

# VFW 1st District of California DISPATCH



**Commander Lewis and President Snyder at Warrior Foundation Freedom Station “Deck the Halls” event at Naval Medical Center, San Diego**

**Membership as of  
1 December 2022**

**Auxiliary: 95.29%**

**Comrades: 92.75%**

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## District 1 Commander John Lewis

Comrades,

As we continue through the holiday seasons, I want to send everyone great spirits for Christmas and New Year's. Keep your hearts open for those Comrades that may be alone or in need. I want to first send my condolences to PDC Bob Parks on the loss of his wife, very sorry for your loss

We are now at the halfway point of the year and are sitting at 93% for membership, which remains a priority at all levels of the VFW. Unfortunately, we no longer have a membership Chairperson, if anyone is interested in taking on that responsibility, you will be greatly appreciated. I have sent out voice messages to all unpaid members and will be announcing a District incentive to help increase members. Continue to update contact info and reach out to unpaid members.

I am hoping for the second part of this VFW year to be just as successful and look to make an impact on as many Veterans as possible. Continue with community service and Veteran's outreach. We have some great events, fundraisers and announcements taking place in the near future. I ask that you communicate with your Comrades and utilize all the tools that we have available such as District 1 and Department website and social media.

Thanks for your service and Comradery and look forward to visiting when out and about in the District

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,

Yours in Comradery,  
**John Lewis, Commander,  
VFW CA District 1**



## District 1 President Sheila Jo Toor-Snyder

Hello to all as we are coming towards the end of 2022 and welcome to 2023!

Sending early holiday greetings to all for Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa and for New Year's 2023!

November was busy with inspections, as well as Veterans' Day events throughout District 1 and our fundraising event of a fashion show sponsored by Mission Valley Auxiliary 3787!

We are slowly winding down on the last few inspections, some are on pending returns for rechecks. As District 1 Auxiliary President, I was invited to Grape Day Park in Escondido for a Veterans Day event with VFW Post/Auxiliary 1513, with guest speakers, 2 young ladies doing patriotic songs (1 singing, the other singing with her ukulele!) VFW Post 1513 Commander Tony Maffini introduced me to the small gathering of people and the community who were there to support the veterans. Afterwards, I was invited to lunch with 1513s comrades and Auxiliary members to a great location called Burger Bench. Great time and discussions about 1513s upcoming holiday party and move to their new location!

That evening, I went to Kearny Mesa Post 3788 for Veterans Day dinner of steak, potatoes, veggies, rolls, butter, and dessert along with a ceremony attended by many families. Veterans were provided a free meal, and I kindly paid my fair share. Commander Vannoy and his lovely wife, Mary (3788s Auxiliary President) introduced me to their granddaughter, Amanda, who I had a delightful time with talking about VFW Auxiliary. I do sincerely hope everyone participated in some type of event/meal for our veterans on November 11. Remembrance for all those living and deceased means much to the families.

Our fashion show fundraiser on Nov. 13 was a great success! Many of our Auxiliary members (including myself!) were part of the modeling sessions to show off the Drama Kweenz clothing, jewelry, and accessories. Their store is located at Parkway Plaza, El Cajon. We had some fabulous gifts, food, hot chocolate, coffee, and tea, and we will know by next Dispatch in January our final totals for proceeds.  
(Continued on page 14)



# SPECIAL DATES

## DECEMBER

- **December 1: Civil Air Patrol Birthday**
- **December 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**
- **December 13: U.S. National Guard Birthday**
- **December 18: National Wreaths Across America Day**
- **December 25: Christmas Day**
- **December 26 - January 1: Kwanzaa**
- **December 28: Anniversary of Army Chaplain/Religious Affairs Specialist**
- **December 31: New Year's Eve**



## JANUARY

- **January 1: New Year's Day**
- **January 14: Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher Awards Lunch at Post 2111, 11 AM - 2 PM**
- **January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- **January 16: Past Commanders Club Meeting, Post 7907**
- **January 27-28-29: Mid Winter**

## FEBRUARY: Black History Month



- **February 1: Chinese New Year**
- **February 2: Groundhog Day**
- **February 3: Four Chaplains Day**
- **February 4: USO Birthday**
- **February 5: District Meeting**
- **Week of February 14th: National Salute to Veteran Patients**
- **February 14: Valentine's Day**
- **February 19: U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Birthday**
- **February 20: President's Day**

## MARCH: Month of Military Caregiver

### Women's History Month

- **March 1: Mardi Gras**
- **March 3: U.S. Navy Reserve Birthday**

## District Chaplain Report

**COMRADES! COMRADES!**

*Time has brought us to the eleventh month of 2022. God has been good to each of us. We recognize the month of November as the month of Thanksgiving. On the twenty-fourth (24<sup>th</sup>) day of the month, we will celebrate Thanksgiving for various meanings and accomplishments.*

*In District One, less not we forget any losses you and families might have experienced this past month. Remember the sick awaiting medical decisions, diagnostic tests and surgical procedures. Please keep them in your prayers.*

*Chaplain Samuel Cummings sends a "Happy Thanksgiving" message to each family and persons on the day of Thanksgiving. Enjoy, be safe and get a full stomach. LOL*

*Above all be thankful of the food on the table that you are able to bless.*

*Observe and be thankful,*

*Chaplain One, Samuel Cummings*

*(619)-838-0954*



## District Chaplain Report

Hello brothers, sisters and comrades.

The Holiday season is upon us, this year we want to remind everyone to stay warm and healthy. Reach out to the members of your Auxiliary and check up on them. Take care of yourself and your family. Enjoy this time with your friends and family, 2023 will be here before we know it. Please be kind to everyone you come in contact with, you never know the struggles they may be going through.

Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.

Christina Davis-Falls, District 1 Chaplain  
Please send information to:  
[Chaplain.district1@gmail.com](mailto:Chaplain.district1@gmail.com)



## District 1 Junior Vice Commander Report

Last month I attended the VFW Western Conference in Portland, Oregon. While there, it was my solemn duty to hold the Western Conference Memorial Service. It was during this memorial service that we paid tribute to all of our veterans and members who have passed away during this past year included the Western Conference's own Past Commander in Chief Allen "Gunner" Kent. Current VFW Department of CA Aux Chaplain and Past District 1 Aux President Kathie Okolski volunteered to assist during the service, and I want to thank her for helping to make the memorial service a success.



I hope that everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. And I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. It is my hope that God will continue to bless you in everything that you do. And, God please continue to look after all of our veterans.

Happy New Year 2023 Everybody,

**James, Jr. Vice**

## INSPECTOR REPORT

**From the Inspector,**

Post inspections are in progress.

Post Commander's will be called and set dates for inspections with a follow up letter confirming the date time and copies of the inspection forms.

Myself & Chuck Anfuso will be conducting all inspections and we WILL be complete by 31 December 22. Be prepared to schedule and complete.

PSC Dale Smith  
District 1 Inspector  
**Dale E Smith STCM(SS) Ret.**  
National Council Member 2020-2024  
Post 3783 Judge Advocate  
Past State Commander  
Department of California  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Post 3783 LE,FF,EMT Chair  
Vet Fund Foundation Chairman



07/12/2010

## Voice of Democracy (VOD) / Patriot's Pen (PP) / Teacher Report

The VOD/PP/Teacher Awards Ceremony will take place at VFW Post 2111 on January 14 from 11-2.

Post 2111 will be serving Burgers and Fries for \$8.

Please contact Myles Fry 619-507-8709 or mylessfry@gmail.com for any questions.

Myles Fry



## Auxiliary Community Outreach Program

The Auxiliary Community Outreach Program focuses on the VFW Auxiliaries volunteer work in our communities. This program covers things that are not reportable in any other program. If you are volunteering as a Poll Worker with the Registrar of Voters that is reportable under the Legislative program not under the Auxiliary Outreach program. Make sure the organization is voted at your meeting on as a partner before the you can report volunteer hours with that organization.

Programs in San Diego looking for volunteers:

[I Love A Clean San Diego](#) - Beach or Canyon clean ups  
[Traveling Stories](#) – Help children build their reading skills  
[Meals on Meals](#) – Bringing meals to seniors

Check out [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org) for more opportunities near you.

## Website/Social Media/Dispatch

The web/social media team is working on the Department and District websites. We are asking that if you notice something that needs to get fixed please email.

[www.vfwca.org](http://www.vfwca.org) Members Only login in is your VFW number password is your last name. example Smith  
The Dashboard is up but will have modifications in the future. Please check it for items you have submitted to make sure you have received credit. Please contact me if you have a problem. The weekly update from Department is also available in this section, so check it out to see what is being put out.

The reporting section is working, so continue to do reports. Reminder you won't see the reports on the dashboard until they are approved, they will however show on the All Program Reporting.

The updated **All State** and **ALL American** guides are available on [www.VFWCA.org](http://www.VFWCA.org) programs. We also have all the required forms under resources and forms

Watch our social media for updates. Please send us your Event flyers (not meals) so we can help promote them, and pictures after the events.

National is asking all post to have a public social media with two admins.

They are looking for you to share content from National, Department, District and the community service your post is doing, not just taco Tuesday or canteen happenings.

Facebook VFW CA Mighty 1<sup>st</sup> Dist & Aux

Department website [www.vfwca.org](http://www.vfwca.org)

District website [www.vfwcadist1.org](http://www.vfwcadist1.org)



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*Partners In Patriotism*  
GIVE MONTHLY TO HELP OUR HEROES



**Partners in Patriotism** is a win-win monthly giving option to make things more convenient for you ... and allow us to do the best job we possibly can for America's sons and daughters.

**Partners in Patriotism** is the most effective way to help our proud veterans, service members and their families. When you sign up, you support life-changing programs every month of the year. ***It's a great way to show you care!***

## **Partners in Patriotism:**

- Keeps administrative costs down so more money goes to programs.
  - Allows for better budget planning and program funding to help more veterans, service members and their families.
  - Cuts down the amount of mail you receive. You will only receive the *VFW Supporter Quarterly* newsletters.

**Sign Up Today!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## CHOOSE HOW YOU DONATE

**Option 1: Credit Card**

Visa       MasterCard  
 Discover     American Express

\_\_\_\_\_

**ACCOUNT NUMBER**

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EXP. DATE

Amount to be charged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- monthly
  - quarterly
  - annually

• Minimum amount is \$10.00, processed on/or around the 20th of the month.

SIGNATURE

DATE

#### **Option 2: Checking Account Deduction**

Please send us a voided check along with the completed information below and return it to:

VFW National Headquarters  
406 West 34th Street, Suite 718  
Kansas City, MO 64111

Amount to be charged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- monthly
  - quarterly
  - annually

• Minimum amount is \$10.00, processed on/or around the 20th of the month.

**SIGNATURE**

DATE

Return this form to VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Suite 718, Kansas City, MO 64111 or fax to (816) 968-1129. Questions? Please call Donor Services toll-free at 833-VFW-GIVE (833-839-4483), or email vfwfundraising@vfw.org. **Thank you!**

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

# VETERANS DAY AROUND THE DISTRICT



**Today was a success thank you Kahoots employees for coming and sharing Veterans Day with us and everyone else that came out for the Veterans Day ceremony and lunch Fallbrook high school MCROTC color guard you ladies did an amazing job. Boy Scouts helped a big Thank you to everyone**



What an honor and privilege that Mr. Thomas Henderson, US Army, 1966-1971, Vietnam Veteran and member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9305 was able to spend the day with all of my students educating them about Veterans Day. Our principal, Mr. Derma, presented Mr. Henderson with the Principals coin and the California Army National Guard State CSM coin. Thank you Mr. Henderson for your service to our country.

**VFW CA MC San Diego**  
Nov 5 • Instagram •

Honoring vets past and present  
@mtsoledadveteransmemorial #vfw #vfwf #vfwca #still-serving #vet-helping-vets #veteransday #usmilitary #usmc #usnavy #usaf #usaf #socal #sandiego #vfwmc #vfwcamc



## Post 9305 Stand Up



VA SAN DIEGO  
“Stand Up ‘22 @ Slab City”



## Post 9327 Making Christmas Cards



# HAPPENINGS AROUND THE DISTRICT



**VFW**  
***“Buddy” Poppy***



**VFW**  
***“Buddy” Poppy***

What an exciting year this year has been. If anything, it has left us wondering where the time has gone.

Our Buddy Poppy Display Contest was well received. We had 9 Auxiliaries enter the contest this year. Half the entries captured the theme of it being an educational display about the history of the Buddy Poppy. Those that came short of this at least made you want to ask about the meaning of the Buddy Poppy. I thank everyone who participated in this year's Display Contest. Your dedication and efforts were very much appreciated. But there could only be one winner for the State competition. All entries received a Participation ribbon and Buddy Poppy pin. We had 3 judges and a 4th one to help break the tie for 3rd Place. I would like to thank Christine Edwards, Ellie Mello, Christina Falls-Davis, and Joyce Sellers for their assistance in the judging.

Our 1st Place winner for 2022 was #2080 (Campo) using 30 poppies. Our 2nd Place winner was #3787 (Mission Valley) using 146 poppies. And our 3rd Place winner was #5867 (Lakeside) using 100 poppies.

#3795 (San Marcos) had decorated their Post's windows and walls using 650 poppies. Wow!

Thank you again to everyone who participated in this year's Display Contest. Looking forward to next year's challenge.

## Wounded Warrior Decorations at Balboa Hospital



### Post 5985

Commander and  
Quartermaster  
getting creative  
at the Craft  
& Chat Fair



# FLEET WEEK EVENTS



**Post 5867 Commander with  
Marine Corps EOD**



**Post 5867 Commander Wendy, Junior Vice Art, Comrade Frank  
Post 7420 Senior Vice Will & Comrade.**

**Post 5867 Commander Wendy,  
Junior Vice Art, Comrade Frank**

**Post 6867 Commander Wendy, Junior Vice Art,  
Comrade Frank, & Auxiliary President Diana**



**Denny's in El Cajon  
sets a table to honor  
our POW/MIAs .**



**Western Conference attendees  
visit Stonehenge with Chewy.**



**Right: Past District Commander Doug  
Scholl participates in the Sports  
Clips "Help A Hero" Program.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE DISTRICT

Wreaths Across America's  
Mobile Education Exhibit  
visits (town/state)!



January 19, 2022  
1pm-6pm  
Lakeside VFW POST 5867  
12650 Lindo Ln  
Lakeside, CA



**WREATHS across AMERICA**

The Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit is a rolling exhibition that brings the local community, veterans, active-duty military and their families together through interactive exhibits, short films, and shared stories. The exhibit serves as a mobile museum, educating visitors about the service and sacrifice of our nation's heroes as well as to serve as an official 'welcome home' station for our nation's Vietnam Veterans. All veterans, active-duty military, their families, and the local community members are invited and encouraged to visit, take a tour and speak with WAA representatives and volunteers. They can also share more about the national nonprofit, and the work its volunteers do to support our heroes and their communities year-round.

Public tours for the MEE are free and open to the public with social distancing, sanitization and COVID-19 safety procedures in place to protect the health of all visitors in accordance with the CDC's recommendation for large gatherings stemming from concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the media, dignitaries, veterans and other interested groups are urged to come, ask questions, share stories and experience this one-of-a-kind exhibit.

Honor a hero at:

[www.wreathsacrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org)

Bring Arts and Crafting to your post! Workshops available monthly. Benefits mental health. To schedule a workshop contact: paula.jansen@att.net 619-261-0463

## CRAFT CHAT & WELLNESS

*Featuring: rock painting!*

**RECEIVE YOUR FREE CRAFT KITS  
FROM HELP HEAL VETERANS!!**

Reportable under vfwca.org  
Veterans Assistance VFW Mental Health



**FREE  
kits for  
Veterans!**

## Lakeside VFW POST 5867

Santa  
Arrives  
at 8am

# TOY DRIVE 2nd Year 5k Walk

**DECEMBER 03, 2022**

Walk  
starts  
at 9am

Coffee, Hot Apple Cider, Hot Chocolate, Mary's Donuts, & Snacks

## SIGN UP TO JOIN VFW ACTION CORPS

RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER  
AND ACTION ALERTS

Use camera mode to scan code



or

Text "VFW" to 50457

or

Visit [vfw.org/JoinActionCorps](http://vfw.org/JoinActionCorps)

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Clothing was offered at 15% discount, and everyone took advantage of those sales! Fingers crossed we can do this again for springtime!

District 1 members participated in the Warrior Foundation Freedom Station “Deck the Halls/Walls” event at Balboa Naval Medical Hospital. The event was limited to 160 people, so we registered in plenty of time to partake in the holiday decorations.

I also attended a local meeting by the El Cajon City Council on discussion of building a veterans' memorial here, with community input and pending involvement. Council is deciding on where to set this up for future veterans' names on a wall like what other areas have done.

Please make sure to get your annual memberships submitted by mid-month for documentation prior to Department closing for about 1-2 weeks for the holiday vacation. We'd like to have everyone up to date to hit our 100% or higher mark on membership from Department (and keep that fabulous medallion from leaving District 1!) Please note that if annual members are not paid by 12/31/2022, they will need to 'rejoin' and start over again! Our next membership meeting will be early this time – Tuesday December 13, at VFW Post 5867/Lakeside, 530pm on site, and online link to be sent out separately to all Presidents. President Diana will be hosting with her auxiliary team for the end of year festivities. All IRS forms (990s and I-99) should have been submitted by deadline of November 15. Those who have not submitted will be contacted by Department and/or myself for updates. Please ensure your Auxiliary met those goals!

Please discuss with your Auxiliary about sponsoring needy military families in your area for food, clothing, children's toys/clothes/necessities. Please also keep your reports coming in for the programs, as this keeps everyone updated on what your Auxiliary does for our veteran community.

For those of you who inquired about the Dispatch, please note there are 2 places to obtain a copy: if you are on Facebook, connect to the Mighty 1st <https://www.facebook.com/vfwmighty1st> or via our website [www.vfwcadist1.org](http://www.vfwcadist1.org) under the "News" "District Dispatch" drop down on the black banner.

We send our sincere condolences to Auxiliary/Post 1513/Escondido on the passing of their chaplain/secretary, Loretta Cook, who also was handling the North County Stand Down and Wreaths Across America. Line officers and I attended the funeral services up in Rancho Penasquitos, and I also attended the appreciation dinner in Escondido on Sunday 11/20.

Keep up the great work everyone is doing for our veterans, their families, and the community. Everything gets noticed, excellent job to all participating!

Loyally,

**Sheila Jo Toor-Snyder VFW District 1 Auxiliary President**  
phone: (619) 990-0536 email: [sheila.district1@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.district1@gmail.com)



## VA Disability Payments to Increase in 2023

VA disability compensation rates are increasing in 2023 based on Social Security's cost of living adjustment. VA will provide official compensation tables in December 2022.