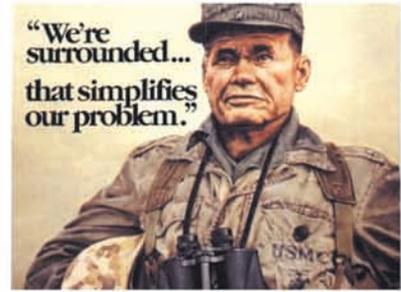




AUG 2020

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503



General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

14631 MINNIEVILLE ROAD • DALE CITY, VIRGINIA 22193 • 703.670.4124

www.vfw1503.org

CANTEEN HOURS: Sunday / Monday / Wednesday 12 Noon - 11 PM
Tuesday / Thursday / Saturday 12 Noon - 12 Midnight • Friday 12 Noon - 2 AM

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

The facility continues to see increased business and expansion of their services as Bingo has re-opened at a socially distant and safe environment. All CDC and health department guidelines are



masks and social distancing. Our management and staff are following mandated guidance that is in the interest of our Post and membership so that we may remain safely open. If reminded about guidance please politely comply as staff members are doing their job and what is required. Thank you all for your continued patience and understanding in this regard to help keep us all safe, healthy and open.

This month was punctuated by an abbreviated 4th of July in the Canteen, a Red Cross Blood Drive in the A Hall, Flag Retirement in the Pavilion and the renewal of our 'slightly' overgrown horseshoe pits adjacent to the Pavilion.

Those who came by the Post on Independence Day were treated to burgers, dogs and traditional side dishes courtesy of the facility. We followed that up with a short ceremony honoring our Flag, Nation and Service of our comrades in the dance floor area ~ thanks to all that came out and to the participation of our Auxiliary who helped honor our small celebration.

POST OFFICERS

- Post Commander Tom Levitt
Senior Vice Bernie Carter
Junior Vice Ben Guinan
Quartermaster Tim Brown
Judge Advocate Star Martinez
Surgeon Robert Adamczyk
Chaplain Ed Bennett
3 Year Trustee Tom Gimble
2 Year Trustee Ron Laney
1 Year Trustee John Dodge
Adjutant Randy Coker
Service Officer Ed Tatum
Asst. Service Officer Tami Brown
House Committee Chairman Joe Saitta
Past Commander . Thomas Williams, Jr.

being followed throughout the facility. As a reminder please follow posted guidelines for





The Red Cross reached donor capacity for their blood drive in the A Hall on the 5th and will be back in the Fall. We conducted a Flag Retirement ceremony on the 11th retiring over 1000 flags ~ many thanks to all who participated and Ron Laney for his stalwart dedication to being a part of this ceremony along with the Honor Guard and our Auxiliary Members who came to help lighten our load.



Horseshoes anyone??!! Our revitalized horseshoe pits include new hardware, backstops, and over 3.6 tons of new 'Virginia Sand'. Many thanks go to Auxiliary Member Jan Kiecker and her family along with Comrade Robert 'Arch' Archeambeault for taking on this project and convincing yours truly to come out and help the last two days of this four day project. As I understand there are some final touches that will include paint etc. but nothing that precludes anyone from stopping by to admire the work or tossing some shoes in friendly competition ~ thanks again!!



RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE

Our quarterly recruiting incentive announced this past Fall is in full swing. This past month we awarded a Bronze Legacy Life Membership to Ben Guinan ~ Congratulations to Ben!! As a reminder, for every five members you recruit a ticket is placed in the drawing for you and remains throughout the year until drawn or the recruitment year ends. This means even if you win that ticket is removed and any previous or subsequent tickets you earned through recruiting remain in the drawing until the end of the year!! Awards are granted as follows for members who are drawn as winners:

- Annual Member = Life Membership
- Life Member = Bronze Legacy Life
- Bronze Legacy Life = Silver Legacy Life
- Silver Legacy Life = Gold Legacy Life

Congressman Wittman will be visiting our Post to provide an update on Veterans issues and allow for a short Q&A just prior to our monthly meeting on 19 August at 6:30 P.M. in the B-Hall. If you have a particular issue you would like to know about or have specific questions you would like addressed you may forward them to me by email. I will provide them to his outreach coordinator so he is prepared to address your concerns.

Help out our Post for the month of August, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1503 will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Giant Food store located at 4309 Dale Blvd., Dale City VA. Even after August if you purchase a bag you can go to the website on the reusable bag and designate us as the recipient of your \$1 donation.

Changes to our plans during the current pandemic environment are situational and should be expected. To stay informed watch for emails via Constant Contact and check out what is happening on our post website and Facebook pages to stay updated and see all the latest happenings and pictures from events. Stop by our sites and I think you will be impressed with all of the improvements our webmasters have been up to!!

On the Web At: vfw1503.org

Follow and Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Veterans-of-Foreign-Wars-Post-1503-96167622773/>

Our **Next Meeting** will be at **7:00 p.m.** on **19 August** at **VFW Post 1503** in the **B Hall** to accommodate social distancing. Please follow CDC guidelines for face coverings and attend only if you are healthy and are not in a quarantine status due to travel or potential virus exposure.

Stay Healthy and Safe!

Tom Levitt

Post Commander
cdrpost1503@vfwva.org

VFW AUXILIARY

Hello Auxiliary 1503 members! Hope you are having an enjoyable summer and managing to stay cool ~ this heat is brutal!!

Welcome new members, Tatiana and Stacey!



4th of July celebrations at Post 1503 were considerably different and smaller this year ~ however, 5 Auxiliary members were able to join with the Comrades for a reading from the Commander and a toast to Independence Day. Thank you to Patriotic Instructor Marvis, for leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance and to Michelle, Rebecca and Monika for attending with me.

July 11th seemed to be THE hottest day of the year ~ so naturally there was a Flag Retirement Ceremony! Milton, Marvis, Jackie, Susan, Laura and I were happy to assist the Comrades with retiring over 1000 flags.



Auxiliary 1503 Conductress Jan, her husband Paul and their son Ryan, along with Comrade Archie and Commander Tom worked for FOUR days to totally refurbish the 4 horseshoe pits, located behind the pavilion. Stop by and have a look, or better yet ~ bring a friend and play a game!! They are quite nice!



DID YOU KNOW? VFW Auxiliary eligibility is determined by the following:

You must be related to a veteran who has served in overseas combat, earning the campaign medals eligible. That veteran can be a living or

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President Kelli Levitt
Sr. Vice President Milton Moore
Jr. Vice President Reginald Garland
Secretary Betty Gimble
Treasurer Karla Coker
Chaplain Glorious Burress
Conductress Jan Kiecker
Guard Laura Adamczyk
1st Yr Trustee Rebecca Moninghoff
2nd Yr Trustee Monika Walczyk
3rd Yr Trustee Janell Garland
Historian Joyce Gibbs
Patriotic Instructor Marvis Jones

deceased spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent or grandchild.

Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.

Why aren't in-laws, cousins, uncles/aunts, nephews/nieces, great grandparents/great-grandchildren of veterans eligible? The IRS determines the degrees of separation from the veteran that qualify for membership in a veterans' service organization auxiliary. The relationship must be within two degrees of "consanguinity" to be eligible. That means two generations back (i.e. parents or grandparents) or forward (i.e. children or grandchildren).

At our July meeting, a motion was made to add/edit several line items in our Standing Orders. Motion carried. Below is one of the additions -

RECRUITING CHALLENGE!! During each Auxiliary year ~ July 1st ~ June 30th if an Auxiliary member recruits 10 or more NEW members (life or annual) ~ **you will earn \$100!** Are you going to earn your \$100? About membership applications ~ please take time to ensure ALL information is properly filled out AND legible on the application. Including YOUR NAME and MEMBER NUMBER.

Looking for a super easy way to support Post 1503? Stop by Giant Food at 4309 Dale Blvd. during the month of August and purchase a reusable "community bag". For each \$2.50 bag purchased, our VFW will receive a \$1 donation!

Awards ~ Awards ~ Awards!!! Our Auxiliary earned 3 monetary awards from the Department of Virginia Auxiliary ~ Membership, (Betty Gimble) Historian (Joyce Gibbs) and Buddy Poppy/National Home (Susan Adamczyk) Congratulations to everyone! I am extremely proud to be part of Auxiliary 1503 ~ we ROCK!! This year is off to a great start, with only 4 Program Chairman positions yet to be filled ~ Legislative, Scholarships, President's Special Project and Veterans and Family Support. Step up, get involved and let's do this!!

If you would like to receive alerts, via email from Chaplain Glorious, please contact her at auxiliary1503chaplain@gmail.com. If you would like to receive monthly communications from the Department of Virginia, please contact Secretary Ellen at ellenstogsdill@cox.net.

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.



Kelli Levitt

President, Auxiliary 1503

itsmekelli@aol.com

703-895-8855

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

- AUG 1 Dept of VA CoA and Sol ~ Post 9808
- AUG 19 Auxiliary Mtg 7:00 pm
- SEPT 5th MOC/MOCA Flea Market (pending restrictions)
- SEPT 20th District 10 Auxiliary Sol and Mtg Post 1503 'B' Hall

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*

Remember to like and follow our Facebook page... VFW Post 1503 - Auxiliary

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Patriots:

We had a short but good meeting at the Post pavilion on the 18th. We decided with approval from Post Commander to conduct a **Viola Drive** at the Post on National Purple Heart Day! We also discussed our participation at the National Purple Heart Day ceremony at Mount Vernon on the actual Purple Heart Day of Friday, August 7th. Some facts about the Purple Heart:

The Purple Heart's first predecessor, the Fidelity Medallion, was created in 1780 by the Continental Congress, but was only awarded to three soldiers that year. Two years later, in 1782, President George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit. Because the Fidelity Medallion was never again bestowed, it is generally thought of as commemorative, and the Badge of Military Merit is instead considered to be the first U.S. military decoration and the Purple Heart's predecessor. According to Washington, who designed the badge in the form of a cloth purple heart, the medal would be given to soldiers who displayed "not only instances of unusual gallantry in battle, but also extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way." The Badge of Military Merit later became known as the Purple Heart, which is still presented to U.S. service members today.

Thanks to Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the Purple Heart officially received its modern-day look and name in 1932. The revived medal was designated primarily as a combat decoration, recognizing commendable action as well as those wounded or killed in combat. A few years later in 1944, the qualifications for receiving a Purple Heart changed to what we know today: an award given only to those wounded or killed in enemy action.

On George Washington's 200th birthday, February 22, 1932, the Purple Heart Medal was reinstated by a Congressional Act. It was redesigned by Elizabeth Will with the likeness of George Washington and the original Badge of Military Merit and that design is the Purple Heart Medal as we know it today. Purple Heart Day is observed August 7th of each year. This tradition started in 2014 and is not a national holiday, but a day for us to pause and remember those who have sacrificed their lives for our country.

The next **Chapter Meeting** is on **Saturday, August 15th**. We need to continue to be proactive in helping our wounded Veterans and their families!! Our Chapter's mission is to serve our combat wounded veterans and their families. Call me at **703-244-5428**

GOD BLESS AMERICA!!!

Ron Laney

Commander
Semper Fi Chapter 1775



FACILITY HAPPENINGS

Post had a lot going on in July including our first Bingo session since March. We are back to the regular schedule of every Tuesday and Thursday with the doors opening at 5:30 sharp. Limited seating because of the social distancing requirement etc. so please get here early (5:30) if possible.

Canteen has been set up for your safety with social distancing, temperatures on arrival and face masks required by all. While eating or drinking you can remove your face-mask. Leaving the table for any reason requires you to put your mask back on.

We are now having dinner Friday nights from 6 to 8 with a limited menu. Once again because of the virus stipulations seating and serving of food has requirements that are a little out of the ordinary so your patience is requested while we try and make things work. We also are hoping to have breakfast back during the later part of August for at least one of the two weekend days. Announcements will be made via Constant Contact.

As a reminder wooden nickels are not being accepted as payment for your drinks at this time. Plastic chips are accepted. Looking forward to when we can have Wings and entertainment again, will keep you posted.



John Meehan
Facility Manager





MOC / MOCA

Due to pandemic era restrictions, not a lot happening at this point for us. However, we are diligently working to get things moving in the right direction to work our mission to take care of our veterans!

Several of our MOC and MOCA members have been working behind the scenes to make things happen for both the post and the pup tent. We have had a large number of Cooties working the newly re-opened Bingo. Our Cooties have taken part in the refurbishing of the horseshoe pits next to Pavillion. Some of our Cooties worked the Blood Drive back on 5 July which was very successful!

We are currently working with VFW Post 7916 to have people interested in becoming Cooties join our pup tent. Adding them will be a huge benefit to both posts! It will add more Cooties to our ranks and expand our area of influence and add ideas to our pup tent for accomplishing our mission and so on and so on...

We have scheduled 2 flea markets and a cornhole tournament at the post that we are looking forward to hosting... more information to follow as event details are finalized! With the newly renovated horseshoe pits nearly ready for use, we envision some forthcoming Cootie sponsored horseshoe tournaments as well! And remember... Buddy Poppy type activities are coming up in the not too distant future! MOC/MOCA will be supporting the drive as usual!

As always, take care of yourself, your families, your friends, and your fellow veterans in this pandemic era. All the best to everyone in these trying times! If there is anything we can do to help, please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to give you all the support we can!

We Are Better Together!

Ben Guinan

MOC Seam Squirrel
guinanbt@gmail.com

Doris Miller

MOCA President
dorisasmussen1951@outlook.com



Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

August 19TH

www.vfw1503.org

