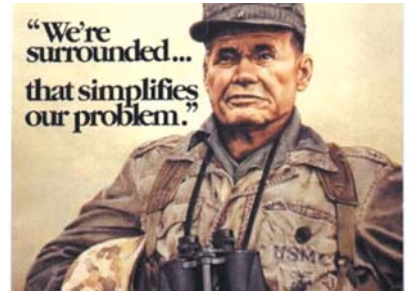




AUGUST 23

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503



General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

1463 I 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

Team,

Greetings and Salutations! Hot Hot Hot! As we celebrate, what I consider the "real" arrival of summer and its sweltering heat, it brings me great joy to share the recent happenings and upcoming events at our Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post.

Let's recap a minute here — we kicked off the month of July with a bang, quite literally, as we proudly participated in the Dale City, Virginia Independence Day Parade. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our commitment to our nation's values and honor the veterans who have fought for our freedom. Walking/riding alongside fellow veterans and supporters, our post demonstrated the unity and strength that defines the VFW.

Continuing in the spirit of camaraderie and community engagement, we hosted our highly anticipated VFW Post 1503 Open House Community Picnic. We estimated over 500 attendees enjoyed a festive event that included plenty of food and drink, an ice cream truck, popcorn, a petting zoo, a dunk tank (I was dunked 6 times myself), and a giant slide and whack-a-mole activity for kids.

- Post Commander . . . . . Bernie Carter
Senior Vice . . . . . Ben Guinan
Junior Vice . . . . . Star Martinez
Quartermaster . . . . . Carl Richardson
Judge Advocate . . . . . Robert Adamczyk
Surgeon . . . . . Dan Walczyk
Chaplain . . . . . Ed Bennett
3 Year Trustee . . . . . Danny Gibbs
2 Year Trustee . . . . . Tim Brown
1 Year Trustee . . . . . John Dodge
Adjutant . . . . . Randy Coker
Service Officer . . . . . Raymond Bailey
House Committee Chair . . . . . Lionel Ward
Past Commander . . . . . Tom Levitt



hope many won't forget.

Finishing up the month, we had over 14 Post, Auxiliary, and or Cootie members attend the opening of the 124th Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention in Phoenix, AZ. Representing our post on a national stage, we shared experiences and ideas with VFW members from across the country. The convention provided valuable insights that will further enhance our ability to support our veterans and their families. I'm especially proud to announce that Post 1503 Senior Vice, Ben Guinan, in his District capacity was awarded All-American District 10 Commander for the year 2022-2023. At the Military Order of the Cootie (MOC) Supreme Convention, Ben Guinan received the All-Star Grand Commander for the MOC at the State level 2022-2023. Also recognized were Ken Eggers, awarded All-Star Grand Adjutant and Marcia Eggers, awarded All-Star Grand Quartermaster. Not to be outdone, Post 1503 Judge Advocate, Robert "Check" Adamczyk was awarded All-Star Seam Squirrel as part of the MOC for Pup Tent 14 2022-2023. Well done guys and Bravo Zulu!

Comrades and Auxiliary, we are adding a new twist to our repertoire of activities. This Sunday, the 6th of August, we will bring **BAR BINGO** to our Social Quarters/Canteen for your enjoyment. What is **BAR BINGO** you say? **BAR BINGO** is a traditional Bingo but with a twist. You're playing bingo at no cost to yourself, while listening to hip music and a chance to win Knick knack prizes, sweet treats and small gadgets. It's entertainment at its best and we are offering it to you, our members. For more information, please contact our house committee chairman, Mr. Lionel Ward (aka) Elvis at [kittenproductions@cox.net](mailto:kittenproductions@cox.net) or call at 703-868-6478.

In conclusion, and in our commitment to modernization and providing the best possible experiences for our members and community, we are proud to announce the installment of the new **Max Flash Bingo** system that will take place in the **A&B Halls August 4th through the 9th**. This cutting-edge hardware and software combination takes our traditional bingo experience to a whole new level, bringing it to life with a modern digital presentation. We believe this system will enrich the gaming experience and appeal to people of all ages. **During the installment, I ask that you please avoid the area in order to allow for an orderly progression of work. We need this to be done on time!**

### UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AUGUST 2023

- 4 Aug – Coast Guard Birthday observed
- 5 Aug – National Purple Heart Day: Mt. Vernon, Va.
- 6 Aug – Bar Bingo – Canteen 1400
- 12 Aug – Band of Brothers Poker Run (Pavilion)
- 18 Aug – VFW Post 1503 Golf Tournament (Forest Greens Golf Course)
- 20 Aug – District 10 School of Instruction – A Hall 1030
- 20 Aug – District 10 Meeting Joint Opening – A Hall (Lunch 12/Meeting 1 p.m.)

And as we move forward into the next month, let us continue to stand together, united in our commitment to supporting veterans and their families. We are grateful for your ongoing support and dedication. Together, we make a difference. As always stay safe, continue to recruit and be kind to others. Speaking of recruiting, Post 1503 recruited 49 new members during the month of July, an outstanding achievement that continues to place us at the forefront of recruiting. And remember, first impressions are lasting and mean everything. To stay informed watch for emails via Constant Contact and check out what is happening on our post website and Facebook page. In addition, continue to review all the latest happenings and pictures from VFW Post 1503 events.

**Bernie Carter** - Post Commander  
[cdrpost1503@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrpost1503@vfwva.org)







## VFW AUXILIARY

Hello Auxiliary 1503 and Happy August to everyone – I hope that you are finding ways to keep cool – this heat is something else!

Our July meeting had another great turnout, with 28 members! Thanks to all who came and were engaged. Welcome to our newest members – Valerie, Samantha, Iris, Audrey, Sachiko and Deborah.

Auxiliary Breakfast on the 15th was fun. The ‘swap’ was great, and lots of things found a new home! Our next Breakfast is AUG 19th at 9:30, hope you will join us!

We had a blast at the Dale City 4th of July Parade! Venee, Brenda, Debbie, Jan, Patty, Karla and myself joined the Comrades, Honor Guard, MOC/MOCA, Purple Heart and Scouts to hand out candy to the hundreds of children who lined the parade route. Special thank you to Randy Coker for being our Chauffer and allowing us to decorate his vehicle and to Autumn for keeping our buckets full of candy!!

Back at the Post right after the Parade, many Auxiliary members volunteered at the BBQ. We sold raffle tickets, cooked, served, sang, danced, sweated, ate ice cream and visited with hundreds of friends! It was a great day that we were proud to support and be part of.

Susan, Laura, Brenda and myself, along with a huge contingent of Comrades & Auxiliary members from Virginia, traveled to Phoenix for the VFW/Auxiliary National Convention. I cannot express how insanely HOT it was!! They say ‘but it’s dry heat’ and to that I say, ‘so is fire’ – doesn’t mean we are supposed to walk into it!! Despite the crazy heat, it was a great time to be with friends, learn and come home excited, energized and ready to continue our mission of service.

Huge shout out and congratulations to the National FIRST place winner of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest – Alice Barron, who was sponsored by Auxiliary 1503. In June, Alice won first place in the Department judging, and has now earned a \$15,000 award from National!! You can see her drawing (of her Active Duty Father) on the VFW Auxiliary National FB page.

August 20th is our 10th District School of Instruction, at Post 1503. If you have not attended, please plan to! It is a fun and very informative day, packed full of information. The meeting begins at 10am, with free lunch at noon.

Do you have a login for Malta? What is Malta? It is access to resources, your information and more for the Auxiliary. [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org) You can pay your dues, request a replacement membership card and update your contact information.

Are you receiving Department of Virginia Auxiliary Monthly Communications? If not, you may sign up at [www.vfwauxva.org](http://www.vfwauxva.org)

Are you receiving Chaplain Alerts? If not, please email Chaplain Michael at [auxiliarychaplain1503@gmail.com](mailto:auxiliarychaplain1503@gmail.com)

Auxiliary 1503 will continue to place VFW Store orders, for our members at the end of each quarter. Link and details available here: [VFW STORE ORDER INFORMATION](#) [Store Items](#) [Store Order Form](#)

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!

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

## AUXILIARY OFFICERS

|                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>President</b> .....            | Kelli Levitt    |
| <b>Sr. Vice President</b> .....   | Deborah Nichols |
| <b>Jr. Vice President</b> .....   | Monika Walczyk  |
| <b>Secretary</b> .....            | Pamela Flores   |
| <b>Treasurer</b> .....            | Karla Coker     |
| <b>Chaplain</b> .....             | Michael Alicea  |
| <b>Conductress</b> .....          | Jan Kiecker     |
| <b>Guard</b> .....                | Gloria Wiley    |
| <b>1st Yr Trustee</b> .....       | Patty Wootten   |
| <b>2nd Yr Trustee</b> .....       | Gina Powers     |
| <b>3rd Yr Trustee</b> .....       | Rita Maldonado  |
| <b>Historian</b> .....            | Venee Alicea    |
| <b>Patriotic Instructor</b> ..... | Kimberly Murray |

Loyally, **Kelli Levitt**

VFW Auxiliary 1503 President

[itsmekelli@aol.com](mailto:itsmekelli@aol.com) • 703-895-8855

Over ➔



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*

Please like and follow our Facebook page!! **VFW Post 1503 - Auxiliary**



## **VFW POST 1503 INTERVIEW PROJECT**



You are invited to follow along as VFW Auxiliary 1503 member 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 her interview with **Victor**

If you would like to share your story, you may reach Elizabeth at [mrs.elizabeth.marlowe@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.elizabeth.marlowe@gmail.com)







## FACILITY HAPPENINGS

By now you probably have had enough already with the **HEAT**. This being August sure we have many more hot days to look forward to ha ha. We have air conditioner's that make everything bearable so don't shy away from coming out and spend time at the Post if you are looking for a place to stay cool and enjoy a drink or two and enjoy your day out.

August will have our annual golf outing on the 18th of the month. This year it will be at **FOREST GREEN** golf course. Please contact the Post if you wish to sign up (703-670-4124 x 2). We will be coming back to the V afterwards for your meal and presentations.

We are trying a temporary change in the Canteen to see if it helps with the log jam we get on the weekends (Friday-Saturday). The way the bar is configured everything is being pushed to the middle of the bar for drink, food ordering and gaming pay outs. We are going to request with sign's that from 6 pm to 10 pm on those nights we will be making a second area (in front of the POS terminal to the right of GOLD RAILS now in use. The GOLD RAILS during (6 pm to 10 pm) will be for **MIXED drink orders – food and gaming**. The NEW AREA to the right will be for **BEER-wine-food and gaming**. Your co-operation is appreciated.

Parking lot was resurfaced last month and re striped looks much better.

**BINGO** equipment being updated. Hall will not be available from Aug 4th thru the Aug 9th. Because of this **BINGO SESSIONS FOR THE AUGUST 7TH (KOC) AND AUG 8TH (VFW)** have been canceled. We expect to reopen for our **Thurs. AUG 10th** session.

Football season is right around the corner. We will still have the **NFL PACKAGE** (have already signed up for it). The recent change did not include **BUSINESS'S** only private direct tv viewers. More on this next month.



**John Meehan**  
Facility Manager

## MOC / MOCA

Comrades and Auxiliary members,

We had a great float in the annual 4th of July parade. Lots of candy was passed out by the MOC and MOCA walking (okay, running) along the parade route since we're no longer allowed to throw candy. Thanks to all that clowned up and/or helped out and made it happen! Pup Tent 14 was well represented at the Supreme Scratch last month. That's when Cooties from all over the world come together to vote on resolutions, bylaw changes, and to elect Supreme officers for the next year for the MOC and MOCA. We've received a wish list from McGuire VA Hospital for the Polytrauma and SCI wards and will be purchasing and providing items to Keep'em Smiling in Beds of White. Our Next Scratch will be on 9 August at our regular times (1900 MOCA, 1930 MOC). Come on out and join us!

***Closer than a Brother, Busier than a Bee!***

**Charles "Romeo" Marlowe**

MOC Seam Squirrel

[romeovfw1503@outlook.com](mailto:romeovfw1503@outlook.com)



**Laura Adamczyk**

MOCA President

[lauraadamczyk2@gmail.com](mailto:lauraadamczyk2@gmail.com)

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### Does God Want Us To Be Uncomfortable?

God's goal for us is to be "supremely blessed" or "more than happy" even when things aren't going the way we want them to go. God's desire is for us to have life and to have it more abundantly, to live in true happiness, and not just be temporarily happy. Those who seek God, and the things God loves, can know true happiness. However, we don't get happiness by aiming at it, but as by-product of worthy pursuits and commitments.

The challenge is, when we are comfortable, we are less likely to make the effort needed to pursue greater things. We can stay in our "happy place", or we can choose pursuits other than those that led us there. This brings us to a very simple truth: When God wants us to grow, He sometimes makes us uncomfortable, thereby enabling us to become more than we ever imagined possible.

When we face times of discomfort, we should consider what God might be trying to say to us, what God wants to do in us, or what God wants to do through us. During times of discomfort, God may be trying to:

- Move us into additional areas of service and increase our capacity to serve in greater ways.
- Have us change some old ways of thinking or behaving.
- Help us raise our sights beyond ourselves and see the needs of others.
- Transform our lives by revealing a harmful character trait.
- Push our perceived limits to grow beyond our current potential.

So the next time we find ourselves in an uncomfortable season in our lives, rather than say "Please God, help me", let us consider whether God may be behind it, and see where God may take us.

**PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, when life is uncomfortable, help me to see your hand at work in my life and what you are trying to communicate to me. Amen.

**Ed Bennett**  
Chaplain





# MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

7 August is National Purple Heart Day, there will be events scheduled across the state of Virginia and across the country. One of the most popular in the area will be held once again at Mount Vernon. This is special because not only was George Washington the Commanding General of the Continental Army and our first President, but he also created what we now know as the Purple Heart Medal.



The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of Virginia will celebrate the establishment of America's oldest military award, The Purple Heart Medal with various ceremonies to be held 4 & 5 August.

## 4 AUGUST

4:30pm-5:30pm Mount Vernon Inn bar: gathering for drinks prior to wreath laying ceremony

5:30pm-5:45pm Move to Purple Heart Monument by the Texas Gate (Main Gate Entrance)

6:00pm Wreath laying ceremony, followed by an after-hours tour of the mansion by Mount Vernon Docents.

There will be a presentation and rye whisky tasting included. Please register for tickets to attend at

<https://checkout.mountvernon.org/ph2023/wreathlaying>

## 5 AUGUST

10:30am Smith Auditorium: Mount Vernon's official National Purple Heart Day ceremony. Featured guest speaker is Army MAJ Nick Dockery. He is a Special Forces Officer, two-time Purple Heart recipient and two-time Silver Star awardee for combat service in Afghanistan.

12:00pm Mount Vernon Inn bar: reception for Purple Heart recipients and their guests. Visitors will be able to tour the Mount Vernon Mansion and Estate throughout the day. Please register for tickets at

<https://checkoutmountvernon.org/ph2023/commemoration>

***All Gave Some, Some Gave All!***

Yours in Patriotism,

**Dom Dionne**

Commander

Chapter 1775





# VFW August Entertainment

All DJs and Bands start at 8pm on Friday's and Saturday's

**Friday August 4th**

DJ Danny  
Dance Party

**Saturday August 5th**

Speak Easy Band  
Classic Rock, R&B, Country,  
and Blues music

**Friday August 11th**

DJ Michael  
Karaoke Dance Party

**Saturday August 12th**

Janus Project Band  
Classic Rock and Blues

**Friday August 18th**

DJ Steve Bolden  
Videos and Dance Music

**Saturday August 19th**

DJ T Play  
Dance and Karaoke!

**Friday August 25th**

DJ Kelly  
Dance Music!

**Saturday August 26th**

DJ Joe Clay  
Joeyoke & Dance Music





| Sunday   | Monday    | Tuesday                         | Wednesday  | Thursday                   | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|-----------|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|---|
|  |           | <b>1</b><br>BINGO<br>7:30       | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b><br>BINGO<br>7:30  | <b>4</b><br>DJ<br>Danny<br>FRIDAY<br>Dinners<br>5:00-8:00         | <b>5</b> <b>Speak<br/>Easy<br/>Band</b><br>Breakfast 9-12<br><b>WINGS</b><br>6:00-8:00          |
| <b>6</b><br>Breakfast<br>9-12:00<br><b>Bar Bingo</b><br>in the<br>Canteen<br>14:00 | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br><b>NO<br/>BINGO</b> | <b>9</b><br>MOCA 7:00 pm<br>MOC 7:30 pm                      | <b>10</b><br>BINGO<br>7:30 | <b>11</b><br>DJ<br>Michael<br>FRIDAY<br>Dinners<br>5:00-8:00      | <b>12</b> <b>Janus<br/>Project<br/>Band</b><br>Breakfast 9-12<br><b>WINGS</b><br>6:00-8:00      |
| <b>13</b><br>Breakfast<br>9-12:00  | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br>BINGO<br>7:30      | <b>16</b><br>Auxiliary<br>7:00 pm<br>Post Meeting<br>7:00 pm | <b>17</b><br>BINGO<br>7:30 | <b>18</b> DJ<br>Steve<br>Bolden<br>FRIDAY<br>Dinners<br>5:00-8:00 | <b>19</b> DJ<br>T Play<br>Breakfast 9-12<br>AUXILIARY<br>Breakfast<br><b>WINGS</b><br>6:00-8:00 |
| <b>20</b><br>Breakfast<br>9-12:00  | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b><br>BINGO<br>7:30      | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b><br>BINGO<br>7:30 | <b>25</b><br>DJ<br>Kelly<br>FRIDAY<br>Dinners<br>5:00-8:00        | <b>26</b><br>DJ<br>JoeClay<br>Breakfast 9-12<br><b>WINGS</b><br>6:00-8:00                       |
| <b>27</b><br>Breakfast<br>9-12:00  | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b><br>BINGO<br>7:30      | <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b><br>BINGO<br>7:30 |   |   |

# Veterans of Foreign Wars

## Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



**Next Monthly Meeting**

**August 16th**

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

Goodbye July...   
 **ALOHA** August!