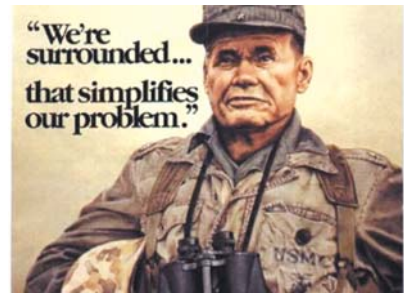




VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503

Nov 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



POST OFFICERS

Team,

Greetings and Salutations. November is upon us, and as we move deeper into the fall season, I'm excited to emphasize some of our recent events in October and look ahead to what's in store for our post in November. From celebrating our dedicated volunteers to commemorating important military events, our VFW Post 1503 continues to thrive.

Our Bingo Appreciation Social was an incredible evening dedicated to celebrating the heart and soul of our VFW post - our dedicated Bingo volunteers. Their hard work and commitment help make our Bingo nights a great success. It was a night of smiles, shared stories, and heartfelt thanks for all they do. We couldn't do it without them!

The 248th Navy Birthday was an opportunity to honor the Navy's rich history and the brave men and women who have served and continue to serve. We also took a moment to reflect on the Port Chicago disaster of 1944, a tragic event that left over 320 brave black sailors dead or wounded, a lasting impact on the Navy and our nation. Remembering the sacrifices of those involved is essential to understanding the lessons of history.

Our VFW Military Order of the Cootie (MOC) and Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (MOCA) hosted their annual fall Cornhole Tournament. It was a day filled with friendly rivalry, laughter, and great camaraderie. These events not only bring us together but also help raise funds to support our veterans and their families.

Halloween brought joy to our post with two memorable events. Our 'Truck 'n Treat' event for the children was a hit, providing a safe and fun way for them to enjoy Halloween. Our Adult Halloween Party and Costume Contest was a way to let our hair down and showcase the creativity and spirit of our veterans. We appreciate everyone who participated and made these events a success.

Upcoming Events to Look Forward To

As we move into November, there are several significant events on

- 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



the horizon. Our MOC/MOCA Tomb Trek where Cooties gather to pay tribute to the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, the Marine Corps Birthday and Ball, and the Veterans Day ceremony at Quantico are all moments to honor and celebrate.

Our Buddy Poppy Drive is just around the corner, and we encourage everyone to participate. Wearing a Buddy Poppy and assisting in the Buddy Poppy Drive is a visible sign of support for our veterans and their families and a great way to raise funds for veterans in need.

Lastly, I'd like to extend our gratitude to Diversity Masonic Lodge No. 330 for hosting a Veterans Day Barbecue as a way of giving back to our veterans. It's heartwarming to see various organizations come together to show their appreciation for those who have served our nation.

### **November 2023**

1-4 Nov – Southern Conference, Tulsa, Oklahoma

4-5 Nov – MOC/MOCA Tomb Trek

10 Nov – Marine Corps Birthday

10 Nov – Marine Corps Birthday Ball – Full Hall 1800-2200

11 Nov – Veterans Day Service – Quantico Cemetery – 1100

11 Nov – Veterans Day BBQ (Erin coordinates with Masonic Diversity Lodge)

11-12 Nov – Buddy Poppy Drive

19 Nov – Eagle Scout Court of Honor – B Hall 1500 - 1800

23 Nov – Thanksgiving Day (Special Menu)

23 Nov – **No Bingo**

24 Nov – Blood Drive – Time – TBD

25 Nov – Christmas Trees Unloaded (ALL Hands)

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 38 new members during the month of October, an outstanding achievement that continues to place us among 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.

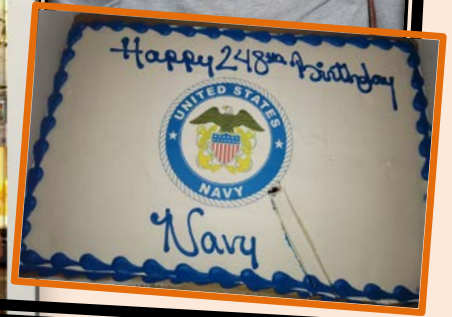
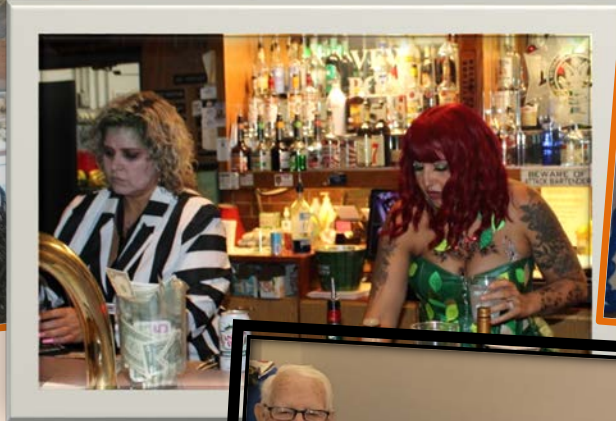
**Bernie Carter**

Post Commander

[cdpost1503@vfwva.org](mailto:cdpost1503@vfwva.org)







## VFW AUXILIARY

Happy November! Though the temperatures had us guessing last week, there is no question when you look outside that fall is definitely here!

Great turnout for our September meeting, with 36 members!! 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 21st, with the normal chitchat and enjoying a meal together! Hope to see you this month on the 18th.

Our Fall School Supplies were delivered last month. Nearly \$1,500 worth of requested items, split between the three schools that we support. We were able to get everything the Counselors asked for!

The annual Trunk-or-Treat turned out wonderful, except it was a little hot! Lots of goblins collecting treats and enjoying the day! Thank you to all who volunteered to make it successful!

Pam did a great job handling the 50/50 raffle at the Post Halloween Party! Congrats to the winners of the costume contest, there were some great ones!

Thanks to Commander Bernie and BoD for allowing us the opportunity to conduct Bar Bingo! 1 NOV – 6:30 in the Canteen. Members only! Free to play!

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Auxiliary has two Scholarship contests for children. From Kindergarten through 12th grade, there are opportunities in Art & Singing. You can find the contest rules & details at the following:

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities/>

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.

If you have not had a chance to drop off a donation of canned goods for the District 10 Food Drive, there are still a few days left. Donations will be picked up on the 4th.

**9 NOV – If you are a Veteran and a biker, please let the kids at Dale City Elementary School thank you and honor you! They are having a small 'biker parade' beginning at 2:30. If you are able to attend, please RSVP to me by 6 NOV. Auxiliary members are also encouraged to attend.**

Buddy Poppy Drive 11/12 NOV – Auxiliary members, please plan to take a shift or two – the Post could really use our help! Sign up book is in the Canteen.

**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.

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](http://vfwauxva.org)

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!

As always, if you have questions, concerns, comments or you are in need of assistance, please do not

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



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 **Sterling**

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

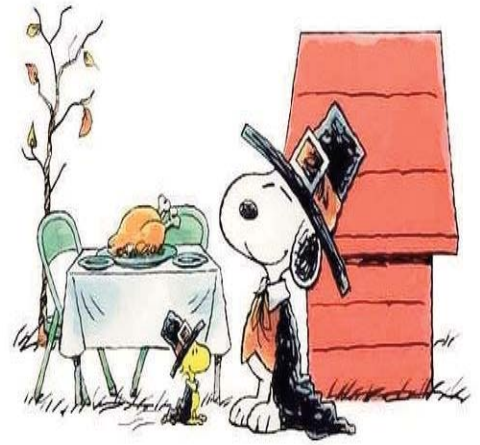
October was a very busy month with Cornhole tournaments – Halloween party – NFL football in full swing – weekend entertainment for members and guests. All this and as I type this on Oct 25th its 74 degrees outside and will be increasing each day to reach highs in the 80s by Sunday. Just had to get that out of my system.

So what's going on this month. How about we are working on having 2 gun shows in 2024. One in April and one in November, with a company named Va. Gun collectors who have been operating for the past 15 years at the PW COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS. Will keep you posted going forward with more info after a few more meetings with them.

We will be selling our 2023 White House Christmas ornaments for \$22.00 each on Nov 15th. Only got 100 this year because the past three years we have not sold out and have years 2019 to 2022 sitting in the closet. So to help clean up around here and to help you with great stocking stuffers etc. we are selling them at \$10.00 each. They are on a table in the canteen by the wall machines. Pick out the ones you want and pay the bartender.

We again are doing our yearly **CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET** program. We will be doing this with gift cards to food stores that range in values and used together depending on number in the family how much is allocated to them. Would love to go back to the old way of packing up and delivery but it became too hard to put together with prices and availability problems.

Please check our calendar on the back page of this newsletter concerning our Thanksgiving meal and upcoming events.



**John Meehan**  
Facility Manager



### What Are We Doing Under The Circumstances?

On Thanksgiving Day this year, as in the past, many of us will pray with family and friends, because the holidays are a time when we take time to outwardly express our gratitude for our blessings. In Psalms, God says that giving thanks is a “sacrifice that truly honors me.” Why is it a sacrifice to give thanks when it’s an easy thing to do? It is a sacrifice because it requires more than words ... it requires action. We are called to live each day giving thanks because thanksgiving is simply too big for one day.

When I was a young man, I remember my pastor would ask someone how they were doing. Many times, they would reply “I’m okay, under the circumstances.” He would respond, “What are you doing under the circumstances?” Later in life, I began to understand that I should give thanks for God’s unfailing love; and, I am never *under* the circumstances because God is always present, lifting me above my challenges and adversity.

This is the key to rising above the circumstances: Focus on what we have, not on what we don’t have. When we focus on what we lack, we tend to look out for ourselves. Conversely, when we focus on our blessings, we tend to find ourselves looking out for others as well as ourselves. I believe the greatest witnesses for God are those who have experienced the worst of life and yet have the best of attitudes, continuing to praise God no matter what the circumstances.

On many occasions in the Psalms, David lamented about his circumstances (*Psalms 42; 57; 62*). However, more often than not, about midway through David’s laments, he begins praising God for who He is and thanking God for what He’s done. And you know what happened? David started to feel better. Life wasn’t so bad after all. His problems grew smaller as his perspective of God grew larger, and he began to see God’s glory shining through the situation. Why is that? Because David shifted from depression to rejoicing. David didn’t wait until God changed his situation, solved his problem, or made him feel better before he began thanking Him.

And in this same way, we too can change our perspective. We will begin seeing moments of sudden glory through the lens of praise and thanksgiving – moments of glory that were there all along, but hidden from us because we allowed ourselves to be under our circumstances. Gratitude is simply an attitude. The one thing we can always choose each day, in any situation, is our attitude. Therefore, we always have the ability to choose an attitude of gratitude.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, Almighty God, on this day of Thanksgiving, I will remember that you called me to give thanks in all circumstances. Father, Thank You for the countless blessings You have bestowed upon me, both in times of joy and in times of challenge. Help me to always maintain a heart filled with gratitude, not just on this special day but every day of my life. May I give thanks in all things. **Amen**

**Ed Bennett**  
Chaplain





## MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

Whether you were stationed overseas or never left the US during your tour of duty. Combat veteran or stood ready during the Cold War just in case. Volunteer or draftee. This month I want to recognize all our veterans for the sacrifices made every day in the service to our great country and say thank you for your service.

The US Marine Corps celebrates its birthday on 10 November so congratulations to all our Marines out there, Semper Paratus!

11 November is not just Veterans Day but is also the day the Armistice was signed in 1918 to end the Great War or what was then called the war to end all wars. The US had 4.7 million that served during the war, 320,000 were sick or wounded, and 116,616 were killed during the war. My great-grandfather served as an NCO with the First Infantry Division during the war. A bullet grazed his head and he was gassed twice by the Germans. He woke up in a hospital on November 11th and complained to the nurse that he had a pounding headache. She told him it may be just from all the church bells ringing because the war was over. He continued to have breathing issues long after the war due to the damage to his lungs caused by the mustard gas. I never got to meet him, he passed away at the age of 57, but I was able to hear stories of his time in the war from my great-grandmother when she showed me some of the pictures he took after the war while waiting to return home.

I mention my great-grandfather because not all wounds are visible to the naked eye. His death was directly attributed to the mustard gas that severely damaged his lungs, but you wouldn't know he had any health issues unless you tried to talk to him. My great-grandmother outlived him by 30 years. The injuries and wounds we received during our time in service may shorten our life expectancy just like what happened to my great-grandfather. The VA gives you money for your disability rating as compensation for not being able to live a normal life due to the injuries you are now living with.

Loneliness, depression, or TBI you cannot see them, but they can contribute to the early death of a veteran. The veteran community has a 57% higher suicide rate than the non-veteran population in our country. According to the VA, 6,146 veterans committed suicide in 2020, that equals almost 17 a day! Please check on your battle buddies and pay close attention to not just what they say but how they look when they talk to you. You never know, by taking the time just to check in on them, you may have just convinced them not to take their life.

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



Yours in Patriotism,  
**Dom Dionne**  
Commander  
Chapter 1775



# UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS 248<sup>th</sup> Years

Marine Corps  
248<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Celebration



***CHESTY PULLER VFW POST 1503***

**Date: Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 1800**

**Price: Free to Post members & guests  
(Donations accepted at the door)**

**Dress: Appropriate business casual or Full Military Dress**

**Guest of Honor: LtCol Sally Ann Falco USMC (ret)**

**Sign up in canteen, starting October 15th**

POC's – Randy Coker or Kevin Simpson

[rwcoker1@gmail.com](mailto:rwcoker1@gmail.com),

[kevinwsimpson@msn.com](mailto:kevinwsimpson@msn.com)







## **ALL HANDS**

UNLOADING - Saturday 25 NOV - 9:00am

## **SALES**

SAT - 9-9

SUN - 9-6

MON - THUR - 3-8

FRI - 2-9

**PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO SIGN UP FOR A SHIFT or TWO!**

**[Jot Form Sign Up](#)**

Questions, please contact:

Tom Levitt - 703-895-5070 / Kelli Levitt 703-895-8855





# VFW November Entertainment

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

**Friday Night**

**Saturday Night**

**November 3rd**

**DJ Steve Boldin**

Dance Party

**November 4th**

**DJ Joe Clay**

Joeyoke and Dance Music

**November 10th**

**DJ Danny**

Dance Party

**November 11th**

**DJ T Play**

Karaoke & Dance Music

**November 17<sup>th</sup>**

**DJ Kelly**

Dance Music Party

**November 18<sup>th</sup>**

**DJ Michael**

Karaoke and Dance Music

**November 24th**

**DJ MoeVibez**

Dance Music Party

**November 25th**

**DJ T Play**

Karaoke & Dance Music





# November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>11th – Veterans Day Service –</b> Quantico Cemetery – 1100 <b>11th – Veterans Day BBQ</b> (with Masonic Diversity Lodge) <b>11th &amp; 12th – Buddy Poppy Drive</b>			<b>1</b> <b>Wacky Wacky Fiesta Especiales</b>	<b>2</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>3</b> <b>DJ Steve Boldin</b> <b>FRIDAY Dinners</b> 5:00-8:00	<b>4</b> <b>Tomb Trek</b> <b>DJ Joe Clay</b> Breakfast 9-12 <b>WINGS</b> 6:00-8:00
<b>5</b> <b>Clocks Fall Back</b> <b>Tomb Trek Breakfast</b> 9-12:00	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Election Day</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>8</b> MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm	<b>9</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>10</b> <b>USMC Birthday Ball</b> <b>DJ Danny</b> <b>FRIDAY Dinners</b> 5:00-8:00	<b>11</b> <b>Veterans Day</b> <b>DJ T Play</b> Breakfast 9-12 <b>WINGS</b> 6:00-8:00
<b>12</b> Breakfast 9-12:00	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>15</b> Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>16</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>17</b> <b>DJ Kelly</b> <b>FRIDAY Dinners</b> 5:00-8:00	<b>18</b> <b>DJ Michael</b> Breakfast 9-12 AUXILIARY Breakfast <b>WINGS</b> 6:00-8:00
<b>19</b> <b>Eagle Scout Court of Honor</b> 1500-1800 <b>Breakfast</b> 9-12:00	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>22</b> <b>Wacky Wacky Seafood Specials</b>	<b>23</b> <b>THANKS GIVING</b> NO BINGO	<b>24</b> <b>Blood Drive (TBD)</b> <b>DJ Moe Vibez</b> <b>FRIDAY Dinners</b> 5:00-8:00	<b>25</b> <b>Xmas Trees</b> <b>DJ T Play</b> Breakfast 9-12 <b>WINGS</b> 6:00-8:00
<b>26</b> Breakfast 9-12:00	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> BINGO 7:30		

# Veterans of Foreign Wars

## Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



**Next Monthly Meeting**  
**November 15th**

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

### ***Wacky Wacky Wednesday ...***

**November 1st ... Fiesta Especiales**

Beef Tacos (3) .....	\$8.95
Taco Salad .....	\$8.95
Shrimp Tacos (2) .....	\$10.95
Chicken Enchiladas (2) .....	\$9.95

**November 22nd ... Seafood Specials**

Steamed Shrimp .....	\$10.95
Fish n Chips .....	\$9.95
Grilled Salmon .....	\$10.95