

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

General Orders No. 1

2014-15 Series

1. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief and having been installed in office in accordance with the By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command.

2. The following officers have been duly elected and installed by the 115th National Convention will be accorded the recognition due them:

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

John A. Biedrzycki, Jr., Post 418, Mc Kees Rocks, Pennsylvania

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Bernard J. "Brian" Duffy, Post 1170, Middletown, Kentucky

Quartermaster General

Robert B. Greene, Post 7397, Lenexa, Kansas

Chaplain

Charlene K. Cobb, Post 10173, Delavan, Wisconsin

Judge Advocate General

Daniel J. "Dan" Nail, Post 5097, Thibodaux, Louisiana

Surgeon General

Robert Lane, Jr., Post 341, Washington, DC

National Council of Administration Members

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| Alabama | George H. Jones, Post 6073, Scottsboro, Alabama |
| Alaska | Robert A. Myles, Post 1685, Anchorage, Alaska |
| Arizona | Timothy M. "Tim" Borland, Post 9972, Sierra Vista, Arizona |
| Arkansas | Terry G. Callahan, Post 2256, Benton, Arkansas |
| California | Denis F. Wells, Post 8327, Livingston, California |
| Colorado | Ronald J. Lattin, Post 5061, Denver, Colorado |
| Connecticut | Richard G. DiFederico, Jr., Post 7330, Oakville, Connecticut |
| Delaware | John R. Morrow, Post 475, Newark, Delaware |
| Dist. of Columbia | Herman C. Salley, Post 2979, Washington, DC |
| Europe | Peter J. Mascetti, Post 27, Wiesbaden, Germany |
| Florida | Daniel P. "Dan" Duffy, Post 1966, Fort Lauderdale, Florida |
| Georgia | Pledge M. Cannon, Sr., Post 9998, Warner Robins, Georgia |
| Hawaii | Norbert K. Enos, Post 2875, Honolulu, Hawaii |
| Idaho | John R. Crotinger, Post 3520, Grangeville, Idaho |
| Illinois | J. D. "Butch" Spindler, Post 4549, Robinson, Illinois |
| Indiana | Richard M. "Rick" Faulk, Post 2839, Indianapolis, Indiana |
| Iowa | Darrell A. Blasberg, Post 2208, Waverly, Iowa |
| Kansas | James T. "J. T." Plummer, Post 8873, Stockton, Kansas |
| Kentucky | Claud F. Wyatt, Post 5704, Liberty, Kentucky |
| Louisiana | Fred A. Wesley, Post 12065, New Iberia, Louisiana |
| Maine | Raymond R. Lupo, Post 4633, Hampden, Maine |
| Maryland | Eugene L. "Gene" Stewart, Post 5838, Joppatowne, Maryland |
| Massachusetts | George D. Murray, Post 1018, Boston, Massachusetts |
| Michigan | John H. "Jack" Pray, Post 3243, Fenton, Michigan |
| Minnesota | Donald W. "Don" Nix, Post 5518, Elk River, Minnesota |
| Mississippi | Johnnie L. Richard, Post 2539, Gulfport, Mississippi |
| Missouri | Jessie L. Jones, Post 2657, Fulton, Missouri |
| Montana | Timothy C. Peters, Post 10010, East Helena, Montana |
| Nebraska | Dan G. Petersen, Post 131, Lincoln, Nebraska |

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| Nevada | Herman C. Hagen, Jr., Post 10468, Searchlight, Nevada |
| New Hampshire | Paul J. Lloyd, Post 1631, Concord, New Hampshire |
| New Jersey | Manuel "Manny" Almeida, Post 2226, Oakhurst, New Jersey |
| New Mexico | Allan W. "Ski" Kuchinsky, Post 7686, Alamogordo, New Mexico |
| New York | James F. McNally, Post 53, Jamestown, New York |
| North Carolina | Jason L. Schoolcraft, Post 8073, Whiteville, North Carolina |
| North Dakota | Dale T. Ronning, Post 7564, West Fargo, North Dakota |
| Ohio | Richard R. "Dick" Uzl, Jr., Post 3345, Strongsville, Ohio |
| Oklahoma | Donald R. "Don" Fenter, Post 5263, Fort Sill, Oklahoma |
| Oregon | Bert W. Key, Post 4273, Sandy, Oregon |
| Pacific Areas | Gerald L. "Jerry" Kraus, Post 1509, Yigo, Guam |
| Pennsylvania | Robert C. Eiler, Post 8805, Hopewell Township, Pennsylvania |
| Rhode Island | Allen C. Wagonblott, Jr., Post 5392, Tiverton, Rhode Island |
| South Carolina | Melvin H. "Hugh" Gunter, Jr., Post 8738, Lexington, South Carolina |
| South Dakota | Russel L. Dramstad, Post 1776, Huron, South Dakota |
| Tennessee | Darryl B. McPheron, Post 9754, Church Hill, Tennessee |
| Texas | Lazaro "Larry" Velasquez, Jr., Post 2397, Corpus Christi, Texas |
| Utah | Brent W. Neilsen, Post 10900, Moab, Utah |
| Vermont | Ronald L. "Ron" Tallman, Post 790, Barre, Vermont |
| Virginia | Kim A. DeShano, Post 2216, Staunton, Virginia |
| Washington | Jerry W. Herker, Post 3386, Airway Heights, Washington |
| West Virginia | Robert W. "Bob" Caruthers, Post 9926, Mason, West Virginia |
| Wisconsin | Allen W. "Al" Kochenderfer, Post 10406, Cochrane, Wisconsin |
| Wyoming | James "Jim" Pedersen, Post 2673, Cody, Wyoming |

3. All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant General

John E. Hamilton, Post 7909, Jacksonville, Florida

National Chief of Staff

Merlin B. "Bruce" Hollinger, Post 8336, Moapa Valley, Nevada

Inspector General

Raymond K. Thomas, Post 3632, Tempe, Arizona

Assistant Adjutant General & Executive Director, Washington Office

Robert E. Wallace, Post 9503, Bayville, New Jersey

Assistant Adjutant General, Operations

Jerry L. Newberry, Post 2492, Imlay City, Michigan

Assistant Quartermaster General

John R. Muckelbauer, Post 3712, Paola, Kansas

Director, Administration & Operations, Washington Office

vacant

Director, Administrative Operations

David E. Prohaska, Post 4434, Belleville, Michigan

Director, Communications & Public Affairs, Washington

Joseph E. Davis, Post 3391, Pago Pago, American Samoa

Director, Human Resources

Debra L. Anderson, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, Membership

Robert A. Crider, Post 2801, Villa Park, Illinois

Director, National Legislative Service

Raymond C. Kelley, Post 160, Glen Burnie, Maryland

Director, National Veterans Service

William L. Bradshaw, Post 284, Washington, D.C.

Director of Operations

Patrick J. Botbyl, Post 1593, Hawthorne, New Jersey

Director, Programs

Kevin C. Jones, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, Publications & Editor-in-Chief, VFW Magazine

Richard K. Kolb, Post 5717, Kearney, Missouri

Director, VFW Properties

Billy R. Weissend, Post 8950, Lanham, Maryland

National Sergeant-at-Arms

Bryan P. O'Brien, Post 2394, Melrose, Massachusetts

5. For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary.

6. Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2014-2015 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teachers' Awards, Buddy Poppy and National Military Services. 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.

7. Post Commanders and District Commanders are directed to forward all resolutions or communications relative to federal legislation or to the policy or procedure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other governmental agency, to their respective Department Headquarters for consideration and referral to the Adjutant General. Department Commanders will not take direct action on any such resolutions or communications without first obtaining full knowledge of existing National Headquarters policies governing such legislation or agencies. Posts, County Councils, Districts and officers and members thereof shall not publicly communicate or promulgate any such resolutions until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief.

8. DEPARTMENT RESERVE: Attention is called to section 518(a)(4)(f), Manual of Procedure which requires Department Quartermasters to maintain a dues reserve fund as prescribed in sections 717 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure.

9. POST RESERVE: Attention is directed to section 218(a)(5)(f), Manual of Procedure which mandates Post Quartermasters to maintain a dues reserve fund as prescribed in sections 717 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure.

10. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to action of the National Council of Administration prohibiting the wearing of VFW sport caps and/or western style caps at VFW meetings in place of the regulation cap of the VFW official uniform as set forth in sections 803 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure. This prohibition is in accordance with previous directives of Commanders-in-Chief that it is held to be objectionable and contrary to accepted rules of order and proper decorum implicit in the ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to permit the wearing of other than the official VFW cap at VFW meetings.

11. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to section 703 of the National By-Laws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable.

12. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustees' Report of Audit (VFW Store product #4214) to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September. Do not mail these reports to National Headquarters.

13. Attention of Department and Post Commanders is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990/T, where applicable. Forms may be secured from your local Post Office or branch office of the Internal Revenue Service.

14. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day (see section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).

15. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to section 1001(24) of the Manual of Procedure concerning alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting: "The presence, dispensation, and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings is unacceptable and is prohibited."

16. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department By-Laws and directives. Department and District Inspectors shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.

17. The distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in sections 711 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post commanders should arrange now for the distribution of Buddy Poppies in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of Buddy Poppies shall be used in accordance with section 704 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure.

18. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:

Post Nos. 3617 and 10445 consolidated as Post No. 3617, East Wenatchee, Washington

Post Nos. 1771 and 7206 consolidated as Post No. 1771, Lafayette, Colorado

Post Nos. 704 and 7479 consolidated as Post No. 704, Parsons, Kansas

Post Nos. 5596 and 4082 consolidated as Post No. 5596, Okawville, Illinois

19. Announcement is made of the authorization of the charters for the following Posts:

Post No. 12138 – Ewa Beach, Hawaii

12139 – Sembach, Germany

BY COMMAND OF
JOHN W. STROUD
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:



John E. Hamilton
Adjutant General