



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503

JUNE 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 my term as Commander of VFW Post 1503 comes to an end, I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible support and dedication I have received over the past two years. It has been an honor to serve alongside such passionate and committed individuals, and I am truly humbled by the collective effort that has made our post a beacon of service and camaraderie.

A Heartfelt Thank You

First and foremost, I extend my sincere thanks to our Board of Directors. Your wisdom, guidance, and unwavering support have been invaluable. To the Auxiliary and its Board Members, your tireless efforts and dedication to our mission have been nothing short of inspiring. To the Military Order of the Cootie and the Cootie Auxiliary, your unique contributions and enthusiasm have brought joy and comfort to many veterans. To the Honor Guard, your dedication has been nothing short of phenomenal when called upon and I ask that you continue in that vein going forward.

To our employees, who perform in many capacities as cooks, bartenders, servers, laborers, and facility managers, I thank you for your devotion and contribution to providing a place of welcome and comradeship to the members of this great post. And to the countless others who have made these last two years enjoyable and rewarding, I cannot thank you enough. Together, we have provided the best veterans' experience and service, and I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished.

Welcoming Incoming Commander Ben Guinan

As I step down on 15 June, I ask that you extend the same respect, sage advice, and courtesies to my relief, Ben Guinan, as he takes on the role of Commander. Ben is dedicated and passionate about our mission, and I am confident that under his leadership, Post 1503 will continue to thrive and serve our veterans with distinction.

- 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





Reflecting on May's Events

Let's now reflect on a month filled with significant events that highlighted our commitment to service and community. From community service to camaraderie-building events our Veterans of Foreign War post continues to thrive as a hub of support and fellowship. On May 4th, we held the installation of new officers for Post 1503, elected for the upcoming year 2024-2025. It was a moment of transition and renewal, setting the stage for continued growth and success under new leadership.

The following day, we celebrated 34 years of our locally established Military Order of the Purple Heart. This milestone was a testament to the enduring legacy of honor and sacrifice represented by the Purple Heart recipients in our community.

On 5 May, we observed Cinco de Mayo with wonderful Mexican-American dishes in the canteen. It was a vibrant celebration of culture and heritage, bringing together members and their families for a joyous occasion. And again, on 12 May, we celebrated Mother's Day with a special breakfast in honor of all mothers everywhere. Without their love and support, we would not be where we are today. It was a heartfelt tribute to the women who have shaped our lives and our community.

We held a fantastic blood drive on the 25th of May and it was a resounding success. The generosity of our members and supporters helped save lives and demonstrated our commitment to serving the broader community.

Our Buddy Poppy Drive on May 25th and 26th was a tremendous effort to spread awareness and raise money for veterans in need. The community's response was overwhelmingly positive, reflecting the strong support for our veterans. We closed out the month by placing flags to the left of headstones at Quantico National Cemetery to commemorate the fallen on 20 May. On Memorial Day, May 27th, members of Post 1503 attended the Quantico National Cemetery Memorial Day Service to pay homage to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We followed that event with our annual Memorial Day Community Picnic, which was a smashing success, and attendance well over 600 personnel. This event featured a giant bounce house and train ride to delight the kids, an ice cream truck to beat the heat, along with the energetic tunes of the Mars Rodeo Band. The event was a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women and reinforced our commitment to honor their legacy. A special thanks, to our Auxiliary President, Kellie Levitt and all the others who made this is a special day.

Looking ahead, June will once again be filled with meaningful events that honor service and sacrifice. We will host Troop 1919 Court of Honor, VFW State Convention 12 -16 June Williamsburg, VA, the Army Birthday, observe Father's Day, Juneteenth Holiday, the Army Birthday Ball, and the Breast Cancer Awareness Concert which we are all eagerly anticipating.

Upcoming Events in June 2024

5 June – Troop 1919 Court of Honor (B-Hall)

12 – 16 June – VFW Dept. Convention Williamsburg, VA. Fort Magruder Hotel and Conf Center

12 June – Women's Veterans Day observed – Canteen

14 Jun – Army Birthday

- 16 Jun – Father’s Day observed
- 19 June – Juneteenth Holiday observed
- 22 June – Army Ball – Full Hall – 1830
- 29 June – Breast Cancer Awareness Concert – Full Hall – 1700

And as we move forward into June, 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 May, 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. ***I bid you Adieu.***



Bernie Carter
Post Commander
cdrpost1503@vfwva.org



VFW AUXILIARY

Hello Auxiliary 1503 members...

June is upon us, and that means there are many upcoming volunteer opportunities, not only this month, but also all summer long!

Welcome to our newest members, Erich, Leah, Anthony and Monique. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and around the post.

Our membership is currently at **1,101** – let’s keep up the recruiting and finish strong – we have until 30 June for this year’s membership totals. **Recruiter Challenge** winners announced at the July meeting.



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
- Conductor**..... 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

Auxiliary breakfast was Auxiliary lunch, in May! Members wanted to try something different – so they met at El Paso for tasty food and great conversation. June date/time/location TBD.

DUES NOTICE: VFW Auxiliary 1503 Annual AND Renewal Dues amount will increase to \$35 PER YEAR beginning 1 JULY 2024. Consider becoming a life member and never have to renew again!

Department of Virginia VFW & Auxiliary June Convention: 12-16 June. Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA: phone 757-220-2250. Room Rates are \$139.00 per night. Book NOW, as rooms go fast! The convention is a great time to meet VFW & Auxiliary members from across our great state, learn more about the Auxiliary and have fun while doing it!

VFW & Auxiliary National Convention: Louisville, KY 27 July – 1 August.

VFW Store Orders – Several different Auxiliary items are available and orders are placed every quarter, Our Auxiliary covers shipping! Next order will be placed after the June 19 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](#)



Installation of all elected and appointed Auxiliary 1503 officers for the ensuing year is complete. All will assume their respective roles on 16 June.

We were busy in May! Volunteering at the VFW National Day of Service on 20 May, the Post 1503 Buddy Poppy Drive on 25 & 26 May and the Post 1503 BBQ on 27 May.

This is the LAST month to get your orders in!!! We are purchasing **Auxiliary 1503 shirts** – orders taken at our monthly meeting. The one and only order will be placed after the June 19 meeting.

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](#)

Over the past five years as your Auxiliary 1503 President, my days were filled with many experiences; the good, the bad and the indifferent... however, the one constant during those 1,800-ish days was pride. Proud is an understatement for the accomplishments of our Auxiliary, the growth in membership, the events held, the friendships made, the support to our Comrades and our community, the donations made, the meals provided and the love shown to those in need.

As I bid you farewell as Auxiliary President, I encourage you to get involved! If you have never attended a meeting, please start! To those who are regulars, if you are not already, please get involved! Our Auxiliary will continue to grow and strengthen with your contributions, ideas and commitment.

In unwavering service,

Kelli

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 **CONRADO**

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

FACILITY HAPPENINGS

We had some changes in management which slowed us down and we had to make adjustments to some of our plans to spruce up areas in and around the Post, but we are back on track and will get the pavilion, walkway and the back area cleaned up and ready for summer activities. In discussion with the newly elected inbound Commander, we are hoping to get more use of the Pavilion.

On behalf of the Staff, we want to thank Bernie Carter for two hard years as Post Commander and Bingo Manager, great job Commander and looking forward to working with you again. Congratulations to our newly elected Commander Ben Guinan and newly elected Board members, the Facility Staff is looking forward to working with you.

We will be serving a Breakfast Buffet on June 8-9, and the Kitchen Staff is planning a nice Father's Day Meat Lovers Breakfast.



Carl Richardson
Interim Facility Manager

MOC / MOCA

Greetings from the MOC/MOCA! We had a lousy turnout for our May scratch and Officer Installation Ceremony! I want to thank every Cootie for all the work you have done and the camaraderie we have shared thus far. I look forward to another crummy year!

May was indeed a busy month for our cootie crew! The MOCA lead a very successful Flea Market. A special shoutout to Pam for organizing the event, there were people and vendors everywhere! And I must thank Ed and others for the much needed chilidogs! Thank you to all the Cooties and everyone else that took part in the event! There were Cooties everywhere over the Memorial Day weekend! The Buddy Poppy Drive over the whole weekend was infested with Cooties. The Memorial Day Flags-In at National Memorial Cemetery at Quantico... yep... you guessed it... Cooties were honored to be on the scene. No one does more for veterans than the VFW and the Cooties are proud to do our part!

We are always looking to increase and multiply! 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.

We Are Better Together!

Charles "Romeo" Marlowe

MOC Seam Squirrel
romeovfw1503@outlook.com



Laura Adamczyk

MOCA President
lauraadamczyk2@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Pause and Remember...

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others”
Philippians 2:3-4

If we look closely at the word “memorial” we can see the word “memory.” Memorial Day is a day of remembrance – of remembering the men and women who, over the last 248 years, paid the ultimate price for the freedom that is so precious to all of us. Often, we tend to remember only those who lost their lives in combat and sometimes fail to remember those who lost their lives in training and other accidents not directly related to armed conflict. As veterans, we know all too well that many of the jobs and tasks our troops perform daily are inherently and incredibly dangerous.

In December 2000, to ensure the sacrifices of America’s fallen heroes are never forgotten, the U.S. Congress passed, and the president signed into law “The National Moment of Remembrance Act”, to “encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity.” This law encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3:00 PM local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.

This past Memorial Day we enjoyed good times, gathered with family and friends and many of us received a paid day off from work. And it is altogether fitting and good that we did this. After all, the men and women we honor on this national holiday gave their lives that we could fellowship together on Memorial Day and every day. If the moment slipped by, and any of us were unable to observe a minute of silence on Memorial Day, it is not too late. We can pause and remember right now, this moment, and on any given day. Let us thank God for their sacrifice, pray for their families, and, most of all, pray for peace.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, Almighty God, we thank you for this nation in which we are blessed to live. Thank you for those who went before us, making our freedom possible. Father, let us never forget that the freedom we enjoy as a nation came at a great sacrifice. Teach us, Lord, that the best way to pay an unpayable debt is to show daily with our lives that we didn’t forget. Amen

Ed Bennett
Chaplain

VFW RIDERS GROUP

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

Massanutten VFW Post 2447 hosted a great Spring Rally last month. Pictures will follow on Facebook. Post 1503 Riders are looking forward to hosting the Rally in 2025.

Meetings are running smoothly and the next one will be June 5th, 7pm, in the Post 1503 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!

MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

The Korean War

Upon the surrender of Japan to end WWII, Korea which was a Japanese colony was occupied by the Soviet Union and the United States, the country was divided along the 38th parallel. As the Cold War tensions increased, the former allies could not decide on a method to reunite the two occupied parts back into one Korea. In 1948, the two zones became sovereign states North Korea, a communist country led by Kim Il Sung and South Korea, a capitalist country led by Syngman Rhee. Neither country accepted the 38th parallel as permanent border.

Tensions continued to grow as the two countries had several border skirmishes. South Korea violently suppressed a communist uprising in Jeju. On 25 June 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea, the United Nations denounced the attack and asked countries to help defend South Korea under UN Command. The United States provided approximately 90% of the military personnel and led forces from 21 countries that answered the UN call.

The North Koreans pushed the South Korean army and its allies into the Pusan Perimeter defending approximately the last 10% of South Korea. However, in September 1950, UN Forces landed at Inchon and cut the supply lines for the North Korean forces and forces in the Pusan Perimeter began its breakout and pushed the communist back up the peninsula and out of the South. In October 1950, the UN Forces invaded North Korea and advanced towards the Yalu River, the border with China. On 19 October 1950, The Chinese People's Volunteer Army crossed the Yalu River and attacked the UN Forces. The UN Forces retreated southward. The Communist forces recaptured Seoul in January 1951, before losing it for the final time on 15 March 1951. In April 1951, The Chinese Forces launched a Spring Offensive to try to recapture Seoul, but failed. The UN forces launched a counterattack and successfully pushed the communist forces back to the 38th parallel. The final two years of the war was an inconclusive war of attrition, both sides tried to gain territory while negotiating to end the war.

The Armistice Agreement was signed on 27 July 1953. Both sides exchanged prisoners and the Korean Demilitarized Zone was created. During the war, the United States suffered 33,739 KIA, 103,284 WIA, and 4,549 MIA (declared dead). 146 Medals of Honor were awarded for valor in combat during the war and approximately 137,023 Purple Hearts were awarded.

God Bless America!



Yours in Patriotism,
Dom Dionne
Commander, Chapter 1775

Cancer Relief Fund Dance

Purchase tickets on line at lionelward.com \$20.00
(703) 868-6478 (315) 717 - 6632 500pm-10:00pm

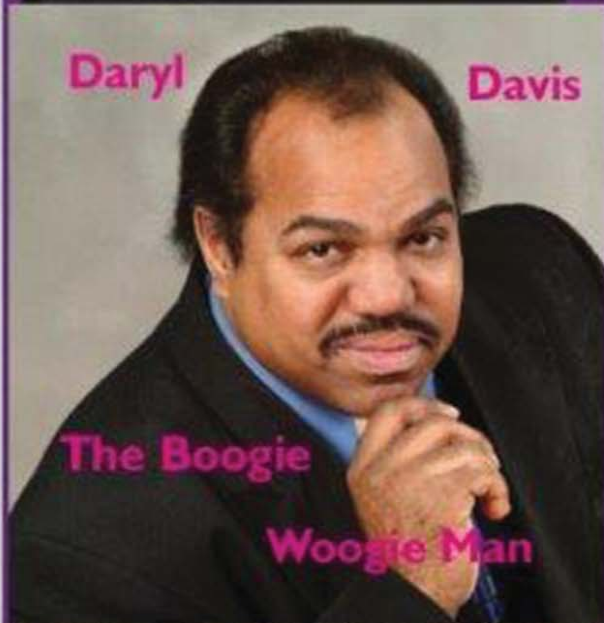


Andrew Chamberlin
Special Guest



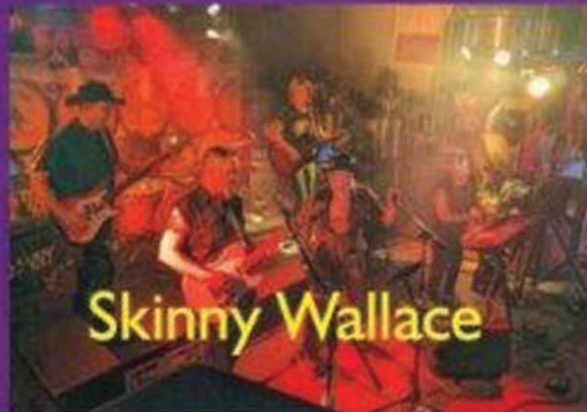
Lionel Ward

Daryl Davis



The Boogie

Woogie Man



Skinny Wallace



Rivers Edge Band



Generation Mix Tape

June 29th 2024

VFW 1503

14631 Minnieville Road,

Dale City, VA 22193

VFW June Entertainment

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

Friday Nights	Saturday Nights
	June 1st DJ Joe Clay
June 7th Speak Easy Band	June 8th 5 x 5 Band
June 14th DJ Kelly	June 15th DJ Slick
June 21st DJ Danny	June 22nd DJ Michael
June 28th DJ T-Play	June 29th DJ Steve

Breast Cancer Awareness Concert
June 29th • Full Hall • 1700



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 DJ Joe Clay Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
2 Breakfast 9-12:00	3	4 BINGO 7:30	5	6 BINGO 7:30	7 Speak Easy Band FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	8 5 x 5 Band Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
9 Breakfast 9-12:00	10	11 BINGO 7:30	12 MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm Women's Veterans Day	13 BINGO 7:30	14 DJ Kelly FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00 Army Birthday	15 DJ Slick AUX Brkfst Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
16 Breakfast 9-12:00 I ♥ DAD	17	18 BINGO 7:30	19 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm Juneteenth	20 BINGO 7:30	21 DJ Danny FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	22 ARMY BALL DJ Michael Breakfast 9-12 WINGS
23 Breakfast 9-12:00 30 Breakfast 9-12:00	24	25 BINGO 7:30	26	27 BINGO 7:30	28 DJ T-Play FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	29 Breast Cancer DJ Steve Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

June 19th

vfw1503.org



Fathers Day Breakfast Specials Sunday, June 16th

- Meat Lovers Breakfast •
- Fried Chicken & Waffles •
- Steak & Cheese Omelette •