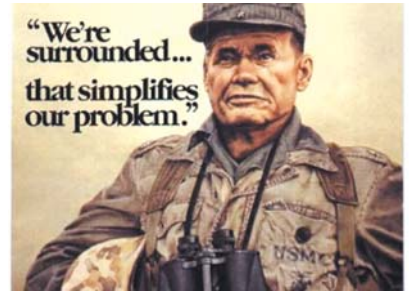




FEB 24

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503



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 we step into the heart of the new year, January was a month filled with reflection, camaraderie, and recognition of achievements at our Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post. Let's delve into the highlights that shaped the beginning of 2024.

We ushered in the new year with a spirited New Year's Day celebration at our post. It was a time of reflection, gratitude, and anticipation for the opportunities that the coming months hold. The warmth of friendship and shared purpose filled the air, setting the tone for a promising year.

Our VFW State, District, and Post officers spent valuable time together during the VFW Winter Council in Williamsburg, VA. The gathering was an opportunity to discuss strategies, share awareness, and emphasize the ties that connect us across the state. These events are crucial for fostering a unified approach to our mission of supporting veterans and their families.

Martin Luther King Day served as a poignant reminder of the importance of unity and equality. Dr. King's legacy inspires us to continue working toward a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

Our concealed gun carry class was highly successful, over 50 persons attended emphasizing responsible firearm ownership. Empowering individuals with knowledge and skills ensures that they can exercise their rights with a strong commitment to safety and responsibility.

We celebrated a fabulous and highly successful Membership Appreciation Night. It was a time to recognize the dedication and contribution of our members. Their commitment forms the backbone of our post, and we express our heartfelt appreciation for their continued support.

And let's not forget the Christmas Tree committee, led by Tom and Kelli Levitt who held a very personable and enjoyable get-together for those individual volunteers who assisted in the sale of Christmas Trees,

- 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



as a small gesture of their appreciation. Hope to see you all again next year.

Upcoming February Events

Looking ahead, February promises to be a month of celebration and recognition. We'll be celebrating Black History Month, with special meals on the 1st and 20th of Feb honoring the contributions and achievements of Black Americans throughout history online and through television.

Our Cub Scout Pack 1373 will sponsor their annual Pinewood Derby in the A and B Halls, with miniature soap box derby-looking cars constructed using a small block of wood. Valentine's Day festivities and the excitement of the Super Bowl will add to the vibrancy of the month. And we eagerly anticipate recognizing the winners of our Post Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year awards. These programs celebrate excellence in speech, writing, and teaching, highlighting the talent and dedication within our community.

February 2024

Black History Month

1 and 20 Feb – Black History Month Dinners

3 Feb – Cub Scout Pack 1373 Sponsor Pinewood Derby – Full Hall

9 Feb – Valentines (Special Menu)

11 Feb – Super Bowl

13 Feb – MOCA Bake Sale

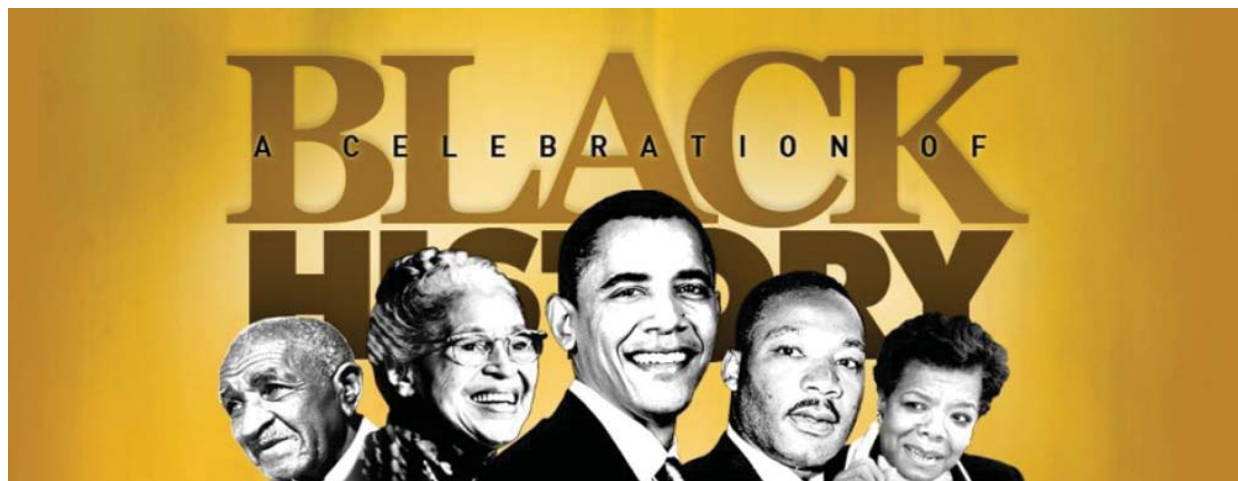
14 Feb – Valentine's Day observed

17 Feb – VOD/PP/TOY Awards Ceremony – B Hall – Food 1200-1300

19 Feb – Presidents' Day observed

As the year draws to a close, we express our deepest gratitude to all our members, supporters, and the community for making these events possible. Your commitment to our mission and the spirit of camaraderie make our VFW post a beacon of service and community. As we move forward into this month, I want to wish everyone a Happy Black History Month. This month unveils a rich history of achievements and culture of black Americans, not only in the armed forces but in society as well. And 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 **18** new members during January, an outstanding achievement that continues to place us at the forefront of recruiting. And in closing 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



BLACK AMERICANS IN THE KNOW...

NAVY



VADM John V. Fuller
Navy Inspector General



VADM Alvin Holsey
Deputy Commander US Southern
Command



RADM Stephen Barnett
Commander Navy Region Hawaii



RADM Tracy Hines
Navy Cyber Security Division
Director (DCNO)

AIR FORCE



General Anthony J. Cotton
Commander, U.S. Strategic
Command



General Charles Q. Brown Jr.
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff



LT General Stacey T. Hawkins
Commander Air Force Sustainment
Center



LT General Richard M. Clark
Superintendent USAF Academy

SPACE FORCE



Brig General Devin Pepper
Dep Commander Space Operations
Command



Brig General Jacob Middleton Jr.
Dep Director for Operations Joint
Staff

ARMY



General Darryl A. Williams
CG US Army Europe/Africa



LT General Donna W. Martin
US Army Inspector General



LT General Ronald P. Clark
Senior Military Assistant to
Secretary of Defense



LT General Antonio M. Fletcher
Commander of NATO
Special Operations Command

MARINE CORPS



General Michael E. Handley
Commander US Africa Command



LT General Brian W. Cavanaugh
Commander US Marine Corps
Forces Command



LT General Dmitri Henry
Director for Intelligence (J-2)



Maj General Lorna M. Mahlock
Commander US Cyber Command

COAST GUARD



Captain Zeita Merchant
Commanding Officer US Coast
Guard Sector New York
**First Black female ever selected
for Flag rank in the history of the
Coast Guard.**

VFW AUXILIARY

Greetings Auxiliary Members!

Great turnout for our January meeting, with FORTY members in attendance!! WOW!! I encourage and invite those who have not attended or those who have been absent for a while to come and get involved – we need you and your voice!

Welcome to our newest life members, Michael, Valerie, Irene, Anthony, Michelle, Sharon and Bruce. Our new annual members, Carla and George; and life member transfers Misty, Tammy and Samantha. Look forward to seeing you soon!

Our January breakfast was at IHOP! Good turnout and those there commented on the great food and fast service. This month's date and location TBD. Watch for email and Auxiliary Facebook page for information.

[VFW Post 1503 - Auxiliary](#)

Coats, gloves, hats and socks for the three schools that we support were delivered and very much appreciated. There are so many needs, and we are happy and proud to help.

The Department of Virginia VFW & Auxiliary Winter Council in Williamsburg was fun, informative and as always a welcomed time to catch up with our Auxiliary brothers and sisters from across the state.

Save the Date! Department of Virginia VFW & Auxiliary Convention is June 12-16 in Williamsburg. Additional information to follow.

Our Auxiliary is participating in a 'Fill the Bag Fundraiser' for the Department of Virginia Auxiliary's Ways and Means Fund. We have two *thirty-one* brand bags that need donated items! If you would like to contribute, please bring items to our monthly meeting from February – May.

Worth Repeating!!!

DID YOU KNOW?

MEMBERSHIP - Per section 104 of the Podium Book, Members in Good Standing:

Annual members who have not paid their dues by 31 DEC are no longer a member in good standing.

If you have not paid – please do so ASAP!!! IF you are unsure, please check your membership card and reach out if you have questions! You can leave your payment (\$25) with the bartender, renew online in MALTA, or mail to our treasurer – Karla Coker • 13212 Trails End Court • Manassas, VA 20112 If you wish to remain a member of VFW Auxiliary 1503, you must renew!! vfwauxiliary.org

At this month's meeting, we will plan for our annual Children's Easter Party and Egg Hunt and upcoming Corn Hole Tournament. Hope to see you and hear any new ideas you may have to share.

Valentine's Bingo at Arbor Chase! Saturday, February 10th at 3:00. If you would like to attend, please contact Hospital Chairman Jeanne at 703-340-4798 for information. Also for our Hospital program, we continue to collect cards for our 'Pen Pals for Vets' program. The Veteran Residents at Arbor Chase and Potomac Place Assisted Living Facilities really enjoy receiving them. Cards are available at each meeting for you to sign. There is also a collection

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



box in the Canteen if you would like to drop off your own signed cards. Jeanne will collect the cards periodically and deliver them to the resident Veterans.

VFW Store Orders are placed every quarter, and our Auxiliary covers shipping! Next order will be placed after the March 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](#)

If you would like to receive the monthly Department Communications electronically, you may do so here – vfwauxva.org

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



***Will Return
in March...***

FACILITY HAPPENINGS

Well, January certainly was fun, let's hope February behaves itself but not putting any money on it. While on this topic, I want to remind members of our policy for severe weather. We try our best to keep the post open but sometimes it's just too dangerous to do so, and that is always our first and most important part of the decision process, the safety of our **MEMBERS** and our **EMPLOYEES**. When a decision is made a Constant Contact will be sent out and a message will be placed on our phone system about closing or if we are having Bingo or not that day etc. So please call before coming if the weather is bad.

FOBS, recently handed out have been a problem. The company that supplies the **FOBS**, had a batch that required a new input requirement but they forgot to tell anyone until we called. Because of this once, you used your **FOB** it would sometimes work, not at all, work one time only, or work just fine. That we believe has been corrected and should be good going forward.

FEBRUARY-SUPER BOWL-VFW HERE WE COME: FEB 11th – We will continue with what we have done for the past few years. The Post will be putting out basic items CHILI, HOT DOGS, etc. Members are welcome to bring a dish to share and we ask you to have it here by 4:30 game day as food will be served starting at 5:00 till it's all gone or start of the game.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIALS – FEB 1ST & FEB 20TH (see menu flyer elsewhere in this newsletter)

VALENTINES DAY DINER – FRIDAY NIGHT FEB 9TH

WACKY WEDNESDAY – FEB 14TH (see menu flyer elsewhere in this newsletter)



John Meehan
Facility Manager



MOC / MOCA



Comrades and Auxiliary members, Winter Conference in Williamsburg, VA went terrific! Members of Pup Tent 14 attended the grand meetings among other productive and fun gatherings! Anyone seeking to take any elected positions in the MOC or MOCA for the next Cootie year is advised to come to the meeting on the 14th of February for our elections or contact an officer! While attendance was a bit low during our last scratch, we had a great time nonetheless... and are planning some fun and useful events in the upcoming year! If anyone needs any kind of help with things, please reach out to the post and get a message to the Cooties.

Hope to see more Cooties crawl out of the seams next month! If you have the volunteering spirit and drive, you are an ideal candidate for Cootieship! If you are interested in learning about the MOC and/or MOCA, reach out to a Cootie! We are a bunch of crazy, fun-loving, and dedicated veterans that are always looking for other likeminded people to help further our mission to "Keep them smiling in beds of white"! As always, take care of yourself, your families, your friends, and your fellow veterans!

Closer than a Brother, Busier than a Bee!

Charles "Romeo" Marlowe

MOC Seam Squirrel

romeovfw1503@outlook.com

Laura Adamczyk

MOCA President

lauraadamczyk2@gmail.com



VFW RIDERS GROUP

We're just getting going, but the future is already shaping up to be loads of fun! We are diligently preparing to take advantage of the great riding season ahead.

Massanutten VFW Post 2447 will be hosting a Spring Rally on May 18th. More info on their Facebook - Edinburg VFW and Auxiliaries.

Meetings are running smoothly and the next one will be on the 7th of February, 7 pm in the 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!

Love Is...

Thanks in large part to Valentine's Day, February is the month most often associated with love. Romantic cards, heart-shaped chocolate samplers, and love-themed gifts are everywhere. Therefore, February is a good month to consider the meaning of real love.

The typical view of love celebrated in the world today is self-centered and dependent on feelings that come and go. Real love is not based on self. It seeks to serve rather than to be served.

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

One type of love that binds us together is based on give and take. It is a mental love that is still centered on self but also the other person. Another type of love we share is a totally selfless love. It is love given without expectation of receiving any benefit in return. It has no conditions, and it benefits the one who is loved, not the one who loves. This is spiritual love, and it is the love God has for each of us.

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.” Proverbs 17:17

We should love others, not only during good times, but always. The challenge is how can we love at all times? Here are a few things for us to consider:

Carry Each Other's Burdens.

During difficult times, people need someone who they can rely on. Some just want a listening ear while others might need physical help. As Proverbs 17:17 also says, “ ... a brother is born for a time of adversity.” We strengthen one another when we carry each other's burdens.

Be Present in Rejoicing and Mourning.

“Rejoice with those who rejoice.” Rejoice with others and be happy in their celebrations; likewise, we mourn with each other and provide comfort in times of grief, sadness and hurting.

Forgive One Another.

Love and bitterness cannot coexist. Forgiveness is powerful. Even though we do not deserve it, God freely offers it to us, and we should do the same for others.

Care About the Needs of Others.

Loving at all times requires taking the focus from ourselves and putting it on other people.

Pray for One Another.

Bring others to God in prayer. This is a great way to love others. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

God is love. Pure and simple. If we say we love God then we should show others the same love. Not much in this world lasts, but there are three things that do last – faith, hope and love. The greatest of these ... is love.

Prayer: Almighty God, thank you for loving me. Because I know that you love me, I need to love others at all times in return.

MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

Have you ever heard of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission?

The National Purple Heart Honor Mission is an approved 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Since its founding in 1997, the organization has been dedicated to paying tribute to our nation's combat wounded through special outreach and educational programs. The organization was responsible for the establishment of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, which is located just north of West Point, NY. Nearby, in 1782, General George Washington first awarded the Badge of Military Merit, which the modern-day Purple Heart Medal is derived from.

The organization had a significant role in the creation of a couple things you may have purchased in the last couple of years. The Purple Heart Forever Stamps were released by the US Postal Service in 2014 and Purple Heart Commemorative Coins released by the US Mint in 2022.

The National Purple Heart Honor Mission's various awareness and tribute programs aim to ensure that those who sacrificed for our country are never forgotten. Their Roll of Honor program is an effort to collect the names and stories of Purple Heart recipients so they can be memorialized for generations to come to read about the sacrifices of those wounded or killed in action while protecting our nation.

Every year, their Purple Heart Patriot Project provides an all-expense paid trip to one Purple Heart recipient from each state to visit the museum dedicated as a tribute to their service, the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, and other historic sites connected with the Purple Heart. These visits provide a unique opportunity for our Purple Heart veterans to connect with other recipients and experience the appreciation of a grateful nation committed to ensuring their courage and sacrifice is remembered for generations to come.

All Gave Some, Some Gave All!



Yours in Patriotism,
Dom Dionne
Commander
Chapter 1775



VFW February Entertainment

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

Friday Nights

February 2nd
DJ Maurice

February 9th
DJ T-Play

February 16th
DJ Kelly

February 23rd
DJ Steve

Saturday Nights

February 3rd
DJ Joe Clay

February 10th
Pam Pelano Band

February 17th
Susan Flynn Band

February 24th
Lush Band





February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Black History Month Specials</i> BINGO 7:30	2 DJ Maurice FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	3 DJ Joe Clay 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 Valentine Dinners 5:00-8:00	10 Pam Pelano Band Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
11 Breakfast 9-12:00	12	13 BINGO 7:30	14 Valentine's Day MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm Wacky Seafood	15 BINGO 7:30	16 DJ Kelly FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	17 Susan Flynn Band AUX Brkfst Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
18 Breakfast 9-12:00	19 President's Day	20 Black History Month Specials BINGO 7:30	21 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	22 BINGO 7:30	23 DJ Steve FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	24 Lush Band Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
25 Breakfast 9-12:00	26	27 BINGO 7:30	28	29 BINGO 7:30		

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Next Monthly Meeting

February 21st

vfw1503.org

February 1st ... Black History Month

Smothered Pork Chops w/Onions & Gravy	\$8.95
Fried Whiting	\$8.95
Both	\$12.95

Sides: Black-Eyed Peas • Collard Greens • Corn Bread

February 14th ... Wacky Wednesday

Steamed Shrimp	\$10.95
Fried Catfish	\$11.95
Cod Fish Tacos	\$10.95

February 20th ... Black History Month

Fried Chicken	\$8.95
Smothered Hamburger Steak w/Mushroom Gravy .	\$8.95
Both	\$12.95

Sides: Red Skin Mashed Potatoes • Green Beans w/Bacon & Onion