

VFW OF PENNSYLVANIA WELCOMES NEW 2025-26 LEADERSHIP

By Felisha Acosta, Gettysburg, PA

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of PA convened its 2025 State Convention at the Eisenhower Hotel in Gettysburg from June 11-14. Delegates from across the state gathered for an energetic weekend of camaraderie, strategic discussions, awards, and the highlight of the event: the election and installation of the new Department Officers.

It is a great honor to announce William Roland from VFW post 914, West Mifflin Pa as the state commander for the 2025-2026 term. He begins his one-year term with a pledge to focus on "Teaching, Coaching and Mentorship" with our VFW Members. Bill is also going to focus on membership, growth, community outreach, and legislative advocacy.

Commander Roland, a member of VFW Post 914 in West Mifflin, is a Navy and Army veteran who served 26 years, nine in the Navy and seventeen in the Army. With the Navy he was deployed to the Mediterranean three times, North Atlantic with NATO, and a tour in Guantánamo Bay (GITMO). In the Army he served in KFOR in Kosovo. Commander Roland retired March 31,2011.

In addition to the Commander being elected, so were the following listed below:

- Senior Vice Commander: James (Jim) Brown, VFW Post 5958
- Junior Vice Commander: Glenn Owen, VFW Post 6824
- State Quartermaster: John B. Getz, Jr., VFW Post 3376
- State Surgeon, Jesse Olson, VFW Post 6611

The Convention featured a robust agenda:

- A Joint Opening Ceremony and Memorial Service honored those who made the ultimate sacrifice.
- Business Sessions included committee reports, Budget & Finance, Resolutions, Bylaws, credential updates, and membership recognitions.
- State Commander's reception honoring the newly elected officers was held on Saturday evening.



2025-2026 Leadership COA Team

Looking Ahead

With the new leadership team installed, the Department is poised for a year of renewed focus on:

- Membership retention and post revitalization.
- Enhanced visibility in local communities.
- Legislative action and veteran advocacy at state and national levels.

The Convention closed on a note of unity and purpose, with the new officers ready to lead and delegates returning to their Posts energized for the work ahead.

NORTH VERSAILLES VETERAN BECOMES PENNSYLVANIA VFW COMMANDER



Bill Roland, North Versailles, became the Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander at the annual convention held in Gettysburg, June 14.

Roland served a total of 26 years with nine years in the U.S. Navy where he was discharged as a Boatswain's Mate Second Class after multiple deployments in the Mediterranean and the North Atlantic and Guantanamo Bay.

He later served in the U.S. Army for 17 years. He had two deployments with Operation Enduring Freedom. He served in Kosovo as an operating room registered nurse, a Civil Affairs Officer and Information Operations Officer. He retired as a Major serving as the executive officer to the 339th Combat Support Hospital.

Roland served with VFW Post 5008, East Pittsburgh, VFW Post 914, West Mifflin and Commanded Allegheny County's VFW District 29. His contributions to the state VFW included serving as Surgeon, where he was named the National Surgeon of the Year, and the Chairman of the Veterans Court Committee. He also held office with the National VFW as an Assistant Inspector General and Aide-de-Camp.

"This is a great honor," said Roland. "I am overwhelmed by the support I have had by so many to have this opportunity. I look forward to working with all those in the VFW to help them continue to succeed."

IMMEDIATE PAST STATE COMMANDER



BARBARA "BARB" LONCAR
IMMEDIATE STATE COMMANDER

It has been an honor to represent you as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Pennsylvania State Commander. I know that the future of the Pennsylvania VFW will be in good hands. To the PA VFW Auxiliary especially their President Andrea Meintel and her staff, it was an honor to work together with you all. We have a strong Auxiliary here in Pennsylvania and I am proud of all of you. My request leaving my position is that our VFW and the Auxiliaries work together as a team. Our mission is to take care of veterans; to do this, we must also help take care of their families. The VFW is the Veterans, and the Auxiliaries are the Families which is the reason we need to work together. The Headquarters Staff, Chief of Staff (PSC Ruth Fairchild), Veterans Service Officers, and State Chairmen, I really appreciate all the hard work and hours that you have put in during my time in office. No one can do this job alone and you made my job much easier by assisting me. Please continue to help going forward with our VFW. District Commanders and District Presidents I want to "Thank you" for your hard work

this year. Post Commanders and Post Presidents I also need to "Thank you" as well. We need each other to fulfill our mission, and I appreciate you all. Please continue to work well together and share ideas to work in the best interest of the VFW. My Steering Committee, District 21 and VFW & Auxiliary Post 5265 have been an invaluable asset to me. The time and effort that you have put into raising funds for my year was very important. Your teamwork is an exemplary display of what other District's need to emulate. Finally, my Assistant Chief of Staff and husband Jeff Loncar was my rock through our 38 years of marriage. His support as I worked my way through different VFW positions at the Post, District and Department levels. He was my sounding board, voice of reason and a shoulder cry on if I needed it. Jeff, I love and appreciate you very much.

I would like to congratulate and welcome the VFW-2025-2026 State Commander William "Bill" Roland. The VFW will be in good hands as he navigates his new position as State Commander since he will have a lot of help. Congratulations to our Sr. Vice Commander Jim Brown and our new Jr. Vice Commander Glenn Owen. Congratulations to PSC Nate Smith as our National Council Member and our new Surgeon Jesse Olson.

Thank you all and God bless the USA.

STATE COMMANDER



WILLIAM "BILL" ROLAND
STATE COMMANDER

I am honored and humbled to be elected as your Pennsylvania State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of PA on June 14, 2025. I have always believed in every leadership role that I had the privilege to serve in this organization. This leadership position is not about me, but helping this Department come together by teaching, coaching, and mentoring. A leadership role is not about the title, but by your actions. I will not take my position lightly and I promise to work hard for each and every one of our Members in this great organization, and I promise to fight for our veterans and their families in Harrisburg and Washington D.C. In saying this, all our voices together will make a difference.

How many times have we heard that "our post recruited a new member and within one year they were elected as the Quartermaster or Commander,

and no member helped them succeed. To have new younger members join our organization, we need to help them become successful. My theme is Teach, Coach, Mentorship - an organizational weakness we need to address by working together and doing better. About half the posts in Pennsylvania did not recruit one member into the VFW, which we need to change by recruiting new members. I am asking as your State Commander to get out there and change this with me.

July was a busy month for the Department, starting with the Flying Squadron followed by six weekend training sessions that were very successful and full of Members wanting to learn. They asked great questions and also had concerns that our Department Line Officers were able to answer and also presented essential information to help our Posts and Districts succeed and achieve All State and All-American status this year.

I do not walk this road alone, we are all in this together and I look forward to working with our Senior Vice Commander Jim Brown, Junior Vice Commander Glenn Owen and all our State Line Officers.

STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER



JIM BROWN
STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER

Comrades, thank you all for your support last year (2024-2025) as your Dept. Jr. Vice Commander! The hope is to have your continued support moving forward as your Dept. Sr. Vice Commander.

As we push forward into this new year; discard what does not work (it is perfectly fine not to do things the way they have always been done as long as you are following the By-Laws!), reflect on those things we may tweak to make better, and continue to build on our current successes. All too often, the focus is centered around the negatives. Social media and news outlets may be a wonderful tool to get information distributed. However, be wary of the message and how it may be perceived by others. YOU as individual(s), Post(s), and District(s) sit at the forefront! YOU know your Post best. Sell Your Product (Post), Sell Your Programs, and STOP worrying about selling your beer. The image of the VFW being a smokey bar must change if we are to evolve and

remain viable! I am not ignorant to the fact that revenue is often needed to support some of the things we do. I am just asking to refocus on the mission. That mission is to take care of Veterans and their families. When we turn that focus back to taking care of our Veterans and their families, it will help you Sell Your Product which, in turn, will help you increase your Membership!

Membership is not an EVIL word! Membership is the backbone of how we work on fulfilling our mission. Strength in numbers is how we are able to get Legislation passed in Washington D.C., which helps our Service Officers and Claims Consultants assist Veterans and their families obtain their deserved benefits.

As ELITE COMBAT VETERANS, the VFW IS OUR HOUSE! All others are guests and should be there to support the mission. This does not mean treat others poorly and expect others to do everything for you. Treat them with respect and dignity, because the mission should always come first, and they can help you fulfill it. "The VFW IS OUR HOUSE" means the VFW exists because of VFW Members!

As always, never hesitate to reach out.

STATE JR. VICE COMMANDER



GLENN OWEN
STATE JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Stepping Into Service: The Role of the Junior Vice Commander

I would like to thank the membership for the honor and privilege of becoming the Department Junior Vice Commander. It’s truly an honor to serve in this role, and I take the responsibility seriously.

According to Section 518(a)(3) of the VFW’s Manual of Procedure, the Junior Vice Commander is entrusted with several key duties: assisting the Commander in maintaining order, presiding in the absence of both the Commander and Senior Vice Commander, and carrying out any tasks assigned by the Commander. While the title may sound secondary, the responsibilities are critical to the success and stability of our organization.

As I traveled across the state campaigning, I had the privilege of meeting many newly elected Post Commanders—veterans who have stepped up to lead for the first time. Some were full of questions, unsure of the expectations or resources available to them. I remember being in their shoes. It made me realize just how important it is that we provide our new leaders with the tools, training, and mentorship they need to succeed.

That’s where the Junior Vice Commander can truly make a difference.

Too often, new leaders are eager to serve but unsure where to turn for guidance. It’s our duty to ensure they’re not navigating leadership alone. When the Commander or Senior Vice Commander is unavailable, the Junior Vice Commander should be ready to step in—not just to maintain order, but to offer support, advice, and encouragement.

Membership is another area I plan to focus on heavily. A strong membership base is the backbone of any successful organization, and growth doesn’t happen by accident. We need active, intentional outreach—both at the Post and District levels—to recruit new members and, just as importantly, to retain them. I believe in creating a welcoming environment where new members feel informed, included, and inspired to get involved.

Looking ahead, I’m excited to work alongside Commander Roland and Senior Vice Commander Brown to make this VFW the strongest in the nation. Together, we can ensure that every veteran who joins our ranks finds a place to serve, grow, and belong.

Our organization thrives when we lead with purpose, support one another, and commit to building a legacy of service. I’m committed to doing just that every step of the way.

If you’re a new officer and need support, don’t hesitate to reach out. I’ve been in your shoes.

STATE QUARTERMASTER



JOHN B. GETZ, JR.
STATE QUARTERMASTER

Comrades, a new year has started for the VFW, and I want to thank you for electing me as the State Quartermaster for the year 2025-2026. We all have to work together to help veterans and their families, which is our focus, so let us make sure that we are doing just that. As Quartermasters and Adjutants, we know the business of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and I am asking that we

put that knowledge to work and make sure we teach others how the business operates. We need to make sure that all our books are in order so when the inspectors come into the Post, we are ready to show them all the information they ask for. It is our job to make sure the inspection runs well. Together, we can make a difference. If you need help, please reach out and ask for it.

STATE CHAPLAIN



DAVID BRADY
STATE CHAPLAIN

Friends and Comrades,

We are starting another great year of service to our Veterans, Service Members, and Families. I remind people that we also serve service members and not just Veterans. A good portion of our members are still actively serving in the military. I keep that close to my heart because 14 years of my last 16 in the VFW was as an actively serving Army Chaplain. Most of our members are still serving in the Guard or Reserve, which means you can make an impact on those families during times of separation, whether it be during annual training, TDYs, or deployments. Their families can join the auxiliary as well.

I met a woman in Gettysburg last month running a gift shop. I mentioned that I’m a retired Army Chaplain and a VFW member. Her son is deployed. She was telling me how isolated she was from the military culture and camaraderie. Her dad was a Vietnam Veteran. I told her about VFW auxiliary and got her connected with the local post for more information. She also sent the post information to her son while I was standing there. He’ll be eligible to join when he returns from deployment. All-in-all, it was a good day.

The takeaway is that in our Chaplain position and duties, we can get invited into personal conversations that some don’t get. Be intentional in those conversations. Look for opportunities to draw out ways to minister to our members, potential members, and their families. Find the need and then offer support to fill that need.

STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE



FRANK MCGOVERN
STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE

Monetary Donations to Posts

PASS THROUGH PROCESS FOR VFW POSTS to receive DONATIONS from outside organizations/individuals that are required to donate to a 501(c)(3) corporation if your Post is incorporated as a 501(c)(4) corporation.

Most U.S. nonprofits are classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) which means a general charity and most donors (individuals and corporations) desire to only give to a 501(c)(3). The organization must meet the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code’s definition of a charity (which is the basis for the deduction requirements of a 501(c)(3)).

Moreover, some companies have in their giving regulations that they can only donate to a 501(c)(3) charity. In those instances, the VFW Foundation becomes a "fiscal agent" for your Post as the donor would write a check directly to "VFW Foundation" and you or they would send it to VFW Foundation. The check for the donation must be at least \$200 in value as the National VFW Headquarters does not have the staff to cash checks of \$5 or \$20, etc. Also, be sure and include a letter or note on the check memo line with your Post #

because if National VFW Headquarters receives a check in the mail made out to the VFW Foundation with no reference to a Post, National VFW will assume the check is for National VFW and not your Post.

The VFW Foundation will return the full amount of the gift/donation back to the Post. For example, if the VFW Foundation receives a check in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED (\$500.00) NO/100 DOLLARS, FIVE HUNDRED (\$500.00) NO/100 DOLLARS is sent back to the Post. VFW Foundation charges NO administrative costs. The full amount of the gift/donation will be returned to Post. In addition, the VFW Foundation will mail a combination tax acknowledgement/thank you letter directly to the donor. The VFW Foundation will take care of everything.

The only requirement to use the VFW Foundation for this purpose is that the Post must be in good standing with the National VFW.

Normal turnaround time for monies to be returned to the Post is one to two weeks. Monies are transferred to Post via EFT (electronic funds transfer). No checks are sent to Posts only EFT.

SEND DONATION CHECK TO:

VFW Foundation
ATTN: Renee Martin
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

NATIONAL JR. VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF



GLENN R. UMBERGER JR.
NATIONAL JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Thank You Team Pennsylvania!

On Wednesday, August 13th, 2025 at the VFW National Convention in Columbus, Ohio your years of support were recognized with my election as Junior Vice Commander-In-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Election to this position is both a profound honor and a solemn responsibility. As I reflect upon the journey that has led to this moment, my heart is filled with gratitude for the trust you bestowed upon me, for the encouragement and support received from so many, and for the opportunity to continue to serve in this distinguished capacity. I am deeply humbled by your confidence in me, and pledge to dedicate myself wholeheartedly to fulfilling the duties of this position.

As Henry Ford once said, “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress, working together is success.”

As no leader stands alone, I am indebted to my mentors and fellow Veterans who have contributed to the person I’ve become. From insightful conversations to constructive critiques, each interaction helped me better understand the mission and needs of our organization.

Thank you to all of those who came before in the storied 125-year history of the VFW, and all that they achieved. Now, as only the 11th person to represent the State of Pennsylvania as Junior Vice Commander-In-Chief, I embark on this new chapter, filled with excitement and determination.

I am mindful that leadership is a journey, not a destination. My promise is to never lose sight of the trust you have placed in me, and to honor that trust with every action taken.

As Eleanor Roosevelt is quoted as saying, “With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts.”

As you can expect, my schedule is rapidly filling with events across our great nation. This means that my attendance at Pennsylvania events will be limited over the next several years. Please know that you are in my thoughts and I am forever grateful for your support.

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER



NATE SMITH
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Greetings, comrades;

I am very honored and humbled to be elected as your next National Council Member for this great Department. I want to thank all of you for

your support and confidence in me to represent you at the National Council of Administration for the 2025-2029 term: I am really excited and looking forward to starting my next journey. As most of you know, first and foremost, I will do my best to keep this department informed when I can. In closing, I want to say, thank you for your service, God bless you, our troops, and this great nation.

VFW ELECTS CAROL WHITMORE AS NEW NATIONAL COMMANDER



Carol Whitmore,
National Commander

Carol Whitmore of Des Moines, Iowa, was elected at the National Convention in Columbus, Ohio as the new national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Carol served in the United States Army from 1977 to 2013, earning her VFW eligibility by serving in Iraq. In recognition of her service, she received the Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal (six), Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (two), National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Non-Commissioned Professional Development Ribbon (three), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon (three), Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, and the Combat Action Badge.

She joined the VFW in 2012 at Post 9127 in Des Moines, Iowa, where she maintains her Gold Legacy Life membership. She has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with her election as the VFW Department of Iowa Commander from 2018 to 2019, in which she achieved All-American status. On the national level, she served on the Legislative and General Resolution committees, and on the National Council of Administration from 2019 to 2023. In 2022, she was elected as designee for National VFW Commander-in-Chief for the year 2025, becoming the first woman and first Iowan to hold the position.

Carol attended the University of Northern Iowa and Hawkeye Community College. She is a retired nurse.

She is a life member of the Military Order of the Cootie, the VFW National Home, and the American Legion and its Auxiliary.

Carol and her husband, Brad, reside in Des Moines, Iowa.



Columbus, OH. National VFW Patriotic Rally.

VFW DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA HOSTS SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

By Felisha Acosta, Harrisburg, PA

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Pennsylvania held a comprehensive leadership training session for State Leadership and District Officers, reinforcing the organization's commitment to strong and informed leadership.

The event, hosted at Hilton Garden Inn in Harrisburg on July 11 - 12, brought together dozens of VFW members from across the state for a full day of instruction, discussion, and collaboration. Led by the Department's leadership team, the training covered critical topics including VFW protocols, membership development, reporting procedures, budgeting, and community engagement.

The event also emphasized the importance of mentorship, with seasoned leaders sharing best practices and offering guidance. The Department of Pennsylvania continues to prioritize education and communication to ensure all VFW posts remain active, effective, and mission-driven.

As the VFW looks toward the future, ongoing training and collaboration will remain essential in fulfilling its commitment to veterans, service members, and their families.



Columbus, OH. National VFW Patriotic Rally

Department Service Officer Jessica King speaking about Veteran Services at OTI.

2025-2026 POST OFFICER TRAINING INSTITUTE

As the VFW kicked off the 2025-2026 Year, our State Leadership went to Posts throughout Pennsylvania to train the new officers of the Posts how to be successful in their Posts and Districts. This was a great opportunity for everyone to meet the Leadership Team as well as our National VFW Officers.



Left to Right: VFW National Chaplain Peter Hook, State Quartermaster John B. Getz, Jr., Back: State Judge Advocate Frank McGovern, National Home Chairman Benjamin Mastridge, State Commander William "Bill" Roland, State Sr. Vice Commander Jim Brown, State Jr. Vice Commander Glenn Owen, National Council Member Nate Smith, State Chief of Staff Henry Mannella, and National Jr. Vice Commander in Chief Glenn Umberger, Jr.



State Commander Bill Roland at the OTI Training.



State Sr. Vice Commander Jim Brown addressing VFW members at OTI Training.

2025-2026 POST OFFICER TRAINING INSTITUTE



OTI Training 2025-2026



State Commander William "Bill" Roland discusses business at OTI with State Parliamentarian and PSC Thomas "Ace" Hanzes.



OTI Training 2025-2026

ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA

NAVY VETERAN AUTHORS BOOK TO HELP OTHERS

by Cory Angell, PA VFW Public Affairs

Kevin Macomber, Duncannon, PA VFW Post 255, authored the book, "Walking From The Shadows: My Journey With Post Traumatic Stress Disorder."

"I noticed that most books are written by licensed professionals or academics, many of whom have never actually experienced significant trauma themselves," said Macomber. "This book is trauma-agnostic and organizes an array of symptoms that a survivor may face in all parts of their healing journey."

Macomber, a Navy veteran and engineer by trade, collected notes on his journey and the challenges he faced over his life. After two large boxes of notes were accumulated, he wondered what he could do with them to help others.

"You can imagine all these notes, for all those years, piled into two copier paper boxes," said Macomber. "I had to sort and categorize things and try to build out the path I had taken."

Macomber's book offers practical advice, aims to help guide individuals with PTSD, and enables them to learn from his own experiences.

"I'm not a trained mental health professional, and this doesn't replace the work that people need to do with professionals," said Macomber. "I just wanted to help others, and perhaps my experience can accelerate the process for them."

The book is an easy and quick read. It is filled with practical information like dealing with the VA, connecting with a counselor and how Macomber worked on his own outside of counseling.

Those interested in a copy can visit Amazon Books and search for Mr. Macomber's work. It is offered for free under Kindle Unlimited.



COMBAT TESTED GAMING BY THE VFW - CONNECTING AND SUPPORTING VETERANS THROUGH GAMING



Comrades,

We have completed the first edition of the Gaming Committee Handbook, a comprehensive guide to harness the power of gaming to combat isolation, foster camaraderie, and promote mental wellness among veterans.

This handbook outlines plans for the 2025-2026 period, centering on the Combat Tested Gaming (CTG) program, a VFW initiative designed to promote health, wellness, and comradeship through gaming.

Veterans are getting connected from all over the world and playing games regularly on Discord, Twitch, Kick, and in-person. We are gathering around mutual hobby and interest. To play and heal. Please review the handbook to learn more.

Combat Tested Gaming brings:

- Weekly tournaments and daily play sessions
- Live-streamed events and veteran-led discussions
- Mental health and peer support resources
- Team formation and sponsored league play
- An ever-growing online community for veterans

Get Connected, Stay Connected. Let's Play

Dept of PA VFW Gaming Committee

Devin Taylor

Gaming Co-Chairman
dtaylorvfw7012@gmail.com
910-644-8666

Robert Heriford

State Gaming Chairman
firstsgt1978@gmail.com
719-419-6182



ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA

MEMORIAL CEREMONY FOR A WWII TORPEDO

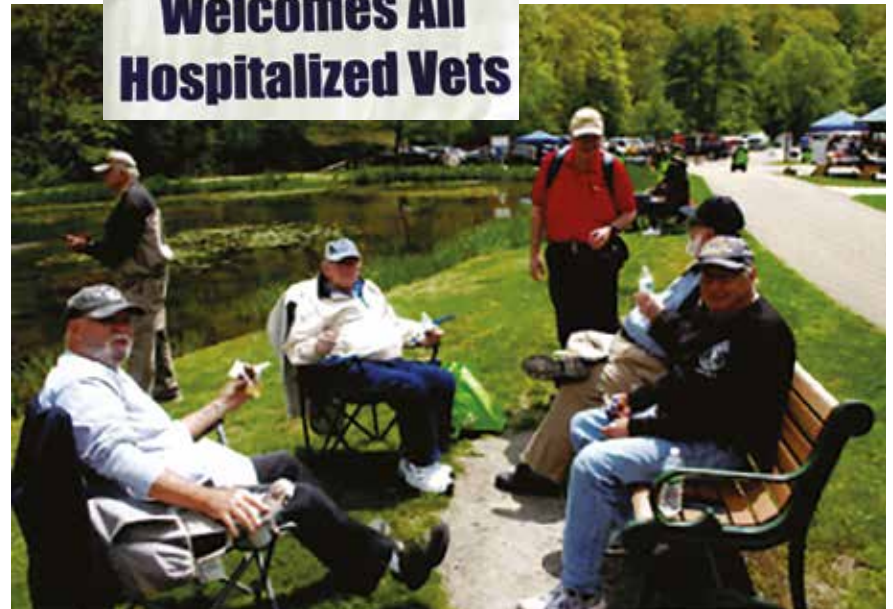


Left to Right: Debbie Smith, PSC and National Council Member Nate Smith, Sr. Vice Commander Jim Brown and Roni Wescot



Post 7293 is in Whitehall Township, perched on a hill that commands a heart-stirring view of the Lehigh Valley. The restored torpedo — set on two stone bases atop a concrete pad — gives a briny flavor of naval history to the manicured grounds, which until now were dominated by the aviator aesthetics of an F-14 fighter jet.

VFW
Post 3945
Welcomes All
Hospitalized Vets



Post 3945 Fish Rodeo



District 27 Meeting

In the Photo: Left to right: Jess King, Department of PA Chief of Staff, Brian Armstrong, VFW District 27 Commander, Jim Brown, VFW Department of PA Senior Vice Commander, Bill Roland, VFW Department of PA State Commander, Robin Kohler, VFW Auxiliary Department of PA State President, Linda Tikey, VFW Auxiliary District 27 President, Karen Hoover. PSP Chief of Staff

PA VFW ACCREDITED SERVICE OFFICERS & CLAIMS CONSULTANTS

VFW Veteran Services Officers and Claim Consultants are employed by the VFW to assist all veterans – regardless of membership in the VFW. This service is FREE. All of our veterans deserve comprehensive assistance with applying for and understanding their VA disability benefits. Please reach out to any of the Service Officers/Claims Consultants near you. Feel free to refer any veteran in need of assistance to one of us at the VFW.

Jessica King-Department Service Officer Cell: 724-672-2953 Email: Jessica.King9@va.gov	John B. Getz, Jr.-State Adjutant/Quartermaster Phone: 717-234-7927 Email: quartermaster@vfwpahq.org	Cynthia Lewis-Operations Manager Cell: 609-865-6579 Email: clewis@vfwpahq.org
ALTOONA VAMC 2907 Pleasant Valley Blvd. Altoona, Pa 16602 Cindy Kinzey Cell: 814-600-9096 Email: Cindy.Kinzey@va.gov	HARRISBURG 4002 Fenton Ave. Harrisburg, PA. 17109 717-234-7927 Jonathan Hart Cell: 717-798-0030 Email: jonathan.hart@va.gov Mechanicsburg Veterans Center Thurs: 8:30-4:00 Harrisburg: Monday-Friday-8:30-4:00 Nicole Williams Cell: 215-356-3566 Email: nwilliams@vfwpahq.org Harrisburg: Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00	PITTSBURGH 1000 Liberty Ave Room 1601 Pittsburgh, PA 15222 Office: 412-395-6259 412-395-6256 Fax: 412-395-6261 Linda Eshenbaugh Cell: 724-996-4076 Fax: 878-217-6919 Email: linda.eshenbaugh@va.gov Jessica King Cell: 724-672-2953 Email: district29vfwcmdr@gmail.com
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		PHILADELPHIA 5000 Wissahickon Ave. Attn: VFW Philadelphia, Pa 19144 Office: 215-381-3123 Fax: 215-381-3491 Anji Johnson (Supervisor) Cell: 215-595-6267 Email: Evangeline.johnson@va.gov Jack (John) Leaming Office: 215-381-3123 Email: jacko4343@gmail.com Ray Morace Email: raymond.morace@va.gov Michael Salabsky Cell: 835-239-3626 Email: Michael.Salabsky@va.gov



THE VFW AUXILIARY



ROBIN KOHLER
PRESIDENT
DEPARTMENT OF PA VFW AUXILIARY

Greetings from President Kohler

As I continue my visits across Pennsylvania, whether at our Medical Centers, District Meetings, or special Auxiliary and Post events; I am reminded time and again that **Every Day is Veterans Day**. The smiles, the hugs, and the handshakes from our military heroes and their families leave a lasting impression. In just a few minutes of conversation, they share stories of family, memories of service, and even their latest arts and crafts projects. Their courage in combat is matched only by their strength today, and their sacrifices continue to inspire us all.

We owe these men and women, and those who have gone before them, a debt that can never be repaid. They left behind loved ones, faced unimaginable hardship, and stood ready to make the ultimate sacrifice so that future generations could live free. As survivors who gifted us freedom, they deserve our ongoing gratitude, respect, and care.

That is why our mission in the VFW Auxiliary is so important. Through our volunteer programs, events, and outreach, we show our veterans that they are never forgotten. Our members do an outstanding job ensuring veterans have the support they need, but there is always room for more helping hands. I encourage each of you to connect with your local medical facility to host an event, volunteer for a few hours in your community, etc., and spend time with the real heroes among us. These experiences can be life-changing, for them and for us.

We must also ensure that every veteran hears the words they so richly deserve: **"Thank you for your service."** Let us continue to serve with pride, passion, and gratitude, because **Every Day is Veterans Day**.



KAREN MOONEY
SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN

The National VFW Auxiliary annually offers Continuing Education Scholarships

Who is eligible to apply?

All VFW Auxiliary members. (Must be a member for at least one full year.) The spouse, son and/or daughter of a VFW Auxiliary member.

Applicant must be 21 years of age or older by the application submission deadline of February 15, 2026. Applications are sent directly to National Headquarters by the February 15 deadline.

One scholarship is awarded each year to the selected candidate in each of the four VFW Auxiliary Conferences.

The \$1,250 Scholarship shall be used in the academic year following completion of the contest. The scholarship will be paid directly to the American college/University or Vocational/Technical School of the Awardee's choice.

The application can be found at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education.

For questions Department VFW Auxiliary Scholarship Chairman Karen Mooney can be reached at karenmooneycpc@comcast.net.



Installation of 2025-26 Auxiliary Officers.



Labor Day Picnic at Coatesville VA Medical Center, an annual picnic hosted by the Comrades, Brothers and Sisters of District 9.



State Commander Bill Roland and State President Robin Kohler visit to District 27, VFW post 6743.

SAVE
THE DATE

2025

- September 25-28
- Commander-in-Chief’s Homecoming,
De Moines, IA
- September 28
- Gold Star Mother’s Day
- October 24-25
- Eastern Conference,
Wilmington, DE
- Oct 31-Nov 1
- Commander’s Testimonial,
DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh,
Cranberry

2026

- January 15-18
- Mid-Winter Conference,
Eisenhower Hotel, Gettysburg, PA
- Feb 28-Mar 5
- Legislative Conference,
Washington, D.C.
- March 27-29
- Women Veterans Conference,
Pittsburgh Marriott North
- April 10-11
- President’s Testimonial,
Wyndham Gardens, York
- June 17-20
- Department Convention,
DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh,
Cranberry

PERIODICALS



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Act of March 1879

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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CEMETERY PLOTS AVAILABLE

Cemetery plots have been generously donated throughout Pennsylvania to the PA VFW. These plots are available to our veterans or spouse at no expense. Plots will need to be opened, and that fee must be paid. If you are in need, below is the list of participating cemeteries, their location and number of available plots.

- Bradford County Memorial Gardens, Towanda – 5
- Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Johnstown – 194
- Mount Rose Cemetery, York – 2
- Jefferson Memorial Cemetery and Funeral Home, Pittsburgh – 3
- Edgewood Memorial Park, Glen Mills – 7
- Rosedale Memorial Park, Bensalem – 212
- Conestoga Memorial Park, Lancaster County – 3
- Philadelphia Memorial Park, Frazer – 10
- Sunset Memorial Park, Huntingdon Valley – 4
- Mechanicsburg Cemetery Association, Mechanicsburg – 2
- Valley Forge memorial Gardens, Valley Forge – 13
- Castle View Memorial Gardens, New Castle – 15
- Susquehanna Memorial Gardens, York – 4
- Laurel Hill Memorial Gardens, Columbia – 2
- Cedar Hill Memorial Park, Allentown – 2

DISTRICT STANDINGS MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

AS OF AUGUST 31, 2025

PLACE	DISTRICT	% MEMBERSHIP	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP 2026	PRIOR YEAR MEMBERSHIP 6/30/2025	MEMBERS NEEDED FOR 101%
1	15	89.56%	1622	1811	208
2	21	88.02%	4378	4974	646
3	18	87.19%	3844	4409	610
4	28	84.66%	3449	4074	666
5	14	84.54%	1269	1501	248
6	1	84.19%	623	740	125
7	13	83.94%	716	853	146
8	26	83.40%	1859	2229	393
9	7	83.35%	746	895	158
10	9	82.63%	2516	3045	560
11	12	82.50%	1028	1246	231
12	8	82.32%	1779	2161	404
13	19	82.19%	1514	1842	347
14	30	81.53%	896	1099	214
15	17	80.85%	802	992	200
16	27	78.86%	1656	2100	465
17	20	78.51%	782	996	224
18	23	78.29%	1230	1571	357
19	11	77.49%	1208	1559	367
20	16	77.18%	1519	1968	469
21	25	76.75%	1548	2017	490
22	29	75.02%	2252	3002	781
23	22	73.81%	1787	2421	659
24	10	72.88%	1075	1475	415
25	24	70.37%	938	1333	409