



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

JAN 23



General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

Post 1503

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, by now we have all enjoyed family, friends, acquaintances, and the festivities of the holiday season, along with the expectations and hope for the New Year. And many of you endured some extremely cold and windy weather hailed by our news agencies as the "Cyclone Bomb" or the mother of all storms. But we endured and we moved forward.

Let's look back for a minute at an extremely busy December, where we celebrated the 81st anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, hailed and enjoyed the camaraderie and hard volunteer work of our Post Officer's, executed a well-planned Auxiliary Kids Christmas party, observed the 3rd anniversary of the founding of our Space Force and eased into the New Year with the Post 1503's annual New Year's Eve celebration. But before I get to that, I want to give a hearty well done to all members, Comrades, and Auxiliary for their effort and hard work in ensuring VFW Post 1503 achieved 100% membership before the end of the calendar year 2022 and being the first Post in District 10 to garner all All-American requirements. Well done Post 1503!

For the 81st anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, we did things a little differently. There was no speech, but there was a story to tell, we simply closed our eyes and transported ourselves back in time, and imagined the quietness of a Sunday morning only to be disturbed by the mighty roar of piston engines and the sound of 250 and 500-pound bombs of the Japanese naval forces as they impacted their targets. No, this was not a typical Sunday morning but it was a wake-up call to an isolationist era and something we Americans will never forget.

On 10 December I honored our Post Officers with a fabulous Christmas brunch to show my appreciation for a group who unswervingly and constantly give of their time and effort to ensure we function as the world-renowned Post you as members have come to expect. I know that I am especially proud of this group, for their leadership and advice as I continue to go forward in my duties. Well Done!



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

The Children's Christmas party was executed by the Auxiliary with precision on 18 December 2022. The matriculation process, food, games, and the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Claus (aka Jan and Paul Kiecker) were cheered and lauded as the best. I can't thank the Auxiliary enough for the smiles and memories those kids will have as they move onward. Thank you guys and BZ!

We ended the year by honoring the 3rd anniversary of the founding (20 December 2019) of the United States Space Force, which is under the Department of the Air Force, similar to the setup that the Navy and Marine Corps have. We followed that with our annual New Year's Eve celebration. A special thanks to Erin Charles and the decorating committee for a marvelous setup. Doors opened at 6 and we danced and feasted our way to midnight with the sounds of the Rockhits, signifying the dawn of a new year.

Until next month, I want to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. It's this time of year we make resolutions and start down new paths. This New Year will be no different. And as always, remember those family members and co-workers that mean the most to you.

Stay safe, continue to recruit, and be kind to others. 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. Our Facebook page will keep you updated on all of the latest happenings and pictures from VFW 1503 events.

Bernie Carter
Post Commander
cdrpost1503@vfwva.org

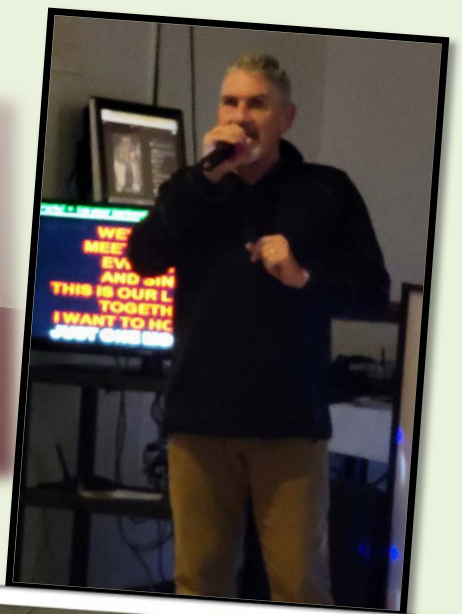


JANUARY EVENTS

12-15 Jan VFW VA Winter Council, Portsmouth, VA



16 Jan MLK Day Special Menu
21 Jan Membership Appreciation Night / Corn Hole Tournament / with DJ: Full Hall 1800-2300
28 Jan Troop 1919 Sponsor Pinewood Derby: A-B Hall



VFW AUXILIARY

Happy New Year Auxiliary 1503!

I hope that the Holiday Season was a happy time for you and that you were able to enjoy your family, friends and maybe even a bit of relaxation!

As we begin the new calendar year – we are also half way through our Auxiliary year. We have a lot to be proud of, with all that we have been able to do and provide for our Veterans and our community. If you are not an active member, I invite and encourage you to come get involved! In addition to conducting our necessary business, we also have fun!

Welcome to our new Auxiliary members! – Steven, Velicia, Bobbi Jo, Kelly, Louis, Tammy, Peggy Sue, Lauren and Jose.

I am extremely proud to report that Auxiliary 1503 has made our December 31 membership goal of 100% +1. We are actually a bit over 1000, so even better! This was an enormous task and without everyone actively recruiting and encouraging folks to renew, it would be nearly impossible. So, thank you and well done!

During the month of December, we attended the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony and we had a fantastic time at our monthly Auxiliary Breakfast. We provided and served our Comrades a great meal after our monthly meetings; we wished the Space Force a Happy Birthday and we hosted over 60 children, along with their family at our annual Children's Christmas Party. We also purchased and delivered 74 coats, 36 hats, and 285 pairs of gloves to lots of kids at three local elementary schools – all while we cleaned, baked, decorated, traveled, shopped, cooked, wrapped, celebrated and rang in the New Year!!

Eleven of us enjoyed breakfast and conversation, and quickly moved on to our Cookie Exchange & Sock Swap! Great time – hope you are able to join us this month on the 21st at 9:30 at the Post.

The Christmas Party was well attended, by guests and volunteers – thank you to everyone for your help in making the day successful and fun. The children enjoyed visiting with Mr. & Mrs. Claus. Special thanks to Paul, Jan and Debbie! As always, we ended the festivities with the much-anticipated Cake Walk! It is always one of the biggest hits of the party!

This month, many of us will travel to Portsmouth, VA to attend Winter Council Meetings, celebrate the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year winners and honor our Department Commander & President at their Homecoming Celebration. If you have not had the opportunity to attend this or any other Department or National event – you should! They are all great experiences, full of learning and fun!

ANNUAL MEMBERS – please note - if you did not pay your annual dues by December 31, 2022, you are no longer a member in good standing and you will not be able to attend our meetings, until your dues (\$25) are paid. Please reach out to Karla or me should you have any questions.

This month we will also make plans for February activities, Hospital, Youth and Veterans & Family Support, to name a few. If you have ideas, or would like to help – please plan to attend our monthly meeting on the 18th, at 7:00pm.

With your dedication and continued volunteer service, I know we will have a busy, rewarding and fun second half of our Auxiliary year!

Are you receiving Chaplain Alerts? If not, please email Chaplain Michael at auxiliarychaplain1503@gmail.com

Are you receiving Department of Virginia Auxiliary Monthly Communications? If not, you may

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

sign up at www.vfwauxva.org

Do you have a login for Malta? What is Malta? It is access to resources, your information and more for the Auxiliary. www.vfwauxiliary.org You can pay your dues, request a replacement membership card and update your contact information.

Auxiliary 1503 will continue to place VFW Store orders, for our members at the end of each quarter. Orders due by the 21 DEC meeting.

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

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

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*

Remember to like and follow our Facebook page!! [VFW Post 1503 - Auxiliary](#)



Feeling Overwhelmed

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

As we emerge from the holidays, there are many people who are feeling overwhelmed. The holidays can be the most wonderful time of the year, and generally people are happier, for a time. However, many persons become overwhelmed over the holidays, and they carry the stress forward into the new year. There are many stressors and sources of anxiety that lead to being overwhelmed: Work and life responsibilities, relationships, traumatic experiences, financial worries, and health concerns are among the most prevalent.

Feeling overwhelmed is a natural part of life that comes from trying to always take on more than we should. This can be difficult to avoid in a world that is always pressuring us to do more, to give more and to sign-up and commit to more; however, there are things we can do to reduce these feelings.

Watch Your Health

Being worn-out can create anxiety and lead to a defeated attitude. When we are not getting enough sleep, our troubles can seem much larger. Daily life in our fast-paced area, places many demands on our time, and it's easy to neglect our health. Be sure to make time for rest, relaxation, exercise, sleep and eating well. You'll be surprised how much better you can cope with life's challenges.

Break Big Problems Down To Smaller Steps

The old adage: "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time." Many challenges seem insurmountable when you focus on the totality of the overwhelming problem. When you are overwhelmed by something you need to do, write out the larger task on paper and then break it down into smaller steps you can take each day toward the bigger goal. Having a plan and taking incremental steps to resolve your challenge will greatly reduce your daily stress and anxiety.

Pray

Prayer helps us focus on what is most important. It enables us to have clearer minds. Prayer resets the mind – lets us mentally start over – and allows us, with God's help, to find alternative ways to deal with our challenges.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for always being here for me, even when I'm not always here for you. Thank you for your promises and that you never change. When I am overwhelmed help me to rest in the fact that you know what is best for me and want what is best for me. Help me to lean upon your grace and mercy, and to turn to you to control the outcome of the situations in my life.

Ed Bennett
Chaplain





Bring on
the
NEW YEAR!





FACILITY HAPPENINGS

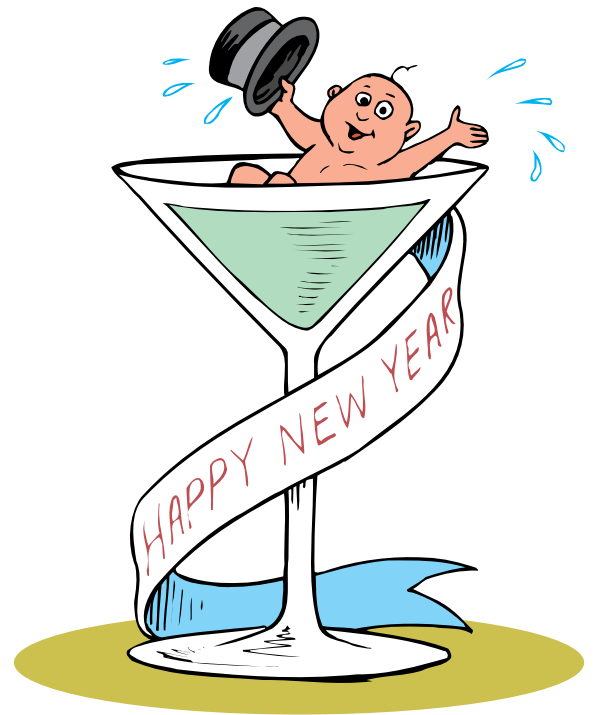
By the time you're reading this many things happened since we last communicated with you. Of course 2023 was brought in with our annual NEW YEARS eve party. Over 150 members and guest's attended and I want to thank everyone who came and especially Erin and her work crew for once again doing a great job in the food prep and decorations. Fun time had by all.

In December we had to raise prices pretty much across the board for our meals and drinks due to the raise in prices that just kept going up month after month. Breakfast and Bar menu were affected. We also have reduced our inventory to help keep cost down for items that did not move fast enough to allow us to keep it available.

Credit card sales have exceeded our expectation. Like anything new glitches have been popping up and we are going to a new vendor in January which should stop the problems we have had with them going down too many times and causing line back up's at the well.

Want to cover our policy again about your responsibility for any non-members (guests) that you want to sign in. They cannot repeat cannot spend any money while they are here. This is a IRS and now STATE of VA LAW also. If the law is violated it could cause us to lose our 501c(3) classification. You must do all purchasing for food-drinks-merchandise-bag of chips etc. Bartenders and M/A's, unless they know you, are going to ask for your membership cards. If your guest's is given a green tag, be sure they keep it on during there visit, and the tag is visible. Your co-operation is appreciated.

John Meehan
Facility Manager



VFW POST 1503 INTERVIEW PROJECT

Will Return In February With A New
Veteran & A New Story! Stay Tuned!



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.

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

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Happy New Year!

As we enter 2023, I wanted to remind everyone about the Purple Heart Hall of Honor. It is our nation's sole repository dedicated to the collection and preservation of the stories of our Purple Heart recipients from all branches of service and for all conflicts for which the medal has been awarded. Please visit the website at www.thepurpleheart.com and then open the enrollment tab to get further information on how to enroll a Purple Heart recipient and what is accepted to verify the award of the Purple Heart and what materials they will accept to help tell the story of their service and sacrifice. It is especially important to gather and archive the stories of our WWII, Korea and Vietnam era recipients before they are lost upon the death our loved ones.

All Gave Some, Some Gave All!



Yours in Patriotism,
Dom Dionne
Commander
Chapter 1775

MOC / MOCA

Comrades and Auxiliary members,

Another year has come and gone. Thanks to everyone in the MOC/MOCA for all their hard work! We had a great holiday party on December 14th with 38 MOC/MOCA members and their guests. Glad to see so many people show up to have fun with our white elephant gift exchange and to have a great dinner. There certainly were some interesting gifts exchanged!

Winter Conference is coming up on January 13-15 in Portsmouth, VA. Members of Pup Tent 14 will be attending the Grand Scratch on January 14, helping watch the Cootie table outside the meeting rooms, and our own Ken and Marcia Eggers will be running the District 10 Hospitality room for our own Ben Guinan, District 10 Commander (who is also this year's Grand Commander)! Hope to see you there!

Robert "Check" Adamczyk
MOC Seam Squirrel
mrcheck@gmail.com

Laura Adamczyk
MOCA President
lauraadamczyk2@gmail.com





VFW January Entertainment

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

Friday Night

Saturday Night

January 6th

DJ Pynk Dyaamond
Dance Party!

January 7th

DJ Steve Bolden
Video Dance Party

January 13th

DJ Joe Clay
Karaoke and Dance Music

January 14th

DJ Michael
Dance Party with Karaoke!

January 20th

DJ T Play
Karaoke and Dance Music

January 21st

DJ Joe Clay
Karaoke and Dance Music

January 27th

DJ Michael
Dance Party with Karaoke!

January 28th

Flower Power
60's-70's Music
(Small version of Wicked Jezebel
Group)

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Years Day NO Breakfast	2	3 BINGO 7:30	4	5 BINGO 7:30	6 DJ Pynk Dyiamond FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	7 DJ Steve Bolden Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
8 Breakfast 9-12:00	9	10 BINGO 7:30	11 Wacky Wacky Burgers MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm	12 BINGO 7:30	13 DJ Joe Clay FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	14 DJ Steve Michael Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
15 Breakfast 9-12:00	16 MLK Day Special Menu	17 BINGO 7:30	18 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	19 BINGO 7:30	20 DJ T Play FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	21 DJ Joe Clay Membership Appreciation Night 1800-2300 Breakfast 9-12 AUX Breakfast WINGS 6-8
22 Breakfast 9-12:00	23	24 BINGO 7:30	25 Wacky Wacky Seafood	26 BINGO 7:30	27 DJ Michael FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	28 Flower Power Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
29 Breakfast 9-12:00	30	31 BINGO 7:30				

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road

Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

Next Monthly Meeting

January 18th

vfw1503.org

WACKY WACKY WEDNESDAY'S ...

January 11th ... Wacky Burgers \$10.95

Smokey Burger *Pepperjack Cheese, Shredded BBQ Pork, Fried Onion, Lettuce, Tomato, BBQ Mayo*

California Burger *Avocado Mayo, Cheddar Cheese, Bacon, Avocado*

Southern Charm Burger *Candied Bacon BBQ Sauce, Cheddar Cheese, Carmelized Onions, Mayo*

Chili Burger *Pepperjack Cheese, Chili, Jalapeno Pepper*

Swiss Cheese Mushroom Burger

RED VFW Burger *Fried Egg, American Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Mayo*

Quesadilla Burger *Pepperjack Cheese, Bistro Sauce, Bacon, Pico de Gallo*

January 25th ... Wacky Seafood

Steamed Shrimp \$10.95

Bang Bang Shrimp. \$10.95

Fried Flounder \$11.95

12 Noon until Supplies are Gone