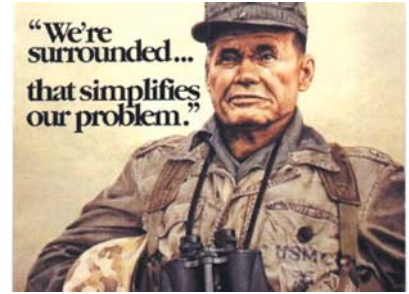




VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503

SEPT 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, as summer continues its downward trend, I can attest the hottest weather is behind us. Dried grass and shrubs will soon be on the mend for a short time in preparation for a bountiful display of fall colors. And with fall be ever mindful of kids, school buses, and crosswalks as we move into another season of learning and sports activities.

Now let's look back on last month's activities at our post. We commemorated National Purple Heart Day at Mount Vernon, VA, hosted the annual VFW Post 1503 Golf Tournament, held our District 10 School of Instruction (SOI) and joint meeting, and prepared for the installation of our new Touch Tunes jukebox. Our continued commitment to honoring veterans, fostering camaraderie, and supporting our community has been at the forefront of our efforts.

We recently commemorated National Purple Heart Day, America's oldest military award at Mount Vernon, VA on 4 and 5 August. It was a day of remembrance and reflection as we paid tribute to the brave men and women who have been awarded the Purple Heart for their sacrifices. The serene surroundings of Mount Vernon provided the perfect backdrop for this solemn occasion, reminding us of the resilience and courage of our veterans.

In the spirit of friendly competition and community engagement, we hosted the VFW Post 1503 Golf Tournament. It was a day filled with camaraderie, laughter and a shared passion for the game. Through this event, we not only enjoyed a round of golf but also raised funds to support our ongoing initiatives for veterans and their families.

Continuing our dedication to education and collaboration, we held the District 10 SOI, along with our quarterly District 10 joint meeting. This event brought together all ten VFW Posts in the district, cultivating a valuable exchange of ideas and insights. Strengthening the bonds between our posts ensures that we are better equipped to serve our veterans and contribute positively to our community.

- 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



Exciting news - we have installed the Touch Tunes Jukebox system, complete with new speakers, in our post. This modern addition promises to enhance our social gatherings and events with an array of music choices. We're excited to create a lively atmosphere that complements the camaraderie and fellowship that defines our post. Specifics are under the Facility Happening post.

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for our Annual Labor Day and Family Fun Day BBQ on the 4th of September. This event promises to be a blast for the whole family, featuring a giant slide, an ice cream truck to beat the summer heat, and a petting zoo and pony rides to delight the little ones. The festivities will be complemented by the energetic tunes of the Pam Pelano band, setting the stage for a memorable day of celebration.

Upcoming Events for Sept 2023

- 4 Sept – Labor Day Holiday & Family Fun Day w/ Pam Pelano Band
- 8 Sept – Mr. Handyman National Day of Service Project
- 9 Sept – Buffalo Soldiers Summer event – Pavilion
- 9 Sept. – Cub Scout Pack 1373 event B Hall
- 11 Sept – Patriot Day and National Day of Remembrance: Post Canteen – 1800
- 13 Sept – Boy Scout Troop 1919 Court of Honor – Pavilion coincides
- 15 Sept – Post 1503 Honor Guard POW/MIA Memorial Service: Post Canteen – Food 1800
- 16 Sept – Air Force Birthday Celebration – Post Canteen – 1300
- 18 Sept – Air Force Birthday Observed



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 56 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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY U.S. AIR FORCE





VFW AUXILIARY

Happy September Greetings Auxiliary 1503! Wishing all of our 1503 Teachers, students & staff members a fantastic school year!

Great turnout for our June meeting, with 32 members!! Welcome to our new members – Huong, LaVerne, Lorraine, Gwendolyn, Virginia, Linda and Terra.

We had five members help with the Post 1503 Annual Golf Tournament, checking in players, handing out snack bags, selling raffle tickets and Mulligans.

We had to cancel the monthly breakfast in August – we will meet again this month on the 16th. Hope you will join us!

Hospital Chairman Jeanne has begun a pen pal for Vets with our friends at Arbor Chase Assisted Living Facility. Cards are available at each meeting for you to sign. There is also a collection box in the Auxiliary office if you would like to drop off your own cards. Jeanne will collect them periodically and deliver them to the Veteran residents.

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 September 4th! Sure to be a fun time! You can still sign up to volunteer, if you have not already. There is ALWAYS a need! [Labor Day Volunteer Sign Up](#)

[VFW Store Orders](#) are placed every quarter, and our Auxiliary covers shipping! 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 annual Mr. Handyman National Day of Service project is set for September 8th. Our Auxiliary will provide lunch and serve for the 30+ member crew. If you would like to help, please contact me for details.

Post 1503 is planning a huge adult Halloween/Costume contest party in 'A' Hall on October 28th. Our Auxiliary agreed to help by providing three (or more) volunteers for a 50/50 raffle. If you are interested in helping, please contact Michael Alicea via email [here](mailto:michael.alicea@gmail.com). michael.alicea@gmail.com

Three additional opportunities for volunteerism this month –

- Patriot's Day Remembrance on the 11th at 6pm in the Canteen.
- POW/MIA Remembrance on the 15th at 6pm in the Canteen.
- USAF Birthday Celebration on the 16th at 11am in the Canteen.

A note from VFW National, regarding the devastating fires in Maui –

To help donations go further and as we have done with past disasters we will match dollar for dollar up to \$30,000.00 from the disaster relief fund that we receive, earmarked for Hawaii Fires.

In order to track donations send your donation to:

National VFW

Attn: QM General

406 w. 34th Street

Kansas City, MO 64111

Please specify Hawaii Fires

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 Wooten
2nd Yr Trustee	Gina Powers
3rd Yr Trustee	Rita Maldonado
Historian	Venee Alicea
Patriotic Instructor	Kimberly Murray

In addition to a \$1,000.00 donation to the disaster relief fund, we also approved donations to the VFW National Home, the NJROTC program at Osbourn Park HS – in honor of a Cadet who continues to faithfully volunteer for Post 1503 Bingo. And money for Fall school supplies.

At our meeting this month, 10th District President Cindy will attend for her 'official visit' and inspection. Let's welcome her with a huge 1503 turnout! The District is starting a non-perishable food drive that will run through sometime in October. You may leave donations in the Auxiliary office or bring to our meeting on the 20th. I am certain that the members of Auxiliary 1503 will rock this effort with the most donations in our District!!

District 10 food collection – website – events - D10 president visiting September 20th meeting

If you would like to receive the monthly Department C 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

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**

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 **Danny**

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

VFW POST 1503

ANNUAL LABOR DAY BBQ

MONDAY SEP 4th ~ 12:00 ~ 3:00 pm

JOIN US IN THE PAVILION FOR

FOOD * MUSIC * FUN



FREE EVENT ~ OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

McGruff * ice-cream truck * petting zoo

ident-a-kid * pony rides * popcorn * giant slide

Live music by 'the Pam Pelano' Band

FACILITY HAPPENINGS

Ok folks September means many things, to many people but here at the VFW it means we are really- really going to be busy.

Let's start with **ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL**. We are locked in for the **NFL DIRECT TV** package for this year. The contract that they lost, was for private residence customers not business's. Effective the second weekend in September (10th), the **SUNDAY HOURS** for the bar operation will go back to **12p.m to 10 p.m.**

While on this subject remember rules of operation during football games is the bartender and M/A's on duty are the only one's allowed to set up the games on the TV. Rule of thumb is if you want to see a particular game be here by at least 12:30 to request the game you're interested in. Which TV it's going to be shown on will be up to the staff, depending on number of people who are requesting a game that particular day etc. The large TV in the canteen is reserved for the home team **COMMANDERS**. The tv in the dance area is for the **STEELER** fans as it has been in the past. Common sense will take over on this if no one is interested in watching these teams.

New music system has been installed and a big improvement over the old system. **Touch Tunes** is the name of the system and will allow you to download it to your cell phone. Cost will be \$1.00 a play. Allows you to use your download anywhere else, that has the same system (ex. Elks, Glory Days). Hope you enjoy.

Please see last page of this newsletter for full list of events for this month.



John Meehan
Facility Manager

MOC / MOCA

We had another crummy scratch in August after we got back from the "Dry Heat" that was the Supreme Scratch in Arizona late July. Hopefully Kentucky's weather is much kinder to us next year. The MOC and MOCA also had the honor to bring several thousands of dollars in Wish-List items to donate to the patients at Richmond VA Medical Center. Some of us even clowned around! Whether you're a Cootie or not, we highly encourage you to join us in a trip to the VA to make a Veteran's day better.

On 26 August, some of our Pup Tent 14 members traveled down to Ocean View, VA to participate in Pup Tent 1's annual Cootie Safari. Several VFW Posts in the Norfolk area were visited on a double decker bus. Certainly a fun time!

Our Next Scratch will be on 13 September at 1900 for MOCA, 1930 for MOC. Hope to see you there!

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

Mom Said There Would Be Days Like These...

Ever have one of those days? When nothing seems to go your way? There's hope during these challenging moments in the form of God's perfect peace. God's peace is greater than anything we can experience by ourselves. Even when our lives are absent of worries and strife, God's perfect peace passes all understanding:

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds ..." Philippians 4:7

So the question remains, how do we secure this perfect peace?

"You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." Isaiah 26:3

This verse reminds us that if we focus our minds on God, He can provide us with calm in the middle of our largest troubles. We receive God's peace when we TRUST that He will give it to us!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank You for your peace when life doesn't go the way the way I planned. I will trust in You to provide the calm I need in difficult times, and Father, help me to live in your perfect peace every day. Amen.

Ed Bennett
Chaplain

MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

On 15 September our Nation will celebrate POW/MIA Recognition Day. This is when we pause and remember all our service members that were prisoners of war or those who are still listed as missing in action. Modern science has helped immensely in our Nation's quest to return all our fallen home and provide a sense of closure to the families that have waited to be able to finally know for sure their loved one is accounted for and finally resting in a marked grave.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has a tough but important mission. They have been successful in linking unidentified remains to artifacts that were later discovered in the vicinity of where the remains were originally found and with DNA analysis.

While this is good news, there is still a long way to go. There are still 72,187 service members missing from World War II, 7,492 missing from the Korean War, and 1,578 missing from the Vietnam War. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers. Each of these Purple Heart recipients deserves our gratitude for services rendered to our country. Let's keep them in our prayers until the day there are no longer any missing and unknowns.



All Gave Some, Some Gave All!

Yours in Patriotism,
Dom Dionne
Commander
Chapter 1775

POST SURGEON

Youth Scholarships and Teacher of the Year Awards Nominations

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen submissions as well as Teacher of the Year nominations are being solicited through 31 October 2023.

Voice of Democracy (High School):

Established in 1947, the Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 25,000 ninth through 12th grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1.3 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

This year's theme is: **"What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?"**

Prizes are awarded at the Post, State and National levels. The Post awards \$100-\$1,000 for winners and increases to \$35,000 for the winner at National level.

More information, entry forms and rules can be found at: vfw.org/youth

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8):

Each year, nearly 68,800 students in sixth through eighth grades enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in state and national awards.

This year's theme is: **"How Are You Inspired by America?"**

Prizes are awarded at the Post, State and National levels. The Post awards \$50-\$500 for winners and increases to \$5,000 for the winner at National level.

More information, entry forms and rules can be found at: vfw.org/youth

Teacher of the Year (Elementary, Middle and High School):

Without our nation's veterans, America wouldn't be the great nation it is today. Our youth deserve to learn about our rich history, traditions and the role of our veterans in creating and shaping America.

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle, and high school teachers to participate in the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher program.

The Post awards \$300 to each awardee and increase through the National level.

More information, entry forms and rules can be found at: vfw.org/youth

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

Submissions for these opportunities can be dropped off or mailed to

VFW Post 1503
Post Surgeon – Dan Walczyk
14631 Minnieville Road
Dale City, VA 22195

Please email any questions to danwalczyk@yahoo.com

Dan Walczyk
Post Surgeon

HOUSE COMMITTEE

The House Committee is happy to announce our new email address: Housecommittee1503@vfwus.org

Please use this email to contact members of the house committee with suggestions and comments regarding the entertainment provided to the membership of Post 1503.

We would also like to announce that this year's Halloween Costume Contest and Party will be held in the bingo hall! We will have live music from the True Soul Band. Food and drink will be offered for sale and the event is open to the public, 25 and older. Tickets are on sale now for non-members on Eventbrite, \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Members and their immediate family are free of charge with presentation of their VFW membership card. The house committee is asking any members willing to donate decorations or cash to purchase decorations to contact us at the email above or see us in the canteen.

Doors will open at 7pm and the party will start at 8pm. The costume contest will be at 10pm with prizes awarded! Please send the word out and help us make this a spooktacular time for all.

VFW Post 1503 – Saturday, Oct. 28th

Halloween Costume Party/contest!

Entrance on pavilion side of VFW

Doors open at 7pm - Party from 8pm - Midnight

Live Music with

True Soul Band



Costume contest with prizes @ 10PM

This event is open to the public - 25 and Older

IDs will be checked by PWC Police

Tickets on sale on Eventbrite

\$15 in advance \$20 at the door

VFW Members and their immediate family = free

For tickets scan the QR code or type the following into a browser: <https://vfwus.org/hw23>





VFW September Entertainment

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

Friday Nights

Saturday Nights

September 1st

DJ Michael
Dance Party with Karaoke!

September 2nd

DJ T Play
Karaoke and Dance Party!

Monday - September 4th

Labor Day under the Pavilion
The Pam Pelano Band 12:30 – 3:00

September 8th

DJ Danny
Dance Party!

September 9th

Mars Rodeo Band
Classic and Modern Rock/Pop

September 15th

DJ Kelly
Dance Party

September 16th

DJ Michael
Dance Party with Karaoke!

September 22nd

DJ T Play
Karaoke and Dance Party!

September 23rd

Made in the USA Band
70's classic rock, modern country,
dance, and originals

September 29th

DJ Steve Boldin
Dance party with Videos!

September 30th

DJ Joe Clay
Joeyoke & Dance music



September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>8 Sept – Mr. Handyman National Day of Service Project 9 Sept – Buffalo Soldiers Summer event – Pavilion 15 Sept – Post 1503 Honor Guard POW/MIA Memorial Service: Canteen – Food 1800 16 Sept – Air Force Birthday Celebration – Canteen – 1300</p>					<p>1 DJ Michael FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00</p>	<p>2 DJ T Play Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00</p>
<p>3 Breakfast 9-12:00</p>	<p>4 Labor Day BBQ 12-3 Pam Pelano Band</p>	<p>5 BINGO 7:30</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 BINGO 7:30</p>	<p>8 DJ Danny FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00</p>	<p>9 Mars Rodeo Band Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00</p>
<p>10 Breakfast 9-12:00</p>	<p>11 Patriot Day and National Day of Remembrance Canteen 1800</p>	<p>12 BINGO 7:30</p>	<p>13 MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm</p>	<p>14 BINGO 7:30</p>	<p>15 DJ Kelly FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00</p>	<p>16 DJ Michael Breakfast 9-12 AUXILIARY Breakfast WINGS 6:00-8:00</p>
<p>17 Breakfast 9-12:00</p>	<p>18 Air Force Birthday</p>	<p>19 BINGO 7:30</p>	<p>20 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm</p>	<p>21 BINGO 7:30</p>	<p>22 DJ T Play FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00</p>	<p>23 Made in USA Band Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00</p>
<p>24 Breakfast 9-12:00</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 BINGO 7:30</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 BINGO 7:30</p>	<p>29 DJ Steve Bolden FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00</p>	<p>30 DJ Joe Clay Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00</p>

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

September 20th

vfw1503.org

VFW Post 1503 – Saturday, Oct. 28th

Halloween Costume Party/contest!

Entrance on pavilion side of VFW

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