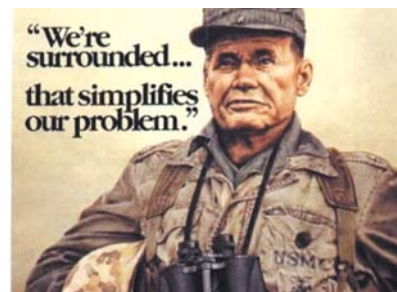




VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503

AUG 24



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

Man, it's a hot one... like seven inches from the midday sun... Nothing quite like kicking off summer with July temperatures in the 100's! Please make sure to take care of yourselves: use sunblock, wear loose clothes, make use of shade when possible, and HYDRATE, HYDRATE, HYDRATE!!!

As usual, July was a very busy time for the Post and our members.

4th of July Parade and Picnic

We started off our traditional festivities by once again sponsoring and taking part in the Dale City 4th of July/Independence Day Parade. It was an honor to be part of the crew that represented our Post this year. The feeling the support from the community generates amazing feelings as we walk and roll along the parade route. To be able to reciprocate that love and support right back to our community is what the VFW is all about. Our Post Honor Guard led the way for our units followed by yours truly, rolling in a cherry red Mustang provided by our Post Chaplain, Ed Bennett, and driven by Past All-American Post Commander, Tim Brown. We were followed next by the Auxiliary. President Debbie Nichols and a plethora of Auxiliary members walked, passed out a proverbial 'ton' of candy, and rode in their patriotically decorated truck, driven by Past All-American Post Commander/National Legislative Committee Member/District 10 Senior Vice Commander, Tom Levitt. They were followed by the combined MOC/MOCA Pup Tent Cooties led by MOCA President Pam Flores in one of the cutest looking cootie-bug themed car I've seen in a long time! Our Post Scout troops were well represented with scouts from Troops 1919 and 1196G and Cub Scout Pack 1373. It is always great having our Scouts join us for community activities. And finally, Al Woodson and the DMV Criders represented once again with a fleet of



Post Officers

Post Commander Ben Guinan
Senior Vice Star Martinez
Junior Vice Robert Adamczyk
Quartermaster Carl Richardson
Judge Advocate Dan Walczyk
Surgeon Shawn Jackson
Chaplain Ed Bennett
3 Year Trustee John Dodge
2 Year Trustee Tim Brown
1 Year Trustee Danny Gibbs
Adjutant Charles Marlowe
Service Officer Raymond Bailey
Past Commander Bernie Carter





muscle rolling on down the parade route. Special congratulations go out to our Post Auxiliary for winning 1st place in the Military category, to our Honor Guard for winning 2nd place in the Color Guards category, and to our DMV Criders members for winning 2nd place in the Specialty Vehicles category! Well done all!

Our 4th of July Open House Community Picnic continued the tradition of having a great time with our membership and our community at Post 1503! The camaraderie, national pride, and community spirit was evident everywhere you looked. For the estimated 500 people that

joined us from the festivities, there was food and drinks aplenty, ice cream for the masses, a bouncy house and petting zoo for the kids, popcorn, some weird dude that looked somewhat like the Post Commander getting dunked in the dunk tank... a lot, and some great music and entertainment from the Made in the USA band. And the rain held off until the picnic was done. A wonderful time indeed and a huge thank you to everyone who helped plan, organize, set up, work, break down, clean up and everything else with this year's picnic! The Post could not do anywhere near as much as we do without our volunteers. These are Post and Auxiliary members and their families who dedicate their time out of the sheer devotion to service to our veterans and our community. Take some time to thank volunteers when you see them!

Heading Out To Louisville!

In the last week of the month, a sizable contingent of our Post and Auxiliary members attended the 125th Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention in Louisville, KY. Attending the Convention allows us the opportunity to meet with VFW leaders from around the country to discuss issues, make new connections, and enjoy camaraderie with our brethren from all over. This year marks the 125th anniversary of the VFW so be on the lookout for info and events celebrating our organization. The 105th Military Order of the Cootie (MOC) Supreme Scratch directly followed the VFW National Convention. We have several Post members that were presented with well-deserved accolades at both conventions:

All-American Post Awards, 2023-2024

Post 1503 Commander Bernie Carter

Post 1503 Quartermaster Carl Richardson

All-American District Awards, 2023-2024

VFW VA District 10 Commander Ken Wiseman

VFW VA District 10 Quartermaster Carl Richardson

Triple Crown Winner (All-American Post, District, and State Commander)

Ken Wiseman, VFW Post 1503

All-Star Grand Awards (MOC), 2023-2024

VA Grand Commander Robert 'Check' Adamczyk

VA Grand Quartermaster Marcia Eggers

VA Grand Adjutant Ken Eggers

All-Star Pup Tent Awards (MOC), 2023-2024

VA Pup Tent 14 Seam Squirrel Charles 'Romeo' Marlowe

Congratulations to all our outstanding, award-winning members!

On a personal note: thank you to everyone for helping me celebrate my 50th birthday! I am blessed to have you all in my life.

August is loaded with plenty of things happening:

- 1-4 Aug – MOC/MOCA Supreme Scratch & Meeting in Louisville, KY
- 3 Aug – National Purple Heart Day: 1030 @ Mt. Vernon, VA
- 4 Aug – Coast Guard Birthday (banner in canteen)
- 7 Aug – National Purple Heart Day – observance, 1800
- 10 Aug – Concealed Carry Class – B-Hall, 1200-1400
- 16 Aug – VFW Post 1503 Golf Tournament (Forest Green Golf Course; 9am start)
- 17 Aug – Band of Brothers McGuire Poker Run (Pavilion)
- 18 Aug – 1503 Riders Monthly Ride – front parking lot, 1300
- 23 Aug – Omega Psi Phi Blood Drive – A-Hall, 0900-1500
- 25 Aug – D10 SOI and Meeting @Post 1503 – A-Hall, 1000
- 26 Aug – Trivia Night @Post 1503 - Canteen, 2000

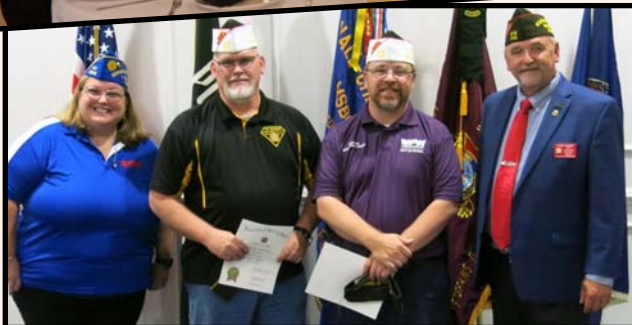
August is the time when a lot of things get organized for the rest of the VFW year. There are some new and reorganized committees that will be getting up and running here at the Post. Our annual programs get started in earnest. Keep informed on the goings on of the Post in whatever medium works for you: Constant Contact, Facebook, newsletter, flyers posted in the canteen on the walls and on the big TV, smoke signals, Morse Code... there are plenty of information sources. And remember to ABR (Always Be Recruiting)! Recruiting is the lifeblood of our Post and the VFW. Keep up the outstanding work you all do in our recruiting efforts.

Ben Guinan

Post Commander

cdrpost1503@vfwva.org





VFW AUXILIARY

Hello Auxiliary 1503, Happy Summer.

Our July 13, Auxiliary meeting we had 30 plus members joining us. Thank you for your support for my first meeting.

July 20th was our Auxiliary Breakfast with 10 plus members enjoying time and food together. Our next Breakfast will be August 17, @ 9:30 at VFW post 1503. Feel welcome to join us.



Our vehicle used in the parade won 1st place for Military Vehicle Group. For Fourth of July 2024. Dale City Parade Committee.



Welcome our newest Auxiliary members, Isaac, Michael and Mary. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and around the post.

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

Remember July 1st Annual AND Renewal Dues increased to \$35 PER YEAR. Consider becoming a life member and never have to renew again.

The Auxiliary will assist VFW post 1503 in their annual Golf Tournament on August 16, 2024.



UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President Deborah Nichols
Sr. Vice President Monika Walczyk
Jr. Vice President Betty Gimble
Secretary Kelli Levitt
Treasurer Karla Coker
Chaplain Michael Alicea
Conductor Jan Kiecker
Guard Gloria Wiley
Trustee #1 Venee Alicea
Trustee #2 Brenda Richardson
Trustee #3 Patricia Wootten
Historian Venee Alicea
Patriotic Instructor Joyce Gibbs

We had a blast at the Dale City 4th of July Parade! Kelli, Monika, Venee, Brenda, Monica and I joined the Comrades, Honor Guards, MOC/MOCA, Purple Heart and Scouts handed out candy to hundreds of children who lined the parade route. Special thanks to Tom Levitt for being our Chauffeur and allowing us to decorate his truck. We headed back to the VFW post after the parade for Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and potato salad, baked beans and watermelon and great music from Made in the USA band and games. We finished the day off with Ice cream and popcorn.



Debbie Nichols

VFW Auxiliary 1503 President
debbienichols2023@gmail.com
 703-975-6001



VFW POST 1503

ANNUAL GOLF

TOURNAMENT



THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD ON
AUGUST 16TH 2024 THIS YEAR AT FOREST
GREENS GOLF CLUB. SIGNUP SHEETS ARE
AVAILABLE IN THE CANTEEN OR ONLINE,
\$90 PER PERSON, TEAMS OF 4. MAKE
CHECKS PAYABLE TO VFW 1503. ALL
PROCEEDS GO TO THE VETERAN'S RELIEF
FUNDS.

MOC / MOCA



Comrades and Auxiliary members,

We were all over the annual 4th of July parade! Thanks all that helped out and made it happen! Pup Tent 14 was at the Supreme Scratch in Louisville. That's when Cooties from all over the world come together to vote on resolutions, bylaw changes, and to elect Supreme officers for the next year for the MOC and MOCA.

Those that didn't go to Bourbon City, will of gone to the Richmond VA Hospital for the Polytrauma and SCI wards and provided items to Keep'em Smiling in Beds of White.

Start preparing for November's Tomb Trek. Info at www.lotcs.org/events

Our Next Scratch will be on 14 August at our regular times (1900 MOCA, 1930 MOC). Come on out and join us!

Closer than a Brother; Busier than a Bee!

Charles "Romeo" Marlowe

MOC Seam Squirrel

romeovfw1503@outlook.com

Pam Flores

MOCA President

datzryt68@yahoo.com



VFW RIDERS GROUP

We invite all motorcyclists to join us for our monthly Fun Ride every 3rd Sunday leaving from the Post 1503 pavilion after a route/safety brief.

Post 1503 is looking forward to hosting the VFW Riders Rally in 2025.

We didn't have enough to run a meeting in July, but they've been running smoothly. The next one will be August 7th, 7pm, at the Post 1503's meeting room.

Comrades and Auxiliary are both eligible for membership! All of us are together in our missions. For information, check out the **"VFW Riders"** section of **"Programs"** on the post's website, VFW1503.org.

Chapter Motto: So the road has us surrounded – good! Now we can ride in any direction!



2024 MCGUIRE POKER RUN

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2024



USMC MOTORCYCLE RIDING CLUB

<https://bandofbrothersusmc.org-event-5738167>

\$25 Per Rider - \$15 Per Passenger

Early Online Registration Special: \$20 per Rider - \$10 per Passenger

Starts: VFW Post 1503, 14631 Minnieville Road, Dale City, VA

Ends: Fraternal Order of Eagles #4123, Fredericksburg

21 Cool Spring Road, Fredericksburg, VA

Welcome: 08:30 - Welcome Aboard & Safety Brief: 09:45

First Bike Out: 10:00 - Award Ceremony 15:00

50/50, Raffle Prizes, T-Shirt Sales, Best Worst Hands

Proceeds Benefit Patients of Hunter Holmes VA Hospital

www.vagov/fichmond-health-care



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Pursuit of Happiness

The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America boldly states that each person is “endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

“Happy are the people whose God is the LORD.” *Psalm 144:15*

Americans are resilient and to pursue happiness we have to be resilient. Unfortunately, there are no shortcuts in the pursuit of happiness. However, there are a few things we can do to be resilient and relentlessly pursue happiness:

Be Grateful: We can choose to focus on what we have rather than constantly checking what’s missing on our plate. Happiness is a choice. Like they say, “the grass is greener where you water it.”

Serve: There are persons all around us in need. Focusing on the needs of others and helping them through their troubled times often results in our perceived hardships diminishing in importance, which in turn makes us happier.

Forgive: Inner peace is one of the greatest treasures in life. Forgiveness is the elixir of the soul and leads to a life of happiness. Forgive yourself. Forgive others. No one is perfect. We all make mistakes. We all fall down. We all fail. Forgive. Pursuing happiness requires us to be strong and it takes strength to forgive.

Rise Above the Circumstances: We’ve all asked a friend, “How are you doing?” And we often hear in reply, “Pretty good – under the circumstances.” A good reply might be, “What are you doing under the circumstances?” In the pursuit of happiness we must not allow ourselves to fall under the circumstances. Rather, we can work to rise above or even change our circumstances by working the problem, developing a plan of action and implementing a solution that will lead us to victory over adversity.

Trust God: In the pursuit of happiness we have to learn from adversity. None of us enjoys experiencing difficult times. Oswald Chambers, an early-twentieth-century teacher wrote, “Faith by its very nature must be tested and tried. And the real trial of faith is not that we find it difficult to trust God, but that God’s character must be proven trustworthy in our own minds.” Sometimes we do not hear God’s voice and we do not feel His presence. There are days like that for all of us; however, we can trust God is there.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, Almighty God, You are the true source of happiness. Pour Your grace upon me and those around me in our pursuit of happiness. I want to be happy and peaceful in the life You have given me, and I will put my trust in You to see me through all of life’s circumstances. *Amen*



Ed Bennett
Chaplain

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, August 10, 2024 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$60.00

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

-UTAH CERTIFICATION AVAILABLE FOR ADDL \$40-

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.

REGISTER AT EVENTBRITE:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vfw-concealed-carry-class-tickets-953255541987?aff=oddtcreator>

MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

August 2 & 3, 2024

A Celebration of the Purple Heart Medal

The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Department of Virginia and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association will again celebrate the establishment of America's oldest military award, The Purple Heart Medal, during various ceremonies to be held 2 & 3 August 2024 at Mount Vernon, Virginia, the home of General and Mrs. George Washington.



Friday, August 2, 2024

<https://checkout.mountvernon.org/ph2024/wreathlaying>

4:30pm – 5:30pm: Mount Vernon Inn. Gathering in the Mount Vernon Inn bar for drinks prior to the Wreath Laying Ceremony, drinks on your own. You can also eat dinner; the food is great. Recommend making reservations.

5:30pm – 5:45pm: Move to the Purple Heart Monument by the Texas Gate (Main Entrance Gate).

6:00pm: Enjoy our traditional wreath-laying ceremony at the Purple Heart Memorial located next to the Main Gate (Texas Gate) in Mount Vernon. After the wreath-laying ceremony, we will enjoy a private tour of Mount Vernon's Library Special Collections and Vault by the Library Staff. Within the Library collections are books that belonged to Washington himself and over 2,000 rare books documenting Washington and early America. Additionally, Steve Bashore offer his whiskey tastings in the Reception Hall at the Library. Mount Vernon will offer shuttle transportation over to the Library and back to the parking lots.

Saturday, August 3, 2024

<https://checkout.mountvernon.org/phday24/ceremony>

**The reception is included in your Ceremony RSVP.

10:30am: Join the audience for Mount Vernon's official National Purple Heart Day Ceremony in the Visitors Center inside the Smith Auditorium. Afterwards a Reception will be held for Purple Heart recipients and their guests in the Mount Vernon Inn restaurant starting at 12:00pm. Visitors will also be able to tour the Mansion and other facilities on the Mount Vernon Estate during the day.

This year we are excited to have the 17th Sergeant Major of the Army, SMA Michael R. Weimer. As the Sergeant Major of the Army, Weimer is the Army chief of staff's personal adviser on matters affecting the enlisted force. He devotes the majority of his time traveling throughout the Army to observe training and interact with Soldiers and their Families.

More information may be found at: <https://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/purple-heart-commemoration/>



Dom Dionne
Commander, Chapter 1775

VETERAN NEWS

We are introducing a new newsletter section this month dedicated to Veteran related news. There will be three articles per issue: 1) VFW related news, 2) VA related news, and 3) a Military history article. There will be a short synopsis of the article and links to where you can get more info on it.

VFW News

VFW Hosts First of Historic War Commission Hearings

The VFW hosted the first hearing of the Afghanistan War Commission (AWC) at our headquarters in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the AWC is to investigate the entirety of the 20-year war in Afghanistan, from first boots on the ground to when the last Americans left in 2021. The VFW is honored to host the very first hearing.

For more info: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/07/19/today-we-make-history-commission-probing-afghanistan-war-starts-work-veterans-top-of-mind.html>

Stay up to date on VFW News by signing up for the VFW Action Corps Weekly update. You can get the weekly updates sent to your email by registering here: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>

VA News

Prepare for VA's Secure Sign-in changes

VA is committed to making it as easy as possible for Veterans to manage their benefits and health care online while protecting their identities and data. As part of this commitment, and in an effort to streamline Veterans' sign-in options, VA will transition to two modern, secure, sign-in options in 2025: a Login.gov or ID.me account.

For more info: <https://news.va.gov/133159/prepare-for-vas-secure-sign-in-changes/>

Military History

Navy clears Black sailors unjustly punished after 1944 deadly blast

The U.S. Navy has exonerated 256 Black sailors who were found to be unjustly punished in 1944 following a horrific port explosion that killed hundreds of service members and exposed racist double standards among the then-segregated ranks.

On July 17, 1944, munitions being loaded onto a cargo ship detonated, causing secondary blasts that ignited 5,000 tons of explosives at Port Chicago naval weapons station near San Francisco.

The explosion killed 320 sailors and civilians, nearly 75% of whom were Black, and injured another 400 personnel. Surviving Black sailors had to pick up the human remains and clear the blast site while white officers were granted leave to recuperate.

For more info: <https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2024/07/17/navy-clears-black-sailors-unjustly-punished-after-1944-deadly-blast/>



Goodbye July... 
 ALOHA August!

VFW August Entertainment

All DJ's & Bands start at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights

<i>Friday Nights</i>	<i>Saturday Nights</i>
August 2nd DJ Danny	August 3rd DJ Gee Que
August 9th DJ T-Play	August 10th DJ Michael
August 16th DJ Kelly	August 17th 5x5 Band
August 23rd DJ Lil Anthony	August 24th DJ Slick
August 30th DJ Steve	August 31st DJ Joe Clay



Dog Days Of Summer



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 BINGO 7:30	2 DJ Danny FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	3 DJ Gee Que Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
4 Breakfast 9-12:00	5	6 BINGO 7:30	7	8 BINGO 7:30	9 DJ T-Play FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	10 DJ Michael Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
11 Breakfast 9-12:00	12	13 BINGO 7:30	14 MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm	15 BINGO 7:30	16 DJ Kelly FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	17 5x5 Band AUX Brkfst Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
18 Breakfast 9-12:00	19	20 BINGO 7:30	21 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	22 BINGO 7:30	23 DJ Lil Anthony FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	24 DJ Slick Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
25 Breakfast 9-12:00	26	27 BINGO 7:30	28	29 BINGO 7:30	30 DJ Steve FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	31 DJ Joe Clay Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

August 21st

vfw1503.org