



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

**May 2023**

**Vol. 47 Issue 3**

## **Department Community Service**

Community service in the State of New Mexico as of March 29, 2023 was up 24% in hours, 38% in donations, and overall a 37% increase in value. This is what the VFW is about - giving back to the community. We had 31 out of our 40 Posts report so far this year.

The VFW Department of New Mexico has proven yet again this year that we are active and giving in the area. Community reports are coming in every month about how much work the VFW and VFWA does for our communities. Later in the article are the Posts that have been turning in their reports and how much they do. It is broken down for hours, donations, overall value, and average per person in the Post. This just goes to show how many hard-working members there are in this Department.

Every single Post should have many reports turned in, because we all do so much in our community. From the big projects like 2951 doing the feeding of the homeless, to 5610 building a turn-in box for worn out flags, to 6917 doing the Homeless Standdowns. Plus all the little things everyone does every day like calling your members to check on them, giving rides to someone to get them to a meeting, taking people to doctor's appointments, doing honor guard services at funerals, and handing out Buddy Poppies at the corner store.

For every Post that did the Food Drive in October, you should have turned in all of that in your community reports for October. If you did any fundraiser for the Department Commander and President's Special Project, that should all be reported. We had lots of donations, and many Posts went out and did activities to raise this money. These should all be reported.

Remember that a member's time and miles start from when they leave the house until they return home. Some of you are reporting only from Post to Post. You forget about the time and distance you travel to get to the

Post to get ready for these things.

Every one of us does something every month. We just must report it. And no, this is not about bragging; it is about making sure what we do is accounted for. If you talk to a potential member, the more you can show them what we do for others, the better the chances they will want to join. When we show the public what we do, more will stand behind us and help. We then get invited to more events and situations that we were not going to before. This gets the VFW more exposure. More people are talking about the VFW. This helps us when we talk to politicians about veterans' rights and needs.

The VFW/VFWA Department of New Mexico did some great things this year. We reported lots of stuff. But how much did we miss? We are a great organization. We do wonderful things for veterans and our community. We just need to make sure everyone around us knows about it. If your Post is not on this list, ask your leadership why.

*~continued on page 2*

## **JOIN VFW DAY OF SERVICE**

**Veteran-led community  
service events kick off  
May 6, 2023.**

**GET INVOLVED NOW**

[vfw.org/DayofService](https://vfw.org/DayofService)



## Department Community Service

~continued from page 1

Is the Post not submitting anything, or are the members not letting the Post know about the stuff they are doing? We are 15<sup>th</sup> in the world for reporting community service. That is huge for us.

But what could we have been if every member of both the VFW and VFWA had turned in their reports and submitted all the volunteer work we do? We could have been in the top 10 maybe. Think if we would have done

more community service than states like Louisiana, New Jersey, and Illinois. We did beat states like New York, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. We just need to keep reporting.

Remember that we are doing something for others all the time. Just report it. Make sure people everywhere hear about the VFW/VFWA Department of New Mexico. We are in our community. We are part of our community. We have to show everyone that we are there and active.

Post	Hours	Donations	Overall	Per member
401	965	\$21,402.12	\$50,303.87	\$76.68
614	118	\$3,534.10	\$9,880.92	\$85.18
1389	998	\$4,124.01	\$34,014.11	\$255.75
1547	1,012	\$10,679.98	\$40,989.38	\$288.66
2951	2,203.50	\$45,033.55	\$111,028.38	\$235.73
3015	147	\$543.66	\$4,946.31	\$47.56
3221	4	\$2.80	\$122.60	\$1.35
3242	304	\$2,283.66	\$11,388.46	\$74.43
3259	4,037	\$419.18	\$107,121.85	\$1,700.35
3274	1,151	\$72,649.40	\$107,121.85	\$598.45
3280	87	\$447.72	\$3,053.37	\$6.51
3370	326	\$1,619.28	\$11,382.98	\$160.32
4384	1,451	\$15,636.01	\$59,093.46	\$522.95
5432	896.5	\$2,956.54	\$29,806.72	\$465.73
5610	1,836	\$18,163.68	\$73,151.88	\$1,434.35
5890	2,122.10	\$35,308.68	\$98,865.58	\$164.50
6216	577	\$4,055.04	\$19,209.74	\$177.87
6917	776.5	\$12,656.60	\$35,912.78	\$116.22
7686	5	\$1.68	\$151.43	\$0.17
7688	20	\$123.40	\$722.40	\$21.25
8703	260	\$5,070.14	\$12,857.14	\$141.29
8874	38	\$4,096.88	\$5,234.98	\$37.93
9515	59,734	\$60,512.44	\$1,849,545.74	\$10,879.68
9516	577	\$1,490.40	\$18,771.55	\$383.09
9517	3,796.20	\$15,384.83	\$129,081.02	\$2,868.47
10124	4,044	\$24,833.60	\$145,951.40	\$525.00
10763	3,085	\$35,739.96	\$128,135.71	\$1,543.80
11999	131.7	\$1,099.50	\$5,043.92	\$56.04
12008	190	\$1,983.24	\$7,673.74	\$306.95
12184	46.5	\$2,759.20	\$4,151.88	\$75.49
12212	141	\$1,302.12	\$5,525.07	\$141.67

## Commander's Message



**Christopher Archuleta**

We had a very successful Mid- Winter. It was great seeing old comrades and new attendees attending Mid-Winter.

I personally want to thank you for a successful year. We hit 100% on April 8th 2023 because of hard work and dedication for our organization.

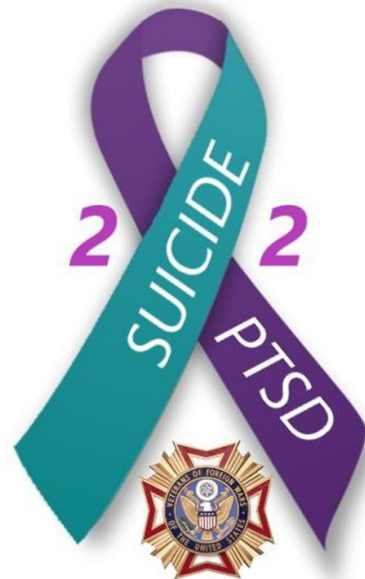
None of this is possible without you. A huge heart felt thank you to Department President Dominique Garcia for

sticking by my side and the support when I felt I couldn't go on. To all that have been supportive, thank you! This is our year to be successful and I believe it has been. Please continue to do wonders out there in the communities.

Don't forget to recruit new members both for VFW and also the Auxiliary.

To the Auxiliary, I cannot begin to express my gratitude for all you do not only for the comrades but for the families and communities as well. I look forward to our State Convention in June and seeing everyone there.

Please invite new attendees to see what is we have accomplished this past year and what is on the horizon for next year.



## VFW National Councilmember



**Len Hampton**

Each of us has an individual responsibility to provide institutional knowledge of the customs and traditions of our organization to our membership. The qualities held by the leaders we select are crucial to our organizational success. I believe it's imperative to select leaders based upon their achievements and followership. Our leaders at all levels - Post, District, State, and National - require problem

solving skills and the ability to make sound decisions. As a leader you must tackle problems

and find solutions quickly and efficiently; leaders must be able to make unilateral decisions and lead their team through the decision-making process. Successful leaders are good communicators, can organize tasks, and motivate others. Good communicators should be persuasive, but willing to listen when others have good ideas; leaders must be well organized and can schedule and organize projects and people. All good leaders must be able to motivate their teams! Our National Jr. Vice Commander Al Lipphardt sums it up by saying "Believe in what you do - do what you believe in." Be the difference.



## Sr Vice Message



Victoria Haddox

What an amazing Mid-Winter we just came out of! A lot has happened since then. March was a busy month. Commander Chris Archuleta, National Councilman Lenwood Hampton, National Legislative Chairman James Haddox, and I attended the National Legislative Conference. We met with Senator Ben Ray Lujan and Representative Teresa Ledger Fernández. They are both eager to work with us on passing our initiatives this year. The

others sent their staffers and our message was passed out. The Commander-in-Chief testifying in front of Congress was amazing to witness in person. The energy was so positive in the room.

Glad to see that part of our VFW history.

After returning home, we went straight into Bataan Memorial Death March. Our southern comrades came out and supported us with recruiting, meals, and passing out water to the participants. It was a pleasure to meet two survivors; Valdermar DeHerrera and Lt. George Bach. These men have survived horrific circumstances and they return every year, so we don't forget our members' legacy.

We have hit 100% in membership, that is because of you! We need to continue to focus on membership. I know, it's old. It's super important because our voice comes in numbers.

We are headed into election season, so make sure you get the election report in ASAP. This helps us get out with our feet forward.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the convention. Please remember you make all of this worthwhile.

## VFWA Sr Vice Message



Kandy Brazell

Wow!!! Can you all believe that we are so close to the end of 2022-2023 year for the Department of New Mexico VFW and VFWA? Both the VFW and VFWA got at least 100% in membership. Auxiliary 6216 is in the top twenty in the Nation with membership – what an accomplishment. I cannot wait until our National Convention to see what awards the Auxiliary and the VFW

bring home.

But we need to remember that it is not all about awards but how we do our jobs to help our Veterans – so do not give up. Let us keep working on our programs!

See you all at our Department Convention. Remember, it is not just for officers - it is for every member. So let us fill up the Uptown Marriott.

### 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, [vfwmeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:vfwmeditor@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



## Adjutant Message



Mark Decker

Thank you for your support and confidence in me these last 2 years. It has been an honor and a privilege to be the Adjutant for this great Department for these 2 years.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Convention in June and many of you at National Convention in July in Phoenix.

Remember that all the paperwork you have been sending me, Audits, and Minutes, will go to Dave Fouse next year since he will be the Adjutant again.

### New Mexico VFW State Officers 2020-2021

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

### District Commanders

District 1 - Jamie Poncho 614 Aztec  
 District 2 - Don Frias 401 Albuquerque  
 District 3 - Christopheer Kelley 10124 Las Cruces  
 District 4 - Orlando Saavedra 1389 Elephant Butte  
 District 5 - Gary Ludi 1547 Las Vegas  
 District 6 - Gilbert Romero 2951 Santa Fe  
 District 7 - Thomas Lairson 8703 Carlsbad  
 District 8 - Steven Robertson 9515 Portales

## VFW Chaplain Message



Christina Backus

As another year is coming to a close, we look back at what has been accomplished this year and what continues to need improvement, all with the goal of pushing forward. As you all know we have our memorial service for the comrades and auxiliary we have lost throughout the past year, and I hope to see everyone there to pay your respects to our

VFW family members. If you have any photos of the members we have lost, I would appreciate you sending them to me. Celebrating the life of those that have walked alongside us is important. I look forward to seeing everyone at Convention this year.



## Surgeon Message



Gary Logsdon

Many of you have asked about Bonita, my black German Shepard, and inquired about the use of a service dog for yourself or a fellow veteran. Below is a quick article providing a summary related to service dogs as a Veteran Benefit under the Veteran's Administration.

### Service Dog Veterinary Health Benefit

*Service dogs are guide or service dogs prescribed for a disabled veteran under 38 CFR 17.148 for the purpose of the veteran being diagnosed as having a visual, hearing, or substantial mobility impairment.*

The Veterans Administration (VA) will recognize, for the purpose of paying benefits the following service dogs: The dog and veteran must have successfully completed a training program offered by an organization accredited by *Assistance Dogs International* or the *International Guide Dog Federation*, or both (for dogs that perform both service and guide dog assistance). The veteran must provide to VA a certificate showing successful completion issued by the accredited organization that provided such a program.

### Does VA Provide Service Dogs?

No. Veterans approved for service dogs are referred to Assistance Dogs International accredited agencies or International Guide Dog Federation accredited agencies.

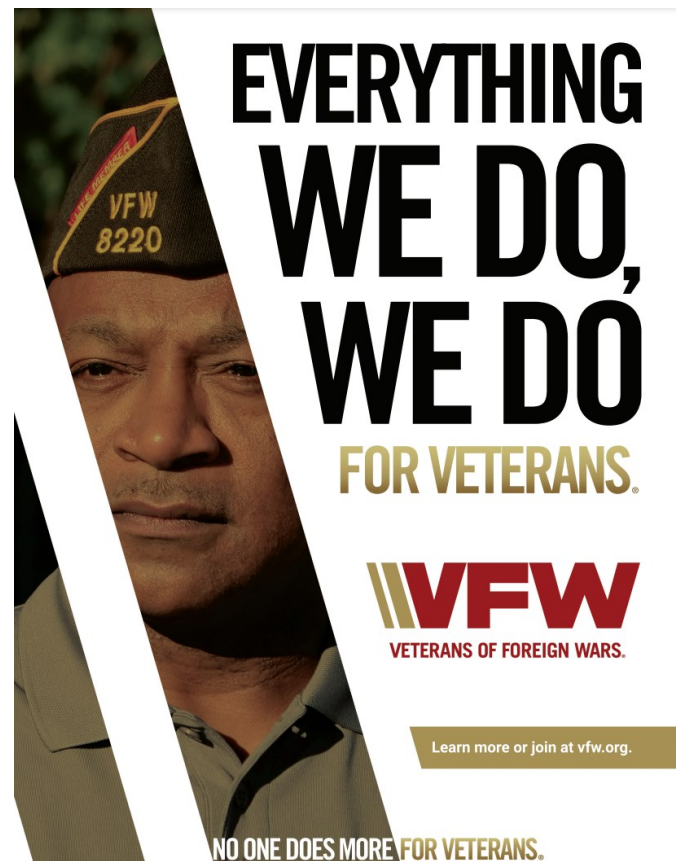
### Does a service dog serve the same function(s) as Animal Assisted Therapy or Animal Assisted Activity dogs?

No. Animal Assisted Therapy and Animal Assisted Activity dogs are used either to assist therapists to accomplish therapeutic goals or for general engagement of the patients. Neither type of dog is

for personal use by the veteran. They are used only in a medical setting.

1. VA provides veterinary benefits to Veterans diagnosed as having visual, hearing, or substantial mobility impairments and whose care will be enhanced through a guide or service dog.
2. Veterans must enroll in VA health care to receive any type of medical service through VA. To learn how to do this and find out how to apply, visit VA.gov. Once a veteran is enrolled, VA will perform a complete clinical evaluation to determine how best to assist. Each service dog request is reviewed and evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and veterans approved for guide or service dogs are then referred to accredited organizations to obtain their dog.
3. If you or any one has any additional questions about the Service Dog Benefit, please be sure to reach out to me at 505-721-8196 or garydlogsdon@gmail.com

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as this year's Surgeon. I look forwarding to continuing my service to the VFW and ask for your support as the 2023-2024 Department Chaplin.



**EVERYTHING  
WE DO,  
WE DO  
FOR VETERANS.**

**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Learn more or join at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**



# National Quartermaster General as Representative



**Marc Garduno**

Marc Garduno was elected Quartermaster General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on March 21, 2022, by special election of the National Council of Administration.

Prior to his election, he held appointed positions as VFW Assistant Quartermaster General and served as a member of the VFW

National Legislative Committee and the National By-laws Study Group.

Marc retired from the U.S. Army after 20 years as a chief warrant officer (CW3), human resources technician, and his assignments included several tours in the Republic of Korea, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and the Joint Readiness Training Center headquartered in Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. During his military career, Marc was awarded three Meritorious Service Medals, five Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, Army Superior Unit Award, three Army Good Conduct Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and the Parachutist Badge.

After retiring from the Army in 2008, he held various civilian sector management positions to include several years as a project manager for a Department of Defense contracting company with service at the Joint Personnel Effects Depot, Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. He joined VFW Post 8180, Seoul, Korea in 2005, and currently maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership at VFW Post 3238, Camden, Delaware. Marc holds the distinction of being named a Triple Crown All-American Commander, and led a VFW Outstanding Community Services Post in 2016.

## New Mexico VFW Auxiliary State Officers 2022-2023

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

## District President

District 1 - Vickey Westbrook 614 Aztec  
District 2 - Shirlee Frias 401 Albuquerque  
District 3 - Shelly Ravak 6917 Las Cruces  
District 4 - Brenda Doil 1389 Elephant Butte  
District 5 - Thomas Bullington Jr. 3271 Clayton  
District 6 - Renee King 2951 Santa Fe  
District 7 - Lequanah Crawford 8703 Carlsbad  
District 8 - Janet Huft 3280 Clovis

Marc is a 2021 graduate of Wilmington University where he received a Master of Science degree in Nonprofit Management. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from Wilmington University, and an associate degree in Applied Science from Fayetteville Tech.

He's a life member of the Military Order of the Cootie, the VFW National Home for Children, and belongs to the Sigma Beta Delta honor society of business, management, and administration students.

Marc and his wife, Hyun Ju, reside in Kansas City, Kansas



## National Historian and Media Relations

### Ambassador

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

## Nicole Koutz

*National Historian & Media Relations*

*Ambassador*

*2022-2023*

Nicole Koutz of St. Louis, Michigan currently serves the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Auxiliary as the 2022-2023 National Historian & Media Relations Ambassador.

A Life Member of Fred E. Richards Auxiliary 3055 in St. Louis, Michigan, she joined on the eligibility of her father, Larry Steffenhagen who served in the United States Army in Vietnam.

Nicole has served the organization in many capacities, including as Auxiliary and District President, and Department Secretary and Treasurer. She is currently serving her 10th term as Auxiliary President. In addition to numerous Department roles, Nicole has served as National Historian & Media Relations Ambassador from 2020 to 2021, National Membership Ambassador 2018 to 2019, Big 10 Conference Chairman for Youth Activities 2014 to 2015, National Officer Page and Aide-de-Camp.

In her spare time, Nicole attends school events and is very active in her Auxiliary and community fundraising efforts. She enjoys sports, long walks and spending time with family and friends. She is a member of St. Louis Church of Christ where she assists in the nursery and the education program. Nicole and husband Matthew's family includes six children.



## National Home



**Shirley Frias**

Join the FACEBOOK Group @ [District 10-VFW National Home](#)

Greeting All,

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for the wonderful year and the support you have given to the National Home this past year. Great things are continuing to happen at the National Home. I am excited to visit with you

at convention in June. We are working hard on the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for the National Home in January 2025. I look forward to providing you with a great deal of information at the Joint Session.

- The 2023-2024 Buddy Poppy Child has been selected and I cannot wait to announce the winner (once we hear-haha).
- Some great NEW items are for sale at the NH Store. See the website.
- I have created a FACEBOOK page for the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. This is the NATIONAL Facebook page to keep you updated with the celebration plans. Please join the page @ [VFW National Home 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration 2025](#)

If you are not a National Home Life member and would like to be, please let me know and I can get you the information to join.

Lastly, have a great Convention, and congratulations to all the newly-elected Grand and VFW 2023-2024 Officers. I look forward to working with you this upcoming year.

With Gratitude,  
Shirley Frias  
District #10 Trustee  
2021-2028

### Upcoming Dates

- Board Meeting-June 2023.

### DISTRICT 10 NEWS

- I have updated the District 10 FACEBOOK Group page with the thermometer on our status. I am challenging all Departments to hold a fundraiser during your convention to support this. Remember donations can be from individual, Auxiliary, District, or Department level. This fundraiser is for both sides of the organization and both sides of the Military Order of the Cooties (MOC/MOCA).
- NH 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday 2025- Our Committee held its first meeting in March. I was happy to see representation from all four states in attendance. Please join the "BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION" group page on FACEBOOK. This is for every member to have access too, not just District 10.
- Our next committee meeting is April 17, 2023. As a reminder, our District (10) has the very first Month/Event (January 7, 2025).
- Piggy Banks-Does anyone have "piggy bank" pictures to share? Please send them to me so I can show what is happening out in the communities in District 10. Email me a picture of it, your Post/Auxiliary Name, City, and State. The picture should be "in action." Submit those pictures today to have your Post/Auxiliary recognized.
- Executive Director-Mike Wilson VIP visit with U.S. Congresswoman Alissa Slotkin has been rescheduled. Continue to schedule with state legislative leadership.
- Commanders trip May 1-7
- Spring cleaning on campus - tidy up office space and storage areas on May 5 in recognition of the VFW's Day of Service
- Cup of Joe - April 15 (I will attend.)
- Junior Vice Orientation May 18-21 on Campus and at the Lansing Radisson
- Team Rubicon Demo Day at the Pollett House June 1-4
- Indiana State Convention with Trustee Jerry Blake June 7-10
- Board Professional Development June 21, Board Meeting June 22

### Residents

- 35 of the 42 homes are occupied. We will be welcoming a new family in late April or early May.

### Early Education Center

- 13 full time
- 6 student enrolling soon (3 infants and 3 preschoolers)
- New oven installed 1/10/23
- Climber mat repair approved
- Hours of operation changed as of February 13, 2023 (7:00 am-6:00pm).

### Programs-Angie Harkins

- We welcomed the pigs/rabbits to the National Home. This year we have 12 pigs and 5 rabbits for our 4H program.
- Family Bingo was held on campus, and we found out we have some serious bingo players on campus.
- The Veteran and Family Resource Center saw 9 veteran residents and 5 off campus veterans.
- The Heroes to Hives Program started in March. We have 11 veterans/spouses taking the course.
- The last mural was finished in the Veteran and Family Resources Center.
- Families and staff are using the greenhouse
- Vision/hearing testing is rescheduled for April 18th. All preschool children will receive this testing with parent written approval.
- The Early Education Center stays very busy with 2 new infants that started in March.
- Started a financial workshop with residents that is a 10-week course. Residents are enjoying it and learning how to save money.

### 2025 National Home Birthday Celebration

- Angie-League of Enchantment is reserved and will touch base with them 6 months before the event.
- Angie - Working on contacting prior Buddy Poppies to attend.
- Todd-Inventoried facilities tents, chairs, tables, trashcans, picnic tables.
- Todd-Measured campus for plans for convention.
- Sue-Discussed 2025 Centennial Garden (expanding brick program)
- Sue-Discussed 2025 campaign creative artwork

### Facilities Report-Todd Marriott

- Repaired roof at the Guest Lodge.
- Cleaned out many smaller storage areas at the Guest Lodge.
- Worked on plans for Pollett House.
- Met with a civil engineer to discuss campus street replacement as a capital project in the future.
- Met with State of Michigan District Engineer from EGLE (Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy) for a campus water survey.

### Marketing & Development Board Report-Sue Alverson

- 447 Life memberships added
- 14 Recurring Gift donors (Home Front Hero) added
- Held Zoom with the National Home meeting with approximately 30 attendees. Discussed general fundraising, trustee elections, and program. Next meeting is on April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Mailed out pop-up banners to trustees
- Updated website home page and created banner section with multiple slides.
- Researched and acquired new brick vendor who will provide more options to expand our program and make it a greater revenue source
- Created Auxiliary flyer to promote Welcome Center renovation fundraiser
- Added two blogs to the website – topics were our music program and Peer Support Specialist staff article.

### Notable donations

- \$5,000 gift from VFW Post #1162
- \$5,000 gift from VFW Post #5710
- \$5,000 gift from individual
- \$5,000 grant from RE Olds Foundation
- \$67,168 from estate

### Social Media/Historian-Travis

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



# VFW National Home

## District 10 Fundraising Project

Arkansas

Oklahoma

New Mexico

Texas



*(final model selection dependent of availability )*

**GEM E6 Electric Shuttle**  
**\$20,000.00\***

To make a donation visit: [vfwnationalhome.org/donate](http://vfwnationalhome.org/donate)  
 Be sure to type **"Shuttle"** in the comment section on the form.

Checks can be made payable/sent to:  
 VFW National Home  
 3573 S Waverly Rd. Eaton Rapids, MI 48827  
 Reference **"Shuttle"** in the memo line.

Contact NH District 10 Trustee Shirlee Frias with questions  
 Email: [shirlee.frias@rrps.net](mailto:shirlee.frias@rrps.net)

\*Any excess funds raised will be put  
 into the Transportation Fund for  
 vehicle maintenance.



## Post 10763

Roadrunner Post 10763 has partnered with Historic Fairview Cemetery in the restoration project. For the past three years our members have spent the first Saturday of every month cleaning grave sites. This cemetery is one of the earliest in Albuquerque with many of the founding fathers laid to rest here. The cemetery was established in 1881 and now holds over 15,000 graves. For over 40 years the cemetery was abandoned until Gail Rubin, President of the Historic Fairview Cemetery Organization took ownership of the property in 2012. Over 500 military



graves are located within Fairview, including Civil War, Medal of Honor Recipient Sgt James L Morris, CO C 8 US CAV, Spanish American War, WW I, WW II, Buffalo Soldiers, Vietnam Veterans. Our Post 10763 places over 500 flags before Memorial Day and Veterans Day. These are just some of our ways to give back to those who served before us. We are doing our part to instill in the Scouts ways to respect and honor veterans.





# Bataan Memorial Death March





## Mid-Winter Conference

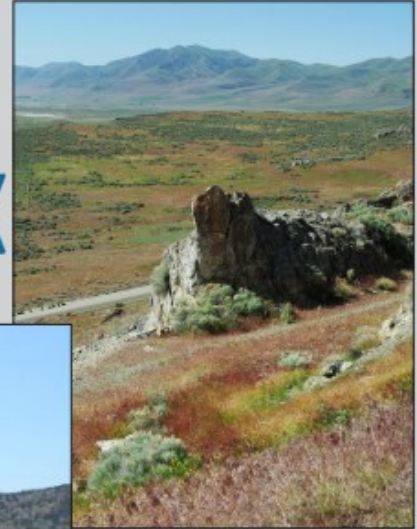


## VFWA National President Jane Reape Visit





VFW AUXILIARY 11th CELEBRATING AMERICA'S FREEDOM EVENT  
**GOLDEN SPIKE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023



**WHEN:** 9/18/23

9/17: Arrivals

9/18: Golden Spike  
National Historical Park

9/19: Departures

**WHERE:**

Golden Spike National  
Historical Park  
Promontory, Utah



CAFE Registration is \$30 per person and includes transportation to the park. Register in MALTA from 6/1/23 to 8/18/23. Bring spending money for food trucks & souvenirs.

Find more information about the location, visit the Golden Spike National Historical Park website:

[www.nps.gov/gosp/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gosp/index.htm)



HYATT REGENCY SALT LAKE CITY  
170 South West Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101



**Accommodations:**

1 King Bed - \$169

2 Queen Beds - \$169

**Reserve by 8/18/23**

Group Code: G-VFFW

[Hyatt Regency Hotel Booking](http://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/SLCRS/G-VFFW)

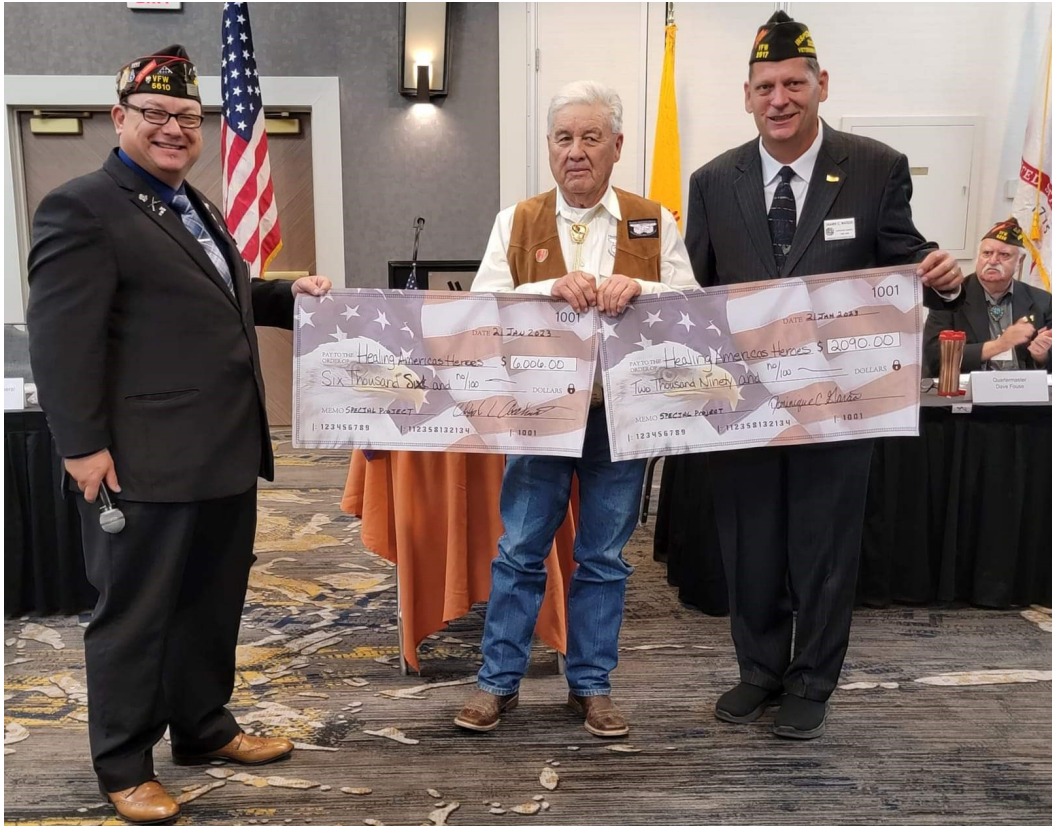
Online: [www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/SLCRS/G-VFFW](http://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/SLCRS/G-VFFW)

Or call: 1-801-596-1234

Questions? Email: [SLCRS-RFP@hyatt.com](mailto:SLCRS-RFP@hyatt.com)



## Healing America's Heroes



Healing America's Heroes was the joint special project for Commander Archuleta and President Garcia this year. At Mid-Winter they presented checks from both the VFW and VFWA to equal \$8096.





## Legislative/DC Trip



At the Legislative trip to DC, the Department of NM went and visited the offices of the NM Congress members, listened to C-in-C Tim Borland speak in front of the Armed Forces committee, and attended the VOD awards with the NM winner, Arwen Ching, and laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



## VFW New Mexico Foundation Member Needed

The VFW New Mexico Foundation has one vacancy to fill at the upcoming June meeting. The is a three-year position (2024-2027). Please provide Foundation Secretary Dave Fouse with your qualifications including VFW accomplishments, leadership positions in and outside of VFW, why you would be a good fit for the Foundation, no later than May 26, 2023.

The responsibilities of a board member are to:

- Be committed to the mission, goals, and policies of the organization.
- Perform the functions and work of the board to the best of one's ability.
- Contribute financially to the organization to the best of one's ability and seek financial support from others outside of the organization.
- Recommend others who could serve on the board or be of value to the organization in other capacities.
- Avoid any conflicts of interest and situations that would compromise the principles of the organization or lead to the perception of compromise.
- Be knowledgeable about the organization, the services it provides and the community in which it operates.

## Post 5610



State Commander Archie, Post Commander Ben and Post Jr Vice Warner pour concrete for the new flag retirement box. The box was much-needed for the city of Espanola and surrounding communities said State Commander Archie. A dedication will be done at a later time





## Post 9517 Events

VFW Post 9517 held their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Easter Egg hunt on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Nazoonie Park in Shiprock. This was the biggest one yet, with over 100 kids and over 800 eggs spread out in the park.

The age groups we had were 0-5, 6-8, 9-12, and teenagers. Each age group had 2 baskets as gifts. The lower 3 age groups each had a bike. The teenagers had a \$100 gift card. These awards were given out by having a special note on a piece of paper inside the eggs. All the other eggs had candy in them. There were approximately 4,000 pieces of candy handed out. We also handed out 40 boxes of sidewalk chalk to the kids.

Every kid that came out got some eggs. The kids and their parents all said this was the best egg hunt they attended this year. Many of the 0-5 group had never done an Easter Egg hunt before. The Shiprock Chapter allowed the VFW to use the park free of charge.

Post members started to clean up the park and stake off the areas around 10:30 in the morning. Post Commander Lester Light, QM/Adj Mark Decker, incoming Sr. Vice Commander Bernadine Tyler, Post members Sam Ahkeah, Tommie Yazzie, past Department VFWA President Betty Decker, and other family and friends placed all the eggs by 11:30. The hunt started at 12:00. Instructions on how everything was set up and where to get prizes were explained before the kids ran for the eggs. We did the 4 groups at different times, so if a parent had kids in multiple age brackets, they could see them all. The hunt was over by 1:00.



The Post also informed the people present about the Trunk or Treat that will be coming up in October. The VFW scholarships for PP and VOD were talked about. Also the VFWA art contests were explained to everyone present.

The Post looks forward to this again next year. Plans are already being made to get more eggs and make the areas for each of the groups bigger next year. A big thank you to everyone that came out to participate and help set up.





## Department Commander 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 Senior Vice 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, Mixed 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.

In her own words Tori admits that "after eight years, I have learned so much and taught so much. Broken and recreated myself. Admitted I was right, admitted I was wrong, and continued to learn for and with all of you. You all have taught me something in your own way, and I will continue to represent you well. This year as State Commander, I want to listen better, reach out more, and improve how to serve you all better. I've mentored and am mentored. You all make this Department work. You all give me purpose and make me proud to continue serving you and this beautiful organization. Going forward, I ask for your support in voting for me as your next State Commander."



## Department Surgeon Candidate

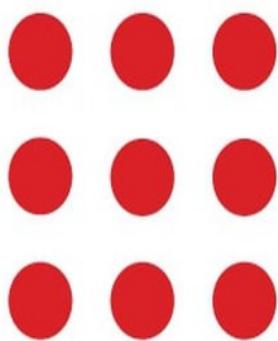


My name is Christopher Lee Kelley. I am running for the position of Department Surgeon for New Mexico. I have had the honor of serving as Post Commander for VFW Post 10124 in Las Cruces, NM for a year and a half now. I have also served as District 3 Commander for six months. I enlisted in the U.S. Army in September 1997 and retired after 22 years in September 2019. During my time I was deployed to Iraq 2005-2006, 2007-2008, and 2009-2010. I was then deployed to Afghanistan 2011-2012, and to Kuwait/Iraq in 2013.

I joined the VFW in 2005 at Jones-Walker Post 4862 in Union City, Tennessee. I moved to Las Cruces in July 2016, where I became a member of J.M. Carriere Post 10124 and was elected Commander in 2021. The members of our post made it possible for me to become an All-State and All-American Commander. Without our Post members I could not have achieved these great honors. I was elected District Senior Vice Commander of District 3 in 2022 and was subsequently moved up to the position of District Commander.

I am running for the position of Department Surgeon because I want to continue helping our veterans and serving all the members to the best of my ability. If elected to this position, I will work for our Department every day. I will endeavor to bring unity to our organization, because I believe that we can accomplish more when we all work together.

In closing, there is nothing I won't do for our members and veterans. I will work day and night if that is what is required of me. I am asking for your support and your vote to become your next Surgeon for the VFW Department of New Mexico.



# Veterans Crisis Line

## 1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1



## VFWA Department Conductress Candidate



Greetings fellow  
Auxiliary  
Members;

My name is  
Michelle  
Dennisson. I am  
Interested in  
moving up the  
chairs from Guard  
to Conductress for  
The Department  
of New Mexico,  
Veterans of  
Foreign Wars  
Auxiliary, for the  
upcoming year  
2023-2024.

My enthusiasm and loyalty to this organization is brought forward by many reasons. My father, whom I qualify under, was in the Army and stationed in Inchon, Korea. My grandfather was in Germany in WWII.

I have been a member of VFWA Post 3370 since 2010. I found myself in the role as an officer as soon as I joined, holding the Treasurer position for 2 years. I have held the position of President for the 6th time, and have been a Trustee and Guard at Post 3370. I have been awarded several certificates from Department for my service to our Auxiliary including president of the year 3 times over.

I have also held the positions of Guard, Conductress and Chaplin for District 2, as well as holding the position of Chairman of Scholarships and Legislation. I have done Chairman for Veterans and Families support chair for Department of New Mexico Auxiliary.

I have been blessed to be endorsed by my home Post Auxiliary 3370, as well as District 2 Auxiliary. I am supported by my husband, family, and many friends along this journey and would love to have your support and vote for the position of Conductress for the NM Department of VFW Auxiliary for the 2023-2024 year.

## VFWA Department Guard Candidate



Auxiliary Members,

My name is Shelly Ravak and I am announcing that I will be running for Guard position for the Department of New Mexico for 2023 through 2024. I have been the Auxiliary President for VFW Post 6917 for the last three years until now, and also I am the District 3 President. The previous position that I have held in the Auxiliary has been

Guard, Jr. and Sr. Vice, and trustee. I have held the

same offices for District 3 Auxiliary. I have the support of both my District and Auxiliary.

I have joined the Auxiliary under my husband's eligibility in 2012.

My purpose for running is to be able to move up in the Department chairs and try to make a difference in our veterans' lives. I feel that I can do a very good job and support the chairs above me. I ask for your support. Thank you very much!





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

**POST**

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

**DISTRICT**

All-American District Quartermaster (2)  
All-State District Quartermaster (3)

**DEPARTMENT**

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

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

Secretary – Treasurer (2014-2016)

**NATIONAL**

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

**OTHER**

Montana Veteran Commendation Award Recipient

Comrades & Friends, \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ In your Humble Service,

Tim Peters



**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

*"Honoring America's Veterans 2024"*  
[Jrvice2024.org](http://Jrvice2024.org)

## Candidate for Jr Vice C-in-C



We are asking for your support of Bert W. Key for the position of National Junior Vice Commander in 2024. Bert has been strongly endorsed by his home Post, District, and Department of Oregon.

Bert is a Gold Legacy Life Member of Sandy, Oregon Post

4273 and has been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America for 40 years. During that time he has served in virtually every position at the Post, District and Department level, except Quartermaster, and excelled in every position he has held. His commands have been All-State and All-American six times. Bert proudly wears the pin of the coveted Triple Crown. Through the years he has served on eight different National committees as well as Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Western Conference.

Bert's qualification for the VFW comes from one year service in Bosnia-Herzegovina, one year in Afghanistan with the United States Army, and two years service in Vietnam with the United States

Marine Corps. He also qualifies for the Korean Defense Service Medal. Between active duty and reserve duty he was in the uniform of America's Armed Forces for almost 41 years. He began his military career as a Marine Private and retired from the Army at the rank of Colonel.

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

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

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

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

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

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

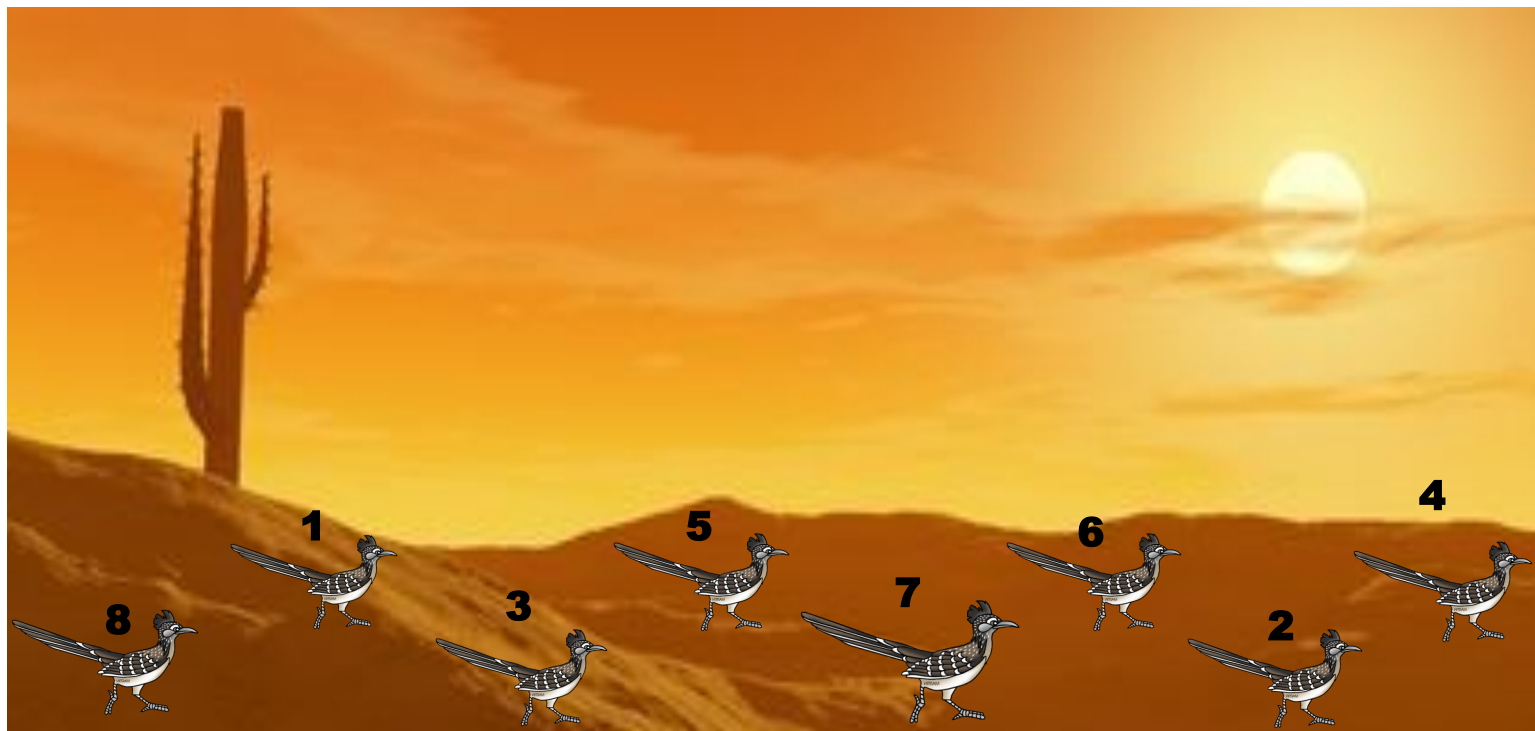


**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS®**





## VFW Membership



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

**District 4—Orlando Saavedra 106.64%**

**District 2 —Don Frias 104.42%**

**District 6—Gilbert Romero 102.69%**

**District 7—Thomas Lairson 102.17%**

**District 5 —Gary Ludi 100.83%**

**District 3 —Christopher Kelley 99.63%**

**District 1—Jamie Poncho 96.08%**

**District 8—Steven Robertson 94.23%**

### Divisions

**Division 1—12212—195.45%**

**Division 2—10763—118.05%**

**Division 3—9515—127.21%**

**Division 4—10124—112.69%**

**Division 5—5890—113.59%**

### Recruiters

**1st—Brian Sartori—95**

**2nd—Christopher Kelley—70**

**3rd—Andrew Norris—40**

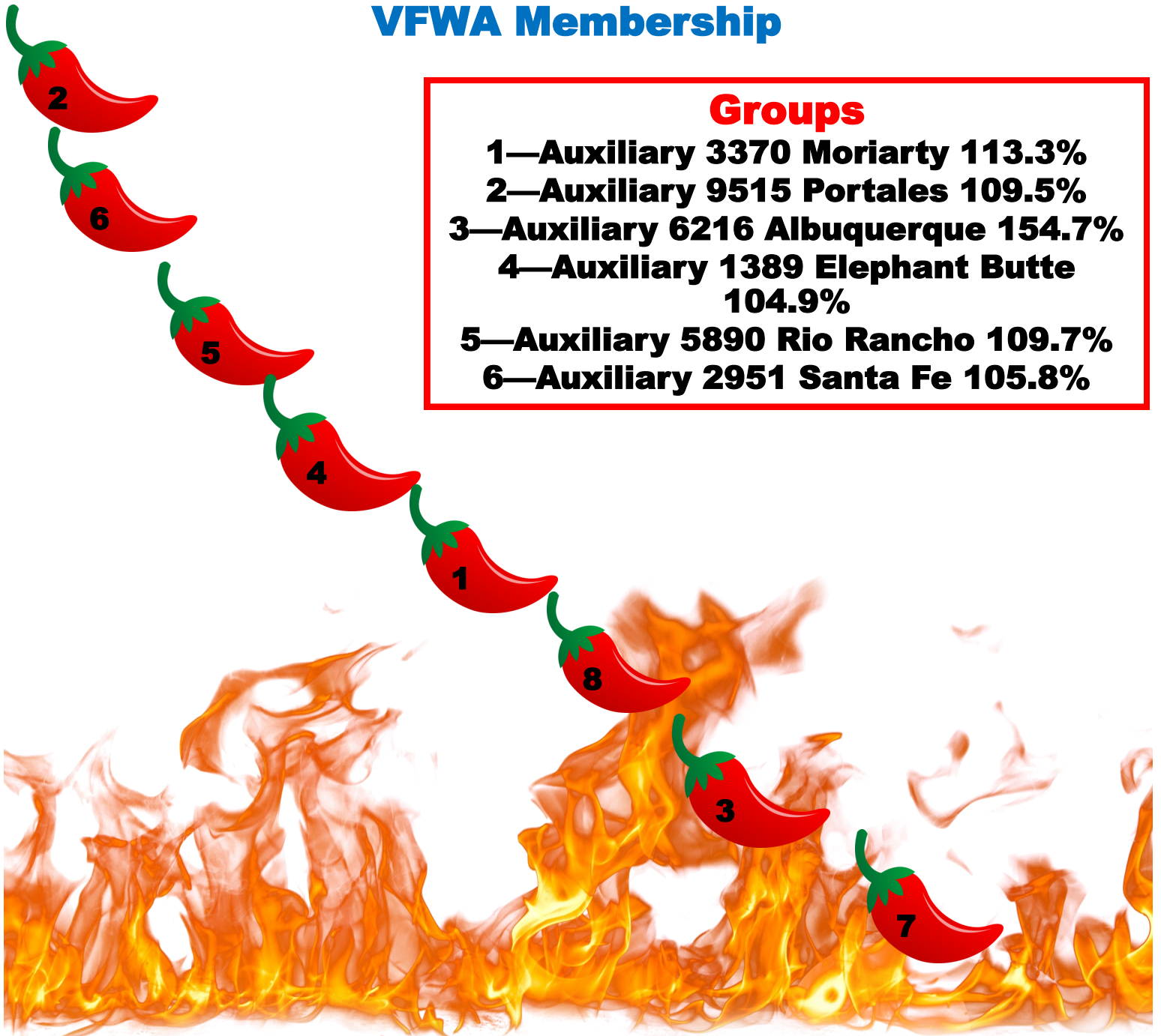
**4th—Christopher Archuleta—19**

**5th—Mark Decker—16**

## VFWA Membership

### Groups

- 1—Auxiliary 3370 Moriarty 113.3%**
- 2—Auxiliary 9515 Portales 109.5%**
- 3—Auxiliary 6216 Albuquerque 154.7%**
- 4—Auxiliary 1389 Elephant Butte 104.9%**
- 5—Auxiliary 5890 Rio Rancho 109.7%**
- 6—Auxiliary 2951 Santa Fe 105.8%**



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

**District 2—Shirlee Frias 112.8%**

**District 6—Renee King 105.4%**

**District 5—Thomas Bullington Jr 105.0%**

**District 4—Brenda Doil 103.1%**

**District 1—Vickey Westbrook 101.9%**

**District 8—Janet Huft 100.54%**

**District 3— Shelly Ravak 100.50%**

**District 7—Lequanah Crawford 97.5%**