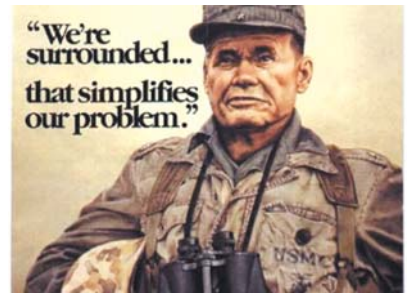




VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503

JAN 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



POST OFFICERS

Team,

Greetings and Salutations, as we usher in a new year, let's take a moment to reflect on the heartwarming events that filled our December with joy, gratitude, and camaraderie at our Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post.

December kicked off on a festive note as we joined the Semper Fi Organization America's Fund in wrapping ornaments for our troops. The effort to send a touch of holiday spirit to those serving abroad is a testament to our commitment to supporting our active-duty military members. It's heartening to know that, even miles away, our troops feel the warmth of community during the holiday season.

On December 3rd, we attended the District 10 meeting hosted by the Leesburg Post 1177. It was a gathering of VFW members from all ten posts in the area, coming together to discuss upcoming important matters, share insights, and fortify the bonds that unify us. These meetings are a testament to the cooperative spirit that defines our commitment to veterans and their families.

Four days later, on December 7th we marked the observance of Pearl Harbor Day, a day that lives in infamy. This year, we paid tribute to many members who paid the ultimate price but we singled out, Petty Officer Second Class Doris "Dorie" Miller, a true American hero who displayed unparalleled courage during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Remembering his bravery is a reminder of the resilience and strength that defines the American spirit.

On December 9th we started the day right with a fabulous Post Board of Directors Breakfast. It was an opportunity for the Commander to bring our leadership together, relax, and remind them of the fantastic job they're doing for the continued success of our VFW post. The camaraderie shared over breakfast sets the tone for a united and effective team.

Come 13 December, we had the privilege of celebrating the

- 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



accomplishments of Troop 1918/1196 at their Court of Honor. Recognizing the dedication and achievements of our youth is a vital part of our mission. These young scouts are the future leaders who will carry on the legacy of service and commitment.

Our Military Order of the Cootie (MOC)/Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (MOCA) Christmas Party held on 13 December, was a night of festive fellowship. Members and their families came together to celebrate the season, share laughter, and reinforce the bonds of keeping our Veterans happy in “Sheets of White”. These events remind us that our shared mission goes beyond duty; it’s about the relationships we build.

We closed a month of parties, with the Auxiliary Children’s Christmas Party which was a magical affair, bringing joy to the youngest members of our community. Santa, aka Paul Kiecker, and Mrs. Santa aka Jan Kiecker made a special appearance, and the laughter of children echoed through our post. Special thanks also go to all those auxiliary members who managed the event games for our kids’ fun and enjoyment. It’s events like these that create lasting memories for families and reinforce the sense of community.

On 20 December, we observed the Space Force’s 4th birthday. As we acknowledge the birth of this new branch of the military, we also recognize the dedication and service of those who contribute to its mission. It’s a moment to honor progress and look forward to the future.

We bid farewell to the old year and welcomed the new one with our New Year's Eve bash featuring the "Rockits." It was a night of music, dancing, and jubilation as we closed out the year with a sense of community and joy.



## **January 2024**

- 1 Jan – New Year’s Day
- 12-14 Jan – VFW VA Winter Council Williamsburg, VA. Fort Magruder Hotel and Conf Center
- 15 Jan – MLK Day (Special Menu)
- 20 Jan – Concealed Carry Class – B Hall 1000-1400
- 20 Jan – Membership Appreciation Night – Full Hall 1800-2300

## **February 2024**

- Black History Month
- TBD – Black History Month Dinners
- 3 Feb – Cub Scout Pack 1373 Sponsor Pinewood Derby – Full Hall
- 9 Feb – Valentines (Special Menu)
- 11 Feb – Superbowl
- 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, especially during a busy holiday Christmas season. 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 the next month, I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season, 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 **33** new members during December, an outstanding achievement that continues to place us at the forefront of recruiting. And 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



**Martin Luther  
King Jr. Day**



## VFW AUXILIARY

### Happy New Year everyone!

Great turnout for our December meeting, with thirty-seven members!! I encourage 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!

We did it Auxiliary 1503! We have made our 100%+1 in membership, and we reached that goal by 31 December! Thanks to all, and a job well done! Let's keep it up and see what we can do for the remainder of this year!

Welcome to our newest nine life members, Jinnie, Salvatore, Smia, Glenn, Janet, Erlinda, Penjulee, Jennifer and Jeffrey. Look forward to seeing you soon!

Several Auxiliary members were at the post on December 7th along with the Comrades for the annual Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony.

We had a great turnout of thirteen for our monthly breakfast on the 16th - after our meal, we exchanged cookies and socks! Our breakfast this month is on the 20th. Several folks have suggested a new location, for several reasons. We will make a decision at our meeting on the 17th.

All of the coats, gloves and socks for three schools in our community were purchased and I anticipate delivery in the next week or so.

Our annual Children's Christmas Party was on the 20th. With 64 kids and their family members, it was a great day! Many volunteers, lots of cakes and lots of fun! The kids enjoyed lunch, crafts and games. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived and made their way to the big couch. Each child was able to sit with Santa, discuss the all-important 'letter to Santa', ensuring he knew just what they were asking for! Each child received a goodie bag and many pictures were taken. As usual, the much-anticipated Cake Walk was the hit of the party! Thank you to Chef John and staff for the beautiful display of food, to Paul & Jan, to Elf Debbie and all the volunteers for making the day fabulous!

A yearly tradition, after our monthly meeting, we headed to 'A' Hall to set up and serve our Comrades a delicious meal, this year, from Cracker Barrel. It is a small gesture and a chance to say thank you and show our appreciation.

Are you planning to attend the Department of Virginia VFW & Auxiliary Winter Council in Williamsburg? The deadline for banquet tickets is January 4th. The deadline for hotel reservations with the VFW rate has passed, but you may be able to get a room. <https://www.fortmagruderhotel.com/>

## 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

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

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

**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](http://vfwauxva.org)

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 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](mailto: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**



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 interview with **Jenny**

If you would like to share your story, you may reach Elizabeth at [mrs.elizabeth.marlowe@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.elizabeth.marlowe@gmail.com)

## FACILITY HAPPENINGS

Happy New year everyone didn't think I'd make it, after my 2nd go round with COVID. Hit the office hard, had three people out all at the same time. Want to thank Erin, Annie, Kristen especially for stepping up and covering for us. Team work is what its all about.

New Years Eve Party again was a huge success. Over 120 attended danced and partied all night long again Erin and her merry workers made it a very enjoyable night for all.

Feb 11th SUPER BOWL enough said. Will have food served at 5 PM. If you want to bring a dish to share please have it here no later than 4:30. Good luck to your team if they are playing. If your a Commanders fan, lets hope we are looking forward to the next 10 years of putting together a team.

Making this short and sweet. Still allot of catching up to due from last month. Please see calendar on back page of this newsletter for upcomming events during January.

**John Meehan**  
Facility Manager

**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**



## MOC / MOCA

Listen up Cooties,

Another year has come and gone. Thanks to everyone in the MOC/MOCA for all their hard work! We had a great holiday party with a feast and an exciting White Elephant gift exchange. There certainly were some interesting gifts! Winter Conference is coming up on January 12-14 in Williamsburg, VA. Members of Pup Tent 14 will be attending the Grand Scratch on January 13 along with helping watch the Cootie table outside the meeting rooms! Hope to see some folks there!

***Closer than a Brother, Busier than a Bee!***

**Charles "Romeo" Marlowe**

MOC Seam Squirrel  
[romeovfw1503@outlook.com](mailto:romeovfw1503@outlook.com)



**Laura Adamczyk**

MOCA President  
[lauraadamczyk2@gmail.com](mailto:lauraadamczyk2@gmail.com)

# Moving Forward

There's a line in the movie *Forrest Gump*, "Don't you just love New Year's? You get to start all over." Of course, we know this is somewhat unrealistic. Do the old year's problems, heartaches, and struggles vanish and become a faded memory at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve? Unlikely. But every day, including New Year's Day is a brand-new day, and a chance for a new start. While consequences may carry forward into the next day, yesterday is gone; and with it, the regrets, mistakes, or failures we have experienced.

New Year's is a day commonly known for making resolutions for the new year. It is a time to reflect on where our life has been, where it is, and where we want it to be. Our lives are not left to fate. Our choices, attitudes and actions affect the direction of our lives. Fortunately for us, advice does exist on how to go through this process:

***"Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead..."*** *Philippians 3:12-14*

The key part of this verse for us is "forgetting what is behind..." It reminds us there can be no significant improvement in our lives until we forget what is behind; and, sometimes forgetting requires us first to forgive what lies behind before we can move forward. Coincidentally, there's another line in *Forrest Gump* that comes to mind: "My mama always said you've got to put the past behind you before you can move on."

The author of the verse above is saying, I'm not perfect. I haven't figured it all out. However, one thing I have figured out, is I must strain toward what is ahead. I must press on. Think of a runner straining for the finish line. As we look to the coming year, this verse tells us not to be dragged along through the upcoming year; rather, let us strain toward goals and plans that we have made with God as our partner. This is where successful resolutions begin. Once we let go of the past we can move forward toward the things we want for the new year and beyond.

If it is not already on our resolution list, we need to add that we will strive to be more spiritually grounded this new year. It will be tough to get our physical resolutions going right if our spiritual resolutions are not in place.

As we stand with our backs to the old year and look forward to a new year, we can have hope in the promises of God. We will certainly face both difficult and joyful times ahead, but we can be certain God "will never leave or forsake us." That promise alone is enough to celebrate the new year that lies ahead of us!

### **Here are some New Year's resolutions where we can partner with God:**

- Pray for guidance.
- Forgive those who have hurt us.
- Take care of ourselves physically and spiritually.
- Love others.
- Be a role model.
- Don't be discouraged by failures.
- Value friendships.
- Help those in need.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, Almighty God, grant me the courage and faith to face the days ahead. I resolve to learn from my mistakes but not dwell on them. With the old year behind me and the new year before me, I will face the next twelve months and the remaining days of my life with you leading my path and giving me strength for the journey.

**Ed Bennett**  
Chaplain



## MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

### Happy New Year!

Have you made a resolution for 2024 yet?

How about agreeing to donate 24 hours of your time over the next year to help our veteran community! That equals just 2 hours a month.

There are over 100 Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) recognized by the Veterans Administration. Besides the VFW and MOPH there is also The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, American Veterans, and Vietnam Veterans of America just to name a few. Each VSO is a little different from the others due to who is eligible to become a member, but they all have two things in common: they help veterans to navigate the VA claims and benefit process and they all help veterans connect and live fulfilling lives through the programs they offer at their facilities. The larger of these VSO have offices in Washington DC and visit with members of the Senate and the House of Representatives to support legislation that is beneficial to service members, veterans, and their dependents. Paying dues to be a member helps with these efforts. Agreeing to help with one of their programs is a great way to not just meet new people with a similar background and interests, but potentially make a difference in the lives of someone less fortunate than you. The work you do can help to raise funds to assist with veteran training programs, veteran's emergency support lines, and donations to help get a veteran and their family through a financial rough patch.

If you are reading this, I know you are a member of the VFW or MOPH or both so thank you for your membership. If you are currently not involved in any activities, I encourage you to volunteer to help with an upcoming event. Who knows, you may enjoy it!

### All Gave Some, Some Gave All!

Yours in Patriotism,

**Dom Dionne**

Commander

Chapter 1775



## VFW RIDERS GROUP

The air is cold, but the chapter is hot. With the word spreading, we're gaining members fast and even getting some post transfers primarily to join our Riders chapter. We had a great first meeting and look forward to the next on January 3rd @ 7pm. 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!**

# VFW January Entertainment

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

## Friday Nights

January 5th

**DJ Danny**

January 12th

**DJ Kelly**

January 19th

**DJ T-Play**

January 26th  
**Made In USA**

## Saturday Nights

January 6th

**DJ Joe Clay**

January 13th

**DJ Steve**

January 20th

**Mars Rodeo**

January 27th  
**Comedy Night  
with Dwayne White**



# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>5</b> DJ Danny FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	<b>6</b> DJ Joe Clay Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
<b>7</b> Breakfast 9-12:00	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>10</b> MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm Wacky Wacky BBQ	<b>11</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>12</b> DJ Kelly FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	<b>13</b> DJ Steve Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
<b>14</b> Breakfast 9-12:00	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>17</b> Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>18</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>19</b> DJ T-Play FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	<b>20</b> Mars Rodeo AUX Brkfst Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
<b>21</b> Breakfast 9-12:00	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>24</b> Wacky Wacky Seafood Specials	<b>25</b> BINGO 7:30	<b>26</b> Made In USA FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	<b>27</b> Comedy Night Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
<b>28</b> Breakfast 9-12:00	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> BINGO 7:30				

# Veterans of Foreign Wars

## Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



**Next Monthly Meeting**  
**January 17th**

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

## Wacky Wacky Wednesday ...

### January 10th ... BBQ Specials

Pulled BBQ Pork .....	\$10.95
BBQ Ribs .....	\$11.95
Beef Brisket .....	\$12.95
Combo Plate (2) .....	\$13.95

*Sides: Macaroni & Cheese • Corn Bread • Bacon & Onion Green Beans*

### January 24th ... Seafood Specials

Steamed Shrimp .....	\$10.95
Fried Catfish .....	\$11.95
Cod Fish Tacos / Rice .....	\$11.95