



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

APR 2020



General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

Post 1503

14631 MINNIEVILLE ROAD • DALE CITY, VIRGINIA 22193 • 703.670.4124

www.vfw1503.org

CANTEEN HOURS: Sunday / Monday / Wednesday 12 Noon - 11 PM
Tuesday / Thursday / Saturday 12 Noon - 12 Midnight • Friday 12 Noon - 2 AM

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Team 1503,

VFW Post 1503 will be closed until further notice all officers will remain in place.

Like many of you, we have been closely following the spread of COVID-19 the health and safety of our members and employees is our top priority.

Following guidelines from Governor Northam, we are taking comprehensive measures to ensure your safety.

Together, we are facing a truly unprecedented situation. The global coronavirus pandemic is affecting all of our families, our businesses, our communities, and our way of life.

First and foremost, our hearts go out to anyone who's been impacted by the virus, either directly or indirectly. Our thoughts are especially with those who are sick, to whom we extend our heartfelt wishes for a full recovery. And we're truly inspired by the selfless healthcare workers around the world who are on the frontlines working tirelessly to care for people in need.

We have canceled many events that you all enjoy for your safety and that of our employees.

As you know the March meeting was canceled and I believe in the existence of 1503 this has never happened before. We are working on an electronic meeting of some kind for April. More information on that still to come. We are determined to hold our meetings/elections one way or another.

For those of you not on the Constant Contact listing check our website for updates. vfw1503.org or Facebook page Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1503. To add your email address to Constant Contact send it to qmpost1503@vfwva.org.

I'm asking all VFW members to check on your battle buddies, check on your friends and family who may be isolated during this time. As many of us know, a simple phone call and show of support could make all the difference.

Any veteran experiencing mental stress contact the Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1.800.273.8255 and press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential



POST OFFICERS

- Post Commander . . . Thomas Williams, Jr.
Senior Vice Thomas Levitt II
Junior Vice Bernie Carter
Quartermaster Tim Brown
Judge Advocate Randy Coker
Surgeon Star Martinez
Chaplain. Ed Bennett
3 Year Trustee Ron Laney
2 Year Trustee. John Dodge
1 Year Trustee Tom Gimble
Adjutant Ben Guinan
Service Officer. Ed Tatum
Asst. Service Officer Tami Brown
House Committee Chairman. Joe Saitta
Past Commander Tim Brown

support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

Even though the Post is closed we are still available to help our members in any way we can contact any of the Post Officers if you need help. We will come up with a solution.

Stay Indoors... Stay Safe... Stay Healthy!

Thomas Williams, Jr.
Commander Post 1503

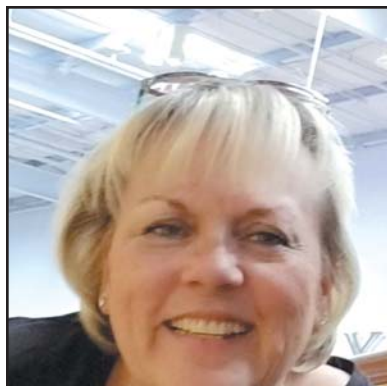


VFW AUXILIARY

Hello Auxiliary 1503! Welcome to all new members ~ happy to have you with us! We are currently 915 members strong! Way to go all of us!!

I sincerely hope and pray that everyone is managing to stay healthy and positive during this unexpected "new normal" that we now find ourselves in. Although each of our lives have been altered in so many ways, I think we can all agree that this unforeseen situation is also allowing us to slow down and appreciate all that we are blessed to have.

Guidance from Auxiliary National as well as the VFW and our Post will dictate events moving forward. Please continue to monitor email for important information.



Our Auxiliary was honored to hold a Memorial Service for our beloved sister, Linda Steinway during her funeral service on March 19th. Linda was a life member of Auxiliary 1503. She served as Auxiliary President from 2007-2010 and again from 2016-2018. Linda devoted countless hours of service to our Veterans, our community and our families. With help from donations from several Auxiliary members, we were able to provide three dinner meals to Linda's family. Thank you all.

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

- President Kelli Levitt
- Sr. Vice President Reggie Garland
- Jr. Vice President Susan Adamczyk
- Secretary Betty Gimble
- Treasurer Karla Coker
- Chaplain Joyce DeVecchio
- Conductress Jan Kiecker
- Guard Laura Adamczyk
- 1st Yr Trustee Janell Garland
- 2nd Yr Trustee Rebecca Moninghoff
- 3rd Yr Trustee Monika Walczyk
- Historian Joyce Gibbs
- Patriotic Instructor Janelle Garland

Although our daily, weekly and monthly Auxiliary activities and duties have changed the way we operate, there are many things that we as members can continue doing to support Veterans and our community and grow our organization. Reach out via phone or email to anyone who may be in need. If you are able, offer to run errands, provide a ride or deliver essentials. Talk to your friends and relatives about our Auxiliary and all that we do. Brighten someone's day with a note or card to say hello or I am thinking of you. Offer an ear to listen to someone having a difficult time. Send a meal via a delivery service for a Veteran who is alone.

If you enjoy sewing, and are able to make masks for hospitals in need, please let me know. I have an email with detailed information and instructions. I will be happy to forward it to you.

Did you know... The VFW Auxiliary started with a small group of women who wanted to serve Veterans. Today, there are more than 475,000 male and female members and more than 3,800 Auxiliaries representing all 50 states.

Check out <https://vfwauxiliary.org> for tons of information on everything about the Auxiliary.

I look forward to seeing everyone and continuing right where we left off! I miss you all!

Hang in there ~ we will prevail! #initttogether **Stay Strong ~ Stay Happy ~ WASH YOUR HANDS!**

As always, if you have questions, concerns, comments or are in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our officers ~ we are here to help.

Kelli Levitt
Auxiliary 1503 President
itsmekelli@aol.com
703-895-8855

Please continue to reach out to those who are ill, struggling or lost.
~ **NO ACT OF KINDNESS, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, IS EVER WASTED** ~ *aesop*

Remember to like and follow our Facebook page... VFW Post 1503 - Auxiliary



FACILITY HAPPENINGS

The post will continue to be closed until further notice. We of course must adhere to the direction given to us by the governor and as of this date it's confirmed will be closed until at least 24 April any changes to this will be sent out to you via constant contact.

Just to bring you up-to-date on how this affected us we have 42 employees on our payroll. All of them are hourly or part-time employees. Please keep them in your thoughts as you/we would others in your family since I know we all appreciate what they bring to the VFW every day.

While we are closed I am still going to the club daily during the week for a few hours. Call **703-670-4124 extension 2** or email me at vfw1503facmgt@comcast.net if you have any questions.

At this time we have canceled all activities for the A and B halls... if this affects you and you have any questions please contact me thank you.

John Meehan
Facility Manager



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Patriots:

We had to cancel our Chapter meeting and elections that was scheduled in March because of this deadly virus that has brought our Country to a stop. Our Chapter meetings will be rescheduled after we get the all clear on its safe to meet. I am working on a way to hold our elections by way of electronics but ask that our Patriots send me an e-mail about the office that they would be able to fill in the upcoming year. Most important, I would like to hear from our Patriots about their safety and that of your family. We need to fight this virus together and your health and that of your family is the most important mission for us currently.

The next **Chapter Meeting** is **To Be Determined**. We need to continue to be proactive in helping our wounded Veterans and their families!! Our Chapter's Mission is to serve our combat wounded veterans and their families. Call me at **703-244-5428**.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!!!

Ron Laney
Commander
Semper Fi Chapter 1775



MOC / MOCA



Listen up Cooties and MOCA!! Early last month before our current world health situation impacted our daily lives so profoundly we were able to squeeze in a few Lousy events. Team C was slinging wings the first Saturday of March on the 7th and collecting some well-deserved tips. We held our regular Scratch and Meeting on the 11th followed by Installation of Shavetails and Officers. The event was extra lousy and the Post Staff prepared some outstanding grub for the event. Please keep the staff in your thoughts and prayers as they face hardship while the post is closed.



During this time of limited contact and Post closure all MOC/MOCA events are suspended and re-scheduling is on a TBD basis. 4th Supreme Council of Administration that was scheduled for April has been cancelled. Both Supreme MOC and MOCA have issued Executive guidance in line with our parent organization the VFW. That correspondence has been disseminated via MOC/MOCA group emails. Please continue to monitor your emails for MOC/MOCA updates. We will be back in force as soon as we are able to prudently do so!!!

As this situation gives us all additional time to reflect I want to share the below Op Ed piece from Retired Admiral William H. McRaven published in the Washington Post:

By William H. McRaven

March 19, 2020 at 6:54 p.m. EDT

William H. McRaven, a retired Navy admiral, was commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command from 2011 to 2014. He oversaw the 2011 Navy SEAL raid in Pakistan that killed Osama bin Laden. This op-ed draws on a commencement address he gave at the University of Texas at Austin in 2014.

For a would-be Navy SEAL, Hell Week is the worst week of the toughest military training in the world. It is six days of no sleep, constant physical and mental harassment, and one "special day" at the Mud Flats. The Mud Flats are an area between San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico, where the water comes together and creates a swampy patch of terrain, a muddy bog that tests your determination to be a SEAL.

My training class had been out of the mud for a short period of time when the instructors, looking to weed out the weak of mind and body, ordered the entire group of 55 men back into the bog. The mud consumed each man until there was nothing visible but our heads. We were all exhausted, numb from the cold and desperate to hold on. The instructors told us that we could all

leave the mud – if just five men quit. It was the instructors’ way of turning us against each other.

It was apparent that some of the trainees were about to give up. There were still eight hours to go before the sun rose ó eight more hours of bone-chilling cold. Several of the students started moving to dry ground; they were ready to quit. And then, one voice began to echo through the night – one voice raised in song. The song was terribly out of tune but sung with great enthusiasm. One voice became two, and two became three, and before long the entire class was singing. The instructors threatened us with more time in the mud if we kept singing, but the singing persisted. Those of us stuck in the mud believed that if one of us could start singing when he was up to his neck in mud, then maybe the rest of us could make it through the night. And we did.

Today, the coronavirus has thrown us all in the mud. We are cold, wet and miserable, and the dawn seems a long way off. But while we should not be cavalier about the dangers of this pandemic, neither should we feel hopeless and paralyzed with fear. Hope abounds.

We have the greatest scientists in the world working to create a vaccine. Health-care workers are pulling double shifts to care for the sick. Republicans and Democrats have come together to find solutions. State and local officials are taking decisive steps to flatten the curve of infection. Our economy is strong enough to survive even in these challenging times. The United States has an unmatched ability to mobilize when called to action. More importantly, as we always have in times of crisis, Americans are rallying together, caring for one another, showing the compassion and concern that have always characterized this nation of good people.

Nothing in our immediate future will be easy. The number of cases will rise. The losses will increase. The markets will stumble. But make no mistake about it, we will prevail, because the only thing more contagious than a virus is hope. We are all up to our necks in mud. It’s time to start singing.

Our next regular [Scratch/Meeting](#) will be announced when we are able to schedule. Please Stay Healthy and Safe!!

KEEP THEM SMILING IN BEDS OF WHITE!!!

Tom Levitt
MOC Seam Squirrel
levitt.tm@gmail.com
703-895-5070



Kelli Levitt
MOCA President
itsmekelli@aol.com
703-895-8855

CANDIDATE FOR POST COMMANDER

Comrades I would like to announce my candidacy for Commander. I have been serving our post in various leadership and volunteer roles for some time and during 2018-2020 it has been my pleasure to serve as Senior Vice Commander and represent our post as Adjutant and subsequently the Service Officer for District 10. I have learned a lot from our comrades and others to prepare me for moving forward in the post leadership.

I will listen to the membership and represent them to the best of my ability and adhere to what is recited at the opening of every meeting; "Comrades, we are assembled again to transact business of mutual benefit. Do not let petty jealousies or trivial personalities influence our deliberations. Let us uphold always the obligations of unselfish comradeship and loyalty to our organization and to the government of the United States of America."

I am asking for your support and would appreciate your vote for Commander.

Yours in Comradeship,
Tom Levitt

CANDIDATE FOR SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

My Fellow VFW members I would like to announce my candidacy for Post 1503 Senior Vice Commander for the 2020 - 2021 year. Our Post has enjoyed incredible growth in the past year, and I am both willing and eager to be part of the leadership that continues to help our Post move forward and maintain our status as the largest and best VFW in the world. If elected, I will work tirelessly to ensure that I represent the membership, be open minded and welcome hearing from members and addressing their concerns. During this past year, I was involved with and supported a number of initiatives and programs that benefited and supported the members of this Post. They included our semi-annual Buddy Poppy program, Bingo, Commemorations, Armed Forces Service events, and our Annual Christmas Tree Sales. I would like to continue being part of the leadership of this great post and I'm asking for your vote and support in the coming election. Good luck to all the Candidates.

Bernie Carter

CANDIDATE FOR JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

After an Army career that was cut far too short by injury, I eventually found my way to the VFW and Post 1503. After joining, I felt a sense of purpose and camaraderie that had long been missing in my life. I dedicated myself to doing all I could for the Post and the VFW in general. Along with volunteering for a multitude of activities during my tenure with our post, I have served two terms as Post Surgeon and one as Post Adjutant. In my capacity as Post Surgeon, I ran two successful seasons of our Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy youth scholarship programs as well as helped reestablish the Blood Drives held at our post. As Post Adjutant, I have been involved with many facets of post and VFW related administration. During my time with our post, I have had the great honor of being a part of our MOC Pup Tent and will be installed as the Seam Squirrel (Commander) for the upcoming year. I have also served as the VFW VA District 10 Adjutant and Inspector for the past year. In both roles, it has been my honor to work with all the posts in our district. I would very much like to continue my work with the VFW and Post 1503 and help continue to lead the post into the future. To that end, I am announcing my intention to run for the office of Junior Vice Commander of VFW Post 1503. I will continue to make every effort to serve our brethren, our post, and our community.

Regards to all,
Ben Guinan

CANDIDATE FOR JUDGE ADVOCATE

Greetings Fellow Comrades of Post 1503, the Largest VFW Post in the World. It is with honor and privilege that I announce my candidacy as our next VFW Post 1503 Judge Advocate.

I am a life member of our great post and serving as Post Surgeon. As Surgeon, I've been given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to partner with you in service to our Comrades and communities in which we've built our lives. I have journeyed to spend time with our Comrades residing in VA Nursing Homes and honored our Comrades during their Celebration of Life. I have championed students in our community to remain committed to academic excellence through our annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen scholarship competition and advocate for educators whom transcend the expectations of community by way of our Teacher of the Year awards ceremony. These experiences solidify why I pledged my service to the United States Army. These experiences are why I am honored to support the programs and services that enrich the lives of Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, Marines, Sailors, Soldiers, Veterans, our Families, and the communities in which we live!

I envision continuing service to Post 1503 and community as our next Judge Advocate. I am committed to building upon characteristics such as the stalwart leadership shown by past Judge Advocates and legendary Marine Corps Officer, LTG Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller.

I am asking for your support to be elected into the Judge Advocate position.

Yours in Comradeship, Service and Patriotism,
Estrella "Star" Martinez

CANDIDATE FOR THREE YEAR TRUSTEE

I am pleased to announce my candidacy for the position of Post Trustee. I have served in this position for many years and would like to continue serving as Post Trustee. I respectfully request your support for my re-election.

Tom Gimble



CANDIDATE FOR POST SURGEON

I'm Robert Adamczyk aka "Check" and I'm running for Post Surgeon. I've been an active life member of Post 1503 for several years. I'm the MOC Hide Gimlet for Pup Tent 14, MOC Hospital Chairman for the Grand of Virginia, Senior Vice Commander for District 10, member of the Post Honor Guard, and the co-chair of the House Committee with Joe Saita. I work bingo two nights a week, I've worked recruiting booths for the Post (on and off site), volunteered for wings, helped set up the kids' parties, delivered Christmas food baskets, and been on many hospital visits to McGuire VA hospital. I've also made a few improvements around the canteen such as hooking up the second TV for Karaoke and redesigning the wing order form.

As for the job of Post Surgeon, I've been a judge for Patriots Pen and ran the judging at the District level for the Voice of Democracy. I also have a good working relationship with our previous two Post Surgeons for any advice I may need during the coming year.

On a personal level, during my time overseas in the US Army, I had a great deal of camaraderie with my fellow soldiers that I didn't think I would ever experience again. In the last several years, I've found that camaraderie with the comrades and auxiliary members of Post 1503. For that, I am forever grateful. I hope you will support my candidacy and vote for me as your next Post Surgeon.

Robert "Check" Adamczyk

CANDIDATE FOR POST SURGEON

Mike Gamble is running for the position of Surgeon at VFW Post 1503.

He is currently a managing director and co-owner of Prime One Real Estate, LLC, a commercial property investment company, since 2008.

Active in non-profit administration, Mike served as a board president, vice president and chairman of architectural review committee during tenure with Saratoga Hunt Homeowners Association from 2014-2018. He also served as a chapter president for the Fort Hood Silver Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association from 2007-2008.

To support his community, Mike tutored youth general education subjects at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Woodbridge, Virginia. He has taught the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery as an independent contractor with WyzAnt Tutoring. In addition, he coached youth football and basketball in Prince William County Sports Leagues.

Mike Gamble retired from the U.S. Army as a Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5) after serving over 33 years of active-duty military service from 1985-2019. During his Army career, he served in a host of leadership, technical, operational and broadening assignments. His assignments included the Pentagon, Corps of Engineers, Army Inspector General Agency, The Old Guard, 101st Airborne Assault, 1st Infantry, 2nd Infantry and 17th Aviation 36th Engineer, 56th Field Artillery and 1-10th Cavalry. His positions held were senior ordnance warrant officer, inspector general, liaison, advisor & trainer, maintenance officer, platoon leader, section chief and mechanic. Mike has deployed on combat tours to Iraq and Afghanistan.

His education includes a Master of Business Administration Degree in Public Management from Trident University International and a Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Resource Management from Troy University. Mike was granted the designation as a Demonstrated Master Logistician by the International Society of Logistics.

Mike's military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medals, Meritorious Service Medals, parachutist and air assault badges, Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe Award, etc.

He and his lovely wife, Jennifer, reside in Woodbridge, Virginia. They have six adult children.

Mike Gamble

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Happy Easter

Next Monthly Meeting

TBD

www.vfw1503.org