

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

*Dedication and Excellence*

**NUMBER 6**

403 Lee Jackson Highway  
(540) 886-8112

FAX: 866-416-0586

Website: [www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org)

Email: [stateheadquarters@va.vfwwebmail.com](mailto:stateheadquarters@va.vfwwebmail.com)

**December 1, 2009**

Staunton, Virginia 24401  
In Virginia 800-888-3521

**GUIDE TO THE GO:**

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**1. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:**

The Department of Virginia Line Officers just returned from the Southern Conference Meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas. The main order of business was the election of John Hamilton of Florida as the Southern Conference Candidate for National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief in 2010. Travis Whaley of Alabama moved up to Chairman and Richard Bell of South Carolina was elected to Vice Chairman of the Southern Conference. Virginia will host the Southern Conference the first weekend of November, 2012.

Membership is still the heart and soul of our great organization. We must continue to recruit new members but we must also maintain our continuous members. We, as an organization, cannot allow members to walk out the back door of our Posts while we are trying to recruit new members at the front door. Keeping those comrades who are already on the membership rolls is easier than recruiting a brand new comrade. Let us continue to expend the maximum effort in both the areas of retention and recruiting.

The first half reporting period is now over. For those Posts that are 100% reported, thank you for your efforts. For those Posts that did not reach 100%, I hope that the second half will show an improved effort in the reporting the events in your Post.

The Holiday Season is upon us. I wish all of our Comrades and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rex Faris, State Commander

**2. NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER NO. 136:**

His eligibility to membership having been questioned under the provisions of Section 108 of the National By-Laws and the veteran having failed to submit proof of campaign medal service which would qualify for membership, it is hereby ordered that the name of Cyrus E. Lee, Membership No. 1825393, be removed from the rolls of Lord Botetourt Post

No. 1841, Troutville, VA, and his membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States terminated by reason of ineligibility.

By Order of  
Tommy Tradewell, Commander-In-Chief

### 3. DISTRICT MEETINGS:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1<sup>ST</sup>- Date:</b> 2/27/10<br><b>Meeting:</b> 11:00 Meal After<br><b>Location:</b> Post 2296<br>21530 Daugherty Rd, Tasley<br><b>Rep:</b> Rex Faris, State CMDR                    | <b>8<sup>th</sup>- Date:</b> 4/10/10<br><b>Meeting:</b> 1:00 pm Meal After<br><b>Location:</b> Post 7589<br>9304 Centerville, Manassas<br><b>Rep:</b>   |
| <b>2<sup>ND</sup>- Date:</b> TBA<br><b>Lunch:</b> 12:00 pm<br><b>Meeting:</b> 1:00 pm<br><b>Location:</b><br><b>Rep:</b>   | <b>9<sup>th</sup>- Date:</b> 1/24/10<br><b>Lunch:</b> 11:30 am Meeting After<br><b>Location:</b> Post 4667<br>861 Goolsy St., Marion<br><b>Rep:</b> Charles Absher, State JVC                   |
| <b>3<sup>RD</sup>- Date:</b> TBA<br><b>Meeting:</b><br><b>Location:</b> 10044 Pamunkey Rd.,<br>Mechanicsville<br><b>Rep:</b>   | <b>10<sup>th</sup>- Date:</b> 2/21/10<br><b>Meeting:</b> 12:00 pm Joint Meeting<br><b>Location:</b> Post 7916<br>204 Mill St., Occoquan<br><b>Rep:</b> Steve Lassetter, State<br>Judge Advocate |
| <b>4<sup>TH</sup>- Date:</b> 2/6/10<br><b>Meeting:</b> 2:00 pm<br><b>Location:</b> Post 637<br>335 S 15 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Hopewell<br><b>Rep:</b> Jim Martin, State SVC                    | <b>10<sup>th</sup>- Date:</b> 5/2/10<br><b>Meeting:</b> 12:00 pm District Convention<br><b>Location:</b> Post 1503<br>14631 Minnieville Rd., Dale City<br><b>Rep:</b>                           |
| <b>5<sup>TH</sup>- Date:</b> 2/20/10<br><b>Lunch:</b> Noon Meeting to Follow<br><b>Location:</b> Post 8467<br>80 Maybry Mill Rd.,<br>Meadows of Dan<br><b>Rep:</b> Charles Absher, State JVC | <b>11<sup>th</sup>- Date:</b> 1/10/10<br><b>Lunch:</b> 11:30 am<br><b>Meeting:</b> 12:30 pm<br><b>Location:</b> Post 2216<br>1212 Frontier Dr., Staunton<br><b>Rep:</b> Rex Faris, State CMDR   |
| <b>6<sup>TH</sup>- Date:</b> TBA<br><b>Meeting:</b> 2:00 pm<br><b>Location:</b><br><b>Rep:</b>   | <b>12<sup>th</sup>-Date:</b> 1/09/10<br><b>Reg:</b> 10:00 am<br><b>Meeting:</b> 11:00 am<br><b>Location:</b> Post 6975<br>14 16 <sup>th</sup> St., Bristol<br><b>Rep:</b> Rex Faris, State CMDR |
| <b>7<sup>th</sup>- Date:</b> 12/13/09<br><b>Lunch:</b> 11:30 am<br><b>Meeting:</b> 1:00 pm<br><b>Location:</b> Post 2123<br>200 Sulky Dr., Winchester<br><b>Rep:</b> Rex Faris, State CMDR   | <b>13<sup>th</sup>- Date:</b> 1/24/10<br><b>Meeting:</b> 1:00 pm<br><b>Location:</b> Post 7638<br>10271 Gordon Ave., Gordonsville<br><b>Rep:</b> Jim Martin, State SVC                          |
| <b>8<sup>th</sup>- Date:</b> 1/10/10<br><b>Meeting:</b> 1:00 pm Meal After<br><b>Location:</b> Post 3103<br>2701 Princess Anne St.,<br>Fredericksburg<br><b>Rep:</b> Rex Faris, State CMDR   |   |

### 4. ALCOHOL IN POST MEETING ROOM:

Attention of Post Commanders is directed to the Commander-in-Chief's decision in response to questions raised concerning alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting as set forth below:





Dist. 12	100%												
Dist. 13	100%												

Lynn Harris, Chairman

**11. GENERAL ORDERS:**

The cut off for the General Orders is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. No EXCEPTIONS. If you received a hard copy of the General Orders and have the ability to print satisfactory copies from the internet please call us or email us at [stateheadquarters@va.vfwwebmail.com](mailto:stateheadquarters@va.vfwwebmail.com). Subscriptions for General Orders are \$24.00 for the year or \$2.00 per issue.

**12. HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG ON DECEMBER 7:**

Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates December 7th as “National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day” and requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day.

**13. HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT VFW’S “PARTNERS IN PATRIOTISM?”:**

It is a realization that not everyone wants to receive our mailings but would still like to donate to the VFW. This is why we developed Partners in Patriotism. Partners in Patriotism is a planned giving program that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly basis, reduce expenses and eliminate unwanted mail. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis that is either charged to your credit card, or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. If you are interested in this option, please contact VFW Development Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318, or email us at [vfwfundraising@vfw.org](mailto:vfwfundraising@vfw.org) with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

**14. HOME DEPOT GIFT CERTIFICATES:**

The Home Depot has once again revised their grant program which is now entitled “**Building Healthy Community Grants.**” VFW Posts are eligible to apply for up to \$2,500 in Home Depot gift cards to be used for remodeling activities to their Post building.

**Please publicize this information immediately to your Posts as there is a deadline of December 15, 2009.** Usually the groups that apply first are the ones that are granted funding. It is also likely that the grant will become available again in 2010.

All applications must be made through the VFW Foundation since our 501(c)(3) non-profit designation has been requested by Home Depot.

There is no guarantee of funding and Posts will be assisted on a first-come, first-served basis. It is also doubtful that our Posts will receive the same level of funding that they did several years ago as there are more groups competing for limited funds. With that said, this could be a good opportunity that should not be dismissed.

Interested Posts should fill out the attached form and return it via mail, email or fax to VFW Foundation at National Headquarters. Posts may also call the VFW Foundation at (816) 968-1128 or (816) 968-2739. The VFW Foundation will submit all grant requests to Home Depot using the information provided by the Post.

Posts will need to have a specific project in mind and a budget for activities that is \$2,500 or less. If funding is awarded the project must be completed within six months by Post volunteers (money cannot be used to outsource project activities).

Some examples of projects might include handicapped accessible ramps or bathrooms, kitchen remodels, painting, roofing, landscaping, energy efficiency such as windows, insulation, etc.

Monica Levy, VFW Foundation  
816-068-2787  
[mlevy@vfw.org](mailto:mlevy@vfw.org)

**15. HOSPITAL REPORT:**

Posts listed below did **NOT** submit a report for the first half.

<b>Dist. 1</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>Dist. 2</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>Dist. 3</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>Dist. 4</b>	7166	8048	8759							
<b>Dist. 5</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>Dist. 6</b>	4165	4522	4920	8184						
<b>Dist. 7</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>Dist. 8</b>	8208									
<b>Dist. 9</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>Dist. 10</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>Dist. 11</b>	452	9339								
<b>Dist. 12</b>	8979									
<b>Dist. 13</b>	8436									

Margo Sheridan, Surgeon

**16. IMPORTANT DATES:**

- Jan 15-18, 2010 Council of Administration, Williamsburg, VA Room Rate: \$67.00  
Deadline for reservations – December 24, 2009 to insure group rates. Call 800-227-6963
- April 24, 2010 Homecoming – Rex Faris and Auxiliary President Kathy Birch; 9:00 am – 12:00 am;  
Gypsy Hill Park, Staunton. Reservations at Best Western Hotel, Staunton 540-885-1112  
Rate \$59.95
- Jun 10-13, 2010 State Convention, Richmond, Rate \$89.00 Reservations by May 10, 2010
- Aug 21-26, 2010 National VFW Convention, Indianapolis, IN
- Jun 9-12, 2011 State Convention, Richmond, Rate \$89.00 Reservations by May 9, 2011

**17. INSPECTION REPORT:**

Posts that have not been inspected as of November 18, 2009.

Dist. 1	<b>100%</b>									
Dist. 2	2582	2894	3160	4411	8545					
Dist. 3	<b>100%</b>									
Dist. 4	<b>100%</b>									
Dist. 5	<b>100%</b>									
Dist. 6	1264	1444	1841	2157	4165	4318	4491	9877		
Dist. 7	621	6044	9660							
Dist. 8	8208									
Dist. 9	<b>100%</b>									
Dist. 10	<b>100%</b>									
Dist. 11	<b>100%</b>									
Dist. 12	<b>100%</b>									
Dist. 13	1827	2044	2613	8436	10295	10546	10574			

William R. Shifflett  
Chairman

## 18. LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

1. VFW Legislative Priority Goals for 2010. The VFW Legislative Committee approved this year's priority goals which are mandate for lobbying Congress on behalf of veterans and their family members. Ensuring a sufficient VA budget, reducing the disability claims backlog, and providing enhanced quality of life programs and services for all military members and their families are just a few of the 2010 Legislative Priority Goals. The VFW urges all members and veterans' advocates to educate themselves and their congressional delegations on these critical goals, which are based on resolutions passed at the VFW National Convention in August.
2. No TRICARE for Life Changes. VFW members have been receiving erroneous e-mail claims that TRICARE for Life is under attack by the Administration and Congress. The claims stem from a January Congressional Budget Office report that recommended changes to the program, changes that the President and Congress did not act upon. In fact, Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act with no fee increases and no changes in administering TRICARE for Life. In addition, they added language into the legislation that prohibits the Defense Department from implementing any TRICARE inpatient care co-payments increases for 2010. The VFW continues to lead other veteran service organizations in ensuring nothing is done to erode TRICARE or VA health care benefits that veterans so richly deserve.
3. VFW Day at Richmond General Assembly. Mark your calendars for Thursday, January 14, 2010 to lobby our local representatives in the General Assembly. In lieu of meeting at the Virginia War Memorial, members are invited to assemble at VFW Post 9808, 7168 Flag Lane, Mechanicsville, VA 23111, at 7:30 AM for coffee and donuts. At 8:00 AM attendees will be given a briefing on the VFW Legislative Agenda, break into groups, and enjoy a Post 9808 bus trip to the State Capitol and General Assembly. A special thanks to Commander Boyd Burnett and Post 9808 for sharing their Post Home and providing transportation. If you have any questions, please contact JB Young, at telephone (703) 329-1357 or e-mail [jrbubba3@juno.com](mailto:jrbubba3@juno.com).

### Resolutions Committee Report

As mentioned in the Legislative Report, the VFW Legislative Priorities are determined by approved resolutions at the National Convention. Each member is encouraged to submit proposed resolutions for consideration. Even though the National Convention is held in August 2010, now is the time to begin the process. Resolutions should contain two separate parts: (1) a statement of the problem to be solved, and (2) the proposed solution to the problem. The problems are outlined in the "WHEREAS" clauses, and the proposed solution is given in the "RESOLVED" section. Once the resolution is prepared, a member should submit it to their local Post for approval. After the Post has approved the resolution, the VFW Virginia Resolutions Committee considers it and makes their recommendation at the State Convention in June 2010. Post approved resolution(s) should be submitted to the State Quartermaster by April 16, 2010. If you have any questions or in need of assistance, please contact JB Young at telephone (703) 329-1357 or email [jrbubba3@juno.com](mailto:jrbubba3@juno.com).

## 19. LIFE MEMBERSHIP DRAWING:

Congratulations! Craig Valley Post 4491 is the winner of a free Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Virginia. Craig Valley Post 4491 was made eligible for this Free Life Membership for having 85% of their membership goal reported to State Headquarters by the October 30, 2009 deadline.

Kim DeShano, State ADJ/QM

## 20. MILITARY HOLIDAY MAILING:

The 2009 Christmas holiday mailing deadlines for APO/FPO mail is as indicated below:

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Zip</u>	<u>Express</u>	<u>1st Class</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>PAL</u>	<u>SAM</u>	<u>Parcel Post</u>
APO/FPO AE	090-092	18 Dec	11 Dec	11 Dec	04 Dec	27 Nov	13 Nov
APO/FPO AE	093	N/A	04 Dec	04 Dec	01 Dec	20 Nov	13 Nov
APO/FPO AE	094-098	18 Dec	11 Dec	11 Dec	04 Dec	27 Nov	13 Nov
APO/FPO AA	340	18 Dec	11 Dec	11 Dec	04 Dec	27 Nov	13 Nov
APO/FPO AP	962-966	18 Dec	11 Dec	11 Dec	04 Dec	27 Nov	13 Nov

**EMMS:** Express Mail Military Service is available to selected military post offices. Check with your local Post Office to determine if this service is available to your APO/FPO of address.

**PAL:** PAL is a service that provides air transportation for parcels on a space-available basis. It is available for Parcel Post items not exceeding 30 pounds in weight or 60 inches in length and girth combined. The applicable PAL fee must be paid in addition to the regular surface rate of postage for each addressed piece sent by PAL service.

**SAM:** SAM parcels are paid at Parcel Post postage rate of postage with maximum weight and size limits of 15 pounds and 60 inches in length and girth combined. SAM parcels are first transported domestically by surface and then to overseas destinations by air on a space-available basis.

[Source: Military Postal Service Agency <http://hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/xmas.htm> 19 Oct 09 ++]

## 21. **MILITARY WOMEN'S ADVOCACY:**

On November 19, 2009, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is launching a comprehensive study of women Veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War. The purpose of the study is to explore the effects of their military service upon their mental and physical health, and to identify the unique and specialized care concerns of women Veterans of that era.

The study, which will last more than four years, will contact approximately 10,000 women in a mailed survey, telephone interview and a review of their medical records. VA will study women Vietnam Veterans who may have had direct exposure to traumatic events while serving in facilities in or near Vietnam.

Approximately 250,000 women Veterans served in the military during the Vietnam War and about 7,000 were in or near Vietnam. Those who were in Vietnam, those who served elsewhere in Southeast Asia and those who served in the United States are potential study participants.

Women Veterans are one of the fastest growing segments of the Veteran population. There are approximately 1.8 million women Veterans among the nation's total of 23 million living Veterans. Women comprise 7.8 percent of the total Veteran population and nearly 5.5 percent of all Veterans who use VA health care services. VA estimates women Veterans will constitute 10.5 percent of the Veteran population by 2020 and 9.5 percent of all VA patients.

Margo Sheridan, Chairman

## 22. **MONTHLY LIFE MEMBERSHIP DRAWING:**

**Congratulations!!!** Margo Sheridan, winner of our Monthly Life Membership Drawing. Margo recruited the required five (5) members to get her name included in this drawing.

Don't forget your efforts can be rewarded. Start your recruiting today.

Kim DeShano, State ADJ/QM

## 23. **POST GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE:**

In Section 709 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure it states: Any Post owning and/or operating, directly or by reason of a holding company or other entity substantially controlled by the Post or its members, a canteen, clubroom or other facility available to members or guests **must maintain general liability insurance**, including, if necessary or appropriate, liquor liability insurance. Such insurance must be a type and amount sufficient to protect the Post and must name, as additional insureds, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Department in which such Post is located.

Kim A. DeShano, State Adjutant/Quartermaster



## 24. POW/MIA REPORT:

### November 18, 2009 DOD Announces One Army Casualty, Dustwun Status

The Department of Defense today announced the identity of a soldier currently listed as Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown (DUSTWUN) and the death of a soldier who were both supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. The two soldiers were members of the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

**Sgt. Brandon T. Islip**, 23, of Richmond, Va., has been unaccounted for since Nov. 4 in Bala Murghab, Afghanistan, when he went missing while involved in a resupply mission.

Sgt. Benjamin W. Sherman, 21, of Plymouth, Mass., has been identified as having been killed while participating in the Nov. 4 resupply mission.

Search and recovery efforts are ongoing, and the incident is under investigation.

### November 18, 2009 Funeral Highlights Search for Missing Service members

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18, 2009 - The leaves are changing color at Arlington National Cemetery a bright backdrop for something as sobering as a funeral. An Army chaplain in his dress blues presents a folded flag to the fallen's next of kin, a man who looks to be in his 40s. This is not a father mourning the loss of his son, though. Rather, it's a son finally receiving closure after his father went missing in the South Pacific decades ago. Funeral services like this, identical in form and location to the ones performed for the fallen from Iraq and Afghanistan, bring to light the ongoing search the Defense Department has undertaken to make sure every service member who goes abroad comes home.

"We're not looking for a name on a piece of paper, we're looking for our fathers, uncles, and brothers," said Army Lt. Col. Eric Wolf, chief of the Past Conflict Repatriations Branch of the Army's Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center. Wolf's office oversees the Army's effort to locate and identify the remains of every missing soldier. Forensic evidence, genealogy and old-fashioned detective work are all a part of the process, which sometimes begins in the unlikeliest of circumstances.

Wolf described one story that began with a scuba expedition. The divers found the wreckage of a B-26 that had gone down in 1942 off the coast of Palau. After a string of phone calls to different groups and agencies that dealt with military wreckage, the Joint Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command, or JPAC, became involved. The JPAC, based in Honolulu, conducted a full archaeological dig, 70 feet under water, gathering human remains and other artifacts from the wreckage. Some research gave them the names of the men who were aboard the plane.

"It's then we get to make the phone call, to this family who's known their father and husband have been missing, to tell them 'We think we've found your father,'" Wolf said.

Wolf's office then works with the family to get any information it might need to positively identify remains, whether it's something forensic like a blood sample or dental records or photographs and anecdotal evidence, such as artifact identification.

In the case of the Palau wreckage, Wolf found the family, then living in Texas, and got to brief them on how their father was found and what the Army would be able to do for them as the family of a deceased service member. Sometimes a search is quick, and remains can be easily identified because of artifacts such as identification tags or dental remains that are easy to research and compare. But some cases have been in the works for more than 10 years.

Wolf's office stays in contact with the families it works with as it investigates, sharing information to put the pieces together, even if it takes waiting for new technology such as mitochondrial DNA testing to develop before conclusive results can be found. Once those results are found, he said, the length of the wait seems trivial.

"It's the most rewarding and fulfilling mission I've had in my 26 years in the Army," he said. "It's heartwarming to know, as a soldier myself, that no matter where I am in the world, or what I'm doing, I have the confidence and

knowledge that, should I perish or go missing, the military and our government will never stop looking for me. Every soldier, sailor, airman and Marine has a long trail of family and the nation behind them."

Once they remains are identified and returned to the family, they can be buried with the honors given to any current service member in today's case, a c aisson and hono r guard from the Army's Old Guard and music by the Army Band helped bring to an end the mystery surrounding the disappearance of the crew of "The Happy Legend," a B-25 that went missing Dec. 5, 1942, near Papua, New Guinea.

For Wolf, it means seven fewer people on the ever-shrinking list of soldiers unaccounted for, and a r eturn to the continuing pursuit of soldiers still missing.

"It may sound cliché -- I know it does -- but they are never forgotten," he said. "We will never forget. We're going to keep searching until we bring every one of our brothers home from the battlefield."

Joe Martin, Chairman

**25. ROSTER CHANGE:**

**9292:** William Shifflett, CMDR  
917 West Main St  
Luray, VA 22835  
540-743-6709 (H)  
540-843-4475 (C)

**10826:** Barry B. Taylor, JVC  
309 Greenwood Rd  
Staunton, VA 24401  
540-885-0578

**9660:** Edgar Harper, CMDR  
14436 Hupp Rd  
Timberville, VA 22853  
540-896-3694

**10826:** Thomas S. Grogan III, QM  
212 Yount Ave  
Staunton, VA 24401  
540-851-0276

**10298:** Charles W Goins, CMDR  
RR2 Box 151A  
Pennington Gap, VA 24277

**Change of Meeting:**

**10298:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month  
6:00 pm  
Skaggs Hill  
Pennington Gap, VA 24277

**10298:** Thomas F Phillips, SVC  
PO Box 486  
Dryden, VA 24243

**26. SAFETY REPORT:**

Congratulations to Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13 for 100% reporting.

Posts listed below did **NOT** submit a report for the first half.

<b>DIST. 1</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>DIST. 2</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>DIST. 3</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>DIST. 4</b>	7166	8048	8163							
<b>DIST. 5</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>DIST. 6</b>	4522	4920	8184							
<b>DIST. 7</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>DIST. 8</b>	8208									
<b>DIST. 9</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>DIST. 10</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>DIST. 11</b>	452	1499	7814	9339						
<b>DIST. 12</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>DIST. 13</b>	<b>100%</b>									

Milton Dye, Chairman

**27. SCOUT OF THE YEAR:**

There is still time to get your Eagle Scout signed up before 31 Dec and have him/her on the trip to Freedoms Foundation in Feb 2010. This is a great opportunity to offer your Eagles for signing up for Scout of the year. Any Scout providing application by 31 Dec is eligible for the trip. Get out there and sign your Eagle Scout up. 2010 is also the 100th anniversary of Scouting, making this trip even more special. Need help/assistance? Call Stan Hunter 540-347-1093, Ron Knowles 703-368-4743. See attached forms.

Stan Hunter

**28. SUICIDE EPIDEMIC AMONG VETS OF ALL AGES:**

Please see attachment report.

**29. YOUTH ACTIVITIES:**

Posts listed below did **NOT** submit a report for the first half.

<b>Dist. 1</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>Dist. 2</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>Dist. 3</b>	2583	11124								
<b>Dist. 4</b>	2163	8048								
<b>Dist. 5</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>Dist. 6</b>	4522	4920	8184							
<b>Dist. 7</b>	7899	9872								
<b>Dist. 8</b>	8208									
<b>Dist. 9</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>Dist. 10</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>Dist. 11</b>	452	1499	7814	9339						
<b>Dist. 12</b>	<b>100%</b>									
<b>Dist. 13</b>	2613	8717	10546							

William Shepherd, Chairman

Official:



Kim A. DeShano  
State Adjutant

By Order of:



Rex Faris  
State Commander

# HOME DEPOT FUNDING INQUIRIES

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

POST NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

POST'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

---

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HOW MUCH FUNDING IS NEEDED/REQUEST AMOUNT (<2,500): \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROXIMATE PROJECT BUDGET BREAKDOWN (DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE REQUESTED FUNDS WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE NECESSARY SUPPLIES):

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PROJECT TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT START DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT END DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS EXPECTED FOR PROJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

## HOME DEPOT FUNDING INQUIRIES

DESCRIBE YOUR VOLUNTEER SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT (INCLUDE CURRENT COMMUNITY OR BUSINESS PARTNERS):

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ORGANIZATIONS/EVENTS THAT USE THE POST (EX. BOY SCOUTS, WEDDING RECEPTIONS):

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COMMANDER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMANDER'S TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMANDER'S EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

QUARTERMASTER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

QUARTERMASTER'S TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

QUARTERMASTER'S EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE GRANT OPPORTUNITY? \_\_\_\_\_

# REGISTRATION DEADLINE JANUARY 8th

## WINTER COUNCIL MEETING

January 15-17, 2010

Crown Plaza Williamsburg at Fort Magruder ~ Williamsburg, Virginia ~ 800-227-6963 ~  
\$67.00 Per night

*(Group Rate Deadline is December 24th)*

PRE REGISTRATION FOR BANQUET TICKET  
\$40.00 INCLUDES RECEPTION AND DINNER BANQUET

**ALL TICKETS MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED. THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS  
SOLD AT THE WINTER COUNCIL MEETING.**

**There will be no Dance Saturday night.**

### Dinner Menu

Your choice of:

**Sirloin Filet with a Mushroom Demi Sauce**

~or~

**Cod with a Seafood Cream Sauce**

Both Served with:

Chef's Choice of Fresh Vegetable and Starch  
Salad with Assorted Dressings      Warm Rolls and Butter      Dessert  
Freshly Brewed Coffee/Decaffeinated Coffee/Herbal Teas/Iced Tea

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RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY **JANUARY 8, 2010 (NO EXCEPTIONS)**  
Check, Visa, or MasterCard Accepted

Person placing the order (name) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out completely for each person you are registering including Post number or Auxiliary number:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post \_\_\_\_\_ Aux \_\_\_\_\_ Food Choice: (circle) Sirloin or Cod

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post \_\_\_\_\_ Aux \_\_\_\_\_ Food Choice: (circle) Sirloin or Cod

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post \_\_\_\_\_ Aux \_\_\_\_\_ Food Choice: (circle) Sirloin or Cod

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post \_\_\_\_\_ Aux \_\_\_\_\_ Food Choice: (circle) Sirloin or Cod

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post \_\_\_\_\_ Aux \_\_\_\_\_ Food Choice: (circle) Sirloin or Cod

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post \_\_\_\_\_ Aux \_\_\_\_\_ Food Choice: (circle) Sirloin or Cod

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post \_\_\_\_\_ Aux \_\_\_\_\_ Food Choice: (circle) Sirloin or Cod

Please charge my card: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle One: MasterCard or Visa      Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form to: State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401

You may also e-mail this form to: [stateheadquarters@va.vfwwebmail.com](mailto:stateheadquarters@va.vfwwebmail.com) or fax it to: 1-866-416-0586 if paying by Credit Card only

*Pre-paid tickets will not be mailed to you; they will be available for pick up at registration.*

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES  
AND  
LADIES AUXILIARY

Winter Council of Administration Meeting  
January 15 - January 17, 2010  
Crowne Plaza Williamsburg at Fort Magruder  
Williamsburg, Virginia  
1-800-227-6963

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2010**

3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Registration	Petersburg Hall Foyer
5:00 PM	6:00 PM	Ladies Auxiliary Line Officers Meeting	Dept. President's Room
6:30 PM	7:00 PM	District Presidents' Meeting w/Program Chairman	General Hill's/McClellan's
7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Ladies Auxiliary Council Meeting	General Hill's/McClellan's
7:00 PM	7:30 PM	Budget & Finance Committee Meeting	Petersburg Hall
9:00 PM	1:00 AM	Military Order of the Cootie Dance	General Emory's

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2010**

8:00 AM	3:00 PM	Registration	Petersburg Hall Foyer
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	Commanders Club Meeting	Petersburg Hall
8:15 AM	8:45 AM	Ladies Auxiliary Floor Practice	General Hill's/McClellan's
9:00 AM	9:30 AM	National Military Services Workshop	Petersburg Hall
9:30 AM	10:30 AM	Reverse Mortgage Workshop	Petersburg Hall
9:00 AM	2:00 PM	Ladies Auxiliary Conference Meeting	General Hill's/McClellan's
10:00 AM	NOON	MOC Council of Administration Meeting	Stuart's Redoubt
10:30 AM	11:30 PM	Membership & Recruiting Workshop	Petersburg Hall
11:30 AM	1:00 PM	Cash Lunch furnished by Hotel	
1:00 PM	4:00 PM	VFW Council of Administration Meeting	Petersburg Hall
2:30 PM	3:00 PM	Ladies Auxiliary Program Chairmen	Dept. President's Room
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	MOCA Council of Administration Meeting	Stuarts Redoubt
5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Reception	General Emory's
6:30 PM	9:00 PM	Banquet-Guest Speaker – Edward S. Banas, Sr.	Richmond Hall

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010**

7:30 AM	9:00 AM	Military Women's Advocacy Breakfast	Hotel Restaurant
9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Joint Devotional Service	Longstreet
9:30 AM	NOON	Ladies Auxiliary Conference, if needed	Richmond Hall
9:30 AM	NOON	VFW Council of Admin. Meeting, if needed	Petersburg Hall

BANQUET TICKETS: \$40.00

Includes Reception and Banquet. THERE WILL BE NO SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE.  
FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE MUST BE PURCHASED FROM THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE.

Department Hospitality Room 267, Tenth District Hospitality Room 467 and  
Third District Hospitality Room 367

(Tentative schedule subject to change)

# The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

## SCOUT OF THE YEAR Entry Form

*Photograph of Scout in complete uniform for their current rank must be attached to this form. Recommended size 3"x5" (No additional photos)*

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

#### The Candidate Must:

▶ Be a registered, active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Venturing Crew, or Sea Scout Ship.

#### AND

▶ Has received the Eagle Scout Award, Venture Silver Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.

▶ Has demonstrated practical citizenship in school, Scouting, and the community.

▶ Has reached his/her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday and is enrolled in high school at the time of selection.

▶ Has submitted his/her complete entry to a VFW Post in his/her community.

**Note:** All applicants still in high school who reach their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if otherwise qualified. And a scout can only enter through ONE VFW Post.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

▶ A scout can locate a sponsoring VFW Post by contacting their VFW Department (state) Headquarters as listed at: [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

▶ Deadline for entry to VFW Post: March 1.

▶ All candidates with full entry criteria must be submitted by a VFW Post to the Department's (state) National VFW Scouting Team representative or Department Commander by April 1.

▶ The single Department winner must be selected and submitted by their National Scouting Team member to the National VFW organization by May 1.

(VFW Scouting Team member listed below)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street)

\_\_\_\_\_ (City)

\_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip)

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Day/Mo./Yr.)

Home Phone No.: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Scout Troop Number \_\_\_\_\_

**MUST SUBMIT APPLICATION  
DIRECTLY TO A VFW POST  
IN YOUR COMMUNITY.**

### SPONSORING VFW POST

_____
(Name of Post)
_____
(Post Number)
_____
(Street)
_____
(City) (State) (Zip)
_____
(Post Commander's Name)

#### Department Certification

(Must be completed by Dept VFW National Scouting Team Member or Dept. Commander)

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**  
**SCOUT OF THE YEAR**  
**Application Instructions**

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY SCOUT OF THE YEAR CANDIDATE:

*Section A -- HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPATION RECORD*

Please submit a resume of your High School Activities (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) to include a listing of offices held, honors received and significance of your participation in these activities. *The resume of these activities should be contained on one 8 1/2 X 11 inch page. The screening committee at all levels will only consider the information contained on this one page (one side only).*

*Section B -- ENTIRE SCOUTING RECORD*

List your complete scouting record from Cub Scouts on up, to include years of participation, Unit Numbers and Sponsors. Include information on when your Eagle Award, Silver Award, or Quartermaster was received and Palms. Make sure you include any leadership positions held at all levels; list other Scouting activities you have participated in such as Jamborees, Order of the Arrow Conferences, etc...and succinctly describe your Eagle, Venture, or Quartermaster Project. *The resume of these activities should be contained on three 8 1/2 X 11 inch pages. The screening committee at all levels will only consider information on these three pages (front side of each sheet only).*

*Section C -- COMMUNITY SERVICE RECORD*

Use one page to list community service and religious organizations you have participated in (excluding high school and scouting) and the activities that you were involved with as a part of these organizations. Note any leadership positions held and any accolades received. *The resume of these activities should be contained on one 8 1/2 X 11 inch page. The screening committee at all levels will only consider the information contained on this one page (one side only).*

*Section D -- LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION*

The screening committee will carefully review the letters submitted. Only five (5) letters will be allowed. One letter each from your school, community, and scout leader must be submitted. Two additional letters are allowed from other individuals within your community who may have a special knowledge of your abilities and/or accomplishments. *The screening committee will only consider five (5) letters at most. (Note: Letters should not exceed 2 pages.)*

- ▶ *Please be sure to use only this form when applying. Any other form or format will not be accepted into the competition.*
- ▶ *Please follow the procedures and requirements as written, to ensure that your application is reviewed and processed as quickly and accurately as possible. (Note: All typewritten entries must be legible and easily read.)*
- ▶ *Do not send completed application directly to VFW National Headquarters; all applications must be submitted to a VFW Post for initial consideration. The VFW Post will then submit to the Department for consideration as the Department winner.*

**AUTHORIZATION**

**SCOUT CERTIFICATION:**

I hereby certify that the foregoing information is accurate and if I am the national winner, I will make myself available to receive the award at a presentation ceremony as designated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

**SCOUT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**SCOUTMASTER OR VENTURE CREW ADVISOR CERTIFICATION:**

I hereby certify that the above-named Scout is an active member of our unit and the information supplied by the candidate is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

**SCOUTMASTER OR ADVISOR SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT'S CONSENT**

I hereby certify that all information on this application is correct. I willingly submit this name for consideration as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Scout of the Year. If this individual is selected as the national winner, I will ensure that he/she is allowed to attend a presentation ceremony as designed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

**FATHER, MOTHER OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## **SUICIDE EPIDEMIC AMONG VETS OF ALL AGES:**

**SUICIDE.** A word no one wants to use or a subject no one wants to talk about. We are in the midst of a silent epidemic. Thirty years ago breast cancer was not talked about openly. We knew it was there, but very few people knew enough about it to talk about it. It took those who survived the ordeal to come out and make it a topic which most people can talk about comfortably today. First Lady Betty Ford was one of those who talked about it in 1974.

We must talk about SUICIDE like we do breast cancer so that those who are having problems and who might be thinking about it can have alternative ways to deal with those thoughts and will not act on them.

Suicide is as complex as the person who is having those thoughts. It can be and generally is for veterans the results of dealing with PTSD, which a subject for another time.

The attitudes such as “play when your hurt” and “cowgirls don’t cry” and “get back on that horse if you get bucked off” and fear showing weakness for possible retribution from NCO or officers are some of the problems that combat soldiers have admitting they are having problems. It is expected of them to continue on with the mission. The new mission that should be given each soldier when getting home should be “get well”, and “take care of yourself”. They need to know that having night mares, night sweats, and spousal abuse, is not normal and they need to seek help.

### **NOW IS THE TIME WHEN I GIVE YOU THE FACTS TO BACK UP WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING.**

A letter I received from the National VFW June of ,09 had some of those numbers and facts. At that time there had been more deaths from suicide since 9/11 among our active duty troops, National Guard, and Reserve units than all the deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. Since 9/11 there have been 1,900 men and women complete suicide while on active duty. Fact: Suicide accounts for 15% of all casualties in OEF/OIF active forces. The Marines reported suicides in 2006 of 25, in 2007 – 33, and in 2008 – 41 according to DOD by September of 2008. American casualties were 4,700 + and there had been 821 confirmed suicides while in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We can help those who have come home. They are our brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, grandsons, and granddaughters. They are the most recent Veterans to put it all on the line.

The Center for Disease Control estimates that 18 veterans from all wars complete suicide each day which is 6,570 a year.

In Oregon as a veteran you are twice as likely to complete suicide as a non veteran. Every two days somewhere in Oregon a Veteran performs suicide and I believe if you were to check your own state it would be about the same.

### **WHAT CAN WE DO?**

As in all functions at the State and Post level, someone will have to step up and want to make a difference. We need to get the word out through State News Papers, Post News Letters, and word of mouth. We need to be talking about what to do for those who are having these problems. We need to give them alternative places to go to and talk about what is bothering them, such as “Vet Centers”, VA Clinics with PTSD trained staff for one-on-one or group sessions, Churches, perhaps our VFW Posts where Vets can gather to talk out what is bothering them with other Vets, that may have similar experiences . Remember that the holidays are the worst time for suicides. The sooner we get the word out the better the chances of saving a life.

I’ve been working with the Director of our Veterans Affairs in Oregon who is quite aware of the stats on suicide and has been a very great help getting the word out through

all the Veterans Organizations. We are working with local Law enforcement, EMS, and local Veterans who can be the first on the scene when a veteran or family members calls for help. We can make a difference. We are the VFW, we made a difference when we served, many of us had no one to reach out to when we came home, and it is time for us to make a difference in the lives of those Vets of all ages that need our help now.

Some State Departments of Veterans Affairs have set up SUICIDE HOT LINES, and there are Two "HOT LINES" Nationally. They are:

VA SUICIDE HOT LINE 1-800-273-TALK (8255)  
NATIONAL SUICIDE HOT LINE 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433)

**FOLLOW UP!** It is very important to have the person who was "talked down" to see a professional within 24 hrs. There have been many cases where the vet who is "talked down" turns around the next day and completes the suicide.

These phone numbers are no help if we do not get them out to those who could need them. I have made copies of these numbers with some of the signs and symptoms to look for on 8.5"X11" and have handed them out at the Post and at the National Guard Armory. I also have put these numbers on business card size and handed them out so Vets can have them in their Wallets to hand out or use.

We as Veterans need to bring the silent epidemic out of the DARK so we can deal with it as it is. If we only save one Veteran per Department that would 54 fewer dead Veterans and who knows how many family members who will not have to live with the suicide for the rest of their lives.

### **SOME OF THE WARNING SIGNS:**

Talking about suicide or making plans, obsessing about death, giving away treasured belongings, taking unnecessary risks, increase in drug or alcohol use, withdrawing from friends and family activities. These are only a few possible signs that may help, but some Veterans are very good about masking their feelings.

I am asking each Department Adj. or Adj/QM. to get this article to the Department Newspaper Editor to publish it and then publish the hotline numbers and the warning signs so that each Veteran receiving your Department paper may cut or tear it out, make copies, and distribute them. I also ask that each Post Cmdr. make sure that this article is published in the Post News Letter or Newspaper and discussed and copies of the Hot Line numbers and Warning Signs are available at Post meetings and at Post homes. I am also asking each Cmdr to ask the Ladies Auxiliary President to discuss this article and also have handouts available. This is how we get the word out and this is how we save lives!

Yours in Comradeship,  
Dennis Guthrie  
Your National Surgeon General  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
4495 NE 25<sup>th</sup> St.  
Redmond, OR 97756  
541-548-6990 (Home)  
541-280-5161 (Cell)

STATE COMMANDER  
REX FARIS  
&  
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT  
KATHY BIRCH  
**HOMECOMING**

Date:  
April 24, 2010

Location:  
Staunton Gypsy Hill  
Park

**Schedule of  
Events**

1. Fishing tournament will start at 9:00 am till 11:00 am at the fishing pond in Gypsy Hill Park with a prize to the one who catches the largest fish and a prize to the biggest fish story.
2. Lunch at the Park starts at 12:30 pm with presentations starting at 1:30 pm rain or shine covered shelter available. (No alcohol permitted in park).
3. Dance at the National Armory from 9 pm to 12 am with live band "City Limits". Adult beverages and non alcohol drinks provided.
4. Hotel prices are \$59.95 for single and double occupancy at the Best Western (540-885-1112).

Any Post or individual wishing to make a donation towards a gift for the Commander may do so by sending a check to State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401 Earmarked Commander's Homecoming.