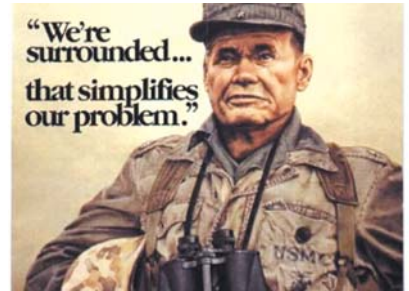




JAN 25

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503



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

It took me a while to get this article started as this time of year puts me in a very contemplative mood. I think back through the years and feel all the emotions a considered life proffers: joy, sorrow, loss, pain, happiness, everything that was released from the mythological box that Pandora opened. The one aspect of humanity that remained as she closed the box was hope. Hope is where I want to start.

I hope you all had a successful last year and are looking forward to the new year. I hope everyone had a wonderful time with friends and family over the holiday season. I hope that each of you are rested and ready to embark on our new year at the Post. I hope that all our Post and Auxiliary members will enjoy the new things we are planning for the Post in the New Year.

So...what new things are be being planned for the Post this year?

This year, I wanted us to do a better job observing and celebrating things like Black History Month and Women's History Month. We are still working on some details for our Black History Month activities. More information will be put out on these activities as it becomes available. We do have our first Women's Small Business Expo at the Post scheduled for Saturday, 1 March 2025. See the flyer in this newsletter for more information on that event.

Some of the Post activities we have done in the past are getting some new treatment this year. We are in the planning stages of holding a Super Bowl viewing party on 9 February 2025. In my mind, I see playing the game on the big screen and monitors in the A and B Hall with a buffet of Super Bowl eats. Another past activity with a new twist still in the planning stage: Membership Appreciation Day. For this, we are planning a Polynesian-style luau out in the Pavillion on 12 April 2025. If you attended the BBQ, Beer, and Bourbon event last year, then you have an idea of what this event may look like. Perhaps drink specials, games, music and other activities as well. To paraphrase a classic tune: "It's our thing, we'll do what we want to do. We will tell you more details soon!"



POST OFFICERS

- 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 Tim Brown
1 Year Trustee Danny Gibbs
Adjutant..... Charles Marlowe
Service Officer Raymond Bailey
Past Commander..... Bernie Carter





From a community activities standpoint, I am currently in discussions with the Prince William County Fire Department for doing a flag retirement ceremony at the Prince William County Public Safety Training Academy on Flag Day, 14 June 2025. This may build into an event that we partner with Fire and Police departments, other Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) and Fraternal Service Organizations (FSOs). We also have a requirement from VFW National to do our annual VFW Day of Service activity in May 2025. After looking at some of the recommended ideas for service events from VFW National's Day of Service webpage, I wanted to keep things local to the Post as coordination with other organizations is sometimes problematic. For this, I am thinking about connecting our Day of Service

event with something we do annually in May: our Memorial Day Picnic. The event: a canned food drive. We can then donate whatever is collected at the picnic to our local ACTS food bank. There are other possibilities for Day of Service activities, but I believe this would be a simple way to cover a few things at once: our annual community activity and our annual VFW Day of Service and have food and fun while doing it!

I am hopeful that our members will enjoy the new things that will be happening around the Post, the new events that we are planning, and the New Year in general. There will be new challenges and opportunities to do great things. I know we can accomplish anything when we all work together.

We Are Better Together!

January Dates

1 Jan – New Years Day

09-12 Jan – VFW & Aux VA Winter Council with MOC/MOCA scratch/meeting Williamsburg, VA

18 Jan – Concealed Carry Class – B-Hall, 1200-1400

19 Jan – 1503 Riders Monthly Ride – front parking lot, 1300 – VFWRG

20 Jan – MLK day (special menu)

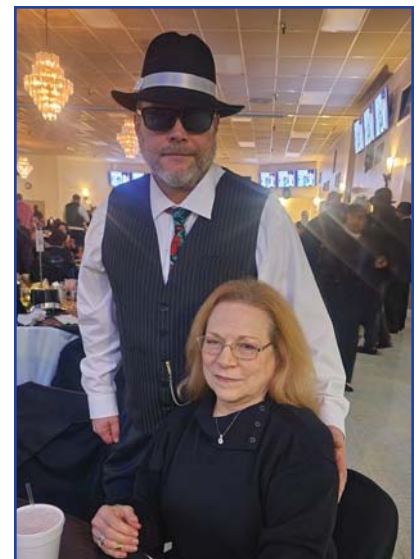
27 Jan – Signing of the Vietnam Peace Accord in 1973

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, hieroglyphics, cuneiform... 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.



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Ben Guinan
Post Commander
cdrpost1503@vfwva.org

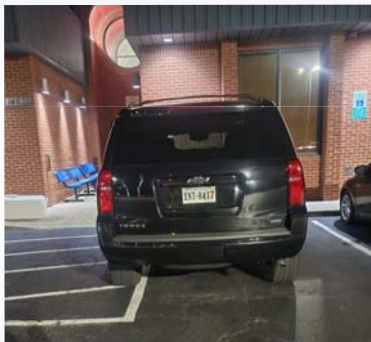
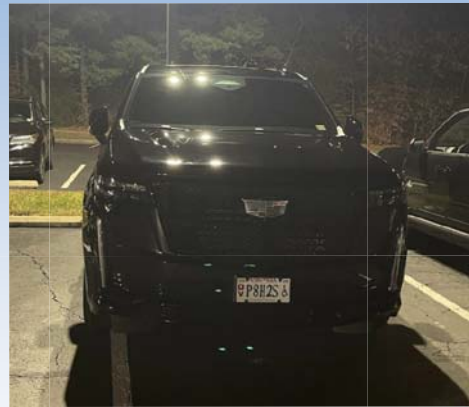




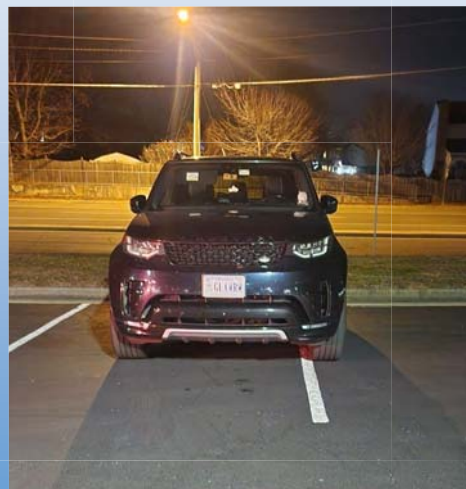
Happy
New
Year



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



Brand new year, same s#!tty parking. Time to make a New Year's resolution: "I resolve to park between the lines in a parking place!"



VFW AUXILIARY

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Great turnout for our December meeting, with thirty-one members!! I encourage those who have not attended or those who have been absent for a while to come and get involved - we need you and your voice!

Welcome to our newest members. We look forward to seeing you soon.

We had a great turnout of twelve members at our monthly breakfast on the 21st – after our meal, we exchanged cookies and socks! Our breakfast this month will January 18th at Post 1503 @ 9:30.

Our annual Children’s Christmas party was on Sunday the 22nd. With about 50 kids and their family members. Many volunteers, lots of cakes and lots of fun. The cake walk is always a hit with the kids. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus made their way to the couch to greet each child and give them a special goody bag and take pictures.

A yearly tradition, after our monthly meeting, we headed to ‘A’ Hall to set up and serve our Comrades a delicious meal. It is a small gesture and a chance to say thank you and show our appreciation.

Are you planning to attend the Department of Virginia VFW & Auxiliary Winter Council in Williamsburg Virginia! Make your reservations ASAP.

Annual members who have not paid dues by December 31, 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 pay (\$35) with your bartender, renew online in MALTA or mail to our treasurer - Karla.

To sign up for Auxiliary 1503 Chaplain alerts – please contact Chaplain Michael at Auxiliarychaplain1503@gmail.com

As always, if you have questions, concerns, comments or you need 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.

Happy New Year!

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

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 #1** Venee Alicea
- Trustee #2** Brenda Richardson
- Trustee #3** Patricia Wootten
- Historian** Venee Alicea
- Patriotic Instructor** Joyce Gibbs



Debbie Nichols

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



MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

Happy New Year!

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

FACILITY HAPPENINGS

My wife and I would like to wish Wishing all the VFW, Auxiliary, MOC, MOCA, and Staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years.

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.

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!



CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

BELTWAY BAGGERS
January 25, 2025

VFW POST 1503

**14631 MINNIEVILLE RD,
WOODBIDGE, 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 JANUARY 24TH AT 8:00PM.

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

5 Steps to start with the ACL and Beltway Baggers

- 01** 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 iplayacl.com/directors
- 03** Use our search feature to find events near you iplayacl.com/events
- 04** Our first event at the VFW is January 25, 2025.
- 05** For more information check us out on Facebook at Beltway Baggers

MOC / MOCA



Happy New Year, we hope you all had a happy holiday. The time seems to pass in the blink of an eye. We have had a very busy year as we reach our halfway mark for the 2024-2025 MOC/MOCA year. This month we have a lousy Grand Scratch and Meeting in Williamsburg, VA during the VFW Winter Council 9-12 January. Hope to see you there!

Last month we had a very crummy scratch and meeting followed by a lousy Christmas Party in the A Hall. The food provided was delicious! The white elephant gift exchange never disappoints and was lousy as usual. Keeping with tradition several of the gifts were stolen much to the chagrin of their owners. Frivolity and fun were had by all the lousy species pediculi who attended. Please take time to appreciate all that we have and especially our people as our numbers have dwindled again recently.

This past month we lost Gary Dressel, a Pup Tent 14 life member who has led with a servant's heart at all levels of our organization. As a Cootie he served as Seam Squirrel, Grand Commander and Supreme Quartermaster just to name a few of the many positions he held. Before moving to Pennsylvania to serve as Supreme Quartermaster he also served in many positions at the post including Post Quartermaster and Bingo Manager. He will be greatly missed as he has moved on to the Fertile Cootie Hunting Ground in the Sky. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Delpha and all of his family during this time of great loss.

We will be back at the Richmond VA Medical Center for another visit on Saturday 25 January. Meet in the canteen for breakfast provided by the post at 9 AM. Carpools will depart immediately following breakfast.

Please take care of one another as time is fleeting. Once again Happy New Year to all, let's have a great one!!

Our next regular Scratch/Meeting is 8 JAN. 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

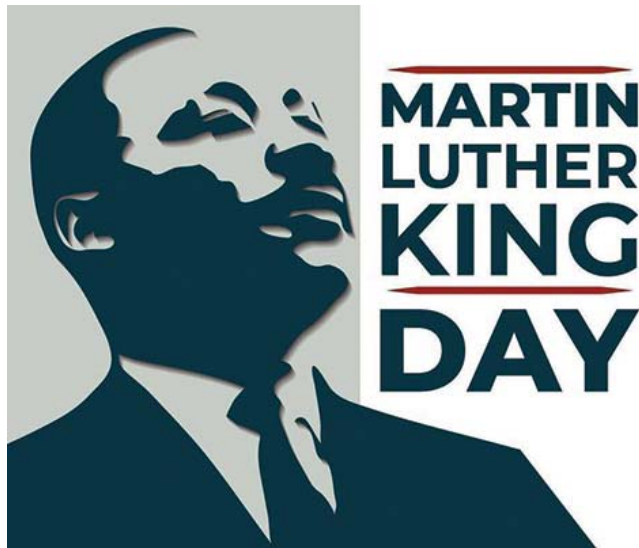
MOCA President
itsmekell@aol.com
703-895-8855





HOLLY
JOLLY
Season





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Resolution or Wish?

New Year's is a day commonly known for making resolutions. It is a time to reflect on where our life has been, where it is, and where we want it to be. Which begs a fundamental question, what is a resolution?

The dictionary tells us a resolution means to make a solid decision to do something, or to not do something. When we think of New Year's resolutions, we think of those things in our lives that we want to improve, as well as those things we want to stop doing. Let's compare the definition of a resolution to that of a wish. The dictionary states a wish means to "express a strong desire or hope for something that is not easily attainable; to want something that cannot or probably will not happen."

There is absolutely nothing wrong with making a list of resolutions at the start of a new year. We need to remember, though, to commit ourselves to those items on our list, to really work toward them instead of just writing something down as a wish. Here's how it works:

"The heart of a person plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."

Proverbs 16:9

This verse reveals how we can actively partner with God to achieve our resolutions rather than passively wishing for a desired outcome. A resolution is a promise we make to ourselves, with God as our accountability partner, to actively change or improve something in our lives. Conversely, a wish is a passive hope or desire for something without committing to a tangible plan to make it happen.

A resolution is a concrete, actionable version of a wish, based on a firm commitment to work toward a goal with God's help and guidance. When making resolutions, God will help us establish our steps or plan of action to achieve our goals.

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."

Proverbs 16:3

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, Almighty God, I understand that I am unable to do anything without your help. I ask you to help me achieve my goals for the new year. Help me not to lean on my own understanding, but to lean upon your grace and wisdom, and turn to you to control the outcome of the situations in my life. Father, establish my plans and steps, direct my actions and keep me accountable. *Amen*

Ed Bennett
Chaplain

VETERAN NEWS

I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, and changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something.

– Neil Gaiman

VFW News

Pending Congressional Legislation Statement from VFW

Statement of Patrick Murray, Director National Legislative Service, Veterans of the Foreign Wars of the United States before The United States House of Representatives Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health with Respect to Pending Legislation.

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

VA begins early-stage planning for the next Federal Electronic Health Record rollout

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it is beginning early-stage planning to deploy the Federal Electronic Health Record (EHR) system to four Michigan facilities — Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Detroit, and Saginaw — in mid-2026.

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

Veteran Suicides Are Down Since 2018 But Remain Persistently Steady

The number of veterans who died by suicide in 2022 – nearly 18 per day – remained steady from the previous year but was down from a peak in 2018, with “encouraging” signs of progress among women and younger veterans, Veterans Affairs officials 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.



**Martin Luther
King Jr. Day**

VFW Post 1503

Women's
**SMALL BUSINESS
EXPO**

SATURDAY MARCH 1, 2025

CALL FOR
VENDORS

**SHOWCASE YOUR PRODUCTS OR SERVICES
FREE OF CHARGE**

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



**14631 Minnieville Rd.
Dale City, Va**

January Entertainment

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

Friday Nights

January 3rd

DJ Steve

Dance Party

January 10th

DJ Mario

Dance Party

January 17th

DJ T-Play

Karaoke / Dance

January 24th

Theme Night

DJ Michael

Country & Classic Rock

Dance Party

January 31st

DJ Pete

Dance Party

Saturday Nights

January 4th

DJ Protege

Dance Party

January 11th

DJ Joe Clay

Karaoke / Dance

January 18th

DJ MoeVibez

Dance Party

January 25th

Made In The USA

Classic Rock Band

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 	2 BINGO 7:30	3 DJ Steve FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	4 DJ Protege Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
5 Breakfast 9-12:00	6	7 BINGO 7:30	8 MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm	9 BINGO 7:30	10 DJ Mariop FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	11 DJ Joe Clay Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
12 Breakfast 9-12:00	13	14 BINGO 7:30	15 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	16 BINGO 7:30	17 DJ T-Play FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	18 DJ Moe VibeZ AUX Brkfst Breakfast 9-12 WINGS
19 Breakfast 9-12:00	20 Inauguration Day 	21 BINGO 7:30	22	23 BINGO 7:30	24 DJ Michael FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	25 Made In The USA Band Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
26 Breakfast 9-12:00	27 Signing of the Vietnam Peace Accord in 1973	28 BINGO 7:30	29	30 BINGO 7:30	31 DJ Pete FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

January 15th

vfw1503.org

VFW POST 1503 CONCEALED CARRY CLASS

RECEIVE YOUR
TRAINING
CERTIFICATE
NEEDED TO
OBTAIN A
CONCEALED
WEAPONS PERMIT



UTILIZING A CUTTING
EDGE LASER-BASED
INDOOR RANGE: NO
LIVE FIREARMS OR
AMMUNITION.
EVERYONE SHOOTS
THE LASER PISTOLS!

Saturday, January 18, 2025 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM \$60.00

**CLASS SATISFIES THE TRAINING REQUIREMENT FOR A
CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT IN ALL VIRGINIA JURISDICTIONS
& INCLUDES LECTURE WITH LASER FIREARMS LIVEFIRE**

-UTAH CERTIFICATION AVAILABLE FOR ADDL \$40-

CALL 804-484-9694 FOR MORE INFORMATION

The course presenter is Glenn Blandford. Mr. Blandford holds numerous weapons instructor certifications from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) as well as the National Rifle Association (NRA) and has served as a police officer, investigator, police academy instructor and firearms unit supervisor during a 30- year law enforcement career.

REGISTER AT EVENTBRITE:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/concealed-carry-class-tickets-1074565366939?aff=oddttdcreator>