VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

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

Post 1503

CANTEEN HOURS: Mon 12 PM - 11 PM • Tues 12 PM - 12 AM • Wed 12 PM - 11 PM Thur 12 PM - 12 AM • Fri 12 PM - 12:30 AM • Sat 9 AM - 12:30 AM • Sun 9 AM - 7 PM

Commander's Corner

Salutations to All!

Here's hoping that varmint Punxsutawney Phil got it wrong, and March will be a bit warmer and a lot less snowy. If the temperatures tend to stay on the

cold side, be vigilant with staying warm and safe. Make sure to cover up as much as possible, particularly if the temperature dips below freezing levels. Hypothermia is no joke.

February was short but busy!

Here are a couple of highlights from February:

Post Scholarship and Educator Award Ceremony

We celebrated our Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year Post 1503 winners at our annual awards ceremony on February 8th in the B-Hall. The top winners of the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy programs presented their excellent essays and speeches. The Teachers gave touching and memorable acceptance speeches. Our event staff did a great job with setting up the room and preparing and serving lunch. Congratulations to our Post Surgeon, Shawn Jackson, for running a very successful program this year!

Super Bowl Watch Party

Even with the credit card system being down, I believe a good time was had by all. And what a turnout! The Post canteen was packed for the game on February 9th! While my team wasn't in the game, it did turn out the way I figured the game would go. Congratulations to our Post's Eagles fans! One of the most common sentiments I received about the party was how much everyone enjoyed the potluck portion of the event. Thank you to everyone who brought things in to share! Given the popularity of the potluck, our Post GM and I are working on finding other opportunities to do that kind of thing.





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
I Year Trustee	Danny Gibbs
Adjutant	. Charles Marlowe
Service Officer	Raymond Bailey
Past Commander	Bernie Carter



Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance

I would be remiss without giving all the credit to Erin, the event staff, servers, bartenders, and entertainment crew for this one. What an excellent evening on 14 February. The food was great, the atmosphere was enjoyable, and the service was efficient and well done. DJ Mike provided great music and the dancing was wonderful.

Black History Month Observance

Post member Conrado Morgan put together a superb observance event to celebrate Black History Month. It was a true honor to be asked to make some comments at the observance. I believe it is important that we continue to build unity through education, understanding, and celebration of the rich and diverse tapestry of people who comprise our country.

And now we March on! Lots to do this month! Here is a preview of a few of our upcoming events:

Nominations for Post Officers

At our March Post membership meeting on March 19th, we will be accepting nominations for Post Officer positions for the next VFW year. It has been an honor to serve as your Post Commander over the last year. I appreciate the support and efforts of all Post Officers, Auxiliary, Post members, volunteers, and staff over this year. I would like to go on record to announce my candidacy to be elected once again as your Post Commander for next year. Any member interested in running for Post Officer positions is welcome to submit announcement articles for the April newsletter. Send your article to me at cdrpost1503@vfwva.org and I will make sure that all are included in the next Newsletter.

Women's Small Business Expo

VFW post 1503 is proud to celebrate and honor Women's History Month by hosting its first annual women-owned small business expo on Saturday, March 1, 2025. With over 50 incredible vendors showcasing their amazing products and services. This is the perfect opportunity to shop small and support the women who make it happen. Thank you to Post Senior Vice Commander Star Martinez for leading the effort to develop this inaugural Women's History Month event and to all the volunteers, staff, and contributors that have worked so diligently to make this event happen!

What to expect at the Expo:

- Over 50 Vendors offering unique products and services
- Door Prizes
- Guest Speaker inspiring us all
- Fashion Show featuring fabulous styles
- Live Entertainment including our very own Party Tyme DJ Kelly B and so much more!

Let's come together to support and uplift these amazing women entrepreneurs. Mark your calendars, bring your friends, and don't miss out on this unforgettable event! ASL interpreters will be available.

AARP Safe and Sound: Home Modifications for Aging in Place

Join AARP and the Prince William Area Agency on Aging to learn how to modify your home to meet your evolving needs, maintain your independence, and stay injury-free. Connect with local nonprofit organizations and government agencies to explore the services and resources available to you. Join us here at the Post on Friday, 21 March for this event in the A-Hall. Expo runs from 9AM-12:30PM. Light refreshments will be provided. Save your seat today! To register for the event, Call 1-877-926-8300 or visit events.aarp.org/HF0321. Event registration enters you for a chance to win a \$100 Lowe's gift card.

March 2025 - Women's History Month

I Mar – Women Owned Business Expo, A and B Hall, 0900-1500
8 Mar – D10 Meeting @Post 9274, 1000
12 Mar – MOC/MOCA Installation dinner
15 Mar – Cub Scout Blue and Gold Dinner – A and B Hall, 1400-1900
16 Mar – 1503 Riders Monthly Ride – front parking lot, 1300
17 Mar – St. Patrick's Day (Special Menu and stuff)
21 Mar – AARP Aging Gracefully In-Place event – A-Hall, 0900-1200
24 Mar – Start of Kosovo Campaign 1999
29 Mar – National Vietnam War Veterans Day – Canteen, 1600
31 Mar – End of Operation Restore Hope – Somalia 1995

As always, please stay informed on what is going on of the Post in whatever medium works best for you: Constant Contact, Facebook, newsletter, flyers posted in the canteen on the walls and on the big TV, cave paintings, Carrier pigeons... 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 cdrpost1503@vfwva.org







CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY HISTORY MONTH HISTORY















I doubt even the luck of the Irish would help people park any better.







VFW AUXILIARY

Hello Auxiliary 1503 Members!

Every day signs of Spring are beginning to appear – warmer temperatures, Roses blooming, flowers peeking and birds everywhere! Hopefully to stay.

Welcome to our newest members. Please plan to attend our monthly

meetings and enjoy dinner with us after the meeting. Our February meeting was well attended, with 39 members! Our membership is currently 1,115, let's keep up the recruitment and finish strong!

Our February breakfast was at Post 1503. We had seven Auxiliary members, and three spouses. Lots of fun getting together.

Our Auxiliary presented certificates and \$950 in awards to the VFW Post 1503 Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen & Teacher of the Year winners this year.

THINGS HAPPENING IN MARCH YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT:

• March1, 2025 at VFW post 1503 First Annual Women's Small Business Expo. 10AM-3PM Free to Public

March 8, 2025 District 10 meeting at Post 9274

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.





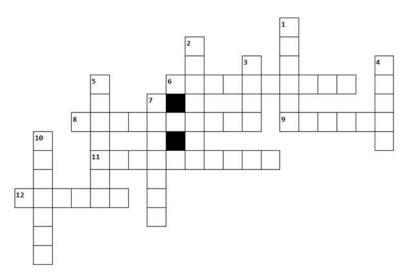
UNWAVERING SUPPORT

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	
Conductor	Jan Kiecker
Guard	,
Trustee #1	
Trustee #2	
Trustee #3	
Historian	
Patriotic Instructor .	Joyce Gibbs

Womens History Month



Across

 The first openly transgender woman to be nominated and win a Primetime Emmy

 ${\bf 8.}$ The first black actor/actress to win an Emmy, Oscar, and a Tony (First and last name)

9. ____ Gorman is the youngest inaugural poet

11. The Queen of Rap (first and last name)

12. _____ Markle was the first American and the first person to be Bi-Racial to marry into Buckingham Palace

Down

1. _____ Williams is a revolutionary in women's tennis

2. Ashley _____ was the first plus-sized model on the front of Sports Illustrated

- "The devil works hard, but _____ Jenner works harder."
- Second richest person of color in the US
- 5. National Hero of Barbados

7. Ketanji Brown _____ is the first black woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court

10. Kathryn _____ was the first woman to win Acadamy Award for Best Director

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WORD SEARCH

FPOUBXEBENIOREHYYTWM Ρ ХТҮ н н XSTEREOTYPENNG W INCLUSIONELLZASLEIL RSMSDEDC EHR G н Т S I M V D 1 Y R A N 0 ï S 1 V J P PWGV 1 P R ΧI DEHI N S Р 1 REOEKAOT 1 ΕY V U D Р 0 Р W A 1 R C L Μ G L T. O W В Е Κ WND NMH U V EC RFAL NOU V A R WEDFOSHEMHREOFTOEPSS S G Z L I. F IEGNRPCUEPEMI I Е D NOGNN ΗΖΡ KTSFY Α REN 0 H O IRKHOHSJI P A 1 J F D E Y V С R В S E M н L AUQE N J S P М т S M Т E В X A S OUE KNHQL GNSU Р SNIHUSGMDHFBEGARUOC 0 тхсv ICAZKLIBERATEQL R ZOZOININNOVATORVXMT THYNOISNP IHSREDAELIT SGSOTMSTRYOXBJTPITSJ AQTYTRAILBLAZINGGHBF

WORD LIST:

ACTIVIST	EMPOWERMENT	INNOVATOR	RIGHTS
ADVOCATE	EQUAL	INSPIRE	SPORTS
AMENDMENT	FEMINISM	LEADERSHIP	STEREOTYPE
BIAS	FIGHT	LIBERATE	SUFFRAGE
BUSINESS	GENDER	OPPRESSION	TRAILBLAZING
COURAGE	HEROINE	PEACE	VISIONARY
DIVERSITY	HUMANITY	PIONEERING	
EMPOWER	INCLUSION	POLITICS	



ST. PATTY'S DAY

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

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

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



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!



MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

Vietnam War Veterans Day

After World War II, France attempted to reestablish colonial rule of it's territory in Indochina. In December 1946 the French-Indochina War started between France and the Viet Minh Forces. The United States Military involvement began in the early 1950s by providing support to the French colonial forces. After the French defeat at the Battle of Dien Bien

Phu in 1954, Vietnam gained independence and was divided into North and South Vietnam along the 17th parallel. The US provided support and advisors to train the South Vietnamese military in their fight against an increasing insurgency supplied and directed from the North. US effort escalated significantly in the mid-1960s when combat troops were sent to South Vietnam to prevent the spread of communism. US public support turned against the war, President Nixon began the Vietnamization policy in 1969. By 1972, the majority of US troops had been withdrawn from Vietnam. The 1973 Paris Peace Accords ended the war. On March 29, 1973 the last combat troops departed from Vietnam. On the very same day, the last prisoners of war from North Vietnam arrived home in the United States.

In 1974, President Nixon chose March 29th as the first Vietnam Veterans Day.

In 2012, President Obama signed a proclamation to observe Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29th. This marked the 50th anniversary of the last American troops leaving Vietnam.

In 2017, President Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act into law, making March 29th the official National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

I salute all our Vietnam Veterans, thank you for your service and sacrifice.

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

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**



FACILITY HAPPENINGS

We are finally going hot with our new Point Of Sale System I March. The bartenders are still learning the system so please have patience with them if they move a little slow.

The new system will help the Post run more efficiently and will help to track inventory better and save some money. We also have a new food and drink menu and yes some prices will change due to higher cost for some liquor and food prices.

The food menu will offer some healthier options, and some tasty new items. Our drink menu will feature some inhouse creations from our talented bartenders. Happy Hour is back from 3-6 pm Tuesday-Friday, with a small Happy Hour Food Menu.

Carl Richardson - General Manager



Happy March!

Hope everyone has enjoyed the cold, wind, snow and ice! Looking forward to warm sunshine very soon!

We were not able to hold an in-person February scratch/meeting. So, no elections

were held. Not to worry! We will move forward this month with nominations, election, installation and dinner on March 12th. Please note the starting time for MOC is 7:00 PM and MOCA is 6:30 PM.

Next Hospital visit date is still in the works and we are planning a bingo in the SCI/Poly Trauma Cafeteria. Everyone is invited and encouraged to join us. Promise, you will be happy you did! We are also very close to starting to support the Puller Veterans Care Center in Warrenton, VA once they open their doors. We heard from the Admissions Director earlier this month and they are anticipating being open in late Spring or Early Summer. Another opportunity to Keep Em Smiling in Sheets of White!!

With spring right around the corner, now is the time to start planning to attend Grand MOC Scratch and MOCA Meetings! The Grand Convention is in conjunction with the Department June 18-23, 2025, at the Hotel Madison in Harrisburg, VA. This is our first time there and it should be a nice conference center. See the Department General Orders for the details as they are posted.

We are still planning for our inaugural Del-Mar-Va days MOC/MOCA weekend event with the Grand of Delaware and Maryland converging on the Grand of Virginia for a lousy time. The tentative date is the first weekend of October. Should be an extremely lousy time!!

Our next regular Scratch/Meeting is 12 MAR. 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

TRIO TRAVEL SERVICES WINNERS! GUEST SPEAKER AND AUTHOR **VFW POST 1503** TREATS BY TWEEDY LOVE **DANCE 2 FIT UNLIMITED** PRESENTS **ELW INITIATIVE LLC RECOVERY RX LLC DBA DAMSEL IN DEFENSE** JOYS TREASURES EMERGECRYO JEWLERY **CME ENTERPRISE LLC GROW NETWORKING** NOVA MIND AND BODY HANDMADE BY OMA JOIN US IN SUPPORTING **BLACKSTONE ENGRAVING** WOMAN-OWNED **ONESTOP TRAVEL PLANNERS** MARRY ME REALTY, LLC **BY DREAM VACATIONS BUSINESSES!** SHERRY BAILEY CLOTHING COMPANY LLC **CARE WITH DIGNITY** SUSAN ELIZABETH'S FORTITUDE COFFEE AT HOME ART LLC MEG'S ONE OF A COMPANY KIND DESIGNS JAKKI'S ANGELS SOL WITH ENDI **BARB'S CHOCOLATES LLC** PEACEFUL SCENTS CLAUDIA S. NELSON, HANDCRAFTED **SEALED WITH A** EXP REALTY **KISS PARTIES** HONORABLE SERVICE SO BUTTERY SKIN **REALTY GROUP** JOY'S DELIGHTZ, LLC A CACHE OF COLORS **BLACK EAGLE** TAGGED HANDMADE CRAFTS JASMINE'S ESSENCE TURN N SEW PERFECT DELIGHT NAPKINS MAGNABILITIES LYRASKY TRAVEL, LLC FUNCTION WITH FRAIL STARFISH CONSULTING First Annual ISASWEETREATS PURPLE RUNWAY SHERRY BAILEY CLOTHING 4G DESIGNS PI **COMPANY LLC** ANNOINTED ADM LISA'S DIAMOND SERVICES NOTARY PUBLIC THERAPY LLC SUPERIOR TEETH WHITENING AJAX STUDIOS **CRAFTY PANTRY POTTERY** Small **PAPARAZZI ACCESSORIES BY BEAUTY BEDAZZLED BLING** Business HONESTLY FOR YOU SKINCARE **ROUNDTREE STUDIO** EXPO **10AM-3PM** SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025 **14631 MINNIEVILLE RD DALE** FREE TO THE PUBLIC! PLENTY OF PARKING!

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: COLONEL CHRISTINE B. "NICKEY" KNIGHTON, RET. SHOPPING /DOOR PRIZES/ ENTERTAINMENT/FASHION SHOW/ RAFFLES <u>& MORE!</u>

AARP Aging Gracefully In-Place event – Friday, March 21st – A-Hall, 0900-1200



Safe and Sound: Home Modifications for Aging in Place

Friday, March 21

CO-SPONSOR
PRINCE WILLIAM
Area Agency on Aging



Chaplain's Corner

How can Something Bad be Good?

We all have to deal with struggles and difficulties, with illness, loss and heartache. How can any of those things be good things? It is during these times we might hear a friend say or we think to ourselves, "Everything happens for a reason." Which if true, begs a logical question, "Well, what's the reason?"

We have to acknowledge that we are going to be faced with difficult situations during our lives. Rather than searching to find a reason for what has happened, maybe it is better to focus on how God can help us through the difficult times and how he brought some good from it? God does have a way of bringing good from bad.

"And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28

This verse is part of a passage that also discusses suffering, pain, and persecution. It reminds us that God uses all things, including difficulties, to help those who love Him.

Focusing on how God can bring good from bad is more than just "looking on the bright side." Whatever we are dealing with, look for God to use his strength to get us through it, and to bring good from it. Maybe that good will be greater emotional strength and resilience, or stronger faith. Maybe it will be a reconciled relationship. Whatever is making us feel weak is the perfect thing for God to use to make us strong.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, in difficult times, I trust in your power to bring good from hardship. Guide me through life's storms, and help me to see the blessings that lie within the challenges. Give me strength to persevere, knowing that you are working all things together for my good, even when I don't understand. Amen

Ed Bennett

Chaplain

VETERAN NEWS

Never be afraid to raise your voice for bonesty and truth and compassion against injustice and lying and greed. If people all over the world... would do this, it would change the earth.

– William Faulkner

SPECIAL EDITION

Claim Shark legislation and Joint Leadership Council

Legislative Update on Claim Shark bill

Claim Shark Bill Dies in the House

SB 1222 (Reeves-R) was heard in committee on February 11 was referred from the Labor and Commerce Committee to the Rules Committee by voice vote, effectively killing the bill for this legislative session. The Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) were successful in stopping legislation that would have permitted their predatory practices to continue.

After passing the Senate (36-3) the bill crossed over to the House, and due to the efforts of the VFW and other VSOs failed to gain support. This leaves the Claim Shark issue unresolved for this legislative session. Many thanks to everyone who contacted their delegates. It made a difference.

In the 2026 legislative session the issue of banning claim sharks in Virginia will be revisited. We will be working to build a coalition for next year and will be updating the position paper for the Joint Leadership Council of VSOs. We will be working to educate Virginia legislators on the harmful effects to veterans if Claim Sharks are not banned in Virginia.

Rick Raskin, Joint Leadership Council, VFW representative, & Monti Zimmerman, Legislative Committee State chair

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

The mission of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) is to provide advice and assistance to the Governor, General Assembly and the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) on matters of concern to the veterans community and provides a conduit of information to and from the veterans service organizations on policy and legislation, pending and enacted, as well as information on existing services.

The JLC is composed of one representative from qualifying veterans service organizations (VSOs), to be appointed by the Governor. The Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services and the Chairs of the Board of Veterans Services and the Veterans Services Foundation or their designees, serve as nonvoting ex officio members.

If you are interested in finding out more about the JLC, go to the organization's website HERE. If you are reading this in hard copy, search the title of this article online to read more.



March Entertainment

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

Friday Nights	Saturday Nights		
	March Ist		
	DJ Protege		
	Dance Party		
March 7th	March 8th		
DJ Danny	DJ T-Play		
Dance Party	Karaoke / Dance		
March I4th	March I5th		
DJ Steve	DJ MoeVibez		
Dance Party	Pre Saint Patty's Party Green and White		
March 21st	March 22nd		
DJ Mario	DJ Joe Clay		
Dance Party	Karaoke / Dance		
March 28th Theme Night	March 29th		
Country & Classic Rock DJ Michael	DJ Slick		
Dance Party	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 Danny FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	8 DJ T-Play Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
9 Breakfast 9-12:00 Breakfast 9-12:00 Breakfast	10	BINGO 7:30	I 2 <u>Special Times</u> MOCA 6:30 pm MOC 7:00 pm Installation Dinner	I 3 BINGO 7:30	I 4 DJ Steve FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	ISDJ Moe Vibez AUX Brkfst Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
Breakfast 9-12:00	I7 St. Paddy's Day	I 8 BINGO 7:30	I 9 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	20 BINGO 7:30	21 DJ Mario FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	22DJ Joe Clay Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
23 Breakfast 9-12:00 30 Breakfast 9-12:00	24 31	25 BINGO 7:30	26	27 BINGO 7:30	28 DJ Michael FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	29 DJ Slick Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road Woodbridge, Virginia 22193





vfwl503.org

