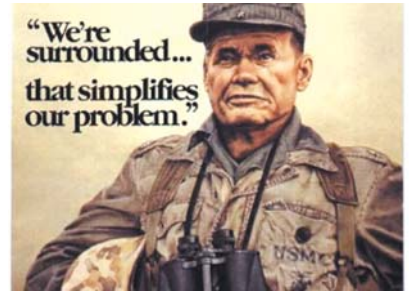


VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503

MAY 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! The month of May is upon us with all the warmth and grandeur we expect. As we welcome this month, let's reflect on the memorable events that shaped our April and look ahead to the meaningful activities that await us. From community service to camaraderie-building events, our Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post continues to thrive as a hub of support and fellowship.

Our Flag Retirement Ceremony, on 6 April took on special significance as we held it at the Prince William County Public Safety Training Center in Nokesville, Va. This location provided a fitting backdrop for honoring the stars and stripes that have served as symbols of our nation's unity and freedom. The ceremony was a poignant reminder of the respect and reverence we hold for our flag. All future Flag Retirement ceremonies will be held at this location free of any public ordinances on open burning from this establishment.

- 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



We organized the first of two planned Auxiliary Cornhole Tournaments on 13 April, bringing together members and supporters for a day of friendly competition and fundraising. It was a fantastic opportunity to enjoy some outdoor fun while supporting the important work of our auxiliary members.

Also on 13 April, Cub Scout Pack 1373 organized a Bike Rodeo, promoting safety and fun for young cyclists in our community. The event provided valuable lessons in bike safety while fostering a sense of camaraderie among participants.

We conducted our annual election of new officers for the year 2024-2025 at our last VFW meeting, on 17 April, ensuring the continued leadership and vitality of our VFW post. Congratulations to the newly elected officers, who will guide us in our mission of serving veterans and their families. **Your 2024-2025 elected officers are:** Commander - Ben Guinan; Senior Vice Commander - Star Martinez; Junior Vice Commander - Robert "Check" Adamczyk; Quartermaster - Carl Richardson; Judge Advocate - Dan Walczyk; Surgeon - Shawn Jackson; 3 Year Trustee - John Dodge.

The 20 April VFW Post 1503 Pub Crawl was a resounding success, as members visited three local VFWs, strengthening bonds and camaraderie within the community. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow veterans and enjoy some quality time together. Special thanks to Junior Vice, Star Martinez for planning and organizing.

We closed out the month of April with a successful MOC/MOCA Flea Market, raising funds to support our mission of serving veterans and their families. The event showcased the generosity and support of our community, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who participated.

Looking ahead, May is filled with meaningful events that honor service and sacrifice. We will participate in our National Day of Service and conduct our Officer Installation on May 4th. Our Mother's Day observance, Post 1503 blood drive, Buddy Poppy Drive, Flag laying event at Quantico, Memorial Day Service at Quantico, and our annual Memorial Day Picnic and Open House are just a few of the events we're eagerly anticipating.

Upcoming Events in May 2024

4 May – VFW Post 1503 National Day of Service – Vietnam Memorial 0630

4 May – Officer Installation – A Hall 1800-2000

5 May – Cinco de Mayo

5 May – Purple Heart Anniversary (34 years locally established)

11 May – District 10 Joint Meeting – 1030 – Full Hall – No lunch

12 May – Mother's Day observed (Special Menu)

25 May – Post 1503 Red Cross Blood drive – A Hall 0900-1400

25/26 May – Buddy Poppy Drive

25 May – Flag Laying Event – Quantico National Cemetery (QNC) 0900

27 May – Memorial Day Service – QNC 1100

27 May – Memorial Day / Picnic / Open House 1300-1600

And as we move forward into May, 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 and together, we make a difference. As always stay safe, continue to recruit, and be kind to others. Speaking of recruiting, Post 1503 recruited **37** new members during April, 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.



Bernie Carter
Post Commander
cdrpost1503@vfwva.org



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**VFW Memorial Day Weekend
Blood Drive
at Post 1503**

**Sponsored by American Red
Cross**

**Saturday May 25th, 2024
0900 (9 am) - 1400 (2 pm)
In the A Hall of the post**

**Registration for the drive can be
done online at:**

**<https://www.redcross.org/>
and enter "VFWPost1503" to
schedule an appointment.**



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

VFW Post 1503

14631 Minneville Rd. Dale City, VA 22193

**Scan QR
Code to
schedule an
appointment:**



VFW AUXILIARY

Hello Auxiliary 1503 members...

Happy May and hello to this awful pollen season!

Welcome to our newest members, James and Maribel. Please plan to attend our monthly meetings! Our April meeting was very well attended, with 58 members! Our membership is currently at **1,097** - 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!! Nominations and election of officers were held at the April meeting and I am extremely happy and proud to announce your 2024-2025 Elected & Appointed Officers:

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



- President** Deborah Nichols
- Senior Vice President** .. Monika Walczyk
- Junior Vice President** Betty Gimble
- Treasurer** Karla Coker
- Chaplain** Michael Alicea
- Conductor** Jan Kiecker
- Guard** Gloria Wiley
- Trustee #1** Venee Alicea
- Trustee #2** Brenda Richardson
- Trustee #3** Patricia Wootten
- Secretary** Kelli Levitt
- Soloist** Ellen Carleton
- Historian** Venee Alicea
- Patriotic Instructor** Joyce Gibbs

Auxiliary breakfast was on April 27. We started the day early, helping get the MOC/MOCA Flea Market set up, and then went inside to eat and of course chat, chat, chat! If you have not joined us before, please do!! We typically meet at 9:30 in the dance floor room at Post 1503 on the third Saturday of each month. We have a great time getting to know each other outside the meeting room. Family members are welcome to join as well. Next breakfast is May 18.

District 10 Convention & Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 11, - 10:30 am at Post 1503. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

May is always a busy month for VFW/Auxiliary events – Officer Installation, Meetings, Buddy Poppy Drive, Post 1503 Blood Drive, ‘Flags In’ at QNC, Memorial Day Ceremony at QNC, Post 1503 Memorial Day BBQ/Open House. There are always events that provide you an opportunity to volunteer – this month there are many! Hope to see many of you around the Post this month!

Our annual Corn Hole Tournament Fundraiser, held on April 13 was well attended by both players, volunteers and on lookers. We raised just over \$700! Had great prizes, great food and loads of fun. Thanks to all who helped make the event successful.

In Memoriam – Shelvey Dodge, Auxiliary 1503 Life Member passed away on April 23. Those who knew her will remember her smile, her kindness and her happy spirit. A special lady, who will be sincerely missed. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the entire Dodge family.

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™** bags that we are filling with donated items from Auxiliary members. If you would like to contribute, please bring items to our monthly meeting from April – May. Wine, spirits, candles, food items, books, gift cards, etc. The bags containing our donated items will be raffled off at the June convention.

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 for several different Auxiliary items are placed every quarter, and 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](#)

We are also 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](#)



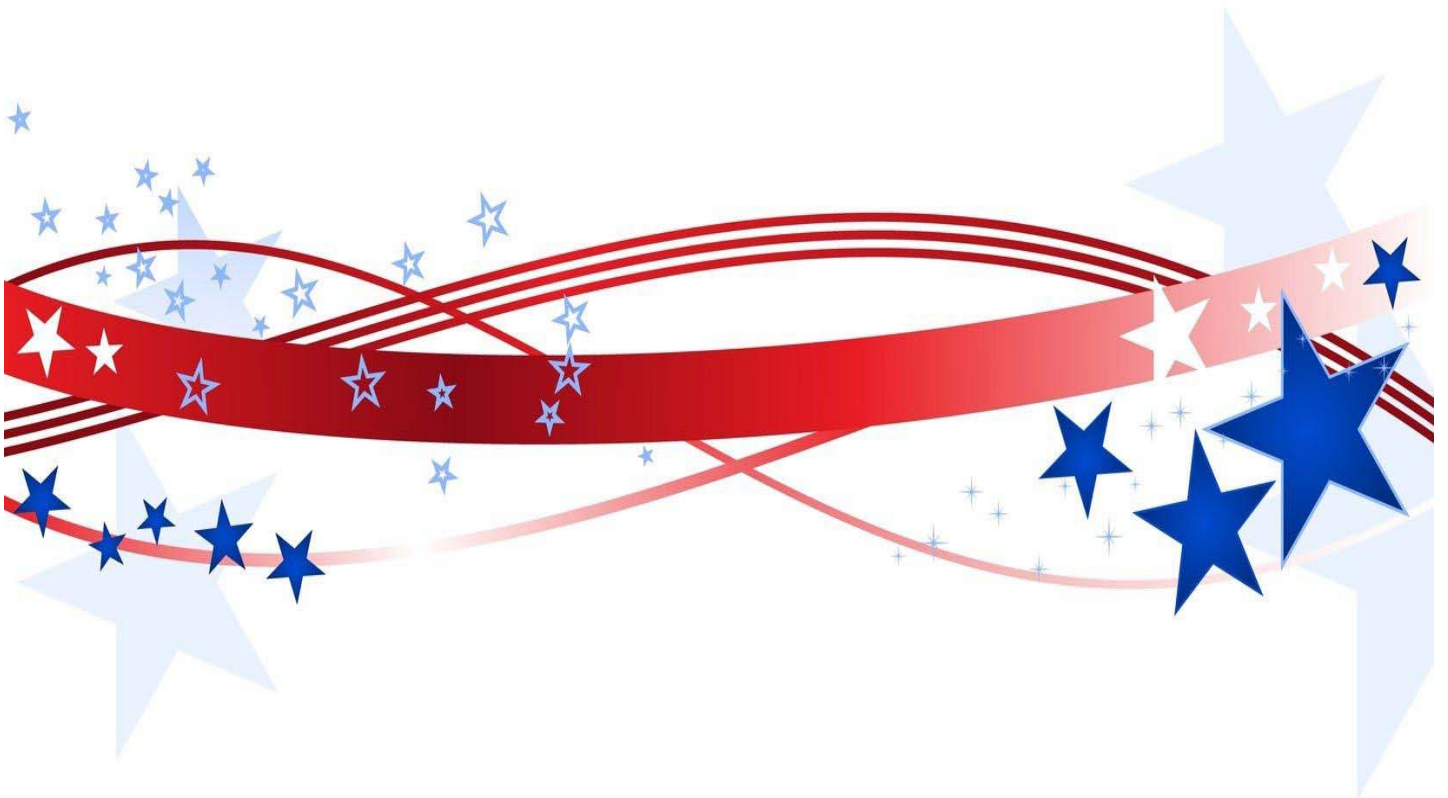
VFW POST 1503

ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY BBQ

MONDAY MAY 27th ~ 1:00 ~ 4:00 pm

JOIN US IN THE PAVILION FOR

FOOD * MUSIC * FUN



FREE EVENT ~ OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Live music by 'Mars Rodeo Band'

FACILITY HAPPENINGS

Spring has arrived. As the weather starts to bring us lots of outdoor time here at the post, we will initiate a spruce-up. During the next few weeks, outside maintenance will be underway for areas such as our sidewalks and commons to be cleaned and detailed. Maintaining a clean appearance of the post could stimulate the community to have more interaction, and may potentially open future opportunities.

Delays and rescheduling have caused us to get behind in the installation of our new rails. Operations are working with the vendor to have this new rail installed this month.

As a reminder the Post doesn't open until 12 PM Monday thru Friday and 9 AM Saturday and Sunday. These operating hours will remain in effect until further notification. Comrades and Auxiliary who need access for special events outside those hours, please contact me as general manager.

Congratulations to Stacy Hawthorne on her promotion to Bar Supervisor. Stacy has been an employee at the VFW for 10-plus years. She will serve a vital role in continuing to maintain efficiency in bar operations.

The journey moving forward into the future is not overnight, but building a team of leaders to assist with the vision of change will allow the Post to be effective, efficient and provide the very best operation possible.

Suggestions and comments are welcomed. Please direct all correspondence via email @ vfw1503facmgt@comcast.net



Nicholas Whyte
General Manager
Facility & Canteen Operations

MOC / MOCA

Greetings from the MOC/MOCA! We had a lousy turnout for our April scratch! We were fortunate to have accepted our newest MOC member's application from none other than our very own Quartermaster, Carl Richardson. His application was then unanimously accepted at the Membership Meeting. The Cooties continue to infest the entire area with service, volunteering, and taking part in Post activities! You could find Cooties working Bingo, volunteering at food banks, aiding and assisting disabled and convalescing veterans with all kinds of things, and at/taking part in several post events!

The Flea Market will have been held in the pavilion by the time you read this. Hope all that were able to enjoy went home with at least a smile. The post's upcoming events of note include a Red Cross blood drive is set for 25 May (which is open for registration on the Red Cross' website, use the drive code "vfwpost1503" to search for it) & Memorial Day flag installations at headstones at Quantico National Cemetery.

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"!

Closer than a Brother, Busier than a Bee!

Charles "Romeo" Marlowe

MOC Seam Squirrel
romeovfw1503@outlook.com



Laura Adamczyk

MOCA President
lauraadamczyk2@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Difficult Seasons...

We have all heard the phrase, “this too shall pass.” We often times use this phrase to comfort our loved ones and friends who are facing difficult times. We are completely well-meaning when we provide this encouragement, it is offered out of compassion and is intended to provide hope beyond the present struggle. Many may be surprised to learn the phrase “this too shall pass” is not in any translation of the Bible, but is similar to some verses. One of those verses is *2 Corinthians 4:17*:

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”

This verse isn't simply stating we shouldn't worry because eventually our trouble will go away. It is declaring something far more powerful about the role suffering plays in our lives. It reveals, quite possibly, the key to unlock the ability we need to persevere through physical, emotional, spiritual and other hardships.

Adversity in any form tests the limits of our abilities and resolve. So what do we do when we are faced with adversity beyond our abilities? The answer is we must grow. We must become the person the situation requires us to be.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” James 1:2-3

We all face grief and losses in life that we have to accept. On the opposite end of these hardships is a rainbow. The rainbow reminds us God is here and never leaves us. Trouble doesn't stay because God does. He is with us through it all. Let us move toward the hope represented by the rainbow and contemplate what life looks like on the other side of the struggle facing us.

To paraphrase author Charles Swindoll, the seasons of our lives are sometimes bountiful and filled with joy; other times seasons are dry, and times are hard. When we accept the fact that God is in control of both, we discover a sense of divine refuge, because the hope then is in God and not in ourselves.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, help me to be grateful for the joyful days and strengthen me to persevere through difficult and trying days. I recognize there is a purpose and a time for everything. I will put my hope in You and not in myself. I know Your grace is sufficient. Amen

Ed Bennett
Chaplain

VFW RIDERS GROUP

Spring is in the air... so is the pollen. That won't stop us though! We're all excited for the season and its plentiful list of events. We invite all to join us for our Fun Ride each 3rd Sunday leaving from the Post 1503 pavilion after a route/safety brief. We're all very much looking forward to Massanutten VFW Post 2447 hosting the State Spring Rally on May 18th in Edinburg, VA. More info on VFW 1503 Riders Facebook.

Next meeting will be on May 1st, 7 pm in the Post 7916 Occoquan canteen.

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

Fellow Veterans,

On 5 May 1990, a group of Marines that were Purple Heart recipients stationed at Marine Corps Base Quantico got together and officially formed Chapter 1775 of The Military Order of the Purple Heart. The Charter members are listed below, several of these members you may have met while at VFW Post 1503!



MAJ Clarence T. Anthony • SGTMAJ Louis W. Jandrosits • SGTMAJ Bernard P. Ross
LCPL Charles S.W. Berl, III • CAPT Robert C. Leary • MGYSGT Jerry L. Saunders
CW04 Thomas Besch • GYSGT Gilbert C. Lutz • MAJ Luciano S. Silva
MAJ Francis P. Brennan • CPL Joseph J. McLaughlin • CAPT Frank O. Steele
MSGT Ronald Briles Sr. • SGTMAJ George E. Meyer • SGTMAJ Thomas J. Strzelecki
SGTMA MAJ Rafael A. Candelario • MAJ Edwin D. Miller • SGTMAJ Harry M. Terrien
MSGT Thomas C. Endler • 1stSGT Herbert B. Newman • BGEN Paul K. Van Riper
1stSGT Vincent T. Flanagan • GYSGT Robert H. Oldham • 1stLT James L. Weisenburger
COL Wesley Fox • GYSGT Jerry D. Parker • MGYSGT James D. Welch
MGYSGT Lawrence L. Gerhart • GYSGT Albert J. Petry • SGTMAJ Lester E. Wood

The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among combat wounded veterans, promote patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families. Our members are Combat Wounded Veterans who are dedicated to our country and our veteran community. We endeavor to do better for each other and by each other always. Chartered by Congress for combat wounded Veterans. The Purple Heart is composed of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat or by an act of international terrorism. Although our membership is restricted to the combat wounded, we support all veterans and their families with a myriad of nation-wide programs.

If you are a Purple Heart recipient and interested in giving back to the veteran community, send me a message at CdrChapter1775@outlook.com.

We will be celebrating our 34th anniversary at VFW Post 1503 starting at 1530 on 5 May, stop by and join us!

God Bless America!

Yours in Patriotism,
Dom Dionne
Commander, Chapter 1775

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 **RANDY**

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

VFW May Entertainment

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

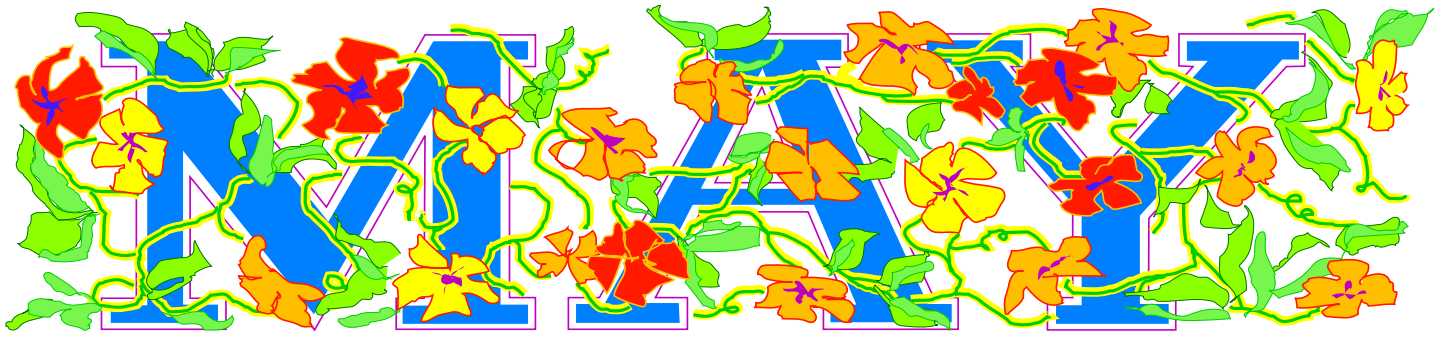
<i>Friday Nights</i>	<i>Saturday Nights</i>
May 3rd DJ Danny	May 4th DJ Kelly
May 10th DJ T-Play	May 11th Rockits Band
May 17th DJ Michael	May 18th Bad Lands Band
May 24th DJ MoeVibez	May 25th DJ Joe Clay
May 31st DJ Danny	Monday, May 27th

OPEN HOUSE & BBQ

1:00 – 4:00

Mars Rodeo Band





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 BINGO 7:30	3 DJ Danny FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	4 DJ Kelly Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
5 Breakfast 9-12:00 Cinco de Mayo	6	7 BINGO 7:30	8 MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm	9 BINGO 7:30	10 DJ T-Play FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	11 Rockits Band Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
12 Breakfast 9-12:00 happy mother's day	13	14 BINGO 7:30	15 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	16 BINGO 7:30	17 DJ Michael FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	18 Bad Lands Band AUX Brkfst Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
19 Breakfast 9-12:00	20	21 BINGO 7:30	22	23 BINGO 7:30	24 DJ Moe Vibez FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	25 DJ Joe Clay Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
26 Breakfast 9-12:00	27 MEMORIAL DAY Open House & BBQ 1-4	28 BINGO 7:30	29	30 BINGO 7:30	31 DJ Danny FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

May 15th

vfw1503.org

Cinco de Mayo Specials **Sunday, May 5th**

- Beef Tacos • Veggie Tacos • Nacho Supreme •
- Veggie Nacho Supreme • Taco Salad •

Mothers Day Breakfast Specials **Sunday, May 12th**

- Chicken & Waffles •
- Feta, Mushroom & Spinach Omelette •
- Veggie Frittata •