VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503

FEB 25



General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

14631 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

One Weekend in January: A Post 1503 Story

Once upon a time, there was a VFW Post in Dale City, Virginia amid a snowy, arctic winter season.

After the Bingo volunteers had completed work on another successful Bingo session on a cold Thursday night, the set-up crew worked to prepare the hall for an event scheduled for the following Saturday. On into the night while members and guests enjoyed comradery in the canteen, the set-up crew diligently cleared all the tables and chairs from the hall. As someone who has done this very thing for other events at



Post Commander	Ben Guinan
Senior Vice	Star Martinez
Junior Vice	Robert Adamczyk
Quartermaster	Carl Richardson
Judge Advocate	Dan Walczyk
Surgeon	Shawn Jackson
Chaplain	Ed Bennett
3 Year Trustee	John Dodge
2 Year Trustee	
I Year Trustee	Danny Gibbs
Adjutant	Charles Marlowe
Service Officer	Raymond Bailey
Past Commander	Rernie Carter

the Post in the past, I can attest to the herculean effort needed. The bartenders, staff, and MAs cleaned and closed the Post after the Post was clear with their usual dedication to our venerable home.

Friday began clear, bright and cold, with Post opening at the usual time. I arrived around noon to have lunch with some friends and saw the usual clientele spending some time with friends and perhaps doing a bit of gaming in the back room. The lunch special offered a chicken Philly cheesesteak sub that I ordered along with the excellent new French fries the Post offers. Everything was tasty and warm, and after a very pleasant lunch, I headed home to finish my workday. While I was away, the GM and staff worked budget, operations,

and got things ready for the rest of the busy weekend. When I returned to the Post in the evening, our Friday night dinner items had already sold out, indicating the options for Friday night dinner were enjoyed by a goodly number of members and guests. While members and guests were enjoying dinner and comradery, our very own Auxiliary Chaplain and DJ extraordinaire prepared the dance floor area for a country music theme night. As the canteen shifted from the dinner to the entertainment part of the night, people continued to come into the Post, many dressed in hats and clothing consistent with the country music theme. As the evening progressed, the crowd continued to grow. There was dancing and laughter and people had a good time. The bartenders were nothing short of amazing in working through the daunting number of people





ordering drinks and bar food that is offered after dinner service is closed. As I watched I noted some things that we can do to not only support the bartenders on these busy nights but also enhance the capacity for keeping the lines at the bar moving. Have faith, dear readers, our GM and I are aware of these things, and we are continuing to work to improve business practices to address this situation and several other aspects of Post budgeting, finance, and operations that are less visible

but just as vital for our Post. Once again, the bartenders, staff, and MAs cleaned and closed the Post after the Post was clear with their usual dedication to our venerable home.

Saturday began clear, cold, and bright. While the staff prepared for breakfast and monied the 2 ATMs and the payout kiosk behind the bar, the Cooties gathered to head down to the VA Hospital in Richmond to visit with our veteran brethren ensconced in Spinal Cord and Poly-Trauma wards. The staff of the Beltway Baggers, the Virginia contingent of the American Cornhole League, was also busy in the hall setting up for a regional qualification tournament. The kitchen and bar staff ran the back kitchen window and back bar the whole day to provide concessions for the players competing in the tournament, the crowd rotating in and out but consistently numbering around 100 people. Your faithful narrator was in the office reviewing the monthly Post bills and working on this very newsletter while monitoring the cornhole tournament from early morning until mid-afternoon. As we moved through the day and into the evening, the tournament wound down, the Cooties finished up at the hospital and returned to the area (another successful hospital visit concluded), and the band for the night got things set up for the evening's entertainment. The band got things rolling, played great music, the members and guests had a fun night, and the staff did a great job keeping things moving. And as usual, the bartenders, staff, and MAs cleaned and closed the Post after the Post was clear with their usual dedication to our venerable home.

Sunday started a bit colder and grey, and the staff was there early to get breakfast ready to go. I had my usual breakfast date with Mom and breakfast was excellent. It was a busy Sunday morning breakfast, and the staff handled it with their usual dedication. While Mom and I went about our usual Sunday morning shopping excursion, the staff closed out breakfast and started to prepare the canteen for the NFL Championship games that were happening later in the day. The first game, Washington vs. Philadelphia produced a nearly unprecedented crowd at the Post. Given the number of members and guests that showed up to watch the game with friends, family, and comrades,



we had to scramble a bit to move things around to handle not only the immense football crowd but to prepare an area for the well-deserved Christmas Tree workers' party. We had a special visit from one of our stalwart members who is a wine importer that brought us samples of an internationally award-winning sparkling wine. While not an oenophile, I did enjoy this one. During these events, the staff, bartenders, MAs, and volunteers stepped up and did an incredible job keeping things rolling throughout the extremely busy day. Once the first game was done, your faithful narrator took my leave, and the crowd dissipated a bit; however, there was still a good crowd remaining for the second game of the day: Buffalo vs. Kansas City. And for the final time for this weekend, the bartenders, staff, and MAs cleaned and closed the Post after the Post was clear with their usual dedication to our venerable home.

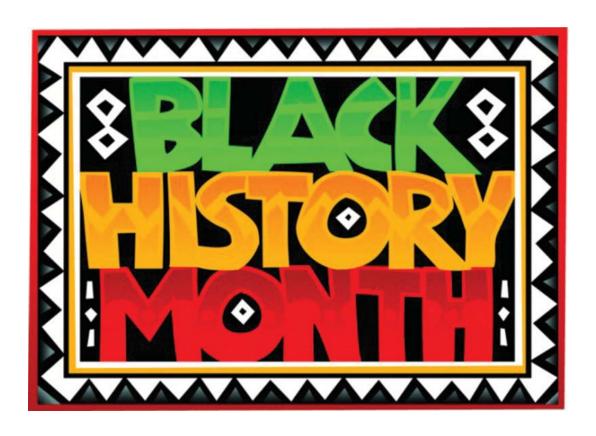
The story above is an example of what a busy weekend may look like during any given weekend at the Post. The officers and volunteers work hard to keep the Post and facility running, organize events, and set up

service projects, among a litany of other things. The staff works hard to help keep the Post running, cleaning, preparing the kitchen and bar, setting up rooms, keeping the Post secure, among a long list of other things. I am proud of the efforts of our Post leadership, volunteers, and staff. There is always more that can be done to make things run more efficiently and effectively in efforts to enhance our members' experience at the Post. Take some time to reflect on what you can do to assist these efforts and make sure to say thank you to our staff and volunteers who dedicate themselves to our mission. As the world changes, we must keep evolving to keep up with it. You have my promise that we are making every effort to do just that.

We Are Better Together!

As always, keep informed on what is going on of the Post in whatever medium works for you: Constant Contact, Facebook, newsletter, flyers posted in the canteen on the walls and on the big TV, clay tablets, carrier pigeons... there are plenty of information sources. And remember to ABR (Always Be Recruiting)! Recruiting is the lifeblood of our Post and the VFW. Keep up the outstanding work you all do in our recruiting efforts.

Ben Guinan Post Commander cdrpost1503@vfwva.org





Post Commander's You Can't Park for s#!t Club February Edition











Perhaps their Valentine will give them a bouquet of parking vouchers. Maybe a valet could get their vehicle inside the lines.







VFW AUXILIARY

Hello Auxiliary 1503. It's hard to believe the weather is so cold with lots of snow and ice. Our January Meeting had 38 members present! So happy to see each of you trying to support our organization, the work we do as a team is important, and without the help of many, it can be challenging to accomplish our mission!



AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President	Deborah Nichols
Sr. Vice President	Monika Walczyk
Jr. Vice President	Betty Gimble
Secretary	Kelli Levitt
Treasurer	Karla Coker
Chaplain	Michael Alicea
Conductor	Jan Kiecker
Guard	Gloria Wiley
Trustee #I	Venee Alicea
Trustee #2	Brenda Richardson
Trustee #3	Patricia Wootten
Historian	Venee Alicea
Patriotic Instructor	Joyce Gibbs

Welcome to our new members. Our membership continues to grow! Thanks to everyone for continuing to recruit!

A quick reminder about Annual Membership Dues - if your membership expired December 31, 2024 you are no longer a member in good standing and you are not permitted to attend meetings. If your dues (\$35.00) are not paid by June 30, 2025, you will have to rejoin and prove eligibility again.



January 18th was our Auxiliary Breakfast with four members. We always have a great time, getting to know one another and sharing ideas. Please join us next month.

Are you receiving Chaplain Alerts? If not, please email Chaplain Michael at auxiliarychaplain 1503@gmail.com

As always, if you have questions, concerns, comments or you're 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.

Debbie Nichols

VFW Auxiliary 1503 President debbienichols2023@gmail.com 703-975-6001

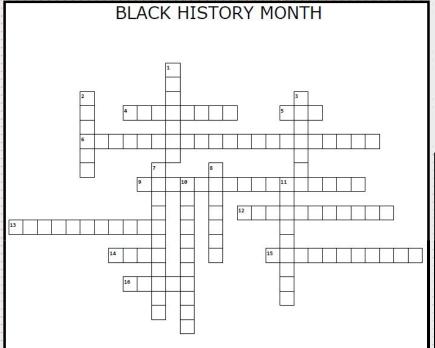


VFW POST 1503 INTERVIEW PROJECT



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 **Donald Vandergriff**

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



Across

- 4. Black history month
- 5. This color represents blood in Black History month
- 6. Song title aka the Negro National Anthem
- 9. 1st black Supreme court justice, "Mr. Civil Rights"
- 12. The first African American senator represented this state
- Robert Johnson became USA's first Black __ when he sold TV station BET
- 14. President that officially recognized Black
- 15. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
- 16. This color represents growth in Black History month

Down

- 1. Tubman helped people to freedom with the Underground Railroad
- 2. This color represents prosperity in Black History month
- 3. George Washington Carver developed ~300 different products using ____
- 7. Martin Luther King Jr. speech on Aug. 28, 1963
- 8. the Major League Baseball team Jackie Robinson played for
- 10. The first African American Nobel Peace Prize winner
- 11. Refused to give up her seat on the bus

Black History Month Word Find

L Y I S T R E N G T H M E F S S Q I X W E F K B W W W C O Y U Z H E L T O G E T H E R M H Y P G J L V F I I B O C Z M R N R H F Z A S I T R R M Z J G E C Z A A N Q M U O O R P Q T D Z B B Q M I I F T L D B W W U H O P E O I U S H O D L H M C L B B G N C L S E V Q S R K A R E F A I T H Y R E I S B H T J L M G W U L S H Q T Z V I I Z I C K E L B B O D I K C Y O Y E V F U L G W O V H N Q N L Z S F D R E A M H B R F K H M

brotherhood education together faith family strength dream love

belief

hope



Black History Month Crypto ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Decode the message.

Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a random letter or number. Try to decode the message.

FACILITY HAPPENINGS

Most of you have probably seen the Fire Watch Sign on the main entrance to the building that was placed there by the fire department. We had the fire alarm go off in the backside of the building so the fire department came to investigate the problem. Turns out that we have a fire alarm and security panel that is 18 years or older, and the security company that put in the system is no longer in service. We are in the process of having a new panel design for our building and hopefully put in place soon.

The question was asked why are we asking members to show their membership card and write down their membership numbers in the guest book when they are signing in a guest. The reason is because we have a hard time reading your hand writing, we are keeping track of which guest is with which member, and your key fob is not your membership card.

We are planning a nice Super Bowl Party for our members. We had a very big turnout for the Commanders and Eagles game, so we are preparing for the next event.

Stay warm.

Carl Richardson - General Manager



YOUR PHOTOS NEEDED

Comrades this is a newsletter for all of us...
Please submit your PHOTOS of our Post Events to

https://vfwus.org/1503pics

We are not able to use all photographs submitted to us, but we appreciate every bit of input!

VFW RIDERS GROUP

The Chapter is growing and we are always looking for riders and supporters to join the crew! Look for the VFW Riders vests and talk to us about it.

RIDE RIS

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!



Sunday, Feb 9@5:30PM

SUPER BOWL WATCH PARTY

Food, DJ, special drinks, Squares per quarter for gifts! Come join the fun!

Bring a pot luck dish to add to what the Post will be putting out!

MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

Operation Desert Storm

In response to Iraq invading Kuwait on 2 August 1990, the US deployed forces to protect Saudi Arabia on 7 August 1990. The US continued to deploy forces to the Gulf Region and organized a coalition of 35 nations, this was known as Operation Desert Shield.



On 17 January 1991, Operation Desert Shield transitioned into Operation Desert Storm, the initial phase was the air war against Iraq. The US quickly destroyed Iraqi air defenses and coalition aircraft were able to operate virtually unopposed as they targeted Iraqi positions and supply lines.

The ground of the war started on 24 February 1991. Ist and 2nd Marine Divisions, cleared the extensive network of Iraqi minefields on the Kuwaiti frontier, blunted a series of Iraqi armored counterattacks and broke through to capture the airport in Kuwait City. The XVIII Airborne Corps out flanked the Iraqi's and then conducted a "left hook" advancing to the Euphrates River and then establishing blocking positions along the river towards Basra. This cut off all the Iraqi forces in Kuwait preventing their retreat back into Iraq.

One of the decisive battles occurred on 26 February 1991, in the battle of 73 Easting, the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1st and 3rd Armored Divisions, and the 1st Infantry Division smashed through the Tawakalna Division of the Iraqi Republican Guard.

On 27 February 1991, the battle of Medina Ridge, occurred outside of Basra, Iraq. The battle lasted for over two hours between the 1st Armored Division and the Medina Division of the Iraqi Republican Guard, it was considered the largest tank battle of the war.

After 100 hours, U.S. and allied ground forces in Iraq and Kuwait decisively defeated a battle-hardened and dangerous enemy, forcing Saddam Hussein to accept a cease-fire on 28 February 1991.

Two days after the cease-fire started, elements of the Republican Guard's Hammurabi Division engaged the 1st Brigade, 24th Infantry Division, just north of Highway 8, the Iraqis lost over 185 armored vehicles and 400 trucks within a few hours. After this battle, all large scale Iraqi resistance ceased.

During air and ground operations, U.S. and allied forces destroyed over 3,000 tanks, 1,400 armored personnel carriers, and 2,200 artillery pieces along with countless other vehicles. This was achieved at a cost of 148 US service members killed in action, 458 wounded in action, 2 died of wounds, and there were 105 non-hostile deaths. 606 Purple Hearts were awarded to US service members during the war.

Thank you to all our service members in uniform during what many now refer to as the 1st Gulf War.

All Gave Some, Some Gave All!

If you are a Purple Heart recipient and are interested in learning more about our Order, contact me at cdrchapter1775@outlook.com



Dom Dionne

Commander

Chapter 1775

Come join us for Valentine's Day dinner at VFW Post 1503 Friday February 14th for 5:00pm-8:00pm located in A hall Reservations required with bartender by Sunday February 9th

Appetizers

Crab dip with naan bread \$9.95

Spinach and artichoke dip with naan bread \$7.95

Mini beef wellington \$8.95

Dinner Menu

Surf N Turf \$29.95

Roasted and Sliced Beef Tenderloin with shrimp stuffed with crab served with roasted potato, green beans and garden salad or soup

Beef Tenderloin \$24.95

Roasted and Sliced served with roasted potatoes, green beans and garden salad or soup

Chicken Florentine \$20.95

Grilled Chicken in a white wine cream sauce with spinach and mushrooms served with roasted potatoes, green beans and garden salad or soup

Honey Garlic Salmon \$21.95

Grilled salmon with a honey garlic sauce served with roasted served with roasted potatoes, green beans and garden salad or soup

All dinner are served with 1 glass of red or white wine

Desserts

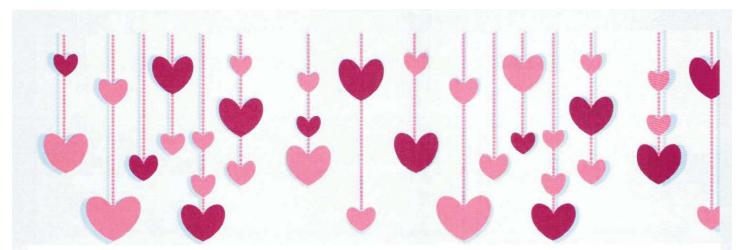
Chocolate lava cake with vanilla ice cream \$5.00

Touch of strawberry cake \$5.00

White chocolate raspberry cheesecake \$5.00







Valentine's Day Red & White Party



Join VFW Post 1503
Valentine's Day Red & White Party
Hosted by DJ Michael
Friday, February 14th
8pm in the Canteen!

MOC / MOCA

January was a challenging snow filled time with a lot of folks shoveling out to get to Winter Conference and Grand Scratch in Williamsburg just in time to get more snow at the events. Those who attended had a lousy time and the MOC Grand even had time to do degree work with some unsuspecting nits. A lousy time was had by all with lots of frivolity, fun and cootie milk. If we missed you, we look forward to seeing you next time!





On the last Saturday of the month, we did what Cooties do best, kept them smiling in beds of white with a visit to the Veterans Hospital in Richmond. We were joined by some crummy Cooties of Pup Tent 19 those lousy Fred Gnats; they really 'bug' me! We visited the polytrauma and SCI wards and there was even some time for 'clowning around' with Romeo breaking in a clown in training from PT19. Thanks to all who attended and keep in mind this visit is open to VFW, Auxiliary, Friends and Family. The more the merrier. On our next visit we are planning to hold bingo in the cafeteria and will share dates when they are finalized.

This month please attend your MOC Scratch and MOCA Meeting to participate in Nominations and Elections for new shavetails and officers; let your voice be heard! We will also be discussing the Grand of Virginia hosting a tri-state Del-Mar-Va days Cootie event in October at Post 1503's very own Pup Tent 14; details will follow once this event starts to take shape. It should be a lousy time with lots of frivolity and cootie milk.

Our next regular Scratch/Meeting is 12 FEB. Hope to see you there.

Keep Them Smiling In Beds Of White!

Tom Levitt

MOC Seam Squirrel levitt.tm@gmail.com 703-895-5070

Kelli Levitt

MOCA President itsmekell@aol.com 703-895-8855







BELTWAY BAGGERS

Sunday, February 23, 2025

VFW POST 1503

14631 MINNIEVILLE RD, WOODBRIDGE, VA 22193-3217, UNITED STATES

DOORS OPEN AT 9AM \$5 VENUE FEE FOR PLAYERS ONLY 10AM: BLIND DRAW (BOTH DIVISIONS) DOUBLES: 12:45 PM SINGLES: 2:45 PM

All times are approximate and are subject to change. To run any division, we must have either 6 players or 6 teams.

REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN ONLY UP TO

Friday, February 21st at 8:00 PM

For more information on payouts and entry fees, please check us out on Facebook.

5 Steps to start with the ACL and Beltway Baggers

- Ol Create a free profile at app.iplayacl.com
 Please make sure your phone number
 and email are correct. PLEASE SELECT
 NOVICE AS YOUR SKILL LEVEL IF YOU
 HAVE NEVER PLAYED BEFORE!
- 02 Use our search feature to find Michael Woodring at <u>iplayacl.com/directors</u>
- Use our search feature to find events near you <u>iplayacl.com/events</u>
- Our first event at the VFW is January 25, 2025.
- 95 For more information check us out on Facebook at Beltway Baggers

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

I Get Knocked Down

As the lyrics to the popular song go... "I get knocked down, but I get up again, you're never gonna keep me down."

I am grateful for all the times when someone gave me encouragement when I needed it most and helped me find the strength I needed to recover from one of life's setbacks. In other moments, we find ourselves in distress when there isn't anyone there to motivate us to get back up, recover from the setback and move forward. These are the times when the most powerful motivational speech we'll ever need... is the one we need to give ourselves.

"Now David was greatly distressed... but David strengthened himself in the Lord his God."

1 Samuel 30:6

David had suffered a great military defeat and his own army threatened to stone him. There wasn't anyone else to encourage him, so David made up his mind to encourage himself. David also understood that in order to strengthen himself he had to rely on God.

We, like David, often need to find ways to strengthen ourselves. We get knocked down, but with the courage that comes from God's strength, we're not staying down. We can choose not to give in to fear or worry and determine that nothing is going to keep us down. Nothing is impossible when we strengthen ourselves in God.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, Almighty God, I will trust in you with all my heart to find the strength I need in times of trouble. When I don't know which way to turn, teach me and show me. In everything I do, I ask you to guide me. Amen

Ed Bennett Chaplain



VETERAN NEWS

Your TALENT determines what you can do. Your MOTIVATION determines how much you are willing to do. Your ATTITUDE determines how well you do it.

VFW News

Correcting VA's Violations of Veterans' Due Process and Second Amendment Rights

Statement Of Nancy Springer, Associate Director National Legislative Service Veterans of Foreign Wars of The United States; Before The United States House of Representatives Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs; With Respect To Correcting VA's Violations of Veterans' Due Process and Second Amendment Rights.

For more info on this story, please click HERE. If you are reading this in hard copy, search the title of this article online to read more.

Stay up to date on VFW News by signing up for the VFW Action Corps Weekly update. You can get the weekly updates sent to your email by registering here: https://votervoice.net/VFW/register

VA News

Navigating PTSD in the workplace

People who have PTSD symptoms that severely impact their lives tend to experience greater difficulty finding a job and unique challenges in navigating the workplace. For instance, you may have a physical reaction to loud noises in a warehouse or a delivery driver might avoid certain routes due to discomfort with crowded environments.

PTSD may also affect relationships at work. For example, you may find it difficult to trust people if your trust was broken during a past trauma. This can make it difficult to build trust in work relationships and some people with PTSD prefer to work alone for this reason.

For more info on this story, please click HERE. If you are reading this in hard copy, search the title of this article online to read more.

Military News and History

Nuclear Bombs Fell on North Carolina 64 Years Ago. How Disaster Was Narrowly Averted

A military plane was carrying the weapons when it exploded over a rural area, killing three people and sending the bombs plunging toward the ground Jan. 24, 1961. The "safety interlocks on the weapons failed, having gone through all of the steps to detonate, save one," state historians said.

For more info on this story, please click HERE. If you are reading this in hard copy, search the title of this article online to read more.

VFW Post 1503

SMALL BUSINESS EXPO SATURDAY MARCH 1, 2025

CALL FOR

JENDORS

SHOWCASE YOUR PRODUCTS OR SERVICES
FREE OF CHARGE

heidi.ortiz2@gmail.com Text: 757-751-1335



February Entertainment

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

Friday Nights	Saturday Nights			
	February Ist			
	DJ Protege Dance Party			
February 7th	February 8th			
DJ MoeVibez Southern Soul Dance Party	DJ T-Play <i>Karaoke / Dance</i>			
February 14th	February 15th			
DJ Michael Dance Party w/Some Karaoke	DJ Steve Dance Party			
February 21st	February 22nd			
DJ Joe Clay Karaoke / Dance	Diamond Alley Band Mardi Gras Party			
February 28th				

February 28th

DJ Mario

Dance Party





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						DJ Protege Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
2 Breakfast 9-12:00	3	4 BINGO 7:30	5	6 BINGO 7:30	7 DJ Moe Vibez FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	BDJ T-Play Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
9 Breakfast 9-12:00	10	BINGO 7:30	MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm	13 BINGO 7:30	DJ Michael FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	DJ Steve AUX Brkfst Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
Breakfast 9-12:00	PRESIDENTS DAY	18 BINGO 7:30	Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	20 BINGO 7:30	21 DJ Joe Clay FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	Diamond Alley Band Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
Breakfast 9-12:00	24	25 BINGO 7:30	26	27 BINGO 7:30	DJ Mario FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	3.33 3.33

vfw1503.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1503

14631 Minnieville RoadWoodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

vfwI503.org