

TEXAS

FALL 2022 DIGITAL EDITION



VFW

Magazine

USS Texas

Begins A New Journey

p18



Operation Mutual Cares

Poth FFA Flag Ceremony

88th Texas Legislation

**Commander Homecoming at
Historic Ft. Worth Stockyards**





PACT ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The **PACT Act** is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The Act **(1)** expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and **(2)** expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

veterans and survivors can file claims for all conditions outlined in the pact act immediately.

For Gulf War and post 9-11 Veterans, that includes:

Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma (diagnosed after service), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis,

Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), High blood pressure (hypertension).

How can Veterans apply for VA health care?

Apply **online** at [VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction).

Call our toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387, M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET.

Mail a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ).

Bring a completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ with you to your [nearest medical center or clinic](#) or get help through your [state's Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officer](#).

Get help filing your claim by working with an [accredited representative](#).

What are the PACT Act key components?



The Act expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.



VA will improve the decision-making process for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.



Every enrolled Veteran will receive an initial toxic exposure screening and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



VA health care staff and claims processors will receive toxic exposure-related education and training.



The Act requires research studies on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.



The Act will help VA build a stronger, more skilled workforce to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.



The Act authorizes 31 new medical facilities across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.

How can a Veteran file a claim?



Veterans who would like to file a claim must complete [VA Form 21-526EZ](#) to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.



To learn about standard VA disability claims, supplemental claims, secondary claims, and more visit: [VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file](https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file).

If a Veteran was previously denied a claim, what can they do?

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT)
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://www.va.gov/find-locations/)

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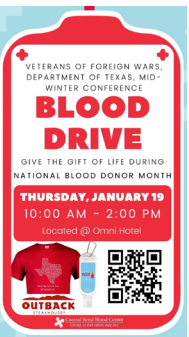
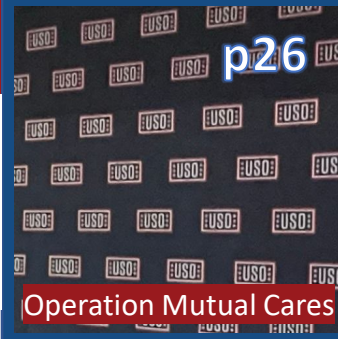


SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1899 What Does the Texas VFW Offer You?

- Camaraderie with Fellow Veterans
- Community Networking & Involvement
- Remembrance Programs
- Full Time Support of Today's Service Members
- Programs for Families and Youth
- Full Time Watchdog on Capitol Hill and Texas Legislature
- Free Representation in VA Claims
- An Award-Winning Magazine
- Online Member Resource
- And Much More...

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Contributions: Letters, manuscripts, stories, materials or photographs are welcomed but cannot be returned unless sender provides SASE. Texas VFW will not be responsible for unsolicited manuscripts, photos and drawings. Submission of articles and letters implies the right to edit and publish all or in print.

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NEUROLUMEN



VFW Department of Texas

2022-2023 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

TITLE		POST
State Commander	Lynn Toomer	10429
Sr. Vice Commander	Larry Sanders	12041
Jr. Vice Commander	Robert Martinez, Jr.	2059
Adjutant/Quartermaster	Ben Lowrance	1475
Assistant Adjutant	Jorg Kitchen	4820
Assistant Quartermaster	Wayne Cooley	9078
Judge Advocate	Larry Velasquez, Jr.	8932
Surgeon/MAP Chair	Randall Johnston	4376
State Chaplain	Michael "Foy" Day	4692
Chief of Staff	Eddie Terry	10429
State Inspector	Stephen Biehl	2427
Immediate Past Cmdr.	Norman Macey	4816
National Council Member	Ingeborg "Inge" Conley	12075
Deputy State Inspector	Henry "Paul" Lester	3984
Deputy State Inspector	Katie Bailio	2772
Deputy State Inspector	Kevin Bost	4820
Deputy State Inspector	Manuel "Manny" Leal	6111
Deputy State Inspector	Ray Sanchez	8587
Deputy State Inspector	Todd Richardson	12160
State Parliamentarian	Steve Evans	2466
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Budget & Finance Chair	John Koller	4816
Buddy Poppy Chair	Marcey Phillips	4709
Community Service Chair	John Jowers	10427
Credentials Chair	Eric Shumaker	8790
Credentials Chair Asst.	Rosie Carranza	6012
Homecoming Chair	Terry Contella	5619
Homeless Veterans Chair	Clarence Jackson	6796
Nat/State Legislative Chair	Mitch Fuller	10427
Membership Chair	Benny Guerrero, Jr.	2466
Mentorship Chair	Greg Brannan	12205
Motorcycle Group Chair	Thomas Anderson	4008
POW/MIA Chair	Chris Davis	5872
Scouting Chair	Curtis Mitchell, Jr.	2195
Suicide Prevention Chair	Tracey L. Greene Brown	12209
Veterans Employment Chair	Bob Gear	9078
VOD/PP/Teacher Chair	Katy Jackson	3904

2022-2023 DISTRICT COMMANDERS

DISTRICT	POST	COMMANDER
1	2195	Curtis Mitchell, Jr.
2	4820	Jorg Kitchen
3	1406	Reggie Williams
4	2427	Sean Ellis
5	7110	Martin "Marty" Monceballez
6	2375	Ann Marie Torres
8	6873	Melvin Harper
9	1475	Billie "Bart" Guthrie
10	812	Natividad "Nate" Lopez, Jr.
12	3992	Cathy Small
13	8562	Diana Cruz Montoya
14	3892	Jimmie Surles
16	880	Michael Caballero
17	7104	Francis "Frank" Torres
18	8788	Xavier Hernandez
19	3893	Joel Pipes
20	2059	Joseph Ramon
21	9190	Robert "Glenn" Heady
24	4403	John "Jack" Mageluzzo
25	6284	Mel Parker
28	12104	Scott Rebman
29	5872	Christopher Davis
30	7103	Barbara Ampong

DEPT. OF TEXAS HONOR GUARD

Team Leader	John Rodriguez
Honor Guard	James Masters
Honor Guard	Jessica Sanchez
Honor Guard	Micaela Reyes
Honor Guard	Raquel "Kelly" Glass

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Department Secretary	Wyonda Laurence
Department Secretary	Taylor Engle
Data Management Specialist	John Jowers
Information Specialist	Kim Foster
Media Representative	James Lucas

2022-2023 SERVICE OFFICERS

Service Officer – Houston	Mike Eshenbaugh
Service Officer – Waco	Katina Cryer



VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Texas



media@texasvfw.org
TexasVFW.org
(512) 834-8535



Texas State Commander

GLARING AT THE FUTURE FOR 2023

Department of Texas,

We started off the 2022 year with a bang. Half price life memberships and so far we have had some sort of membership incentive every month since during 2022. While we will and must always push membership to keep us on top of Capitol Hill, we have to continue to support our Military, Community, Veterans and their families. Remember - **No One Does More For Veterans.**



If you pay close attention, you will realize everything we do promotes **membership**. Homeless Veteran Standowns, BBQ Cookoffs, Buddy Poppy drives, VPRs, VOD/PP, ect... All the programs and tasks are set up to keep us involved in our **Community**, our **Youth** and our **Veterans**. Texas, we are doing a great job across the State of accomplishing the Mission. As of late Dec 2022, we are at 91.04% in membership and we are growing. Texas VFW is currently the Largest VFW Department in the World. That is all because of the hard work and motivation of our Post Members across this great State. Texas Leads the way.

COMRADES, the motivating accomplishments that are happening this year are due to the great leadership we have at the Post, District and Auxiliary levels. We have new vibrant members moving into leadership positions across the State with great mentors keeping this Department moving forward and growing. We have instituted new Post and Auxiliaries in 2022. We will have more growth coming in 2023 with new Post and Auxiliaries. The most exciting thing is to see all the Candidates we have running for office. All of this shows the growth and sets the pace for the future of the Department of Texas VFW. We are in good hands moving forward.



Thank each and every one of you for Keeping the VFW Great!

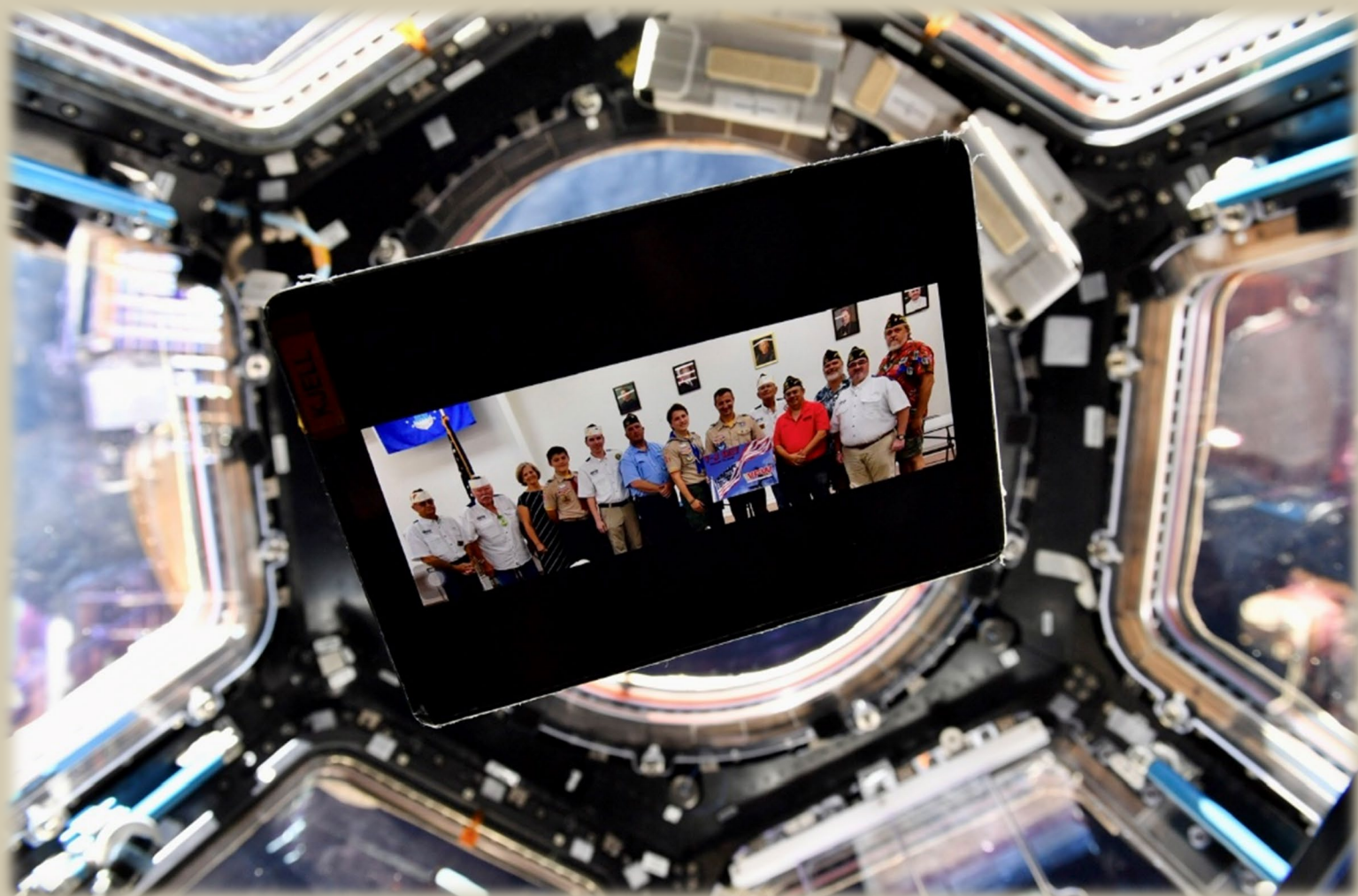


Comrades we are the future of the VFW and the Future looks great. Continue to do what you do on a daily basis in your communities, with the youth, with our Veterans and the Department of Texas will continue to grow. With your help this will be a great year for the Department of Texas and the VFW. **Semper Fi!**

Lynn Toomer
Department of Texas
State Commander



2022 VPR of the Year



Picture features Kai Lindgren (2nd place Scout of the Year), his mother, little brother, Assistant Scout Leader (newly recruited VFW member), Sean Ellis, Stephen Biehl along with other VFW comrades.

Colonel Morgan, USA (Scout Leader & Astronaut) read the Veteran Project Report (VPR) for Victory over Japan Day and all those present took a photo. Commander Lindgren (Kai Lindgren's father) who is currently serving on the International Space Station.

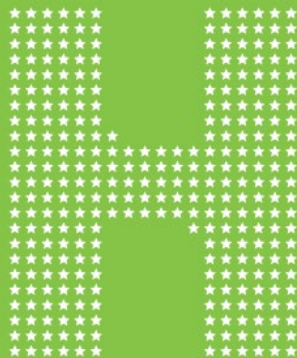
We are honored to present a very special view for all of the VFW to share. NASA Astronaut [Kjell Lindgren](#), Crew 4 Dragon Commander serving on ISS Expedition 67, offered to fly our garrison cover to the [International Space Station](#).

Crew 4 flew on a SpaceX Dragon capsule launched a Falcon 9 booster from Cape Canaveral, Florida, in April 2022. The cover will be returned to the Earth upon completion of the Crew 4 mission October 2022.

"Thank you, Commander Lindgren, for your service to our country and sacrifice for the pursuit of exploration in space."

VFW Post 5619 Past Post Commander, Carl W. Dunn, Houston





Serving those who have served us.



Andrea Ortiz - Veteran Community Engagement Executive

If any VFW members wish to speak to a licensed sales agent, please call 1-888-624-7210 (TTY: 711) Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Medicare-eligible Veterans may get more benefits with Humana Honor Plans.*

Humana Honor Plans may complement VA healthcare services and are available in 46 states. Key benefits for Honor Plan members may include:

- \$0 plan premium
- Part B giveback ranging from \$10 to \$144 per month
- Dental coverage
- Annual allowance of \$100 or more for eyeglasses and contacts
- \$0 copay for hearing exam and hearing-aid fitting/evaluation
- No-surprise fixed copay for in-network urgent care

*All Medicare beneficiaries are eligible to enroll in a Humana Honor Plan, where available, and Medicare-eligible Veterans may be eligible to enroll in any Humana Medicare Advantage plan. Depending on the service area, HMO or PPO plans may

At Humana, it is important you are treated fairly.

Humana is a Medicare Advantage [HMO and PPO] organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in any Humana plan depends on contract renewal. For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings, call 1-877-320-1235

(TTY: 711), 8 a.m.–8 p.m., seven days a week. Humana Inc. and its subsidiaries comply with applicable Federal Civil Rights laws and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, ancestry, marital status or religion.

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HUMANA AND VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

In October 2012, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selected Humana, one of the nation's largest healthcare companies, to team up in an exclusive sponsorship agreement as the VFW's national Medicare Advantage Plan provider. Today, we are proud that more than 50,000 VFW members are in one of Humana's Medicare Advantage plans.

Dedicated to serving those who've served us.

Humana recognizes the challenges Veterans and their families often face. We take great pride in our history of excellence in military healthcare solutions for Veterans and their families. We are deepening our commitment to provide innovative healthcare solutions in continued support of Veteran's programs.



Since 2011, Humana has committed to employing Veterans, and we've hired more than 5,000 of them and their spouses.¹



We've donated to the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities, a no-cost national program for post-9/11 Veterans, offering them cutting-edge training in entrepreneurship and small-business management.²



We teamed up with the VFW to address Veteran food insecurity through Uniting to Combat Hunger, which provided more than 1 million meals to families in need.



We gave to the VFW Unmet Needs program, which benefited more than 200 military families across 41 states.

Understanding the greater opportunity at hand.

Our Humana Veterans team has worked closely with the National Veteran Service (NVS) and local service officers to ensure that Veterans and their families receive reliable and current information to understand their Medicare options. Humana sales agents are well prepared to advise our Veterans and help them understand and identify the options available to them.

“The collaboration between VFW service officers and Humana to provide key outreach and training has proven invaluable to the shared population of Veterans we serve,” said Ryan Gallucci, director of VFW National Veterans Service. “When Veterans seek assistance with any benefit program, be it VA benefits or Medicare, our shared goal is to ensure Veterans have the right information to make informed decisions.”

Humana®

HONORING AND SERVING VETERANS

Senior Vice Commander Spotlight



What is the most important Value(s) for future VFW generations to possess?

The most important value for future generations to possess is commitment by continuing to serve. We acknowledge the sacrifice of one's service. We share the struggles. We yearn for camaraderie. Together we can continue to make a difference.

How would you define your leadership qualities?

Leadership is not about position, power or titles. We all possess the potential and ability to lead others and make outstanding achievements. We are all equal. A good leader is what will determine the success of an organization. My greatest quality is integrity. I believe in accountability and transparency which is crucial for a successful organization. I have the skill to connect with people. I can communicate effectively, and I can identify problems and have the ability to resolve those problems and find solutions that work. I have the capacity to delegate tasks to the right people. My ability to organize people and resources is another one of my strong points. I believe in time management, goal setting, meeting deadlines and providing feedback.

Being in the Insurance business for 50 years has given me the charisma to motivate staff by giving recognition to their achievements. I am a team player and will help and support the team. I am confident and have a positive attitude. But most importantly, I have a passion for our organization, and I am committed to stay focused on the Vision of our organization.



What does being a part of the VFW mean to you?

This is actually a no-brainer. I took an oath, and it is one of the most important aspects of my commitment to this organization. This is something that I am committed to for the rest of my life, so it's something I take seriously. From the oath, it is clear that my servitude is dedicated to preserve and strengthen comradeship, assist worthy comrades, to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans, to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States, and fidelity of its Constitution and laws, to foster true patriotism, to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and to preserve and defend the United States from all enemies as stated in the VFW ritual. As a leader, I have an urge to lead, inspire and contribute to the greater good.

This coming year, I am focusing on the reformation at Department Headquarters, by continuing to mentor, educate, correct deficiencies, and bridge gaps in knowledge in order to help identify, address and correct shortcomings before those shortcomings become systemic issues. I continue to support our Vietnam Veterans and grant them the respect they deserve and encourage them to pass the torch to our younger veterans, our future leaders. I welcome our female veterans whom so deserve the same respect and honor for their commitment to serve and continue to serve in our organization.

I will strive to open new Posts in areas that will make it accessible to more veterans that yearn for comradeship and make resources available to assist them in answering questions and guide them in the right direction. A priority will be training in technology to make it easier to meet deadlines and avoid frustrations. I look forward to revisiting each post and spending some quality time and camaraderie.

Larry Sanders
Department of Texas VFW
Senior Vice Commander



2022 VFW Texas State Convention

★★★★★
Durant, Oklahoma June 2022



State Commander Lynn Toomer &
Auxiliary President Jeanenne Lumpkin





NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

Awards Banquet Group Photos



#StillServing
See more pictures on [Smugmug](#)

Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland has issued a challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of January 2023!



As we enter a new year, we challenge all of our VFW Posts to make a resolution to increase our membership numbers!

For this month's Commander's Challenge, we are focusing on increasing our total membership to reach the goal of 102%+ this year!

For the month of January, we will be tracking all Posts' membership increase through the month: New members, Renewing members, Reinstated members, all increases will count for this contest!



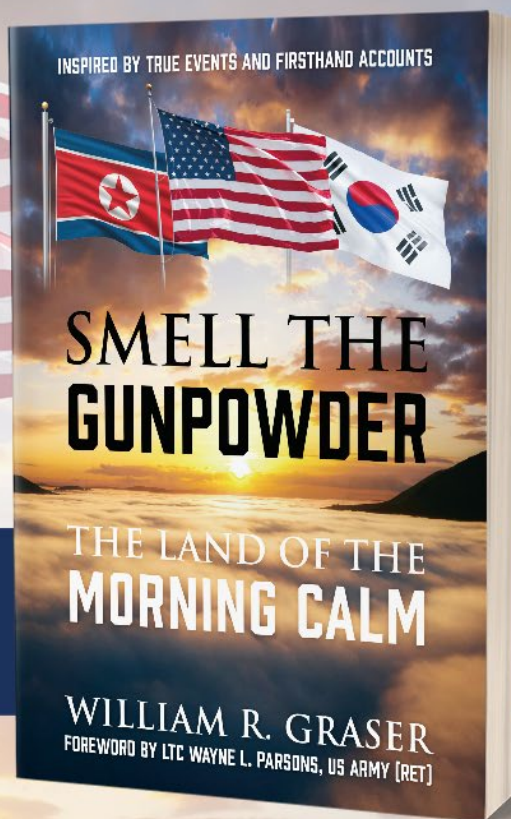
At the end of January, the Post that leads each membership division will receive \$1000 deposited into the Post account!

Let's get out there to recruit new members, retain our existing members, and bring lapsed members back into the fold! It's time to start the new year off strong because

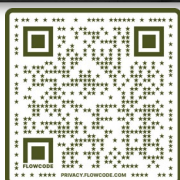
EVERY VETERAN COUNTS!

This contest will count the Post's total membership from January 1st through close of business January 31st. Members processed through the Online Membership System before close of business will be processed that day; membership applications sent in via fax or mail will be processed when received.

Perfect for the historian, librarian, student of history, veterans and readers with an interest in military events. ***Smell the Gunpowder*** offers a unique firsthand account of our servicemen's difficulties and struggles.



Smell the Gunpowder



Scan here for more about the author and other books.

From author William R. Graser, ***Smell the Gunpowder: The Land of the Morning Calm***, is inspired by true events and veterans' firsthand accounts of Americans who served in Korea. Because of these veterans, the Republic of Korea remains a free sovereign nation, and one of the strongest and wealthiest countries in Asia.

American military efforts in Korea began from the end of World War II through the Cold War to include two Korean Conflicts (1950-1953 and 1966-1969) and continued with the Singapore Summit 2018, the Hanoa Summit 2019, North Korea's hostile threat of nuclear conflict along with the economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Today, North Korea continues to have a nuclear arsenal and the outcome of a peace agreement is uncertain.

About the Author

William R. Graser, U.S. Army (Ret.) was a Sergeant First Class recruited by the U.S. Army Security Agency in 1965, and during the Cold War era his assignments included South Korea. On November 2, 1966, the second Korean conflict began, and he was assigned to a U.S. Army camp on the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). This book includes the story of his time there, as well as how that experience carried his life forward through to present day.



Available in Hard Cover, Paperback or Kindle Edition on Amazon and Barnes and Nobles

Oktoberfest



On October 1, 2022, Frisco VFW 8273 and its Auxiliary provided over 100 volunteers for the 3rd Annual Frisco Oktoberfest. The festivities kicked off with an opening ceremony with a traditional keg tapping. Members of the Post and Auxiliary volunteered to assist with Bier Stein Hoisting Competitions, Brat Eating Competitions, Keg Rolling Races, Stein Races and the Dachshund Dash.

They also assisted with ticket sales, registration & VIP check-in. As a result, SBG Hospitality made a generous \$5000 donation to the Post for its efforts that day.



Group Pictured from Left to Right is Jr. Vice Commander, John Q. Miller; Commander, Shenna Lawless; Frisco City Councilman & Gold Legacy Life Member, John Keating; Frisco Mayor, Jeff Cheney; and Life Member, Andy Pyles

"The Frisco VFW Post is extremely active in its community. It makes recruiting easy."

Shenna Lawless
VFW Post 8273 Commander



Frisco City Councilman & Gold Legacy Life Member, John Keating



Pictured Judging Stein Hoisting, Jr. Vice Commander, John Q. Miller

Junior Vice Commander Spotlight



How would you define your leadership qualities?

One of my strongest qualities as a leader is that I take time to listen to my fellow comrades. As a post commander and a District commander I always had an open-door policy. I never forget that officers and members of the VFW are volunteers, and we must respect them. I'm a hands-on commander, if a post has an issue, I want to help them resolve it.

What does being a part of the VFW mean to you?

Comradeship and, being part of the largest combat veterans' organization means a lot to me. Helping our veterans, their families and the community is also important to me as a VFW member.

What is most important Values for the future VFW generations to possess?

I feel the most important Values for the future VFW generation is not to forget the purposes of the VFW which is in Sec. 230102 of the National Bylaws. Be good mentors. Never forget who put you in office!

Message to Comrades

I just want to remind my comrades, that as I go through chairs in the Dept. of Texas, I will never forget who put me in office and that I work for you!

God Bless you and our troops that are guarding the gate of freedom.

Robert Martinez
Junior Vice Commander
Department of Texas VFW

Membership Chair Message

Comrades! We Need Your Help!

Today's veterans enjoy the benefits they receive because of the efforts of our 19th century warriors who established the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). These veterans established the VFW to collectively fight for today's benefits and recruited new members to protect them. Today, our country's growing deficit requires politicians to make cuts to entitlements and benefits. We must ensure that veterans' benefits are not impacted.

As our older VFW members leave our earthly ranks, we must do our part to ensure we recruit new members to continue protecting those benefits for tomorrow's veterans. I ask our younger comrades to seek out and mentor qualifying candidates to join our organization. We must educate them on the history of the VFW and encourage them to join us in the arena of advocacy. Together, we can continue *"Keeping the VFW great."*

State Membership Chair – Benny Guerrero, Jr.





Group Photo: **Standing L-R:** John Blackstock (VFW Post 8555 Commander), Russell King (VFW member), Poth FFA Officers - Grayce Pfeifer, Katie King, Brynn Harris, Falin Parsons, Alexis Hoefelmeyer, Emily Thames, Ian Thames, Kaliee King, and Fred Silva (VFW Post 8555 Quartermaster) **Kneeling:** Wilson Country Emergency Services District (ESD) 4 Paramedics K. Ford and Balderas.

Poth FFA Participates in Flag Retirement Ceremony

Written by Karla Blackstock

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Wilson County Memorial Post 8555 joined forces with the Poth Future Farmers of America (FFA) to retire tattered US flags in an official ceremony. The event was hosted at the VFW Post in Poth, Texas on September 10, 2022, at 10:00 am. More than 75 flags were surrendered from individuals and organizations from across Wilson County.

“When flags are no longer a fitting emblem for display, they should be retired with honor and dignity,” said VFW 8555 Commander John Blackstock. *“There is a great need in our community to retire flags. We have individuals drop off ‘Old Glory’ at our Post year-round.”*

The idea to offer this experience to the community came from Commander Blackstock and his niece Alexis Hoefelmeyer, who is Vice President of the local Poth FFA Chapter and the head of the community service committee.

“This is the third flag retirement ceremony that we’ve held with the VFW, but the first time we’ve offered it to the community as an educational opportunity,” said Hoefelmeyer. *“Through these ceremonies, our FFA officer team has learned how to properly fold and retire flags.”*

Before the ceremony, the FFA officers folded each flag in a triangle as a **tribute to our nation's military and first responders**. The flags were then honored by the Pledge of Allegiance and by singing the National Anthem. Afterward, the flags were laid to rest through a formal retirement ceremony.



(Poth FFA) Katie King lowers a flag into the burn pit.



(Poth FFA) Kaliee King lowers a flag into the burn pit.

The VFW is putting together a flag donation and drop-off box so that members of the community can surrender flags at all hours.



"We are currently looking for a weather-proof box that will allow anyone to drop off flags for future retirement ceremonies," Commander Blackstock said. *"We hope to continue this service to educate everyone, including these high schoolers. We hope that they will take this knowledge to the next level in their lives and teach others about the dignity and honor that our flag deserves."*

Each flag is slowly and ceremoniously lowered into a burn pit, stripes first. The red in the flag symbolizes hardiness and valor, while the white acknowledges the purity and innocence of our nation. The final piece of the flag to lower into the fire is blue which, represents the vigilance and perseverance, of our county. This blue field also holds the union of our 50 states together. Once the flag is completely engulfed in the fire, it is saluted.

VFW Post 8555 Chaplain Ray Silva, who conducted the ceremony said, *"This cremation is a solemn event where we take into account that our nation's flag should be held to the highest esteem."*

Once the retirement of the flags is complete, the ashes are buried with the same regards as a fallen soldier.

The event welcomed guests from surrounding VFW posts and members of the Wilson County Emergency Services District 4, as well as community and FFA members.

"We are honored to have our community and our youth involved," Post Chaplain Silva said. *"These events are a great way to educate the public. Our job as veterans in the VFW is to help educate everyone about our nation's history and the events that made the United States who she is today."*



(Poth FFA) Vice President, Alexis Hoefelmeyer salutes a retired US flag.

USS Texas Begins A New Journey



Image Credit: David J. Phillip/AP

The USS Texas is towed down the Houston Ship Channel on August 31, 2022



About The Texas Battleship Foundation

The mission of the Battleship Texas Foundation is to preserve and enhance the Battleship Texas and develop this historic ship into a premier museum and visitor attraction.

Website: <https://battleshiptexas.org/>

YouTube Updates Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@BattleshipTexas>

Preservation & Educational Outreach Programs:

- Bringing the ship to dry dock to completely repair the ship's hull below the waterline
- Fully restoring the ship's anti-aircraft guns and secondary battery
- Increasing public awareness of Battleship Texas, her history, the men who served on her, as well as her current and future preservation needs
- Partnerships with local museums and organizations to continue displaying Battleship Texas artifacts and educational materials while the ship is away

Written by James Lucas

On August 31, 2022, the long-awaited journey for the USS Texas restoration project became a reality. Travelling from its current location in the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site (La Porte, TX) to a shipyard in Galveston, Texas to begin its overdue repairs. Prior to towing the Battleship, workers needed to complete repairs to reduce the 2,000 gallons a minute leak rate to under 20 gallons a minute. This effort greatly improved the safety and success rate of the voyage to its new destination.

Since 1948, the Battleship was decommissioned and commemorated as a museum which coincided to the day the Texas Republic won its Independence on April 21, 1836. It's the only surviving Battleship that served in both World Wars, having fought Nazis and the Japanese Army during World War II.

In 1998, the Texas Battleship Foundation was formed to advocate for the USS Texas and restore the ship to its former glory. With unanimous approval in 2019, the Texas Legislature session approved \$35 Million to fund the repairs to the damaged hull. Once the restoration project is complete, the Battleship will be docked in a new Texas location to be determined. It is expected for the repairs to take around a year to complete.

The logistics of moving such a large vessel and with the hull structure concerns, using 4 tugboats, the journey was expected to take 9 hours to complete. In a matter of 15 minutes, all the planning could have failed due to the leaks and the rusty hull.

"It went smoother than we thought and quicker than we thought ... and she's gone, down the Houston Ship Channel," said Tony Gregory, President of the Battleship Texas Foundation.

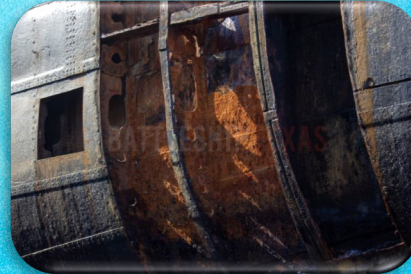


Image Credit: Battleship Texas Foundation Group

In September 2022, the real work began to start with the hull repair preparations. There were several steps necessary to remove the marine foam before the “hot work” of cutting into the steel could take place. Torpedo blisters have rusted inside out which will be replaced by a slightly more modern design to eliminate previous problems.

Much of the starboard side torpedo blisters were deteriorated and workers were actively gauging and removing plates and framing. Marine chemists have been actively working on accessing the inner bottom tanks before the next phase of work begins.

Metal being pulled off the hull will be repurposed for future fundraising efforts.



In October 2022, while continual efforts evaluating and removing foam from tanks, other work has begun. The first 5-foot secondary battery gun has been removed and will be moved to a warehouse for restoration alongside the ship's AA guns.



Into November 2022, foam and blister tanks removal was already past the midship point and is running around the clock. With the removal of the 5-foot battery gun, it is believed the gun mounts haven't been removed since around the 1925-1927 refit. Cleaning has already begun in the inner sections where tanks have been removed. Work has now been progressing to the aft (rear) section of the ship.

For preserving the ship's historical value and educating visitors, Dry Dock tours are now available. More updates, videos and tour information can be found below.

Texas Battleship Dry Dock Tours

<https://battleshiptexas.org/drydock/>

Texas Battleship Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/450347275643485>



Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt



The VFW Department of Texas was elated to have special guest, National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Al Lipphardt be a part of the Open COA meeting during the State Commander's Homecoming. Comrades on-hand got an inspiring speech and reminder of what it means to be a member; and, how member efforts continue to contribute back for all veterans through community service and commitment.

"The PACT Act passed because of you... each individual member"



Comrade Lipphardt expressed the importance of abiding by the Bylaws as it pertains to the values of being a member.

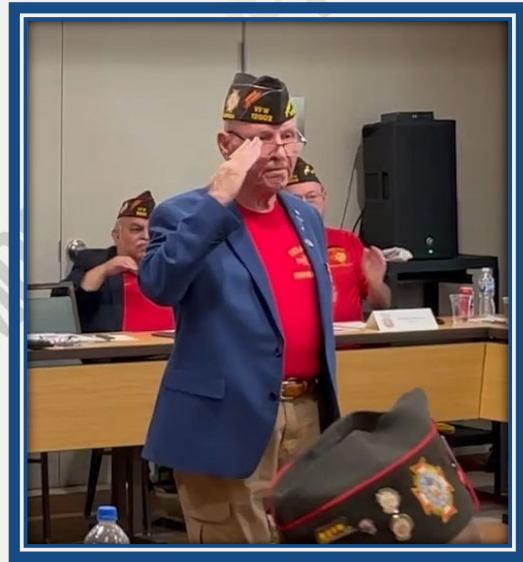
"Believe in what you do, do what you believe in"

Believe in what you do, relates to your commitment and participation as being a member. Do what you believe in, relates to your on-going community service efforts within your VFW Post and local community. A strong message received that resonated with all in attendance.

#StillServing



For 2022, Commander-in-Chief Tim Boland introduced the 1-Member Pin for recruiting new members. To close out the COA meeting, comrade Lipphardt awarded 1-Member pins to State Commander Lynn Toomer, Past State Commander Norman Macey and other line officers for their recruiting accomplishments.



See more on page 23.

Voice of Democracy



Why Is The Veteran Important?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 80,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme for 2022-2023 is, "Why Is The Veteran Important?"

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national levels. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$156,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$30,000.

Candidates will submit a 3-5 minute written and recorded essay for their entry. Submissions are then judged at the Post level prior to moving up the ranks to District, State and National. Each student will be judged on the originality, content and delivery.

Submissions are currently being reviewed for Department of Texas VFW winners to be announced soon.

Read more about our 2021-2022 VOD winners:
<https://www.texasvfw.org/texasvfwmagazine>



2021-2022 Texas VFW Voice of Democracy 1st Place Winner – Felicity Roberts
Sponsored By: District 21, Post 10454 | Grapevine, Texas

Patriot's Pen

My Pledge To Our Veterans

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 84,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. For 2022-2023, the them is "My To Our Veterans."

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and National levels. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. **The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.**



"I am looking forward to this year's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen competition. I have served on Post and District judging panels for several years and the submissions get better and better. Being this year's Department of Texas VFW VOD/PP/Teacher Chair, I am excited to be involved in judging/administering this year's competitions at the State level. **Keeping the VFW Great**, extends to our Youth Programs and those who educate them. It takes all of us to ensure the nation's children are involved in patriotic and historical learning."

Katy Jackson

State Chair, Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen / Teacher of the Year



STATE COMMANDER'S 2022-2023 HOMECOMING



EVERYTHING IS BIGGER IN TEXAS... well, that's how the saying goes. The 2022-2023 State Commander's Homecoming follows in that tradition by bringing many comrades across the state and nation together this past October 2022. There was no better place than the Historic Fort Worth Stockyards to hold this year's festivities. The event hosts Texas State Commander Lynn Toomer and wife show up in Fort Worth style along side with Texas VFW Auxiliary President Jeanenne Lumpkin and husband in a horse and buggy.



Attendees included the Texas VFW Auxiliary and Texas VFW Foundation to assist with event registration and information. Local attractions were filled with VFW members visiting the John Wayne Museum, Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame, legendary Joe T. Garcia's Mexican food and so much more that Fort Worth has to offer.



Comradeship stretched far and wide with packed hotels, a historic Fort Worth scavenger hunt and the TEE IT UP for Toomer Topgolf event sponsored by Humana. Participants and event attendees sported the Hawaiian shirt theme for the kick-off day.



Fort Worth City Council Member (District 9), Iraq War veteran and newly recruited VFW member, Elizabeth Beck, presents a Certificate of Recognition to Auxiliary President Jeanenne Lumpkin and State Commander Lynn Toomer from the Fort Worth Mayor's Office.



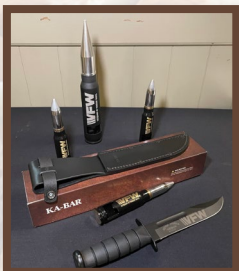
At the Commander's Main Event Dinner, guests got to enjoy some local Tex-Mex food, swing by the Past State Commander's table and bid on VFW merchandise for the silent auction. Many comrades took advantage of the photo booth and adding fun accessories to their western apparel theme.



Guests were able to get a traditional boot and shoeshine along with custom hand-rolled cigars as they awaited the toast segment of the night. Shortly after dinner, several couples hit the dance floor to Texas Two-Step through the night. Many others decided to enjoy the pleasant weather outside with a cold refreshment and conversation. Live country music was provided by Proud Country at Club 81.



State Commander's Homecoming special guest, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, Al Lipphardt was on hand to present recognition awards to Texas State Commander Lynn Toomer for his contributions to the VFW and his on-going dedication to **"Keeping the VFW Great!"**



Following all the Main Event Dinner festivities, comrades headed across the way to Billy Bob's. A special concert by country music icon and philanthropist, Tracy Lawrence, was about to hit the stage. The concert was a packed house all throughout the night culminating the closure of where things began a couple days prior as seen with State Line Officer's and wives posing on the Billy Bob's bull.



LEGISLATION UPDATE

TEXAS VFW

88th Texas Legislature in 2023

The following priorities are not the only issues and priorities that the Texas VFW will be working on but are key issues that carried over from the last Legislative Session and Interim Sessions in 2021. As always, the Texas VFW will closely monitor all Veteran-related bills under consideration by the Texas Legislature.

- Create programs and funding streams connected to services that improve mental health outcomes for Veterans suffering from Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Post Traumatic Stress (PTS), and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).
- Facilitate relationships with major corporations and employers and connect Veterans to existing business resources and available State services and access to high quality jobs in the transition from military service to Veteran status.
- Expand maximum Bingo Payout and number of licenses allowed annually.
- Advocate for two new State Veterans Cemeteries (one in Texas Panhandle/West Texas area and one in Northeast Texas) and leverage Federal and State funds to do so.
- Create program for funeral expenses for indigent Veterans.
- Expand the Texas Compassionate Use Program (TCUP), the medical marijuana program in Texas, to include chronic pain as a condition for medical marijuana prescriptions and make the prescriptions more affordable and accessible.
- Defend and sustain the legality of hemp-based Delta 8 products.
- Advocate for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for state agency retirees, many of whom are Veterans.
- Work with the State Comptroller on an administrative fix, or legislation if necessary, on disabled Veteran exemptions listed on property tax records.
- Support legislation that assists County Veterans Services Officers and the services and programs they provide.



Texas VFW National Legislative Committee (left to right) – Reggie Williams, Kristina Keenan, Shenna Lawless, Benny Guerrero, Jr., Mitch Fuller
Image Credits: Shenna Lawless

Legislative Update

By Mitch Fuller, National/State Legislative Chairman

The focus on federal advocacy in Washington, D.C. this past year has been on passage of the *SFC Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act*. Kristina Keenan (Associate Director of the VFW National Legislative Office, Washington, D.C.) joined the four members of the VFW Department of Texas National Legislative Committee (Benny Guerrero, Jr., Shenna Lawless, Reggie Williams, Lupita Perez until July 2022, and Mitch Fuller) advocated strongly for passage of the PACT Act with our two U.S. Senators, John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, and all 36 members of the Texas Congressional delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The PACT Act was the top national legislative priority of the VFW for the past several years. The PACT Act passed both Houses of Congress in June and July and was signed into law by President Biden at a signing ceremony at the White House on August 10, 2022.

Invited guests for the signing ceremony included VFW National Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland, and several Texans, including Le Roy and Rosie Torres, founders of Burn Pits 360 and the catalyst for getting the PACT introduced in Congress and fighting for its passage for several years.

(continue to next page)

The four members of the Texas VFW National Legislative Committee attended the 2022 Fall VFW National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. September 12-15, 2022. VFW National Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland and the two Vice Commanders-in-Chief, the VFW National Legislative Office in Washington, D.C., and more than 60 members of the VFW National Legislative Committee from across the United States were in attendance.

The focus of the National Legislative Committee during the Conference as we advocated in the halls of Congress were on three issues: (1) H.R. 8736, *Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act*, also known as the GUARD VA Benefits Act. This legislation would reinstate penalties for charging Veterans and survivors unauthorized fees by so-called "claims sharks;" (2) H.R. 1282/S. 344, the *Major Richard Starr Act*, which would enable Chapter 61 Veterans who sustained combat-related injuries to be entitled to DoD retirement pay and VA disability compensation without offset (this is concurrent receipt for this small cohort of Veterans); (3) Economic opportunity's role in preventing suicide: (a) direct VA to incorporate Veteran benefit usage into its annual suicide prevention report. This would show the correlation between VA benefits and Veterans who die by suicide, and (b) analyze which benefits impact on upstream suicide prevention and focus on expanding those benefits to reduce the overall number of Veteran suicides.



Image Credits (Shenna Lawless) - Texas VFW National Legislative Committee (Left to Right) – Benny Guerrero, Jr., Mitch Fuller, Shenna Lawless

88th Texas Legislature Veteran Bills

HB 90 / SB 155 - Bishop Evans Act

The House Bill would entitle members of the Texas State Guard to a death benefit similar to what service members receive when they are killed in the line of duty while serving on federal active duty. This bill is named in honor of SPC Bishop Evans, who was killed while serving on State active duty as part of Operation Lone Star. Additionally, the bill is part of a larger legislative effort to ensure members of the Texas State Guard have the resources they need (other bills forthcoming) when they serve on active duty like their counterparts in the Texas Military Forces, the Texas Army National Guard, and the Texas Air National Guard.

HB 278 / SB 252

Streamlines the hiring process of peace officers who are Veterans with at least two years of honorable service.

HB 431

Increases the maximum payout in a single bingo session from \$2,500 to \$5,000 and increases the maximum number of temporary bingo licenses from 24 to 48 by an authorized organization that holds a regular license to conduct bingo. Texas VFW Posts are collectively the largest holder of regular/annual bingo licenses in Texas which is administered and operated by the Texas Lottery Commission. Texas VFW Posts and Auxiliaries currently hold more than 75 regular licenses across dozens of locations.

HB 671

Requires the State to initiate a program for a Veteran suicide prevention program.

HB 558

Prohibits certain limitations on the operation of certain organizations that benefit Veterans during a declared state of disaster. This bill has nearly identical language to two bills from the 2021 Legislative Session, SB 989 and SB 1493, which were our top priority then. This legislation goes to the heart of the Governor's emergency powers, exercised with great damage to our VFW Post during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020-21. Simply, this bill would exempt Veteran Service Organizations who possess a TABC license from being classified as bars and closed due to emergency declared by the Governor.

There are lots of background and history on this including what still remains a mystery: SB 989 and SB 1493 were heard in the Senate Business and Commerce Committee in March 2021. Texas VFW State Commander Dick Shawver and I both testified on behalf of the Texas VFW for SB 989 and SB 1493. The bills never got a Committee vote to go to the Senate floor and died in Committee. HB 558 is another great opportunity for us in the upcoming session to ensure we are protected from future Emergency Orders issued by the Governor.

Operation Mutual Cares

Proudly supporting the USO & VFW



BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY
HomeServices



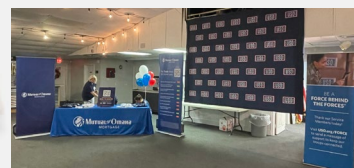
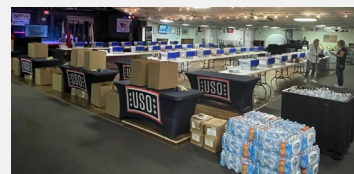
On November 3, 2022, VFW Post 2427 in Tomball, TX, hosted and partnered with the USO, Mutual of Omaha, and Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices to celebrate the 2022 Operation Mutual Cares fundraising campaign. The event brought together several organizations, local political leaders, active and future service men and women as well as volunteers from across the state to assemble 10,000 Care Packages.

The USO Care Package Program is designed to provide service members with a connection to home through a snack or toiletry Care Package designed to best suit the needs of our military men and women. The participants packaged snacks in 'desert tan' durable nylon pouches in an assembly line style. The snack pack is assembled with a mixture of healthy treats, drink mixes, and filled with service members' most requested items.

As part of the USO care package event, Mutual of Omaha celebrates their annual "Operation Mutual Cares" a fundraising program which will donate money back to the USO. Mutual of Omaha and the USO have had a partnership over eight years, and have donated over \$3 million to the USO over the years.

"USO Houston has three centers that serve over 200,000 service members and family members on an average year. That's a lot of people that we are able to serve thanks to volunteers and partners like Mutual of Omaha."

Loren Westerfield, Executive Director, USO, Houston



DONATE TODAY!
OPERATIONMUTUALCARES.COM





1st Annual Operation Mutual Cares VFW Post 2427, Tomball, TX

With assembly lines ready, work began fast to begin filling 10,000 care packages. On-hand, Texas VFW State Commander, Lynn Toomer organizes the care packages into boxes ready to be shipped. Several members of the National Guard and Navy Talent Acquisition Group Houston were throughout the lines to help facilitate a steady assembly process.

2,500 care packages were completed within the first 1 1/2 hours



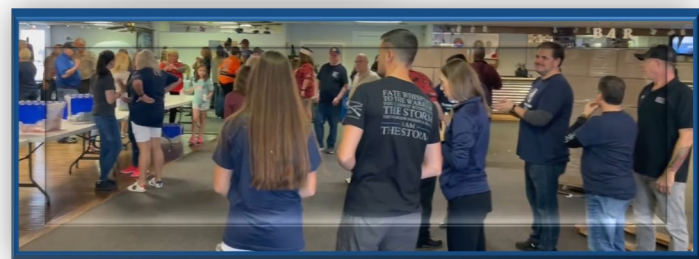
Comrades and volunteers were making quick work of the care package assembly. Within 3 hours, more than 7,500 packages were assembled, and pallets were being prepped for loading into an awaiting transport trailer.

As a break and line consolidation inside Post 2427 was being organized, other volunteers began loading the first pallet shipments into the truck for transport. Comradeship was at its finest on this day as so many were focused on the task at hand.

After the reorganization of the lines, volunteers made quick work to complete the remaining 2,500 care packages cutting the 4:00 P.M. expected completion time by 3 hours. Job well done!



Event organizers and volunteers celebrate as the final care package is assembled and boxed up. A tremendous amount of gratitude was shared to all those in attendance for their contributions.



Mutual of Omaha Organizers and Volunteers



VFW Post 2427 & Auxiliary members with comrades and volunteers from across the state.

The 1st Annual Operation Mutual Cares finished strong with a live performance by Jimmie Vaughn (brother of Stevie Ray Vaughn) and the Tilt a Whirl Band close out the day's festivities on the VFW Post 2427 Fairgrounds.

Snapshot Since July 2022

The Texas VFW Foundation has assisted 27 veteran households, including 25 dependents and 1 surviving spouse, with \$51,089.74 in direct financial assistance, \$2,500 towards a much needed storage facility for Homeless Standdown donations/supplies, and \$20,000 in Post Assistance Grants.

TEXAS VFW FOUNDATION



Snapshot Since July 2022

The Texas VFW Auxiliary's President's Special Project this year is the Veterans' Assistance Program (VAP), focusing on assisting the surviving spouse. Madam President Jeanenne Lumpkin has seen first-hand the struggles a surviving spouse goes through when benefits cease because the veteran either didn't know or didn't qualify for surviving spouse benefits.

Can you imagine a spouse's horror when they realize their monthly income has just been reduced by half or more? They are lost; lost with grief over their loved one and reliving that loss as they realize the impact of their loss of income. They never expected to have to figure out how to stay in the house they have made a home with their veteran.

They do not have to go through this alone. Between the VAP temporary financial assistance and the Service Officers that assist with longer term solutions, we are here to help them navigate the unknown and have one less thing to grieve.

*Those who donate through AmazonSmile, eBay, Facebook, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, PayPal Giving Fund, Schwab Charitable, and through your employer deserve a special "Thank you!!" You truly go above and beyond to show that **Texas Veterans come first.***

"Veterans are a very proud breed of person. We don't complain much when life gets tough. Still, there are times when life becomes tougher than a veteran or their family can handle alone. We aren't used to asking for help ourselves even though we do need it at times. All we ever really ask for is a "Thank you for your service" from our nation. That's all. Even so, being a veteran myself I can tell you that asking for help is what we should do when we need it and the help is absolutely needed. I've come to learn that sometimes there are times in my life when I need to swallow that pride and simply reach out for the sake of my family. This Veterans Assistance Program [funded in part by the Fund for Veterans Assistance] is vital for veterans and their families even though many will try not to ask for help. It's just not in our nature to do so unless absolutely needed or as a last resort. Not only is this program important, I believe it is very vital and much needed. In some cases, it could mean the difference between having a home and being rendered homeless which is a national issue among veterans."

John S., U.S. Army

Donor Appreciation

The Texas VFW Foundation wants to thank all individual and corporation donations. Donors like you ensure funds are always available for our Texas veterans.

- ✂ **All Operation Daily Battle Participants**
- ✂ **Amy Ernst**
- ✂ **Colin Esaias**
- ✂ **Shenna Lawless**
- ✂ **Diane McLellan**
- ✂ **O'Donnell Family Fund**
- ✂ **Rick Oney**
- ✂ **Raytheon Technologies**
- ✂ **Joshua Segall**
- ✂ **Shell Oil Company Foundation**
- ✂ **William Stein, III**
- ✂ **Phillip Tereskiewicz**
- ✂ **Wimberly Wiethorn**
- ✂ **Larry Woodrum**

Upcoming Events Information

At the **2023 Mid-Winter Conference**, there are several Texas VFW Foundation led initiatives for veterans. Come join us and become a donor during National Blood Donor Month on Thursday, January 19 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. for our **Blood Drive**.

There will be a **Veterans Resource Fair** on Thursday, January 19 from 5:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. (see page 28 for details). The event is open to Military, Veterans and their families.

Learn More at:

<https://www.texasvfw.org/vfw-foundation>

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS, MID-
WINTER CONFERENCE
BLOOD DRIVE
GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE DURING
NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Located @ Omni Hotel
OUTBACK
Central Blood Center
Central Blood Center

2023 Mid-Winter Conference
Omni Corpus Christi Hotel
Jan 19-21, 2023

Celebrating World War II Vets

World War II veterans, ranging in age from 92 to 105, participated in the 2nd Annual National World War II Museum trip to New Orleans. Past State Surgeon, Foy Day, held several fundraising events across many Texas VFW Posts for this effort. The Department of Texas (co-sponsor), District 17, VFW Post 4692 (Bryan, Texas), and other local sponsors raised a total of \$17,000 to fund the trip. American Legion Post 654, Post Commander Hector Giron hosted the special and memorable event for 2022.



Participating VFW Members

- ❑ Inge Conley - National Council Member
- ❑ Earl Conley - Trustee VFW Post 12075
- ❑ Foy Day - State Chaplain
- ❑ Cecil McConnell - VFW Post Commander 12075
- ❑ Sally Jarrett - VFW Post 8541 Auxiliary member

Another 2023 trip is being planned to keep this annual event to celebrate the contributions to our nation's veterans for their service. Learn more about this prestigious museum at:

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/>

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.





Operation Red Wings Foundation

(Formerly Lone Survivor Foundation)

Therapeutic retreats for Veterans & their Families with symptoms of PTSD, mTBI and Chronic Pain through a series of 6-day therapeutic retreats.

The series includes:

- **Individual Veteran/Service Member Retreat-** focuses on relief from trauma, innovative tools, and wellness
- **Veteran Spouse Retreat-** focuses on self-care, establishing boundaries, caregiver stress, & self-advocacy
- **Couples Retreat-** focuses on communication, connection, and strengthening the relationship
- **Family Retreat-** forms a more resilient bond between family members, allowing each of you to move forward together as a cohesive unit.

Our retreats use a variety of tools that are not widely available and focus on relief from the symptoms of invisible wounds. You will leave the retreat with an Individualized Post-traumatic Growth Plan for continued healing. Our retreats are held in Texas and North Carolina. For more details visit: orwfoundation.org

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Complete the eligibility questionnaire at orwfoundation.org
- Check your email. You will get an email requesting a DD214 and link to the application.
- We will contact you to discuss further details and scheduling.

CONTACT US



Sign Up

www.orwfoundation.org
1414 11th Street,
Huntsville, TX 77340
936-755-6075
retreat@orwfoundation.org

ELIGIBILITY

- All service eras and US branches
- A diagnosis or service-connected disability is **NOT** required
- You must be able to interact in a group environment and be willing to have a roommate for in-person programs.
- You must be able to administer your own medication(s) and self-care
- If substance abuse has been an issue, you must have been in recovery for at least six months prior to attending.



**Veterans
Crisis Line**
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

TEXAS VFW FOUNDATION



Military & Veteran Career Expo

January 19, 2023
10am—2pm

Preregister online at:
TexasVFWFoundationCareerExpo.eventbrite.com



In Person!

Omni Hotel | Corpus Christi, TX
900 N Shoreline Blvd,
1st Floor—Bayview room
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

NEW YEAR NEW CAREER!
Meet employers in person to
learn about available career
opportunities & explore new careers.
Plus Veteran Services will be available to
provide resources and support to the
Coastal Bend's military and veteran
community including spouses and
working-age dependents.

Gina Brown
gina.brown@twc.texas.gov



WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS
COASTAL BEND



TEXAS VETERANS
COMMISSION



**Texas Operation
Welcome Home**
Transitioning Texas Troops



Equal Opportunity Employer/Program
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
Relay Texas: 1.800.735.2989 (TDD) and 1.800.735.2988 or 7-1-1 (Voice).

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

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Este documento contiene información importante sobre los requisitos, los derechos, las determinaciones y las responsabilidades del acceso a los servicios del sistema de la fuerza laboral. Hay disponibles servicios de idioma, incluida la interpretación y la traducción de documentos, sin ningún costo y a solicitud.

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