



# VFW NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO  
*Land of Enchantment*



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

May 2024

Vol. 48 Issue 3

## VFW National Representative



Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt was elected Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on July 27, 2023, at the 124th VFW National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

Al served in the United States Army from 1965 to 1979, earning his VFW eligibility by serving in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968, and from 1970 to 1971. In recognition of his heroic service in combat, he received the

Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt

Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star with "V" device, Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service, Purple Heart Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Silver Star and two Bronze Stars, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Medal, and the Vietnam Staff Service Medal First Class.

He joined the VFW in 2002 at Post 12002 in North Fulton, Georgia, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as the VFW Department of Georgia Commander from 2014 to 2015, in which he achieved Triple Crown All-American Commander status. On the National level, he has served on the Legislative Committee as vice chairman, National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Council of Administration.

Al is retired. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Pacific Western University in 1990.

He is a member of the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain, Georgia. A Rotarian since 1984, his service has been recognized by Rotary International with the Service Above Self Award and the Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service Award. He was elected to serve as an officer of Rotary International as District Governor, from 1999 to 2000, and has chaired, as well as served, on critical national and international committees. He is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, the VFW National Home, Military Order of the Cootie, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, an inductee to the United States Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Association Hall of Fame, and a member of the American Legion.

Al and his wife, Carol were married on Feb. 24, 1967, and reside in Stone Mountain, Georgia.



## Commander's Message



Victoria Haddox

I heard the whole time I was in the chairs, 'it goes fast!' It sure did. We have achieved so much this year and we still have a couple of months left. Yes, we aren't where we wanted to be in membership and that's OK. There are some things I wish that were more successful than others and there were misses that we just couldn't make work. But I think I'm better for the experience. You all have taught me so much about myself and about this

organization that I will forever be grateful for. To my Posts that did make 102% and are striving for that All-American. Go get it!!! Our organization is better for all your efforts. There are some stuff I passed on to the incoming leadership that I didn't get to. The most important one being the state legislative, Mack Dyer and James Haddox are putting together a committee package now. Mack, it's exactly what we discussed and you are making it a reality. Thank you for not giving up on it!

To Mack Dyer and James Berdine, your drive is inspiring and your inspiration has moved mountains. You both gave me the drive to reach for more. Thank you both for your dedication to this organization and as some true friends I met along the way. Rel, thank you for never telling me No when I asked you to do things. Even when they are ridiculous. To Mark Bowman, thank you for your pick me ups and car phone calls over everything that I needed to voice! To Mark Decker, thank you for the arguments and doses of reality. I know I can't do everything alone and you never made me feel alone. To BJ and Christina, thank you for my homecoming. And to Jim, my rock, sometimes I wanted to throw you and some times I wanted to hold on to you for reassurance. This was my tribe, from all over the state they made me the best I could be. I know I'm forgetting a handful of you but you are all in my heart forever.

You haven't seen the last of me, you are all my

family and I want to continue to represent you all in the future for as long as you all allow me to do so!

### 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

### New Mexico VFW News

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

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

# VFW

Veterans of Foreign Wars

## Sr Vice Message



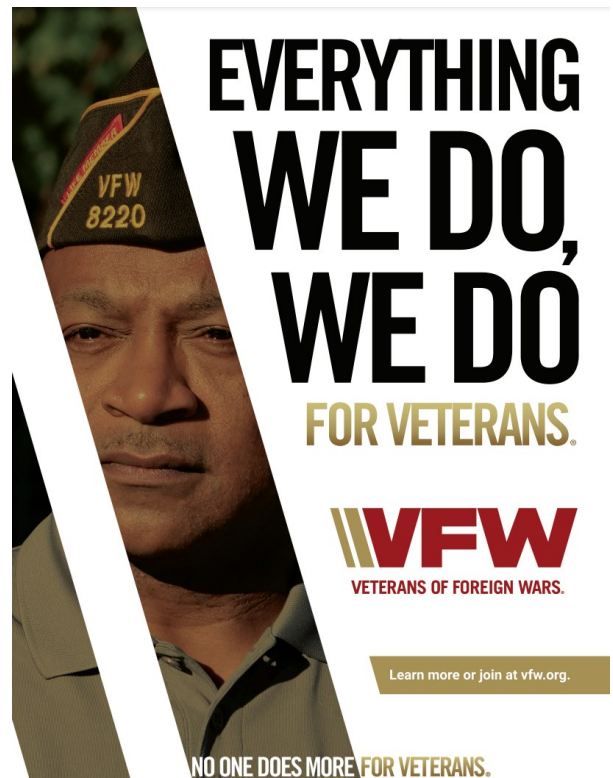
Brian Ravak

Team New Mexico! I hope this finds you doing well and that you continue to work hard **Helping Our Veterans**, along with helping families of veterans in need. I truly believe in the VFW motto which states **No One Does More for Veterans!** The past few months have been a whirlwind of rewarding activities, which makes me proud to be a part of Team New Mexico!

We've had an incredible start to this calendar

year. First, we had an awesome turnout for Mid-Winter, hosted by my home Post, VFW Post 6917. A special Thank You! to the members that made Mid-Winter a complete success. Next, in early March, I had the privilege to attend the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington D.C., where Team New Mexico comrades met with our congressional leaders and their staff. Four key pieces of legislation were the focus of the VFW Legislative Conference, including a bill to mandate Accredited VSOs in military Transition Assistance Programs, as well as a huge push on the Major Richard Star Act, a bill that would increase benefits to medically retired veterans. Later in March, Team New Mexico participated in recruiting and supporting the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range. The Department of New Mexico came out in force with Comrades and Auxiliary members who came from as far as Shiprock, Roswell, Hobbs, Rio Rancho, Estancia Valley, Alamogordo, as well as Las Cruces (hope I didn't miss anyone!) to serve on the Team New Mexico Recruiting Team. We were blessed to have two Past National Commanders in Chief there to help recruit, Tim Borland (AZ) and B.J. Lawrence (NM), as well as our National Junior Vice Elect, Tim Peters (MT). We successfully recruited over 100 new members into the VFW and recruited a good number of Auxiliary members. Kudos to those who came out to show support and help grow our membership. As April showers bring May flowers, as well as District Conventions and Post elections,

where we will elect then install our leadership teams for the ensuing year. For those transitioning out from your leadership positions, thank you for your service. And, for our commanders who will turn over the gavel to the next in line, remember, it is your obligation, your duty and privilege to counsel and otherwise assist your successor through the experiences you have gained during your term of office. By providing the next commander our full support, we fulfill the VFW motto and, in essence, we are **Helping Our Veterans!** Comrades and faithful Auxiliary, please finish this VFW year strong. Continue to focus on membership, with a resurgence on recruiting new members, and retaining and reinstating our current or expired members. It has been a true pleasure to see many of you at your District Conventions and I look forward to seeing you all at the Department Convention in Albuquerque in just a few short weeks. I'd be remiss if I didn't thank each of you for your support over the past four years, as I've gone from Department Surgeon to Department Senior Vice Commander. I humbly ask for your support during this year's Department Convention elections, as I would be honored to serve as your State Commander for the 2024-2025 VFW year. May God bless you, our veterans, and the VFW & VFWA Department of New Mexico!



**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.**

## Jr Vice Message



Jim Haddox

Greetings Comrades!

As we approach the end of our year, I would like to thank everyone for your efforts this year. As a Department we have made strides towards our goals and have continued to strive towards overall improvement. We have worked with everyone who was willing to drive the goals of the VFW and to this we have been successful. We still have some time to drive our membership and get ever

closer to that goal of 102%!

We have had great success with our Legislative directives and have had our Congressional members agree to co-sponsor all of our priorities. Not all have followed through, but we keep working on them to show that they care for our Veterans!

This upcoming year, I will drive with Mack Dyer and our Department leadership to establish a State Legislative Committee to re-invigorate our Veteran influence at the Roundhouse.

We are an ever evolving and changing organization. We must seek to improve while cherishing our history. Let us continue to work together! Do better, be better!!!

## Adjutant/Quartermaster Message



Dave Fouse

Once again we had another successful year. It may have not been measured in membership totals, or the number of entries in the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen Essays, or our Teacher Award Program, but in the number of members and Posts who are participating in our core programs. I hope this continues to rise through the next year.

I wish to thank our line officers for a term well

served and congratulate those upcoming officers in their future endeavors. We will continue to strive in improving our programs and recruiting to serve the veterans of New Mexico and their families. For those who volunteered their time and effort during the Bataan Memorial March weekend at White Sands Missile Range, it was phenomenal! I challenge each Commander in reaching out to these new members, and getting them involved in the VFW and your Post.

Let's all make an effort to attend this year's convention and show our support. The schedule, registration and reception requests, are located elsewhere in the paper. **Please pay close attention to the deadlines we have established. This is necessary in order to know**

**how much food to order for the reception.**

As a reminder to all Post Commanders and Adjutants, the upcoming Nomination and Election process begins next month. During your Post meeting in April, the elections will be held, and in May (usually) you can invite the families to come and enjoy the installation ceremony of your newly elected Officers.

Once the Elections are held during the April's meeting, the Post Adjutant should be working on completing and filing the Post Election Report online. **DO NOT WAIT!!** If there are any vacancies, those can be filled (elected, installed and processed online) at a later date. It is imperative that these election reports are processed during the month of April. This will allow my staff to create and publish the Department Directory in time to pass out at the first Council meeting after the State Convention.

For the District Commanders and Adjutants, your Nominations and Elections will take place during the District Convention.

These election reports will be filled out online through the OMS system at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). Scroll down on the left side until you reach a tab for the election reports. All you will need is the officer's membership number. Verify the address, email and phone numbers.

Please email me the meeting dates, times and Post location for all upcoming District meetings.

## Joint Chaplain Message



**Gary Logsdon**

**Angelia Velarde-Logsdon**

The suicide rate among veterans tugs at the very core of both our hearts, as we are sure it does with most of you as well. There are numerous resources in print on the subject. However, there are less and less resources on how to talk to the family and loved ones that are tragically left behind.

Death brings with it many emotions, especially grief. A suicide brings even more painful emotions. It is very challenging to deal with a family whose family member has committed suicide. It takes a special thought and action. We thought we would share a very brief list of what we found in our research that is considered by most to be appropriate in this circumstance. We hope this will assist you.

Here are some helpful tips and suggestions:

- First thing to remember is that it is considered proper to contact the family upon learning of a difficult situation or a death. Don't delay. A simple phone call expressing concern or condolence is always in order.
- It is okay to feel awkward, but don't let that feeling of awkwardness and uneasiness prevent you from reaching out and ministering to the family and those affected by the situation.
- Do not show up unannounced!!! Place a second phone call and ask the family if it would be okay for you to drop by the house sometime. If they say it would be okay, ask them when would be a good time. This way they can prepare for your visit and may even invite other family members to be present so they too can meet you.
- Talk and express your feelings. Because of the social stigma associated with suicide, people are

often reluctant to talk about it. If a bereaved person wants to talk, then *listen intently and provide a safe and supportive environment.*

- Families bereaved by suicide often feel guilt, shame, anger, alone and isolated. The stigma attached to suicide makes it even harder for them and intensifies these feelings. Again, listen to them and provide an environment where they feel free to express whatever they are feeling or to remain quiet and say nothing at all.



### **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 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 - 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

## Adjutant/Quartermaster Message continued

~continued from page 4

If at any time there is a need for my assistance, PLEASE send me an email, text or give me a call. I am here to help.

I look forward to serving you next year as I, once again, will be a candidate for Department Quartermaster. I have enjoyed this position, as it has been my way of contributing to the success of this Department. Let's make next year an enjoyable one, by fulfilling all requirements early.

### VFW Historian



Mark Decker

Triple Crown is the highest honor a Commander in the VFW can earn.

This happens when the Commander earns All-American status at the Post, District, and Department level. This honor shows dedication as a leader at all levels of the VFW. Not only are you leading your local members to be the best in the world, you have done it at all 3 levels of the VFW. These leaders are true examples of leaders and mentors.

In the Department of New Mexico, we have been lucky enough to have 3 such leaders. They each led their Posts, Districts, and the Department of New Mexico to the highest level. Because of their accomplishments, they receive the pin that is shown in this article. They wear this pin with pride and knowledge that they are some of the few that can do this.

BJ Lawrence was the 1<sup>st</sup> New Mexico Triple Crown winner. He started on his journey as Post Commander of Post 7686 in Alamogordo, New Mexico in the 2003-2004 year. His 2<sup>nd</sup> honor came in 2007-2008 as Department of New Mexico Commander. In 2009-2010 he received his Triple Crown as District 3 Commander. He received all of his honors as a member of Post 7686 in Alamogordo, New Mexico. BJ thanks all the VFW and Auxiliary members that have helped him along the way to receive this honor.

Raul Sanchez earned his triple crown starting in the 2003-2004 year as District 3 Commander out of Post 4384 in Anthony, New Mexico. His 2<sup>nd</sup> step came as Department Commander for New Mexico while a member of 6917 in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He completed his Triple Crown as Post Commander of Post 6917 in Las Cruces, New

Mexico during the 2011-2012 year. Raul always thanks his Post, District, and Department comrades and Auxiliary members for all the accomplishments he has been awarded.

Kathie Schiebel is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of our Triple Crown winners. She earned All-American District while in Pennsylvania in 2000-2001. She got her 2<sup>nd</sup> step in 2009-2010 while Commander of Post 401 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She received the Triple Crown after her year as Department of New Mexico Commander in 2014-2015. Kathie also is thankful for all the hard work the members and the Auxiliary did to help her accomplish this honor.

If - no when - you see these leaders around the Department, say congratulations and make sure to acknowledge them for their hard work and dedication to the VFW. Also, if you are in any leadership position, ask these for advice and pointers. They have been there and done that. They can be a great source of information and experience for all of us.

Who will be the next Triple Crown winner from New Mexico? Will it be someone that has already received All-American status at some level? Will it be some new member that has not yet been honored with this accomplishment at any level yet? Or will it be some eligible veteran that has not even joined the VFW yet? We will just have to sit back and see. Whoever it is, I know the VFW Department of New Mexico and our Auxiliary will be there supporting them every step of the way. We have some great leaders coming up in the ranks, along with some more experienced leaders that are part way there now. I am looking forward to New Mexico getting a 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and more Triple Crown winners in the upcoming years.



## Scout of Year

Scouts who are registered active members of a Scouts BSA (both Boys and Girls), Girl Scouts, Venturing Crew who have received the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award must have sent you their Scout of the Year nomination submittals by the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The deadline for submission to the VFW NM Department Scouting Chair was April 1<sup>st</sup>.

At the time of this publication a selection for the VFW Department Scout of the Year winner will have been selected and forwarded to VFW National for their Scout of the Year Award program.

Winner of all the VFW Department Scout of the Year award will be awarded a handsome certificate

and a check for \$1,000 at an upcoming Department meeting.

I would like to thank each of the VFW New Mexico Posts who have supported Scouting and who have submitted nominees for the Scout of the Year award. We had a successful Scouting program this year with 4 Eagle Scouts nominated for the Department Scout of the Year Award.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Terry Brown  
 VFW NM Department Scouting Chairman  
 PO Box 1, Corrales, NM 87048  
 tblazestar@aol.com - 505-350-1641

## VFWA Senior Vice



Renee King

Brothers & Sisters, I am thankful Madame President Beth Miller is back from respite. It was an honor to step in for her and will do so whenever needed, but I am so happy that she is healthy and well.

Here is some information from the National Midyear Council Meeting on February 13, 2024 aboard the Royal Caribbean Mariner of the Seas.

It was mentioned that the National Home Hero's to Hives now have 6 new hives and they have also started guitar, drum and piano lessons at the Home. And very soon they will have all 43 houses filled.

In regards to membership, the VFWA has increased 3.3% in life membership.

As of the time of the Council Meeting, there will be two proposed resolutions submitted: Department of Virginia regarding a transfer of a Department President; and Department of North Dakota hoping to expand membership eligibility. More information will be in the VFW Auxiliary E-Newsletter. Deadline for resolutions is March 31, 2024. If you have a suggestion for a resolution, please contact our Department Resolution Committee Chair Betty Decker.

Each of the Program Ambassadors shared some of the creative things other Departments are doing to promote their programs such as Department of Alabama creating activity bags for the children visiting the VA Hospitals, Department of Pacific celebrating members' birthdays at their monthly meetings.

If there is another National Midyear Cruise, I encourage you to attend. It was informative and so much fun.

If I can be of any help, please reach out. Thank you for all that you do!

## VFWA Junior Vice



Kelly Fouse

Hello everyone,

I would like to extend a big welcome to our VFW Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Al Lipphardt from the beautiful state of Georgia, and VFWA National Conductor, Kim Harney from our amazing sister state Arizona. I am so looking forward to seeing them, and all members of the VFW/VFWA, and I sincerely hope everyone has a productive and fun Convention. There has been a lot of hard work, time and thought put into trying to make it the best possible for each of you.

It has been an honor to serve as your 2023-2024 Department of New Mexico VFWA Junior Vice. I want to

thank Commander Tori, President Beth, all of the Department, District, and Auxiliary Officers, Chairman and members for all of their hard work and dedication. The VFW/VFWA Department of New Mexico is going into the future stronger because of your leadership and teamwork. I am proud to be a member of our Department!

As a new VFW/VFWA year begins, may we all leave any negatives of the past where they belong – in the past. May we all take the positives forward with us, lift each other and our Posts/Auxiliaries up to their highest potential. May we all remember we are here to serve, no matter what title we may or may not have. We are an organization of servitude, not self-recognition. Support those that are ready to move up in our organization, be a mentor and remember why we are here. Only in doing this can we continue to build, grow and leave a legacy to those that come after us.

*“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.” John Quincy Adams*

## VFW Post 9517

On March 23rd we held our annual Easter Egg Hunt. We had about 2,000 eggs for the kids to find. We had 4 different age groups. Each age group had 2 baskets for them, while the younger 3 had a bike and the oldest had a gift card. The kids and families had a great time.

On May 25th we will be holding our annual Pulled Pork sale at Tractor Supply Company in Farmington. Pulled

Pork sandwich, chips, drink and frybread for \$7. We will be selling from 11 AM until we are sold out.

On May 27th we will be doing our annual Memorial Day ceremonies at the Shiprock Cemetery. We will be placing crosses out at 6 AM, with the ceremony at 11 AM and flag retirements after that. All are welcome to come out and participate.

## Post 2951

### Vietnam Veterans Day

Artist, Crash Romeo conducted a flow art class as part of an evening full of activities in honor of the Vietnam Veterans. Some were hesitant to participate, but once they were convinced, they made some beautiful pieces. Following the art, Commander Gary Logsdon held a ceremony, prayer, and POW table presentation and then everyone enjoyed a Lenten meal. Ending a memorable evening for all who attended, was a night of Karaoke.

Our VFW 2951 was donated this beautiful Patriotic Poppy, made by Crash Romeo. He and his wife support and give selflessly to our VFW. They provide art therapy and lead the art portion of our Art and Education with Veterans partnership we have with the Santa Fe

Children's Museum.

### Memorial Day

VFW 2951 will hold its Annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Luncheon on Monday May 27<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon following the Memorial Day Presentation at the Santa Fe National Cemetery. All veterans and guests are welcome on this important occasion.

Last year volunteers helped place tens of thousands of flags on gravesites at the Santa Fe National Cemetery, and plan to do the same this year. Flag placement date and time has not yet been announced, but will be posted on our Facebook page.



## THE FINAL INSPECTION

The soldier stood and faced his God,  
Which must always come to pass.  
He hoped his shoes were shining bright,  
Just as brightly as his brass.

“Step forward now, soldier,  
How shall I deal with you?  
Have you turned the other cheek?  
To my Church have you been true?”

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,  
“No Lord I guess I ain’t.  
Because those of us who carry guns  
Can’t always be a saint.

I’ve had to work most Sundays and at times my talk was tough,  
But, I never took a thing That wasn’t mine to keep...  
Though I worked a lot of overtime,  
When the bills got just too steep,

And I never passed a cry for help, doing so without a peep  
Though at times I shook with fear,  
And sometimes, God forgive me,  
I’ve wept unmanly tears.

I know I don’t deserve a place  
Among the people here,  
They never wanted me around  
Except to calm their fears.

If you’ve a place for me here, Lord,  
It needn’t be so grand,  
I never expected or had too much,  
But if you don’t I’ll understand.”

There was a silence all around the throne  
Where the saints often trod  
As the soldier waited quietly,  
For the judgment of his God,

“Step forward now, soldier,  
You’ve borne your burdens well,  
Come walk peacefully on Heaven’s streets,  
You’ve done your time in HELL.”

— — — *written by Joshua Helterbran*

## Foundation Member Needed

The VFW New Mexico Foundation has 3 vacancies to fill at the upcoming June meeting, 2 three-year and 1 two-year.

Please provide Foundation Secretary Dave Fouse with your qualifications including VFW accomplishments, leadership positions in and outside of VFW, and 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 12184 Golf Tournament

Discounted Rooms available at  
**Clarion Inn & Suites \$84 (avail May16-18) (Code: VFW)**  
**Candlewood Inn & Suites \$74 + Tax**  
 Book by phone (Code IL1EY)  
 online(corp code:100222993)

### Navy Cross Level Sponsor (\$2000)



Only 10  
Available

- 1-Custom Engraved Cavalry Saber
- 2- Rounds of Golf for 4 players  
Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> Nancy Lopez Golf Course at Spring River  
Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at NMMI Golf Course
- 3-Lunch provided on both days
- 4-Reserved table for 4 at the  
**Dinner/Reception/Charity Auction (Silent and Live)/Live Entertainment**  
**Ribeye Steak Dinner Catered by Texas Road House**
- 5-Grand Prize Raffle Tickets-(4)
- 6-Bucket Raffle Tickets-(20)
- 7-Large Tournament Sign
- 8-Name on Lindmark Electronic Billboard for two 2 weeks
- And much more

Limited # of non-Sponsored Teams Available \$600 includes golf and lunch on both days

Limited # of Dinner Reception Tickets available for \$50 per person

Some planned activities include:

Contests-Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Hole in One, Longest Putt

Ball Drop 50/50  
Raffle

### Medal of Honor Level Sponsor (\$2500)



Going Fast, call today  
10, 9, 8, 7, 6,  
5-Available

- 1-Custom Engraved (pew Pew)
- 2- Rounds of Golf for 4 players  
Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> Nancy Lopez Golf Course at Spring River  
Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at NMMI Golf Course
- 3-Lunch provided on both days
- 4-Reserved table for 8 at the  
**Dinner/Reception/Charity Auction (Silent and Live)/Live Entertainment**  
**Ribeye Steak Dinner Catered by Texas Road House**
- 5-Grand Prize Raffle Tickets-(8)
- 6-Bucket Raffle Tickets-(40)
- 7-Large Tournament Sign
- 8-Logo on MOH Sponsor Banner
- 9-Logo or Business Name on Lindmark Electronic Billboard for two 2 weeks
- And much more

### VFW Post 12184 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament

May 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>  
Roswell, NM



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.  
Roswell, New Mexico Post 12184



Scan the QR Code to Register or  
Sponsor or call today

Contact information:

Mack Dyer @ 575-291-5243  
Commander

Melissa Burson @ 575-840-4495  
Sr Vice Commander

Jason Burke @ 575-910-1860  
Jr Vice Commander

Scott Pollock @ 444-7526  
Quartermaster

Bob Bolin @ 575-626-0741  
Adjutant

Sponsorships available for all budgets \$50-\$5000

### Bronze Star Level Sponsor (\$1500)



Only 10  
Available

Going Fast, call today  
10, 9, 8,

7-Available

- 1-Custom Engraved Knife
- 2- Rounds of Golf for 4 players  
Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> Nancy Lopez Golf Course at Spring River  
Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at NMMI Golf Course
- 3-Lunch provided on both days
- 4-Shared table for 4 at the  
**Dinner/Reception/Charity Auction (Silent and Live)/Live Entertainment**  
**Ribeye Steak Dinner Catered by Texas Road House**
- 5-Grand Prize Raffle Tickets-(8)
- 6-Small Tournament Sign

# Joshua Schreck for Judge Advocate General 2024-2025!

**Proudly Endorsed:** As an organization that honors service and sacrifice, Joshua has been endorsed by his home Department of Washington, several Past National Commanders including all 4 Past National Commanders from the Western Conference, multiple Past and Current State Commanders throughout the conference, and many Past Western Conference Chairmen for the esteemed position of Judge Advocate General. His dedication to members' rights and expertise in our bylaws and manual of procedures makes him the perfect candidate to serve in this vital role. He is also fully supported and "endorsed" by his wonderful spouse, Jennifer, and his amazing daughter Ennis.



**A Legacy of Service:** Joshua's commitment to our organizational rules, rituals, and procedures is deeply ingrained. Having served as the National Parliamentarian for two terms, in addition to being asked to continue for two additional terms under current Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt and current Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore, Joshua's knowledge has been acknowledged and requested by the highest-ranking officers within the VFW. His understanding of the intricacies of our organization makes him the clear choice.

**Education and Experience:** With two graduate degrees to include an MBA, while also currently pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, Joshua is not only well-versed in the VFW realm but also brings invaluable business acumen to the table. His past roles within the VFW, from Post Committee Member to various National positions, along with his certification as a Registered Parliamentarian, have equipped him with a comprehensive understanding of the needs and concerns of this respected position.

**Civilian Expertise:** Joshua's success extends beyond his VFW commitments. As a seasoned business executive overseeing Human Resources, Accounting and Finance, Legal, Sales, and Operations, he's proven himself capable of managing complex responsibilities.

### Vote Joshua Schreck

As Judge Advocate General, Joshua will bring his exceptional dedication, prowess, and unwavering commitment to our Veterans of Foreign Wars. It's time to empower proven leadership, ensuring a path of progress for the continued betterment and the ongoing excellence of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Choose Experience. Choose Leadership. Choose Joshua Schreck for Judge Advocate General 2024-2025.

## MOC Supreme Jr Vice Commander Candidate



Gary Dressel

Born in Arlington, Virginia on August 12, 1948, I joined the Marine Corps in 1968 and served in Vietnam from November 1968 to June 1970. I went to Atlantic Christian College in Wilson, North Carolina and graduated in 1974 with a degree in accounting. I then went to work for the Department of Defense as an auditor, where I stayed until

retirement in 2006.

I joined the VFW in 1995 and joined the Cooties in 1997 where I was elected as the Grand Quartermaster in 1997 and held that position until 2009. I was elected as the Grand Commander and served for one year and ended the year as an All Star Grand Commander. I was reelected as the Grand Quartermaster in 2010 and served as the QM until 2016. I ran for Supreme Quartermaster in 2011 and was elected and have served as the Supreme Quartermaster until 2024. I am now running for the Supreme Junior Vice Commander.



## National Council Member 2024-2028 Candidate



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

**Victoria Haddox**

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!



“  
**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





## National Council Member 2024-2028 Candidate



Len Hampton

Comrades, it has been an honor and a privilege to be your National Council Member, representing our great Department at the National level. As NCM, I work as a member of a board that oversees a budget of \$1.3 million. Each Board Member works as part of a team to keep the Veterans of Foreign Wars the number one organization for combat veterans. To perform at this level I've

utilized the skills I gained in my professional life, as well as the skills and knowledge I've gained during my many years as a VFW member and elected officer, including as your Department Commander from 2016 to 2017. I have held numerous elected and appointed positions within the VFW and my community of Las Cruces. My twenty plus years of VFW experience has prepared me to be an informed and committed comrade capable of evaluating and taking action on the complex issues that will have a lasting effect on over 1.5 million members. Comrades, I respectfully ask for your vote and continued support as your National Council Member for 2024-28! At your Service, Len Hampton, PSC, NCM

**Veterans  
Crisis Line**

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

## 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 and became a life member in 2015 with Hill-Vigil Post 5610 in Española. From 2016 to 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 )
- Membership Chair (2021-2022)
- Buddy Poppy chair ( 2018-19, 2019-2020)
- 6 years as President of the Española Veterans Memorial Wall Commission.

In 2018 I got involved with mental health and suicide awareness with the Veterans Administration in

Albuquerque. For 7 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, with the most recent one in March of 2023 - 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.

On February 13, 2023 a letter was sent to Chairman Jon Tester and Ranking member Jerry Moran Senate committee on Veterans Affairs demonstrating full support of the Department of New Mexico Veteran of Foreign Wars to rename the CBOC clinic in Gallup to Medal of Honor recipient Hiroshi Hershey Miyamura, which passed.

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.

*Vote for INTERGITY.*



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

## VFWA President Candidate



Renee King

Department of New Mexico President Candidate 2024-2025 Renee King  
I have had the pleasure of meeting several members throughout the state, however if we have yet to meet, my name is Renee King and I am currently your Sr. Vice President. With the support of my Auxiliary 2951 in Santa Fe and District 6, I am your candidate for

President for Department of New Mexico. I humbly ask for your support. It would be an honor to represent you and the Department of New Mexico. I joined in 2017 under the eligibility of my father Anthony Zamora, an Army Sergeant who served in Vietnam. He passed away in 2016, one year after my mother, Renae. This year my husband and I are celebrating 30 years together. We have two daughters, one grandson (11 years old), and two granddaughters (1 ½ years old and 3 months old). I have worked for Santa Fe Civic Housing Authority as a Program Manager for 20+ years. I believe my qualities and experience to interact effectively with a diverse population with discretion, patience, and compassion can contribute to the Department's success. I am looking forward to a great year of continuing to support our Veterans and their families. See you at Convention!

## VFW Sr Vice Commander Candidate



Jim Haddox

James "Jim" Haddox enlisted in the United States Navy in January of 1990. He completed 11 years as an active component member and then spent the next 11 years as a member of the US Navy Reserve, retiring as a Chief Petty Officer in October 2012. He earned his eligibility for the Veterans of Foreign Wars during the Persian Gulf. He joined the VFW in 2005 and has been an All-State and All-American Post Commander at VFW

Post 5890 and All-State and All-American District 2 Commander. He is serving as the State Jr. Vice Commander and as the National Legislative Committee member for the Department of New Mexico. He has served as a Department Trustee

and as a member of the VFW New Mexico Foundation.

Jim is the proud Dad of 5 boys and is married to his lovely wife, Victoria. They reside in Rio Rancho, NM. Jim is a manager at Intel, Corp and has been there for 23 years. He was also on the Intel site emergency response teams and Incident Command staff for over 22 years. Jim's other military awards are Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist, Navy Achievement Medal (x3), Army Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and other campaign and unit awards. Previous duty assignments were USS Exploit (MSO-440), USS Adroit (MSO-509), USS Affray (MSO-511), USS McInerney (FFG-8), Subbase Groton, Base Police, COMSUBLANT BGS -201, COMPHIBRON 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fleet Admiral's staff, and US Fleet Forces.





VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO  
90<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO  
MAY 31 – JUNE 2, 2024



Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel  
2910 Yale Boulevard South East  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

National Reservation # 1-800-325-3535

Local # (ask for reservations) 1-505-843-7000 Fax at hotel front desk: 1-505-843-6307

Online Registration: (Preferred Method) <<https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1554994821228&key=GRP>>

**KEY PERSONNEL**

State Commander Tori Haddox: 505-203-5007

Co-Convention/Conference Chairman, BJ Lawrence: 575-430-4504

Co-Chairman, Dave Fouse at State Headquarters Office: 575-973-4965

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

VFW Department Commander, Tori Haddox, Post 5890

**GUESTS**

VFW National Representative: Sr Vice Commander in Chief, Al Lipphardt

VFWA National Representative: Past National President, TBA

**Room Rates**

Single/Double/King: \$135.00 per night plus 15.63% in local and state taxes

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

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

**Hotel Reservations must be made prior to 5:00PM, April 29, 2024 to get the VFW rate.**

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

## VFW STATE CONVENTION AGENDA

*Buddy Poppy Displays will be set up in Foyer*

### **Thursday – May 30, 2024**

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Registration - Foyer

6:00 PM – 11:00 PM - Hospitality Room - Bernalillo (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

### **Friday May 31, 2024**

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM – Registration - Foyer

7:00 AM – 7:45 AM – VFW Audit – Suite (3rd floor)

7:45 AM – 9:45 AM – VFW Budget – Suite (3rd floor)

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM – Council of Administration Meeting – Valle Grande

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

1:30 PM – 4:00 PM – Joint Opening Session - Alvarado

5:00 PM – Joint Memorial - Alvarado

6:00 PM – 11:00 PM – Hospitality Room - Rio Grande (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

### **Saturday June 1, 2024**

7:00 AM – 8:45 AM – Registration - Foyer

9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon – VFW Business Session - Chaco/Bandelier

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

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

12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM – Past State Commanders Lunch - ???

1:30 PM – 4:30 PM – VFW Business Session con't; All incoming Chairman  
(mandatory meeting) - Chaco/Bandelier

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM – VFW/VFWA Joint Installation of Officers – Anasazi

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Dinner - Alvarado

9:00 PM – Close – Hospitality Room - Rio Grande (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

### **Sunday June 2, 2024**

9:00 AM – 11:00AM – 2020-2021 VFW Council of Administration Meeting – Valle Grande

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

## AUXILIARY STATE CONVENTION AGENDA

*Buddy Poppy Displays will be set up in Foyer*

### **THURSDAY May 30, 2024**

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM - VFW & Auxiliary Registration - Foyer  
 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM - VFWA Line Officers Meeting – Bernalillo (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM - Hospitality Room - Bernalillo (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

### **FRIDAY May 31, 2024**

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM - Auxiliary Registration - Foyer  
 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM - Floor Practice – Grand Quivera  
 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM- Auxiliary Council of Administration – Grand Quivera  
 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM - Business Session - Grand Quivera  
 11:45 AM – 1:30 PM - Past Auxiliary Presidents’ Luncheon – In Hospitality Room  
 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM - Joint Opening Session - Alvarado  
 5:00 PM – Joint Memorial - Alvarado  
 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM - Hospitality Room - Rio Grande (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

### **SATURDAY June 1, 2024**

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM - Past Department Presidents’ Breakfast - Alvarado  
 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM - VFW & Auxiliary Registration - Foyer  
 7:00 AM – 8:15 AM - Floor Practice - Alvarado  
 8:30 AM – 11:15 AM - Business Session (Continued) - Alvarado  
 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM - Officer/Chairman Luncheon - **TBA**  
 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM - Lunch on your own  
 12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM - Buddy Poppy Display Judging Will Be Completed  
 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM - Business Session (Continued) - Alvarado  
*(Nomination and Election of Department Officers and 24-25 Program Presentation)*  
 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM - VFW/VFWA Joint Installation of Officers - Anasazi  
 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM - Dinner - Alvarado  
 9:00 PM – Close - Hospitality Room - Bernalillo (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

### **SUNDAY June 2, 2024**

8:00 AM – 10:30 AM - 2024-2025 VFWA Council of Administration (all are welcome) –Grand Quivera

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

## VFWA Sr Vice President Candidate



Kelly Fouse

Hello everyone,

I hope this finds all healthy and happy! With the 2024-2025 State Convention fast approaching, I would like to take this opportunity to announce my bid for the position of VFWA New Mexico, Department Senior Vice. I am grateful to be the 2023-2024 Junior Vice Department President, and have hopes of continuing the tradition, of going up the Chairs, to become the Department President in 2025-2026.

I feel blessed to be allowed to work with the dynamic, passionate and driven Department, District, and Auxiliary brothers and sisters, throughout our beautiful state. If elected, my mission is to listen and learn from all members of the Auxiliaries and Districts of NM over the next two years, and work with the Department and National Line Officers to implement feasible solutions to alleviate issues your Auxiliaries and Districts may be having. I would also like to share what is working at your Auxiliaries/Districts with others in our organization. I have faith that this will make our Department even more vibrant and beneficial for our veterans, families and communities.

The world has changed drastically in the last 20 years when I joined the Auxiliary, and completely changed in the last 100 plus that we have been an organization! My goal is to either bring back, or bring more to the forefront our traditions that may have weakened along the way – especially since COVID. With that being said, I also believe very strongly that we must stay flexible and vigilant in keeping up with the modern world's view, technology and the difference in how people can volunteer today versus the past.

I believe leadership in our organization is a position of servitude, not dictatorship. We must follow our Bylaws, and I have a duty to enforce them. With that being said, we are volunteers and as your Department Officer, I am not your boss. I am here for you. I will strive to be a mentor you can trust, believe in and be proud of. I want to use the wisdom from my mentors in the VFWA as a guide. However, each of you are the legacy of our organization, and you are the ones who lead the future. Your ideas, passion and input are imperative to the continuation of the VFWA! Therefore, it is my responsibility to use the voice given to me, if I am elected, to represent you, not me.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and may each of you remember your why and continue to be a force within the VFWA of NM!

Please reach out to me. If I do not answer immediately, I will get back with you as soon as possible. I am here for each of you.



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



**A Great Place to Call Home!**

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

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

We are currently accepting new resident families into our program.

Most qualify to apply.

Caring staff will help families to determine eligibility.

**800-313-4200**

## 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.

## VFWA Chaplain Candidate



**Michelle Dennisson**

Greetings: Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of New Mexico Auxiliary Members.

My name is Michelle Dennisson. I am the current VFW Auxiliary Department of New Mexico Conductor from 2023-2024. I am running for the position of Chaplain for the 2024-2025 Year. I would appreciate your support as I work to climb the Department Chairs.

A bit about me... I qualify for the VFW Auxiliary through my father; He was in the Army and

I have been a member of VFWA Post 3370 since 2010. As soon as I joined, I became an officer, holding the Treasurer position for two years. I have kept the position of President for the seventh time and have been a trustee and guard for Post 3370. I have been awarded several certificates from the Department for my service to our Auxiliary, including President of the Year five times. I have also held the positions of Guard, Conductress and Chaplain, and SR.Vice for District 2 and Chairman of Scholarships and Legislation.

I have been chairman of the Veterans and Families support and Legislative branch for the Department of New Mexico Auxiliary.

My husband supports me; we have ten children and 17 grandchildren, and my passion for our veterans drives me to achieve the goals I try to set for myself in this fine organization.

Loyally,  
Michelle L. Dennisson

Stationed in Inchon, Korea. My grandfather was in Germany in WWII.

## VFW Chaplain Candidate



### Mack Dyer

Comrades I know many of you from across our state, but for those that I don't, I would like to let each of you get to know me a little better as I announce my candidacy for Chaplain for the Department of New Mexico for 2024-2025

I am a Gold Legacy Life Member of VFW Post 12184 in Roswell, NM. I joined the VFW as a Life member of VFW Post 10223, in South Korea in 2003, and was a member of VFW Post 8703 in Carlsbad before transferring to Post 12184. I have been married to my wife, Allison, since 2008, and are the proud parents of one son, Chase, a freshman cadet at New Mexico Military Institute (**NMMI**).

I joined the US Army in 1988 as a Chemical Biological, Radiological, & Nuclear (CBRN) Specialist and retired as a Sergeant First Class in 2009, with almost 21 years of active service. I served tours in Germany, Ft Lewis, WA, Ft Bliss, TX, Ft Riley, KS, Umatilla Chemical Depot in Oregon, seven tours in South Korea, and three deployments to the Middle East.

My eligibility to join the Veterans of Foreign Wars (**VFW**) comes through service in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Service in the Republic of Korea, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. I am a Safety Professional by trade, and owner of Dragon Soldier Enterprises, which includes Dragon Soldier Seasonings, and The Dragon Soldier Depot in Roswell.

I am a lifetime member of the VFW National Home and have served as Trustee multiple times at Post 10223 and Post 12184. I am the commander of Post 12184 (2023-2024), National Aid De Camp (2023-2024), Early Bird Legislative Conference Award Winner (2023-2024), 2024 National Convention committee member on finance and Internal Organization and I have earned the Recruiter Award 2023-2024 (50+ recruits). As Post Commander, I have led our Post to be the #1 Post in District 7, Department, and Division 10 196+% (currently). We are currently on pace for both All-American and All-State Honors.

My military Awards and Decorations include the Bronze

Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (9<sup>th</sup> award), Army Achievement Medal (5<sup>th</sup> Award), Army Good Conduct Medal (6<sup>th</sup> Award), National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Service Medal with 3 bronze stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (3<sup>rd</sup> Award), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (7<sup>th</sup> Award), Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), and Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait).

I truly believe our organization is the greatest Combat Veteran Service Organization in the world. It has provided me, along with thousands of other Veterans, with a safe haven to deal with the consequences of our service. I strongly feel that we can continue to achieve great things as a Department, building upon the strong foundation blocks past Department Commanders have set before us. I believe in four guiding principles (**Recruit, Retain, Educate, and Elevate**), which will help cement the Department of New Mexico as a top Department in this great organization.

Every member is a recruiter, whether we want to be or not. Our words, actions, and participation in our organization and our community determine the success or failure of this organization. We all lead by example, good or bad. That is the way we **recruit** as well. If we want to **retain** those who have earned the right to be amongst us, we must remember that everyone has a story and no two are the same. Everyone brings something unique to our team, and we must always remember that we all can contribute something positive to the success of our mission of taking care of our nation's Veterans.

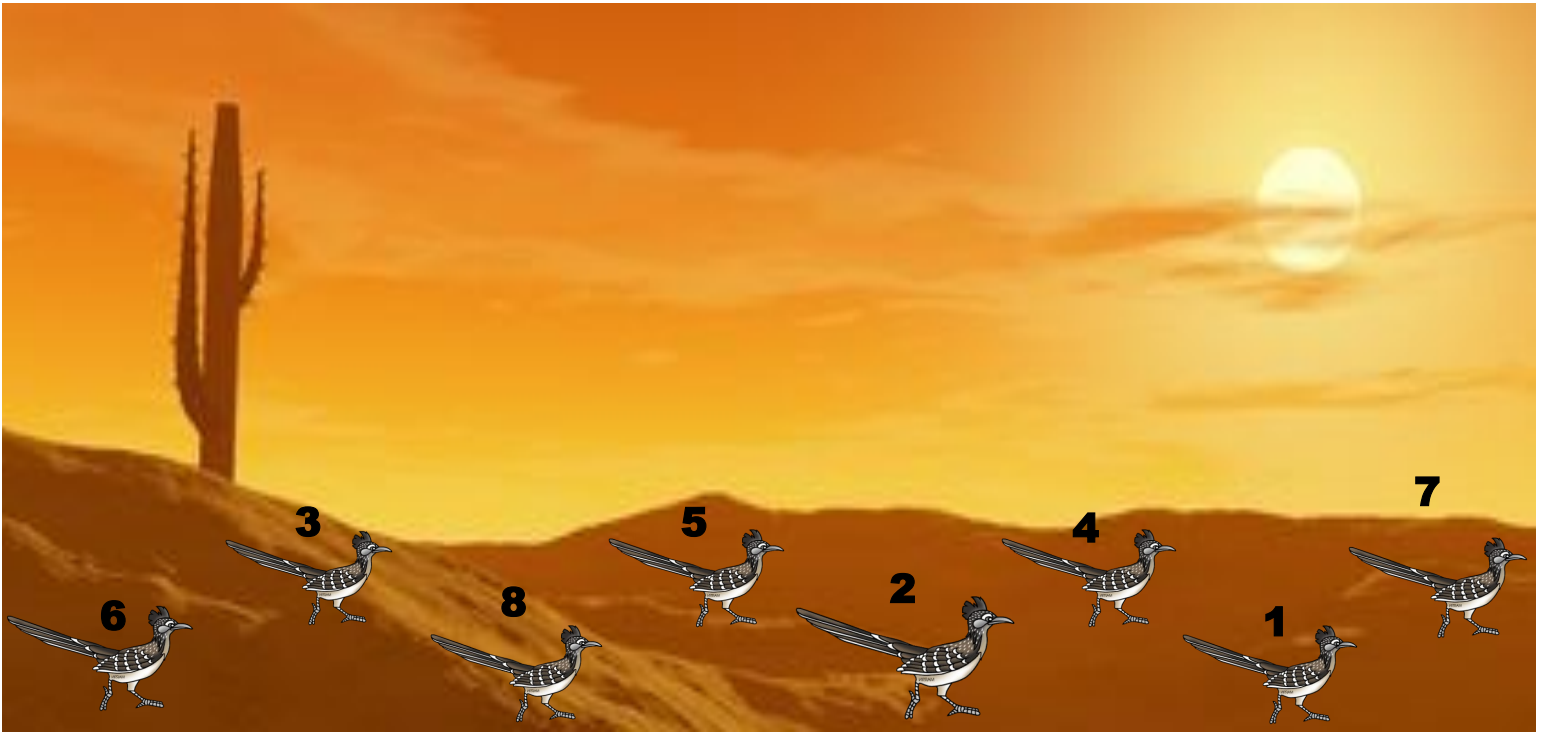
Our state ranks toward the bottom of the nation in educating our youth. As a Department, let's ensure that is not said of us. I believe we can get better and **educate** our members about what the VFW has to offer, particularly with the mentorship of Past Commanders and current leadership. We can get better at educating those still serving on what they can do as a VFW member, and most importantly I believe that we can educate the citizens of our state, and our lawmakers at the city, county, state, and federal levels through our advocacy and the example we set in our communities. We are elevating this organization if we recruit, retain, and educate. We must never forget, or get so caught up in life, that we forget to **elevate** each other.

If I earn the honor to serve as your next Department Chaplain, in addition to the duties of a Chaplain and other duties assigned by the Department Commander, I pledge to follow these principles as a leader in this fine organization.

I encourage you to reach out to me. I would love to share ideas for our future, and activities at our Posts and within our Districts that have helped us be successful. My phone number is (575) 291-5243, or reach out by email at [mack.dyer@gmail.com](mailto:mack.dyer@gmail.com)

Thank you for your Service, I hope I can earn your support.

# VFW Membership



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

**District 7—Mark Bowman 127.16%**

**District 1—Mark Decker 105.30%**

**District 4—Jonathan Karlin 101.17%**

**District 2 —Don Frias 99.34%**

**District 5 —Danny Cruz 95.51%**

**District 8—Justin Knapp 94.95%**

**District 3 —Darrel Melom 94.09%**

**District 6—Benjamin Pearce 76.45%**

### Divisions

**Division 1—12184—200.09%**

**Division 2—10763—165.55%**

**Division 3—6216—112.60%**

**Division 4—3274—109.67%**

**Division 5—3280—107.69%**

### Recruiters

**1st—Mack Dyer—52**

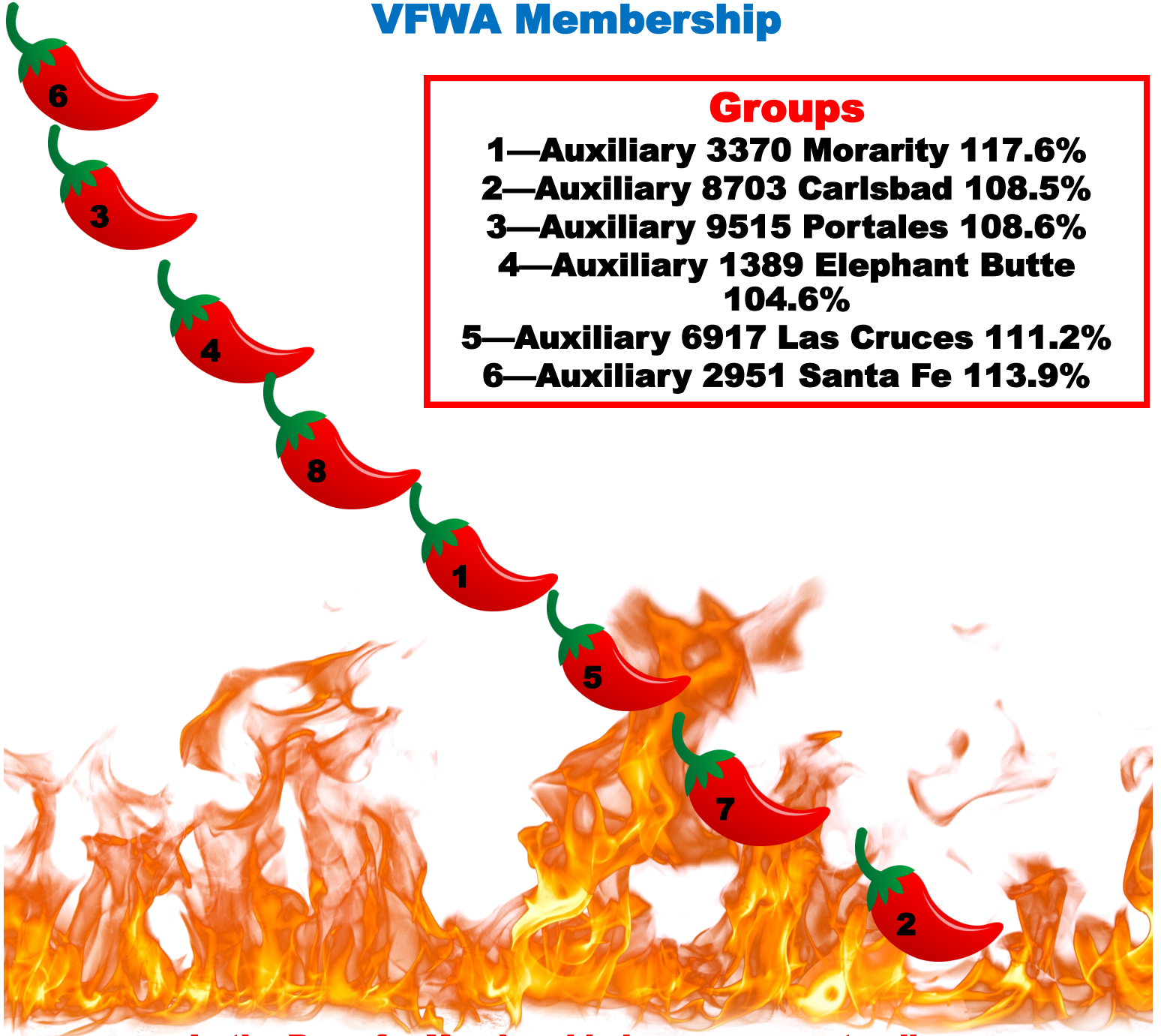
**2nd—Victoria Haddox—30**

**3rd—Jason Burke—26**

**3rd—James Berdine—26**

**5th—Mark Riddle Jr—18**

## VFWA Membership



### Groups

- 1—Auxiliary 3370 Morarity 117.6%**
- 2—Auxiliary 8703 Carlsbad 108.5%**
- 3—Auxiliary 9515 Portales 108.6%**
- 4—Auxiliary 1389 Elephant Butte 104.6%**
- 5—Auxiliary 6917 Las Cruces 111.2%**
- 6—Auxiliary 2951 Santa Fe 113.9%**

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

- District 6—Renee King 112.9%**
- District 3— Shelly Ravak 105.9%**
- District 4—Brenda Doil 102.3%**
- District 8—Suzan Willis 100.7%%**
- District 1—Betty Decker 97.9%**
- District 5—Thomas Bullington Jr 97.9%**
- District 7—Lequanah Crawford 94.6%**
- District 2—Shirlee Frias 82.5%**