

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.

Volume XXV, Number 6

May/June 2022

FREE

DPA 2022 Annual Convention

**Robert W. Zaher Post 2485 and District VII
will be hosting the 56th Annual VFW
Department of Pacific Areas Convention and
53rd Annual Military Order of the Cootie
Grand Scratch scheduled for 12-16 June 2022
at the Oasis Hotel Angeles City, Pampanga,
Philippines.**



Click [Here](#) for further information



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COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings Comrades,

This will be my last Article as Commander of the Department of Pacific Areas. I would like to thank [each of you who supported me] through this awesome ride I had over the last three years. Because it was all of you who gave me the highest honor of serving as Commander and I will always love and appreciate you for it!!

The Department continues to be in great shape! We had a few hiccups along the way, but it cannot and will not stop the Department for having another successful Term!

We have just gone over 99% in membership and currently standing at 99.05% as of April 30th. The Department has 12,007 of 12,122 members and we only need 115 members to reach 100% for this Term. There are six Posts that stand at nine members or less to reach 100%. They are:

9555	3+1	99.17%	10033	5+1	99.07%
10223	4+1	99.01%	9876	9+1	97.78%
11575	6+1	95.34%	12163	7+1	89.55%

We also have four Posts who need 15 members or less to reach 100%:

9612	9951	1509	9892
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With the Department having 25 Posts and 13 that already made over 100% we can see that the Department is in position for another run at 100%. Please remember, the National Membership Grant Incentive is still in effect and our Post QMs should be receiving their Grants very soon. So, let's continue to recruit...recruit...recruit!!! Remember, let's do it for the Gipper...our DPA Vietnam Veterans past and present!!!

At this time, I would like to announce the winning Post of the \$250 for recruiting the most members for the month of April:

8180	Osan Korea with 19 members
11447	Subic Philippines was runner up with 15 members

Congratulations to both Posts and special thanks to your recruiters!!! DPA QM Watson will be contacting 8180 QM to work the details.

At this time, it gives me great pleasure to announce the All State Winners for the 2021-22 Term:

9723	Okinawa	D1	Okinawa
1054	Japan	D4	Taiwan
9957	Taiwan		
10217	Thailand		
12146	Thailand		
2917	Guam		
3457	Saipan		
124	Philippines		
11447	Philippines		
12130	Philippines		



Department of Pacific Areas

Commander

Kevin Mitchell



COMMANDER'S CALL

The upcoming convention dates are Sunday June 12th to Thursday, June 16th. **NOTE:** Thursday will be a travel day! The Convention will be held at the Oasis Hotel in Angeles City, Philippines. Registration on the DPA Website is up and running and Comrades are signing up. The Convention Committee is working hard to ensure you will enjoy the Convention. After the two and a half years of what we have been through, I believe everyone would agree... **WE NEED IT!!!** I will be hosting an Immediate Past Department Commander Party on/about June 16th at a location and time to be announced and I hope you will join me!!!

The VFW National representative to the DPA Convention will be National Chief of Staff Matthew C. Claussen. We are confirming but VFW Auxiliary President Jean Hamil maybe joining us for Opening Ceremonies. As of now we are also confirming representatives from Taiwan and hopefully the Mayor of Angeles City.

Post/District elections should have been completed at this time and congratulations and best wishes to the 2022-23 Team!!! Post Adjutants, please ensure you submit your Election Reports to our DPA Adjutants.

Comrades, I would like to give a special **“thank you”** to our webmaster Alan “Augie” Augustine for tremendous work he consistently does with putting our Pacific Times Newsletter together and his patience with me during the year. Augie, I appreciate our working relationship over the last two years!!!

Comrades, at each Post/District/Department/National Meeting the Commander in his/her opening states **“do not let petty jealousies or trivial personalities affect our deliberations.”** Let’s remember we are all veterans of a foreign conflict. We are brothers and sisters!!! If you have conflicts with another Comrade, find a way to work it out!!! Conflicts among us do not benefit our great organization!!! Remember, we are here to assist our fellow Veterans, our families, and our communities. I believe you will continue to do it just that!!!

In closing, I would like to thank and salute the 2021-22 DPA Officers. What an outstanding group of Comrades and as I said at the Incoming C of A, I believe the finest group ever assembled in the DPA!!! I appreciated all your support you have given me to make the **“EVERY Veteran is a Hero”** Term a great one!!! If I was an effective Commander, it was because of you!!! Again, thank you DPA for the privilege of serving as Department Commander. As my Oath will say, I am willing and able to assist incoming Commander **Warren S. “Max” Maxson** in anyway possible to ensure he will be successful. And finally, to our Vietnam Veterans, it was my high honor to dedicate this Term to you!! **I APPRECIATED YOUR SERVICE!!!** All the best to each of you and yours and please remember... **I WILL ALWAYS 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



Commander

Kevin Mitchell



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES



Independence Day the Fourth of July or July 4 is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence of the United States, on July 4, 1776. The Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states. The



The Korean Armistice signed on 27 July 1953

After three years of a bloody and frustrating war, the United States, the People's Republic of China, North Korea, and South Korea agree to an armistice, bringing the fighting of the Korean War to an end. The armistice ended America's first experiment with the Cold War concept of



August 31 - End of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2010

August 31, 2021 marks the 11th Anniversary of the End of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On August 31, 2010, President Barack Obama declared the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Learn more:

<https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/military/war-in->

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



The following lists VFW District 1/Post 9723 OKINAWA Japan Comrades who provided support to a Buddy Poppy Drive 5 March and a Buddy Poppy Fund Raiser 6 March at Camp Foster Commissary Okinawa

Larry Wilson, John Bowers, Jeff Runnfeldt, Tracy Bender, David Boughton, Curtis Kozlesky, Carl Chisler, George Cabrera, Donovan LeBloch, Michael Stanley, Derek Boyd, Pete Gruner, Adrian Pozo Romero. Submitted by Cdr Kozlesky post 9723 Commander.



Lin VVA - DPA CDR Mitchell presents a DPA Vietnam Coin to Comrade Linus Travers of Robert W. Zaher Post 2485.



Post 12130 - DPA CDR Mitchell is presented a Post 12130 Coin by Post Commander Kimberly Osbourne-Burelson at D7 Meeting.

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

In the SPOTLIGHT

On 15 Apr 22, Banchang Utapao VFW Post 12146, Post Commander Howard Holzworth and his wife Belle, Past Post Commander and Past District 5 Commander Lou Holub, Past DPA Commander Ken Stein and his wife Malai, Todd Staats, Bryan Bowman and his wife On, Kevin Hart and his wife Tammy, together with Banchang District 3 and 4 Representatives visited and delivered rice and food assistance to our local Thai community around our area during this Songkran holiday.



In the SPOTLIGHT

Post 12146 Annual Charity Golf Tournament

On Saturday 05 March 2022 the Banchang Utapao VFW Post 12146 teed up the annual charity golf tournament a 10:00 shot gun start at Emerald golf course Banchang. 144 golfers enjoyed a 4-man best ball scramble, this year's 7th annual tournament netted the largest charitable donation to date due mainly to our 1st ever Corporate sponsor "OLYMPUS" who covered the course fees. Thank you to OLYMPUS for giving so generously, this year's donations are most noteworthy considering the lingering Covid pandemic and its negative impact on the local and international business.

Last year's 3rd place winners overcame a hot day in the sun, "RDA Co." finishing in 1st place followed by the local friends "the Four Amigos" and "Jomtien Bunker Boys" 3rd, Thank you to all Golfers, Emerald golf course staff, our loyal Sponsors, the VFW Members, Friends & "All Volunteers"!



The under lying purpose of the Annual VFW golf tourney was emphasized by Post Commander Howard H. when he clearly stated the Mission of the VFW is to care for Veterans, their widows, their children and to assist the less fortunate in our community. Events like the annual charity golf tournament are conducted in order to raise money to support our mission. A huge thank you to our awards dinner sponsors Finnegans BC, Emerald Golf course and friends of the post Mr. Peter and his lovely wife for Potato salad donation. Planning has started for our 2023 tournament, register / sponsor early,

Yours in Comradeship, Golf Tourney Chairman

Lou

[Click here for event pictures](#)

On 20 April 2022, VFW Post 12146 members donated a wheelchair to one of our local Banchang community residence "Khun Ting". His previous wheelchair was unsafe and beyond repair. Presentation was made by Comrades Bryan Bowman, Webmaster Augie Augustine, SVC Doug Cilley, and Cdr Howard Holzworth .



In the SPOTLIGHT

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Team from Hawaii and Detachment One Thailand recently accomplished search operations for a missing World War II pilot of a P-38 Lightning within a rice paddy in Lampang Province, Northern Thailand Region. The members of Detachment One Thailand, however, not only are they DPAA active-duty military but also Life members of Post 12146, Banchang-Utapao.

The search operation were a joint Thai and US Team included 30 local workers from Ban Mae Kua village that assisted in digging efforts to recover any evidence possible that would allow confirmed identification of the lost pilot or aircraft from nearly 77 years ago.

During this first DPAA operation in Thailand since 2007 a local woman who was an eyewitness to the aircraft crash when he was 21 years old, along with other local villagers provided information on aircraft parts found in the area of the dig operational site.

The search operations took place February-April 2022 and successfully unearthed several aircraft parts with made in the USA marking clearly visible, however it is not yet confirmed what part of the aircraft the parts belonged to until further research in Hawaii is completed.

For more information on you can read articles at the following websites.

<https://thethaiger.com/news/national/us-and-thai-authorities-search-for-body-of-missing-wwii-pilot>

<https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40013003>



Local Villager of Ban Mae Kua and MSgt James Slater



DPAA Det 1 and Post 12146 Life Members Major Brian Smith, MSgt James Slater with Detachment 1 Commander Lt Col Steve Lanuzo



Immediate Past Department Commander Ken Stein presents DPA webmaster and Pacific Times Editor Alan "Augie" Augustine with a certificate from VFW National stating The Pacific Times is the recipient of The Bronze Award for the 2021 National Publication Contest. Also attending the ceremony was Assistant DPA Webmaster Comrade Dan Morgan.

In the SPOTLIGHT



Post 12146 Banchang Utapao conducts a community service event where they provide adult diapers to disadvantaged local citizens. Most of the recipients were elderly with no one to care for them, some were injured in accidents and remain homebound. Pictured is Past Department Commander Ken Stein and Post QM Dan Morgan, along with the District Chiefs of District 3&4 and their staff.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

By the time you have read this many of the below stats will have changed. Everyone has been doing great work as always and the Commander appreciates it. When I wrote this we were sitting at 98.77% and needed 149 to reach 100%. We are in the home stretch for the 2021-2022 year. Keep chugging along; the year does not close out until June 30 2022. I have complete confidence you can push the Department to 100%. Remember 100% all starts with you and the Post.

Time to announce the Posts and Districts that achieved All State by 15 April 2022. Commander Mitchell is very proud of all your hard work. That being said let's all say:

CONGRATULATIONS

POSTS

- 11447 PHILIPPINES
- 12130 PHILIPPINES
- 124 PHILIPPINES
- 10217 THAILAND
- 12146 THAILAND
- 9723 OKINAWA
- 1054 JAPAN
- 9957 TAIWAN
- 3457 SAIPAN
- 2917 GUAM

DISTRICTS

- 1 OKINAWA
- 4 TAIWAN

ALL STATE winners

You will receive an email from QM Shawn Watson, and All State hats will be given out at the DPA Convention in June in Angeles City Philippines...

Just because you have not met the requirements by April **DOES NOT** mean you are out of it. Again you are still in the running until **June 30th**. You can do it, never quit, see you in AC. Yours in Comradeship.

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



Senior Vice Commander

Warren "Max" Maxson



JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

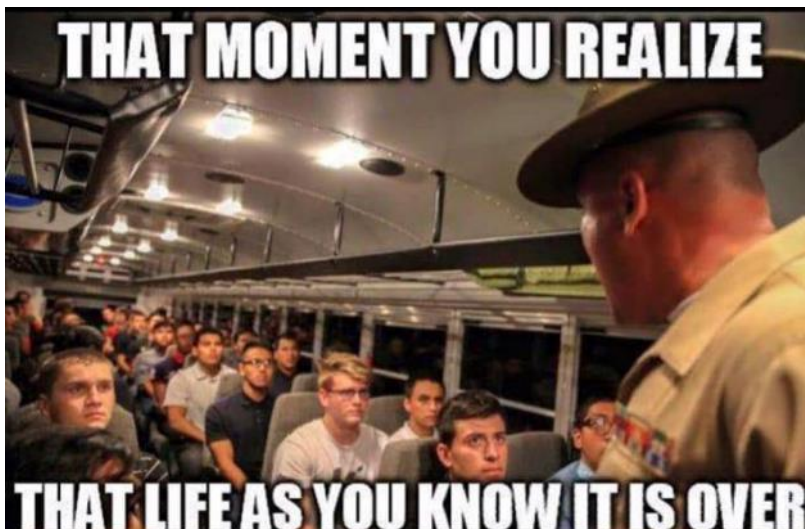
As we prepare for our upcoming June Department Convention in Angeles City, Philippines, I know everyone is so excited to visit the beautiful islands of the Philippines. I would like to welcome you and hope that your trip here will be fun and exciting since we have not had a face-to-face Convention for a long while. For those folks who cannot make it, I still thank you for your continued support and hard work in making our Department of Pacific Areas as one of the best in the entire VFW National.

We are on our 4th Quarter of CSR Reporting and still encourage everyone to keep doing their CSR Reports. For clarification purpose the Community Service Report (CSR) period starts from 1 May 2021 and ends 30 April 2022. At this time, I would like to recognize the following Posts who have made their CSR Requirements for FY2021-2022 and job well done:

- District 1 Post 9723
- District 2 Posts 1054,9612
- District 3 Posts 8180, 10223
- District 4 Post 9957
- District 5 Posts 9876,10217, 10249,12146
- District 6 Posts 1509, 2917, 3457
- District 7 Posts 124, 2485, 11447, 12130

For those Posts who have not MET their CSR requirements you can still catch up and do your CSR Inputs. I would also like to congratulate all the newly elected and appointed Districts, Posts Officers and wished you all the best for the new Fiscal year 2022-2023. In closing, I thank you all for your hard work and dedication in helping your communities, your fellow Veterans, their Widows and Orphans and look forward in working with you again in a different capacity and would like to ask you to show your support to our Incoming Junior Vice Commander. 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



Click on the icon above to go to our new **Training and Tutorial** page under **Resources** on the DPA Website

DPA 2022 CONVENTION ANGELES CITY PHILIPPINES

Hello Comrades,

As the Convention Chairman for the upcoming DPA Convention, I am glad to report that things are moving forward smoothly. The convention will be held at the Oasis Hotel June 12-16. The convention committee members are working on the details to ensure everyone enjoys the convention and comradeship amongst our members. Oasis Hotel is ready to support us and will be great to see Comrades from around the Department, after a two-year pandemic. By the time you read this article, the Department Convention website should be up and running. You can access the website using this link: [DPA Convention Webpage](#) . Please sign up early to help us help you!

Listed below is the pricelist for advertisements in the 2022 DPA Convention Book with no price hike since the last in-person DPA Convention. A friendly reminder that all Districts, Posts and Pup Tents are required to purchase one full page color ad and are highly encouraged to sell and or purchase additional advertisements in the DPA Convention Book to help raise revenue and rebates for your respective District, Post and Pup Tent with the standard 50% rebate for ads after the first \$500.00 worth of ads are sold and a rebate of \$0.50 for each booster submitted after 35 boosters. Prices are as follows:

Full page color: \$200

1/2 page color: \$100

Full page black & white: \$100

1/2 page black & white: \$50

Business card page: \$100 (10 business cards on each page)

Booster names: \$2 each

Back cover of Convention Book: \$400

Inside back cover: \$300

Please email all your District, Post, Pup Tent, Business/Individual advertisements and Boosters to: 2485ADJ@gmail.com **The deadline is 15 May 2022.**

Convention shirts are available to order on the signup sheet. Cost for each shirt is \$20. Sizing chart is available on the convention Website at the above link.

Linus Travers

DPA Convention 2022 Chairman

Post 2485, Angeles City, Philippines

Every Veteran Is A Hero



2021-22 Dedicated to our DPA



Vietnam Veterans Past and Present

In 2021, VFW Post 12074 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, became a sponsor of the Gate Theater's production of *SHRAPNEL IN THE HEART*. Last year, the performance was originally scheduled for Memorial Weekend, but Covid-19 restrictions caused several postponements. The play was rescheduled from Memorial Day to the Fourth of July, to Armed Forces Day, and finally full-circle to Memorial Day weekend 2022.

Chiang Mai Post member Andre Scott had acted in several Gate Theater plays, so when Stephan Turner, Gate Theater's founder and artistic director, announced the production of *SHRAPNEL*, Scott jumped into action. He knew instinctively that a play featuring the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and honoring the veterans that died in that terrible war was a perfect match for war veterans of the VFW. At Scott's suggestion, Post 12074 approved annual financial sponsorship of the Gate Theater and a unique sponsorship of *SHRAPNEL IN THE HEART*.

The Gate Theater's production of *SHRAPNEL* is based on Laura Palmer's book *SHRAPNEL IN THE HEART: Letters and Remembrances from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial*. Palmer's book was published six years after the Memorial Day dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The unconventional design of the memorial was not immediately popular with Vietnam Vets. With its black gabbo granite panels sunk into the landscape, some described the memorial as a "black slash of shame." However, as time passed and Vietnam Vets began visiting "The Wall" as the memorial became known, opinions softened. When the Vets started seeing the names of their comrades carved in the highly reflective black stone, they too began to reflect. The bodies of their buddies were buried elsewhere, but their spirits seemed to live in those somber walls.

The living, the survivors, began speaking to those that did not return to the world. And, they started writing letters. Letters that spoke of sorrow; that apologized for not being able to save a friend dying in their arms; that remembered the good times; that shared a long-lost laugh. Their letters would never be read by the recipient but placed tenderly and reflectively at the base of the wall below a friend's name.

Gold Star Family members began visiting their sons, brothers, husbands, and fathers whose names etched in the wall represented a future lost. Their emotions ran the gamut: Sorrow, Despair, Confusion, Anger, Acceptance, and Nostalgia as they shared memories of good times with a spirit living within the black stone wall. Their letters and messages were left by the thousands.

The National Park Service collected the letters at the end of each day. Laura Palmer's book and the Gate Theater's stage production are based on just a few of those letters.

Post 12074's Quartermaster, Roy Mark, auditioned for a part in the stage production of *SHRAPNEL IN THE HEART*. Mark, a Vietnam Veteran and Gold Star Family member was given the role of a World War II Army Colonel visiting Panel 18W of the Wall. His son's name, Marine Captain Bernard A McDermott, III, is etched on Line 49.

A poster for the play 'SHRAPNEL IN THE HEART'. The title is in large, bold, white letters at the top. Below it, it says 'BASED ON THE BOOK BY LAURA PALMER' and 'DIRECTED BY CLAIRE GORDON'. The background is a black and white photograph of a man in a military helmet looking at a wall covered in names. At the bottom, it says 'KAD STUDIO THEATRE MAY 29TH 2:00 PM' and 'www.gate-theater.com 087 177 2195'. There are logos for 'GATE THEATER', 'VFW', and 'Duke's EXIT' at the bottom right.

2021-22 Dedicated to our DPA



Vietnam Veterans Past and Present

Post Trustee Kristine Gould eagerly volunteered when a cast member citing the trauma of the content dropped out. Gould's audition had her cold reading from the script. Director Claire Gordon was so impressed with Gould's audition that she expanded her character, a nurse who served in Saigon.

Claire Gordon's experience directing *SHRAPNEL* has completely changed her opinion of the U.S. military. From East London, Gordon's knowledge of the war was formed by Hollywood's glamorized notions from such films as *FULL METAL JACKET* and *GOOD MORNING VIETNAM*. Her takeaway was of Soldiers pillaging and their lack of integrity. Seeing the cast delivering those letters made her think more sympathetically about American Soldiers and their families.

Gordon said, "People need to hear these stories; because it's not over, the impact is forever!"

SHRAPNEL IN THE HEART will be staged at Kad Studio Theater in Chiang Mai. The single Matinee performance will be on the Sunday before Memorial Day. The VFW will be well represented on stage and in the audience by Post members wearing their distinctive uniforms. In addition, the Post will staff a reception table in the theater's foyer before and after the play and during the intermission. Theatergoers from Thailand, the U.S., and other countries will learn about the work of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America.



[Click here](#) to Visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site

[Click here](#) to visit the Vietnam Virtual Wall

2021-22 Dedicated to our DPA



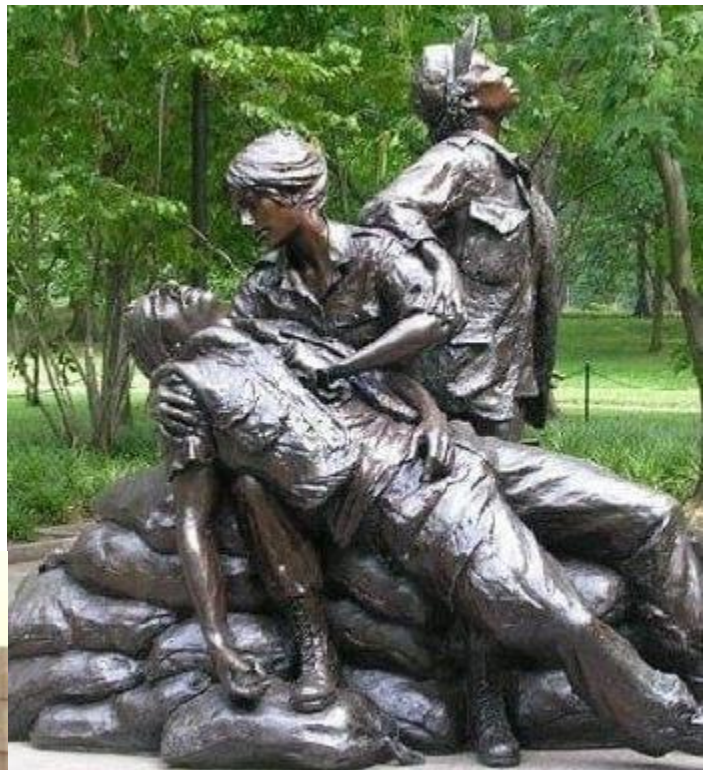
Vietnam Veterans Past and Present

The great majority of the military women who served in Vietnam were nurses. All were volunteers, and they ranged from recent college graduates in their early 20s to seasoned career women in their 40s. Members of the Army Nurse Corps arrived in Vietnam as early as 1956, when they were tasked with training the South Vietnamese in nursing skills. As the American military presence in South Vietnam increased beginning in the early 1960s, so did that of the Army Nurse Corps. From March 1962 to March 1973, when the last Army nurses left Vietnam, some 5,000 would serve in the conflict.

Five female Army nurses died over the course of the war, including 52-year-old Lieutenant Colonel Annie Ruth Graham, who served as a military nurse in both World War II and Korea before Vietnam and suffered a stroke in August 1968; and First Lieutenant Sharon Ann Lane, who died from shrapnel wounds suffered in an attack on the hospital where she was working in June 1969. Lane was posthumously awarded the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm and the Bronze Star for Heroism. Colonel Graham is one of eight women whose names are listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, a monument designed by 21-year-old female college student Maya Lin.

Did you know? In November 1993, the Vietnam Women's Memorial was dedicated at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. in front of a crowd of some 25,000 people. The centerpiece of the memorial is a bronze statue by Glenna Goodacre, which depicts three female nurses assisting a wounded soldier.

Early on, the U.S. Army resisted sending women other than nurses to Vietnam. The Women's Army Corps (WAC), established during World War II, had a presence in Vietnam beginning in 1964, when General William Westmoreland asked the Pentagon to provide a WAC officer and non-commissioned officer to help the South Vietnamese train their own women's army corps. At its peak in 1970, WAC presence in Vietnam numbered some 20 officers and 130 enlisted women.



WACs filled noncombat positions in U.S. Army headquarters in Saigon and other bases in South Vietnam; a number received decorations for meritorious service. No WACs died during the conflict.

Story courtesy of [history.com](https://www.history.com).

The [Giant Killer](#) book and page honors these unique war heroes making sure their stories of valor



and sacrifice are never forgotten. God Bless our Vets!

2021-22 Dedicated to our DPA



Vietnam Veterans Past and Present

47 years ago on 29 April '75 at about 07:30 (Thailand time) began the most significant day of my life...not including family related events. At work in the Rapcon (radar air traffic control facility) 3 of us began hearing unknown aircraft checking in on our frequency. Normally 5 of us would be on duty...but as it turned out...only 3 of us were at work that morning...Tom our supervisor, Bruce and I. 4.5 hours later it was just about all over...125 to 130 out of a total of 139 aircraft that had escaped from Saigon, just ahead of the North Vietnamese Army, had been guided & sequenced to our base...U-Tapao, Thailand. What a morning for Bruce, Tom & I, and the beginning of a new life for about 2000 South Vietnamese people. Incredibly proud of our efforts that morning. Some pics taken by me, Bob Phillips and others... some in real time...some over the next few days. USS Midway.

Read more here: [Escape to Utapao](#) Submitted by Bob Kolhouse, Member of the Utapao Alumni Association



IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

It has been a privilege to work with Commander Mitchell and the “Every Veteran is a Hero Team” this term.

By any measure it has been an extremely successful year and I salute CDR Kevin and his team.

We have two months remaining so let’s keep the pedal to the metal and break the previous record for total DPA membership. As of the date of this article we only need 150 new or renewed annual members to achieve a new membership record. Let’s show the VFW that Pacific Areas rocks.

Look forward to seeing you all at the DPA Convention in Angeles City from 12-16 June. It’s been about two and a half years since we all got together. So, if at all possible please plan on attending.

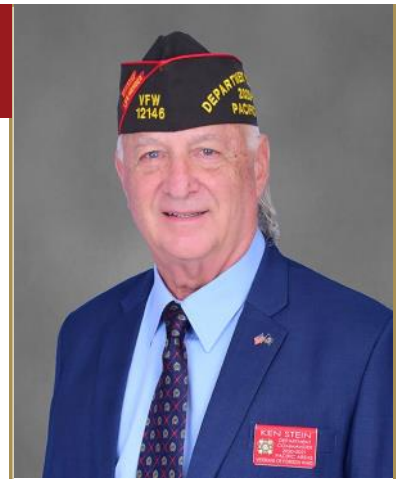
See you there.

Yours in comradeship and service to veterans,

Kenneth A. Stein
Past DPA Commander 2020-2021

EVERY Veteran is a HERO

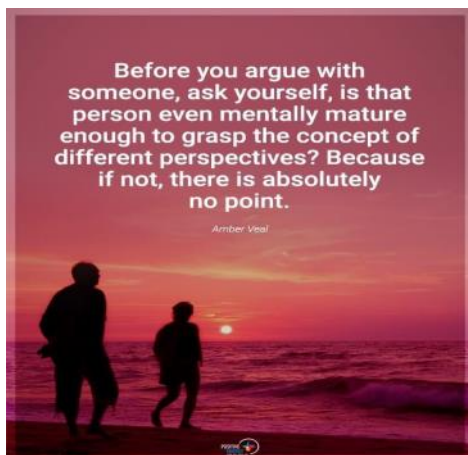
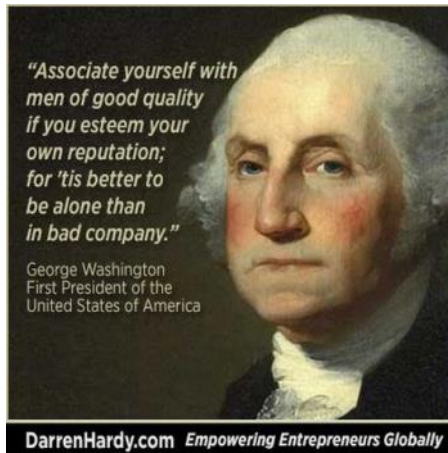
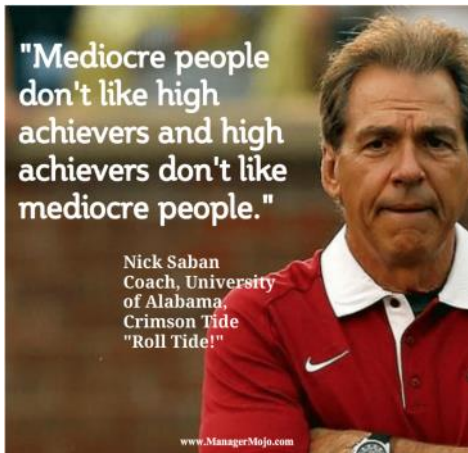
“Remembering our great Vietnam Veterans Past and Present”



Department of Pacific Areas

Immediate Past DPA CDR

Ken Stein



REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

Meet the Hero: Douglas Hegdahl

Douglas Hegdahl walked freely around the infamous “Hanoi Hilton” prison camp, one of many American prisoners of war held there in 1967. He was sweeping the courtyards during the prison guards’ afternoon “siesta.” The American sailor that fell into their laps was known to the guards as “[The Incredibly Stupid One](#).” They believed he could neither read nor write and could barely even see. But the “stupid” Seaman Apprentice Hegdahl was slowly collecting intelligence, gathering prisoner data, and even sabotaging the enemy. He even knew the prison’s location inside Hanoi.



Hegdahl was a South Dakota native who was blown off the deck of the *USS Canberra* as the ship’s five-inch guns fired on nearby targets of opportunity. Once overboard, he floated in the South China Sea for 12 hours before being picked up by fishermen, who turned him over to the North Vietnamese.

Hegdahl’s enlistment photo and a photo of the sailor in captivity.

Certain he could be tortured for information, the Communists tried to get Hegdahl to write anti-American and anti-war propaganda. They showed him similar documents that other captives – higher ranking captives – wrote for North Vietnam. Hegdahl thought about it for a moment, then agreed. The Communists were amazed. No other captured American did this voluntarily. They went off to get ink and paper.

The young sailor was thinking quickly. He figured the officers who wrote the propaganda material were probably coerced into doing it. He decided the best thing he could do was play dumb. He was very, very successful. The North Vietnamese thought Doug Hegdahl was a developmentally challenged “poor peasant” and set out to teach him to read and write. After failing at that, they decided to write a confession for him to sign, which he did:

“Seaman Apprentice Douglas Brent Hegdahl III United States Navy Reserve, Commanding Officer, *USS Canberra*.”

The sailor was first put into a cell with Air Force officer Joe Crecca, who taught Hegdahl 256 names of other POWs and then taught him how to memorize the information to the tune of “Old McDonald.” After that, Hegdahl was imprisoned with Dick Stratton, who was the ranking officer for a time.

Because they thought Hegdahl so developmentally challenged, the Hòa Lò Prison guards essentially gave him free reign to do a lot of the cleaning and sweeping around the prison yard. He was even allowed to go and clean up around *the front gates of the prison itself*. That’s how he was able to later tell U.S. intelligence where the prison could be found within the North Vietnamese capital.

But the sailor didn’t stop there. As the sailor swept the prison grounds, when the single guard assigned to him took his afternoon siesta, Hegdahl would add a little bit of dirt to the gas tank of the nearest truck. Over the course of his captivity, he managed to disable five NVA prison trucks this way.

Eventually, it came time for the NVA to offer early releases to some of the prisoners of the Hanoi Hilton. Even though there was a strict order among the POWs to not accept any early releases, Hegdahl was *ordered* to accept an early release — the only Hòa Lò prisoner ever ordered to do so — by his senior officer, Lt. Cmdr. Dick Stratton. He was not only the most junior prisoner in the camp, he also had all the information the U.S. government needed to expedite the release of the POWs — all of them. He didn’t want to, but someone needed to tell the U.S. about the torture they were receiving there.

When he was released, not only did Hegdahl recite the names of the 256 men who were shot down or captured in North Vietnam, he could say their dog’s name, kids’ names, and/or social security numbers. These were the means by which other POWs verified the information given. He picked up all of this information through tap code, deaf spelling code, and secret notes.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED



Hegdahl on sweeping duty at “The Plantation,” Hanoi.

Released in 1969, Hegdahl was able to accuse the North Vietnamese of torture and murder of prisoners of war at the Paris Peace Talks in 1970. Flown there by H. Ross Perot, he accused the North Vietnam delegation of murdering Dick Stratton, assuring Lt. Cdr. Stratton would have to be repatriated alive at the war’s end.

But the prisoners back in Hanoi didn’t have to wait long for treatment to change. Once Hegdahl described the treatment of POWs in public and to the media, the ones he left behind saw their treatment improve, receiving better rations and less brutality in their daily life.

In his memoirs, Stratton wrote of Hegdahl:

“The Incredibly Stupid One,” my personal hero, is the archetype of the innovative, resourceful and courageous American Sailor.

<https://www.wearethemighty.com/popular/amazing-pow-douglas-hegdahl/>

<https://cherrieswriter.com/2014/03/17/the-incredibly-stupid-one-at-the-hanoi-hilton/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OB3BOCUzFF0&ab_channel=TheStockdalecenter

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

I WAS THERE
SOMETIMES I STILL AM



VIETNAM
VETERAN

DPA ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

We are nearing the end of the VFW year. For those that have already qualified for All-State, Congratulations! Those that have not yet crossed that line, there are still a few more months to get there.

The Commander has authorized a membership award for the month of April. The Post with the most increase in membership for the month of April will receive \$250.

Post and District elections are upon us. The only way to file an election report is through OMS at vfw.org. Your Post or District Quartermaster should have access to submit your report. If your Quartermaster is having issues with submitting the report, I can submit the report for you. I will need the name and membership number of all the officers. Also, please email your General Orders so I can get the Department Memo one update.

It looks like we will be having a mixed Convention this year, meaning both in person and zoom. It has been a couple of years since we were all able to meet in person and I'm looking forward to it. Speaking of the Convention, delegate fees will need to be paid. I will be sending an email to all Post Commanders and Quartermasters with the number of delegates for you Post. Once you have elected your delegates email the list to me. Delegate fees is set at \$6 per delegate.

Since we are having a Convention in person this year, we will be looking for your ads to me submitted. The cost break down is full page color - \$200, half page color - \$100, full page black and white - \$100, half page black and white - \$50, back cover - \$400, and inside back cover \$300. Once you reach \$500 in ads, you will receive a rebate of 50% on all ads above \$500. Booster names are set at \$2. You will receive a rebate of 50 cents for each name after 35 names. Business cards for the Convention book is set at \$10. All ads, booster names or business cards need to be emailed to the Convention Book Chairman, please copy me on the email. Payments for all will be to the Department Quartermaster.

The information for next year's bonds have not yet been received. Once I get the information, I will email it to all Commanders and Quartermasters.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson
Adjutant/Quartermaster



Adjutant / Quartermaster

Shawn Watson



**In the ancient Persian Empire,
men would debate ideas while sober
and again while drunk. An idea had to
sound good in both states to be
considered acceptable.**

[@officialmbf](#)

mind-blowingfacts.com

"WE WERE THE BEST AMERICA HAD"
VIETNAM
VETERAN



**BROTHERS WHO FOUGHT
WITHOUT AMERICAN SUPPORT**

**BROTHERS WHO RETURNED
WITHOUT AMERICA'S WELCOME**

**BROTHER WHO WILL ALWAYS BE
"THE BEST AMERICA HAD"**

CHIEF OF STAFF

Greetings Comrades,

Some big changes are occurring at the National level of our organization. The Quartermaster General, Debra Anderson, has retired and a new (temporary) QM General, Marc Garduno, was elected by the National Council of Administration. Marc will serve until the full Convention can vote for QM General at the National Convention in July. Marc is expected to throw his hat in the ring for reelection, most likely running against former CINC Hal Roesch.

The chief of VFW's Washington Office, BJ Lawrence, has also retired, and has been replaced by former Chief and former CINC Bob Wallace. This is also a temporary move until a new Chief can be named, probably by the incoming CINC, Tim Borland, and the new Adjutant General. Kevin Jones, the current Adjutant General, announced his intention to retire after this year's National Convention, and Tim Borland has announced that he will appoint Dan West as the new Adjutant General.

A few other important announcements came out of the Washington Conference held in DC this past Feb./Mar. This year's Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners in-person event was cancelled due to COVID. So National has decided to pick up the full price (airfare and tuition) for this year's winners to attend the Freedom Foundation camp this summer in Pennsylvania. Normally, Department pays for its winner to attend.

Also announced was the Life Member payout schedule for 2022-2023. For the first time in many years, the payouts for ALL Life Member plans will be fully funded. The payouts are determined by which plan each Life Member joined under. The plans are as follows:

Plan A Life Members joined between 1950 – 1969. Plan B, 1969-1976. Plan C, 1976-1997. Plan D, 1998-2006. Finally, Plan E, 2007-present. The payouts are divided into three equal parts. One-third goes to National, one-third goes to Department, and one-third goes to the Post. Payout amounts for each Life Member are: Plans A, B and C \$10.50 (divided by 3), Plan D \$16.50 (divided by 3), and Plan E \$27.00 (divided by 3). Most of your Post's Life Members joined under Plan E, so the Post can expect to get \$9 for the majority of their Life Members. The payout happens each September.

Finally, I would like to give a word of advice to each newly elected Post and District officer. At some time in April or May, you will raise your right hand and take a solemn oath to do the job to which you have been elected or appointed to the best of your ability. Please take this oath seriously, and commit yourself to learn the duties of your position. Ask for help! No one knows everything about the job from the beginning. Treat others as you would like to be treated. And commit yourself to making your Post or District the best it can be. This is what keeps our great organization going. Thank you!

Yours In Comradeship,
Pete Callaghan
CoS, NCM



Chief of Staff

Peter Callaghan

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Greetings Comrades,

By now most of you have held your post and district elections for the ensuing term. IAW Sec. 218 the Post Commander is to ensure your report of election is submitted to National and Department NLT June 1 and the District report of election, is required to be submitted prior to convening of the Department Convention. If you haven't done so, recommend your Quartermaster use the online Election Report featured in the Online Membership System (OMS).

Newly elected District Commander are also required to provide the Department Adjutant with Proof of eligibility.

As the Department Adjutant is also required to submit a report of election along with proof of eligibility, please get your information to Shawn as soon as possible. This information is also used to consolidate the Department Memo for the ensuing term. Thanks!

Amendments and Resolutions:

To date, I have only received one (1) resolution, and two (2) proposed amendments to the National Bylaws. Please ensure any proposed amendments and resolutions are run through channels prior to submitting them to department for consideration at our Convention in June. I have also received a copy of the proposed resolutions submitted for consideration by the C-in-C. All proposed changes will be forwarded for your review in advance of our Department Convention.

Life Member Payout:

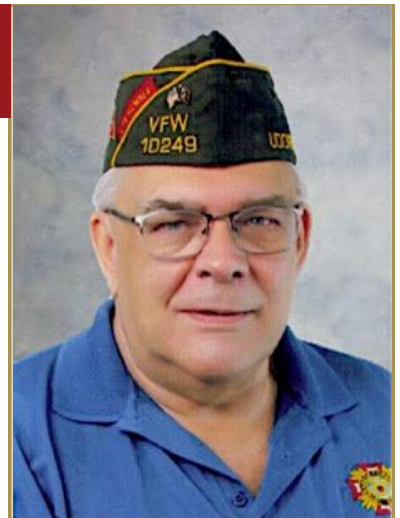
National has announced that this year there will be an increase in the amount you will receive for Life member payouts. For members under Plan A,B,C it remains at \$3.50. Plan D increased from \$4.00 to \$5.50 and Plan E members increased from \$8.44 to \$9.00.

Post QM's can estimate how much they will receive by going to the Reports Tab on the OMS website. Click on LM Payout and you will be given the option on which date you would like to view. The September report is the most complete. The following screen will appear.

By clicking on the + sign next to your post number you will be able to view all your life members and which plan they are in.

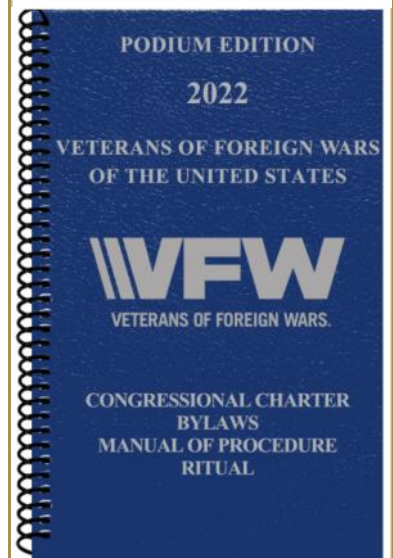
To get an idea on how much you will receive this year you will need to edit the list by removing deceased and adding any new life members. New LM will fall under Plan E.

D. Marohl
DPA Judge Advocate



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl



JUDGE ADVOCATE

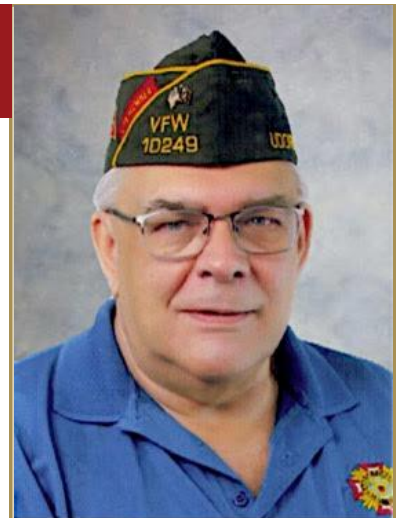
RULES OF ORDER

56th Department of Pacific Areas Convention

Pursuant to Section 518 (a)(1)(c) of the Manual of Procedure, Department Commanders shall “insist that Department business and activities are conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation nor bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment on the Department, its members or the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.”

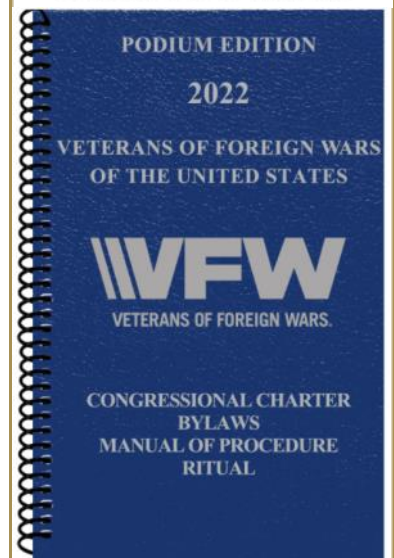
Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the travel restrictions still in effect, some members have expressed their concerns and will be unable to attend in person. Therefore, this will be a combination in-person/virtual convention.

1. **Composition:** The Department Convention shall consist of:
 - a. The Commander-in-Chief, Past Commander-in-Chief, and any current National Council Member, providing they are member in good standing of a Post within Department.
 - b. The Department Commander and all Past Department Commanders who are members in good standing in a Post within Department; all elective officers of the Department, Adjutant, Chief of Staff, Department Service Officer, and Inspector.
 - c. District Commanders in the Department. If a District Commander is absent, the District Senior vice Commander, or in his absence the District Junior vice Commander may register and function as a member of the Convention.
 - d. All Post Commanders in the Department. If a Post Commander is absent, the Post Senior Vice Commander, or in his absence the Post Junior vice Commander may register and function as a member of the Convention.
 - e. Department Service Officer (DSO), in the absence of the DSO, one of the Assistant Department Service Officers (ADSO) may be registered and function as a member of the Convention by appointment of the Department Commander.
 - f. Delegates to be elected by the Post as prescribed in Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure.
2. **Voting:** Only members listed above may vote on matters brought before the Convention. The authorized voting shall be:
 - a. Each voting member of the Convention, except delegates elected by a Post will have one (1) vote. Attendee who are listed in paragraph 1. (a through e) above named as delegates by their Posts shall be entitled to cast their pro rata share of the Post’s votes, if so desired. However, each attendee may only cast a single vote as an individual or with the Post as a delegate, but not both.



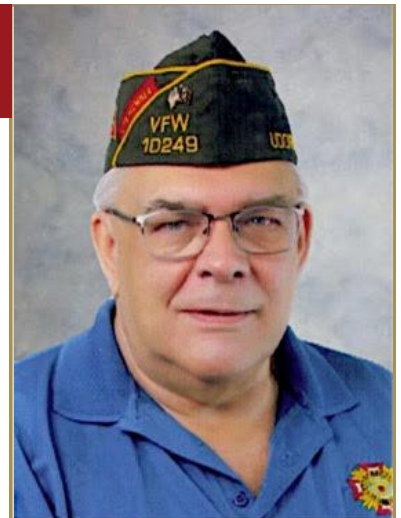
Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl



JUDGE ADVOCATE

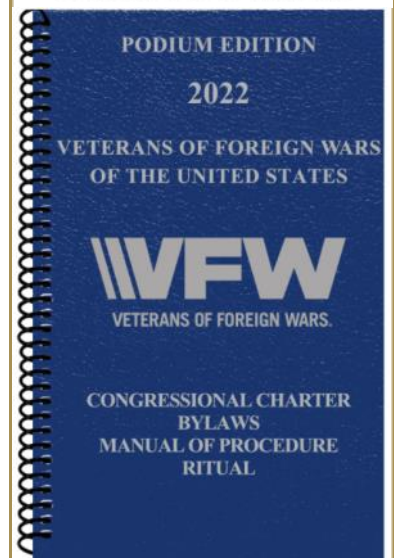
- b. The delegate or delegates of a Post present may vote the Post's full delegate strength. If there is a division among the delegation of a Post each delegate present may cast his or her vote pro rata shares of the Post authorized votes.
 - c. If a Post Commander or in his absence the Senior Vice Commander, or in his absence the Junior Vice Commander is the only person in attendance at the Convention from a Post, he/she shall be entitled to one (1) vote plus the authorized delegate voting strength of the Post, providing that his/her name appears on the Post delegate letter as a delegate or alternate.
 - d. The Credentials Committee prior to the first vote shall review the membership figures given by the Department Quartermaster and will poll the Posts to determine which members with separate votes are present, whether they will vote with their Post or separately, and determine total voting strength for each Post. The authorized voting strength for each Post at the Convention will be given in a report of Credentials Committee and shall be approved by the Convention.
 - e. Roll call votes are governed as follows:
 - i. For the election of officers when two (2) or more persons have been nominated for the same office, voting shall be by roll call of Post's and any other member(s) who may vote separately.
 - ii. Any roll call vote shall be in alphabetical order of the members present, followed by the post and delegates in numeric order.
 - iii. A roll call vote may be called for on any subject (question) to be voted on during the Convention at the discretion of any three (3) officers or delegates representing three (3) different Posts.
 - iv. On roll call vote any delegate voting separately, and delegation casting its authorized votes together, or any member of the delegation voting separately may pass on the first roll call. If any individual or delegations abstains from voting on the second roll call vote, only the affirmative and negative votes cast will be counted to determine the number of votes necessary for a majority.
3. **Arrearages:** The Credentials Committee will report on any Posts or Districts in arrears under the provisions of Sections 213 and 413 of the National By-Laws.
 4. **Quorum:** A quorum for transacting business at the Convention will be not less than one (1) delegate from a majority of the Post's in good standing at the time of the Convention and not less than four (4) members of the Department Council of Administration, one of whom must be the Commander, Senior Vice Commander or Junior Vice Commander.



Department of Pacific Areas

Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl



JUDGE ADVOCATE

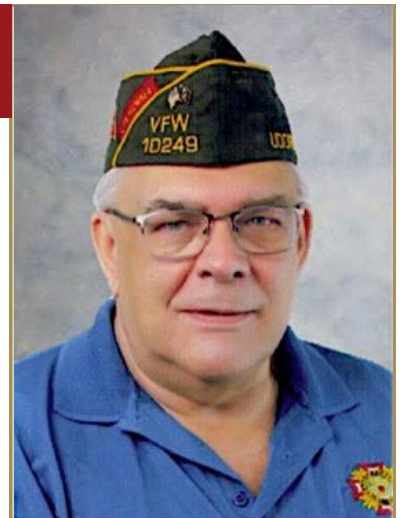
5. Discussion of Motions:

- a. Any matter brought before the Convention for consideration must be presented as a motion and that motion must be seconded prior to any discussion. Acceptation to this is a motion from a committee does not require a second.
- b. No member of the Convention may speak more than once on any motion until other members present have been given the opportunity to speak.
- c. No member of the Convention may speak more than twice on the same question.
- d. In that this is a combination in-person virtual Convention, each member shall be limited to 5 minutes each time. The presiding officer may further limit the time of discussion on a motion.

6. Election of Department Officers:

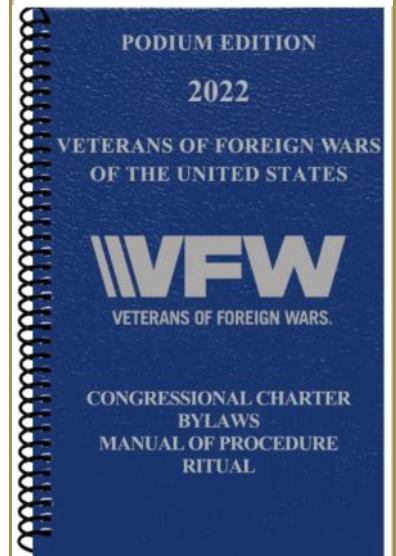
- a. The Department Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Chaplain and Surgeon shall be elected by the Convention. District Commanders, by virtue of their office, shall be officers of the Department Convention and voting members of the Council of Administration. District Commanders shall be ineligible to simultaneously hold an elected Department Office.
- b. Any member in good standing in a post in the department is eligible to hold a department office. A member may hold one (1) elected and one or more appointed offices, no member may simultaneously hold two (2) elected department offices.
- c. Before nominations are closed, any nominee to a department office must have the opportunity to decline nomination to the office to which he or she has been nominated.
- d. Any member absent from the convention who is nominated for an office must have written consent to such nomination in the hands of the department adjutant before nominations for that office.
- e. Nominations will remain open until the presiding officer declares them closed and the convention is ready to vote. A majority of all votes cast is necessary to elect, and voting will continue until an election is declared. Should there be no election on the first roll call the name of the nominee receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and so on in successive roll calls until a majority vote is reached.
- f. Officers will be installed before the Convention is adjourned.

7. Caucus: Any member of the Convention may call for a caucus to discuss with his fellow delegates any matter to be voted on by the Convention. The presiding officer may limit the time for a caucus. Those members in virtual attendance may utilize the zoom chat feature.



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl

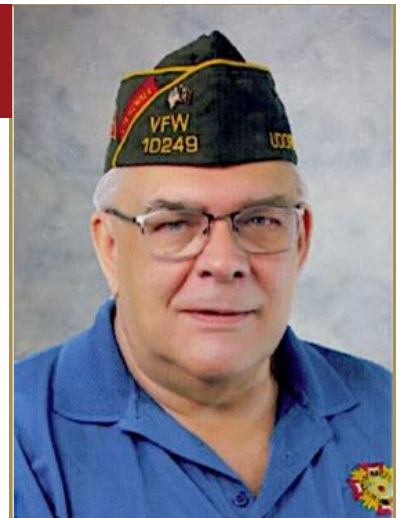
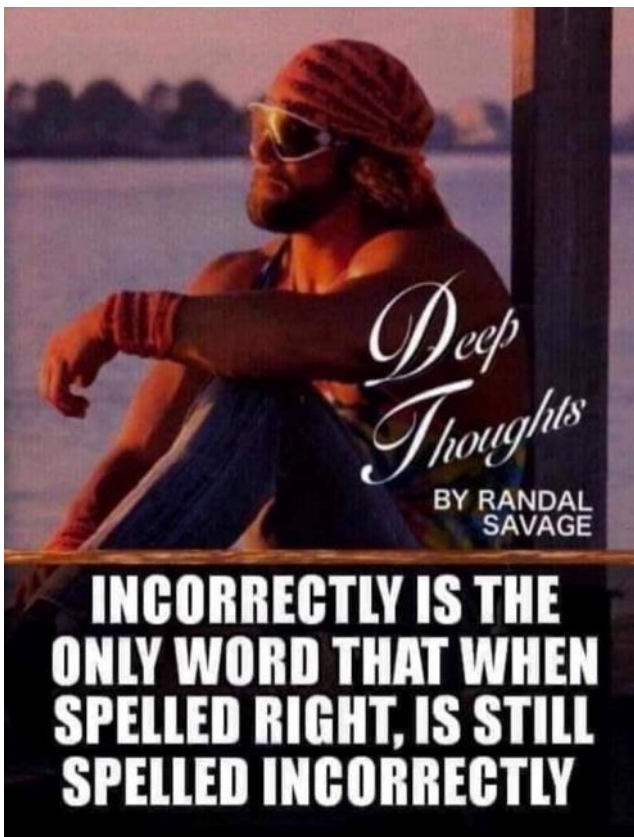


JUDGE ADVOCATE

8. Virtual Attendance:

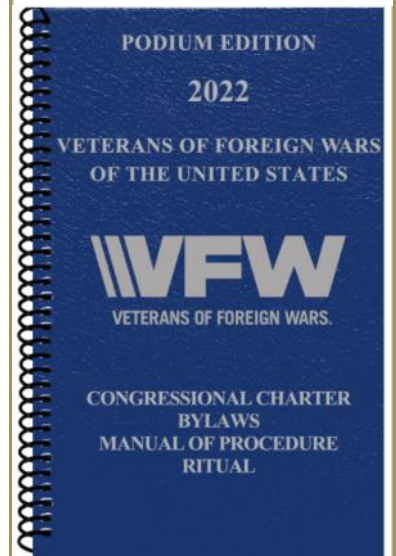
- a. The Virtual Attendance will be conducted using the Zoom Meeting Platform.
- b. Department Adjutant will be the meeting host and is responsible for sending the meeting invitation and the meeting link to all council members and invited guests.
- c. The Department Adjutant will also serve as the moderator and control the meeting per direction of the Department Commander.
- d. Each member is responsible for their connection to the meeting; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.
- e. Invited guests, (Non-members of the Department of Pacific, if any) will be pre-approved by the Department Commander.
- f. Required reports will be submitted electronically to the Department Adjutant and included as an attachment to the minutes.
- g. The meeting will be recorded and kept on file for future reference.
- h. When addressing the assembly, members shall be in camera view while speaking.

9. **Other:** Matters not covered by these Rules of Order, the provisions of the Congressional Charter, By-Laws and the Manual of Procedures of the VFW. Roberts Rules of Order shall be the authority.



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl



NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN

Comrades, as we wind down another year and with the DPA convention just around the corner. The DPA donations to the National Home is looking great.

There are three Post yet to make this year's donation, if you guys are in the running for DPA's ALL STATE you will need to get this done.

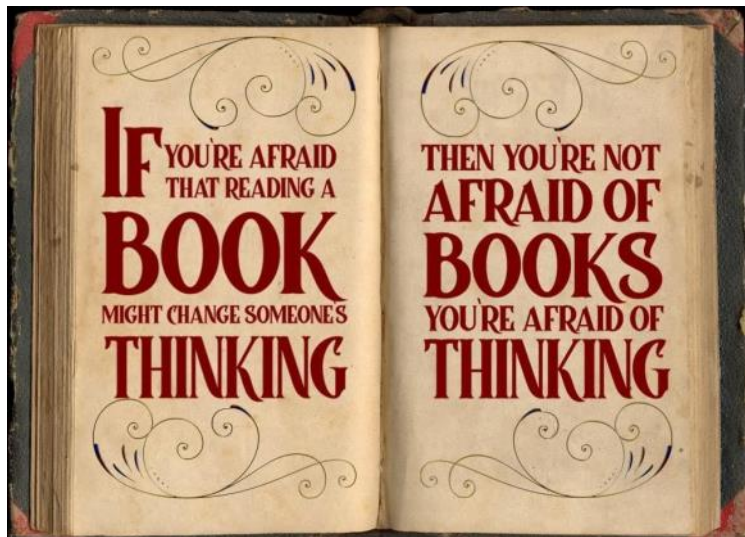
Seem like this year's Convention will happen. Hope to see everyone there.

District or Post that are having problems with making this donation please let me know. I can contact the National Home and try to get them resolved.

National Home Donation Report as of 14 April 2022

District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated	District / Post	Reported	District / Post Donated
District 1	Yes	\$50.00	10217	Yes	\$50.00
9723	Yes	\$50.00	10249	No	
District 2	Yes	\$50.00	11575	Yes	\$50.00
1054	Yes	\$50.00	12074	Yes	\$50.00
9555	Yes	\$100.00	12146	Yes	\$50.00
9612	Yes	\$50.00	12163	Yes	\$50.00
District 3	Yes	\$50.00	District 6	Yes	\$50.00
8180	Yes	\$100.00	1509	No	
9985	No		2917	Yes	\$50.00
10033	Yes	\$50.00	3457	Yes	\$50.00
10223	Yes	\$50.00	District 7	Yes	\$50.00
District 4	Yes	\$50.00	124	Yes	\$50.00
9957	Yes	\$50.00	2485	Yes	\$50.00
District 5	Yes	\$50.00	9892	Yes	\$100.00
9876	Yes	\$1,100.00	11447	Yes	\$50.00
9951	Yes	\$50.00	12130	Yes	\$50.00
Dist./Post Total	\$2,650.00	Special Projects	Grand Total	\$2,650.00	

Yours in Comradeship,
 Randell E. Himes
nhcdpa@vfw-pacific.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@vfw-pacific.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](#)



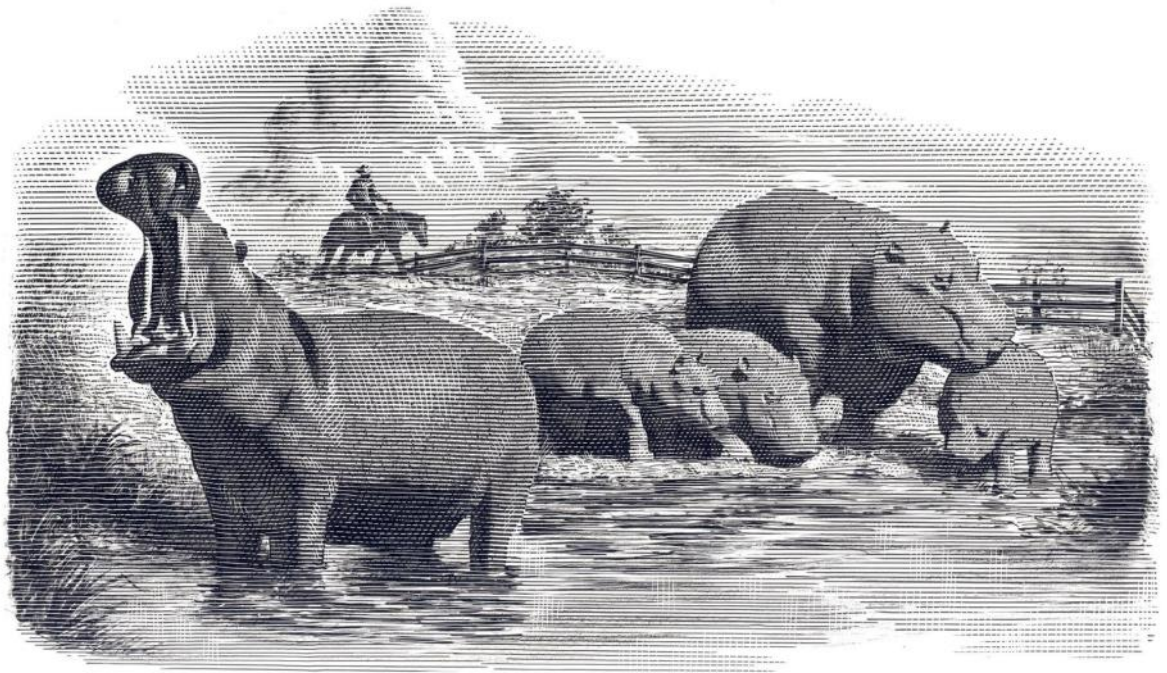
VFW
 NATIONAL HOME
 FOR CHILDREN

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

America was facing the prospect of a serious meat shortage in 1910. The rapidly growing population was outpacing the country's ability to raise meat animals. Techniques for the mass production of hogs and chickens had not yet been invented. Overgrazing was destroying pastureland and the number of beef cattle in the country was falling by a million per year, as beef prices soared. It seemed that the country couldn't continue to rely on its dwindling supply of beef cattle. What then to do?

Frederick Russell Burnham, a then-famous adventurer, mercenary, and explorer had an idea, and he persuaded Congressman Robert Foligny Broussard of Louisiana of its wisdom. The idea? To import hippopotamuses to the swampy Gulf coast and raise them for food.

Burnham's idea was particularly attractive to Broussard, a Cajun planter who saw hippos as the potential solution to a problem plaguing his state. In 1884 Japanese delegates to an international cotton exposition had brought water hyacinths from their country to distribute as gifts. By 1910 the hyacinths were clogging Louisiana rivers, destroying the livelihoods of fishermen and impeding or blocking river



navigation. Broussard imagined herds of hippos eating up the hated hyacinths, while simultaneously ending the nation's meat shortage and bringing wealth to hippo ranchers. It seemed to him to be a win-win.

So, Broussard introduced a bill in Congress for the importation of hippopotamuses, and the proposal was met with acclaim. The *New York Times* called the idea "practical and timely." Newspapers around the country enthusiastically endorsed it. President Teddy Roosevelt gave it his hearty approval. According to *The Washington Post*, it was "a question of only a very few years now when large shipments of hippos will be made to America."

But as much as Americans loved meat, convincing them to eat hippos would not be an easy task. Then, as now, Americans almost exclusively ate only four animals, imported originally from Europe—cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry, with beef being the predominant meat by far in 1910. Undeterred, a *New York Times* editorial insisted that hippo meat was tasty and should be called "lake cow bacon." The general public remained skeptical.

Alas, Broussard's vision of hippopotamus herds grazing happily on hyacinth flowers in the swamps of Louisiana was not to be, and there would be no hippo steaks on American dinner plates. The Department of Agriculture never bought into the notion, insisting that the solution to the meat shortage was simply to drain the swamps and turn them into grass pastures suitable for beef cattle—a proposal that had the advantage of not requiring Americans to acquire a taste for hippo meat. No hippopotamuses were ever imported to the U.S. and there were never any hippo ranches in the Gulf states.

Congressman Robert Broussard introduced House Bill 23261, to appropriate \$250,000 for the importation of hippopotamuses into the United States, on March 24, 1910, one hundred twelve years ago.

Today the state of Louisiana spends over \$2 million per year spraying herbicides on water hyacinth.

WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAMS

This article is going to divert a little bit from US Military topics. I have become interested in foreign military's since being stationed in Japan. Making comparisons to how others do things is a natural and encouraged activity for most of us who have served. It's how we determine that we aren't doing it as well and need to improve or, that we are holding the standard, and everyone is watching.

Ukraine has been in the news recently for the Russian invasion orchestrated by their "President" Putin. The struggle for Ukrainian women in the military started in 2014 when separatist backed by Russians caused large casualties and led to occupation in the East. The Army wasn't prepared for the female volunteers in combat roles but they needed them. Women were serving on the front line in trenches,



Soldiers in the Ukrainian military march to celebrate a return from fighting in eastern Ukraine in December.

as medics and as snipers but policy dictated that their service be fraudulently recorded as cook, seamstress, or other non-combat positions. In many cases, they were not recorded for serving in any capacity. In 2016, the policy changed to allow women in combat roles. This was a result of many voices standing up for rights and services available to veterans being denied. Today the percentage of women serving is about 15% of the total force. [1]

In Poland, another NATO country that has been seen more in the news recently as a safe haven for Ukrainians fleeing the war and as a possible war partner against Russia has made changes over the last 20 years. Up until 1999, women were not able to attend military academies and in 2003 were able to fill any military position. Although women did not participate in the conscript service which was in place until 2008, they were drafted using the same standards as men. As a result of the events in Ukraine and concerns along the Russo-Polish border, the Territorial Defense Force was founded in 2016. They are similar to the US Reserve/National Guard program to maintain warfighting skills in case of conflict. Although their percentage of women in the military is below NATO average, they have managed to increase their representation from 0.1% in 2000 to double at 7.5% in 2015. [2] [3]

Our UK partners have also made changes following a similar timeline. In 2014 it was recommended to end the ban on women in close combat followed by The Prime Minister directing the Ministry of Defense (MoD) to follow through by end of 2016. The options open to women now include submarine service, pilot, naval warships, infantry, Royal Marines, Armored Corps and Air Force Regiment. It should be noted that Australia and the USA were studying the impact of women in combat and were the catalyst for the decision made in the UK. [4]



Department of Pacific Areas

Women Veterans Programs

Lauren Wanzer

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY - A PROUD HERITAGE



WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAMS

The Philippines has a similar history of service to European and America Countries. They were a colony of Spain and then America until 1946. It is easy to forget that WWII started in the Far East well before the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. Resistance planning started in 1930 in response to Japanese interest in raw materials and Filipino labor. Women were serving as guerrilla fighters, spies, secretaries, nurses, propagandist, and messengers. The Women's Auxiliary Service (WAS) was organized in 1943 with a mission to provide food, shelter, basic first aid, and clothing for guerrilla fighters. Those that served normally did not have a record of their service which prevented them from receiving pensions and other benefits. In 1963 the WAS became an official reserve military unit and was renamed the Women's Auxiliary Corps (WAC). The WAC comprised of jobs restricted to support positions such as nursing and administration and after 50 years, they were disbanded in 2013. In 1993, after passage of 7192, Filipinas were allowed to attend as cadets at the Philippine Military Academy and be formally trained as a soldier. As of 2020, six female officers are assigned as battalion commanders of the 795 female officers and female soldiers' number over 3,700. [5] [6]



The Royal Thai Armed Forces (RTARF) has an interesting history that is very closely linked to the political shifts of the ruling parties. Like many countries, female participation in the army was encouraged as a result of WWII. Thailand had resisted the Japanese invasion but were unsuccessful at remaining neutral, bringing the need for trained qualified soldiers no matter the gender, to the desk of the Field Marshal P. Phibunsongkram. Recruitment into the Army Reserve as Cadets allowed upon completion, the rank of second lieutenant. Soon after a female sergeant school was established. With the resignation of the Field Marshal in 1943, females already serving on the front lines in the Army were forced to become civil servants or lose their pension. The Ministry of Defense clearly stated in 1984 that women could not perform duties that directly involved combat and the highest attainable rank would be Colonel. Maintaining the restriction of non-combat roles continued when the Thai Royal Air Force (RTAF) announced their decision to recruit 5 female pilots in



unteers only. [7]

2016, a first in RTARF history, in support of non-combat flight missions. The conscription for males 21-26 has come under social pressure from the LGBTQ community. Three year volunteer service, and a draft is still a policy to keep personnel trained in case of National Defense for males, excluding any with certificates verifying gender change and naturally born females are not required to serve and are vol-



Department of Pacific Areas
Women Veterans Programs

Lauren Wanzer

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY - A PROUD HERITAGE



WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAMS

South Korea also has a conscription requirement for males to serve 21 to 24 months depending on the branch within the military. There is a push for gender equality by the Gender Equality and Family Ministry who cites those women don't have the same opportunities as men who leave conscription with "employment perks" and skills that offer them higher wages. The low birth rate and militarized zone with North Korea is the incentive to keep and possibly expand conscription to include women. Female officers make up about 7% of the total force as of 2020 and the Defense Minister plans to increase that to almost 9% by end of 2022. The Korean War brought the first organized volunteer option for women which has expanded opportunities for service allowing nearly every position of the military since 1989. [8] [9]



Service members carry out guard duties in the eastern border town of Goseong on Sept. 8, 2019, in this photo provided by the Army.

North Korea, which has one of the largest and longest conscription services made it mandatory for women aged 17-20 to serve until 23 as of 2015. Males are required to serve 10 years which was reduced from 13 years in 2003. Combat roles are shared despite gender, but there have been reports from defectors that there are female only divisions that cater to high ranking officials in the military and political party. North Korea, like S. Korea is facing low birth rates but they are also seeing the effect of the high child mortality rates of the 1990's. [10]



China has a long history of women warriors starting in the B.C. time frame. These women were commanders and generals leading and suppressing uprisings and acting in the defense of the nation. Women continued to be accepted in combatant roles though the 18th and 19th centuries when most countries were suppressing women's rights. Ironically, it was during the 1930's and 40's that women were relegated to a supporting role when the rest of the world was trying to "win" WWII. With the shift worldwide on women's role in the military, the PLA has allowed their women more opportunities to serve as fighter pilots and aboard warships. [11] [12]



A 55-member all female guard of honor debuted on Wednesday during a welcoming ceremony held in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.



Department of Pacific Areas
Women Veterans Programs

Lauren Wanzer

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY - A PROUD HERITAGE



WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAMS

It's impossible to talk about China without mentioning Taiwan. The small island nation has been trying to maintain independence from mainland China since the communist movement. Women were actively recruited for intelligence, nursing and political advisors starting in the 1930's. Like most modern nations, the 1990's saw the increase of women in technical fields and academy enrollment for all branches in the military. By 2006 the opportunities were largely unimpeded with some exceptions. As of 2017, total combat specializations were comprised of 15% female and the total force is over 13%. [13]

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Women Veterans Programs

Lauren Wanzer



MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

[#MedalOfHonor](#) Delbert Owen Jennings was born on July 23, 1936 in Silver City, New Mexico. He joined the Army from San Francisco, California in 1956, and by December 1966 was serving as a Staff Sergeant in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Division.

On December 27, 1966, at Firebase Bird in the Kim Song Valley in the Republic of Vietnam, Part of Company C was defending an artillery position when attacked by a North Vietnamese Army regiment supported by mortar, recoilless-rifle, and machine gun fire. At the outset, Jennings sprang to his bunker, astride the main attack route, and slowed the on-coming enemy wave with highly effective machine gun fire.

Despite a tenacious defense in which he killed at least 12 of the enemy, his squad was forced to the rear. After covering the withdrawal of the squad, he rejoined his men, destroyed an enemy demolition crew about to blow up a nearby howitzer, and killed 3 enemy soldiers at his initial bunker position. Ordering his men back into a secondary position, he again covered their withdrawal, killing 1 enemy with the butt of his weapon.

Observing that some of the defenders were unaware of an enemy force in their rear, he raced through a fire-swept area to warn the men, turn their fire on the enemy, and lead them into the secondary perimeter. Assisting in the defense of the new position, he aided the air-landing of reinforcements by throwing white phosphorus grenades on the landing zone despite dangerously silhouetting himself with the light. After helping to repulse the final enemy assaults, he led a group of volunteers well beyond friendly lines to an area where 8 seriously wounded men lay.

Braving enemy sniper fire and ignoring the presence of booby traps in the area, they recovered the 8 men who would have probably perished without early medical treatment. Jennings's extraordinary heroism and inspirational leadership saved the lives of many of his comrades and contributed greatly to the defeat of a superior enemy force. For his actions during the battle, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

He was also stationed in 1969-1971 time period with the 6th Infantry in [then] West Berlin, Germany.

Jennings reached the rank of Command Sergeant Major before leaving the Army in 1985.

Delbert Jennings died at age 66 and is buried at the Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

Visit the museum and see a tribute to Jennings' brave actions. The Hall of Valor pays tribute to American Infantrymen who have received the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest award for bravery.

[#OnThisDayInHistory](#) [#HallofValor](#)

<http://nationalinfantrymuseum.org/project/hall-of-valor/>



DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Comrades,

All inspections in the Department are complete. That means all District and Post have met the requirements for All State. I want to thank all of you for making it happen. It was a challenge, but we got it done.

Please be reminded when you read this it will be past the deadline for filing the 990's with the IRS, therefore if you have not turned one in for your post, please do so immediately.

It was an honor to serve as the Department Inspector. Please continue to stay safe and hope to see many of you at the Department Convention in person or via Zoom in June.

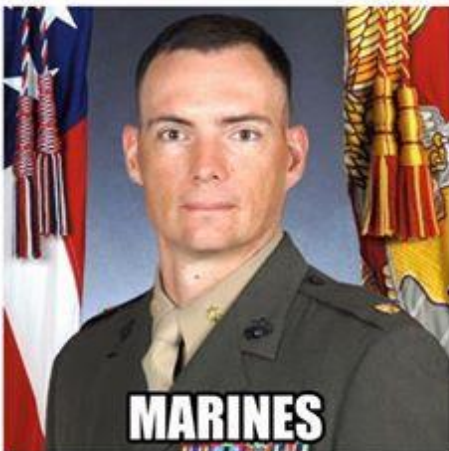
Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Robert Mo Moses
DPA Inspector
inspdpa@vfwpacific.org



Department Inspector

Robert "Mo" Moses



CERTIFIED NATIONAL RECRUITER

Comrades of the Pacific,

We are getting down close to the finishing line but we still have work to do currently today we have 11,996 members which puts us at 98.96% needing only 126 more members!

Comrades we can do this. Our highest percentage post is Post 3457 in Saipan which is 17 members over 100%. Looking at MEMSTAT that have reached 100% or most are just a little bit over their numbers from the previous year. I am not saying go out and get a hundred more for your post but 3 or 4 more members will not hurt you and you will be able to pick up basically the active duty members post that have been struggling because of limits but on them on what they could do with COVID19.

We have 46 days to the start of our convention, guys and gals WE CAN DO THIS! Let's continue the Team Pacific standard of being 100% for our Department by convention time.

I will leave the at-a-boys for the convention.

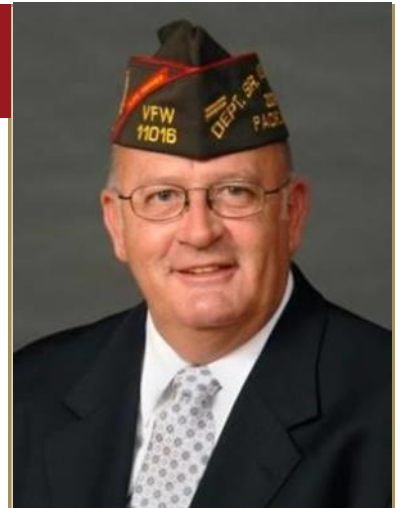
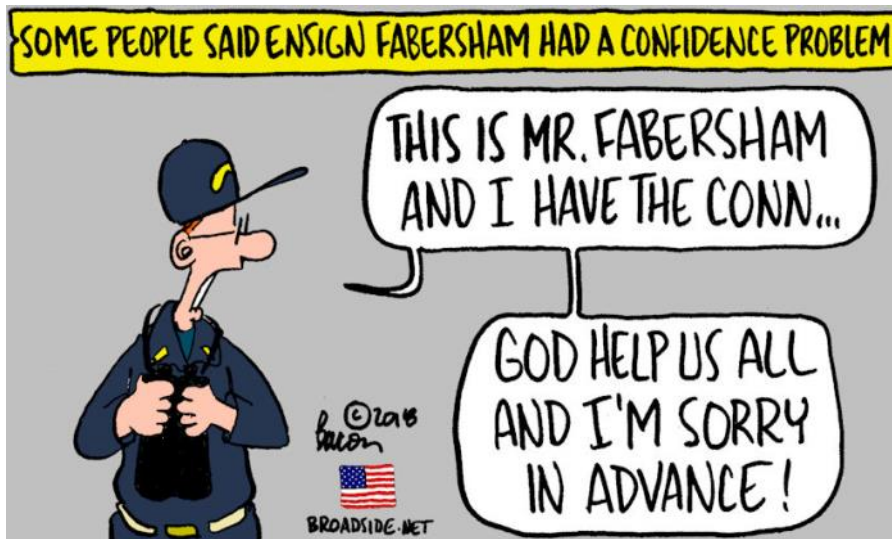
Since we have not met in person for several year this convention we will passing out the membership awards for 3 years! Something tells me I will be the last chairman giving the reports!

On another note we have not been giving out the pins and tabs for the Pacific All American Team so if you made All American during the last 2 years or anticipate that you will this year please send me an email with your status on which tab you need so I can get a jump on them and have them ready for the All American Luncheon. My email address is PDCLyons935@Gmail.com

It has been a pleasure working with Commander Kevin this year and look forward to working with SVC Max as Commander next year.

Hope to see you all in A/C.

Larry Lyons
Certified National Recruiter
Past Department Commander 08/09
Department of Pacific Areas
EVERY Veteran is a HERO



Certified National Recruiter

Larry Lyons


A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

did you know?

In 1997, 14-year-old Nathan Zohner got 43 out of 50 9th graders to vote in favor of banning dihydrogen monoxide, also known as water. The hoax was a science fair project, which he titled 'How Gullible Are We?' He not only won the science fair, but also inspired the term 'Zohnerism,' defined as 'the use of a fact to lead a scientifically ignorant public to a false conclusion.'



PHOTO: PIXABAY

 DIDYOUKNOWFACTS.COM

In 1997, Nathan Zohner, a 14-year-old student at Eagle Rock Junior High School in [Idaho Falls, Idaho](#), gathered 43 votes to ban the chemical, out of 50 ninth-graders surveyed. Zohner received the first prize at Greater Idaho Falls [Science Fair](#) for analysis of the results of his survey.^[5] In recognition of his experiment, journalist [James K. Glassman](#) coined the term "Zohnerism" to refer to "the use of a true fact to lead a scientifically and mathematically ignorant public to a false conclusion".^[15]

[Read more here.](#)

DPA SURGEON

Comrades,

We are still facing troubling times in the COVID-19 pandemic. However, a new concern is on the rise about Delta-Omicron variant.

The variant is a combination of Delta (AY.4) and BA.1 Omicron has been named by the World Health Organization WHO as the BA.1 x AY.4 recombinant AKA “Deltacron”.

How Does a Recombinant Emerge?

Recombinants can emerge when multiple variants infect the same person at the same time, allowing the variants to interact during replication, mix up their genetic material, and form new combination.

Aside from COVID-19 news, countries are slowly easing travel restrictions and quarantine. However, travelers continue to follow protocols such as wearing masks, social distancing, swab tests, and booster shots. Prior to traveling, you must apply for COVID insurance if the country requires one.

Check out these websites for more information

CDC: COVID-19 Information

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

Stay safe, think safe, and be safe

Yours in Comradeship,
Mariano Fajardo
DPA Surgeon



“The WiFi password is:
‘buysomethingorgetout’.”



Department of Pacific Areas

Surgeon

Mariano Fajardo

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Greetings Comrades,

The Honoring our PACT Act passed the House in March with a broad bipartisan vote. Now it is time for the Senate to do its job.

The Honoring our PACT Act is THE comprehensive solution to provide access to VA health care and benefits to toxic-exposed veterans. Supported by more than 40 veteran organizations, this historic legislation would help millions of veterans by establishing a permanent presumptive framework to address any toxic exposure, foreign or domestic, past, present, and future. It would provide VA health care access for all veterans exposed to hazards, create a concession of exposure for airborne toxins, and establish a list of presumptive conditions associated with burn pits and other exposures. This legislation would help Post-9/11 veterans, Persian Gulf War veterans, K2 veterans, Atomic veterans, and Vietnam veterans, including those who served in Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos. We urge the Senate to pass the Honoring our PACT Act as soon as it is brought to the floor.

Take Action!

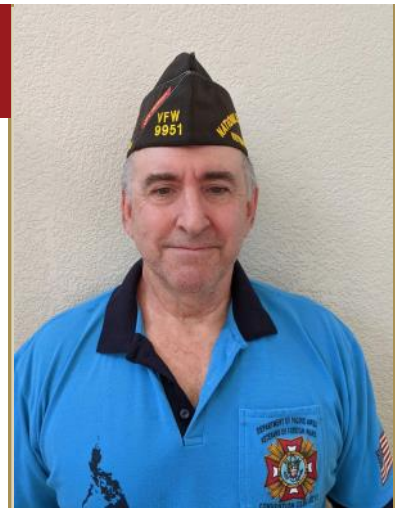
Contact your home state senators and tell them to vote YES when the Honoring our PACT Act is brought to the Senate floor. Toxic-exposed veterans cannot afford to wait any longer for health care and benefits.

You can find your senator here: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>

Then go to the senator's website and send them an email telling them to vote YES!

We must act now!

Jonathan Brazee
DPA Legislative Chairman



Legislative Chairman

Jonathan Brazee



A banner for "VFW ACTION ALERT". It features a dark blue background with a white megaphone icon at the top left. The text "VFW ACTION ALERT" is in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. Below it is the VFW logo, which consists of the letters "VFW" in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a stylized "V" and "W", and the text "VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. On the right side of the banner, there is a grey box containing the text "VFW Action Alert!" and a paragraph: "The Honoring our PACT Act passed the House in March with a broad bipartisan vote. Now it is time for the Senate to do its job." Below this text is a small, grey button with the text "Take Action Now".

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

HOW DID PORTUGAL NEARLY ELIMINATE DRUG OVERDOSES?

- Decriminalized all drug use
- Provided addicts with housing instead of jail
- Shifted funds from police to treatment and prevention
- Doubled spending on rehab clinics
- Provided addicts with jobs and skills training

SHARE if we should follow their lead!



THE WAR ON DRUGS AMERICA VS PORTUGAL



Has spent over 1 trillion dollars on its drug war

80,000 SWAT raids a year, most of which are to search for drugs

Home of the largest prison population in the history of mankind

Leads the world in drug use

Drug users find it nearly impossible to find jobs or homes after a conviction is on their record

Ended its war on drugs by decriminalizing all drugs

Police spend time solving violent crimes

Has 4 times fewer murders and 7 times fewer rapes than America

Cut drug use nearly in half

Tax money goes toward rehab. Drug programs help users and recovering addicts find jobs

VIA 9GAG.COM

#EndTheDrugWar

Portugal has set a positive example for what can be done when drug policies prioritize health rather than criminalization. At the turn of the century, Portugal was facing a crisis, including high levels of HIV infection among people who use drugs. Many impacts of reform were felt immediately: new HIV infections, drug deaths and the prison population all fell sharply within the first decade. The second decade saw slower improvement in key measures, as well as an upturn in drug deaths. However, many of these factors need to be put into context. Drug policy is still only one variable interacting with a complex mix of social, economic, cultural and political factors, and cuts to wider health provision in that period will have played a part in this. Nevertheless, Portugal is in a much better position than it was in 2001 and recorded drug use and drug deaths as a proportion of the general population are both well below the European average.

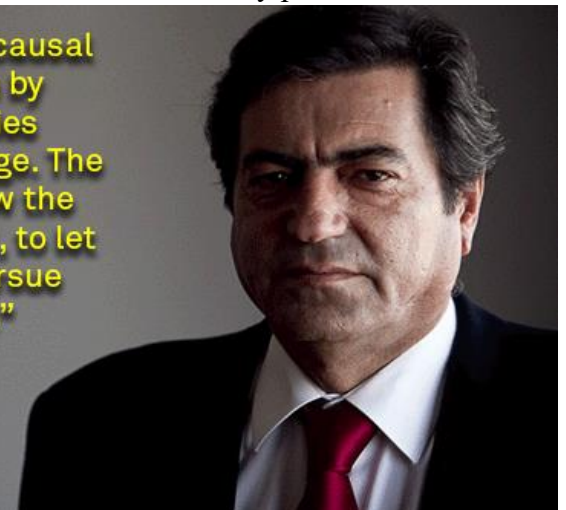
Portugal's experience is a lesson in what can be achieved when policy innovation and political will are aligned in response to a crisis, and hopefully it will continue to evolve and lead on this issue. However, while ending the criminalization of people who use drugs is hugely important both in its own right, in reducing stigma and as an enabler of any effective public health response, it only addresses part of the harms caused by prohibition.⁵² With innovation taking place elsewhere, including regulated cannabis sales in North America and safe supply of opioids and other drugs in Canada, there is also room for Portuguese drug policy to learn from and build upon other reform efforts, and continue in its global leadership role.

[Read more here.](#)

[NY Times Article](#)

"It's very difficult to identify a causal link between decriminalisation by itself and the positive tendencies we've seen ... It's a total package. The biggest effect has been to allow the stigma of drug addiction to fall, to let people speak clearly and to pursue professional help without fear."

**Dr João Goulão
Architect of Portugal's
decriminalisation policy**



VOP/PP/TA CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

I hope all is well, and I hope to see you all in the Philippines this June and in-person as well!!! The Department still has two Posts that I am not tracking for both a Voice of Democracy (VoD) and Patriot's Pen (PP) National donation on the All-State Dashboard. Besides those two Posts, as well as one Post pending its District approval for a PP. Remember, to qualify for All-State/American, each Post that did not submit entries for VoD and PP needs to donate to National. You may make your donations at: https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/vfwprogramsdonation2021_22. Post donations are \$75.00 for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen each. There was no requirement for Teachers Award at the Post or District level so, no donation is required for this program. Please forward your donation receipt to vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org to get credit. Since each District turned one of each in, they do not need to donate. Please remember that your Post/District adjutant needs to update the dashboards if you made a submission. If you donated, it will automatically update All-American, but please send me a copy of the receipt in case of future issues. The Parade of Winners is over and can be viewed on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=666289767913752.

Next year's topics are:

VoD – Why is the Veteran Important

PP – My Pledge to our Veterans

Please get these out to schools and youth centers so that children can start working on them now.

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

Patriot's Pen is Sawyer S. Stelzig, from District 5, Post 12074, Chiang Mai, Thailand was awarded the \$500 Sanford-Springvale Memorial VFW Post 9935 Award.

Voice of Democracy is Samantha Shih, from District 4, Post 9957, Taipei, Taiwan was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Florida John M. "Jack" Carney Scholarship (29:11 in the video).

Teachers Award 6th-8th grade is Randy Schmidt, from District 4, Post 9957, Taipei, Taiwan.

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



David B. Gley, Jr.
DPA VoD/PP/TA Chairman

vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org

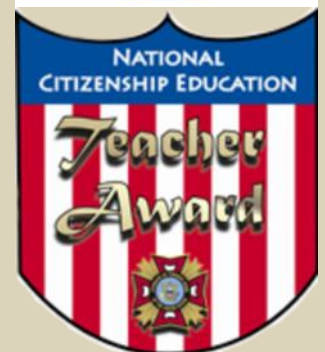
Phone: +82-10-2724-7176

EVERY Veteran is a HERO



VOD/PP/TA Chairman

David Gley



AMERICANISM/LOYALTY DAY CHAIR

Americanism/Loyalty Day May-June

In this article of the Pacific times, I will take the opportunity to express my appreciation for the leadership and support provided by Commander Mitchel and his staff during this VFW year. Well Done DPA!

As you can see by the items listed below. There are several opportunities this quarter to get out and about and show our communities how we continue to serve and support our Veterans, Active Duty, and their dependents. In this edition we will direct our focus to National Military Appreciation Month.

National Military Appreciation Month

National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM) is celebrated every May and is a declaration that encourages U.S. citizens to observe the month in a symbol of unity. NMAM honors current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom. May is characterized by six national observances highlighting the contributions of those who have served.

There are 6 Military Appreciation Month Observances & Events

Loyalty Day

Date: Sunday, May 1, 2022

About: Loyalty Day kicks off our Nation's month-long celebration of military appreciation. It is a day set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States, and to reflect on the proud heritage of our American freedom.

Loyalty Day is observed annually on May 1st. In the United States, National Loyalty Day is a special holiday meant for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States of America, and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom. Loyalty Day was made an official reoccurring holiday on July 18, 1958, although it was first recognized on May 1, 1955. Loyalty Day has been honored with an official proclamation every year, by every president, since its inception as a legal holiday in 1958.

As Americans, we do not command loyalty, but seek to earn it through our actions — including by living up to the principles enshrined in our Constitution and respecting the will of the people as reflected in the democratic process. Loyalty Day kicks off National Military Appreciation Month each year.

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW)

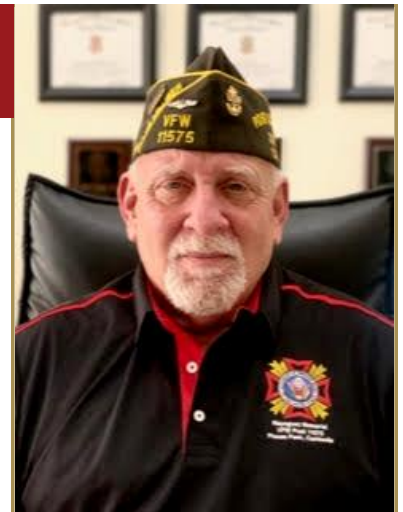
Date: Sunday, May 1 – Saturday, May 7, 2022. Celebrated the first full week in May.

About: A time set aside to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees and ensure that our government is the best in the world.

Public Service Recognition Week is dedicated to honoring our public servants. Established in 1985, Public Service Recognition Week is celebrated the first week of May, beginning on the first Sunday of the month.

PSRW will be observed from Sunday, May 1st, until Saturday, May 7th, 2022.

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) is organized annually by the Public Employees Roundtable, and its member organizations to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees.



Americanism/Loyalty Day Chair

John "Jack" Farrell

AMERICANISM/LOYALTY DAY CHAIR

Victory in Europe Day AKA V-E Day or VE Day

Date: Sunday, May 8th, 2022

About: May 8th, 1945 is the day when Germans throughout Europe unconditionally surrendered to the Allies. This day marked the end of World War II in Europe.

Each year we commemorate Victory in Europe Day, also known as V-E Day. On May 8, 1945 Nazi Germany unconditionally surrendered to the Allied Forces of the Second World War. This day in history marked the end of World War II in Europe, although the war would continue in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

About V-E Day

There were actually two surrender signings. The first was on May 7, 1945, when German Col. Gen. Alfred Jodl signed Germany's surrender on all fronts in Reims, France. The second signing was by German Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel the next day (May 8) in Berlin.

Prior to Nazi Germany's surrender, Adolf Hitler committed suicide on April 30, 1945, to avoid being captured by the Red Army. Alfred Jodl and Wilhelm Keitel were later found guilty of war crimes by the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany, and both were subsequently executed.

V-E Day marked the end of most of the fighting in Europe, where tens of millions of service members and civilians were killed since the start of hostilities. Approximately 250,000 U.S. troops were killed in the fighting in the European theater. Although fighting ended in Europe, it continued in the Pacific, where U.S. and Allied forces fought the Japanese in Okinawa, the Philippines, and other places.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day

Date: Friday, May 6th, 2022. Traditionally set for the Friday before Mother's Day. About: A day to honor military spouses with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Recognizes the important role our military families play in keeping our Armed Forces strong and our country safe.

National Military Spouse Appreciation Day is a presidentially-approved holiday and is celebrated on the Friday before Mother's Day in May. This year it will be observed on Friday, May 6th, 2022.

On Military Spouse Appreciation Day we honor the contributions and sacrifices made by military spouses. Their commitment and support help to keep our country safe. America's military spouses are the backbone of the families who support our troops during mission, deployment, reintegration and reset. Military spouses are silent heroes who are essential to the strength of the nation, and they serve our country just like their loved ones.

In celebration of Military Spouse Appreciation Day, the armed forces have special events and programs to inform, honor, and recognize military spouses around the world. Events range from spouse appreciation luncheons to educational workshops, and spouse employment fairs that pay tribute to military spouses.

Armed Forces Day

Date: Saturday, May 21, 2022. Celebrated the third Saturday in May every year. About: A single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. This day honors everyone serving in the U.S.



Americanism/Loyalty Day Chair

John "Jack" Farrell

AMERICANISM/LOYALTY DAY CHAIR

Military branches; Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, Space Force. There is also **Armed Forces Week** which typically leads up to Armed Forces Day, although it is not an official observance, many activities are planned nonetheless during the week.

Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May. Thanks to President Harry S. Truman, it's a day to pay special tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces. President Truman led the effort to establish a holiday in order for citizens to unite and to honor our military heroes for their patriotic service in support of the United States of America.

Armed Forces Day is a joint celebration of all six branches of the U.S. military: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and the newly created Space Force. The day honors all people currently serving in the U.S. armed forces. This includes the men and women who have served or are serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard, including the National Guard and Reserve components.

Memorial Day

Date: Monday, May 30, 2022. A Federal holiday observed on the last Monday in May.

About: A remembrance of our veterans. Commemorates the men and women who died while in military service. All Americans are encouraged to pause, wherever they are, at 3:00 pm local time for a minute of silence.

Memorial Day began sometime after the Civil War with both formal and informal ceremonies at graves and ceremonies for the soldiers who had fallen in battle. Many places claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866, including Waterloo, New York and both Macon and Columbus, Georgia. On May 5, 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), a Union veterans organization, established Decoration Day, May 30, as a time for the nation to decorate the dead with flowers. Arlington National Cemetery held the first large observance later that year.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held throughout the country on May 30. Over time, the Army and Navy adopted policies for proper observances, and state legislatures passed proclamations designating the day. After World War I the day was expanded to honor those who died in all American wars, and in 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday to be celebrated on the last Monday in May.

Yours in Service to Veterans
Jack Farrell
Americanism/Loyalty Chairman



Americanism/Loyalty Day Chair

John "Jack" Farrell

7 CARDINAL RULES FOR LIFE

1. Make peace with your past so it won't disturb your present.
2. What other people think of you is none of your business.
3. Time heals almost everything. Give it time.
4. No one is in charge of your happiness, except you.
5. Don't compare your life to others and don't judge them. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
6. Stop thinking too much. It's alright not to know the answers. They will come to you when you least expect it.
7. Smile. You don't own all the problems in the world.

ContemplativeMonk.com

POW/MIA CHAIRMAN

Greetings Comrades.

With COVID restrictions finally reduced throughout most countries in the world, search teams have been able to continue their search for our missing soldiers. As a result of this, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has now begun providing periodic updates and annual government briefings for families of American service members who are missing in action. These events are designed to keep family members informed of the U.S. government's worldwide mission to account for those still missing and to discuss in detail the latest information available about their specific cases.

At the annual and monthly update meetings, speakers include senior officials, experts, and scientists who work in the wide range of tasks associated with the POW/MIA mission. During the meetings, there are formal presentations, question and answer sessions, and one-one-one discussions between government officials and family members.

DoD has conducted these update programs since 1995, reaching more than 17,000 family members face-to-face.

FLYING THE POW-MIA FLAG

We display the POW-MIA flag in many places to remind people that there are many soldiers still unaccounted for. However, did you know that there was a specific protocol for flying this flag when it is flown with other flags?

When flags are flown on a single pole, the US Flag is on top followed by the POW-MIA flag, then the State flag.

If there are two poles, the US flag is on top followed by the POW-MIA flag, on one pole. The State flag is flown on the other pole.

If there are three poles, the order of precedence is the US Flag, POW-MIA flag, State flag.

Below are the totals of the MIA's for each conflict listed , as of April 1, 2022:

WW I ----- 1,648
WWII -----72,348
Korean War ----- 7,544
Cold War ----- 126
Vietnam War/S.E. Asia- - - 1,584
Iraq & Other Conflicts - - - - - 6

Yours in Comradeship,

Wayne "Bud" St. Onge
Department of Pacific Areas
POW/MIA Chairman



POW/MIA Chairman

Wayne "Bud" St. Onge



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

VMS CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

The Department of Pacific Areas has contributed \$4,150.00 of the total of \$1,713,415.88 donated to the VFW's Veterans & Military Support (VMS) Program so far this year. The DPA also expended \$250.00 of a total of \$1,134,648.13 VMS expenditures for a Military Assistance Program event this year.

The VFW offers a wide range of assistance programs aimed at helping service members and veterans of every generation. As a veteran, you understand better than most what struggles and hurdles today's service members and veterans face.

Military Assistance Program (MAP) provides financial assistance to VFW Posts/Depts. and Auxiliaries who sponsor events with their local military community. These funds are meant to build relationships and provide information on VFW programs and services. Requesting MAP funds is easy and all done online. Please take the time to view the [MAP Grant Procedures](#), [MAP Grant Application](#), and [MAP Grant Report](#).

Adopt-a-Unit VFW Posts work with unit commanders and senior enlisted personnel to develop supportive relationships with units before, during and after deployments. We offer a vast network of free resources and a variety of direct support for military members and their families. Adopting-a-Unit is easy, and all done online. Please take the time to view the [Adopt-a-Unit Application](#) and [Adopt-a-Unit Report](#).

The Department still has one District and three Posts that need to make their donations to qualify for All-American / All-State.

Need to make your Post or District Veterans & Military Support Program donation? Donations made toward VMS to fulfill the 2020-2021 All-American / All-State requirement will only be accepted through the following links [VMS-Donate Today](#) or [VFW Programs Donation Form](#). Do not donate through the Department or by any other means.

Don't think of your donation as just an All-American/ALL-State requirement, but as a means in keeping these programs alive and helping service members and veterans of every generation.

I encourage all Post to use these VMS Programs to build a better relationship between your VFW Post and the local military community.

Please email me a copy of all MAP functions, Adopt-a-Unit and VMS donations at mapdps@vfwpacific.org.

Don Kelley
Veterans & Military Support (VMS) Chairman



Department of Pacific Areas

VMS Chairman

Don Kelley



MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

VA Claims & Separation Benefits

Financial Grants

Student Veteran Support

Mental Wellness

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrades please remember our fallen comrades and pray for those still missing in action. Let us bow our heads in pray to All Mighty God. 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

Ronald J. Davis
Chaplain DPA

chadpda@vfwpacific.org or to davisronald738@gmail.com.

Jan – Jun 22 TAPS REPORT

Date of Report: 15 April 2022

Post	Name	Date of Death	Post	Name	Date of Death
2485	Bautista, Etty	16 Feb 22	8180	Anderson, John F.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Spangler, Floyd M.	23 Feb 22		Anderson, Paul H. Jr.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Malone, Sidney K.	10 Mar 22		Auman, Gregory A.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Rogers, Paul E.	16 Feb 22		Busbee, Wendell D.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Juroshek, Kristopher J.	16-Feb-22		Calkins, Robert W.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Speers, Ronald W.	14-Mar-22		Cochrane, Stephen H.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Satterfield, David L.	24 Mar 22		Crout, William L.	Unk Rpt by Natl
				Diaz, Santiago E.	Unk Rpt by Natl
12146	Williams, James H.	22 Feb 22		Drape, Larry W.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Armstrong, Mitch	04-Nov-21		Gould, Mary E.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Kristen, Kerry	01-Feb-19		Hall, Stanley E.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Bryan, Cody	Unk Rpt by Natl		Halvorson, Mark E.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Mueller, Norbert			Herrera, Robert J.	Unk Rpt by Natl
				Hughes, Thomas C.	Unk Rpt by Natl
12130	Montgomery, James L.	24 Mar 22		Huston, Andre L.	Unk Rpt by Natl
				Johnson, Samuel D.	Unk Rpt by Natl
11447	Taylor, Terrell D.	21-Jan-22		Kidney, Donald A.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Chesley, Ronald J.	18-Jan-22		LaBouff, Douglas A.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Bristle, Jerry D.	04-Feb-22		Leach, Patrick H.	Unk Rpt by Natl
				Lease, James W.	Unk Rpt by Natl
10249	Jarvis, Richard A.	02-Mar-22		Lehman, Gene A.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Turner, Earl D.	Unk Rpt by Natl		Lewis, Darrell R.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Cox, Stanley R.	Unk Rpt by Natl		Mathis, Gailynne E.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Prosser, John A.	Unk Rpt by Natl		Matzen, Arthur M.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Diehl, Richard A.	Unk Rpt by Natl		McIntosh, Mark R.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Eriksson, Leif A.	Unk Rpt by Natl		Miller, Sean D.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Hupcik, Paul S.	Unk Rpt by Natl		Moechoe Jr., Raymond	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Hutchinson, James O.	Unk Rpt by Natl		Morris, Richard P.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Marvel, Carlton A.	Unk Rpt by Natl		Otter, Alan H.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Pearce, Robert E.	Unk Rpt by Natl		Perry II, Robert E.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Penn, Thomas L.	Unk Rpt by Natl		Portis, Charles L.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Robbins, Lester A.	Unk Rpt by Natl		Potoky Jr., Charles E.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Silker, Robert T.	Unk Rpt by Natl		Roberson, Glendell	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Walker, Alan B.	Unk Rpt by Natl		Robinson, David	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Freeman, Woody R.	Unk Rpt by Natl		Rooney, Sean K.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Ghrames, James M.	Unk Rpt by Natl		Sanford, John M.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Renigar, Frank A.	Unk Rpt by Natl		Shilling, Warren M.	Unk Rpt by Natl
				Smith, Wesley A.	Unk Rpt by Natl
8180	Wallace, Byron D.	29-Sep-21		Turner, Robert C.	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Salas, Johnnie	27-Mar-22		Smith-White, Jonathan	Unk Rpt by Natl
	Jugan, Michael R.	13-Apr-22		Weedon, Richard V.	Unk Rpt by Natl
				Wiley, Ricardo E.	Unk Rpt by Natl



Chaplain

Ron Davis



LETTER OF INTENT

The following pages are Letters of Intent from
Department Members running for Office for the
VFW Calendar Year 2022-2023



LETTER OF INTENT DPA SURGEON



It is with great honor to announce my candidacy for the position of Surgeon, Department of Pacific Areas for the Term 2022-2023. I am a Gold Legacy Life member and Commander of All American VFW Post 11575 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Past Commander of All American Post 12146 in Banchang, Thailand, Past Department Assistant Inspector General, and Past District 5 Commander for Thailand, Cambodia, and Australia, and currently the Department of Pacific Areas Americanism/Loyalty Chairman.

As a graduate of Central Texas College and an accredited First Responder I bring a long history of medical related experience to the department and this position and utilize my wide range of experience to benefit the Department.

My accomplishments in a variety of positions and institutional knowledge of VFW policies, procedures and programs provide me with the necessary skills for successful service to the department. My record in a range of elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels makes me exceptionally qualified for the position of Department Surgeon. Please consider my current and previous experiences:

District 5 Commander 2019
District 5 Senior Vice Commander 2017-2019
District 5 Inspector 2017-2019
All American Post 12146 Commander 2018-2019
National Aide-De-Camp 2019-2020
All-American Post 11575 Commander 2019-2021

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

Yours in Comradeship and Service to Veterans,

Jack Farrell
Candidate for Department Surgeon
Department of Pacific Areas

LETTER OF INTENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER



Letter Of Intent

Comrades,

I would like to thank everyone for their support running for Surgeon's position 2021-2022. I am humbly asking for your support and confidence as I seek the position for DPA Junior Vice Commander (JVC) for the ensuing year 2022-2023. As one of the post charter members for Post 3457, I have been contributing numerous hours and served every position in the Post from 1995 to present.

I have committed my family to support my involvement with the VFW for the good of the community. The VFW has come a long way to where we now, and continues to serve the veterans, active military and the community better than any other veterans organization. This could not happen without the support of our members and without good leadership. Here are the positions I have held:

2021-2022	DPA Surgeon
2020-2021	DPA delegate to VFW National Convention
2020-2021	DPA Inspector
2014-Present	Post QM All State and All American at different times
2011-2012	Post Cdr. All American
2009-2011	Dist. 6 Commander
2006-2009	Post Cdr. All State/All American
2008-2009	DPA VOD/PP Chairman
MOC Pup Tent #13	
Life Member Legacy Bronze	
Member for the last 27 years	

Comrades, I have held other post and districts positions along with volunteering countless hours; my next journey is to serve you. We are leaders; let me lead the way.

Yours In Comradeship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Fajardo'.

Mariano Fajardo

LETTER OF INTENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

LETTER OF INTENT
DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
MICHAEL D. LUTMAN

Comrades,

I am very excited and even more humbled to announce my candidacy for the position of Junior Vice Commander, VFW Department of Pacific Areas. I am a 30-year Navy veteran who retired in 2007 as the Command Master Chief of an afloat training organization. Today I continue to serve as a DoD Contractor in charge of Strike Warfare training in the U.S. Navy's only Forward Deployed Fleet Synthetic Training organization located in Yokosuka, Japan. VFW Positions held include:



- DPA VMS Chairman 2018-2021, DPA Inspector 2019-2020, DPA Safety Chairman 2021-2022
- District 2 Commander 2018-2019 (AA), SVC, JVC, Adjutant, Surgeon, Safety Officer, Inspector, Service Officer, Trustee
- Post 1054 Commander 2008-2009 (AS), 2015-2016 (AA), 2016-2017 (AA), 2019-2020 (AA), SVC, JVC, Adjutant, Surgeon, JAG, Service Officer, Trustee
- National Aide-De-Camp, 2013-2014, 2020-2021, Assistant Inspector General, 2015-2016, National Deputy Chief of Staff, 2017-2018

My width and breadth of service both in the military and the VFW has given me a solid baseline to build upon. Make no mistake, any recognition I have been fortunate to receive has been the work of a team of passionate and dedicated patriots. This was very true as a Sailor and most certainly true as part of being a part of the Department of Pacific Areas. I am truly fortunate to be surrounded by so many dynamic and dedicated Comrades. I will bring all the lessons learned during my 17 years in the VFW, 30 years in the U.S. Navy, and my 15 years as a DoD contractor to the DPA Junior Vice Commander position. I will always be willing to listen and learn.

It is with great humility that I ask for your support. I give you my promise that I shall do my very best if elected to continue to lead us into the future as a high performing department. We are second to none when it comes to supporting our Veterans and their family members. I will also work toward helping us help ourselves with time spent to train and educate ourselves EARLY across the board to infuse our department with the knowledge necessary to improve what we do and how we do it. As sharp as we are now, we can only become increasingly proficient, now and in the future by applying not only the lessons of the past, but the goals of tomorrow both in our beloved Department and at the National level. Veterans First, Comrades Always.

Yours in Comradeship and Service and Lover of the Crummy Shirt,

Mike Lutman, Gold Legacy Life Member, District 2, Mainland Japan, VFW Post 1054
Candidate for Junior Vice Commander
VFW Department of Pacific Areas

LETTER OF INTENT DPA CHAPLAIN



LETTER OF INTENT TERM 2022-2023

Department Chaplain

Louis S. Holub EMC (SW) USN ret.

I am Honored to announce my candidacy for the position of the Department of Pacific Areas Chaplain term 2022-2023.

I am a Charter Gold Legacy Life member of the All State-All American Banchang Utapao VFW Post 12146. In addition, I'm the Immediate Past All American Commander DPA District 5 Thailand, Cambodia and Australia, as well as the past DPA Audit Committee Chairman, continuing to serve as an active member and Officer holding many Department, District and Post level Offices and Chairmanships including Honor Guard Member, Convention Chairman (3 terms) and appointed Chaplain during a DPA COFA.

I bring a varied background to this most important non-sectarian and nondenominational Chaplain position. My goal while following the DPA Commanders programs is to advance the Chaplain ministry, always maintaining a positive attitude towards my fellow veterans, widows, orphans and the less fortunate in our areas and to provide ministry to the membership wherever there is a need by coordinating with Service Officers, Surgeons, Safety Chairman, and Chaplains.

My Military experience as a Chief Petty Officer USN and my continuing civilian career as Senior Vice President and General Manager of major Southeast Asian Energy companies has exposed me to many unique local, retiree and expatriate human challenges which have prepared my competencies and compassion to fulfill the position as Pacific Areas Chaplain.

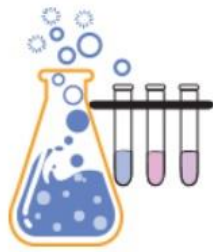
Please consider my previous VFW achievements:

VFW Department of New Jersey Member large	(1996-2014)
Post 9876 Pattaya Beach, District 5 Trustee (appointed)	(2014-2015)
Post 12146 Charter member/QM, Dist. 5 Adjutant	(2015-2016)
AS/AA QM (National Aid de Camp)	
DPA Budget committee member & Dist. 5 QM	(2017-2018)
AS/AA Post Adjutant, National Aid de Camp	
DPA Assistant QM, Dist.5 QM, Post JVC	(2018-2019)
AS/AA Post JVC-Dist. 5 QM	
DPA Audit Chairman, Dist. 5 QM, Post SVC elect/Commander	(2019-2020)
AS/AA Post Commander, Dist. QM	
Dist. 5 Commander, Post JA, National Special Aid de Camp	(2020-2021)
AS/AA Dist. 5 Commander	
Post & Dist. 5 VOD/PP Teachers Chairman	(2017-2021)

I ask that you place your confidence in me and I look forward to seeing each of you at the upcoming 2021-2022 Department Convention in Angels City Philippines June 2022.

Yours in Comradeship and Service to Veterans

DPA WEBSITE SPONSORS



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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@vfw-pacific.org or The Pacific Times Editor at pacific-times@vfw-pacific.org for information on how to submit your Sponsors.