

ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

December 2025

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

There will be no January General Orders

The Department will be closed 21 December – 2 January for the Holiday's

Current membership: Department 80.52%

Department Standings

Current District Standings 11-24-25

District 6	93.38%
District 7	92.53%
District 2	88%
District 9	87.37%
District 4	78.68%
District 10	75.88%
District 1	74.57%
District 13	72.73%
District 5	72.64%

Commanders, please review the criteria for eligibility for Post/District of the Quarter for the end of the month of December. Announcements will be made at the Mid-Winter Council Meeting.

Mid-Winter

The time is now to make your reservations for Mid-Winter. The dates are February 6-7, 2026 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Little Rock. You can call 501-372-4371 to make your hotel reservations. Visit our web site vfwar.org under News – Mid-Winter for registration information. The Agenda is attached.

Buddy Poppy Display Contest: The Buddy Poppy Display Contest will be **Category 2** (Memorial or Inspirational Displays) – 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.

Commander's Notes

We are moving into the holiday months and as we all know this can be a very stressful time for so many of us. We have the pressure of family and friends. We will be spending a lot of time with them. A lot of times this becomes overwhelming, if this happens please take a minute to yourself. It is always better to just walk away for minute to reset your mental well-being. Also please make sure to check on your members because we do not want to lose anyone during this time.

I want to take a moment and touch on membership. We have finally broken the 80% mark and are working towards our goal. Remember that until Christmas if you go through the Department to renew a member you will only be charged \$22. This will save you \$5 for each member you renew. I know this does not seem like much but for most our Posts every dollar saved means you can spend that dollar on a veteran. You know your members so if you have a member who is financially strapped you can use your Buddy Poppy (relief) fund to renew their membership helping them out.

Finally and most importantly I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

~Commander Wood

Senior Vice Commander 's Notes

The Teacher of the Year is a program where we recognize outstanding educators who inspire patriotism and community service. It's awesome to think how these teachers impact their students. Remember Teacher of the Year nominees are due to your Department Chairman by December 15. That person is me so please either email or mail them to me. My address is 146 Hilydily Ln, Mena AR 71953. My email address is gijanejohnson@gmail.com.

Christmas and New Year's Day is coming soon. These are two holidays that bring people together. Christmas brings family and friends together to celebrate the birth of a baby. New Year's Day is more about looking forward to a new year and making resolutions. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone!

Thanks for being a member of the VFW and your hard work! Let's continue to make this a great year for Commander Rodney Wood.

~SVC Johnson

Jr Vice Commander's Notes

First thing is first. Happy Holidays to each and everyone. This may be a late notice but I wanted to remind everyone that the cold days are about to start approaching us and the Holidays have begun. If you heat with wood in your homes, remember to inspect and clean your chimneys for safe use. If you like to deep fry turkeys and other meats like I do, then please do it safely and make sure you have proper safety equipment handy just in case of an accident. Always remember to do Buddy Checks and have a wonderful safe and happy holiday.

~JVC Ham

Judge Advocate's Notes

This month we are going to discuss Electronic Attendance at meetings.

The ability to use electronic attendance offers VFW entities greater flexibility, helping to ensure that membership remains engaged and the business of the organization can continue even when physical attendance is difficult.

Electronic Attendance. Regular, Special, and Committee meetings may be conducted or attended electronically that allows participating members to communicate with each other simultaneously. When members attend electronically, this counts towards the Quorum.

The VFW National Bylaws permit Posts, Districts, and Departments to use **electronic attendance** (e.g., video/teleconference) for meetings, subject to strict requirements:

- **Local Adoption Required:** The Post/District/Department **must adopt its own specific written procedures** for conducting electronic meetings.
- **Simultaneous Communication:** The technology used **must allow all participants to communicate with each other simultaneously** (speak and hear).
- **Full Rights:** Members attending electronically **count toward the quorum** and retain **full voting rights** and the right to a voice in discussions.
- **Verification:** Procedures must be in place to **verify the good standing** of electronic attendees. This provision offers flexibility but requires local planning to ensure the integrity and accessibility of the meeting.

For further information regarding electronic attendance, please see National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures Sections: 203, 403, and 503.

From my family to yours, wishing you all a very happy and safe holiday season.

~JA Powell

Surgeon's Notes

As the holiday season approaches, I would like to bring several health concerns to everyone's attention. The fluctuating weather can cause cold and flu symptoms, and neglecting these symptoms may lead to complications such as walking pneumonia. While shopping, please utilize hand sanitizer or wipes when handling shopping carts and items in stores. Additionally, be aware that heartburn-like symptoms after consuming large meals may not be solely attributed to heartburn, but could potentially indicate underlying heart issues, so it is essential not to disregard unusual symptoms. The holiday season's increased activities, abundant food, and family gatherings, while enjoyable, can also contribute to heightened stress levels, potentially leading to more severe medical problems. Please check in on your friends and neighbors to ensure they have access to heat, utilities, and are not alone or depressed during the holidays. If you're traveling for the holidays, travel safely and please check your emergency items before leaving.

Thank you for your continued support of our veterans and our communities. I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

~SGN Morris

Chaplain's Notes

We are heading into the holiday season full speed ahead. I just want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and be surrounded by your love ones. Please remember our comrades and their family members who have gone home to be with the Lord this year. Please take time out and say a prayer on their behalf or reach out to them during this holiday season.

~Chaplain Brown

Combat Tested Gaming

In CTG (Combat tested Gaming) we are about to start the winter classic game for a game called Rocket League and we are going to be giving away an assortment of different gift cards to the winner. We are partnered with Healium which is a VR headset that allows veterans to visit memorial sites, National Monuments, and State Parks. This headset allows those who have social anxiety, unable to move due to their disability or at a nursing home able to be there. We are now opening a section on the Auxiliary inside the CTG and if you would like to join and help expand this new program, please go to the Facebook page and we will help you from there.

~Bryan Gaston, Combat Tested Gaming Chairman

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>.

Department Christmas Party

Saturday, December 6, 2025 2-5pm
4210 E. Kiehl Ave
Sherwood AR 72120

Dirty Santa gift exchange: \$25 limit, remember there will be children present. If you bring children and they would like to participate in the Children's gift exchange, there is a \$15 limit on those gifts.

Pizza and Soft Drinks to be provided by the Department. You are responsible for anything else you may want to bring.

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

**GENERAL ORDERS #6
2025-2026 SERIES**

DECEMBER 2025

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.

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:
None

BY COMMAND OF

**Rodney Wood
State Commander**

OFFICIAL

**Jeffrey Byrd
State Adjutant**

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Department of Arkansas

Mid – Winter Banquet

February 6-7, 2026

**Saturday Afternoon Banquet is \$65.00 in advance
(This price included your registration)**

**Deadline for Pre-Registration is Mail In/Phone: Jan. 29, 2026 COB Online: Jan. 31, 2026
(No Exceptions)**

Time: Banquet is at 3:30pm Saturday, February 7, 2026

Banquet Dress: Business Casual or Semi Formal, your choice

****ABSOLUTELY NO VIDEOS OR INTERVIEWS DURING MID-WINTER****

**Meal : Mexican Buffet to include: Beef and Chicken Fajitas, Cheese Enchilada's, Spanish
Rice, Tortillas, and all the fixings**

Location:

DoubleTree Hotel
424 W Markham St
Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: 501-372-4371

Room Rate: \$139.00 plus tax/night – Parking \$8 per day

**All VFW, VFW Auxiliary, and Guests MUST Register at \$10.00 per
person (if purchasing a banquet ticket, the registration is included).**

Children 15 and under are free to attend the convention but must pay for the banquet.

**Reservation Form
Mid-Winter Conference
February 6-7, 2026**

Make your check payable to: VFW Department of Arkansas

Or register online @ vfwar.org

We accept Mastercard, Visa. And Discover

Circle one

Name _____ VFW or Aux Post # _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

No. of Tickets for the Banquet @ \$65 per person, this includes registration (\$70 at the door) _____

\$ _____

No. of Registrations ONLY @ \$10.00 per person _____ \$ _____

**Credit Card Number _____ Date of Exp _____ Security
Code _____**

**Please mail to: Veterans of Foreign Wars, Dept of AR, 4210 E. Kiehl Avenue, Sherwood, Arkansas
72120. Or Call Department Headquarters at: 501-834-8392 to pre-register. Use of this form to
purchase your tickets in advance will help you avoid long lines and save you money. The tickets
will not be mailed; they will be held in your name and must be picked up at the registration desk.
Banquet tickets are non-refundable and we will NOT re-sell them for you.**

Mid-Winter Agenda

DoubleTree Hotel, Little Rock

Department of Arkansas VFW & Auxiliary
Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Awards Ceremony
All times are tentative. Room locations coming soon

FRIDAY, February 6, 2026

1:00 – 5:00 – Registration –
12:00 – Auxiliary – Ways N Means (Country Store and Baked goods) – NO BASKETS
11:30 – 1:00 – Hospitality room –
1:00 – 5:00 – VFW Training –
4:00-5:00 – Auxiliary Council Meeting –
5:15 – Hospitality room –
6:00 – Auxiliary Dinner Fundraiser – Spaghetti \$10 per plate
7:30 – Hospitality Room open

SATURDAY, February 7, 2026

8:00 – 1:00 – Registration –
8:30 – 2:00 – Ways N Means (Country Store and Baked Goods) – NO BASKETS
9:00 – 10:00 – Joint Openings – All Attendees –
10:15 – 12:00 – VFW Council of Administration
10:15 – 12:00 - Auxiliary Program Training -
12:00 – Buddy Poppy Judging – Category 2 (Ashleigh Bishop--Chairman)
12:00 – 1:00 – Lunch – You are on your own for lunch
12:30 – Riders Group Meeting – ??
1:00 – 2:00 – Cooties meeting ??
3:30 – 6:30 – VOD & PP Awards Banquet – Business Casual or Semi Formal – Your choice
12:00 – Hospitality Room - (closed during all meetings)
6:30 – 8:30??? – Karaoke, Games, and Hospitality

Room rate - \$139 plus tax/night Parking - \$8/day
Registration - \$10
Banquet + Registration - \$65

ALL TIMES AND EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
MEETING ROOM LOCATION COMING SOON