

# Arkansas Chronicles

## September 2024

**ALL GENERAL ORDERS MUST BE READ AT POST MEETINGS AND FILED FOR FUTURE REFERENCE, PER THE STATE COMMANDER**

### **Current Membership**

**5.79%**

### **Commander Tate's Notes**

My fellow Comrades,

Now that we are in the Essay/Scholarship Program season, let us remember that it is all about the Students. Let's make it happen for them!

Let's also keep in mind that we need to get out there and Recruit. Recruiting is important because our membership is important for our State to compete with other states. If you need help recruiting, we have something in place for that too. Our Membership Chairman, Darrell Darner, is only a phone call away to assist your District or Post. Don't ever forget how hard it was to lead the Nation in Membership percentage, but let's keep it going strong. The life memberships will be added to the National Veterans of Foreign Wars numbers shortly and will reflect how hard we have to work to make our goals and beyond.

District Commanders, continue to encourage the Post Commanders, by continuing to provide guidance and support as mentors. If you don't know, always be truthful and let them know that you will reference it and get back to them later. If you don't know, reach out to someone in higher Leadership that can get you the correct answers.

Please remember that there will be challenges each month from Myself and also your Leadership Team. These Challenges will include incentives to encourage you with the opportunity for all Posts and Districts to reach our goals for Success.

Let's always have fun doing this and Always remember that we are always here for you. Call us if you need us and always remember that we are: #FightingForOurVeteranCommunities...

~Commander Elvin Tate

### **Senior Vice Commander's Notes**

In some of our VFW's we have one of the biggest force multipliers, our Auxiliary. When working together with the Post towards one goal, helping veterans, they are unstoppable. As Post Commander you have to understand that you do not have operational control over the Auxiliary. You should work together with the President to achieve the one goal. You should never boss them around or try to tell them what to do. Also remember, if you are having problems with them, please use the chain of command and talk to your District Commander. Remember that when working together everything you do will come easier.

~SVC Wood

## Judge Advocate's Notes

### Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure

Sec. 218 - Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations.

(a) Officers.

(1) Commander. Among the duties of a Post Commander, the Commander shall:

a. Preside at all meetings of the Post, conducting such meetings in accordance with Article X of the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure and other applicable parliamentary rules.

b. Enforce strict observance of the laws and usages of this organization, including Post, County Council (if applicable), District and Department Bylaws and the Congressional Charter, National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual and all lawful orders from proper authorities.

c. Insist that Post business and activities be conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation nor bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment upon the Post, its members or the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

d. Decide all questions of law and usage in the Post, subject to appeal pursuant to the Bylaws. e. Upon entering into office, appoint all other officers, committee chairmen and committees not otherwise provided for. The Commander may remove such appointed officers, committee chairmen and committees at their pleasure.

f. Approve all disbursements of funds properly authorized by the Post by use of voucher or payment order. g. Assure that the office of Quartermaster is bonded according to Section 703 of the Bylaws.

h. Assure that all dues and other monies due the National Headquarters and Department are forwarded promptly together with accurate reports and returns pertaining thereto. 74

i. Assure that all reports are correctly prepared and promptly forwarded, that all the business of the Post is handled with dispatch and that all necessary licenses and permits are obtained for proper operation. Ensure that a properly completed Report of Election of Officers for the ensuing year is submitted to Department and National Headquarters by June 1.

j. Assure that the Post Trustees have examined the books and records of the Post and prepared the Post Trustees Quarterly Report of Audit no later than the end of the month following the last day of each quarterly period.

**k. Assure that the Commander or their representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings and County Council meetings (if applicable). (see General Orders)**

l. Comply with and perform all of the duties required by the laws and usages of this organization, the provisions of these Bylaws, the Manual of Procedure and Ritual and Department, District, County Council (if applicable) or Post Bylaws pertaining to the duties and obligations of a Post Commander and lawful orders from proper authority and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

m. Be an ex-officio member of all committees.

~JA Ham

Edited 3 September 2024

## **Surgeon's Notes**

September is Suicide awareness month. Please continue doing your Buddy checks. They are very important. Pay attention to the following warning signs:

Here are some warning signs:

Withdrawing from friends, saying goodbye, giving away important items, or making a will.  
Taking dangerous risks such as driving extremely fast. Displaying extreme mood swings. Eating or sleeping more or less.

Remember, you are not alone. Never hesitate to reach out.

The suicide hotline is 988. Remember this number. You are important!

~SGN Powell

## **HOME COMING**

**OCTOBER 4-5, 2024**

**LOCATION: VFW POST 3543 – HEBER SPRINGS**

**Past State Commander Pipkin will be giving out the All-American Awards during lunch at Training on October 5, 2024**

**Please see the attachments at the back for more information**

## **STATE CONVENTION**

**JUNE 5 – 8, 2025**

**Embassy Suites Jonesboro**

Hospitality rooms will be limited. Any Post or District wanting a Hospitality room, please attend Homecoming to meet with Christine after lunch for a meeting regarding space.

## **Buddy Poppies**

The Buddy Poppies must be purchased through the Department Headquarters, and they must be paid for at the time of ordering. The cost for Legacy Poppies is \$145.00 per 500 and for Tin Poppies the cost is \$90 per 500. They usually ship the same week as ordered.

## COMMANDER'S AT ALL LEVELS

### PROGRAMS

Please pay Attention to the Department deadline dates.

Youth Programs – Terry Ham – 719-339-6390

Teacher of the Year – Chairman Johnson  
956-241-2633  
Deadline to Post 31 Oct 2024  
Deadline to Dept Chairman 15 Dec 2024

Voice of Democracy – Diana Rerucha  
870-680-2936  
Deadline to Post 31 Oct 2024  
Deadline to District Chairman 20 Nov 2024  
Deadline to Dept Chairman- 6 Dec 2024

All District Winners contact info to Dept by 3 Jan 2025 (no exceptions)

Patriots Pen - Marc Calcaterra  
501-606-3133  
Deadline to Post 31 Oct 2024  
Deadline to District Chairman 20 Nov 2024  
Deadline to Dept Chairman – 6 Dec 2024

All District Winners contact info to Dept by 3 Jan 2025 (no exceptions)

Public Servant – 1 Jan to Department Chairman

VFW Member of the Year – 28 Feb due to Department

JROTC Cadet of the Year Marc Calcaterra –  
479-531-8146  
28 March due to Dept Chairman

Scout of Year Terry Daniell  
870-230-2303  
Post forward to Department Chairman  
1 April 2025

VFW Member of the Year Michael Ritchey  
501-398-1677  
1 April to Department

VFW Employer of the Year - 28 March due to Department

Nick Bacon – Todd Willey  
479-857-6069  
1 March deadline to Dept Chairman

The Nick Bacon application is now posted on [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) under Programs. Please pay attention to the new due date, it is due to the Department by 01 March 2025.

Edited 3 September 2024

## **Gold Star Family Weekend**

The United States began observing Gold Star Mother's Day on the last Sunday of September, in 1936. Today the nation recognized the sacrifice that all Gold Star Family members make when a father, mother, brother, sister, son daughter, or other loved one dies in service to the nation. Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day is the last Sunday of September and Gold Star Spouses Day is April 5. This observation will be held September 29, 2024.

# **VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS GENERAL ORDERS**

**GENERAL ORDERS #3  
2024-2025 Series**

**SEPTEMBER 2024**

**General Orders will be read at all Post Meetings**

## **ALL MEMBERS**

### **Motions**

Sec. 100117 of our National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures. Once a motion is made and passed by the membership it is in effect until the motion is rescinded by membership. To rescind a motion a member who voted for the motion will have to bring it before the membership. After this a 2/3 vote of membership is required to rescind the motion.

### **National Dashboard change**

All Post and District leadership teams, to include Senior and Junior Vice Commanders, now have access to reports on the Dashboard through OMS. Please submit all program participation at this location. Vfw.org, on your main page under My VFW that is a training video for assistance.

### **Department Dashboard**

All community service must be entered through vfw.org. Your post should also be entering the VFW Auxiliary as well, be sure to pick the drop down and mark as Auxiliary. If you have not received training or need an account under members only, please contact the headquarters on Tuesday through Thursday.

### **Bonding**

Don't forget, Employee Bonds are due by 31 September. The rate for these is \$8 per thousand. The application can be found on vfw.org under resources, reports and forms.

### **Discipline of Members**

We often forget that as members we have rights, but we also have standards to conduct ourselves by. The purpose of this corporation is fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational: Often members need to be reminded of this. For this reason, our Bylaws and Manual of Procedures outline Discipline of Members in Sec 901. Section 902 governs Offenses, an offense that is so commonly abused is Sec 902, 6. Conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct unbecoming a member in their relations to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or other members. Please review these Sections and remind members at all levels.

## Removal of Officers

Removal and Vacancies of Elected Officers or Committee Members: Section 220 Of our National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures outline how to remove an officer for one of the two following reasons:

1. Absent themselves from two (2) consecutive meetings or who has
2. Failure to fulfill the duties of officer specified in Section 218 of the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

### Post Leadership

## ATTENTION POST COMMANDERS

Your attention is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990-T, where applicable. All Posts with gross income under \$50,000.00 must file Form 990N (e-postcard). **You must now file your 990 online at IRS.Gov.** FILING DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15th FOR ALL POSTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS. Ref.: Section 501(C) 19 of the IRS Code. Be reminded that the Department Headquarters does not do this task for post and/or districts, However, if you are not sure what to do, we will try and guide you.

**Post Commanders:** Section 218(a)(1)k states: Post Commander will assure that he or his representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings (if applicable). **Note:** For those Posts not able to attend the District, they are asked to forward a report of their Post activities to the District Commanders prior to the District meeting to keep the District Commander informed of your activities also assist him in preparation for upcoming Council of Administration meetings. When you or your Rep attend the District meeting, they should be going back to the post meeting and sharing this information with all members. Please, we need your help in keeping the communications flowing at all levels. (please see Judge Adv, Notes in the Chronicles for full duties)

Post Commanders are urged to start planning suitable programs for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedures). Show your Post Pride by taking part in a Parade. Distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a part of your Veterans Day activities.

### Department Business:

Suspension: None

**Please see [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) go to calendar for location and rep for all District meetings.**

**BY COMMAND OF**

**Elvin Tate  
State Commander**

**OFFICIAL**

**Christine Oldham  
State Adjutant**

# **TRAINING/HOMECOMING**

## **Commander Elvin Tate and President Becky Lamb**

When: October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Where: VFW Post 3543  
1989 Heber Springs Rd W  
Tumbling Shoals, AR 72581

### **ACTIVITIES**

#### **Friday, October 4, 2024**

Karaoke 8pm until midnight

#### **Saturday, October 5, 2024**

Training for VFW at VFW 3543 in Heber Springs - 9am  
(Auxiliary Training will take place at 9am at Quitman VFW Post 7514)

What is being Trained: Dashboard Training  
Officer Duties and Responsibilities  
Quartermaster Training  
Service Officer Training  
Suicide Prevention  
Life Legacy Training

Lunch will be: Cold cut sandwiches

#### **Fun and games will begin after lunch**

Dinner will be: Ribs and Chicken with sides (6pm)

Entertainment: Band starts at 9:00pm

Any extra Happenings: There will be a live auction, a silent auction  
Corn Hole, and Horse Shoes

An arm band will be given for Dinner and Band Entry.





Hotel options for VFW and Auxiliary Homecoming and Leadership  
October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

There are multiple hotels in Heber Springs to choose from. The block of rooms that have been set aside for Homecoming are located at the Quality Inn. The rate for the Quality Inn is \$80 per night and the block is set up for Friday and Saturday nights.

**Quality Inn (\$80/night) – Homecoming Rate**  
**3450 Highway 25 B**  
**Heber Springs, AR 72543**  
**501-362-1000**  
**6 minutes from Heber Springs VFW 3543 (3.3 miles)**  
**26 minutes from Quitman VFW Post 7514 (20 miles)**

These hotels are other options but we **do not** have a special rate with them:

Holiday Inn Express  
1350 Southridge Parkway  
Heber Springs, AR 72543  
501-887-9500  
7 minutes from Heber Springs VFW 3543 (4.6 miles)  
22 minutes from Quitman VFW 7514 (17 miles)

Oyo Hotel  
2322 AR-25 Bypass  
Heber Springs, AR 72543  
501-588-1986  
6 minutes from Heber Springs VFW 3543 (4.2 miles)  
27 minutes from Quitman VFW Post 7514 (18 miles)

Heber Springs Resort  
2949 AR-25 Bypass  
Heber Springs, AR 72543  
501-429-2144  
5 minutes from Heber Springs VFW 3543 (3.7 Miles)  
28 minutes from Quitman VFW Post 7514 (18 miles)

For Department President Becky's Project, Chairman Kimberly Davis

**(1)** Bring a Basket or container to Program Seminar, October 5, 9am to #7514 Quitman Post.

Chances will be sold before, during, and after "Program Seminar", but to be given away before you leave this VFW Post.



**"THEN"**

**(2)** There will be a Silent Auction at the #3543 Heber Springs Post (Tumbling Shoals) for the State Commander's and Department President' project.

- a. State Commander, Elvin will have a designated area
- b. Department President, Becky will have a designated area

This project will be closed by the discretion of the Commander and President.

**"THE REST OF THE STORY"**

**(3)** The Department President, Becky has to fulfill a Criteria on the Circle of Excellence Goals, she has to hold a **joint project** with the State Commander and **an additional project** for the National Scholarship program, during all day of this event.

- a. There will be "2 Special Baskets" for chances to be purchased, proceeds:
- b. Joint Project, split equally (TBD)
- c. National Scholarship, split equally