



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503

DEC 24



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

Season's greetings to you all!

The holiday season is upon us. Please take some time for yourselves to recharge, spend time with friends and family, and enjoy the best of what this season engenders. We have had our successes and challenges this year, but we have made positive progress as we continue our efforts to evolve and modernize our Post. There is still a lot of work to do, and I know we as the Post membership are more than capable of getting things done!

I have so many people to thank for all their dedication and great work thus far this year!

To the Post Officers: by stepping up to hold these leadership positions in the Post, you have shown your passion and desire to support and serve our fellow veterans. The Post would not be nearly as successful without all the work you all do. I look forward to working with you all in the second half of our VFW year. You have my utmost gratitude, thanks, and support.

To our Post Auxiliary: it is an absolute fact that Post 1503 could not do any of our community service, Post activities, volunteerism, hold and run Bingo, the list goes on and on, without the support of what I consider the best Auxiliary group I have seen or know about. Words cannot adequately express the level of respect I have for everything each of you does for our Post and community. Thank you and I look forward to working with you in the second half of our VFW Year.

To the Post Staff: Thank you for your excellent support of the Post, our membership, and our patrons and guests. You keep the Post running and in good order. We are better for having all of you with us.

To the Post Chairs and Committees: We have brought back some committees and created some new ones this year. The idea behind these committees is to give more members a chance to



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



participate and take a larger role in serving the Post. With more people working towards common goals, we can accomplish great things. My sincere gratitude and thanks to those who have accepted the appointments as committee chairs. Your leadership is greatly appreciated. To those who volunteer their valuable time and talent to serve on the committees, thank you for your dedication to the Post.

**To our Membership:** you are Post 1503. Without you, there is no Post 1503. Thank you for your military service. Thank you for your continued service to veterans and our community by being part of our stalwart organization, the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Thank you for the support you have given me in my role as the Post Commander. I will continue to serve you in my capacity to the best of my ability.



As we move through the holiday season and into the new year, let's take a few moments and remember all those who are currently deployed and away from their homes and families. They are serving our country to ensure that we have the freedom to enjoy the holiday season. We thank them all and wish everyone a safe return home.

For Post 1503, the new year promises many things: new endeavors and undertakings at the Post and in our community, new challenges to meet and overcome, new members to bring into Post, and new opportunities to share in good times and comradery. Along those lines, it gives me great pleasure to announce our new Bingo Manager, Byron Cherry! He brings a wealth of management experience, and I know Bingo will thrive and be a continued success with his leadership.

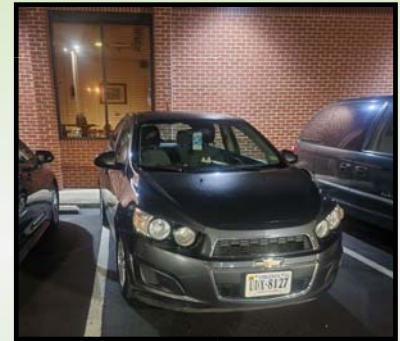
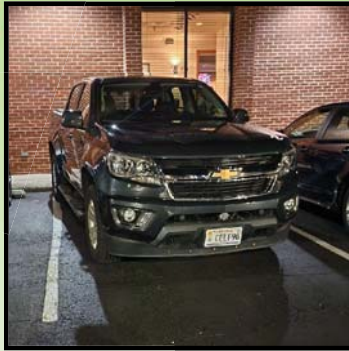
In closing out my last Commander's article of 2024, Mom and I want to extend to everyone our wishes that you all have a safe and enjoyable holiday season. We hope your new year is prosperous and fulfilling. I look forward to moving into the new year with you all. I see great things ahead for us and know we can achieve them together.



**Ben Guinan**  
Post Commander  
cdrpost1503@vfwva.org



# Post Commander's You Can't Park for s#!t Club Holiday Edition



Happy Holidays to all! And we hope Santa brings you a new parking manual!



# VFW AUXILIARY

Happy December Auxiliary.

I can't believe It's December already! Bring on all the fun, busy days of the season and the cold weather!!

Great turnout for the November Auxiliary meeting, with 41 members!!! Welcome to our 13 new members.

here was much discussion on current and upcoming events. Happy to see each of you! I encourage those who have not attended or who have been absent for a while to come - we need you and your voice!



Buddy Poppy Drive and Christmas Trees! We are in the process of purchasing coats, gloves and socks for our three schools in our community, with delivery in January.

Coming up this month there are several volunteer opportunities - Our Children's Christmas Party on the 22nd, from 1-3:00. With one of the highlights being the Cakewalk, we are asking for donations of cakes, cupcakes, treats (homemade or store bought). And we can always use help setting up and cleaning up.

December is also the month that our Auxiliary provides and serves dinner to our Comrades after our meetings on the 18th. If you are able, please bring a dessert to share!

January 9-12 is the Department of Virginia VFW & Auxiliary Winter Council in Williamsburg. All are welcome to attend. If you are planning to attend - get your room booked now.

Congratulations to Linda Reynolds who won the drawing for a free Life Membership upgrade!

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 any questions, concerns, comments or 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 next monthly meeting, if not sooner!

**Wishing Everyone the Best of This Season. Enjoy the Holidays!**

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 fun time at breakfast on the 16th, lots of chitchat and enjoying a meal together! This month, we will enjoy breakfast on the 21st, and after we will have our annual cookie exchange and sock swap! If you want to participate, please bring three dozen home baked cookies/treats and one pair of unwrapped socks. Always a great time, hope to see you soon.

November 11, 2024, I attended the Veterans Day service at the Tribute at the Glen, I presented twenty-five Veterans with handwritten Thank-you notes for their service. Auxiliary members also helped at the Marine Corps Ball, the



**Debbie Nichols**

VFW Auxiliary 1503 President  
[debbienichols2023@gmail.com](mailto:debbienichols2023@gmail.com)  
703-975-6001

# CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY!



Sunday December 22<sup>th</sup> 1-3

Vfw Post 1503 'A' Hall

VFW & Auxiliary Members & Guests



**SNACKS**

**CRAFTS & GAMES**

**CAKE WALK**

**VISIT WITH SANTA**

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

## FACILITY HAPPENINGS

New canteen hours are posted in the canteen and will be available on our website. The new brochure for rental of the halls and pavilion will also be on the website. You will see a slight increase in prices for hall and pavilion rentals, and we have a new food menu.

We are making progress with the Point-of-Sale system. WiFi drops in the back bar will be completed next week and I hope to start training in two weeks.

Grover informed us that they will be replacing some of the older machines in the back, but the new machines will have the same games. All machines will be automatically shut down 30 minutes before Post closing hours, last call in the canteen turn in your tickets. Lastly members are responsible for their guests in the canteen.



**Carl Richardson**  
General Manager



## 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 previous interviews...

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 RIDERS GROUP

The Chapter is growing and we are always looking for riders and supporters to join the crew! Look for the VFW Riders vests and talk to us about it.

For information, check out the **“VFW Riders”** section of **“Programs”** on the post’s website, [VFW1503.org](http://VFW1503.org).



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

# NEW YEAR'S EVE GATSBY-BLACK & WHITE

*Cheers*

TO THE

*New Year*

With DJ Kelly  
A-Hall



DECEMBER 31 AT 9:00 PM TO 12:30AM Post 1503

GENERAL ADMISSION \$30.00

"MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ONLY"

FINGER FOOD & CHAMPAGNE TOAST ARE INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

COME DANCE, DRINK, AND CELEBRATE IN 2025

SCAN BELOW FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION



<https://givebutter.com/1503nye>

Party Time Post-1503



# MOC / MOCA

December greetings to everyone! Hope you are coming out of the turkey and carb induced coma from Thanksgiving and are feeling crummy.



We started last month with a trip to the Richmond VA Hospital to visit patients in the Poly Trauma and Spinal Cord Injury Wards. We were joined by the Lousy Fred Nats of Pup Tent 19 from Post 3103 in Fredericksburg. It was a truly Lousy Time and I assure you there was no Good Cheer as we handed out goodies and supplies to the patients. Hospital Chairs are working to secure a date for our next Hospital visit. More information to come.

On Veteran's Day weekend 11 Cooties and Auxiliary from Pup Tent 14 made their way to Arlington for Tomb Trek. It was an honor to present wreaths at the Argonne Cross in Arlington National Cemetery. PT 14 did a crummy job running the worst hospitality suite in the hotel!! Thanks to all Pup Tent 14 folks who helped set up, cook, clean, load, tend bar and a multitude of other tasks. We appreciate none of the work you did!

**MOC/MOCA Christmas Party** will be 11 DEC immediately following a very brief MOC scratch and MOCA meeting both at 7 PM. Dinner will be provided, bring yourself and one lousy guest. Also – White Elephant gift exchange! If you would like to participate, please bring a \$25 wrapped gift.

Wishing you all a very Happy Hanukkah, a very Merry Christmas and a Joyful New Year! Enjoy your time doing what makes you smile! See you all next year!!

**Our next regular Scratch/Meeting is 11 DEC. Hope to see you there.**

**Keep Them Smiling In Beds Of White!**

## Tom Levitt

MOC Seam Squirrel  
nlctlevitt@vfwva.org  
703-895-5070

## Kelli Levitt

MOCA President  
itsmekell@aol.com  
703-895-8855





## **ALL HANDS**

**UNLOADING - Saturday 30 NOV - 9:00am**

**PLEASE WATCH FOR TIME UPDATES VIA CONSTANT CONTACT**

## **SALES**

**SAT - 9-9**

**SUN - 9-6**

**MON - FRI - 3-8**

**If you are able to help with sales, please use the link below:**

**<https://form.jotform.com/243005573143145>**

**Questions please contact:**

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



## POST JUDGE ADVOCATE

### Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, and the EMS of the year competition

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects emergency medical technicians(services), law enforcement, firefighter, dispatcher and explosive ordnance disposal technicians personnel to receive VFW Public Servant Awards.

Instructions and the entry form are available at:

Public Service Awards - Veterans Of Foreign Wars Post 1503

Entries are due to the Post no later than **31 December 2024** due to VFW Department and National level deadlines.

Entries can be submitted by:

1. Dropping off at the Canteen. Address the entry to the Post Judge Advocate.
2. Email the entry to [danwalczyk@yahoo.com](mailto:danwalczyk@yahoo.com)

Please contact me by phone at **571-232-0186** or by email at [danwalczyk@yahoo.com](mailto:danwalczyk@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or need an alternate way to submit an entry.

**Dan Walczyk**  
Post Judge Advocate  
[danwalczyk@yahoo.com](mailto:danwalczyk@yahoo.com)



## YOUR PHOTOS NEEDED

**Comrades this is a newsletter for all of us...  
Please submit your PHOTOS of our Post Events to**

**<https://vfwus.org/1503pics>**

**We are not able to use all photographs submitted to us,  
but we appreciate every bit of input!**

### In All Things... Give Thanks

**“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!”**

*1 Chronicles 16:34*

The term divine providence relates to the idea that God is actively involved in our lives, and that he guides, cares for, and provides for us. The root of the word providence is “provide” and providence comes from the Latin word providere which means “to foresee” and “to make provision.” Essentially, divine providence means God is aware of what is happening in our lives and provides what we need.

Believing in the providence of God makes it possible for us to be thankful when things go well and patient when things go against us. So sometimes we need to be thankful, and sometimes we need to be patient. The apostle Paul summed things up very well. Paul says it is God’s will for us to “rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances.” It is important to point out that Paul is not saying we should be thankful for all circumstances... but thankful in all circumstances.

When things seem to go against us, God wants us to be grateful that His hand holds us and helps us to endure under the strain. That can be a heavy lift for us at times – to look for reasons to be thankful when life is tough, and we are struggling. Other times, it can be equally difficult for us to be thankful when things are going well. We might not think it would be that way. After all, when things go well, we have much to be grateful for, right? But by our very nature, when life is good, we tend to overlook the bounty of God’s good gifts to us every day.

God’s divine providence enables me to give thanks to God each day, each season, and each year of my life. It is a source of reassurance which reminds me to be thankful when times are good and helps me in troubled times. I hope and pray it is the same for you. May God bless you and all of your loved ones as we celebrate Christmas and the arrival of a new year. In the midst of our celebrations, let us take time to remember our military and lift a prayer of gratitude for all that they do on our behalf and for the cause of freedom throughout the world.



**PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, Almighty God, thank You for your goodness and blessings over our lives. Forgive us when we don’t thank You enough... for who You are, for all that You do, for all that You have given. We are grateful for Your ever-present love and care, mercy and grace. Thank You for always working on our behalf, even behind the scenes when we are unaware. Thank You that you are always with us and though many times we forget about You... You will never forget about us or leave us. Renew our spirits and fill us with Your peace and joy this Christmas Day and every day. *Amen*

**Ed Bennett**

Chaplain

*Merry Christmas*

# MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

**GOD BLESS AMERICA!**

## **Happy Birthday to the United States National Guard**

December 13, 1636 is recognized as the founding of The National Guard. On this day, the Massachusetts Bay Colony created three permanent militia regiments to defend the colony. Prior to this, the British and Spanish colonies in the Americas called up local men to create a temporary militia in response to threats to a colony.

From the founding of our country through the early 20th century, The US maintained a minimal Regular Army and utilized the state militias to provide the majority of the troops when required. Every state funded and trained their units differently and to varying level of readiness. Militia units provided the majority of the soldiers that fought in the Mexican-American War, American Civil War, and the Spanish-American War.

After the Spanish-American War, Congress started to provide funding for 5 days of annual training to the state Militia in exchange for the units to conform to Regular Army organization within 5 years, the units were held to agreed upon training standards, and were subject to inspection by Regular Army officers.

During World War I, Congress passed the National Defense Act of 1916. This started the use of the name "National Guard" instead of Militia and now allowed each state to maintain Home Guards which were units separate from the National Guard and not subject to federal mobilization. The National Guard provided 11 of the 31 Divisions that saw combat in WWI. The 11 Divisions mobilized, deployed, and fought as intact units. 6 additional Divisions were mobilized and used for training, running depots or the troops were used to provide replacements to units sustaining casualties during the war.

The Guard provided 40% of men fighting in the European Theater as part of 18 National Guard Divisions that fought along with the 70 other Regular Army divisions constituted during WWII. After the war, the National Guard was further changed with the creation of the Air National Guard to support the Air Force with the National defense Act of 1947. The Guard was mobilized during the Korean War, Operation Desert Storm, Somalia, Haiti, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bosnia, Kosovo. The Guard continued to be heavily relied on in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The citizen-soldiers in the Guard have a diverse skill set due to their civilian careers and their military training. The Guard provides not just a reserve fighting force to support the active military in the event of war or peacekeeping activities, but also are a key part of the emergency and disaster response capabilities for each state governor.

Thank you all of those who served or are currently serving on the Army and Air National Guard Guard.

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

If you are a Purple Heart recipient and are interested in learning more about our Order, contact me at [cdrchapter1775@outlook.com](mailto:cdrchapter1775@outlook.com)

**Dom Dionne**  
Commander, Chapter 1775



## VETERAN NEWS

*Christmas is not a time or a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.*

– Calvin Coolidge

### VFW News

#### **Caretaker Benefits and VA Budget Tops Legislative Conference Business**

VFW held its annual fall Legislative Conference from Sept. 9-11 at the nation's capital, marking a significant event in veterans' advocacy for the year. VFW members from across the country descended on Capitol Hill to advocate for VFW's legislative priorities with lawmakers.

For more info on this story, please click [HERE](#). If you are reading this in hard copy, search the title of this article online to read more.

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

#### **VA proposes to eliminate copays for telehealth, expand access to telehealth for rural Veterans**

New program would grow VA's telehealth capabilities in rural communities.

Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it is proposing to eliminate copayments for all VA telehealth services and establish a grant program to fund designated VA telehealth access points in non-VA facilities, with a focus on rural and medically underserved communities.

For more info on this story, please click [HERE](#). If you are reading this in hard copy, search the title of this article online to read more.

### Military News and History

#### **A pictorial history of the holidays during wartime and deployment.**

This article displays pictures from over the years. A few examples of the dates and times displayed in the article:

- Troops with the 32nd Division receive Red Cross Christmas packages on Christmas Eve 1917.
- Men of Co "B", 4th Signal Bn, X US Corps, prepare to decorate the Christmas tree at Bn HQ. Korea. Dec. 11, 1951.

For more info on this story, please click [HERE](#). If you are reading this in hard copy, search the title of this article online to read more.



# 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, January 18, 2025 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM \$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/concealed-carry-class-tickets-1074565366939?aff=oddtcreator>

# December Entertainment

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

<b>Friday Nights</b>	<b>Saturday Nights</b>
<b>December 6th</b> <b>DJ Danny</b> <i>Dance Party</i>	<b>December 7th</b> <b>DJ Michael</b> <i>Karaoke/Dance</i>
<b>December 13th</b> <b>DJ Kelly</b> <i>Dance Party</i>	<b>December 14th</b> <b>Speak Easy Band</b>
<b>December 20th</b> <b>DJ Joe Clay</b> <i>Karaoke / Dance</i>	<b>December 21st</b> <b>DJ Mario</b> <i>Dance Party</i>
<b>December 27th</b> <b>DJ T-Play</b> <i>Karaoke / Dance</i>	<b>December 28th</b> <b>DJ Michael</b> <i>Dance Party</i>





# December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Breakfast 9-12:00	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>6</b> DJ Danny FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	<b>7</b> DJ Michael Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
<b>8</b> Breakfast 9-12:00	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>11</b> MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm	<b>12</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>13</b> DJ Kelly FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	<b>14</b> Speak Easy Band Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
<b>15</b> Breakfast 9-12:00	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>18</b> Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>19</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>20</b> DJ Joe Clay FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	<b>21</b> DJ Mario AUX Brkfst Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
<b>22</b> Breakfast 9-12:00  Children's Christmas Party 1-3	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Post Closing Early 5:00 Kitchen 3:30  NO BINGO	<b>25</b> Christmas Post Closed	<b>26</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>27</b> DJ T-Play FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	<b>28</b> DJ Michael Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
<b>29</b> Breakfast 9-12:00	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Years Eve  NO BINGO				

# Veterans of Foreign Wars

## Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



**Next Monthly Meeting**

**December 18th**

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