



# VFW NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO  
*Land of Enchantment*

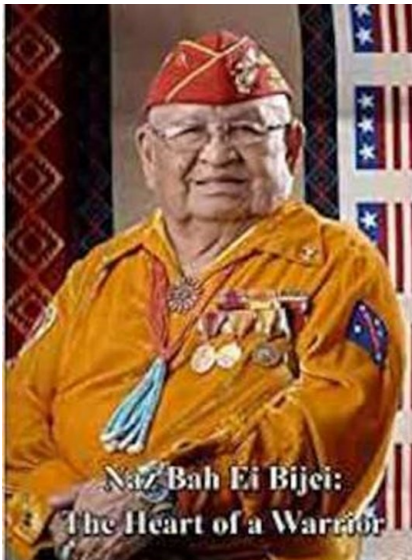


Official Publication of the Department of New Mexico Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary

September 2022

Vol. 47 Issue 1

## Passing of Another Navajo Code Talker



One less Navajo Code Talker left.

On Friday July 29, 2022. One of the last Navajo Code Talkers from World War II passed away.

Samuel Sandoval passed away quietly at the Shiprock Hospital in Shiprock, NM.

Samuel was 98 years old at the time of his passing, his wife Malula was by his side. Sam had breathing problems for many years, and when he contracted

COVID for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in early July, he never fully recovered.

Samuel joined the Marines on March 26, 1943. From the time he worked alongside Marines in Hawthorne, Nevada in November 1942, he knew he wanted to be a Marine. While working next to the Marines there, he would be asked why he had not joined the Marines yet. When he asked why he should, their answer was, "It's the toughest outfit in the world." He told his dad in January 1943 that he was joining the Marines. He signed up and went to boot camp on March 26, 1943.

When he graduated from boot camp, he went to advanced training in Oceanside, CA. That is where he met the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers. When they all sat down together, they started making the Navajo code that would be used throughout the Pacific. This code was used to send thousands of messages about Japanese movements and battlefield tactics through the rest of the war. The code was never broken. Samuel was involved in 5 battles in the Pacific.

Sam was on Okinawa when he learned the Japanese had surrendered. He had a close call on Okinawa that in later years would bring back painful memories. He was discharged from the Marines on January 26, 1946.

Upon returning to the Farmington, NM area after the service, he had many mental and emotional wounds to work through. He turned to alcohol to get him through these years. He hit bottom in 1966 when he felt a calling to help others that were having alcohol problems. So, he went back to college and received a degree in substance abuse counseling. He opened his own clinic to help others in the late 1970s. He worked there until it closed in 1992 when he retired. He joined the VFW Post 9517 in Shiprock in 2005, where he became a Life Member. He held many Post positions during his years with the Post. He would rarely talk about any of his experiences while in the military. Being a traditional Navajo, the bad things are not talked about or they will be brought back to life. Sometimes he would say things to his wife, or a close friend at the Post about something he saw or did. But it was always just in passing. He would never go in depth or dwell on any of it.

With Samuel's passing there are now only 3 Navajo Code Talkers left alive: Peter McDonald, John Kinsel Sr., and Thomas Begay. These 3 men are all that is left of a group of men that set up, used, and expanded a code that was never broken. This code and the men behind it, helped to save many American lives and bring the end to World War II.



## Commander Message



Comrades,  
As we begin a new VFW year, I would like to thank each and every one of you for the honor of electing me as your VFW State Commander. To those that are newly-elected or in appointed positions for the year 2022-2023, congratulations. It was a successful State convention this year. We hope you all enjoyed the convention.

For those serving another year, thank you for all your hard work last year. I encourage everyone to

**Christopher Archuleta**

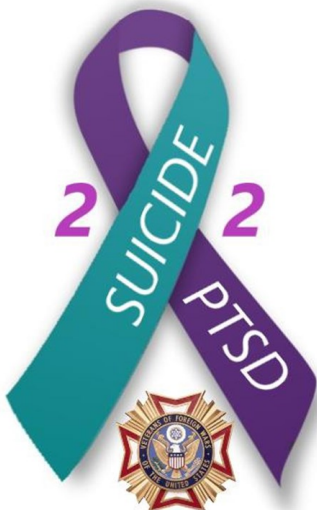
share their knowledge and experience to others to help make our great organization better.

The generation of veterans before us are getting older. It's time that the younger veterans get more involved in keeping the future of the VFW alive and at the same time, let's take care of those older veterans. Mental health is extremely important to me, so let's help those that need help. A simple act of kindness can change their day.

Remember that the VFW is more than having meetings and canteen, it's about getting engaged in the community through community service, Scouts, student scholarships, and in the classroom.

You can make a difference! Thank you for your service to our great nation and welcome home!

Remember that this is not my year but our year to succeed.



### New Mexico VFW State Officers 2020-2021

National Council Member - Len Hampton 6917 Las Cruces  
Commander - Christopher Archuleta 5610 Espanola  
Sr. Vice Commander - Victoria Haddox 5890 Rio Rancho  
Jr. Vice Commander - Brian Ravak 6917 Las Cruces  
Quartermaster - Dave Fouse 7686 Alamogordo  
Chaplain - Christina Backus 5890 Rio Rancho  
Judge Advocate - Cathy Brock 3274 Hobbs  
Surgeon - Gary Logsdon 2951 Santa Fe  
Past State Cmdr - Roy Maldonado 12008 Hatch  
Inspector - Raul Sanchez 6917 Las Cruces  
Chief of Staff - Lawrence Vargas 3259 Taos  
Service Officer - Brian Satori 5890 Rio Rancho  
Adjutant - Mark Decker 9517 Shiprock

### District Commanders

District 1 - Jamie Poncho 614 Aztec  
District 2 - Don Frias 401 Albuquerque  
District 3 - Richard Hoschar 6917 Las Cruces  
District 4 - Orlando Saavedra 1389 Elephant Butte  
District 5 - Gary Ludi 1547 Las Vegas  
District 6 - Gilbert Romero 2951 Santa Fe  
District 7 - Thomas Lairson 8703 Carlsbad  
District 8 - Steven Robertson 9515 Portales

### 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](mailto: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



## Sr Vice Message



**Victoria Haddox**

Who's ready for a new year?! I know I am. There's goals we have to reach. Commander-in-Chief Borland put out that we should all reach for 102% for the next 3 years so our organization can be back over one million members.

Currently our number for 100% is 8099 for 102% is 8260. This number is very achievable with our "All-American" requirement. Each level (Post, District, Department) is required to hold two "Membership" drives this year. You have

to actively try to recruit someone. With every one person recruited, we will be one step closer to achieving our 102% goal.

To make things easier, you can sign people up on the go. For those that have smartphones, there is a VFW app (not the VFW Events App). At the bottom (I'm a

Droid user, sorry if it's wrong for iphone) the second icon says Recruit. It's not on you to get the eligibility. The post you are entering the member into is required to get the eligibility from them when they enter the post. Much like if a member signs up online.

Another requirement is to increase Lifetime and Legacy. With the Memorial Legacy, let outside organizations or family members of the fallen know about this amazing opportunity. There's multiple other ways that can work; raffles, work it off at the post, ect.

Programs are due October 31<sup>st</sup>. State Surgeon Gary Logsdon and Angelia Velarde-Logsdon put together amazing booklets together for Flying Squadron and they gave you every avenue to succeed. Please don't let it go to waste. Letters, emails, and phone calls all work. Get into the school and show them we are way more than a canteen.

Most importantly, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt has put together ABC of Mentorship. I have a pdf copy of 140 pages. I can send via email. Please let me know if you are interested. We are here to help you succeed. "Leadership isn't about your followers, it's about the leaders you create!"

## Adjutant Message



**Mark Decker**

The new year has started. We are doing well so far this year. We have had State Convention, National Convention, and both trainings. We will have Department President Dominique Homecoming and Department Commander Chris Homecoming and Council of Administration in the near future.

The All-State dashboard is on the VFWNM.org website, hopefully by the time this paper comes out. I will be sending

out the monthly compliance report again this year every

month. Please watch these and if you see mistakes or something not right, ask about it right away.

Remember that again this year all Posts and Districts have to submit your Audits and meeting minutes to me to get credit for the All-State program.

All official word to or from one level to another, goes through the Adjutant. But all money items, i.e. Bonds, Buddy Poppies, Donations, go to the Quartermaster.

Have a great year. If there is anything I can help with, just call or text or email me. I will answer you as soon as I can.

## New Mexico Department Convention 2022





# New Mexico Department Convention 2022



## President's Corner



**Dominique Garcia**

Congratulations to all the new Officers and Chairmen. We are ready to work on another successful year. We are already almost ¼ of the way through the year. All of us Officers and Chairmen need to be reaching out to the Auxiliaries and Districts about our positions.

Congratulations to First Has Been Betty on achieving Circle of Excellence! Department of New Mexico VFWA, led by you, did a wonderful job last year. You have left me with big shoes to fill.

If you haven't heard already there were many By-Law changes done at the National Convention, so be sure to look at them on the National Website and be sure to order a new By-Law book when they come out. It is always best to have the most current By-Law.

Shout out to Post/Auxiliary 401 and 10124 and 3242 for hosting the North and South trainings. We had a great turn out at both and hope the members in attendance learned a lot and passed it on to their Auxiliary/Post and Districts on both sides. Take the information and spread it to your fellow members. The more the information is spread, the better the Department will be.

September 9-11, the Department will be having our 3rd Annual statewide Food Drive. Posts and Auxiliaries will work together and collect as much food and other items for your local food bank that they can. The trophy will be handed out again this year along with the other awards. The rules for the contest are in the paper in another place. Please read up on the rules. Good Luck!

On September 24<sup>th</sup> Post 401 will host a Council of Administration meeting starting at 9 AM - remember it is open to ALL AUXILIARY MEMBERS. One of the top line officers in each Auxiliary needs to attend to qualify for President of the Year. Later that evening will be my Homecoming, open to everyone, Comrades and Auxiliary. Please RSVP back to Danielle Garcia at 505-917-6660 for a head count.

October 8<sup>th</sup> is the State Commander's Homecoming in Espanola at the Knights of Columbus starting at 5pm. All members, both VFW and VFWA are invited to attend.

October 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen scholarships, as well as teacher of the year to be submitted to the Post/Auxiliary. Please get out and round up some entries.

If I haven't already, I will be attending at least one of each District's meetings. I can't wait to hear what each District and Auxiliary is doing and how we are continuing to work for our veterans and their families.

As always, Department is here for whatever you and your Auxiliary needs. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or the line officers. I look forward to another great year working together with our Auxiliaries and Comrades.

### New Mexico VFW Auxiliary State Officers 2019-2020

National Councilwoman - Mary "Girl" Sanchez 4384 Anthony  
 President - Dominique Garcia 401 Albuquerque  
 Sr. Vice President - Kandy Brazell 5890 Rio Rancho  
 Jr. Vice President - Danielle Garcia 401 Albuquerque  
 Treasurer - Penney Howard 614 Aztec  
 Secretary - Jeanette Garcia 401 Albuquerque  
 Chaplain - Renee King 2951 Santa Fe  
 Conductress - Angelia Velarde-Logsdon 2951 Santa Fe  
 Assistant Conductress - Judy Hays 7686 Alamogordo  
 Guard - Michelle Dennison 3370 Moriarty  
 Assistant Guard - Dela Sanchez 4384 Anthony  
 Chief of Staff - Louise Salas 401 Albuquerque  
 Past State Pres. - Betty Decker 614 Aztec  
 Color Bearer #1 - Veronica Angel 10124 Las Cruces  
 Color Bearer #2 - Sharlotte Dennison 3370 Moriarty  
 Color Bearer #3 - Kristin Saavedra 1389 Elephant Butte  
 Color Bearer #4 - Brenda Doil 1389 Elephant Butte  
 Flag Bearer - Robert Johnson 10124 Las Cruces  
 Banner Bearer - Glenn Crawford 8703 Carlsbad

### District President

District 1 - Vickey Westbrook 614 Aztec  
 District 2 - Shirlee Frias 401 Albuquerque  
 District 3 - Shelly Ravak 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 - Lequanah Crawford 8703 Carlsbad  
 District 8 - Janet Huft 3280 Clovis



## National District #15 Council Member



**Mary "Girl" Sanchez**

News from the National VFW Auxiliary Conference:

The National organizations took major hits losing almost 3 million dollars in our investments portfolio due to fluctuation of the stock market last year. At the National Conference this past July, and as your National Council representative, we discussed these losses at the meeting. Investment is a big part of the financial budget the Auxiliary relies on. When the income

fluctuates like it has for the past several years, something has got to give. Now our investment team is slowly recovering some losses. Past National President Jean Hamil saved about 1 million dollars from her budget. We are still in the black, but we need to make some changes in what is called a "deficit year"!

What is proposed as we move forward to this new year? The council has agreed under much discussion for this year to give the National Secretary/Treasurer a Cost Of Living Allowance (COLA) of only 4% even though SSA anticipates an 8% increase.

Also agreed is that the last mailing of the VFW Auxiliary **printed** magazine will be the December issue 2022. The magazine will, however, still be offered digitally. This alone will save the organization \$900,000 a year. To offer it digitally will cost only \$500 per year. Those members of an Auxiliary who want it printed will need somebody to print for them at post level.

The Sr. Vice President's training budget was also reduced because Department Secretaries will no longer travel with Sr. Vice's - they will be Zoomed in. This will save on airfare and hotel costs.

The other item discussed was budget line items to the National Home repairs and renovations. This was zeroed out because this was money set aside in 2010 for emergency repairs to the homes foregoing council approval. Since COVID all houses have been upgraded and some are still vacated. If there is a need for council approval for an emergency repair the Secretary-Treasurer can Zoom the Council with technology nowadays that we did not have in 2010.

If the economy stays at this level course, we should be okay in the budget, but if the investments go way south again, National Council may have to look at other alternatives like membership dues increase. We also need to encourage Auxiliary members to use and promote the use of benefit programs such as Tru Hearing, USAA credit card, VFW Store and other programs because we get a commission from these products.

## VFWA Sr Vice President Message



**Kandy Brazell**

Greetings from Sr Vice President (again) Kandy Brazell.

Thank you for the confidence and trust you have in me doing this again. As you know I was the Department president just the other year. So I am making another run at it.

I am looking forward to this year with President Dominique and the rest of the Department Line Officers. I believe we can continue on the great work we had going from the last few years. We are on a roll

here in New Mexico.

Remember we have VOD/PP/Teachers nominations due to the Post/Auxiliary by October 31. We should also be pushing our membership numbers. We need to get those annual members to renew right away. If they do not renew by December 31 they have to re-apply for membership and lose their years in good standing.

The year is flying by, we are already ¼ of the way through it. We should be planning our Veteran's Day and other activities now so they can go off without any problems.

If you have any questions, comments, or thoughts on how the Department or I in particular can help you, reach out to me. I will get back with you as soon as I can. Again I am looking forward to a great year and I know we all will stand behind President Dominique to make New Mexico shine again this year.



## VFWA Jr Vice President Message



Hello Department of New Mexico VFWA. Thank you for electing me as your Junior Vice President for 2022-2023. I am looking forward to a great year and helping you out in any way I can. For those of you who do not know me, I am Danielle Garcia. My little sister is this year's President, Dominique. My mom is Secretary Jeanette. And my Grandma is Louise Salas, Chief of Staff this

year.

I have been a VFWA member since I was 16 and joined under my Grandpa Joe Salas, a Vietnam veteran. I have been Auxiliary President of VFWA 401. I was MOCA Grand of New Mexico President last year. And I have been a chair for the Department for each of the last 4 years.

I am currently a teacher's aid at Volcano Vista High School in Albuquerque. I assist with the mentally

challenged students. I am currently working on my education degree from Central New Mexico University. I love to volunteer at the hospital and to help veterans in any way I can. Many of you know me from working the registration booth at Mid-Winter and Convention for the VFWA.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you when I come to the District meetings at your Posts and when we all get together at Department functions. I love hearing new ideas and thoughts about what we could be doing better, things we need to avoid doing, and what we are doing right. By hearing all of these ideas from many different members, I am able to see what I need to work on and what I need to leave alone because it is already working. Any time during this year, come up and talk to me. I want to have as many open conversations with all of you as possible. I want us to work as a team. We need to trust each other and be confident that anything can be talked about to each other. We are all on the same side and trying to do our best.

Thank you again for your trust and confidence in me. Good luck to Dominique this year setting us on a path to another great year. We can work together as one team and make 2022-2023 one of the best years ever.

## VFWA Past President



Greetings from First Has Been. I want to thank everyone for the great year you gave me. We accomplished many things. As a Department, we grew as both the VFW and VFWA last year. This was all because of you, our members, putting in the work, time, and effort to do what we do.

We had 10 Auxiliaries and 4 Districts make Awesomest Auxiliary last year. We had a couple of our Chairmen get awards at National. And you all made it possible for me to make it to the Circle of

Excellence. This marks the 5<sup>th</sup> time we have made the Circle of Excellence.

We had a great turnout for trainings at both Albuquerque and Las Cruces. I hope all of the members that attended the trainings are taking the information back to their Auxiliaries and passing this word to those that did not make it. This training covered everything we need to do for this year to succeed again. Feel free to contact me if you have questions on the reporting forms or adding your email to constant contact.

Congratulations to Dom and the rest of the officers around the Department this year. I know you will lead us to another great year. We are almost  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the way through the year already. I know it seems like the year is going fast, but we have deadlines coming up very fast for some of our programs.

Stay safe and continue the hard work everyone does. I look forward to seeing all of you at our Department functions in the coming months.



# National Convention—Kansas City 2022





## National Home

### VFW National Home Trustee #10

Term-2022-2028

(Representing Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas)



Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

It is time to vote. You should have received an email to VOTE for the Trustee District #10 position for VFW National Home. (serving Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas). If you have not received the email, or you have a member who does not have email, please contact the National Home and request a ballot to be mailed to you (1-800-424-8360) or email ([info@vfnationalhome.org](mailto:info@vfnationalhome.org)). Voting closes September 21, 2022. I am running for this position and would appreciate your vote –Shirlee Frias

VFW National Home Trustee #10 elections will start this month. Please make sure you update your email address with the VFW National Home, as this is how the elections will run. You will receive an email.



V F W

NATIONAL HOME

### Notice Regarding Electronic Voting!



The VFW National Home's Board of Trustees has approved the use of electronic voting beginning with the 2022 Trustee district election.

This will be a major cost savings for the National Home, saving an average of \$5,750 per election and \$50,000 per bi-law change.



Please be sure to provide or update the National Home with your email address.

Please direct any questions to [info@vfnationalhome.org](mailto:info@vfnationalhome.org)



## Post 2528

November 29, 1969

Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr.  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Congressman Lujan:

This is to certify that the accompanying  
flag has flown over the United States Capitol.

I understand that this flag is for  
Delfido Gonzales Post 2528, Veterans of Foreign  
Wars of the United States, Tucumcari, New Mexico.

Sincerely yours,

*J. George Stewart*  
J. George Stewart  
Architect of the Capitol



How amazing is this! Original letter from 1969 with the flag that was flown at the US Capitol which was given to Delfido Gonzales Post 2528. Almost 53 years later it made it's way to the intended home. Thank you Mr. Tom Pyron of Cedar Rapids Iowa for sending this.

## Important Dates

September 10 Post 3221 - District 1 Noon Lunch 1 PM Meeting

September 18 Post 2528 - District 8 1PM Lunch 2 PM Meeting

**September 24 Post 401- Department President Homecoming**

**October 8 Espanola - Department Commander Homecoming**

October 23 Post 7686 - District 3 9 AM Meeting Lunch to Follow

November 5 Post 3317 - District 4 11 AM Meeting Lunch to Follow

November 12 Post 8874 - District 6 Noon Meeting Lunch to Follow

November 19 Post 6216 - Noon Lunch Meeting to Follow

November 19 - Post 1131 Noon Meeting Lunch to Follow

## Post 5432

Terry Brown, Commander of Corrales Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5432, and his comrades earned both the coveted National VFW All American Post and All State Post for the first time in the post's history. These are significant accomplishments, and it is rare for Posts to earn both honors the same year. The Corrales Post was one of five posts in New Mexico to earn All American.

Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at Perea's Restaurant.

The Corrales VFW post meets monthly on the third



## Post 9517

VFW Post 9517 will be helping the Daughters of the American Revolution with their Bells Across America to celebrate the American Constitution on September 17, 2022 at Freedom Park in Shiprock, NM at 1300. The public is invited. There will be some stories about what the Constitution means to people and proclamations from the Chapterhouse and Navajo Nation about Constitution week. VFW Post 9517 will also be handing out copies of the Constitution to everyone that attends.

On October 29 from 5-8 PM VFW Post 9517 will be hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Trunk or Treat event at the Shiprock Chapterhouse. The public is invited to come out and hand out candy to the kids. All kids are welcome to collect candy.

For Thanksgiving and Christmas, VFW Post 9517 will be handing out baskets to needy veterans and their families again this year.



**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®**







# VFW/VFWA State Wide Food Drive

**What:** State Wide Food Drive

**When:** Sept 9-11, 2022 Three days only

**Where:** Your local Post or any place with enough room

**Why:** To raise enough food to stock YOUR local food bank but to enjoy the comradery of Post/Auxiliary Volunteers and to compete for Cash prizes. Prizes donated by Department of New Mexico VFW and VFWA. Plus, a traveling trophy for bragging rights.

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$500    2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$300    3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$200

## FAQ

- The food drive will be three days only. **ABSOLUTLY NO CHEATING. NO GATHERING OF FOOD OR MONIES THE DAY BEFORE OR AFTER.**
- Food may be accepted at the Post Friday September 9 starting at 8 am to 8 pm, Saturday September 10, 8am-8pm through Sunday Sept 11,2022 until 5:00pm
- Partner with Roadrunner to assist your Post.
- The winner will be determined by the highest weight. Contact your food bank before to determine if they weight items, if not check your local shipping office to obtain a receipt with weight or transit company. Only receipts with weight will qualify for the contest. Receipts for weight and monies collected need to be sent to Mark Decker before 5:00pm on September 15,2022.
- At the end of the day on Sunday, September 11th you must send a photo of items collected and volunteers to Betty Decker, Dominique Garcia, Tori Haddox and Darrel Melon with your Post #.
- Quality photos will be added to the Departments' Facebook page with the #PostPride – Photos can be sent all 3 days.
- Items collected can be turned into your local food bank or could be used for local veterans that need assistance, just send in the weighted receipts.







## New Mexico Department of Veterans Services Military Honors Fall Training Conference and Competition 2022



**DATE:** Thursday September 15, 2022

**TIME:** 0745-1600

**LOCATION:** New Mexico Veterans Memorial

1100 Louisiana Blvd. SE

Albuquerque, NM 87108

**POC:** Diana Myklebust-(505) 231-8911





## Mid-Winter Conference Hotel Information

### [Book your group rate for Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States](#)

You will find the information for your online reservation link below. If you have questions or need help with the link, please do not hesitate to ask. We appreciate your business and look forward to a successful event.

#### Event Summary:

**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

**Start Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023**

**End Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023**

**Last Day to Book: Thursday, December 22, 2022**

**Hotel(s) offering your special group rate:**

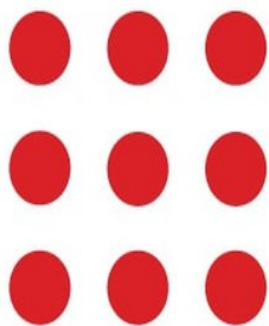
- Marriott Albuquerque for 111 USD per night

[Book your group rate for Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States](#)

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1657729502552&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Please book your room by December 22, 2022. The reservation block ends on that day. For Posts and Districts that are inviting your winners to the lunch, consider if they are wanting a room or not. This room rate expires on December 22, 2022 and they will have to pay the full price.

The lunch and registration package will be out in November and in the December newspaper. Start to make your plans now for this event. We would like to have more participants at the Conference than we have had lately.



**Veterans  
Crisis Line**

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





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

**POST**

All-American Post Commander (2)  
 All-American Post Quartermaster (5)  
 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 (2)  
 All-State District Quartermaster (3)

**DEPARTMENT**

Co-Captain  
 All-American State Commander  
 All-American State Quartermaster (5)

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

Secretary – Treasurer (2014-2016)

**NATIONAL**

National Council Member (2011-2015)  
 Chairman National Budget & Finance Committee  
 (2018-2019) (2022-2023)  
 National Audit Committee (2011-2015)  
 National By-Laws Study Group  
 National Budget & Finance Committee (2011-Present)  
 Elite Recruiter 2018-2019  
 Certified National Recruiter

**OTHER**

Montana Veteran Commendation Award Recipient

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 for Jr Vice C-in-C



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.

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 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. Bert proudly wears the pin of the coveted Triple Crown. Through the years he has served on eight different National committees as well as Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Western Conference.

Bert's qualification for the VFW comes from one year service in Bosnia-Herzegovina, one year 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.

Bert has served on the National Council of Administration representing Oregon for 8 years, and at the same time continued 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 Oregon Department Chief of Staff.

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.

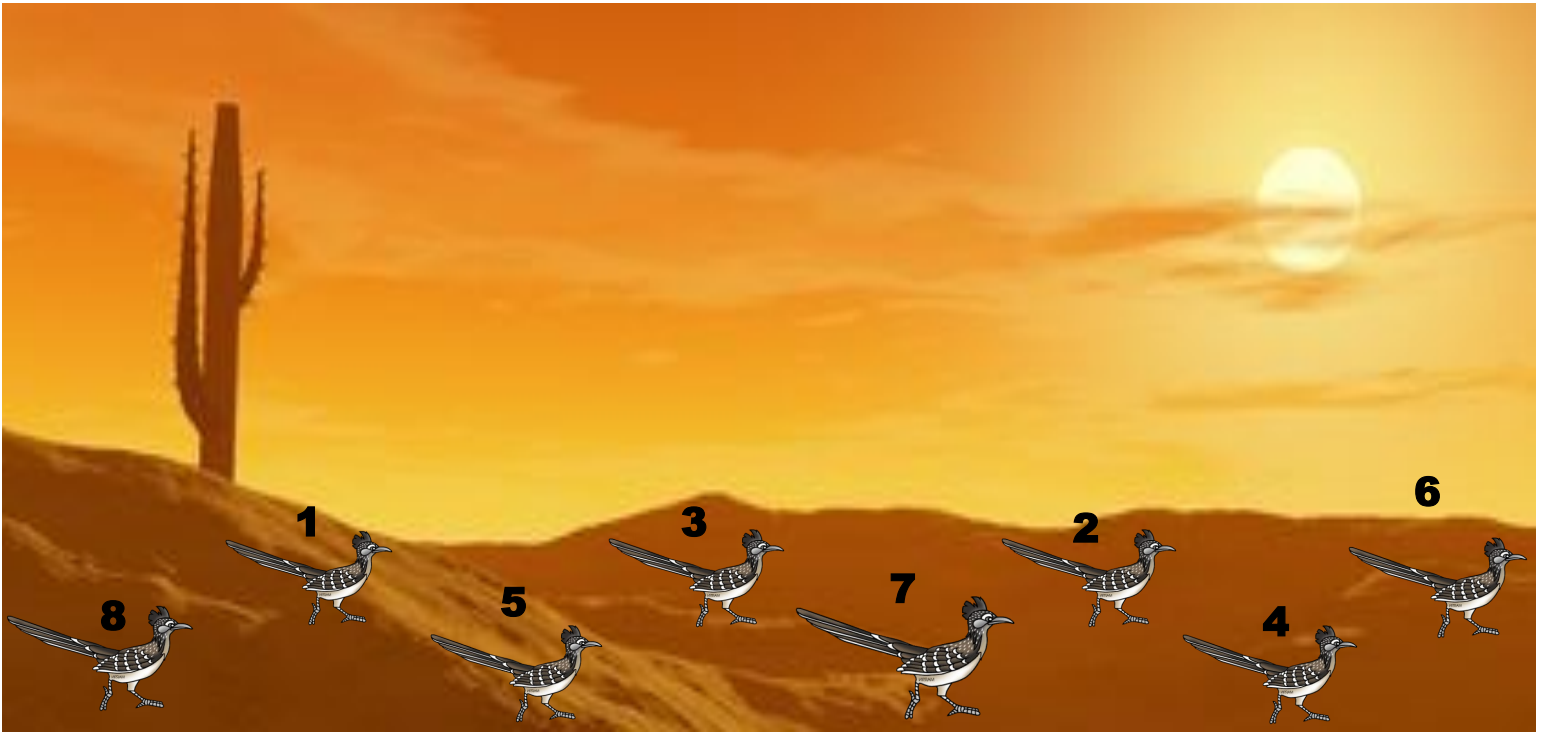
If you chose to endorse Bert's candidacy you can rest assured that he will never disappoint you. Bert does not ask your support for himself. He asks for it for the team. He does not work for the clock. There are 24 hours in a day. He works for the completion of the mission. Bert Key believes strongly in his motto: **Service is the Key to our success.**

**"NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS"**

Yours in comradeship,  
**Bert's Friends**



# VFW Membership



## In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

- District 6—Gilbert Romero 32.36%**
- District 4—Orlando Saavedra 2.95%**
- District 2 —Don Frias 2.36%**
- District 7—Thomas Lairson 2.17%**
- District 3 —Richard Hoschar 97.14%**
- District 5 —Gary Ludi 1.45%**
- District 1—Jamie Poncho 1.38%**
- District 8—Steven Robertson 1.13%**

## Divisions

- Division 1—12212—18.18%**
- Division 2—3370—4.41%**
- Division 3—9515—3.40%**
- Division 4—6917—3.28%**
- Division 5—2951—4.56%**

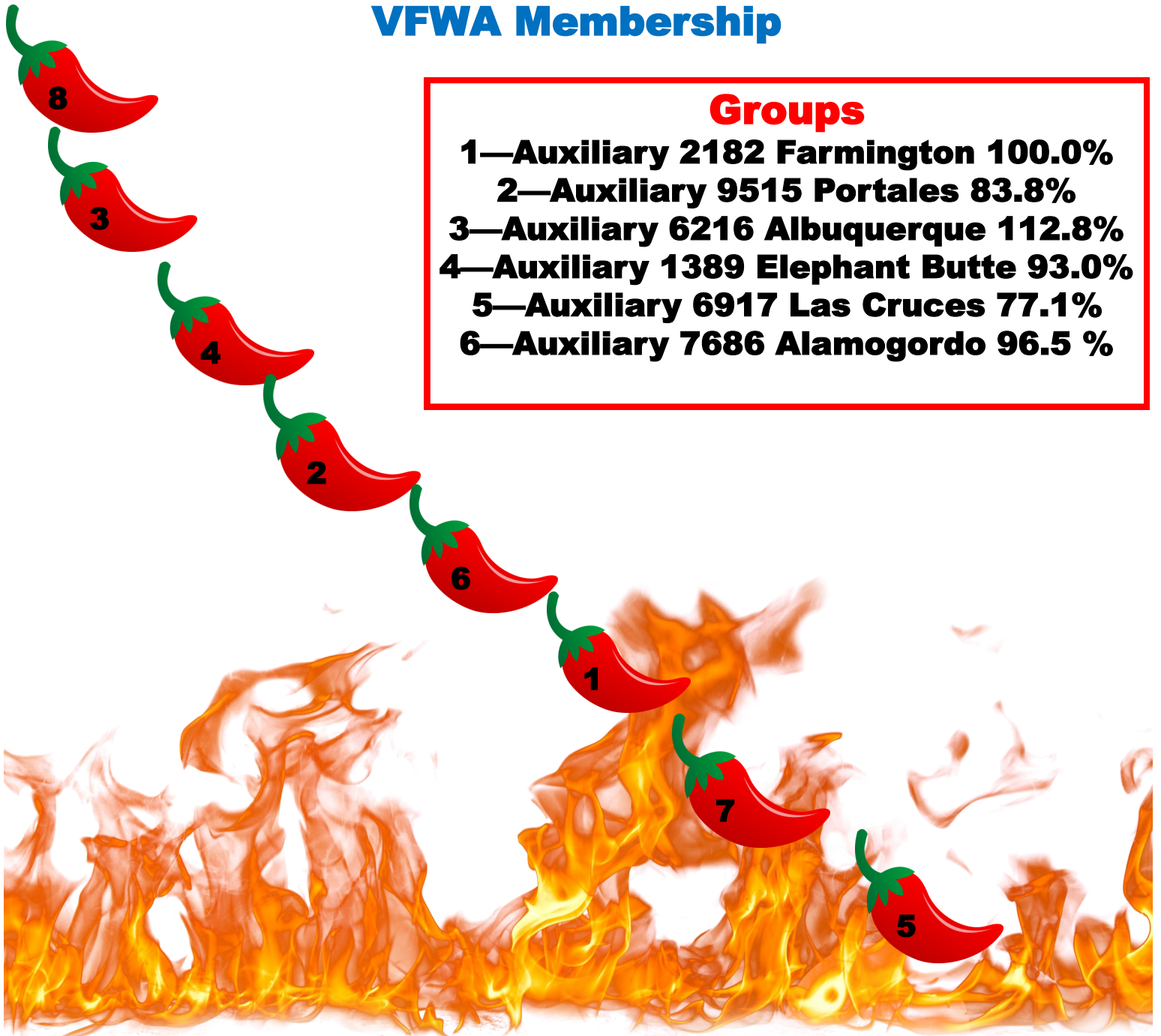
## Recruiters

- 1st—Brian Sartori—14**
- 2nd—Gary Townsend—4**
- 3rd—Christopher Kelley—3**
- 3rd—Victoria Haddox—3**
- 3rd—James Berdine—3**

## VFWA Membership

### Groups

- 1—Auxiliary 2182 Farmington 100.0%**
- 2—Auxiliary 9515 Portales 83.8%**
- 3—Auxiliary 6216 Albuquerque 112.8%**
- 4—Auxiliary 1389 Elephant Butte 93.0%**
- 5—Auxiliary 6917 Las Cruces 77.1%**
- 6—Auxiliary 7686 Alamogordo 96.5 %**



### In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

- District 8—Janet Huft 87.7%**
- District 3— Shelly Ravak 85.5%**
- District 4—Brenda Doil 83.4%**
- District 2—Shirlee Frias 81.7%**
- District 6—Renee King 81.4%**
- District 1—Vickey Westbrook 80.7%**
- District 7—Lequanah Crawford 71.1%**
- District 5—Thomas Bullington Jr 70.4%**