



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPERITY IN THE NEW YEAR!

As we prepare to enter the most joyous and spiritual season of the year, let's take a moment to remember who we are and why we are important. As members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization, we have endured the dangers and hardships of military life – shared a foxhole, froze on the 38th parallel, endured monsoon season, and baked in the hot, sandy desert.

When we each raised our right hand and recited that solemn oath to join, there was most likely a family member(s) at home supporting each of us. And through our continued efforts with the VFW, we continue to honor and serve veterans, military, families, and communities. We will never forget the freedoms we fought to preserve.

Please reach out to your post and district member during this holiday season and do a buddy check. Some of your members may have a hard time during this season and could use a simple phone call to show them that you care about them, their well-being and membership.

May the spirit of the holidays fill your home with love and peace. I wish you all a joyful holiday season. May you find time to laugh, time to relax, and time to cherish being with those you hold dear.

STATE COMMANDER GENERAL ORDERS



DAVID W. "SPIKE" GYGER
STATE COMMANDER

Comrades:

Thank you for all that you do in your Posts and Communities. If you need any help or need a clarification, please call State Headquarters.

Membership is critical to this organization, and we need to become more involved in our communities, events, fairs, carnivals, etc. Have a recruiting table during these community events and let the public know what the VFW is all about and what the VFW's mission is. Have recruiting handouts available and be professional and positive. If you need any recruiting items, please reach out to the Department Membership Team or me.

1. Dates for Council of Administration Meetings

- > Mid-January 2024 at the Double Tree Hotel Pittsburgh – Cranberry, 910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046. The dates and times will be published on the website soon.
- > May 1, 2024 – Loyalty Day Ceremony, Harrisburg Capitol Rotunda, 10:00 AM. More information will be sent out at a future date. Please make every effort to attend.
- > PA VFW State Convention, Harrisburg Sheraton Hotel, June 12 - 16, 2024. Please plan to attend.

2. District Meetings Date Changes: District Commanders are reminded to notify the State Adjutant Office and myself ASAP of any changes in District meeting dates so that the respective Department Representative can be notified in plenty of time.

3. We have noticed that some posts have not signed up/completed the ACH with National. If you don't have the ACH with national, your post will not receive benefits from them, meaning your dues or other benefits will not be sent to you. Please follow up on this and if you have any questions, please contact HQ

4. Good of the Organization

What do you think about VFW members who ask to be addressed by their former military rank? Those that use their past rank in their signature block?

We all served so we know the military rules, and we also know that if you retired from the military the DoD permits the use of retired in the signature block.

However, that being said, what is the best practice for the PA VFW, as an organization?

I feel that while we were serving, using our hard-earned military rank was protocol and correct.

But now, we are members of an organization that prides itself on all things being fair and equal.

Let's leave our rank where it belongs and continue to make the Department of PA VFW the best of the best.

GENERAL ORDERS CONTINUED

5. Membership

Contest # 2 – Let’s keep pushing on

Any Post who obtains 97% by September 31, 2023 will be entered in a drawing for a Life Membership. If the member is already a Life Member, an upgrade to Legacy Life Membership will be awarded.

Congratulations goes to Post 709 for winning

Contest # 3 – Early Bird Special

All Posts with 101% membership reported by December 31, 2023, will receive a bonus of 75 cents per member. The Posts will receive a bonus of \$ 1.00 per member for each member properly reported over 100% as of December 31, 2023.

Always remember, No one does more for Veterans than what we do.

David W. “Spike” Gyger

David W. “Spike” Gyger
Commander
Department of Pennsylvania



The Avenue of Flags at Ft. Indiantown Gap is a presentation of flags beginning at the main entrance and winding its way through the Cemetery. These flags are *interment flags*, donated to the Cemetery in honor of a deceased veteran for the purpose of flying on flag holidays.
(These are not your flags that you fly at home)

You may drop off your interment flag to the
Department of PA State Headquarters or contact our
State Commander David “Spike” Gyger at 717-991-1473.

COMMANDERS SPECIAL PROJECT

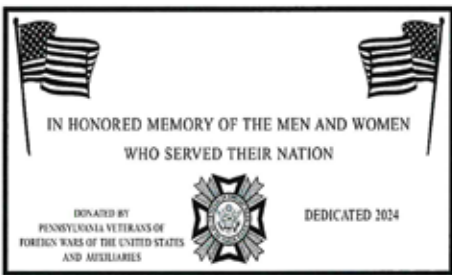
Comrades and Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters,

Our special project for the 2023 -2024 Encourage – Expand – Educate VFW year shall be to place a monument in each of the three National Cemeteries within Pennsylvania. The National Cemetery of the Alleghenies in the west; Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in central; and Washington Crossing National Cemetery in the east. The picture below is what the VFW monument shall look like when it is completed and set. The stone is granite, and the engraved plaque is bronze. Each monument is expected to cost approximately \$10,000 each. Please consider donating to this worthwhile project. Make your check out to PA VFW and in the memo section add Commander’s special project. Mail your check to PA VFW HQ, 4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg PA 17109.

We still need some help to get this accomplished. Please sent your donations into HQ.

Should you have any questions, please call me at 717-991-1473 or email me at djc57@verizon.net

The engraved plaque reads:



NATIONAL UPDATE



COMMANDER’S CHALLENGE

December brings us halfway through the membership year, and we want to see our membership continue to grow! This month, Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento is issuing a challenge to our Posts to increase their membership percentage in December!



Throughout the month of December, we’re going to track our Posts’ membership percentages. This means new members, reinstated members, renewals, dues-paying transfers - we want to see more active paid members in the Post!

As a reminder, to figure your membership percentage you take your total current paid members, and divide it by your prior year total. Or you can just go check out Memstats and we do the math for you!

This challenge will compare the Post’s membership percentage as of December 1st and compare it to where your membership percentage is at close of business on December 31st. The Post in each membership division that shows the greatest increase will receive a \$500 award plus a custom Commander-in-Chief Jacket!

We have eleven membership divisions, so that means there will only be eleven of these jackets ever made! If you want everyone to know that your Post has met the challenge for membership excellence, now is your chance!

This is a season of giving, and now is the time to give your best when it comes to strengthening our membership. We want you all to continue to build this organization, engage with our members, and to always go out there and
MEET THE CHALLENGE!

This contest will compare the Post’s membership percentage from December 1 to December 31st. Applications and payments processed online before close of business will be credited that day, payments and applications made through the mail will be processed when received. Questions about this or other membership programs can be sent to membership@vfw.org.

2023-24 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The 2023-24 Membership Program is available online at vfwpa.org, under About and the drop down is Membership, click and you will find 2023-24 VFW PA Membership Program.

VFW PROGRAMS

DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS. Military service flags, insignias, etc. should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag.

National By-Laws

The Manual of Procedure amendment passed by the 119th National Convention modified Section 1001(25) to read, “The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are prohibited.”

17. U.S. Army ARDEC has issued guidance on the operation and maintenance of the M1 Garand. The manual can be found in the VFW Training & Support section at vfw.org or you can visit the M1 Garand Associated Website: m1garandtraining.com.

STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER



BARBARA "BARB" LONCAR
STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Dear VFW Members,

I hope this letter finds you doing well during this Holiday Season. I know that this time of year can be very trying for some of our members. Please reach out to those around you who maybe depressed or suicidal. We need to support each other through trying times. Suicide is on the rise, it isn't declining like we would hope. Please do your buddy checks on your family, friends and VFW members. Keep in mind that even those who are in leadership positions need to have someone check on them. We see people who we perceive as to be strong to us; however they could be hiding behind that smile or strength.

Know the five signs:

- Do you feel like yourself?
- Are you agitated?
- Are you withdrawn?
- Are you caring about yourself?
- Are you feeling helpless?

Healthy Habits of Emotional Well-being:

- Take care of yourself.
- Check-in with others.
- Engage in people around you.
- Take time to relax.
- Know the five signs of Suicide.

STATE JR. VICE COMMANDER



WILLIAM "BILL" ROLLAND
STATE JR. VICE COMMANDER

We all agree that we need to bring in our younger Veterans. So how can we do it, that is the question. In my experience talking to our younger brother and sister they mentioned the following issues. Excessively long meetings (remember, many have families and work), not feeling welcomed when they visit a post, smoking, females not recognized as a potential membership. I can give you a comment when I discussed joining the VFW with a young Iraq Veteran.

"I was invited to attend a meeting at a VFW and to be honest Mr. Roland, there was so much drama I will not join the VFW." A little background on this Veteran. Two tours in Iraq, purple heart, bronze star, and his cousin was killed in Iraq. He suffers from PTSD. What was the drama that turned him away? He went to the meeting expecting to hear what the post did for Veterans and their families. So what did he hear? Fighting among members, arguing over beer prices. Is this what we want our young potential members to hear, obviously not. Not all post conduct themselves this way and generally they are a successful post. **Let's change our ways and be more welcoming.**

STATE ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER



JOHN B. GETZ, JR
STATE QUARTERMASTER

Comrades

Every day things change, we need to be more involved with the computer systems and we need to use the Dashboard on the National Website. Our reporting is especially important. We need to show the world what we do, as we are the best Veterans organization in the world, but without reporting on the Dashboard no one will ever know. We need to change the way we do business, and now is the time when

change needs to take place. It is not hard when you click on the Dashboard on the National website, one dropdown gives you the instructions you need to be an expert at reporting. Try it today and see how rewarding it can be. Remember no one does more for Veterans than the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



Pa State Commander David "Spike" Gyger and State Quartermaster John B. Getz, Jr. attending the Ephrata Parade.

STATE CHAPLAIN



REV. PETER R. HOOK
STATE CHAPLAIN

As chaplains we are in the business of taking care of others. We gravitate to people in need, and naturally they gravitate to us. Recently, I was talking to a veteran, and he said he hadn't had his car inspected for two years and even though he was driving illegally, the "cops" hadn't got him yet. I asked him, "Why haven't you had your car inspected for two years?" He said, "I can't afford it. I don't have the money." I immediately felt

compassion and wanted to tell him to get his car inspected, and I would pay the bill. When we see or hear of a veteran in need, we instinctively want to reach out and meet the need. However, we should exercise wisdom when helping people in need.

Every year I hear several stories where a veteran was passing through a town, a crisis arose, and they stopped by the local VFW to ask for cash assistance. Naturally, as veterans we want to assist other veterans, especially those in a crisis situation. However, we need to think before we just respond emotionally. Here are some steps to follow.

Step 1: Stop and fully assess the situation.

Ask questions and gather pertinent information. Remember, people rarely have calamity randomly fall upon them where they do not have a credit card and need

immediate cash. Before you dole out money, ask a lot of questions, and do your best to evaluate the specific nature of the person's request. Ask about their immediate and extended family. Ask about their network of friends. Ask if they have any church or synagogue affiliation. Ask about their employment and employment history. Ask if they are a member of the VFW and if so, get the Post number and city where the post is located. Carefully observe their reaction when you offer to call the Post and verify the information you have been given.

Keep in mind, when an urgent request is made for cash, and you begin to respond emotionally to the request, stop and fully assess the situation. With the case I mentioned earlier with the veteran who was driving illegally and did not get his car inspected, I found out by asking questions, he loves to play pool and owns sixty pool cue sticks. When I heard that, I realized his car situation was caused not by a lack of funds, but because of stupid priorities and decisions.

Step 2: Meet needs but refrain from handing over cash.

There are legitimate requests for us to help meet needs. So, attempt to meet the need by purchasing food, gas, or paying for a repair. But refrain from handing the person cash. Be clear, to the point, and polite! Simply say, "I'm sorry, but I am not able to give you money and help you in that way at this time." If the person asks why not? Don't panic. Repeat what you just told them and realize they want cash rather than for you to meet their stated need. Remember, be direct and firm.

Blessings as you serve.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN



BOB HINKLE
DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Exercising Wisdom When Helping People in Need

Comrades:

Department is currently at 84.98% in membership, needing 9,173 members to reach 100% and 10,396 members for 102%

There are currently 15 Districts above 85% and 1 District above 90%.

Congratulations are in order for the 23 Posts that have already reached 100% or higher and the 107 Posts currently over 90%.

Legacy Life Membership has increased by 70 total members for a total of 858 Legacy

members in the Department since the beginning of the Membership year. This total includes an increase of 13 Gold Legacy Members, 39 Silver Legacy Members and 18 Bronze Legacy Members. The Department currently has four Posts that have obtained the status of being a Legacy Post by having 25 or more Legacy Members. Four additional Posts are within 5 members of becoming a Legacy Post.

A current membership focus is working the unpaid list. There are currently over 4,500 unpaid or expiring members. Every member that is renewed and retained is one less new member that needs to be recruited.

I am working to break down the unpaid/expiring list by District. The lists will be distributed to each District Commander and membership chair to share with their Posts. The unpaid/expiring list will be revisited monthly to ensure progress is being made at the District and Post level.

If you need any help from the membership team, please let us know.

Have a great Holiday Season and reach out to your members and do a buddy check.



Larry Hawthorn, VFW Arthritis/Diabetes Chairman was one of the many Veterans chosen to attend the honor flight that left out of Wexford PA September 30th. What an experience it was for all the Veterans. Watching them walk the red carpet with tears in their eyes as they were welcomed home was something I will never forget. Bobby Johnson was standing next to a lady and when her husband hugged her Bobby overheard the man saying this is much better than being spit on. That put it all into prospective.

Pictured Left to Right: Bobby Johnson, Robin Hawthorn, Larry Hawthorn, VFW Arthritis/Diabetes Chairman and Becky Fox.



ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA



VAMC Altoona, PA Visit-Picture left to right: State Quartermaster John B. Getz, Jr. , Veterans Service Officer Cindy Kinzey, State Commander David "Spike" Gyger.



PA State Commander David "Spike" Gyger and PSC Henry Mannella help fill Trick or Treat bags at the Cresson VFW Post 7377 with Post Commander and District 26 Membership Chairman Mick Hoover and PSC Larry Wade.



District 18 Commander Fredrick Hechler and State Commander David "Spike" Gyger presented all American Certificates for the year 2022 – 2023 during their past District Meeting. From left to right: Post 8023 Sr. Vice Commander Terry Lanham, Post 477 Commander Rick Olson, Post 7530 Commander Gary Boose, Post 7343 Commander Frederick Bower, State Commander David "Spike" Gyger, District 18 Commander Fredrick Hechler, Post 6704 Quartermaster David Madden, Post 1718 Commander Roger Decker, Post 14 Commander Joseph Staudt, Post 6076 Commander Thomas Buck and Post 1620 Commander Steven Sellers. Congratulations to all posts.



Department of PA Leadership Team at the Eastern States Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey October 20-21, 2023.

ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA



State Commander David “Spike” Gyger and State Adjutant/Quartermaster John B. Getz, Jr. visited the Service officers throughout the State. Erie SO – Let to right – Julie Hutchinson, Rachel Vandyne, State Commander David “Spike” Gyger and Danny Zeigler.



Pennsylvania State Parole Agents from the Harrisburg District Office and all United States Army Veterans and all Veterans of Foreign Wars members collected food for the Homeless Veterans and delivered it to State Headquarters. From left to right Agent Robert A Gerrity Jr., Agent Matthew McCann, Agent Ray Walter, State Commander David “Spike” Gyger and Adjutant/Quartermaster John B. Getz, Jr. State Commander David “Spike” Gyger made contact for distribution.



Pa State Commander visiting VFW Post 7418 in Gap, PA. Left to Right: Ginger Bills, District 9 Jr. Vice Commander and Central VFW Riders Group Co-Chairman Larry Bills, State Commander David “Spike” Gyger, PDP Valerie DeCorte and Post Quartermaster Bob Charles.



During the 11th Annual Homeless Veterans’ Awareness Campaign, Post and Auxiliary Members of VFW Post 23 received a donation check. The check was presented from the State Commander David “Spike” Gyger on behalf of the Department of PA. During the 32 Hour event, volunteers at the encampments raised over \$32k during the bucket campaign. Their sponsorship raised an additional \$53k for homeless veterans.

ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA



Ft. Indiantown Gap National Cemetery Veterans Day Program.

Brigadier General Terrence L. Koudelka Jr. and State Commander David "Spike" Gyger.



Congratulations to Erie VA's Primary Care, Whole Health provider Dr. Linda Peng for receiving the Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars Outstanding VA Healthcare Employee of the Year Award.

In a heartwarming tribute to the exceptional care he receives at the Erie VA Medical Center (VAMC), Mr. James Brown, U.S. Air Force Veteran, and Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Chairman, nominated Dr. Peng for this award.



Attending the PA Wounded Warrior Banquet are left to right, Assistant Chief of Staff, Roger Decker, State Commander David "Spike" Gyger, Mark Ellis, State Sr. Vice Commander Barb Loncar and State Adjutant/Quartermaster John B. Getz, Jr.

ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA



In the top right photo Kane VFW Post 1132 Commander David Swanson presents a check for \$20,000.00 to Tunnel to Towers Foundation (T2T) Ambassador Debra Fairman. Kane VFW Post 1132 Riders who raised \$15,000 at the benefit ride on August 5th at the Kane Post.



The Kane VFW Post 1132 kicked in an additional \$5000 for the Tunnels To Towers donation, which was the Riders benefit for 2023.

The Kane VFW Post 1132 Riders Group was established in 2017 and we self-claim to be the most prolific fundraisers of all the States Riders Groups. Last year was \$17,500 for Wreaths Across America and the previous years were all donations to Pa Wounded Warriors, somewhere between 70k and 80k total.



VFW State Commander David "Spike" Gyger gives comments after being elected the President of the Commonwealth of PA War Veterans Council.



State Commanders Retreat Weekend in State College, PA.

Pictured Left to Right-PDP Valerie DeCorte, Department Commander David "Spike" Gyger, and the Commander's parents, Beatrice and Willi Gyger.

ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA



Department of PA VFW Commander David "Spike" Gyger being sworn in as a Pennsylvania Military and Veteran Affairs Commissioner by Major General Mark J. Schindler Adjutant General of Pennsylvania.



PA VFW Membership Team recruiting event in State College, PA.



Vietnam Veteran Awarded Medals after 50-Year Wait

HAZLETON – Fifty years after his discharge, Air Force Airman First Class Joseph Galada Jr. of Beaver Meadows, Pennsylvania, in May was awarded six well-deserved medals during a surprise pinning ceremony. With about 50 family members and friends in attendance, Galada received his medals from Maj. Gen. James Joseph (Retired), former adjutant general of Pennsylvania.

Galada was awarded the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and a Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross. Galada enlisted at the age of 19 and served as a crew chief for F-105 Thunderchief fighter-bombers.

In the attached photo, Galada (center) is pictured with, from left, Joseph and PA State Rep. Dane Watro (R-Luzerne), who helped to facilitate the event along with U.S. Congressman Matt Cartwright (PA-08) and PA State Sen. David Argall (R-29). Watro is an Army veteran who served in Iraq.

ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA



The staff of Traditions of Hershey - Independent Living, Adam Rossi, Sherry Harmon, Department Commander David "Spike" Gyger, Charity Cruz, Kelly Nelson and Christina Twaddle planned and hosted a Veterans breakfast and ceremony for the 42 residents and also invited veterans from the Hershey community. PA VFW State Commander David "Spike" Gyger was the keynote speaker.



Traveling through PA they stopped by Punxsutawney VFW Post 2076 Picture: State Commander David "Spike" Gyger Post Commander Jim Pallone, the one and only Punxsutawney Phil and PDP Valerie DeCorte.



Visiting VFW Post 6713 Pictured Left to right: State Quartermaster John B. Getz, Jr., Post 6713 Commander Robert Weismantle, Post Quartermaster David Arbuckle and State Commander David "Spike" Gyger.



Ronald Hicks and Robert Lauver, both Vietnam Army veterans and members of Selinsgrove VFW Post 6631 were awarded a Quilt of Valor by volunteers Bonnie and Jim Fielder of Columbia County Quilts of Valor Association. David "Spike" Gyger, PA VFW State Commander and Harold Aucker, District 17 Commander, were in attendance and they gave remarks.

THE VFW AUXILIARY

UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES



MARY JEAN MASTRIDGE
PRESIDENT
DEPARTMENT OF PA VFW AUXILIARY

"PA Wounded Warriors" is my Special Project for the 2023-2024 "Let Freedom Ring" year. I have received donations of \$25.00, \$50.00, \$100.00, \$1,000 and plus.

Every dollar makes a difference.

Most of us know that for every \$1.00 donated \$0.96 assists a Pennsylvania Veteran and Family. When I have opportunities to speak with Veterans, I am glad to be able to tell them that this amazing organization is working for them.

The President, Helen Sajer, is a lovely lady who has dedicated her life to serving our Veterans and their families. She continues the mission that she and her husband started, before his death. Helen is small in stature but mighty in her determination to provide for those who have protected us.

I am proud that the PA Veterans of Foreign Wars is a strong supporter of the "PA Wounded Warriors." Thank You.

A Happy productive New Year to all. God bless our troops and God bless each of you.

DISTRICT 21 DIABETES WALK

After participating in the PA State VFW Erie to Pittsburgh Diabetes Walk in 2003, John Brenner had a vision to begin a similar Walk in District 21. A Walk where all Posts and Auxiliaries could get involved and participate.

In September of 2005 the First Annual District 21 Diabetes Walk was held. Over the years the Walk has continued with increased interest and participation. September 22, 23, & 24, 2023 the 18th Annual John Brenner Memorial District 21 Diabetes Walk was held. Beginning in Chambersburg on Friday morning, the Walk Team visited every Post during the three-day event.

These dedicated Walkers, were out there through sunshine and a lot of rain during this year's event. Wrapping up the weekend at Spring Grove VFW on Sunday Afternoon with a total amount collected of \$23,874.15! Commander Gyger was able to join us for the beginning of the Walk on Friday during Franklin and Adams Counties.



In addition to collecting donations for Diabetes; Posts and Auxiliaries were happy to have their Buddy Poppy orders delivered with no shipping charges, as well as Community Service Reports completed for all activities finished to date. Not to mention the comradery during those visits.

One special Veteran participating in 2023; has been there walking for each of the other 17. Lynn Keener, Past District 21 Commander from Greencastle Post #6319 has never miss a Walk!

District 21 challenges all other Districts to begin a Walk in their area and join in the support of Diabetes awareness for every Veteran.

SAVE THE DATES AND OTHER INFORMATION:

PA Midwinter Conference
January 18 - 20, 2024 - Cranberry Twp.

National VFW Auxiliary MidWinter Conference
February 12 -17, 2024 - Royal Caribbean's Mariner of the Sea

President Mary Jean Mastridge Testimonial
April 5 - 6, 2024 - Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center, Gettysburg

Please take some time and checkout our website for all up-to-date information and lots of support materials, including the 2023-2024 Program Book
www.vfwauxpa.org



AMY PETERSON
AUXILIARY CHAIRMAN 2023-2024

BUDDY POPPY/ VFW NATIONAL HOME

Hi there Pennsylvania!! This is going to be a great year for Department programs, I feel it already!

We're half way through the reporting year and I have seen so many new ideas promoting both ends of this program. What wonderful and creative minds we have within this organization....please keep doing what you have been and always be open to new ideas to make this program a continued success!

The Buddy Poppy Program is, I feel, one of the 'staples' of the organization.... they REMIND us of sacrifices made. Our job is to PROMOTE this brilliant, beautiful flower and share the Poppy Story with generations to come. Poppies can be promoted 24/7, not just military holidays. Display them out at every gathering and event....SHARE the meaning, hand them out. Simple, small gestures go a long way. Add them to centerpieces, take-out boxes, artwork, youth education, membership drives, community events....whenever & wherever is a great rule of thumb.....let your imagination flow! Donations are great, but we want to know how many you shared throughout the year, remember to keep track!

VFW National Home is becoming one of my favorite programs! I've been a member over 30 years with very little explanation....well, I'm here to tell you, it's AWESOME! Everything the staff and volunteers do for the families is amazing! I'm learning something new every day. The stories, the hard work and the continued success all fall into place with the donations that YOU all provide....simply, THANK YOU!

VFW National Home serves as a living memorial to veterans by helping our nation's military and their families during difficult times. It's a well-deserved fresh start, offering many services for the whole family!

Know a Veteran and/or family who may need assistance?

- o Call the Helpline at 1-800-313-4200
- o Email help@vfwnationalhome.org
- o Visit vfwnationalhome.org/help

National Auxiliary President Carla Martinez & National Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento's
2023-2024 COMBINED SPECIAL PROJECT

The VFW National Home **Welcome Center Renovation Project** goals include:

- Welcoming retail space
- Updated reception & information area
- Nonslip surfaces
- ADA compliant walkways
- Resident convenience store area
- Postal and parcel operations

WAYS TO DONATE

- MALTA by selecting Make a Gift, National President's Special Project
- CHECKS CAN BE MADE PAYABLE/SENT TO:
VFW National Home 3573 S Waverly Rd. Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
Reference "Welcome Center Renovation Project"
- Visit vfwnationalhome.org/donate
In comments section type: "Welcome Center Renovation Project"

PERIODICALS

SAVE THE DATE

Mid-Winter Conference
January 18-21, 2024 Cranberry Twp., Pa.

Women Veterans Expo
March 15-16, 2024

VFW Legislative Conference
March 3-7, 2024 Washington DC

Department State Convention
June 12-16, 2024

March is Women Veterans Month

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of PA

Is proud to sponsor the

Women Veterans Conference/Expo

March 15-16, 2024

Harrisburg, PA

All women veterans in Pennsylvania are welcome to attend.

You do not need to be a member of the VFW in order to attend.



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Dedicated to the comradeship of those who borne arms in defense of the USA, to the principle of informed and active patriotism, working to keep us strong and free.

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Editors: State Commander David "Spike" Gyger and State Adjutant/Quartermaster John B. Getz, Jr.

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Please join us for a time of fellowship, camaraderie, and informational displays by, for, and about women veterans—highlighting the issues that matter and impact them directly.

Preregistration is required; please see the VFW Dept. of PA Website for forms and the tentative agenda, or contact Amy MacKenzie (info below)

Final Registration 01/31/2024(or until sold out)

www.vfwpa.org

(under the “resources” tab, then “Women Veterans”)



This event is organized by the

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Department of Pennsylvania, with

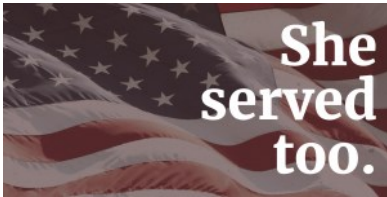
financial contributions from Districts,

Posts, Auxiliaries, & Individuals.

Location: Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, 4650 Lindle Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17111

2024 will offer a new format, consisting of many resource and informational vendors, along with women owned businesses showcasing their specialty products. Breakout presentations will also be offered.

Each year is different, don’t miss out!



Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of PA

Women Veterans Chairperson Amy MacKenzie

717.575.3982 quartermaster@ephrtavfw.org