required Programs to meet All American eligibility. IT CAN BE DONE!!! Then as the DPA we can rally in support of each Post to make All American!!! Districts, we don't want you to feel left out, last term two made All American...why can't we have seven this year?



Commander

Kevin Mitchell



COMMANDER'S CALL

School is back so it is VOD/Patriot's Pen/Teacher's Program time of the year. Hope our Posts has made contact with the Schools and will get some great entries for our Judges. At the Convention there were some changes voted on for the MOP and the Inspection Program will see some minor changes. For our Post Commanders/QM's, Chief Mihelcic would like thorough inspections conducted.

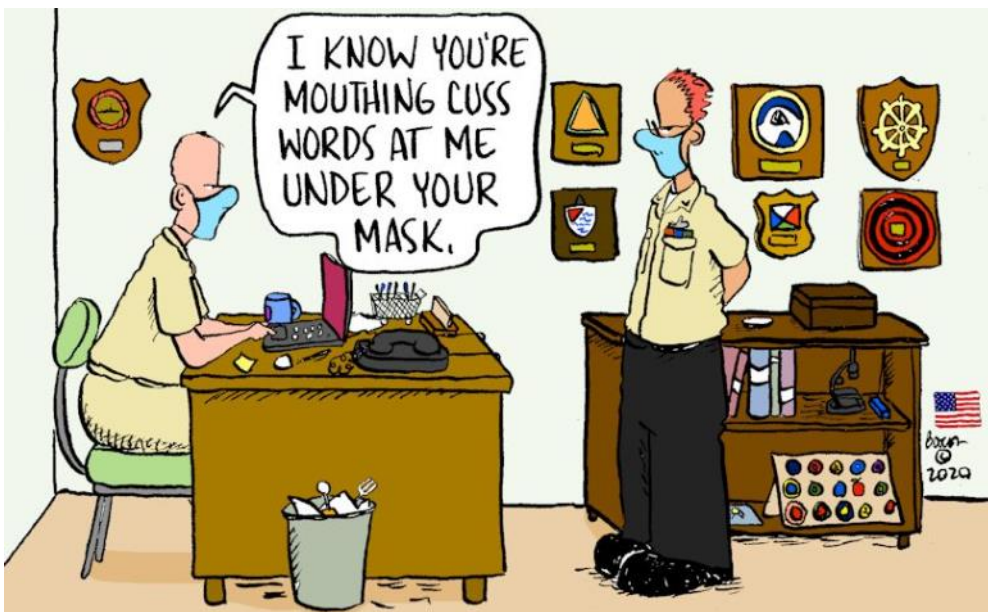
Comrades as you know we are still under a pandemic here in the DPA. The C of A is scheduled for December 3-5 in Barrio Barretto, Philippines. The members of Post 11447 is working hard arranging for our Midterm. We should have registration up this month on the DPA Website. I am encouraging Comrades to sign up if you are planning to attend and if we are under the same conditions, a decision would be made by the end of October or early November if we unfortunately will need to cancel. Plan B would be a Virtual Midterm...but let's hope for the best, first!!!

Post Commanders, please encourage your members to go to our DPA Website at vfwpacific.org and the DPA Facebook Page for important information and updates.

In closing, let's continue to pray for our Comrade Brothers and Sisters who lost their lives or were seriously injured in Afghanistan. We also pray for the safe return of our citizens and the Afghanistan translators who supported our mission that we promised their safety in the event of a tragic situation. Also let's remember to take care of ourselves, our families, and each other. I wish you all the very best and god bless America!!! I love you all!!!

In Comradeship and Service,

Kevin E. Mitchell
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
EVERY Veteran is a HERO
Remembering our DPA Vietnam Veterans Past and Present



Department of Pacific Areas

Commander

Kevin Mitchell



VETERANS UNSETTLED BY AFGHANISTAN NEWS



Advocates are reminding veterans that help is available if headlines about the disastrous end of the [U.S mission in Afghanistan](#) and the looming [20th anniversary of September 11](#) are triggering anxiety and mental health issues.

“Veterans should be on the lookout for red flags if news of [Afghanistan](#) starts changing behavior,” Dr. Sonya Norman, director of the Department of Veterans Affairs’ PTSD Consultation Program, said in a statement late last week. “These include isolating, using alcohol and drugs or any increase in unhealthy behaviors compared to normal.”

Even before the collapse of the Afghan government over the weekend, VA officials had been preparing for increased requests for mental health care and trauma assistance amid the ongoing U.S. military withdrawal from the country. Health officials said they have already seen an uptick in the number of veterans seeking help, and expected even more demand “as [veterans] come to terms with their service and as the Afghanistan withdrawal comes to completion.”

About 1.9 million post-9/11 veterans are currently enrolled in health care with the department. A 2014 study by department officials found that nearly 16 percent of all veterans who deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan screened positive for post-traumatic stress.

Both VA and Defense Department officials in recent years have worked to eliminate the stigmas surrounding mental health care, noting that PTSD and related issues can be handled if individuals acknowledge they are facing personal difficulties.

The department has been running a [series on mental health issues](#) on its official blog, including a feature on lessons learned from the aftermath of the Vietnam War for veterans struggling with unresolved medical issues.

The Veteran Crisis Line is also available around-the-clock at 1-800-273-8255 (veterans should select option 1 for a VA staffer.) Veterans, troops or their family members can also text 838255 or visit [VeteransCrisisLine.net](#) for assistance.

Numerous lawmakers and congressional committees shared the crisis line number on social media on Monday, thanking veterans for their service and letting them know help is available.

Veterans service organizations are also stepping up their outreach efforts in light of the unsettling news overseas.

In a statement Monday, officials from [Wounded Warrior Project](#) noted that “developments in Afghanistan may bring back difficult memories for warriors and their families.” The group urged anyone needing assistance to contact their counselors at 888-997-2586 or through the organization’s web site.

Officials from [Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America](#) said veterans who served in the recent wars should remember that their service “was important and mattered.” The organization’s Quick Reaction Force for help is available online and at 855-917-274.

In a statement, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said that all Americans should remember the debt owed to veterans for their service.

“They made our world infinitely safer,” he said. “Their service did not come without sacrifice as some carry physical and emotional wounds. We must ensure they get the world-class care they’ve earned and deserve.” [Read More Here](#) [VA Mental Health Link](#)



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES



"a date which will live in infamy"



Armistice Day is commemorated every year on 11 November to mark the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany at Compiègne, France at 5:45 am for the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I, which took effect at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Now known as Veterans Day

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, also referred to as Pearl Harbor Day, is observed annually in the United States on December 7, to remember and honor the 2,403 US citizens killed in the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941 leading to the United States declaring war on Japan the following day thus entering World War II.

MILITARY
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SOURCE

**ONE SOURCE CONNECTING YOU
TO YOUR BEST MILLIFE.**

[Website](#)

[Events and Observances](#)

In the SPOTLIGHT

In the VFW, we know our veterans are #StillServing and rising to meet the challenges of this uncertain time. We want you to share your stories and maybe even inspire others across our Department to do the same. Click here to tell us your story. pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org



Certificate of Achievement
John Bowers



Certificate of Achievement
Marty Roberts



Certificate of Achievement
Phillip Zoboblsh



New post members Essien, Gareau, Rasmussen and Warkulwiz of Post 9723 Okinawa, Japan



Adrian Romero, A.J. Rasmussen



Adrian Romero, A.J. Rasmussen

VFW Post 9723
Buddy Poppy
Events 14/15
August 2021
Camp Foster
Commissary
Okinawa Japan



Farewell Luncheon Chief John Chacon

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

In the SPOTLIGHT

22 Until None: Operation Mercury SUNDAY, 22 AUGUST 2021

VFW Post 1054 hosted a 5k on Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) on behalf of 22 Until None's first annual "Operation Mercury". This hike is a walk/ruck march in an effort to raise awareness of combat veteran suicide and homelessness. This hike took place simultaneously in over 40 locations, 8 countries, and 4 continents. We had the support of base Chaplain Phelps who talked about services offered as well as our BSA Troop 13 who were our road guards.

One of our Post Members provided the safety equipment including vests, lights and cones to mark the path. If you have never heard of 22 Until None, they offer similar services to the VFW by: offering emergency financial assistance, help with VA benefits, help transitioning, advocacy, wellness services, and camaraderie. Look for more opportunities to partner with this organization on Facebook. https://www.facebook.com/22UntilNone/?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDo2NzcwOTkxMDkwNjk2MTRfNjg0NDIzMzE4MzQ3MTkz
Website: <https://www.22untilnone.org/>



Ending Veteran Suicide One Step at a Time



FACT
8,030 VETERANS
COMMIT SUICIDE A YEAR



FACT
200% MORE LIKELY TO
COMMIT SUICIDE AFTER
MILITARY SERVICE



FACT
1 IN 5
SUICIDE DEATHS IS A VETERAN

In the SPOTLIGHT



Representing the DPA at the VFW National Convention (from left to right), DPA Surgeon Fajardo, DPA JVC Fores, DPA Inspector Moses, DPA CDR Mitchell, National Council/COS Callaghan, DPA Adj/QM Watson, and Post 12130 CDR Osbourn-Burleson



DPA CDR Mitchell presents a Coin remembering our DPA Vietnam Veterans to National Council/COS and Vietnam Veteran Pete Callaghan



DPA CDR Mitchell had a nice visit with National Legislative Member and Department Legislative Chairman Jonathan Brazee in Colorado Springs, CO before heading home to Asia

In the **SPOTLIGHT**

VFW Post 12146 paid final respects to a valued friend and comrade, David L. Landis (USMC 1968-1971). Dave served as Combat Engineer with two years and four months in Vietnam, the majority of this time spent with the 9th Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

Dave was an active member of Post 12146. A Gold Legacy Life Member, he was currently serving in the role of Post Trustee. He participated in multiple Community Service events; he especially enjoyed donating to and visiting Anne's Home for Abandoned and Disadvantaged Children. Finally, he coordinated a weekly informal gathering of veterans dubbed "Wacky Wednesday."



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

By the time this edition goes to print, we should all have our Life Members official count for 2021-2022. Membership growth is always a high priority, and chasing the numbers is what happens year after year. With the end of last year's LM stipend we increased the Departments LMs a lot. Each Post will see how much that helped your Post and hopefully motivates us all to push the LM program. Some Posts already do a stipend for new members and it works to benefit the Post in the long run.

The new National Commander is in place so the New requirements for All American are officially in play. I will start posting All State and All American stats in the Nov/Dec Pacific Times. You know what we all need to do. None of this is new to most of us. Set your goals and check them off. I know you can reach them after last year's strong finish. So good luck to all of you.

The Commander is dedicating his year to the Veterans of the Vietnam War. So I thought I would add some pics. If you have pics you would like added from your tour or tours in Vietnam feel free to send them to me with a note/description and I will get it put in the PT.

Warren "Max" Maxson
Senior Vice Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
EVERY Veteran is a HERO



Senior Vice Commander

Warren "Max" Maxson



**ALLSTATE
STATUS
Posts &
Districts**

VEHICLES OF THE VIETNAM WAR



JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Each year all our Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts must fulfill various duties in order to complete our mission. Community Activities is one of the major programs on how we are rated in everything that we do as Posts, Districts and Department by VFW National Leadership and it does take time and energy to do this report.

Every year your Post sponsors Junior High and High School students in an essay scholarship program or straight scholarship Grants and awards are awarded at each Post, District, Department and at National levels and with these VFW Programs we are all rated on how we do business.

We have Service Officers that file claims for veterans in order for them to receive the entitlements and benefits they earned. We perform military funerals that provide comfort to the bereaved families. We have a relief fund that we use to aide needy veterans and this time of Covid-19 we provide medical supplies to various Hospitals or Community Clinics. Conducted numerous Food Drives to some needy Indigent Families in our Communities. There are many other things we do for the community and Veterans.

This is where we need your help, if you or your Family member do a Community Service whether it be Americanism, Loyalty or providing monetary donation to a local family ensure to write it down and inform your Junior Vice Commander or Post Officers and have him or her input it into your CSR program. VFW National Leadership has recently increased the requirement on CSR reporting to 10% and don't be alarmed by it because it is only a small portion on what we all do in our reporting and we all know that due to Covid-19 we are only limited on what we do specially being on lock downs or strict travel restrictions but we just need to carry on and do what we can in order to fulfill our mission at hand. In addition, we will be migrating into a new VFW Department Dashboard and which you can easily track everything what we do and be able to see all our accomplishments in a quick easy to read Dashboard whether it be CSR reports, National Home for Children, VOD/PP Entries, VMS or All State/American Dashboard etc. We anticipate that the new Dashboard will be in effect by 1 October 2021 and I will be providing more information regarding this migration as we progress on and if you have any questions or concerns please let me know there will be Tutorials to guide you all. I look forward in working and serving with you all in any way I can. Yours In Comradeship and Service!

Alexander B. Fores
Junior Vice Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
EVERY Veteran is a HERO



Junior Vice Commander

Alex Fores

VFW ELECTS MATTHEW M. “FRITZ” MIHELICIC

VFW Elects Matthew M. “Fritz” Mihelcic as New National Commander

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Mathew M. “Fritz” Mihelcic, of Sparta, Illinois, was elected today 3 August 2021 as the new national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, a congressionally-chartered veterans service organization comprised of 1.5 million eligible veterans and military service members from all six branches of the armed forces.

“Comrades, Auxiliary members, family and friends, thank you for letting me share a few moments with you as I begin this great journey as your VFW Commander-in-Chief as we shake off the past and rise again to the challenge of this next year,” said Mihelcic.

Mihelcic’s election as the VFW’s 113th Commander-in-Chief occurred at the conclusion of the organization’s 122nd national convention in Kansas City, Missouri. The gathering was a much-welcomed event following a year without a



‘The time is now!’ for the organization to move forward’

national convention due to the pandemic restrictions. During his acceptance speech, Mihelcic commended the remarkable community service of VFW members during the COVID crisis.

“If there are those that can do it in the Dark Ages, during the plague of the modern era, think of what we can all do, working together, in the coming Renaissance,” said Mihelcic. “When it comes to taking action in spite of our circumstance, I say ‘The Time Is Now!’”

VFW membership eligibility requires honorable service in a war or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters. Mihelcic served in the U.S. Air Force Air National Guard from 1989 to 1999 with the 131st Tactical Fighter Wing. He earned his VFW eligibility when he was activated for federal service in Desert Shield and Desert Storm as a security policeman. In recognition of his service and contributions during deployment, he received many awards and decorations, to include the Air Force Achievement Medal and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with “V” device.

He joined the VFW at Post 2698 in Sparta, Illinois, in 1991 and maintains a Gold Legacy Life membership. Over the years, Mihelcic has held many vital leadership positions at the local, state and national levels. He served as judge advocate for the Department of Illinois from 1999 to 2011, the Department of Illinois commander from 2013 to 2014, in which he achieved All-American status, multiple terms as the national parliamentarian, and served four separate terms as national judge advocate general.

“It matters not what war or conflict you were in, what branch, or where you were deployed. If you served and are eligible we want you to be part of us. Everyone wants to be part of something bigger than themselves. The VFW offers you that,” said Mihelcic.

[Watch](#) or [read](#) Mihelcic’s acceptance speech.

2021-22 Dedicated to our DPA



Vietnam Veterans Past and Present



VFW KEN Chapman Post 12074 is proud to share a piece of history on one of our charter members, our namesake, and a true Vietnam Veteran Hero, WO1 Kenneth Robert Chapman. Kenneth Robert Chapman was born on 17 August 1939. After graduation from high school, he served for eight years as an enlisted soldier, serving overseas in France and Germany. Chapman volunteered for helicopter training, and upon graduation from flight school, was appointed as a Warrant Officer. He served 15 months flying helicopters in Vietnam in the First Cavalry Division.

WO1 Ken Chapman was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions on 12 October 1965 during Operation SHINY BAYONET (10-14 October 1965). The First Cavalry Division official history of the Vietnam War described the operation as follows:

“On 10 October 1965, in Operation SHINY BAYONET, the First Team initiated their first brigade-size airmobile action against elements of the NVA 325th Infantry (Song Lo) Division located in the Soui Ca River Valley about 275 miles northeast of Saigon, near An Khe in Binh Dinh Province. Special agents and ARVN sources had located the base camp of two battalions of the Viet Cong 2nd Main Force Regiment.

Operation SHINY BAYONET called for the ARVN 22nd Division to make initial contact and drive the VC toward the elements of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division who were deployed as a blocking force.”¹ Later that day, a CBS news crew flew into the battle zone on a medical evacuation helicopter, which was shot down on approach. A young reporter named Morley Safer filed the video report called *Baptism of Fire*,² which shows the challenges of evacuating the first casualties that 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment took on the opening day of Operation SHINY BAYONET.

For More on WO1 Chapman click on the following link:

<https://vfw12074.org/uploads/Documents/Newkirk and Chapman Bio Pages/PostHistoryChapmanFinalEdit-1.pdf>

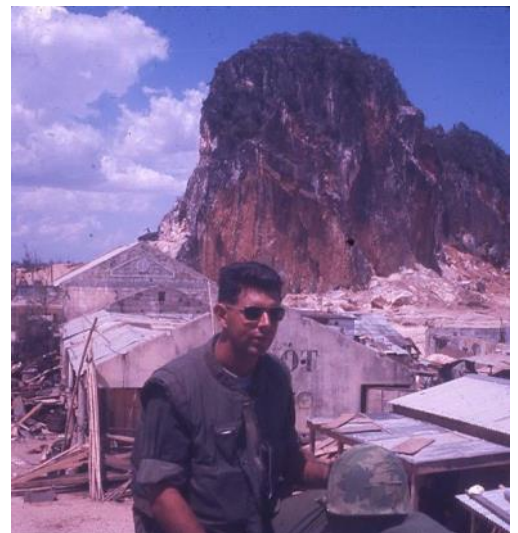
¹ 1st Cavalry Division History, Vietnam War, 1965-1972, http://www.firstteam.us/tableaux/chapt_08/, on 14 December 2020

² <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/baptism-of-fire>



S/Sgt William Edward Stephen
COTTRELL
United States Marine
Corps **Grunt** (64' - 70')
Photos taken near Marble Mountain
while
attached to MAG 16 (Marine Air
Group) in 66'

Semper Fi,
Stephen
VFW Post 11575 Phnom Penh,
Cambodia



2021-22 Dedicated to our DPA



Vietnam Veterans Past and Present



Larry Chambers - L Co 75th Rangers - 101st ABN (LRRP's) 1968-69
VFW Post 11575 Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Top photo: Sgt E-5 Andrew Richards manning a PRC radio/telephone somewhere in the VN bush served as forward observer for A Co. 3/506th Inf. Reg., 101st ABN Div.

Second photo: Spc-4 Andrew Richards in battalion rear of Alpha Co., 3rd Batt., 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Phu Bai, RVN.

Third Photo: PFC Andrew Richards, jump school, Fort Benning, NC., Sept. 1969.

Last photo: Sgt E-5 Andrew Richards guiding in his last Huey ride with groovy grape, last day in the bush, April 1971.



All photos taken between June, 1970 and April, 1971. Served with Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Airborne/Airmobile).

Cheers, Airborne Andy VFW Post 11575 Phnom Penh, Cambodia

2021-22 Dedicated to our DPA



Vietnam Veterans Past and Present



Walk area in the middle of the 1882nd Communications Squadron hooch area.
A1C Webber going to chow with tray, cup, knife, and fork, on a string. (1966)
(Photo courtesy of Chuck Adkins, USAF, 1882nd Communications Squadron)

Rhett Webber Post 9892 La Union, Philippines

2021-22 Dedicated to our DPA



Vietnam Veterans Past and Present



US Army Alex Roese

Arrived to Vietnam on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 1968

After 1 year in country, he extended until 7 July 1970.

He was stationed at Camp Radcliff, An Khe in the central highlands.

His MOS was 72B-Teletypewriter Operator

He arrived as a E-3 (PFC) and left Vietnam as a E-5 (Sergeant)

His current email is: alexroese@usa.net

Comrade Roese is also a Charter & Past Post Commander of Post 12130, Cebu. He currently serves as the Post SVC for 2021-2022.



Thanks for your focus on Vietnam Vets -- we're fading fast! I included a photo of me in Vietnam, on the Hai Van Pass, heading into Danang, off to the right in the photo. I was in the US Army (Army Security Agency) and served as a Vietnamese interpreter in VN from July 1963 to December 1964. In this photo, we were on a run from Phu Bai to Danang.

Jim Ascencio, District 4, US Army
Post 9957 Taipei, Taiwan

<https://www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war/vietnam-war-history> (Vietnam War History)

<https://www.vvmf.org/timeline/> (Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Timeline)

<https://vfwpacific.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=81821> (Find a Name on the Wall)

DPA ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

All Quartermasters should have received the Bonds for the 2021-2022 year. If you have not gotten yours, please send me an email. Review the bond to ensure that the information is correct. Let me know if anything needs to be corrected.

When ordering Buddy Poppy's please use the order form from the Department website. This will ensure that I have the proper information to order them for you.

I still have not received General Orders from many of the Posts. Once you have them, forward it to me.

As a reminder, the requirement for All State and All American are on the Department website. Use this as your first go to for questions for either Program. If you have any questions after that I would be happy to clear things up or point you to the proper place to get an answer.

Any Adjutant or Quartermaster that has any questions do not hesitate to send me an email. I will do my best to help you out.

Continue to be safe and ensure you wash your hands as the COVID doesn't seem to be going anywhere soon.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson
Adjutant/Quartermaster

Only true music fans will get it.



Department of Pacific Areas

Adjutant / Quartermaster

Shawn Watson

VIETNAM WAR STORIES

A **long-range reconnaissance patrol**, or **LRRP** (pronounced "lurp"), is a small, well-armed [reconnaissance](#) team that [patrols](#) deep in enemy-held territory.

In December 1965, the 1st Brigade, [101st Airborne Division](#), formed a LRRP platoon, and by April 1966, the [1st Infantry Division](#), [25th Infantry Division](#) and [each of the four Battalions of the 173rd Airborne Brigade](#) formed LRRP units as well.^{[21][24]} On 8 July 1966, General [William Westmoreland](#) authorized the formation of a (LRRP) unit in each infantry brigade or division in Vietnam. By 1967 formal LRRP companies were organized, most having three platoons, each with five six-man teams equipped with VHF/FM AN/PRC-25 radios. LRRP training was notoriously rigorous and team leaders were often graduates of the U.S. Army's 5th Special Forces [Recondo School](#) in Nha Trang, Vietnam.^{[1][25]}



April 1968. LRP at LZ Stud near Khe Sanh combat base, Vietnam.

[Tiger Force](#) was the nickname of an infamous long-range reconnaissance patrol unit^[26] of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), [327th Infantry Regiment](#), 1st Brigade (Separate), [101st Airborne Division](#), which fought in the [Vietnam War](#), and was responsible for counterinsurgency operations against the [North Vietnamese Army](#) and [Viet Cong](#).^[27] In the course of their duty, they were found responsible for the deaths of hundreds of non-combatant civilians who were marked as "enemy KIA". These high bodycounts were recognized and encouraged by military officials, who were unaware of or simply didn't care about the atrocities committed by the unit, which included the abuse of POWs, the mutilation of dead soldiers and civilians, sexual abuse, destruction of property and the planting of weapons on deceased civilians. Their commander Col. Morse ordered troops to rack up a body count of 327 casualties in order to match the battalion's infantry designation, 327th; by the end of the campaign soldiers were congratulated for their 1000th kill.^[28]

The platoon-sized unit, approximately 45 [paratroopers](#), was founded by Colonel [David Hackworth](#) in November 1965 to "outguerrilla the guerrillas".^[29] Tiger Force (Recon) 1/327th was a highly decorated small unit in Vietnam, and paid for its reputation with heavy casualties.^[30] In October 1968, Tiger Force's parent battalion was awarded the [Presidential Unit Citation](#) by President [Lyndon B. Johnson](#), which included a mention of Tiger Force's service at [Đắk Tô](#) in June 1966.^[31]

Since satellite communications were a thing of the future, one of the most daring [long-range penetration](#) operations of the war was launched by members of [Company E, 52nd Infantry \(LRP\)](#) of the [1st Air Cavalry Division](#), against the [North Vietnamese Army](#) when they seized "[Signal Hill](#)" the name attributed to the peak of [Dong Re Lao Mountain](#), a densely forested 4,879-foot mountain, midway in [A Shau Valley](#), so its 1st and 3rd Brigades, who would be fighting behind a wall of mountains, could communicate with Camp Evans near the coast or with approaching aircraft.^[32]

The US Marine Corps also performed long-range reconnaissance missions typically assigned to Marine Recon, especially [Force Recon](#) at the corps-level (i.e., [Marine Expeditionary Force](#) (MEF)) level, as opposed to the Battalion Recon units answering to battalion commanders. Marine Recon teams typically were twice as large as Army LRRPs and were more heavily armed, however, sacrificing a degree of stealth. In addition, the Marines did not employ indigenous Montagnards as front and rear scouts as Army LRRPs and Special Forces teams did which proved invaluable in confusing the enemy if contact was made.^{[1][33]} The tactical employment of LRRPs was later evaluated to be generally used far too dangerously by commanders, who were pleased by the kill ratios of LRRPs teams (reported as high as 400 enemy troops for every LRRP killed). Writes one commentator: "During the course of the war Lurps conducted around 23,000 long-range patrols, of this amount two-thirds resulted in enemy sightings." LRRPs also accounted for approximately 10,000 enemy KIA through ambushes, air strikes, and artillery.

VIETNAM WAR STORIES

In February 1969, all US Army LRRP units were folded into the newly formed 75th Infantry Regiment (Ranger), a predecessor of the [75th Ranger Regiment](#), bringing back operational Ranger units for the first time since the Korean War. The Army had inactivated Ranger units after Korea, but kept [Ranger School](#), on the premise that spreading Ranger School graduates throughout the Army would improve overall performance. The initial Ranger companies formed in 1969 were: "A" V Corps, Fort Hood, Texas; "B" VII Corps, Fort Lewis, Washington; "C" I Field Force, Vietnam; "D" II Field Force, Vietnam; "E" 9th Infantry Division, Vietnam; "F" 25th Infantry Division, Vietnam; "G" 23d Infantry Division, Vietnam; "H" 1st Cavalry Division, Vietnam; "I" 1st Infantry Division, Vietnam; "K" 4th Infantry Division, Vietnam; "L" 101st Airborne Division, Vietnam; "M" 199th Light Infantry Brigade, Vietnam; "N" 173d Airborne Brigade, Vietnam; "O" 3d Brigade, 82d Airborne Division, Vietnam; and "P" 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Vietnam. ^{[34][1]} Following its mobilization for Vietnam service, Company D (LRP), 151st Infantry of the Indiana Army National Guard completed its tour in Vietnam and, as it departed, Company D (Ranger), 75th Infantry was raised to replace it. Company F (LRP), 425th Infantry of the Michigan Army National Guard was not mobilized or sent to Vietnam. As National Guard units, both D-151st and F-425th retained their regimental designations and were not reflagged as companies of the 75th Infantry.



July 1968. Two 1st Cavalry Division LRP teams, Quang Tri, Vietnam.

As the Vietnam War matured, [I Field Force](#) LRRPs widened their area of operation to include I Corps and II Corps, and [II Field Force](#) LRRPs respectively included III Corps and IV Corps. ^[35]

During the War on Terror, Long Range Recon (LRS-D or Long Range Surveillance Detachments) were used to conduct high value target and small kill team operations deep in hostile territory. LRS-D units were inactivated in 2017 and personnel were absorbed into R&S (Recon and Surveillance) Teams.

The legacy of LRRP units later continued with the U.S. Army's [Long Range Surveillance](#) (both [detachments](#) and [companies](#)), which have been dropped from the force structure and inactivated, and [Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition](#) squadrons.



MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Roger Donlon: The first Medal of Honor recipient of the Vietnam War

In the early hours of the 6th July 1964, Captain Roger Donlon heroically led the defense of the Special Forces camp at Nam Dong against a reinforced Battalion of Viet Cong. In so doing, he became not only the first recipient of the Medal of Honor of the Vietnam War, but also the first Special Forces recipient of America's highest award for bravery.

Donlon was sent to Vietnam in May 1964 as commander of Special Forces Detachment A-726. Based in Nam Dong, in the southwest of Thua Thien province (I Corps), his 12-man team was tasked with advising and training two CIDG strike force companies (311 men).

At 2.26am on 6th July the Viet Cong launched a surprise attack, striking the Command Post with a barrage of mortar rounds fired on the camp. During the ensuing five-hour battle Donlon showed immense courage, risking his own life to help the wounded. He single-handedly killed a three-man sapper team at the front gate and despite sustaining a severe stomach wound, covered the withdrawal of a mortar team. Whilst valiantly attempting to drag his wounded team sergeant, Gabriel "Pop" Alamo, out of danger an exploding mortar round struck him in the shoulder and killed his comrade. Rather than accept first aid Donlon continued to move around the camp, encouraging his troops and managing to drag much needed supplies of ammunition to gun positions. Despite being outnumbered three-to-one Donlon's team managed to hold the Nam Dong camp, but the five hours of relentless fighting took the lives of fifty-five of its defenders and left another sixty-five wounded. Among those killed were two Americans and AATTV advisor WO2 Kevin Conway, Australia's first combat death of the Vietnam War.

For his extraordinary heroism Captain Donlon was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon Johnson at The White House on 5th December 1964. Team members Sgt. Gabriel Alamo and Sp4 Jon Houston were both posthumously awarded The Distinguished Service Cross.

In March 1967 Donlon was promoted to Major before being assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea, where he commanded the Advanced Combat Training Academy that trained NCOs in scouting and patrolling techniques. He returned to South Vietnam for a second tour in January 1972 as a District Senior Advisor in Kien Hoa Province. However, after another mortar attack he was evacuated with a detached retina, but returned to active service in Thailand

[#VietnamWarStories](#) [#vietnamveteran](#)

[#vietnamwarfootageandstories](#) [#VietnamWar](#) [#MedalofHonor](#) [#vietnamvet](#) [#VietnamVets](#) [#lestweforget](#) [#Salute-AndRespect](#)

Article sourced from: www.vietnamgear.com please use reference link for additional information.



IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Hello Comrades,

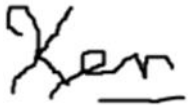
Hope this finds you and your family well and keeping safe as the pandemic continues to affect our region.

I know Commander Kevin and the “**EVERY Veteran is a HERO**” team is off to a great start and the Department will have an outstanding year.

The MEMSTATS should be updated soon so you will be able to see where your post and district stand, and what is necessary to achieve 100% + in membership.

Best of luck and have a great term.

Yours in comradeship and service to veterans,

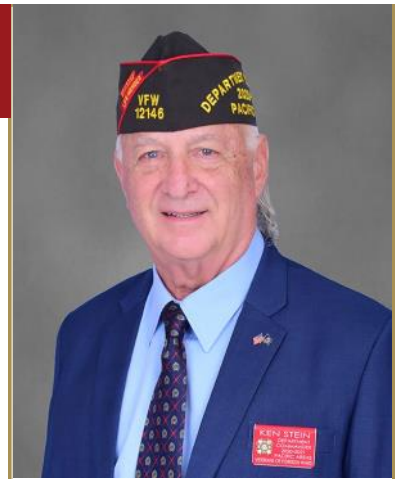


Kenneth A. Stein

IPDC

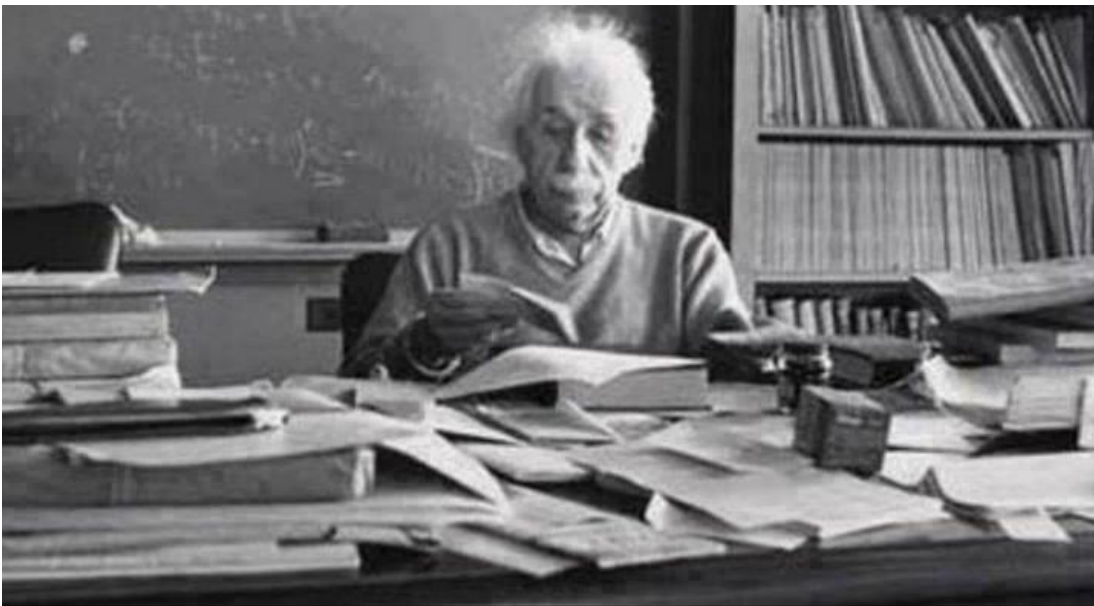
EVERY Veteran is a HERO

“Remembering our great Vietnam Veterans Past and Present”



Immediate Past DPA CDR

Ken Stein



“If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?”

— Albert Einstein

CHIEF OF STAFF

Comrades,

In this edition I'd like to discuss the efforts to improve the VA's Foreign Medical Program. On the Congressional side, US Congress Representative and member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan has appointed an attorney on his staff, Sarah Winston, whose focus is on veterans' issues, to investigate the problems plaguing veterans living overseas with the FMP.

The US House has a subcommittee of staffers dedicated to solving problems faced by veterans. Sarah has made them aware of the many complaints that veterans living in Asia have when dealing with Foreign Medical Program reimbursements, timeliness of response, data entry, and their inability to make direct deposits into veterans' bank accounts.

When dealing with a large bureaucracy like the VA, change will happen slowly if it happens at all. That is why I think we need to use every avenue available to pressure the VA. Ryan Gallucci, the VFW's National Service Officer Director, has agreed that it would be helpful to visit the FMP's Headquarters in Denver to explain to them directly the basics our complaints. But he has asked me to provide him with specifics – names, dates (month and year), and details of the FMP's poor performance.

So this is where I need your help. I am asking District Commanders and Post Commanders to reach out to your members to email me the details of their dealings with the FMP and to document the terrible service they received from that program. The more specific examples of FMP's shortcomings we have, the more likely our complaints will not fall on deaf ears.

I am aware of the institutional problems with FMP. For example, if a veteran can get a monthly disability payments directly deposited from the VA, why can't that same vet receive a medical reimbursement directly deposited? It is the other deficiencies that we need specific examples of. Waiting 16 months for a reimbursement; overseas banks won't cash VA checks; prescribed medications being approved for reimbursement one time, and the same medication disapproved the next time; hospitals and clinics not accepting FMP preapproval because of the long wait for payment; these are examples of things I would like to overwhelm the FMP director with. The more the better!

I realize that this publication does not have a wide readership. That's why it is important for VFW leaders at every level to encourage their members with VA rated disabilities to document the problems they have with FMP. It is likely the only way we will get them to change for the better. Vets with complaints can email me directly at ncmdpa@vfwpacific.org or pcallaghan1@gmail.com.

I will compile every complaint and send a report to the VFW leadership as well as the US House Committee on Veterans Affairs. If we want change for the better, it is up to us to make it happen.

Yours in Comradeship,

Pete Callaghan, CoS, NCM



Chief of Staff

Peter Callaghan



THE LIGHTER SIDE

A sweet grandmother telephoned St. Joseph's Hospital. She timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?"

The operator said, "I'll be glad to help, dear. What's the name and room number of the patient?"

The grandmother in her weak, tremulous voice said, Norma Findlay, Room 302."

The operator replied, "Let me put you on hold while I check with the nurse's station for that room."

After a few minutes, the operator returned to the phone and said, "I have good news. Her nurse just told me that Norma is doing well. Her

blood pressure is fine; her blood work just came back normal and her

Physician, Dr. Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged tomorrow."

The grandmother said, "Thank you. That's wonderful. I was so worried. God bless you for the good News."

The operator replied, "You're more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?"

The grandmother said, "No, I'm Norma Findlay in Room 302. No one tells me shit."



Jim, who was late to everything, was drafted. Sure enough, in boot camp, he was last in line to get a rifle.

When it was his turn, the quartermaster said, "I'm sorry but we're all out of rifles." Jim said, "How can I do the drills then?" The quartermaster replied, "Take this stick and when it's time to shoot, yell 'Bangety Bang Bang!' Go get a bayonet on it and maybe it'll look better." But, again, Jim was last in line. The quartermaster tells Jim, "I'm sorry but now we're all out of bayonets. Tie this banana on the end of your stick and when you're doing drills, yell 'Stabety Stab Stab!'"

It goes well, but after just a couple weeks of training Jim finds himself in the actual war! He's on the front lines, and he doesn't know what he's going to do. But then an enemy soldier jumps out in front of him, and his training

takes over. He points his stick and yells, "Bangety Bang Bang!" The soldier falls down dead. Another rushes him from the back. Jim twists around and yells "Stabety Stab Stab!" and that soldier also falls down dead. "Maybe that quartermaster was a wizard", Jim thinks as he takes down enemy soldiers right and left. "Bangety Bang Bang!" "Stabety Stab Stab!"

But then a very burly soldier steps in front of Jim. "Bangety Bang Bang!", he yells. Nothing happens. The soldier keeps coming. "Stabety Stab Stab!", he tries. Again the soldier keeps coming. "Bangety Bang Bang!" Stabety Stab Stab! Bangety Bang Bang!" Stabety Stab Stab!" Nothing fazes the soldier as he sloooooowly pushes Jim over, and tramples him to death. The enemy soldier looking down at Jim says in a very, very deep voice, "Tankety Tank Tank".



JUDGE ADVOCATE

National Bylaws and Resolutions: Following the 122nd National Convention, I sent all District Commanders an overview of the approved amendments and resolutions. In addition, they have been posted on the DPA website. If you would like additional information, the final results for all of the Proposed Bylaws, MOP and Ritual Amendments and All Resolutions can be reviewed here: <https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/national-convention-bylaws>

I would also like to say a few words about **VFW Membership**. As members of the armed forces, we all have had various assignment around the world and as you all know, your membership in the VFW is based on honorable service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force or Coast Guard performed by officers or enlisted personnel who have served in any foreign war, insurrection, or expedition, which service is recognized by the award of a campaign or service medal of the United States, or who serve in Korea or who earned hostile fire of imminent danger pay.

Proof of eligibility for membership rests with the applicant. The post is then responsible for assuring the eligibility of every member accepted to membership. This includes members transferring from another post or from members at large.

The most common document used to provide this proof is your DD-214 Certificate of Discharge. The post is not required to maintain a copy of the documents used to provide proof of service. However, should you aspire to serve as your post commander, or the CDR, SVC or JVC, in your district or the department you must once again submit proof of eligibility. These documents are then reviewed by the commander, adjutant, etc. to validate your eligibility. If there are any questions concerning your eligibility, your eligibility can be challenged IAW Sec. 108.

Today our active-duty military and those who recently were discharged, can access their military service records online. Several years ago, this was not the case. For most of us when discharge time rolled around ensuring that our discharge papers contained all the necessary information was the last thing on our mind and quite often, some important information or award was overlooked and mistakenly omitted. Unfortunately, many of us realized later on that this information was needed to provide proof of eligibility for the VFW or perhaps to support a VA Claim.

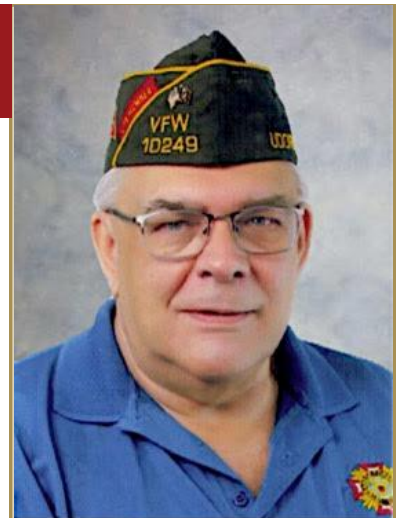
Having your DD-214 amended is possible but it takes time and once again the burden of proof rests with you. Just because you have a set of orders does not prove you were actually deployed. You can request a copy of your military records (both medical and personnel files) thru the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) using the Standard Form SF 180 and takes approximately 6 months.

Please review your personal files to ensure they contain the necessary information needed to satisfy eligibility requirement and/or support your claim with the VA.

YIC

Bert Marohl

DPA JA



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl

DPA SURGEON

Comrades,

The COVID-19 pandemic is no laughing matter. Many of our loved ones succumbed to the virus. Even though precautionary measures put in place as getting vaccinated, social distancing, and wearing masks, people continued to ignore these measures. Nowadays, the pandemic continues a downward trend as the new strains of the COVID-19 variant such as delta is sweeping across the nation.

Check out these websites for more information

CDC: COVID-19 Information

[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/about-covid-19.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/about-covid-19.html)

CDC: COVID-19 Variants

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variants.html>

WHO: World Health Organization

<https://www.who.int/en/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants/>

If you any questions regarding the following information email me (surgdpa@vfwpacific.org).

Stay safe.

Yours In Comradeship,
Mariano Fajardo



Surgeon

Mariano Fajardo

NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

Coming up for the third month of the VFW year 2021-2022. I want to thank the District and Post that have already made their donation to the National Home. Comrades, let's not wait for the year end for this. Bring it up at one of your meetings and let's get it closed out early this year.

This is a yearly requirement from the Department and is a check box for making your ALL STATE and ALL American. This Donation does not show up under the VFW Dashboard and it is tracked by me from reports that come from the National Home for Children (NH).

To make online donations go to www.vfwnationalhome.org Click on **Donate Now** (TOP right hand corner)

Choose Donation Amount: \$25.00, \$50.00, \$100.00, Other (Amount for All State again this year is only \$50.00.)

Designation: (where you want your Donation to be applied) Where Needed Most, Activity Fund, Amy Ross Endowment Fund, Education Fund, Helpline Fund, Maintenance Fund, Scholarship Fund, Technology Fund, Transportation Fund, Recreation Area Improvement Fund and Museum Fund.

Recurring Gift: Check this block if you wish to make this a monthly Donation.

Tribute Gift: Checking this box will open another drop down where you can add the person name that you are honoring.

Billing Address: Here is the BIG one. If you are making this **gift on behalf of an organization** like your District or Post, CHECK this block. In the Organization name block please put your District or Post number. It would help if you put it in as DPA, POST ([Your Post Number](#)).

☒ This gift is from an organization

Organization name:

Continue on with putting your Billing address in. I always leave a comment like Donation on Behalf of Post (Your Post Number).

National Home Donation Report, This report is as it was received from Districts and Posts and verified by National Home monthly report as of 26 August 2021. [Click here](#) to view the current report.

If any District or Post is having problems, please let me know. I can contact the NH and try to get it resolved.

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

Yours in Comradeship,

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



National Home Chairman

Randell Himes

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

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

Visit their website [here](#)



V F W
NATIONAL HOME
FOR CHILDREN

WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAMS

Veterans Day 2020, the National Native American Veterans Memorial was dedicated in Washington D.C. to celebrate all the contributions that have been made by both warriors and their families. In honor of Native American day this September 24, I present some amazing women veterans. There are many tribes indigenous to the USA that traditionally had both male and female warriors fighting side by side. More modern ideas that women should be nurses and non-combative roles led to the decline of females serving in the USA military.

The Spanish American War was only 6 weeks long but, the results were significant for Spanish Colonies in the Western Hemisphere. Four Lakota Nuns from an Indian Reservation in North Dakota enlisted to become nurses and after training in Jacksonville, FL were sent to Havana, Cuba. Their work was praised by the U.S. Surgeon General as well as The Order of Spanish-American War Nurses. Following the end of their contract, the four nuns and a Catholic priest founded an orphanage in Cuba which they ran until 1899.



Left to right: Annie Pleets (Sister Mary Bridget), Ellen Clark (Sister Mary Gertrude), Laura Beltz Wright (Father Francis M. Craft), Josephine Two Bears (Sister Mary Joseph), and Susie Bordeaux (Mother Mary Anthony).

Marquette University Archives, Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions Records



The Eskimo Scouts were organized in 1942 in response to the attack on Pearl Harbor, HI and the occupation of parts of Alaska by Japan during World War II. Also known as the Alaska Territorial Guard (ATG), a military reserve force component of the US Army, they served an important role: patrolled 5,000 miles of Aleutian coastline and 200,000 miles of tundra; rescued downed US airmen; provided intelligence on any enemy operations; and served as nurses at the field hospital in Kotzebue. Women were among the first volunteers for the newly formed Arctic armed force and were experts at surviving in harsh weather conditions. One of the most notable members of this fighting force was Laura Beltz Wright.

She was known as the best sharpshooter and served on patrol missions alongside the men in addition to providing midwife and mail delivery services.



"Today's service men & women are smarter, better trained, equipped, & prepared than at any time in the nation's history..."



Department of Pacific Areas

Women Veterans Programs

Lauren Wanzer

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY - A PROUD HERITAGE



WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAMS

One notable contributor to the fledgling American cause was Tyonajanegen (Oneida) who fought the British in the Hudson River Valley. She was sent from Fort Stanwix, which was under siege by Col. Barry St. Leger, to inform American officials and gain assistance. She maneuvered past the British lines to ride the 6 miles to Fort Dayton where she along with her husband and son joined the expedition to relieve the fort. For much of the 6 hour Battle of Oriskany, Tyonajanegen either fought from horseback with pistols or reloaded her husband's guns after he was injured. She later served as a messenger during the Battle of Saratoga which is considered to be a turning point for the rebels during the American Revolution.



Capt. Tamara Lee Long Archuleta, USAF formerly of New Mexico was a member of the 41st Rescue Squadron during Operation Enduring Freedom Afghanistan. She was the co-pilot of an HH-60 Pave Hawk Helicopter conducting a medical evacuation mission to save two injured Afghani children in March 2003 when Komodo II crashed into a mountain killing all on board.

Works Cited

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<https://memory.loc.gov/>



Women Veterans Programs

Lauren Wanzer

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY - A PROUD HERITAGE



WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM

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

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



vfw.org/join

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Comrades,

The proposed amendment to the Manual of Procedure Sections 418 and 518, the Post Inspections was rejected, therefore, the inspectors will continue to be appointed by the District Commanders.

The Department of Pacific Areas will begin the district and post inspection starting in October 2021. The inspection should be completed before the Council of Administration (CofA) which takes place in December 2021.

In order for all post and district to qualify for All American or All State, each must meet the following inspection requirements:

Quartermasters must be bonded

District/Post Inspection Form complete with District/Post Commanders and Inspectors signatures

Must use QM monthly report of Receipts and Disbursements (Form 4208) and the Quarterly Trustees Report of Audit (Form 4214) only

No inspector can inspect his or her own post/district

If an in person inspection can not be done, please let me know and I will provide a checklist on how one can be done virtually.

I plan on putting an inspection zoom meeting together in September. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please let me before the meeting.

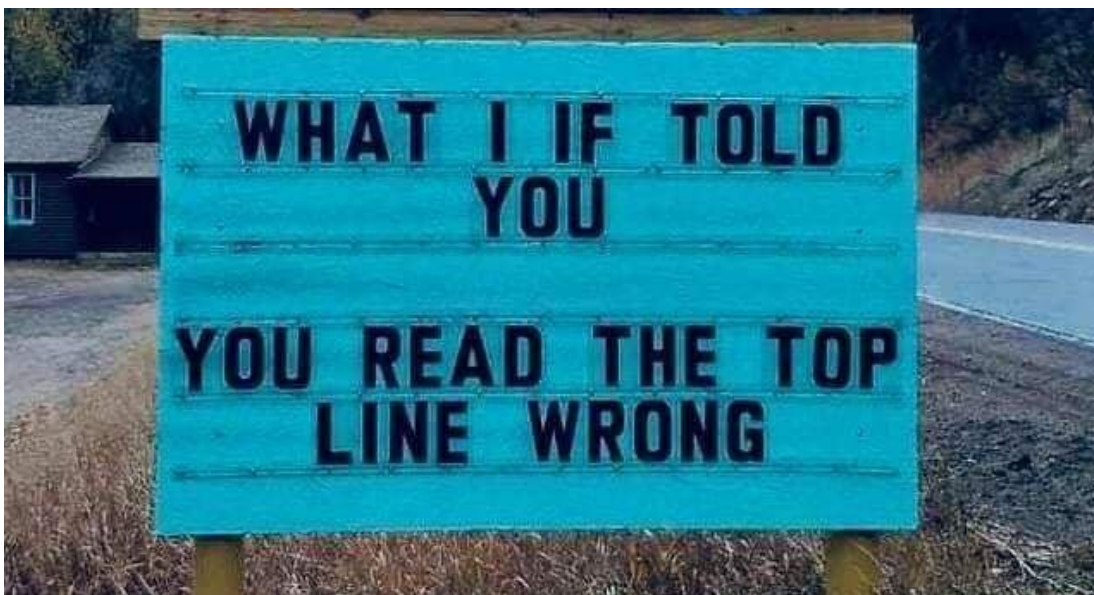
Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Robert Mo Moses,
Inspector,
Department of Pacific Areas



Department Inspector

Robert "Mo" Moses



REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

Army Ranger Medics Save Lives of Fellow Soldiers While Under Fire with Blood Donations

On a hot summer night in Wardak province, Afghanistan, in 2019 [a special operations U.S. Army Ranger raid force began an assault](#) on a compound with enemy targets.

As enemy fighters fired back at U.S. forces and the Rangers began to close in on a target, there was a huge explosion, injuring three Rangers. **Amidst rounds of machine gun fire, rockets and grenades, two Ranger combat medics, Army Staff Sgt. Charles Bowen and Army Sgt. Ty Able, leapt into action to save six American lives that night.**

Pulling the critically wounded behind cover from enemy fire, Bowen and Able quickly began performing advanced surgical techniques and providing Rangers with blood infusions with supplies they had on hand.

While the medics stabilized some of the injured, unfortunately, two of the injured Rangers were losing blood, and fast. Unfortunately, Bowen and Able had already utilized all of their blood units for other injured service members. Knowing that this was a life-or-death matter, the two medics decided to attempt the Ranger O-Low (ROLO) Titre protocol, in which a volunteer transfers his or her blood to the injured Ranger on the battlefield, with the assistance and equipment from the medics. The [procedure is relatively new](#) and had never been done in the middle of combat, but Bowen, Able and a volunteer blood donor were able to pull it off.



A U.S. Army Ranger combat medic conducts routine medical training during 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment's task force training August 2019.

As enemy fire continued to rage overhead, the three worked quickly to transfer large quantities of blood from their volunteer to two injured Rangers, effectively saving their lives. Throughout the procedure and other life-saving techniques, the two medics also continually shielded their patients with their own bodies to prevent further injuries from enemy fire.

As the wounded were loaded onto a helicopter for evacuation, Able kept up a steady attack against the enemy, to provide them with cover.

Bowen and Able treated a fatal hemorrhage, triaged two additional casualties and tended to several other injuries that night. Their calm demeanors under pressure, as they worked to save the lives of their fellow soldiers while under fire, demonstrates incredible dedication and valor.

CERTIFIED NATIONAL RECRUITER

Greetings Comrades of the Pacific,

Any day now VFW National will be posting our Life Members which seems to be the norm for Post's in the Pacific to get started on their Membership Program for the year. Soon after that the checks will start rolling n on your Life Membership Rebates which will offset your budget for the year.

There is one point that I need to reiterate, Membership does not always come easy, you have to work at it to make it happen. You can't wait for them to walk into your Post Home. Letting the community see what your Post does for your community makes all the difference in recruiting. So when you have your recruiting table let them know what your Post is doing in their local area. Your JVC can let you know what has been done lately that has been submitted on the Community Service Reports.

I would like to close with two quotes from a couple of PDC's:

From Dick Keeley: 100% means NO GROWTH !

From Jim Malott: They can't Say YES unless YOU Ask THEM !

Remember, I am just an email away if you need help. You can reach me at PDCLyons935@GMail.com.

Yours Always in Comradeship,

Larry Lyons

Certified National Recruiter

Department of Pacific Areas

EVERY Veteran is a HERO

Her: I bet he's thinking about other women..

Him: If you replace the 'W' with 'T' in When, Where, and What, you get the answer for each question



Certified National Recruiter

Larry Lyons

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

A Post by Chad Hunter: A Corpsman. Not a Medic. There have been a lot of folks sharing a picture with the Caduceus & Shield and Fleet Marine Force (FMF) pin. But many don't know what these symbols mean.

After completion of a grueling 8 weeks of Field Med school where you learn how to essentially think, talk, and walk like a Marine along with becoming an expert in Tactical Combat Casualty Care you earn your "Shield". You're told your job is to shield your Marines from any danger and save them at all costs.



The Fleet Marine Force pin is **earned** not given. Many months go into studying to become an expert of your Marines and is required to earn this title. This is the closest thing to an Eagle, Globe, and Anchor a Corpsman can earn. The waves crashing onto the sand represent the Littoral Zone where so many Sailors have waded ashore with their



Marines. The sands of Iwo Jima to the shores of Tripoli. The Eagle, Globe and Anchor represents the Nation itself and is tribute to our Marines, the Western Hemisphere and our sea faring traditions. The crossed rifles show every Marine is a Rifleman. The scroll on the bottom states "Fleet Marine Force" exclusively showing the community you belong to.

You're often the only Sailor with 60 Marines and you will learn every inch of them from head to toe. From aches to pains to information you don't want to know. You have a hard life, but those Marines love you and nobody is better than their "Doc".

When one Corpsman bleeds, we all bleed. I can assure you Maxton Soviak was a dang good Corpsman. I know this because he was right where he needed to be. In the thick of it with HIS MARINES. He wasn't at the back of the patrol falling out, he wasn't in the Aid Station hiding from the 1st Sgt, he was there with them. On the Ground. Doing what Corpsman do best. So please, do not call him a Medic. This man was a United States Fleet Marine Force Navy Corpsman.

All my other Corpsman Brothers and Sisters out there, who have earned the title as a Fleet Marine Force Corpsman, wear your pins for those that can no longer wear their own. We have the watch.

<https://www.facebook.com/chad.hunter.754>



**The Names of the
13 U.S. service
members killed
in Afghanistan
attack [Click Here](#)**

VOP/PP/TA CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

School should have started or is starting soon; so, everyone should be in contact with the schools in your area to promote the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essay Competitions. Also, do not forget about the Teacher's Award.

A student can enter even if the school does not want to participate in the program. Contact the home school coordinators, youth centers, and other youth programs (BSA/Girl Scouts, CAP, etc.); these are good groups to contact more children and parents. You can also get promotional materials at the VFW store, including large posters to hang at schools, libraries, base housing apartments, etc. Please ensure you get permission prior and let them know when it expires.

Themes: **VOD** - "*America: Where Do We Go From Here?*" **PP** - "*How Can I Be a Good American?*"

***Notice: Qualifications state that both programs are open to students who are enrolled in a public, private, or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories, and possessions; or in an overseas U.S. military/civilian dependent school. U.S. citizenship is **not** required, students **must** be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has **not** been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law.**

Ensure the students understand the rules for each of the programs. All Patriot's Pen essays and Voice of Democracy audio essays should be reviewed by the chairman several days before the judging, so that small errors such as too many words, a Voice of Democracy audio essay that is a bit too long/short, or a reference that inadvertently identifies them might be corrected by the student rather than the chairman eliminating them from the competition. Chairman should never forget that our priority is to increase the number of students participating, rather than eliminating them.

The entry deadline to the Post is **31 October 2021**. Qualifications and necessary entry forms can be found by going to www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships. More information can also be found at www.vfw.org. Log in and go to the My VFW tab, then under "Member Resources" click on "VFW Training and Support," select "Community Service & Youth Programs," then select the "Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Competition", "Patriot's Pen Youth Essay Contest" and "Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award."

All-American and All-State criteria; each Post and District must submit at least one entry for **VoD** and **PP** or a donation at <https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/vfwprogramsdonation2021>. **Post** donations are **\$75.00** and **District** donation is **\$100.00** for each program. The deadline for donations is 31 October 2021. Please send your donation receipt to <mailto:vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org> for credit. TAs are highly encouraged; at least one is required for Department to qualify for All-American.



Department of Pacific Areas

VOD/PP/TA Chairman

David Gley



VOP/PP/TA CHAIRMAN

District commanders, please let me know who your DISTRICT CHAIRMAN is for the VOD/Patriots Pen/Teachers Award's program as soon as possible. Please send names and email addresses to <mailto:vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org>. There are a couple Districts that I have not heard from yet.

Post Deadline: Up to District Chairman

Post Level Judging:

I am leaving it up to each District Chairman to set the deadline for the Posts for Patriot's Pen essays and Voice of Democracy audio essays. There are 21 days between the turn-in date and District due date to Department. Each post can forward one (1) essay for every 15 entries received: 1-15 essays – one (1) entry to district, 16-30 essays – two (2) entries, 31-45 essays – three (3) entries and so on for Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy. Refer to the student entry forms to review the complete rules and guidelines. Please let me know the chosen date for your District Posts.

For Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teachers Award, Posts should have their judging completed and winners forwarded to their District on the same due date as above. Each Post can forward one (1) entry to District for each grade level; K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Refer to the teacher entry form to review the complete rules and guidelines.

District Deadline: November the 21st

District Level Judging:

For Patriot's Pen essays and Voice of Democracy audio essays, Districts should have their judging completed and winners forwarded to Department by November the 21st. Each District can forward one (1) essay each for Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy to Department. Scan and email me your winning Patriot's Pen essay entry form along with the essay and scan your winning Voice of Democracy audio essay entry form along with a copy of the audio file. Maintain the original entry forms, essays, and audio files to be brought to the CofA along with the student's head & shoulders photo.

For Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teachers Award, Districts should have their judging done and winners forwarded to Department by November the 21st. Each District can forward one (1) entry to Department for each grade level; K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Scan and email me your winning Teachers Award entry form, essay, resume and other supporting documentation for each grade level. Maintain the original entry forms, essays, resumes and other supporting documentation to be brought to the CofA along with the teacher's head & shoulders photo.

Yours in comradeship and service,

David Gley

Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen /
Teacher's Award Chairman DPA

vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org

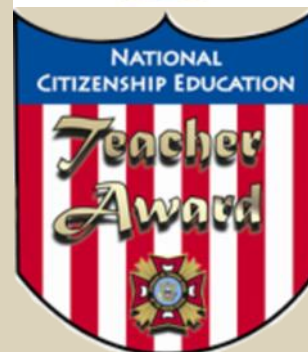
Phone: +82-10-2724-7176



Department of Pacific Areas

VOD/PP/TA Chairman

David Gley



DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

The pandemic has highlighted one of my continuing irritations. Many Veterans including some Comrades in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of America fail to adequately prepare their loved ones for the day we will face our final call. Two cases, both members in their 60's, both with wives and Children, both with prior health issues. And in both cases, died unexpectedly. One left a bumpy path to possibly no benefits or even basic security (food and shelter) the other a prepared package for the future.

In another the Comrade left a girlfriend, three days before the end of the month, with no rent money, little food in the house and no idea what to do. In his case he knew he was near death but apparently didn't care what happened to her after he was gone. I once heard a Comrade sitting at the bar say "why should I care, I will be dead, so what".

Hopefully most of us care enough for our loved ones but in many cases just keep putting it off.

Make a plan. Make a list of who to see, where to go, what to do. Do they know what a service office is and what they do? Do they know where to find that service officer. Do they know where your important papers are, or better yet do they have a copy of the most important paper a veteran has – the DD-214? Where are the marriage documents? Just because you were drawing dependent pay does not mean the VA will accept that as proof of marriage for survivors' benefits. Are you even married? If not, is it because you are still married to someone else or just because you haven't gotten around to it yet? I have had the wife, ex-wife and girlfriend come in within a few days of the veteran's death to see if they could get benefits.

It is not mine or anyone else's business to know why you may not wish the person you are living with to have benefits or even food for tomorrow, but if it is simply because you haven't gotten around to it yet then please if you love the one you are with, set them up for success not just sadness.

We are all going to die (news to some I think). Given that I hope I die of something I am service connected for. This will allow my dependents a path to VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (VA DIC). Let your doctor know – not asking anyone to cheat but someone with ischemic heart that dies from a heart attack will not leave a happy survivor if the doctor puts "multiple organ failure" on the death certificate. (I have seen it). Be prepared. It could be the difference between your kids becoming a bar girl and a trike driver, or going to the University and becoming a doctor or lawyer or engineer.

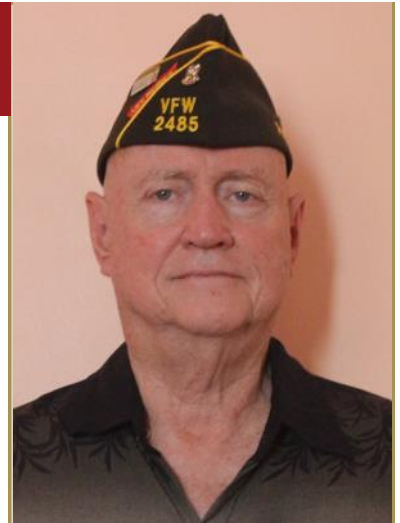
In our post we have a file cabinet with an envelope for each veteran that creates one. Wills, DD-214's, award letters, who to contact from your family with email addresses and contact lists of local friends and doctors. Some leave a hometown newspaper address for an obituary. Some have a "don't touch" joint bank account with enough money for six months food and rent. Even if DIC is a sure thing, how long will it take to apply and to get an award and a first check.

Garth Brooks has a great song "If Tomorrow Never Comes". What you do or don't do is your business but if its just that you haven't gotten around to it, I suggest you do so today.

Yours in comradeship,
John Dibble

dsodpa@vfwpacific.org

EVERY Veteran is a HERO



Department Service Officer (DSO)

John Dibble

AMERICANISM/LOYALTY DAY CHAIR

On September 11, Patriot Day gives all of us time to reflect on the devastating terror attacks that took nearly 3,000 lives. We commemorate those who we lost and give thanks to the brave first responders who put their lives on the line. Take a moment today to consider what we stand for as a nation and how we can work together to make the world a better place for all.

It was a terrifying day when four planes were hijacked on September 11, 2001 (also known as nine-eleven). The hijackers flew three planes into iconic buildings: the Pentagon in Washington DC and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. The fourth plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania after the plane passengers fought the hijackers. Nobody is certain where it was supposed to crash, but some people believe it was headed for the White House, the U.S. Capitol, the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland, or one of several nuclear power plants along the eastern seaboard.

The impact of this attack was devastating. Around 3,000 lives were lost between plane passengers, those in the buildings that were struck, and front-line workers trying to save people. It was the biggest act of terrorism ever in the United States.

The majority of lives lost that people that worked in the Twin Towers, especially the floors above the collision point as people were trapped and stranded at the top of the burning skyscraper. 411 men and women working in emergency services lost their lives trying to fight fires and rescue people from the buildings. It was a heartbreaking attack, which is why Patriots Day was proclaimed by President George W. Bush and is recognized every year on September 11.

On Patriot Day, U.S. flags are lowered halfway, and there is a country-wide moment of silence at 8:46 am (Eastern Daylight Time), which is when the first plane crashed into one of the Twin Towers. Although the attacks were in the U.S., Patriot Day is recognized worldwide as the news devastated and impacted people all over.

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

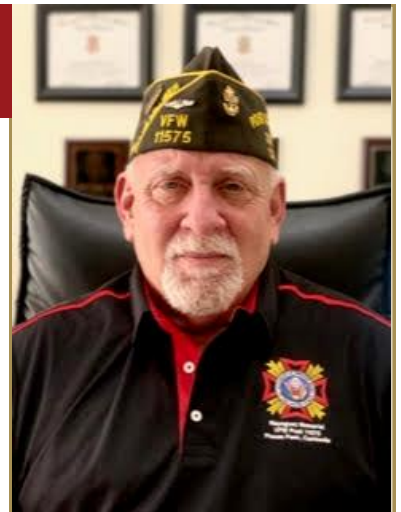
The DPAA shows that there are over 1,600 personnel still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

There are many different ways communities choose to observe this day; even the National Park Service has observations at selected sites. Private organizations such as Veterans Of Foreign Wars also observes the day with events and activities at individual “posts” nationwide.

The familiar POW/MIA flag, so closely associated with the observance, actually pre-dates it. According to DoDLive.Mil, in 1971 a military spouse named Mary Hoff contacted a private company to request a flag to honor those missing in action or prisoners of war (one of whom was her husband). A World War 2 pilot named Newt Heisley created the now-iconic design.

The POW/MIA flag is intended to be flown just below the United States flag, which is how it is displayed at the White House; it is the only flag (according to the Department of Defense) to do so at that location.

Jack Farrell
Americanism/Loyalty Day Chairman



Americanism/Loyalty Day Chair

John "Jack" Farrell



POW/MIA CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

September 17th marks the anniversary of National POW/MIA Recognition Day. It was established on July 18th 1979 through a proclamation signed by President Jimmy Carter. Since then, each subsequent president has issued an annual proclamation commemorating the third Friday in September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. A national-level ceremony is held on every National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Traditionally held at the Pentagon, it features members from each branch of military service and participation from high-ranking officials.

In addition to the national-level ceremony, observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country and around the world on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities. No matter where they are held, these ceremonies share the common purpose of honoring those who were held captive and returned, as well as those who remain missing.

Below are the current totals of those that are still unaccounted for as of August 2021.

WW I - - - - -	1,648
WWII - - - - -	72,159
Korean War - - - - -	7,478
Cold War - - - - -	125
Vietnam War/S.E. Asia - -	1,560
Iraq & Other Conflicts - - - - -	5
(A decrease to - - - - -	82,485

POW/MIA facts: According to a [Congressional Research Service report](#) on POWs:

- 130,201 World War II service members were imprisoned; 14,072 them died
- 7,140 Korean War service members were imprisoned; 2,701 of them died
- 725 Vietnam War service members were imprisoned; 64 of them died
- 37 service members were imprisoned during conflicts since 1991, including both Gulf wars; none are still in captivity

About 75 percent of those missing Americans are somewhere in the Asia-Pacific. More than 41,000 have been presumed lost at sea. Efforts to find them, identify them and bring them home are constant. In the past year 41 men missing during the Korean War have been identified: 10 had been previously buried as unknowns, 26 were from remains turned over by North Korea in the 1990s, one was from a recovery operation, and four were combinations of remains and recovery operations.

The number of missing (POW/MIA) and unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR) from the Vietnam War is still 1,560. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced this year that US Naval Reserve CDR Paul C. Charvet, 26, killed during the Vietnam War, but unrecovered at the time, was accounted for March 1, 2021. Until this announcement, there had been no US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War since July 2020. Of the 1,560 still missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia or Laos under Vietnam's wartime control. Since chartered in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for the missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains.



POW/MIA Chairman

Wayne "Bud" St. Onge



POW/MIA CHAIRMAN

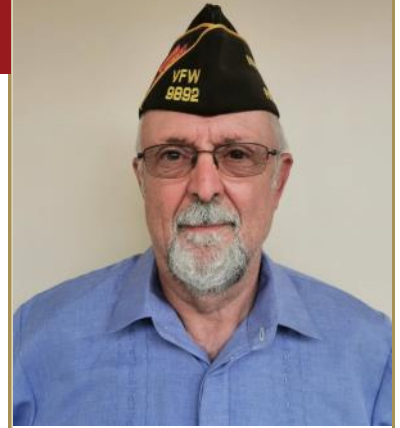
During the April 29th DPAA-hosted Family/VSO Quarterly Call & Update, the DPAA Lab Director affirmed that there are NO Vietnam War-related remains awaiting ID. DPAA laboratories and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) continue to focus efforts on identifying remains previously recovered, turned over unilaterally by foreign countries or buried in US cemeteries as unknowns from WWII and the Korean War and subsequently identified.

DAA JOINT ACCOUNTING EFFORTS: COVID-19 pandemic and associated quarantine restrictions have been a significant challenge to work around, adversely impacting Vietnam War field operations more deeply than WWII and Korean War efforts. Joint field operations are about to begin in Laos. The schedule for resuming joint operations in Cambodia is unknown at present, but Cambodia is going through another “surge” in COVID-19 infections and a tragic increase in deaths as well.

DPAA continues to conduct WWII, Korean War and Cold War field recoveries in Europe and the Asia-Pacific Region, most recently in Austria and Belgium, and the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea. A recovery in Germany is underway or soon will be, and investigations were earlier planned to take place from May – September in Germany, Poland, Italy, Belgium and Panama, a later US Navy incident which DPAA was requested to handle.

Yours in Comradeship,

Wayne “Bud” St.Onge
POW-MIA Chairman
budstonge9892@gmail.com
6309474754623 (Philippines)



POW/MIA Chairman

Wayne “Bud” St.Onge



DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY
FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Let us remember the following comrades who passed away that were not reported prior to 30 Jun 21.

Post	Comrade	Date of Death
Post 2485:	Flaherty, John F. Jr.,	15-Jun-21
	Ritzen, Jacob	24-May-21
	Clayton, Donald E.	05-Aug-21
	Harris, Carl A.	13-Jul-21
	Earl, Larry T.	09-Aug-21
	Phillip, Adam B.	01-Aug-21
	Pasilan, Miguel V.	22-Aug-21
Post 2917:	Millard, James H. Jr	11-Jun-21
Post 9876:	Kraft, Paul M.	28-Jul-21
Post 10249:	Turner, Earl D.	01-Aug-21
Post 12074:	Nix, Ernest	06-Aug-21
Post 12130:	Kelley, Paul F.	06-Aug-21
Post 12146:	Landis, David	14-Aug-21

Let us bow our heads in pray to All Mighty God. Remember our fallen comrades and pray for those still missing in action. Pray for them and their families that they may be reunited. We also pray thee that you will help lift this terrible pandemic so all on earth can go back to normal living. Bless the medical personnel who so diligently strive to find a cure. Amen

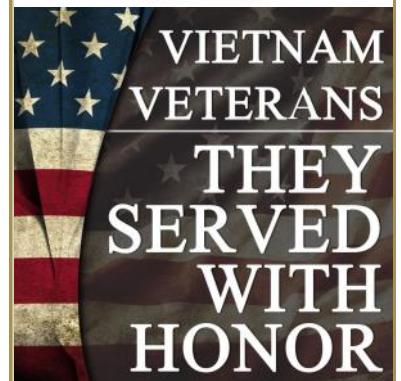
Email to: chapdpa@vfwpacific.org or to davisronald738@gmail.com.

Ronald J. Davis
Chaplain DPA



Chaplain

Ron Davis



Let us bow our heads in prayer to All Mighty God. Remember our fallen comrades and pray for those still missing in action. Pray for them and their families that they may be reunited. Amen



DPA WEBSITE SPONSORS



Notice

Districts, to offset the costs of our website and newsletter please find at least one Sponsor of \$100 for a year. Congratulations to District 5 for going above and beyond!!

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