

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

**GENERAL ORDERS #3**  
**2021-2022 Series**

**SEPTEMBER 2021**

**VFW National Commander Fritz Mihelcic**

August 16, 2021

With the recent turn of events in Afghanistan, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) wants the veterans of the war in Afghanistan to know we stand with you. Scores of VFW members know the anger, frustration, and sadness you are experiencing after hearing the troubling reports and seeing the disturbing images coming from lands where we sacrificed so much. From the fall of Saigon in Vietnam, to the withdraw from Somalia after the battle of Mogadishu, to the ISIS takeover of Fallujah, Ramadi, Mosul, and Tikrit, far too many of us have experienced the heavy burden of loss, disappointment, and helplessness our newest generations of veterans may be feeling watching the Taliban return to power.

However, while there is bitter sentiment over this withdrawal, we encourage you to hold your head high. Because of your vigilance, hard work, and selfless sacrifice, you dealt a tremendous blow to Al-Qaeda, taking out its leader Osama Bin Laden, and disrupting its ability to plan and execute another major attack on American soil since September 11, 2001. You who served in Afghanistan with honor, valor, and distinction, our nation owes you a tremendous debt of gratitude for the past twenty years of relative safety and security. Your service was not in vain.

While we continue to watch events unfold in Afghanistan, we remind our brothers and sisters that we are beside you, arm-in-arm, ready to support you. You are not alone.

Please know that through the Department of Veterans Affairs, the VFW, and other non-profit organizations, there are people you or a battle buddy can talk to and resources available to help cope with the stress of the situation.

## **Commander-in-Chief Challenge**

Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic has issued a challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of September 2021! We're a few months into the new membership year, and it's time to really put our focus on membership growth. We want this year to be a benchmark year when it comes to membership, and passing 100% in membership should be the goal that each and every Post, District, and Department strives for. Membership totals will be based on close-of-business totals on August 31st to September 30th. To encourage this, for the month of September 2021, \$500 will be awarded to the top Post in each membership division based on recruiting, renewing, and reinstating the most Annual members. This will count New members, Annual members who renew their dues, and lapsed members who pay their Annual dues to the Post. We want our Posts out there recruiting, retaining, and recovering members! We know that a strong membership base is how we will move forward as an organization, because **THE TIME IS NOW!**

## Special Council Meeting

September 4, 2021, 1:00pm at the State Headquarters, a special council meeting is being held to elect the vacant chair of Junior Vice Commander and any other chair that might become vacant on that date.

### **COMMANDER and PRESIDENT'S HOMECOMING and Training cut off for hotel is September 3, 2021**

This year the Commanders and Presidents homecoming is combined. It will be at the Jonesboro VFW Post 1991, 300 Airport Road, Jonesboro, AR 72401. The hotel is Courtyard Marriott, phone: 1-870-206-9500. Deadline is September 3, 2021, **No exceptions, to receive \$79.00 room rate.**

Director Rolf, Director of Programs at National, will be here to give classes on Programs and Dashboard, many updates.

This year the Commanders and Presidents homecoming is combined. Schedule is as follows:

Friday – September 17, 2021 – meet and greet at Courtyard Marriott Hotel, evening time

Saturday – Sept 18, 2021 – 9:00 – VFW Commander briefing, introduction of guest

10:00 – Combined training VFW and Aux – Lynn Rolf

11:00 - - Lunch

12:00 – VFW Programs and Dashboard – Lynn Rolf

Post 1991-

4:00 - Homecoming for Commander and President Davis.

**Any VFW member coming to training and staying in the hotel, bring your hotel receipt to training, at the conclusion, we will give you a \$20 rebate on room. Only one rebate per room.**

### Senior Vice Commander's Note

So far this year things in the Department of Arkansas seem to be running like a well oiled machine. I assure you this is not happening by accident. It's because YOU the members, along with OUR phenomenal Auxiliary, are out all over the state recruiting, pushing our programs, and performing community service. The "A-Team" is only a phone call away so if we can help in meeting your individual, post, or district goals don't hesitate to reach out and let us know.

In closing, THANK YOU to each and every member for everything you do! As always, I will continue to make myself available at any time to anyone who needs assistance. ARKANSAS STRONG!!

~ SVC Jeffrey Byrd

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

### **Judge Advocate's Note**

Over the last few years in my travels, I have seen that a lot of Post may need to update their BY-LAWS and their files at the Department Headquarters. It is important that the post update their BY-LAWS with the most up-to-date information. This will help control some of the problems that could occur at your Post. The templates can be found at <https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support>. Please make sure that your Post files located at the Department Headquarters have the most current copy of your Post BY-LAWS, and Articles of Incorporation.

~JAG Teddy Pipkin

### **Surgeon's Note**

September is the month for Fall to begin and the beginning of Flu season. Please remember to get your flu shots and continue to check on your Comrades to see if they need anything.

~SGN Elvin Tate

## **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 2021-2022 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 By-laws 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 – Ashleigh Bishop – 870-612-9809

Voice of Democracy – Diana Rerucha – 870-680-2936

Patriots Pen – Rodney Wood – 501-658-5516

## **ALL MEMBERS**

### **Post By-Laws**

**POST BY-LAWS:** 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.

## **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 By-laws 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 there 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 17, 2021

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.

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

**Post Commanders:** Section 218(a)(1)k states: Post Commander will ensure 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 meeting, 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 to assist him in preparation for upcoming Council of Administration meetings. When you or your Rep attend the District meeting, you 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.

Chairman – Junior Vice Commander

Department Business: Post 8525 – Plainview – District 6

Important Dates:

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

**BY COMMAND OF**



**Mark Davis  
State Commander**

**OFFICIAL**

**Christine Oldham  
State Adjutant**