



*United We Stand*



# Indiana Combat Veteran

**Volume 66 Issue 2**

**May 2024**

## From the Commanders Desk:



Hello all,

What a wonderful journey I have been on, it is bittersweet to see it come to an end. I have traveled all over the state of Indiana and have met some amazing people. We have some amazing posts throughout the state.

I want to thank everyone that came to the testimonial dinner for Auxiliary President Gennie Pickens and myself. VFW Post did an amazing job. Past Post President Robin Courtney, thank you for all the amazing food. If you like brisket, you missed out!

Congratulations to Post 360 Mishawaka and 1152 Kokomo on your 100-year anniversaries. Thank you for inviting me to your celebrations. Both posts are doing a great job and thriving with numerous community activities.

This last weekend on my way to a Women Veterans retreat at McCormick’s State Park, I popped into Post 1405 at Spencer. Immediately I was asked to participate in their presentation for the Red, White and Blue check presentations. This is just a small fraction of what I have been up to.

Many of our Posts are already doing things in May, especially around Memorial Day. Register these events, for **the third annual VFW Day of Service. This kicks off on the first Saturday of May, May 4, 2024. That date marks the start of veteran-led community service projects to take place throughout the month.** Don’t forget to get registered for a “Day of Service”.

<https://todaysvfw.org/day-of-service/>

Thank you all for everything and I will be seeing you soon at our State Convention!

Yours in comradeship,

Sheila Corcoran  
Indiana State Commander  
Veterans of Foreign Wars



Greetings Comrades,

I hope that this spring is treating you well and you are all getting out and about in your communities.

This time of year, when we are all able to emerge from our winter hibernation, is always a great feeling. Except for the allergies.... Anyway we have had an excellent year so far and we still have plenty left to go!

Make sure you are reaching out to your members and doing buddy checks. What you do for our organization is so important for our comrades, even if they don't know it. We do so much for veterans but sometimes we have a hard time tooting our own horns.

All of your line officers and program chairpersons are available to help you in any way we can. If there is something I can do for you please let me know. I am looking forward to everything to come!

*Cory Mahan*

Cory Mahan

Department of Indiana

Sr. Vice Commander

[cory.mahan.vfw@gmail.com](mailto:cory.mahan.vfw@gmail.com)



Hello Comrades,

I am still in disbelief that our year is almost over already! I have continued to visit various Districts and have enjoyed the comradery that each of you have shared with me.

It was an honor to have met our Commander in Chief Duane Sarmiento at our Spring Conference. He is a very engaging Veterans Advocate!

I really appreciate the Post Commanders/Chaplains/Quartermasters who have provided me with their deceased members report form. This information will assist myself and our department to ensure we know where our brothers & sisters are located. We routinely receive requests from extended family members trying to locate their relatives who have passed. I have also created a TAPS page in our Newsletter and your input provides me with the next of kin's address so I can send a sympathy card.

Please continue your outreach to our members that are not able to visit your post canteen or meetings. With most of us reaching that age where we are not as mobile, a call from someone lets them know that we do care about them.

Even though we are still prohibited from group visits to the VA Hospital, you can still visit your individual members there. I was the recipient of such visits recently and it was greatly appreciated! Also, our Veterans in Nursing Homes truly enjoy a visit from us.

My prayers to all who are suffering with a hope that your issues are resolved quickly. Please stay safe and healthy!

Yours in LOTCS,

Larry Patch  
Department of Indiana Chaplain





## VFW Employer of the Year Award

**Purpose of the Award:** To recognize an employer for outstanding service in the supporting, hiring and retention of veterans.

**Deadline:** The deadline for submission of nominations of employers of veterans to State Headquarter is no later than 1 April 2024. Nominations received after that date will not be eligible for consideration of the national award. Nominations by Departments must be sent to National Headquarters NLT 28 April 2024

**Procedure:** Nominations from Departments must be sent to National Headquarters via this form only. Nominations that arrive without supporting information will not be eligible for the national awards.

Only those nominations that include adequate documentation on the nominee's employment practices concerning veterans will be considered for the National VFW Employer of the Year Awards. The nominator should provide a copy of the company's written policy on employment of veterans if available, a description of how the employer supports veterans' activities in the community, and any other reasons why the nominee should be selected to be the Employer of the year Award winner.

*Governmental agencies are not eligible for this award.*

**Award:** The National Winner will receive a plaque to be presented by the National Commander at the Annual National convention and will receive a trip to travel to the convention city to accept the award.

- Nominations to Post by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
- Nominations to District by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- Nominations to Department by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024
- Nominations by Departments must be sent to National headquarters NLT April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### Judging Criteria:

1. Identify and describe the employer's programs and or benefits designed to recruit veterans, including innovative business practices used to increase veteran recruitment.
2. Describe the employer's policies that give a preference to hire veterans, referring veterans, or any other veteran policy (i.e. VA veteran sick leave hours). Provide the positive and significant impacts these policies have on the employer's business results.
3. Describe the employer's policies or initiatives that improve the current and future veteran employer's career opportunities.
4. Provide the number of veterans employed, the total number of employees, and the percentage of veterans employed during a set time period: 1 January 2023 to December 31st, 2024.
5. Describe collaborative efforts with business organizations , educational partners, and community organizations that improve veteran employment opportunities.



6. Explain why veterans would choose this employer over other employers.
7. Provide documented endorsements, newspaper articles, awards, or letters of support highlighting the nominee's contributions to veteran friendly employment or retention.
8. Provide the number of veterans employed with the employer for over one year.
9. Provide the number of veterans employed with the employer for five years.



VFW Employer of the Year Award  
Nomination Form

Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Point of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you feel this employer deserves this award?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please attach additional pages, as necessary.



## VFW JROTC Cadet of the Year

VFW award for special recognition of outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership for Junior ROTC Cadets. This award seeks to recognize a remarkable cadet who will become a leader in their community and serve their country.

### Criteria:

Possession of individual characteristics contributing to leadership including:

- Positive attitude toward the JROTC program.
- Outstanding military bearing and conduct both in and out of uniform.
- Personal attributes (self-confidence, initiative, flexibility, judgement).
- Patriotism (commander or member of color guard, drill team, flag protocol instruction team, and actively promote Americanism). Shows devotion to school, community, America. An individual(s) who practices service through repeated acts of support.
- Courtesy (dependability, punctuality, human relations, respect, cooperation).
- Growth potential (capable of assuming high leadership responsibilities in JROTC Unit with additional training and experience).
- Demonstrated leadership potential, military bearing, and scholastic achievement.
- Attainment of a grade of "B" in JROTC with an overall average of "C" in all subjects for the previous semester. Must not have a failing grade in any subject for that period of time.
- Must be active in at least one other student co-curricular activity or club: i.e., music, athletics, student government, junior achievement, etc.

### Eligibility:

- Any 10th, 11th, or 12th grade student that is currently enrolled as a JROTC Cadet actively engaged in the JROTC program, and one who meets the criteria for the award.

### Procedure:

- Nominations to Post by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Nominations to District by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024
- Nominations to Department by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- The department will submit to National **NLT May 12th**.



VFW JROTC Cadet of the Year Award  
Nomination Form

Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominating Post: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominating District: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Rank and Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's School: \_\_\_\_\_

JROTC Instructor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Why Do you feel this Cadet deserves this award?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please attach additional pages, as necessary.





## VFW MEMBER OF THE YEAR

**Purpose:** The award is to recognize a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars who has exemplified in their actions and accomplishments, the true spirit of our Organization in serving the needs of their Post, and Community, and who has dedicated themselves in a professional manner to addressing the Pillars of our Organization.

Posts are asked to nominate one of their members as Veteran of the year. Look for those comrades from your post who stand apart from the rest by serving the community and Veterans. Embodying the purposes of our congressional charter: to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead; and to assist the family members left behind; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United States from all enemies.

**Eligibility:** This award is intended to recognize a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars who has been a member at least one full membership year and has received a nomination for their activities during the award Year from their Post.

**Award candidates holding any of the following elected or appointed offices during the award year are not eligible.** Specifically-Commander, QM, Adjutant, Service Officer, or Chaplain. In addition, Past State Commanders and Past National Council members are ineligible.

Nominations are due at State Headquarters by 1 April 2024. Nominations to National are due by April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

- Nominations to Post by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Nominations to District by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024
- Nominations to Department by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- Department will submit to National **NLT May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**Criteria:** This award recognizes exceptional performance as a member of the VFW. Examples of service that would be considered in judging the nominee include the following:

- Nominee presents themselves in a professional and helpful manner within the Organization and within the Community.
- Nominee shows an active interest in their Department by attending meetings and showing a willingness to consider leadership roles.
- Nominee participates in activities and events within the Department to help raise awareness of the Organization in the Community.
- Nominee has shown a willingness to work together with other VFW, Auxiliary, and Riders Members in a spirit of cooperation to accomplish the same goals.
- Nominee volunteers for and participates in activities and events that address the needs of target groups and individuals in the Community.



- Nominee has demonstrated actions which contribute to improving the quality of life for those we are intended to serve, whether they are children or adults, and whether they are homeless, hospitalized, handicapped, in need of a job or education.
- Nominee encourages members of the Community to support VFW programs and continually encourages others to become members.
- Nominee must have been submitted for #StillServing campaign recognition at <https://todaysvfw.org/>

Nominations will be submitted by a nomination form to State Headquarters by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The nomination form will contain the veteran's name, Post Number, and a description of what the veteran has done since July 1, 2023, that makes them worthy of being the Veteran of the Year. Nominations are to be sent by email to [adj@vfw.in.org](mailto:adj@vfw.in.org). The Veteran that is selected will receive recognition from the State Commander as the Veteran of the Year and recognized at the State Convention. The selected veteran will also be submitted to National.



VFW Veteran of the Year Award  
Nomination Form

Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominating Post: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominating District: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterans Office and Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterans Post: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Explain how this Veteran made a positive impact on the VFW.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Explain how this Veteran has made a positive impact in the lives of his / her fellow veterans.

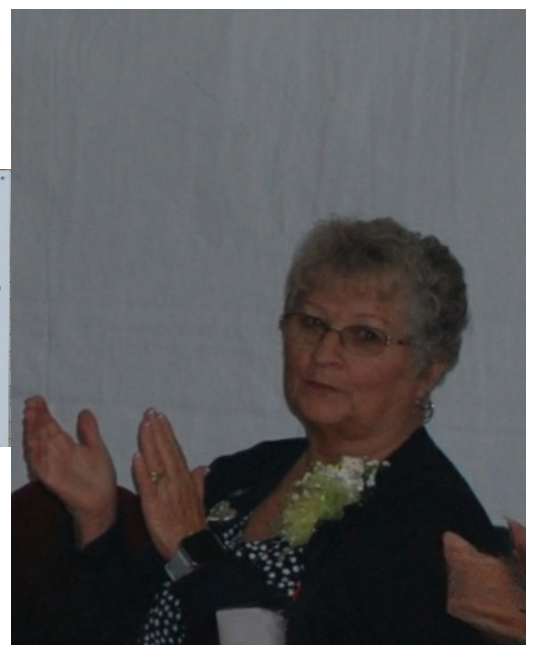
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Explain how this veteran has made a positive impact in his / her community.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please attach additional pages, as necessary.

# State Commander Corcoran & Auxiliary President Pickens Testimonial



# State Commander Corcoran & Auxiliary President Pickens Testimonial



# State Commander Corcoran & Auxiliary President Pickens Testimonial



# Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Duane Sarmiento's Visit to Indiana

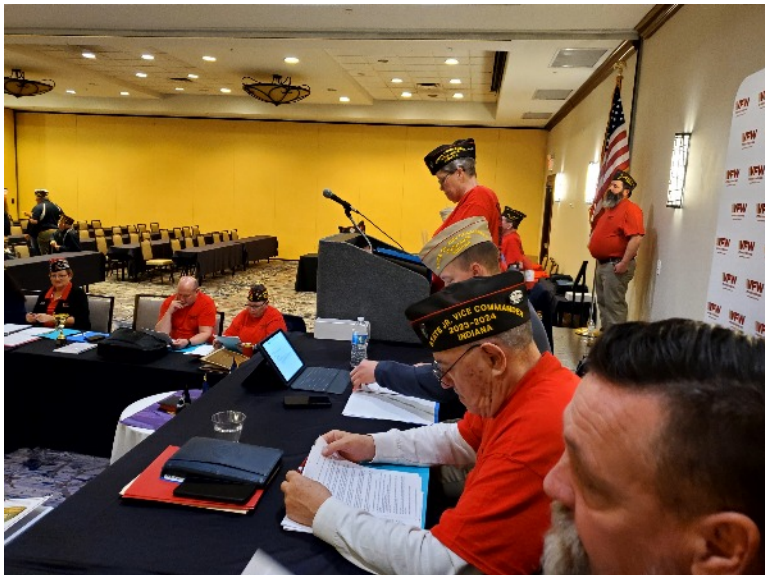


**YOU FOUGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY.  
NOW JOIN US IN THE FIGHT  
FOR VETERANS.**

We understand the unique bond you share with other veterans of overseas conflicts because we, too, have been there. No matter which conflict called you to service, we invite you to join us as we continue to fight for all that's good FOR VETERANS.



# 2024 Spring Conference





# 2024 Spring Conference



# Commander in Action



# Commander in Action



# Commander in Action



Post 98 memorial service for Russ Deckard

# MESSAGE FROM THE COOTIES

Greetings to all you Lousy Cooties & Cuties!

We had a terrible time when the Past National Seam Squirrel, Dwight Hora came to town. There were plenty of shenanigans that went on. We hope he does not visit again anytime soon!

Elections were conducted in March. I am sorry to report that I will be your Pup Tent 11 Seam Squirrel once again. A Big Boo to all the incoming officers who stepped up to take positions. We always have a crummy time!

I would like to do a shout out to MOCA President, Carolyn Patch for a Lousy Year. It has been awful working with you.

If you know anyone in the VFW who would like to join our FUN group, please reach out to me. There is also an auxiliary group for those interested in that. My worse half, Jennifer Pryor is the incoming president for their group.

Just in case you wondered, everything is backwards in the Cootie world. So if you take any of my comments seriously, please come join us and find out why and what we do.

Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White!

In LOTCS,

Russell "Gabby" Pryor

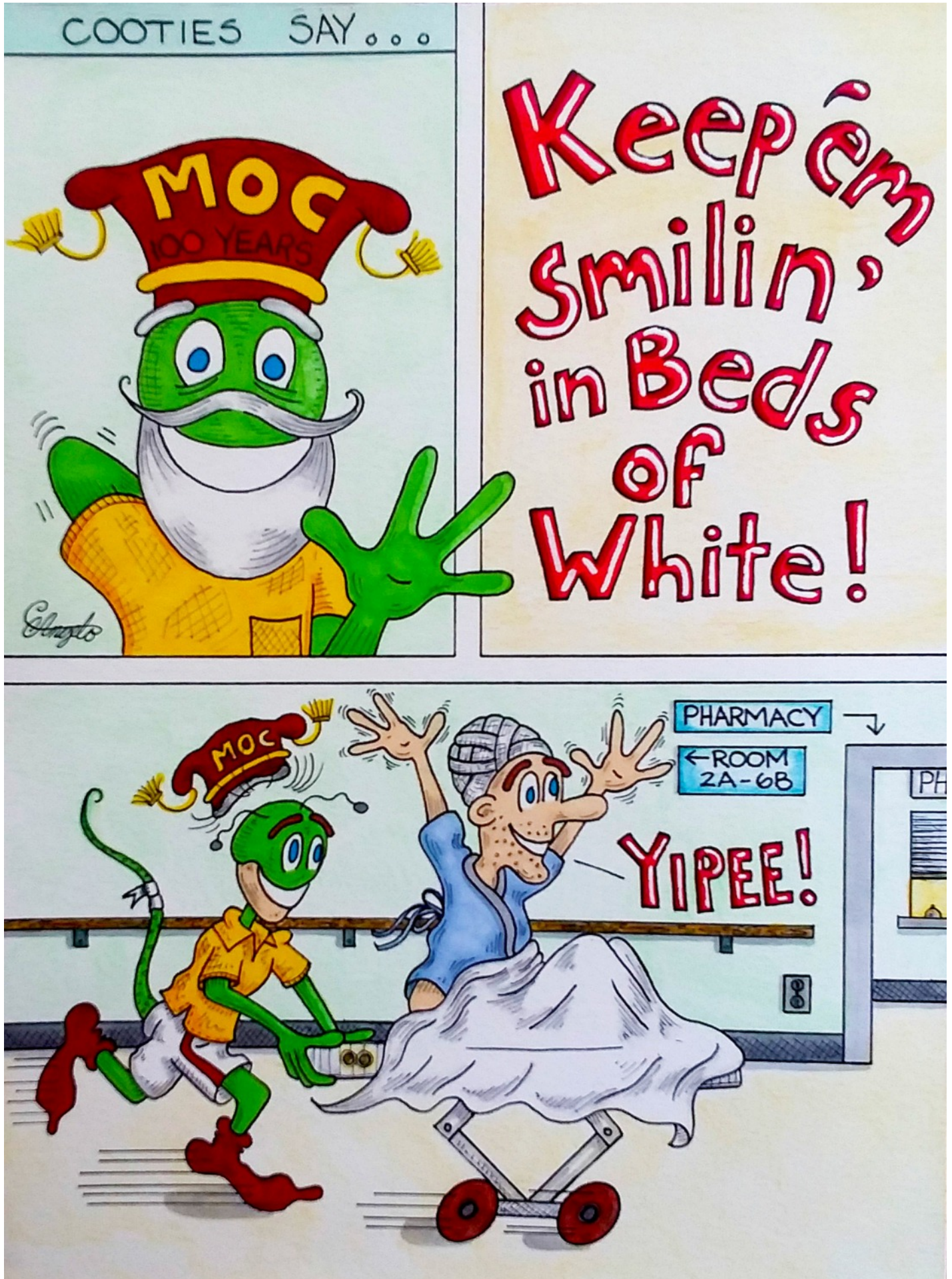
Seam Squirrel

Indy Racers - Pup Tent 11



# Military Order of the Cooties & Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary

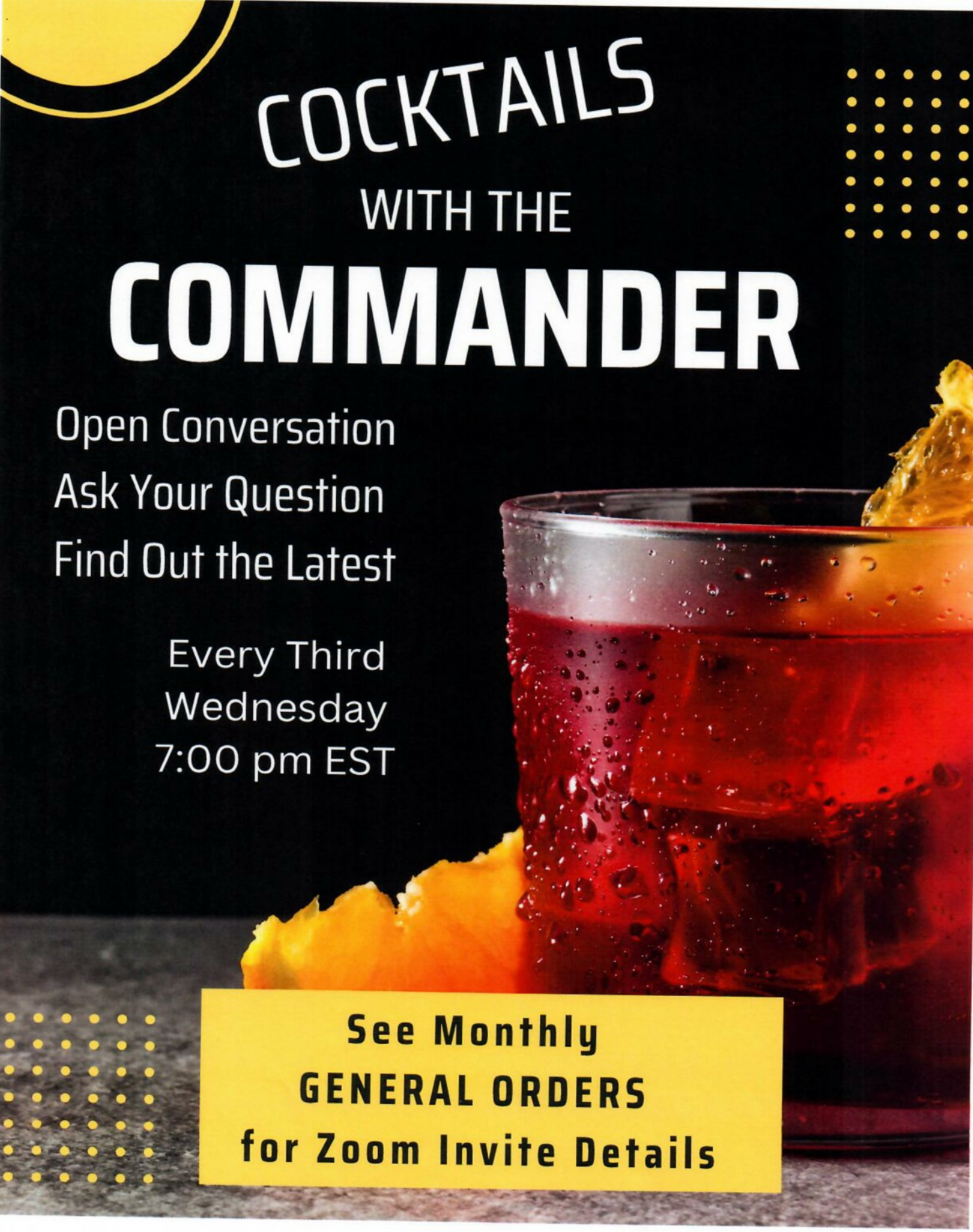




# SPRING CONFERENCE AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON







# COCKTAILS WITH THE COMMANDER

Open Conversation  
Ask Your Question  
Find Out the Latest

Every Third  
Wednesday  
7:00 pm EST

**See Monthly  
GENERAL ORDERS  
for Zoom Invite Details**

# KENNETH (KEN) A. LANGE

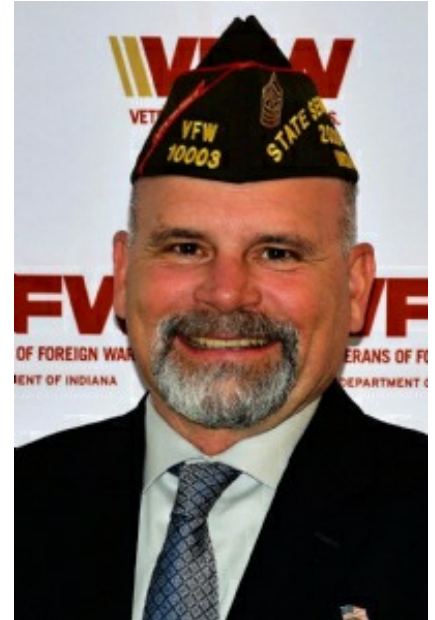
## Asking for YOUR Support for

# SURGEON

## VFW DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA 2024-25

### ELIGIBILITY:

- ❖ Desert Storm/Persian Gulf (Post), Yemen, Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan
- ❖ Retired U. S. Marine Corps Sergeant Major (Served close to 29 years from 1983-2012)
- ❖ GOLD LEGACY LIFE MEMBER of VFW Post 10003
- ❖ Life Member of the VFW National Home
- ❖ Member, Military Order of the COOTIE (MOC)



### VFW CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS/ROLES:

- Recipient of the:
  - DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA "DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER" LEADERSHIP AWARD 2023
- All American Post Commander 2022-2023
- All American Department Membership Chairman 2022-2023

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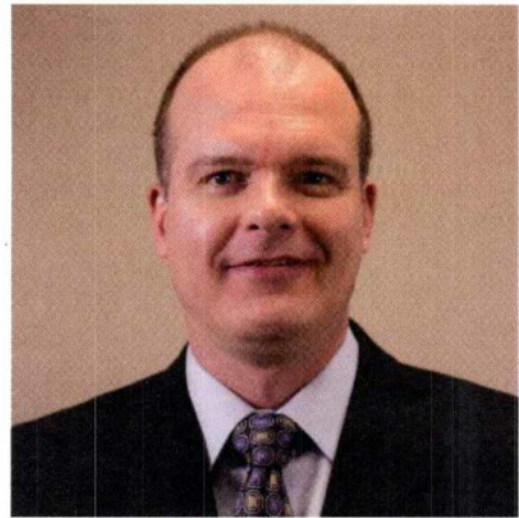
- Post Honor Guard Commander 2020-2023
- Current District 6 Commander
- Current Department Membership Chairman
- Department Sgt-at-Arms 2020-2023
- Department Iraq/Afghanistan Rep and Membership Team Leader (Central) 2021-2022
- Department Disciplinary Hearing Panel Member 2021 & 2023
- Department Finance Committee Member 2022-PRESENT
- VFW Certified National Recruiter 2023-PRESENT
- National Assistant Inspector General for the Department of Indiana 2021-2022
- National Convention, "General Resolutions" Council Member 2022
- National Convention, "National Security & Foreign Affairs" Council Member 2023
- National Aide-De-Camp 2022-2023

Feel free to contact me anytime at (317) 607-8894 or [kenlange64@yahoo.com](mailto:kenlange64@yahoo.com)

# CANDIDATE for QUARTERMASTER

## VFW DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA (2024-25)

- Served in the United States Navy from 1988 to 2023 (active duty and reserve)
- Earned initial VFW eligibility with VP-16 during former-Yugoslavia operations
- Additional eligibility while mobilized during Operation Enduring Freedom
- Joined VFW in 2018
- VFW Legacy Life member with Post 261 in Indianapolis
- All-State and All-American Post Quartermaster
- Served in Elected and Appointed positions at Post and Department levels
- National Deputy Chief of Staff (2023-24)



**Michael Jordan**

Cell: 317.828-0940

Email: MIKE@MBJ.US

### Advocating

- External Professionals for Tax Accounting and Investment Management
- Transparency and Oversight
- Training and Stability
- Sharing Best Practices to and from Posts and Districts

### Experience

- Current VFW Post 261 Quartermaster
- Treasurer for multiple Veteran and Community non-profit organizations
- Mess Treasurer for Navy program-level Emergency Response units
- Founding Secretary-Treasurer for health services start-up company
- Graduate-level accounting, finance, and project management (MBA 2001)

VETERAN ACTIVE DUTY RESERVES GUARD



# INDY SILKIES HIKE

## INDIANA WAR MEMORIAL

431 N Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204



**JULY 27, 2024**  
**0800 Registration**



**EVENT LINK**



**FACEBOOK**

**WE BRING VETERANS TOGETHER  
USING HUMOR AND CAMARADERIE  
TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH  
AND PREVENT VETERAN SUICIDE**

**WWW.IRREVERENTWARRIORS.COM**

# DISTRICT 5



Dist 5 VOD, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the year celebration



# DISTRICT 6



Dist 6  
VOD,  
Patriots Pen  
and Teacher  
of the year  
celebration



# DISTRICT 7



"Vietnam Vets" are, left to right: TSGT Roger Cox Sr (USAF); EM3 Tony Potts (USN); SSGT Mike Hill (USAR); SPC Greg Purcell (USAR); MSG Pete Occhialinei (USAR); RM3 Gary Jones (USN); SSG Charles Gilkey (USAR); and SGT James

"Mike Hill aisle" is SSG Mike Hill, Army



"Roger Cox Sr aisle" is TSGT Roger Cox, Sr., Air Force

Cissel-Jackman Post #3321

March 29<sup>th</sup> is National Vietnam Veterans Day. In honor of this holiday, VFW Post #3321 partnered with American Legion Post #121 in Washington, Indiana, to honor and welcome home local Vietnam Veterans. The ceremony was conducted on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, by the VFW and hosted at the American Legion's facility. Members of both organizations assisted with the ceremony.

The short ceremony was held welcoming each Vietnam Veteran home by calling them by name and rank. Each veteran proceeded through an "Aisle of Honor" comprised of crossed sabers provided by the Washington High School's Naval Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps cadets. Each veteran was welcomed home with cheers and shouts of adoration from the crowd.

These heroes were reminded of some positives that have come from their service and in memory of their comrades who have never made it home, a POW/MIA table ceremony was performed to end the service. The ceremony concluded with a 21-gun salute and TAPS.

Following the ceremony, all veterans and attendees were treated to a full meal.

# DISTRICT 11



Post 1587 Auxiliary purchased & donated 116 Patriotic Books to 58 Speedway Elementary classrooms



Vietnam War Veterans Day event.





# DISTRICT II



Vietnam War Veterans event at Post 2839



ATTENTION VFW DISK GOLF is now at Ft. Harrison VFW Post 7119, come out and play. Great opportunity for all. Great therapy for all.



# TAPS



- District 1 Jerry Eddy | Post 6448 | 1/19/2024**
- District 5 Richard L Umbarger | Post 1152 | 1/2/2024**
- District 5 Donald Heinmiller | Post 1152 | 1/25/2024**
- District 5 William B Borden | Post 1152 | 1/24/2024**
- District 5 Chester "Bud" Landis | Post 1152 | 2/23/2024**
- District 5 Jack L Doty | Post 1152 | 4/21/2024**
- District 8 Ernest L Emily | Post 2950 | 1/20/2024**
- District 8 James Voelker (PDC 92-93) | Post 1114 | 4/15/2024**
- District 9 Russell E White | Post 2021 | 1/18/2024**
- District 9 Morris W Goodwin | Post 2021 | 12/19/2023**
- District 10 Robert L Ross | Post 1108 | 4/08/2024**
- District 10 Byron Wadsworth | Post 1108 | 3/25/2024**
- District 10 Catherine V Rutherford | Post 1108 | 3/28/2024**
- District 10 William F Deiwert Jr | Post 2695 | 2/20/2024**
- District 10 Terry L Martin | Post 2695 | 12/18/2023**
- District 10 William R "Bill" Coffey | Post 2695 | 12/18/2023**
- District 10 Roy M Aldrich | Post 2695 | 9/22/2023**
- District 10 Elmer H Brattain | Post 2695 | 2/11/2024**
- District 10 Stephen Mitchell | Post 2695 | 2/9/2024**
- District 11 Russell M Deckard | Post 98 | 1/12/2024**
- District 11 John Meeks | Post 7119 | 1/20/2024**



**Deadline for the September 2024 Combat Veteran Newsletter  
is August 26th!!**

Let's share our special events to everyone! I will need all articles, pictures and special event fliers to me by **August 26, 2024** for our September 2024 Combat Veteran newsletter! As far as format goes, articles can be in Microsoft word, Email text or Adobe PDF file. Pictures should be in JPEG but I have a pretty large selection of photography programs so I should be able to accommodate most formats. Fliers can be in Word, PDF or any Photo format. Please submit the items for the Newsletter to me at: (**ljpatch@mail.com**) or send to me at 9034 Eiderdown Way, Indianapolis, IN 46234. If you have any questions please Email me or call me (317)450-9408.

Yours in LOTCS,

*Larry J Patch*

Larry J Patch

Combat Veteran Editor



# MILITARY HUMOR

**Why you must be specific  
with Veterans Dads.**

**Daughter: "I'm having problems  
with this guy."**

**Me: "Like his body wont fit in a  
duffel bag problems or you like  
him problems?"**

**Daughter: "MOM!"**



# SOME SAY THEY'VE GOT YOUR BACK. WE PROVE IT.

## HERE ARE JUST A FEW WAYS:

- Hosting service members and their families at morale-boosting events
- Providing vital financial assistance to military families in need
- Helping veterans recoup their earned benefits from the VA
- Granting scholarships to student veterans for higher education
- Testifying on Capitol Hill, leading the way for veterans legislation
- Standing at the forefront in the battle

## FOR VETERANS.®

# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

The approval of the Department of Justice (DOJ) visual information does not imply or constitute DOJ endorsement.