VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

14631 MINNIEVILLE ROAD • DALE CITY, VIRGINIA 22193 • 703.670.4124 vfw1503.org

Post 1503

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

Team,

Greetings and Salutations, as we approach the beginning of Spring and look back on the cold and wind of February. I'm ready to smell the cut of green

grass, newly planted annuals, and perennials and of course the already budding daffodils.

March is upon us, and as we look back on the vibrant events of February, we're filled with gratitude for the camaraderie and celebration that defined our Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post. Let's revisit the highlights of the past month and look forward to the exciting events that await us in March.

Throughout February, we celebrated Black History Month with reverence and respect. It was a time to honor the remarkable achievements and contributions of Black Americans to our nation's history and culture. We talked amongst ourselves about past, present, and expected future achievements and outcomes. Let us never forget the rich history we have in the building of this great nation by so many.

Our Cub Scout Pack 1373s Pine Wood Derby was a roaring success! Young scouts showcased their creativity and craftsmanship as they raced their meticulously crafted little cars down the track. It was a day

filled with excitement, cheers, and unforgettable memories for scouts and families alike.

On Super Bowl Sunday, we cheered on the Kansas City Chiefs as they clinched their 3rd Super Bowl win in the last five years and became the first back-to-back Superbowl champion in 19 years! The triumph of this team was a source of pride for many within the community, showcasing the dedication, skill, and teamwork that led to success on the field.

A week later, on 17 February, we were honored to host the Voice of Democracy (High School), Patriots Pen (Middle School), and Teacher of the Year Awards Ceremony for three deserving teachers at the High School, Middle School, and Elementary levels. These programs celebrate excellence in speech, writing, and teaching, highlighting the



Post Officers

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
I Year Trustee	John Dodge
Adjutant	Randy Coker
Service Officer	Raymond Bailey
House Committee C	hair Lionel Ward
Past Commander	Tom Levitt



talent and dedication within our community. Congratulations to all the winners for their outstanding achievements! And a special thank you to our Post Surgeon Dan Walczyk for arrainging and organizing this special event.

On President's Day, we reflected on the legacy of our nation's leaders and their contributions to our democracy. On 24 February we held a Flag Retirement Ceremony, a solemn occasion to honor the stars and stripes that have served as symbols of our freedom and unity. It was a moment to pay our respects and reaffirm our commitment to the values for which our flag stands. Thank you to all who attended and assisted during this ceremony.

Looking ahead, March promises to be another exciting month filled with meaningful events. We have our 10th District Meeting, where we'll gather with fellow VFW district posts and members to discuss important matters and fortify our associations and fellowship. The Cub Scouts Blue and Gold Banquet, Boy Scout 1919 Court of Honor and Blue and Gold Banquet, MOC/MOCA Installation, St. Patrick's Day festivities, the Auxiliary Children's Easter Party, and National Vietnam War Veterans Day are just a few of the events we're eagerly anticipating.

<u>March 2024</u>

- 9 Mar District 10 Meeting/Awards 1030-1300 Post 1503 No lunch
- 9 Mar Cub Scouts, 1196/1919 Scouts BSA Mulch and Blue n Gold Banquet
- 13 Mar MOC/MOCA Installation Dinner A Hall
- 13 Mar Boy Scout 1919 Court of Honor B Hall 1900
- 17 Mar St. Patrick's Day (Special Menu) observed.
- 24 Mar Auxiliary Children's Easter Party A Hall 1400-1600
- 29 Mar National Vietnam War Veterans Day 1800 Canteen
- 31 Mar Easter Sunday (Special Menu) Canteen 1200 to close

As we move forward into March, let us continue to honor our heritage, celebrate our achievements, and uphold the values of service and camaraderie that define our VFW post. 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 **13** new members during February, 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



Members, allow me to introduce Mr. Nicholas Whyte-Baines, who will soon step into the role of our new General Manager following his turnover with Mr. John Meehan. Nick, as he prefers to be called, brings with him a wealth of experience, boasting over 33 years of management and leadership in food service and restaurant management. His extensive expertise promises to invigorate our team and elevate our operations to new heights. Let's extend a warm welcome and make Nick feel at home as he transitions into his new role. If you happen to cross paths with him, be sure to greet him with a friendly "hi."

VFW AUXILIARY

Hello Auxiliary 1503 Members!

Every day signs of spring are beginning to appear – warm temperatures, flowers peeking through the soil and birds everywhere!

Welcome to our newest life members, Deborah, Bonnie, Cindy, Brian, Michael and Desiree; annual

members, Rebecca, Rubio, and life member transfer Jill and Remila. Please plan to attend our monthly meetings! Our February meeting was

well attended, with 34 members! Our membership is currently at 1,072 / 102.39% - let us keep up the recruiting and finish strong! Remember our **recruiter challenge** – if you recruit ten or more new members {7/31-6/30}, you will earn \$100!!

UNWAVERING SUPPORT

FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

Our February breakfast was at Post 1503, so that we could also participate in the Flag Retirement Ceremony. We had six, plus two kiddos for breakfast and four participate in the ceremony. March breakfast is at Post 1503 on the 23rd. After, we will fill eggs for the Easter party.

District 10 Meeting & Awards Ceremony: Saturday, March 9 – 10:30am – VFW Post 1503

Auxiliary National President, Carla Martinez will be in Richmond for her Virginia Visit. March 17 & 18. If you would like information, please contact me.

Department of Virginia VFW & Auxiliary June Convention: June 12-16, 2024, Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA: phone 757-220-2250. Room Rates are \$139.00 per night.

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

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 March – 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

Our Auxiliary presented certificates and \$950 in awards to the VFW Post 1503 VoD, PP & Teacher of the Year winners this year. What a well deserving group of winners!

VetPals – For our Hospital program, we continue to collect cards. The Veteran Residents at Arbor Terrace and Potomac Place Assisted Living Facilities really enjoy receiving them. The collection box, with blank cards is no longer offered in the canteen, due to cards being taken and never returned. Jeanne will have cards

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President
Jr. Vice President Monika Walczyk
Secretary Pamela Flores
Treasurer Karla Coker
Chaplain Michael Alicea
Conductress Jan Kiecker
Guard Gloria Wiley
Ist Yr Trustee Patty Wootten
2nd Yr Trustee Gina Powers
3rd Yr Trustee Rita Maldonado
Historian Venee Alicea
Patriotic Instructor Kimberly Murray



available at the monthly meeting 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







FACILITY HAPPENINGS

My goodness March has arrived, and while I'm typing this in February, it looks like we're going to get thru the winter months with only one snow/ice event and one almost rainy and snow event that never happened. Funny how the weather people when they mess up the forecast, have to extend there reporting up to the PA line to make sure even though it didn't snow here, it snowed someplace.

March usually means the 17th is a special day. Well this year the 31st is also a special day.

MARCH 17TH – ST PATTY'S DAY – As usual we will be doing our world famous CORNED BEEF DINNER starting at 12 PM. Flyer elsewhere, in this newsletter with the particulars. Because of this there will be NO BREAKFAST SERVED since the staff will be preparing the food for St. Pattys day.





MARCH 31ST – EASTER SUNDAY – You will have your choice of either a Turkey or Ham dinner with all the fixings starting at 1 pm. Flyer elsewhere in this newsletter with the particulars. BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED FROM 9 AM TO 12 PM. DINNER FROM I PM UNTIL food runs out.

APRIL 6 AND 7TH – GUN SHOW – Virginia Gun Collectors Association – Has signed up with us to do two shows this year, this one and again on Oct.18th and 19th. VFW POST 1503 members and Auxiliary get free admission but must show there membership card.

One last subject I want to partially address. Has to do with our Friday and Saturday nights when we have live entertainment. The way the bar area is now constructed everything flows towards the middle of the bar for service. We are working on redoing the bar to allow for a 2nd permanent well station to the right of the existing one by the POS station. We expect this will help with crowd control, but will take time to implement as a new soda station needs to be

installed and other things to make it work. In the meantime, remember that **ONLY MEMBERS** make purchases at the bar. M/A's will police and we ask for your cooperation.

Now that football season is over... We will be reverting to our normal 7 PM closing time on Sundays. As a reminder <u>NO</u> outside food or drink is allowed to be brought in to the canteen area at any time.

> John Meehan Facility 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 interview with **Gary**

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

Chaplain's Corner Forgiving Ourselves...

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." | Peter 5:6-7

Last month we celebrated Valentine's Day, and we discussed what love is, and how we can love at all times. We were reminded that loving at all times involves forgiving others. Forgiveness is powerful; and, even though we do not deserve it, God freely offers it to us, and we should do the same for others. However, it can prove even more difficult to offer forgiveness to ourselves.

We deeply desire to live life the right way and do what God tells us, and in the process, we are often harder on ourselves than God is. If we are ever going to experience how much God loves us, and develop the ability to love at all times, we must learn to forgive others and also learn to forgive ourselves.

If we are really hard on ourselves, let us not conclude that God feels that way about us. God loves us. He is never surprised when we make mistakes because He knows us better than we know ourselves. To be clear, God is not good with our mistakes. But if we confess our mistakes and turn away from them, He is faithful and just to forgive those mistakes; and, at no point in the process does he stop loving us.

If God is willing to forgive us like that, we must be capable and willing to forgive ourselves. We can stop beating ourselves up and live the life God wants us to live – a life free from heartache, guilt and regret. God is the only one who is perfect. We have to be able to say, "Self, I forgive you for not being perfect, and I thank You, God, that You are right now making me into all that You need me to be."

Ed Bennett Chaplain

MOC / MOCA Comrades and Auxiliary members,

Elections for the coming Cootie year were held in February. Congratulations to all those elected and a big Cootie welcome to our newest MOC officer, Lionel Ward!! Installation will take place in March and the new officers will take their position in June.

We also have a flea market coming up on in April. Details will be coming out soon on how to reserve a table. We are always looking to increase and multiply! If you have the volunteering spirit and drive, you are an ideal candidate for Cootieship!

Closer than a Brother, Busier than a Bee!

Charles "Romeo" Marlowe MOC Seam Squirrel

MOC Seam Squirrel romeovfw1503@outlook.com

Laura Adamczyk MOCA President lauraadamczyk2@gmail.com



MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

The Battle for Iwo Jima

U.S. Marines invaded Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. The island had to be secured to get one step closer to the Japanese islands and to prevent the Japanese from launching fighters from the island to attack the American bombers attacking the Japanese homeland. Approximately 70,000 U.S. Marines battled against 18,000 Japanese soldiers.

On February 23, 1945, Joe Rosenthal from the Associated Press photographed Corporal Harlon Block, Navy Pharmacist's Mate John Bradley, Corporal Rene Gagnon, PFC Franklin Sousley, Sergeant Michael Strank, and Corporal Ira Hayes as they conducted the now world-famous flag raising on top of Mount Suribachi. Strank, Sousley, and Block were killed before the battle for Iwo Jima was over.

During the 36 days of battle, almost 7,000 Marines were killed in action and another 20,000 were wounded in action. The Marines captured 216 Japanese soldiers; the rest of the Japanese soldiers were all killed in action. The island was declared secure on March 26, 1945. The seizure of the three airfields on the island provided an emergency landing capability for damaged aircraft returning from missions over Japan. More than 2,000 B-29 bombers landed on the island saving the lives of over 24,000 members of the Army Air Corps. This battle set the stage for the last and largest battle in the Pacific Theater of World War II, Okinawa.

27 Medals of Honor were awarded for actions during the Battle of Iwo Jima, more than any other battle in U.S. history and over 27,000 Purple Hearts were awarded.

"Among the men who fought on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue"

- Admiral Chester W. Nimitz

Yours in Patriotism, **Dom Dionne**

> Commander Chapter 1775

All Gave Some, Some Gave All!

VFW Riders Group

The **Next Meeting** for the VFW Riders will be **March 6th** at the **Occoquan VFW Post 7916**.

Hope all are able to take advantage of the peeks at warmth that have been our way. We've got to prepare early to take advantage of the great riding season ahead. We also need to start preparing to host the VFW Riders Spring Rally 2025!

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

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!









Ben Guinan for Post Commander

Comrades, I would like to announce my candidacy for Post Commander. Over the past several years, it has been my honor and privilege to have held leadership and support positions in the VFW, MOC, and VFW Riders organizations at the Post, District, and State levels and as a Council of Administration member of the MOC at the National/Supreme level. Last year I was awarded All-American and All-State honors as a VFW District Commander and All-Star honors (MOC equivalent of VFW All-American) as the Virginia Grand (MOC equivalent of State) Commander. I have the drive, experience, and background to be an effective Post Commander for 1503 and would sincerely appreciate your vote and support.

Benjamin "Ben" Guinan

STAR MARTINEZ FOR SR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades, I am thrilled to announce my candidacy for the position of Senior Vice Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1503, the largest post in the world. With a deep commitment to supporting our veterans and their families, I am eager to bring fresh ideas and dedicated service to this role. Together, let's honor the sacrifices of our veterans and work towards enhancing the well-being of those who have served our country. Your support means the world to me, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve our community in this capacity. Thank you for considering me for this important position!

Star Martinez

Robert "Check" Adamczyk for JR Vice Commander

Comrades, I would like to announce my candidacy for Post Junior Vice Commander. For the past two years, I've been serving as the Post Judge Advocate. Before that, I spent two years as Post Surgeon. I've also been serving as a member of the Post Honor Guard, District 10 - 2-year trustee and Chief of Staff, MOC Pup Tent 14 Tight Wad, MOC Grand Commander, MOC Grand Hospital Chairman, MOC Supreme Council of Administration Member, MOC Supreme Codeslinger, Post IT Committee Co-Chairman, Department of Virginia IT Committee Chairman, National Aide-De-Camp, and Webmaster for the Post, District, and Department as well as managing the information and pictures on the TV in the canteen. I'm well versed in the VFW Community Service reporting process (having written the system myself) and stand ready to continue supporting our Post as I have these past several years. I look forward to serving as your Post I503 Junior Vice Commander and would appreciate your support.



DAN WALCZYK FOR POST JUDGE ADVOCAGTE

Comrades, I would like to announce my candidacy for Post Judge Advocate and am seeking your vote. I'm a life member of the post and have been actively supporting post activities since I joined. For the past year, I have been the Post Surgeon running a very successful scholarship and teacher of the year program. Before that, I was the Officer of the Day, greeting everyone and checking membership cards at the Post meetings. I assist regularly at Bingo and try to participate in other activities as much as possible. I'm familiar with post processes, policies, and procedures. I also have a strong background in plans, operations, and project management thanks to many years of military service. I am prepared to support the membership and post-leadership in running the organization. I look forward to helping keep the post strong and serving you as the next Post Judge Advocate.

Dan Walczyk



KURT HENSE FOR POST SURGEON

Comrades, I would like to announce my candidacy for Post 1503 Surgeon in the upcoming election. A life member in the VFW for the last five years, I have increasingly sought numerous volunteer roles around the post. I continue to serve in an MOC officer position, as I have over the past two years. It would be my honor to step up into a post-leadership role, where I would have the opportunity to continue the positive work of our post in support of fellow veterans, the VFW, and our community.

Kurt Hense

SHAWN JACKSON FOR POST SURGEON

Comrades, I would like to announce my candidacy for Post Surgeon. I am a United States Navy veteran and a life member of the world's largest VFW Post. I have had the distinct honor to be in service and supporting Post Blood Drives, Memorial Day and Veterans Day Buddy Poppy drives, Celebration of Life Services, and Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program. These service opportunities afforded me the chance to see the value and impact our Post Programs have in the enrichment of our service members, veterans, families, and community's lives. These events ignite my need to serve my comrades, community, and Post in a greater capacity. This chance opportunity allows me to shepherd our health enrichment programs through community blood drives, partnerships with middle and high school educators demonstrating the VFW's commitment to students' academic excellence through our scholarship essay programs, and recognition of innovative educators who are committed to the sustainment of academic excellence. These experiences and opportunities deepen my allegiance to continue being in service to my country and community. I envision being in service as our next VFW Post 1503 Surgeon. My service will be reflective of previous-elected Post Surgeons and heroic Marine, LTG Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller.

Shawn Jackson



VFW AUXILIARY 1503

CHILDREN'S



EASTER EGG HUNT & PARTY

VFW & AUXILIARY 1503 MEMBERS & FAMILY

ONLY

SUNDAY - MARCH 24, 2024 2-4 POST 1503 'A' HALL

14631 MINNIEVILLE RD





ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED

BY A PARENT OR ADULT

LIGHT SNACKS - CAKEWALK - EGG HUNT VISIT & PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

EASTER BASKETS PROVIDED

VFW March Entertainment

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

Friday Nights	Saturday Nights			
March Ist	March 2nd			
DJ Danny	Speak Easy Band			
March 8th	March 9th			
Mars Rodeo Band	DJ Joe Clay			
March I5th	March 16th			
DJ T-Play	DJ Kelly			
March 22nd	March 23rd			
DJ Michael	DJ Slick			
March 29th	March 30th			
DJ MoeVibez	DJ Danny			



PUB CRAWL 2024 100 5 MAIN

Seats are limited! Sign-up NOW!!

Join Post 1503 for our First Annual **District 10 Pub Crawl!**

Date: April 20, 2024 Price: \$40 per person (21 & up) Depart: VFW Post 1503 Time: 1:30pm – 8pm

> **Open to VFW Comrades, Auxiliary & their guests!** Price Includes Roundtrip Transportation, Driver Gratuity, Fun Prizes, 50/50 Raffle & Lots of Laughs!! No REFUNDS

PAYMENT CONTACT INFO: ANISETTE C Trails

703-360-2800

Tues. – Sat. 8am – 2:30pm E-mail: aarocho@dctrails.com



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Now that to our no reminder	football sea rmal 7 PM	ison is over closing ti e food or (We will b me on Sund drink is allo	e reverting lays. As a	I DJ Danny	2 Speak Easy Band Breakfast 9-1 WING
3 Breakfast 9-12:00	4	5 BINGO 7:30	6	7 BINGO 7:30	8 Mars Rodeo Band FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	6:00-8:00 9 Joe Clay Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
Breakfast 9-12:00 Breakfast 9-12:00	11	I 2 BINGO 7:30	I 3 MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm	I 4 BINGO 7:30	I 5 DJ T-Play FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	I 6 DJ Kelly AUX Brkfst Breakfast 9-1 WINGS 6:00-8:00
NO Breakfast St. Paddy's Dinner 12-??? Happy St. Patrick's Day	18	19 BINGO 7:30	20 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	2 I BINGO 7:30	22 DJ Michael FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	23 DJ Slick Breakfast 9-1 WING 6:00-8:00
24 Breakfast 9-12:00 3 Solution Breakfast 9-12 Easter Dinner 1-???	25	26 BINGO 7:30	27	28 BINGO 7:30	29 DJ MoeVibez FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	30 DJ Danny Breakfast 9-1 WINGS 6:00-8:00

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



ST. PATTY'S DAY

Come Join Us for a Full Day of Fun and Good Eating. Our Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner is the Best in Town.

We will have Plenty of Music for Your Listening Pleasure and You Can Count on Hearing and Seeing Things Only Available at the V.

We will have Noise Makers, **COLD BEER**, Hats, **COLD BEER**, Beads, **COLD BEER**.

