



VFW NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO
Land of Enchantment



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

September 2023

Vol. 48 Issue 1

Post 12212 Roswell Golf Tournament

On May 19th and 20th of 2023, Post 12184 in Roswell, NM hosted a very successful golf tournament at the Roswell Country Club for the benefit of Healing America's Heroes. There was food, drinks, fun, and even a live auction with an honest to goodness auctioneer and a local band led by a veteran frontman.

It all started several months earlier when the comrades of Post 12184 were throwing around ideas on how to raise money for Healing America's Heroes and the many other programs the Veterans of Foreign Wars supports. Soon-to-be Post Commander, Mack Dyer, came up with the wonderful idea of hosting a golf tournament. Comrade Dyer took the reins and was off to the races. He mustered the help of several other comrades by assigning them certain duties and tasks. Vendors were invited, sponsors were signed up, and many generous donations were made.



Left to Right: Post Commander Mack Dyer, Healing America's Heroes Founder Eddie Crain, Post Jr. Vice

Several months later the Post had the funds, the venue, and all the means necessary to host the golf tournament along with 50 teams.

Many of the players and teams commented on how well it was organized and said that they are looking forward to next year's tournament. The comrades of 12184 were equally impressed.

Comrade Don Duncan stated that "everyone seemed happy to be at the tournament and a good time was had by all. I believe the banquet meal was tasty and the raffles and auction were a real blast." Comrade Mack Dyer was impressed by the outstanding support we received from so many companies and individuals in Southeast New Mexico and how everyone had such a great time for a good cause.

Quartermaster Scott Pollock said, "The support of the community, from sponsoring us directly or helping advertise the tournament was exceptional. We appreciate the support and look forward to helping local veterans as needed."



Pro golfer Kristen Schelling (center) poses with one of the tournament's teams.

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Commander's Message



Victoria Haddox

Wow, these first few months have flown by. We had an amazing representation at the National Convention. We have exciting news; Tan uniform hats are official headgear for meetings. We have 3 new programs coming out: Veteran of the Year, Employer of the Year and JROTC Cadet of the Year. This is so new in fact, we are creating forms for them as I type this.

Last year we finished with 8353 members; this year's membership goal is 8522.

I know it sounds like a mountain, but we are fighters. We have focused a lot of our resources on recognizing those who have gone above and beyond to help us grow with membership incentives and more. It's not about money, guys - we are losing our voice on Capitol Hill. This is why membership is so important. Speaking of money, COVID hit all of us hard. So, we are starting a grant writing committee and looking to put together sponsorship to support us at the state level. Anything that comes out that you want to make yours to help with your Post go ahead and use it. We need to battle through these tough times. I would like for us to get away from nickel and dimming

everything. We have so many veterans that need us to grow. We need to start building our voices at the local and state legislative level. We are so much more than we know. We saw what happened when we started putting for the PACT Act. Now let's do the same with the Major Richard Star Act.

All the plans I have, I know I won't be able to hit them all, but I will try my darndest to get there. Please pass on to your members all that is being offered and encourage them to participate in the training, meetings, or our conventions. Comradships are what started this organization, so it's important we pass on that legacy.

Lastly, Let's get ready to work. I can't wait to see all the great things we can accomplish this year. I want us to build a bigger,

stronger VFW!

New Mexico VFW News

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

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

VFW

Veterans of Foreign Wars

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 -

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 - Andrew Norris 9515 Portales



VFW National Councilmember



Len Hampton

“Meet the Challenge” Commander in Chief Duane Sarmiento summons each of us to “Meet the Challenge” by signing up and mentoring one new member. He has set two membership goals to help with meeting the challenge. First is to build a strong organization through recruiting new members while retaining our current membership, creating a solid baseline for the future. Secondly, to work together to achieve VFW’s goals. The VFW National Headquarters

staff is available to assist in coordinating programs, developing membership initiatives, and building awareness among our membership and the entire

veteran community. Included among the many incentives for each top Department recruiter is a presentation of an engraved Navy cutlass at the National Convention in Louisville. The 2023-2024 VFW National Membership Program may be viewed on the web at vfw.org under the Membership Recruiting & Retention heading.

“We build, We fight” Department Commander Victoria Haddox’s theme highlights the need to build our ranks and to fight harder for our Veteran Family. Her All-State Program goal of 102%+1 must be completed by Friday, April 5, 2024. The Department All-State Award requires that you must have at least one entry in each of the following programs: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Teacher Award, Scout of the Year, Safety Award, JROTC of the Year, Member of the Year and Employer of the Year. You can read the entire Department of New Mexico 2023-2024 All-State Program on the web at vfwnm.org under the Program heading.

Post 12212 Roswell Golf Tournament

~continued from pg. 1

Perhaps one of the most memorable moments was watching former LPGA golfer Kristen Schelling of Backswing Golf Events take everyone to school on the 9th hole. For a donation, golfers could test their skills against Kristen. Let’s just say it’s all fun and games until an actual professional golfer comes to town.

“I thoroughly enjoyed my time fundraising for the local VFW chapter in Roswell!” said Kristen, “It was a beautiful day filled with fun, laughter, and kindness by so many participants. I look forward to returning next year to defend my hole in the beat-the-pro challenge. To all the golfers I’ll be waiting for ya - bring me your best stuff!”

And there you have it; Kristen is already warming up for the next tournament.

Fast forward to June 17th. VFW Post 12184 is now in Ft. Stanton at the Healing America’s Heroes facility. The very reason for the golf tournament has finally come. On this day family and friends were invited to attend. Family members were able to enjoy horse rides and tours of the facility. Everyone ate as much

smoked brisket and pulled pork as they could handle. And to top it off, a check for \$23,870.00 was donated to Healing America’s Heroes which would not have been possible without the generous donations and tournament sponsors and the hard work of the comrades of Post 12184.

They will be using these funds to repair a water pump that was vandalized and also to forward their mission in helping combat veterans and first responders who are suffering from PTSD. It is organizations like this that help to give veterans hope and also help them to rediscover a purpose for their lives.

Post 12184 is planning to do it all again next year. We are confident that it will be just as, if not more, successful as this year’s tournament.

Post Commander Mack Dyer has great plans for the direction of Post 12184. This Post has come a long way from where it was when it first chartered in 2019. They have a great group of committed comrades and a very capable commander to take them even further.

Sr Vice Message



Brian Ravak

Well, we are off and running into the 2023-2024 VFW Year and what a year it will be! National Commander in Chief Duane Sarmiento's rally cry "Meet the Challenge!" should resonate with each and every one of us while we strive to take care of veterans, accomplish the VFW and Auxiliary programs, and stay laser focused on achieving 102% in membership.

accomplish the goal of raising \$22,000 to buy one Tiny Home for Veteran's Park. With a small \$3 donation from every member, Comrade and Auxiliary alike, we will far surpass the \$22,000 challenge and help provide additional monies towards a second home on behalf of the VFW Department of New Mexico and the Department Auxiliary.

You will have your first opportunity to rise to the occasion and bring your generous donations for Veteran's Park when VFW Post 6917 hosts President Miller's Homecoming on September 23rd, 2023 in Las Cruces. Then again, on October 21st, 2023, Rio Rancho Post 5890 hosts Commander Haddox's Homecoming at the Elk's Lodge in Rio Rancho. So, start your fundraising now and let's all get behind Madam Tip Top and Commander Tori and show the staff of Forget Me Not Veteran's Park what the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of New Mexico and its Auxiliary is capable of accomplishing!

Within the Department of New Mexico, State Commander Tori Haddox and State Auxiliary President Beth "Tip Top" Miller have thrown down the gauntlet -- to purchase a "Tiny Home" at Forget Me Not Veteran's Park. This is no small challenge but I have faith New Mexico will help Tori and Beth

Jr Vice Message



Jim Haddox

Welcome to another great year of the VFW continuing the fight for our veterans! After a great National Convention, your line officers are ready to continue to push our influence to continue to elicit a greater positive change for our Veteran community. We will continue to do this by being advocates and ensuring that we are informed and involved.

Mexico. I am committed to advocating for our Legislative priorities and will continue to do so. Our members have POWER! Use your voice! Use your vote! Get informed of what is happening with Congress and what is happening at the Roundhouse and your unique communities throughout the state. When we unite under one banner, we can ensure that positive change can and will happen.

Getting more informed on the VFW priorities is as easy as clicking this link:

<https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>

With this you will get an email every week of what the National level is looking at.

As you may know I am the National Legislative representative for our great Department of New

Thanks for all that you do as members and I look forward to our future successes!

Past State Commander Message



Christopher Archuleta

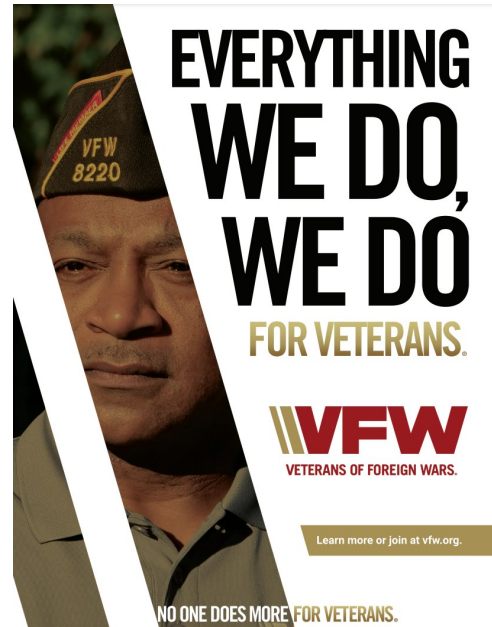
Comrades,
I'd like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude for the support for the 2022-2023 year when I was State Commander. Not only did we achieve 102% in membership, we surpassed that and ended up at 103.13%. Thank you for helping me achieve All American State Commander. Your efforts cannot be thanked enough. Thank you to all my Chairman's for

stepping up. To my past Department President Dominique, thank you for everything you have done for me.

Thank you to all the Post Auxiliaries for doing what you do for veterans and their families. Your efforts

do not go unnoticed.

Let's continue to move the Department forward - recruit, retain, reinstate. Most importantly support Commander Tori Haddox in her year as State Commander.



VFW Historian



Mark Decker

As the VFW Department Historian is a new position this year. I have a few ideas that I want to try to do for us this year. I will need all the help from the Posts and Districts all around our great state to make this happen.

I want to know as much information on all of our Past State Commanders as I can. I want to know

what Post they were from, where they currently live, if they are deceased, where they are laid to rest, and what conflicts they served in. So if you have any of this information, please send it to me.

I am also going to do a timeline of all of our Posts. So if you could send me your Post history of when you received your Charter, when you moved to locations, and who your Commanders were for as many years as possible.

I am asking for all the District to send in your history of your Commanders also please.

If your Post is named after a person, can you send in some information about that person as well?

These are ways we can look back at our organization and see how it has grown and changed over the years. The more we know of our history, the better we are able to see our future. Thank you for your help and cooperation. I look forward to this year being very educational and informative.

VFWA President's Message



Beth Miller

Comrades and Auxiliary members, I first would like to congratulate Commander Archuleta and President Garcia on their great year. The awards the Comrades and Auxiliary Members received at the National Convention were awesome! Congrats to all.

I am looking forward to working with Commander Haddox. I believe 2023-2024 will be another great award winning year for New Mexico. Our membership numbers are already climbing.

North and South training has begun with a super turnout in Albuquerque this past weekend. The chairman on both sides did a very informative presentation of all our programs.

Before I close, I want to wish all the Posts and Auxiliaries the best for a successful year. Remember we are here for our Veterans. Stay healthy and safe.

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 -
 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

VFWA Sr Vice Message



Renee King

Thank you for your support as I moved up the chairs for the Department of New Mexico. In June I was elected as your Jr. Vice President, however, due to unforeseen circumstances Danielle Garcia has resigned her position as Sr. Vice resulting in me moving up to Sr. Vice President.

I ask for your continued support as I will be running as your 2024-2025 Department President in June 2024 with the endorsement of my Auxiliary 2951 and District 6. I have had the pleasure of meeting several members and will continue to do so as I plan on attending one meeting in every District this year.

I am here to assist you and our Veterans. Please feel free to contact me. reneeking.vfwa@gmail.com or (505) 660-0940

Scout of Year



Alexandra “Sasha” Carr of Scouts BSA Troop 2 in Los Alamos was selected winner of the 2023 VFW Department of New Mexico Scout of the Year and awarded her \$1,000 during the VFW Department Convention last June. Her submission was entered in the VFW National Scout of the Year Competition.

Sasha has served as Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster for Los Alamos’s first ever all girl Scouts BSA troop and earned 51 merit badges and 6 Palms.

She holds a 4.176 weighted GPA in high school and has a long resume of community involvement, volunteer hours, academic distinction, and outdoor expertise. Sasha strives for excellence in her life and looks forward to completing high school and beginning her exploration of “the real world.”

Sasha’s Eagle Scout Project was building a Gaga Ball pit for her neighborhood elementary school. She raised the money and organized work crews to build the game pit. It is a fine example of a project that will mean something to the community for many years.

The VFW Scout of the Year Program Annually, the VFW recognizes boys and girls who have earned Scouting’s highest rank; Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Silver Award and Sea Scout Quartermaster Award, and who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the exceptional qualities of that rank. The VFW website has the nomination form for the Scout of the Year Scholarship. The NM Department 1st place winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and their nomination is submitted to the VFW national competition.

This is an excellent opportunity for our Posts to recognize their communities’ future leaders of America. I urge Posts to reach out to the Scouting organizations in their communities early in the year for worthy applicants. Nomination forms must be filled out

by the Scout leadership or his/her sponsor and submitted to a VFW Post by March 1, 2024. If your Post sponsors a Scout Troop, I would appreciate your contacting them to verify if they have a Scout that meets these criteria.

If you have questions or require a nomination form, please contact me at. I can help.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS-SCOUT OF THE YEAR

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

WHO CAN ENTER Scouts who are registered, active members of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew, or a Sea Scout Ship who have received the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award are eligible. There is no minimum age requirement for applicants if all other eligibility criteria have been met. The maximum age requirement for applicants is 18 years old and if an applicant reaches their 18th birthday during the nomination year they remain eligible as long as they are still in high school at the time of the submission deadline.

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

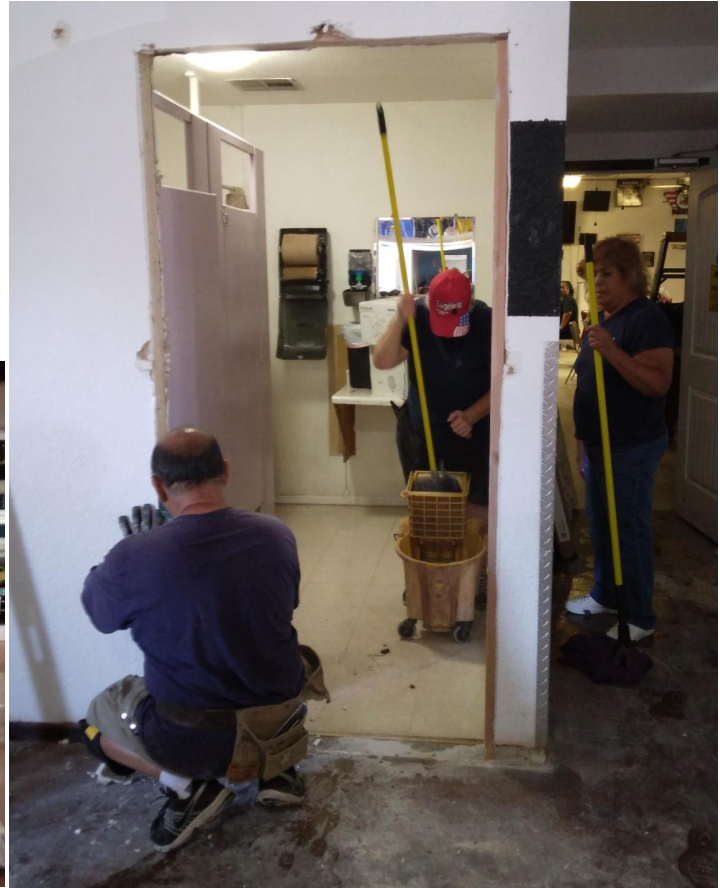
HOW IT WORKS Local VFW Posts submit their winning candidates with full entry criteria to their respective VFW Department (state) by April 1. Ensure that if a District judging is taking place that entries are forwarded to the District first and that enough time is allotted to ensure that the Department still receives the entry by April 1. From there, the Department selects a winner and forwards the entry to the VFW National Headquarters by May 1 for recognition.

For any questions, call Terry Brown, FAIA

[VFW NM Department Scouting Chairman](mailto:tblazestar@aol.com)
505-350-1641 tblazestar@aol.com

Post 4384 Renovation

Post 4384, Anthony, received a grant from Home Depot to remodel the Post. The Post used the grant for new lights in the canteen, new kitchen cabinets, all new bathroom fixtures, a new painted hall floor, and a new hood for the stove. Thanks to the members, family and friends who came out to help. A special thanks to Leo (owner) of Homestyle Pizza for donating 20 pizzas for lunch. Great job everyone!



Post 10763

VFW Roadrunner Post 10763 participated at the Kirtland AFB Zia Festival on July 21, 2023. Eight of our Post members participated in the annual base event! Over 1,500 Active Duty personnel, dependents and Base personnel were in attendance. We spoke to numerous attendees about Membership, Buddy Poppies, suicide prevention, Voice Of Democracy and Patriots Pin. The VOD/PP poster was a great hit. Parents and students scanned the QR code with great interest. Numerous people visited our booth and we are following up on those leads. Looking forward to 2024.



Roadrunner Post 10766 attended the 3rd Annual 'Let Freedom Ring' Celebration at the New Mexico State Fairgrounds on July 4, 2023. Since the middle 1950's the State of New Mexico has had a replica of the Liberty Bell. It currently sits within the State Fairgrounds. Three years ago the first Celebration was held. Each year the crowd grows. Three of our members participated in this event: John Glynn, Rodger Newell and Karen Piccuta. Kevin James and Jim Berdine were in attendance. John Glynn welcomed the Descendants of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Attendees were allowed to tap the Bell at 2PM. The Declaration of Independence was read by Paul Mondragon. Roll call of signers of the Declaration was done. Karen read off those important names. The guest speaker was Honorary Counsel of Spain, Fred Mondragon. This is truly an annual event that belongs on your calendar. Hope to see you July 4, 2024.



Post 9517

VFW Post 9517 again this year did Memorial Day services at Shiprock cemetery. We did our traditional ceremony and had guest speakers from Senator Lujan and Heinrich offices present. VFW Post 9517 was presented a flag that was flown over the Capitol building by both Senator's offices. This flag will be proudly displayed on our Post wall. After the ceremony we retired about 1,000 flags again this year. We received flags from many businesses in the area along with personal flags that were old and torn. We even had 1 flag from the Four Corners monument that was a 20' X 30'. This is the largest flag we have ever retired. While we were doing this, other members of our Post were unfolding and refolding flags for people. A tradition with the Navajo culture is to have the flag that drapes a coffin of your loved one, and once a year unfold it and hold it around you so you still feel their presence. We then refold the flags so they can go back on display until next year.



Post 5610



Hill-Vigil Post 5610 hosts memorial day ceremony at the Espanola Veterans memorial wall.



Post 5610 Commander donates blood for the 2nd annual VFW Day of service hosted by Post 5610



State Commander Archie places flags at Santa Fe National Cemetery in preparation for memorial day .

Post 5432

Our Post was extremely proud to earn All-American and All-State awards for a second year in a row. We are working to duplicate this recognition again this year. The Post will be awarding scholarships for Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year recipients this year.

Members of our Post and American Legion Post 69 rode in a wagon during the Corrales 4th of July Parade. We were positioned behind the Honor Guard leading the parade.

Member Marjie Furlow, Commander Terry Brown, Quartermaster Rudy Chavez and others are pictured here. Both representatives of the VFW and the American Legion were visible to a great number of Corrales residents and the surrounding areas. We picked up one new Life Member before the parade began.

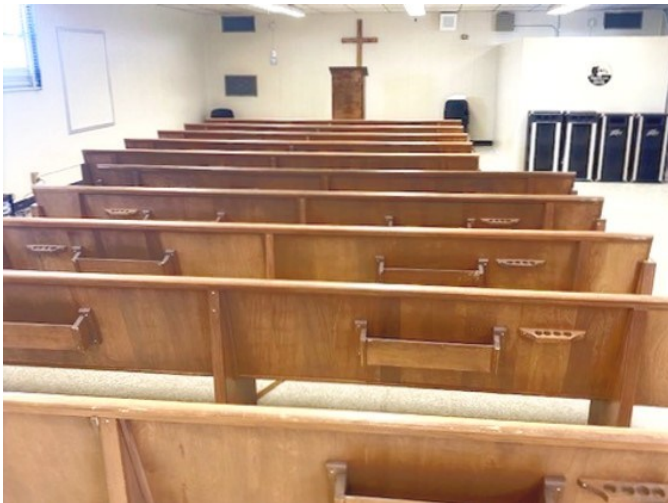
The Corrales VFW Post meets at 7:00 pm the third Monday of each month at Perea's Restaurant. If you are interested or know a veteran who is interested in joining our Post, please contact Commander Terry Brown at 505-350-1641 or tblazestar@aol.com.



Members of Corrales VFW Post 5432 Sr. Vice Pat Orell and Quartermaster Rudy Chavez along with other Corrales VFW Post members placed flags on veteran's graves in Corrales San Ysidro Cemetery.

Forget Me Not

Forget Me Not Veteran's Park is both Commander Haddox and President Miller's Special Project this year. This is a place where small homes will be available for veterans. To find out more information about this park go to forgetmenotveteranspark.com.



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

Dragon Soldier Seasonings



At Dragon Soldier Seasonings we are about giving back to the Veteran Community. We are committed to giving a minimum of 10% of our net profits to Veteran non-profit organizations each year. For 2023 we have chosen to support the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and Healing America's Heroes (HAH).

In an effort to assist our VFW Posts in NM raise more money to support our Veteran programs, we are offering special pricing to Post canteens who would like to be resellers of our Dragon Soldier Seasonings products. This program allows Canteens to purchase our products at Wholesale prices and resell at their Post canteen and make a \$2.00 profit on each bottle of seasoning sold. Dragon Soldier Seasonings will also donate 50 cents for every bottle ordered through this program to support the State Commanders Project (Forget Me Not Veteran's Park) until the 2024 State convention.

Our basic VFW Canteen pack consists of 30 bottles of seasoning, 6 bottles of each of our seasonings, and 5 sample bottles so your customers can taste it before they buy it. Don't worry, you won't need them long!

How it all began at DSS

An old family recipe was handed down to us for what is now our "The Whole 9 Yards" Seasoning. We made a batch every year and it yielded several pounds, which was too much for our family to use, so we bottled it up and gave it to friends, family, and co-workers every year. We kept getting requests for more, so we decided to sell it. Then we started getting requests for special blends - our friend Jake wanted a green chili seasoning, and our other friend and Army Veteran Bart wanted a Blackened seasoning, thus came our "Kickin New Mexican" Chicken Seasoning and our "Black Bart" Blackened Seasoning. The pirate on the label is even derived from his likeness, and he gets free seasoning for life.

You will never find sugar or salt as our first ingredient in any of our seasoning blends. We believe food is the great equalizer; even arch enemies can find common ground over a great meal. We want our seasonings to be a part of every meal you eat. No one knows how precious life is more than a Combat Veteran, so make every meal taste delicious with Dragon Soldier Seasonings.

Visit us at <https://dragonsoldierseasonings.com/> of speak with me, Mack Dyer, Post 12212, Roswell.



Mack Dyer
(575) 291-5243
Email: Mack@dragonsoldierseasonings.com
www.dragonsoldierseasonings.com

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!

**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, life member in 2015 with Hill-Vigil Post 5610 in Española. From 2016-2018 I was District 6 Commander. In 2018 I ran for State Surgeon and continued up the chairs. My accomplishments are:

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

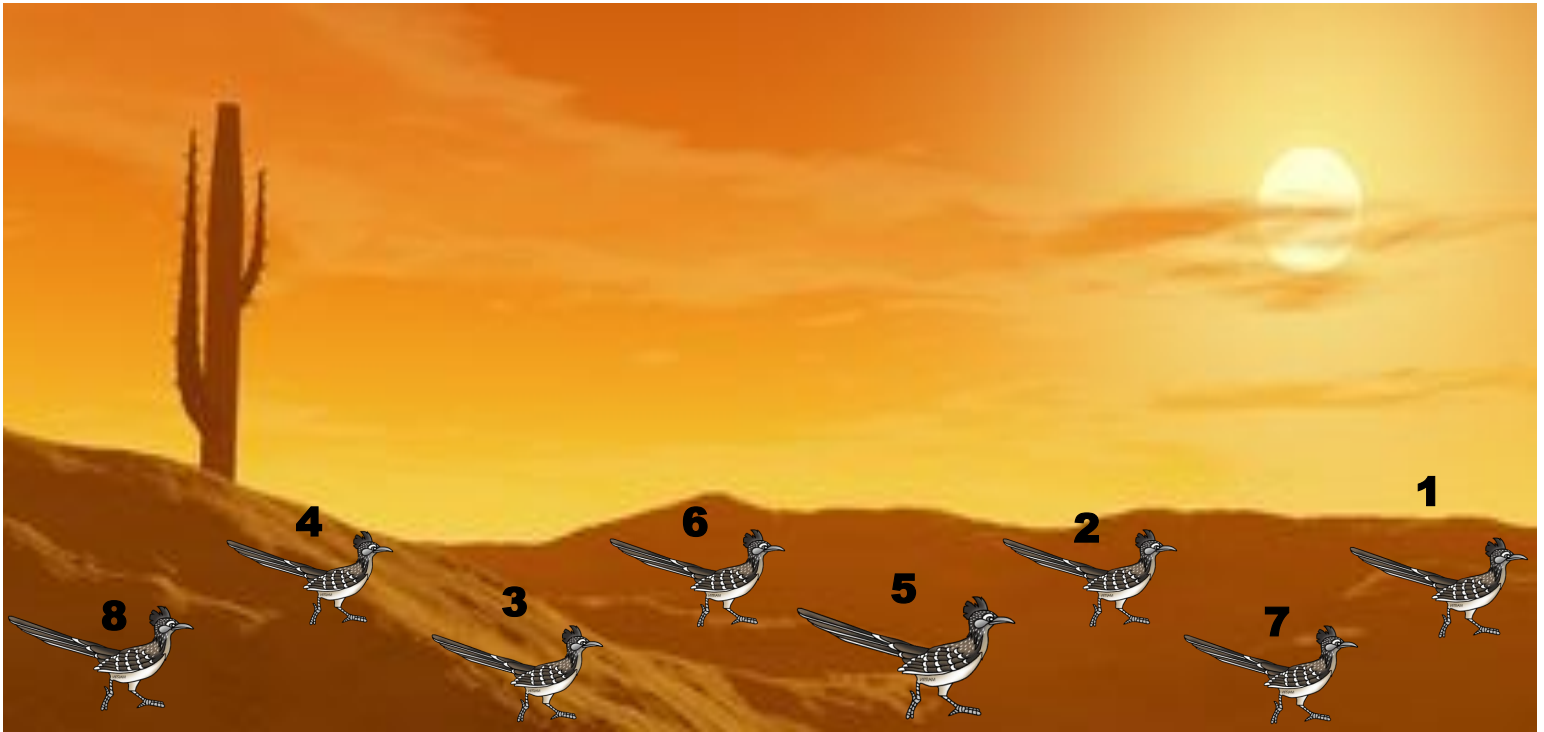
In 2018 I got involved with mental health and suicide awareness with the Veterans Administration in Albuquerque. For five years I've been putting on suicide awareness classes called S.A.V.E. I did my first VFW Day to Change Direction in 2018 for mental health awareness for the community of Española.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

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

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



VFW Membership



In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

- District 1—Mark Decker 7.19%**
- District 7—Mark Bowman 4.77%**
- District 2 —Don Frias 2.63%**
- District 5 —Danny Cruc 1.83%**
- District 6—Benjamin Pearce 1.81%**
- District 3 —Darrel Melom 1.18%**
- District 4—Jonathan Karlin 1.02%**
- District 8—Andrew Norris 0.58%**

Divisions

- Division 1—9517—26.08%**
- Division 2—10763—6.66%**
- Division 3—6216—7.56%**
- Division 4—617—3.34%**
- Division 5—5890—3.18%**

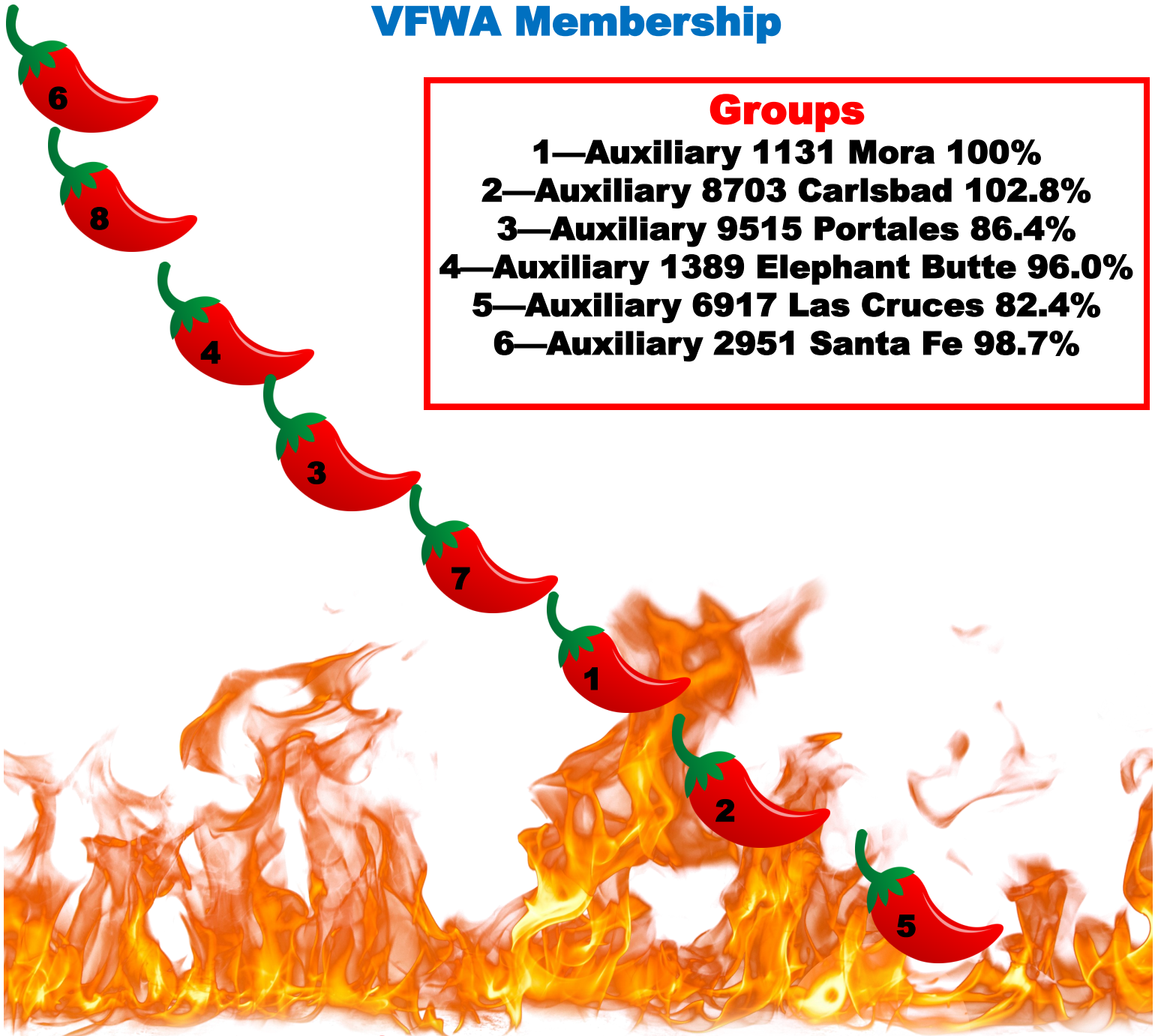
Recruiters

- 1st—Jaqueline Sartori—7**
- 2nd—Mike Brown—4**
- 2nd—Mark Riddle—4**
- 3rd—Terrance Brown—3**
- 4th—Victoria Haddox—3**

VFWA Membership

Groups

- 1—Auxiliary 1131 Mora 100%**
- 2—Auxiliary 8703 Carlsbad 102.8%**
- 3—Auxiliary 9515 Portales 86.4%**
- 4—Auxiliary 1389 Elephant Butte 96.0%**
- 5—Auxiliary 6917 Las Cruces 82.4%**
- 6—Auxiliary 2951 Santa Fe 98.7%**



In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

- District 6—Renee King 97.7%**
- District 8—Suzan Willis 87.5%%**
- District 4—Brenda Doil 86.9%**
- District 3— Shelly Ravak 86.3%**
- District 7—Lequanah Crawford 87.5%**
- District 1—Betty Decker 79.3%**
- District 2—Shirlee Frias 72.4%**
- District 5—Thomas Bullington Jr 71.3%**