



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503

NOV 25



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 CALL

As a veteran, I am acutely aware of the challenges military members have when transitioning from military to civilian life. I felt isolation, loss of purpose, and had difficulty relating to people who did not serve. That shared experience of the challenges, triumphs, and a uniquely structured life forged strong bonds and comradery with my military brothers and sisters. When that went away, life became difficult to navigate. In this tumultuous time in our nation's history, replete with governmental instability, financial hardship, and employment issues, we need that sense of comradery and connection now more than ever. As we move towards Veterans Day, let us recommit to that core VFW tenet of fostering comradery. Be vigilant and take care of each other.



POST OFFICERS

Post Commander Ben Guinan
Senior Vice Star Martinez
Junior Vice Robert "Check" Adamczyk
Quartermaster Kurt Hense
Judge Advocate Dan Walczyk
Surgeon Heidi Ortiz
Chaplain Ed Bennett
3 Year Trustee Tom Gimble
2 Year Trustee John Dodge
1 Year Trustee Danny Gibbs
Adjutant Charles "Romeo" Marlowe
Service Officer Raymond Bailey
Past Commander Bernie Carter

The Spook-tacular month of October

Our Post's Scouts kicked off the month with another successful mulch sale in our back parking lot. The grooviest highlight of October was hosting the 70's themed VFW State Commander/Auxiliary State President's Homecoming event in our Post's hall. Commander Doug Hoffman and President Kelly Levitt extended their thanks to the Post, staff, and volunteers who worked to make this a successful and entertaining homecoming. Earlier that same day, Post member and Neabsco District Supervisor, Victor Angry, hosted his annual crab-fest in the Pavilion. There was an abundance of crabs and tasty sides for the crowd that showed up. During the next week, we held an excellent ceremony recognizing Women in Military Service and History. Special thanks to our Post Senior Vice Commander, Star Martinez, for spearheading the effort. A special photo page honoring our Post's female veterans can be found later in this newsletter. In the last part of the month, we got into the Halloween spirit with



Over ➡



our Auxiliary hosting this year's Trunk or Treat event in the back parking lot. Kids and adults alike enjoyed the plethora of goodies that were supplied. Due to the timing of Halloween this year, we haven't quite made it to the Adult Halloween party on October 31st at the time of this writing. I imagine it will be a hauntingly good time.

Things to come in November

Election day is rapidly approaching on Tuesday 4 November. Remember to get out there and do your civic duty by voting. Democracy depends on participation, and this is one of the things we fought for as veterans. The next gun show at the Post will be held over the weekend of Saturday/Sunday 1-2 November. We will have a recruiting table set up there and could use some volunteers to work at the table. The Thomas Williams Jr. Memorial Blood Drive is being held at the Post on Friday 7 November. For more information and to get registered for the blood drive, see the flyer later in this newsletter. We will also be conducting a small dedication ceremony in the canteen on Friday 7 November at 1400 for Thomas where we will be dedicating Dallas' traditional table for him with a name plaque. All are invited to join us. The Masonic Diversity Lodge will once again be honoring our Post by providing a Veterans Day cookout in the pavilion on Saturday 8 November starting at 1200. Our Veterans Day Buddy Poppy drive will be conducted over the weekend of Saturday/Sunday 8-9 November. The locations for this drive will be Pitkin's Ace Hardware, Woodbine Ace Hardware, and the new Tractor Supply Company store across Minnieville Road from the Post. We are moving from having sign-up books in the canteen to an online method for volunteers to sign-up for Buddy Poppy shifts. You can now sign up for shifts by going to this link: <https://vfwus.org/poppyshift> For more information on this new method, check out the updated Buddy Poppy book in the canteen. The annual Veterans Day ceremony traditionally held at the National Memorial Cemetery at Quantico on Veterans Day is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday 11 November at 1100. This is subject to cancellation due to the ongoing government shutdown. The go/no-go decision will be made on Tuesday 4 November. Stay tuned for further information on that. The 250th Marine Corps Birthday Ball will be held on Saturday 15 November in the hall with doors opening at 1700. The MC Ball committee has commemorative glass mugs available for purchase in the canteen. For more information on the MC Ball, see the flyer later in the newsletter. The Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (MOCA) will be hosting a Bake Sale in the Bingo hallway on Tuesday 25 November beginning at 1630. This is a fundraiser for all the great works and programs the MOCA sponsors/runs every year. Thanksgiving is on Thursday 27 November. The Post will be open from 1100-1700 serving Thanksgiving dinner and the Post will close at 1800 so that our Post staff can spend time with their families. There will be NO Bingo that evening. On Saturday 29 November, our Christmas Tree Sale will begin in earnest. We will need all hands on deck as usual to help offload the truck and get things set up in the pavilion. Activities usually get rolling at 0900 that morning but make sure to check with the Post as start times have been adjusted in the past due to transportation issues. We will also need volunteers through the following week, so any time you can donate for tree sales is greatly appreciated. We will keep selling them until they are gone.



Upcoming Dates - November 2025

Fri-Sun Oct 31-Nov 2 – MOC/MOCA Tomb Trek - Arlington, VA

Sat-Sun 1-2 Nov – Gun Show – Hall

Sun Nov 2 – Daylight Saving time ends

Tues Nov 4 – Election Day

Wed Nov 5 – VFW Riders Meeting

Fri Nov 7 – Thomas Williams Jr. Memorial Blood Drive – A-Hall, 1000-1400

Fri Nov 7 – Table Dedication for Thomas Williams Jr. – Canteen, 1400

Sat Nov 8 – Veterans Day Cookout (Masonic Diversity Lodge) – Pavilion, 1200

Sat-Sun Nov 8-9 – Veterans Day Buddy Poppy Drive – <https://vfwus.org/poppysift>

Mon Nov 10 – Marine Corps 250th Birthday – banner in the canteen

Tues Nov 11 – Veterans Day

Tues Nov 11 – Veterans Day Ceremony at QNC – 1100 (subject to cancellation)

Sat Nov 15 – Marine Corps 250th Birthday Ball – Hall, 1700

Sun Nov 16 – 1503 Riders Monthly Ride – front parking lot, 1300

Mon Nov 24 – Tractor Supply citizens meeting – meeting room, 1900-2100

Tues Nov 25 – MOCA Bake Sale – Bingo Hallway, 1630

Thurs Nov 27 – **Thanksgiving** (NO BINGO), Post will be open 1100-1700 serving Thanksgiving dinner, the Post will close at 1800

Sat Nov 29 – Christmas Tree Unload/Set-up – Pavilion, 0900

Sun Nov 30-Trees are sold out – Christmas Tree sales will continue until all trees are sold.

Things to Consider

We are heading into the holiday season and for many people, it is not the easiest time of year. Be mindful on how these things might be impacting your friends and family. Let them know they are not alone.

Volunteers needed for the Gun Show recruiting table, the Buddy Poppy Drive and Christmas Tree Sales!! We have plenty of things to do for people looking to get involved.

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, rotary phone, faxes... 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





Claretha Johnson
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Retired



Star Martinez
Army



Heidi Ortiz
Air Force



Sally Aultman
Marines



VFW Post 1503
is proud to recognize our
Women Veterans

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SERVICE!**

Star Martinez
Army

Claretha Johnson
Army

Susie Williams
Army

April (Johnson) Brower
Air Force

Heidi Ortiz
Air Force

Margaret Ridgeway
Navy

Sally Aultman
Marines

Lori Jenkins
Army

Zully Goya
Air Force

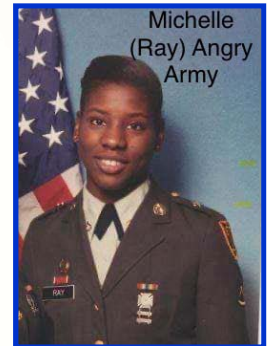
Michelle (Ray) Angry
Army



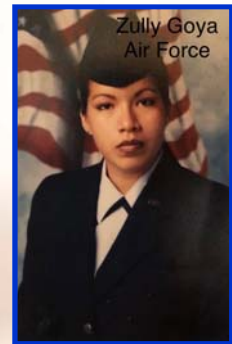
Susie Williams-Moore
Army



Margaret Ridgeway
Navy



Michelle
(Ray) Angry
Army



Zully Goya
Air Force





VFW AUXILIARY

Happy November Auxiliary I503!

Though the temperatures had us guessing, there is no question that fall has arrived.

Great turnout for our October meeting, with 32 members!! Happy to see each of you there! I encourage those who have not attended to please do so.



UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

We had a great time at breakfast on the 18th, enjoying a meal together! Hope to see you this month. Breakfast is always on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Welcome to our new members: Richard Hammes, Michael Cunningham, Jacob Cousar, Ahliyah Mapp and Kadin McKenzie.

Our Post attended an Honor Flight coming into the Dale City rest area off highway I-95 North. Great Job Crystal!

Our Conductor position was filled by Brenda Richardson. Congratulations Brenda.

To sign up for Auxiliary I503 Chaplain alerts: please contact Chaplain Michael at auxiliarychaplain1503@gmail.com

As always if you have any questions, concerns, or are in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our officers – we are here to help. I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meeting.

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

Debbie Nichols

VFW Auxiliary I503 President
Debbienichols2023@gmail.com
 703-975-6001



Marine Corps Word Find

EMNYXESOMZJMWOLRVIGQ
 LFACCUNVAOQCPCPYIBXL
 RLEPOPPNIOTRNAWEYNYL
 DNOODUDCRHJZPVGNTPLV
 UELYVERYORRFMCVQGBPM
 TQBEAGCAEAZR I J CDRWF I
 YGZYZLSTGHFXSYQWZDMJ
 HLHSAWTOHEOJSSTHHQXY
 CLQXJFXYEWCILKPOKBA
 UIKQNRGCGYQEONSLONRX
 OMNUETIMLSTONLEGGROK
 ITPUZKBF PWOOMFMFIULR
 DZRCVQZYEEEXCZTPIPCQJ
 EISADHNPRFUAPVEDKCBF
 TIMEDZVMEQECQOREYFVW
 ULERRIZSCDCXKSXLARJL
 LWDFPVTTXSXLAAIUQPY
 BLWRVHI IYTIUWUBSUTSR
 SXXKPUICOGBXOQWVAVN
 ZUSJQOFIENVCJUQBZLHO

TRADITION

COURAGE

MISSION

FIDELIS

LOYALTY

SERVICE

SEMPER

HONOR

DUTY

OOHRAH

HEAD GAMES



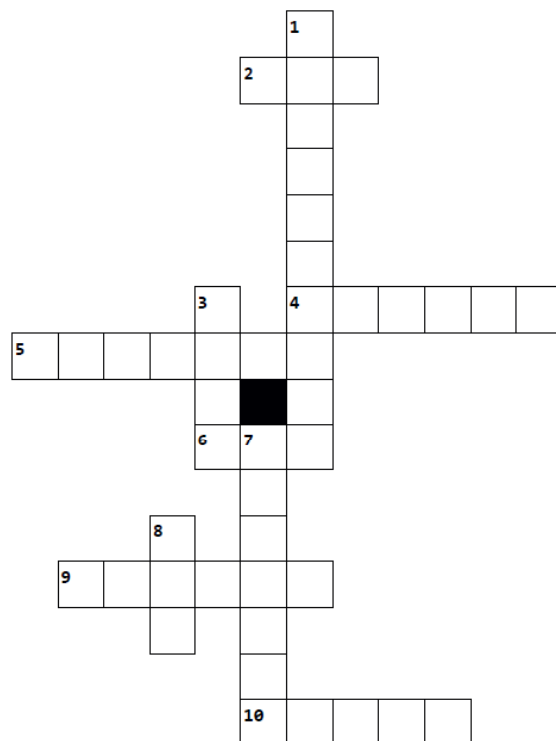
Marine Corps Basic Training Crossword

Across

2. Marine nickname: Devil ____
4. Gracie's dog's name
5. The first rank in the Marine Corps
6. Physical fitness test abbreviation
9. Stephanie's dog's name
10. Essential tool for cleaning a rifle: Bore ____

Down

1. Marines' core values: Honor, Courage, ____
3. The place for recruit training: Boot ____
7. The Marine Corps motto: Semper ____
8. A Marine's favorite training terrain: Mud ____



MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

OPERATION PHANTOM FURY/al-Fajr The Second Battle of Fallujah



Operation Phantom Fury was renamed to Operation al-Fajr by the Iraqi Prime Minister to show it was an Iraqi-approved operation. The operation was an American-led offensive that began on 7 November 2004 and lasted around six weeks.

After the premature conclusion of the First Battle of Fallujah in May 2004, the collapse of the Iraqi Fallujah Security Brigade and its members openly joining the insurgents, the city became a magnet for insurgent fighters. Al Qaeda in Iraq, Islamic Army of Iraq, Ansar al-Sunna, Army of Mohammed, the Army of the Mujahedeen, and the Secret Islamic Army of Iraq were all located in the city. Unlike in other cities in Iraq, the groups all fought alongside each other regardless of being Sunni, Shia, local, foreign, or even Ba'athist. Estimates placed up to 3,000 insurgents in the city; however, several leaders were able to escape before the battle started.

With national elections scheduled for January 2005, the Iraqi Interim Government and the coalition realized Fallujah must be freed from the insurgents to allow the citizens in the city to participate in the election or risk undermining the government's authority and the legitimacy of the new Iraqi regime.

Ground operations launched by Iraqi and U.S. forces on 7 November with diversionary attacks from the west and south of the city. The main offensive involved a coordinated attack by Marine Regimental Combat Team 1 and Regimental Combat Team 7, supported by 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, and Task Force 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment (Mechanized), 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Mechanized), SEAL sniper teams, and close air support from the U.S. Air Force in the early hours of 8 November. Despite intense fighting and resistance from insurgents, the coalition forces successfully captured key locations and cleared the city by November 16, 2004.

By 23 December when the operation was officially concluded, the US casualties were 95 killed and 560 wounded. British forces suffered 4 killed and 10 wounded. Iraqi forces suffered 8 killed and 43 wounded. Estimates of insurgent casualties were around 1,200 to over 2,000 killed. It was the single bloodiest and fiercest battle of the entire conflict for US troops.

SSG David Bellavia from Army Task Force 2-2 Infantry was awarded the Medal of Honor and 10 Marines were awarded the Navy Cross for their actions during the battle.

All Gave Some, Some Gave All!

Dom Dionne

Commander • Chapter 1775



MOC / MOCA



Listen up Cooties and MOCA!

This first weekend of November we will be paying our respects to all fallen comrades with our annual Tomb Trek event. The Military Order of the Cootie (MOC) Tomb Trek is an annual pilgrimage to Arlington National Cemetery that honors deceased service members. During the event, Cooties and our auxiliary members lay wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknowns and the Argonne Cross. This event, which began in 1934, has occurred every year since. Wreaths are donated by "Pup Tents" and our auxiliaries from around the world. In addition to the collective offerings, special wreaths are laid by the Supreme Commander of the MOC, the President of the MOC Auxiliary, and the Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

We will continue our planning for both our December Cootie Christmas party after our December Scratch and meeting. I even heard a rumor about our Lousy Grand Commander Mike Chism attending our December Scratch and Christmas party. Our Hospital Chairs for the MOC and MOCA are working diligently to coordinate a hospital visit and Christmas Party tentatively for 13 December. We also received an invitation for our leadership to attend Puller Veterans Care Center Grand Opening 16 December hosted by Virginia Department of Veterans Services. We are looking forward to visiting veterans a little closer to home!

This past month our MOC welcomed the lowest form of a Cootie, Lousy 'nit' Mike W. I can assure you that we DO NOT intend to have fun at his expense during his initiation known in Cootie speak as degree work. We are always looking to 'increase and multiply' as the ranks of our Crummy Fraternity have dwindled lately due to natural events and folks just moving South or in some cases moving to Turtle Creek! We sure do miss the work all those Lousy Cooties did here but now it is time to replenish! Please ask one of the MOC/MOCA members if you are interested or email me at nlctlevitt@vfwva.org

The next MOC/MOCA Meeting is 10 November. Hope to see you there.

Keep Them Smiling In Beds Of White!

Tom Levitt

MOC Seam Squirrel

Peggy Palomares

MOCA President

MOCA Bake Sale

**Dates: November 25th and
December 23rd**

**Time: 4:30pm until
everything is sold**

Place: Back Hallway of VFW Post 1503





ALL HANDS

UNLOADING - Saturday 29 NOV - 9:00am

PLEASE WATCH FOR TIME UPDATES VIA CONSTANT CONTACT

SALES

SAT - 9-9

SUN - 9-6

MON - FRI - 3-8

If you are able to help with sales, please use the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/252993412852160>

Questions - please contact:

Tom Levitt - 703-895-5070 / Kelli Levitt 703-895-8855



POST HISTORIAN'S ARCHIVE

Fellow VFW Post 1503 members, as the leaves turn and crisp autumn air settles over Northern Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, November beckons us to reflect on the sacrifices that forged our great nation. This month, rich with Revolutionary War milestones and Veterans Day remembrances, offers a tapestry of events to immerse ourselves in military history. From solemn ceremonies at Arlington to living echoes of 1775, join me in exploring opportunities to honor our shared legacy. These gatherings not only educate but unite us as guardians of the stories that define our service.

Kicking off the month on **November 1**, history enthusiasts should head to the **Daniel Lady Farm** in Middletown, Virginia (just a short drive from our NoVA heartland), for a gripping **Civil War Battle Reenactment**. This immersive event revives the thunder of musket fire and the drama of 1860s skirmishes on preserved grounds, blending authentic reenactments with period encampments. Tickets are \$10 in advance, offering a poignant reminder of the valor that bridged our divided past. It's a perfect outing for families or comrades seeking to connect with the Civil War's enduring lessons.

As we approach mid-month, the **250th anniversary celebrations** of America's founding forces take center stage. On **November 7**, make your way to the **Virginia War Memorial** in Richmond (a manageable day trip via I-95) for the **U.S. Marine Corps 250th Anniversary Ceremony**. Hosted by the American Revolution 250 Commission, this free event features stirring speeches, military honors, and exhibits tracing the Corps' evolution from Tun Tavern recruits to modern warriors. It's a fitting tribute during the semiquincentennial year, highlighting how Virginia's soil birthed branches that defend freedom today.

Closer to home, **November 8** brings two unmissable programs. In Henrico County (en route to Richmond), the **"1775: Subject or Citizen"** symposium delves into the raw debates of loyalty and rebellion that ignited the Revolution, with historians unpacking Maryland and Virginia's divided allegiances. Free and interactive, it's ideal for sparking post-event discussions at our next Post meeting. That same day, across the Potomac in Prince George's County, Maryland, the **Ordnance Training Support Facility Open Houses** continue through November, showcasing 250 years of Army ingenuity – from Revolutionary cannons to Cold War tanks. This hands-on display at a historic site lets you touch the tools of our forebears' fights.

NoVA's own Alexandria shines on **November 15** with a dual offering at **Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site**. The **Specialty Tour: Fort Ward & Lewis Cass White** uncovers the Civil War veteran's tireless efforts to preserve Fort Stevens, site of President Lincoln's closest brush with Confederate fire. Guided walks (\$8 suggested donation) blend archaeology and anecdote, evoking the defenses that shielded Washington. Pair it with the evening's **"Remember the Ladies: A Women's Reenactment"** in nearby Richmond, where costumed interpreters revive the unsung roles of Patriot women – from spies to sutlers – proving history's heroines were as fierce as any soldier.

The month's crescendo arrives on **Veterans Day, November 11**, at **Arlington National Cemetery**, where the **National Veterans Day Observance** unfolds at 11 a.m. sharp. This 72nd annual rite – wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, colors paraded by veterans' groups, and dignitaries' remarks – draws us to the heart of sacrifice. Arrive by 9:30 a.m. for prime seating in the Memorial Amphitheater; it's free, but shuttle from the Metro eases access. Echoing across the region, the **Women in Military Service for America Memorial** hosts its ceremony with honors and wreath-laying, saluting trailblazers from Rosie the Riveter to today's ranks. In D.C., the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial's** 1 p.m. tribute and the **World War II Memorial's** 9 a.m. gathering add layers of remembrance, while the **U.S. Navy Memorial** lays wreaths at 1 p.m. in Penn Quarter. These sites, steps from our doorstep, remind us: Veterans Day isn't just a holiday – it's a homecoming.

November also spotlights ongoing exhibits at our premier military museums. The **National Museum of the United States Army** in Fort Belvoir (timed free tickets online) immerses you in interactive galleries from Valley Forge to the Global War on Terror, with VR simulations that transport you to the front lines. In Quantico, the **National Museum of the Marine Corps** evokes Iwo Jima's grit through artifacts and films, open daily. And for a Maryland detour, Baltimore's **Maryland Museum of Military History** at the Fifth Regiment Armory traces Guard heritage from 1814's Battle of North Point, with fresh 2025 expansions on the 29th Infantry Division's archives.

Don Vandergriff

Post Historian

vandergriffdonald@usa.net

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Thanksgiving All-Year Long?

I'm grateful to live in a nation where we set aside one day to slow down, pause, and be grateful for the extraordinary blessings God has provided us. Offering up heartfelt prayers of thanksgiving on this special day pleases God. Although, it seems our words often float out into the air and are little remembered. So, what might change in our lives if we could be thankful every day of the year and offer up prayers of gratitude?

Here are a few things for us to consider this Thanksgiving Day and beyond:

- Thankfulness is simply an attitude. The one thing we can always choose each day, in any situation, is our attitude. Therefore, we always have the ability to choose an attitude of giving thanks each day.
- When things seem to go against us, God wants us to be grateful that His hand holds us and helps us to endure under the strain. That can be a heavy lift for us at times – to look for reasons to be thankful when life is tough, and we are struggling.
- It can be equally difficult for us to be thankful when things are going well. We might not think it would be that way. After all, when things go well, we have much to be grateful for, right? But by our very nature, when life is good, we tend to overlook the bounty of God's good gifts to us every day.
- When we focus on what we lack, we fail to recognize what we have. When we focus on our abundant blessings, we find ourselves giving thanks. Author Stephen Glenn has this definition of abundance: *"In terms of the population of the planet, you have abundance if, when you wake up each morning, you have a choice of what to eat; choice of what to wear; a job to go to; and a way to get there."*

This Thanksgiving we choose to pause and give thanks and to be grateful. We choose to look past the things we lack, the bothersome or the frightening things, so we are able to see the reasons for giving thanks every single day of the year to come.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, Almighty God, I am thankful for the abundant blessings you bestow upon me. May I never take your blessings for granted. Help me to remain mindful of your goodness and to share your love and kindness with others. Help me to live each day with a spirit of gratitude, recognizing your hand in every blessing and trusting you in every moment. *Amen*

Ed Bennett

Chaplain



YOUR PHOTOS NEEDED

**Send us your photos so we
can use them around the Post...
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!**

FACILITY HAPPENINGS

First, let me say thanks to all of our members for your support and dedication to the Post. Thanksgiving is right around the corner and as usual the Post will be serving a nice dinner for you and your family or for our members that don't have family in the area, so please come out and enjoy yourself.

For all our Bingo lovers we will be opening the Bingo Window on Monday nights. We had many Bingo players requesting that we open the Bingo window on Mondays so we will.

Gaming room: The Gaming room is for members only. If you're a member of the VFW but your spouse is not a member of the VFW or Auxiliary, your spouse is not allowed to play on the machines. A quick fix is to sign up your spouse to be a member of the VFW or Auxiliary.

Lastly, if you bring a guest to the canteen, you are responsible for that person's actions while in the canteen and for their drinks and food. The only way they will be served is if they have a chip in hand that you purchase or they are accompanied by you in line. Please take a minute and read our bylaws that are posted in the canteen or ask the MA or bartender to show you a copy that we keep behind the bar. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.



Carl Richardson
General Manager

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!

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

VETERAN NEWS

“Old breed? New breed? There’s not a damn bit of difference so long as it’s the Marine breed.”

– General Chesty Puller

VFW News

VA Benefits Still Accessible Amidst Government Shutdown

Earlier this month, after being unable to reach an agreement on a bill that would fund government services into the month of October, the federal government has ceased many operations, resulting in a partial “shutdown.” However, according to the Department of Veteran Affairs, an estimated 97 percent of VA employees continue to provide services during a shutdown and many benefits are still accessible to veterans during this time.

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

Veterans Day National Committee selects regional sites for 2025

The Veterans Day National Committee (VDNC) hosts the annual National Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11 at Arlington National Cemetery. The ceremony commences at 11:00 a.m. ET with a Presidential Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and continues inside the Memorial Amphitheater with a parade of colors by Veterans’ organizations and remarks from dignitaries.

To ensure fitting tributes occur across the country, VA and the VDNC encouraged communities and nonprofit organizations to host VA-approved Veterans Day observances.

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

The Navy and Marine Corps Team

The Marine Corps and the Navy trace their origins to the same moment in U.S. history – a series of decisions made in fall 1775. On 10 November of that year, the Second Continental Congress, which represented American colonists in the struggle against British rule, took the momentous step of authorizing two battalions of “American Marines.”

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.

Gone but not forgotten



Thomas Williams Jr.
1946-2022



Donate Blood In Honor Of **Thomas Williams Jr**



Thomas retired from the Red Cross, was a past commander at the VFW, and was very instrumental in the Red Cross coming back to the VFW. Celebrate life and make a difference by giving blood. Blood is needed for many different kinds of patients. It could be a young child with a rare blood disorder, a family member fighting cancer, or a friend involved in a car accident. Please schedule an appointment to donate at this special blood drive. You'll feel good knowing you've helped change the lives of patients in need.

Thomas Williams Jr. Memorial Blood Drive VFW Post 1503

in conjunction with

**PI LAMBDA LAMBDA CHAPTER
OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC**



Main Hall
14631 Minnieville Rd
Woodbridge, VA 22192

**Friday, November 7, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: "VFWPost1503" to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

*General Lewis B "CHESTY" PULLER VFW Post 1503
Welcomes you to the 250th birthday celebration
of the*



Saturday, November 15th, 2025 @ 1800

Dress: Coat & Tie or Military Dress A

Cost: 10.00 per person

Guest of Honor – BGen David R Everly USMC

QR Code link address

<https://givebutter.com/1503MC25>



THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA



DIVERSITY LODGE NO. 330 INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

VETERANS APPRECIATION

NOVEMBER 8 CELEBRATION COOK OUT

VFW POST 1503
DALE CITY, VA



08 NOVEMBER 2025 ★ 12PM TO 3PM ★ 14631 MINNIEVILLE RD.



To continue to provide veterans with access to Certified Service Representatives for any benefits and claims assistance, the VFW Department of Virginia has created a new partnership with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. Beginning in September 2025, VFW Post 1503 will host an itinerant site to provide a location for veterans to meet in-person with a DVS Veterans Services Representative (VSR) on the 1st and 4th Wednesdays of each month

The DVS VSR assigned to our location is George Johnson.

Until the online registration process is fully in place, appointments to meet with Mr. Johnson at VFW Post 1503 must be made by contacting him directly via email at:

George.Johnson@dvs.virginia.gov

To visit the site for the Manassas DVS website for additional info, use this QR Code:





THE VFW'S INAUGURAL GAMING LEAGUE EXCLUSIVELY FOR VETERANS.

Join the
community!



In just half a year, Combat Tested Gaming (CTG) has become the fastest-growing veterans gaming community in America. We are approaching 2,000 veteran gamers on our Discord server and streaming gameplay on our Combat Tested Gaming Twitch channel. Join our Discord community to connect with other veterans and active duty server members who play your game of choice! Subscribe to our Twitch and YouTube channels to watch our gameplay and experience the thrill and camaraderie of our gamers.

GAMES

- Rocket League
- Call of Duty
- Call of Duty: Warzone
- World of Warcraft
- Valorant
- Madden
- MLB: The Show
- Rainbow Six Siege
- NBA 2K
- Helldivers 2
- Apex Legends
- Fortnite
- League of Legends
- The Finals
- EA Sports FC
- And more! We are adding games consistently.

IMPACT OVERVIEW

1,500+
Veteran
gamers.



**DEDICATED VFW
SERVICE
OFFICER**



answering VA benefits
questions daily.

**4 VFW
POSTS**



have leveraged CTG to start
gaming nights – one building
a gaming room to support
student veterans.

**5 VETERANS'
LIVES SAVED**



during crisis by
using connections
made through CTG.

CTG has quickly succeeded in reaching its early objectives. Now, as we look to the future, we set our sights on becoming THE leader in the veteran gaming space by continuing to promote the program and through partnering with a veteran-owned company which specializes in building the gaming infrastructure needed to support our growth and long-term success.

**UNITY CUP & PARS OR BETTER GOLF
GROUP
HOSTING A MARINE
TOYS FOR TOTS
DRIVE AND CHARITY DONATION EVENT**

**LOCATION: VFW POST 1503
14631 MINNIEVILLE RD, DALE CITY VA 22193**

**DATE/TIME: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025
6:00-10:00PM**



DJ, CHRISTMAS KARAOKE & DOOR PRIZES

“Toys for ages 6-12” and toys should be unwrapped.



Purchase via Amazon and it will be delivered directly to
this post

November Entertainment

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

Friday Nights

Saturday Nights

November 1st

DJ Danny

Dance Party

November 7th

DJ Big C

Dance Party

November 8th

DJ Michael

Dance Party

November 14th

DJ Steve

Dance Party

November 15th

DJ Protege

Dance Party

November 21st

DJ Mario

Dance Party

November 22nd

DJ Slick

Dance Party

November 28th

DJ Diggy

Dance Party

November 29th

DJ T-Play

Dance Party



November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					GUN SHOW 1st & 2nd	DJ Danny Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
2 Breakfast 9-12:00 FALL BACK Daylight Savings Time Ends 	3	4 Election Day BINGO 7:30	5	6 BINGO 7:30	7 Blood Drive 10-2 DJ Big C FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	8 VETS Cookout DJ Michael Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
9 Breakfast 9-12:00	Happy Birthday U.S. Marine Corps  10 November 1775	11 BINGO 7:30 	12 MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:00 pm	13 BINGO 7:30	14 DJ Steve FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	15 USMC DJ Protege AUX Brkfst Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
16 Breakfast 9-12:00	17	18 BINGO 7:30	19 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	20 BINGO 7:30	21 DJ Mario FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	22 DJ Slick Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
23 Breakfast 9-12:00 30 Breakfast 9-12:00	24	25 BINGO 7:30 MOCA BAKE SALE	26	27  NO BINGO	28 DJ Diggy FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	29 DJ T-Play Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting
November 19th

vfw1503.org

VFW POST 1503 CONCEALED CARRY CLASS

RECEIVE YOUR
TRAINING
CERTIFICATE
NEEDED TO
OBTAIN A
CONCEALED
WEAPONS



UTILIZING A LASER-
BASED INDOOR
RANGE: NO
FIREARMS/AMMO.
EVERYONE SHOOTS
THE LASER PISTOLS!

Saturday, January 17, 2026 10:00 AM - 12:00 AM \$65.00

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-1640782427409?aff=oddtcreator>