

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

GENERAL ORDERS #6
2021-2022 SERIES

DECEMBER 2021

THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL ORDERS IN JANUARY!!

Current membership: Department 78.64%

Mid-Winter

Time is now to make reservations for Mid-Winter. It is earlier than normal this year, January 14-15, 2022. It is being held at Airport Holiday Inn, 501-490-1000. Visit our web site vfwar.org under news – Mid-Winter you will be able to register and buy banquet tickets \$40.00 in advance \$45.00 at door.

Buddy Poppy Display Contest: The Buddy Poppy Display Contest will be Category 2 – any questions you may have regarding Buddy Poppies, please contact the Department Headquarters.

CATEGORY 2:

Memorial or Inspirational Displays

(Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes)

(a) Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy.

(b) At least one (1) of the poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached. Good Luck All

Youth Program Coordinator: Rodney Wood – 245 Swinging Bridge Road, Beebe, AR 72012, 501-658-5519, surgeon@vfwar.org

Voice of Democracy: Diana L. Rerucha – 19975 Legion Road, Harrisburg, AR 72432, 870-680-2936, srerucha@aol.com

Patriots Pin: Rodney Wood – 245 Swinging Bridge Road, Beebe, AR 72012, 501-658-5519, surgeon@vfwar.org

Teacher of the Year: change Jeffrey Byrd, 110 Lake Ct, Beebe, AR 72012, 501-743-5235 svc@vfwar.org

Deadline Dates: (VOD and PP):

1st Place District winners due to the Department Chairman December 13, 2021

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Program Chairmen. It is recommended that all VOD flash drive's or CD's are one entry per participant. Participants should be encouraged to record their scripts using professional equipment at radio stations.

Department Standings

District 1 – 89.10%	District 2 – 78.42%	District 4 – 86.83%	District 5 – 71.40%
District 6 – 76.69%	District 7 – 72.19%	District 9 – 81.31%	District 10 – 77.82%
District 13 – 76.27%			

Commanders, please review the criteria for eligibility for Post/District of the Quarter for end of month December.

Commander's Blog

With the new Membership year underway, Commander-In-Chief, Fritz Mihelcic, is asking post leadership to reach out and connect with their members.

“The days of being shut in are over,” “We ow have the ability to get out into the community, and that means getting back in touch with out members, Many posts stopped reaching out due to COVID, and we need to start calling on members to welcome them back into the fold.”

I encourage posts to look at who did not renew their dues last year, get in touch with them and find out why. Perhaps they lost their job and are worried about money. Or, maybe they didn't know the VFW was still meeting despite the Pandemic. Whatever the reason, now is the reason to get them back.

In addition to recruiting new members right now, let's get out there and contact our current and lapsed members and get them wanting to be a part of the VFW again.

“Let's work to retain and renew. Currently the Department is at 78.64%. Let's go Team Arkansas!

Senior Vice Commander

I know we're all looking forward to having a Merry Christmas with our loved ones in this season of giving. Best wishes for a joyous Christmas filled with love, happiness, and prosperity. Before we get to that though, please take the time to observe National Pearl Harbor Day on December 7th. In honor of the 2,403 killed and 1,178 injured on that infamous day, this is a good time to think of the hardships and ordeals endured by our service men and women every day and everywhere in the world.

THANK YOU to each and every member for everything you do! As always, I will continue to make myself available at any time to anyone who needs assistance. ARKANSAS STRONG!!

~SVC Byrd ~

Junior Vice Commander

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. With Christmas is just around the corner, this for sure is one of the hardest times for most. The gift of a VFW and/or its Auxiliary is a wonderful thing, it gives our members a safe place to reach out to. Remember if any post is struggling in any way, get in contact with us. The revitalization team is here to help in any way.

~JVC Pipkin ~

SURGEON

We have a lot going on this month. The weather is getting colder, the leaves on the trees are falling, Thanksgiving has passed and some will be decorating for Christmas. To protect against the cold, cleaning the leaves plus decorating, please listen to what your body is trying to tell you. This is what my doctor always tells me. Take breaks and try not to overdo it. During Christmas, remember to check on a buddy. Holidays are a stressful situation for Veterans and a thoughtful phone call may make a bigger difference in a person's life than you will ever know.

~Surgeon~

Chaplain

Luke Chapter 2

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

**"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"
~ May the true spirit of Christmas shine in your heart and light your path.
Blessings,**

~Chaplain Taylor~

From the Desk Of VSO

In May 2021 NDAA added three new presumptive to Agent Orange exposure: Bladder Cancer, Hyperthyroidism and Parkinsonism. A few months later, Particulate Matter Exposure added: Asthma, Rhinitis and Sinusitis for the Southwest Asia and certain other areas.

If you have filed for these and were turned down, file a 20-0995 supplemental claim. If you have not ever filed a claim, use form 20-526EZ to file a new claim.

~Robert Lafond~

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG ON DECEMBER 7

Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates December 7 as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" and requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day. To order a flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags>.

2019-2020 Commander's Project Update Complete

Thank you all who donated. As Past State Commander I am proud to say that my project has been completed. We are planning on doing a presentation on Memorial Day next year. Thank you all for your support.

PSC Beams

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW Patriot's Pen, VOD and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award recipients.

Membership

All Members: Commanders on all levels are reminded that according to Section 105 of the National By-Laws, a member whose dues are unpaid after their anniversary date ceases to be a member in good standing and loses all rights of membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They shall not attend meetings or conventions and shall not participate in Post, County Council, District, Department or National functions.

Post Commanders and District Commanders and inspecting officers

Your attention is directed to section 703 of the National By-Laws - Bonds. Each Accountable Officer of this organization shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable. Liquid assets are defined as cash on hand or in the bank and other negotiable instruments readily convertible into cash.

The attention of Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders is directed to Section 103 of the Manual of Procedure, which prescribes the manner in which applications for membership will be handled. Applications for membership of new, reinstated or transfer members must be voted on by the members present at a regular Post meeting.

Department Business:

Suspensions:

Post 4566 Wynne

Post 4449 Marianna

Post 5742 Cotter

BY COMMAND OF



Mark Davis
State Commander

OFFICIAL
Christine Oldham
State Adjutant