



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503

APRIL 26



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

Ah spring... new possibilities abound. A general thawing out of nature and a sense of renewal for the human psyche. After a strange and eventful winter season, the days are getting milder, the mind is opening, and the spirit expanding. Every dawn brings a new day with new possibilities.

In this month two years ago, you elected me as Commander. It was a proud yet humbling day for me. I worked for years to gain the experience I needed not only to be a good leader, but also to be a good leader for this organization. A year later I asked for your support once again so that I could finish the work I started to move the Post into the future. I had a two-year plan in mind, and you allowed me to keep moving ahead with that. I feel that we have accomplished most of my goals and laid a solid foundation to complete them in the next few years.

We are at that time of year again for new possibilities. It is VFW Post 1503 election season. We are a non-partisan, veteran advocacy organization that elects our officers each year. Through our service in the armed forces of this great country, we fought for the basic liberty to govern ourselves and protect our right to vote. It is a given that we do not all agree on how things might be done. This is not a bad thing as growth and evolution do not happen unless we embark on educated discourse on the issues and support those we feel best represent us. If you believe things can be changed for the better, make your voice heard. Make sure you do your due diligence to understand what and who you are voting for.

With that said, best of luck to all who are running for election this year. I look forward to supporting the next elected slate of officers for the 2026-2027 VFW year. Know that you take on huge responsibility in becoming the officers and leaders of the largest VFW Post in the world. Believe this if nothing else: being a leader in the oldest veteran advocacy organization in our great nation is no small undertaking and commitment.



POST OFFICERS

- Post Commander Ben Guinan
Senior Vice Robert "Check" Adamczyk
Junior Vice Dan Walczyk
Quartermaster Kurt Hense
Judge Advocate Charles "Romeo" Marlowe
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
Benefits Advisor Will Triplett
Past Commander Bernie Carter





Marching Forward

We successfully completed another busy March at the Post. The Women's Legislative Forum was not as well attended as we might have liked but was nonetheless a successful event. District 10 Commander and National Legislative Committee member Tom Levitt presented an excellently designed and delivered program that covered legislation specifically important to female veterans. Watch for upcoming events similar to this related to legislation for all veterans for whom the VFW advocates. VFW Auxiliary National President Lois Callahan expressed her gratitude to our Auxiliary and Post members, volunteers and staff for a wonderful

visit to Virginia. Congratulations to all Military Order of the Cootie and Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary Officers that were elected and installed for the next VFW year. The District 10 Joint Meeting and Awards Ceremony was well attended. All the winners, their family and friends, and District 10 members and Auxiliary enjoyed the ceremony and the Italian style meal the kitchen staff prepared. It looked like everyone enjoyed themselves on St. Patrick's Day at the Post. I imagine that everyone was feeling lucky after we got through the wacky weather the evening before. Our Auxiliary put on another entertaining Kids Easter Party. There were goodies aplenty and the "Stately" Easter Bunny made an appearance. The Post hosted another outstanding Women's Small Business Expo this year. We enjoyed over 50 vendors, speakers, and a great vibe throughout the event. We rounded out the month celebrating National Vietnam War Veterans Day in the canteen. The Hylton Air Force JROTC performed their superb 'missing man' ceremony to help us commemorate our Vietnam Veterans.

Springing into April

Rain and shine, Spring is in the air. April is a bit calmer Post event-wise than other months on the calendar but there are still some great upcoming events. On Sun 5 Apr there will be a special Easter Brunch menu in the Canteen from 1:00 until closing. The menu for the brunch can be found on the flyer later in this newsletter and on flyers in the canteen. Our Post JROTC/Cadet of the Year (JCOTY) and Scout of the Year (SOTY) winners will be attending our JCOTY/SCOTY Awards Ceremony on Sun 12 Apr at 1300. Post Elections will be held at the Post on Wed 15 starting at 1200 and running until the start of our Post meeting. Election results will be presented at the meeting. Our Post-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 1503 will be holding one of their Mulch Sales in the back parking lots on Fri 17 Apr. The Mulch Sales will stretch into the weekend depending on the amount of mulch they have in stock. We will hold our Membership Appreciation Day on Sat 18 Apr. We hope to have the event in the Pavilion but will shift to the Hall if the weather doesn't work with us. The theme for this one is based on the Lunar New Year. There will be music, food from the Far East, and good times. Another aspect to this one: given May is my last month as Post Commander and happens to be one of our busiest months of the year for the Post, this event will act as my farewell event.

And don't forget to join us for Movie Nights and popcorn every Tuesday! We have an internal passworded website that lists what movies are showing on which Tuesday here: <https://1503movies.vfwus.org/>

[Password hint: The password is included in the website's name]

Upcoming Dates - April 2026

Sun 5 Apr – Easter Brunch, Canteen, 1300-closing

Sun 12 Apr – JCOTY/SCOTY Awards Ceremony, meeting room, 1300

Wed 15 Apr – Post Elections, Foyer, 1200-1900

Fri 17 Apr – Boy Scouts Mulch Sale, back parking lot, 0900-1500

Sat 18 Apr – Membership Appreciation Day, Pavillion (Hall if weather doesn't cooperate), 1300-1700

Sun 19 Apr – 1503 Riders Monthly Ride, front parking lot, 1300



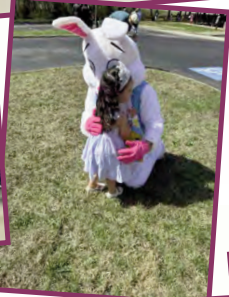
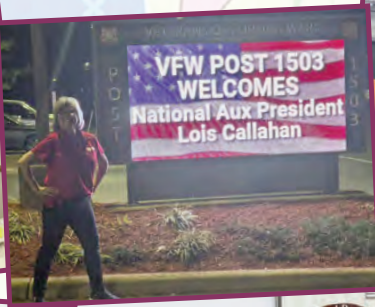
Things to Consider

All VFW members are recruiters and ambassadors of our Post. Thanks to the work that we have done, the Post membership stands at a robust 3,709 members for the year 2026. This puts us over the 101% goal set by National this year. To complete our requirements for All-American honors once again, we simply must complete our Day of Service on Saturday 9 May. We will be doing roadway cleanup, in partnership with Keep Prince William Beautiful, from the Post up Minnieville Road towards Dale Boulevard. We will be stepping off at 1000 so be at the Post around 0915 so we can get organized. Help us finish the year strong by showing our support for our community.

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, speaking, Active listening... 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





VFW AUXILIARY

Hello Auxiliary 1503 Members and Happy April!

Hoping Spring is here to stay. The beautiful flowers and green grass are a beautiful sight.

Welcome to our newest life members, Ms Byrd, Ms Harris and Ms Dillard. Please plan to attend our monthly meetings! Our March meeting was very well attended with 38 members! Our membership is currently at 1,185 - let us keep recruiting! Remember our Recruiter challenge- if you recruit ten or more new members 7/31-6/30, you will earn 100!!

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



March breakfast at our Post 1503, afterward our members filled Easter eggs for our children party on Sunday, March 22. Thank you to all that attended.

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

If you have not attended a meeting since joining, please do so! We look forward to seeing you. Remember at our April meeting, we are voting on new officers for the upcoming year.

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

Happy Easter!



Debbie Nichols

VFW Auxiliary 1503 President
Debbienichols2023@gmail.com
 703-975-6001



Happy *Easter*

Turkey Dinner \$13.00

Mashed potatoes & carrots

Ham Dinner \$13.00

Mashed potatoes , carrots & dinner roll

Turkey & Ham Dinner \$15.00

Mashed potatoes, carrots & dinner roll

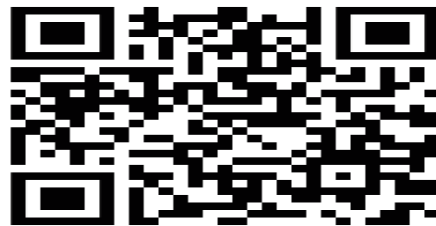
Easter Brunch

1:00pm-close

Sunday, 5 April



GOT MULCH?



Scout Troop 1503 Spring Mulch Sale

Order by April 11, 2026

Delivery will be 18 April 2026

Order and Pay Online via QR Code

Contact Information

<https://troop-1919-mulch-sales.square.site>

email: troop1919mulch@gmail.com

* Note: We are still in the process of getting our accounts and emails updated, so we still have emails and bank accounts associated with Troops 1919 Boys and 1196 Girls

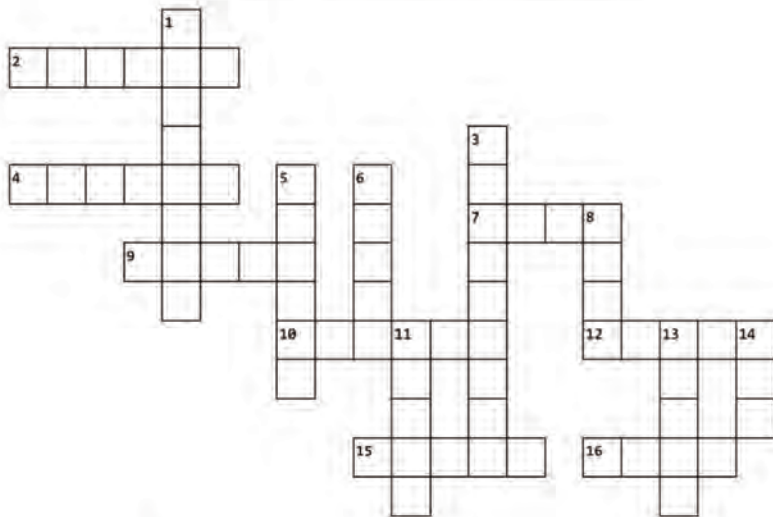
EASTER WORD FIND

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

BASKET BONNET BUNNY CARROT CELEBRATION CHOCOLATE
 FAMILY FLOWERS JELLYBEAN SPRING

HEAD GAMES

Easter Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. Day of the week on which Easter is traditionally celebrated.
4. Vegetable often associated with the Easter Bunny.
7. Season of fasting and repentance leading up to Easter.
9. Central figure of Christianity, celebrated during Easter.
10. Holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus.
12. Holy book containing the Easter story.
15. Term used to describe Jesus' resurrection from the dead.
16. Activity where children search for hidden Easter eggs.

Down

1. Jewish holiday occurring around the same time as Easter.
3. To honor or observe a special occasion like Easter.
5. Container used for collecting Easter eggs and treats.
6. Marshmallow candies shaped like chicks, popular at Easter.
8. Place where Jesus was buried before his resurrection.
11. Spring flower commonly associated with Easter.
13. Furry creature associated with Easter traditions.
14. Symbol of new life often decorated during Easter.



MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

National Gold Star Spouses Day



While many national holidays honor those who wore the uniform, Gold Star Spouses Day – observed annually on April 5 – focuses on the families left behind. It is a day of solemn recognition for the widows and widowers of service members who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

The concept of the “Gold Star” dates back to World War I. Families would display service flags in their windows with a blue star for every living member serving in the military. If a loved one was killed in action, the blue star was replaced with a gold one, signaling to the community that the family had suffered a profound loss.

The formal organization of these survivors began in 1945. Eleanor Roosevelt was an early supporter of the Gold Star Wives of America, a group founded by Eleanor Summs and other women who lost their husbands during World War II. They recognized that while the military provided initial support, the long-term emotional and financial journey of a surviving spouse was often walked alone.

For decades, the day was informally observed by survivor groups. It wasn't until 2010 that the first official “Gold Star Wives Day” was recognized by a Senate resolution. In recent years, the name was updated to Gold Star Spouses Day to be more inclusive of the men and women across all branches of service who have lost their partners. The choice of April 5 is historically significant, marking the anniversary of the incorporation of the Gold Star Wives of America in 1945.

The significance of this day goes beyond a simple “thank you.” It addresses several critical pillars for the survivor community:

Validation of Grief: Unlike Memorial Day, which honors the fallen, this day specifically honors the living. It acknowledges that the spouse's life was also permanently altered by their partner's service.

Awareness of "The Gap": Many civilians are unaware of the unique challenges surviving spouses face, from navigating complex military benefits to raising children as a solo parent in the wake of tragedy.

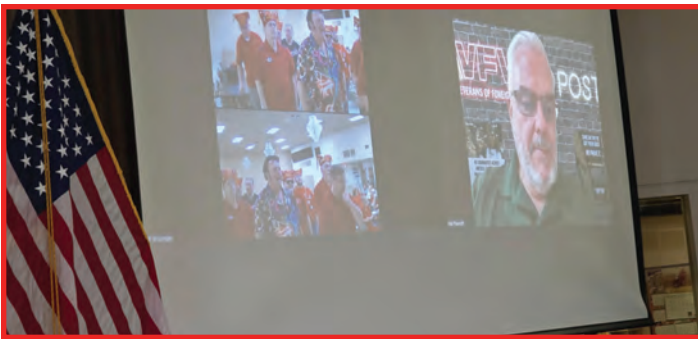
Community Connection: For Gold Star spouses, the day is a reminder that they are part of a “family no one wants to join,” but one that provides unparalleled peer support and understanding.

Today, Gold Star Spouses Day is marked by wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, local community memorials, and legislative advocacy. It serves as a reminder to the nation that the “cost of freedom” is not just a figure of speech – it is a daily reality lived by thousands of spouses across the country. By observing this day, we ensure that the names of the fallen are spoken aloud and that those they loved most are never forgotten by the country their partners died to protect.

All Gave Some, Some Gave All!

Dom Dionne

Commander • Chapter 1775



MOC / MOCA



Listen up Cooties and MOCA!

March was quite a roller coaster of weather. Snow, thunderstorms, summer temperatures and then back to cool weather again at the end of the month. Cooties and our Auxiliary remain unfazed and continued our mission.

The MOC Scratch and MOCA meetings for March went quickly. The MOCA elected a new President in February – Kelli Levitt; and the MOC elected a new Seam Squirrel (Commander), Ken Wiseman, at our March Scratch. Following our Scratch and Meeting we had both of our installations followed by a great Filipino themed dinner prepared by the Post Staff.

Both installations were Lousy with our MOCA starting us off by having the Auxiliary National President, Lois Callahan install our MOCA officers who was on hand visiting the Department of Virginia. Our Crummy MOC Shavetail installation set a new precedent having Virginia’s own Past National Commander in Chief, Hal Roesch, conduct our installation via Zoom from our VFW Post in Guantanamo Bay! It was truly a Lousy and Crummy time!!

As a reminder Newly elected shavetails and officers will assume their duties upon the installation of the newly elected Grand Commander and President at the end of May. The Grand Scratch will be in Harrisonburg on May 30th at the Hotel Madison during the Department Convention. We look forward to seeing lots of Lousy Cooties there!!

As always, our current members are seeking out “Comrades-in-arms” who embody the spirit of optimism and are dedicated to the MOC’s primary directive of having fun while performing serious service. This service includes extensive volunteer work at VA Medical Centers – living out the motto to “Keep ’em Smiling in Beds of White” – and supporting the VFW National Home. Ask a Cootie or a member of the MOCA about how to become a part of the “Honor Degree of the VFW.”

The next MOC/MOCA Meeting is 8 April. I hope to see you there.

Keep ’Em Smiling In Beds Of White!

Tom Levitt

MOC Seam Squirrel

Peggy Palomares

MOCA President



POST HISTORIAN'S ARCHIVE

As spring unfolds in our region, April 2026 offers VFW Post 1503 members and their family's excellent opportunities to engage with America's rich military heritage. This month aligns with America's 250th anniversary celebrations (America250), ongoing Revolutionary War commemorations, and several focused Civil War and naval history programs. While no major national military parades occur in April (Memorial Day events are in May), several targeted events and perennial sites provide immersive experiences.

Key Events in April 2026:

- **Redcoats and Rebels: Battle of St. George's Island** (April 11–12, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, Piney Point, Maryland) Living history reenactors from Ship's Company portray Revolutionary War-era British and colonial forces, with military drills, camp life demonstrations, and period interpretations. This naval heritage event highlights early American conflicts. Details: Search for updates on thebaynet.com or the museum's site pineypointlighthouse.com
- **Antietam Institute 2026 Spring Symposium** (April 10–11, near Sharpsburg, Maryland) This annual event examines the intersections of the 1862 Maryland Campaign (including Antietam) and the 1863 Gettysburg Campaign. Expert speakers discuss military strategy and transformative Civil War moments. Ideal for those interested in pivotal battles fought close to our area. Register at antietaminstitute.org
- **Shenandoah Valley Battlefields 2026 National Conference** (April 9–11, Martinsburg, West Virginia – accessible from our region) Focused on 1862 battles like Harpers Ferry and Shepherdstown, with talks on Union and Confederate operations. A great deep dive into Civil War history in the borderlands. More at shenandoahatwar.org
- **National Cherry Blossom Festival Events** (through April 12, Washington, D.C.) While primarily cultural, the festival includes patriotic elements amid America250 programming. The April 11 parade features marching bands and performers; check for any military band participation. Explore the Tidal Basin area near war memorials. Full schedule: nationalcherryblossomfestival.org

Ongoing VA250 events in Virginia va250.org may include local Revolutionary War talks or exhibits in April – check the site for updates in counties like Loudoun or Botetourt.

Recommended Year-Round Military History Sites (Always Worth a Visit):

- **Washington, D.C.:** National Mall memorials (Vietnam Veterans, Korean War, WWII, Vietnam) and Arlington National Cemetery arlingtoncemetery.mil
- **Virginia:** Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima), Pentagon Memorial, and nearby battlefields like Manassas.
- **Maryland:** Antietam National Battlefield nps.gov/anti, a short drive for self-guided tours of America's bloodiest day.

National Mall memorials and Arlington National Cemetery remain excellent for self-guided reflection. Many sites tie directly into America's 250th celebrations. Always confirm dates, tickets, hours, and weather – dependent activities on the websites, as schedules may update. These powerful experiences honor our veteran heritage – plan a group visit and share what you learn! If you need more information feel free to contact me at vandergriffdonald@usa.net or 571-344-0886.

For more, check Eventbrite or local VFW calendars. Hooah!

Don Vandergriff
Post Historian
vandergriffdonald@usa.net

POST'S ACTIVITY REPORTING

Comrades,

We are reaching out to all to help improve our Post's activity reporting to the VFW Department of Virginia.

The VFW reporting system is used to track Post performance, document compliance with nonprofit status, provide data for legislative lobbying and capture post service activities.

Our Post's Community Reports are based on reports submitted to Department Headquarters via the State's reporting tool on the State website.

The officer who holds the Junior Vice Commander role submits our Post's recurring events to the Department monthly in the following Community Report categories: Americanism, Community Service, Safety, Youth Activities, and Hospital Reports.

We need your help in capturing all individual and small group activities that our members do or take part in. These activities are often overlooked as things we do as volunteers, advocates, and service-oriented citizens and go unreported.

Examples for what can be reported include:

1. Americanism – Attending an observance ceremony away from the Post.
2. Community Service – Cutting the lawn for a homebound neighbor.
3. Safety – Safety briefing before an activity or event.
4. Youth Activities – Judging one of the youth scholarship programs.
5. Hospital Report – Taking a neighbor to a medical appointment that they couldn't drive to.

The above examples are just a few of the types of reports that can be entered for each Community Report category. If you are not sure which category your report falls under, feel free to ask one of the Post officers for guidance.

There are two ways to submit your report.

Option 1:

1. Go to <https://vfwva25-26.reportin.org/>
2. Enter our Post Number: **1503**
3. Enter our Post's password: **post1503**
4. Click on **Submit Reports**
5. Select the Community Report category your report applies to and click **Continue**.
6. Enter the report information in the appropriate fields and click **Submit** when complete.

Option 2:

1. Write up a short description of the event. The report should contain the following information: your name, number of members involved, number of hours the event took, miles driven to accomplish the event, total cost, the date completed and if the VFW Riders group was involved. **Note:** if submitting a hospital report, make sure to report the number of patients the activity/event helped as well as the rest of the information listed above.
2. Email the information to: danwalczyk@yahoo.com .

If you have any questions, please email me, give me a call at **571-232-0186**, or ask me when you see me at the Post.

Dan Walczyk
Junior Vice Commander

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Everyday Blessings

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

Recently I broke open a fortune cookie to find the following message, “Counting your blessings multiplies their abundance.” At times, it can be hard to recognize our blessings when our sight or mind gets clouded. In the hustle and bustle of life, it’s easy to get overwhelmed by deadlines, problems and uncertainty about the future.

The constant pressure of daily life can cause us to overlook the blessings right in front of us. We are surrounded by the goodness and the abundance of God even if it doesn’t feel like it right now. Remember that God is always faithful and is present with us. Joy and gratitude are the result of shifting our focus from our worries, and what we lack, to the many ways God has shown His goodness to us every day.

God is not stingy. He delights in providing more than the minimum. Abundance means having enough for your needs, with plenty left over to serve others. Abundant blessings represent God’s desire to give generously beyond our expectations, offering spiritual and physical sustenance that overflows. When we develop a mindset that recognizes and appreciates the blessings God has already bestowed upon us, we experience a true sense of contentment and abundance. Our lives become filled with gratitude, peace, and joy, and we are empowered to share God’s love with others.



PRAYER: Heavenly Father, Almighty God, I thank You for the blessings You have already poured into my life – seen and unseen. I come before you with a heart full of gratitude for your unwavering love. Your grace and mercy sustain me, and I am deeply grateful for your presence in my life. Thank you for my family, friends, and the community you have surrounded me with. Lord, 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. I praise your name and give thanks for all that you are and all that you do. *Amen*

Ed Bennett
Chaplain

FACILITY HAPPENINGS

The month of March we had crazy weather, snow one day and mid 80s the next. For the safety of our members and staff the Commander and I had to make canteen closure and Bingo cancellation decisions. Hopefully all that bad weather is behind us and we can move on to bigger and better things. The work which included painting, some electrical and cabling work in the mirror room as we called it was completed and now you can enjoy a wide screen TV and ARMY green colors in the back room. We also increased the liquor prices, but that's not a surprise because we mentioned it every month for the last 3 or 4 months. A few of the cooks and staff are working on a revised food menu, which we will introduce by mid April. I am also planning a fish fry and bourbon tasting in the pavilion with a DJ, the time and date will be announced. We have a nice Easter Brunch prepared for you and your guest, the menu is posted in the canteen and online. Lastly, security is our priority, no guns are allowed in the canteen or the building, and please report any suspicious activities to the MAs or bartenders.

Have a Happy Easter to you and your family.



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, **VFWI503.org**



Chapter Motto: So the road has us surrounded – good! Now we can ride in any direction!



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/I503pics>

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

VETERAN NEWS

“The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things.”

– Ronald Reagan

VFW News

VFW First Woman Commander Makes History Delivering Legislative Priorities to Congress

In a standing-room-only chamber at the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) National Commander Carol Whitmore delivered forceful testimony Tuesday before a special joint hearing of the United States Senate and House Committees on Veterans’ Affairs.

The chamber was filled wall-to-wall with VFW and VFW Auxiliary members proudly wearing their caps, a visible show of unity behind their commander-in-chief, the first woman veteran to lead the VFW in its 126-year history. An overflow room for watching the hearing was also filled to capacity with VFW and Auxiliary members who traveled from across the country and around the world from all 52 departments of the organization.

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 announces \$112M grant opportunity to strengthen community-based suicide prevention efforts

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced a \$112 million grant funding opportunity for organizations that provide suicide prevention services to Veterans across the country.

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

War Abroad, Strain at Home: Rising US Losses in Iran Meet DHS System Under Pressure

As U.S. forces ramp up operations tied to the war with Iran, a separate strain is unfolding at home: thousands of homeland security workers are on the job without pay, and cracks are beginning to show in systems Americans rely on every day.

But the imbalance is important to understand.

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 LEADERSHIP

Being part of leadership within the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) (Post/District/State) carries a responsibility that extends far beyond holding a title. It represents a commitment to service, stewardship, and the continued advocacy for those who have worn the nation's uniform in overseas conflicts.

At its core, VFW leadership is rooted in selfless service. Leaders are entrusted with upholding the organization's mission: to support veterans, service members, and their families while preserving the legacy of those who have served before. This requires a deep sense of duty, integrity, and accountability in every decision made, ensuring that actions always reflect the best interests of the membership and the community. Incorporating the knowledge that one learns from starting at the entry level positions and learning each position within the VFW leadership ladder is the only way to ensure that a top leader in the organization can be successful at his or her role as a "LEADER".

Effective VFW leaders serve as advocates. They champion veterans' rights, benefits, and access to care at the local, state, and national levels. This includes engaging with policymakers, raising awareness of veterans' issues, and ensuring that no veteran is left without support. Leadership in this capacity demands both knowledge of how each of the subordinates serving in the leadership roles with them, do their jobs, and the ability to communicate clearly and persuasively on behalf of others.

Equally important is the role of mentorship and community building. VFW leaders foster an environment of camaraderie, respect, and inclusion within their posts. They guide newer members, encourage participation, and help develop the next generation of leaders. By strengthening internal bonds, they ensure the long-term vitality and relevance of the organization.

Operational responsibility is another critical aspect. Leaders must manage resources responsibly, oversee programs and events, and maintain compliance with organizational policies and standards. Sound judgment, organizational skills, and transparency are essential to maintaining trust and credibility among members within the organization. By assuming that you are a "leader" or an executive leader in another organization DOES NOT make you an effective and knowledgeable leader in the VFW.

Finally, VFW leadership embodies honor and tradition. Leaders are the custodians of the organization's values and history, ensuring that the sacrifices of veterans are remembered and respected. Through ceremonies, community outreach, and public service, they reinforce the enduring importance of patriotism and service to country.

In summary, to serve in VFW leadership is to lead with purpose, integrity, and compassion. It is a role defined not by authority, but by the willingness to serve others, uphold a proud legacy, and make a meaningful impact in the lives of veterans and their communities.

Yours in Comradeship,
Randy Coker
State Judge Advocate

ROBERT “CHECK” ADAMCZYK FOR POST COMMANDER

Comrades, during our March membership meeting, I accepted the nomination for Post Commander. Having served as Post Surgeon, Judge Advocate, Junior Vice, and Senior Vice, I believe I have the experience necessary to handle the complexities of running a post as large as ours. Over the past six years, I have gained a clear understanding of what is required to accomplish the mission entrusted to each of our Post Officers. Along the way, I have been fortunate to be mentored by individuals with far more experience than my own, which I believe has prepared me well for this important position. With this background, I am ready to hit the ground running and fully prepared to serve from day one. I would greatly appreciate your vote and, if elected, your continued support in the coming year.

Yours in Comradeship,
Robert “Check” Adamczyk

DAN WALCZYK FOR SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades, I would like to announce my candidacy for the position of Post Senior Vice Commander for the upcoming year and am seeking your vote. I am a Life Member of the post and have been actively participating in activities since I joined. As the Current Junior Vice Commander, I've been involved in updating post operations, reports and other activities. Prior to this, I have been the Judge Advocate, Surgeon and Officer of the Day at post level. In each position I've successfully completed all tasks including running the scholarship program, the Public Service awards program and the 125th Anniversary Committee. I have become very knowledgeable of post processes, policies and procedures. I also am active in Bingo as the assistant manager and assist with what seems to be never-ending State paperwork. I am also active in the District level where I am currently the Junior Vice Commander and assistant district inspector. This has taught me a lot about how higher levels of the VFW operate and given me insight into how other posts operate. I have a strong background in plans, operations, project management and funding due to many years of military service. I am prepared to support the post membership and leadership in running the organization. I look forward to helping keep the post strong, improving operations and serving you as the next Senior Vice Commander.

Dan Walczyk

CONRADO MORGAN FOR SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades, I am thrilled to announce my candidacy for the position of Senior Vice Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1503, the largest post in the world. With a deep commitment to supporting our veterans and their families. I am eager to bring fresh ideas and dedicated service to this role. Together, let's honor the sacrifices of our veterans and work towards enhancing the well-being of those who have served our country. Your support means the world to me, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve our community in this capacity. I have been a VFW Life Member since 1991, a VFW Post 1503 Life Member since 2011 and a Bronze Life Member since 2025. I have also been the Chairman for the U.S. Army Ball for eleven years in a row now, Christmas Trees Volunteer and unloader and one of the Top Recruiters for the post. Thank you for considering me for this important position!

Conrado B. Morgan

CHARLES “ROMEO” MARLOWE FOR JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

At our March membership meeting, I accepted a nomination for Post Junior Vice Commander.

This past year I've had the privilege of serving as your Adjutant, Hospital Chairman, MOC Hungry Cootie (Adjutant equivalent), VFW Riders President, Bingo caller, Honor Guard member, Toys for Tots lead, and social media manager.

Since joining the VFW in 2018, other roles I've held include Surgeon, MOC Seam Squirrel, Officer of the Day, Honor Guard leader, and Scholarships Chairman. I've also supported or chaired countless Post efforts – from Buddy Poppies to flag retirements to community ceremonies to other fundraising. It's almost easier to list what I haven't done around the post yet.

My years of involvement have strengthened my appreciation for our traditions and deepened my commitment to serving our veteran community. I understand our protocols, respect our mission, and am dedicated to supporting the continued growth and vitality of our Post.

I would be honored to continue serving you and respectfully ask for your vote in April.

Charles “Romeo” Marlowe

KENDALL JONES FOR JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

I am honored to announce my candidacy for the position of Junior Vice Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1503, the largest VFW post in the world. My commitment to supporting our veterans and their families is unwavering. As an Active Duty Marine and a proud life member of our post, I understand the unique challenges our veterans face.

I have actively engaged in post activities since becoming a member and currently serve as both the Bingo Manager and Master at Arms. I am passionate about bringing innovative ideas and dedicated service to this role. Together, we can honor the sacrifices of our veterans and enhance the well-being of those who have bravely served our nation.

Your support is invaluable to me, and I am eager for the opportunity to serve our community in this capacity. Thank you for considering me for this important position!

Semper Fidelis

Kendall Jones

BERNIE CARTER FOR 3RD YEAR TRUSTEE

Comrades,

Greetings, during my time at the Post, I have consistently stepped forward to serve in several different capacities, always with the goal of bettering our organization. I am now seeking the position of 3-year trustee to bring that same level of dedication to our financial and operational oversight. If you entrust me with this role, I pledge to execute my responsibilities with total integrity and to the very best of my ability.

Very Respectfully,

Bernie Carter

SUSIE WILLIAMS-MOORE FOR 3RD YEAR TRUSTEE

Fellow Comrades and Sisters in ARMs

I have been a VFW Life Member since October 2001. I transferred to VFW 1503 in 2009 when I moved from California. I am a dual member of the VFW Auxiliary. I supported my husband, Milton, when he served as the VFW 1503 Men's Auxiliary President. I have recently retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs with a total of 45 years of federal service. I hold multiple strong detail-oriented organizational skills in Program Management. I have supported many voluntary functions over the years. I also served as the VFW Constant Contact Email POC for Randy (as the Commander). It is an honor for me to announce my intention of running for the 3rd Year Trustee in April 2026. I am asking for your support and vote in the 2026 elections. I promise to give you all my dedication while providing an honest, fair and integrity-minded approach while serving in the Trustee position. I understand my obligation to serve as a Trustee for the next 3 years. This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind... let it be something good.

Your Comrade,
Susie Williams-Moore

KURT HENSE FOR QUARTERMASTER

Greetings, Comrades.

I'm writing to ask for your vote for Quartermaster (QM) for the upcoming year. This last year as your Quartermaster (QM) has been filled with much learning and many exciting improvements. This position is very comprehensive, time-consuming and not to be taken lightly. Last year, six months prior to seeking nomination for QM, I made my intentions known and worked with Carl (past QM), from whom I continue to gain valuable insight. The intent behind that voluntary effort was to make a deliberate decision on seeking this enormous responsibility while allowing Carl and the board to have an opportunity to see what I was bringing to the table. My belief is that the post and the board should be afforded this type of thoughtful professional courtesy and respect from anyone seeking this or any board position. Over this last year I studied our current operations and was able to utilize my Lean Six Sigma Black Belt training/experience to refine and improve many of our processes. Including the creation of a Recruiting Tracker to give our recruiters the information needed to follow-up on perspective members and resolve issues keeping their application from being properly entered into the system, supporting the post's goal for achieving All-American. Other trackers created include an Approved Donations tracker towards better 'Use of Proceeds' charitable license goals, Veteran Relief tracker for Vets needing immediate monetary assistance, and a tracker for money saved through re-negotiating long-term services, licenses and expenditures (achieving several thousands in savings). I also created event trackers for high profile events like the Christmas Tree Sales and the Golf Tournament with other event trackers being drafted. As my first time being the lead for the Golf Tournament, I created a Golf Committee Team and co-led that effort to the most successful golf tournament in recent memory grossing close to \$21k and netting over \$13.5k with 90+ players and numerous sponsors. These are just a sampling of the improvements/achievements I was able to make over this last year with plans to accomplish much more if elected to continue in this position. I humbly seek your continued trust and support in fulfilling the responsibilities of one of the most important and comprehensive positions within this post.

Kurt Hense

★ ★ VFW POST 1503 ★ ★

★ MEMBERS' APPRECIATION DAY ★

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR POST MEMBERSHIP
WITH OUR OUTGOING **COMMANDER,**
BEN GUINAN



Saturday, April 18th



1300 – 1700 (1PM – 5PM)



LIVE MUSIC



FOOD PROVIDED



DRINKS AVAILABLE



VFW Post 1503



⊘ MEMBERS ONLY EVENT ⊘

LUNAR
NEW YEAR

20  26

VFW

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

POST 1503



SATURDAY

9 MAY

DAY OF SERVICE

ROADWAY CLEAN UP!

**FROM THE POST
TO DALE BLVD**

**DALE BLVD
NEXT LEFT**



MEET AT THE POST BY 9:15 AM!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

25th Army Birthday Ball



U.S. ARMY



The Chocolate Factory Band
DJ Steve
Hors-d'oeuvres
Dinner
Guest Speaker
Army Birthday Cake

Saturday, June 20th 2026

1800 Semi-Formal (Coat & Tie)

VFW Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road, Dale City, VA 22193

Comrade
Conrado B. Morgan
Chairman/9108241911
Cost \$20.00
Tax Deductible Donations
Are Accepted

<https://vfwus.org/armyball>

VFW Post 1503 Movie Nights

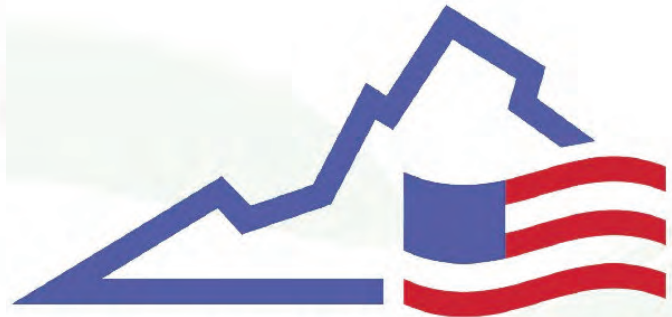
Tuesdays at 7:30pm

Upcoming Schedule at
1503movies.vfwus.org

Ask a staff member for the passcode



Sponsored by SpyrT Worldwide



Virginia Department of Veterans Services
www.dvs.virginia.gov

The VFW Department of Virginia has created a new partnership with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. Since September 2025, VFW Post 1503 has hosted 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. Due to the success of the itinerant site, we will now be offering two(2) additional days on the 2nd and 3rd Fridays 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:





COMBAT TESTED GAMING

By the **VFW**
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

THE VFW'S INAUGURAL GAMING LEAGUE EXCLUSIVELY FOR VETERANS.

Join the community!



Combat Tested Gaming (CTG) has become the fastest-growing veterans gaming community in America. We are approaching 2,500 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

2,250+
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.

INTEREST SIGN-UP BOOK IN THE CANTEEN

5-NIGHTS

ROYAL CARIBBEAN



Aug 01 - Departing Baltimore
Aug 02 - Cruising at sea
Aug 03 - Bermuda
Aug 04 - Bermuda
Aug 05 - Cruising at sea
Aug 06 - Return to Baltimore

Inside stateroom: \$987pp
Oceanview: \$1148pp
Balcony: \$2351pp
Offers military discounts & flexible payment schedule!



Call for booking!
571-659-4633



www.onestoptravelplanners.com

VFW POST 1503

PURPLE REIGN

♀ PARTY ♀

*Let's Go Crazy....
Party Like It's 1999*



FEATURING LIVE MUSIC

THE DIAMOND ALLEY BAND

♥ DRESS IN PURPLE & WHITE ♥

Saturday, April 11th

Let's Dance

VFW ENTERTAINMENT

MARCH EVENTS

Friday, April, 3 | 8pm - 12am

DJ Big C- Let's Dance to the Music

Saturday, April 4 | 8pm - 12am

KDJ Lee -Let's Karaoke

Friday, April 10 | 8pm - 12am

DJ A-Ron-Let's Dance to the Music

Saturday, April 11 | 8pm - 12am

The Diamond Alley Band -Live Music

Friday, April 17 | 8pm - 12am

DJ Steve- Let's Dance to the Music

Saturday, April 18 | 8pm - 12am

DJ T-Play- Let's Dance to the Music

Friday, April 24 | 8pm - 12am

DJ MoeVibez- Let's Dance to the Music

Saturday, April 25 | 7pm - 10pm

Line Dancing with Cornelious Jackson

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 	2 BINGO 7:30	3 DJ Big C FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	4 KDJ Lee Karaoke Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
5 Breakfast 9-12:00 	6	7 BINGO 7:30	8 MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:00 pm	9 BINGO 7:30	10 DJ A-Ron FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	11 Diamond Alley Band Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
12 Breakfast 9-12:00	13	14 BINGO 7:30	15 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Elections Foyer 12:00-7:00 Post Meeting 7:00 pm	16 BINGO 7:30	17 DJ Steve FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	18 DJ T-Play AUX Brkfst Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
19 Breakfast 9-12:00	20	21 BINGO 7:30	22 	23 BINGO 7:30	24 DJ MoeVibez FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	25 Line Dancing Cornelius Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
26 Breakfast 9-12:00	27	28 BINGO 7:30	29	30 BINGO 7:30		

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

April 15th

vfw1503.org

SAVE THE DATE

UP-COMING EVENTS PAGE POST 1503

Karaoke with KDJ Lee 4-4-26

The Diamond Alley Band 4-11-26

Post Membership Appreciation 4-18-26

Learn to Line Dance 4-25-26

VFW Events DJ Kelly

