



**May 2018**

**Vol. 42 Issue 3**

## **“70 Years of Membership”**

On February 20, 2018, at the Aristocrat Assisted Living Center in Alamogordo, New Mexico, Mrs. Erma Tenoper received her 70-year membership pin from Department President Mary “Girl” Sanchez, and VFWA 7686 President Judy Hayes. Many family and friends attended the presentation.

Mrs. Tenoper joined the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW in 1948 in Crete Nebraska. She joined under her husband Donald’s service in World War II as a Navy Seabee. She has been an active and productive member since joining the Auxiliary, culminating in

1983-84, when she was President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW 7686. She earned the President of the Year award that year also. She now resides at the Aristocrat Assisted Living Center in Alamogordo, New Mexico.

Mrs. Tenoper is still as active as she can be at 93 years of age. She is the longest continuous member of the VFWA in New Mexico. Our thanks and congratulations go out to Mrs. Tenoper.



## Commander's Message



**Charles Eaton**

As many of you know, Karla and I had planned to visit all New Mexico posts during my year as your Commander. I regret to inform you that this goal will not be met due to some medical restrictions in travel. I can't stress enough how much I've enjoyed the posts I have visited, and I've appreciated each and every one of you and your hospitality and commitment to the VFW and this

Department. For those of you I did not have the opportunity to visit personally for a meeting, I am sorry but want you all to know how important all of you are to this Department and to me. I still hope, after my tenure as Commander, to visit you and have an opportunity to visit with your members.

One thing I have noticed during this year is very concerning to me. I have had complaints about your canteen and gaming operations, and those complaints were expected to be met with action from me. Those of you with those operations need to remember that they fall under state laws governing alcohol and gaming, and you must handle those issues in accordance with applicable laws. I am more than willing to address misconduct of VFW members or any conduct which is detrimental to the good order of VFW business. That being said, please let me know if there is anything I can assist you with during my last days as Commander.

The Bataan Death March commemoration was a great big success from many aspects. I had the chance to interact with many of you as well as members from our National organization to include Commander-in-Chief Harman. Thank you to all of you who assisted with our booth and recruiting efforts. Thanks to Post 6917 for their hospitality and making sure visitors had a place to "call home" and enjoy some great food and drink.

We, as a unified Department, need to stay focused on membership! As many of you have heard me say, it's not just about getting to 100%, however nice that

would be. It's about our voice being heard; in our State and at a National Congressional level. To all levels of law-makers, it's all about numbers. They pay attention when they know we are a formidable force; and that we can and must be. We must keep our veterans and their benefits in the forefront of our minds and fight for them every day. Also, please don't forget those members, paid and unpaid, that you haven't seen in a while. How about checking up on them to let them know you care, and that you would like to see them? We have a huge problem of suicide and depression within our ranks, and that one phone call or visit just might change a life!

I hope to have a great showing at this year's convention. Please try to make the commitment to attend and support your new leadership coming in to serve with and for you. Mark your calendars and register as soon as possible for the 1-3 June 2018 convention in Albuquerque.

I look forward to continuing to serve you in any way I can. Please don't ever hesitate to let me know if there's anything I can do for you.

### New Mexico VFW State Officers 2016-2017

National Council Member - Kathie Schiebel 401 Albuquerque  
Commander - Charles Eaton 9515 Portales  
Sr. Vice Commander - Mark Decker 9517 Shiprock  
Jr. Vice Commander - Richard Nutt 7686 Alamogordo  
Quartermaster - Dave Fouse 7686 Alamogordo  
Chaplain - Cynthia Archuleta 5890 Rio Rancho  
Judge Advocate - Cathy Brock 3274 Hobbs  
Surgeon - Roy Maldonado 4384 Anthony  
Past State Cmdr - Len Hampton 6917 Las Cruces  
Inspector - Raul Sanchez 6917 Las Cruces  
Chief of Staff - Larry Frappier 3015 Clovis  
Service Officer - Cynthia Archuleta 5890 Rio Rancho

### District Commanders

District 1 - Kyrk Westbrook 9517 Shiprock  
District 2 - Victoria Haddox 5890 Rio Rancho  
District 3 - Mike Cano 4384 Anthony  
District 4 - Jack Doil 1389 Elephant Butte  
District 5 - Eusebio "Joe" Esparza 3271 Clayton  
District 6 - Christopher Archuleta 5610 Espanola  
District 7 - Eduardo Rodriguez 3274 Hobbs  
District 8 - Kirk L. Reader 3280 Clovis

## National Council Member's Message



**Kathie D. Schiebel**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Commander Fred Eaton and the Council of Administration of NM for the outstanding work that is being done this year.

Everything has been achieved except for 100% in membership. This is the time for District Commanders and Post Commanders to review their unpaid members and contact them to see why they

haven't paid. If it is for financial reasons, or that they are in the hospital or a nursing home, the Post can pay their dues out of the relief fund. We need to make New Mexico proud and watch Commander Eaton go up on the stage in Kansas City to be an All-American Department Commander. I would encourage as many members that can to attend the National Convention in July. We also have our National Sr Vice Commander-in-Chief that we should make a good showing for when he becomes our

Commander-in-Chief. We should be proud to march around with BJ Lawrence when he is elected. BJ's homecoming will be held in Albuquerque in September, and this will be a big event for him, and for the Department of New Mexico to show all the other Departments how great New Mexico is.

There have been many questions about service dogs in a Post. I contacted the Veterans Coordinator in the Governors office to ask questions about this. There are only two questions that you can ask and they are, Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? and What work or task has the dog been trained to perform? It was emphasized at least ten times that the service dog must be under control at all times, if a leash is possible then the service animal needs to be leashed. It cannot be running all over the place. If you have further questions, feel free to contact the Governor's office.

In closing, I hope to see you all at the Department of New Mexico convention in June. It would be nice to show 100% Post participation, and show our National Rep Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Doc Schmitz how well New Mexico works well together.

## District 5 Update

District 5 and Posts within the district held a fundraiser during the year to award five scholarships, one per post. Each post will submit one name to District 5 by May 10, 2018. Scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 will be awarded. The remainder of the funds raised will be awarded to a non-profit organization within the community of each post. The amounts will be equally divided.

Also, during the District Meeting in January at Post 1793 in Raton, NM. The district awarded two scholarships to the first and second-place winners of the Voice of Democracy submitted to the Department of New Mexico.

The next District Meeting will be held April 21, 2018, at Post 1547, in Las Vegas, NM, at noon followed by lunch afterward. Nominations and election of officers will be held at this meeting.



the campaign to  
**changedirection**

## Senior Vice Commander's Message



**Mark Decker**

The year has less than 3 months left. As of April 11, we have seventeen Posts and one District that have made 100% so far. We have fourteen other Posts that are within ten of 100%. We have six Posts that need over twenty for 100%. As a Department, we are three hundred forty two shy of 100%. That is not that many as a Department.

It would be great if we could get the Department

over the 100% mark. We have not made 100% since 2015. We have had many opportunities for membership drives this year already. All around the Department we have held successful drives. If we can get just a couple more pushes before the end of June, we can be over the top.

Membership is the lifeblood of the VFW. That is what allows us to go in front of politicians and make our claims about veterans' benefits and what we hold dear. Right now, the VFW is one of only three veterans groups that has an independent day in front of the Joint Armed Forces Committee. The other nine groups have to share time with each other. However, if our numbers do not go up we will be seeing ourselves in the same situation as those nine groups.

We have had seventy-two people in our Department that have recruited a new or reinstated member this year. We have over 9,000 member in our Department. If you have not recruited a member yet this year, why not? Are you not proud of what the VFW does? Do you not think we are the best organization out there? We have many eligible veterans across this State. Just go out and talk to them. If you do not know what to say or some of our major accomplishments, look up the important numbers of what the VFW has done in other parts of this paper, or tell them what your Post is doing. Or at the least, get their information so you can look some of their questions up and get back with them. It is not that hard to recruit

members. Just brag on what we have done.

Our Department Convention is coming up in June. I hope to see lots of you there. I think it will be a fun time and very educational. There are some By-Laws changes to vote on this year, so this could affect the Department in future years. Please be there to let your voice be heard. I hope to see lots of Posts and Districts receive multiple awards for all of our programs we do throughout the year. Registration packets and agendas are located in this paper also. This year we are doing Installation as a joint venture with both the VFW and VFWA being installed together. This will happen just before the banquet on Saturday night. Please plan on attending this event. We hope to show the Department of New Mexico helping each other out at all levels.

Thank you for this exciting year we have had. I hope to have your support and votes as Commander in June. I hope we have a successful rest of 2017-2018 and an even more successful year next year.

### 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, madecker19020@yahoo.com no later than the 10th day of the month preceding the month of publication. Editor is Mark Decker.

# VFW

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Veterans of Foreign Wars

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## Quartermaster's Message



**Dave Fouse**

I have a few kudos, pats on the back, and overall thanks to all of the Posts who have worked so hard this year: all of the volunteers who put in many hours at the Bataan Memorial March, Post 6917 who hosted a dinner for those volunteers and our out of town guests; those who helped with the Mid-Winter Conference, and all of the other events held around the state.

Specifically, I want to thank:

- Cynthia and Katie for their tireless efforts assisting our veterans with VA claims
- Fred & Karla Eaton who tried to visit all of the Posts this year and some twice
- Len Hampton, who has made significant improvements to our department website and also, who contacts major businesses for grant monies to aid our homeless and needy veterans throughout our state
- Roy Maldonado whom also sees to the needs of our veterans

Mark Decker & I recently attended the Sr Vice Commander and Adjutant training conference in Kansas City, MO, where many topics and discussions were held. One of the main changes at the National Headquarters is the development and activation of the Customer Care Center. There is one phone number to call now instead of the 30-40 numbers we had before. The phone number is 1-800-756-3390.

Posts still have until June 30<sup>th</sup> to get their

membership up to 100% and work on other items to qualify for All-State. There is no reason most of you cannot qualify for this prestigious award!

The Home Depot Community Impact Grant is now open for all Posts to apply. See the slideshow on our department website at [www.vfwnm.org](http://www.vfwnm.org) to download the application. There is one section of the online application that requires an uploaded copy of the Post's IRS 501(c)(19) determination letter. If you cannot find your copy, there are instructions at the bottom of the application letter that you will find helpful.

The Delegate Fee letters have been mailed out this year. Too many complained about not being able to download the form, lost the email etc. The deadline to return this form is May 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a mandated expense, so therefore this DOES NOT need to be voted on at your next Post meeting. (This should be part of your annual budget) Once you receive the letter, fill it out, cut a check and return. Please do not wait until Convention time to pay.

The State Convention on June 1-4<sup>th</sup> will be held at the Sheraton Uptown hotel. We have invited William J. "Doc" Schmitz, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief from the Department of New York.

"Doc" was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on July 26, 2017, at the 118th VFW National Convention in New Orleans, LA. He joined the United States Navy in 1966, served in Vietnam as a corpsman attached to United States Marine Corps infantry and artillery. In recognition of his service, he received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. Hope to see each of you at this year's State Convention.

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®**

## Chaplain/Service Officer's Message



**Cynthia Archuleta**

This year has flown by. Hope everyone is having a great year so far. We have lost a few comrades and auxiliary members this year. Very sad and heartbreaking. Holding the position of Chaplain this year has made me realize how short life really is. Tell your friends and your loved ones how much

you care each day. Please keep myself and/or

Dave informed of members passing so I can send out cards to the family.

The Service Office will be closed from May 5<sup>th</sup> to May 11<sup>th</sup> as Kaite and I attend training in Philadelphia. If you need anything, please leave a message on the office phone and we will get back to you as soon as we get back. Kaite and I have been very busy this past year, and will continue to help veterans with their disability claims when needed.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support.

## Judge Advocate's Message



**Cathy Brock**

In my position as your Judge Advocate, I have been asked to review a number of actions taken by Posts and/or Commanders for compliance with VFW By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure. In many instances, my review determined that many of the violations could have been prevented if the Post and its Officers had taken the time to refer to the current Podium Edition of the By-Laws. In the last five or six years there have been

more than 1,000 changes approved by the National Conventions. If your Post Officers are using Podium Editions that are four or five years old, how can you possibly expect to have your Post Commander's actions upheld upon appeal? Not only the Commander, but the Quartermaster, the line officers and the Judge Advocate should get a copy of the new Podium Edition every year.

Each officer should become familiar with all of Article II-Posts in both the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, and especially Section 218-Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations. How can the Judge Advocate fulfill his duties as the legal advisor

if he doesn't have the current By-Laws, the Department By-Laws and the Post By-Laws?

Commanders, the Podium Edition should be your "Bible" and should always be readily available for you to refer to at any time. The By-Laws are not "Top Secret"...share them with any members who want to learn more about the workings of the VFW. Remember, the Post belongs to its members and it is the obligation of each and every member to protect the Post's Charter.

The old days of Posts "doing whatever they want, whenever they want" are long gone. If you don't follow the rules, you won't have a Post for long. Don't jeopardize your Charter...follow the rules! But, you have to know what the rules are so you can follow them. At least one copy of the 2018 Podium Edition should be available in your Post. If you have it, learn it, and order the 2019 Podium Edition as soon as it's available.

I am available to anyone feeling that they need assistance in interpreting the By-Laws. I can be reached at 575-318-3149. My email address is OldWAC@aol.com. If I don't have the answer to your question, I will find the answer for you. Sometimes asking a question can save a whole bunch of problems later.

I would also like to take this time to announce that I am a candidate for State Judge Advocate for the year 2018-2019.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO  
STATE CONVENTION  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO  
JUNE 1 - 3, 2018



Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel  
2600 Louisiana Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110

<http://www.sheratonalbuquerqueuptown.com/>

National Reservation # 1- 888-627-7127

Local # (ask for reservations) 1-505-881-0000

Fax at hotel front desk: 1-505-881-6933

Online Registration: (Preferred Method) <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/VFWStateConvention2018>

**KEY PERSONNEL**

State Commander Fred Eaton: 832-971-4852

Dave Fouse at State Headquarters Office: 575-653-4378 or cell: 575-973-4965

VFWA President: Mary "Girl" Sanchez

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

VFW Department Senior Vice Commander, Mark Decker Post 9517

**GUESTS**

VFW National Representative: Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, William J. "Doc" Schmidt

VFWA Representative: Past National President, Sissy Borel

**Room Rates**

Single/Double/King: \$96.00 per night plus 13.5% in local and state taxes

Prices do not include suites or 8<sup>th</sup> floor rooms

***(Must Mention VFW State Convention to Get Special Rate)***

Hotel Reservations must be made prior to May 10, 2018 to get the VFW rate.

After this date, room rate will be based on current hotel rates.

## **VFW STATE CONVENTION AGENDA**

### **Thursday - May 31, 2018**

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Registration

6:00 PM – 11:00 PM - Hospitality Room – Ivory

### **Friday June 1, 2018**

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM – Registration

7:00 AM – 7:45 AM – VFW Audit – Boardroom

7:45 AM – 9:45 AM – VFW Budget – Boardroom

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM – Open Q & A Session – Ivory

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM – Council of Administration Meeting – Registry/Regal

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM – Lunch on your own

1:30 PM – 4:00 PM – Joint Opening – Registry/Regal

5:00 PM – Joint Memorial – Ambassador/Registry

6:00 PM – 11:00 PM – Hospitality Room – Ivory

Past State Commanders Dinner – Details TBA

### **Saturday June 2, 2018**

7:00 AM – 8:45 AM – Registration

9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon – VFW Business Session – Regal/Registry

12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM – Buddy Poppy Judging Will Be Completed

12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM – Lunch on your own

1:30 PM – 4:30 PM – VFW Business Session; All incoming Chairman (mandatory meeting)

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM – VFW/VFWA Joint Installation of Officers – Ambassador / Registry

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM - Dinner – Ambassador / Registry

### **Sunday June 3, 2018**

9:00 AM – 11:00AM – 2018-2019 VFW Council of Administration Meeting - Registry

(Note: Meeting Rooms/Times are subject to change)

## **AUXILIARY STATE CONVENTION AGENDA**

### ***THURSDAY May 31, 2018***

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM - VFW & Auxiliary Registration - Galleria

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM – VFWA Line Officers Meeting – A text will be sent with room number

### ***FRIDAY June 1, 2018***

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM - Auxiliary Registration - Galleria

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM - Floor Practice - Ambassador

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM- Auxiliary Council of Administration - Ambassador

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM - Business Session - Ambassador

11:45 AM - 1:30 PM - Past Auxiliary Presidents' Luncheon – Garduno's

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM - Joint Opening Session - Regal / Registry

5:00 PM - Joint Memorial - Ambassador / Registry

### ***SATURDAY June 2, 2018***

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM - Past Department Presidents' Breakfast – Hotel – ABQ Grill

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM - VFW & Auxiliary Registration - Galleria

7:30 AM - 8:00 AM - Floor Practice - Ambassador

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Business Session (Continued) - Ambassador

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM - Draping of Charter - Ambassador

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM - Officer/Chairman Luncheon - **TBA**

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM - Lunch on your own

12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM – Buddy Poppy Display Judging Will Be Completed

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM - Business Session (Continued) - Ambassador

*(Nomination and Election of Department Officers)*

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM – VFW/VFWA Joint Installation of Officers-Ambassador/Registry

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Dinner - Ambassador / Registry

### ***SUNDAY June 3, 2018***

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM – 2018 - 2019 VFWA C of A Council-Budget Approval - Ambassador

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM – Training - Presidents, Secretaries & Treasurers all levels - Ambassador

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**(Note: Meeting Rooms/Times are subject to change)**

## Department Convention VFW/VFWA Representatives



### **William J. "Doc" Schmitz Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

William "Doc" J. Schmitz, of Corning, N.Y., was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief July 26, 2017, at the 118th VFW National Convention in New Orleans, La.

Doc joined the United States Navy in 1966. He served in Vietnam as a corpsman attached to USMC infantry and artillery. In recognition of his service, he received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

He joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1971 at Post 524 in Corning, N.Y., where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life Membership. He has served as Department Commander, Post Commander, Southern Tier County Council Commander and District 5 Commander. He was also editor of the New York

State Overseas Veteran publication for nine years. In 2007, he was elected Department Surgeon for the Department of New York where he served for five consecutive years. He served as the national Surgeon General in 2010-2011, and as the national Inspector General in 2015-2016.

Doc worked for the Department of Corrections as a Registered Nurse and Acting Nurse Administrator for 30 years before retiring. He currently is employed as the Director of Veterans Issues for Congressman Tom Reed of the 23rd Congressional District in New York.

Doc and his wife, Deborah, reside in Corning, N.Y.



### **Armithea "Sissy" Borel**

#### *Past National President*

Past National President Armithea "Sissy" Borel of Starks, La., currently serves the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary as a member of the National Council of Administration.

In 2013-2014, she led 500,000 members under her theme **"Keeping America's Veterans & Families Strong."**

A Life Member of Starks Memorial Auxiliary 4759, she joined on the eligibility of her brother, a Purple Heart recipient who served in the U.S. Army, and she has three sons who give her eligibility as well.

She served the organization at the Auxiliary, District, Department and National level.

In 2004-2005 she was elected Department President, earning Outstanding President of the Year in her membership group. She has also been National Assistant Conductress and National Chairman for the Southern Conference on the Membership and "Buddy"® Poppy Programs and is currently serving as VFW National Home Trustee for District 6 representing the Departments of Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.

She has also served as the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary (MOCA) 2006-2007 Grand President of Louisiana, and is a member of the Starks Lions Club, where she has served as President and LEO Chairman for the state.

Sissy's family includes spouse, Terry, five children, 15 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

## VFWA President's Message



**Mary "Girl" Sanchez**

Diving in head first

Most people say you should not dive in head first because you never know what is just underneath the surface. I agree 95 percent of the time with that statement, but the rebel in me says just go for it!! Here is where my faith comes in - I believe GOD has a bigger purpose for me on this earth so he told me to take the plunge head first to the President's chair of the

Auxiliary for the Department of New Mexico. But I believe he also told me to surround myself with good caring sisters and brothers who would guide me or stand-by-me in case I need their help. I in turn stand by them with my support should they need it. We (the Auxiliary of New Mexico) have really good caring Department Officers and chairmen who care about the Auxiliaries. As I finish out this year it has been a roller coaster ride of ups and downs and self-doubt on decision I've made. The one thing I can say is that, I am truly humble and thankful to have the officers I have and the great advice and knowledge I've gain from talking to so many past Presidents on different scenarios. Diving in head first and faith has really help me this year and I want to thank all the Auxiliaries and comrades for your support. Next year, as I return we can put this year behind us and just say we started slow but finish strong and next year even stronger.

We always say "thank a Veteran for our freedom" but I will go one further, "Thank an Auxiliary member too" because we are the backbone of the Veterans. We are the ones left behind to help keep families moving forward, we are the ones behind the scenes making sure OUR HEROES, OUR VETERANS look good even when they hurting. We are there to comfort and support, THEIR FAMILY, we too deserve the accolades.



### New Mexico VFW Auxiliary State Officers 2017-2018

National Councilwoman - Jeanette Garcia 401 Albuquerque  
 President - Mary Sanchez 4384 Anthony  
 Sr. Vice President - Kelly Fouse 7686 Alamogordo  
 Jr. Vice President - Janis Wimmer 7686 Alamogordo  
 Treasurer - Penney Howard 614 Aztec  
 Secretary - Jeanette Garcia 401 Albuquerque  
 Chaplain - Lynda Putzier 9515 Portales  
 Conductress - Kandy Brazell 401 Albuquerque  
 Assistant Conductress - Judy Hayes 7686 Alamogordo  
 Guard - Nancy Tabb 5890 Rio Ranch  
 Assistant Guard - June Brazell 401 Albuquerque  
 Chief of Staff - Beth Miller 6917 Las Cruces  
 Past State Pres. - Vondale Mann 3280 Clovis  
 Color Bearer #1 - Sue Frappier 3015 Clovis  
 Color Bearer #2 - Elaine Mitchell 3015 Clovis  
 Color Bearer #3 - Lucretia Henson 2951 Santa Fe  
 Color Bearer #4 - Robert Henson 2951 Santa Fe  
 Flag Bearer - Shawna Mallory 5890 Rio Rancho  
 Banner Bearer - Jonathan Slate 3015 Clovis  
 Musician/Soloist - Diana Wong 401 Albuquerque

### District President

District 1 - Betty Decker 9517 Shiprock  
 District 2 - Nancy Tabb 5890 Rio Rancho  
 District 3 - Kelly Fouse 7686 Alamogordo  
 District 4 - Nancy Evans 1389 Elephant Butte  
 District 5 - Mary Ann Padilla 3271 Clayton  
 District 6 - Lucretia Henson 2951 Santa Fe  
 District 7 - Debby Perkins 8703 Carlsbad  
 District 8 - Bobbi Van Dyke 3280 Clovis

## VFWA Sr. Vice President's Message



**Kelly Fouse**

Just want to say a huge thank you to all of the members that actually do the great work of the VFW and its Auxiliary. This is what we are about; supporting our veterans and their families, through our programs, through mentorship and supporting each other, whether we support with our time, a listening ear or donating what monies we can. We are an organization of service. Service to the very

people that sacrificed for our freedom, the United States veterans and their families, which, whether a combat veteran or a combat veteran's family member, happens to include all of us that belong to the VFW and VFW Auxiliary.

I, as most of you, feel it is an honor to be a member of the Veteran of Foreign Wars Auxiliary! I truly believe that we must continue to strive to promote the great things we do. Therefore, we recruit others to help us, which in turn ensures the amazing legacy we were given will survive for future generations. Isn't that our responsibility as members?

When new people come into our organization, what do they see? Generally, a new person comes into a Post first. What do they see when they come into our Posts? Do they see everyone working together to work a program; raise money for a good cause; boxes being packed to be sent to the deployed; baskets being built for the ones in need; or a kids group being awarded for patriotic works? Or do they see a bunch of people sitting around in a canteen, and no one introduces themselves, much less sits down with them and has a conversation, explaining who we are and what we do; or even, just care that they are there. Food for thought: which one of the above is truly going to make a difference in our organizations? Which one of the above will help connect with a veteran who might be in a dark place, a newly discharged veteran trying to acclimate to civilian life, or a veteran's widow/

widower that needs to feel wanted and needed, or worse yet, is struggling to feed, clothe or shelter him\herself and possibly kids? If we do not reach out to that person, are they going to come back? Probably not - and who could blame them? Are we not failing as members of our service organization when we ignore the guest or the new member?

Sometimes, maybe, we need to stop and think what we really care about. We have been given an amazing legacy, by amazing people. With all that being said, I know I can definitely improve on my membership recruiting skills. I challenge each of you to get on your respective National and Department Websites, and look at the membership recruiting and retaining training. We should all have recruited this year. Without new people our organization(s) will not be here for the future. We will not be able to make a difference with our elected officials in D.C. Do we want them to be able to take away all the earned benefits of our veterans and their families?

Yes, a bit serious, however, sometimes it is all about taking care of business.



**Mid-Winter Conference 2018**

## VFWA Membership



**Janis Wimmer**

### PROGRAM GOALS:

- ♦ RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS
- ♦ RETAIN CURRENT MEMBERS
- ♦ GROW THE ORGANIZATION

The Membership/Leadership Program is very important to the Department of New Mexico VFW Auxiliary. Without members, our auxiliaries would not exist. We need members that can do the programs

in the VFW Auxiliary so that we can help our veterans and their families. Get out there and recruit new members. Go out and collect dues from members who have not paid their dues. If they did not pay last year, you can get them to rejoin. Find out why they didn't pay their dues and try to correct any problems that kept them from staying a member. Let them know what the VFW Auxiliary is all about.

Without proper leadership, our auxiliaries would not know how to operate successfully. Make sure that you elect members that will be able to guide

your auxiliary in the correct ways of the VFW Auxiliary. Remember that there is a wealth of information to help your elected and appointed officers and chairmen to do their jobs correctly. I have been giving out this information all year long. If you have missed any of my promotions or would like more information, you can find everything on the Department VFW Auxiliary Website at [www.nmvfwaux.org](http://www.nmvfwaux.org). Or you can access the National VFW Auxiliary website at [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org). You can make your auxiliary the best by using all the information available to you.

Remember there are "FIVE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN STATUS AS A VFW AUXILIARY." 1. Elect and install officers for the current year in accordance with (Section A.) 2. Hold at least ten (10) business meetings per year and a quorum of five (5) members in good standing shall be present. (See sections 210 and 212). 3. Bond the officers of the President and Treasurer no later than August 31 of the current year. (Section 814). 4. Quarterly audits shall be completed in compliance with (Section 814). 5. Dues shall be transmitted on at least (10) members on or before February 1 of the current year. (Section 207). All these Sections are in your current VFW Auxiliary By-Laws.



### The VFW National Home for Children Is Here for New Mexico Families.



**A Great Place to Call Home!**

The VFW National Home for Children offers a once in a lifetime **opportunity** for military and veteran related families.

If you know of a family in New Mexico that could use our help, please encourage them to call!

We are currently accepting new resident families into our program.

Most qualify to apply. Caring staff will help families to determine eligibility.

**800-313-4200**

## MOCA President's Special Project



The Grand President Kandy Brazell's special project for this year is helping to raise funds to be able to build a Fisher House at Albuquerque VAMC. The land was donated and they need \$30,000 to complete the building of the Fisher House.

The Fisher House provides "a home away from home" for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers. These homes offer free, temporary lodging to military and veterans' families, allowing them to be close to their loved one during a medical crisis and focus on what's important—the healing process. Right now there are 72 Fisher Houses located in the US, Germany, and United Kingdom.

The Military Hospital in El Paso, Texas has a Fisher House. I was blessed to be able to stay at the Fisher House when Dave was undergoing several of his cancer treatments when he first came down with cancer in 1990. It is a wonderful home and is located close to the hospital. You receive your own bedroom and you share a common kitchen, dining and living room. The Fisher House makes it so much easier on the families because it is so close to the hospital and they don't have to worry about having enough money to pay for motels. The Fisher House makes it possible for families to be with their loved

one while they have to stay in the Hospital.

Albuquerque is in great need of a Fisher House. We are blessed that the land was donated to build the house on. I know that it will take time to raise enough money for them to build the Fisher House; however, any help that we can give them will be greatly appreciated.

Anyone wishing to donate to this very worthwhile project please make your check out to the Grand of New Mexico and earmark it Grand President's Special Project. Please send the check to Grand Treasurer Becki Kester, 1210S. Florida; Alamogordo, NM 88310. All help is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, you can call, email, or write to me.

Phone #: 575-437-0053

Email: [kachina1@q.com](mailto:kachina1@q.com)

Address: 5980 Hwy 54 S Unit 3753; Alamogordo, NM 88311-9522

**"Taking Care of Our Ailing"**





From your Arizona VFW comrades and Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters  
to the great state of New Mexico:

Congratulations on a very successful year!

Let's continue to do great things together in 2018-2019!

*Ken Marshall*

Commander

*Reba Dermody*

President

*Gene Wood*

Sr. Vice Commander

*Kim Harney*

Sr. Vice President

YOUR DONATION OF

\$20

ENSURES THE VFW CAN

**Educate** a separating service member about his or her well-earned VA benefits through a private benefits counseling session with a VFW Service Officer

**Provide** training to 4 VFW Service Officers on signs of emotional suffering so they can better direct veterans to programs and services

**Help** cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war

**Serve** 5 morale-boosting "welcome home" meals for service members recently back from combat

## Patriot's Pen/Voice of Democracy/Teacher's



**Karla Eaton**

This has been a banner year for this Department with the student and teacher programs. I have been extremely honored to have been your chairman and am happy to report the results we enjoyed this year.

The **Patriot's Pen** program: nineteen posts, eighteen auxiliaries and all eight districts participated, and had \$7012 in award monies, other than Department

awards. Our winners at Department were:

- ♦ 1<sup>st</sup> place (and 22<sup>nd</sup> place Internationally) - Elizabeth Frost from Los Alamos Middle School in Los Alamos. She was sponsored by Post 8874, Los Alamos.
- ♦ 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Sarah Loman from Sierra Middle School in Las Cruces. She was sponsored by Post 10124, Cloudcroft.
- ♦ 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Malia Pryer from Portales Jr. High School in Portales. She was sponsored by Post 9515, Portales.

The **Voice of Democracy** program: nineteen posts, eighteen auxiliaries and all eight districts participated, and had \$9114 in award monies, other than Department awards. Our winners at Department were:

- ♦ 1<sup>st</sup> place (and 6<sup>th</sup> place Internationally) - Rachel Penner from Southwest Secondary Learning Center in Albuquerque. She was sponsored by Post 5890, Rio Rancho.
- ♦ 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Landry Truex from Elida High School in Elida. She was sponsored by Post 9515, Portales.
- ♦ 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Emma Tompkins from Cherry Street Christian Academy in Los Alamos. She was sponsored by Post 8874, Los Alamos.

The **Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award** program: seven posts, six auxiliaries and five districts participated, and had \$2565 in award monies, other than Department awards. Our winners at Department were:

- ♦ Elementary – Charlanne “Charlie” Cooper from Cloudcroft Elementary School in Cloudcroft. She was sponsored by Post 10124, Cloudcroft.
- ♦ Middle School – Emmanuel Davila from Holloman Middle School from Holloman Air Force Base. He was sponsored by Post 7686, Alamogordo.
- ♦ High School – Gary Sartin from Piedra Vista High School in Farmington. He was sponsored by Post 9517, Shiprock.

Congratulations to all of our winners. You made our state VFW and auxiliary members very proud.

I will be handing the chairman torch to Don Frias this coming year, but I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed the last several years working with you all. To the comrades and auxiliary members, a special thank you from the Commander and me for all you do and to all of you who work so hard to make these successful programs for our students, teachers, and our department! I believe these young people and their mentors give us confidence in a brighter future.

I will say, on behalf of your new Chairman, now is the time to start lighting some fires in your schools for the 2018-19 year.

The new themes are:

- ♦ Patriot's Pen – “Why I Honor the American Flag”
- ♦ Voice of Democracy – “Why My Vote Matters”

Looking forward to even better and more participation in the upcoming year. Good luck and all the best!



## Bataan Memorial March

The Bataan Memorial March is an annual event to honor those brave men that endured the Bataan Death March in the Philippines during World War II. This event is held every year at White Sands Missile Range in March. What you may not know is that more people in Bataan were from New Mexico than any other state in the U.S.

This year's Bataan Memorial March took place at White Sands Missile Range on March 25, 2018. Again, this year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars were a major sponsor of the event. Both the VFW and the VFWA Department of New Mexico were out in full force for recruiting and educational purposes. Attendees included Chaplain/Service Officer Cynthia Archuleta, John Archuleta, Candidate for National Jr Vice Commander in Chief 2020 Tim Borland, Mike Cano, Senior Vice Commander Mark Decker, Department Commander Fred Eaton, Karla Eaton, Past Commander Len Hampton, Surgeon Roy Maldonado, National Deputy Membership Director Rick McKenna, Jr Vice Commander Rich Nutt, National Council Kathi Scheibel, Raul Sanchez, and Mary Tutza on the VFW side. The VFWA attendees were Valerie Cano, Betty Decker, District 13 National Council Jeanette Garcia, Judy Hayes, Clara Montano, Past Department President Louise Salas, Dela Sanchez, and Department President Mary "Girl" Sanchez.

VFW and VFWA were out in force for all 5 days.



We talked to as many of the 9500 participants and their family members that came out as we could. Some of the gifts we gave out were neck gaiters to all people marching, water bottles, VFW magazines, and information packets about both the VFW and the VFWA. We spent lots of time getting to know these people as much as we were able. We shared stories about military life and the support their families give them. With all of this hard work, we recruited over 130 new or reinstated members in the VFW, and about a dozen in the VFWA. We handed out applications and instructions on how to become members to many more. Overall the VFW and VFWA spent over 250 hours either manning the booth, setting up the booth, tearing it down, or working on the March course itself.

**~continued on pg. 18**





~continued from pg. 17

We handed out a service coin or multi-tool to all new and reinstated members that joined, and Commander Eaton's coin was given to those from New Mexico.

The VFW Department of New Mexico also manned a water station on the march course. The members that stayed out there in the sun to encourage the marchers were great, and made sure water was available for the marchers. At the finish line Commander-in-Chief Keith Harmon and Commander Fred Eaton handed out awards to the winners of the march.

All the volunteers had a great time and enjoyed themselves. Everyone worked hard and got many leads for membership for the Department. A heartfelt thank you and job well done goes out to everyone that put any effort into this event.

VFW Post 6917 and their Auxiliary put on a dinner both Friday and Saturday nights for anybody that wanted to come down. They served over 50 meals. The meals were tasty and the entertainment afterwards was wonderful.

Next year VFW/VFWA Department New

Mexico will be doing the booth again. We invite everyone to volunteer for this event. The more we have out there, the more shifts we can run. We will have sign-up sheets at Flying Squadrons and Council of Administration this fall. I am looking forward to getting more and more volunteers out there. I encourage you to come out and help any way you can. VFWA members are welcomed and encouraged to help out. You will meet some of the most humble people in the world when you talk to any of the survivors. The families of those survivors are very proud of the accomplishments they have made in their lives. And the overall outpouring of support for the military in general, and the Bataan survivors in particular, is overwhelming.

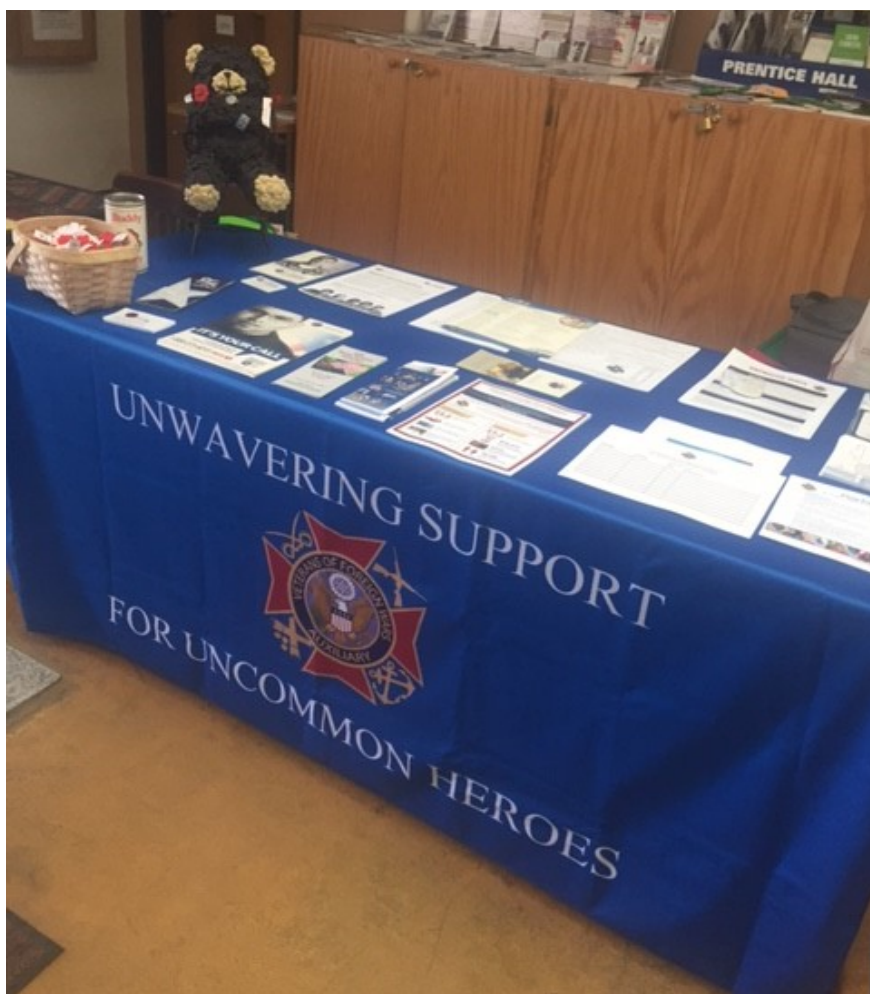
Thank you, everyone, for your outstanding work and attitude this year. We look forward to a great event here next year as well.



## VFW/VFWA 401 Freedom Festival

Approximately 40 people attended the Freedom Festival event at Post 401 on March 17, 2018. The event was a success. We set up an information table with information on every program that the auxiliary supports. Information was handed out to those in attendance.

We had a bake sale, and games for the kids to play, including a bounce house. Our surprise visitor, a Leprechaun, also showed up to hand out golden coins to everyone at the event. A great corn beef and cabbage meal was also served. Thank you to all of the auxiliary and post members who put in the extra effort to support the event, and to the members and community who attended the event.



## VFW 11999

### SACRAMENTO MOUNTAINS VFW POST PREPARES FOR ITS 7th ANNUAL "WARRIORS IN TRANSITION" PROGRAM

by R.H.Herold  
Public Affairs Officer

On May 16th, Sacramento Mountains VFW Post 11999 will once again, host its annual "Warriors In Transition" program here in Cloudcroft. The post, in cooperation with the Cloudcroft community, will be welcoming our soldiers and airmen to enjoy 3 days of R&R in the serene background of the Sacramento Mountains. Our guests will be treated to free lodging, food, and fun-filled activities hosted with Cloudcroft's legendary hospitality.

This program has, in the past, been of intangible, yet essential medicinal value to the core of mind and spirit of our returning service members. Each year, the post coordinates with the Warrior Transition Battalion in Fort Bliss Air Force bases throughout the state and the Cloudcroft community to provide recognition of the sacrifices made by our young warriors and their families.

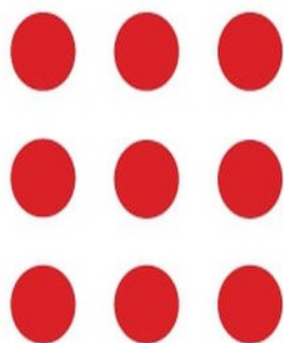
Past success of this program could not have been achieved without the tremendous support of the people and businesses of Cloudcroft and the

surrounding mountain community. The program was recognized in 2017 by the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Office when the post was presented with the Fred C. Hall award for Community Service. Only one award of this kind is presented among approximately 6500 VFW posts all over the world. Our post recognizes that this award is as much an accolade for our community as it is for our post, and we are grateful.

Planned activities include hiking, golf, fly fishing, mountain biking, ATV riding, karaoke, guided tours at Apache Point, a visit to the Space Museum and McGinn's Pistachio Farm, a presentation by the Forest Service, and a parade at 11:00am on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, on Burro Street. Local residents are encouraged to come out to greet our returning heroes.

Our guests will be presented with "Warrior Bucks" that they can spend at participating village businesses and will be given a t-shirt commemorating the event.

Donations to support this worthwhile program can be sent to VFW Post 11999 P.O. Box 499, Cloudcroft, NM, 88317 and further information can be obtained from Rich Herold at 575-415-2030 or Tom Reilly at 915-497-0402.



# Veterans Crisis Line

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

## VFW Teams Up With Vet Tix

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (April 5, 2018)** – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW) and Veteran Tickets Foundation (Vet Tix) are pleased to announce they've entered into an official alliance designed to benefit all veterans and service members, as well as their families and caretakers. By teaming up, both organizations increase awareness of the opportunities offered by both the VFW and Vet Tix. The organizations share the common goal of helping veterans during their time of service and as they transition back into civilian life by providing them with resources and support services.

"It is such an honor to partner with the VFW, which has such a rich history of supporting veterans since 1899," said Mike Focareto, CEO of Vet Tix. "[This collaboration will provide opportunities for all veterans to become VetTixers while experiencing the benefits of both Vet Tix and the VFW.](#) We have found that our tickets not only provide smiles and memories to our VetTixers, but have also helped their reintegration into the community. I look forward to us expanding our impact and creating more

memories for more veterans, their families and those who care for them."

"We're pleased to provide VetTixers with the many opportunities this new relationship brings including access to our vast programs and services designed specifically to serve their needs," said VFW National Commander Keith Harman. "We're all in any time we can help boost the morale of our nation's finest, or any time we can simply help them in life, period." Vet Tix events provide service members and veterans a unique opportunity to spend quality time with one another and family to strengthen social connections. Vet Tix seats are often grouped in blocks enabling VetTixers to be seated with other VetTixers at events, helping to promote comradery similar to that experienced while in service. The VFW's contributions will grant those unique reintegration opportunities and help military families to make memories that last a lifetime.

To learn more about Vet Tix and how to get Involved, visit the [sign-up page](#).

## Scout of the Year



This year VFW Department of New Mexico selected Eagle Scout Shaeon B. Johnson of Jemez Springs, NM to receive its annual Scout of the Year \$500 Scholarship. Eagle Scout Johnson has risen above his peers

regarding the qualities of that rank. He is a member of Troop 129 in White Rock, NM and was nominated by Commander Jason Lott of Post 8874 in Los Alamos, NM.

Eagle Scout Johnson's nomination submittal will now be sent to VFW National for judging. VFW national awards are as follows; \$5,000 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$3,000 2<sup>nd</sup> place and \$1,000 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Congratulations, Eagle Scout Shaeon B. Johnson, for receiving the VFW Department of New Mexico's highest Scouting honor.

*Terrance Brown, FAIA*  
VFW NM Department Scouting Chairman  
Post 5432 Surgeon General  
PO Box 1  
Corrales, NM 87046  
h)505-792-4415 c)505-350-1641 Cell: (575) 973-4965  
[tblazestar@aol.com](mailto:tblazestar@aol.com)



## Not Forgotten

"This is the best thing that could ever happen to this property," said Francis Cordova, a veteran, community volunteer and lifelong resident of nearby El Prado. "We've always been praying that it doesn't become commercialized, and continuing to farm this land will help preserve our culture."

Not Forgotten Outreach intends to permanently protect most of the property from major development through a conservation easement with the Taos Land Trust. One corner of the field will become a veterans memorial park powered by an on-site solar array, and another 2.4-acre area is slated for an affordable housing development for veterans and their families.

"The Mitchell Property is iconic, with incredible water resources, fertile land and expansive views that Taoseños love," said Kristina Ortiz de Jones, executive director of the Taos Land Trust. Ortiz added that the land has long been identified by the community as a top conservation priority.

Jake Caldwell with the LOR Foundation said the acquisition of the property by Not Forgotten Outreach protects valuable agricultural land by keeping it productive while ensuring the public can access and enjoy the open space.

"LOR is all about maintaining the economic viability

of traditional working lands while protecting natural resources," Caldwell said. "Taos residents want to see that lush pasture preserved, and Not Forgotten Outreach will use that land to improve quality of life for veterans and the community."

To support its work at the new property in perpetuity, Not Forgotten is mounting a fundraising campaign to build a \$2.5 million endowment fund at the Taos Community Foundation. "Taos Community Foundation is proud to work closely with Not Forgotten Outreach on this initiative to assure the beauty and openness of this beautiful part of Taos," said community foundation director Lisa O'Brien.

The purchase of the Mitchell Property adds to Not Forgotten's existing services, which include a respite center for military families, as well as a separate veterans wellness center that offers yoga, acupuncture and other healing services.

*For more information about Not Forgotten Outreach, or to learn how to get involved with the farming project, visit [www.notforgottenoutreach.org](http://www.notforgottenoutreach.org) or email [don@notforgottenoutreach.org](mailto:don@notforgottenoutreach.org).*

*To donate to the endowment, call the Taos Community Foundation at (575) 737-9300.*

*To learn more about the LOR Foundation, visit [www.lorfoundation.org](http://www.lorfoundation.org)*

## Commander Eaton's Special Project

Not Forgotten Outreach in Taos, NM is this year's Special Project. Not Forgotten is a rehab place for veterans. It provides relaxation, counseling, and interaction with others to help the disabled veteran.

They are in need of a lift to assist people from the bed to the wheelchair, from the wheelchair to the shower, and other places. We are trying to raise \$6000 by Mid-Winter. This will be for the lift and other necessary projects to allow the lift to go from room to room.

The Department is asking all Posts and Districts to donate a minimum of \$50 to this project. You may make the checks out to VFW Dept NM, and in the memo put Special Project. Send your checks in to Dave Fouse at Department headquarters. We will also be doing games and raffles for fundraisers to get all of the money.

**COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF  
VINCENT "B.J." LAWRENCE  
HOMECOMING**

**SEPTEMBER 20-23, 2018**

**HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION**



**ALBUQUERQUE MARRIOTT**

**2101 Louisiana BLVD NE Albuquerque, NM 87110**

**MUST IDENTIFY RESERVATION RATE WITH:**

**VFW C-in-C Homecoming**

*(Rates cannot be changed at check-in or check-out for guests who fail to identify their affiliation at the time the reservation is placed)*

**CALL: 1 800-228-9290 OR 505-881-6800**

**DON'T FORGET TO MENTION VFW HOMECOMING!!**

**Single and Double Bed Accommodations—**

**\$93.00/ PER NIGHT (PLUS APPLICABLE TAXES)**

**FREE PARKING**

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: AUGUST 22, 2018**



**Go to [vfwnm.org](http://vfwnm.org) for a complete registration packet!**

## Candidate Forum

### Tim Borland Perusing Top Seat in VFW



Tim Borland, Life Member of Post 9972 Sierra Vista, is a candidate for the VFW Western Conference's nomination for National Jr. Vice Commander-in Chief Select in July 2019. Tim earned his eligibility to join the VFW during his 28-year long career in the U.S. Army, retiring as a First Sergeant at Ft. Huachuca in Sierra Vista, with deployments to Korea and Iraq.

If selected, Tim will then advance to National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief in 2020-21, and then Commander-in-Chief in 2022-23. Tim has been traveling the country since November 2015, and has already visited every Department in the Conference with 11 endorsements. Tim's passion and loyalty for this organization is strong as he continues to travel all over the Nation promoting the VFW and encouraging younger members from Iraq and Afghanistan to join. He has already attended four Bataan Death March recruiting events, and plans to support New Mexico

as long as his schedule will allow.

If you would like to help Tim in his quest to become VFW National Commander-in-Chief, please contact him at 520-678-9180 and join his team. At this time, donations are being accepted to help alleviate travel expenses. If you would like to donate, please feel free to do so by either visiting his website at [www.everyveterancounts2020.org](http://www.everyveterancounts2020.org) or make checks payable to "Every Veteran Counts 2020" and note on the check "Tim's Campaign" and send it to: Tim Borland • 2089 W Cave Cotton Loop • Benson, AZ 85602

## know the five signs.

Nearly one in every five people, 42.5 million Americans, have a diagnosable mental health condition. Our friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members may be suffering emotionally. They may not recognize the symptoms or ask for help.



Not feeling like yourself?



Are you feeling agitated?



Are you feeling withdrawn?



Taking care of yourself?



Are you feeling hopeless?

## Candidate Forum

### **Timothy C. Peters** **Candidate for Western Conference Vice Chairman**

Comrades,

I am officially announcing my candidacy for Western Conference Vice Chairman. I earned my eligibility to the Veterans of Foreign Wars for my service in the Gulf War in 1991. I served in the Air Force for 20 years as a C-130 Crew Chief and retired in 2001. I am a member of VFW Post 10010 in East Helena, Montana.



I am a two time back to back All-American Post Commander, All-American Department Commander and All-American Post, District and Department Quartermaster. Three time All-State Post Commander, and have been Captain of the All-State team of Post Commanders, All-State Quartermaster and Co-Captain of the All-State Team of Post Quartermasters, I am currently a Post and Department Quartermaster/Adjutant and Vice Chairman of the National Budget and Finance Committee. I have filled most Post, District and State chairs and I am a past Western Conference Secretary/Treasurer and Past National Council Member.

I have the full support of my Post and Department. I am a highly motivated and dedicated member of the Western Conference and I would appreciate your support in the upcoming election in Kansas City.

Yours in comradeship,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Timothy C. Peters".

**TIMOTHY C. PETERS**  
Candidate

## Candidate for Department Surgeon



**Christopher Archuleta**

I was born in Los Alamos, New Mexico (15JAN1978.) I served with the New Mexico National guard U.S. Army from June 2006 to Aug 2012. I served with the 3631 (old buffalo herd, Santa Fe) A/co 1 BN 200 Infantry Rio Rancho (deployed in 2007 to Iraq), 115th Transportation Det. 3 Espanola (deployed in 2009.) I was also activated for the natural gas outage in 2011 here in Espanola, and

for the Las Conchas fire.

I hold two Military occupational specialty qualifications: (MOSQ) 11B (infantry), and 88M (transportation.)

Decorations include : Army Commendation medal, Army good conduct medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism service medal, Iraq Campaign Medal w/ campaign star, Army service ribbon, Armed forces reserve service w/m device. I was nominated for the Ferrell Udell Award and won this award.

I joined the VFW Hill-Vigil post 5610 here in Espanola and am a life member. Currently serving as Post Commander, and second year as District 6 Commander. I am also the Commission President for the Espanola Veterans Memorial Wall located in the plaza of Espanola. I am pushing and advocating for more mental health services here in the rural communities of northern New Mexico.

I would appreciate your support and vote as Surgeon at the Department of New Mexico summer convention of 2018.

Sincerely,  
Christopher L. Archuleta

## Candidate for Department Surgeon



**Don Frias**

Greetings Veterans of Foreign Wars Comrades of the GREAT Department of New Mexico. My name is Don Frias. I am current Commander of Post 401 in Albuquerque, NM. I am asking for your support and consideration as the State Surgeon for the 2018-2019 year.

I joined the U.S. Navy in 1986. I served from 1986-1990 aboard the USS Pelelu LH-5 in Long Beach, California. I

reenlisted and was sent to Coronado, California Amphibious Base where I served with the Assault Craft Unit squadron from 1990-1992. That's where my unit was sent to Kuwait. I served two tours in a specialized boat. Upon my return, I joined VFW Post 5477 in Imperial Beach, Ca. I then moved back to Albuquerque, where I joined Post 401.

I have been married 23 years to Past Department President, Shirlee Frias. We have two children, Zacharie Frias, a senior at New Mexico State University, and Alexis Frias, a senior at V. Sue Cleveland High School. We live in Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

My VFW experience ranges from serving all offices including trustee and to now the current position of commander (my second term). I also am the VAVS Deputy Representative and Adjutant for District 2 for the past six years. I am also a member of the Military Order of the Cootie, where I am the Seam Squirrel for Pup Tent #7 and the Grand Commander for the Grand of New Mexico.

Again, I would like to ask you for your consideration and vote for the position of the State Surgeon for the 2018-2019 year.

Sincerely,  
Don Frias

# Arizona VFW & Auxiliary CONVENTION 2018

Scottsdale Plaza Resort

7200 N. Scottsdale Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85253

**Wednesday June 6 thru Sunday June 10, 2018**

Phone reservations 800-832-2025 Code "VFW"

Request special considerations at this time (handicap, first floor etc...)

Room Rates: Deluxe King/Double Queen \$83.00 + tax

Deadline for Reservations is May 6, 2018

## **Commander & Presidents Reception Saturday June 9, 4:00 pm**

\$30<sup>00</sup>ea For reservations: (you must make a reservation by May 14, 2018)

Tickets will not be mailed. Pick up your tickets at the VFW registration table at convention.

*Send Checks to:* Veterans of Foreign Wars  
6907 E. Thomas Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

*For more info:* Ski Kuczynski 480-941-5258  
email - azvfw3@gmail.com

*Payable to:* "VFW Dept of AZ" *Please note on check: "Convention Banquet"*

## **Tentative Convention Schedule**

### **WEDNESDAY JUNE 6, 2018**

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM REGISTRATION

### **THURSDAY JUNE 7, 2018**

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM REGISTRATION

9:00 AM JOINT OPENING (All State Commanders & QM's Awards)

12:00 PM ADJOURN (Lunch On Your Own)

1:00 PM JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE

3:00 PM AUXILIARY OPENING SESSION

### **FRIDAY JUNE 8, 2018**

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM REGISTRATION

9:00 AM OPEN BUSINESS SESSIONS Nomination of 2018-19 Department Officers

12:00 PM APPC AUXILIARY LUNCHEON

2:00 PM AUXILIARY RESUME BUSINESS SESSION (2018-19 Program Kickoff, Aux Past Dept. Presidents' Dinner)

5:00 PM VFW PAST COMMANDERS' CLUB

### **SATURDAY JUNE 9, 2018**

8:00 AM - 10:00 REGISTRATION

8:00 AM FLAG RAISING AT MAIN ENTRANCE (VFW Riders)

9:00 AM VFW & AUXILIARY RESUME BUSINESS SESSIONS (Nomination & Election Of 2018-2019 Department Officers)

SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION - ALL Service Officers, Chaplains, QM's, Inspectors & VMS (30 minutes after business session)

4:00 PM DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS & PRESIDENTS BANQUET & JOINT INSTALLATION OF 2018-2019 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

### **SUNDAY JUNE 10, 2018**

10:00 AM INCOMING COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING

## VFW Membership



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

**District 4—Jack Doil 101.26%**

**District 6— Christopher Archuleta 100.43%**

**District 3—Mike Cano 99.26%**

**District 1—Kyrk Westbrook 98.21%**

**District 5—Joe Esparza 96.90%**

**District 2—Victoria Haddox 96.23%**

**District 8—Kirk Reader 94.67%**

**District 7—Edwardo Rodriquez 88.31**

### Divisions

**1—Post 5610 Espanola  
111.11%**

**2—Post 11999 Cloudcroft  
118.33%**

**3—Post 8874 Las Alamos  
105.92%**

**4—Post 6917 Las Cruces  
101.83%**

**5—Post 7686 Alamagordo  
96.75%**

### Recruiters

**1st—Mark Decker - 25  
2nd—Lenwood Hampton - 20  
3rd—Cynthia Archuleta - 19  
4th—Mary Tutza - 18  
5th—Roger Bartosiewicz -  
16**

## VFWA Membership

### Groups

**1—Auxiliary 2182 Farmington  
114.30%**

**2—Auxiliary 3259 Taos 108.00%**

**3—Auxiliary 4384 Anthony 101.30%**

**4—Auxiliary 8874 Los Alamos  
106.70%**

**5—Auxiliary 1389 Elephant Butte  
107.10%**

**6—Auxiliary 3280 Clovis 96.30%**

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

**District 6—Lucretia Henson 101.10%**

**District 5—Mary Ann Padilla 100.00%**

**District 1—Betty Decker 96.40%**

**District 3—Kelly Fouse 96.30%**

**District 8—Bobby Van Dyke 95.03%**

**District 7— Debby Perkins 93.50%**

**District 4—Nancy Evans 89.00%**

**District 2—Nancy Tabb 86.80%**