



Monthly Newsletter

Nashua VFW Post 483
8 E. Pearl Street
Nashua, NH 03060
603-402-2992
nashuavfwpost483@gmail.com



MONTH: June 2024

ISSUE: 12

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President:

Brenda Byrne

603-490-2284

Sr. Vice President:

Diane Ordway

603-505-5758

Jr. Vice President:

Renee Plante

603-714-9024

Treasurer:

Shirley Labonte

603-582-3620

Secretary:

Shirley Labonte

603-582-3620

Conductress:

Carolyn Marineau

603-882-6071

Guard:

Bruce Byrne

603-233-6490

Chaplain

Patriotic Instructor

Gloria Kane

Noreen Wheeler

603-801-9488

1st Year Trustee:

Christopher DiTullio
Commander
978-987-8009

James Cline Sr.
Sr. Vice Commander
207-553-0331

Marc Plante
Jr. Vice Commander
603-714-8715

Lewis Chipola
Adjutant/Quartermaster
603-521-7708

Herbert Townsend
Chaplain
603-424-8219

Angelo Ruocco
Judge Advocate
603-888-9522

Katie Boots
Surgeon
603-689-4072

Lewis Chipola
Service Officer
603-521-7708

Steve Ordway
1 Year Trustee
603-490-2284

Robert Anderson
2 Year Trustee
603-402-6520

Donald Vincent
3Year Trustee
603-809-9482

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POST COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Comrades,

Say hello to June. I want to start off by thanking those who took time out of the day to man a post for our Buddy Poppy Drive. I am pleased to say that we reached a new record for donations, over \$9000!! Thank you very much to those who volunteered. Also, Loyalty Day was a huge success and the turn out was amazing. Thank you to all who attended. Do not forget about the fishing trip on June 19. Sign up if you have not!

Our sponsored week at Gate City Casino is the week of June 10. We will be allowed to have a table set up with VFW information and some applications. We will also be hoping to have a few members stand by at the table to speak with patrons and answered questions. We might also get a few new members as well. More information on that to follow shortly. In my previous newsletter I mentioned post officer email addresses. They are up and running now and we are slowly rolling them out to be used. An email explaining it and telling you what they are will be sent out shortly. Any questions, please ask.

As always, if you have any ideas, comments or concerns please let me know.

Yours in comradeship,

Chris DiTullio
Commander
District 6 Senior Vice Commander
Cditullio007@yahoo.com – personal
commander@vfw483.org – Post email
978-987-8009





State Commander's Message



Greetings & Salutations from CDR Denis Querrard

THANK YOU!

As this will be my last entry in the District 6 Newsletter as your Department Commander, as well as this being the last District 6 Newsletter, I wish to thank Lew Chipola for his due diligence, patience, and devotion to putting the Newsletter together over the years and getting the message out there to the members and auxiliary of District 6.

I wish to Thank everyone for all the hard work that the VFW, Auxiliary, family, and friends have put into the VFW during my term. I saw numerous activities and I witnessed many helping hands doing what we do best, helping Veterans.

It will be bittersweet as I hand over the reins to your next Department Commander, if so elected, Andrew (AJ) Corrow, on 09 May 2024. There are many programs that I would have loved to see implemented, and I truly loved representing this organization throughout the state and nationally. I wish that I had been able to visit with every post and meet every member; you are the most important part of our organization and we would not be able to accomplish as much as we do without you. I hope to see many of you at our State Convention, 7-9 June, at the Town & Country

Thank you for all you do, the Veterans you help, the communities you serve!

We only have one month left to the finish line for membership...

The Department was at 95.19% in April and we have moved up to 96.78 in May;

how is your post doing in membership and when is your next membership drive? We are inching up in the numbers; please do not wait till the end of June!

How close is your post to 102%?

Congratulations to our 102% Posts: □ Derry Memorial Post 1617 (103.46%), Merrimack Post 8641 (104.06%), & John H Hargreaves Memorial Post 10722 [Pelham] (102.50%)

Congratulations to our 100% Posts; your work is not done, you need a few more to reach 102%:

□ Hudson Memorial Post 5791 (you need 4 more) & Hollis Memorial Post 11373 (you only need 1 more).

- **Hampstead Post 11254 needs 1 to make 100%; you only need a total of 2 to make 102%**

- **Salem Memorial Post 8546 & Nashua Post 483 you are both in the running; dig deep and make it across the finish line...**

Post leadership, please go through your membership rosters and work through your list of expired members and members who have fallen off the rosters; reach out to them. Use can use your relief accounts if a member is having difficulty with paying for their membership; if you purchase a membership for an expired member, reach out, send a note, invite them back to the post.

Recruit, Renew, and Retain!

Get your message out there and report what you do!!



STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



NO ARTICLE SUBMITTED



DISTRICT COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Comrades,

Elections for Post officers should now be complete and June 7-9, I look forward to joining you in Gorham for the Department convention. Those seeking Department offices should be listed in the June Go's. Some were already named in May and final round of nominations followed by elections will decide who leads us into 2025. I hope to see delegates from all posts in District 6. The District 6 meeting schedule should be available soon for 2024-2025. And finally, I thank those posts that have hit 100% of their goal and if you can do that, you certainly can aim for 102%. If you have not made your goal, you still have until June 30.

Isaac Miller

Commander, District 6



DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



NO REPORT FOR THIS MONTH



STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE & CERTIFIED NATIONAL RECRUITER



2024-6 Dept. NH VFW National Legislative Committee Member, VAVS VAMC Manchester VFW Representative, Certified National Recruiter, Homeless Chair

Rev 5-22-24

Our Legislative team in DC is in full gear fighting for the elimination of Claim Sharks, the unauthorized firms or individuals that will prey on our veterans when they offer to help with VA claims and end up charging the veterans high fees to pay for their services. Only VA Accredited Service Officers, firms and lawyers can legally put in claims for veterans in the VA system. They can charge modest and regulated fees and will have the proper legal documents to file on the veteran's behalf. Use the free services that the VFW Service Officers or other VSO Service Officers provide. No one has a faster track. The VA works at their own pace, no one gets to cut in line. Don't waste your hard-earned money.

I was advised to put a claim in in Dec, and I got a full 100% rating two months later. I thank our Dept. NH-VFW Service Officer John Barrett for doing that for me. I'd rather not have a reason for the claim, but since I contracted my condition thanks to Agent Orange exposure back in 1968 while serving in the Korean DMZ, I'll take the money and benefits while I can.

Unfortunately, I'm now being forced by my medical treatments to cut way back on my involvement with the VFW that has been my passion since 2010. I have been advised to focus on my own issues and exert my limited energy to take care of my own needs and wants. I will still be as active in the VFW as my health allows me to be, but I can't do the physical and mental work I used to do. I will be available to help as needed, I will continue to answer my phone and emails. It was a great honor to work with and to help my past VFW Commanders and officers at the State, District and Post level to achieve their goals and to perform their duties and obligations. I enjoyed trying to be the guy hiding behind the curtain, helping my VFW comrades to excel in their varied positions.

We are actively recruiting and grooming younger members into our Pelham VFW post, and I hope they will grab the reins out of my hands and improve and continue to build on what we have at our Pelham VFW post and continue to be an active, productive member in our Dept NH-VFW. I wish them all success and will offer any support I can muster.

Jörg Dreusicke

VAVS VAMC Manchester VFW Representative

National Legislative Committee Representative

Certified National Recruiter

Homeless Chair

jdreusicke@aol.com

603-553-0395



POST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



From the desk of:
Brenda Byrne - President
Nashua VFW Auxiliary #483

Brothers and sisters,

As we wind down our current year, I'd like to extend my deepest gratitude to my auxiliary members for stepping up over the last few months as we navigated the difficulties of carrying on since the passing of sister Shirley LaBonte. Additionally, my sincere thanks to Department Secretary Linda Meader and Department Jr. Vice President Tracy Kelly for their invaluable guidance and patience answering my never ending questions.

2024 - 2025 officers were installed by Department Jr. Vice President Tracy Kelly at our May meeting.

Our next meeting, the first with newly elected officers in place, will be held on Friday, June 14 at 1:00pm at the Post Home, 8 East Pearl St.

Important reminders:

Department Convention June 7 - 9 at the Town and Country Resort in Shelbourne, NH

We will host a Buddy Poppy Drive on July 4, 5 and 6 at Stateline Convenience Store in Brookline, NH. We can always use help with this event.

2025 Dues will be raised from \$20.00 to \$25.00 annually.

Hope to see you at our next meeting!

Respectfully,
Brenda Byrne - President
Bbyrne4747@gmail.com
(603)930-0589

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Greetings from the Chaplains desk

Deceased members: none

Hope this report finds everyone doing well. I know we are Looking forward to better weather, and enjoying our upcoming Summer activities. Those of us planning summer vacations, be careful and remember to stay safe.

Continued well wishes go out to comrade Chuck Ashworth as he recovers from medical issues, he has been dealing with. Wishing everyone the best of health and a safe and enjoyable summer.

If anyone needs any assistance, please advise the post, as we are here for you.

Yours in Comradeship
Herbert CT Townsend
Chaplain
Post 483

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Herbert "C.T." Townsend
603-345-5033

Members:

Chris DiTullio Commander
908-987-8009

Lewis Chipola-Quartermaster
603-521-7708

Scott Gagnon
781-983-2876

Steve Ordway

DISTRICT 6 & C of A MEETING SCHEDULE

Council of Administration Meetings

19 August 2023: Littleton Post 816 1000

28 October 2023 Kingston 1300

20 January 2024: TBA 1300

13 April 2024: Mountain View Grand Resort 1000

DISTRICT 6 MEETING SCHEDULE

12 August 2023: Derry 1000

21 October 2023: Hudson 1000

13 January 2024: Merrimack 1000

30 March 2024: Pelham 1000

District 6 Auxiliary Schedule

27 August 2023: Nashua 0930

5 November 2023: Pelham 0930

28 January 2024: Derry 0930

14 April 2024: Merrimack 0930

All District 6 meetings are shown in BLUE and scheduled for 1000 unless otherwise noted, dress is blues and grays unless otherwise notified. Auxiliary meeting shown in GOLD.



MEMBERSHIP



CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	Div	R S	City	State	N/R LM	Prior Annual	Retention
6	123	6	2	53	184	204	90.20%	3		NASH UA	NH	0	72	88.89%

2023-2024 GOAL 102%

RENEW EARLY (IT DOES NOT AFFECT YOUR EXPIRATION DATE)

DISTRICT 6 MEMBERSHIP

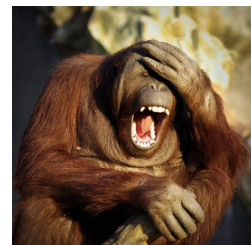
LOCATION	POST #	%	RETENTION
NASHUA	483	90.20%	88.89%
DERRY	1617	103.47%	95.16%
HUDSON	5791	100.00%	82.98%
SALEM	8546	92.97%	90.24%
MERRIMACK	8641	104.07%	93.62%
PELHAM	10722	102.50%	81.09%
HAMPSTEAD	11254	97.37%	60.00%
HOLLIS	11373	100.00%	90.91%
TOTALS		98.66%	85.36%

MEETING REMINDER

25 July 2023
 22 August 2023
 26 September 2023
 24 October 2023
 28 November 2023
 19 December 2023
 23 January 2024
 27 February 2024
 26 March 2024
 23 April 2024
 28 May 2024
 25 June 2024



FUN PAGE



JOKE OF THE MONTH

Johnny was at school and the teacher said, "Someone use fascinate in a sentence." Sally answered, "The zoo was fascinating." The teacher said, "Sorry, Sally, I said to use fascinate in a sentence." Maria suggested, "I was fascinated at the zoo." Once again the teacher said, "No, Maria, I specifically said to use fascinate in a sentence." Johnny said, "My sister has ten buttons on her sweater." Again the teacher said, "Sorry, Johnny, I said use fascinate in a sentence." Johnny replied, "I know, but her boobs are so big she can only fasten eight."

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. The fears are paper tigers. You can do anything you decide to do. You can act to change and control your life; and the procedure, the process is its own reward.

[Amelia Earhart](#)

DID YOU KNOW

the electric chair was invented by a dentist

MIND TWISTER

Arnold Schwarzenegger has a long one. Michael J. Fox has a short one. Madonna does not use hers. Bill Clinton always uses his. The Pope never uses his. What is it?



VETERANS INFORMATION

VFW Member Testifies on Anomalous Health Incidents: The House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence held a hearing on Anomalous Health Incidents (AHI). Commonly known as “Havana Syndrome,” these inexplicable medical conditions first occurred in U.S. Embassy personnel in Havana, Cuba, in 2016. Symptoms may include headache, dizziness, cognitive impairment, nausea, insomnia, and hearing loss. VFW member Lieutenant Colonel Greg Edgreen, U.S. Army (Ret.), testified about his knowledge and experiences pertaining to AHI, and the importance of full implementation of Public Law 117-46, *Helping American Victims Afflicted by Neurological Attacks (HAVANA) Act of 2021*. This legislation was passed to ensure appropriate compensation payments for certain affected individuals. Edgreen also recommended the creation of a diagnostic code for VA disability benefits as AHI has been reported in and around other embassies throughout the world, and in the vicinity of Washington, D.C, affect-

Agency Report on Military Readiness: The Government Accountability Office has released its report on DOD’s efforts to address current and future military readiness challenges. The report includes insights on service member fatigue, availability of mission-ready aircraft, and shipyard assessments. Read highlights of report on page 24.





Electronic Health Record Satisfaction Results: Results from DOD’s 2023 annual user satisfaction survey reflect lower satisfaction with the new electronic health record in comparison to legacy and private sector systems. The survey sought information concerning patient-centered care, efficiency, downtime, response time, and quality of care. As of March 2024, DOD and VA have reached some milestones and completed critical tasks to jointly implement the new system, and are continuing with further integration. The VFW is advocating for the passage of [S. 1125](#), *EHR Program RESET Act of 2023*, and [S. 1037](#), *Department of Veteran Affairs EHRM Standardiza-*



CALENDAR



June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Cootie Pup Tent 1 Meeting 1900	6 D Day 1944 	7 Auxiliary Meeting 1300 State Convention	8 State Convention
9 State Convention	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day 	15 Elks Flag Ceremony 
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Post Meeting 1900 Custers Last Stand 	26	27	28	29
30						

ANSWER TO BRAIN TWISTER

Surname



POST NEWS

**BREAKING
NEWS**



IF YOU USE FACEBOOK

GO TO

VFW POST 483 Nashua

The post's sponsored Fishing Trip is 19 June. It costs you only \$40 to go deep sea fishing for the day. The post is paying the balance of the cost. If you want to go and haven't signed up yet, do it by 10 June.

We just completed our Loyalty Day Ceremony on 4 May. It was very successful. Pictures are in the flyer section pages 21-24, of this newsletter. It is disturbing that only a handful of members attended the ceremony. We need more support from you when we hold ceremonies such as this one.

This year will be the first year we will be doing a 4th of July Ceremony. It will be held on 4 July at 0900, in front of City Hall. Highlight of the ceremony will be the raising of a Betsy Ross, 13 Star Flag which will fly at City Hall for a week. Come out and support a patriotic event.



QUARTERMASTER'S CORNER



We are coming to the end of a Membership Year. We did not meet the goal this year. We missed All American because of membership. We must do better. It is the responsibility of all members to recruit for the post. It is not just the job of post officers. We have a good chance this coming year to make All American, with everyone's effort.

Fundraising is an important part of a post's survival. We have been lucky the past several years of getting large amount of funding from the Charitable Gaming. That has changes some. Now the State requires two non-profits share each time slot. That means the income received is half of what it was. We need to continue to fundraise over the course of each year. New ideas are needed. If you have any ideas bring them to a post meeting for discussion.

CLASSIFIEDS



Keith Leavitt Masonry
603.765.8006
masonry67@gmail.com
keithleavittmasonry.com



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Cell: 603-345-5033
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Phone: (603) 878-2308 or Toll-Free at: (800) 832-2308
Fax: (603) 878-1323
Email: customerservice@parkersmaplebarn.com

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Chiropractors
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Nashua, NH 03062
IN THE CROSS BAYVIEW PLAZA
docs@LFFchiropractic.com
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Analyze • Innovate • Communicate • Implement

12/7/17 "Ask me about ~~10~~ for ~~10~~"

Free Resume help



SUBZERO
ICE CREAM & YOGURT

Rita and Mark McCabe
Owners/New England Developers
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FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE



BATTLE OF THE MONTH



First Battle of Memphis

The First Battle of Memphis was a [naval battle](#) fought on the [Mississippi River](#) immediately north of the city of [Memphis, Tennessee](#) on June 6, 1862, during the [American Civil War](#). The engagement was witnessed by many of the citizens of Memphis. It resulted in a crushing defeat for the [Confederate forces](#), and marked the virtual eradication of a Confederate naval presence on the river. Despite the lopsided outcome, the [Union Army](#) failed to grasp its strategic significance. Its primary historical importance is that it was the last time civilians with no prior military experience were permitted to command ships in combat. As such, it is a milestone in the development of [professionalism](#) in the [United States Navy](#).^[1]

Background

The defending Confederates closely matched the advancing federal force in raw numbers, with eight rebel vessels opposing nine Union gunboats and rams, but the fighting qualities of the former were far inferior. Each was armed with only one or two guns, of a light caliber that would be ineffective against the armor of the gunboats. The primary weapon of each was its reinforced prow, which was intended to be used in ramming opponents.^[2]

The Confederate rams were distinguished by a unique feature of their defense against enemy shot. Their engines and other interior spaces were protected by a double bulkhead of heavy timbers, covered on the outer surface by a layer of railroad iron. The gap between the bulkheads, a space of 22 in (56 cm), was packed with cotton.^[3] Although the cotton was the least important part of the armor, it caught the public's attention, and the boats came to be called "[cottonclads](#)". Later in the war, ships' crews were often protected from small-arms fire by bales of cotton placed in exposed positions, and these vessels were also referred to as "cottonclads". They differed, however, from the originals of the category.^[2]

The federal force consisted of five [gunboats](#), four of which were known semi-officially as "[Eads gunboats](#)", after their builder, [James Buchanan Eads](#), but more commonly as "Pook turtles", after their designer, [Samuel M. Pook](#), and their strange appearance.^[4] The fifth gunboat, flagship [Benton](#), was also a product of the Eads shipyards, but was converted from a civilian craft. Each of these vessels carried from 13–16 guns. The other four vessels were naval rams from the [United States Ram Fleet](#). They had no armament whatever, aside from the small arms carried by the officers. All of the rams had been converted from civilian riverboats and had no common design.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



5/11/24, 12:58 PM

LA Times, Sat, May 11, 2024

The Washington Post

LA Times, Sat, May 11, 2024

By Rich Norris / Ed. Patti Varol

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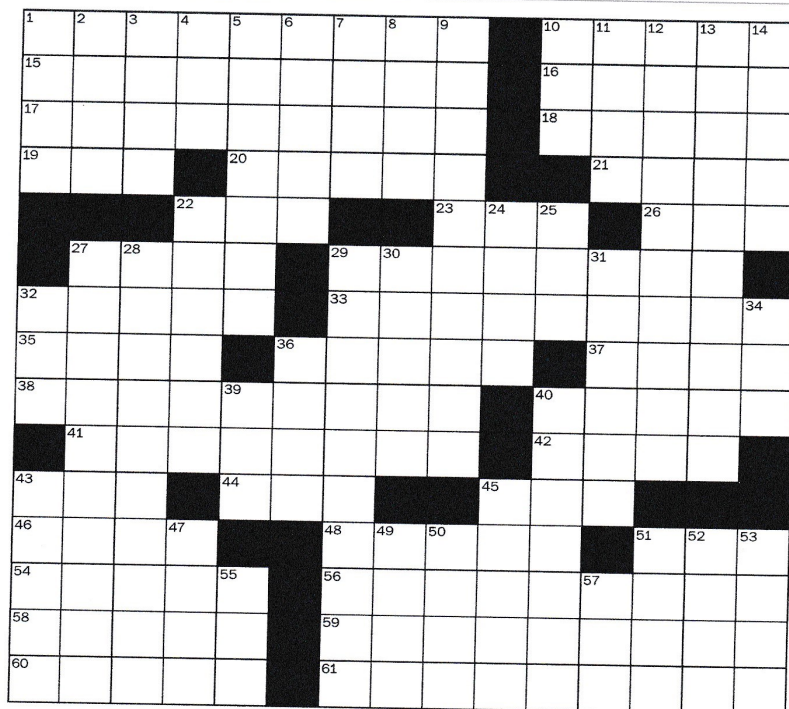
ACROSS

- 1 Loaf traditionally made with clabbered milk
10 Dismiss
15 New and improved, say
16 Slim young swimmer
17 Decreases
18 Mookie who was the 2018 AL MVP
19 Miner concern
20 "Law & Order" actor Jeremy
21 Catalan artist Joan
22 Cry after seeing a good drawing?
23 Airport safety gp.
26 "Mad ___"
27 Precipitation that can hurt
29 Knockoffs of the 1980s and 1990s
32 Brand that sponsored early soap operas
33 About as bad as it gets
35 Bleak
36 "One L" author
37 ___ and void
38 Journalist who co-founded the NAACP
40 ___ cash
41 Beanies
42 Young lady
43 Violinist Kavafian

- 44 "I get it!"
45 Block
46 City southwest of Warsaw
48 Hitchcock motel
51 Food ___
54 Even more distant
56 Hereditary chain
58 Summer Daze cologne brand
59 Generously given
60 Bar
61 Without restraint

DOWN

- 1 H-Town ALer
2 Prekness winner Man ___
3 Capitol cap
4 Tablet program
5 Word in a Tom Swifty about Bruce Springsteen
6 Chamillionaire song with the lyrics "They see me rollin' / They hatin'"
7 "The Killing" actress Mireille
8 Chem class fig.
9 Taped message from the police?
10 Isr. neighbor
11 Sch. type
12 Some NFL breaks
13 Succeed



- 14 Director Welles
22 Jason who was the 2000 AL MVP
24 Road warning sign
25 NYC rep since 2019
27 Rough treatment
28 Self-critical evaluation
29 Singer who was one of the original judges on "American Idol"
30 Post-doc combo?
31 Starting hour, perhaps
- 32 Sci-fi FX
34 Calculated
36 Stock sector
39 Org. founded by Billie Jean King
40 Artificial
43 "... a grin without a cat" observer
45 Italy's Villa ___
47 Philosopher known for "reductio ad absurdum" arguments
- 49 Years in old Rome
50 Undertaking
51 Focus of much analysis
52 Santa ___ Valley: California setting of "Sideways"
53 Current subject
55 Single situp, say
57 Prescription to fight stress, briefly



CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION



5/11/24, 12:58 PM

LA Times, Sat, May 11, 2024

The Washington Post

LA Times, Sat, May 11, 2024

By Rich Norris / Ed. Patti Varol

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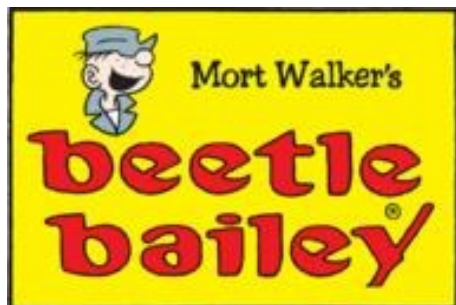


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55 Single situp, say
57 Prescription to fight stress, briefly

Funnies





Flyers and posters for your posts events are posted in this section of the newsletter. If you want to advertise your events, please send your flyer or poster via email to the editor to have it posted in this newsletter.

Loyalty Day 2024



Commander DiTullio
Opening Ceremony



Chaplain Townsend giving
opening Prayer



Lew Chipola & Steve Ordway doing the White
Table Ceremony



Jr. Air Force ROTC posting the
Colors



VOD winner Thatcher Debowski receiving



Patriot Pen Winner Adele Debowski
receiving her award



Patriot Pen second place winner
Morgan Bakker receiving her award



ROTC Cadet of the Year Madison
Roscoe receiving her award



Teacher of the Year Msgt. Nicholas
Ellis receiving his award

Loyalty Day 2024



Police Officer of the Year Julia Banks receiving her award



Firefighter of the Year Steven Phillips receiving his award



Paramedic of the Year Dee Oaks receiving her award



Youth Leader of the Year Bennett Stusse receiving his award



Citizen of the Year Richard Mohrmann receiving his award



Firefighters group picture



Group picture of all the winners with Commander DiTullio

Loyalty Day 2024



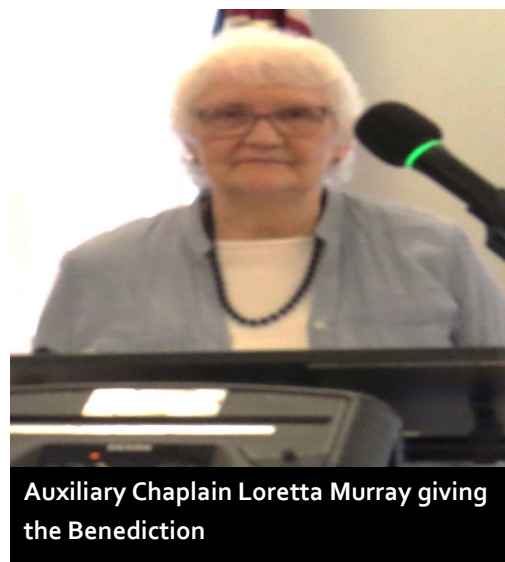
Picture of audience



Jr. Air Force ROTC Cadets retiring the Colors



Nashua High School Jr. Air Force ROTC Cadets



Auxiliary Chaplain Loretta Murray giving the Benediction



Vadant Patel was unable to attend the Loyalty Day Ceremony. He received his 2nd place award at the post from Jr. Vice Marc Plante & Auxiliary member Renee Plante.

GAO Highlights

Highlights of GAO-24-107463, a testimony before the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, Committee on Armed Services, U.S. Senate

Why GAO Did This Study

DOD is continuing its work to maintain the U.S. military's advantage across all domains in a new security environment characterized by great-power competition. To meet that goal, DOD's focus is rebuilding and restoring readiness while also modernizing its forces. DOD's readiness rebuilding efforts are occurring in a challenging context that requires the department to make difficult decisions regarding how best to address continuing operational demands while preparing for future challenges.

This statement provides information on readiness challenges across the air, sea, ground, and space domains.

This statement is primarily based on published GAO reports since 2021 that have examined aspects of military readiness, operations, and sustainment in the air, sea, ground, and space domains. This statement also is based on a draft report on space readiness that was provided to DOD in February 2024 for review and comment. To perform all this work, GAO analyzed Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force readiness, maintenance, personnel, and training data and interviewed cognizant officials.

What GAO Recommends

In the reports summarized in this statement, GAO has made over 100 recommendations to help improve readiness across and in each of the domains. Most of these recommendations have not yet been implemented, as discussed in the testimony.

View [GAO-24-107463](#). For more information, contact Diana Maurer at (202) 512-9627 or maurerd@gao.gov.

May 1, 2024

MILITARY READINESS

Actions Needed for DOD to Address Challenges across the Air, Sea, Ground, and Space Domains

What GAO Found

The top priority of the 2022 National Defense Strategy is to defend the U.S. homeland by addressing the growing multi-domain threat posed by China. As the Department of Defense (DOD) addresses this priority, GAO's body of work has shown that U.S. military readiness has been degraded over the last 2 decades due to a variety of challenges, including high operational demands. Implementing GAO's open recommendations will help DOD address these challenges and enhance readiness. The figure below shows selected GAO recommendations that DOD has not yet implemented.

Selected Open GAO Recommendations to Address Persistent Military Readiness Challenges

Cross-cutting domains	 Service Member Fatigue Assign DOD leadership and assess oversight structure.	 Missile Defense Oversight Set priorities and make department-wide sustainment decisions.
	 Training Ranges in the Pacific Develop a plan to meet training range requirements in the Indo-Pacific region.	 Readiness in Europe Establish performance goals and measures for the European Defense Initiative.
Air domain	 F-35 Sustainment Determine the desired mix of government and contractor roles.	 F-35 Costs Make changes to F-35 sustainment to address performance and affordability.
Sea domain	 Shipyard Condition Develop a full cost and schedule estimate for improving public shipyards.	 Crewing Shortfalls Improve reliability and management of crewing data.
Ground domain	 Equipment Standards Complete planning elements before fielding new equipment.	 Army Rail System Determine the number of rail operating crews needed to support operations.
Space domain	 Force Generation Address personnel shortfalls and training limitations.	 Space Control Set measurable objectives and milestones to meet goals.

GAO-24-107463 | GAO-24-107463



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<https://operationable.net/scsep-stevens-amendment/>



Commanders and Comrades,

A momentous occasion is quickly approaching ... on September 29, the VFW will celebrate its 125th anniversary!

This is cause for celebration and one we should all take great pride in as the VFW has remained at the forefront in the fight for veterans for 125 years - making certain those willing to sacrifice everything for our great nation are treated with the respect they have earned for ensuring our freedom.

I'm writing you today to make you are aware of several items related to the VFW 125th Anniversary as your involvement is what will truly make our celebration a success.

We've developed a host of resources for your use in helping us promote the campaign, maintain consistency across the organization and support those who support us. These resources include a *ceremonial logo and usage guide, various ads, a proclamation, certificate of appreciation, sample press release and more.

**Note: The ceremonial logo should be incorporated into your outreach materials as appropriate. It is not meant to replace the official VFW logo on all material. Please use sound judgement on application opportunities.*

Further, you will be the catalyst to get your community involved in commemorating the contributions of all veterans and their family members to our country during the VFW 125th Anniversary year, therefore we've also instituted a VFW 125th Anniversary Post Community Program open to ALL Posts.

Please access the resources and information I've referenced by logging into vfw.org and selecting the VFW 125th Anniversary link under Member/Post Resources from the My VFW page. You can also access these items in the Communications &

Public Affairs section of Training and Support of vfw.org.

Also coming soon is a new line of special edition anniversary items to the VFW Store. These items will debut onsite and online during the 125th National Convention in Louisville.

The VFW 125th Anniversary campaign will publicly commence on **June 5** with the launch of a website (vfw125.org) dedicated to the campaign and a national press release and will conclude at the close of our 126th national convention. **Please refrain from public display of any promotional assets until June 5.**

There will be more information to come over the next several months regarding special events and other ways we're working to honor this important event.

Thank you for your support in our endeavor to celebrate this important occasion in our organization's history! For questions, please email communications@vfw.org.

Dan West

Adjutant General

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

406 W. 34th Street

Kansas City, Missouri 64111

816.968.1110

IF YOU'VE EARNED THESE



European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal



Vietnam Service Medal



Southwest Asia Service Medal



Afghanistan Campaign Medal



Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon w/ Gold Border



Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal



Korean Service Medal



Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal



Iraq Campaign Medal



Coast Guard Combat Action Ribbon



American Defense Service Medal



Korean Defense Service Medal



Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal



Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal



Combat Action Ribbon



American Campaign Medal



Army of Occupation / Navy Occupation Service Medal



Navy Expeditionary Medal



Kosovo Campaign Medal



Air Force Combat Action Medal



Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal



Combat Infantryman Badge



Combat Medical Badge



Combat Action Badge



SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia

THEN YOU BELONG HERE

JOIN THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

PLEASE CONTACT: _____

AT: _____



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

www.vfw.org

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

VFW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ EMAIL _____
First Middle Initial Last

ADDRESS _____
Street City State Zip

DATES OF SERVICE _____ to _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____ PHONE _____
MM / YY MM / YY MM / DD / YYYY

MILITARY SERVICE ACTIVE DUTY VETERAN NAT. GUARD/RESERVE BRANCH OF SERVICE ARMY NAVY AIR FORCE MARINES COAST GUARD

QUALIFYING FOREIGN SERVICE:

WW II	VIETNAM SERVICE	AFGHANISTAN (2001 - present)	HOSTILE FIRE/IMMINENT DANGER PAY
OCCUPATIONAL SERVICE	DESERT SHIELD/STORM	IRAQ (2003 - 2011)	Location _____
KOREAN SERVICE (1950-1954)	BOSNIA/KOSOVO	SSBN DETERRENT PATROL INSIGNIA	Dates _____
KOREA DUTY (1955 - present)	GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY	EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS	

Payment Authorization - You may pay by check or credit card. For payments by check, you will receive a yearly statement by mail. For credit card payments, please complete the following:

ANNUAL MEMBER

I authorize the VFW to automatically charge my account \$ _____ on a yearly basis to pay my Annual membership dues.

I authorize the VFW to charge my account a one-time payment of \$ _____

LIFE MEMBER

I authorize the VFW to charge my account a one-time payment of \$ _____

LIFE MEMBER INSTALLMENT PLAN

I authorize the VFW to automatically charge my account \$ _____ to be paid in 11 monthly installment payments after my initial payment of \$45.00.

I authorize the VFW to charge the \$45.00 initial payment and I understand that I will be billed for the remaining 11 monthly installment payments.

Credit Card # _____

(Mastercard, Visa, Discover or Amex only)

EXP. DATE _____ AMOUNT \$ _____ Signature: _____

NEW Post # _____ FORMER MEMBER # _____

TRANSFER from Post # _____ State _____ to Post # _____

RECRUITER _____ ID# _____
(Please print)

QUARTERMASTER (Signature) _____

Life Member Options

AGE as of DECEMBER 31*	One-Time Payment	\$45 + 11 Payments of
18-30 Years Old	\$425.00	\$38.64
31-40 Years Old	\$410.00	\$37.27
41-50 Years Old	\$375.00	\$34.09
51-60 Years Old	\$335.00	\$30.45
61-70 Years Old	\$290.00	\$26.36
71-80 Years Old	\$225.00	\$20.45
81 Years & Over	\$170.00	\$15.45

Automatic Payment Plan Terms and Conditions: You authorize the VFW to initiate electronic debt entries or affect a charge by any other commercially accepted practice to your account set forth above for the payment of dues reflected on this application. You understand such charges may be made within 2-3 business days of payment due date. For installment payments, charges will be made on or around the 1st or the 15th day of the month. This authorization will remain in full force until VFW has received notification from you of its termination or upon completion of the installment payments. Annual dues are subject to change. By completing this authorization, you acknowledge that you will only receive notice when the payment would differ by more than \$10.00 from the most recent payment. Call VFW Customer Service at 1-800-963-3180 or write to VFW at VFW P.O. Box 119028, Kansas City, MO. 64171 to inquire about or cancel a payment, or to report problems such as bank closures, lost or stolen account numbers, closed accounts or unauthorized transactions. Cancellation requests must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Central Time ten business days prior to the scheduled payment date. If you are unaware of the charge date for your account, please contact VFW. If a payment is returned by your financial institution (e.g., due to insufficient funds, incorrect account information, closed account, etc.) the VFW will contact you at the address we have on file for you, explaining why the payment could not be processed, and providing alternate payment options. The privilege of making payments under this agreement may be revoked by VFW if any item is not paid upon presentation. You may have additional rights and responsibilities under the Electronic Funds Transfer Act.

Life Membership Installment Plan Terms and Conditions: The VFW Life Membership installment plan allows any VFW member/applicant to purchase a Life Membership by making an initial payment of \$45.00 and (11) monthly payments. The member will be issued an Annual membership card at the time of enrollment. The member may elect to receive a monthly statement by mail or may set up a payment profile to make the monthly payment automatically using a credit/debit card or bank account. A payoff amount will be printed on each monthly invoice, allowing the member the option to pay in full. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon the completion of payments. The Life Membership fee is determined from the schedule using the applicant's age on December 31 of the year in which the application is submitted.

Delinquencies will be handled as follows: Up to 30 days - continue to bill, 31 to 120 days - delinquency can be corrected through make up payment(s) or plan end date pushed forward, More than 120 days - member is dropped from the Installment Plan, all monthly payments made to date, are applied to future years annual dues.

VFW PLEDGE I do, of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise and declare that:

I will bear true allegiance -- to the Constitution of the United States of America -- and I will always be loyal thereto. I do further solemnly promise and declare -- that I will comply with the Congressional Charter -- By-Laws and Ritual of this order -- and I will always be loyal thereto -- that I will never wrong or defraud this organization -- nor a member thereof -- nor permit any wrong to be done to either -- if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership -- any person not eligible -- nor one whom I know to be unworthy. I will never make known to anyone -- not authorized to receive it -- any of the work of this order. Should my affiliation -- with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States -- cease in any way -- I will consider this pledge -- as binding outside of the order -- as though I had remained a member of same. All this I promise and pledge -- upon the honor of a true comrade -- and a citizen of our great republic.

I attest that I am a citizen of the United States, that my Campaign Service was honorable, that I have never subsequently been discharged from military service under dishonorable conditions. I also certify that (1) I am entitled to a campaign ribbon or medal authorized by the U.S. Government based on my overseas service or; (2) I have served overseas in Korea or; I have received Imminent Danger/Hostile Fire pay. I further give authority to the Veterans of Foreign Wars to verify honorable overseas service entitling me to membership.

The review committee has performed its duties and recommends approval, rejection.

Applicants Signature & Date _____

\$1.98 of your membership dues goes towards your VFW magazine subscription.

Committee Member _____ Committee Member _____ Committee Member _____

VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP / MEMBER TRANSFER APPLICATION

Recruited/Recommended by: Recruiter Member ID

Auxiliary No. City State Member ID (if already a member)

☐ Annual Membership ☐ Life Membership

☐ Rejoin Membership ☐ Rejoined Previous Member ID No. Previous Auxiliary

☐ Member at Large in Department of ☐ Member at Large - VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters

THESE FIELDS REQUIRED

Name Date of Birth

Address ☐ Male ☐ Female

City State ZIP

Phone Email

POST-AFFILIATED (*Must be a member to the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)

Relationship to Eligible Veteran* VFW Membership ID

☐ LIFE MEMBER TRANSFER Previous Auxiliary

☐ ANNUAL TRANSFER Previous Auxiliary ☐ Paying ☐ Nonpaying

☐ ANNUAL TRANSFER CONVERTING TO LIFE (Fill out Life Membership Information below.) Previous Auxiliary

THESE FIELDS REQUIRED

NON-AFFILIATED (*Veteran is not a member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)

Relationship to Eligible Veteran* VFW Post (if applicable)

Name of campaign ribbons or medals:

Dates of Service: to Location:

Investigating Committee Signatures

1 ☒ 2 ☒ 3 ☒

Per Section 102 of the National Bylaws. ☐ Rejected ☐ Accepted Meeting Date Obligated Date

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ONLY ☐ Check here if this is a gift. Credit cards may NOT be used for initial payment of Annual Dues.

☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

Life Membership Fee

Name on credit card

Billing address for card

City State ZIP

Credit Card No.

CVV Code Exp. Date

Signature ☒ Date

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ONLY

☐ ACH (Bank withdrawal)

Name of Bank

Bank Routing No.

Account No.

Attach voided check HERE.
(Required)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES

Life Membership fees are not refundable.

Attained age by 12/31 of year applying for Life Membership.

Through 20	\$253
21-25	\$242
26-30	\$230
31-35	\$219
36-40	\$213
41-45	\$201
46-50	\$196
51-55	\$184
56-60	\$173
61-65	\$161
66-70	\$150
71-75	\$132
76-80	\$109
81-85	\$86
86-90	\$69
91 and over	\$58

OBLIGATION In the presence of Almighty God and the members of this organization here assembled, I do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise that I will never wrong or defraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit either to be wronged if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership any person not eligible, according to our Bylaws. I further state that I believe in God. I will be faithful to the United States of America, obedient to the laws and loyal to the Flag. Should my membership with this organization cease in any way, I will consider this obligation as binding outside of the organization as though I had remained a member. I do so promise.

I attest that I am a citizen of the United States or a U.S. National, and am at least 18 years of age. I further state that I believe in God. I pledge to comply with the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. I attest I am not eligible for membership in the VFW. I further attest that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, including my stated relationship to the Veteran.

Signature ☒ (Must be signed by all members.)



MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



New Cootie

Reinstated Cootie

Date: _____ Cootie No. _____ Recruited By: _____

Pup Tent Name, Number and Location

Applicant's Name (Print): _____

Address: _____
Street Address City State Zip

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Notify in Emergency: _____

DOB: _____ Branch of Service: _____ Rank (Highest): _____

Enlistment Date: _____ Discharge Date: _____

Hat Size: _____ Present Occupation: _____

Dues paid to December 31, 20____ or VFW Life Member # _____

VFW Post Name and Number

Located in: _____
City State Zip

I certify that I am an active member of the VFW of the U.S.
and am desirous of becoming a member of the MOC –
"The Honor Degree of the VFW".

Applicant's Signature

Recommended and Verified (PRINTED) by:

Cootie No: _____

Cootie No: _____

Accepted into Pup Tent on Date: _____

1st Degree accepted Date: _____2nd Degree accepted Date: _____3rd Degree received and title of Cootie bestowed
on this Date: _____

VFW CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY

_____, _____ Located in _____
Post Name Post No. City, State and Zip

This is to certify that Comrade _____

Name of Applicant

Has been a member of the VFW for the preceding six (6) months, and that he has fulfilled one of the
following qualifications as indicated:

(1) Held the following Office in the Post: _____

OR

(2) Served on the following Post Committee: _____

Certified to by a majority of the members present at a meeting of this Post held on (Date): _____

Attest:

Post Adjutant (PRINT)

Post Commander (PRINT)

Post Adjutant (Signature)

Post Commander (Signature)