ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

December 2026

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. We will return to the office, Monday 4 January

Current membership: Department 75.01%

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.

Commander Johnson's Membership incentive program for 2026-2027

- New annual member - 25 points
- New or upgraded lifetime member - 100 points
- Bronze Legacy - 200 points
- Silver Legacy - 300 points
- Gold Legacy - 400 points

The Post with the most points by the State Convention, will receive a special surprise gift from Commander Johnson. We realize that it will be difficult for smaller Posts to compete for this award. With that being said, Commander Johnson will also hand out a surprise gift for a 100 or less member Post with the most points. So, get out there and recruit, retain, and upgrade! As always, the leadership team is available to assist everyone in reaching their membership goals!

Mid-Winter

The time is now to make your reservations for Mid-Winter. The dates are February 12-13, 2027 at the Wyndham Grand Executive Center in Little Rock (formerly Airport Holiday Inn). You can call 501-490-1000 or go to our website – vfwar.org, News, Mid-winter, and click on the link to make your hotel reservations. Also on our website, you can register and purchase banquet tickets. The Agenda is attached. If you would like to purchase your registration or banquet tickets by phone, please call Department Headquarters Tuesday – Thursday at 501-615-8392.

"Buddy"® Poppy Display Contest: The "Buddy"® Poppy Display Contest will be **Category 1** (Public Promotion of the Poppy Campaign) – any questions you may have regarding "Buddy"® Poppies, please contact the Department Headquarters.

CATEGORY 1:

Public Promotion of the Poppy Campaign
(Window, booth, parage, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.)

(a) Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW "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.

Don't forget the Department Christmas Party December 12th in Jacksonville. See the flyer on the back for more details.

Commander's Notes

December holds three very different days close together. One asks us to remember, one asks us to gather, and one asks us to look forward. Together, they tell the story of an American December.

December 7: Pearl Harbor - A Day of Remembrance
This year is special: 2026 marks the 85th anniversary. The theme is "Courage of Commitment."

December 25: Christmas - A Day to Gather
Just eighteen days after that solemn anniversary, the mood of December changes completely. Christmas is the heart of the season for so many families. Church services, Christmas Eve candles, a table full of food, gifts under the tree, and phone calls to loved ones far away.

If Pearl Harbor reminds us what was sacrificed, Christmas reminds us what was sacrificed for - home, family, faith, and peace.

December 31: New Year's Eve - A Day to Look Forward
It's the most hopeful night of the year. We look back on the year that passed - its joys and its losses - and we look ahead with a quiet prayer that the new year will be kinder, healthier, and more peaceful.

One December, Three Lessons

Pearl Harbor teaches us to remember.
Christmas teaches us to love.
New Year's Eve teaches us to hope.

From December 7th to December 31st, we move from grief to gratitude to new beginnings. That is the rhythm of December, and the rhythm of a life well lived.

Take a moment this December to honor the past, cherish the present, and welcome the future.

~Commander Johnson

Senior Vice Commander 's Notes

I want to start out with wishing everyone happy holidays. Remember it is that time of the year so stay safe and if you are out traveling make sure you have everything you need in case you get stuck someplace. Remember to do buddy checks, not everyone handles the holidays the same way. I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Mid-Winter.

~SVC Ham

Jr Vice Commander's Notes

Every Member Has the Same Vote, Regardless of Time in Grade
One of the biggest myths in any VFW Post—and one of the fastest ways to lose a brand-new member—is the idea that you have to "put in your time" before your voice counts.
In the VFW, that simply isn't how it works. Under our Bylaws and Manual of Procedure, every member in good standing holds the exact same voice and the exact same single vote on the Post floor. Whether you joined last Tuesday or have been a Life Member for forty years, whether you're a first-time attendee or the Post Commander, your vote carries the exact same weight.
The Difference Between Authority and Voice It's easy for a new member to walk into a meeting, see officers running the business, and assume the officers make the decisions. In reality, it's the exact opposite:
Officers are administrators, not bosses. The Commander, Quartermaster, and Trustees are elected to execute the will of the Post, manage day-to-day operations, and keep us compliant with Department and National rules. They don't own the Post—the membership does.
The Post floor is where the real power sits. Motions, budgets, community projects, and Post direction are decided by the members who actually show up to the meeting.
Experience guides, it doesn't outrank. Long-time members and officers bring institutional knowledge—they know what's been tried before and what the Bylaws allow. That history is valuable, but it doesn't give anyone two votes.
Why Showing Up Matters When people say "the same five people run everything," it's rarely because those five people are locking others out. It's usually because those five people are the ones who consistently show up to the monthly meetings.
If you want a say in how your Post operates, what charities we support, or how we serve local veterans, the door is wide open. You don't need a title to make a motion, ask a question during the Good of the Order, or volunteer to chair a committee.
To Our New Members—and Our Long-Timers If you're a newer member, don't sit in the back waiting for permission to speak up. Bring your fresh perspective, ask why we do things a certain way, and get involved. And if you're an officer or a seasoned regular, make sure we're actively making room at the table—and the microphone—for the folks who just walked through the door.
A Post only grows when every member knows their voice actually matters. See you at the next meeting.
From my family to yours, wishing you all a happy and safe holiday season.

~JVC Powell

Judge Advocate's Notes

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and the holiday season, I want to thank each of you for your hard work and dedication throughout the year, especially in learning our bylaws and taking care of our Post business. Please take a few days to relax and enjoy this special time with your families. Let us also remember those who came before us and made sacrifices for our freedoms. Many are not home with their families today, and we must never forget their service and sacrifice. From my family to yours, I wish everyone a blessed Thanksgiving and a safe, happy holiday season!

~JA Morris

Surgeon's Notes

Comrades,
As I sit here and write my portion to our General Orders, it was a crisp 35 degrees this morning. I know some of us have or are ready to use our fireplaces or Woodstoves. I ask that you use caution and make sure they are safe. The cost of an inspection or cleaning is cheap compared to the cost of replacing our homes. You'll hear again and again about the importance of getting our flu shots and other vaccines to stay healthy, so visit your clinic or doctor. There are some pharmacies that offer free flu shots. Remember that our health and well-being isn't just physical, but mental as well. Take time to relax, reflect, and ground yourself, because with the joy of upcoming holidays, is also full of stress and anxiety. May your thoughts be with family, friends and those without any provide comfort to those that are Homebound, in Hospitals, or Nursing Facilities. Take some time to visit them. From the VFW Department of Arkansas, myself and family, we wish you love and happiness during this holiday season.

~SGN Rodney

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.

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

GENERAL ORDERS #6 **DECEMBER 2026**
2026-2027 SERIES

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

Linda Johnson
State Commander

OFFICIAL

Jeffrey Byrd
State Adjutant

Mid-Winter Agenda
Wyndham Grand Executive Center, Little Rock
(Formerly Airport Holiday Inn)

Department of Arkansas VFW & Auxiliary

Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Awards Ceremony

All times are tentative

FRIDAY, February 12, 2027

1:00 – 5:00 – Registration – Atrium

Buddy Poppy Displays may be set up in the Atrium area starting Friday – look for signs

12:00 – Auxiliary – Country Store & Baked Goods - Atrium

1:00 – 5:00 – VFW Training – Kitty Hawk

3:00 - 4:00 – Auxiliary Council Meeting – Lower Atrium

5:15 – Hospitality room – Lindburg

6:00 – Auxiliary Dinner Fundraiser – Taco's - $15 per plate - Lindburg

7:30 – Hospitality Room open – Lindberg

SATURDAY, February 13, 2027

8:00 – 1:00 – Registration – Atrium

Buddy Poppy Displays may be set up in the Atrium area starting Friday – look for signs

8:30 – 2:00 – Auxiliary - Country Store & Baked Goods - Atrium

9:00 – 10:00 – Joint Opening – All Attendees – Kitty Hawk

10:15 – 12:00 – VFW Council of Administration – Kitty Hawk

10:15 – 12:00 - Auxiliary Program Training – Lower Atrium

12:00 – Buddy Poppy Judging – Category 1 (Brook McReynolds Chairman)

12:00 – 1:00 – Lunch – You are on your own for lunch

TBD – Riders Group Meeting –

3:30 – 7:00 – VOD & PP Awards Banquet – Dress TBA – Kitty Hawk

12:00 – Hospitality Room - (closed during all meetings) – Lindberg

7:00 – ?? – Entertainment to be determined – Lindberg

Room rate - $94 plus tax/night, Parking and Breakfast are included

Registration - $15 Banquet + Registration - $50

If you are purchasing a banquet ticket, this includes your registration. DO NOT purchase the registration separately. It will be non-refundable. If you purchase registration and then choose to also attend the banquet, please contact State Headquarters Tuesday-Thursday @ 501-615-8392.

ALL TIMES AND EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Please go to vfwar.org – News – Mid-Winter for more information

Mid-Winter Banquet



VFW DEPT OF ARKANSAS AND ITS AUXILIARY

Saturday, February 13, 2027
3:30PM
Wyndham Grand Executive Center
(Formerly Airport Holiday Inn)
3201 Bankhead Dr
Little Rock, AR

Ticket Price: $50
Lasagna and Chicken Fettuccini Alfredo (served buffet style)



MID-WINTER BUDDY POPPY CONTEST

Category 1

Public Promotion of the Poppy Campaign

Displays can be set up in the Atrium beginning on Friday, February 12, 2027


Department VFW
and VFW Auxiliary
Christmas Party
Date & Time:
December 12th | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Location:
Jacksonville VFW Post 4548
6704 Old Hwy 67
Cabot, AR 72023
VFW
Join us for pizza, tea, and lemonade for lunch, plus a fun White Elephant Gift Exchange!