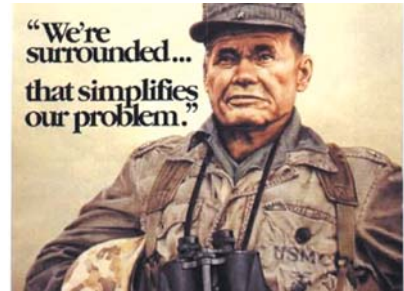




VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

MAR 23



General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

Post 1503

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 CORNER



POST OFFICERS

Team,

Greetings and Salutations, February was a busy month, but nothing we did not expect and what about a Brrrr of February cold to nestle us with hot cocoa and the warmth of a fire? I'm with you hardly anything – I expect March will show signs of an earlier than expected spring with allergies to boot. I know I'm ready to plant new annuals, and perennials to showcase my yard.

But before we go any further let's reflect momentarily on February. Black History month presented us with a time to reflect on the accomplishments and achievements within the community and the nation. To reveal on one's inner self and the awareness of Black identity and what has been and is still yet to be achieved as we move toward the future. As the great orator, the Honorable Congresswoman Barbara Jordan once said, "The world is not a playground but a schoolroom. Life is not a holiday but an education. One eternal lesson for us all: to teach us how better we should love."

On 13 February, we hosted our 7th district Congresswoman, the honorable Abigail Spanberger and her district coordinator, Ms. MacKenzie Heidelmark. They dropped by to deliver "Valentines for Vets" from the community and show support for our Veterans. While here we discussed some of the ongoing issues and plights of veteran's trying to navigate the benefit and health care process to receive those benefits promised and authorized by law.

- Post Commander Bernie Carter
- Senior Vice Ben Guinan
- Junior Vice Star Martinez
- Quartermaster Carl Richardson
- Judge Advocate Robert Adamczyk
- Surgeon Charles Marlowe
- Chaplain Ed Bennett
- 3 Year Trustee Tim Brown
- 2 Year Trustee John Dodge
- 1 Year Trustee Tom Gimble
- Adjutant Randy Coker
- Service Officer Raymond Bailey
- House Committee Chair Lionel Ward
- Past Commander Tom Levitt



On 4 March we will hold our annual VFW Voice of Democracy (VOD), Patriots Pen (PP) and Teacher of the Year (TOY) awards ceremony for those essay winners at the local post level. The VOD audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. The PP essay contest encourages young minds, 6 thru 8th grades to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. The TOY award recognizes three exceptional teachers – one each from the elementary, junior high and high school levels – for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and instill patriotism in their students.

We will conclude the day with our Centennial event, celebrating, 100 years of the VFW in the State of Virginia. Starting at 3:00 PM in the A Hall, join us as we celebrate this epic event, appropriately, at the [World's Largest VFW Post!](#) In attendance, will be our Commander-In-Chief Tim Borland, National Senior Vice Commander Duane Sarmiento, National Junior Vice Commander Al Lipphardt; Adjutant General Dan West, Quartermaster General Marc Garduno and... the best State Department in the Nation! A fine (complimentary) "Virginia Barbecue" dinner will be served. Each attendee will receive a beautiful limited-edition Virginia Centennial Coin. Dress is casual. RSVP at https://VFW_VA_100_DaleCity.eventbrite.com You don't want to miss this one!

We close out March by observing National Vietnam War Veterans Day on 29 March to honor all the sacrifices made by our brave Vietnam veterans.

A quick brief of UPCOMING EVENTS for March 2023

- 4 March – VOD/PP/TOY Awards Ceremony (Meeting room) – 1230
- 4 March – Centennial Event – A Hall – 1500
- 8 March – MOC/MOCA installation Dinner – A Hall
- 17 March – St. Patrick's Day
- 26 March – District 10 Meeting Joint Opening; A& B Hall (Lunch 11:30/Meeting 1 p.m.)
- 29 March – National Vietnam War Veterans Day – Canteen – 1800

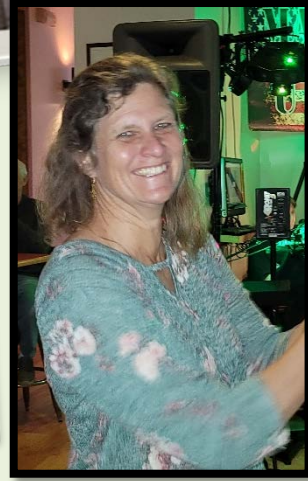
Until next month, I want to wish everyone a happy upcoming St Paddy's Day and remember those family members and co-workers that mean the most to you.

As always stay safe, continue to recruit and be kind to others. Speaking of recruiting, Post 1503 recruited 52 new members during the month of February, an outstanding achievement, continuing to place us among the top recruiting post. And remember, first impressions are lasting and mean everything. To stay informed watch for emails via Constant Contact and check out what is happening on our post website and Facebook page to stay updated. And review all the latest happenings and pictures from VFW 1503 events.

Bernie Carter
Post Commander
cdrpost1503@vfwva.org

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

The text "HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY" is written in a large, bold, green, bubbly font with a slight shadow effect. There are two shamrock icons: one small one at the bottom of the letter 'T' in "ST." and one larger one at the top of the letter 'S' in "PATRICK'S".



VFW AUXILIARY

Hello Auxiliary 1503, here we are in March! I am still holding out for some snow! How about you?

Fantastic turn out for our February meeting, with 35 present! Very encouraged to see that each of you are committed to supporting our organization!

Welcome to our new members - Louise, Candace, James, Desiree, Michael and Kenneth. Two annual, three life and one re-join!

Because of the continuous recruiting efforts by our members, we continue to grow and presently at 1,022 members!!

Do not forget about our [Recruiting Challenge](#) – if you recruit ten new or re-join members from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, you will earn \$100.

A quick reminder about Annual Membership Dues – if your membership expired December 31, 2022 – you are no longer a member in good standing and you are not permitted to attend meetings. If your dues (\$25) are not paid by June 30, 2023, you will have to re-join and prove eligibility again.

On February 1st, Donna & I visited the Ft. Belvoir Fisher House, to deliver just shy of \$500 worth of 'wish list' items to help fill their pantry. Guests stay free of charge, and are able to prepare meals, grab a snack and do laundry, at no cost, from the donations they receive.

The VFW Post 1503 VoD & PP Awards Ceremony and Luncheon is Saturday, March 4th, beginning at 12:30 in 'A' Hall. In addition to the Comrades, our Auxiliary will present monetary awards to the winners, so please plan to attend! Following the Ceremony is the Post 1503 stop for the VFW Department of Virginia 100th year Celebration! Free and open to all! [Tickets are required](#) – https://vfw_va_100_dalecity.eventbrite.com/

On the 26th, we will attend the joint VFW/Auxiliary 10th District Awards Banquet and Meeting at Post 1503, beginning at noon.

National Vietnam War Veteran's Day is March 29th. The Commander will have a small ceremony in the Canteen, beginning at 6:00. If you are able, please stop by to join us in supporting and thanking our Comrades.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 2nd! Auxiliary annual Children's Easter Party. Snacks, games, cake walk, Easter Bunny visit and egg hunt – beginning at 1:00. Watch for Constant Contact email later this month with information for the egg filling party!

We have a visit to Brookdale Senior Living Center on Monday, March 20th. We will help with their bingo games; provide prizes and some tasty treats. If you would like to join us, you must let me know, as space is limited for volunteers.

February 18th was our Auxiliary Breakfast, with nine attending. We always have a great time, away from the meeting room visiting, eating, sharing ideas and getting to know one another. Hope you will join us this month on the 18th at 9:30 in the Canteen.

Are you receiving Chaplain Alerts? If not, please email Chaplain Michael at auxiliarychaplain1503@gmail.com

Are you receiving Department of Virginia Auxiliary Monthly Communications? If not, you may sign up at www.vfwauxva.org

Do you have a login for Malta? What is Malta? It is access to resources, your information and more for the Auxiliary. www.vfwauxiliary.org You can pay your dues, request a replacement

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President Kelli Levitt
Sr. Vice President Deborah Nichols
Jr. Vice President Monika Walczyk
Secretary Pamela Flores
Treasurer Karla Coker
Chaplain Michael Alicea
Conductress Jan Kiecker
Guard Gloria Wiley
1st Yr Trustee Janell Garland
2nd Yr Trustee Patricia Wootten
3rd Yr Trustee Gina Powers
Historian Mary Seiffert
Patriotic Instructor Rita Maldonado



membership card and update your contact information.

Auxiliary 1503 will continue to place [VFW Store orders](#), for our members at the end of each quarter. Orders due by the March 15 meeting.

Pictures of available items are here: [Store Items](#)

Order form is here: [Store Order Form](#)

If you have not attended a meeting since joining, please do so! We have a welcome bag for you and would like to meet you!

As always, if you have 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. I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meeting, if not sooner!



Loyally,
Kelli Levitt
VFW Auxiliary 1503 President
itsmekelli@aol.com
703-895-8855

Please continue to reach out to those who are ill, struggling or lost.
~ **NO ACT OF KINDNESS, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, IS EVER WASTED** ~ *aesop*

Please like and follow our Facebook page!! [VFW Post 1503 - Auxiliary](#)

[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 interview with **Ken & Marcia**

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

Developing a Spirit of Patience

On any given day, we may encounter frustrating people and situations, such as an uncooperative coworker, a slow commute, inconsiderate persons, to name a VERY few. We even experience frustrations with friends and family. We might feel like lashing out, but God wants us to stay calm and be patient with everyone.

Ephesians 4:2-3

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

This passage says a number of things about developing a spirit of patience: First, God urges us to be tolerant, kind, and bear each other's burdens. Second, we should recognize the adverse effect of impatience. It can close-off communication and lead to conflict. When we employ the words that rise naturally to our lips, we run the risk of giving the greatest speech we'll ever live to regret. We wind up saying things we can never take back. What we do without thinking on the spur of the moment is seldom right.

Responding calmly gives people room to be wrong and a chance to make a change in their behavior. And consider we sometimes jump to conclusions in certain situations, especially when emotions are high. Therefore, responding calmly, rather than reacting negatively, also gives us room to be wrong as well.

Patience empowers us to navigate through difficult moments without becoming agitated. When we find ourselves losing patience, we should take a deep breath and ask ourselves: Will this matter tomorrow? Will this matter a week or even a month from now? If we answer "no" to each of these questions, then it's time to be calm, and practice patience and tolerance.

Patience is also about getting through "times of waiting." We may have to deal with anxiety brought on by health issues or countless other challenges. Maybe we are waiting on a diagnosis for a difficult health condition; or, maybe we have to wait to see if a health treatment will result in healing and relief. It could be waiting on a needed job, promotion or raise we are earnestly seeking.

The longer something takes to come about, the more we think we need to help it along. There's a line from an old song that says, "The waiting is the hardest part." For a moment we need to mentally step back and try to look at the problem objectively; then, we need to hold steady for a period of time. Finally, we need take those actions within our control and turn the rest over to God and his timing.

The word patience translates into long-suffering or steadfastness. The concept of patience is holding steady in the face of opposition or challenge. It is a powerful word denoting self-control in difficult times. The Bible uses the term to describe a soldier who was holding an outpost, and when he was under attack, he stood his ground. A final thought: Patience doesn't mean we have to like the circumstances; rather, it means finding the ability to "relax and let God."

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I confess that I often grow impatient when things don't go according to my plan, or when people don't behave the way I think they should. Please forgive me, and help me to be patient with others, as You have been patient with me. Help me to rely upon Your grace and enable me to remain calm and steadfast in challenging moments.





FACILITY HAPPENINGS

Going to comment on the weather again since it seems to keep getting warmer and warmer during the winter months and to date, the snow shovels, ice melt, heavy coats etc. have not been needed. Keep fingers crossed we get thru March.

Super bowl party was well attended and the pot luck idea again was a complete success. Food was served a little later than planned, but that only made for greater appreciation of doing something a little different. Thanks to all who participated.

Two dates to keep in mind for this month March 4th and March 17th.

Mar. 17th: St. Patty's Day Celebration

The 17th of course will be our annual **ST PATTY'S DAY** party. Can't quote you a price at this time, since we just ordered it but we will be serving **CORN BEEF & CABBAGE** dinners starting at 12 p.m. until 9 p.m. **depending** on availability. Since it's on a Friday this year, DJ KELLY will be playing, starting at 8 pm.

Mar. 4: Centennial Celebration (Post 1503, Dale City) We will be conducting a spectacular State Centennial celebration on March 4 at 3:00 PM at VFW Post 1503 Dale City. Join us as we celebrate this epic event, appropriately, at the **World's Largest VFW Post!** In attendance will be our Commander-In-Chief Tim Borland, Nat'l SVC Duane Sarmiento, Nat'l JVC Al Lipphardt; Adjutant General Dan West, Quartermaster General Marc Garduno and... the best Department in the Nation! A fine (complimentary) "Virginia Barbecue" dinner will be served. Each attendee will receive a beautiful limited-edition Virginia Centennial Coin. All Posts present will receive their Centennial Medallion. Dress is casual.



John Meehan
Facility Manager

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

The Purple Heart Trail

The original idea for the Purple Heart Trail came from Patriot Frank J. Kuhn, Jr., a member of Chapter 1732 in Virginia. His idea was approved at the 1992 MOPH National Convention and the MOPH National Purple Heart Trail began. The Purple Heart Trail originates at a monument in Mt Vernon, Virginia. Mt Vernon is the burial location of George Washington, who is recognized as the creator of the "Badge of Merit" which evolved to become the Purple Heart Medal we know today. This monument marks the origin of the Purple Heart Trail.

The Purple Heart Trail was created to be a symbolic and honorary system of roads, highways, bridges, and other monuments that give tribute to the men and women who have been awarded the Purple Heart medal. The Purple Heart Trail accomplishes this honorary goal by posting signs as visual reminders to those who use the road system that others have paid a high price for their freedom to travel and live in a free society. Signs placed at various locations annotate those states, counties, cities, towns, roads, highways, rivers, bridges, and buildings where legislation has been passed to designate them parts of The Purple Heart Trail. There are even Indian Reservations, NHL teams, NBA Teams, and NFL Teams, and businesses that have become part of the Purple Heart Trail.

There are currently Purple Heart Trail locations designated in 49 states as well as Guam and Puerto Rico. The actual format and design of the signs vary from state to state.

All Gave Some, Some Gave All!



***Sunday,
March 12th***



Yours in Patriotism,
Dom Dionne
Commander Chapter 1775

MOC / MOCA

Comrades and Auxiliary members,

Elections for the coming Cootie year were held in February. Congratulations to all those elected! Installation will take place in March and the new officers will take their position in June. We have a flea market coming up on 29 April in the pavilion.

Details will be coming out soon on how to reserve a table. Also, thanks to everyone who donated items for our bake sale on February 14 and to those that came out to show their support by buying some of the tasty items.

Robert "Check" Adamczyk

MOC Seam Squirrel
mrcheck@gmail.com



Laura Adamczyk

MOCA President
lauraadamczyk2@gmail.com

CANDIDATE FOR POST TRUSTEE

Comrades I would like to announce my candidacy for 2023-2024 Post Trustee. I have been serving in the post in various leadership and volunteer roles for some time and would like to continue serving our post as a trustee. I am asking for and would appreciate your vote.

Yours in Comradeship,
Thomas 'Tom' Levitt

CANDIDATE FOR JUDGE ADVOCATE

Comrades, I would like to announce my candidacy for Post Judge Advocate. For the past year, I've been serving in this position. Prior to that, I spent two years as the Post Surgeon. I've also been serving as a member of the Post Honor Guard, Assistant Bingo Manager, District 1- 3 year trustee, MOC Pup Tent 14 Seam Squirrel, MOC Grand Sr. Vice Commander, MOC Grand Hospital Chairman, MOC Supreme District 1 Hospital Commissioner, MOC Supreme Codeslinger, Department of Virginia IT Committee Chairman, and Webmaster for the Post, District, and Department as well as managing the information and pictures on the TV in the canteen. I'm well versed in the VFW bylaws, standing motions, and articles of incorporation at all levels as well as Roberts Rules and stand ready to continue supporting our Commander in these areas. I look forward to continuing to serve as your Post 1503 Judge Advocate and would appreciate your support.

Robert "Check" Adamczyk

ST. PATTY'S DAY

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

We will have Plenty of Music with **DJ KELLY** at 8:00 p.m. for Your Listening Pleasure and You Can Count on Hearing and Seeing Things Only Available at the V.

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





VFW AUXILIARY 1503 ANNUAL

EASTER EGG HUNT & PARTY

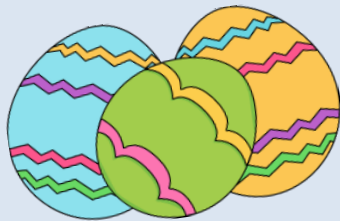


EASTER BASKETS PROVIDED

SUNDAY - APRIL 2, 2023

1-3 POST 1503 'A' HALL

14631 MINNIEVILLE RD



ALL CHILDREN

MUST BE ACCOMPANIED

BY A PARENT OR ADULT

SNACKS - GAMES - EGG HUNT

VISIT & PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY





VFW March Entertainment

All DJs and Bands start at 8pm Friday and Saturday nights

Friday Night

Saturday Night

March 3rd

DJ Danny
Dance Party

March 4th

DJ Joe Clay
Joeyoke and Dance Music

March 10th

DJ Michael
Kamikaze Karaoke & Dance Music

March 11th

The Pam Pelano Band

March 17th

Happy St. Patty's Day!
DJ Kelly
Dance Music Party

March 18th

DJ Joe Clay
Joeyoke and Dance Music

March 24th

DJ Danny
Dance Music Party

March 25th

The Rockhits Band
Classic Rock!

March 31st

DJ T Play
Karaoke & Dance Music

Mar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Wacky Wacky Seafood	2 BINGO 7:30	3 DJ Danny FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	4 VFW Centennial Event DJ Joe Clay Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
5 Breakfast 9-12:00	6	7 BINGO 7:30	8 MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm	9 BINGO 7:30	10 DJ Michael FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	11 Pam Pelano 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 Meeting 7:00 pm	16 BINGO 7:30	17 St. Patty's Day Special Menu DJ Kelly	18 DJ Joe Clay Breakfast 9-12 AUX Breakfast WINGS 6:00-8:00
19 Breakfast 9-12:00	20	21 BINGO 7:30	22	23 BINGO 7:30	24 DJ Danny FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	25 RockHits Band Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
26 District 10 Lunch 11:30 Meeting 1:00 Breakfast 9-12:00	27	28 BINGO 7:30	29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day Canteen 6:00 pm	30 BINGO 7:30	31 DJ T Play FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

March 15th

vfw1503.org

WACKY WACKY WEDNESDAY ...

March 1st ... Wacky Seafood

Steamed Shrimp \$10.95

Fried Whiting with Chips \$11.95

Broiled Scallops with Rice \$12.95

12 Noon until Supplies are Gone...