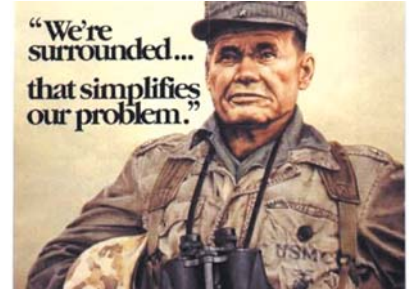




VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®

JUN 22



General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

Post 1503

14631 MINNIEVILLE ROAD • DALE CITY, VIRGINIA 22193 • 703.670.4124
vfw1503.org

CANTEEN HOURS: Mon 12 PM - 11 PM • Tues 12 PM - 12 AM • Wed 12 PM - 11 PM
Thur 12 PM - 12 AM • Fri 12 PM - 12:30 AM • Sat 9 AM - 12:30 AM • Sun 9 AM - 7 PM

COMMANDER'S CORNER



POST OFFICERS

Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

As I write my last newsletter article as Post Commander I am filled with mixed emotions; pride, sadness and relief. Proud to have been given the opportunity to serve, sad to see it end, and relieved to have a break and be passing the gavel on to Bernie Carter who will be a great Commander and bring a fresh perspective to the podium. It has been both fulfilling and challenging the last two years, leading us out of the pandemic and back into more normal operations, working with the Board and Facility Manager to continuously improve our facility and operations while constantly managing the expectations of all the members.

- Post Commander Tom Levitt
Senior Vice Bernie Carter
Junior Vice Ben Guinan
Quartermaster Carl Richardson
Judge Advocate Star Martinez
Surgeon Robert Adamczyk
Chaplain Ed Bennett
3 Year Trustee John Dodge
2 Year Trustee Tom Gimble
1 Year Trustee Ron Laney
Adjutant Randy Coker
Service Officer Raymond Bailey
House Committee Chair . . . Lionel Ward
Past Commander . . Thomas Williams, Jr.

I must thank all those who helped and mentored me along the way and provided sage advice. There is no shortage of experience in our Post and I relied on others experience to help inform my decisions. I cannot enumerate everyone who helped me the last two years or this article would be massive but I will thank one person in particular – Auxiliary President Kelli Levitt. The last two years she has been my advisor, counselor, cheerleader and compass, often helping me to stay on track or get back on track but most importantly she has been my best friend, partner and loving wife. Thank you, Madame President!!

Looking back over the past month we have been very busy. May always seems to be the point at which the Post really starts to generate momentum with all of the happenings. We had our inaugural VFW Day of Service, District 10 Convention and a packed Memorial Day Weekend. Thanks to all who came out and supported our various efforts, from the Day of Service, Buddy Poppys to Flags in at Quantico Cemetery and our Memorial Day Ceremonies and Picnic. We also lost Comrades and Auxiliary members this past month – Comrade Paul Villare with his matter-of-fact wit and Auxiliary Sister Sarah Dugas with her ever optimistic smile. They will be greatly missed!

This month we have a lot of activities including the 78th D-Day Commemoration on 6 June and the Department Convention 10-12 June where the gavel officially transfers to Bernie Carter and my tenure ends. We will also celebrate Flag Day and the Army birthday on 14 June and hold the Army



Birthday Ball on 18 June. Don't forget Father's Day and Lionel "Elvis" Ward's Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser the last two weeks of the month as we continue our momentum into the Summer.

Lastly, a special thanks goes to Ron "Papa Six" Laney who will be ending his tenure of over 20 years on the Board of Directors in various positions including four times as an All-American Post Commander. Our post owes a great debt of gratitude to Papa Six for the countless hours he has volunteered in service to the Post. He is a fixture here and we will still be seeing him around the Post but it is his time for a much-deserved break. Thank You Sir for all that you do and have done!!

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 15 June at VFW Post 1503 in the meeting room. Please follow CDC recommendations and attend only if you are healthy.

Stay Healthy and Safe!



Tom Levitt
Post Commander
cdrpost1503@vfwva.org





VFW AUXILIARY

UNWAVERING SUPPORT

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

Here we are Auxiliary 1503 Brothers & Sisters – at the beginning of the halfway mark of the year! Why does time pass so darn quickly? Like with most everything in life, one thing ends and another begins. The Auxiliary year ends June 30 – and begins anew on July 1 – so let’s get to it, shall we?



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

- President Kelli Levitt
- Sr. Vice President . . . Elizabeth Marlowe
- Jr. Vice President Deborah Nichols
- Secretary Pam Salyers
- Treasurer Karla Coker
- Chaplain Michael Alicea
- Conductress Jan Kiecker
- Guard Donna Morton
- 1st Yr Trustee Monika Walczyk
- 2nd Yr Trustee Janell Garland
- 3rd Yr Trustee Patricia Wootten
- Historian Joyce Gibbs
- Patriotic Instructor Regina Meehan

Welcome to our new members _ Marianna, Marifel, Fely, Mario, Erin, Natalee, Mary, Brian, Sandra, Ben, Crystal, Patricia, Leah and Christopher. With the addition of these 14 members – our membership stands at 996 – just over 107% for the year! How about a celebration party/get together when we reach 1,000 members?!

May was a very busy month, with many opportunities for our members to be involved in various events.



Starting off the month was the joint VFW/AUX Installation of Officers. Well attended and great to be able to have an “old normal,” in person function again. A very sincere thank you to Betty for being our Installing Officer, again!

The #stillserving Community Support Grant that our Auxiliary received and I spoke about last month, was delivered to NVTRP, along with lunch that we provided for the hard working Comrades and Auxiliary members who came out to volunteer around the farm.

828 Flags were retired on the 14th! There

were five of us who attended the “flag prep party” and two for the Ceremony.

I would like to give a HUGE SHOUT OUT to Auxiliary Life Member, Jimmy Novak! You have most likely seen him around the Post doing one of several hundred jobs! Jimmy wears so many hats and does so many things at Post 1503; it is hard to miss him. Whether doing repairs, updating signs, lugging boxes from the attic or hanging pictures, it is always done with a smile.



Thank you Jimmy, for all you do!



District 10 President and our very own Betty Gimble had a great District 10 Convention on the 15th. Again, a very well attended event with many of our Auxiliary members nominated and elected to positions within the District. Congratulations!

The month of May was also a time to say good-bye to our beloved friend, life member and past Auxiliary 1503 and District 10 President, Sarah Dugas. Our members performed the

Auxiliary Memorial Service and our Chaplain Michael led the Funeral Service. Sarah was a special lady, and will be missed by those who knew her.

Thank you to all who participated in the “Flags In” event at Quantico National Cemetery, led by Humana and CVAMC. Our Auxiliary members helped to place Flags for our departed 1503 Comrades and their family members.

Thanks to several Auxiliary members who volunteered to help with the Buddy Poppy Drive.

After a 2 year absence, the Memorial Day Ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery returned in person this year. Pam and I were honored to represent our Auxiliary, carrying our Flags.

More thanks to those who helped staff the Auxiliary recruiting table at the Post 1503 annual Memorial Day BBQ/Open House. We had the opportunity to speak to many guests and listen to lots of kiddos recite the Pledge of Allegiance!

The 18th is our Auxiliary breakfast. Hope you will join us. It really is a fun way to spend an hour or so on a Saturday morning!

We had hoped to have a visit to an Assisted Living Facility in May. However, it did not work out. Working on a date for later this month.

The Department Convention is June 10-12. I believe there are no hotel rooms at the Renaissance, and the deadline for pre-registration has passed – BUT, there are other hotels close by, and you may register on site. If you would like information, please let me know.

The 2022-2023 planning meeting is coming up and I would love to have your input on ideas for our Auxiliary. In addition, July will be here soon, and there are many Chairman Positions available – please consider helping, as it should not be left up to one or two people.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at Lionel Ward's annual Breast Cancer Fundraiser on the 25th. Held in honor and memory of his wife, Barbi, it is sure to be a rocki'í good time!

To sign up for Auxiliary 1503 Chaplain alerts – please contact Chaplain Michael at Auxiliarychaplain1503@gmail.com

This is the last month for the current year for our Volunteer Incentive Program. All events for the 4th quarter (APR-JUN) must be submitted to Elizabeth via google forms by CoB on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. Information and the forms link are here: [Volunteer Incentive Program](#)

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

JUN 6th	78th D-Day Remembrance Ceremony
JUN 10-12	Department Convention
JUN 14th	Flag Day
JUN 14th	Army Birthday
JUN 15th	Auxiliary Meeting
JUN 18th	Auxiliary Breakfast
JUN 18th	Army Birthday Ball
JUN 19th	Father's Day
JUN 25th	Barbi's Breast Cancer Fundraiser

If you have not attended a meeting since joining, please do so! We have a welcome bag for you and would like to meet 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. I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meeting, if not sooner!

Loyally, **Kelli Levitt**
VFW 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

VFW POST 1503 INTERVIEW PROJECT



You are invited to follow along as VFW 1503 Auxiliary SVP Elizabeth continues her interview series. Her writings will grow into a collection of the rich histories and experiences of our beloved combat veterans. Please click [HERE](#) to read about her interview with [Lou](#).

If you would like to share your story, you may reach Elizabeth at mrs.elizabeth.marlowe@gmail.com

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

On 10 June 2022, at 1100 hrs, the Missing In America Project will lay-to-rest at Quantico National Cemetery the previously unclaimed remains of 6 veterans (2 Navy, 1 Marine, 1 Army, 1 Air Force, and 1 Coast Guard). Everyone is welcome.

The mission of the Missing In America Project is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed remains of veterans and their eligible dependents. We are a 100% all volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. In Virginia, we have, so far, visited 132 funeral homes, mortuaries, crematoriums, coroner's offices, Sheriff's Office, etc., and located 711 unclaimed remains. Of those unclaimed remains, we've identified and interred 232 veterans and 28 spouses. Additionally, in cooperation with the National Park Services, the Virginia Missing In America Project has interred (at a local cemetery) 84 remains that were left at The Wall.

Any questions, please contact [Forrest Lingenfelter](#), Virginia State Coordinator, 703-407-5356.

Respectfully,
[Forrest Lingenfelter](#)
VFW Post 1503 Member



Flag Day





VFW June Entertainment

All DJs and Bands start at 8pm
Friday and Saturday nights

Friday Night June 3rd

DJ T

Dance and Karaoke!

Saturday Night June 4th

DJ Michael

Dance and Karaoke!

Friday Night June 10th

DJ Joe Clay

Joeyoke & Dance Music

Saturday Night June 11th

DJ Michael

All 70's/80's Karaoke & Dance Party!
Dress up for the decade you like!

Friday Night June 17th

DJ Steve

Video Dance Music

Saturday Night June 18th

DJ Check

Dance and Karaoke!

Friday Night June 24th

DJ Joe Clay

Joeyoke & Dance Music

Saturday Night June 25th

The Winstons

Old School Motown Review!

FACILITY HAPPENINGS

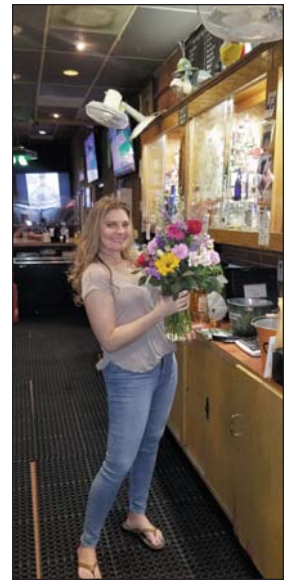
Last month I told you that we were close to getting the new door Access system up and running. Well, didn't happen for a variety of reasons, I am hoping this will be finished in June and I can report next month about how we are doing with the implementation.

At last month's membership meeting it was approved for COMCAST to replace our old system with a new FIBEROPTIC one, that will make visiting here (wi-fi) and our working environment much improved. Tentative install date is July 7th.

Trying to keep lines from forming at the well section of the bar especially on Friday and Saturday nights. Menus' will be placed on tables in the canteen and dining area for your use to look over to help you make your selection before you go to the bar to place your order. A lot going on for bartenders on duty, with seated bar customers, wall and tab machine pay outs, etc.

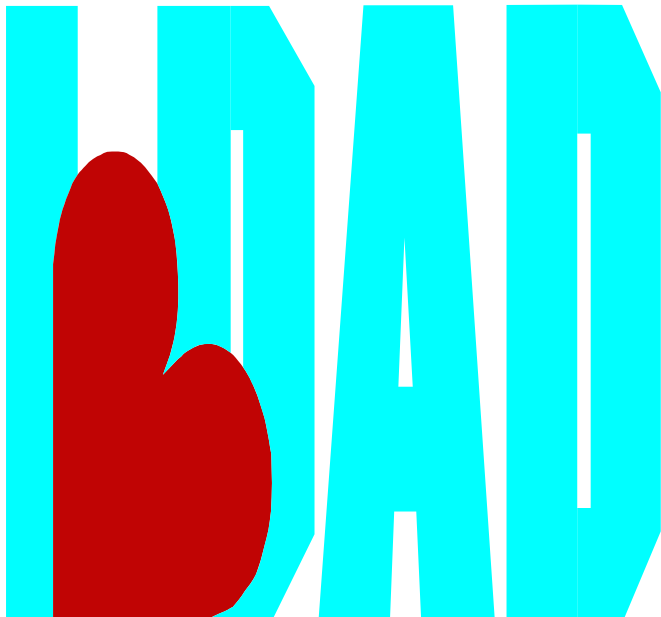
On that same note, to all members, please do not congregate in front of the bar to talk unless you are just saying hello and passing by the area. This is only adding to the line back up in the same area, where customers are confused where the line starts and makes it harder on the staff to effect service in a timely manner.

Please see flyers/calendar on back page for upcoming entertainment and events.



John Meehan
Facility Manager

Father's Day Breakfast Specials



Sunday, June 19th
9 AM to 12 Noon

Steak Burrito \$8.95

Steak -n-Cheese
Omelette \$7.95

Meat Lovers
Breakfast \$10.95

Regular Breakfast Menu Also Available

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

There is no official record of every Purple Heart medal presented to an American Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Airman, Guardian or Coast Guardsman. The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor estimates nearly two million Purple Heart medals have been awarded to worthy American service members since the military decoration was established in 1932. The estimated number of Purple Heart Medals awarded in each US war:

- The Revolutionary War: 3 Purple Hearts
- World War I: 320,000 Purple Hearts
- World War II: 1 Million Purple Hearts
- Korean War: 118,600 Purple Hearts
- Vietnam War: 351,000 Purple Hearts
- Persian Gulf War: 607 Purple Hearts
- War in Afghanistan: 12,500 Purple Hearts
- Iraq War: 35,000 Purple Hearts



As I prepare this article during the National Month of Military Appreciation, I want to say “thank you” to all our veterans that served our country and took care of their battle buddies in peacetime and in war throughout the history of our great country. No one that hasn’t served will never understand our bond as brother and sisters in uniform.

I say “thank you” to all the friends, neighbors, and businesses that assist our military and veteran families. You will never know how much your support helps to make a difference in the lives of our military families.

I say “thank you” to all the spouses and dependents that endured missed vacations, birthdays, anniversaries, and countless other family things due to the obligations of their service member. By keeping the home front stable you allowed us to focus on the mission of the day.

I say “thank you” to all the service members wounded in action. I am humbled when I hear your stories how you were injured, your journeys through rehab and recovery, and what you have and still are accomplishing in your lives since being wounded.

To our fallen and the loved ones they left behind I say “thank you”, there is nothing I can do that will ever repay the debt owed you, but I will continue to try. Your sacrifice will not be forgotten!

All Gave Some, Some Gave All!



Yours in Patriotism,
Dom Dionne
Commander
Chapter 1775



MOC / MOCA



Greetings from the MOC/MOCA! We had a lousy turnout for our May scratch! It was your faithful narrator's penultimate scratch as Seam Squirrel. I want to thank every Cootie for all the work you have done and the camaraderie we have shared over my two-year tenure! I look forward to handing the keys over to the most lousy incoming Seam Squirrel Robert "Check" Adamczyk. I know that we will have continued success as a pup tent under his leadership.



May was indeed a busy month for our cootie crew! Here are a few of things we cooties got up to: Cooties were there to help prep flags and take part in the Post's Flag Retirement ceremony!

We had a strong Cootie turnout for the VFW's inaugural Day of Service! Working with the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP), soon to be rebranded as Cloverleaf Equine Center, we helped rebuild fences around the property. It was a lot of work,

but it was very much worth the effort and I'm sure that we will be working with them again in the future.

The MOC/MOCA Flea Market was very successful! A special shoutout to MOCA President Susan Adamczyk for organizing the event... there were people and vendors everywhere! And I must say, the food we had for everyone was wonderful! Thank you to our Sky Pilot Ed Bennett and the crew that manned the steamers and kept the line moving! We were able to generate somewhere north of \$1,000 from the event to go towards our programs supporting our veteran brethren in hospitals and hospice. Thank you to all the Cooties and everyone else that took part in the event!



There were Cooties everywhere over the Memorial Day weekend! Yours truly and some other Cooties got vamped at the Red Cross Blood Drive on 28 May 2022. The Buddy Poppy Drive over the whole weekend was invested with Cooties. The Memorial Day Flags-In at Quantico National Cemetery... yep... you guessed it... Cooties were honored to be on the scene. No one does more for veterans than the VFW and the Cooties are proud to do our part!

We are always looking to increase and multiply! If you have the volunteering spirit and drive, you are an ideal candidate for Cootieship! If you are interested in learning about the MOC and/or MOCA, reach out to a Cootie! We are a bunch of crazy, fun-loving, and dedicated veterans that are always looking for other likeminded people to help further our mission to "Keep them smiling in beds of white"!

As always, take care of yourself, your families, your friends, and your fellow veterans in this pandemic era. Even though COVID rates are dropping, particularly in the Prince William County area, stay diligent... it is still out there! 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 we will do our best to give you all the support we can.

From all the MOC and MOCA, you have our thoughts and prayers always. We are better together!

We Are Better Together!

Ben Guinan
MOC Seam Squirrel
guinanbt@gmail.com

Susan Adamczyk
MOCA President
rednomore@gmail.com

247th Army Birthday Ball



Saturday, June 18, 2022 1830
Semi-Formal VFW Post 1503
14631 Minnieville Road Dale City,
VA 22193

<https://247tharmybirthdayballatvfw1503.eventbrite.com>

Environmental Health Registry Evaluation for Veterans

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/benefits/registry-evaluation.asp>

VA's Health Registry Evaluation is a free, voluntary medical assessment for Veterans who may have been exposed to certain environmental hazards during military service. The evaluations alert the Veterans to possible long-term health problems that may be related to exposure to specific environmental hazards during their military service. VA has established several health registries to track and monitor the health of specific groups of Veterans. The registry data helps VA understand and respond to these health problems more effectively.

You may be eligible to participate in one or more of these health registries:

- Agent Orange Registry (/exposures/agentorange/benefits/registry-exam.asp)
- Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry (<https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry>)
- Gulf War Registry (/exposures/gulfwar/benefits/registry-exam.asp) (includes Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn)
- Ionizing Radiation Registry (/exposures/radiation/benefits/registry-exam.asp)
- Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program (/exposures/depleted_uranium/followup_program.asp)
- Toxic Embedded Fragment Surveillance Center (/exposures/toxic_fragments/surv_center.asp)

Use the chart below to help determine your eligibility.

Period of Military Service	Agent Orange	Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit	Depleted Uranium Follow-up	Gulf War	Ionizing Radiation	Toxic Embedded Fragments
1940s–1950s					•	
1960s	•				•	
1970s	•					
1990s		•	•	•		
2000s–Present		•	•	•		•

Contact your local VA Environmental Health Coordinator (/exposures/coordinators.asp) about getting a registry evaluation or call 1-804-675-6656 (Debra Williams, debra.williams9@va.gov). You do not need to enroll in VA's health care system to take part.

The registry evaluation is separate from VA's disability compensation process and does not confirm exposure to environmental hazards during military service. Veterans who want to be considered for disability compensation for exposure-related health problems must file a claim for disability compensation. During the claims process, VA will check military records to verify exposure to the claimed environmental hazard or qualifying military service. If necessary, VA will set up a specific compensation examination.

FROM THE DESK OF:

Raymond A. Bailey, Assistant Department Service Officer

VFW Post 1503

adsodalecity@vfwva.org

(703) 670-4124, ext 6



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Wacky Wacky Seafood</i>	2 BINGO 7:30	3 DJ T FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	4 DJ Michael Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
5 Breakfast 9-12:00	6	7 BINGO 7:30	8 <i>Wacky Wacky Pot Luck</i> MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm	9 BINGO 7:30	10 DJ Joe Clay FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	11 DJ Michael Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
12 Breakfast 9-12:00	13	14 Flag Day BINGO 7:30	15 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	16 BINGO 7:30	17 DJ Steve FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	18 DJ Check Breakfast 9-12 AUX Breakfast Purple Heart WINGS 6:00-8:00
19 Father's Day Breakfast 9-12:00	20	21 BINGO 7:30	22 <i>Wacky Wacky Seafood</i>	23 BINGO 7:30	24 DJ Joe Clay FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	25 The Winstons Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
26 Breakfast 9-12:00	27	28 BINGO 7:30	29	30 BINGO 7:30		

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

June 15TH

vfw1503.org

WACKY WACKY WEDNESDAY'S ... NOW THREE TIMES A MONTH!!!

June 1st ... Seafood Specials

Steamed Shrimp	\$10.95
Fried Catfish with Hush Puppies	\$10.95
Lobster Ravioli	\$10.95

June 8th ... **HAMBURGER Extravaganza**

A Variety of Burgers	\$9.95 each
Choice of Tater Tots, Fried Chips, Steak Fries or French Fries	

June 22nd ... Seafood Specials

Steamed Shrimp	\$10.95
Fish 'N' Chips	\$10.95
Bang Bang Shrimp	\$10.95

Plus ... Kim's Famous Margarita's

12 Noon until Supplies are Gone