



Official Publication of the Department of New Mexico Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary

September 2021

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VFW Department New Service Officer

In July, VFW Department of New Mexico hired a new Veterans Service officer, Senior Master Sergeant Brian A. Sartori, USAF, Retired. He served for 26 years.

Brian entered the United States Air Force in November 1992. His background includes various duties as Security Forces, Facilities Manager, Education and Training, and First Sergeant.

During his 26 years, he had eleven assignments and numerous deployments supporting Operations Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He earned the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Southwest Asia Service Medal with one bronze star, Iraqi Campaign Medal with one bronze star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with gold border.

Coming into this position with no experience but a desire to help his fellow veterans and a willingness to learn made his first month very rewarding. He witnessed veterans struggle to understand the disability system and at times saw hopelessness and despair in their faces. Struggling with ailments and fighting to have them recognized can be overwhelming and a daunting task. He accepted this challenge, and with his teammate, Kaitlin (Katie) Jaramillo, they made it their mission to ease the claim process and ensure they can effectively help all veterans and their spouses who seek representation.

He spent this first month working side by side with Katie and was amazed at the knowledge she has and her ability to navigate the channels of the Veterans Administration. He came to realize that this job is a passion to help our Brothers and Sisters in arms. When he sees the look of despair and hopelessness turn to a look of hope, appreciation and a smile, he accepts this small victory, and charges on to help the next veteran.

The reward at the end of the day is a warmth deep knowing inside that you did your best to make someone's day better.

Please welcome Brian to the VFW Department of New Mexico team. When you see him around the Department, welcome him and ask him how things are going. We are hoping this is a great start to another long and prosperous Service Officer for us.





Commander's Corner



Rogelio (Roy) Maldonado

Comrades: make a difference, save a life!!!

It's been a difficult year as we weathered the restrictions of the pandemic. Comrades, we can adapt and overcome; those are words that were drilled into us in our military career. We should take the lessons we learned during this pandemic that has made this organization stronger by continuing to help with food drives or

fundraisers at your Posts (Food to Go!!) WE ARE SURVIVORS! Take this year to market your Post in our community service, and help to educate them about our organization. National's view is to see if marketing will help get our younger veterans interested in the VFW. (Nothing given is nothing gained.)

I look forward to serving our great organization and our New Mexico members. As a leader, we are always looking for better ways to promote our programs and thinking about different ways to recruit new members. We need to change that mindset now more than ever, get out in the community and help direct veterans where to get help (Service Officer for claims). We must give to our veterans before we can receive members. This is one successful recommendation I would share with you: it has helped me in the past with recruitment. District Commanders, please ask your Post Commander what they are doing to recruit members and see what works for your District. Share successful stories or ideas that can help move our organization to promote a positive outlook.

I will finish off by saying thanks for giving me the opportunity to lead our state this year (2021-2022). Let's all get along!!!



New Mexico VFW State Officers 2020-2021

National Council Member - Len Hampton 6917 Las Cruces
 Commander - Roy Maldonado 4384 Anthony
 Sr. Vice Commander - Christopher Archuleta 5610 Espanola
 Jr. Vice Commander - Victoria Haddox 5890 Rio Rancho
 Quartermaster - Dave Fouse 7686 Alamogordo
 Chaplain - Brian Ravak 6917 Las Cruces
 Judge Advocate - Cathy Brock 3274 Hobbs
 Surgeon - Christina Backus 5890 Rio Rancho
 Past State Cmdr - Cynthia Archuleta 5890 Rio Rancho
 Inspector - Roger Bartosiewicz 3280 Clovis
 Chief of Staff - Raul Sanchez 6917 Las Cruces
 Service Officer - Brian Satori
 Adjutant - Mark Decker 9517 Shiprock

District Commanders

District 1 - Jamie Poncho 614 Aztec
 District 2 - Robert Deurloo 10763 Albuquerque
 District 3 - Richard Hoschar 6917 Las Cruces
 District 4 - Ray Mullins 3317 Williamsburg
 District 5 - Joe Esparza 1793 Raton
 District 6 - Gary Logsdon 2951 Santa Fe
 District 7 - Thomas Lairson 8703 Carlsbad
 District 8 - Joe Bob Mann 3280 Clovis

New Mexico VFW News

Official Publication of the Department of New Mexico Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Three issues: September, December, and May. News items and photographs, etc., should be sent to VFW Dept. Editor, vfwnmeditor@yahoo.com no later than the 10th day of the month preceding the month of publication. Editor is Mark Decker.

VFW

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Senior Vice Commander



Christopher Archuleta

Comrades, like many of you, I have been watching the chaos unfold in Afghanistan. As we watched the U.S Embassy being evacuated in Kabul and saw images of the Taliban taking control of the country, to those that fought in Afghanistan, it has now become personal.

For 20 years the U.S military and contractors have been deployed to Afghanistan in hopes that one day the Afghan army would take over, but that didn't happen. To the OEF vets that may think their

deployment didn't matter after seeing the events unfold, it surely does matter. You've made a difference and I will stand forever by your side.

Let us all reach out to them and reassure them they matter.

To my fellow Afghanistan vets, I'm here for you. Please call me if you need me. Thanks.

In Comradeship,

Department of New Mexico VFW
State SR. Vice
Chris" Archie" Archuleta

"In order to succeed, we must first believe we can."
Nikos Kazantzakis

Junior Vice Commander



Victoria Haddox

Well it's happened...we are back to masks. On top of that, with all the debacle in Afghanistan, we need to be checking in on our members. Yes, we aren't completely closed down (at the moment of this writing), but it could happen. Let's get our membership's contacts up to date, and create a phone tree. Shoot, add motivational quotes to your Post's Facebook page, with

hotline numbers. We need to be more active on Facebook for this reason alone. We need backup plans to be prepared going forward, i.e. Zoom/ Microsoft teams meetings. I know we have a year of practice, but we need to keep our membership active. As always, I'm here to help in any way possible, because together, everyone achieves more!

Very Respectfully,
Tori Haddox

64,000+

Number of high school students who competed in the 2019-20 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

1.6 million+

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

Chaplain Message



Brian Ravak

Give Me Courage to Change the Things I Can!

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I can not change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference." - Reinhold Niebuhr

The Serenity Prayer packs a powerful message in its opening prose in which one

acknowledges his or her limitations, while also asking for courage to "change the things" within one's sphere of influence. May God bless each of us with His grace to have the wisdom and courage to "change the things we can," while we fulfill our duties as VFW or Auxiliary officers and/or members of our beloved organization.

four pillars of our personal well-being -- mental, physical, social, and spiritual -- with a focus on the "physical." This year, for obvious reasons, I focus on the "spiritual." Now, I am not going to get on a soap box and preach a Sunday sermon, but I ask you to consider the Serenity Prayer in its application as you fulfill your duties within the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In the simplest of terms, my message is this: if you see a problem, if you walk by a problem, you own it. I challenge you to have the courage to fix the things you can. Improve the world around you through acts of kindness and by helping a veteran in need, or the family of a veteran in need. And lastly, if you see a problem, by all means.. have the courage to fix it!

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to say "Thank you!" for allowing me to serve as your Department Chaplain this year, 2021-2022. If there is something you need help with, you may call me anytime, day or night, at 937-416-8325. If your need is less urgent in nature, please email me at brian.ravak@gmail.com.

Last year, as Department Surgeon, I wrote about the --In your service, Brian

Department Dates

September 18 District 1 Grants Post 3221 Noon

September 18 District 5 Cerro Post 9516 Noon

September 19 District 8 Tucumcari Post 2585 1 PM

October 9 Department Wide Joint Food Drive

October 10 District 3 Las Cruces Post 3242 Noon

October 23 C of A/Homecoming Anthony/Las Cruces Post 4384/6917 All Day

October 30 District 2 Belen Post 2387 Noon

November 13 District 6 Post 3259 Taos

Surgeon Message



Christina Backus

"September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

Veterans are at a much higher risk for developing mental health conditions that often go untreated and lead to a tragic result. For some Veterans, crises can be heightened by their experiences during military service. There are countless factors that contribute to suicidal thoughts and acts for veterans.

Issues like combat exposure, injury, struggling to return to civilian life, military sexual trauma, relationship problems, workplace issues, substance abuse, legal problems and financial struggles. Any of these factors can add to the risk of self-harm and committing suicide. Now more than ever it's important to give emotional support to veterans. Some of the most significant protective factor in suicide prevention is connection and inclusion.

We all have an opportunity to relate to our fellow comrades and look out for one another. Take the time to relate and connect with fellow members of the VFW as well as other Veterans. We can all work together, build interpersonal relationships and

connect. It is through these relationships that we create the opportunity to help one another through hardships and stress. Posts should be conscious of members experiencing such challenges and talk with them more readily. I urge you to help each other, engage your members and involve the multitude of services that can help you. Suicide can be prevented with enough awareness and the right resources for those struggling.

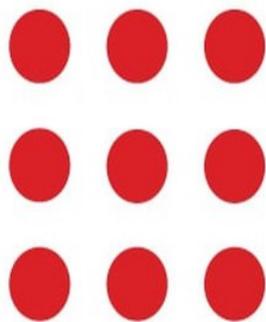
Every time we reach out to help someone, we make a difference. We are all equipped to listen and practice active listening techniques, observe and recognize warning signs and offer help when it is needed. The impact of looking out for each other can make the difference between someone getting help and someone being isolated and suffering alone.

Veterans Crisis Line; call 1-800-273-8255 and press1, Text 838255, or chat online.

Heroes' Mile by phone at 1-386-319-1837 or 1-888-VET-NOW2

Lifeline for Vets: 1-888-777-4443, and speak to another vet who can help.

Military One Source: 1-800-342-9647, 24/7 confidential phone and chat for Veterans, service members and their families



Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

Adjutant Message



Hello, fellow Comrades and Auxiliary members. As you all know by this time, Commander Maldonado has asked me to be his Adjutant for the 2021-2022 year. So even though I have been around the Department in many ways over the years, and have been a Post and District Adjutant before, this is a new and big step up.

Mark Decker

The Department has been trying to pass out the word about what forms and stuff goes to Quartermaster and what comes to

the Adjutant. We know this is different from anything in the past we have had to do. Just think of it like this: if it has to do with money i.e. Bonds, Buddy Poppies, and donations go to the Quartermaster. If it is about paperwork, i.e. minutes, audits, and licenses requests it comes to the Adjutant. If you send it to the wrong one, we will get it straightened out. Thank you for your help and cooperation and patience with this process.

We are sending out the compliance report around the 10th of every month so all Posts and Districts can see where they are for the All-State program. Please stay on the lookout for these emails every month.



The National Home has served as a living memorial to America's veterans for over 94 years by helping our nation's military and veteran families during difficult times.

- We provide housing and daycare to the military, veteran and veteran related families participating in our one to four year program.
- Educational, recreational, and enrichment opportunities are available to our families both on and off campus.
- Personal case management services for each family.
- Counseling & other community resources as needed.

If you know a family that could use our help please encourage them to call 1.800.313.4200



V F W
NATIONAL HOME
FOR CHILDREN
Every child deserves a happy home.

President's Corner



Betty Decker

Another year has begun. By the time you read this in the paper, the year will be over one quarter done. It does not seem like it has been that long already. We hit the ground running this year with a hybrid convention; some in person and some on Zoom.

We had some great training in Albuquerque and Las Cruces. Both the combined and our solo parts were presented, with lots of

information passed out. Two of the biggest things brought up this year at the training sessions were the new reporting form and the Awesomest Auxiliary.

Next was National Convention, held in Kansas City. One of the first orders of business was awarding the Circle of Excellence for the last two years. Both Kelly and Kandy received their medals.

Congratulations on a job well done by both Presidents. There were many By-Law changes this year. All of these changes are covered on the National website: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/national-convention/>.

Our National President is visiting New Mexico from October 1-3. We are taking her to Trinity Site and have planned other trips as we can fit them in. All of the VFW and VFWA are encouraged to come greet her. Let us show her how great and enthused our Department is for this year.

The following week, October 9, the Department is having our 2nd Annual statewide Food Drive. Posts and Auxiliaries are asked to collect as many food and other items for their local food bank as they can during this event. There will be awards handed out again this year. I hope we will receive more awards than we did last year.

On October 23rd, we are having a Council of Administration meeting in Las Cruces at Post 6917. All Auxiliary members are encouraged to attend, and remember, your Auxiliary needs to attend a Council

meeting for Awesomest Auxiliary. The more we have there, the more people will understand everything we are doing for this year.

Remember that we are here to support our veterans and their families. The best way to do this is to be active in your community. The more we are out and visible in our communities, the more people will know who we are. The more they know us, the better we are at helping our veterans. What makes us stand out is all the little things we do.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead of us. I am planning to attend at least one meeting in every District this year. If you see me around, do not be afraid to stop me and ask me any questions. All of your Department officers are here to serve you and help you, but we need your help in doing that.

New Mexico VFW Auxiliary State Officers 2019-2020

National Councilwoman - Mary "Girl" Sanchez 4384 Anthony
 President - Betty Decker 614 Aztec
 Sr. Vice President - Dominique Garcia 401 Albuquerque
 Jr. Vice President - Kandy Brazell 401 Albuquerque
 Treasurer - Penney Howard 614 Aztec
 Secretary - Jeanette Garcia 401 Albuquerque
 Chaplain - Vicky Westbrook 614 Aztec
 Conductress - Renee King 2951 Santa Fe
 Assistant Conductor - Chris Caine 2182 Farmington
 Guard - Angelia Velarde-Logsdon 2951 Santa Fe
 Assistant Guard - Dela Sanchez 4384 Anthony
 Chief of Staff - Louise Salas 401 Albuquerque
 Past State Pres. - Kandy Brazell 401 Albuquerque
 Color Bearer #1 - Brenda Doil 1389 Elephant Butte
 Color Bearer #2 - Lequanah Crawford 8703 Carlsbad
 Color Bearer #3 - Teresa Livengood 3370 Moriarty
 Color Bearer #4 -
 Flag Bearer - Nancy Tabb 5890 Rio Rancho
 Banner Bearer - Robert Henson 2951 Santa Fe

District President

District 1 - Vickey Westbrook 614 Aztec
 District 2 - Shirlee Frias 401 Albuquerque
 District 3 - Beth Miller 6917 Las Cruces
 District 4 - Brenda Doil 1389 Elephant Butte
 District 5 - Thomas Bullington Jr. 3271 Clayton
 District 6 - Renee King 2951 Santa Fe
 District 7 - Angel Martinez 3274 Hobbs
 District 8 - Vondale Mann 3280 Clovis



VFWA Membership



Kandy Brazell,
Department of New
Mexico VFWA Junior
Vice AND VFWA
Membership Chairman

**AS OF THIS DATE ALL
DUES NOTICES
SHOULD HAVE BEEN
SENT!!!!**

If not, please get them in
the mail or contact your
members as soon as
possible – remember that
as of December 31,
2021, any member that is
an officer and has not

paid his/her dues can no longer be an officer and must be removed from office. Also, as of December 31, 2021, any unpaid members become members no longer in good standing!

Remember to watch the monthly promotionals to see where your Auxiliary stands as to Membership, Gain Goals, and Retention Goals.

Let's shoot for 100% plus in membership by the end of December 2021!

As of the date of writing this article, (8/21/2021), our Department is at 84.34% and only needs 554 members for 100%!

Kandy Brazell

9/11 Remembered

The Day most Americans over the age of 25 will never forget:

S E P T E M B E R 11, 2001

On the calendar, it is "Patriot Day," or "National Day of Service and Remembrance." To me, it's the day I woke up to get ready for work, turned on the TV and was shocked by the news and what I saw on the television, as the Twin Towers crumbled and fell. As the story unfolded, the Pentagon got hit. The second plane went down in Pennsylvania, where lives were taken from this Earth too early, and where lives were saved and new heroes emerged. I did finally make it into work, to join the office complex as it was glued to the TV and radios in disbelief.

I visited New York about a year after September 11, and could still hear the cries and the people trapped in the buildings - such an eerie feeling, and the mourning of loved ones left behind was one of the most somber feelings I ever felt. Talking to the kids and families of Ground Zero victims, and talking to other governmental officials at Ground Zero was humbling to hear what they went through. How I got to talk to the families of Ground Zero was purely accidental.

I'm writing this article to announce that on Saturday September 11, 2021, Gadsden Memorial Post # 4384 and its Auxiliary is having a FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY at the Post, starting at 10:00 am. The community is invited and lunch will be provided after the ceremony. This ceremony reminds me of all the tattered, torn, scorched and half burnt flags I saw walking through some of the back streets at Ground Zero that had not been cleaned up yet. To me, it's a respectful, beautiful way to honor and remember those veteran men and women who gave their all to this country for our freedom, but also to remember those who left this earth believing in freedom.



National Representative Homecoming



On Aug. 20, 2020 at the VFW National Council of Administration meeting, Lenwood Hampton was elected to a four-year term on the VFW's National Council of Administration, representing the Department of New Mexico.

Lenwood Hampton

Lenwood served in the U.S. Navy from 1965 to 1975, earning

his VFW eligibility by serving in Vietnam. His decorations include the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Device, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

He joined the VFW in 2006 at Post 3242 in Las Cruces, New Mexico, later transferring to Post 6917 in Las Cruces, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as Department Commander from 2016 to 2017. On the national level, he served as Special Aide-de-Camp, and on the Veterans Service Resolutions Committee.

Lenwood attended Compton College in Compton, California. He retired as a public school facility director.

He is also a member of the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Optimist International.

Lenwood and his wife, Mary, reside in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Foundation

What is the VFW Department of New Mexico Foundation? We are a 501 (c)(3) charitable non-profit organization. The mission of the VFW Department of New Mexico Foundation is to actively serve veterans, service members, their families, and the communities where they live by supporting programs and services that secure, manage and distribute resources to improve their quality of life. Any person or organization who believes in our cause of helping New Mexico Veterans and their families can be a donor.

Although the Foundation is associated with the Department of New Mexico, Veterans of Foreign Wars, it is a separate entity with its own mission,

Board of Directors, leadership, programs and purpose. Your support and contributions will enable us to meet our goals and improve lives. Your generous donation will fund our mission. Please donate via

GoFundMe, at: <https://gofund.me/7ff5f744>

Webpage: <https://runsignup.com/DonationWebsite/>

VFWDepartmentofNewMexicoFoundation/Donate
PayPal: https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=TMKZ86CN4B3KC

Post 5432 Eagle Scout Project

Corrales VFW Post 5432 supported the Eagle Scout project of Thomas Maethner of Troop 166 in Albuquerque. The Charter Organization for Thomas's troop is Faith Lutheran Church. Thomas's Eagle project was the design and installation of landscaping material, retaining blocks, plantings and two large signs for the church's Children of Faith pre-school.



Post 3274 Veterans Day

Post 3274 and Auxiliary will have a parade on November 13th starting at 10:00 AM to celebrate Veterans Day. The parade ends at 609 West Alto in Hobbs. There will be ceremony after the parade,

followed by hotdogs and hamburgers for the public.

There will be fundraisers for different items. Tickets are \$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00.



Post 9517 Trunk or Treat



Shiprock Chapterhouse
Friday, October 29, 2021

5-8 PM

Everyone Welcome



Post 9517



Post 5610 Juneteenth

On 19 June, 2021, State Sr. Vice Christopher " Archie" Archuleta gives a speech about PTSD at the Juneteenth / Veterans appreciation ceremony, which was held at the Northern New Mexico College.



Project Blue Light

What is Project Blue Light?

If someone you love is a law enforcement officer, you probably think often about ways to encourage them and honor their sacrifices. One of the most popular nationwide public movements designed to support the police force and remember fallen officers is Project Blue Light: a memorial that illuminates the night sky every holiday season.

What is Project Blue Light? We want to share the history and symbolism behind this gesture of goodwill, and some tips for how to observe and participate.

The History of Project Blue Light.

Project Blue Light began in 1989 when a woman named Dolly Craig wrote to Philadelphia's C. O. P. S. chapter to let them know she would be placing a blue light in her window during the holiday season to honor her late son-in-law, Philadelphia Police Officer Danny Gleason.

The idea has since been shared with C. O. P. S. chapters nationwide and grows bigger each year as survivors band together and remember the loved ones they've lost in the line of duty. Blue lights now burn bright in nearly 32,000 windows over the holidays.

How to Participate in Project Blue Light.

If you or someone you know has lost a loved one who is a law enforcement officer, participating in Project Blue Light can be a source of comfort or a meaningful way to show your support.

It can communicate that although your loved one is no longer celebrating the holidays with you, they are still present in your home and in your heart. It also demonstrates to other police officers that you honor their fallen brethren and appreciate the gravity of their sacrifices. The holidays are a poignant and sometimes painful time for officers and survivors who are missing partners, or loved ones who have passed away.

You can find blue LED tea lights on Amazon. You can find blue Christmas lights online. You can set them in your window when you set up the rest of your festive holiday décor. Optionally, you can also display a thin blue line flag to show further solidarity to your local police force.

As the holiday season ends and we head toward a new year, we hope you will consider remembering the police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice to keep our communities safe.



Post 11999

New Mexico's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department Commander, Roy Maldonado, traveled to Cloudcroft on August 14 to honor Cloudcroft's VFW Post 11999, which was recently recognized as the #1 Post in New Mexico and the #1 Post in VFW Division 9. (For reference, there are only 11 divisions in the entire VFW worldwide.) Additionally, Post 11999 was also bestowed with the coveted All-American Award, which honors top Posts globally, and recognizes Posts achieving the most for veterans, their families and the communities they serve.

Commander Maldonado heads all VFW Posts in the State of New Mexico, so it was truly an honor that he came all the way to Cloudcroft to congratulate the Village's VFW Post members personally. In his remarks, he mentioned how impressed he is with the consistent accomplishments of VFW Post 11999, adding that "whenever another VFW Post asks for guidance on how to get things done, I suggest they visit Cloudcroft, because the Cloudcroft VFW makes things happen." Richard Hoschar, VFW District 3 Commander, who was also in attendance, echoed those sentiments by stating "I am always amazed by the volume of veteran and community service this Post accomplishes. Their awards are well-deserved."

The awards are based on a variety of criteria, including new membership enrollments, community involvement and service to local veterans. VFW Post Commander Richard Herold said, "I'm proud and honored to work with veterans and their families who continue to serve our country and our wonderful mountain community in a variety of ways. I feel truly blessed to be a part of a 100% voluntary organization that provides so much." Recipients of these awards are considered the best of the best, and Post 11999 is proud to offer its best to the Cloudcroft community.

After an exceptionally busy spring and summer, Post 11999 shows no signs of slowing down. They kicked off August by supporting the Otero County Electric Cooperative's 82nd Annual Meeting, opening the event with a military color guard ceremony. This was the first of such meetings held in two years, as last year's meeting was cancelled due to public health restrictions during the COVID pandemic.

On three separate September weekends, the Post will display American flags in front of participating Cloudcroft businesses over Labor Day (Sept 6), Patriot's Day (Sept 11), and POW/MIA Day (Sept 18). We currently have 67 participants in this program helping to celebrate these holidays in patriotic style.

Additionally on September 11, the Post will host the 5th Annual George G. Hevner Memorial Charity Golf Tournament at the Cloudcroft Lodge Golf Course. Not only is this a highly anticipated, fun and friendly competition, but the fact that it is held on Patriot's Day - the 20th anniversary of the deadliest attacks on American soil by a foreign entity - adds additional patriotic significance to the event. Those strategically planned terrorist attacks against the United States ushered in an era of wartime commitments which have kept many of our veterans overseas for extended tours of duty and away from their loved ones at home. The Golf tournament will be structured as a 4-person scramble with a plethora of prizes, including the possibility of winning a new car from Desert Sun Motors for a hole-in-one. We still have opportunities for hole sponsorships and prize donations for anyone who would like to support this event. For information, contact Post 11999 Commander Richard Herold at 575-415-2030.

Then on September 18, the Post will support the Lumberjack Day Festival, passing out informative literature about veteran's resources and children's safety, as well as raising Post funds through TWO highly anticipated raffles. Raffle winners will be awarded either a Henry VFW .22LR Tribute Edition Rifle (with a handsome display case) or an exclusive 33-piece gardening tool package which includes, among other things, a STIHL chain saw, blower, and trimmer. Tickets are available from Post 11999 members, and the drawing for both prizes will be on Veteran's Day, November 11.

In conjunction with Lumberjack Day, Post 11999 will also commemorate POW/MIA Recognition Day with a ceremony on the festival grounds behind the Chamber of Commerce.

~Continued on next page

Post 11999

~Continued from previous

The point of this important commemoration is to ensure that our community remembers to stand behind those who serve and to make sure we do everything we can to account for those who have never returned. We are proud to say that in Cloudcroft, those who were Prisoners of War or Missing in Action are not forgotten.

During this time, we are also sponsoring the annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay competition, whereby our Cloudcroft students have an opportunity to express their patriotic sentiments in writing to compete for cash prizes and local recognition for their work. Similarly, we are also seeking nominations for Teacher of Year, which comes with similar accolades. Essays and nominations are due to the Post no later than October 15 in order to be judged in time for winner announcements on Veteran's Day, November 11. Please see the contest requirements in this month's Mountain Monthly edition, and be sure to send submissions to CDR John D Rider VFW Post

11999, PO Box 499, Cloudcroft NM 88317 before the due date.

Finally, we are also attempting to schedule our semi-annual cemetery and adopt-a-highway clean-up (if it ever stops raining!) We welcome assistance from members of the community who wish to participate, and are always seeking new VFW Post members who wish to serve on a more regular basis. As you can see, your Cloudcroft Post stays very busy serving the community, and help is very much appreciated.

Speaking of help, we recently learned that we need a new storage facility for our supplies and equipment. If you are able to help us with this, please contact Post 11999 Commander Richard Herold at 575-415-2030.

VFW Post 11999 appreciates all of the community support which led to the awards received this summer. We stand ready to continue to serve you and our fellow veterans now and into the next season.

Post 11999 Votes to Approve New Auxiliary

To help support the numerous VFW service projects and other community activities it supports, Post 11999 voted for and is now in the process of establishing a VFW Auxiliary Chapter in Cloudcroft.

Representatives from the New Mexico VFW Auxiliary Organization, Louise Salas and Jeanette Garcia, recently traveled to Cloudcroft to explain that Auxiliary members can be any relative of a VFW member (or of a veteran who is VFW-eligible). Establishing a local Auxiliary Chapter will provide the VFW with additional resources to serve the community even better, and extend our reach and support to more veterans in need.

If you are interested in joining this Auxiliary group, please contact Janice Steiner at 920-574-1215.

Picture—Left to right

Jeanette D Garcia, and Louise Salas of the New Mexico VFW Auxiliary provide an orientation for the establishment of Auxiliary to Post 11999.



Candidate for Jr Vice C-in-C



“Service is the Key to our success.” These are not just words to Bert. They are the foundation on which he has built and dedicated his life.

Comrades,

We are asking for your support of Bert W. Key for the position of National Junior Vice-Commander in 2024. Bert

has been strongly endorsed by his home Post, District and Department of Oregon. In pursuing the position of National Junior Vice-Commander he has met the requirement of being endorsed by his Post, District, Department, and more importantly his wife and family.

Bert is a Gold Legacy Life Member of Sandy, Oregon, Post 4273, and has been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America for almost 40 years. During that time he has served in virtually every position at the Post, District and Department level, except Quartermaster, and excelled in every position he has held. His commands have been All-State and All-American six times. He proudly wears the pin of the coveted Triple Crown. Through the years he has served on eight different national committees.

Bert’s qualification for the VFW comes from one year service in Bosnia-Herzegovina and one year of service in Afghanistan with the United States Army, and two years service in Vietnam with the United States Marine Corps. He also qualifies for the Korean Defense Service Medal. Between active duty and reserve duty he was in the uniform of America’s Armed Forces for almost 41 years. He began his military career as a Marine Private and retired from the Army at the rank of Colonel.

In addition to his military career, Bert is a retired secondary school teacher in the Oregon Public School System where he taught Social Studies and coached athletics for 31 years.

He has served on the National Council of Administration representing Oregon for 8 years, and at the same time continues to serve in various positions at the Post, District, and State levels, including these past two years as Post All American Commander, District All American Senior Vice-Commander, and the Department of Oregon Chief of Staff.

Bert does not seek this position because it is easy. If it was easy, someone else would do it. He does not ask your support for himself. He asks for it for the team. If you choose to endorse Bert’s candidacy you can rest assured that he will never disappoint you. He does not work by the clock. There are 24 hours in a day. He works to the completion of the mission. If that means working the whole 24 hour day, so be it. He cannot be out-worked! Bert Key believes strongly in his motto: “Service is the Key to our success.”

“NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS”

Yours in comradeship,
Bert’s Friends

\$12.1 million+

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 44% of the funds covered basic housing needs.

\$9.2 million

Amount of scholarships awarded to more than 2,054 veterans and service members through VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” since January 2014.



Tim Peters
 Montana's Candidate
 For
**Jr. Vice
 Commander-in-Chief**

POST

All-American Post Commander (2)
 All-American Post Quartermaster (3)
 Captain of the
 All-State Team of Post Commanders
 Co-Captain of the
 All-State Team of Post Quartermasters
 Century Recruiter – (5)

DISTRICT

All-American District Quartermaster
 All-State District Quartermaster (3)

DEPARTMENT

All-American State Commander
 All-American State Quartermaster (4)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Secretary – Treasurer (2014-2016)

NATIONAL

National Council Member (2011-2015)
 Chairman National Budget & Finance Committee
 (2018-2019)
 National Audit Committee (2011-2015)
 National By-Laws Study Group
 National Budget & Finance Committee (2011-Present)
 Elite Recruiter 2018-2019
 Certified National Recruiter

Comrades & Friends, _____

Having the full support and unanimous endorsement from my Post, District and the Department of Montana, I would like to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for the high office of Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief in 2024.

I earned my eligibility to the Veterans of Foreign Wars for my service in the Gulf War in 1990-91. Having served in the Air Force for 20 years and retired in 2001. I am a Gold Legacy Life member of VFW Post 10010 in East Helena, Montana.

Having filled most leadership positions at the Post, District and Department levels and numerous National positions. I feel I am *“the right person with the right experience”* to be your next Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief from the Western Conference.

As the country reopens, I will be traveling throughout the Western Conference seeking your time, knowledge and input on how we can make this great organization even better in the future. I believe in leading from the bottom up by listening to the needs of our Posts.

I would like to thank you all for the encouragement, support and friendship you have given me throughout the years, and wish everyone a successful state convention.

_____ In your Humble Service,

Tim Peters



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

“Honoring America’s Veterans 2024”
Jrvice2024.org

Candidate VFWA National Guard 2022

Jeanette D. Garcia
Candidate for National
Guard



Jeanette Garcia

I am a Life Member of VFW Auxiliary to Post 401 and have been a member for 35 years. I was a Junior Girl for two years. My eligibility comes through my father Joe D. Salas, who is a Vietnam Veteran. I have two daughters Danielle (24 years old, Education Assistant for Volcano Vista High School), Dominique (22 years old, a Pharmacy Technician). I work for Bernalillo Public Schools as the Indian Education Director.

I am running for the office of National Guard.

The election for National Guard will not be held until 2022. My goal will be to ensure that our Auxiliary members are receiving information from National in a timely manner. Also, to see that Auxiliaries are receiving the support they need and that we continue to work with our VFW to ensure our Veterans receive the benefits owed to them. Our Auxiliaries need to work closely with the families of our Veterans: provide them with resources, materials and help them navigate our system for medical help, and to let them know we are there to help. I want our Auxiliaries to understand the rules, guidelines, and bylaws of the organization and to never be afraid to ask questions.

Our Veterans carry a very special place in my heart. It is an honor to work beside our comrades in the VFW and outside of the organization. Our Auxiliary is very fortunate to be able to work the National programs and be able to help our Veterans and their families.

Our role as an Auxiliary is to work beside our Veterans, but not to interfere with VFW business. We have programs such as Veterans and Family Support (V&FS), Americanism, Legislative, Scholarship and Youth Activities that not only help our Veterans, but their families. It is our job to ensure that the families are provided with the best support we can provide to them. Sometimes that is lending an ear, they just want someone to listen. They need to be able to talk about what might be bothering them, cry, or to talk about the good things that are happening to their families.

Some of my qualifications:

Member of the Building on the Foundation Team for Sandi Kriebel

Western Conference: Scholarship – helped to review and place new criteria into the Scholarship program.

National Ambassador: (2016-2017) - Veterans & Family Support

National District 15 Council Member: 2017-2019

Department President: (2014-2015) - Outstanding President of the Year – Group 3

Auxiliary President: (2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2015-2019)

President of the Year: (08-09) & (17-18)

District II President: (2008-2009, 2009-2010)

Department Chairman of the Year: (2011–2012, 2013-2014, 2015-2016)

National Awards Received as Department Chairman: for the following programs: Americanism (2 years), Cancer Aid & Research (2 years), Veterans & Family Support, Youth Activities, Junior Girls (2 years) - 1st place in each at National Convention, 2nd place in Americanism

Life Member: VFW National Home

I feel that I can represent the Department of New Mexico and the National Organization with professionalism, integrity, passion, strength and a heart full of love for this organization. This position is not built on just qualifications, but on someone who has the ability to listen, work well with others, and can see the vision of the organization and lead.

I have the support of my Auxiliary, District II and the Department of New Mexico VFW Auxiliary. I would love the support of the VFW Department of New Mexico.

Loyally,
 Jeanette D. Garcia
 Candidate for VFWA National Guard
 2022-2023

Past District 15 Council



Kim Harney

Thank you for your support the last two years as I represented Arizona and the Department of New Mexico as your National District Council Member. This experience allowed me to learn more about how the National organization works, as well as being able to meet new members and hear new ideas from all over the country. I cannot

express to you how much I enjoyed this opportunity.

Congratulations to Mary "Girl" Sanchez who was elected in June at New Mexico's Department Convention as NDCM #15, and will represent Arizona and New Mexico for the next two years. At her first Council of Administration meeting at the National Convention, she asked questions and represented us well. She is going to do a great job. Best wishes to all of the Auxiliary members as you continue working for our Veterans and their families this year.

Kim Harney
Dept of Arizona

Special Project

The Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM) Program serves Veterans who have a diagnosis of one or more of the following chronic, persistent, serious mental illnesses, including Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, Bipolar I Disorder, Depression with psychotic features and PTSD with psychosis. Their mission is to improve physical and mental health quality of life, and to instill a sense of community for Veterans with serious mental illness by identifying needs and resources to reduce inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations and improved continuity of care using a Recovery model.

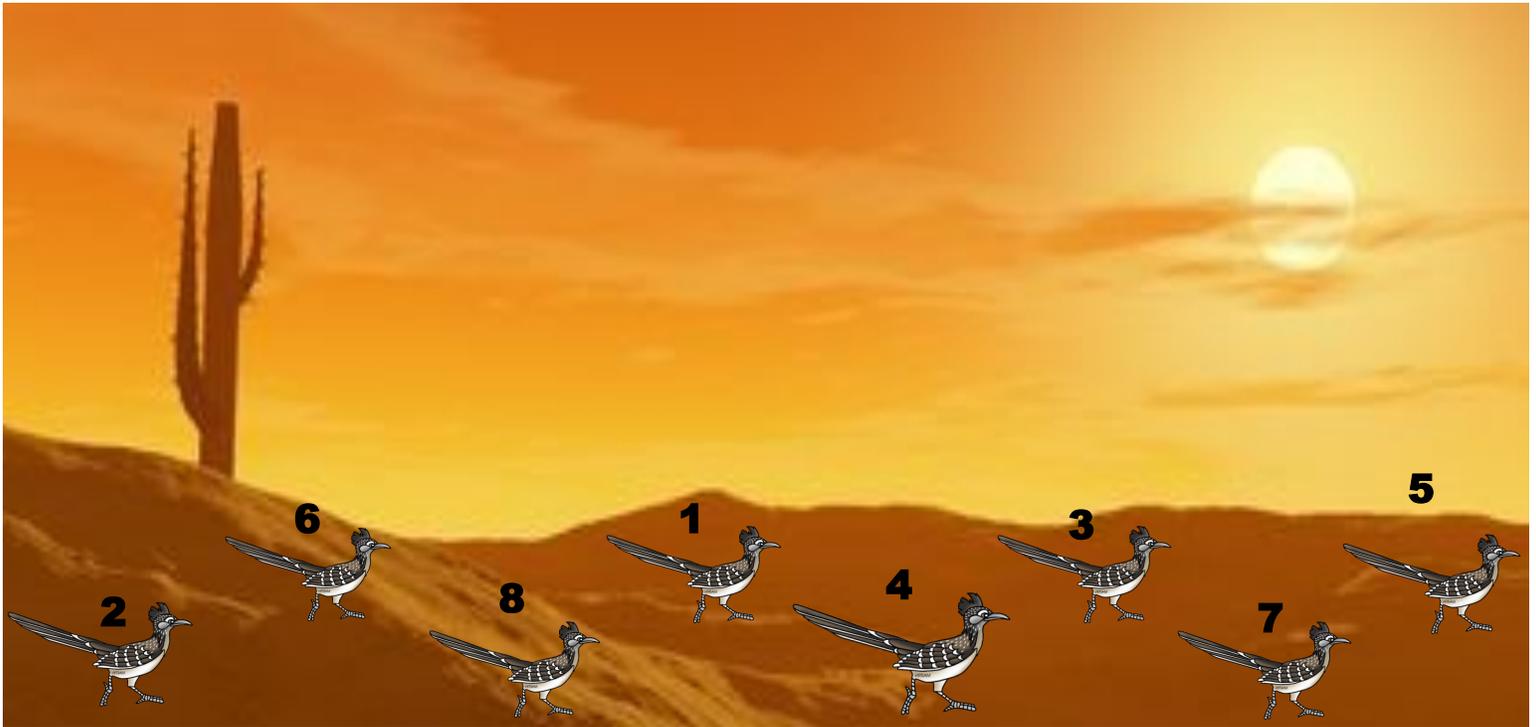
We are asking every Post/Auxiliary and District/Auxiliary to donate \$25. Our goal is to raise \$5000 by the end of the year. We will be having a competition between the VFW and VFVA to see who hits their \$2500 first. If you want to send a check for this, send it to Mark Decker, but address the check to VFW Dept NM and in memo, note "Special Project." We will be doing some fun games at Homecoming and Mid-Winter also. There might even be an online game sometime this fall. Please stay tuned for more information.

We have been getting some donations as Department Officers go around the State. We have

had a few Posts send in their donations already. As you can see by the nextupdate, the VFWA is ahead so far this year. Congratulations to the VFWA for this early lead. We will have to see if the VFW comes storming back later this year. It would be wonderful if we could make our goal of \$5000 by Mid-Winter, so we could invite them to be presented the check at our Mid-Winter Conference.

As everyone knows the Department of New Mexico VFW and VFVA are having a contest to see who can raise the money for the Special Project quicker. Our goal was to raise \$5000 by Mid-Winter. That was to be \$2500 from the VFW and \$2500 from the VFVA. With us being halfway to Mid-Winter now our totals are now at VFW \$725 and VFVA at \$2189.85. This gives us a grand total of \$2974.85. This is almost 60% of the way to our goal. Thank you for this and keep up the good work. As you can see the VFVA side has been working hard to raise their money. The VFW side needs to catch up. We will be having some fun giveaways and contests at Council of Administration - Homecoming in October. Please bring some money to donate.

VFW Membership



In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

District 5—Joe Esparza 88.76%

District 7—Thomas Lairson 88.59%

District 3—Richard Hoschar 86.76%

District 4—Ray Mullins 86.76%

District 1—Jamie Poncho 85.83%

District 8—Joe Bob Mann 84.56%

District 6—Gary Logsdon 84.05%

District 2—Robert Duerloo 83.62%

Divisions

Division 1—12184—102.22%

Division 2—3271—89.06%

Division 3—1131—93.16%

Division 4—6917—92.61%

Division 5—7686—93.09%

Recruiters

1st—Kathie Schiebel—9

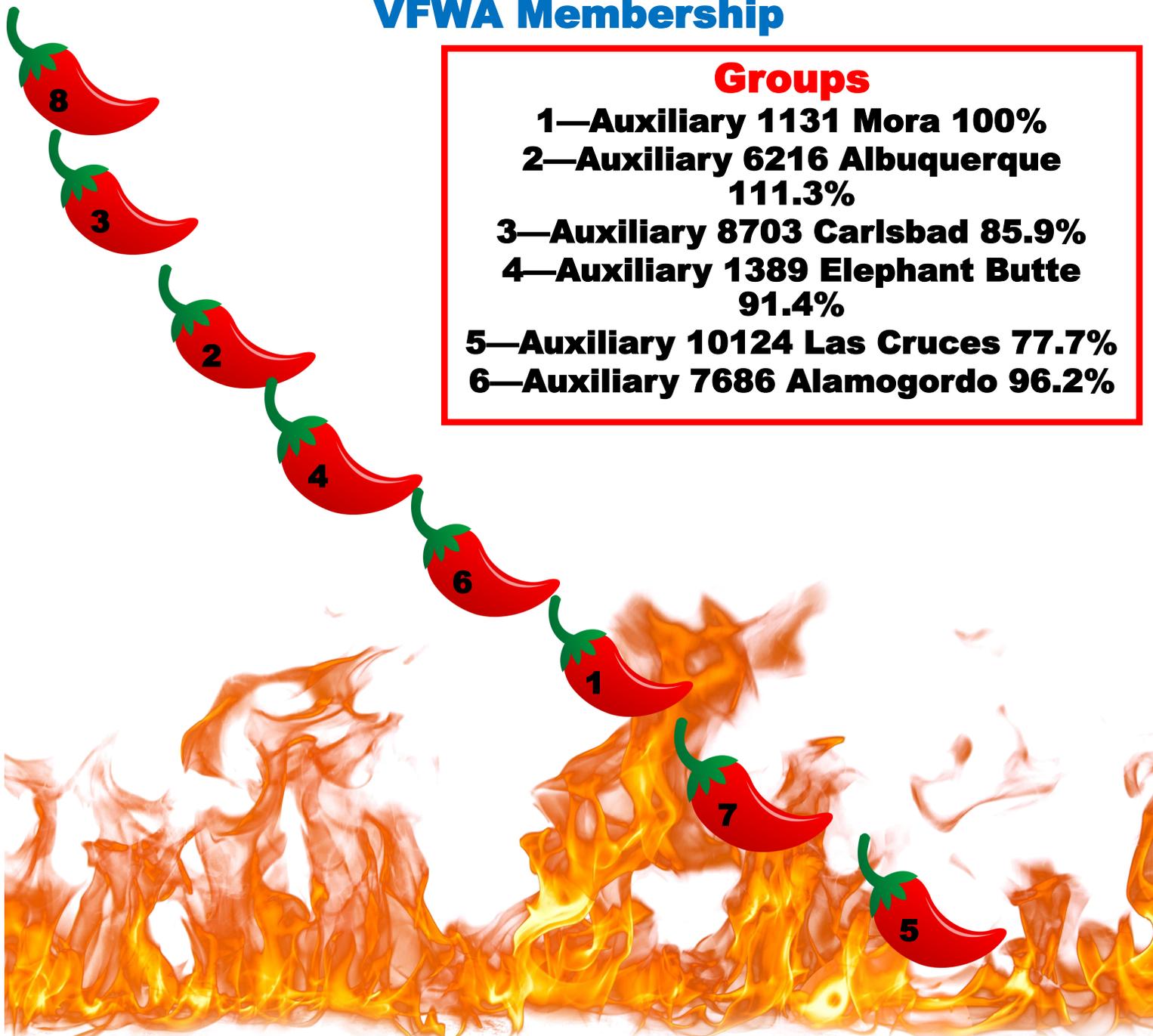
2nd—Mary Tutza—6

2nd—Jimmy Catanach Jr—5

4th —Roy Maldonado Jr—4

5th—Gary Logsdon—3

VFWA Membership



Groups

- 1—Auxiliary 1131 Mora 100%**
- 2—Auxiliary 6216 Albuquerque 111.3%**
- 3—Auxiliary 8703 Carlsbad 85.9%**
- 4—Auxiliary 1389 Elephant Butte 91.4%**
- 5—Auxiliary 10124 Las Cruces 77.7%**
- 6—Auxiliary 7686 Alamogordo 96.2%**

In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

- District 8—Vondale Mann 87.7%**
- District 3—Beth Miller 87.0%**
- District 2—Shirlee Frias 86.4%**
- District 4—Brenda Doil 81.7%**
- District 6— Renee King 79.6%**
- District 1—Vickey Westbrook 76.7%**
- District 7—Angel Martinez 74.3%**
- District 5—Thomas Bullington Jr 73.7%**