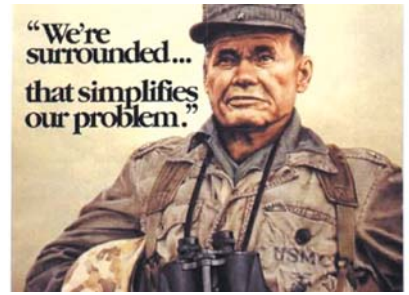




MAY 2020

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,

VFW Post 1503 will be CLOSED until further notice.

STATE CONVENTION is scheduled for JUNE 27TH, 2020 AT VFW POST 9808 IN MECHANICSVILLE, VA. (One Day event)

National Convention 2020/2021 has been canceled.

Post-1503 Army Ball has been postponed until June 2021 all donations will be carried forward.

The meeting on April 22nd was held online via Webex conferencing we had 40 members join the meeting. Our next meeting will be held on May 20th also that day we will be holding online voting of officers from 1200-1800 hrs. More information will be sent via Constant Contact as the date approaches.

Our strongest weapon against COVID-19 is all of us. For a little while longer we must all commit to staying home, staying safe, and practicing social distancing and staying healthy. Each one of us must abide by this to get through these extremely difficult times.

To our many healthcare workers and first responders who are members of Post 1503, you are incredible and amazing. We might say "Hero" too much these days, but you are courageous, selfless, and kind. Your determination to help others, at risk to yourself, is truly inspiring. Please stay safe.

Constant Contact is the best way to stay connected with updates while the post is closed. For those of you not on Constant Contact, 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

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



POST OFFICERS

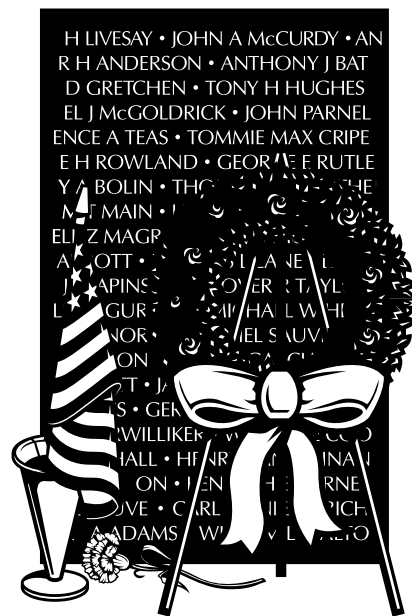
- Post Commander . . . Thomas Williams, Jr.
Senior Vice . . . . . Thomas Levitt II
Junior Vice . . . . . Bernie Carter
Quartermaster . . . . . Tim Brown
Judge Advocate . . . . . Randy Coker
Surgeon . . . . . Star Martinez
Chaplain. . . . . Ed Bennett
3 Year Trustee . . . . . Ron Laney
2 Year Trustee. . . . . 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

Although 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. Call a comrade a phone call goes a long way in these demanding times were in.

Memorial Day May 25th commemorates the men and women who died while in the military service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. In other words, the purpose of Memorial Day is to memorialize the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. We spend time remembering those who lost their lives and could not come home, reflecting on their service and why we have the luxury and freedom that we enjoy today. We might consider how we can support and safeguard their grieving families and loved ones who are left behind.

**Stay Indoors... Stay Safe... and Stay Healthy!**

**Thomas Williams, Jr.**  
Commander Post 1503



## VFW AUXILIARY

Hello Auxiliary 1503 Members! Welcome to all new members. Happy Mother's Day! I hope that you all are happy, healthy, staying busy and able to find toilet paper!

We held our very first virtual meeting on April 15th, through ZOOM, with 28 members present! Although there were several challenges, we were able to conduct our business, vote in 8 new members and nominate and elect officers for the ensuing year. In addition, I am pleased to say that Auxiliary 1503 will make a donation in the amount of \$1,000 to ACTS. You can find information about services offered and work done to serve our community at [www.actspwc.org](http://www.actspwc.org). Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 20th. Invitation to join the meeting with instructions will follow, via Constant Contact. Hope to see you there!

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

## Newly elected 2020-2021 Auxiliary 1503 Officers - \* Installation details TBD

President ~ Kelli Levitt  
Sr. Vice President ~ Milton Moore  
Jr. Vice President ~ Reginald Garland  
Treasurer ~ Karla Coker  
Chaplain ~ Glorious Burress  
Conductress ~ Jan Kiecker  
Guard ~ Laura Adamczyk  
3rd Year Trustee ~ Janell Garland

Congratulations to everyone! I look forward to a productive year working together to serve our Veterans and grow our Auxiliary.

As we continue to follow "stay at home" orders, our post remains closed. May, June and July are typically very exciting and busy months for the VFW & Auxiliary. Many events have been re-scheduled and/or cancelled.

**10th District Meeting/Convention** ~ Tentative date June 13 or 14. More information to follow, when details are finalized.

**Department of Virginia VFW & Auxiliary Convention** ~ June 27th 2020 at Battlefield VFW Post 9808 in Mechanicsville, VA. This will be a one day event. If you would like information on attending, in person or virtually, please let me know ASAP, as registration is required.

**VFW & Auxiliary National Convention** ~ Cancelled.

This is certainly an extraordinary time and I applaud the Auxiliary leadership at all levels for managing and disseminating the information in a timely manner.

### Did You Know... May 10-16 is the Annual VFW #thankBK Appreciation Week!

Since 2007, Burger King Franchisees and their customers have contributed \$6.3 million to the VFW Unmet Needs program. We've put that generosity to work, providing nearly \$12 million in assistance to more than 10,200 veterans and military families in need.

Established in 2017, the VFW's annual #ThankBK Appreciation Week event helps provide a way for the VFW to show our appreciation for Burger King franchisees' continued support and dedication toward America's heroes.

With the current situation surrounding coronavirus and many restaurant dining rooms closed, it's important that we still find ways to show Burger King how much we appreciate their support, which is why VFW Commander-in-Chief William "Doc" Schmitz is encouraging VFW and VFW Auxiliary members to utilize the drive-thru to support local Burger King restaurants the week leading up to, and including Armed Forces Day, May 10-16, and purchase a meal.

From utilizing the drive-thru, to mobile ordering and the wide availability of food delivery services, VFW and VFW Auxiliary members have several options to patronize a local restaurant while taking necessary health safety precautions.

Showing Burger King our support is important, possibly more now than ever before, because it's through their efforts that we're able to provide service members, veterans and their families the support they need.

### During Your Drive-Thru Visit:

- Wear your VFW/Auxiliary cap and/or branded clothing
- Purchase a meal
- Ask for the manager's business card so you can email them the appreciation letter we've prepared for you
- Say "Thank You" to Burger King management and team members. Let them know the VFW and VFW Auxiliary are there to support their restaurant, just as they have supported our Unmet Needs program

If you encounter a Burger King franchisee or manager who has not participated in supporting the Unmet Needs program and would like information about the July or November Burger King/VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaigns, please direct them to:

**Ben Vargas, VFW Foundation assistant manager at [bvargas@vfw.org](mailto:bvargas@vfw.org) or 816.968.2720**

As an extra incentive to participate, the VFW Foundation will hold a drawing to award 10 VFW Posts and Auxiliaries with a \$1,000 Community Support Grant. VFW Posts and Auxiliaries can qualify in one of two ways:

1. Submit copies of BK receipts dated during the contest time period.
2. Submit screen shots of your social media posts which must include a photo of yourself at a BK store drive-thru, order pick up, or with your Burger King food delivery, and include the #ThankBK hashtag and your Post/Auxiliary number.

Entries must be submitted to [foundation@vfw.org](mailto:foundation@vfw.org) and received during the contest period, May 10-16, 2020. Each entry will be included in the prize drawing, and each Post/Auxiliary that is drawn will receive a \$1,000 VFW Foundation Community Support Grant to be used for a community service project of their choice.

Let's all find ways to support Burger King during these trying times, while staying safe and healthy.

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](mailto: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

This will be the most unusual news article I have written ever.

As of this date we are awaiting a game plan to reopen which is dependent on what the Governor decides to implement.

Once that happens we will have to follow guidelines of proper distancing and number of people allowed at one time. While our building is big the canteen area is not, so it should be a challenge to say the least...

I do go into the Post most days for a few hours. Call me if you need anything or leave a message on the the answering machine 703-670-4124 x2. There is a short delay after the pre-recorded message or you can press 2 at anytime.

***We will remain CLOSED for the foreseeable future...***

**John Meehan**  
Facility Manager

# MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Patriots:

We had to cancel our Chapter meetings in March and April but still held our elections by way of the internet. The results are as follows: Commander - Ron Laney, Senior Vice Commander - Dom Dionne, Junior Vice Commander - Joe Ramos, Finance Officer & Adjutant - Tom Gimble, Sgt.-At-Arms - Matt McGuire, 1 year Trustee - Dick Hanscom, 2 year Trustee - Brian Flom, and Chaplain - David Kline. Congratulations to our new Chapter Officers and I look forward to working with you all this year! We had to cancel our **Viola Drive** in April but will reschedule when possible. Also, the **MOPH State Convention** has been cancelled at this time. Our Chapter meetings will be rescheduled after we get the all clear on its safe to meet again. I hope that all our Patriots and families are safe! As our country and the world continues the fight against this terrible virus, we must remain patient and careful. We as warriors have seen some bad things and know that being patient just like an ambush is critical! I would like to thank, Patriot Mac Garner's son for cleaning and restoring groundwork at our Purple Heart monument at Quantico. Much appreciated!!

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

Honor, Loyalty, Perseverance and Industry is one of the Cootie mottos. All of our perseverance is being put to the test!! Social distance and closures continue to be the norm and have curtailed almost all activities for the near future. We will conduct virtual MOC Scratch and MOCA meetings this month on the 13th. Instructions for meeting attendance will be sent via email. If you are not on the email distribution and are a member in good standing of the MOC or MOCA please contact the Seam Squirrel or President using our contact information below to be added.

Our last Grand General Order let us know that Supreme Scratch in Reno has been canceled and a much shortened Grand Scratch and MOCA meeting will be held on June 27th. We will meet at Post 9808 in Mechanicsville from 2:15 p.m. -3:00 p.m. There are no hotels blocked. Those wishing to stay the night check your email for information on where some Cooties may stay to spend the evening before or after our meetings.

Please take time to reach out to each other and those that may need help with grocery shopping, other errands or just somebody to talk to.

**Take Care of Yourself and Each Other ~ Stay Safe and Healthy!!**

**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



Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

**May 20TH via Webex**

*(Voting Will Also Be Held That Day)*

[www.vfw1503.org](http://www.vfw1503.org)

Mothers Day

Cinco de Mayo