ARKANSAS CHRONICLES

November 2026

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

Department 73.29%

Commander's Notes

November brings us two holidays that belong together. On Veterans Day, November 11, we pause at the 11th hour to honor all who served – not just those who died, but every man and woman who wore the uniform and came home carrying their service with them. Fifteen days later on Thanksgiving, the fourth Thursday, we gather around tables made safe by that service. One day asks us to remember, the other asks us to give thanks, and for our veterans and their families, they are the same act: we remember those who are missing from the table, we thank those who are still here, and we set an empty chair to show that no one is ever forgotten.

~Commander Johnson

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!

Junior Vice Commander's Notes

Why the VFW National Home Matters to Us

When we join the Veterans of Foreign Wars and VFW Auxiliary, we swear to *"honor the dead by helping the living."* Nowhere is that promise lived out more directly than at the VFW National Home.

It isn't just an ordinary charity or an old-style orphanage—it is our neighborhood, built and sustained by comrades and sisters across the nation to give struggling military families a second chance.

1. Keeping Whole Families Together

The National Home isn't just for surviving spouses. Living veterans—single parents or intact families—can move right onto campus with their children. Whether a comrade is dealing with economic hardship, service-connected challenges, or life transitions, the home provides a safe sanctuary for the *entire* family to stay together under one roof.

2. A Hand Up, Not a Handout

Living on the Eaton Rapids, Michigan campus is tuition-free. Veteran parents receive single-family housing, free early childhood education, and case management focused on career goals and financial independence. The goal isn't long-term dependency; it's giving veteran parents the tools to rebuild their lives with dignity.

3. Support Right Here in Arkansas

Distance doesn't limit its reach. Through the Military & Veteran Family Helpline (866-483-9642), any veteran, active-duty service member, or VFW family in our state can access free crisis guidance, case management, and local referrals.

4. Our Legacy to Carry

Every cottage and playground on campus exists because VFW Posts and Auxiliaries pooled their resources to build them. By supporting the National Home through Life Memberships and Post drives, we ensure our comrades and their children always have a place to turn.

Bottom Line: The National Home proves our brotherhood and sisterhood doesn't stop at the Post door. It ensures that when a comrade falls on hard times, their family has a safe neighborhood to heal, grow, and succeed together.

~JVC Powell

Judge Advocate's Notes

Voting is one of the most important ways we can make our voices heard and support the future of our VFW. As members, we have a responsibility to participate in the election of our VFW officers, choosing leaders who are dedicated to serving veterans, their families, and our communities. Our votes help ensure that our organization remains strong, united, and focused on its mission. We also need to use our voices to support important veterans' legislation in Congress, including bills that protect benefits, improve access to health care, and support military families. By staying informed, contacting elected representatives, and encouraging others to get involved, we can make a difference. Every vote matters, every voice counts, and every action we take helps strengthen our VFW and protect the promises made to those who served our nation.

~JA Morris

Surgeon's Notes

It may not feel like it right now, but Fall is upon us. Now is the time to reach out to our medical professionals and get those Flu, Pneumonia and other preventative vaccines. With Thanksgiving just a few weeks away, I am sure no one wants to be under the weather for family gatherings. It is still important to keep up self-care, such as hydration, nutrition, mental/emotional grounding. This is also the time to remember those veterans, family, or shut-ins, that have nowhere to go during the holidays. It never hurts to offer an invitation to celebrate with you and family. Take time to volunteer a little time at nursing homes, hospitals, it really does have a healing touch for those admitted and for ourselves. As for now, most of Arkansas is still under burn bans and leaves are cluttering the ground. Don't risk, a "small" leaf pile burning can quickly erupt into a major wildfire. Be Safe and care for one another, Comrades.

~SGN Rodney

Department Headquarters will be closed November 11 for Veterans Day and November 25-27 for Thanksgiving.

Veterans Day Events

Veterans Day Ceremony – Arkansas State Capital Rotunda – Little Rock
Wednesday, November 11, 2026. 11:00am
500 Woodlane Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Historic Greene County Courthouse, 300 W. Court St., Paragould
Wednesday, November 11, 2026 8-10am

Camp Jack Veterans Day Celebration – 411 S. Pine St., Harrison
Wednesday, November 11, 2026 – 11am, Ceremony – 5:00pm, Parade

Field Of Honor – Bentonville, AR, located between the City Hall and the Adult Recreation Center
Wednesday, November 11, 2026 – 12:30-1:30pm

Pope County – Veterans Day Parade – Russellville
Wednesday, November 11, 2026 – 4:00-5:30pm

This is not an all inclusive list. This is a list for events on November 11th found on veterans.arkansas.gov/upcoming-events – please check for more dates and events in your area.

Mid-Winter Conference
February 12-13, 2027
Wyndham Grand Executive Center, Little Rock
(Formerly Airport Holiday Inn)

Dress for the Mid-Winter banquet this year is either Business Casual or Semi-Formal, your choice. The meal is a Taste of Italy (Lasagna and Chicken Fettuccini Alfredo). Online registration will be available soon. Banquet tickets, which include your registration, are $50.00 and must be purchased in advance. This rate includes your registration. DO NOT PAY FOR A SEPARATE REGISTRATION IF YOU ARE PURCHASING A BANQUET TICKET!!! If you are not attending the banquet, registration is $15.00. The room rate for Mid-Winter $94.00 plus tax per night this includes parking and breakfast.

Due to privacy issues with our youth, Children will no longer be able to be videoed and/or photographed at these premises unless you are the parent of the child being photographed/videoed or Department Staff.

Buddy Poppy Display Contest will be entries for CATEGORY 1:

Public Promotion of the Poppy Campaign

(a) The display must be designed for public exposure to promote the campaign.
(b) It MUST include a clear message soliciting a donation for Buddy Poppies
(c) 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

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

GENERAL ORDERS #5 **NOVEMBER 2026**
2026-2027

Audits

Post's and District's, going forward, please ensure you have all 3 (three) Trustees perform and sign your quarterly audits. Per National By-laws, there must signatures in all 3 (three) signature blocks.

Community Service

The Auxiliary can now enter their own Community Service. The steps for that have now changed. The Auxiliary no longer has to submit their Community Service to the VFW Post's for entry, they enter their own on their National Website. Your new steps: instead of entering the Community Service, you now have to approve it. To do this, Commander's, Quartermaster's, and Adjutant's will need to log in to VFW.ORG and go to the All American Dashboard. From there you will need to the tab that says action, you will need to read and approve the entries by your Auxiliary.

Membership

National By Laws have been published, don't forget this important section that may help with attendance: Section 203 - Electronic Attendance. Any of the above stated meetings may be conducted or attended electronically that allows participating members to communicate with each other simultaneously.

All Members: Members are reminded that under the 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

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.

Members

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.

Department Business:

Suspension:

BY COMMAND OF

Linda Johnson
State Commander

OFFICIAL

Jeffrey Byrd
State Adjutant