

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 1

July/August 2021

FREE

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Carrying the Voice of 22 Million Veterans



*We are the voice that represents veterans everywhere
and defends their rights and benefits. Our representa-
tives stand for veterans every time.*

Our 2021 Priority Goals:

BUDGET To fully fund programs for veterans, service members, and their families

HEALTH CARE To ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares

DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND TRANSITION ASSISTANCE To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE To maintain a quality, comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for an all-volunteer force

NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND POW/MIA To fully support service members and their mission to fight the war on terrorism, and protect our nation's citizens and interests around the world

When you visit your congressional representatives, please stress these are the issues we will be fighting for in the 117th Congress. To find out who your congressional representatives are, visit [vfw.org/ActionCorps](https://www.vfw.org/ActionCorps).

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MEET THE COMMANDER

Kevin Eric Mitchell was born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut. The sixth of seven children and the youngest of four sons born to Boston Mitchell and S. Novella (Washington) Mitchell. After graduating from Eli Whitney Regional Vocational Technical School in Hamden, Connecticut in 1979, joined the U.S. Air Force in 1980, retiring in 2000. Graduated from University of Maryland, University College with a BS Degree in Government and Politics - 2004.

Eligibility in the VFW came from serving in Operation Desert Shield from February – June 1992 in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia and the final Operation Team Spirit from 14 February - 31 March 1993 in Pusan, South Korea. He was recruited by Comrade Timothy W. Williams and joined VFW Post 9555, Yokota Air Base in May 1993 becoming a Life Member in December 1993. Currently a Gold Legacy Life Member.

After serving in the military, he worked 2 1/2 years as a DOD Contractor and over 15 years as a DOD Civilian as a Casualty Assistance Representative retiring effective 1 October 2018, moving to Angeles City, Philippines. He has a daughter Kevin Elizabeth, granddaughter Johanna Annaliese of Anchorage, AK and a son Marcus K. Mitchell of Akishima, Tokyo, Japan.



Commander

Kevin Mitchell



COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings Comrades,

Again, I would like to thank each of you for the trust you have placed in me to serve as our Department Commander for the 2021-22 Term. I would like to congratulate all our Posts/Districts who made All State and those who earned the distinction of being All American.

As I mentioned in my Commander's Speech, I understand why they say I have big shoes to fill. I would like to thank each of our PDC's for their commitments in keeping our Department the finest in the VFW. It just got bigger for me having to follow such as great Immediate Past Commander named Kenneth A. Stein. I have been well mentored for this position because of the focus, commitment, and dedication by IPDC Stein. To have a front row seat to watch him guide the DPA through an entire pandemic year was truly amazing and I appreciate him for it!!

For those who may not know our Theme for this Term is "EVERY Veteran Is A HERO" because each Comrade within the DPA and throughout the VFW are heroes for the sacrifices you have made on behalf of the American people and her Allies. Additionally, for how you perform daily to assist our Veterans, our families, and to make the communities in which we live better!!!

Also something I would like to do this year is to dedicate all our DPA successes to our great Vietnam Veterans, past and present! I have been involved with the DPA for over 22 years. Although acknowledgments were made for our WWII, Korean, Operation Desert Storm/Shield, Iraq, and Afghanistan Veterans which is greatly deserved, however, I never heard anyone acknowledging our Vietnam Veterans. They also deserve to be acknowledged and will not be forgotten during the 2021-22 Term! There will be a section in each Pacific Times placed in their honor!

As we enter our second year with the Pacific Times, I am confident that you will continue to receive important information from around the VFW and the DPA. Our Pacific Times Editor Comrade Alan "Augie" Augustine was recognized by VFW National for publishing the best small Department Newsletter and he is back again this year!! I am also reaching out to our Post Commanders to send Comrade Augustine photos and brief write ups to place in the "Spotlight" portion of the Newsletter. You can view the past newsletters [here](#).

As a reminder, the Pacific Times is published for July-August, September-October, November-December, January-February, March-April, and May-June. The next set of Articles will be due to Comrade Augustine on August 15th for the September-October issue. <https://vfwpacific.org>

We have a very capable group of Chairpersons this year and to be a little bias, if I may, the finest in the history of the Department. But that's my opinion! DPA Adjutant Watson has General Order One published and it is on the DPA Website. It will have each Chairperson on it with their contact information. I am asking you to initially go to them for any questions in their areas of responsibilities. I am confident that you will get the answers you need.



Commander

Kevin Mitchell



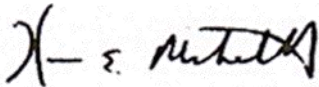
COMMANDER'S CALL

Just a quick note; there was a link change for Posts/Districts to send payment for the VOD/PP Program so the All State Program reflected the change as of July 8, 2021. It is posted on the DPA Website. Please ensure you have the up to date Letter.

Looking forward to seeing our Comrades who will be able to attend our National Convention in Kansas City, MO from July 31 – August 3d.

In closing, I hope each of you had a nice and safe 4th of July earlier this month. We open this Term still with the pandemic affecting our Department. However, we have a year of it under our belts, so I am confident we will continue to show National that we will not be stopped!!! Continue to take care of each other as EVERY Veteran is a HERO and remember our Vietnam Veterans past and present. May your god bless you and the USA...I love you ALL!!!

Yours in Comradeship and Service,



Kevin Mitchell
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
EVERY Veteran is a HERO

7 FACTS IN THIS WORLD

1. You cannot put soap in your eyes.
2. You cannot count your hair.
3. You cannot breathe thru your nose, with your tongue out.
4. You did no. 3.
5. When you did no. 3. you realized its possible, but only you look like a dog.
6. Your smiling right now, because I fooled you.
7. Share this so you can have revenge too.



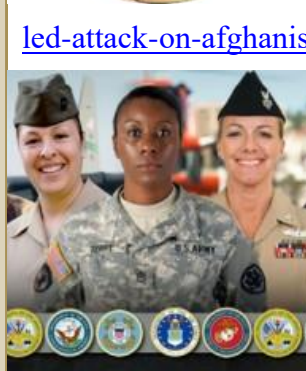
Department of Pacific Areas

Commander

Kevin Mitchell



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES



VJ Day, also known as Victory Over Japan Day, is observed on September 2 every year in the United States. It commemorates the official surrender ceremony of the Japanese aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay—an event that occurred on September 2, 1945. Read more at <https://www.defense.gov/Experience/VJ-Day/>

Patriot Day is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. Many Americans refer to Patriot Day as 9/11 or September 11. Read more at: <https://militarybenefits.info/patriot-day-september-11th-9-11/>

POW/MIA Recognition Day is commemorated on the third Friday of every September, a date that's not associated with any particular war. Resolutions making it official were passed in 1979 by Congress and the president after the families of the more than 2,500 Vietnam War POW/MIAs pushed for full accountability. The remains of almost 82,000 Americans are still missing, according to the [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency \(DPAA\)](#).

Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) was the name used by the US Government for the Global War on Terrorism. On 7 October 2001, in response to the September 11 attacks, President George W. Bush announced that airstrikes targeting Al-Qaeda and the Taliban had begun in Afghanistan. Operation Enduring Freedom primarily refers to the War in Afghanistan, but it is also affiliated with counterterrorism operations in other countries. Read more at <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/u-s-led-attack-on-afghanistan-begins>

18 October Recognition of Women in Military Service. From the Revolutionary War to present day conflicts, women have proudly served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard as nurses, pilots, engineers, soldiers and other specialties. During World War I, about 35,000 women officially served as nurses and support staff. During World War II, 140,000 women served. Read more at: <http://dev.legion.org/womenveterans/248582/%E2%80%98we-can-do-it-history-women-military-service>

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Comrades Post 9723, held their Annual District1 Convention 27 May 2021 at the Rocker Enlisted Club Kadena Air Base Okinawa Japan.

Events included Election of District1 Officers for 2021-2022.

Commander Curtis Kozlesky, SVC David Boughton, JVC Larry WILSON, QM Marty ROBERTS, Chaplain Phillip ZOBOBLISH, Trustees Ed OTTO, Carl CHISLER, John BOWERS installed by previous Commander Willie T. BRANDON.

Commander Kozlesky and QM ROBERTS were presented ALL STATE Caps for 2019-2020.

Professional Program with Photos list series of Events and Guest Speaker.

Successful Team effort with a Remarkable 30 Comrades in attendance culminating in a enjoyable Social including a Ceremonial Cake and Delicious Buffet.



In the SPOTLIGHT

Comrade Larry Wilson Junior Vice Commander and Post Commander Kozlesky attended the 2021 Community College of the Air Force Graduation ceremony at the Rocker Enlisted Club Kadena Air Base 9 June 2021.

Guest speaker was our local Post #9723 Okinawa newly elected Senior Vice Commander Chief Master Sergeant John Chacon.

Post Commander Kozlesky presented a VFW coin to each of the two Distinguished Graduates who also were recipients of the Prestigious Pitsenbarger Scholarship awards:

SSGT Christopher Waters
Senior Airman George Weldon.



Final Flight Farewell Ceremony of Osan AB's 51st Fighter Wing Commander Colonel John Gonzales (center) on 16 June 2021. In attendance are Osan AB/Songtan Post 8180 VFW members Ricky Rice (left, director of the Osan AB Retiree Activities Office) and Ron Roman (right, assistant). In the background is Colonel Gonzales' A-10 Thunderbolt II. (Photo courtesy of 51st FW PAO.) - Ron Roman

In the SPOTLIGHT

At last, the start of the new school semester. The children, teachers and staff of Banchang's Wat Khiri Phawana-ram School were happy and excited to be together again and receive a Community Service donation of 70 school uniforms courtesy of VFW Post Banchang/Utapao 12146 and Columbia Water Technologies who match our donation to cover the total cost. A special thank you goes out to Bangkok Pattaya Hospital for providing the carry bags for the clothes and shoes. Each boy and girl received a shirt/blouse, shorts/skirt, pair of shoes & socks and belt. Thank you Don Meurett, event Chairman and Post Legacy Life member for coordinating this activity and all Post members and friends who joined the event. In attendance were the DPA Commander Ken Stein and D5 Commander Lou Holub. https://data.bopp-obec.info/emis/schooldata-view.php?School_ID=1021470171



In the SPOTLIGHT

On 5 June, after a two month delay due to pandemic restrictions, the VFW Post 2845 Historian and Scout Troop 409 held the Bataan Death March (BDM) memorial ceremony at the Clark Veterans cemetery, Angeles City Philippines. Angeles City is located a few miles south of where the BDM ended.

Our Post Chaplain, Linus Travers led the opening prayer. Rhonie Dela Cruz was our first guest speaker. Rhonie is a local, nationally recognized World War II historian. Spike Nasmyth (VFW Post 2485 life member) was our second guest speaker. Spike spent 6.5 years as a POW during the Vietnam War.

After Spike spoke, two of our Scouts gave a brief biography of two former WWII POWs buried in the cemetery, then another Scout gave the closing prayer.

We had great participation from our many friends and sponsors including the Clark Veterans Cemetery, VFW Post 2485, American Legion Post 123, and the Angeles Chapter of the Australian Returned and Service League veterans organization.

We are a parent sponsored and self-funded scouting unit and any help with donations, contributions, or helping support us in our fund-raising initiatives goes a long way in allowing us to develop the best program we can to our young Scouts and future leaders.

After the ceremony, our Troop spent the weekend on a well-deserved and long waited for camping trip.

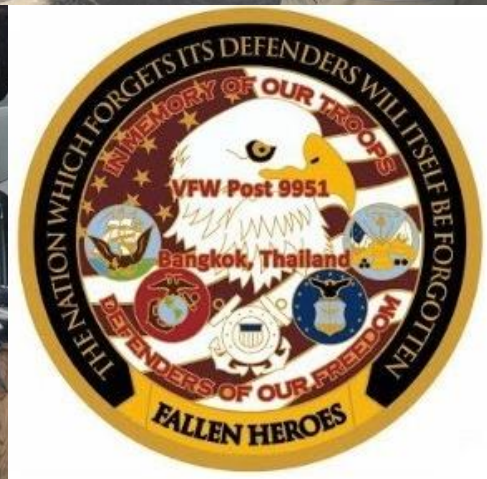


In the SPOTLIGHT

VFW Post 9951, Bangkok has, since October 2020, been involved in supplying Place of Grace food bank with provisions. Place of Grace was founded by a British Army veteran John Robinson, with the intention of providing a community center in the poor district of Bangna with activities for children and teenagers, and free English classes. After numerous lock-downs, the working poor just became the poor and John decided to start a food bank. Now he supplies poor families and the elderly with weekly food provisions ... and while supplies last, daily deliveries of milk, fruit juice and snacks to children. The generosity of Post 9951 members has been overwhelming. Support for Place of Grace food bank is an ongoing operation we call "Market Time" something familiar to Vietnam Navy vets. Market Time was an ongoing naval operation to disrupt enemy supply lines on the rivers, deltas and the coastline of Vietnam. We are doing just the opposite.



William Stanley
Post 9951 Quartermaster
Bangkok Tel. 0877-155-414
International +66-877-155-414



In the SPOTLIGHT

This year's Far East Council, Asia East BSA camp took place June 13-19, 2021 at Tama Hills near Yokota Air Force base. About 150 youth attended with support from 40 youth staff and 40 adult staff from the extremes of Japan to include Misawa and Okinawa. Troop 35 adult leaders included two members of Post 1054 as well as one Active Duty Sailor from the USS Chancellorsville. The Kitchen Staff responsible for 3 meals a day for the week included 2 more Post 1054 members. US Navy Medical Hospital Yokosuka, Japan provided the camp medic who worked tirelessly to ensure everyone had a great time despite the insects, rainy weather, and collisions on the playing field.

Yokosuka, Japan Adult Volunteers



BSA Camp Tama Attendees June 2021



In the SPOTLIGHT

CHECKPOINT



Click [here](#) to view the May/June 2021 Checkpoint newsletter from VFW National.

We invite you to take this opportunity to see what other Posts around the world are doing to better their communities. Be sure to share the valuable information you get here with your fellow VFW members.

Here are two examples of the tremendous work VFW's men and women are accomplishing:

Post 1533 in San Antonio honors the memory of a deceased veteran through a scholarship program. In Mankato, Kan.,

Post 7830 works with the Boy Scouts in retiring old U.S. flags.

Be sure to let us know what you are doing in your community. We always are looking to promote the great efforts of VFW. Email jdyhouse@vfw.org your suggestion, and you just might see it in an upcoming issue of Checkpoint.



If any **Department of Pacific Areas Post or District** submits a Checkpoint entry to the above email, please CC or forward a copy to pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org to be considered for addition in the following issue of :



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

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

I wish you a Happy Belated 4th of July. I hope you all enjoyed the day safe and with friends and family.

We have kicked off the new year, so not much to report as of yet. National Commander Fritz has set his ALL AMERICAN requirements and if you have not seen my post on Facebook they will be found on the National webpage. As well as the DPA Website [Here](#). DPA Commander Kevin has set his ALL STATE requirements and again I have posted on Facebook and they can be found on the DPA webpage [Here](#). It is not too early to have already started checking off the requirements for your Posts and Districts. I know each Post and District has the capability to reach both AA/AS requirements. You know it also, some may have to work harder than others but that will just make you more proud of your accomplishments in the end. Set your goals now, reach for them and make them happen.

One key point on the AA requirements is working with outside contributor such as Burger King or the WWP. CDR Fritz will be waiving that requirement for the Pacific Areas.

I will post your status in the Pacific Times (Click the Excel Icon Below) and I will also be posting it on the Facebook page. FB is not our official form of comms, however it is a fast way to get info out to the masses. If you are a Facebook user but have not seen the DPA page here is the link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/287813722277082>

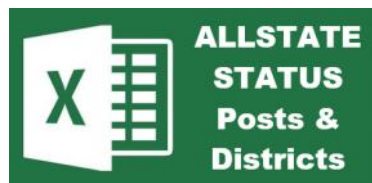
The VFW National webpage link is

<https://www.vfw.org/>

The DPA webpage link is

<https://vfwpacific.org/>

If you have any questions you can email me at maximus556656@gmail.com I check my email almost daily, depending on my work schedule. Let's kick the chinks and light the fires and get this year rolling...



Senior Vice Commander

Warren "Max" Maxson

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

It is with distinct honor and privilege to serve you as your JVC for this year Term 2021-2022. We in the Department of Pacific Areas are resilient and are doing what we can to normalize our operations even though with the current restrictions in the different areas we prove that we are proud and still serving despite of these conditions.

The Department of Pacific Areas Veterans of Foreign Wars completed over 29,429 hours with 12,400 volunteers, 156,000 miles and more than \$440,000.00 in donations in the many communities throughout the Pacific. Let's still keep up and take care our Veterans, our Post and our Districts. I urge all Commanders to check your yearly checklists and set your goals be it All State or All American. As your JVC, I am your point of contact for the Community Service Report program or CSRs: The DPA website for the CSR program is <https://vfwpacific.org/CSR> inputs are easy to enter all we ask from you is to enter them. If you have any issues or concerns with your inputs, feel free to email me at jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org and I will try my best to resolve issue. Remember there is a 3 CSR input requirement per month so don't wait for the last day. Everything that you do is a possible CSR input i.e. giving advice to Veteran Issues, Tricare issues, Medicare or giving money to a Veteran Organizations etc.

During our DPA Convention we will announced the winner of the Most Outstanding Post Awards. Award Packages are due to your District Commanders NLT 15 April 2022 and in turn all District Commanders need to submit the award packets to me NLT 1 May 2022. All Award forms are located on our DPA website.

BUDDY POPPY: Due to the current Pandemic, Buddy Poppies are in short supply due to the manufacturer's manpower issues. Currently National requirement is to order FIVE (5) Buddy Poppy's per members of each Post. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our DPA QM Shawn Watson at qmd-pa@vfwpacific.org. We do understand all Posts in the DPA have been hit hard financially due to the Pandemic but we can fight this as a Team and will win as a Team. Again, I thank you for your time and support for electing me as your JVC. Yours in Comradeship and Service!

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



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

Alex Fores

2021-22 Dedicated to our DPA



Vietnam Veterans Past and Present

Welcome to the first of six dedications to our great DPA Vietnam Veterans in our award winning Pacific Times Newsletter for the 2021-22 Term. I would like to ask our Vietnam Veterans for future Newsletters to send a photo of themselves from that era (if you have one) to Webmaster Augustine and/or myself. On the email, please give us your name, branch of service, and your tour dates (month and/or year). I would like the DPA and throughout the VFW to know who you are!!! You can send your photos as soon as you can. Again, all of the successes of the DPA for this Term will be dedicated in your honor past and present!

Kevin Mitchell

[Vietnam War Timeline](#)

Widespread attention towards U.S. involvement in Vietnam may not have hit many televisions and media outlets before 1965, but U.S. advisors were arriving, almost silently, in Southeast Asia.

The U.S. military advisory effort in Vietnam began in September 1950, when the [United States Military Assistance Advisory Group \(MAAG\)](#) was established to administer military aid and help train South Vietnam's armed forces. That same year, President Truman authorized \$15 million in aid to the French to support their military efforts in Indochina. The First Indochina War continued from 1946 until 1954, when the French were defeated by the Viet Minh at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu.

In July 1954, The Geneva Accords temporarily split Vietnam into North and South with the 17th parallel as the dividing line. The agreement also stipulated that elections were to be held within two years to unify Vietnam under a single democratic government, but the elections never happened. In 1955, [Ngo Dinh Diem](#), a Western-educated Catholic favored by the U.S., would serve as the first president of South Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh would lead a communist state in the North. A trail was also in the midst of being constructed to help supply North Vietnamese forces, which would later be known as the [Ho Chi Minh Trail](#).

On July 8, 1959, there was an attack on a MAAG compound in Bien Hoa, 20 miles northeast of Saigon, where the first two Americans were killed by hostile fire. The two men were U.S. Army Major [Dale R. Buis](#) and Master Sergeant [Chester M. Ovnand](#). Both were advisors supporting the South Vietnamese in their fight against the North.

Buis and Ovnand are the first names inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Stanley Karnow, who worked for *TIME* and *Life* magazine at the time, recalls the incident. After arriving at the site, he discovered that the two Americans had been killed in an ambush while watching the film, *The Tattered Dress*, during a break in their duties.

Ovnand is said to have risen to turn on the lights to change the reel when the enemy surrounded and opened fire. The advisors were killed instantly.

Further Reading:

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

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

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



VIETNAM WAR STORIES

A Skilled and Heroic Chopper Pilot

Upon arrival to D Troop in December of 1967, a new 2nd Lieutenant named Allen “Ace” Cozzalio made a quick impression as a renegade pilot that led from the front. He loved the cavalry and its historical elements. When not flying, he was often seen wearing the traditional 1860s blue cavalry uniform with a yellow scarf, stetson hat, and cavalry officer’s saber. Always the cowboy, instead of using briefcases to carry around massive amounts of paperwork like other pilots, “Ace” opted to use saddlebags instead.

During his eighteen months in Vietnam, Allen Ace Cozzalio was shot down six times. On several other occasions he brought his Loach back home so damaged from enemy fire that it was no longer flyable. He received every medal for valor except the Medal of Honor.

Among his legendary exploits, Cozzalio, after seeing a Huey crash and explode in flames, landed his OH-6 Loach nearby and he and his crew chief rescued the unconscious pilot and co-pilot. Cozzalio and his crew chief received the Soldier’s Medal for their actions that day.

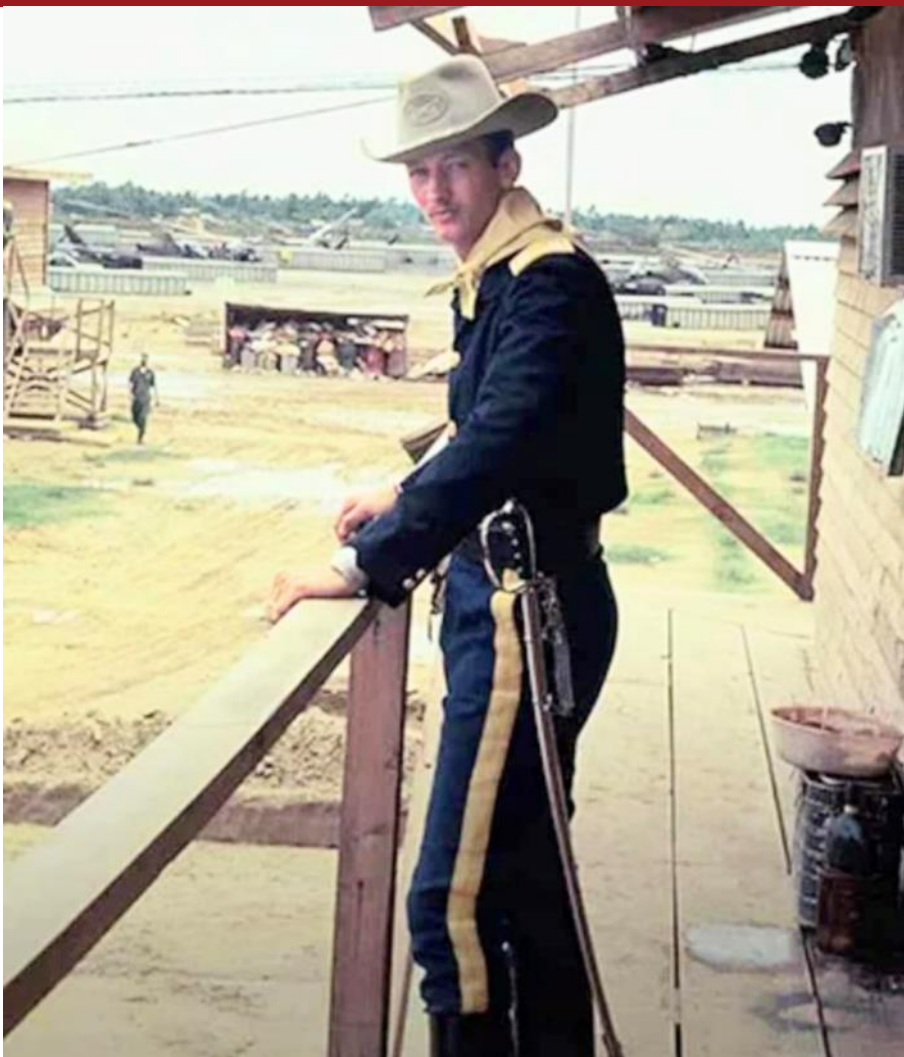
Following the 9th Infantry Division’s Battle of Phu My, Cozzalio was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for performing an incredible act of bravery. Seeing that a 90-man unit crossing an open field was pinned down by NVA machine gun fire from a reinforced bunker, he landed his Loach on top of the bunker while his gunner jumped out and tossed a grenade into it. Cozzalio lifted off just before the grenade exploded and destroyed the bunker.

[#VietnamWarStories](#) [#vietnamwar](#) [#usmilitary](#)

[#americanmilitary](#) [#vietnamwarfootageandstories](#)

Original description and photos sourced by [vva.org](#)

https://military.wikia.org/wiki/Alan_Cozzalio



AN ANGEL ON THE WALL

Sharon Ann Lane of Ohio

First Lieutenant Sharon Ann Lane, of Canton Ohio, served with the 44th Medical Brigade, 67th Medical Group, 312th Evacuation Hospital was killed in action on June 8th, 1969 in the Quang Tin province of South Vietnam.

According to The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, "1LT Lane arrived at the 312th Evacuation Hospital at Chu Lai on 29 April. She was originally assigned to the Intensive Care Unit, but a few days later was reassigned to the Vietnamese Ward."

"Nursing the Vietnamese in Ward 4 was often physically and emotionally challenging, yet Lane repeatedly declined transfers to another ward. She worked five days a week, twelve hours a day in Ward 4, and spent her off-duty time taking care of the most critically injured American soldiers in the Surgical ICU. She thrived despite the demanding schedule, and was adored and respected by co-workers and patients alike."

"On the morning of 8 June 1969, the 312th Evacuation Hospital was struck by a salvo of 122mm rockets fired by the Viet Cong. One rocket struck between Wards 4A and 4B, killing two people and wounding another twenty-seven. Among the dead was 1LT Lane, who died instantly of fragmentation wounds to the chest. She was one month shy of her twenty-sixth birthday."

"Though one of eight American military nurses who died while serving in Vietnam, Sharon Lane was the only American nurse killed as a direct result of hostile fire. A memorial service was held in Chu Lai 10 June 1969 and a Catholic mass followed the next day. Lane was buried with full military honors at Sunset Hills Burial Park in her hometown of Canton, Ohio."

"For her service in Vietnam, 1LT Sharon Ann Lane was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star with "V" device, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Order of Vietnam Medal, and the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross (with Palm)." (Information Sourced by: vvmh.org)

First Lieutenant Sharon Ann Lane is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC on Panel 23W, Line 112. Lest We Forget.

[#VietnamWarStories](#) [#MemorialDay2021](#) [#vietnamveteran](#) [#vietnamveteransmemorial](#) [#memorialday](#) [#Vietnam-War](#) [#vietnamvet](#) [#lestweforget](#) [#vietnammemorial](#)

Original description and photo sourced by honorstates.org, ancestry.com and vvmf.org



MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Thomas William Bennett

(April 7, 1947 – February 11, 1969)

Thomas W. Bennett was a U.S. Army medic and the second [conscientious objector](#) to receive the [Medal of Honor](#) ([Desmond Doss](#), a medic in World War II, was the first). Bennett was [killed in action](#) during the [Vietnam war and posthumously](#) received the Medal of Honor.

Born in Morgantown, West Virginia, Thomas W. Bennett was sociable and deeply religious. While a student at West Virginia University, he formed the Campus Ecumenical Council during his freshman year.

When he was placed on academic probation after the Fall 1967 semester, he considered his options should he lose his academic deferment. Deeply patriotic, but opposed to killing on religious grounds, he opted to enlist as a conscientious objector who was willing to serve. This classification is different from a conscientious objector who will not assist the military in any way. He was trained as a [field medic](#).

Cpl. Thomas W. Bennett arrived in [South Vietnam](#) on January 1, 1969, and was assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. The unit began a series of strenuous patrols in the dense, mountainous terrain. On February 9, 1969, the unit came under intense fire, and Cpl. Bennett risked gunfire to pull at least five wounded men to safety. That evening, his platoon sergeant recommended him for the [Silver Star](#).

Over the coming days, Cpl. Bennett repeatedly put himself in harm's way to tend to the wounded. On February 11, while attempting to reach a soldier wounded by [sniper](#) fire, Cpl. Bennett was gunned down. On April 7, 1970, his posthumous Medal of Honor was presented to his mother and stepfather by President [Richard Nixon](#).

A dormitory tower at West Virginia University's Evansdale Residential Complex is named in his honor.

A medical clinic at [Fort Hood](#) is named in his honor.



DPA ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

Congratulations to all the incoming Officers at the Department, District and Post levels. Let us hope this year will bring us back together for an in-person meeting in December. I would like to thank Commander Mitchell for appointing me as his Adjutant for another year. Also, would like to thank the members of the Department for electing me as your Quartermaster. I look forward to working with you all.

Now that we have started the new year, there is a lot of paperwork that needs to be done. If your Post or District has not sent in the General Orders, please do so NTL 30 July. I have sent out the applications for Quartermaster Bonds. I would like to have everyone's application back by the end of the Month.

There have been questions about the All-State requirements for turning in the Post and District Audits. Let me explain how this is going to work for this year. Posts quarterly audits are done in July, August, January, and April. Those should be turned in to me NLT than the end of the following month (i.e. The April – June Audit is completed in July it is due by the end of the month of August.) Districts audits will work a bit different as not all Districts meet in July, August, January, and April. Since this is the case the deadline to submit these reports are by the end of the quarter (i.e. April – June audit will be due NLT the end of the month of September.) This will give each District time to hold a meeting and turn the audits in.

If you have any questions send me and email.

Speaking of emails, when sending an email to me that is VFW business, please send to my adjdpa@vfwpacifc.org account. The qmdpa is being forwarded to the adjdpa account. This will ensure all email will be answered and enable me to locate prior email easily.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson
Adjutant/Quartermaster



"You all know General Petersen from I.T."



Department of Pacific Areas

Adjutant / Quartermaster

Shawn Watson

IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Hello Comrades,

Congratulations to Commander Kevin Mitchell and the rest of the “Every Veteran is a Hero” team. It’s going to be a great year for the Department. Best wishes as well to all the new District and Post Commanders.

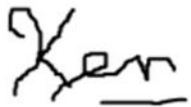
As Post Commanders begin your year remember the National GO-1 states every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs: VOD/PP, Buddy Poppy and VMS.

As we all know our region is still plagued by the pandemic, so it continues to be important to do buddy checks on our comrades, and when possible have some sort of in-person camaraderie event. For monthly general membership meetings if in-person meetings have restrictions then have a combination in-person and zoom meeting.

Commander Mitchell has asked you all to remember to use the chain of command and remember to notify program chairman when completing a required program. This will ensure you receive credit for All State and All American recognition.

Have a great year.

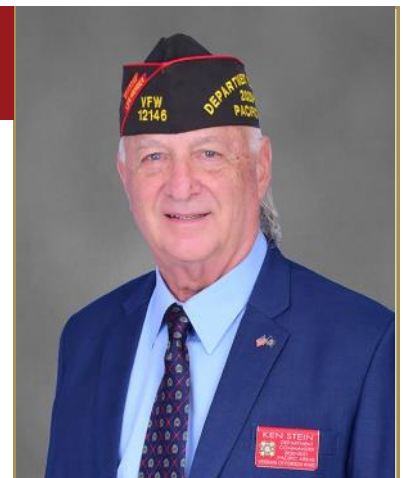
Best wishes and in comradeship,



Kenneth A. Stein
IPDC

EVERY Veteran is a HERO

“Remembering our great Vietnam Veterans Past and Present”



Immediate Past DPA CDR

Ken Stein



CHIEF OF STAFF

Comrades,

First I would like to thank Commander Mitchell for allowing me to serve as the DPA Chief of Staff for another year. For every DPA officer or chairman, please feel free to email or call me with questions or concerns about how we are doing business as a Department in the VFW. The same invitation goes to every member of our Department. I learn from you, and your ideas keep our VFW and our Department getting better.

An important issue that affects many members of our Department is the poor service of the Veterans Administration's Foreign Medical Program. I'd like to give you an update on the efforts we in DPA are making to improve the way this program works for veterans with a VA disability rating who live in a foreign country.

When PDC John Gilbert and National Service Officer Director Ryan Gallucci were successful in arranging a teleconference with FMP officials in March, 2018, FMP essentially told us to pound sand. They said they couldn't change; they didn't want to change; and how dare we ask them to change. Obviously, a different approach was needed.

US Congressman Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan, who represents the Northern Mariana Islands and is a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, agreed to help us in a meeting held on June 8, 2021 on Saipan. With the help of John Gilbert, John Dibble, and Bert Marohl, we presented our grievances about the FMP to a lawyer who works for Congressman Sablan in Washington, DC, named Sarah Winston. Ms. Winston specializes in VA issues.

The top issues we brought to Ms. Winston's attention were the problems with submitting a claim, the uncertainty of what happens to the claim after it is filed, and the reimbursement of claims by a mailed paper check. She was quite sympathetic to our concerns, and said she would bring them to the attention of the Congressional Oversight Subcommittee for Veterans Affairs.

While I don't expect this process to bring immediate results, I do expect that the VA will pay attention to the folks in Congress who pay their salaries. Changes to the poor practices of the FMP are long overdue, and I trust that working with the US Congress will help bring them about. Those of you who attended the DPA Convention on Saipan in June, 2019 may remember that Congressman Sablan addressed our membership at our second business meeting. He has promised me that he will work for any veteran who is being poorly served by the VA. I believe him.

Yours In Comradeship,
Pete Callaghan



Chief of Staff

Peter Callaghan

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Carrying the Voice of 22 Million Veterans

Our nation made a promise to those who serve, and we fight to ensure it's kept.

The location of our Washington, D.C., office allows us to monitor all legislation affecting veterans, alert VFW membership to key legislation under consideration and to actively lobby Congress and the administration on veterans' issues. **National Legislative Service** establishes the VFW's legislative priorities and advocates on veterans' behalf. By testifying at congressional committee hearings and interacting with congressional members, the VFW has played an instrumental role in nearly every piece of veterans' legislation passed since the beginning of the 20th century. Everything we do on Capitol Hill is with the VFW's Priority Goals and veterans' well-being in mind. With the strength of the more than 1.5 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary, our voice on Capitol Hill cannot be ignored!

Among the VFW's most recent and important legislative victories was expanding college education benefits for military service members with the signing of the Forever GI Bill, and ensuring America's service members and veterans receive the care they deserve - whenever and wherever they need it - by passing the VA MISSION Act.

Our 2021-2022 Priority Goals:

Budget

- Reform the dysfunctional federal budget process.
- Authorize VA to receive reimbursements from TRICARE and Medicare.
- Properly fund the POW/MIA full accounting mission.
- Never reduce one veteran's benefits to pay for another.

Health Care

- Reduce the number of service members and veterans who die by suicide.
- Preserve the integrity of TRICARE.
- Properly implement VA and DOD health IT systems.
- Strengthen care and research for mental health and traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- Improve programs and services for women and minority veterans.
- Research and effectively treat health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- Eliminate copayment requirements for preventive health care, including medications.
- Research the efficacy of medical cannabis.
- Expand telehealth services.
- Expand nursing home eligibility, and long-term care options.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs

- Properly implement the modernized appeals process.
- Consider treatment of presumptive conditions as a claim for disability compensation.
- Extend Persian Gulf War disability compensation eligibility beyond 2021 and to Afghanistan-theater veterans, and reform the relevant Disability Benefits Questionnaire.
- Establish presumptive disability compensation benefits for hearing loss, tinnitus, TBI, blast survivors, and for health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- Require VA to accept private medical evidence in lieu of VA examinations.
- Increase burial allowances to account for inflation and include spouses' information on all headstones.
- Authorize more than one adaptive automotive grant for disabled veterans.
- Update regulations and laws governing claims to account for digital claims processing.
- Transfer control of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery to the National Cemetery Administration.

Education, Employment and Transition Assistance

- Timely and improved transition assistance, including access to programs after they leave military service.
- High-quality and sustainable education benefits.
- Strong employment and training programs.
- Small business development opportunities.
- Civilian credentials or academic credit for military training.
- Hiring preferences in the civil service and with large government contractors.
- National veteran's treatment court advocates.
- Education and training in new and expanding career fields.
- Affordable housing and wraparound services to avoid homelessness.
- Improved character of discharge review and appeals procedures.

Military Quality of Life

- Increase military base pay comparability with private sector wages.
- Protect and improve on-base quality of life programs.
- Ensure that military housing is safe and free of toxic substances.
- End the military retirement pay and VA disability compensation offset.
- Eliminate sexual assaults in the military.
- Establish the Armed Forces University.
- Ensure equity of benefits for Reserve component service members.
- Improve stability and support for military families.

National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA

- Expand partnerships with host nations and private/public organizations to achieve the fullest possible accounting of U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.
- Provide the necessary funding of at least five percent of GDP for the readiness, training, modernization, health care, and quality-of-life initiatives for the armed forces.
- Preserve the all-volunteer force.

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Comrades, first off, I want to thank everyone for supporting me and your trust in reelecting me as your Judge Advocate for another term. Your support is greatly appreciated.

This month I'll discuss the various National Committees that will review the current and proposed national resolutions and by-laws amendments that we recently approved at our DPA Convention and forwarded for consideration at the 122nd National Convention.

National Committee

Annually about this time of the year I have comrades asking the question; "what happens to the National proposed resolutions and by-laws amendments when submitted to National?" In answering this question, normally, some submissions may go to the various designated National committees, which may hold meetings at the Washington Conference or after for review of any resolutions and by-laws amendments that the national staff drafts as the Commander-in-Chief's proposals. Then at the National Convention all committees will meet to review the Washington Conference committee findings and Department submissions adopted at their respective conventions for submission to National, as well as any additional National proposals. The committees are chaired by Past National Commanders, with additional Past Commanders sitting in on the meetings. Also, those Post comrades receiving National appointments to a particular committee shall sit in on the meetings as members and represent their Departments. The committees will discuss and debate the resolutions or by-laws amendments and vote to recommend, amend, reject, or set aside. Then the committee Chairperson takes the findings of the committee to the floor of the Convention, at one of the business successions, expressing the committee's recommendations and discuss as necessary, with the various Department delegates at the convention voting as desired.

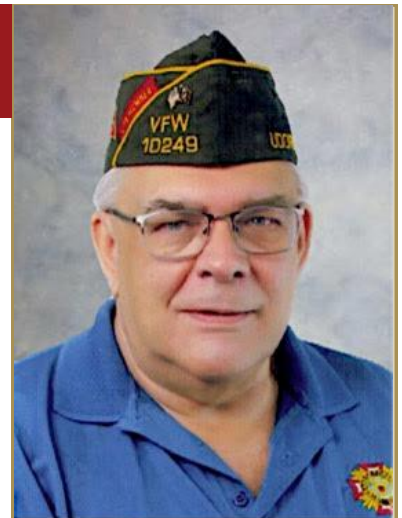
The following is a summary of which National committees will handle the various submissions concerning resolution issues and by-laws amendments from Departments or National that will be reviewed and may be voted on at the National Convention:

National By-Laws, Manual of Procedures, and Ritual Committee

This committee considers all proposed amendments to the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, as well as resolutions having any bearing upon the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. It makes recommendations to the Convention for approval or disapproval of proposed amendments that may be adopted in accordance with Section 1401, By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. It also considers resolutions or other proposals pertaining to changes in the VFW Ritual and makes recommendations thereon.

Finance and Internal Organization Committee

This committee considers resolutions involving financial and organizational policies and procedures, and makes recommendations thereon. (200 series of resolutions that includes the Congressional charter,)



Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl

JUDGE ADVOCATE

General Resolution Committee

This committee considers resolutions of a general nature, including those affecting the veterans only as a part of a special group, and those not falling within the category of other committees. (300 series about flags, memorials, firearms, religious freedom, etc...)

National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee & Sub-Committee

This committee considers all resolutions pertaining to national defense, military policy, foreign affairs, POW/MIA'S and civil defense, and makes recommendations thereon. (400 series dealing with war on terrorism, missile defense, homosexuals in armed forces, NATO, awards, medals and recognition badges, etc...)

Veterans Service Resolution Committee

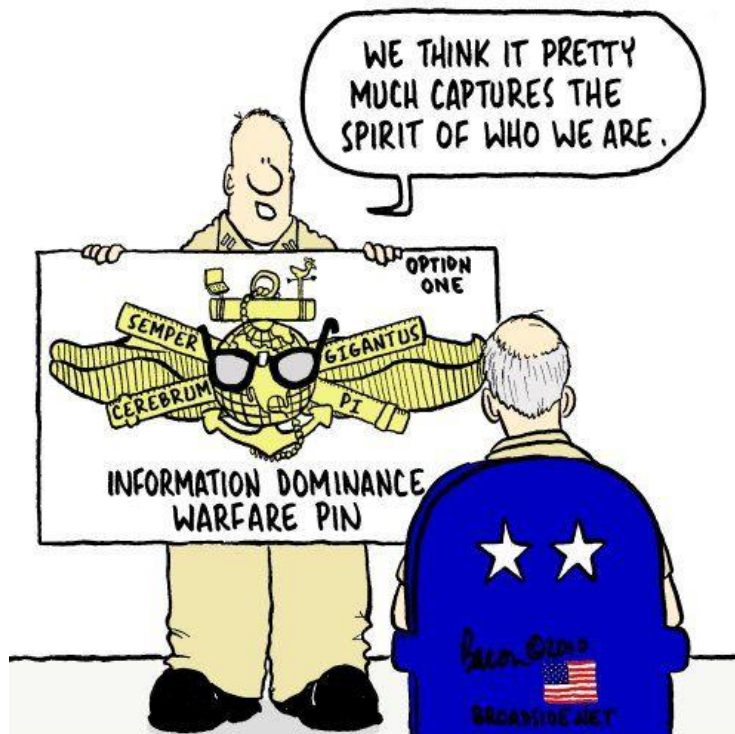
This committee considers all resolutions pertaining to Department of Veterans Affairs' laws, policy and procedure and laws providing rehabilitation benefits for veterans. It also considers resolutions pertaining to veterans' employment, civil services and housing problems, and resolutions that require legislative action, and makes recommendation thereon. (600 series pertaining to health care, concurrent receipt, VA budget, headstones, disability pensions, death benefits, etc...)

At the conclusion of the National Convention, National will send out the results to inform everyone on the status of all resolutions and amendments submitted.

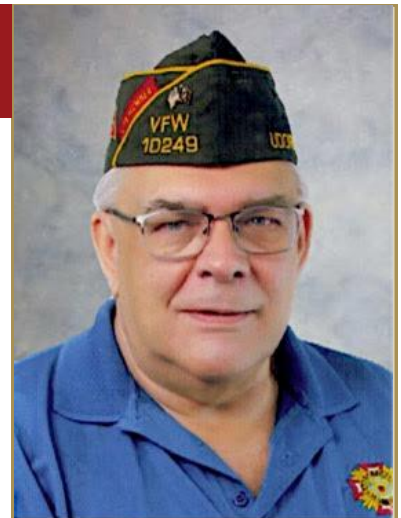
For those of you that are awaiting approval of your bylaws, we have received several which were sent out to their respective post or district. Will keep you informed and send you a copy as they become available.

Hope you and your families had a great 4th of July and thanks again for your support.

YIC
Bert Marohl
DPA JA



Information Dominance pins that didn't make the cut



Department of Pacific Areas

Judge Advocate

Delbert "Bert" Marohl

DPA SURGEON

Comrades,

I would like to thank our former DPA surgeon Alex Fores who is now our JVC for his guidance starting me off on the right path providing pertinent information during Covid period. It has been over a year with this pandemic, and we are all in unique situations living in other countries that do not have the means to supply us with the vaccine. There is a possible breakthrough for all veterans to get their shots up to date.

The information that is being provided will guide you about getting vaccinated and being reimburse for your shots if needed.

Visit the [VA OCONUS Website](#) for more information then click:

Veterans: Living in a foreign country? Get your COVID-19 vaccine reimbursed
Click [here](#) to follow the link.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VA OCONUS Connection

March 29, 2021

SAVE LIVES Act: Expansion of COVID-19 Vaccinations to all Veterans, their Spouses and Caregivers



**SAVE LIVES Act allows VA to soon provide COVID-19 vaccinations to all
Veterans, their spouses and caregivers**

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

Stay safe.

Yours In Comradeship,

Mariano Fajardo



Surgeon

Mariano Fajardo

NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

Congratulations to our new Incoming DPA Commander Kevin E. Mitchell, I am sure that this will be another OUTSTANDING year for the DPA. Let's get to work and start making our Donation to the National Home early so we do not have to worry about it being done. Lets see if we can make 100% for CDR Kevin this year.

The requirement remains the same as last year, for the donations to the VFW National Home for Children. Each of our DPA, District's and Posts are requested to make a Donation of \$50.00 to the National Home.

I have published this before and I am doing so again this year as we still seem to have a few Post that just cannot seem to understand how to make this donation. Please read and if you do not understand send me an Email and I can assist you in getting this very easy requirement checked off well in advance of the April 30, 2022, cutoff to be recognized at the DPA convention in June 2022.

How to make your Donations:

To make online donations [Click Here](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Payment details: Finish this and click on Donate.

They should send you a notice to the Email address that you put in the Billing Address area. This is the email that you should forward to the DPA National Home Chairman so your District or Post can get check off. It is also used it to double check the monthly listing received from the National Home.

Donation by Mailing in a Check: If this is done on a personal check, please insure that you have written in the memo area that it is on behalf of DPA & your Post number. You should also include a small note in the envelope with your email address so they can send you a receipt. Please use this **USPS** address: VFW National Home, 3573 South Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Yours in Comradeship,
Randell E. Himes
nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org
rehimes@gmail.com



National Home Chairman

Randell Himes

Please report any and all donations that you make to the National Home to me so they can be recorded and tracked. Email them to:

nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org

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

Visit their website [here](#)



VFW
NATIONAL HOME
FOR CHILDREN

WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAMS

Women Veterans Chair is a unique position in that there are no established requirements for the job leaving a lot of leeway on how they decide to do the position. When I started this position in 2019 under CDR Farris, I was told “do what you think you should do with it”. So I started with monthly Typhoon entries with the hopes of increasing the base knowledge of contributions female veterans have made to the Services. Hopefully, you enjoyed reading them and learned something, I know I did in the process of doing the research. I included historical as well as current events and biographical information of exceptional contributors. Last term, I focused more on Facebook posts with the twitter tagline #WomanVeterans and #WomenVeterans. If you don’t have twitter, no worries just put the tagline in the search box of Facebook. My goal is for everyone to be proud of their service. I want everyone to be respected for their service. I’ve lost track of how many times I’ve been asked “are you in the auxiliary?” or my favorite “what does your husband do in the Navy?” For those of you who have yet to have the pleasure of meeting me, there is no husband and I’m the one serving in the US Navy. Everything starts with us as individuals; the support we provide emotionally and financially; the way we include all our members regardless of gender, branch of service, life experience, or sense of humor. I’m proud of our Department, since I started tracking our numbers in 2019, we have grown our female membership directly proportional to the National percentages. That is awesome considering we are overseas without the constant influx that Departments California, Texas and Virginia experience. If you are hosting an event specifically for Women Veterans, let me know, I’d love to hear from you.

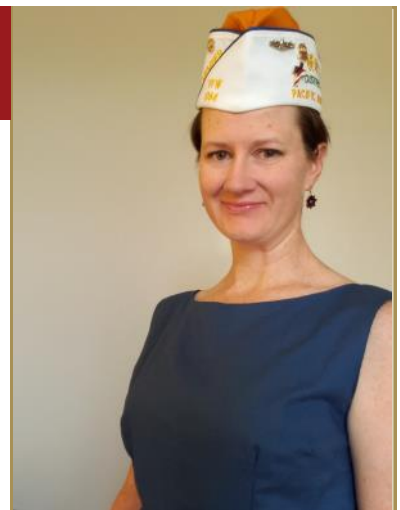
This spring and summer has been exciting as we prepare for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. I am planning to volunteer for both the Olympics and Paralympic games starting at the end of July. Did you know that Service Members have a history of competing in the games? This year the US Army is hoping to increase their current medal count (111) by sending 20 athletes and coaches including female competitors: Staff Sgt. Naomi Graham (boxing); Staff Sgt. Sandra Uptagrafft (pistol shooting), 1st Lt. Amber English (skeet shooting); Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Marks (swimming); Sgt. Samantha Schultz (modern Pentathlon); Spc. Sagen Maddalena, Spc. Alison Weisz (rifle shooting). Cheer for them all, it’s been a crazy 5 years of preparation for the big event and it’s finally here. <https://taskandpurpose.com/news/army-soldiers-summer-olympics-tokyo/>

Yours in Comradeship

Lauren S. Wanzer
Sonar Technician First Class (Surface Warfare)
DPA Women Veterans Programs
CDR Post 1054 Yokosuka, Japan



WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM



Women Veterans Programs

Lauren Wanzer



TOKYO 2020



TOKYO 2020
PARALYMPIC GAMES





SOME SAY THEY'VE GOT YOUR BACK. WE PROVE IT.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW WAYS:

Hosting service members and their families at morale-boosting events

Providing vital financial assistance to military families in need

Helping veterans recoup their earned benefits from the VA

Granting scholarships to student veterans for higher education

Testifying on Capitol Hill, leading the way for veterans legislation

Standing – for 120 years – at the forefront in the battle

FOR VETERANS.®

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

Photo by Gregory Brook. The appearance of Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Comrades,

I am extremely honored to have been appointed as your Department Inspector for the Term 2021.2020.

Based on a proposed amendment to the Manual of Procedure Sections 418 and 518, the Post Inspections will now fall under the control of the Department Inspector. Therefore, the Inspectors will No longer be appointed by the District Commanders. The Department Inspector will also be required to appoint Deputy Inspectors and ensure they are properly trained.

I'm in the process of putting together a lesson plan and additional information will be follow after the National Convention. Hopefully, I will have appointed the Deputy Inspectors and completed the lesson plan by the end of September to enable us to start the District and Post inspections in October 2021.

I look forward to working with all of you and being 100 percent inspected by the COA in December 2021.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Robert Mo Moses,
Inspector,
Department of Pacific Areas



Department Inspector

Robert "Mo" Moses

**YOU'RE
YOUR
THEY'RE
THEIR
THERE
WE'RE
WERE
WHERE
THEN
THAN
TWO
TO
TOO**

**YOU ARE.
IT BELONGS TO YOU.
THEY ARE.
IT BELONGS TO THEM.
A PLACE.
WE ARE.
PAST TENSE OF "ARE."
A PLACE.
A POINT IN TIME.
A METHOD OF COMPARISON.
THE NUMBER 2.
INDICATES MOTION.
ALSO OR EXCESSIVELY.**



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Department Legislative Committee Chairman

As the Legislative Committee Chair, most of you know me from my reminders to conduct your Action Corps Weekly membership drives. Along with Adopting a Unit, holding a Military Assistance Program (MAP), or actively sponsoring a Scouting troop, doing one of these checks off an All-State requirement.

However, the Action Corps Weekly is not just an All-State checkbox. It is vitally important for all members of the VFW to pay attention to your local government representatives. If we don't hold their feet to the fire for the laws that affect veterans, active-duty and reserves, and their families, they we cannot expect them to prioritize our needs.

As committee chair, I also release reminders on voting. Our members come from all over the world, but we each have legislators either at their home of record, or those from District 6, their local representative.

Along with that, the VFW issues action alerts where we, as members, are asked to contact our legislators to push them to support or fight against legislation that we believe will hurt our causes.

Finally, I respond to queries from our members on legislative issues.

With the exception of that, most of my duties are from the committee to the membership, informing and asking for action.

National Legislative Committee

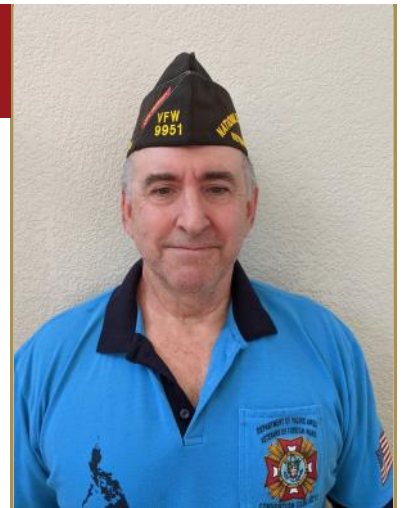
I am also a member of the National Legislative Committee. While as the Department Legislative Committee Chairman, most of my efforts are directed at the members of the department. As a member of the National Legislative Committee, my efforts are directed at the three representatives within our department area.

Each March, the VFW has a legislative week where our national officers testify before congress and we reveal the VFW's legislative priorities for the coming year. As a committee member, I attend the conference and then meet with the three area reps and attempt to convince them to sponsor various legislative efforts.

Communications with the representatives and their offices is ongoing to follow-up on our various priorities. For those who don't know, the three representatives from the department's geographic span are:

American Samoa: The Honorable Amata C. Radewagen
Guam: The Honorable Michael San Nicolas
Norther Marina Islands: The Honorable Gregorio Sablan

Jonathan Brazee
Department Legislative Committee Chairman
National Legislative Committee Member



Legislative Chairman

Jonathan Brazee

CERTIFIED NATIONAL RECRUITER

Greeting Comrades of the Pacific,

Welcome to our new VFW Year. But first of all Congratulation on making the Department of Pacific Areas All American again. It take Team Pacific to do this and I know Commander Ken is very grateful for all the efforts you put into all our programs this past Year. Also Welcome Commander Kevin and his new CofA Team I now it will be a great year again!

I need to have all you Senior Vices at your Post level to take a look at your recruiting tools. Do you need some more recruiting brochures or applications? If they are full of dust it may be time to get some new ones, I can help you there just let me know what you need and send me an address of where to mail them to.

It's also time to look at your calendar and set some dates for recruiting drives. Another thing you can do is set some dates up to go do some home visits with comrades that did not renew their membership last year and find out why they haven't and get them involved with the VFW.

I look forward to working with you this year. I am just an email away.

Yours always in Comradeship,

Larry Lyons
Certified National Recruiter
Department of Pacific Areas
EVERY Veteran is a HERO



Certified National Recruiter

Larry Lyons



REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

Today, we honor the beautiful Melva Simon, Navy's WAVES of World War II. Melva Simon met some initial resistance from her parents, John and Sadie Dolan, when she decided to sign up for military service. "My mother wasn't too anxious for me to go," she said. But, at age 25, "she couldn't keep me at home forever." Simon was quick to join the Navy's WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), enrolling in October 1942. That was just months after the corps was established July 30, enlisting women for World War II duties on shore so men could be freed up for deployment at sea.

Simon, 102, who grew up in the Mt. Pleasant Township village of Bridgeport, was the first woman from her area to join the new auxiliary Navy service, according to a local newspaper item. Several of Simon's older brothers already were serving in other military branches — the Army, Air Force and Coast Guard. "I thought, 'Well, nobody was in the Navy. This is a good opportunity for me to get out and do something,'" she said.

To serve her country, Simon left a secretarial job at Hurst High School in Norvelt, where she had graduated in 1935. She was awarded a rating of petty officer third class after completing training at a naval station in Stillwater, Okla., and was assigned to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

Simon and about 20 other WAVES members were billeted on the fourth floor of Philadelphia's Ben Franklin Hotel and rode by bus to and from the yard. In addition to handling office work, Simon often was called upon as a military chauffeur. Since she'd been licensed to drive her family car at home, "when somebody wanted to go somewhere, they called me to take them," she said. "I took these big shots, the officers, to where they wanted to go. They didn't want to walk too far." In the process, she said, "I got to know Philadelphia real well. It was a big city, but I was able to get around."

During her three years of service, Simon advanced to chief petty officer and was placed in charge of the WAVES' fourth-floor accommodations, which were off-limits to male officers. "When people got off the elevator, you had to make sure you knew who they were," Simon said. If not, "you told them, 'Stand right there until the elevator comes up, and you can go right back down.'" She also was responsible for enforcing a curfew. "I had to make sure everybody was in by 9 o' clock," she said. "There was no excuse for being late." After finishing at the yard at 5 p.m., the women had to pick an early screening time if they wanted to go out to see the latest flick. "You thought that you may as well see the first movie," said Simon. "When it's over, it's time to go to bed."

In a departure from her military routine, Simon was recruited to model the latest spring couture at a Philadelphia fashion show. Thanks to Simon, the Dolans were the first family in her community to have a telephone in their home. Otherwise, Bridgeport residents headed to one of two local stores to place a call. Since the Navy was covering her room and board in Philadelphia, Simon decided to dip into her military pay and splurge on a phone for her parents. After a day of paperwork in the office, she said, it was easier to phone home than to write a letter. "If you called from the hotel, they knew who was calling," she said.

She also kept in touch with her future husband, Joe Simon, who taught agriculture at Hurst High School. They recited their wedding vows in July 1945, and Melva Simon ended her stint with the WAVES the following month. The couple purchased a 22-acre farm along Route 819 in Mt. Pleasant Township, where they established an apple orchard that the family continues to operate.

Melva helped her husband lay the bricks of the home there where she raised their three children and has continued to live, following his death in 2004. Until recent years, when she was slowed by a hip replacement, she helped harvest the apples and sell them at the orchard shop. She also enjoyed making chocolate candy.

She has outlived one of her children and many of the women she befriended in the WAVES. But she's set a strong example for her eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Following in her footsteps, granddaughter Elizabeth Musgrove, 34, is a staff sergeant with the Army National Guard in Texas. "I liked every bit of it," Simon said of her time in the WAVES. "It was a wonderful experience. I would do it all again."



VOP/PP/TA CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

I am proud to step up and be this year's Chairman for these three wonderful programs. I know that Don has done an outstanding job in the last three years, and I plan to continue where he left off. I have been involved in Post 8180 Youth Programs for the last couple of years and look forward to working with all of you this year to hopefully get a National 1st Place winner for the DPA.

Hopefully, you have already had the opportunity to promote this year's VOD / PP / TA program before the summer break. If not, please start making your preparations and contacts with schools and students in your areas as soon as possible. A student can enter even if the school does not want to participate in the program. Also, don't forget about home schools, youth centers, and programs (BSA/Girl Scouts, CAP, etc.); these are good groups to contact more children and parents. You can also get promotional materials at the VFW store, including large posters to hang at schools, libraries, base housing apartments, etc. Please ensure you get permission prior and let them know when it expires.

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

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

All-American and All-State criteria; each Post and District must submit at least one entry for **VoD** and **PP** or a donation at https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/vfwprogramsdonation2021_22. **Post** donations are **\$75.00** and **District** donation is **\$100.00** for each program. The deadline for donations is 31 October 2021. Please send your donation receipt to <mailto:vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org> for credit. TAs are highly encouraged; at least one is required for Department to qualify for All-American.

District commanders, please let me know who your **DISTRICT CHAIRMAN** is for the VOD/Patriots Pen/Teachers Award's program as soon as possible. Please send names and email addresses to <mailto:vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org>.

Yours in comradeship and service,

David Gley

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

vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org

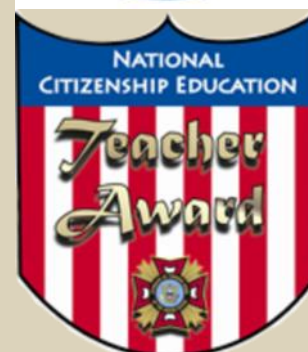
Phone: +82-10-2724-7176



Department of Pacific Areas

VOD/PP/TA Chairman

David Gley



DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

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

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

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

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

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

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

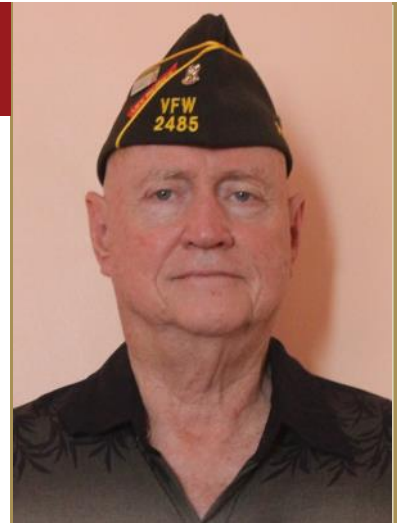
In our post we have a file cabinet with an envelope for each veteran that creates one. Wills, DD-214's, award letters, who to contact from your family with email addresses and contact lists of local friends and doctors. Some leave a hometown newspaper address for an obituary. Some have a "don't touch"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

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

Yours in comradeship,
John Dibble

dsodpa@vfwpacific.org

EVERY Veteran is a HERO



Department Service Officer (DSO)

John Dibble

SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

Greetings:

I have the honor of being appointed the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of Pacific Areas (DPAA) Scouting Chairman.

Qualifications to hold the position:

- Demonstrate a history of Scouting participation and adult leadership experience.
- Demonstrate a history of commitment to the VFW as indicated by successful leadership positions held.
- Be the Department “expert” on all phases of Scouting.
- Must cooperate with Department, District and Post leaders, and Scouting leadership.

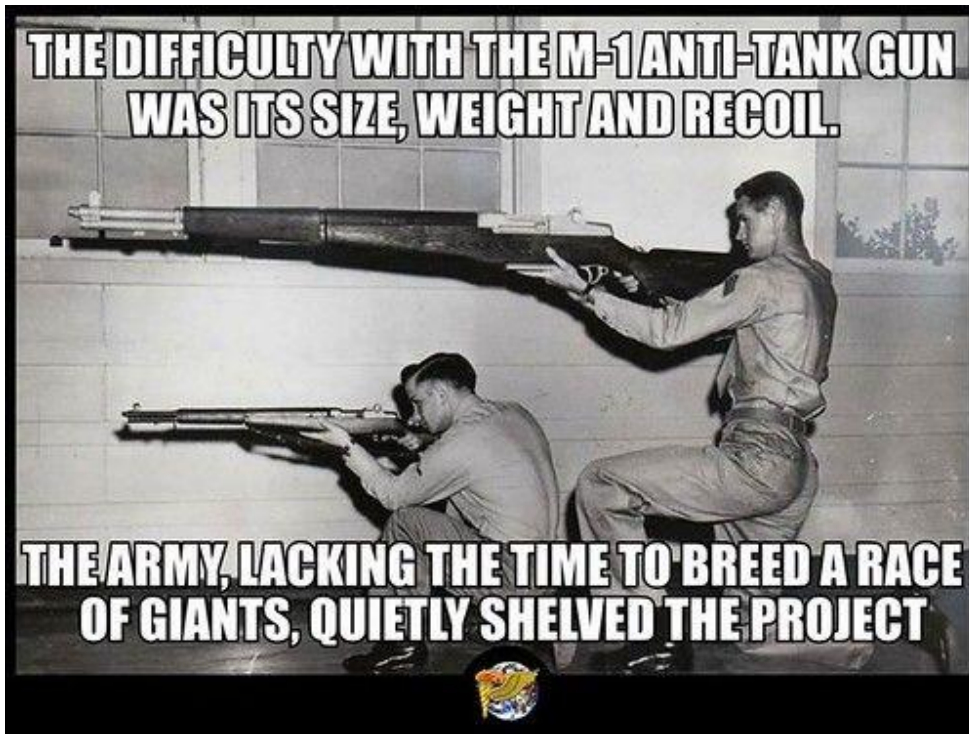
My son is an Eagle Scout and presently I have a daughter in the Scout program, although she is in a non-VFW affiliated Troop. I am a founding member of BSA Troop 485 sponsored by VFW Post 2485. While a member of Troop 485 I served both as assistant scoutmaster and committee member. I am also a founding member and present committee member of BSA Troop 409, Angeles City, Philippines. I am also the VFW Post 2485 Historian, Trustee, and Military Order of the Cooties member. In total I have around 9 years of Scouting experience as an adult leader.

David Metherell
Scouting Chairman



Scouting Chairman

David Metherell



AMERICANISM/LOYALTY DAY CHAIR

What is Americanism?

Americanism is a set of United States patriotic values aimed at creating a collective American identity, and can be defined as "an articulation of the nation's rightful place in the world, a set of traditions, a political language, and a cultural style imbued with political meaning". It is an ideology, or belief in devotion, loyalty, or allegiance to the United States of America, or to its flag traditions, customs, customs symbols, institutions, or form of government.

Upcoming Americanism/Loyalty Dates:

01 AUG Air Force Day Air Force Day is a celebration of airpower in the aftermath of World War Two. This power at the time, but the designation of Air Force Day was an important step toward the recognition of United States air superiority in both Europe and Asia at the time.

04 AUG Coast Guard Day Coast Guard Day is held each year on August 4th to recognize and honor the efforts of The United States Coast Guard. This celebration is considered an "internal" event for active and reserve Coast Guard members, plus their civilian employees and retirees and members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

07 AUG Purple Heart Day Purple Heart Day is observed on August 7 each year and is a time for Americans to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield, or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. Purple Heart Day is also known as National Purple Heart Day, Purple Heart Recognition Day and Purple Heart Appreciation Day.

10 AUG Agent Orange Awareness Day Agent Orange Awareness Day is an annual observation designed to raise awareness of the effects of the herbicide known as Agent Orange, used in Vietnam by American forces to defoliate future and current battle-grounds with the purpose of depriving the enemy ground cover to hide in.

14 AUG Navajo Code Talker Day National Navajo Code Talkers Day is August 14. This holiday honors the contributions of Native Americans / First Nations people who contributed to the United States war effort during World War Two, as well as recognizing the evolution of U.S. code related to Native American languages and the participation of First Nations tribe members in U.S. military efforts from many conflicts.

16 AUG National Airborne Day National Airborne Day, observed on August 16th each year, celebrates the accomplishments of Army parachute tradition. The Army's Airborne Rangers and the Army Golden Knights parachute team are among the best-known American paratrooper organizations, and the accomplishments of Army paratroopers are noted across more than seven decades of service including the Iraq war in 2003.

29 AUG Marine Corps Reserve Birthday The Marine Forces Reserve (also known as the United States Marine Corps Reserve or the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve) was created in 1916, in conjunction with the creation of the Navy Reserve. Since then, the evolution of this force would expand from just thirty-five to today's roughly 40,000 Marine Corps Reservists. The Marine Corps Reserve Birthday is observed every year on the 29th of August.

Jack Farrell
Americanism/Loyalty Day Chairman



John "Jack" Farrell



In the words of [Theodore Roosevelt](#), "Americanism is a question of spirit, conviction, and purpose, not of creed or birthplace."

Americanism has two different meanings. It can refer to the defining characteristics of the United States and can also signify loyalty to the United States and a defense of American political ideals. These ideals include, but are not limited to self-government, equal standing in court, freedom of speech, and a belief in progress. This collection of ideals that forms the modern ideology of *Americanism* holds an enduring appeal to people from lands throughout the globe.

POW/MIA CHAIRMAN

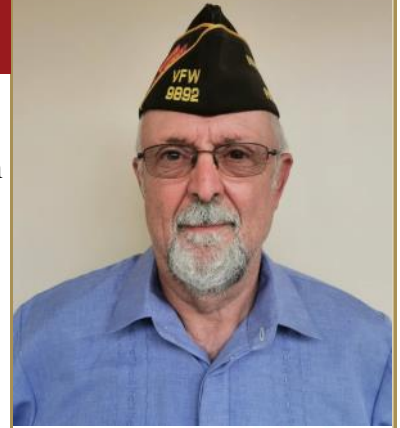
I am honored to be appointed as the Depart of the Pacific Areas POW-MIA chairman for this term. We are tasked with carrying the eternal torch that reflects light on those that deployed with us and did not return. Time does not always heal wounds and fade memories. We will continue to strive to provide the fullest possible accounting for missing personnel to their families and to our Nation.

In 1982 The U.S. government established the third Friday of September every year as POW-MIA recognition day. This year it will be September 17th. On this date VFW Posts will honor those that are still unaccounted for. Below are the current totals of those that are still unaccounted for as of June 2021.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| WW I ----- | 1,648 |
| WW II ----- | 72,206 |
| Korean War ----- | 7,487 |
| Cold War ----- | 125 |
| Vietnam War/S.E. Asia ----- | 1,562 |
| Iraq Other Conflicts ----- | 5 |
| Total ----- | 83,033 |

Yours in Comradeship,

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



POW/MIA Chairman

Wayne "Bud" St.Onge



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

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrades we are entering a new year. I truly hope all are well and in great spirits to continue our mission of taking care of veterans and their families. On this 4th of July we honor those who paved the way for us by sacrificing their lives to give us this freedom and a day we can call Independence Day.

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

Date of Death

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Post 2485: Flaherty, John F. Jr., | 15 Jun 21 |
| Ritzen, Jacob | 24 May 21 |
| Post 2917: Millard, James H. Jr | 11 Jun 21 |

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

TAPS reporting will not change as I have been elected to serve our beloved organization for another term. Email to: chapdpa@vfwpacific.org or to davis-ronald738@gmail.com.

Ronald J. Davis
Chaplain DPA



Chaplain

Ron Davis

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



DPA WEBSITE SPONSORS



Notice

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

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