



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503

MAY 26



General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

14631 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

With 30 days left in my term, I want to thank the membership for your support during my two years as Post Commander. We have had our share of challenges, but I believe our successes have far outweighed any issues we encountered. Post budget practices and business processes have become more functional and focused on our operations as they have evolved into a more stable and growing state. We have addressed multiple facility issues and initiated means to take better care of our ageing building, including installing an updated fire alarm system that is up-to-code for a building the size of the Post. The canteen is in the process of receiving a facelift including new paint, and the back bar has been modified into a much more useful space. We have added new entertainment features to the canteen like new TVs, a radio speaker system to replace the old speaker boxes for the TVs, new charitable gaming machines, an updated payout kiosk, and new technological features like the Toast system for the bar and kitchen. We were the 2025 Community Service of the Year awardee for Virginia, and we are on track to achieve that again this year. We achieved All-American and All-State honors last year and we are on track to repeat that again this year. Our membership has reached new historic levels once again with 3,757 members at the time of this writing. Our partnership with the Virginia Department of Veteran Services (DVS) to provide claims services at our Post is going strong. We have created new avenues and hosted events that are relevant to all aspects of our membership including hosting Women's Small Business Expos, hosting an Aging Gracefully in Place Expo with AARP, and solidifying our relationship with a local gun distributor to host Gun Shows once again. There are several more of these types of events currently in development. I could go on listing good things but believe you get the idea: VFW Post 1503 is doing well and is on mission.

I believe that the Post is in a better state than when I took over as Commander and that is a testament to the efforts of the Post officers,



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



Over ->



Auxiliary, staff, and volunteers. We could not have achieved anything close to what we have accomplished without each of you. You have my heartfelt gratitude and best wishes for the future.

The Post officers have been elected for the 2025-2026 VFW year. Best of luck to everyone and congratulations.

Post Commander: Robert “Check” Adamczyk

Senior Vice Commander: Conrado Morgan • **Junior Vice Commander:** Kendall Jones

Quartermaster: Kurt Hense • **Judge Advocate:** Heidi Ortiz

Surgeon: Zuli Goaya • **3-Year Trustee:** Bernie Carter

I will be moving into the role of Past Commander and will help in whatever way I can.

April Showers...

The weather was somewhat chaotic throughout April; one day in the 80s, the next day in the 40s. We even had a few mornings that dropped below freezing. Mother Nature did seem to smile on us when we held outdoor activities. The weekend of the Boy Scout Mulch Sale and the Membership Appreciation Day was beautiful. Everyone who showed up for the Appreciation Day event seemed to enjoy the food, music, and comradery. Thank you to the volunteers and staff that worked to make it a success. The Easter Brunch a bit earlier in the month was excellent. The Post JROTC/Cadet of the Year (JCOTY) and Scout of the Year (SOTY) winners and their families enjoyed the award ceremony and thanked the Post for all we do for our community.

...Bring May Flowers

The month of May is always a busy one for us as we near the end of our VFW year in June. 1 May marks Loyalty Day, which is a patriotic observance in the United States that celebrates national pride, reaffirmation of allegiance, and the foundational ideals of freedom, democracy, and unity. We observed this day with our Membership Appreciation Days for the past 2 years. This Friday, 1 May, join me at the Post at 1700 in the canteen to honor our country with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The Post is hosting the District 10 2026 Convention on Saturday, 2 May. In the evening of the same day, the Post will install and celebrate our newly elected Post Officers for the 2026-2027 VFW year. The Post will have some special menu items and fun stuff to celebrate Cinco de Mayo on Tuesday, 5 May. Each year, thousands of events in May are scheduled for the VFW National Day of Service. While the National Day of Service is set for Saturday, 2 May this year, Posts around the world can observe their Day of Service on any day in May that they choose. For this year, we will be doing Roadway Cleanup on Minnieville Road on Saturday, 9 May. Be at the Post around 0930 and we will step off at 1000. If you have a Still Serving shirt from previous years, please wear that. If you don't have one of those, I believe we still have a few that may be available from last year. While we are doing our Day of Service activity, our Post's Cub Scout pack will be hosting their annual bike rodeo/recruiting event in the Pavilion/Backlot areas on that Saturday from 0800-1500. On Sunday, 10 May there will be a special menu for Mother's Day during breakfast. See the flyer later in this newsletter for more details. Memorial Day weekend activities begin with a Buddy Poppy drive on Saturday and Sunday, 23-24 May. We generate money via

donations that benefit our Veteran Relief fund. We haven't had the best turnout in terms of volunteers for the past few drives. If you have a spare hour or two, make sure to sign up for a shift. The Signup book will be in the canteen. On Monday, 25 May, the Post will hold our annual Memorial Day Community Cookout in the Pavilion at 1300. As of this writing, I have not received word from the Potomac Region Veterans Council about the Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Cemetery at Quantico for this year. If the ceremony does happen, the ceremony will start at 1100 on the parade ground. Some Post members and Auxiliary will be taking part in the ceremony and then hightailing it back to the Post to help kick off the cookout. To close out the month, several Post and Auxiliary members and Officers will be headed to Harrisonburg, VA for the 2026 VFW/Auxiliary Department Convention from Thursday-Sunday, 28-31 May. The Military Order of the Cootie (MOC) and its Auxiliary (MOCA) will hold their Grand (State-level) Conventions the same weekend.

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 - May 2026

- 1 May - VFW Loyalty Day
- 2 May - District 10 Convention - Hall, 1000-1300
- 2 May - VFW and Auxiliary Officer Installation - A Hall, 1800-2000
- 5 May - Cinco de Mayo (Special menu and stuff)
- 9 May - Cub Scout 1337 Bike Rodeo - Pavilion/Back lot, 0800-1500
- 9 May - Day of Service: Roadway Cleanup starting at the Post, 1000
- 10 May - Mother's Day (special breakfast)
- May 23-24 - Buddy Poppy Drive, sign up in the canteen
- 25 May - Memorial Day Ceremony (PRVC), QNC, 1100 [no confirmation on this yet]
- 25 May - Memorial Day Community Cookout, Pavilion, 1300
- 27-31 May - VFW/Aux Department Convention, Harrisonburg, VA

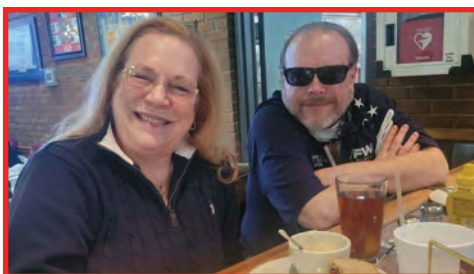


Things to Consider

- 1) Our Post is our greatest recruiting tool. Help keep it clean and presentable, greet new people that come to our Post cordially and with respect, and take the time to talk with your comrades. Believe this: prospective members notice these things and will be more likely to join us because of it.
- 2) Buddy Poppy Drives may seem a bit dated and inconsequential to some. Believe this: people know what the drive is about and show respect to us while we are doing our drives. While we do not necessarily rely on Buddy Poppy drives to generate large amounts of donations like other Posts around the state do, getting out into the community demonstrates our dedication to our mission of supporting veterans.
- 3) Day of Service activities are another excellent way to show support for our community. Believe this: being out there in great numbers ensures that we are seen and available to help our communities in many ways. Join us on Saturday, 9 May for our Roadway Cleanup.

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, sign language, a smack upside the head... 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...

Happy May and hello to pollen season, beautiful flowers and warm weather.

Welcome to our newest members, Coslyn, Natatke, Melissa, Shelia, Kiva and Runi. Please plan to attend our monthly meeting! And enjoy dinner after our meeting. Our April meeting was very well attended, with 47 members! Our membership is currently at 1,190 – please keep recruiting and finish strong!

Nominations and election of officers were held at our April meeting, and I am extremely happy and proud to announce your elected & Appointed Officers:

President: Monika Walczyk

Senior Vice President: Betty Gimble • **Junior Vice President:** Kelli Levitt

Treasurer: Karla Coker • **Chaplain:** Michael Alicea

Conductor: Monica Stevens • **Guard:** Evette Strain

Trustee #1: Venee Alicea • **Trustee #2:** Brenda Richardson • **Trustee #3:** Sandra Schirmbeck

The district 10 Department of Virginia meeting is May 2, 2026, at 10:00 at Post 1503.

The Member Appreciation Party was held Saturday, April 18, 2026 at Post 1503 in our pavilion with live music and great food for members. Thanks to our kitchen staff. Job well done.

Our next meeting is on May 20, 2026 at 7:00 at Post 1503. Breakfast will be May 16, 2026 place and time may be changed and information will be sent out.

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

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, comments or you are in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our officers – we are here to help.

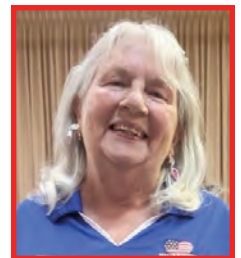
Happy Mother's Day!

Debbie Nichols

VFW Auxiliary 1503 President

Debbienichols2023@gmail.com

703-975-6001



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



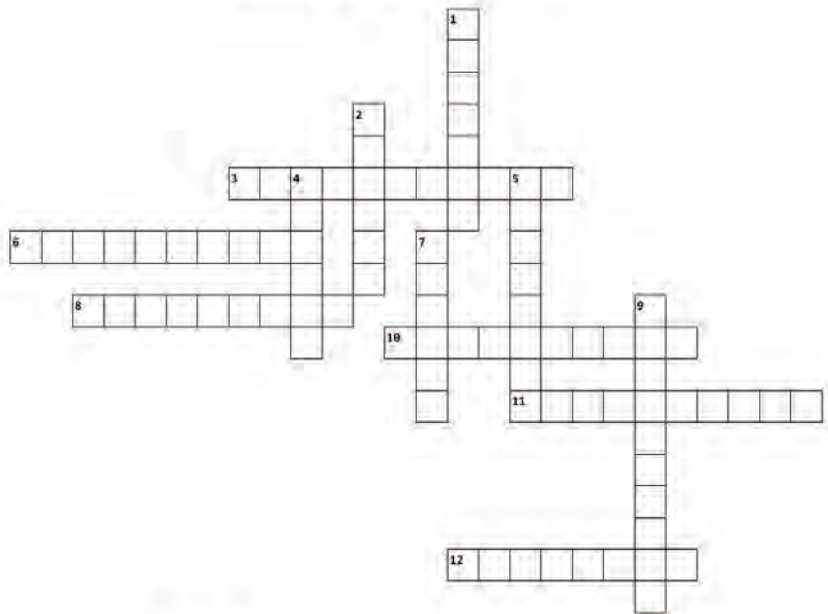
Memorial Day Word Find

R I A M V A E F A O L A R I E
 L E T U L A S R R F R T M C A
 M R M F O P R C I S M A I L B
 Y P F E E E L H M I B V R E O
 S A A A M O R O I A R E E E R S
 A T R T E B D N L E O T E A V
 V A L O R E E O S A Y E C R A
 T P A I E I Y R O S I R R P S
 L I I R U A O E Y Y I A E I R
 I L F O L A I T E F C N A S P
 F A E T V R R T I L O S V R Y
 U E Y R R E I C R C A R E C L
 E E E E B C E A T U R T M E S
 R R I I O A M E M T E T S O T
 Y O L M I L I T A R Y B E R L

HONOR	REMEMBER	SERVICE	SACRIFICE
FREEDOM	VETERANS	PATRIOTIC	MILITARY
LIBERTY	VALOR	LOYALTY	SALUTE

HEAD GAMES

Memorial Day Crossword



Across

3. Memorial Day is a day of _____.
6. Where is the largest Memorial Day parade held in the U.S.?
8. Who is the founder of Memorial Day? (first and last name)
10. Who is the only woman to ever be awarded the Medal of Honor?
11. What flower is typically worn on Memorial Day?
12. The federal government says this town started Memorial Day.

Down

1. Memorial Day is one of eleven _____ holidays.
2. Memorial is known as the informal start of what season?
4. Memorial Day is the last _____ in May.
5. Memorial Day was originally established to honor fallen soldiers of which war?
7. What is placed at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Memorial Day?
9. Memorial Day's original name was _____ Day.

MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

The Battle of the Coral Sea

The Battle of the Coral Sea, fought from May 4 to May 8, 1942, was a pivotal naval battle between the Allied forces, primarily the United States and Australia, and the Imperial Japanese Navy during World War II. It marked the first major encounter in which aircraft carriers engaged each other directly, with opposing fleets never coming into direct gun range combat. The battle occurred in the Coral Sea, northeast of Australia, as Japan attempted to extend its perimeter in the Pacific by capturing Port Moresby in New Guinea, which would have threatened Australia's security and further enhanced Japanese control over the region.

Strategically, the battle involved a combination of reconnaissance, naval aviation and intelligence. Japanese forces aimed to seize Port Moresby and advance into the South Pacific, while the Allies sought to thwart these plans. Both sides deployed aircraft carriers as their primary striking force, underscoring the growing importance of air power in naval operations. U.S. carriers USS Lexington and the USS Yorktown launched air strikes against the Japanese carriers Shokaku and Zuikaku, while Japanese planes attacked Allied ships and airbases.

The battle resulted in significant losses on both sides but ended as a strategic victory for the Allies. The Japanese invasion force was turned back, halting further southward expansion toward Australia. While the U.S. lost the carrier Lexington and suffered damage to Yorktown, Japanese carriers endured damage to Shokaku and Zuikaku's air group was temporarily depleted, limiting their operational capability in the subsequent Battle of Midway. The engagement demonstrated the effectiveness of carrier based aircraft, establishing a precedent for modern naval warfare and reshaping naval tactics in the Pacific theater.

While the battle achieved immediate tactical objectives by stopping Japanese advances toward Australia, its true importance lay in the long term strategic consequences it set in motion. The aircraft carrier became the centerpiece of naval strategy due to the impact of naval air power of fighting over the horizon.

The US lost one aircraft carrier, one oiler, one destroyer, 66 aircraft, and 543 service members killed or wounded. The Japanese lost one aircraft carrier, one destroyer, three smaller vessels, 77 aircraft and 1,074 service members killed or wounded.

All Gave Some, Some Gave All!

Dom Dionne

Commander • Chapter 1775





MOC / MOCA

Listen up Cooties and MOCA!

April brought with it the promise of spring and renewed energy across the Grand. As the weather turned warmer, our Cooties and Auxiliary continued moving forward with enthusiasm, fellowship, and purpose. Our April MOC Scratch and MOCA meetings went smoothly and kept us on track heading into an important period for both organizations.

On April 24, Cootie leadership attended a Combat Coffee event at the Puller Veterans Care Center, continuing our commitment to fellowship and veteran engagement. In attendance were the incoming Seam Squirrel Ken Wiseman, incoming MOCA President Kelli Levitt, and outgoing Seam Squirrel Tom Levitt. We also delivered just over \$2,000 in wish list items for the residents.

The guest speaker for the event was Retired Rear Admiral Robert H. Shumaker, U.S. Navy pilot and former prisoner of war, who is credited with coining the term “Hanoi Hilton” to describe the notorious HỎa Lò Prison in North Vietnam. Admiral Shumaker’s remarks provided a meaningful and historic perspective, making the visit both memorable and impactful for all in attendance.

Newly elected shavetails and officers will officially assume their duties upon the installation of the Grand Commander and MOCA President during the Department Convention. The Grand Scratch is on May 30th at the Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg. We are looking forward to a strong turnout and another Lousy and Crummy gathering of Virginia Cooties!

Our members continue to embody the spirit of optimism, service, and good fellowship that defines the Military Order of the Cootie and its Auxiliary. Whether supporting our Veterans, contributing volunteer hours, or simply spreading smiles, Cooties remain dedicated to the motto of “Keeping ’Em Smiling in Beds of White.” If you know a VFW comrade or auxiliary member who believes in serious service while having fun along the way, invite them to learn more about the Honor Degree of the VFW. Ask a Cootie or a member of the MOCA how they can become part of this proud tradition.

The next MOC/MOCA Meeting is 13 May. 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

May brings warmer weather and powerful opportunities for VFW Post 1503 members to honor our nation's military heritage, especially with **Memorial Day** observances and **America 250** (semiquincentennial) programming underway. This month centers on remembrance of fallen service members alongside living history that connects Revolutionary War roots to later conflicts.

Key Events in May 2026:

- **Revolutionary War Weekend at Mount Vernon** (May 2–3, Mount Vernon, Virginia) Experience Continental soldiers, Redcoats, and Hessians in military drills, cavalry demonstrations, and 18th-century tactics on the grounds of George Washington's estate. A perfect immersive look at the fight for independence. Details and tickets: mountvernon.org
- **National Memorial Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery** (May 25, Arlington, Virginia) The official national ceremony features wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, music by military bands, remarks from dignitaries (often including the President), and a parade of colors. Arrive early for seating in the Memorial Amphitheater. Flags will be placed at every gravesite beforehand. Information: arlingtoncemetery.mil
- **2026 National Memorial Day Parade** (May 25, Washington, D.C.) This major parade along Constitution Avenue presents a moving timeline of American military history from the Revolution to the present, with marching bands, veterans' organizations, and reenactors. One of the largest Memorial Day events in the nation. Schedule: washington.org
- **American Battlefield Trust Tours** (Various dates in May, e.g., May 16 at Spotsylvania, Virginia) Guided hikes and tours at Civil War battlefields, including the Eastern Flank at Spotsylvania and other sites. Excellent for understanding key military actions in our region. Check the full 2026 schedule: battlefields.org or Culpeper Battlefield Tours.

Additional **America 250** activities, including exhibits and walking tours highlighting Revolutionary-era military history, continue across Virginia (va250.org) and Maryland (mdtwofifty.maryland.gov). Colonial Williamsburg often features special programming tied to 1776 events in May.

Recommended Year-Round Military History Sites (Especially Meaningful in May):

- **Washington, D.C. and Arlington:** National Mall memorials (WWII, Vietnam, Korean War), Pentagon Memorial, and the National Memorial Day Concert (typically the Sunday before Memorial Day).
- **Virginia:** Manassas National Battlefield Park, Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima), and Mount Vernon.
- **Maryland:** Antietam National Battlefield (nps.gov/anti) for self-guided tours of the Civil War's bloodiest day.

These events and sites offer solemn reflection and educational experiences that strengthen our collective memory of service and sacrifice. Many are free and open to the public, but plan ahead for parking and crowds during Memorial Day weekend. As we gather to remember, let us also educate the next generation about the price of freedom.

For the latest details, visit the linked websites or check local VFW resources. You can also contact me at my email vandergriffdonald@usa.net or cell 571-344-0886.

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

The Loss of a Friend

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” Joshua 1:9

The members of our post, indeed our community, recently suffered a difficult loss. And one truth about shared friendships is that the loss of one is shared by all. The positive side of this is that the grief experienced by one is borne by all.

The philosopher Aristotle described deep friendship saying, “What is a friend? A single soul in two bodies.” Friendships play a significant role in our lives. There’s an old adage, “you can’t choose your family.” We do, however, choose our friends. Friends are our chosen family. These are the persons we confide in, who encourage us, who lend us a hand, who share in our joy and give us companionship. Losing that connection is more than missing a person; it’s the loss of shared memories, routines, laughter, and support.

Often, the pain of loss can feel overwhelming. We may experience a variety of difficult and even unexpected emotions, from shock or anger to disbelief, guilt, and profound sadness. The pain of grief can affect our physical health, making it difficult to sleep, eat, carry out daily activities and think straight. A friend shared with me the pain of losing his friend was so profound his face hurt. Many of us have experienced this level of grief. These are normal reactions to loss, and the more significant the loss, the more intense the grief. Losing a friend is the earthquake and the grief that follows is the tidal wave we never saw coming. One moment, life was “normal”, and the next everything is unrecognizable.

Friendship is deep, powerful and amazing, but it can be really hard to explain why. If you have a close friend you know what I mean. When a friend dies, like when a family member dies, we don’t “get over it.” We learn to live with it. It may get different, it may get easier, but it is always with us.

One of the most unfair parts of losing a friend is that the rest of the world keeps turning when it feels like our world has come to a sudden, screeching halt. Bills continue to arrive. Daily responsibilities don’t go away. The laundry still needs to be done and we still need to take care of the children.

I read somewhere that grief is simply love with no place to go. I’m grateful I got to experience that kind of love with my friend because a lot of people never do. And I will try my hardest to go on as a way to honor the life of my friend.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, Almighty God, thank You for the gift of my friend. My heart is heavy with this loss and I deeply miss him. I thank You for the laughter, the memories, and the moments we shared. Lord, though my friend is no longer with us here, I know he is safe in Your eternal arms, where there is no more pain, no more sorrow, and no more tears. Lord, be near to all who are grieving. Help me to honor my friend’s life by living fully, loving deeply, and walking faithfully. Amen



Ed Bennett

Chaplain

FACILITY HAPPENINGS

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary members I am happy to announce that we are no longer on fire watch as of 21 April 2026. It took a while, but we now have a fully operating fire alarm voice warning system. Now that the weather is getting better, please take advantage of the pavilion for your parties or cookouts. The price for renting the pavilion is available in the canteen, if you're planning a party with alcohol you will have to get a license, or you can have the Post bartender for you. Please note that members are responsible for their guests as in the canteen, and NO drugs of any kind are allowed on VFW property.



Enjoy Your Summer and Stay Safe!



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!



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!

VETERAN NEWS

“We must dare to be great; and we must realize that greatness is the fruit of toil and sacrifice and high courage.”

– Theodore Roosevelt

VFW News

Faster Decisions, Stronger Outcomes: VA’s Work to Streamline the Disability Claims Backlog

Statement of Ryan Gallucci, Executive Director, Washington Office, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; For the Record: United States House of Representatives Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

The VFW is a veteran service organization (VSO) recognized by Department of Veterans Affairs for the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of VA benefit claims before the agency under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 59. At the end of fiscal year 2025, the VFW held power of attorney in this process for more than 700,000 veterans and eligible dependents, with more than 600,000 active awards, totaling more than \$16.2 billion in benefits delivered to veterans in FY2025.

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 Major Improvements in Benefits Processing and Delivery

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs today announced a dramatic reduction in processing times for both Veteran disability claims and pension and survivor benefits, which shows that the Trump Administration’s year-long push to make VA work better for Veterans is paying off.

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

Guard, Reserve Sound Alarm That Readiness Strained in Defense Budget Talks

Guard and Reserve leaders testified before the House Appropriations defense subcommittee on Friday, cautioning that rising mission demands, aging equipment and funding uncertainty are straining readiness across the force as their operational role expands.

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

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!



MOTHER'S DAY

SPECIAL BREAKFAST
MENU

VFW POST 1503
SUNDAY, 10 MAY 2026

**3 MINI CRAB CAKES TOPPED WITH HOLLANDAISE SAUCE,
WITH 2 EGGS, CHOICE OF SIDE AND TOAST \$13.00**

FRIED CHICKEN AND WAFFLES \$13.00

**VEGGIE FRITTATA WITH
CHOICE OF SIDE AND TOAST \$9.00**

CINNAMON ROLL \$3.00



VFW Post 1503 Movie Nights

Tuesdays at 7:30pm

Upcoming Schedule at
1503movies.vfwus.org

Ask a staff member for the passcode



Sponsored by Spyrnt Worldwide



VFW POST 1503

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

BUDDY POPPY DRIVE

23-24 MAY

Locations:

- Tractor Supply Company
- Ace Hardware

A signup sheet will be available in the canteen starting May 9th.

“Please support this important chance to help veterans in need!”



Questions? Contact:

Dan Walczyk

☎ 571-232-0186

✉ danwalczyk@yahoo.com



VFW

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

POST 1503

MEMORIAL DAY

COMMUNITY COOKOUT

25 MAY 2026



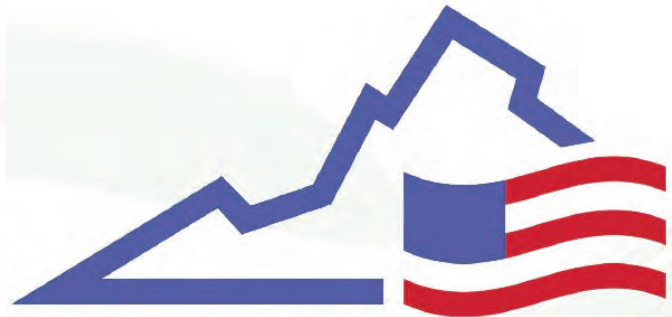
1300-1700

14631 MINNIEVILLE ROAD, DALE CITY 22193

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

MUSIC, FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT, AND MORE!





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 ENTERTAINMENT

MAY MUSIC LINE UP

Fri May 1st

DJ Mario

Sat May 2nd

DJ T-Play & Karaoke

Fri May 8th

DJ A-Ron

Sat May 9th

DJ Protege

Fri May 15th

DJ MoeVibez Retro Theme

Sat May 16th

Line Dance Lessons 7 to 10

Fri May 22nd

DJ Steve Music Videos

Sat May 23rd

DJ Danny

Fri May 29th

DJ Big C

Sat May 30th

DJ Michael & Karaoke



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 DJ Mario FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	2 Officer Installation DJ T-Play Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
3 Breakfast 9-12:00	4	5 BINGO 7:30 	6	7 BINGO 7:30	8 DJ A-Ron FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	9 DJ Protege Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
10 Mothers Day Breakfast 9-12 	11	12 BINGO 7:30	13 MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:00 pm	14 BINGO 7:30	15 DJ MoeVibez FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	16 Line Dancing Cornelius AUX Brkfst Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
17 Breakfast 9-12:00	18	19 BINGO 7:30	20 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	21 BINGO 7:30	22 DJ Steve FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	23 DJ Danny Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
24 Breakfast 9-12:00 31 Breakfast 9-12:00	25  Open House & BBQ 1-5	26 BINGO 7:30	27	28 BINGO 7:30	29 DJ Big C FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	30 DJ Michael Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

May 20th

vfw1503.org

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>