



VFW NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO

Land of Enchantment



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

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VFW National Representative



John E. Hamilton

John E. Hamilton was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 25, 2012, at the 113th VFW National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

In July 2013 he was appointed Adjutant General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a position he held until his retirement in 2016.

John served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1968 to 1970, including a tour in Vietnam. His decorations

include three Purple Hearts, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Gallantry Cross Color, Republic of Vietnam Unit Citation Civil Actions Color (First Class), and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

He joined the VFW in 1974 at Post 7909 in Jacksonville, Florida, later transferring to Post 5450 in Crestview, Florida, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served the VFW in many leadership positions, including the National Council of Administration from 1989 to 1991, and as Florida's Department Commander from 1987 to 1988. He served on the board of the VFW National Home from 2002 to 2008, and as its president from 2004 to 2005. He also served as Supreme Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie from

1992 to 1993.

John graduated with honors from Georgia Military Academy in 1967. He worked as a professional wrestler throughout the United States and the world for 15 years as Johnny Montana (also known as "Dr. Death"), along with other names and identities. He was named Florida's Young Veteran of the Year in 1981. John served as a commissioner on the United States World War I Centennial Commission board located in Washington, D.C., from 2014 to 2016, and served on the board of the World War I Museum located in Kansas City, Missouri, from 2011 to 2016. He has been honored by Presidents Jimmy Carter and George H. W. Bush for his outstanding community service and leadership.

John is a member of the Military Order of the Cootie, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, AMVETS, Fleet Reserve Association, and the Semper Fidelis Society.

He resides in Crestview, Florida.

THE VFW HAS EARNED
TOP RATING



FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Charity
Navigator



Commander's Message



Victoria Haddox

Can you believe we are already in the Holiday season? For most, it's the most incredible time of the year. For some, they need our time and attention. Do buddy checks, open houses, or invite them over for dinner. You may be the only family they have.

Thank you all that have supported the programs this year. I know I was asking a lot from you with the Scholars Apps, and I heard of all the issues. Hopefully we can be the cornerstone to building a better, stronger system not only for the VFW

but for our youth. Those who have used the program successfully, have noticed there are so many more benefits for our youth. More scholarships means more opportunities for our applicants. Let us start focusing on safety and the year awards coming up. Please don't wait until the last minute.

In September our Department was extremely busy. We started with our National Legislative Chairman going to Washington D.C to garner our legislators' support on this year's priorities. We celebrated the Department's birthday (September 18th) and the VFW birthday (September 29th). I preach they are just as important as our service's birthday because it should be the foundation of your history. Lastly, we celebrated Department President Beth Miller's homecoming. I was unceremoniously put into the dunk tank, along with other fun events to raise money for our special project. So much fun was had by all!

October was a whirlwind. The Department was inspected by National, with some things highlighted for us to improve. Please be understanding as we adjust our policies and job descriptions - it's a new process we have to create. Thank you to those who came out to my Homecoming. I'm truly blessed by all of you. At the Council of Administration, we voted on a new travel policy, as well as moving our Mid Winter to Las Cruces. We didn't come by this decision lightly. The skinny is we are trying to save money before there isn't money to save. We must become better fiduciaries of our future. We need to refocus on how to grow our coppers at all levels. We have



been working on a sponsorship menu for Department, and we want to start working on one for the Post levels as well. Input is appreciated!

We attended the Western Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. There our very own Len Hampton was the victor of the Vice Chairman of Western Conference. A huge congratulations are in order. We made connections for Service Member Benefits about some benefits, as well as helping grow our membership. They will be attending our Mid-Winter for your questions and concerns.

A huge shout out to Mark Decker for helping us with membership unpaid and expired. He's helped with calls, emails, and letters so we can meet the 4- \$1000 gateways, in membership. We just missed the 88% gateway on November 1st by less than 2%. If you would like to help us reach these goals, let us know. Membership is about our voice. Our voice helps us help our veterans and families do more and be more.

Speaking of which, I'm wanting to get a legislation team together for the State. Those interested, let's get together and form a committee to present a full idea at the State Convention! In hindsight, they could be our advocates at the roundhouse, so we can build relationships there.

It's been a crazy year with a lot of new beginnings, revitalization, education, more communication, and lasting memories. Again thank you for your continued support. I'm always available for questions and concerns on building a better VFW for us all!

New Mexico VFW News

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

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

VFW

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Sr Vice Message



Brian Ravak

Greetings Comrades! I have been honored to serve as a State officer in the Department of New Mexico for the past three and a half years. During this time, I've visited many Posts and Districts and have enjoyed serving alongside each of you and being a part of many successful events that highlight the great work the Veterans of Foreign Wars does in the service of our veterans. I truly believe No One Does More for Veterans than the VFW!

I enjoy serving our veterans and desire to continue serving at the next level. Therefore, I am declaring my intent to run for State Commander for the 2024-2025 VFW year. I believe my prior experience as an All-State and All-American Post Commander, All-State District Commander, and experience as the Department Surgeon, Chaplain, Junior Vice Commander, and now as the State Senior Vice Commander has prepared me to lead our Department with integrity, honor, and a commitment to service.

Comrades, I respectfully ask for your support and would be honored to continue to serve alongside of you as we continue to build upon the solid foundation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars established by the comrades who have gone before us. Thank you for entrusting me in the service of our New Mexico veterans!

Jr Vice Message



Jim Haddox

Comrades, These last few months have been a whirlwind of travel and learning. In September I went to the National Legislative Committee conference in Washington D.C to represent our Legislative priorities at Congress. I met with all of our offices and met with Rep. Gabe Vasquez. All offices agreed, in theory, to support our priorities.

In October, I attended the Jr. Vice Commander training at National

Headquarters in Kansas City. A lot of good information and fellowship were shared. This training continues to serve our Department to ensure we are in compliance with our peers and National policies and directives. I had the opportunity to join District 6 for their meeting. It was great to spend time with all who attended.

As we move forward through this holiday season, we should remember that we are here to support each other and to continue to build the best representation

to support Veterans. By increasing our membership, we can use our influence and the influence of our Auxiliary to achieve greater impacts to our community and to the policies that impact Veterans in our state and the country at large.

I would like to wish a wonderful holiday season to all of you and all of your families as well. I look forward to seeing you at the mid winter conference, if not before. God bless you, your family, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary. And God bless the United States of America!



Adjutant/Quartermaster Message



Dave Fouse

Comrades,
New Mexico was well represented at the National Convention in Phoenix, thanks to all who attended. As many of you know, there have been a few changes to the National By-Laws, and the Manual of Procedure has been approved. Most notably was the removal of the Dues Reserve requirement for the Posts. I highly encourage each of you to purchase a new

Podium Edition, especially if you are a Post or District Officer. I have been to a few Post meetings that are still being held with an old book.

We are somewhat on track with submitting minutes and audits, but far behind on Community Activity Reports and Buddy Poppy Orders. Let's pick up the pace a bit and get these taken care of. REMINDER all Audits are to be sent to the State Inspector R.E. Bartosiewicz by mail or email. See the directory for contact info.

For those of you who missed the Commander's Homecoming on October 21st, you missed some great food, games and visiting. Thanks to Post 5890 and the Elks Lodge for hosting this event. GREAT JOB!!! Raffle tickets are for sale as a fundraiser for the Department. They are raffling a rifle this year. Contact Department HQ's for details.

The Mid-Winter Conference is coming fast. It will be held at Post 6917, 5845 Bataan Memorial West in Las Cruces. Headquarters hotel will be at the Staybridge Suites. The registration packets will be posted online at www.vfwnm.org under ABOUT US then ANNOUNCEMENTS. Scroll down to the bottom. We are requesting designated drivers for this event.

We are out of donated funds for the hospitality room. Actually, we are about \$140.00 in the hole. If we want to continue this tradition, please send your donations to Department HQ's. In the memo, enter "hospitality room" or a variation thereof.

From my family to yours, have a safe and happy holiday season.

Past State Commander Message



Christopher Archuleta

Hello comrades, you probably get tired of me talking about mental health. Mental health and suicide is prevalent amongst Veterans. Many of us are diagnosed with some type of mental health problem like PTSD, depression, and anxiety, to name a few. Let's talk about suicide for a minute. Sometime on November 7 or 8 a USMC vet and Police officer for Española PD committed suicide. Prior to this in June, the State Sr. Vice from Arizona that was going to

be State Commander the next day also committed suicide. As an attempted suicide survivor, this recent suicide has had a devastating impact on me. We are losing Veterans at an alarming rate due to suicide. We need to learn how to recognize the signs. I've been doing suicide awareness classes for six years and I don't plan on stopping. If any Post is interested in a class for mental health or suicide awareness contact me and let's set one up. In the meantime please check on your membership. I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE everyone to help other vets get the necessary help they so deserve. I look forward to seeing everyone for mid winter, until then, have a wonderful holiday and be safe. Thanks for all you do for the VFW and Auxiliary. If you are in crisis please feel free to contact me or the crisis line at 988.

Joint Chaplain Message



Gary Logsdon

Angelia Velarde-Logsdon

Behind every strong soldier or veteran, there is an even stronger family who stands by them, supports them, and loves them with all their heart. Thank you for the love you have shown.

We are proud to be part of the VFW family as we continue to help support our veterans and their families.

A heart of gratitude,



Hello Comrades and Auxiliary Members:

We want to thank everyone for their support of us as this year's State Chaplains and we appreciate your continued support as we work up through the chairs.

We write this letter in hope that many will read it and our words will offer support to as many as possible.

So far this year, we have been devastated and in shock at the magnitude of the loss of brothers and sisters within the VFW and its Auxiliary. As we have experienced, death is not prejudiced of age.

While we know words are only a small gesture of support, we want you to know that the spirits of the ones we have lost have touched many lives. The VFW and its Auxiliary are a family and we are here to help take care of each other. If there is any support you may need, please reach out to either of us.

In order to continue to honor our departed brothers and sisters, we ask all Posts and Auxiliaries to send the names and pictures of your departed members to us as soon as you are able to, but no later than April 30, 2024.

This will allow time to put together a memorial presentation that will honor each of them during our State Convention.

New Mexico VFW Auxiliary State Officers 2022-2023

National Councilwoman - Mary "Girl" Sanchez 4384 Anthony
President - Beth Miller 6917 Las Cruces
Sr. Vice President - Renee King 2951 Santa Fe
Jr. Vice President - Kelly Fouse 7686 Alamogordo
Treasurer - Penney Howard 614 Aztec
Secretary - Jeanette Garcia 401 Albuquerque
Chaplain - Angelia Velarde-Logsdon 2951 Santa Fe
Conductress - Michelle Dennison 3370 Moriarty
Assistant Conductress - Dela Sanchez 4384 Anthony
Guard - Shelly Ravak 6917 Las Cruces
Assistant Guard - Dela Sanchez 4384 Anthony
Chief of Staff - Mary "Girl" Sanchez 4384 Anthony
Past State Pres. - Dominique Garcia 401 Albuquerque
Color Bearer #1 - Veronica Angel 10124 Las Cruces
Color Bearer #2 - Sharlotte Dennisson 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 - Betty Decker 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



VFWA District 15 Councilmember Chrissy Harlan

At the Department of Arizona Convention in June I was elected as National District 15 Council Member to represent the Departments of Arizona and New Mexico. I am a native of New Mexico and most of my family still resides there. I am honored to be your representative.

The 110th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary was an exciting and educational experience. Prior to the convention I emailed the documents for the National Council of Administration Meeting to your Department Secretary Jeanette. If you did not receive the document or do not have access to it, please feel free to contact me at vfwkidsrus@gmail.com or 520-906-7363.

As your Council Member I was given several questions to ask at the Council Meeting and I will summarize them here as well as explanations to other questions that were asked.

Items #0 and #1 were the Agenda for the meeting and the Minutes of the last meeting. Items #2A & #2B were the correspondence.

Item #3 was the Budget Report for September 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023. Pages 1-3 explain the deficits and surpluses in the income and overages in expenses. The overage for Property and Liability Insurance on Page 7 was approved at a previous Council of Administration Meeting and the remaining items were approved at this meeting.

Item #4 was the proposed Budget for the 2023 – 2024 Fiscal Year.

On page 3 of the actual Budget there is a line item for a Documentarian. This is not an official office but someone that the National President takes with them to Official events such as the Presidential Inauguration, Commander -in-Chief Homecoming, Mid-Year Conference, etc. The National President chooses who they take as their plus one so to speak.

Also, on page 3 and continuing on pages 4 and 5 regarding travel for the National Officers to Conference Meetings, you will see that they are each going to only two Conference Meetings. This is because this year two Conferences are meeting on one weekend and two on another. If the Conference Meetings were all on separate dates all officers would be attending all four Conference Meetings thus increasing the budget. The National Chief of Staff will also be attending two Conference Meetings. The only explanation I was given for why the Chief of Staff needed to be at Conference Meetings was it is what the National President wants. There are references throughout the Budget to Employee Benefits and Taxes. Some have increased

and some have decreased. Insurance is an Employee Benefit and age and place of residency affect rates.

The Budget includes \$100,000 for printing of Annual Membership Cards! I was asked to suggest options such as emailing a card that could be printed, an email explaining how to print the card from Malta, and using the new app that is in production. The National Secretary / Treasurer is to look into these and other options.

Credit Card Processing fees were discussed as the Budget includes \$23,000. The consensus at the meeting was that we do not want to pass these on to the members who use credit cards.

Although we no longer print the National Magazine, we do pay to have the layout done as well as housing it on the web so the budgeted amount is \$40,000.

Lastly under Special Events it is listed as CAFÉ and President's Celebration. The President's Celebration was removed as the National Organization does not financially contribute to that. It is up to the Department the President is from to host that event.

Now onto the Standing Rules. Most of the changes were simple housekeeping issues like gender specific verbiage and grammar.

Past National President Jane Reape moved to amend item E-2 Past National Presidents. Now, starting in 2024, Past National Presidents will have their expenses paid to Mid-Year Conference for the four years they are on Council plus only four additional years instead of for their lifetime. This does not change paying for the National Convention for their lifetime. The motion was seconded by Past National President Peggy Haake and several Past National Presidents spoke on the issue. The motion carried.

Item I pertains to Council of Administration items being sent to Council Members which now appears under a new tab in the duties section of Council Members. A motion was made to allow access to Minutes, budgets, Standing Rules, etc. to ALL members in Malta. I seconded this motion and the motion carried. I do not know how long it will take for this to happen but am hopeful that it will prior to our Mid-Year Conference. I believe this sums up the 1st National Council of Administration Meeting of the 2023-2024 year. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 520-906-7363 or email vfwkidsrus@gmail.com.

I look forward to meeting many of you when I make my visit to New Mexico.

VFW Historian



Mark Decker

I was appointed by Commander Haddox to be the Historian for this year for our Department. What I wanted to do, and plan on doing this year, is look back at our Department from when it started and talk about different parts of our history.

I have asked the Posts and Districts to send me any history they can about their Posts. How many All American/All

State winners they have, their Department Commanders from their Post, when and where they were chartered, when and where they moved to, who they are named after, and any other information they think is interesting for the Department members to see. I have gotten very little back so far. I am sure we will get more.

For this first article I want to talk a little about how we started. We were a provisional Department starting in 1921. This means we did not have enough Posts in the State to become a Department. At that time we needed 10 Posts to become a Department. During this time we had 5 different Department Commanders and 5 years where we have no record of who was Commander. We do not have any record of what Posts any of these Commanders were from. The oldest record we have of Posts being chartered in New Mexico is July 1931.

We became a Department on September 18, 1934. Our Charter Posts were: 1547(2/1/28), 1793 (2/15/30), 401(2/5/32), 2528(5/14/32), 2575 (5/15/32), 2182(7/10/32), 1477(11/5/32), 3015 (5/5/34), 3038(7/4/34), 2951(7/5/34). These were our original 10 Posts in the State. Of these Posts 1547 is still in Las Vegas, 1793 is still in Raton, 401 is still in Albuquerque, 2528 is still in Tucumcari, 2575 in Roswell was closed in 2011, 2182 in Farmington was closed in 2023, 1477 in Deming was closed in 2011, 3015 is still in Clovis, 3038 in Gallup was closed in 1996, and 2951 is still in Santa Fe.

I am still researching with National and the local Posts to see if we can get where our Department Commander Cash Austin served, branch of service he was in, and what Post he belonged to as our 1st Commander while we were a Department. He was Department Commander the last year we were a Provisional Department and the first year we were a Department.

This is just a little of our history that we need to look back on and enjoy. If any member has any information on Posts, or Commanders that they want to send forward, please do it. The more the members let us know, the more complete our history will be. In the next article I plan on writing about the Posts, Districts, and Commanders that have made All American. If there is some article about the history you want to know about the Department, please send me your ideas and thoughts. I can do some research and try to find the information.

New Mexico VFW State Officers 2023-2024

National Council Member - Len Hampton 6917 Las Cruces
Commander - Victoria Haddox 5890 Rio Rancho
Sr. Vice Commander - Brian Ravak 6917 Las Cruces
Jr. Vice Commander - James Haddox 5890 Rio Rancho
Quartermaster - Dave Fouse 7686 Alamogordo
Chaplain - Gary Logsdon 2951 Santa Fe
Judge Advocate - Cathy Brock 3274 Hobbs
Surgeon - Michael Cano 4384 Anthony
Past State Cmdr - Christopher Archuleta 5610 Espanola
Inspector - Roger Bartosiewicz 3280 Clovis
Chief of Staff - Michael Cano 4384 Anthony
Service Officer - Louis Rossi 5890 Rio Rancho

District Commanders

District 1 - Mark Decker 9517 Shiprock
District 2 - Don Frias 401 Albuquerque
District 3 - Darrell Melon 10124 Las Cruces
District 4 - Jonathan Karlin 1389 Elephant Butte
District 5 - Danny Cruz 1547 Las Vegas
District 6 - Benjamin Pearce 5610 Espanola
District 7 - Mark Bowman 3274 Hobbs
District 8 - Justin Knapp 2528 Tucumcari

Scout of Year

It is not too soon to begin thinking about the Scout of the Year Program. The due date for nomination submittals from eligible Scouts to be sent to your Post is March 1, 2024. This is a good time to find a Scout unit in your area and contact its leader to make them aware of this opportunity. The VFW New Mexico winner receives \$1,000. Also, a submittal to your Post for this program is required for part of the VFW New Mexico All-State Award criteria.

WHO CAN ENTER Scouts who are registered, active members of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, or Venturing Crew or a Sea Scout Ship who have received the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award (NM does not have a Sea Scout program). There is no minimum age requirement for applicants if all other eligibility criteria have been met. The maximum age requirement for applicants is 18 years old and if an applicant reaches their 18th birthday during the nomination year they remain eligible as long as they are still in high school at the time of the submission

deadline.

HOW TO ENTER Scouts should download and submit a completed VFW Scouting Scholarship form, resume of high school activities, scouting record, community service record and letters of recommendation to your VFW Post no later than March 1. Note: A Scout can enter through ONE VFW Post only.

HOW IT WORKS VFW Posts must judge their submittals, and if a Scout is worthy of this award, submit their winning candidate to the next level (District). The District will send full entry criteria to me by April 1 for Department judging. From there, the Department selects a winner and forwards the entry to the VFW National Headquarters by May 1.

Questions, call Terry Brown
[VFW NM Department Scouting Chairman](#)
 505-350-1641
tblazestar@aol.com



National Home

Greeting All Life Members of the National Home, First, welcome to the new Department Officers and Department National Home/Buddy Poppy Chairman. A lot has happened this year at the National Home. I am excited to report some great things. Please make sure you post this on your Department websites. If possible, I would like to ask that each Department have a National Home button/link etc. on your webpage so that you can post ALL the great things happening. ALL members should have access to this information.

ACTION ITEM:

Please have your Department Quartermaster/Treasurer send in an updated "deceased list" to Sue Alverson at the National Home. We would like to remove those who have passed on, so they are not receiving email/mail. Thank you, New Mexico Auxiliary Treasurer who has already completed this task. Any questions on what is needed please contact me.

Upcoming Dates

- 95th Cootie Christmas-December 2, 2023.
- Board Meeting-January 31, 2024
- Easter Treat-March 22-24, 2024
- Board Meeting-June 27, 2024
- National Convention & Cootie Convention-Louisville, KY-July 27-August 4, 2024
- Ohio Day-August 10, 2024
- Michigan Day-August 11, 2024
-

DISTRICT 10 NEWS

- Department Convention Visits. I only have Arkansas to visit (midwinter).

District Fundraiser

- We have completed this fundraiser! I can't thank you enough for your donations. When it warms up, we will see our money in action on the new people mover.

NH 100th Birthday 2025- Our District is in charge of the kickoff (January 7, 2025). I will be setting up a Zoom meeting in the next month for the committee. Please join the "BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION" group page on Facebook. This is for every member to have access to, not just District 10. The group Facebook address is at the top.

- NH House Banks-have you seen the new "banks"? They are white and are larger than the small red one we have used in the past. You can purchase these at the "store".

- We held our Annual Membership Meeting, Board Meeting and Fall Festival in October. We introduced our new trustees. The Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation were approved by the overall membership (you should have received a ballot on this vote).

Executive Director-Mike Wilson

- Mike Wilson taped a piece on the National Home on "Military Makeover-Operation Career" with Montel Williams. It will air on Lifetime TV on November 15, 2023, at 7:30 am EST.
- Working on updating the Strategic Plan. Most items are complete, and he plans to work on updating the plan and adding new targets/goals.

Residents

- 41 of the 42 homes are occupied. The last home is currently under renovation. We have started a waiting list. The homes are occupied currently by 27 Veterans (65%).

Early Education Center

- 13 full time
- Working on moving from vinyl flooring to plank flooring.
- The roof is in need of repair.

Programs-Angie Harkins

- Is continuing to work closely with staff on programs to bring to the National Home.
- Beehive program has been very successful and is growing.
- Guitars for Heroes continues to grow.
- The Department of Illinois VFW and Auxiliaries joined together to provide a first-class playground for National Home children to let loose, forget their cares, and enjoy the fresh air. It was built in memory of Facilities Manager Todd Mariott, who passed away earlier this year.
- 1ST ANNUAL GOLF OUTING- was A huge SUCCESS! Thanks to your generosity and support, we were able to raise over \$21,000 to support the veterans and families living at the VFW National Home.

Facilities Report- Rick Stiver

- Received a small train with 6-8 cars. It's purple.
- Continuing to lead the house turnover rate to under 30 days.

National Home

~ continued from pg. 9

Finance Department-Lynn Hagerman

- Working with Executive Director & Directors on staying on budget.

Marketing & Development Board Report-Sue Alverson

- Next National Home ZOOM Meeting-Meet the Trustees to be held on November 16, 2023, at 6:30 EST. Open for everyone to join. I have posted the link on the District 10 Facebook page.
- We had a groundbreaking ceremony for the National Commander in Chief and National President's Special project-the "Welcome Center".
- Continued work on the website. A must see for everyone.
- Centennial Garden project is underway. This is an opportunity to purchase a brick for the garden.

Limited number to be sold.

Veteran and Family Resources-Assistant Director Bill Krieger

- The Resource Center has been remodeled and is open. It is bringing in many different groups and traffic continues to grow.

IT-Jesse Foster

- The Internet Project is Complete. The campus is now fitted with fiber optic wiring. All buildings and homes have internet on campus.

Social Media/Historian-Travis

- Read at least 7 years of additional files on the national home
- Photographed and edited pics of buddy poppy speech reads.

Post 5432



Corrales VFW Post 5432 members, Junior Vice/Adjutant Steve Marsh, Quartermaster Rudy Chavez, and Commander Terry Brown receive the 2022-23 All-American Post and All-American Commander's award. This is the 2nd year in a row the Corrales Post received these honors and All-State awards.

Post 6917

I hope this finds you well! What a busy last couple of months we had at Post 6917! We had our Dept. President's homecoming which was a huge success! I want to thank all of those that helped make it great! Our Post also had Oktoberfest and our annual open house with both being a good success!

As the holidays approach, please remember our Veterans and their families. Holidays can be hard for some of them, so let's try to do our best and make it easy and the best holiday season for

them. Our Post, just this past weekend, was able to help a veteran out by giving him a warm place to stay, food to eat, and a tank of gas. Then we were able to place him at Forget Me Nots this coming week. What a wonderful feeling it is to know that we are helping our Veterans and doing something good, which is why we are in this great organization!

I truly appreciate you all and I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Post 5610

Post State Commander Archie gives a class on suicide awareness for the 6th annual S.A.V.E training.



Members of Hill-Vigil Post 5610 provided lunch to Española fire, Española PD, Pojoaque PD and Pojoaque fire for 9/11

VFW Post 9517

We held our food drive again this year. Even though we do not get the amounts other Posts do, all the food we collect goes to our local food bank and helps them make it through some tough times with the needy and hungry families in the area.

Halloween weekend we had our annual Trunk or Treat event. We had about 20 other organizations and about 400 kids come out. This event is growing every year. Veterans' Day weekend was a great event for us. We did a flag presentation at Three Rivers Estates, an assisted living home. We handed out over 3000 Buddy Poppies over the weekend. We talked to many eligible veterans about the VFW and have 4 new members signed up to be voted in.

We have our Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to hand out to needy families of veterans again this year. We will be doing 4 baskets for Thanksgiving and 6 for Christmas.

We completed work on our ceiling in our Post. And we received a grant from NTEC for next year to help build a fence around our property.

We received some good turnouts for our Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, and teacher awards this year. The Scholars App helped us get out to more areas than normal.

We are working on our safety awards. We have some applications for EMT, Fireman, and Policeman started. We just need to get them finished. We have reached out to the local Scouts, both Boy and Girl, to get some applications for Scout of the Year.



Post 9676

Daniel D. Fernandez, VFW Post 9676 is one of only a few VFW Posts named after a Medal of Honor Recipient. We have been in continuous operation for over 57 years. We are a small Post of slightly over one hundred members that does not operate a canteen. We have always existed to provide needed Community Services to local Veterans and to all Valencia County residents. We have adopted Local Boys Scout Troop 360 and have a close working relationship and partnership with both of our largest High School JROTC units. Our Color Guard, assisted by the Los Lunas High School JROTC Cadets, will again be presenting The Colors at our annual Los Lunas Veteran's Day Celebration on Saturday, November 11, 2023. This year Post 9676 Commander Chet Pino will be the featured speaker at this event. This Veterans' Day Celebration is always well attended and is held at the Daniel D. Fernandez Memorial Park in Los Lunas. Several local vendors and sponsors set up tables to display their products and services. Post 9676 will again set up a table for recruitment and book sales. We have in the past been very successful in recruiting new members to the Post at this event. In addition to participating at the local Veterans' Day Celebration, our members will again honor deceased Veterans by placing U.S. flags on their graves at all the four Valencia County cemeteries. We also honor our deceased comrades by placing U.S flags on their graves on Memorial Day.

Although we have maintained our 100% membership for many continuous years, this year we are overjoyed to announce that for the first time in 57 years we are at 100% membership with all our members being Life Time Members. This has been our goal for many years and thanks to Commander Chet Pino and his leadership team, we have finally achieved our goal.

We, like many VFW Posts, were very challenged to keep our doors open during the SARS-COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic. We survived by creating a Post website and by inviting local businesses and professionals to become Post 9676 website sponsors. During the pandemic, we were successful in obtaining sixteen website sponsors and this has become one of our primary fundraising sources. We team with Amber Care to honor Veterans that are on hospice at home or in the hospital. Our Post Honor Guard also provides Veterans and their family members with a Final Tribute/Salute at their funerals or celebrations of life. Prior to the pandemic, we annually honored over two dozen Veterans by either pinning them or providing them a Final Tribute/Salute at their funerals. To learn more about the many Community Services we offer, our website sponsors and about our namesake Daniel D. Fernandez, please follow us on Facebook or visit our website at: <https://vfw9676.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp>.

In late 2022, to ensure that Post 9676 continued its long history of serving its community, three local historical writers/authors (John Taylor, Dr. Richard Melzer, and Cynthia Shetter) offered to donate the proceeds, after printing cost, from the sale of their historical books to Post 9676. In September 2023, during a New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards Competition, these books were awarded - **Winner – A Legacy of Heroism - New Mexico's Medal of Honor Recipients and Finalist – Daniel D. Fernandez – The Man behind the Medal of Honor**. Please Contact Quartermaster Jack Lovato at johnjlovato@comcast.net or 505-550-4076 for more information about how you can order a copy of one or both of these wonderful Medal of Honor Historical books. Once you start reading them, I assure you, they will be hard to put down.

Now that Post 9676 has reached its goal of 100% Life Time Membership, we plan to begin a concerted effort to convert as many of Life Time Members as possible to Life Time Legacy Members.

These two books, both award-winners in the 2023 New Mexico Arizona Book Awards competition, recount the remarkable stories of some of New Mexico's heroes. A Legacy of Heroism introduces the 49 men with New Mexico connections who have been awarded our nation's highest honor. Daniel D. Fernandez focuses on a home-town hero who gave his life to save his comrades during the Vietnam War. These are must-reads for every New Mexican patriot. Copies may be purchased directly from Daniel D. Fernandez, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 9676 in Los Lunas, NM by calling the Post Quartermaster, Jack Lovato, at 505-550-4076 or visiting the Post Website at vfw9676.org. Copies are also available at Amazon.com. All proceeds go to VFW Post 9676 to support their many Community Service Projects and their ongoing efforts to support veterans. If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact Mr. Lovato via telephone at 505-550- 4076 or email him at johnjlovato@comcast.net.



Post 10763

Roadrunner Post 10763 in Albuquerque has participated in the Department of New Mexico Food Drive since its beginning, four years ago. The first year Bear Canyon Senior Center was our only participant. This year Director of Senior Affairs, Anna Sanchez approved additional centers to join in the program. Participating centers include the Barellos Senior Center, Bear Canyon Senior Center, Highland Senior Center, Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center and Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center. Thanks to their efforts, 1941 pounds of non-perishable food items were gathered for delivery to Roadrunner Food Bank. Post members visited each of the centers multiple times gathering enough food to make 6 deliveries to Roadrunner Food Bank in the month of September. Participating in community activities with local partners is a sure way to have continued growth within your Post.

In the early morning of November 4th, eight members of VFW Roadrunner Post 10763 and 17 additional volunteers arrived at the Historic Fairview Cemetery located in Albuquerque, NM. After 4 hours of work, the cemetery was looking good and ready for the next day's Veterans' memorial program.

Over 15,000 people are laid to rest within these grounds. Over 550 Veterans, from New York to California, are buried here - Veterans from the Civil War, Spanish American War, Buffalo Soldiers, WW 1, WW 2, Korean War and Vietnam. Union and Confederate Soldiers can be found here. Two sections known as Legion 1 & 2 contain most of the Veterans, while many others are mixed throughout the rest of the cemetery. On the 5th of November, nine Post members arrived at 1:30 PM and hoped some volunteers would be there by 2PM. They arrived in force. Over 80 people signed in and many more joined in with their group leader. This

perhaps about a special person they found. Several visited our Medal of Honor recipient, Sgt James L Morris, CO. C., 8 U S Cavalry. We hope they will be back to participate in the monthly cleanup held on the first Saturday of each month from 8 am - 11 am. Thanks to everyone that attended



was truly one of the most attended events ever held at Fairview. Everyone that signed in was given a bundle of flags and sent out to place them in the 19-acre cemetery.

After placing the flags by the headstones, the volunteers returned to the sign-in area with unused flags and more importantly, stories of the adventure of walking the grounds,



National Council Member 2024-2028 Candidate



Christopher Archuleta

I, Christopher Archuleta, earned my eligibility for the VFW in 2008 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I then became involved in the VFW in 2014, life member in 2015 with Hill-Vigil Post 5610 in Española. From 2016-2018 I was District 6 Commander. In 2018 I ran for State Surgeon and continued up the chairs. My accomplishments are:

- All American State Commander (2022-23)
- All American Post Quartermaster x2 (2021-2022, 2022-2023)
- All State Post Quartermaster (2022-23)
- All State District Commander (2017)
- Ferrell Udell Veteran service award (2017)
- New Mexico VFW foundation President (currently serving)

In 2018 I got involved with mental health and suicide awareness with the Veterans Administration in Albuquerque. For five years I've been putting on suicide awareness classes called S.A.V.E. I did my first VFW Day to Change Direction in 2018 for mental health awareness for the community of Española. I have helped several veterans with suicide ideations. The most recent one in March - one of our own comrades. I will continue to advocate for more mental health and suicide awareness.

In 2022, when I heard that four northern CBOCS were set to close, I immediately contacted our northern congressional delegation. I received a phone call from the office of Representative Teresa Ledger Fernandez from a staffer and set up the first town hall meeting in Española three days later. I traveled to Gallup and asked to attend the town hall in Las Vegas with Senator Ben Ray Lujan presiding. I was the "voice" for the Veterans of Northern New Mexico. Together, we won that fight to keep our clinics open.

As your next National Council Member I would like to be the "voice" for our VFW Department and comrades. To work as a team with other National Council Members for the greater good of our greatest combat organization. I humbly ask for your support in this endeavor.



According to MILITARY-TRANSITION.org 76% of veterans said that their transition to civilian life was stressful.

National Council Member 2024-2028 Candidate



Victoria Haddox

Victoria R. Haddox grew up in Belen, NM. Upon graduating high school in 2005, she joined the US NAVY Reserve (NOSC Albuquerque). Comrade Haddox chose not to reenlist and exited the US Navy Reserve at Surgemain NR Albuquerque in 2018. At the time, she was serving as the Leading Petty Officer and ACB-1 Training Leading Petty Officer, holding the Rate/Rank of Boatswain's

Mate First Class Petty Officer (BM1)/E6. She served in several units throughout her career, including Comphibron 1 Det. 101 San Diego, NMCB-17 Fort Carson, Co NPDB-6, Iraq, ACB1 Coronado Island, Ca. and Surgemain NR Albuquerque. She was a founding member of New Mexico's First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA), holding multiple positions and exiting as the President.

Comrade Haddox earned her eligibility in the VFW by deploying in 2009- 2010 to Camp Bucca, Iraq, and Camp Cropper, Iraq, working as a Detainee

Correctional Officer under the OIF/OEF conflict, and joined the VFW at Post 5890 in 2015. She has been elected or appointed to many Post, District, and Department positions. She is currently serving as the Department of New Mexico Commander.

Tori is an avid pool player and softball player and is currently a Captain and Co-Captain of APA 8 and 9 ball teams based out of VFW Post 5890. Together with her husband, they acquired a UPA license for pool and are starting local leagues in the surrounding areas. She plays softball with "Ohana, Family Roots" with many of her extended cousins in the surrounding area.

Tori is a mother/stepmother of 5 boys. Riley (22), Aidan (18), Andres (16), Tristen (14), and Jacob (10). She married her husband and best friend Jim Haddox in 2016 and currently resides in Rio Rancho, NM. Comrade Haddox works as an Air Force Research and Labs contractor at Kirkland Air Force Base.

Commander Haddox is asking that you support her as she reaches the next chair - National Councilperson. She wants to better represent the younger generation at the next level and continue to serve veterans and her state!



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The Appeals Modernization Act (AMA) was intended to allow for a review in a timelier fashion. VFW is concerned with the excess workload in the AMA inventory...

...Delivering more decisions is admirable, but they must be accurate and timely, not just a number in a performance plan.

- MIKE FIGLIOLI

Director, VFW National Veterans Service
November 29, 2023

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

National Council Member 2024-2028 Candidate



Len Hampton

What is a VFW National Council Member? A National Council Member is someone that loves the VFW. A NCM must have gained knowledge and experience inside and outside of the VFW. Council members must be strong leaders with the ability to see the big picture. They must possess strong communication skills. These skills and others are needed to succeed as an informed, productive and

participative member of the VFW National Council. National Council Members (Board of Directors) act as a fiduciary with other Board members who help direct the National VFW towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical and legal governance and financial management policies. Council Members are responsible for administering the affairs and transacting the business of the Veterans of Foreign Wars between conventions. My

love for our organization and fellow veterans can be seen with the founding of the VFW New Mexico Foundation, of which I'm the current Executive Director. The Foundation was established to fill a gap within the Department. The mission of the Foundation is to actively serve veterans, service members, their families, and the communities where they live, by supporting programs and services that secure, manage and distribute resources to improve their quality of life. An example of my leadership and communication skills were utilized with a presentation and recruiting event at the Military Officers Association of America in Tucson, AZ. Since 2016 I have had the responsibility of organizing the VFW's Bataan Memorial March local recruiting event and as Department Webmaster for vfwnm.org, maintaining the site to National standards. I believe I embody the necessary qualifications and dedication to the VFW required to continue serving as your NCM. I would appreciate your support and vote as I announce my candidacy for re-election as your National Council Member for 2024-2028. Thank you for all you do for veterans!



Department Jr Vice Commander Candidate



Gary Logsdon

Thank you for sharing your trust and allowing me the opportunity to serve you as the 2023-2024 Department Chaplain. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you during my travels to District meetings and each time was greeted with the greatest hospitality. For those I have yet to meet, my name is Gary Logsdon and I wish to share my continued desire to serve by announcing my candidacy for the

position of Jr. Vice Commander for the Department of New Mexico for the 2024-2025 year.

I am a Gold Legacy Life Member and I have earned my membership through combat deployments in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan, where I served as a United States Air Force Para- Rescuceman and later as a Combat Rescue Officer.

I am a dedicated Leader with over 30+ years of proven results in various Executive Leadership roles and have led large multi-million dollar contracts and training programs to include international collaborative research projects for NASA. I have

worked as an advisor for many other government programs as well.

I earned a Master's Degree in Health Care Management and Master's Degree in Human Resources both from Webster University and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and an Associate's Degree in nursing both from Wayland Baptist University.

As prior District 6 Commander and Commander of VFW Officer of Post 2951 in Santa Fe New Mexico, I helped foster growing and lasting relationships between the VFW, city government, local businesses, and the Northern New Mexico community by helping them better understand the VFW and its mission.

Some other positions held include All-American District 6 Commander, Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, Junior Vice-Commander, Trustee, Surgeon, Judge Advocate, Chairman Student Veterans, Legislative Chairman, Scouting Chairman, Voice of Democracy Chairman, Patriots Pen Chairman, Teacher Awards Chairman, Chaplain, and Judge Advocate.

I am an advocate providing education to veterans and their families about the many types of services available to veterans and will continued to advocate for all of us through legislative channels and beyond. Thank you for your continued support.

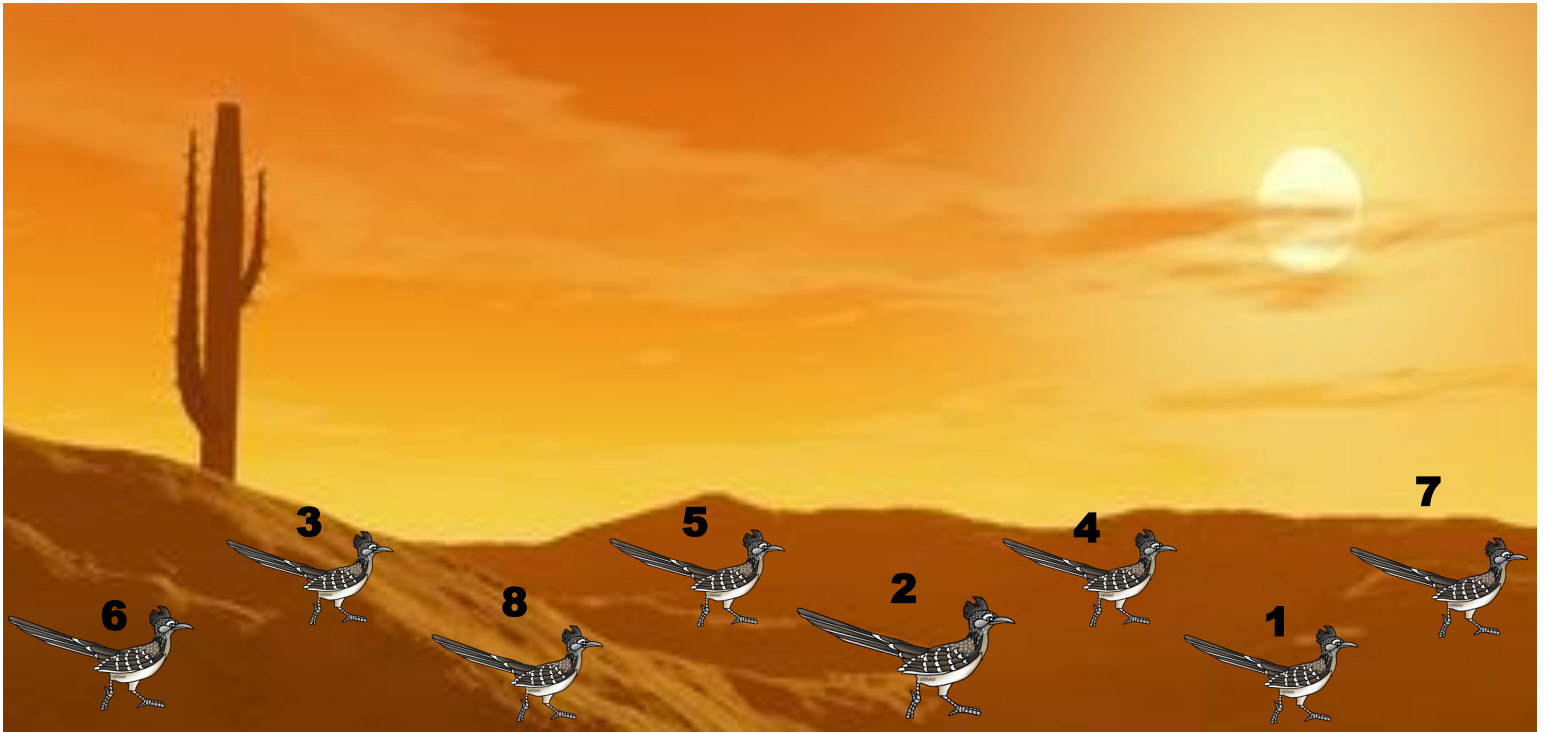


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VFW Membership



In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

District 7—Mark Bowman 103.58%

District 1—Mark Decker 93.93%

District 4—Jonathan Karlin 92.12%

District 2 —Don Frias 91.92%

District 5 —Danny Cruc 89.59%

District 8—Justin Knapp 88.51%

District 3 —Darrel Melom 88.23%

District 6—Benjamin Pearce 71.41%

Divisions

Division 1—12184—160.00%

Division 2—10763—136.66%

Division 3—6216—100.00%

Division 4—6917—92.09%

Division 5—3280—100.62%

Recruiters

1st—Mack Dyer—17

2nd—Jason Burke—16

3rd—Jaqueline Sartori—11

4th—James Berdine—10

5th—Mark Riddle Jr—7

5th—Gregory Cranmer—7

VFWA Membership

Groups

- 1—Auxiliary 1131 Mora 103.7%**
- 2—Auxiliary 8703 Carlsbad 105.6%**
- 3—Auxiliary 9515 Portales 101.2%**
- 4—Auxiliary 1389 Elephant Butte 95.4%**
- 5—Auxiliary 6917 Las Cruces 94.6%**
- 6—Auxiliary 2951 Santa Fe 106.3%**

In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

- District 6—Renee King 105.5%**
- District 3— Shelly Ravak 94.1%**
- District 8—Suzan Willis 91.8%%**
- District 4—Brenda Doil 91.1%**
- District 1—Betty Decker 82.4%**
- District 7—Lequanah Crawford 80.7%**
- District 5—Thomas Bullington Jr 79.3%**
- District 2—Shirlee Frias 66.5%**