

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

GENERAL ORDERS #6
2020-2021 SERIES

DECEMBER 2020

Current membership: Department 84.54%

Department Standings Districts

89.98% - District 1 - Commander Toby
89.75% - District 4 – Commander Tate
89.62% - District 6 - Commander Bramlett
89.21% - District 2 - Commander Lowman
84.00% - District 9 - Commander Johnson
82.34% - District 7 – Commander Strange
80.87%- District 13 - Commander Callahan
78.47% District 10 - Commander Rhodes
74.94% - District 5 - Commander Wood

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

January General Orders will not be posted until January 12, 2020

Senior Vice Commander

Wishing you peace, joy and the best this wonderful holiday has to offer. May this incredible time of giving and spending time with family and friends bring you joy that lasts throughout the year. God Bless and Be Safe. From my family to yours, Merry Christmas! Keep up the great work, Team Arkansas!

Senior-Vice Commander Mark Davis

Junior Vice Commander

I think as we grow older, our Christmas list gets smaller and the things we really want for Christmas can't be bought. So I want to thank each and every one for your cooperation this year. I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Junior-Vice Commander Justin Farrar

Chaplain

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”. Isaiah 9:6. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Chaplain Tanya Taylor

Judge Advocate

Buddy Check! Buddy Check! Buddy Check! This month is critical that we check up on our extended families! It is the perfect opportunity to check in on a comrade you haven't heard from in a while. What better gift this holiday season than to assist an annual member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars with their dues!

Thank you to each and every member for everything you do! I will continue to make myself available at any time to anyone who needs assistance. Wishing you all the happiest of holidays! ARKANSAS STRONG!!

Judge Advocate Jeffrey Byrd

SURGEON

The holidays are hard on some of our members and this is a good time to check up on them all. It is important to share the Veterans crisis line 1-800-273-8255 and press 1. The new mandates that have come from the governor may put a strain on some post, just remember that we are all in this together. If we follow the guidelines, maybe one day soon we can get back to some sense of normal. Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year.

Surgeon Teddy Pipkin

Mid-Winter

Due to the current Pandemic, the hotel for our Mid-Winter scheduled for Jan 22-23 has been cancelled. Commander Barnes is waiting until the beginning of January to see if we will have a Council meeting at the Headquarters or not. In the January General Orders, we will publish how we will notify the children and membership of the winners of the VOD and PP essay contest. Department will also post this information on our Web site.

PROGRAMS

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Deadlines are fast approaching.... Get them to the department chairmen quickly as possible.... If any questions, contact Youth Programs Chairman, Teddy Pipkin.

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

Thank you to all that have donated to this memorial project. As of now, I am working with the artist to scale the project toward the amount donated for that purpose. The statue will not be as large as I anticipated, but the project will move forward. The "Claimed" statue will be created to fit a pedestal and be able to be displayed at the cemetery, Capitol, or in a museum as needed. The progress has been slow going given the conditions. I expect some results by late January or early February. Thank you for all you do for veterans, current and passed.

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 Bylaws, 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.

Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members

Vacancies: All vacancies occurring in the elected offices of the Post shall be filled in accordance with Section 220 of the Manual of Procedure at the next regular or special meeting as prescribed in Section 203 of the Manual of Procedure.

Removal: Elected officers or elected committee members may be removed for just cause by the Post or the Department Commander as prescribed in Section 220 of the Manual of Procedure. Any elected Post officer or committee member removed, by reason of failure to pay current dues or under the provisions of this section shall not be eligible to serve in any Post office or committee in the same administrative year in which the officer or committee member is removed.

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:
NONE

BY COMMAND OF

Don Barnes

**Don Barnes
State Commander**

OFFICIAL

Christine Oldham

**Christine Oldham
State Adjutant**