

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

**GENERAL ORDERS #3  
2020-2021 Series**

**SEPTEMBER 2020**

## **Commander's Note**

TEAM ARKANSAS.... Good job on membership so far, especially with our annual members. Let us all keep driving forward and focusing on becoming the best post, district and department that we strive to be. As we know, Life Membership will be posted by 10 September. My goal is that the department be at 100% by January. Also, remember we will be having training 2-3 Oct (watch web site for agenda) prior to the Commander's / President's homecoming on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Senior Vice Commander's Note**

We come into this world knowing from the very day we were born; we are constantly learning from others who wish to see us succeed. This is a concept of mentoring. Which is an ongoing process that enables us to make rational decisions, become better leaders and achieve success in whatever it is we wish to accomplish in our lifetimes. Whether belonging to the VFW or the Auxiliary, mentoring should be a high priority for all members.

SVC, Mark Davis

## **Junior Vice Commander's Note**

Comrades, our Nation was changed forever on September 11, 2001. It has been 19 years since two planes struck the World Trade Center in New York City, one plane striking the Pentagon and one fateful crash in a field in Pennsylvania. That day, which serves as a true test to the American spirit, will forever be remembered. So, on September 11, we observe Patriot Day and all it represents. We honor the value of life, our country's resilience, and the strength of the American spirit. Hold on to your families and love them each day and remember the emergency personnel who are the real heroes who sacrificed their all in the attempt to rescue all that were lost.

JVC, Justin Farrar

## **Judge Advocate's Note**

Reminder to all about the 2 membership challenges...Any annual member who pays their dues between 1 July and 1 October will automatically be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Visa gift card. 5 winners to be drawn at the Homecoming on 3 October. Also the first 2 post commanders to reach 100% (minimum 50 members) will receive a \$25 gift card to Texas Roadhouse. The Department A-TEAM and myself stand ready and able to assist you all in meeting your membership goals for this year! Thank you for all that you do and for the hospitality you have shown in my travels. Looking forward to seeing you all very soon. ARKANSAS STRONG!!

Judge Advocate, Jeffrey Byrd

## **Surgeon's Note**

My fellow members it is that time of the year again time to get those flu shots, you can find drive thru flu clinics from your local VA clinics and centers. Call ahead for dates and times. The National Parks services just turned 104 years old. With that being said, get out and take a walk or a hike today. It is great for your mental health. Never forget if you are down and depressed or just need someone to talk too there are resources out there for you. You can call the Veterans Crisis line @ 1-800-273-8255 and press 1 or text 838255.

Surgeon, Teddy A. Pipkin

## Chaplain's Note

On September 11, 2001, 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group Al Qaeda hijacked four airplanes and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States. Two of the planes were flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third plane hit the Pentagon just outside Washington, D.C., and the fourth plane crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Tragically, 2,977 people were killed during the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which triggered major U.S. initiatives to combat terrorism.

President George W. Bush proclaimed, "Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve."

Comrades, as we move into the month of September, may we be especially mindful of what exactly our great nation has endured – and has overcome with the Grace and Blessings of God!

Guide us as a nation, Lord, and bring us your grace to hear the small voice of the one crying in the wilderness. Bring those who are suffering Your comfort in our embrace. We ask this in Jesus Name, **Amen.**

God Bless,  
Tanya Taylor, AR State Chaplain

## COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT'S HOMECOMING FALL Council Meeting

This year the Commanders and Presidents homecoming is combined. It will be at Airport Holiday Inn, Council of Administrations meeting will be Saturday 3 October at 8 am. Remember ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS the dress code will be business attire. This means jackets are required. All guest, business casual will be appropriate. The homecoming celebration will be at approx. 5 pm.

## Training

This year the Department is sponsoring the **ADVA** Service Officer training, so we are hoping that as a Post service officer you would try and attend as well. Service Officer training 30 at 1 pm till Friday October 2 at approx. noon. We will do Department training from 1pm Friday and from 9:30 till 4 on Saturday. IRS and Advanced Quartermaster on Friday and on Saturday working on a Rep from National coming in for recruiting training and Adjutant and Quartermaster training. Agenda is attached please watch our web site for a more detailed or refined one. It is subject to change. (both due to COVID and current needs)

## COMMANDERS AT ALL LEVELS

### PROGRAMS

Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2020-2021 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, "Buddy"® Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual. It is going to take some thinking outside the box to fulfill these requirements this year. Please pay Attention to the Department deadline dates.

Youth Programs – Teddy Pipkin – 501-827-6544

Chairman: Teacher of the Year – Matthew Hicks – 479-650-6551

Voice of Democracy – Teddy Pipkin – 501-827-6544

Patriots Pen – Rodney Wood – 501-658-5516

### ALL MEMBERS

### Post By-Laws

**POST BYLAWS:** Every Post operating any type of activity, particularly a canteen, should adopt Post By-Laws. Unfortunately, a relatively small number of Posts have done so. Few have complied with Section 202 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure which requires that such By-Laws be submitted to the State Commander and Commander-in-Chief for review. By-Laws will save many hours of argument and remove causes for misunderstanding and dissension. Remember that all actions of a Post shall be subject to ratification by vote of its members at a regular post meeting.

*You can't climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets.*

## 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.

## Dashboard

All Post and District Adjutants now have obligations on 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.

## 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 By-Laws, 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.

## Post Leadership

## POW/MIA DAY

POW/MIA Day September 18, 2020

A day of remembrance and hope for the speedy and safe return of American Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action. It also seeks the return of the remains of Fallen Service Members and honors our former Prisoners of War, those still Missing in Action, and their families.

## 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). Forms may be obtained from your local branch office of the Internal Revenue Service, Department Headquarters or on line 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 assist several posts with this task. If you are not sure if we do, just give us a call.

**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.

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.

## **National Home**

We are encouraging each Post to conduct a Buddy Poppy Drive, and a portion of the proceeds be considered going to the National Home.

National Home Chairman Mark Davis

Department Business: Post 7514 – Suspended – Quitman Post, District 5

Important Dates:

We will no longer hold a VFW Christmas Open House, instead we are concentrating on Veterans home in the State. Please watch for more details in the future, Start gathering gifts and we will get together all over the state on one day and present them.

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

**BY COMMAND OF**

**Don Barnes  
State Commander**

**OFFICIAL**

**Christine Oldham  
State Adjutant**