## **VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.**

Post 1503

## **JULY 25**



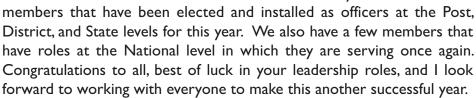
General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

14631 MINNIEVILLE ROAD • DALE CITY, VIRGINIA 22193 • 703.670.4124 vfw | 1503.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 CALL

Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more! The 2025-2026 VFW year is upon us after kicking into gear following the Virginia Department Convention. We have several Post and Auxiliary





#### Post Officers

Post Commander	Ben Guinan
Senior Vice	Star Martinez
Junior Vice Robe	rt "Check" Adamczyk
<b>Quartermaster</b>	Kurt Hense
Judge Advocate	Dan Walczyk
Surgeon	Heidi Ortiz
Chaplain	Ed Bennett
3 Year Trustee	Tom Gimble
2 Year Trustee	John Dodge
I Year Trustee	Danny Gibbs
Adjutant Charl	es "Romeo" Marlowe
Service Officer	Raymond Bailey
Past Commander	Bernie Carter

#### A Look Back at June

It was hot and sweaty work, but the flag retirement ceremony on 14 June was a roaring success! The ceremony crew, consisting of Post officers, members, and Auxiliary, retired approximately 2,000 unserviceable flags. The partnership we created with the Prince William County Fire Department enables us to use their Public Safety Training Center to safely and respectfully retire a huge number of flags very efficiently. The ceremony and flag retirement of the 2,000 flags took just over 30 minutes to complete. Many thanks to all who took part in the ceremony and the work that followed it. The plan going forward is to do an annual flag retirement event at the training facility on or around Flag Day.

The VFW Bylaws state 7 purposes that we use as our organization's mission statement, the first of which reads, "to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members." That is the core reason we are reinstituting the 'no reason parties' (NRP). These small events are intended to bring together our members, Auxiliary, friends, and family to enjoy food,





drink, and entertainment, and to foster comradery. The first NRP, held on Saturday 14 June, was a success. The kitchen did a great job putting together some very tasty BBQ and if you didn't get to try the brisket, you missed out! Our Post member and wine distributor, Samuel Lerman, brought some excellent wine samples. Our Post General Manager, Carl Richardson, provided the music and a nice selection of cigars. Our excellent bartender Kelly worked our new outdoor bar admirably and kept the spirits flowing. The NRP was a truly wonderful way to spend an afternoon.

The Post was well represented by several Post and Auxiliary officers at the VFW Department Convention in Harrisonburg, VA (19-22 June). The Post won two membership awards: an award for the greatest increase in life membership over the year for our category, and an award for being the largest Post in our category for this year. These are awards for the Post as a whole. It is through your hard work that we achieve these accolades. Keep up the great work! Special congratulations to both Randy Coker, for being elected and installed as our Department Judge Advocate, and Kelli Levitt, for being elected and installed as the State President of the Auxiliary. Both have proven their leadership and are very deserving of these high positions.

We had our two big annual events at the Post in June: Lionel Ward's Cancer Awareness concert on 21 June and the 250th Army Ball on 28 June. I cannot adequately describe the amount of work the event organizers and our Post staff engage in to ensure these events happen successfully. The Army Ball was elegance and ceremony personified. The Cancer Concert was moving and heartfelt throughout. If you haven't attended either of these events, we highly recommend that you do in the future.

#### A Look Ahead to July

July gets going with a bang once again on the 4th of July! We have a long-standing tradition of supporting and participating in the Dale City 4th of July Parade. Our Honor Guard, Auxiliary, MOC/MOCA, and yours truly will all be in the parade 'safely' handing out candy and goodies along the way. And of course, after the parade we will hold our Post 4th of July Community Cookout and Open House. As always, we will have lots of food, music, and fun for everyone! There will be plenty of pictures in our August newsletter of the picnic and parade. Also keep an eye on the big TV in the canteen as there are sure to be pictures of both events up there over the weekend as well.

The leadership of the groups around the Post will meet for our annual Post planning meeting on Saturday, 5 July to confirm our Post schedule for the year. Per usual, we have a year jammed packed with Post events, community service activities, conferences, meetings, entertainment, expos, cookouts, etc. Make sure to look for information on various activities so you can get involved and take part.

Due to the success of the first NRP, we will be doing another NRP on Saturday, 12 July at 1400 in the pavilion. Come out and enjoy!

#### Things to Consider

As we move into July, stay cognizant of the weather and the effects it can have on people. Stay hydrated, use sunscreen, make use of shade and watch out for each other. Summer should be a time of outdoor fun, getting together with friends and family, relaxation, and maybe a vacation or two. Be safe and enjoy it!

#### **July 2025**

4 Jul – Independence Day Parade, Rally point at the Post: 0800

4 Jul – 4th of July Community Cookout and Open house, Pavilion – 1300-1600

9 Jul - MOC/MOCA Scratches, 1900

12 Jul – No Reason Party (NRP), Pavilion – 1400-1800

16 Jul – Post and Auxiliary Membership Meetings, 1900

As always, stay informed on what is going on at the Post in whatever medium works for you: Constant Contact, newsletters, flyers posted in the canteen on the walls, info on the rolling billboard on the big TV, our Post website, announcements on social media, pictographs, ideograms... there are plenty of information sources. And remember: **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 cdrpost I 503@vfwva.org

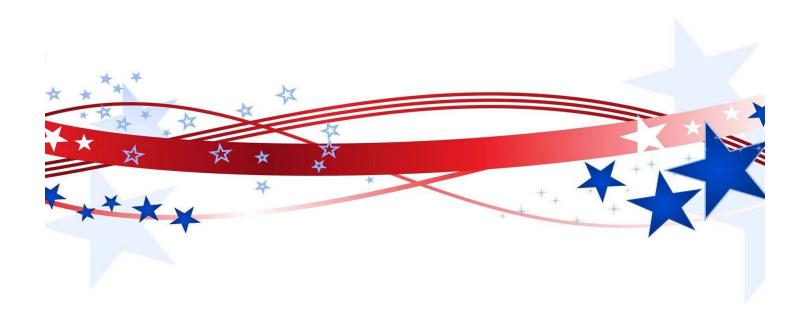




## VFW POST 1503

# ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAYBBQ FRIDAY JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> - 1:00 - 4:00 pm

JOIN US IN THE PAVILION FOR A DAY OF FOOD, MUSIC & FUN



FREE EVENT - OPEN TO ALL

## VFW AUXILIARY

Hello Auxiliary, 1503!

I am sorry we missed our June meeting. The State Convention was a great learning experiment.

I would like to welcome our new members again. And thank You, To all 1503 members for their service.

We headed to Harrisonburg for the

State Convention. If you have not been able to attend in the past, I would encourage you to do so.

# FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

UNWAVERING SUPPORT

#### **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	. Brenda Richardson
Trustee #2	Patricia Wootten
Trustee #3	$\dots\dots Venee\;Alicea$
Historian	$\dots\dots Venee\;Alicea$
Patriotic Instructor .	Joyce Gibbs

As we begin our new year, Program Chairmen are a Must!! Please consider helping with this!

Please ask if you have any questions. More information on each program can be found in the Auxiliary National website, MALTA. While there, you can update your contact info, if needed, read Blogs and read about the Auxiliary! The Department School of Instruction is coming up in July.

Remember 8:00 a.m. on July 4th to decorate the truck for the parade and continue with the Parade down Dale Blvd. Picnic afterwards.

CONGRATULATIONS To Everyone who was installed in a leadership position for the next VFW year.

Kelli Levitt – State President of the Auxiliary Debbie Nichols – Post 1503 Auxiliary President Monika Walczyk – Post 1503 Senior Vice President

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

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, comments or you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the officers, we are here to help. I look forward to seeing you at the parade. Our next meeting will be July 16 @ 7:00, dinner afterward.

## **HAPPY JULY 4th!**







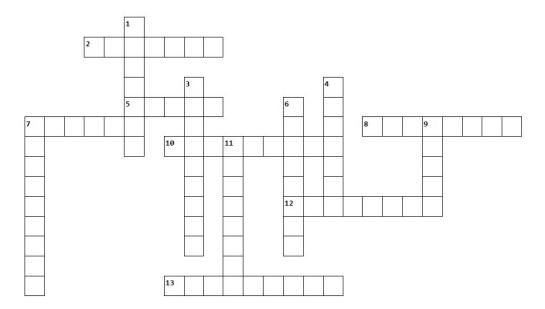
## 4th of July Word Find

Ι N N Ε Т R G Ε N W Ε S Т W C S E Ε D Ι N L K S R U S T K W Ε Ρ R R N T R Α S C S Α 0 R T U Υ K Т S U R W S E Ι R R T E E Ι N В S Ι S A C Ρ Ι 0 S Ε T L C R Ι R R T R R Ε R Α F S W Ε Ε T 0 D C D Ε E S R N Ε D S S Ι T D N 0 S Ρ Ι Ε Ε 0 S Ε

SUNSCREEN
INDEPENDENCE
FIREWORKS
STARS
STRIPES
PARADE
FLAG
COOKOUT
FREEDOM
LIBERTY



## Fourth of July



#### Across

- 2. Americans eat 150 million of these every July 4th
- 5. Treaty of \_\_\_\_\_ officiated American independence
- 7. What country gifted the US the Statue of Liberty
- 8. Proper way to fold the American flag is into this shape
- 10. Known for sewing the first US flag
- 12. First state admitted to the union
- 13. United States national bird

#### Down

- 1. Honor the original 13 colonies
- 3. Seen in the sky at night on 4th of July
- 4. Rhode Island town with longest running 4th of July celebration
- 6. President born on July 4
- 7. How many men signed the Declaration of Independence
- 9. Most popular pie flavor in America
- 11. The Star-\_\_\_\_ Banner



## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

To help anyone who may be looking for new employment opportunities, we created this new monthly article to put out any recent job announcements from various sources. If you have any you might like to add to the next article, please feel free to send them to cdrpost1503@vfwva.org and we will get those added to the announcements.

#### **VFW**

If you are looking for a job in the DMV area, please take a look at the job openings posted by clicking on the following link:

VFW Job openings

You can refer any questions to Ken Wiseman at kwiseman@vfwva.org, and he will happily detail more about the positions if people are interested.

If you are reading the newsletter in paper format, go to the VFW Post 1503 webpage and look for the **Employment Opportunities** page under the **Resources** tab to look to view the job openings listed above.

## 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!

## 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!

## MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

#### **God Bless America!**

I write this while watching the news, American forces recently safely completed preemptive strikes to destroy the nuclear capabilities of Iran. We'll see if this de-escalates the situation in the Middle East or leads to retaliatory strikes.



Our freedom is not free, there is price that has to get paid every day of every year by our men and women in uniform. Our military members have been paying this price for 249 years since the Declaration of Independence was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776 to establish our United States of America. They miss weekends, holidays, and birthdays with loved ones when away from home due to training or deployments. Anyone that wore the uniform has had to go to the field, gunnery, FTXs, COMEXs, NTC, JRTC, and numerous other exercises. If you are a member of the VFW you deployed in times of war. The members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart returned from war with visible and invisible scars they will remember forever.

As we prepare to celebrate the 4th of July with cookouts, parades and fireworks, I pray we all are have a wonderful time with family and friends. Never forget to pray for those now standing vigil to keep us safe and toast those that made to ultimate sacrifice, we must never forget the cost of our freedom.

## **Happy Independence Day!**

Thank you to all who served and continue to serve to keep our country free.

#### 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 cdrchapter 1775@outlook.com

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 previous interviews...

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

## MOC / MOCA

Listen up Cooties and MOCA!

The Military Order of the Cootie or MOC sometimes wear distinctive sideways red hats as part of our uniform with tassels worn on the corners of our hats often indicate one's position or organizational level. These hats symbolize our unique identity and



commitment to our mission, which includes visiting hospitalized veterans to bring cheer and support to the VFW National Home for Children. Our language is also different incorporating humor with a backwards or opposite meaning. When something is "Crummy" we mean it is wonderful or great; when something is "Lousy" it means really good.

This month will be busy – come out and watch the "Lousy" Cooties and our Auxiliary in the Dale City Independence Day parade on 4 July. We gather at the post the morning of at 8 a.m. if you want to participate. Our next visit to the VA Hospital in Richmond will be on 12 July. We will meet at 9 a.m. for breakfast at the post and then carpool to the hospital where we will serve Mission BBQ lunch and enjoy music on the SCI/Poly Trauma patio. ALL Post, Auxiliary, MOC and MOCA members as well as family are welcome to attend.

We saw a lot of Cooties and MOC Auxiliary from past and present and the VFW and Grand Convention in Harrisonburg at the Hotel Madison. We enjoyed frivolity doing degree work, attending MOC Scratch and MOCA Meeting. We have to say this hotel is one of the better venues we have enjoyed in recent years, and the VFW has secured this location going forward for the next three years. If you are planning to attend the Winter Council in January, I recommend you book early as the hotel was full, and a lot of folks were in overflow hotels.

We also saw the passing of the torch as our Grand Convention Installed new "Crummy" shavetails and officers for the MOC/MOCA. Our Pup Tent 14 MOCA saw two members installed as MOC Auxiliary Grand Officers: Susan Adamczyk as Conductress; and Karla Coker as Guard. Congratulations to them and all the MOC and MOCA members who assumed their new positions upon the installation of the MOC Grand Commander and MOCA Grand President. Good luck to all for success in the ensuing 2025-2026 year.

Our next regular Scratch/Meeting is 9 July. Hope to see you there.

#### **Keep Them Smiling In Beds Of White!**

**Tom Levitt**MOC Seam Squirrel



Peggy Palomares
MOCA President



## Post Historian's Archive

#### **Virginia: Historic Triangle Celebrations**

The Historic Triangle – Yorktown, Jamestown, and Williamsburg – will host events commemorating Virginia's pivotal role in the American Revolution. On July 4, 2025, Colonial Williamsburg will feature a reading of the Declaration of Independence, fife and drum marches, and fireworks at the Governor's Palace. This living history museum offers a glimpse into Revolutionary-era life, perfect for veterans and families. Visit www.colonialwilliamsburg.org for tickets and schedules.

In Yorktown, the Yorktown Battlefield (part of the National Park Service) will host ranger-led tours highlighting the 1781 Siege of Yorktown, a decisive Revolutionary War victory. Check www.nps.gov/york for event details. Jamestown Settlement will offer living-history demonstrations, showcasing early colonial and military life. More information is available at www.historyisfun.org

#### Maryland: Civil War and Beyond

On July 20-21, 2025, the Union Mills Civil War Encampment in Westminster, Maryland, will feature reenactments, artillery demonstrations, and camp life displays. This event brings the Civil War era to life with engaging activities for all ages. Visit www.unionmills.org for details.

The Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg offers self-guided tours of the 1862 battle site, one of the bloodiest days in American history. While specific July events are pending, the visitor center provides maps and audio tours year-round. Check www.nps.gov/anti for updates.

#### **Washington, D.C.: Capital Commemorations**

Washington, D.C., hosts several military history events in July 2025. The National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir (just outside D.C.) will likely feature special exhibits tied to the Army's 250th anniversary. Explore artifacts from the Revolutionary War to modern conflicts. Visit www.thenmusa.org for exhibit schedules.

On July 4, the National Mall will host the annual Independence Day celebration, including a concert and fireworks. Military bands, such as the U.S. Army Band, may perform, honoring the nation's heritage. Check www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalmall4th for updates. The Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum offers free exhibits on military aviation history, ideal for a self-paced visit. More details at www.si.edu/museums/air-and-space-museum

#### Plan Your Visit

These events and sites offer VFW Post 1503 members a chance to honor our military heritage while enjoying educational and family-friendly activities. Book tickets early, especially for Colonial Williamsburg and National Park Service events, as summer crowds are expected. For the latest updates, visit the provided links or contact local VFW posts for group outing opportunities. Let's celebrate our nation's history together this July!

For more event ideas, explore www.va250.org (Virginia) or www.america250.org (national celebrations).

**Don Vandergriff** 

Post Historian vandergriffdonald@usa.net

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

#### A Reflection for the Fourth of July

The Declaration of Independence pronounced the colonies free from British rule on July 4, 1776. Freedom does not come without a price. Through the Revolutionary War, our nation's freedom was paid for by the blood and sacrifice of the men and women who fought for their dream of what would become the United States. The battles were not easy, and the years took their toll on our young nation. In the end, the price was paid and freedom achieved. By 1781, the Fourth of July was named a national holiday and today, fireworks, parades and picnics mark this celebration.

Although it is not a religious holiday like Christmas or Easter, for many Americans July 4th is a time to reflect on God's goodness to us as a nation. Molded into the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, which proclaimed our independence, are these words:

#### "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof"

Leviticus 25:10

American liberty is a blessing from God. Because of our freedom, we can express our faith and boldly share it with others. It is important to recognize that in many other parts of the world, this is not the case.

While we look with gratitude to the past on this July 4th, may we also look in faith to the future, and commit it and our lives to God and His will –

#### "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord"

Psalm 33:12

**PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, Almighty God, I thank you for the freedom you have given me as a citizen of the United States. I will always recognize the cost of my freedom and those who have sacrificed their lives to defend it. I also recognize that ultimately my freedom is a gift from you. Help me, I pray, to be a good steward of my freedom and to use it for good. *Amen* 

#### Ed Bennett

Chaplain







# WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE VFW? The info is out there!

National level info, news, and programs: https://vfw.org

Department (State) level info, news, and programs: https://vfwva.org/

**District level** info, news, and programs: https://vfwvadist10.org/

If you are reading the newsletter in paper format, put the URLs above in a browser to go to the sites.

## VETERAN NEWS

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

- The Declaration of Independence, 1776

#### **VFW News**

#### **Pending Congressional Legislation Statement from VFW**

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 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 health and benefits app reaches 3M downloads

"VA's Health and Benefits app gives Veterans fast and convenient access to a host of important information, from appointments to prescriptions and benefits," said VA Acting Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology and Acting Chief Information Officer Eddie Pool. "We encourage all VA-enrolled Veterans to stay connected and informed by downloading the app."

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**

#### After years-long delay, missile tracking radar test declared a success

After a delay of nearly two years, the Missile Defense Agency has declared a successful test of its Long-Range Discrimination Radar's ability to track a live ballistic missile target.

In a June 23 test, the LRDR at Clear Space Force Station, Alaska, "successfully acquired, tracked and reported missile target data to the Command and Control Battle Management and Communications (C2BMC)," according to a recent MDA announcement. "This was the radar's first flight test tracking a live Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) representative target."

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 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT IT'S TIME TO PREPARE FOR OUR



GOLF

**TOURNAMENT** 

General Lewis B(Chesty)
Puller Post-1503



2025



Lunch will be served @ Post 1503 after the Tournament

Includes: Green Fees, Cart Fees, Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Individual Prizes Closest to the Pin, Men/Woman Longest Drive & Door Prizes

Registration
Deadline
August 20,2025

Forest Green Golf Course, 4500 Poa Annua Ln, Triangle, Va 22172

Check In: 7:30 am Shotgun Starts: 9:00am Cost: \$95 Per Player

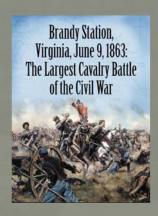
Friday, 22nd August 2025

Team/Individual Registration at Post-1503 Canteen- See Bartenders

Donor or Sponsor Questions POC : Kurt Hense at 571-232-4447 / George Jordan at 571-414-1635

## Mark your calendar and save the date

VFW Post-1503 Historical Guided Tour too Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain Battlefields

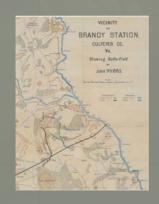






# A Personal Historical Guide Tour with our very own Comrade of Post-1503 Donald Vandergriff Award winning author, teacher and speaker

Save the Date 27<sup>th</sup> SEPT,2025 Join in on a day for some History of the Virginia Battlefields Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> SEPT, 2025
\$30.00 per person
0800am Depart Post-1503
to Brandy Station (2hrs) then off
(Lunch not provided)
to Lunch in Culpeper (2hrs) then off
to Cedar Mountain (2hrs)
Return to post 1503
Post by 1630pm
Transportation by DC TRAILS





Wear comfortable shoes
Food & Alcohol allowed on Bus

The August Newsletter will have all Information on how to purchase tickets

## July Entertainment

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

Friday Nights	Saturday Nights			
,	, ,			
July 4th	July 5th			
DJ Slick	DJ Steve			
Dance Party	Dance Party			
July I I th	July 12th			
DJ Ed	DJ MoeVibez			
Dance Party	Dance Party			
July 18th	July 19th			
DJ Kelly	DJ T-Play			
Dance Party	Dance Party			
July 25th	July 26th			
DJ Michael	DJ Mario			
Dance Party	Dance Party			



# July 4th Josh Allen Band

Pavilion 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>BINGO</b> 7:30	2	3 BINGO 7:30	Josh Allen Band 1-5 DJ Slick 8	Steve Steve Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
<b>Breakfast</b> 9-12:00	7	8 BINGO 7:30	9 MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:00 pm	BINGO 7:30	DJ Ed FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	NRP 2-6 DJ MoeVibez Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
Breakfast 9-12:00	14	BINGO 7:30	Auxiliary 7:00 pm  Post Meeting 7:00 pm	17 BINGO 7:30	DJ Kelly FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	DJ T-Play AUX Brkfst Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
<b>20 Breakfast</b> 9-12:00	21	22 BINGO 7:30	23	24 BINGO 7:30	DJ Michael FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	DJ Mario Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
<b>27 Breakfast</b> 9-12:00	28	29 BINGO 7:30	30	3 I BINGO 7:30		

vfw1503.org

## **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1503**

14631 Minnieville Road Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



vfw I 503.org