

# SILVER LINES

VFW DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

1899 1999

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Volume 9 Issue 4

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September 2010

## State Commander



Officers and comrades of the Department of Nevada, I wish to thank all of you that have supported my incredible ride to this most prestigious position. The support and leadership that has surrounded me has surely prepared me for the responsibility that will be placed on my shoulders for this program year. I also wish to thank my wife of 40 years, Mie, who has been there for support as I have progressed through the chairs. Mie, your inspiration will be with me forever.

For those that are not aware of my military background, I served in the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Air Force as an aircraft mechanic for 26 years. Twenty of those years were repairing fighter aircraft on the flight lines of nine airfields. It is from these years that I developed my theme of "Stay on line". Its meaning is to ask all members and officers of the VFW

and Ladies Auxiliary to stay on line and continue to work membership and national programs during my tenure as the State Commander. The lifeline of the VFW, membership growth, is critical to ensuring that the VFW will continue to be in place over the next one hundred years, to be in the halls of Congress to ensure that veterans' legislation is passed to care for the active duty troops as well as our veterans, both retired and discharged. Without membership growth, the VFW could face the prospect of losing its clout with Congress and therefore, future legislation to support veterans' issues may no longer be funded by our legislators. My goal is for the Department to grow by 105 percent, or a total strength of 8,200 members at the end of my year. If we can continue to grow at that rate, the Department would reach 10,000 members in another five years. The state has had a large number of eligible veterans relocate here over the past 10 years. The only thing we can do is work to find those veterans living in Nevada that have never been invited to join.

Membership chairman and Senior Vice Chairman Bruce Hollinger has worked up a great membership program for the second year, so if you'll support his plan, then I'm sure we'll succeed just as we succeeded under Past State Commander Hagen last year. The second part of my theme is to stay on line and work the national programs which enhance the visibility of the VFW in our communities, states and throughout the nation. This past year, our Department had a national winner in the Patriot's Pen competition for the first time in our Department's history. This proves that if the programs are worked vigorously enough, big dividends may be the result. Department

STATE COMMANDER, continued on page 2

## LAVFW State President's Message

Hello, everyone. It is a pleasure to serve the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United State this year as your Department President.

Our National President Cortina Barns' theme is "United by Love for Our Veterans and Country." Her opening message starts with, "Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision, or the ability to direct individual accomplishment toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results." That statement speaks to our goals for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary.

We are "Team Nevada 2010-2011." I am looking forward to visiting with all the members during my travels throughout the state promoting the programs for the benefit of our veterans who have given of their time away from family, friends and country to keep us free. The Ladies are hitting the road hard and working the programs so we will have a banner year for "Team Nevada 2010-2011."

During the month of July, I visited with my sisters at Carson Valley Memorial Auxiliary in Gardnerville, and sisters and comrades in Reno at Posts 9211-Battle Born and 3819-Truckee Meadows. I visited Post 3396 Silver State in Sparks, Post 2350 Gasper J. Salas in Elko, and Post 10247 Washoe Lyon Memorial in Fernley during the month of August. Then I attended the National Convention in Indianapolis. It never occurred to me I had to keep a bag packed at all times, but this is exciting and I am enjoying every minute of it.

My theme is "Our Veterans are the Fruit of the Spirit." The Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Long-suffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Meekness and Temperance. I see all these traits in our service men and women and our veterans who have put their life on the line for country, family and friends. My pin is the butterfly, which pollinates the Fruit and my colors are pink and blue.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.



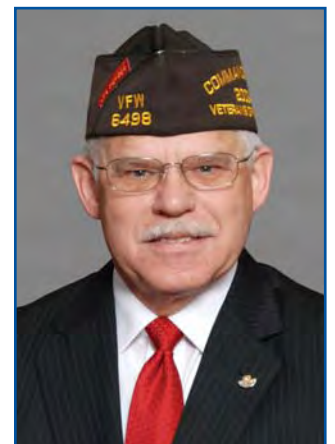
## National Healthcare Law Now Complete

Programs provided to 8 million VA beneficiaries now recognized

WASHINGTON, June 2, 2010 – The national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is thanking President Obama for signing H.R. 5014 into law Thursday to recognize all Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare programs as meeting minimum essential coverage standards under the new national healthcare law.

"I want to thank the president for his signature to protect the integrity of all VA healthcare programs, as well as the entire Congress for their unanimous support of this much needed legislation," said VFW National Commander Thomas J. Tradewell, Sr., of Sussex, Wisconsin.

"I especially want to recognize House Armed Services Committee Chairman Ike Skelton (D-MO) and ranking member Buck McKeon (R-CA), Senate VA Committee Chairman Daniel Akaka (D-HI) and ranking member Richard Burr (R-NC), Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee Chairman Jim Webb (D-VA), and House VA Committee Chairman Bob Filner (D-CA) and ranking member Steve Buyer (R-IN) for championing these protections," he said.



HEALTHCARE LAW, continued on page 3

**Need Help Filing a VA Claim?**  
Paul Ruprecht - VFW Department Service Officer  
5460 Reno Corporate Drive #106  
Reno, Nevada 89511  
Phone: 775-321-4885 FAX: 775-321-4889

**NEVADA**  
**VFW - AUXILIARY WEB PAGE**  
**www.vfwnevada.org**



## STATE COMMANDER, continued from page 1

Program Chairman and State Junior Vice Commander Joe Rigsby has worked up an outstanding game plan and all the Officers and Chairmen at the Post, District and Department levels have been provided the tools to execute this plan. Please don't let these tools sit on your desk and not be utilized. I promise you – the rewards will be awe-inspiring.

I am pleased to announce that we not only have the full staff of elected and appointed officers, but for the first time I have an extra staff of knowledgeable officers to also assist you in resolving problems which you may face during the course of this year. That group of officers is the Past State Commanders that have volunteered to provide you with the mentorship and guidance you may find within your Post and/or District. The coordinator for this Past State Commander's club is Past State Commander Frank Risewick. Should you need any assistance from the state, and if I am unavailable for your immediate response, please contact Past State Commander Frank Risewick.

I would like to explain the significance of my Commander's pin at this time. My theme of "stay on line" has been explained to its fullest extent. Below my theme are three logos. They are the USMC, USAF and the VFW logo. These are the key points of my life, as I spent four years in the USMC where I became a man, and which also provided my eligibility for the VFW. Then I spent the next 22 years in the USAF where I achieved enough rank to provide me the monetary compensation to be financially able to pursue this lofty position, and finally the logo for the VFW, my second home. Following the three logos are the words "75 years", which represents the diamond anniversary that this Department celebrated on July 20th. I have purchased 500 diamond jubilee anniversary pins that the Ladies Auxiliary and VFW will have available to purchase over the course of this year for \$5. The proceeds from the sale of these pins will be given to the National Military Service program (my special program) in Washington, D.C. next March when State President Feaster and I attend the legislative conference. The homecoming for Madam President and I will also celebrate this diamond jubilee anniversary. Our homecoming is at the North Elks lodge, 25 September 2010.

This year, our national organization will be communicating electronically. As a result, the majority of our Department communications will be conducted electronically. Therefore, I request all Posts, Districts and chairmen at all levels to get online and be prepared to receive and transmit our communications in this manner. We've completed a great year of educating veterans to include electronic communication. I want to ensure that we continue that process this year.

My final topic I wish to share with you before closing is a campaign that has been going on for the past three years. The intent of the campaign is to gain the support of the 17 Western Conference Departments to nominate John Stroud for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief designate at the 2011 National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Past State Commander Stroud has been endorsed by 15 of those Departments and is sure to win the election in San Antonio. The campaign team has worked tirelessly during these years ensuring that the funds were in place to allow John the opportunity to travel to these 17 Departments. As a result, he has maintained the large lead in this race and been able to discuss issues with the Departments which will need to be worked when he is installed as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief in Reno, Nevada in 2012. My request to the members of this Department is to make a contribution to assist the campaign for the final year of travels. Your support is greatly appreciated.

I look forward to serving this great Department with the support of our Ladies Auxiliary and ask that all Posts with Auxiliaries continue to work with them in all activities and we'll be sure to have a great year.

In closing, I ask that we continue to support our men and women serving our nation and keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

## State Senior Vice Commander Membership Chair Silverlines Editor/Webmaster

Congratulations and thank you to all that have accepted an elected or appointed position at the Post, District and Department levels. Without your commitment and dedication to fulfilling those responsibilities associated with your offices, the Department would be in a big time "hurt locker". And thank you to those who attended the 2010 State Convention and supported my candidacy for Senior Vice Commander.

On behalf of the 2010 State Convention committee, I hope that the attendees enjoyed the Convention and its location. The committee dedicated itself to making the Convention as enjoyable and productive for you as humanly possible, and the feedback indicates that the committee succeeded.

As Senior Vice Commander, it is my privilege to work with Commander Chamlee and to support him as he requests. We have already traveled together to the Reno area to attend meetings or meet with Post officers of seven Posts. We traveled together again at the end of August to the Nevada State Fair in Reno, recruiting for the state and the Reno area. Commander Chamlee is committed to visiting all 36 Posts and attending all the state-sponsored recruiting drives during his year. I plan to accompany him on at least some of his other planned visits and all the recruiting events, and look forward to meeting more comrades in more of our Posts in the process.

### Membership

Commander Chamlee mentioned the membership plan for his year in his column. It is almost identical to last year's highly successful plan. Commander Chamlee and the state officers are committed to the 105% goal that will get the Department over 8,000 members in his year and to over 10,000 members by 2015. A summary of the 2010-11 membership plan, as briefed at the State Convention, is provided with the article "Membership – Lifeblood of our Organization," located in this edition of *Silverlines*.

### Silverlines/Webmaster

There were several Nevada member complaints about not receiving the March edition of *Silverlines*. The paper is sent to every Department of Nevada member using a database provided by VFW Headquarters.

To confirm how widespread the problem was, we conducted a survey to sample the size of the problem. At the same time we also asked the attendees who completed the survey to comment on the quality and value to them of *Silverlines* and the VFW Nevada Web site. After review of approximately 50 surveys that were returned, the following comments are germane:

1. Although three survey takers indicated that they did not get the March edition, everyone reported receiving the June edition. So, unless it occurs again, we have no basis for action and can only assume that the failure to get the edition was an anomaly.
2. Most survey takers indicated that they believed that *Silverlines* and [www.VFWNevada.org](http://www.VFWNevada.org) were valuable sources of information.
3. Most of the responders indicated that they usually read *Silverlines*. The other responders indicated that they read it occasionally.
4. Most claimed that they visited the Web site occasionally, or frequently, for information. A small minority said they had never visited the Web site.
5. There were no usable suggestions in the surveys as to how *Silverlines* and the Web site could be made more valuable to the members of the Department.

If you did not receive your March edition, or if you have any suggestions for improving either the quarterly paper or the Web site, please e-mail me at [bruce.hollinger@comnett.net](mailto:bruce.hollinger@comnett.net) or call me at 702-308-1696. I promise you that your input will be considered.

Please visit the newly revised and expanded [www.vfwnevada.org](http://www.vfwnevada.org). Major sections have been upgraded to reflect the latest status, such as National Military Service. New sections, like National Veterans Service, have been added. And to make it easier to find the documents and forms you need, a section labeled Documents/Forms will have most, if not all, of the forms a Post and District needs. Be sure to scroll down to see the complete list, as the list is quite long.



**Bruce Hollinger**  
State Senior Vice Commander  
Membership Chair  
Silverlines Editor/Webmaster

## DEADLINE FOR NEWS, PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for submission of columns and photographs for the next *Silverlines* is **11/07/10**.

Please submit columns by email to [bruce.hollinger@comnett.net](mailto:bruce.hollinger@comnett.net) in Microsoft Word or Fax 702-398-3904.

Please submit photographs by mail to:

Bruce Hollinger  
P.O. Box 637  
Logandale, Nevada 89021  
Telephone 702-398-3901

Visit the Nevada Web Page at:  
[www.vfwnevada.org](http://www.vfwnevada.org)

### NEVADA VFW SILVERLINES

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## State Junior Vice Commander Programs Chair



**Joe Rigsby**  
State Junior Vice Commander  
Programs Chair

I would like to congratulate and say a big "thank you" to all of you that have stepped up and accepted an elected office or an appointed position. We all have a lot of work to do this year to maintain the high level that was achieved by the Department last year. I have a lot of confidence that by all of us working together and communicating with each other, we can have another excellent year.

Now that our State Convention is over, the National Convention is complete, our National Officers are now in place, our first District meetings have been completed, and our school year has started, we should be in full swing with our state programs. The deadlines for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Public Safety and Citizenship Education entries from the Posts are not that far away. Ensure that all your activities are being reported to the proper chairperson. I am here to assist anyone that needs

any help, so if you have any questions or need help with anything, please call or e-mail me.

Thank you for what you do for the VFW.

## State Adjutant/ Quartermaster



**Jack McMinded**  
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

My congratulations to the Nevada All-State team of Commanders, Quartermasters and to our All-American Commanders and Quartermasters for their accomplishments in the 2009-2010 Membership year.

The Official Roster went to press on July 6, 2010; please send me your corrections in order to advise the membership of the changes in the next General Order.

Until the 2011 Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual arrive in the fall after the National Convention, the 2010 copy is in effect. Everything you need to know is located in this book, and I would urge everyone to take the time to sit down and read their duties and responsibilities.

We were advised that the National Organization would be communicating with us by electronic means. We were advised that the programs, forms and manuals would be online for us to copy and distribute to our members. We only have two Posts in the Department that do not have at least one Officer that has an e-mail address. I would request all Quartermasters and Adjutants to check the Official Roster and if your e-mail is not listed, please notify me in order to correct the omission.

## State Judge Advocate



**Bob Garlow**  
State Judge Advocate

First, I would like to thank the Convention committee and the Casa Blanca for the tremendous Convention for the VFW and the Cooties. We had a great time and a very outstanding Convention, and we owe a big thank you to all who worked to make the Convention a success. I would also like to thank the VFW for their trust in electing me as State Judge Advocate. I jumped on the train last year because I believe this Department is headed for even greater things. I truly believe this will be an outstanding year for the Department of Nevada.

There are many changes coming in the VFW and I pledge to you that I will stay on top of the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure changes, and will ensure these are transmitted to all levels in the Department. One of our main focus points is communication and this is a two-way street. I promise to disseminate any and all changes to you, and I ask

that you send me any Resolutions or Bylaw changes you develop at the Post level. Our organization is extremely dynamic and each of our members can propose changes to the way we do business. If you have a suggestion for change, please bring it up as a Resolution at your Post and then forward it through your District for approval and on to me, so the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee can review them and bring recommendations to the June Convention. I will bring any of these to Mid-Winter that have been processed by that time and will present them for information only.

If anyone has any questions whatsoever regarding the current Bylaws or Manual of Procedure, please pass them on to me at [bobsuegarlow64@embarqmail.com](mailto:bobsuegarlow64@embarqmail.com) or call me on my cell at 702-808-4750 or mail them to 808 San Remo Way, Boulder City, NV 89005. I will research the answers and, if necessary, contact VFW National to obtain the answer and get back with you as soon as possible.

Finally, I'd like to switch hats to my Chairman of the Nevada Veterans Assistance League hat and say that the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City is really doing an outstanding job "Caring for Our Heroes" and has been evaluated as the number one nursing home in the entire state! This is a 180 resident facility which normally has a maximum of 177 residents and provides outstanding care for veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents who require 24-hour skilled nursing care. There currently is no waiting list and new residents can be accepted almost immediately. There are many volunteers who assist daily with activities and outings for the residents and help to make their stay a little bit better. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Angela Metcalf, Volunteer Coordinator, at 702-332-6741. If you know of someone who might need to go into the home, you can have them contact Shirley Pfannebecker, Admissions at 702-332-6717 and they can visit the NOVS Web site at [www.veterans.nv.org](http://www.veterans.nv.org) and click the Veterans Home link. On the link they will find all of the forms and necessary information for admission. If you have any other questions, please give me a call on my cell at 702-808-4750.

## State Surgeon



**Jim Utterback**  
State Surgeon

I am so proud to be your Surgeon this year and be part of the leadership team of this great organization. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support. As we move into another year, I hope to keep you informed of changes to the VA Health Care System and promote a healthy lifestyle.

I was on the Veterans Administration Web site the other day and came upon a section called MyHealththeVet. This site has many tools to help you manage your health and health care. You can access the site at [www.MyHealth.VA.gov](http://www.MyHealth.VA.gov). It only takes a couple of minutes to register and it has a short video tutorial to show you around the site's many features. I highly recommend it.

Finally, with the onset of the hot weather, remember to drink plenty of fluids each day and don't wait until you are thirsty. Try to drink several large glasses of water each day. Semper Fi.

### HEALTHCARE LAW, continued from page 1

Skelton announced just days before a full House vote on S. 3162, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, that only a portion of the Defense Department's Tri-care program was recognized as meeting minimum essential coverage standards. His discovery resulted in a closer review of the 2,400-page document, which revealed that no VA healthcare programs were recognized either, to include those provided to widows and dependent children.

"We know that national healthcare will help many veterans who do not qualify for DoD or VA care, but missing from the original legislation was language that would clearly recognize and protect the hard earned healthcare programs of those who do," said Tradewell. "The new law had to be fixed, not for what it provided, but for what it omitted."

The VFW National Commander is quick to praise congressional leadership for their understanding of the problem and for their legislative support to ensure that all the healthcare programs provided by the nation's two largest federal departments were recognized as meeting minimum essential coverage standards under the new national healthcare law.

"The president signed H.R. 4887 into law April 26 to protect the healthcare programs provided to more than 9 million military families, retirees and nonappropriated fund employees. Getting H.R. 5014 signed into law now completes the circle for more than 8 million VA beneficiaries," he said.

"The VFW is proud of taking the lead on this issue on behalf of all of America's veterans, service members and their families. It's a prime example of what we do as advocates here in Washington, D.C."



## State Chief of Staff



**John Stroud**  
State Chief of Staff

Greetings, Comrades and Sisters! It is indeed an honor for me to serve you as the State Chief of Staff for what promises to be a very exciting and productive year in the Nevada Veterans of Foreign Wars. I would like to thank Commander Chamlee for the appointment to this office. Throughout the course of the "Stay Online" program year, I will be supporting all of the programs and projects around our state.

As always, the forefront project is membership, MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP! The Department Membership Chairman has provided all Districts and Posts with a toolbox full of goodies for a successful membership program. Tools such as Certified Recruiters, Membership Drive assistance and representation, operating funds and much, much more are available. Make sure you use these resources wisely and your membership projects will be successful. Did

you introduce yourself to that person with the Veterans license plate yesterday? You saw that person with the Vietnam Service Medal sticker on their bumper...did you ask him if he was a member of the VFW? How about that female in the shopping mall wearing the Desert Storm T-shirt? Don't be shy. A great way to start a conversation with them is by simply saying, "thank you for your service."

VOD and Patriot's Pen projects are upon us with the beginning of the new school year. I know there are more national winners out there, but we have to first get an entry pamphlet in their hands.

National Military Service (NMS) is the Commander's special project this year. With that in mind, remember to have your Post adopt a unit. One of the things that brings NMS even closer to our hearts this year is that we will have a Post Commander from Sparks and a Post Senior Vice Commander from Hawthorne deploying to Afghanistan. May God bless and protect Nevada Army National Guard Sergeant First Class David Sousa and U.S. Naval Reserve Seabee Petty Officer Third Class Kirk Plotts and every other military VFW member we have as they defend our flag and our freedom.

We are so very fortunate to have such a dedicated corps of leaders in the Department of Nevada and its Posts and Districts this year. Effective leadership at every level is key to the success of any organization, but that success is only possible by the support and participation of the members to get involved and demonstrate their pride of ownership. It's YOUR VFW. I look forward to seeing you around the state. God Bless.

## State Inspector

The District Commanders, in their capacity as assistant state inspectors, have been instructed to do a thorough inspection to protect you and the Post. Each assistant inspector will ask the Post Commander to physically observe the documentation required by National. They are not to just take the commander's, adjutant's and quartermaster's word. Post inspections should be completed before the Mid-Winter Conference in January.

Some of the papers the inspecting official must see are the Post Bylaws, the Adjutant's books that must be kept in legible and uniform format, audit forms signed by the trustees, balance of all funds and that they are under the control of the Quartermaster, IRS form 990, DD form 214 for all officers in the Post and incorporation papers. If you do not have these papers available for the inspection, you need to get busy ensuring that the Post has them and they are available for the inspecting official.

As of August 6, 2010, the Nevada Secretary of State records show only a little over half of the Posts in the state are currently incorporated. The Posts that are incorporated, according to the Secretary of State records are: 36, 1003, 1753, 2313, 2350, 2668, 3819, 3848, 7114, 8194, 8250, 8336, 8583, 8660, 10047, 10053, 10247, 10468 and 12093. There is only one currently incorporated District – District 3. Remember that the inspector's job is to assure the National Bylaws are being followed.

Post and District inspection report forms, with instructions, may be found on the Department's Web page at <http://www.vfwnevada.org/forms.htm>. Just click on the Cross of Malta in the row that contains the form's title, and an inspection form in Acrobat PDF format will open. Then you may save the document to your computer. As a side note, this page contains many documents and forms that are necessary for your Post to have a successful year.



**Herman Hagen**  
State Inspector

## State Chaplain

At the time that his column was due, John was successfully completing an angiogram. We wish him a rapid recovery from the procedure and hope that it helps his health.

Our prayers go out to John and Velda and their family. God bless!



**John Edwards**  
State Chaplain

## Youth Scholarship Programs Chair

Another year is ready to kick off and I am even more excited than last year. Aside from the usual requirements for participation in these two programs for All-State and All-American, it's my wish and hope that each Post in this Department look at as giving students an opportunity to express their patriotism and give them the means to further their education.

The theme this year for Patriot's Pen is "Does Patriotism Still Matter?" The Patriot's Pen program is open to any middle school student. That means any 6-8th grade student is eligible to enter. The theme for Voice of Democracy will be "Does My Generation Have a Role in America's Future?" The Voice of Democracy program is opened to any high school student in grades 9 through 12.

Find a teacher that would be willing to make this an extra credit, or even a homework, assignment. Talk to your church youth programs, JROTC instructors, Civil Air Patrol, 4H or anyone that has students in this age group. Posts – sign up the local stores; get it into the local newspapers and on the radio. Think outside the box.

Remember all entries need to be to the Post by 1 November 2010. Then your winning entry should be forwarded to your District by 15 November. Use the Post Advancement Form to forward your entries to the District Chairman. That form can be found by scrolling down on the web page at <http://www.vfwnevada.org/forms.htm>. The Districts must have their selections made and sent to the Department Chair by 15 December 2010. Then we will choose the final Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy winners; then we arrange a program at the Mid-Winter Banquet to be held in Pahrump, 22 January 2011, where the winners will be announced.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you.



**Sandi Clum**  
Youth Scholarship Programs Chair

## District 2 Commander

I hope everyone had good time at the State Convention in Mesquite.

I want to congratulate our new State Commander Jerry Chamlee and all Department staff for the 2010-2011 program year. Also, congratulations to all this year's Post Commanders. It will be a busy year with membership and Buddy Poppy drives and all the programs that are required.

I have made visits to some of the Posts in District 2 with plans to visit the others in the near future. The first District 2 meeting is scheduled for Post 7114-Caliente on September 18. We will conduct a School of Instruction for the required VFW programs.

I want to thank those in District 2 who supported me as your District Commander again. I will do my best for the District and the Department. If any Post needs help or has a question, call me.



**Jerry Franco**  
District 2 Commander

## District 5 Commander



**Ed Morrissey**  
District 5 Commander

The District 5 meeting in July was a great success. I want to thank all Commanders or their representatives for attending. It was the first time in a few years that we had every Post represented.

By the time you receive this issue we will be three weeks into the school year. I hope you have contacted the appropriate schools for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Citizenship Education Teacher participation.

November 11th is Veterans Day and it is a good day to have a Buddy Poppy drive and a membership drive. Make sure you check with the local outlets before you set up booths; many of the stores require permission from their corporate headquarters. The Mid-Winter conference will be held in Pahrump on 21 and 22 January 2011. More information will follow as soon as it is finalized.

MEMBERSHIP! MEMBERSHIP!  
MEMBERSHIP!

## District 6 Commander



**Ken Veith**  
District 6  
Commander

A tip of my hat to Leslie Fiester, Past Commander of District 6 for making All-American Commander. Thanks, Les, for your dedication and hard work last year. As the 2011-11 District 6 Commander, I look forward to visiting the District's Posts and working with them in assisting our veterans.

July was a terrible month for our troops in Afghanistan, which means we have more work in assisting our returning troops.

For our WWII veterans: The Honor Flight is a FREE trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the monuments, but especially the WWII monument. Contact Frank at 702-564-8380 for more information.

I am looking forward to a great year for the District and our VFW.

## State Safety Chairman



**Leslie Fiester**  
State Safety Chairman

There are numerous safety projects that can be accomplished at the Post and District level, but the emphasis is placed on the National Gold Medal Awards for Emergency Medical Technicians, Law Enforcement Personnel and Firefighters. Each of the 54 VFW Departments will choose one winner for each of the three public safety professions. Individuals or teams submitted by Posts will be judged by the Department of Nevada Safety Committee judges. The winner in each category will receive the VFW National Safety Award Citation. All documentation for the winning entry in each category is then forwarded to National Headquarters to compete for the National Gold Medal Awards. These awards are presented to the winner of the national contest at the VFW National Convention in 2011.

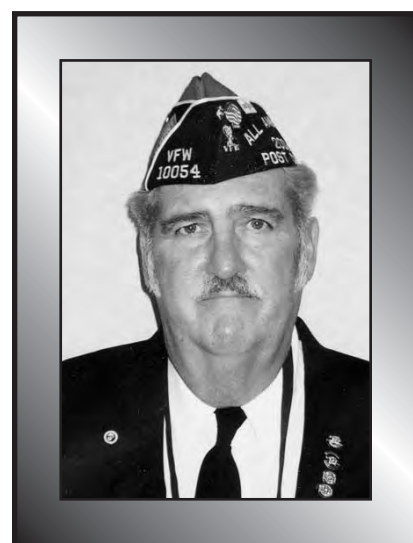
As Department Safety Chairman, I must receive all entries by December 1, 2010, so

that I can have them judged and the winner of each category forwarded to VFW National Headquarters to have the National Safety Citations issued and have them available, along with a plaque for presentation, at our Mid-Winter Convention in Pahrump. Presentation of these awards at Mid-Winter to the Post with the winning entry in each category will allow the Posts ample time to arrange a date and time to present the awards before their peers and to arrange any radio, TV and newspaper coverage. Any positive publicity that results from this program is a "win-win" for your Post, your community and the VFW.

At the State Convention in Mesquite, Post and District Commanders received a CD-ROM that contains all the 2010-11 program information, including due dates for program completion. In the packet issued to you there was also a three page insert with information on the safety program. I also encourage all Post Commanders and their safety chairmen to visit the VFW National Web site at [www.vfwdepartmentresources.org](http://www.vfwdepartmentresources.org) and download and print a copy of the "2010 Chairman's Manual VFW Safety & Recognition" which in addition to safety information, also has information covering scouting and ROTC awards, as well. Remember that your participation in this program can help your Post and your District for All-State recognition.

If you require any more information, please contact me at 702-538-8122 or e-mail me at [http://beardogg19@gmail.com](mailto:beardogg19@gmail.com).

## State POW/MIA Chair



**Tom Vick**  
State POW/MIA Chair

The National League of POW/MIA Families presented its top award to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) on 22 July 2010 in recognition of the decades of work the VFW has provided to the Full Accounting Mission, to include meeting with senior foreign military, political and diplomatic officials in Washington as well as on the ground in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, China and Russia. Accepting the award on behalf of the entire organization was Bob Wallace, Executive Director of the VFW Washington Office, who said the work the VFW does honors the military creed of "never leaving a comrade behind," and helps to bring closure to the MIA families who continue to hope and pray for the return of their loved ones.

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office has announced several identifications of military service personnel remains:

- Air Force Captain Peter H. Chapman II of Centerburg, Ohio, Tech Sergeants Allen J. Avery of Auburn, Massachusetts and Roy D. Prater of Tiffin, Ohio, and Sergeant James H. Alley of Plantation, Florida. The four were part of a six-man crew flying a combat search and rescue mission over Quang Tri Province when their HH-53C Super Jolly Green Giant helicopter was hit by enemy fire and crashed on April 6, 1972.
- First Sergeant George H. Humphrey of Utica, New York. He was killed in action on Sept. 15, 1918, in what became known as the St. Mihiel Offensive. His remains were buried the next day, but attempts to locate his grave after the war were unsuccessful. French civilians hunting for war relics found artifacts they believed to be from an American soldier. A team from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command excavated the area and recovered human remains and military-related items, to include a marksman's badge with Humphrey's name engraved on it.
- Navy Ensign Robert W. Langwell of Columbus, Indiana. On Oct. 1, 1950, Langwell was aboard the minesweeper *USS Magpie* when it struck an enemy mine. Twelve crewmen were rescued, but Langwell was one of 20 lost at sea. In 2008, South Korean officials came upon an elderly fisherman who remembered burying an American in 1950 after his body was caught in his fishing net. Dental comparisons were used to identify Langwell's remains.
- Army Private First Class Charles H. Higdon of Akron, Ohio. In November 1950, Higdon was occupying a defensive position when the enemy collapsed their perimeter. Almost 400 men were reported MIA or KIA from the battle. Following the war, it was learned that Higdon and nine others were captured and taken into a field and shot. Three of the 10 survived, though one later died, but detailed information on the incident location and the identities of the other soldiers was obtained. In May 2004, a joint U.S.-North Korean team excavated a mass grave where an elderly civilian reported witnessing the shooting and burial. Higdon was identified using dental comparisons and mitochondrial DNA, which matched that of his sister.
- Army Air Force Sergeant John P. Bonnassiolle of Oakland, California. On April 29, 1944, he was aboard a B-24J Liberator with nine other crewmen who failed to return from a bombing mission over Berlin. German documents captured after the war established the aircraft had crashed near the town of East Meitze, north of Hannover.
- Army Corporal Harry J. Reeve of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In early November 1950, Reeve was assigned to the 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, occupying a defensive position near the town of Unsan in the bend of the Kuryong River known as the "Camel's Head." Enemy attacks collapsed their perimeter and forced a fighting withdrawal. Almost 400 men of the 8th Cavalry Regiment were reported as MIA or KIA from the battle at Unsan.

The third Friday in September is POW/MIA day. Please hold the appropriate ceremonies to recognize this day.



**They gave then!**  
**Will you give NOW!**  
**WEAR A BUDDY POPPY**

PROCEEDS TO VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.





# Membership – Lifblood of the Organization



**Bruce Hollinger**  
State Membership Chair

Membership is the lifblood of an organization. This is especially true for veterans groups, like the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), who need membership as clout in its state and legislative efforts. But it is also true for the VFW to maintain its Posts, execute its programs and provide aid and assistance to veterans of all eras. If we accept the premise that membership is the lifblood of the VFW, then we really need to consider our past performance and the impacts of significant actions from outside the Department of Nevada, and then understand what we plan to do this year to ensure that our “lifblood” not only remains in good shape, but that we strengthen the organization through growth and influx of new “blood”.

In this article, I summarize last year’s performance, review the last four years, analyze the impact to the Department and its Posts

from the Quartermaster General’s actions to remove deceased Life Members, and then lay out our plan to accomplish this year’s membership plan. Commander Chamlee has approved an aggressive approach to achieving our membership goals for this year, consistent with his motto to “Stay On Line,” to not only match last year’s highly successful membership year, but to surpass it.

gets supported and our communities gain from our volunteerism, we have lost comrades and funds from their dues. The most shocking fact from this table is the loss of 230 or 3.30% from the Posts’ rolls, while the Department was well over 100% in three of the four years. The notes accompanying the chart have additional detail for those of you interested in the numbers and their interpretation. But it is quite clear to me that success in membership must be our highest priority, because to fail as the Department did in 2008-09, will eventually rob us of our lifblood.

Several Department officers and Post Quartermasters have called to ask what happened when Headquarters published Adjusted Prior Year numbers in MemStats. The explanation was provided to State Commander Chamlee in a letter from Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Richard Eubank. He announced that the Quartermaster General sent over 330,000 VFW Life Members (aged 80 or older) to [www.obituaryregistry.com](http://www.obituaryregistry.com) and 34,859 were reported as deceased, or 2.26 of all VFW members and 11% of its Life Members over 80 years of age. In Nevada, the Department lost 179 Life Members, or 2.26% of all its members and 3.0 % of its total Life Members.

- Nevada Posts lost 161 Life Members and the resulting income, or 2.32% of total member strength.
- District losses due to deceased Life Members:
  - District 1 lost 27, or 3.61% of its Life Members
  - District 2 lost 5, or 0.88%
  - District 3 lost 37, or 4.25%
  - District 4 lost 10, or 1.48%
  - District 5 lost 61, or 3.72%
  - District 6 lost 21, or 0.87%

The results of this adjustment and the impact on each Post, District and the Department is shown in the table labeled **Post and District Impact of Adjusted 2010 Final Membership**.

The Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief made it very clear that Posts would not have to make up these deceased Life Members (as they would for reported deceased) – that

Dist	Post	Location	Life	% LM	% LM +	N/R Life	New	Re-Up	% N/R	Cont.	% Cont.	Final	Prior	% of Prior	To 100%	To 105%
1	3630	TOPAZ RANCH	75	81.52%	-5.06%	0	0	7	7.61%	11	84.62%	93	92	101.09%	0	4
1	3726	CARSON CITY	96	86.49%	-2.04%	2	4	1	6.31%	13	100.00%	114	111	102.70%	0	3
1	3819	RENO	220	83.97%	-4.55%	4	13	1	6.87%	34	82.93%	268	262	102.29%	0	7
1	8071	VIRGINIA CITY	39	102.63%	2.63%	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	39	38	102.63%	0	1
1	8084	SMITH	25	89.29%	0.00%	0	4	0	14.29%	2	66.67%	31	28	110.71%	0	0
1	8583	GARDNERVILLE	95	84.07%	-3.06%	1	7	0	7.08%	13	86.67%	115	113	101.77%	0	4
1	8660	DAYTON	65	80.25%	0.00%	0	3	6	11.11%	13	81.25%	87	81	107.41%	0	0
District 1			615	84.83%	-1.44%	7	31	15	7.31%	86	85.15%	747	725	103.03%	0	14
2	2350	ELKO	241	82.82%	7.11%	7	5	14	8.93%	40	60.61%	300	291	103.09%	0	7
2	3547	ELY	97	74.05%	-2.02%	1	9	6	12.21%	28	87.50%	140	131	106.87%	0	0
2	7114	CALIENTE	55	78.57%	-8.33%	0	4	5	12.86%	10	100.00%	74	70	105.71%	0	0
2	8194	EUREKA	13	54.17%	-7.14%	0	2	1	12.50%	9	90.00%	25	24	104.17%	0	1
2	9165	BATTLE MOUNTAIN	30	100.00%	0.00%	1	2	0	10.00%	0	0.00%	32	30	106.67%	0	0
District 2			436	79.85%	3.87%	9	22	26	10.44%	87	73.73%	571	546	104.58%	0	2
3	3396	SPARKS	120	57.42%	-0.83%	1	13	4	8.61%	63	94.32%	220	209	105.26%	0	0
3	9211	RENO	342	84.03%	-3.66%	1	20	8	7.13%	50	96.15%	420	407	103.19%	0	7
3	10031	GERLACH	11	68.75%	-15.38%	0	2	0	12.50%	4	133.33%	17	16	106.25%	0	0
3	10053	VERDI	142	66.59%	-3.40%	3	2	0	3.05%	8	47.06%	152	164	92.68%	12	20
3	10247	FERNLEY	48	81.36%	4.35%	0	1	1	3.39%	11	84.62%	61	59	103.39%	0	2
District 3			662	77.54%	-9.30%	5	36	13	6.55%	156	89.14%	870	855	101.75%	0	38
4	1002	FALLON	235	85.77%	-0.84%	2	8	7	6.20%	33	89.19%	283	274	103.28%	0	5
4	1103	TONOPAH	43	84.31%	4.88%	2	6	2	19.61%	9	90.00%	60	51	117.65%	0	0
4	2313	HAWTHORNE	182	78.79%	0.55%	1	11	20	13.25%	25	50.00%	238	231	103.03%	0	5
4	2668	MINA	21	63.64%	10.53%	0	1	0	3.03%	13	92.86%	35	33	106.06%	0	0
4	3677	GABBES	32	82.05%	0.00%	0	1	1	5.13%	7	100.00%	41	39	105.13%	0	1
4	6825	SCHURZ	15	88.24%	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%	2	100.00%	17	17	100.00%	0	0
District 4			528	81.86%	0.57%	5	27	30	9.61%	89	74.17%	674	645	104.50%	0	3
5	983	HENDERSON	29	63.04%	3.57%	1	1	3	10.87%	15	83.33%	48	46	104.35%	0	1
5	1753	LAS VEGAS	609	73.37%	-1.14%	2	20	5	3.25%	110	51.40%	744	830	89.64%	86	128
5	6826	AMARGOSA VALLEY	81	81.00%	-4.71%	0	1	4	5.00%	14	93.33%	100	100	100.00%	0	5
5	8250	LAS VEGAS	73	61.86%	-3.95%	0	5	8	11.02%	32	76.19%	118	118	100.00%	0	6
5	10054	PAHRUMP	427	80.72%	-5.95%	1	33	82	21.93%	49	65.33%	591	529	111.72%	0	0
5	12093	LAS VEGAS	4	10.53%	N/A	4	28	6	100.00%	0	0.00%	38	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
District 5			1223	75.35%	-2.86%	8	88	105	12.57%	220	60.44%	1639	1623	100.99%	0	65
6	36	BOULDER CITY	55	77.46%	5.77%	3	9	9	29.58%	16	88.89%	89	71	125.35%	0	0
6	243	LAUGHLIN	42	75.00%	2.44%	0	0	3	5.36%	13	86.67%	58	56	103.57%	0	1
6	3848	HENDERSON	452	74.46%	1.80%	7	57	48	18.45%	121	74.23%	678	607	111.70%	0	0
6	7385	MESQUITE	66	83.54%	-4.35%	0	11	4	18.99%	10	100.00%	91	79	115.19%	0	0
6	8336	MOAPA VALLEY	69	53.49%	27.78%	8	11	3	17.05%	63	88.73%	146	129	113.18%	0	0
6	10047	NORTH LAS VEGAS	979	78.01%	3.38%	21	70	17	8.61%	202	66.45%	1268	1255	101.04%	0	50
6	10468	SEARCHLIGHT	70	79.55%	2.94%	0	7	1	9.09%	16	100.00%	94	88	106.82%	0	0
District 6			1733	75.84%	3.46%	39	165	85	12.65%	441	72.30%	2424	2285	106.08%	0	0
Post & District Total			5198	77.83%	-0.84%	73	371	277	10.80%	1079	72.51%	6925	6679	103.68%	0	88
99 15029 AT LARGE			670	64.49%	7.03%	13	70	13	9.24%	229	63.26%	982	1039	94.51%	57	109
Department Total			5868	76.03%	0.00%	86	441	290	10.59%	1308	70.70%	7907	7718	102.45%	0	197

Dist	Post	Location	2010 Final	Prior Year Final	% of Prior Year	Adjusted 2010 Final	Net Loss	% Loss to Final
1	3630	TOPAZ RANCH	93	92	101.09%	91	2	2.15%
1	3726	CARSON CITY	114	111	102.70%	107	7	6.14%
1	3819	RENO	268	262	102.29%	255	13	4.85%
1	8071	VIRGINIA CITY	39	38	102.63%	38	1	2.56%
1	8084	SMITH	31	28	110.71%	31	0	0.00%
1	8583	GARDNERVILLE	115	113	101.77%	113	2	1.74%
1	8660	DAYTON	87	81	107.41%	85	2	2.30%
District 1			747	725	103.03%	720	27	3.61%
2	2350	ELKO	300	291	103.09%	296	4	1.33%
2	3547	ELY	140	131	106.87%	140	0	0.00%
2	7114	CALIENTE	74	70	105.71%	74	0	0.00%
2	8194	EUREKA	25	24	104.17%	25	0	0.00%
2	9165	BATTLE MOUNTAIN	32	30	106.67%	31	1	3.13%
District 2			571	546	104.58%	566	5	0.88%
3	3396	SPARKS	220	209	105.26%	215	5	2.27%
3	9211	RENO	420	407	103.19%	389	31	7.38%
3	10031	GERLACH	17	16	106.25%	17	0	0.00%
3	10053	VERDI	152	164	92.68%	151	1	0.66%
3	10247	FERNLEY	61	59	103.39%	61	0	0.00%
District 3			870	855	101.75%	833	37	4.25%
4	1002	FALLON	283	274	103.28%	278	5	1.77%
4	1103	TONOPAH	60	51	117.65%	60	0	0.00%
4	2313	HAWTHORNE	238	231	103.03%	234	4	1.68%
4	2668	MINA	35	33	106.06%	35	0	0.00%
4	3677	GABBES	41	39	105.13%	40	1	2.44%
4	6825	SCHURZ	17	17	100.00%	17	0	0.00%
District 4			674	645	104.50%	664	10	1.48%
5	983	HENDERSON	48	46	104.35%	48	0	0.00%
5	1753	LAS VEGAS	744	830	89.64%	689	55	7.39%
5	6826	AMARGOSA VALLEY	100	100	100.00%	99	1	1.00%
5	8250	LAS VEGAS	118	118	100.00%	116	2	1.69%
5	10054	PAHRUMP	591	529	111.72%	588	3	0.51%
5	12093	LAS VEGAS	38	0	N/A	38	0	0.00%
District 5			1639	1623	100.99%	1578	61	3.72%
6	36	BOULDER CITY	89	71	125.35%	89	0	0.00%
6	243	LAUGHLIN	58	56	103.57%	58	0	0.00%
6	3848	HENDERSON	678	607	111.70%	666	12	1.77%
6	7385	MESQUITE	91	79	115.19%	91	0	0.00%
6	8336	MOAPA VALLEY	146	129	113.18%	146	0	0.00%
6	10047	NORTH LAS VEGAS	1268	1255	101.04%	1259	9	0.71%
6	10468	SEARCHLIGHT	94	88	106.82%	94	0	0.00%
District 6			2424	2285	106.08%	2403	21	0.87%
Post & District Total			6925	6679	103.68%	6764	161	2.32%

**MEMBERSHIP, continued from page 6**

Our youngest WWII veterans are over 80 years of age, and our Korean War veterans are approaching 80. This means that our membership will decline rapidly unless all VFW members work hard at recruiting new members, reinstating those who have dropped their membership and retain at least 80% of our annual members.

Therefore, Commander Chamlee has approved a comprehensive membership program for this year. A summary of the plan is presented in the **2011 Membership Program** chart. We have put the membership team in place, budgeted funds have been committed, and we have already started an aggressive recruiting campaign. It will take hard, dedicated work to reach the goal of 8,000 Department members by 30 June 2011, but I am confident that we can do it.

**2011 Membership Goals**

- Every post achieve at least 100% membership, 80% retention and 5% new or reinstated
- Every district achieve 105% membership
- Every district achieve 10% increase in N/R life members over 2010
- Every district increase the total number of life members by 5%
- Earn All-American status for Department, at least one district, and three or more posts
- Establish a new posts in southwestern Las Vegas

**How We Can Reach Our Goal (Policy)**

- Each district commander has assigned a district membership chairman that will coordinate and communicate between state membership chairman and each post in the respective districts
  - *Need each commander and membership chairman's contact information*
- State commander and membership chairman make personal contact with all post commanders, quartermasters, and others who are willing to work post membership
  - *This will be done with involvement of and coordination with the district commanders and membership chairmen*
- District commanders and membership chairmen to continue the contact work with the posts throughout the membership year
- District commanders in southern Nevada are expected to assist the state membership chairman with human resources to create a new post in the Las Vegas area.

**How We Can Reach Our Goal (Actions)**

- Provide training on recruiting (State & district membership chairs, certified recruiters) to districts and posts
- Emphasize life membership options to current and potential members
- Encourage mentoring by post members to new/reinstalled members
- Prepare briefing package for state and district officers
- State commander and membership chairman meet with post leadership throughout the state
- State officers help certified recruiters to train posts and districts at district membership school of instruction
  - *District commander to ensure post commanders and membership chairmen attend*
- State membership chairman to schedule major recruiting opportunities and events
  - *Aviation Nation, Clark County Fair, Nevada State Fair, others?*
- District membership chairmen schedule recruiting drives at district-level events
- Post membership chairmen schedule local recruiting drives at least once every quarter
- State and district officers assist posts with retention and recruiting drives
  - *District membership chairmen communicate these activities to state membership chairmen*

**Summary**

- We will have a "great" membership year
- We will communicate, coordinate, and cooperate to accomplish our goals
- We will accomplish many of our aggressive goals through hard work and enthusiasm
- We will get the state back on its growth trend
- We will have fun

But, we need *your* help. Whether you have been recruiting new members for years or if you have never recruited anyone, now is the time to start. Everyone who gets the *Silverlines* has a relative, a friend, a neighbor or just an acquaintance that is eligible for the VFW, but has never been asked to join. Make a commitment to get just one new member to join this great organization. And I do mean to include all of you members-at-large (assigned to Post 15029). You can help the organization by getting someone to join. So, we are asking each of you to make the commitment to recruit just one member during this year. If you have any questions on how to recruit, to close the "deal", to complete the paperwork with either an application or helping the new member sign up online, please contact me at 702-308-1696 or [bruce.hollinger@comnett.net](mailto:bruce.hollinger@comnett.net).

Simply put, we must all take responsibility and action to **Retain, Recruit and Reinvigorate!**

## Military Order of the Cootie Grand Commander



**Ed Morrissey**  
Military Order of the  
Cootie Grand Commander

The following Nevada Cooties were elected at the 12th District Scratch:

- Joe Salvucci, Pup Tent 1: 12th Supreme District Commander
- Landis (Slick) Slider, Pup Tent 2: 12th Supreme Quartermaster
- Ed Morrissey, Pup Tent 5: 12th Supreme Trustee

Congratulations to these Nevada Cooties. The Grand of Nevada had only 10 Cooties attend the scratch. This was not a good turnout, since it was on our home turf in Las Vegas.

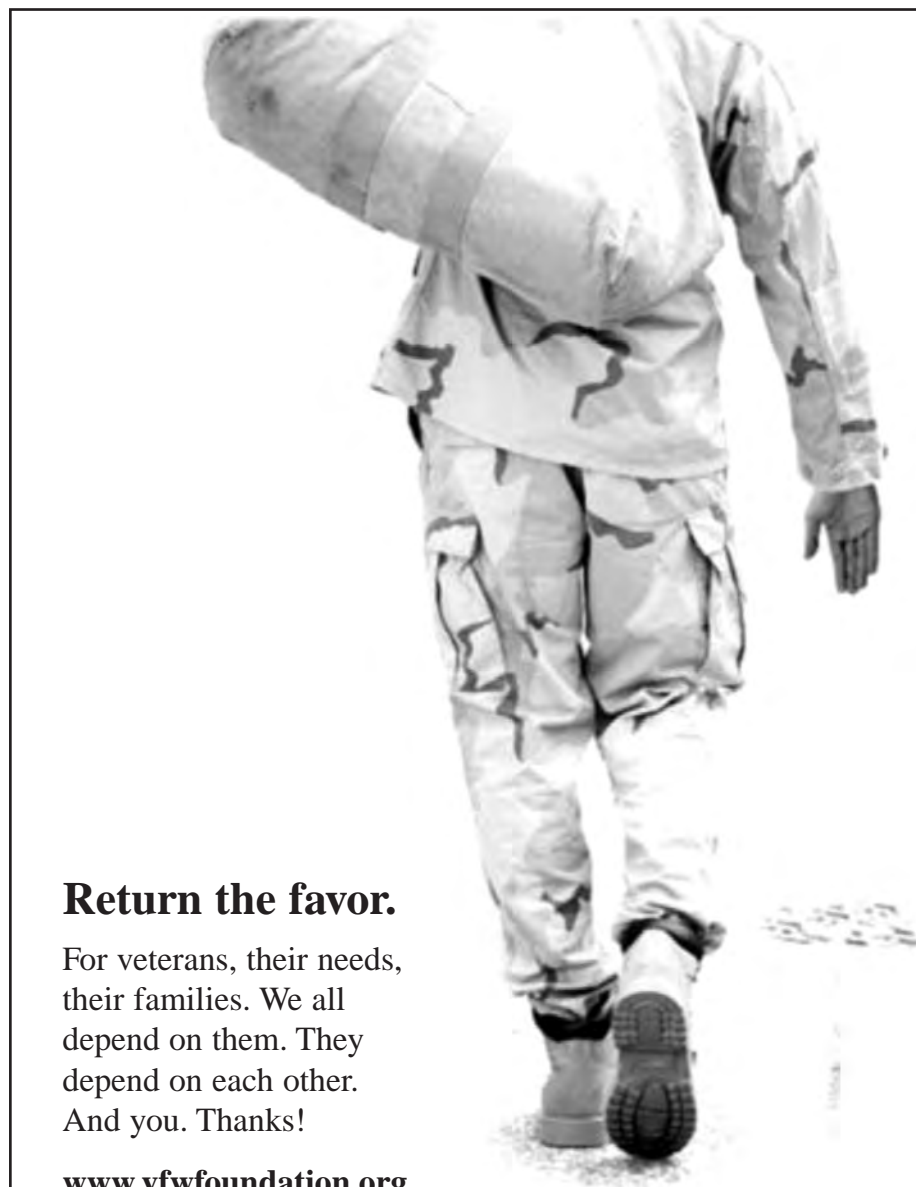
I would like to have each pup tent recruit at least two new or reinstated members into our Happy Hunting Grounds.

Pup Tent 2 Snake Eyes will have a M.A.S.H. costume Halloween Party at VFW Post 10047 on 30 October 2010 at 6:00 p.m. Prizes will be for best costumes in different categories. For more information, call 702-643-1177. Let's have some fun while sup-

porting our pup tents' events. Come On Down!

Our next Grand Scratch is scheduled for 21 January 2011 at 3:00 p.m. at VFW Post 10054, in conjunction with the Mid-Winter Conference.

The Military Order of the Cootie Supreme Commander is George Dennis. George is a Life Member of Pup Tent 1 Howdy Pardners, based at VFW Post 1753-Las Vegas. Let's show George what the Grand of Nevada can do to INCREASE and MULTIPLY.

**Return the favor.**

For veterans, their needs, their families. We all depend on them. They depend on each other. And you. Thanks!

[www.vfwfoundation.org](http://www.vfwfoundation.org)



*We need them. They need you.*



## Timothy Hall Recovering from Injuries Suffered in Afghanistan



Senator John Ensign presents Timothy Hall with his Purple Heart and an American Flag: At a ceremony at Hall's bedside at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Senator Ensign presented the medal and the flag. Pictured are his parents, and his sister Haley.

Private First Class Timothy Hall of Hawthorne, Nevada was severely wounded on June 9 during a mortar attack on his compound in Afghanistan. As a result of his injuries, Tim has lost both legs, one at the groin and the other at the hip. He has also lost a section of right side lower abdomen and back.

For several weeks, Tim's survival was doubtful. It was almost a full week after the attack before they stabilized him enough to move him from the Army Field Hospital to Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany. Two weeks later, Tim was flown to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., where he remains today.

He has since been visited by Senators John Ensign, Harry Reid, John McCain and Congressman Dean Heller. Tim turned 21 years old on July 31. On his birthday, Senator John Ensign presented Tim with his Purple Heart. On August 9, Tim was visited by Drew Breeze and other members of the NFL Champion New Orleans Saints. VFW Director of National Veterans Service Bill Bradshaw has visited Tim several times and is assisting with future claims on Tim's behalf. Tim will be at Walter Reed for a very long time.

VFW Post 2313 in Hawthorne has hosted fundraisers and donated over \$2,400.00 to the Tim Hall Benefit Fund, established at the Bank of America in Hawthorne. Donations can be made at any Bank of America. This fund is to support family members' travel expenses to be by his side during his recovery at Walter Reed. More fundraisers are scheduled.

Tammy Hamrey, Tim's mother, sent the following information to Post 2313 on August 1: "Timothy is getting better every day. About three weeks ago was his last surgery; they closed his right side and his back. The doctor says that as long as Timothy doesn't get an infection, they will not have to open his legs or his back again. Tim was moved from the Intensive Care Unit a little over two weeks ago and we are currently in Ward 57, the orthopedic ward. It is quieter here. Timothy will not be able to sit up until September 7 until what is left of his right side fractured pelvic bone heals properly.

On Saturday, July 31, we took Timothy outside for the first time since his injury. This was where Senator John Ensign presented Timothy with his Purple Heart and the United States Flag flown over the Capitol in honor of Tim. In attendance at this special ceremony was his father and I, his sister Haley, his best friends Cory and Amber, along with Debbie Harvey and her friend Ed, Timothy's surgeon Dr. Carpenter, several military personnel, and a very special new friend of Timothy's, Corporal Kendra Coleman. Kendra was also assigned to Timothy's unit, Special Troops Battalion, 173 Airborne Brigade. She was injured in May in Afghanistan, losing her left leg. She has been by Timothy's side since we have been here. She is a real inspiration to all of us, but especially Timothy.

Timothy and I would like to thank everyone for all their ongoing support. It means so much to us that we are unable to express in words how we feel. Thank you so much. Hoping to be home soon."



## Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay Deadline is October 21, 2010



The 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act established Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP), providing \$500 for each month/partial month served in stop loss status. Service members, veterans and beneficiaries of service members whose service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009 are eligible for RSLSP.

To receive this benefit, those who served under stop loss must submit a claim for the special pay. Throughout the year, the services have been reaching out to service members, veterans and their families through direct mail, veteran service organizations and the media. But there is still money left to be claimed and the deadline is approaching. The average benefit is \$3,700.

There is no authorization to make payments on claims submitted after Oct. 21, 2010. Eligible members who have not yet filed a claim should print, complete and sign DoD Form 2944, Claim for Retroactive Stop Loss Payment, available at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2944.pdf>, then choose the appropriate method for submitting the claim form and available supporting documents based on his or her service specifications. This information can be found on each military service's stop loss Web site:

- Army:

<https://www.stoplosspay.army.mil/default.aspx>

- Marine Corps:

[https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page?\\_pageid=278,8649457&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page?_pageid=278,8649457&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)

- Navy:

[http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/MILPERSMAN/7000FinancialMgmt/7220\\_410.htm](http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/MILPERSMAN/7000FinancialMgmt/7220_410.htm)

- Air Force:

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss/>

The following documents are examples of authorized source documents but may not be comprehensive, depending on specific status and service:

- DD 214 (8-09), Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty and/or DD 215 (8-09), Correction to DD 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty.
- Personnel record or enlistment or reenlistment document recording original expiration of service date.
- Approved retirement/transfer to the Fleet Reserve memorandum or orders establishing retirement prior to actual date of retirement as stipulated in DD 214 or DD 215.
- Approved resignation memorandum or transition orders establishing a separation date prior to actual date of separation as stipulated on DD 214 or DD 215.
- Signed documentation or affidavit from knowledgeable officials from the individual's chain of command acknowledging separation/deployment, etc.
- Revocation of retirement or separation orders.

Stop-loss service members who voluntarily reenlisted or extended their service and received a bonus for such reenlistment or extension of service are no longer eligible to receive retroactive stop loss special pay.

## Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery Awarded VA Grant



Fernley, Nevada – July 23, 2010 – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced yesterday that they have awarded a \$499,900 grant to the Northern Nevada Memorial Cemetery in Fernley. This grant will help fund the construction of full casketed gravesites, cremains burial areas, visitor parking, landscaping, irrigation and supporting infrastructure. The project will develop approximately three acres to include 451 standard burial plots and 1,619 in-ground cremains sites. The Nevada Office of Veterans Services (NOVS) sought the additional funds to meet the growing demand for the northern Nevada cemetery.

NOVS Executive Director, Tim Tetz, commented, "it is our responsibility to ensure that our veterans have a final resting place. This grant will go a long way in helping us deliver on the promise we made to our American heroes to lay them to rest in a field of honor."

Tetz appreciates the support of VA Secretary Shinseki, but notes that the grant will not cover all anticipated costs. The State has been unable to allocate additional funds to complete the expansion. Private donors have pledged their support to the project, but additional contributions will likely be needed. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at a future date to recognize cemetery supporters.

The only other state veterans' cemetery is the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial cemetery in Boulder City, nearly 450 miles away. The closest national cemetery is the VA's Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, California (about 190 miles away), and the closest state cemetery is Northern California Veterans' Cemetery in Igo, California (about 240 miles away).

## VA Eases Access to PTSD Benefits; NOVS Reviewing Denied Claims



RENO, NEVADA, JUNE 27 – On July 12, 2010, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published final regulations that will make it easier for veterans seeking health care and disability compensation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). PTSD is a medically-recognized anxiety disorder that can develop from seeing or experiencing an event that involves actual or threatened death or serious injury to which a person responds with intense fear, helplessness or horror, not uncommon among war veterans. The VA has reduced the evidence needed if the trauma claimed by a veteran is related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity and is consistent with the places, types and circumstances of the veteran's service. They concluded that veterans have an increased risk of PTSD if deployed to a war zone. Previously, claims adjudicators were required to corroborate that a non-combat veteran

actually experienced a stressor related to hostile military activity. The VA expects that this will decrease the time it takes for them to decide access to care and claims falling under the revised criteria.

In response to this new ruling, the Nevada Office of Veterans Services (NOVS) are reviewing more than 10,000 claims for Nevada veterans who were previously denied PTSD benefits and might now qualify under the new VA guidelines. NOVS will contact any veterans whose claims are identified as falling within the new criteria to offer assistance in reopening their claims for them. All veterans who believe they might have PTSD, were previously denied service connection for PTSD, or currently have a pending claim with the VA for PTSD and want to know if the new rule applies, should call the Nevada Office of Veterans Services for assistance at one of the numbers below:

- Toll-Free Statewide 866-630-VETS (8387)
- Las Vegas: 702-636-3070; Reno: 775-688-1653; Elko: 775-777-1000
- Boulder City (Nevada State Veterans Home): 702-332-6784

In related news, the Veterans Administration has removed the signature requirement for veterans who electronically submit an online 10-10EZ "Application for Health Benefits." The initiative will reduce the time it takes to evaluate online applications "by days, if not weeks," said VA Secretary Eric Shinseki. Previously, veterans filling out online applications were required to print a copy, sign it, then mail it. For additional information, go to [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility) or call VA's toll free number at 1-877-222-VETS (8387). The online form is available at <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>.

## VFW National Home for Children Announces A New Look



The VFW National Home for Children is getting a new look. The new logo is the result of months of careful study and planning. It was created in response to growing demand for the home's programs and is designed to better represent how the National Home serves today's military and veteran families. It also gives the home's long list of friends and supporters a

chance to reconnect with them and renew their support for the National Home.

The logo isn't the only thing that is changing. The home will also be unveiling a brand new Web site in the coming weeks. They have completely redesigned the site to make it more interactive and visually appealing, easier to navigate and a better representation of today's National Home. Some of its new features include:

- A National Home blog, where you can see firsthand the great things that are happening thanks to generous supporters;
- Donor and Visitor Highlights, where you can meet some of the supporters who visit the campus throughout the year;
- Searchable directories of Five Points Family members, Star Donor Organizations, Life Members and Life Member Award winners; and
- The ability to create an account on the site, allowing you to track your giving history, update your contact information and manage your newsletter subscriptions right from your computer.

The logo represents the three words that best describe the National Home: Help, Patriotism and Hope.

- The best help comes from stable, experienced organizations. This is represented by the logo rooted at the bottom growing like a stable, older (experienced) tree.
- Patriotism is part of everything the National Home does. This is represented by the colors red, white and blue.
- Every child and family helped by the National Home is given a sense of hope for a better tomorrow and a happy life. This is represented with a heart.

You will see the new logo appear in more and more places.

The look may be changing, but the mission of the National Home remains the same: to serve as a living memorial to our nation's veterans by helping today's military and veteran families through times of crisis. It's a great time to be a friend of the VFW National Home for Children!

## Introducing the New Executive Director of NOVS

Caleb Cage, an Army officer who served in Iraq has been named Executive Director of the Nevada Office of Veterans Services (NOVS). Governor Jim Gibbons selected Cage of Reno for the job to succeed Charles Harvey who held it for only a short time before returning to his post as director of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act that handles federal stimulus money.

Cage was born and raised in Reno and Sparks, Nevada. After graduating from Edward C. Reed High School in 1998, he attended the United States Military Academy, West Point, from which he graduated in 2002. He was commissioned as a Field Artillery officer in the United States Army upon graduation, and spent most of his five year career stationed in Bamberg, Germany. While in Bamberg, serving in the 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, he deployed first as a platoon leader to Baqubah, Iraq. He and his colleague Gregory Tomlin co-authored a book about their experiences there, entitled *The Gods of Diyala: Transfer of Command in Iraq*.

After nine months back in Germany, he deployed again, this time as an Information Operations Battle Captain with the Multi National Corps-Iraq, in Baghdad. In June of 2007, he left the Army to return to his home in Reno. He currently serves as a Senior Policy Advisor for Lieutenant Governor Brian K. Krolicki. He is working on another book about the experiences of his West Point classmates in the Global War on Terror, as well as a volume of short stories about Johnny Cash.

Governor Gibbons earlier announced that Executive Director Tim Tetz has accepted a position as National Legislative Director for The American Legion in Washington, D.C. "Tim Tetz will be serving not only Nevada veterans, but all veterans honorably by focusing his advocacy efforts at the federal level," Gibbons said, "Nevada's loss will surely serve our country's veterans well." Tetz was appointed by Governor Guinn in 2006 and reappointed by Governor Gibbons in 2007. Tetz is a veteran of the United States Coast Guard and has been actively involved in Nevada's veterans' community for many years, including serving as Department of Nevada Commander of The American Legion in 2003.

In an e-mail sent by Tetz on 31 July, he reported that "It's with great pleasure that I announce the appointment of my replacement, Caleb Cage, as the next Executive Director of NOVS. Caleb is even younger than I was, but brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with him. Prior to joining us, he served Lieutenant Governor Krolicki as a veteran advisor. Prior to that, he served two tours in the U.S. Army in Iraq. He is an accomplished author, an intelligent gentlemen and a compassionate friend of veterans. I'm overjoyed at his appointment."



### VFW Racing: Driving for Our Heroes



VFW is partnering with Kevin Harvick, Inc. (KHI) throughout the 2008 NASCAR® season on a racing program designed to raise awareness of veterans' issues and increase support for the VFW's programs and services.



Visit [www.vfwracing.org](http://www.vfwracing.org) to sign up for racing updates, view schedules, access post-race reports and more.

**VFW RACING**

## Improved GI Bill in Development



When the new GI Bill was passed in 2008, VFW celebrated the end of a decade-long fight to secure proper educational benefits for our nation's heroes. But the story didn't end there.

Recently, Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Daniel K. Akaka proposed S. 3447, a bill aimed at improving the new GI Bill. The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), along with other veterans' service organizations, is working with Akaka to shape this legislation.

"We stand beside Senator Akaka in his relentless fight for educational benefits that properly honor wartime service," said Eric Hilleman, VFW Legislative Director. "We will do everything in our

power to assure that this bill will make a direct difference in the lives of all service members and veterans who are seeking a quality education."

If passed, the new legislation would:

- Count all Reserve and National Guard activations toward eligibility for education benefits.
- Cover the cost of all education at any public university, including masters programs and PHD programs.
- Include coverage for vocational programs, OJT and apprenticeship training and other types of non-degree education and training, in addition to a university education.
- Eliminate the complicated calculation of state-by-state tuition and fee caps to determine benefits for those in degree programs.
- Provide a modified living stipend to students who are enrolled in online education.
- Make active duty members and their spouses eligible for the \$1,000 annual book allowance.
- Fix the inequality in living stipends between the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program for disabled veterans injured in OIF/OEF. (Veterans would not be forced to pass on valuable rehabilitation benefits to access the more generous Post-9/11 GI Bill living stipend benefits.)

Senator Akaka, who attended college on the original GI Bill, has no doubt about the difference such a bill can make in the lives of troops and veterans who are returning to civilian life.

"The World War II GI Bill changed my life, and my generation," said Akaka. "Hundreds of thousands of troops and veterans are already using the new GI Bill to pursue their education. Now that we have seen the benefit in action, this new legislation can improve the existing framework. I look forward to working through a comprehensive legislative process to pass a good improvement bill."

## WWII Veteran Gives Timeless Gift



"I was serving in WWII when I met my Belgian beauty," said 88-year-old Francis J. Aleksandrowicz from Bay Village, Ohio. "I loved her from the moment I saw her standing on that bridge."

Francis and Louise shared an epic romance. During a time of war, they found peace in the love they shared. Louise has been gone for seven years now, but not even death could tear them apart.

"I wanted to show my wife that I still had it in me to do something great," Aleksandrowicz said as he held back the tears.

Every Sunday, Aleksandrowicz visits Louise's grave at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman.

"I went to Arlington National Cemetery with my class when I was 14 years old," said Aleksandrowicz. "It touched me to see the memori-

als standing there so strong and timeless."

Francis decided to erect a memorial honoring his fellow veterans. As an upstanding veteran and lifetime member of VFW Post 9693 in Bay Village, Francis was granted permission to design and erect the statue, which would cost approximately \$58,000.

"I sent out a postcard to the people I know explaining what I was doing," said Aleksandrowicz. "Many of them were kind enough to make donations."

When the money came through, it was \$28,000 short. Without hesitation, Aleksandrowicz dipped into his life savings.

"I didn't care about the money," said Aleksandrowicz. "I just wanted to give a timeless gift."

The Memorial now stands in salute to all our nation's heroes at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.

"When people pass the statue, I hope they think of our military heroes throughout history," said Aleksandrowicz. "I hope Louise, my angel, is proud of what I've done."

### Did You Know?

10% Discounts at Lowe's, Home Depot and Auto Zone



These retailers offer a 10% discount year 'round to all military personnel and their families, and includes retirees and their families. To get the discount, just show a valid military or dependent military ID card.



# Help a Hero Call Home

## Support VFW's



They gave then!

Will you give NOW?

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# Post 2350 Color Guard Performs at Elko Fireworks Display



The Color Guard helped celebrate Independence Day at the Elko County fairgrounds on the 4th of July. Participants include Joe Rigsby, Mike Musgrove, Jim Hunts, Lou Caples, Jim Southerland, Jerry Franco, Art Sam, Larry Hire and Bob Nütze.

## VFW Department of Nevada Mid Winter Conference

January 21-22, 2011 Saddle West Hotel Pahrump, Nevada  
Hosted by Post 10054

### Meal Order & Registration Form

Please complete the form and mail with payment to: Tom Vick, 4601 E. Savoy Blvd, Pahrump, Nv. 89061  
Make check payable to VFW Post 10054 Mid-Winter  
(Please print all information)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Meal Order

Meal order cut-off date is January 18, 2011. No exceptions!

Date	Meal	Choice	Price	Name #1	Name #2	Total
1/21	Post Home Night	Country style ribs, baked beans, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, cake	\$12.00			
1/22	VOD/PP Banquet	Steak	\$39.00			
		Halibut	\$39.00			

### Conference Registration

Name	Title Desired on Badge	
1. _____	_____	\$2.00
2. _____	_____	\$2.00

If you are registering or ordering meals for more than two (2) people, please use a separate registration/meal order form for the additional people.

Total Food	\$ _____
Total Registration	\$ _____
Grand Total	\$ _____

For hotel reservations, please contact the Saddle West Hotel & Casino at (775) 727-5953. Mention VFW Mid-Winter Conference for guaranteed room rates.

### Room rates

Standard room - \$54.50 (tax included) Friday & Saturday nights - 2 queen size beds or 1 king size bed  
Deluxe room - \$65.40 (tax included) Fri. & Sat. nights  
(2 queen size beds or 1 king size bed, refrigerator, larger room than standard room)

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# Commemorate your Post's

anniversary in Buddy Poppy style! As your Post celebrates 25, 50 or 75 years, order special silver-, gold- or diamond-colored Poppies for distribution throughout this monumental year.

**Remember: With Buddy Poppy, every day is Veterans Day.**

- no extra cost for the commemorative poppies
- designate part of your regular poppy order as anniversary poppies





# 2010 State Convention, Mesquite, 24-26 June

