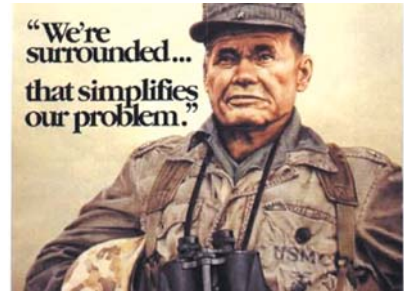




VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503

JULY 23



General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

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

Team,

Greetings and Salutations. Here we go again, northern Virginia weather, filled with rapid changes in heat, rain, humidity, and wind. We wanted it and we are getting it, so make sure you're planning ahead to protect yourselves from some untimely drastic changes in weather.

As we continue to honor and support our veterans, their families, and our community, let's look back at the past month's activities. We started the month with our Annual State Convention, held a Cancer Family Relief Concert, served a special breakfast meal for Father's Day, celebrated an excellent Army Birthday Ball, and observed the importance of Juneteenth.

During the week of 1 - 4 June, we had the privilege of attending the Virginia Department State Convention. It was a tremendous gathering of VFW members from across the state, where we came together to discuss important matters, hand out awards for jobs well done, make announcements concerning future endeavors, share experiences, and learn from one another. We also said goodbye to outgoing State Commander, Geoffrey Lyster, who performed admirably during his tenure, and welcomed our new State Commander, Gary Adams, who we know will have a fantastic year. We departed the convention with invaluable insights and strategies to better serve our veterans and advocate for their needs.

On 17 June and in line with our commitment to giving back, our own Lionel Ward (aka Elvis) organized a Cancer Family Relief Concert and dance. This exceptional event featured six talented acts, each contributing their musical talents to raise funds for families affected by cancer. It was a night of joy, solidarity, and



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



making a meaningful difference in the lives of those facing this challenging disease.

We followed the convention with a special Father's Day breakfast meal on the 18th of June to honor the fathers within our community. Fathers play an integral role in the lives of our veterans, and we wanted to express our gratitude for their unwavering support and sacrifices. The special breakfast brought families together to celebrate and appreciate the love and dedication of fathers everywhere.

On that following Monday, 19 June we observed the Juneteenth holiday, not signed into law until 2021. A day that holds significant historical importance. This day marks the final emancipation of enslaved Black Americans as word finally reached westward to the town of Galveston, Texas. It was on June 19th, 1865 that Union Army General Gordon Granger read General Order No.3 which informed Black Americans of their freedom as decreed by the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 and serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for equality and justice.

As June came to a close, we commemorated the Army's 248th Birthday with a grand celebration, planned, advertised, and coordinated by our own Colonel, Conrado Morgan (USA Ret.) The Army has played a vital role in defending our nation and upholding its values, and we took this occasion to express our gratitude to all Army veterans and their loved ones. It was a night of reminiscence, camaraderie, and paying tribute to the incredible service rendered by our Army comrades.

### Upcoming Events for July 2023

4 July – Dale City Independence Day Parade and Post Picnic w/Band Route 66

22 – 27 July – VFW National Convention, Phoenix, AZ

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 51 new members during June, 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

Greetings Auxiliary 1503! As we head into the New Year, it looks to be busy, productive and fun. Please join us in our efforts and get involved!!

Great turnout for our June meeting, with 26 members!! Welcome to our new members – Angela A., Mary, Josie, Sydney, Angela S., Glenn, Alalafaga and Jacquelyn.

June 2–4, several of us were in Portsmouth for the 98th Department of Virginia Auxiliary Convention. It was a good time to visit, learn and get a look at how the Auxiliary operates. Perhaps you would like to attend? The next opportunity will be the Winter Council – January 2024 in Williamsburg!

The Department of Virginia first place winner for the *Young American Creative Patriotic Arts Contest*, (Scholarship Program) was an entry submitted by Auxiliary 1503! Congratulations to Alice! We wish Alice the best of luck in the next and final round of competition for the top prize, which will be announced later this month at National Convention in Phoenix. You can see Alice's entry on our Face Book page at VFW Post 1503 - Auxiliary

Nice turnout of six, plus a few family members for our monthly breakfast on the 17th. Hope you will join us this month on the 15th at 9:30.

Our visit to Arbor Chase Assisted Living Facility on the 28th was a lot of fun, for us as well as the residents. We played bingo and provided prizes and some great treats. Thank you to Comrades Ken and Marcia for joining us to call the numbers and to our Hospital Chairman Jeanne for planning a great event!

We continue to have the need for Program Chairman. This is a vital part of our Auxiliary – please consider helping out! Information on each program can be found on the Auxiliary National web site, here – MALTA While there, you can update your contact info, if needed, read blogs and learn all about the Auxiliary!

Hope to see everyone at the Post 1503 Community BBQ on the 4th! Sure to be a fun time! You can still sign up to volunteer, if you have not already. There is ALWAYS a need!  
<https://form.jotform.com/231617450222143>

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

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

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

The Department School of Instruction is coming up in August, in Hopewell, VA. This is a very informative, fun & an excellent way to learn about the Programs, get new ideas and meet other members from across our state. Registration form is here – [Department Sol Registration Form](#) . The required registration fee will be reimbursed to any member who attends.

Department Communications are on break and will return soon. If you would like to receive them electronically, you may do so here – [Department Communications Sign Up](#)

To sign up for Auxiliary 1503 Chaplain alerts – please contact Chaplain Michael at [Auxiliarychaplain1503@gmail.com](mailto: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!

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

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*

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

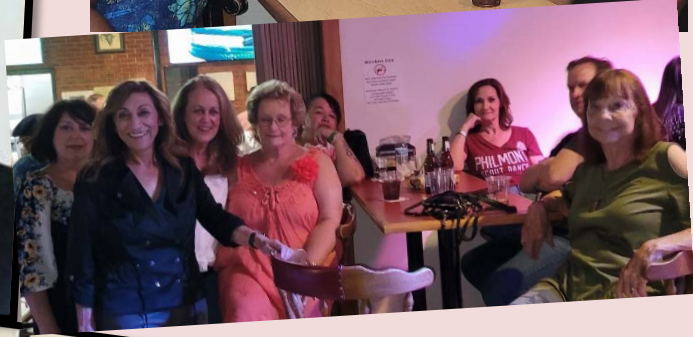


## VFW POST 1503 INTERVIEW PROJECT



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 Charles

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



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### Relax and Let God

Why is it that we have a difficult time being relaxed? After all, doesn't relaxing feel great? We all would agree it beats being nervous, stressed and tense. No one enjoys being anxious and worried. Of course the truth is, remaining relaxed and at ease when we are burdened by life's challenges, is very difficult.

We simply do not know how to relax because we insist on being the one in control. When I was young, my pastor wrote a book titled "Relax and Let God." As the title suggests, God wants us to relax and let go of our fear and worry and surrender control to Him.

We tend to trust God for things, but not in things. We want God to take the wheel and navigate us to where we want to be and to deliver us from the adversities in our life; however, we also want to keep one hand on the wheel because we do not know how to let go. We need to completely trust in God in all things.

**"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you." Isaiah 26:3**

The ability to relax and go with the flow in life is dependent upon our willingness to trust God completely. If things don't go our way, instead of being upset, consider God gave us what was best for us, instead of what we wanted. When it comes to situations out of our control, we can relax and know that God is working on the situation and will keep working, allowing us to move forward and go with the flow of what is happening in our lives.

Relaxation is impossible without trust. If we know that we can't fix the problem, then why not relax while God is working on it? It sounds easy, but it takes time for us to learn to relax and let God.

**PRAYER:** Almighty God, I will trust in You with all my heart, rather than lean on my own understanding. Right now I commit all of my cares, concerns and circumstances to You. Help me moment by moment, to trust You, to give my burdens to You and to relax knowing You have everything under control. Amen.

**Ed Bennett**  
Chaplain

## FACILITY HAPPENINGS

Summer time is finally here and starts off with a bang. **4th of July** again will have us participating in the Dale City parade followed by our Community Open House celebration in the Pavilion area, featuring free food, drinks and live band. This is always a guessing game as to how many people are going to be showing up. Asking you to please on your initial trip thru the food line to limit your selection and not overload to the point that we cannot take care of all who show up.

Parking lot will be resealed and striped this month. It will be done in two stages. The dates involved are 7/11 to 7/13 (right side of lot) and 7/18 to 7/20 (left side of lot). **NO VEHICLES CAN BE LEFT IN THE PARKING LOT ONE DAY PRIOR TO THESE DATES (THEY WILL BE TOWED).** Your cooperation is appreciated.

Four new employee's hired during the month of June. Please say hi next time your in the canteen area to Nate Barnes (M/A), Melanie Jones (Bartender), Hailey Agner (Server) and Alexis Beach (Busboy).

We will be putting our **WACKY WEDNESDAY SPECIALS** on hold until September.

Please see MONTHLY calendar of events for this month on last page of this newsletter.

**John Meehan**  
Facility Manager



## MOC / MOCA

Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

Article I of the Military Order of the Cootie states the following: "The objects of this organization are to be the official honor Degree of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. To promote social and reunion features among its own members, and to keep alive therein the spirit of optimism and humor so characteristic of the American service man/woman."

Key takeaway points of that: optimism and humor. We're a fun loving bunch of folks, but also hard workers. As incoming Seam Squirrel and President, we would like to thank those that came before us and paved the way for us to continue the great work that this organization does. The MOC/MOCA will have a spot in this year's 4th of July Parade and encourage any Cooties who want to be a part of it to show up at the rally point at Post 1503 that morning in their best clown attire. We just had a Grand Scratch and elections where our own Past Seam Squirrel, Robert "Check" Adamczyk, was elected as our 2023-2024 Grand Commander and Laura Adamczyk was elected to Sr. Vice President of the MOCA Grand. Next up is our Supreme Scratch in Phoenix, Arizona from July 26th to July 30th. (<https://lotcs.org/events.html> for details).

Last month we were also able to break our dry spell of not being able to visit McGuire hospital! An extra crummy time was had giving out shoes and cookies while getting to know some great veterans. Looking forward to many more hospital visits now that the world is leaning back towards normal.

Our Next Scratch will be on 13 July at our regular times (1900 MOCA, 1930 MOC). Hope to see you there!

***Keep'em Smiling in Beds of White!***

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

Laura Adamczyk  
MOCA President  
lauraadamczyk2@gmail.com





## MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

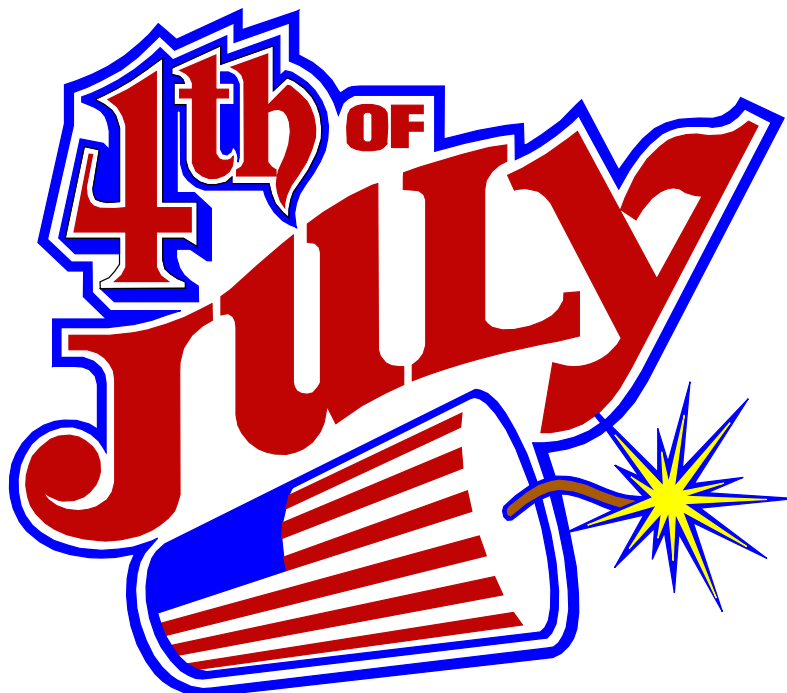
**Happy Independence Day America!** Thank you to all who served to keep our country free.

On the 27th of July we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. This war is commonly referred to as the "Forgotten War" and the veterans that served in this war did not get the same treatment as our brother veterans that served in WWII. They were greeted by family and friends, but there were no joyous celebrations or parades like at the end of WWII. People in our country were not happy with the outcome of the war, 51% of the respondents to a poll stated they did not think the war was worth fighting due to the way the war ended. Many Korean War veterans buried their association with the war and remained silent about their experiences and invisible wounds. Before the Armistice was even signed, our government drastically cut the VA budget and hospitals were closed. Ailments suffered by the Korean War veterans were not properly recognized for years by the VA. It wasn't until the year 2000 that the VA admitted it had not done enough to help the Korean War Veterans. The GI Bill benefits had a shorter maximum basic entitlement period and gave veterans less time to make the decision to use the education benefit to help pay for the college education they earned. Unemployment benefits were not ramped up to properly assist the veterans leaving the military until they were able to find work.

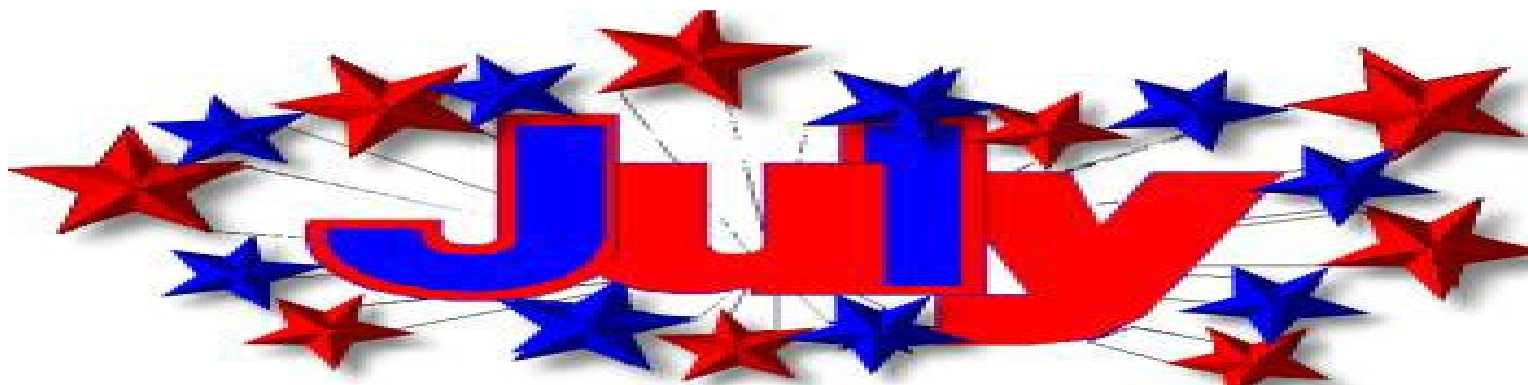
These are some of the issues that future veterans would face to a greater or lesser degree, depending upon which war they participated in as well. We veterans do not make the decisions to go to war but perform our duty to the best of our ability with the equipment we are issued. Upon returning home, all veterans should be taken care of by our government and supported by the people, regardless of the price to heal the physical and mental wounds of war. The benefits veterans are entitled to should be expanded or contracted due to the outcome of the war or federal budgetary concerns. These costs should all be considered before the decision is made to send our troops off to war.

I salute all our Korean War Veterans, thank you and your families for your sacrifices!

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



Yours in Patriotism,  
Dom Dionne  
Commander  
Chapter 1775



# VFW July Entertainment

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

**Saturday Night *July 1st***

DJ Joe Clay

Joeyoke & Dance Music

**Friday Night *July 7th***

DJ Danny

Dance Party

**Saturday Night *July 8th***

Plastic Fantastic 60's Band

60's Music and Dance

**Friday Night *July 14th***

DJ Michael

Kamikaze Karaoke and Dance

**Saturday Night *July 15th***

DJ Steve Bolden

Videos and Dance Music

**Friday Night *July 21st***

DJ Kelly

Dance Music!

**Saturday Night *July 22nd***

DJ T Play

Old School Dance and Karaoke!

**Friday Night *July 28th***

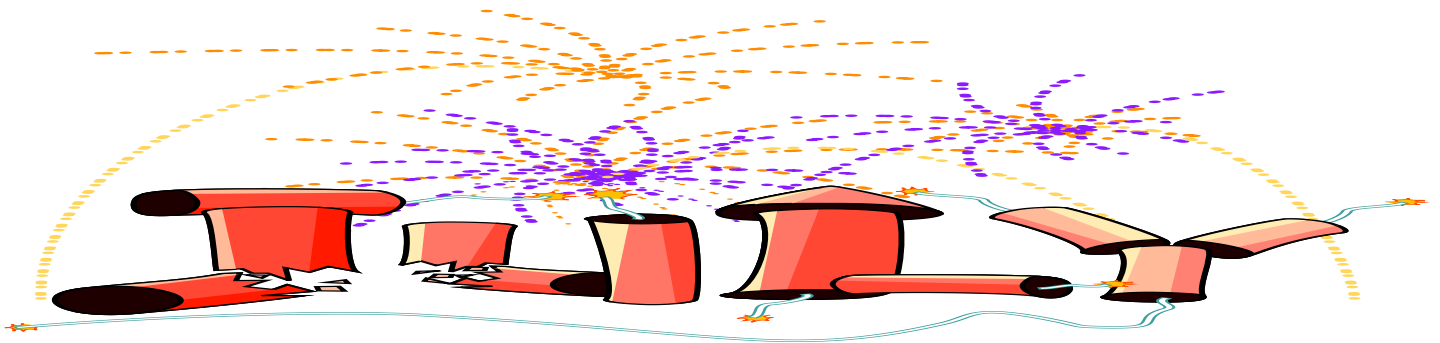
Rusty Highway Band

Rock, Blues, Country Music

**Saturday Night *July 29th***

DJ Joe Clay

Joeyoke & Dance Music



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 DJ Joe Clay Breakfast 9-12 <b>WINGS</b> 6:00-8:00
2 Breakfast 9-12:00	3	4th of <b>JULY</b> Open House Cookout 12 noon Open to Public	5	6 BINGO 7:30	7 DJ Danny FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	8 <b>Plastic Fantastic Band</b> Breakfast 9-12 <b>WINGS</b> 6:00-8:00
9 Breakfast 9-12:00	10	11 BINGO 7:30	12 MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm	13 BINGO 7:30	14 DJ Michael FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	15 DJ Steve Bolden Breakfast 9-12 AUX Breakfast <b>WINGS</b> 6:00-8:00
16 Breakfast 9-12:00	17	18 BINGO 7:30	19 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	20 BINGO 7:30	21 DJ Kelly FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	22 DJ T Play Breakfast 9-12 <b>WINGS</b> 6:00-8:00
23 Breakfast 9-12:00	24	25 BINGO 7:30	26	27 BINGO 7:30	28 <b>Rusty Highway Band</b> FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	29 DJ Joe Clay Breakfast 9-12 <b>WINGS</b> 6:00-8:00
30 Breakfast 9-12:00	31					

# Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



*Next Monthly Meeting*

***July 19th***

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

