

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

GENERAL ORDERS #5
2020-2021 SERIES

NOVEMBER 2020

Department 81.01%

**Department Standing
Districts**

87.45%	District 6	Commander Bramlett
87.26%	District 4	Commander Tate
85.94%	District 1	Commander Tobey
85.30%	District 2	Commander Lowman
81.39%	District 9	Commander Johnson
80.28%	District 7	Commander Strange
78.45%	District 13	Commander Callahan
77.13%	District 10	Commander Rhodes
65.55%	District 5	Commander Wood

Top 5 Post

127.77%	Post 4679	Harrisburg	Commander Palmer
115.15%	Post 4764	Clinton	Commander Bramlett
103.57%	Post 8532	Coal Hill	Commander Dahlem
100.00%	Post 3252	Marshall	Commander Blough
98.00%	Post 9834	Decatur	Commander Carnahan

Bottom 5 Post

40.47%	District 5	Post 4501	Batesville
47.36%	District 10	Post 2746	Star City
51.61%	District 10	Post 4564	Warren
52.59%	District 5	Post 7769	Beebe
60.84%	District 5	Post 2330	Searcy

Above listed percentages are from 30 October 2020

Awards for 1st Quarter July – September 2020

Post of the Quarter

Post 4764: Choctaw Post: Commander Bramlett

District of the Quarter

District 6: Commander Bramlett

Commander-in-Chief

For this month's Commander's Challenge, the top Post in each Division with the highest increase in total membership percentage between November 1st and November 30th will receive a \$1000 stipend deposited into the Post account. We want our Posts to show that they're reaching out to the community via social media. If the top Post in the Division also shares this post from the official VFW Membership Facebook page (@VFWMembershipHQ) on their Post's Facebook page, they will receive an extra \$200 on top of the \$1000 stipend! We want to see our Posts reaching out through every available avenue, to show that we are an active and progressive organization that has **20/20 VISION FOR VETERANS!**

Senior Vice Commanders Notes

We have a long and proud history, let us continue to grow our membership, enhance our programs, and make sure that the veteran and military communities know firsthand that the Department of Arkansas will continue to be unparalleled in our support for them and their families. We are a membership driven organization and without our members to administer the programs of the VFW, we will simply cease to exist. I challenge each of you reading this to go out and prove why we are, who we are. We need to recruit new members and mentor them in what it takes to maintain the continued excellence that Team Arkansas has shown for years.

~SVC Davis

Junior Vice Commanders Notes

Some District Commanders are not reading their minutes at their respective District Meetings, in an attempt to "shorten" the length of the meeting. All minutes should be read aloud to the members present. Reference SEC 1003 – Order of Business- Districts: #4 of the Manual of Procedure (pg 112). It states "Read minutes of last meeting". If the minutes are not going to be read, it is the responsibility of the District Commander to make enough copies to have ON-HAND to pass out to EVERY MEMBER present at their District Meeting. It is also a courtesy and gives knowledge to the Department Representative as so that they may be able to give advice and guidance to the District and/or Post if there are any issues being faced. Also, all General Orders are to be read, acted upon and posted/filed for future reference. Remember comrades, the Department is here to help and we can't help if we do not know what is going on in the Districts or Posts.

~ JVC Farrar

Judge Advocate Notes

As we approach our local, state, and national elections I thought it might be a good time to take a look at Sec 702 - Politics (pg 38) in the Manual of Procedure. It states that: "No officer or member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall in any manner use the Veterans of Foreign Wars for partisan politics and no discussion of partisan questions shall be permitted at any meetings nor shall any nominations, recommendations or endorsements for political office be made, provided this shall not apply to discussion of policies of any organization that seeks to alter our present form of government by force, violence or other unlawful means. Participation in activities supporting or opposing legislation or administration of laws for veteran's welfare or relating to other matters pertaining to the purposes of the organization shall be permitted. Such participation shall be consistent with the legislative and welfare programs and policies approved by the

National Convention." Thank you to each and every member for everything you do! I will continue make myself available at any time to anyone who needs assistance. ARKANSAS STRONG!!

~**Judge Advocate Byrd**

Surgeons Notes

The flu season is here, so make sure you get your flu shot. The VA has drive thru flu clinics set up. We are still in a pandemic so please wear your face covers. The holiday seasons are approaching so everyone please practice safe travels.

~**Surgeon Pipkin**

Chaplains Notes
(see attachment at bottom of GOs)

Mid-Winter Conference

The leadership on both levels is strongly reviewing this year's Mid-Winter Conference. We will be making a decision no later than 1 December 2020 to see if we will be conducting a full conference with meetings and our youth. Please watch our web site for further instructions.

Buddy Poppy Display Contest: Regardless if we have a Conference or not, there will still be a Buddy Poppy Display Contest.

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

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY and PATRIOT'S PEN DEADLINES:

31 October 2020: Student entries to Post
15 November 2020: Post judging deadline

Post should contact District Chairmen to get entries deadlines to District

15 December 2020: District judging deadline
20 December 2020: District Winners submitted to Department Chairmen

Call Chairman Teddy Pipkin if there is any questions
(Contact info located on Dept. website www.vfwar.org)

Washington DC Parade of Winners

Due to the current pandemic the parade of winners for March for the Department VOD winners has been cancelled, National is working on an alternate plan.

SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

Just a few things to remember when judging entries:

Post Level

Ensure that the application is *completely* filled out. The student and parent/guardian contact information should be complete and legible and that the application is signed by the Student Participant.

The Posts must complete the section on the application to include the number of participants that competed at their level AND the number that they advanced to the District level AND amount of money that the Post have awarded to the students that participated in this program.

Ensure that there is a photograph of the student; a head and shoulder/bust photo of high quality. We ask that it **NOT** been printed out on bond paper.

District Level

All of the above applies

At the District level we ask that you complete the Report Form and Participation Report. Both of these forms have been provided to the District Commanders. These forms can be found on the department web page, www.vfwar.org

We ask for a complete package when forwarding these entries to the next level. This makes it so much easier for everyone reporting the information up to ensure that everyone received the credit that they deserve. It is much more difficult to go back and try to fill in the blanks at a later date. It is for these reasons we ask that everyone take the time to ensure that the applications are complete from the start.

Veterans Day Event

The ceremony will be held at 10 a.m., Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at MacArthur Park in front of the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History, 503 East 9th Street, Little Rock, AR 72202. COVID screening and guidelines will be followed.

BURGER KING FRANCHISEE OWNED RESTAURANTS SUPPORTING UNMET NEEDS IN NOVEMBER

The VFW Foundation is proud to announce that for the eleventh consecutive year throughout the month of November participating Burger King (BK) Franchisee Owned restaurants across nearly 40 states will be raising funds for the Unmet Needs program. Since 2007, BK restaurants have contributed over \$3.84 million for the program. BK customers are encouraged to donate \$1 or more as they purchase food. Proceeds will help

veterans and military families with assistance for rent, mortgage, utilities, medical expenses, vehicle repairs, and food or basic necessities.

We ask that you mobilize Post members, their families and friends to patronize their local Burger King and to thank the restaurant manager for his/her commitment. Also, be sure to publicize the campaign by mentioning Burger King on VFW Post websites, message boards outside Post buildings, newsletters, or ask members to organize a BK food night-out. It's only natural that VFW members would support Burger King Franchisee Owners who strongly believe in patriotism by actively assisting U.S. military service personnel.

Membership

All Members: Members are reminded that under the new subscription dues plan, an annual members dues expire on the last day of their anniversary month. Annual members are encouraged to renew their dues prior to their anniversary date to avoid a lapse in continuous membership. Officers and committee members, whose membership is not in good standing by reason to pay current dues by their anniversary date, shall forfeit eligibility to hold any office the remainder of the administrative year. In addition, every effort should be made to renew the membership of continuous members and sign up new and recover former members at all times during the year

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.

Post Commanders

Use of Seals, Emblems, Badges, Insignia and Uniforms: Sec. 803 - Manufacture and Use of Seals, Emblems, Badges, Insignia and Uniforms. The seals, uniforms, emblems, badges and insignia of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, or goods bearing same, shall be manufactured only on order of or with the express written consent of the Quartermaster General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Such written consent shall be the sole discretion of the Quartermaster General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States unless otherwise directed by the Commander-in-Chief, the National Council of Administration, or National Convention. No subordinate unit, member or person shall engage, by contract or otherwise, for the manufacture of such seals, uniforms, badges, emblems or insignia, or goods bearing same, unless such written consent has been obtained. No person shall be entitled to use or wear any seal, emblem, badge, insignia, or uniform of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States unless a member in good standing or unless such written consent has been obtained. No member or other person shall use or wear any seal, emblem, badge, insignia or uniform of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States while engaged in any commercial or political activity in such a manner as likely to falsely convey that such activity is approved or endorsed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The design of seals, uniforms, emblems, badges and insignia and goods and services using such seals, uniforms, badges, emblems or insignia shall be as provided in the Manual of Procedure. Ownership of all seals, badges, emblems and insignia shall remain vested in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the right to use or wear such seals, badges, emblems, insignia or uniforms shall be a license only which shall be automatically revoked when such person ceases to be a member or authorization is revoked.

Membership: Is directed to section 103, Manual of Procedure, which prescribes the manner in which applications for membership will be handled. Applications for membership of new, reinstating or transfer members must be voted on by the members present at a regular Post meeting. No Post, County Council, District, Department or National officer, or any other member, has authority to reject the application card of a person who is eligible for membership.

BY COMMAND OF

Don Barnes

**Don Barnes
State Commander**

OFFICIAL

Christine Oldham

**Christine Oldham
State Adjutant**



Greetings Comrades ~

Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's Veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Here's some history on how and why we celebrate Veterans Day on November 11 at 11am.....

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American Veterans of all wars.

Why is history important? So we can always remember – the good and the bad – and look at what we have accomplished when we work together, and assess how we can improve.

Take note that it was after the Korean War, “at the urging of veterans service organizations,” that Congress amended the Act of 1938, with the approval of Legislation to change the name to “Veterans Day.” Numbers do count and have influence.

Also, take note that in 1926, it was recognized in our government that November 11 “*should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer...*”

It is my prayer that we, as Veterans, stand unified and strong. That we continue to grow in the knowledge, love, and saving Grace of Jesus Christ. That we never forget where we came from, and we continue to fight for the freedoms and liberties that our great nation was founded upon. I'm grateful for each and every one of you.

God bless,

Tanya Taylor

Tanya Taylor,

AR VFW State Chaplain

