

VFW 1st District of California



DISPATCH



@vfwmighty1st



One big event for the month of February was the North County Veterans Stand Down (NCVSD) from February 6th to the 9th at the Green Oak Ranch in Vista. See page 17 for a photo spread showing many of the volunteers for this event.



Contents:

- 2: Commander and President Ltrs.
- 3: District Calendar of Events
- 4-8: District Reports
- 9-11: News: VFW
- 11-13: News: Medical
- 14: News: Military & Legislative
- 14: Women's Veteran Info
- 15-17: Recent Events
- 18-20: Upcoming Events
- 21: Charitable Organizations



District 1 Commander
Myles Fry

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary,



February was a very busy and eventful month for District 1. We were able to support multiple concurrent events throughout both San Diego and Imperial Counties. Huge shout out to Post 1513 and all Posts that supported North County Stand-down all while executing Official Visit! Post 9305 also participated in a membership drive and fundraiser at the Holtville Carrot Festival while raising funds for their Bi-Annual "Slab City Stand-up" in Niland, CA. I would also like to thank Post 7420 and their Auxiliary for hosting the Official Visit dinner and Sombrero Ceremony!

VFW Department of California, Mighty 1st District, and the VFW Motorcycle Club presented the "Big Check" of \$45,000 to the Wolfpack Wheelchair Basketball Team. This team is comprised of mostly Wounded Veterans and travels throughout the US and abroad to compete. (Editor's Note: See page 15 for a photo of the team in action.) Congratulations on your big win and we look forward to supporting you in the years to come.

Please keep up the press while we finish up this year. We should see an influx of reporting with all of the events we participated in throughout January and February. You can even report if you participated in an event hosted by another Post or District. With officer nominations and elections coming up, please train and mentor your replacements and provide positive counsel if necessary. Far too often, officer positions are taken over with little or no pass down. Do not hesitate to contact myself and the District leadership team for advice on this matter. Keep up the great work and hope to see everyone at District Convention!

In Comradeship,

Myles Fry
Commander, Mighty 1st District



District 1 President
Grace Leyva



Hello Brothers, Sisters and Comrades of the Mighty 1st District,

We had a wonderful time with our Department President Mary Ryser the weekend of the Official Visit.

The Steak Dinner hosted by Don Diego Auxiliary 7420 was outstanding.

Comrades and Sisters thank you for supporting our dinner. PDC Doug Carrington and Diana Kulhanek were excellent Chairpersons working diligently as a team. Thanks to PDC Ed McCoy for cooking the delicious steaks. Thanks to all those that assisted in helping to make this a very successful event.

We had many visitors from other Districts who attended our District Meeting on Sunday February 9, 2020. Two sisters recorded The Line Officers Cross of Malta March. We received many compliments on how the Mighty 1st District Line Officers are excellent on their floor work.

Here is the event for March:

March 14, 2020 Ice Cream Social at Fred L. Kent 7907 @ 10:00am to assist the Auxiliary Presidents in filling out the Circle of Excellence Criteria Application.

Respectfully
Grace Leyva, District One President

SPREAD OUR WINGS
TO PROTECT OUR VETERANS





March 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Legislative Conference VOD/PP Washington DC	2 Legislative Conference VOD/PP Washington DC	3 Legislative Conference VOD/PP Washington DC	4 Legislative Conference VOD/PP Washington DC	5 Legislative Conference Washington DC	6 C of A Commander's Homecoming Post 4647 NORTH HIGHLANDS	7 C of A Commander's Homecoming Post 4647 NORTH HIGHLANDS
8 C of A Post 4647 Daylight Saving 1 hour Forward	9	10	11 ALL 	12	13	14
15 MARCH MADNESS 	16	 17 St. Patrick's Day Post 1512 Corn Beef & Cabbage 5 to 7PM	18	19 START OF SPRING  Spring Begins	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 	27 	28
29  VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY	30 ALL AMERICAN DASHBOARD IS YOUR POSTS UP TO DATE?	31 3rd QUARTER ENDS	 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS. 1ST DISTRICT VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA 2019-2020 			

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

Hi All,

According to the Department Americanism Chair we are 100% reported for Americanism! Congratulations all! Let's keep the reports coming in. After you vote on March 3rd remember to send in an Americanism report including mileage you traveled to pick up a friend, sister/brother.

Sara Jeyes

Americanism Chairperson

Comrades,

This is a reprint of February's Dispatch article.

The next major accomplishment for all Posts is the upcoming *March* first nominations and the *April* elections of your Post Officers. Once that is complete the new or returning Post Commander needs to appoint the Chairmen and Committees.



WHO? Per our VFW Manual of Procedure, refer to Sections 215, 216 and 217. The **ELECTED POST OFFICERS ARE: Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain, and Trustee(s).** Ship 1774 has different position names: **Captain, Executive Officer, Navigator, Paymaster, Chaplain, and Trustees.**

HOW? Again, refer to afore mentioned Sections. For their duties and responsibilities descriptions refer to Section 218. Also read Section 221 for Voting.

All members should be familiar with the VFW National Bylaws Article I and Article II. Your Post QM/Paymaster needs to complete the election form right after the elections and submit them to District, State, and National. In addition, please scan the document and send to: Roster Editor 20-21, and email to

slainte1861@ att.net

Keep up the great work that you are doing for our community, our active duty personnel, and especially for our Veterans and their families!

See you soon. Yours in Comradeship,

PDC Douglas Carrington
District 1 Chief of Staff 2019-2020
slainte1861@att.net

(Below, Left to Right) Aux 5867 member Jen Jordan & Aux President LeAnna Brown volunteering at Father Joe's Village and harvesting from the garden.



(Above Left to Right) Aunt Ida, Olivia, Margie (Antonia's daughter), Grace Leyva, and Sheila Jo Snyder attended the internment of Past District 1 President Antonia Araujo at Miramar National Cemetery on Feb. 18, 2020



REPORTS FROM DISTRICT OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

From: VFW Communications <Communications@vfw.org>

Date: 2/12/20 7:54 AM (GMT-08:00)

To: VFW Communications <Communications@vfw.org>

Subject: "VFW" the Movie

Dear VFW Leaders,

On February 14, a new movie called "VFW" will hit theatres nationwide. The movie's plot is fictitious; a teenage girl runs into a VFW Post's canteen with a bag of stolen drugs. Suddenly under attack from a gang of punk mutants looking to get back what's theirs — at any cost — a group of veterans use every weapon they can put together to protect the girl and their VFW Post.

The VFW agreed to its marks being used in this production based on the agreement that the production would:

- Portray America's veterans as heroic.
- Emphasize their inherent, enduring commitment to serve.
- Weave a story that positions veterans as resilient, vital and relevant to culture and society.

The movie looks gritty and is very much an "action flick." But the veterans in the movie are portrayed as protectors of the weak ... defenders of those who have suffered injustice ... the good guys. Yes, it's over the top and extreme — but so are movies like Rambo, Die Hard, etc. which position veterans/officers of the law as the heroes. Viewers aren't going into this movie expecting a documentary or a gentle coming of age story. It's billed as science fiction, action and fantasy in review online. Over the top action and scenes are going to be expected. This production has been created for a very niche audience, and thus far, those familiar with the genre like it. In fact, it's receiving great reviews. <https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/vfw>

While the Post canteen scene conflicts with the dynamics of our modern-day establishments and changing culture, this production has offered our name a unique means of reaching an uncommon audience with an overall positive portrayal of our members.

Respectfully,

VFW Communications, VFW National Headquarters

406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111

All,

The Mentorship Program is in the 2019-2020 Department Program Book. It consists of six pages.

If your Post is trying for All-State and All American, I suggest that your Post check it out in the

Department Program Book to

ensure your Post has all the bases required covered.

Jerry P. Koehmlein



REPORTS FROM DISTRICT OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

Your local schools, home schooled students, and youth groups in your community should have the information needed to participate in the [Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest](#). Follow up with your contacts to answer any lingering questions.



Eligibility

- Any student in grades 9-12 who is enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States.
- Maximum student age of 18 at time of local entry.
- Student must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national.
- It is not a requirement to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate, but the student must attend school in the same state as the sponsoring VFW Auxiliary.

Helpful Information

Two and three-dimensional art is acceptable based on the specifications in the entry brochure. Digital Art, photography, and jewelry ARE NOT accepted.

Instruct the student to follow the rules precisely as described on the contest application to avoid disqualification.

Visit the Scholarships section of the [Program & Publicity Resources](#) page of the website for:

Brochure order form

A printable brochure and contest application

Redesigned scoresheet

Redesigned and updated helpful hints

Contest Deadlines

Deadline for entries to your local Auxiliary is March 31, 2020.

Deadline for Auxiliaries first place winning entries to the District Chairman is April 7, 2020.

National Awards

First Place – \$15,000.00 Second Place – \$7,500.00 Third Place – \$3,500.00

Fourth and Fifth Place – \$1,500.00 Sixth through Ninth Place – \$500.00

Help fund the artists of tomorrow! Please send a donation to the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Escrow Fund! To donate, send a check earmarked Patriotic Art to:

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters

Attn: Patriotic Art Fund

406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor

Kansas City, MO 64111

Your generous donations are greatly appreciated and enable National Headquarters to increase the amount of our awards. Please consider sponsoring a fundraising event for this worthy cause. Let me know what your Auxiliary is planning. At the conclusion, let me know how successful the event was. Think outside the box! Perhaps, with the permission of the students, your Auxiliary could sponsor an auction of the artwork submitted for the contest.

There is also the Most Outstanding Promotion of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. There will be a **Citation** to every Auxiliary that promotes the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. In addition, a **Citation** to and \$50 to one Auxiliary in the nation with the most **Outstanding Promotion of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest**. Auxiliaries are to send their completed form to their Department Chairman, Nancy Boyd. A copy of this form was given to each Auxiliary President in August 2019. More information to follow.

Please remember to report to the District and Department Scholarships Chairmen. Let's continue to "Spread our wings to protect our Veterans." Members, let us be "Intelligent, Strong and Fighting compassionately for our Veterans and their families." Let's "Service our Veterans with Aloha" that we know truly comes from our heart. Be active and be present.

Loyally,

Oneita Billings

District One Scholarships Chairman

oneita.billings@gmail.com

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

Senior Vice Commander Report



Hello Comrades,

February has gone by so quickly, we are onto March. March is the month we need to catch up on reporting and get our unpaid members contacted. April will be here before we know it, and we all know that is the deadline for All State awards.

The Mighty 1st has done a great job of getting our PSR items submitted, Thank You all for all the hard work you do. Convention is right around the corner; Dept will release the code very soon. National is in Reno this year and they are also taking reservations now. This is a great opportunity if you ever wanted to go because it is actually within driving distance. With warmer weather we will all be outside more either doing work or for recreation. Please be safe in all of your activities. In the next couple of weeks, we will be releasing the information on District Convention/Reception and Mass Installation. Mark the dates: D1 convention is May 3rd at Post 5867, D1 Mass Installation is May 9th.

Paula Jansen
SVC

WEBMASTER REPORT

Hi Everyone,

For you number people out there; our [Website](#) had 24 users last week, [Facebook](#) has 416 followers, [Instagram](#) has 124 followers, [Twitter](#) has 22 followers. These are all *up to date* resources that can be used to find out what is going on around our amazing district.

Don't forget to use the appropriate hashtags in your social media posts.

- National #VFWPostPride
- Dept Post #VFWCA
- Dept Aux #VFWCAAux
- Dist 1 Aux #Mighty1stAux
- Dist 1 Post #Mighty1st

Sara Jeyes

webmaster@vfwcadist1.org

MOC and MOCA

The prime directive of the Military Order of the Cootie is to Have Fun. It is the Preamble of our Supreme By-Laws. It is the glue that holds us together and makes us special. It is what helps us to hang on and give that last push to get us over the top for a program when things get tough. Our hat, our uniform, even our name is designed to bring a smile to those who come in contact with us. As our hero, The Great Blue Louse instructs us, "A smile is the one thing that you can give that you will always get back," we strive to bring humor to our efforts, to our fellow veterans and to those less fortunate than us.

"Keep 'Em Smiling in Beds of White"

Sara Jeyes

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

DISTRICT 1 AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN REPORT

Hello everyone, brothers, sisters and comrades:

Heading into March! St. Patrick's Day and springtime means fresh renewals and flowers!
Cards and activities for January 21, 2019-February 20, 2020:



01/21/2020 – get well card for Past. Dist. 1 President, Nancy Nowka, suffered injuries and in a rehab nursing center. No further details.

01/26/2020 – sympathy card to the family of Auxiliary life member to VFW 3783, (Ramona) Ms. Emma Lee Doris Ward passed away as of 12/23/2019. Celebration of life to be hosted by Ms. Ward's daughter at her home in Point Loma on Feb. 29, 2020. RVSP required.

01/28/2020 – attended funeral service for Auxiliary Life Member Janice Simmons, Bert Fuller Aux 9578.

01/30/2020 – attended funeral service for Auxiliary Past District 1 President, Antonia Araujo, Don Diego Aux 7420. Family requested donations to National Kidney Foundation in lieu of flowers. Little toy train engines added for her symbol of the little train that could. Family members were there as well as many of our Aux members (from 7420 Don Diego, 1512 Encanto and 9578 Alpine).

01/31/2020 – attended Chaplain training class during afternoon session with James Patterson, minister from Dept. of Veterans Affairs in Fort Harrison, MT. Quarterly sessions are provided for all Aux Chaplains to attend either 1 or both (early pm and evening courses).

Loretta Cook and Sally Thomas from Aux 1513 (Escondido) also attended both sessions. ***Thank you***

02/01/2020 – get well cards to District Secretary Evie Holland, took a hard fall at her house and broke pelvis.

02/02/2020 – get well card for Past Dist. 1 President Reta Butler, no details listed.

02/03/2020 – Acknowledgements being sent to Aux President Monica Wilson at John Simpson Post 1513, for 2 of their Aux members who attended the most recent Chaplain training classes in Spring Valley. These classes are on quarterly basis.

02/03/2020 – Received notification of 3 passing's from Aux 3788: Kim Brandon, passed 09/25/2019; Loretta Smith, passed March 2016; and Dorothy Shade, passed 01/17/2020. No further details.

02/06/2020 – get well card to PDP Emma T. Lopez, no details listed. Pending update when received.

02/09/2020 – Good of the order at Dist. 1 quarterly meeting for Joe Brunner, husband to Aux 1512 Bea Brunner, unknown illness.

02/09/2020 – Good of the order at Dist. 1 quarterly meeting for PDP Emma T. Lopez, in hospital, ICU unit, varied health issues.

02/09/2020 – Celebration of life for Aux 9578 Life Member Janice Simmons, passed away in January due to cancer and long-term illness.

02/10/2020 – get well card to PDP Cece Bennett, Aux 2111, District soloist, health issues.

02/10/2020 – sympathy card to the family of Sherri Gallucci. Aux 9327 passed away this week, no details provided.

02/14/2020 – courtesy cheer up card to PDP Darlene Kidd (1991/92) who is in hospice due to cancer. She lives with her family in Missouri.

02/15/2020 – sympathy card to Annette Bongiovanna, Dist. 1 Color Bearer, on loss of her husband, Tom, comrade from Post 7907/Poway.

02/15/2020 – visit to hospital with Dist. 1 President Grace to see PDP Emma, in good spirits, being relocated to rehab center for continued healing and recovery.

02/15/2020 – get well card to Dist. 1/State Chaplain, James Wright, recovering from cold/flu.

02/15/2020 – sympathy card for Dist. 1 Commander Myles Fry, whose father, Comrade Richard Fry, passed away on Feb. 14.

02/18/2020 – attended burial/internment services for Past Dist. 1 President, Antonia Araujo at Miramar National Cemetery, 10am with current Dist. 1 President, Grace Leyva and Aux 7420 Chaplain Olivia Solomon. Toni's daughter, Margie and sister, Ida were also in attendance. Photos attached from the event.

02/18/2020 – Grace, Olivia and I visited PDP Emma at her rehab facility in the UTC/La Jolla area. She will be there for some time with therapy/rehab.

02/19/2020 – update on Edith Simpson, PDP and Aux President for Imperial Beach 5477 from Elsie Sleeter. Edith will be moving out of state soon to complete her rehabilitation, living with her family and will not be returning to Imperial Beach. Pending visit to see Edith with Dist. 1 President Grace.

02/19/2020 – get well card sent to Patricia Crotts, Aux 5477 (Imperial Beach), very ill and needs support.

****Please note that for our last meeting in May, which will include the memorial service, all deceased Aux members from previous years not listed, I must have the information on/before March 25th, so I can prepare the memorial book on rough draft and be finalized in time with all information, prayers, songs etc.**** As time permits, if others pass I will revise the documentation to add them as well.**

I will still accept emails and messages regarding Aux members who are ill or need cheering up, that is and will be continual. I can be reached via email at sheilajo9578@cox.net or call/text me at 619-9900536.

I want to make sure that every Aux member who is ill is sent a card, and any Aux member who has passed is given the dignity, honor and respect for a sympathy card from District 1 to the family.

Thank you for your continued input and information.

Sheila Jo Snyder, District 1 Auxiliary Chaplain

NEWS OF INTEREST TO VFW MEMBERS

Editor's Note: Unless otherwise identified, the articles on pages 9 through 14 come from the Fleet Reserve

Association document titled "News Bytes" and they are provided courtesy of Jerry, the 1st District Quartermaster.

The California Veteran

The California Veteran is the official publication of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department of California. It is an online magazine published four times a year to keep our members informed about important news affecting the VFW and veterans. The Spring 2020 Issue was published on February 23 and is now available on the Department Website for you to view.

To subscribe or view back issues, go to: <https://www.vfwca.org/in-the-news/ca-veteran-magazine/>



February 2020

- Wounded Iraq War Vet Surprised by Home Makeover
- 'Frogmen' Led the Way on Iwo Jima
- Hockey Rekindles Camaraderie for Vets
- Army Vet Sets Sights on Career in Fashion

Attention VFW members: If you have written a book or an e-book bearing an ISBN or ASIN, submit a nonreturnable copy (or a link to the e-book) with a brief description (submitted as a Microsoft Word .doc or .docx; no cover quotes) to magazine@vfw.org. Define the book as fiction, nonfiction, or memoir; and include VFW member number. The author's name, book title and cover, publisher, and ISBN will appear in the online VFW magazine (expect to wait two-three months) accessed above.

VA Gets Big Budget Boost, DoD Gets Small Increase

FRA Director of Legislative Programs John Davis and Assistant Director of Legislative Programs Theo Lawson attended the Department of Veterans Affairs budget briefing on the agency's proposed FY2021 budget. It includes a \$22.6 billion increase (10.2 percent) from the current budget. The proposed budget provides for 14,000 more employees, of which 7,000 are medical staff. The VA anticipates more than 33,000 veterans to enroll in VA healthcare.

The VA budget also provides for \$1.2 billion increase (\$485 million more than 2020) for the Caregiver program, which includes the expansion of the FRA supported program. The budget also includes \$137 million to support the processing of Blue Water Navy disability claims. Since the first week of January, the VA has received 14,000 BWN claims and has paid \$7.5 million in retroactive benefit payments to 218 veterans and their survivors. The VA expects a total of 70,000 BWN claims. The proposed budget provides \$2.6 billion to modernize electronic health records (EHR). The process will provide a seamless transition to the VA for injured or wounded service members.

The DoD budget request for FY21 is consistent with the bipartisan budget agreement Congress passed in 2019. The agency's resources are essentially unchanged from last year's amounts. To compensate, Secretary Esper and our military leaders are implementing reforms and repurposing resources from lower priority functions to programs essential to the National Defense Strategy. The DoD has again requested an 18,000-billet cut in military medical staff.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO VFW MEMBERS

Deputy VA Secretary Dismissed

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie revealed in a brief statement posted on the VA website, that he terminated his next in command at the VA, Deputy Secretary James Byrne, due to loss of confidence. Byrne was confirmed by the Senate on Sept. 11, 2019 (81-11). He served as acting Deputy Director prior to his Senate confirmation when previous VA Secretary David Shulkin resigned after questions arose about taxpayer-funded travel. Before Byrne served as acting deputy secretary, he served as general counsel for the VA. Before coming to the VA, he served in the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. Earlier, Byrne was a Marine Corps infantry officer.

CCN Payment Delays Discussed at HVAC Joint Subcommittee Meeting

Assistant Director, Legislative Programs Theo Lawson recently attended a joint oversight hearing of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittees on Health and Oversight and Investigations. The hearing was about the status of the Community Care Network program provider networks. Attention was paid to the backlog of claims-2.5 million claims out of 3.8 million are older than 30 days. The Department of Veterans Affairs testified that this will be remedied by the end of the fiscal year this September.

The VA is making changes to streamline the payment and referrals process. This includes reforming the purchase and authorization systems and improving effective communication with service providers using technology as opposed to telephone calls. The Community Care Network is responsible for monitoring feedback from the service providers. Currently, 30 percent of veterans obtain health care through CCN.

HVAC Subcommittee Discuss Privacy Concerns at VA

The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing on data privacy for veterans who are using the Department of Veterans Affairs' vendors. The VA explained during the hearing that they have a process for vetting third-party vendors who are part of the Community Care Network. Committee members expressed concern that privacy data should be protected by these third-party vendors. The committee focused on the security of the integrated electronic health record, record sharing and data collection and permissions from apps the VA offers for smartphones. The VA health care information from veterans falls under the jurisdiction of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and their personal information falls under the Privacy ACT. A third party vendor must follow VA procedures when gaining access to veteran information. The VA often performs compliance audits to ensure their agreements and policies are upheld. The VA claims that they have policies in place to immediately rectify an incident during a data breach.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO VFW MEMBERS

Veterans History Project

The Library of Congress, Veterans History Project is an effort to preserve oral histories, memoirs, and collections of historical documents of U.S. veterans from World War I to the present. The FRA wants to provide an opportunity for Shipmates to share and preserve their stories for future generations of Americans. The Veterans History Project no longer accepts online registrations. Please submit your historical materials along with the required forms found in our Veterans History Project Field Kit. Be sure to follow the provided guidelines. The kit and additional information about the project are online. You will need to copy and paste this URL into your browser: <http://www.loc.gov/vets/kit.html>

NEWS: MEDICAL AND MEDICAL BENEFITS

Military Clinics No Longer Serving Retirees, Families

Facilities closing to non-active duty patients include:

- Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California, Rancho Bernardo clinic
- Presidio of Monterey, California, outpatient clinic
- San Onofre Marine Corps Base, California, San Onofre Health Clinic

Facilities that have either already transitioned to active duty-only, or are in process:

- Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California, Rancho Bernardo clinic
- Presidio of Monterey, California, outpatient clinic

Facilities that will close completely to all users:

- Fort Irwin, California, Department of Behavioral Health

The VA Asks for Delay of New Presumptive Conditions Related to Agent Orange Exposure

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently sent a report to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. It explains their concern with the scientific evidence behind the link between bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, parkinsonism, hypertension and exposure to Agent Orange herbicide. The VA claims that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine did not identify any "definitive causal links" between Agent Orange and the diseases. The VA is now waiting on the results of its own study. The National Academy of Medicine has already established an association between Agent Orange exposure and these four diseases. The FRA is supporting the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act (H.R.5610), which would increase the presumptive conditions linked to exposure of the Agent Orange herbicide to include parkinsonism, bladder cancer, hypertension and hyperthyroidism. FRA Members are strongly urged to use the FRA Action Center to weigh in on this important legislation.

The FRA has signed onto a letter to President Trump, with several other associations, requesting that he intervene and add these ailments to the list of Agent Orange presumptive conditions for disability benefits immediately.

NEWS: MEDICAL AND MEDICAL BENEFITS

Select Locations to Offer Virtual Exams for Veterans; ATLAS Provides ‘Patient-Centered Care’ for Veterans

VA is teaming up with Philips, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the American Legion and Walmart to provide telehealth services with Project **Advancing Telehealth through Local Access Stations (ATLAS)**. ATLAS allows Veterans to be examined at their local Veterans’ service organization post, or Walmart, through virtual appointments with medical professionals across the nation – providing Veterans convenient access to care closer to home.



The sites offer health care services that do not require hands-on exams such as primary care, mental health counseling, clinical pharmacy, nutrition services, social work, and more.

It is up to the local VA Medical Center to decide which services to offer.

While there are no VA employees based at ATLAS sites, there is an attendant on-site who will provide Veterans with information, assist them with getting started, troubleshoot any technical issues, and keep the space clean. The attendant will not be present once the appointment begins nor have access to Veterans’ medical information. Veterans meet with VA providers through VA Video Connect, VA’s secure videoconferencing software. There is no copay for VA Video Connect appointments, whether at an ATLAS site or otherwise. VA providers may prescribe most medications for Veterans during appointments at ATLAS sites.

Veterans interested in this program are encouraged to contact their local VA medical centers to determine service availability in their local area. For more information on VA’s telehealth programs, visit www.telehealth.va.gov.

Contacts: Please use the contacts below for ATLAS questions that are location specific. These individuals will only be able to assist with ATLAS specific questions for their designated areas. **For all other questions, call VA311 (844-698-2311) or the White House VA Hotline (1-855-948-2311).**

Site Location	Site Type	POC	Email
Asheboro, NC	Walmart	Jennifer Terndrup	Jennifer.Terndrup@va.gov
Boone, NC	Walmart	Eric Adams	Eric.Adams3@va.gov
Eureka, MT	VFW	Marvin Boyd–Spokane, WA	Marvin.Boyd@va.gov
		Susan Geubtner–Montana HCS	Susan.Geubtner@va.gov
Fond du Lac, WI	Walmart	Scot Kueper	Scot.Kueper@va.gov
Howell, MI	Walmart	Aimee LaBelle	Aimee.Labelle@va.gov
Keokuk, IA	Walmart	Nathan Samuelson	Nathan.Samuelson@va.gov
Linesville, PA	VFW	Holly Mukina	Holly.Mukina@va.gov
Los Banos, CA	VFW	Jeremy Chapman	Jeremy.Chapman@va.gov
Springfield, VA	Am.	Shawn Norman	Shawn.Norman@va.gov



The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 made changes to the VA Home Loan Program, specifically:

- VA-guaranteed home loans will no longer be limited to the Federal Housing Finance Agency (Federally-established) Confirming Loan Limits. Veterans will now be able to obtain a no-down-payment home loan in all areas, regardless of the loan amount.
- The law exempts Purple Heart recipients currently serving on active duty from the VA Home Loan funding fee.
- VA removed the loan limit for Native American Veterans seeking to build or purchase a home on Federal Trust Land.
- At this time, there is a temporary change to the VA Funding Fee, which is a congressionally mandated fee associated with the VA Home Loan. Veterans and service members will see a slight increase of 0.15 to 0.30% in their funding fee (currently for two years), while National Guard and Reserve members will see a slight decrease in their fee to align with the fee paid by 'Regular Military' borrowers (permanent). Veterans with service-connected disabilities, some surviving spouses, and other potential borrowers are exempt from the VA loan funding fee and will not be impacted by this change.

Veterans with questions about benefits or filing a claim can visit the VA Agent Orange website and Compensation for Surviving Spouse and Dependents (DIC) website. They can also call 1-800-749-8387.

NEWS: MEDICAL AND MEDICAL BENEFITS

What You Should Know About Coronavirus

The VA is working closely with The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal partners, monitoring an outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Cases have been identified in the United States and other international locations. This new strain belongs to a group of viruses called coronavirus which can cause symptoms like fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

VA has activated its emergency management coordination cell (EMCC) and is implementing an aggressive and collaborative public health response to protect and care for Veterans. At this time, no Veterans receiving care at VA have been diagnosed with 2019-nCoV. United States is actively screening everyone who has traveled in China for this new disease. Americans who come back from the part of China where the number of infections is very high are required to limit close contact with other people and report changes in their health. VA has been planning for this type of event and is prepared to protect and care for Veterans who receive their health care from VA.

What precautions to take

Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent 2019-nCoV infection and no medication to treat it. CDC believes symptoms appear 2 to 14 days after exposure. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid exposure. These basic health measures can reduce the spread of infection.

- ◆ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. An easy way to mark the time is to hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice while scrubbing.
- ◆ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- ◆ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ◆ Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- ◆ Stay home when you are sick or becoming sick.
- ◆ Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue (not your hands) and throw the tissue in the trash.
- ◆ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- ◆ Getting a flu shot is recommended.

What precautions to take when traveling:

The U.S. government has imposed travel restrictions for all non-essential travel to China. Additionally, U.S. citizens returning from the region will undergo enhanced screening procedures. Generally, foreign nationals (other than the immediate family of U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and flight crew) who have traveled in China within 14 days of their arrival, will be denied entry into the U.S. If you have international travel plans, review this specific guidance for travelers.

What to do if you have symptoms:

If you have both symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath and have either recently returned from China or have direct exposure to others diagnosed with 2019-nCoV.

Call before visiting your local VA medical center to seek care. Tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.

To avoid spreading the virus to others, follow the precautions listed above.

NEWS: MILITARY AND LEGISLATIVE

House Passes Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers (PAWS) Act

The House unanimously passed the Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers (PAWS) for Veterans Therapy Act (H.R.4305). It is intended to assist veterans struggling with PTSD and other mental health challenges through service dog training therapy. Committee testimony on the measure noted that mental wellness does not have a one-size-fits-all solution, which is why the VA must provide innovative and out-of-the-box treatments to help veterans combat these invisible illnesses. There is no question that the companionship and unconditional love offered by man's best friend can have powerful healing effects on men and women from all walks of life, including our men and women in uniform. The bill now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

President Signed Bill to Enhance STEM Careers for Veterans and Military Spouses

President Trump signed into law the Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act (S.153), which was sponsored by Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla). The act will assist veterans who are re-entering the workforce by directing the National Science Foundation to encourage veterans to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The act mandates the NSF's Office of Science and Technology to establish an interagency working group to increase veteran and military spouse representation in the STEM field.

Women Veterans Chairperson Report

This is a new section of the newsletter where future articles will provide women veterans with useful and valuable information about programs, benefits and opportunities available to the women who serve or served in our armed forces.

Expect to see articles and information from these organizations on many topics of interest to our women vets:

- ◆ FaceBook
- ◆ Women's Vet Alliance
- ◆ She Served Too
- ◆ Proud Women Vets/VFW Department of California Women Veterans
- ◆ San Diego Women Vets Network
- ◆ SD Lady Vet
- ◆ Foundation for Women Warriors

Paula Jansen, Women Veterans Chairperson

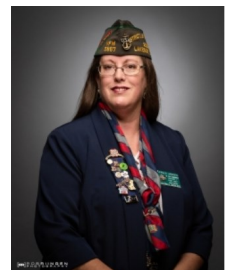


Photo photos by Col. Jeannette Sierra

RECENT EVENTS



The Wolfpack wheelchair team on the floor



Dept Commander Mike Kuznik, Sr. Vice John Lowe and Dept Wheelchair Games Chairman Eric Luke at the Wheelchair Basketball Tournament.



Dept Jr Vice Dusty Napier and D1 Sr Vice Paula Jansen got caught in jail at NCVSD

RECENT EVENTS



The Commander and President accept gifts during their visit.
 (left to Right)
 D1 Sr Vice Paula Jansen
 Dept. President Mary Ryser
 D1 President Grace Leyva
 Dept. COS Tracey Ventrist Lewis
 D1 Commander Myles Fry

Post 9305
 Anniversary
 Photo

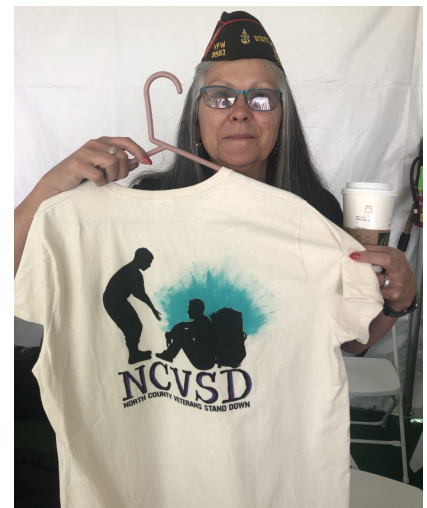


Commander Emilio Cervantes during the official visit Friday night meal at Post 7420



Dept. Senior Vice John Lowe poses with (left to right)
 D1 Sr Vice President Racheal Luke
 D1 Sr Vice Commander Paula Jansen
 Sr Vice President Robyn Kiznik

PHOTOS FROM THE NORTH COUNTY VETERANS STAND DOWN



UPCOMING EVENTS



Scholarships Program

CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

- Eligibility:** Open to members who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or a career direction at a vocational/technical school. Applicant must be 18 years or older. A qualifying member must have been a member of the Auxiliary for one (1) year prior to application. Spouses and children of members are also eligible to apply.
- Rules:** Each applicant must answer all questions on the application. Write an essay (300 words) describing their commitment to their goals and how this scholarship will help them attain these goals.
- Awards:** \$1,000 will be awarded to an applicant in each of the four conferences.
- Deadline:** February 15, 2020.

Mail to:
 VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
 Attn: Administrator of Programs
 406 W 34th St. 10th Floor
 Kansas City, MO 64111

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

- Eligibility:** Open to all students, including home-schooled students, in grades 9-12. Students must attend school in the state of the sponsoring auxiliary.
- Rules:** Art must be on paper or canvas. Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen-and-ink, or oil may be used. Digital art is not accepted. Do not frame! Canvas may be stretched on a frame; other entries must be matted on white. If the American flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code as far as color, number of stars and stripes, and other pertinent rules of the code. Each entry must have been done during the current school year, and the art instructor's name on the application. Each student may submit only one (1) entry.
- Judging:** Entries will be judged by the originality of concept, presentations, and patriotism expressed; the content of how it related to patriotism and clarity of ideas; the design technique; total impact of the uniqueness.
- Awards:** Auxiliary and District awards may include recognition gifts, receptions and money. National Awards scholarships for the top eight recipients range from \$500-\$15,000. The first-place art will be featured on the cover of the VFW Auxiliary Magazine and on the Auxiliary website.
- Entry** Local Auxiliary – March 31, 2020
- Deadlines** District – tentative Date: April 7, 2020

There is also the Most Outstanding Promotion of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. There will be a Citation to every Auxiliary that promotes the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. In addition, a Citation to and \$50 to one Auxiliary in the nation with the most Outstanding Promotion of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. Auxiliaries are to send their completed form to their Department Chairman, Nancy Boyd. A copy of this form was given to each Auxiliary President in August 2019. More information to follow.

Please remember to report to the District and Department Scholarships Chairmen. Let's continue to "Spread our wings to protect our Veterans." Members, let us be "Intelligent, Strong and Fighting compassionately for our Veterans and their families." Let's "Service our Veterans with Aloha" that we know truly comes from our heart. Be active and be present.

Loyally,
 Oneita Billings
 District One Scholarships Chairman
oneita.billings@gmail.com
 760-839-5324

UPCOMING EVENTS



Post 1512 PRESENTS
EASTER
 HONEY BAKED HAM RAFFLE
 Drawing SAT 4th APRIL
 8 to 10 LBS HAM
 TICKETS \$2.00 OR 3 FOR \$5.00
 WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT
 SEE BARTENDER FOR TICKETS
 PROCEEDS FOR VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN



AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS
ICE CREAM Social
 COME JOIN US HELP YOU FILL OUT THE CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE CRITERIA APPLICATION
 SATURDAY MARCH 14, 2020
 @ 10:00 AM-12:00 PM AT
 FRED L. KENT VFW 7907
 12342 OLD POMERADO ROAD POWAY, CA 92064



Chuck Anfuso for
 VFW State JR. Vice CDR
 Dept. of California

VFW Post 2422 Fundraiser for one of our own! Come enjoy some BBQ and all the fixings on 3/21/2020, from 5-7 pm

Enjoy live entertainment with good food, for a good cause, for a good price!

\$12.00 a plate!



1ST DISTRICT & POST 1512 PRESENTS:
GOLDEN ACORN CASINO TRIP
 \$20 DONATION
 BUS DEPART 1512 10 AM
 BUS DEPART CASINO 4 PM
 SATURDAY APRIL 4TH 2020
 NATIONAL HOME FUNDRAISER
 GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY
 LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE
 SIGNUP SHEET AT POST 1512 OR CONTACT QM
 POC DISTRICT QM JERRYPK@COX.NET
 INCLUDES BUS TRANSPORTATION,
 \$20.00 FREE PLAY FROM CASINO

Please join us for an
Afternoon
TEA
 LUNCHEON
 Sponsored by Robyn Kuznik, Kathy Smith, & Diana Russell-Milton



Saturday
April 4th

VFW Post 4647
 3300 U St, Antelope
 12:30pm to 3:30pm

\$20
 Per person
 See Department
 Officers for Tickets

Door prizes ✦ Prize for the best hat ✦ basket raffles

Proceeds help fund Robyn, Kathy & Diana's Department Officer fundraising

Passport to Freedom
 fill your Patriotic Passport & get a free prize!

Family ★
 ★ **Freedom**
Festival

March 7th 11am-4pm

LAKESIDE VFW 12650 LINDO LN LKSD CA 92040
SPARE CHANGE DRIVE

★ **FREE MASSAGE**
PATRIOTIC CRAFTS
 ★ **BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK**
 ★ **FACE PAINTING**
 ★ **FINGERPRINT BOOTH**
 ★ **PRIZES MOVIES & SNACKS**

questions:
 auxiliaries867@gmail.com

Auxiliary 5867 Fundraiser

Spring
Tea Party

April 18, 2020
 2:00pm

\$25 single seat
 \$175 for table
 (a savings of \$25)

<https://2020springteapartyauxiliary.eventbrite.com>

Floral Demonstration
 4 Course Tea
 Raffles
 Vendors

SCAN ME

SAVE THE DATE

When-Saturday, April 18th
 Where-VFW Post 3787
 Why-Fundraiser for the Auxiliary's Cancer Grants
 What-Pork Chop Dinner with all the fixins, \$15 donation.
 Stay tuned for more information! FUN FUN FUN!

All Cancers Lavender	Kidney Cancer Orange	Pancreatic Cancer Purple
Bladder Cancer Yellow	Leiomyosarcoma Purple	Prostate Cancer Light Blue
Brain Cancer Gray	Leukemia Orange	Sarcoma/Bone Cancer Yellow
Breast Cancer Pink	Liver Cancer Emerald	Stomach Cancer Periwinkle
Cervical Cancer Teal/White	Lung Cancer White	Testicular Cancer Orchid
Childhood Cancer Gold	Lymphoma Lime	Thyroid Cancer Teal/Pink/Blue
Colon Cancer Dark Blue	Melanoma Black	Uterine Cancer Peach
Esophageal Cancer Periwinkle	Multiple Myeloma Burgundy	Honors Caregivers Plum
Head/Neck Cancer Burgundy/Ivory	Ovarian Cancer Teal	Printable PDF Color Chart

ST PADDY'S CORN BEEF AND CABBAGE MARCH 16TH

March 17th   March 17th

Dinner 3 PM – 7 PM

The Annual gathering of Comrades, Sisters, Cooties, Marines, SubVets, MOCA, children, Friends & Associates to Celebrate **ST PADDY'S DAY** and

Partake in a great meal

Presented by Richard & Dave

Chefs

Carrot and Dessert SOUS Chef



When Tuesday March 17th starting at 3 PM

Corned Beef, Cabbage, Red Potatoes, Carrots, Rye Bread, Mustard, Horseradish, & Dessert



Donation: \$13.00 in advance \$15.00 at the door

Tickets in Advance. See Dave or the Bartender. Tables can be Reserved for Groups of 6 or More

Remember the Public is invited to all meals

VFW Post 3787, 4370 Twain Ave, San Diego 92120 tel: 619 281 0137

DALEMAR RANCH BARONA CASINO RAFFLE



DRAWING TO BE HELD AT THE PIG ROAST 16 May 2020

SEE BARTENDER FOR TICKETS-

\$5 EACH, 3 FOR \$10, 6 FOR \$20

RAFFLE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING

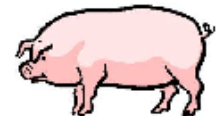
1. TWO (2) NIGHT STAY AT THE HOTEL
2. MEAL FOR TWO (2) AT SAGE CAFÉ (EXCLUDES TIP)
3. MEAL FOR TWO (2) AT SEASONS FRESH BUFFET (EXCLUDES TIP)
4. MEAL FOR TWO (2) AT THE ITALIAN CUCINA (EXCLUDES TIP)

OFFER SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY, NOT VALID ON HOLIDAYS OR DURING SPECIAL EVENTS

Special thanks to Johnnie Barona & Mike Brian for the raffle prize.



Dalemar Ranch Presents



37th Bi-annual (now annual) Pig Roast

May 16th 2020

Festivities start at 1pm

Dinner 3-5pm

Spit roasted Whole Pig, Roast Beef and Turkey

Side Dishes are greatly appreciated

Family Friendly *NO DOGS* Please

Fundraiser for VFW Post 3783

Donation: Adult \$30 18-13: \$15 12-7: \$10 Under 6 : FREE

Active Duty Military, Police and Fire Fighters / EMT's FREE

ALL YOU CAN EAT AND ALL YOU CAN DRINK!

FREE CAMPING: Motorhomes & Trailers WELCOME! (early parking available)

Karaoke by Keith and Susan MacDonald : 1-5 PM

Live Band: 6-10pm *The Rockhounds!*

WHERE: 17067 EL SOL Road Ramona CA

Contact: Dale (619) 247-0535, Marla (619) 247-0536



Quilts by
Frances
Spencer



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us for a Tea Party!

Sponsored by Robyn Kuznik, Kathy Smith, & Diana Russell-Milton

VFW Post 4647

Saturday, April 4th, 12:30pm to 3:30pm, 3300 U St, Antelope

Door prizes Prize for the best hat basket raffles

*****Proceeds help fund Robyn, Kathy & Diana's Department Officer fundraising*****

See Department Officers for Tickets \$20 Per person

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Commander 9327 sends:

As our follow Veteran students begin their three weeks of the Spring semester at Grossmont College, supplies are running very low. I don't mean school supplies. I mean the essential items day to day that students there require. Some of these veteran students live in their vehicles and use the campus bathrooms for showers, it's sad.

We can not donate money to them directly as the funds will be placed into an account and "disappear," or it doesn't go directly to where YOU want it to go. Kathy & I have purchased and donated 7 cases of the 50 pk of variety chips and 1 box of 50 bags lays chips..... so CHIPS are good for the time being

Kathy has provided me a list of items that can help a student or students in need.... all of these items are used and kept at the VRC. (Veterans Resource Center)

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1 Box of plastic folks (500 or 1000 count).... from Costco or Sams... | Foam cups, 10 oz. |
| 1 Box of plastic knives (same as above) | Lids for the cups |
| 1 Box of plastic spoons (same as above) | Napkins |
| Creamer for the coffee | Chips |

The school can only donate so much, usually a meal every other month to the VRC, and that's about it.

If you or your Post would like to donate and help our Veteran students, you can coordinate drop off with me, and I'll get it to her.

You also can Stop by / swing by the VRC @ Grossmont College to drop off and see for yourself.... it goes to a great cause..... I'll go with you if you like.

Thank you to VFW Lakeside Post for your ongoing donation of coffee.

Jose L. Marrero

Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW)

Commander, Santee Post #9327

WK Cell: (619) 928-4103, Cell: (619) 208-1953, Kathy's Email

Please contact Santee Commander or Kathy with your donations.

Email: jose.premierproperty@gmail.com

Alt Email: jose.marrero357@gmail.com

kveizaga@gmail.com