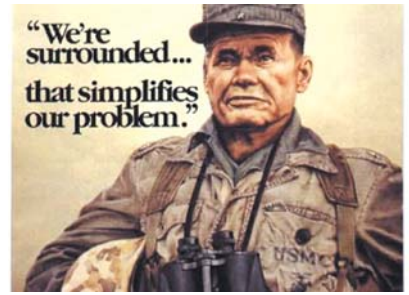




JULY 2020

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503



General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

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

Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

Thank you to the post comrades for entrusting me with the leadership of our Post. We are a membership organization and I truly appreciate being allowed the privilege of leading the largest and best post in the world. I would be remiss if I did not recognize the immediate Past Commander for his stalwart leadership over the past two years. I have big shoes to fill and I know Thomas will be there to assist and guide me along the way as he has already been a great mentor.

As our state enters Phase 3 during this pandemic it is paramount that we remain fluid as changes can and will happen.

Our normal July activities have been dramatically curtailed as our only events currently scheduled for the month will be our Red Cross Blood Drive on the 5th and a Flag Retirement in the pavilion on the 11th. This by appointment blood drive is already booked with donors - there are NO Walk In Donations. Discussions are ongoing as to how and when a lot of our other normal activities will resume. We will make announcements as things are scheduled to re-open via our website, constant contact and our social media outlets. Everyone's continued patience and understanding is appreciated greatly.

This past month during phase 2 we re-opened the facility and the staff has done an outstanding job ensuring we are adhering to guidelines and keeping everyone safe and healthy. Please do come out and enjoy the comradeship at the post as your personal comfort and health situation allows. We were able to hold our District 10 convention on the 15th and our own Robert Adamczyk and Kelli Levitt were elected District Commander and President, congratulations. Post Installation of Officers was on the 20th with a minimal attendance by design due to phase 2 restrictions. Several of us attended the much abbreviated one-day State Convention on the 27th in Mechanicsville at Post 9808. Despite our phase 2 restrictions with no Army Birthday or Father's Day meal June remained a typically busy month.

Our Next Meeting will be 15 July at VFW Post 1503 in the B Hall to accommodate social distancing. Please follow CDC guidelines for face coverings and attend only if you are healthy and



POST OFFICERS

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

are not in a quarantine status due to travel or potential virus exposure.

Stay Healthy and Safe!

Tom Levitt
Post Commander



VFW AUXILIARY

Hello Auxiliary 1503 Members!
Happy Independence Day!

As one-year ends, and a new begins I would like to convey my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for the opportunity to serve as President for a second term. I am grateful for the knowledge I have gained

through so many mentors at every level of the Auxiliary, and for the numerous ways that we have worked together to support our Veteran's. I look forward, with optimism, as we continue to grow and strengthen our Auxiliary to ensure that we carry on our mission of service.

With the exciting news that Northern Virginia was permitted to enter Phase II, our Post has re-opened! Although it continues to be a challenging time for everyone, the Post leadership and staff have done a fantastic job ensuring guidelines are in place to keep everyone safe. Please continue to monitor Constant Contact, FB pages [VFW Post 1503 - Auxiliary / Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1503](#) or Post 1503 website www.vfw1503.org for updates.

We were able to hold our first in-person monthly membership meeting on the 17th. We were also live, via ZOOM, for those who were unable to attend. Welcome to our new members, Sam and Christine - glad that you have joined!

Congratulations to the 2020-2021 District 10 Officers, who were elected and installed on the 14th. Next District 10 meeting TBD.

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to fill a Chairman position! Please contact me if you are interested in helping, as there are several, yet to be filled.

A joint VFW/Auxiliary installation of officers was held on the 20th. While the appearance was much different than in years past, the significance of the occasion was not. Congratulations to all!

I still have a huge box of Auxiliary shirts! I plan to bring them to our meeting this month - and possibly schedule a time for pick up at the Post one day this month during the week. If you would

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

- President Kelli Levitt
- Sr. Vice President Milton Moore
- Jr. Vice President Reginald Garland
- Secretary Betty Gimble
- Treasurer Karla Coker
- Chaplain Glorious Burress
- Conductress Jan Kiecker
- Guard Laura Adamczyk
- 1st Yr Trustee Rebecca Moninghoff
- 2nd Yr Trustee Monika Walczyk
- 3rd Yr Trustee Janell Garland
- Historian Joyce Gibbs
- Patriotic Instructor Marvis Jones

like your shirt sooner, please contact me.

June 27th was the Department of Virginia Auxiliary Council Meeting - formally known as Convention! Several of our members made the trip to Mechanicsville for the one day event.

Did you know... Auxiliary National offers webinars? A lot of particularly useful information - for every member!

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/online-auxiliary-academy/>

Please plan to join us at our membership meeting on the 15th. Look for a reminder with the ZOOM link a bit later in the month. Our Hospital Chairman, Laura, would like to put together a video message for the Veterans at Potomac Place - since we have been unable to visit with them in person.

I can't wait to get our year started! Come join us and get involved! Our Auxiliary needs YOU!

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

Kelli Levitt

President, Auxiliary 1503

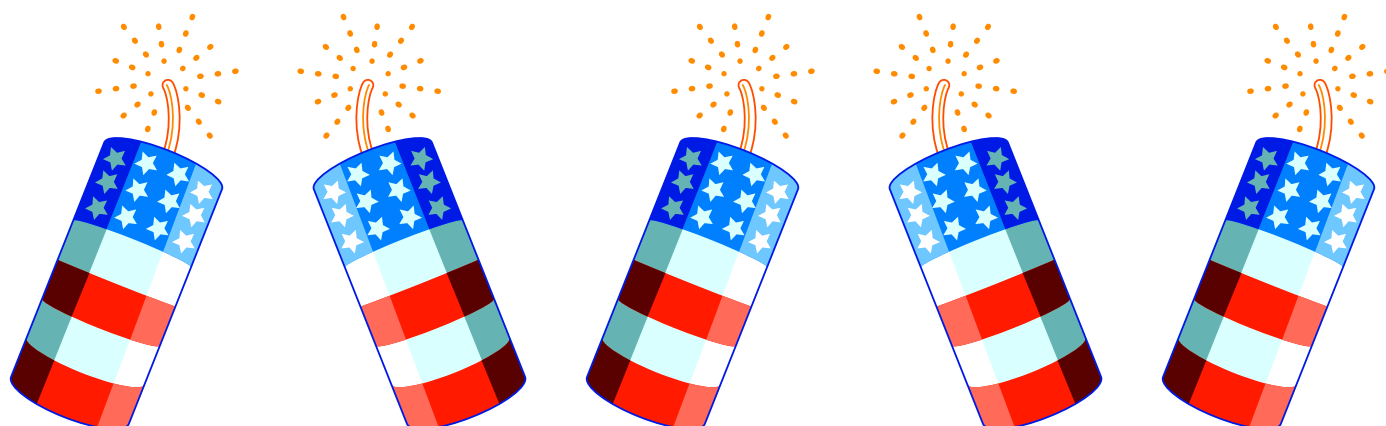
itsmekelli@aol.com

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**



PAST COMMANDER

To My Brothers- and Sisters-in-Arms,

My time as Commander of VFW Post 1503 has come to a close, and I want to thank you all - Trustees, Officers, Staff, and Members - for your encouragement, support, and dedication during my term as Commander (2018-2020).

We share many points of pride in our Post, but among them is achieving ALL AMERICAN status for the last two years. You all made it possible!

I especially want to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to the Trustees - Tom Gimble, John Dodge, and Ron Laney - for unselfishly sharing their knowledge and expertise, providing valuable guidance along the way, and diligently keeping me focused and on the right path. And I would be remiss if I did not express what an honor it has been to serve with past and present Auxiliary Presidents Jim Moore and Keli Levitt.

I also have to thank the Post Officers, Quartermaster, and Assistant Service Officer: you were always there when I needed you... and I needed you often! Special thanks are also due to our Webmaster Extraordinaire "Deena" for being at every Post function and event to take photos, and making sure our website was always updated with the latest news. And I can't forget our Mr. Entertainment Chairman Joe Saitta for arranging our weekly entertainment. He's done an outstanding job for the last two years and it's been a pleasure working with him.

As you all know, one of our main sources of revenue is Bingo. Without the cooperation of our Bingo Chairman Sterling Moninghoff and Co-Chairwoman Betty Gimble, it wouldn't be possible. Thank you both for all the work you do!

Last but certainly not least, a huge thank you to John Meehan for his unwavering support, loyalty, and friendship; the VFW superstar staff for their dedication; and to my lovely wife Andria, without whose love and support I could not have served with the same success.

Stay safe and stay healthy.

Thomas Williams, Jr.
Past Commander 2018-2020

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Patriots:

We had a good meeting at the Post pavilion on the 20th! It was a short meeting and we approved a donation of \$250 to Fisher House in memory of Patriot Al Ortiz that was a member of our Chapter at one time and past MOPH State Commander. We discussed the possibility of conducting a Viola Drive at our next meeting at the Post or doing one on National Purple Heart Day! No other business was taken with exception that we hope to meet inside the VFW at our next meeting.

The next Chapter Meeting is on Saturday, July 18th. 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



FACILITY HAPPENINGS

To say the least, it certainly has been an interesting 3 months. Finally we are in phase two going into phase three on July 1st. This will allow us to start getting back to some sort of normalcy with our daily operations. Even though we can now accommodate up to 250 people in the building with the 6 foot distance rule still in place, limited seating is still not going to allow us to get back to business as usual.

We will now let members bring in one guest with them in addition to their spouse/partner. Proper distancing will be enforced, along with the request for face coverings and wearing of gloves while playing our game machines. All tables and surfaces etc. will be disinfected within 30 minutes of use by staff.

Asking your co-operation when ordering food to please listen for your name that will be announced over the PA system that it is ready for pick up, at the bar area near the door that leads into the kitchen. We are doing this to keep the number of people to as few as possible between ordering and delivery of the food.

We are still going to hold back on entertainment and our weekend specials (Wings, Breakfast, etc.)



John Meehan
Facility Manager

MOC / MOCA

Hey there from the MOC/MOCA! We hope that everyone is getting through the pandemic healthy and safely! As the reopening phases relax restrictions on what is open, how many people can gather in locations, etc., etc... please remember to be vigilant on protecting yourselves and others. Coronavirus will be with us for a while yet so please stay safe.

As the lockdown was winding down, several Cooties began getting together in small groups to reconnect. Driveway parties, newly constructed bars in cootie quarters, and a little bit of gathering at our newly reopened Post have given us the opportunity to not only reconnect personally but has given us the chance to come up with new ways to accomplish our mission in the current pandemic age. We will continue to explore new ideas and welcome suggestions/recommendations from anyone on how we can help our veterans and community and keep our pup tent driving forward!

Our Grand (State) Convention was held at Post 9808 in Mechanicsville from 2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturday 27 June 2020. All Grand officers have been elected and installed for the 2020-2021 year which include several of our very own Pup Tent. Congrats to all!

Please let us know all the good works you have done for veterans so we can report on it! We are always better together and can make things happen in all kinds of ways!

KEEP THEM SMILING IN BEDS OF WHITE!!!

Ben Guinan
MOC Seam Squirrel
bt.guinan.vfw@gmail.com

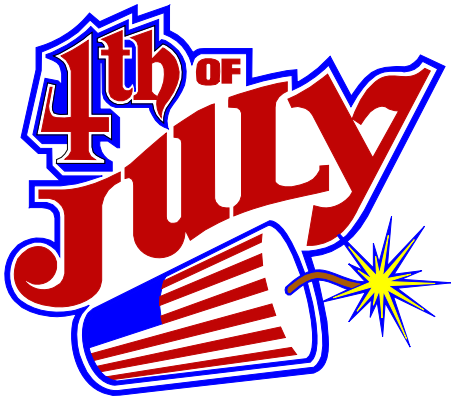
Doris Miller
MOCA President
dorisasmussen1951@outlook.com



Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

July 15TH

www.vfw1503.org

