



United We Stand



Indiana Combat Veteran

Fall 2018

Volume 62 Issue 2

ERIC BILLMAN State Commander



Greetings Comrades,

As always, I hope this finds you well and healthy. It has been and is an extremely busy time in the VFW and the Department of Indiana. Let me start by sending out a huge thank you to all the members, auxiliary members, and supporters for all you did over the last year to raise donations for the VFW National Home in Ea-

ton Rapids. In case you haven't heard, the membership from Indiana donated over \$38,000. That is an amazing amount of money that goes to an outstanding cause and doing what we do, taking care of Veterans.

September was a very busy month with not only the Eaton Rapids visit, but District meetings, various POW ceremonies, and Patriot Day remembrance events. I also had a trip to Washington DC as well as attended the Commander in Chief's homecoming in Albuquerque. One of Chief BJ's primary focus is on post revitalization and putting forth the effort to keep posts open instead of closing. Another hot topic is of course membership. We finished September just over 81% and needing 6,000 members to reach 100%. While we ended the month 9th in the Big 10 and 38th nationally, I have no doubt that Indiana will be 100% at the end of the year. Chief BJ has issued a Commander's

Challenge, which is attached in these General Orders, with an opportunity for your post to win \$500.

There is quite a bit of activity coming up in October as well with our trip to the Indiana Veterans Home, the Big 10 Conference, and of course our Fall Conference. I hope to see you at many of these events. Please plan on being there for our Fall Conference. Our National Representative will be National Jr. Vice Commander in Chief Hal Roesch II. As always, looking forward to hearing the words of wisdom the Representative brings to our events. Not only are we going to have some great speakers and information presented, but hopefully it will be an opportunity for you to have some fun as well. Let's take of business during the meetings, and then relax and have some fun at the evening mixer. As we have with the last few conferences, we are trying to do a few things a bit differ-

ently while sticking with some important traditions. Please let us know what you like, what you don't like, and ideas for future events.

Don't forget that there are many deadlines for programs coming up soon. If you have any questions or issues, don't hesitate to contact the program chairperson so you do not miss a deadline. Thank you for all you do on a day in day out basis for the VFW. While some of your work may not always get noticed, it is always greatly appreciated. Veterans Sticking Together is what we do! Do not hesitate to reach out to your Post Commander, your District Commander, or your Department line officers if you need assistance. We are here to help and assist. Thank you for all you do for our Veterans and thank you for all you do for the Department of Indiana and VFW.

Greetings Comrades,

Thank you all for the confidence and hospitality shown to me. I am looking forward to being your State Jr. Vice Commander this year.

I'd like to remind everyone to use the chain of command, Post Commander, and then District Commander. If the issue can't be handled locally, only then take it to the State. But do everything in your

power to keep it in the Post. Stay off of social media and the local news.

Let us all remember the purpose of having The Veterans of Foreign Wars in the first place. A reminder can be found in section 230102 of our Congressional Charter.

I've received many calls and visits this past month. Hopefully my opinions were a benefit in making your decisions.

The fall conference is rapidly

approaching October 26-27, Let us all do our utmost to attend. Participation is a must if we are to succeed in our continued endeavors.

A big thank you to Speedway Post 2839 and Rick Faulk for hosting this year's golf outing. We all had a great time and the steaks were simply delicious. Kokomo Post 1152 is looking forward to being next year's host. More information will be coming in the future.

DAVE CAPSHAW Jr. Vice Commander



Words From The State Officers

KEISTON R. HOLLOWAY

State Chaplain



Greetings Comrades and Sisters of the Post and District.

I hope all is well. To date I have sent out 3290 condolences and continue to send out get well wishes as well as sympathy cards. I have attended several POW-MIA ceremonies. The State Auxiliary ceremony at Post 7117 Worthington. The ceremony before the 7th District at Post 6606 Clay City and the POW-MIA ceremony at Indianapolis War Memorial. Also attended the ceremony at the VFW National Home

for Children. I plan to go to the Indiana Veterans Home in Lafayette. I have also visited a comrade in rehabilitation. The holidays are fast approaching please visit our comrades in the hospitals and nursing homes and those home bound. I plan to go to our Indiana Veterans Home and I hope to see you there. I will also be at the Fall Conference. I have been busy and have enjoyed every minute of it. I ask for your continued support, without you I cannot do my job. If I can be of any assistance call or e-mail me. May God bless America, may God bless our troops, may God bless the VFW and may God continue to bless each and every one of you.

Deceased Members Post 1157 Vincennes:

Joseph P. English
Richard Like
James F. Kimmell
Ervin C. Meyer

Greetings Comrades,

The last 4 months since the Convention have flown by, where did the summer go? I have been busy with visiting different VA's and the CBOC's and talking to our Veterans to see what can be done to improve their health care. Then min consensus is improving the Choice program. Another concern was billing issues. If by chance you have to go to a non VA emergency room, and you are being seen regularly at the VA, contact the nearest VA to the ER

within 48 hrs of your visit.

I encourage every one that can make the Fall Conference to be there Saturday morning. Mike Hershman, Director of VA Northern Indiana Health Care System and a retired Army Col. will be providing us a brief on the state of the VA. Mr. Hershman is being very proactive in learning of issues and concerns from his fellow Veterans and their families. He wants to hear from you. If you have any complaints at all about your care or any issue for that matter, use

TROY "DOC" KING

State Adjutant /Quartermaster

Greetings Comrades:

We are well into the year and we have held our School of Instruction and I hope all who attended returned home and shared your knowledge with your Posts and Districts. Let's all work hard on membership and VFW programs and make this a banner year for the Department of Indiana and Commander Billman.

Post Commanders, please insure that Quarterly Audits are conducted by your trustees and the Trustees Report of Audit is forwarded to Department Headquarters.

Did you know that every VFW member can create their own account to the Online Membership System. Just go to VFW.ORG and click on login and follow the prompts to Create an Account. By creating an account on VFW's national website you will gain access to news releases, program information and other important information available to members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



Last year we had 56 Post Officers removed as they failed to pay their annual dues prior to the expiration date of their membership. As of October 1, 2018 in the Department of Indiana we have 216 Post Officers whose membership expires before the end of the administrative year ending on June 30, 2019. Of these 15 expire before November 30th, 91 expire on December 31st, and 90 expire after December 31st. Post Commanders and Quartermasters, please review your rosters and insure these officers renew their dues prior to their membership expiration date.

the following email: VAIT-Network11WebDesigners@va.gov, or call 260-426-5431 ext 71504. The email will go directly to the Director.

It is also my understanding that Congressman Jim Banks will also be in attendance. Bank's is on the VA sub-committee. Both of these individuals are combat vets and members of the VFW.

If anyone has any VA issues or concerns that can't be handled thru the patient advocate or the Director, please reach out to me.

RICHARD LINEBERRY
State Surgeon

Richard Leirer Legislative Chairman 2017-2019

As the Legislative Chairman I work with the State Commander to support the Legislative Priorities of the Big Four. The Big Four consist of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the American Veterans, AMVETS and the Disabled American Veterans, DAV. The Priorities are established during meetings of the department commanders and the other legislative chairmen of the Big Four organizations. Once these are approved by the Big Four Commanders the Legislative Chairmen are responsible for getting the legislation past in the Indiana General Assembly. To accomplish this we do many things, town hall meeting in different areas of the state, have numerous meetings with elected officials and their staff, testify at Committee meetings during the legislative session, speak at numerous events, and basically become un-paid lobbyist. We prefer to call ourselves Veterans Advocates, sounds better than lobbyist!



Indiana Big Four Legislative Priorities 2019

1. Remission of fees for Disabled Veteran's children attending State schools.
2. Veterans who are in the VA's Individual Unemployability category and the spouse of a Veteran Killed in Action (KIA) should receive the same property tax exemption as a Veteran rated at 100% disabled.
3. Provide legislation to allow electronic gaming terminals in Congressionally Chartered Veterans Service Organizations facilities.
4. Designate a percentage of lottery ticket revenue to fund State Veterans programs.
5. Indiana income tax exemption for military pay.

What can you do?

If you don't already know your local Legislator, get to know them. Tell them about the Legislative Priorities and ask them to support our Veteran issues. Below is how to find out who your legislator is and their contact information.

#1 – To find the name and contact information of your State Representative and Senator. Go to <https://iga.in.gov/> then under **Information** click on **Find Your Legislator**. This will show who your State and National representatives are.

#2 – Contact them and make sure they know who you are and that you are a voting **Veteran**. Talk to your local state representative about the Big Four priorities.

Words From The District Commanders



JEFF REITZ
District 1
Commander

no other at its beautiful veterans memorial on site. The Districts Buddy Poppy drive seen bad weather but was successful, thanks to the dedicated members who participated. All Posts have been busy working on VFW core projects, getting out into the community and continuing our service to all our Comrades. I would like to thank everyone and Post for their hard work and dedication. Also excited about the remainder of the year working with Eric and Troy at state to reach all our goals. District is only successful with successful Posts.

Greetings Comrades from the 1st District,

The 1st District has seen quite a bit of activity thus far this year. Membership is off to a great start with Gary Post 2151 already attaining over 112% leading the way in our mission to 100% District. As always Merrillville Post 1563 hosted a District POW/MIA ceremony like



SHEILA CORCORAN
District 11
Commander
Post 1587

all our Commanders and post members for a job well done. This is definitely a hard act to follow, but I know we can do even more this year.

Greetings Comrades,

I want to thank District 11 for electing me as Commander for the 2018-2019 year, it is quite an honor. Last year District 11 did an amazing job. All our Posts achieved 100% in membership, there were three All American Posts (261, 908, and 1587), and to top it off we were named All American District. Congratulations

It has been a very busy time for our District. The Posts, VFW Riders, and our Auxiliaries are doing a great job of working together. A few events that we have been involved include VFW National Convention, Suicide Awareness Walk, 4th of July Parade, The Convoy of Hope, VA Hospital Visits, and the District bus ride to National Children's Home. Thank you to Past State

BECKY MURPHY
District 10 Commander

Greetings Comrades of the 10th District,

Congratulations to one of own Eric Billman as the new Department Commander.

I would like to extend a big Thank You to Big Dave the District Inspector for completing all the Post Inspections.

Bravo Zulu to Post 1108 for Dedicating the Flag Pole at the grave of a Past National Commander Frank T. Strayer.

Let's continue to work hard on Membership and be the 1st District at 100%.

All of our Posts are working hard for Veteran's and their communities. Keep up the Good Work!

Thank you to everyone at the Posts, District, Auxiliaries, and the Department that support and help me, I cannot do this alone. Thank you to the 10th District Officers Walt, Jim, Shelley, Kathy and Barb for all your help. Thank you for what you do for Veterans.



At the September 15th 11th District Meeting Post Commander Tim Kanyuh and District 11 Commander Sheila Corcoran of VFW Post 1587 presented a \$12,500 check to Families First Indiana for Suicide Awareness and Prevention that was raised during their Walk 22 event! A huge thank you to all who participated and donated!

Words From The District Commanders

Commander Rick Faulk and Post 2839 for hosting the State Golf Outing. The players and volunteers had an excellent time. The Posts in our District have held several fund raisers, motorcycle rides, and numerous other events. The District held a School of Instruction and POW/MIA ceremony. We are also well on our way to finishing the Posts inspections. Six Posts have been completed and the remaining inspections will be finished by fall conference.

September 21st, National POW/MIA Day, was recognized by a ceremony at the Indiana War Memorial in downtown Indianapolis. This day was very special this year. Army Corporal Morris Meshulam returned home to be laid to rest. Cpl Meshulam was 19 when he died as a POW during the Korean War. Representatives of the VFW greeted Meshulam at the Indianapolis Airport and escorted him to the funeral home. We were also present the day of his funeral. Thank you to all who were able to come out and support our fallen comrade and his family.

Despite how busy we have been, we have even more upcoming events. Indiana Day at the Veteran's Home is on Sunday Octo-



ber 14. The Veterans Day Parade in Indianapolis is on Saturday November 10th. Patriots Pen, VOD, Teacher of the Year deadline is Wednesday October 31st to the Posts. I would like to see all the Posts in our district support each other. When you have a Post/Auxiliary function please create a flier. Forward the flier to District and other Posts. We will post on our Facebook pages to get the word out.

Membership is crucial. As you know Indiana is 150 members behind where we were at this time last year. Every member of the VFW needs to work on recruitment. The veterans I talk with want more than just sitting around the Post. They want activities for the

kids, communication, and community involvement. Social media is a must i.e. webpages, electronic newsletters, and Face Book. If your Post doesn't have a Face Book page, create one. Once you get these up and running it is imperative to keep them current. Complete the VFW core programs and be involved in your community, if you

do this your membership will grow.

The 11th District is off to a strong start, but we have a lot of hard work ahead of us. We can make 100% in membership if we work together. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am here to help any way that I can.

JOE GOLDMAN
District 7 Commander

Comrades,

I have been making Post visits. I don't have a lot to report at this time. I have been working on things as Owen County Service Officer as well. I will have a much better report for the next issue. The District Inspections are being done, we should have them all done by the Nov. District meeting.



PAKDC Larry J. Patch VFW District 11 & Post 1587 Chaplain.



Candidate for National Council Member representing Department of Indiana 2019-2023



Eisenhower Award
Recipient

Gold Legacy Life
Member Post 972
Terre Haute

Eligibility in the
Persian Gulf 1990
Armed Forces
Expeditionary Medal



Past State
Commander

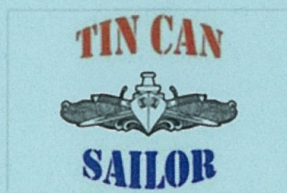
Past All American
Post Commander

Past All American
District Commander

Past All State
Post and District
Commander

Johnny Capps

Delivering
For
Veterans



Richard Leirer

Asking for your Support for the high office of
Surgeon

for the Department of Indiana 2019-2020

Dwight D. Eisenhower - Leadership Award 2017-18

All American District Commander

Round Robin Commander

Department Legislative Chairman 2017 - 2019

Quartermaster Post 10003 2018-2019

Past District 6 Commander

Past Department Voice of Democracy Chairman

All State Post Commander

All State Quartermaster

Father & Grandfather

Married 36 Years

Salesman for over 30 years

Technology Business Owner

Public Speaker

CONTACT ME ANYTIME

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RWLeirer@yahoo.com



US Army – 10 Years

2 Tours Vietnam, Germany & Korea