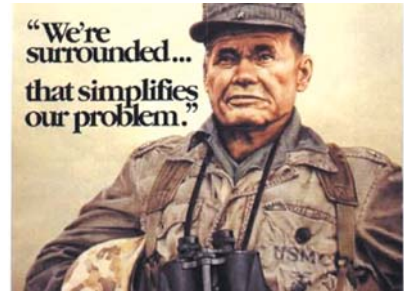




VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503

MAY 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. I thought Spring would truly be here by now, but wow, was I off. Nonetheless, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has been busy hosting a variety of events for its members and the community. From Easter celebrations to community fundraisers, there's been no shortage of activity at our post.

Now let's reflect a little on last month's activities. First off, we held our Auxiliary Children's Easter Party, served a fantastic Easter Sunday brunch, experienced a great turnout for our Auxiliary Cornhole tournament, conducted a MOC/MOCA flea market at the Pavilion, held elections for comrades and auxiliary officers and watched the Boy Scouts distribute over 1,800 bags of mulch to the community.

One of our biggest events this past month was our Easter party. We had a great turnout, and everyone had a wonderful time. The children enjoyed hunting for Easter eggs, playing games, and spending time with the Easter bunny. It was a joy to see the smiles on their faces and the happiness they brought to our members.

Continuing in that same spirit, we hosted an Easter brunch, which was a huge success. Our post members and their families came together to enjoy a delicious meal and celebrate the holiday. The food was delicious, and the camaraderie was even better. It's always great to see our members come together and enjoy each other's company.

We also held the first of two annual Auxiliary Cornhole Tournaments, which was a hit with our members. The competition was fierce, and everyone had a great time. Our own Robert "Check" Adamczyk and his partner John Wilson won first place. As you can tell, the auxiliary does



POST OFFICERS

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



amazing work, and we're happy to support them through events like this.

Congratulations to our recently elected comrade and auxiliary officers for the 2023-2024 year. I look forward to working with each and every one of you as we move forward through the year.

We've been busy with community fundraisers. Our Boy Scouts troop delivered 1,800 mulch bags to residents, which helped raise funds for their troop activities. It's always a pleasure to support our local scouts, and we're proud to help them in any way we can.

And finally, we bid farewell to a much-loved and deserving comrade, Robert "Arch" Archambeault. Arch was a dedicated lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1503 where he volunteered countless hours to bingo, the Cooties, and the command as a whole. And he was a friend. Arch you will be sorely missed, Fair Winds and Following Seas shipmate!

A Quick Brief of Upcoming Events for May 2023

- 6 May – "Day of Service" portion of Rt. 234 cleanup; Commencing at 1000 from Edward Kelly Leadership Center and ending at the Woodbine Shopping Center
- 6 May – Newly Elected Officers Installation: A Hall 1800 - 2000
- 7 May – District 10 Joint Meeting & Convention: (Lunch) - 1130 - 1500 A&B Hall
- 14 May – Mother's Day
- 27 May – Blood Drive: A Hall 0900 - 1400
- 27/28 May – Buddy Poppy Drive
- 29 May – Memorial Day Service: Quantico National Cemetery (QNC) 0900
- 29 May – Memorial Day Community /BBQ/Open House: 1200 - 1500

Until next month, I want to wish everyone a happy upcoming Mother's Day and Memorial Day weekend and remember those family members and co-workers that mean the most to you. As always stay safe, continue to recruit, and be kind to others. Speaking of recruiting, Post 1503 recruited 52 new members during the month of April, an outstanding achievement that continues to place us among the top recruiting posts. 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. And review all the latest happenings and pictures from VFW Post 1503 events.

Bernie Carter
Post Commander
cdrpost1503@vfwva.org





VFW AUXILIARY

Greetings Auxiliary 1503! May is here, and packed full of events, which provide us many opportunities to volunteer!

Welcome to our new members – Jasmine, Ximena, Lori, Diane, Byron, Stephen, Tamika, Lois, Kenny and John. Ten new members! Outstanding job recruiting, everyone!!

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 Janell Garland
2nd Yr Trustee Patricia Wootten
3rd Yr Trustee Gina Powers
Historian Mary Seiffert
Patriotic Instructor . . . Rita Maldonado

Remember our Recruiter Challenge

Please, do not miss out on...

An Auxiliary Member who recruits ten (10) or more new or re-join members during the Auxiliary Year (7/1-6/30) will earn a beautiful, crisp \$100 bill!!!

Our Children's Easter Party was April 2nd. After games, crafts and a light lunch, the Easter Bunny – Ken Wiseman, hopped in for a visit and pictures – then hopped outside with lots of helpers to hide 2,300+ candy-filled eggs – which were collected within minutes!!

April 15th was a busy day, starting with Auxiliary Breakfast and then our annual Corn Hole Tournament Fundraiser. Though turnout was less than we had hoped, it was a successful and fun event, raising \$900! Our friend Paul, the 'Beer Whisperer/Keg Floater' was on hand providing his much appreciated service, with a smile! Thank you to the many Auxiliary members and Comrades for spending your day volunteering! Also, a special thank you to Pam and Tracy for the many hours spent soliciting and collecting numerous donated items to fill our prize baskets.

Our monthly meeting on the 19th had 45 members in attendance! Nominations & Elections for the ensuing year were held. We conducted our business and had a little fun! We have many Chairman Positions that need filled for the new year – if interested, please visit [Auxiliary National](#) to learn more about the programs we support and please contact me with any questions or to sign up!

10th District Convention is May 7th at Post 1503. Please plan to attend! Lunch is provided, free of charge and will begin at 11:30.

Department of Virginia Convention is June 1-4, in Portsmouth, VA. All registration and luncheon forms, schedule and hotel information is located on the Department Auxiliary Web site - www.vfwauxva.org Hope to see many of you there!

Did you say you are ready for a road trip? Phoenix, Arizona will host the 2023 National Convention, 22-27 July! All information is located on the National Web site - <https://vfwauxiliary.org/national-convention/>

Without each of us showing up and working together, none of what we plan to do would happen. It takes all of us and I am grateful for each of you!

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

Memorial Day Weekend – LOTS going on!! Please watch for Constant Contact messages for information.

Buddy Poppies

Post 1503 Annual Community BBQ

Memorial Day Ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery



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*

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



President Kelli Levitt
Sr. Vice President Debbie Nichols
Jr. Vice President Monika Walczyk
Treasurer Karla Coker
Chaplain Michael Alicea
Conductress Jan Kiecker
Guard Gloria Wiley
3rd Yr Trustee Rita Maldonado

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 John

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

VFW POST 1503

ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY BBQ

MONDAY MAY 29th ~ 12:00 ~ 3:00 pm

JOIN US IN THE PAVILION FOR

FOOD * MUSIC * FUN



FREE EVENT ~ OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

dunk tank * McGruff * ice-cream truck

ident-a-kid * lawn games * popcorn * giant slide

Live music by 'MADE in the USA'

The Process of Grief

The members of our post have recently suffered a series of difficult losses, both collectively and individually. And one truth about veteran friendships is that a loss suffered by one is felt by all.

Clinically speaking, grief is a natural response to loss. It's the emotional suffering we feel when something or someone we love is taken away.

Often, the pain of loss can feel overwhelming. We may experience a variety of difficult and even unexpected emotions, from shock or anger to disbelief, guilt, and profound sadness. The pain of grief can affect our physical health, making it difficult to sleep, eat, carry out daily activities and think straight. These are normal reactions to loss, and the more significant the loss, the more intense the grief.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" *Matthew 5:4*

Grief is the way God intended for us to deal with loss. It is nature's way of healing a broken heart. There is no timetable for dealing with grief. We all must be allowed to grieve at our own pace. Some may move through a loss rather quickly, but that does not mean they are stronger, and neither are they necessarily less caring. Some take more time, but that does not mean they are weak, and neither are they necessarily more caring. It is just a reflection of the fact that we are each different.

We may take two steps forward and three back. Our grief will rise up within us at the most unexpected and inopportune times and places. Grieving tends to be a cyclical rather than a linear process. We sometimes reach a point where we're feeling better only to feel bad again. It is not a sign that we have relapsed or getting worse; rather, it is how grief works, and it is actually a sign of moving forward. There are times we can be in the middle of an ordinary task and all of a sudden we start to cry. Grief is a series of loops where we circle back to where we were earlier in the process.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." *Psalms 34:18*

This verse reminds us that God is not only present with us, but near. Near to the pain we feel. Near to the loss we can't fill. Not only is He near, but He stays with us and will help us through our pain. When we are brokenhearted, God gives us the strength and courage we need to breathe again.

When we feel like our physical and emotional tanks are empty, we need to remember that we are not alone. God is near and so are our family and friends. We need other people. Very few, if any of us, can navigate the grieving process alone. We benefit when we let others in on our grief and we need to be able to tell others what we need, and in most cases it may not be advice; rather a compassionate ear and practical support.

Prayer: O Lord, we call upon You in our time of sorrow. You give us the strength and will to bear our heavy burdens. I know You are here with me in my grief. Lord, take this pain and help me bear it. I know You are mending the brokenness in ways I can't always see. Amen

Ed Bennett
Chaplain



FACILITY HAPPENINGS

CONGRATULATIONS to recently elected officers for the 2023-2024 year. Looking forward to working with you to what is sure to be a challenging year. Please make plans to attend their installation ceremony on May 6th.

SHREDDING event for members and open to the public on **May 10th** in the front parking lot from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Great time to clean up your paper files and be sure they are destroyed properly.

MOTHERS DAY May 14th – No buffet this year, but we will have **SPECIAL** items added to our regular breakfast menu being served 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

MEMORIAL DAY May 29th – See flyer elsewhere in this newsletter.

EVERY FRIDAY – Dinner 5 to 8 p.m. – DJ or BAND 8 to 12 midnight

EVERY SATURDAY – Wings 6 to 8 p.m. – DJ or BAND 8 to 12 midnight

We are considering having the **HUBCAPS** back during the month of October. This is their last year playing and if we get enough people interested, we will see what we can work out with them. Your interest or non-interest will decide. Contact the office at 703-670-4124 x2 or e-mail me at vfw1503facmgt@comcast.net

We are trying to hire additional security (M/A's). If you're interested in this position, for more information, please contact me by email vfw1503facmgt@comcast.net or call 703-670-4124 x2.

John Meehan
Facility Manager

Mothers Day

248th Army Birthday Ball



Saturday, June 24th, 2023

1830 Semi-Formal

VFW Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road, Dale City, VA 22193



<https://vfwus.org/ArmyBall>



May 6, 2023



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

DAY OF SERVICE



Where/Start/End:

**Edward Kelly Leadership Center
14715 Bristow Rd, Manassas, Va 20112
(Parking Lot closest to Bristow Rd.)**

**Ends at Woodbine Shopping Center
Parking lot
Dumfries Rd, Manassas, VA 20112 (Approx
2mi.)**

**Transportation provided back to
Leadership Center**

When/What:

**Roadside cleanup of a portion
of Rt. 234**

**Meeting at the parking lot at 9:30
Departing parking lot to cleanup at
10:00**

**(supplies provided by Keep Prince
William Beautiful (KPWB) , approx.
2 hours of cleanup)**

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Chapter 1775 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart will be celebrating its 33rd Anniversary on 5 May. Join us in the Post 1503 VFW Canteen starting around 4:30 p.m. Spouses and friends are welcome!

Welcome Home! Our nation honors our Vietnam Veterans and their Families 11-13 May on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Please visit www.vietnamwar50th.com/welcomehome for more information and a schedule of events.

The National Month of Military Appreciation is a good time to reflect on what we have in our country and our lives because of the service and sacrifice of those currently wearing the uniform and our veterans. We are the land of the free because of the service of the brave. Thank you for stepping forward and raising your right hand. I hope you are able to take advantage of some of the discounts and free offers for service members and veterans this month. I pray you all enjoy time with family and friends this month and don't forget to say a prayer or pause in remembrance of those that are no longer with us throughout the month, but especially on Memorial Day.

Our next Chapter Meeting is scheduled for 20 May at 10:00 hours at VFW Post 1503. I hope to see you there!

All Gave Some, Some Gave All!



Yours in Patriotism,
Dom Dionne
Commander - Chapter 1775

Cinco De Mayo

MOC / MOCA

Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

It looks like we might soon finally be able to visit McGuire VA Hospital. Our Hospital Chairman Ben Guinan has been working to finalize details with the POC. Prior to COVID-19, we used to visit McGuire every other month and put on an event in their multi-purpose room. It looks like our visits may be a bit different once we start back up as they're no longer doing events like we used to. As always, we'll adjust and continue carrying out our mission to ***Keep 'Em Smiling In Beds Of White!***

We're closing in on the end of our Cootie Year. Cooties, if you've visited any Veterans in the Hospital or elsewhere this past year, or provided them with transportation, etc., and that hasn't been reported yet, please let us know so we can get it reported.

Keep up the great work everyone!

Robert "Check" Adamczyk

MOC Seam Squirrel
mrcheck@gmail.com

Laura Adamczyk

MOCA President
lauraadamczyk2@gmail.com



VFW POST 1503

CONCEALED CARRY CLASS

RECEIVE YOUR
TRAINING
CERTIFICATE
NEEDED TO
OBTAIN A
CONCEALED
WEAPONS PERMIT



UTILIZING A CUTTING
EDGE LASER-BASED
INDOOR RANGE: NO
LIVE FIREARMS OR
AMMUNITION.

EVERYONE SHOOTS
THE LASER PISTOLS!

Saturday, May 20, 2023 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$60 Per Person

VFW POST 1503 * 14631 MINNIEVILLE ROAD * DALE CITY, VA 22193

**CLASS SATISFIES THE TRAINING REQUIREMENT FOR A
CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT IN ALL VIRGINIA JURISDICTIONS
& INCLUDES LECTURE WITH LASER FIREARMS LIVEFIRE**

CALL 804-484-9694 FOR MORE INFORMATION

The course presenter is Glenn Blandford. Mr. Blandford holds numerous weapons instructor certifications from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) as well as the National Rifle Association (NRA) and has served as a police officer, investigator, police academy instructor and firearms unit supervisor during a 30- year law enforcement career.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



VFW Memorial Day Weekend Blood Drive at Post 1503

Sponsored by American Red Cross

**Saturday May 27th, 2023
0900 (9 am) - 1400 (2 pm)
In the A Hall of the post**

**Pre-registration for the drive can be
done online at:**

<https://www.redcross.org/>

**Please contact Ben Guinan at
guinanvfw@gmail.com for the online
registration instructions and/or any
other questions**

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

VFW Post 1503

14631 Minneville Rd. Dale City, VA 22193

May

VFW May Entertainment

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

Friday Night *May 5th*

DJ Kelly

Cinco de Mayo Dance Party!

Saturday Night *May 6th*

True Soul Band

R&B Old and New!

Friday Night *May 12th*

DJ Danny

Dance Party!

Saturday Night *May 13th*

DJ T Play

Dance Party with Karaoke!

Friday Night *May 19th*

DJ Michael

Dance Party with Karaoke!

Saturday Night *May 20th*

DJ Steve Bolden

Video Dance Party!

Friday Night *May 26th*

DJ Michael

All Dance Music!

Saturday Night *May 27th*

DJ Joe Clay

Joeyoke & Dance Music!

Monday May 29th

Memorial Day Celebration - Outside under the Pavilion

12PM - 3PM

Made in the USA Band

70's Classic Rock and Dance/Modern Country



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---------------------|--|---------------------|---|--|
| | 1 | 2 BINGO 7:30 | 3 Wacky Wacky Seafood | 4 BINGO 7:30 | 5 Cinco De Mayo DJ Kelly FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00 | 6 True Soul Band Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00 |
| 7 Breakfast 9-12:00 | 8 | 9 BINGO 7:30 | 10 SHREDDING 10 am - 1 pm MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm | 11 BINGO 7:30 | 12 DJ Danny FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00 | 13 DJ T Play Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00 |
| 14 Mother's Day Specials Breakfast 9-12:00 | 15 | 16 BINGO 7:30 | 17 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm | 18 BINGO 7:30 | 19 DJ Michael FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00 | 20 DJ Steve Bolden Breakfast 9-12 AUX Breakfast WINGS 6:00-8:00 |
| 21 Breakfast 9-12:00 | 22 | 23 BINGO 7:30 | 24 | 25 BINGO 7:30 | 26 DJ Michael FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00 | 27 DJ Joe Clay Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00 |
| 28 Breakfast 9-12:00 | 29 Memorial Day Celebration 12 noon-3 pm Made in the USA Band | 30 BINGO 7:30 | 31 | | | |

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

May 17th

vfw1503.org

Wacky Seafood Wednesday ...

May 3rd ...

| | |
|--|---------|
| Steamed Shrimp | \$10.95 |
| Tuna Tacos (soft). | \$11.95 |
| Fried Catfish w Hush Puppies | \$11.95 |

Cinco De Mayo ... May 5th ...

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Beef Tacos (2 each). | \$7.95 |
| Nachos Supreme | \$8.95 |
| Taco Salad | \$9.95 |
| Chicken Chimichanga. | \$9.95 |
| Steak Burrito. | \$10.95 |

Sides - Mexican Rice, Refried Beans, Mexican Street Corn

All Specials 12 Noon until Supplies are Gone...