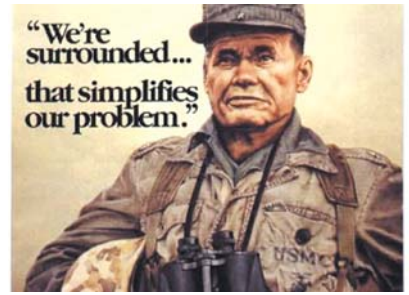




FEBRUARY 21

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,

We end our first month of the new year hoping that things are beginning to turn around for us in this pandemic as we see vaccines being administered. Despite a significant spike in COVID cases over the holidays there is a belief that the vaccine will help us flatten the curve and begin trending downward. I know we will all be happy to get back some normalcy in our lives and at our post!!

This past month we celebrated the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and his contributions to the civil rights movement. Normally on that day we host a meal in his honor which we failed to do this year. An honest mistake, but a mistake nonetheless. As the Commander everything that happens or fails to happen in the post is my responsibility. For this failure I take responsibility and apologize to all who may have felt slighted or offended. We are taking steps to ensure this does not happen again in the future and are hosting two meals in honor of Black History month in February.

February is Black History month and was first recognized as such by President Gerald Ford in 1976 and was later formally established by Congressional Joint resolution 74 and Presidential Proclamation 5443 in 1986 by President Ronald Reagan. This is the same year Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday became a national holiday. It is important to recognize and celebrate the diversity of our comrades; we all come from different racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. While we salute our diversity, we never forget the bond as comrades in arms that brings us together as members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

During this month take some time to learn about the heroes in Black Military history that have



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 Carl Richardson
Asst. Service Officer Tami Brown
House Committee Chairman . Joe Saitta
Past Commander . . Thomas Williams, Jr.

exemplified what selfless service means. People like the members of the 369th Infantry Regiment who served on the front lines for 191 days during World War I, longer than any other American unit. In that time, the Soldiers of the regiment, known as the "Harlem Hellfighters," never gave up any ground they captured. People like Crispus Attucks, one of the first mortal casualties of the American Revolution, the 10th Cavalry Regiment known as the "Buffalo Soldiers", and Doris "Dorie" Miller awarded the Navy Cross in WWII for conspicuous gallantry during the attack on Pearl Harbor – for more on these stories and others try this link: <https://www.military.com/history/african-american-heroism-in-the-military>

A lot of our upcoming events for Department and National have been cancelled or rescheduled due to the pandemic, please be alert for announcements regarding planned events. Our VFW National Commander in Chief's Homecoming, originally planned for March has been re-scheduled to July 8-11, 2021 in Portsmouth, Virginia. Additional details will be shared once they are available. We have a Flag Retirement ceremony this month on President's Day, February 15th at 10:00 a.m. – please come out and join us at the pavilion if you are able.

Please continue to stay safe and remember situations change. To stay informed watch for emails via Constant Contact and check out what is happening on our post website and Facebook pages to stay updated and see all the latest happenings and pictures from events.

On the Web At: vfw1503.org

Follow and Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Veterans-of-Foreign-Wars-Post-1503-96167622773/>

Our Next Meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on 17 February at VFW Post 1503 in the B Hall to accommodate social distancing and will include a Zoom option for those who cannot attend in-person. Please follow CDC guidelines for face coverings and attend only if you are healthy and are not in a quarantine status due to travel or potential virus exposure.

Stay Healthy and Safe!

Tom Levitt
Post Commander
cdrpost1503@vfwva.org

BLACK HISTORY month

Special Menu

Thursday, February 4th & Tuesday, February 23rd

Fried Chicken, BBQ Ribs, Collard Greens,
Mac n Cheese, and Cornbread



VFW AUXILIARY

Greetings Auxiliary 1503!
Welcome to February – I don't know about you, but I would love a good blizzard right about now!

The return of our Auxiliary breakfast on the 16th was quite enjoyable! Eight of us gathered in the fireplace room at several tables, to maintain distancing rules. As always, Erin and staff took great care of us – the food is good, it's reasonably priced and the service is fast. We also had a couple of hubbies join us! Next breakfast is on the 20th – hope to see you there!

DID YOU KNOW? The VFW Auxiliary has a singing contest for children! A fantastic way to spread Patriotism through song!

Youth ages six to 16 are encouraged to enter the VFW Auxiliary National Anthem singing contest.

Get Excited for the RED WHITE and BLUE!

Contestants may sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" in the arrangement and genre of their choice: rock, pop, reggae, R&B, hip-hop, country, classical and other genres are accepted. However, they can't change the words! There is a \$1,000 national prize and 10 winners will each receive a \$100 prize.

Entry will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value. Contestant must live or attend school in the state of the sponsoring VFW Auxiliary. The first-place winner from each state competes for National awards totaling \$2,000.

Open to any youth ages six to 16 at the time of local entry, and a U.S. citizen or U.S. national.

Does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate, but the student must submit entries to a local VFW Auxiliary by March 31, 2021.

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



The Star Spangled Banner



Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight;
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming.
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Our membership remains strong, however, 38 new or rejoin members are needed for our Auxiliary to reach our goal of 100%. Please keep speaking to friends, neighbors and relatives about the benefits of membership and the FuN we have working together to serve Veterans. And don't forget about our Recruiting Challenge!

Nominations for 2021-2022 Auxiliary 1503 Officers are quickly approaching! How would you like to help? Typically, each current position moves up to the next position. However, any member in good standing may run for any office – if you have an interest and would like more information, please ask! Our Auxiliary needs you!

The Post will conduct a Flag Retirement Ceremony on February 15th at 10:00 am in the Pavilion. All Auxiliary members are invited and encouraged to attend. This is also an excellent experience for children to learn about what happens to all those worn and tattered flags.

Thank you to all our Chairman who have promoted the National programs and sent a report to the Department Chairman. If you have not yet done so and need help or have questions, please let me know. Reporting the hours and the work we do is part of what gives the VFW such a huge voice on Capitol Hill – as they continually fight for the rights and benefits our Veterans are so deserving of.

The Department of Virginia Commander, President and MOCA President Homecoming scheduled for later this month has been cancelled. Our National President, Sandra Onstwedder is due to arrive sometime this coming weekend to the VA Beach area. Her visit to VA was to coincide with the Homecoming. As of this writing, the detailed plans of her visit have not been disseminated, and most likely will be extremely altered and limited to folks wanting to visit the various Posts. As information becomes available, I will pass it along to those interested in attending any of the functions scheduled for her.

On a personal note, words cannot begin to express my deepest, heartfelt gratitude shown to myself and my family over the past several weeks, after the unexpected passing of my Mother – Auxiliary 1503 Life Member, Rosemary Guthrie. Your love and friendship have helped to sustain me during this most difficult time in my life. I am grateful to each of you.

Please remember to update your contact information, as needed, in Malta, www.vfwauxiliary.org or with me for Constant Contact.

To be included on Chaplain alerts, please contact Glorious at auxilliary1503chaplain@gmail.com

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. I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meeting, if not sooner!

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

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

Feb 14th ~ Valentine's Day

Feb 15th ~ Flag Retirement 10:00 am

Feb 17th ~ Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm

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

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Patriots:

We had a good meeting in January and approved our standing motion for activities that we plan on donating money to if available in 2021. We will donate \$250 to VFW Post 1503 for Christmas Food Baskets program, \$100 to the Dale City 4th of July Parade, sponsor a hole in the Voice of Democracy Golf Tournament with donation of \$100, sponsor two \$500 JROTC scholarships to two deserving college bound students, donate \$100 to the Sgt Mac Foundation, donate not to exceed \$1,000 to help support Purple Heart Day at Mount Vernon and purchase Leadership Awards as required for the JROTC High School programs. We also conducted an audit of our checking account during the meeting. We discussed the activities that we will try to participate in during the 2021 pandemic world. We agreed that it would depend on how safe it is for our Patriots. We also are reaching out to see if there are any Patriots or Patriot families that need assistance, please let us know if you are aware of any. The last item discussed was our upcoming election next month. If any Chapter Patriot would like to volunteer to run for any office, please come to our February meeting.

The next Chapter Meeting is on Saturday, February 20th. 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

Valentine's Day

~ Sunday, February 14th ~



Breakfast Specials

Eggs Benedict

Steak and Eggs

Chicken and Waffles

Waffles with Strawberries

and Whipped Cream

French Toast

Omelettes

Sausage Gravy and Much More!

FACILITY HAPPENINGS

Here ye, here ye. Goodbye 2020, hello 2021. At least I hope it's going to be better than what we had to put up with last year.

As I'm writing this article we are still in Phase 3 with various restrictions still in place. Good news, members are getting their first vaccine shots as of this week and that has to help in our quest to get back to normal.

In the meantime due to restrictions we are going to have to slim down two of our usually bigger events this month.

Feb 4th ~ BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL MENU ~ Fried Chicken, BBQ Ribs, Collard Greens, Mac and Cheese and Cornbread.

Feb 7th ~ SUPER BOWL ~ Food will be made available to members and guest 1 hour prior to kickoff and served till start of half time. Kitchen will be open to order off menu for duration of game. Reminder, the 10 o'clock no alcohol could dampen the number of people here and it will be the bartenders call for closing time.

Feb 14th ~ VALENTINES BREAKFAST SPECIAL MENU SERVED 9AM TO 12PM ~ Eggs Benedict, Steak and eggs, Chicken and waffles, Waffles with strawberry and whip cream. Bacon or links, French toast, Western omelet home fries or grits and toast, Ham and Cheese Omelet home fries or grits and toast, 2 eggs with bacon or links home fries or grits and toast, Sausage gravy home fries or grits.

Feb 23rd ~ BLACK HISTORY MENU SEE ABOVE WITH SLIGHT VARIATIONS.

Also the daily contact book that we are asking everyone to sign in on when they visit the Post does not require your phone number in case that is an issue with you, only your name and time arrived is requested. If you want to also leave your phone number so we can call you if there is a reported Corona 19 exposure that is brought to our attention would help us reach you.

John Meehan
Facility Manager



MOC / MOCA



Salutations from the MOC and MOCA! The good works keep on coming as we continue our onward march through the Pandemic era! The January Scratch was successful, and we came up with some new ideas for things we can do for our veterans in the new year!

Same song and dance once again, the visitation restriction policies at McGuire VA Hospital are still in effect – but we are beginning to employ some tactics that we gathered from reading stuff that other MOC Pup Tents are doing across the country: we will be buying a ton of greeting cards to send down to our veterans at McGuire with all kinds of great messages. If you would like to donate any greeting cards to send with ours or perhaps throw in a few bucks to help us augment what we are purchasing – any help would certainly be welcome!

Another new thing we are implementing for the foreseeable future: Driveway Visits to local veterans to spend time with them and bring them any needed supplies! We have a few vets already in mind and are working on scheduling our visits... if you have anybody you would like to recommend for the visits, please let us know. Also – if you want to join us on our visits, the more the merrier!

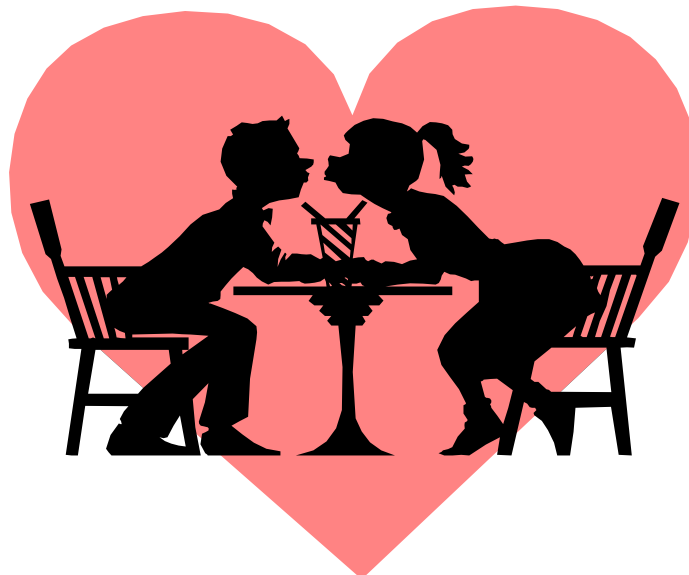
Let us keep in mind all our family and friends that have had rough times in the last year. Family passing away or ailing – people suffering from the pandemic in many ways – a myriad of other reasons – please keep everyone in your prayers. From all the MOC and MOCA, you have our thoughts and prayers always.

As always, take care of yourself, your families, your friends, and your fellow veterans in this pandemic era. All the best to everyone in these trying times! If there is anything we can do to help, please feel free to contact us and will do our best to give you all the support we can!

We Are Better Together!

Ben Guinan
MOC Seam Squirrel
guinanbt@gmail.com

Doris Miller
MOCA President
dorisasmussen1951@outlook.com



New Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions

As part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, (NDAA) (H.R. 6395) the following three conditions have been authorized by Congress to be added to the Agent Orange presumptive conditions list:

- Bladder cancer
- Hypothyroidism
- Parkinson's or Parkinson's like symptoms

National Veterans Service (NVS) is still waiting for VA to officially announce these additions to the presumptive conditions list and for information on how they will process these claims; once that information becomes available, NVS will further inform me to pass on to you. However, if I am currently, or will be working with a Veteran who has been diagnosed with one or more of the above conditions due to herbicide exposure, I would like to encourage you to file a claim with me or call VA at 1-800-827-1000 to initiate an Intent to File (ITF) as soon as possible in order to protect the Veteran's effective date.

For the current listing of presumptive conditions related to herbicide exposure, please visit <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/esposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp> (Please note that the VA has not updated their website to reflect the new additions to this list yet.

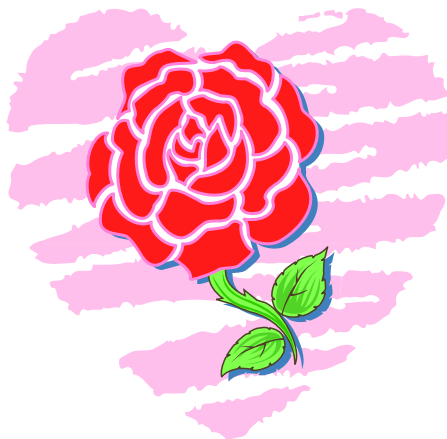
What are Presumptive Conditions:

VA presumes that certain disabilities were caused by military service. This is because of the unique circumstances of a specific Veteran's military service. If a presumed condition is diagnosed in a Veteran in a certain group, they can be awarded disability compensation. Veterans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange include Veterans who served in different locations, including Vietnam, the Korean Demilitarized Zone, on Thai Air Force bases, at other locations, who flew on or worked on C-123 Aircraft, and recently identified Blue Water Navy Veterans.

VA is aware of the provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA) concerning presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange. VA is in the process of reviewing to determine the next steps and will provide additional information as soon as it is available.

If this may concern you, please email Tami Brown at: tbrown@vfwva.org

Tami Brown
Assistant Service Officer



Feb

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Groundhog Day BINGO 7:30	3	4 BINGO 7:30 Black History Month Special Menu	5	6 Breakfast 9-12:00 NO Wings
7 Breakfast 9-12:00 Super Bowl	8	9 BINGO 7:30	10 MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm	11 BINGO 7:30	12	13 Breakfast 9-12:00 NO Wings
14 Breakfast 9-12:00 Valentine's Day Breakfast Special Menu	15 President's Day Flag Retirement Ceremony 10:00	16 BINGO 7:30	17 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	18 BINGO 7:30	19	20 Breakfast 9-12:00 Purple Heart Mtg. NO Wings
21 Breakfast 9-12:00	22	23 BINGO 7:30 Black History Month Special Menu	24	25 BINGO 7:30	26	27 Breakfast 9-12:00 NO Wings
28 Breakfast 9-12:00					We are No Longer Accepting Wooden Nickels	

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

February 17th

www.vfw1503.org

