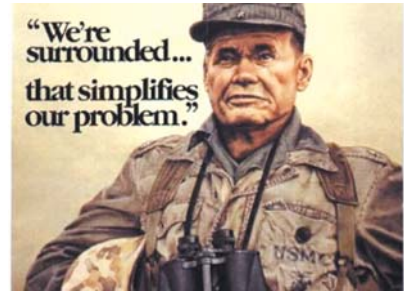




VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503

DEC 23



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



Team,

Greetings and Salutations, as we approach the end of the year, we can truly say that winter is finally here. Nonetheless, it's time to reflect on the incredible events that have unfolded at our Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post. From solemn remembrance to joyous celebrations, November was a month filled with meaningful activities, camaraderie, and planning.

Our MOC/MOCA Tomb Trek in Washington D.C. was a moving and memorable experience. We stood together to pay our respects at some of the most sacred places, honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. It was a somber reminder of the duty we carry to remember and honor our fallen comrades.

On the weekend of 10 November, we kicked off the Marine Corps Birthday and Ball, led by our VFW Adjutant Randy Coker. The well-planned and executed event was a resounding success, it brought together veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families. It was a night filled with tradition, pride, and the solidarity that defines the Marine Corps. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Randy and the entire team for making this event truly special.

Following the Marine Corps Ball, we got up the next morning and continued the weekend at Quantico Cemetery for our Annual Veterans Day Ceremony. It was a poignant morning where we came together to honor and remember those who have served. The solemnity of the ceremony reflected the deep gratitude we hold for our veterans.

Simultaneously, our Veterans Day Buddy Poppy Drive was in full swing. Our volunteers came out in support, wearing poppies as a symbol of remembrance, and greeted the community reminding them of the sacrifices of our veterans. We heartily thanked those who contributed funds in their honor and ensured them their contributions were vital to support veterans in need. We appreciate the generosity of our community and the dedication of our volunteers.

POST OFFICERS

- 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



On the 24th of November, the post kicked off its second blood drive of the year, led by our Senior Vice, Ben Guinan. Volunteers came out and gave blood to the tune of 40 units, equating to saving 120 lives. Thank you to all that participated during this needy holiday season.

On November 25, we continued a cherished tradition with our annual unloading of Christmas trees. This major fundraiser not only supports our post but also brings joy to our members and the community as they select beautiful trees at affordable prices. It's inspiring to see the post membership and community come together to kick off the holiday season. Thank you to Tom and Kelli Levitt for undertaking and leading this most important event.

Upcoming Festive Events

Looking ahead, December promises to be filled with festive events. We will be joining the Semper Fi America's Fund Organization in wrapping and mailing Christmas ornaments and spreading holiday cheer to veterans and their families. The MOC/MOCA Christmas Party, Auxiliary Christmas Party, and our New Year's Eve celebration featuring the "Rockits Band" are events not to be missed.

December 2023

- 2 Dec – Semper Fi Organization America's Fund – Full Hall 0700-1600
- 3 Dec – District 10 Meeting (Leesburg Post 1177) – 1030
- 7 Dec – Pearl Harbor Day – Post Canteen – 1800
- 9 Dec – Post Officers Christmas Breakfast – B Hall 1000-1200
- 13 Dec – Troop 1919/1196 Court of Honor and Christmas Party – B Hall 1900-2030
- 13 Dec – MOC/MOCA Christmas Party – 2000-2100
- 17 Dec – Auxiliary Children's Christmas Party – A Hall 1300-1500
- 20 Dec – Space Force Birthday observed
- 24 Dec – **Christmas Eve** – Post Closes early 1900
- 25 Dec – **Christmas Day** – Post Closed
- 31 Dec – New Year's Eve Party/Celebration: Full Hall, 1830-2400 featuring "Rockits Band"



As the year draws to a close, we express our deepest gratitude to all our members, supporters, and the community for making these events possible. Your commitment to our mission and the spirit of camaraderie make our VFW Post a beacon of service and community. As we move forward into the next month, I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season, and 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 15 new members during November, 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



VFW AUXILIARY

Happy 'I can't believe it's December already!' Bring on all the fun, chaotic days and enjoyment of this season and perhaps some snow!!

Great turnout for our November meeting, with 33 members!! There was much discussion on current and upcoming events. Happy to see each of you! I encourage those who have not attended or those who have been absent for a while to come – we need you and your voice!

We had a fun time at breakfast on the 18th, with the normal chitchat and enjoying a meal together! This month, we will enjoy breakfast on the 16th, and after we will have our annual cookie exchange and sock swap! If you would like to participate, please bring three dozen home baked cookies/treats and one pair of unwrapped socks. Always a fun time, hope you will join us!

Our first (Auxiliary sponsored) Bar Bingo turned out great – seventeen players! Thanks to all who attended, donated prizes and to Pam for calling. Looking forward to another fun event, possibly in January.

We attended the Dale City Elementary School Veteran's Day Ceremony/Parade on the 9th. The students were so excited, waving their flags and cheering for Comrades Marcia and Mike, who gave them quite a show on their Harleys!

Arbor Chase invited us to attend the Veteran's Day Ceremony on the 10th. Joined by Comrades Randy, Marcia and Tom, who gave remarks and did a Flag Folding.

Auxiliary members also helped at the Marine Corps Ball, the Buddy Poppy Drive and Christmas Trees!

We are in the process of purchasing coats, gloves and socks for three schools in our community, with delivery in January.

Coming up this month are several volunteer opportunities – Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance on the 7th at 6:00 in the canteen. Also, our Children's Christmas Party on the 17th, from 1-3. With one of the highlights being the Cake Walk, we are asking for donations of cakes, cupcakes, treats, etc. (homemade or store bought). And, we can always use help setting up and cleaning up!

December is also the month that our Auxiliary provides and serves dinner to our Comrades after our meetings on the 20th. If you are able, please bring a dessert to share!

January 12-14 is the Department of Virginia VFW & Auxiliary Winter Council in Williamsburg. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you are planning to attend – get your room booked ASAP!! <https://www.fortmagruderhotel.com/>

Congratulations to Robert Burns who won the drawing for a free Life Membership upgrade!

DID YOU KNOW?

MEMBERSHIP - Per section 104 of the Podium Book, Members in Good Standing:

Annual members who have not paid their dues by 31 DEC are no longer a member in good standing.

Do not let this happen to you!! IF you are unsure, please check your card and reach out if you have questions! You can leave your payment (\$25) with the bartender, renew online in MALTA, or mail to our treasurer – Karla Coker • 13212 Trails End Court • Manassas, VA 20112

We continue to collect cards for our 'Pen Pals for Vets' program. The Veteran Residents at Arbor Chase and Potomac Place Assisted Living Facilities really enjoy receiving them. Cards are available at each meeting for you to sign. There is also a collection box in the Canteen if you would like to drop off your own cards. Jeanne will collect the cards periodically and deliver them.

VFW Store Orders are placed every quarter, and our Auxiliary covers shipping! Next order will be placed after the December meeting. Orders will not be accepted without an order form and payment in full.

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

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

Pictures of available items are here: [Store Items](#)

Order form is here: [Store Order Form](#)

If you would like to receive the monthly Department Communications electronically, you may do so here – vfwauxva.org

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

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!

Wishing each of you the best of this season. Enjoy what makes you happy!

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*

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 **Prisma**

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

VFW 1503 is proud to be a



TOYS FOR TOTS

**drop-off
site!**

**New, unwrapped toys only.
Toy drive ends 12/6.**

“It’s all for the kids”

VFW1503Toys4Tots@outlook.com

More info <https://quantico-va.toysfortots.org/>

FACILITY HAPPENINGS

Merry Christmas and Happy New year to all. Can't believe it's that time of year, we are in the fast lane with all that's going on. Weather people are all saying that this year **SNOW** will be a plenty. Reminder our procedures during winter storms is first and foremost for the safety of our members and employees. Updates will be sent out via Constant Contact and Phone messages and our web page vfw1503.org if we have changes to planned events.

Speaking of events how about **New Years Eve tickets** are on sale now. Prices are \$90.00 per ticket or for a table of 10 \$800.00 if purchased by December 15th (\$900 per table after the 15th). Go to our website vfw1503.org to order and pay with pay pal button or call me at 703-670-4124 x2 and I can take info over phone and payment via credit card.

2023 WHITE HOUSE ORNAMENTS ON SALE NOW. \$22.00 we have 100 on hand first come gets them. Speaking of, past years 2019, 2020 and 2021, leftover ornaments being sold for \$10.00 each. Brand New. Makes good stocking stuffers.

POST WILL BE CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY. EARLY CLOSING CHRISTMAS EVE 7PM.

FOOD BASKET PROGRAM – Doing Gift cards again. So far we have 6 schools that we have done in the past with new highs of number of families over 100, and number in these families over 600.



John Meehan
Facility Manager

MOC / MOCA

Cooties:

Comrades and Auxiliary members, November was another busy month for us in the MOC/MOCA. Early in the month, we attended our annual Tomb Trek in Arlington, VA. Many thanks to Ken and Marcia Eggers and all those that helped them run the Virginia Hospitality Room. A great time was had by all. What's Tomb Trek? Glad you asked!

Way back in 1921, four unknown, unidentifiable soldiers were exhumed from four World War I American cemeteries in France. A soldier named Edward F. Younger was chosen as the person who would select the soldier to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The other three soldiers were interred in the Meuse Argonne Cemetery, France. Sgt. Younger went on to become a VFW member and a Cootie from Pup Tent I in Washington, DC. Sgt. Younger asked Congress to extend the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to the Military Order of the Cootie. No one in congress would deny him this request. For 87 years, the MOC/MOCA have been laying wreaths in Arlington National Cemetery to include at Sgt. Younger's gravesite. Depending on situations at Arlington, sometimes the wreaths are laid at the Argonne Cross, sometimes at General Pershing's gravesite, but Supreme Leadership still makes it over to the Tomb itself and lays a wreath.

In the ramp up to Thanksgiving, the MOCA put on their usual Bake Sale outside of Bingo. Thanks to all who donated, made items, and purchased some of the goodies!

Closer than a Brother, Busier than a Bee!

Charles "Romeo" Marlowe
MOC Seam Squirrel
romeovfw1503@outlook.com

Laura Adamczyk
MOCA President
lauraadamczyk2@gmail.com



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

We Don't Always Feel Thankful, But...

“O give thanks unto God of heaven: for his mercy endureth forever.” Psalm 136:26

The holiday season is in full swing. For many, the holidays are a time of reflection and for being thankful. The older we become the more we reflect on things of the past. The highs and lows of life, the choices we have made, the things we have done or said. And not all of these things were the right thing. There are times when we said the wrong thing or did not make the best choice.

Reflection is normal and a desirable thing to do. It enables us to see who we are, where we have been and where we are going. It also allows us to look back and see the work of God in our lives. Let us sit down this holiday season and remember all the good things God has done for us in the past and write those things on a list. What would be on your list?

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

We are called to “give thanks in all circumstances” and “give thanks to God for everything” (Ephesians 5:20) but if we are honest with each other, this can be difficult. Life is hard, draining at times, and pain does not take a break when the holidays get here. Our struggles are often more exposed during the holidays. It can be difficult to know how to celebrate with a troubled heart.

How can we “give thanks” when we don't feel very thankful? By remembering what God has done. The practice of remembrance can lead our hearts to thanksgiving for our past and hope for our future. While God will never forget or abandon us, at times we will feel forgotten. God is not distant – it's just that sometimes He feels distant. God is with us – it's just that our struggles make us feel like we're facing the world alone. *Remembering the goodness of God in the past, will help us in seasons where it's harder to see Him.*

The holidays are a time when we need a little extra reminder of God's ever-present grace and goodness. Know that when life is painful, it will not always stay that way. Let's remember God's faithfulness to us in the past, and cling to God's promise that he will remain faithful in the future. We don't always feel thankful, but... we can still be thankful.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Almighty God, thank you for being my refuge and strength, my ever-present help in times of trouble. May your grace and presence sustain me as you work in all the situations of my life. Amen

Ed Bennett
Chaplain



MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

December is not just a month loaded with historical U.S. military related anniversaries; it is also a time when Americans consider making charitable donations as the year ends. Unfortunately, one of my favorite non-profits that worked in our local area supporting our veteran community is closing due to a lack of funding. I decided to mention a few highly rated non-profits for your information:



The Gary Sinise Foundation www.garysinisefoundation.org offers several programs designed to show gratitude for our American heroes through entertainment, family support and acts of appreciation. The foundation builds specially adapted homes for severely wounded veterans, hosting daylong morale-boosting celebrations at military medical centers across the country and providing meals to veterans and their families across the country.

The Semper Fi Fund www.thefund.org provides direct financial assistance and vital programming for combat wounded, critically ill and catastrophically injured service members and their families during hospitalization and recovery. The fund also helps to provide housing assistance to injured soldiers and their families, opportunities for children of wounded warriors to attend summer camp, canine assistance, and ongoing transportation assistance, along with several other unique programs aimed at easing the transition for wounded soldiers and their families.

The Fisher House Foundation www.fisherhouse.org builds comfort homes where military and veterans' families can stay free of charge while their loved ones are in the hospital. These homes are located at military and VA hospitals around the world and offer comfortable private rooms with community spaces for families sharing similar experiences. The foundation operates a program to use donated frequent flyer miles to bring family members to the bedside of injured service members as they recover. They also provide financial support to other military charities, and families and children of injured, disabled or fallen veterans.

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society www.nmcrcs.org has been meeting the needs of Navy and Marine Corps members, their families, widows, and children for more than a century. They aim to provide financial, educational, and other assistance to military members, their families, and survivors in need. They use financial and non-financial resources to identify solutions to meet emerging needs and are committed to using their funds responsibly to help.

If you are in a good place financially, please consider donating to help a veteran family that may be going through a rough patch.

As we plan to spend time with our loved ones to celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, or Kwanza, please also try to plan time to pay your respects to those that served or are currently serving to ensure we are safe in our American homeland, and as always, thank you for your service!

All Gave Some, Some Gave All!

Yours in Patriotism,
Dom Dionne
Commander • Chapter 1775

VFW RIDERS GROUP

Comrades and Auxiliary members are welcome to join Post 1503's Riders Group! For information, check out the VFW Riders section of Programs in the post's website, VFW1503.org

Look twice for motorcycles!!





Sunday December 17th 1-3

Vfw Post 1503 'A' Hall



SNACKS
CRAFTS & GAMES
CAKE WALK
VISIT WITH SANTA

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Doors Open at 6:00

Cocktails 6:00 • Dinner 7:00

\$90 per person or \$800 for a Table of 10*

(*if table purchased by December 15th • \$900 per table after the 15th)

VFW Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road • Dale City, VA

Entertainment by **Rockits Band**

Dancing starts at 8:30

Hot Station with Salad Bar

Buffet Style Dinner

Assorted Desserts

VFW December Entertainment

All DJ's & Bands start at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights

Friday Nights

December 1st

DJ Danny

December 8th

DJ Steve

December 15th

DJ Kelly

December 22nd

DJ Michael

December 29th

DJ Joe Clay

Saturday Nights

December 2nd

DJ Joe Clay

December 9th

Saturday Lush Band

December 16th

Flower Power Band

December 23rd

DJ Kelly

December 30th

DJ T-Play

New Years Eve Party • Sunday, December 31st

(Open to the Public \$90 per ticket) **Rockits Band** in the Ballroom

PLUS - DJ Danny in the Canteen

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>New Years Eve Party • Sunday, December 31st (Open to the Public \$90 per ticket) Rockits Band in the Ballroom PLUS - DJ Danny in the Canteen</p>					<p>1 DJ Danny FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00</p>	<p>2 Semper Fi Fund Full Hall 0700-1600 DJ Joe Clay Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00</p>
<p>3 Breakfast 9-12:00 District 10 Meeting Leesburg #1177 10:30</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 BINGO 7:30</p>	<p>6 Wacky Wacky Seafood Specials</p>	<p>7 Pearl Harbor Day Canteen 18:00 BINGO 7:30</p>	<p>8 Hanukkah DJ Steve FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00</p>	<p>9 Saturday Lush Band Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00</p>
<p>10 Breakfast 9-12:00</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 BINGO 7:30</p>	<p>13 MOC / MOCA Xmas Party 7:00 pm</p>	<p>14 BINGO 7:30</p>	<p>15 DJ Kelly FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00</p>	<p>16 Flower Power Band AUX Brkfst Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00</p>
<p>17 Children's Xmas Party 13:00-15:00 Breakfast 9-12:00</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 BINGO 7:30</p>	<p>20 Space Force Birthday Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm</p>	<p>21 BINGO 7:30</p>	<p>22 DJ Michael FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00</p>	<p>23 DJ Kelly Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00</p>
<p>24 Xmas Eve Close 1900 Brkfst 9-12 31 No Breakfast</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day Post Closed</p>	<p>26 BINGO 7:30</p>	<p>27 Wacky Wacky BBQ Specials</p>	<p>28 BINGO 7:30</p>	<p>29 DJ Joe Clay FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00</p>	<p>30 DJ T-Play Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00</p>

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

December 20th

vfw1503.org

Wacky Wacky Wednesday ...

December 6th ... Seafood Specials

Steamed Shrimp	\$10.95
Fish n Chips.....	\$9.95
Fish Taco	\$10.95

December 27th ... BBQ Specials

BBQ Ribs.....	\$10.95
Pulled Pork	\$9.95
Beef Brisket.....	\$11.95
All Above Combo.....	\$13.95