



The Eagle

Veterans of Foreign Wars

**Carl H. Kreh, Post 1123 www.VFW1123.org
420 Adm. Callaghan Lane, Vallejo, CA 94591
MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER**

WILLY ESCOBEDO COMMANDER 2025/26

Comrades,

Thank you for an incredible year. It's not easy to find the right words. Serving as your Post Commander has been one of the greatest honors of my life. This post is more than a building, more than meetings or ceremonies—it's a brotherhood and sisterhood built on shared sacrifice, trust, and unwavering commitment to one another.

We've faced challenges together, and we've celebrated victories together. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: the strength and resilience of VFW Post 1123. That strength doesn't come from any one person—it comes from all of you.

As I step down as post commander, I do so with full confidence in the future of this post. I know it will continue to thrive because it's in the hands of dedicated, capable comrades who care deeply about our mission and each other. Thank you for trusting me to lead. Thank you for your support, your honesty, and your commitment. And most of all, thank you for the privilege of standing beside you. This isn't goodbye—it's just a change in position. I will always be here as a comrade, a friend, and a fellow veteran.

Let us congratulate the 2026-27 Command & Staff:

Commander: Kari Lacy

Senior Vice: James Hawkins

Junior Vice: Chuck Speir

Adjutant: **TBD**

Quartermaster: Ray Hart

Service Officer: Henry Howard

Judge Advocate: Robert Schwerin

Surgeon: Thomas Snyder

Chaplain: Celina Perez

Trustees: Kevin Milton; Rich Schram; **TBD**

Stay strong, stay united, and continue to look out for one another.

Semper Fi, Willy Escobedo

KARI LACY 2025/26 SENIOR VICE COMMANDER 2026/27 COMMANDER

Dear Comrades and Friends,

It is with deep honor and humility that I assume the role of

Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Carl H. Kreh Post 1123. I follow remarkable leaders whose dedication has shaped a legacy of service, camaraderie, and unwavering commitment to our Veterans and our community.

As a woman who proudly served, I understand the sacrifices, the resilience, and the bond that unites all who have worn our nation's uniform. My mission is to ensure Post 1123 remains a place where every Veteran finds belonging, purpose, and the opportunity to make a meaningful impact. Whether we are supporting fellow Veterans, mentoring our youth, honoring those who have gone before us, or strengthening our ties within the community, I know we can achieve even more—together.

In the months ahead, I look forward to meeting each of you, hearing your ideas, and working side by side to advance the VFW mission: to foster patriotism, advocate for Veterans' rights, and serve our community with pride.

Let us move forward with unity, purpose, and the enduring spirit of service that defines who we are.

Yours in Comradeship, Kari Lacy

JAMES HAWKINS (No Input) JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER 2025/26

RAY HART (No input) QUARTERMASTER 2025/26

STEVEN FELLER ADJUTANT 2025/26

Adjutant's Corner How to Use the Website Open your browser (Google, Edge, Firefox, etc.) Enter <https://www.vfw1123.org> in the address bar. Look at the upper right corner & click Login Look at the menu that pops up & click Members Only Enter your Member ID & Password (your last name) **Member ID example: 9876543 & **Password example: Feller Welcome to the MEMBERS ONLY section of our Website! You will see a Directory, POST INFO, MEETING MINUTES, & other incomplete links. Department Directory is new & not implemented by myself. It looks like something our Department had plugged into each Posts website. POST INFO is a compilation of documents related to our Post. This includes our Post Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, Life Membership Program Application, Fisher House Program & Longevity Pin

Program. Additionally, there is a full electronic copy of the new 2026 National Bylaws & Rituals (Podium Edition). MEETING MINUTES is a comprehensive list of our previous Meeting Minutes. The list is current & goes back to January 2022. You will notice at the top I have extracted the Motions from the current year & they can be accessed quickly.

TRUSTEE KEVIN MILTON

Fisher House: Kevin Milton 707-319-7810
 o Apr: Escobedo W. May: Schram R. Jun: Shields B. Jul: Milton K.
 o Call the Fisher House the day before for specific needs.
 o Donation Bin available at Meetings & Socials for non-food donations.

TRUSTEE JUAN SERVERA (No input)

TRUSTEE ROBERT FARNELL

The Buddy Poppy distribution will be 5/16 - 17 from 9am – 3pm and we need 24 members to participate. I'm happy to advise that we were able to get the Glen Cove Safeway store back in the fold. We will have 6 stores- Walmart American Canyon, Walmart Vallejo, Safeway Benicia, Safeway Lincoln Road, Safeway Glenn Cove, and Walgreens American Canyon.
 Please contact Richard Schram.(707) 637-3152 or (707) 643-0433 to sign up.

SERVICE OFFICER HENRY HOWARD (No input)

TOM SNYDER, MD SURGEON'S CORNER

VFW Post 1123 Surgeon's Report
 —Infection due to the common respiratory viruses - influenza, Covid, respiratory syncytial virus - are all dangerous to people over 65 but are low and declining. It's probably still prudent to mask up if you're going into crowded public spaces like bars or concerts.
 —Virus levels in wastewater (sewage...) are also low, confirming this trend. (Did you know that public health people were sampling sewage for infectious diseases?)
 —Immunization front: the American Academy of Family Physicians recommend that people 65 and older receive an updated COVID shot twice yearly. And - this may be new to you - public health specialist and family doctors are recommending you receive a "dt" or "dpt" shot every 10 years. This is to protect you against diphtheria, a dangerous respiratory infection that's rearing its ugly head again.
 —Veterans building still doesn't have a defibrillator, despite it being the site of lots of gathering of people at risk for a sudden cardiac event. Your Surgeon is working with County Supervisor Cassandra James (the County owns the building...) to correct this problem.
 Respectfully submitted,
 TomS



BOB SCHWERIN JUDGE ADVOCATE 2025/26

The Post Bylaws committee met on Jan. 26th to review National Bylaws effects on the Posts bylaws. The only change is to replace the Service Officer name to "Benefits Advisor"; may check with District 16 to coordinate the changes. Dinner changes are on hold until the Dinner Committee meets to consider all alternatives. If you are interested in being a member of this committee, please contact Bob Schwerin.

Life Membership Program This year's recipient for a paid life membership is Ray Hart. Ray has been a very active of the Post, met all the minimum qualifications as well as involvement in many of the Post's activities. If you are not a life member and would like a chance for next year's drawing and have the Post pay for your life membership, visit the Post's web site or contact Bob Schwerin.



Don Dunn Scholarship Committee

The Don Dunn Scholarship Committee met on Jan. 26th; reviewed the application form; Chris Dunn will forward the application to local high schools; set the deadline for receipt of the application (March 27th); set the date for review of the applications (April 13th) and set the check presentation to the winners at the May 18th social. If interested in being on the scholarship committee, please contact Bob Schwerin.



Longevity Pin Program

Pins were presented at the Post's Christmas social. Mailing Pins to those not attending are in processing.

CELINA PEREZ CHAPLAIN 2025/26

Comrades,
 As your Post Chaplain I want to remind each of you that you are not alone. Our strength has always come from standing together on the battlefield and here at home. Whether you are facing challenges or simply need someone to talk to your VFW family is here for you.
 Please keep our fellow veterans and their families in your thoughts especially those dealing with illness loss or hardship. If you know of a member who could use a visit a call or support do not hesitate to reach out or notify the Post so we can assist.
 Support is not only for times of crisis. If you need to vent talk or would like prayer you are encouraged to reach out at any time.
 Let us continue to honor the memory of those we have lost by living out the values we served under duty honor and service.

Small acts of kindness and connection go a long way in strengthening our community.

If you or a fellow veteran are in need of support I am available and ready to serve.

Respectfully,

Celina Perez (650) 643-6625

CHUCK SPEIR

MAY 23, 8:30am VETERANS FLAGS COMMUNITY SERVICE

In honor of Memorial Day, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will place American flags on veteran's graves at Sunrise Cemetery on Saturday, May 23. We might be a little short-handed this year. If you or your family want to help, we would love to see you. We will meet at Sunrise Cemetery at the corner of Valle Vista and Sacramento St. at 8:30am. We will have a flag ceremony at 9am and begin placing flags afterwards. It should take no longer than two hours and usually is less. We will retrieve flags on May 30 at 10am. If you are available on either date, we could use your help.

JULY 4 PARADE VFW Post 1123 will participate and will be at the front. If you have a classic car or want to walk the parade and you want to join us call 707-645-0231 or email scoutmaster77@sbcglobal.net

INTRODUCING OUR NEW EAGLE EDITOR RAYMOND KNEEN

Hello, my name is Raymond Kneen, and I am honored to be a new member of VFW Post 1123. I was born in Denver, Colorado, and proudly served 20 years in the United States Coast Guard, retiring as a Chief Machinery Technician. I have been happily married to my wife, Roxie, for 16 years, and we have an incredible 11-year-old daughter named Olivia. Together, we have made Northern California our home, where we cherish the community and the support it provides.

I am excited to be a part of the VFW family and look forward to contributing in any way I can to honor our veterans and support our mission. Thank you for welcoming me into this esteemed organization.

NESTOR ALIGA, ASSISTANT EAGLE EDITOR PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

May 8, 1-4pm, Marie Silva Vallejo, Author of Dauntless about Filipino US Soldiers on Mare Island-built US Submarines that helped liberate the Philippines www.vallejomuseum.net/newsletter/ 734 Marin St.

May 13, 6pm, Vallejo City Unified School District Board of Education adopts Memorial Day Resolution, at 665 Walnut Avenue Vallejo, CA 94592

May 18, 6pm, Jesse Bethel High School NJROTC Awards Night, 1800 Ascot Pkwy.

May 25 MONDAY MEMORIAL DAY

9:00am-9:45am, Mare Island Naval Cemetery, 167 O'Hara Court, Mare Island, Vallejo, CA
Keynote Speaker Ashaley Jackson, Director of Sacramento Valley National Cemetery and

www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/MareIslandNaval.asp
www.timesheraldonline.com/events/#/details/memorial-day/18690448/2026-05-25T09

11:00am-11:50am, Warriors' Memorial

3 Capitol Street, Vallejo, CA

Keynote speaker: Mayumi Kimura - Deputy Secretary for Women Veterans Affairs www.calvet.ca.gov
www.timesheraldonline.com/events/#/details/memorial-day/18690700/2026-05-25T11

June 6, 10am, www.VallejoPistaSaNayon.com Festival with Veterans Resources Table, Mare Island Coal Sheds, 850 Nimitz Ave.

June 20, 11am, www.VallejoJuneteenth.com Festival with Veterans Resources Table, Vallejo Waterfront, 301 Mare Island Way.

July 4, Line Up 9am for Parade

Parade begins at 10:00 AM at the intersection of Tennessee St. and El Dorado St., proceeds along Sonoma Blvd, turns onto Georgia St., and concludes at the intersection of Georgia St. and Santa Clara St. <https://vallejojuly4.com/>

Thanks to our mighty www.VFW1123.org for adopting these nine resolutions on April 6, 2026 and to our Post Commander and Adjutant for sending the signed copies to the Department Commander and Adjutant by deadline.

Subject: FULLY IMPLEMENT ASSESSING CIRCUMSTANCES AND OFFERING RESOURCES FOR NEEDS (ACORN) NATIONWIDE BY FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2027

Submitted By: Nestor.Aliga@comcast.net
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Hospitals and health systems, including the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), are increasingly working to identify patients' social risks and address social needs as part of clinical care; and

WHEREAS, Assessing Circumstances and Offering Resources for Needs (ACORN) is a VHA social risk screening and referral program that aims to identify and address unmet social needs among all Veterans to improve health outcomes and advance health equity; and

WHEREAS, ACORN aims to: 1) systematically screen Veterans for health-related social needs in nine domains (food, housing, utilities, transportation, education, employment, legal, social isolation/loneliness, and digital

needs); 2) provide clinical care teams real-time information about Veterans' unmet needs; and 3) address identified needs through the provision of resources and referrals, including offering resource guides, support navigating resources, and/or referrals to Social Work or other relevant VHA and non-VHA services; and

WHEREAS, Positive identification of need(s) through ACORN will prompt follow-up care to assist Veterans, and ACORN resource guides can serve as an effective tool to support Veterans in identifying, connecting with, and receiving assistance from VA and community services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California at the Department Convention in Sacramento, California, on June 17 - June 21, 2026, that the Veterans Affairs must fully implement "Assessing Circumstances and Offering Resources for Needs" nationwide by Federal Fiscal Year 2027.

Subject: FULLY IMPLEMENT CARE COORDINATION AND INTEGRATED CASE MANAGEMENT (CCICM) NATIONWIDE BY FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2027
Submitted By: Nestor.Aliga@comcast.net
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Care Coordination and Integrated Case Management (CCICM) Program promises to elevate the standard of healthcare delivery for Veterans; and WHEREAS, The primary focus of CCICM is to improve collaboration, communication, and coordination within an integrated healthcare system, and some VA Healthcare System are excelling by creating five transitional care programs supporting the initiative (Coordinated Transitional Care, Home Transitional Care, Complex PACT, Remote Patient Monitoring/Home Telehealth, and Care Coordination Review Team); and

WHEREAS, Through CCICM, the Veteran is assigned a Lead Coordinator also known as a Case Manager which will be an easily identifiable point of contact for the Veteran, their caregiver, healthcare team, and stakeholders, and the Lead Coordinator will guide the Veteran during their CCICM journey by coordinating one seamless plan of care resulting in a decrease in the utilization of services and cost; and WHEREAS, Since implementing CCICM at the Orlando VA Healthcare System (OVAHCS), Veterans enrolled in CCICM have demonstrated astounding improvement, and these Veterans have shown a remarkable 79% decrease in hospitalizations and Emergency Department visits; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California at the Department Convention in Sacramento, California, on June 17 - June 21, 2026, that the Veterans Affairs must fully implement "Care Coordination and Integrated Case Management" nationwide by Federal Fiscal Year 2027.

Subject: SUPPORT THE "INTERSTATE 80 MEDAL OF HONOR SAFETY ROADSIDE REST AREA" AND "CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL MEMORIAL INTERCHANGE" IN VALLEJO, CA

Submitted By: Nestor.Aliga@comcast.net
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor is the United States of America's highest and most prestigious personal military decoration that may be awarded to recognize service members who have distinguished themselves by acts of valor or selfless sacrifice beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, The Congressional Gold Medal is the United States Congress' highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions that may be awarded to recognize individuals, groups, or institutions; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, a life member of TAL Post 603, VFW Post 1123, DAV Chapter 21 in Vallejo drafted Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 187 Medal of Honor Safety Roadside Rest Area (MOHSRRA) for then-Assembly-member Timothy Grayson and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 111 Congressional Gold Medal Memorial Interchange (CGMMI) for then-Senator Bill Dodd and were passed /

chaptered by the State Legislature in 2022; and WHEREAS, VFW Post 1123 is planning to dedicate both MOHSRRA and CGMMI in 2026 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War Two; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California at the Department Convention in Sacramento, California, on June 17 - June 21, 2026, that it fully supports the dedication of the Medal of Honor Safety Roadside Rest Area and the Congressional Gold Medal Memorial Interchange and further urges all VFW Posts to help fund this endeavor.

Subject: INFORM BENEFITS FOR DESCENDANTS OF PORT CHICAGO 256 AND PHILADELPHIA 15
Submitted By: Nestor.Aliga@comcast.net
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, US Navy sailors were unjustly punished in the 1940s because they were Black, at a time when institutional racism was worse, segregation was the norm, and Blacks were disproportionately disciplined for infractions that arguably did not rise to the severity of their treatment or their punishment; and

WHEREAS, the two famous courts-martial of Black sailors were the "Port Chicago Fifty" for protesting unsafe ammunition handling practices after the deaths of 320 servicemen and the "Philadelphia Fifteen" for writing a letter to a newspaper describing shipboard abuse and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California adopted the resolution titled,

“Exonerate The Port Chicago Fifty and Philadelphia Fifteen;” and

WHEREAS, it was announced on June 16, 2023, that “The Department of the Navy Announces Correction to Records of the ‘Philadelphia 15’ and on 17 July 2024, that “the Secretary of the Navy Exonerates 256 Defendants from 1944 Port Chicago General and Summary Courts-martial.”; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California at the Department Convention in Sacramento, California, on June 17 - June 21, 2026, that the Secretary of the Veterans Affairs must contact all the descendants of the exonerated Sailors and to insure that those descendants get any available benefits that they may be currently entitled.

Subject: NAME ALL WOMEN VETERANS’ ROOMS/CLINICS AFTER WOMEN VETERANS BY FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2027

Submitted By: Nestor.Aliga@comcast.net

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Over 2 million women Veterans live in the U.S. today, and the percentage of women Veterans has increased from 6.3% in 2000 to 11.3% in 2023, and is projected to reach 17.2% by 2043; and

WHEREAS, it is important that we honor women Veterans and naming women Veterans’ rooms/clinics within existing Veterans Affairs facilities should be encouraged; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California adopted the resolution titled “Rename the Mare Island Clinic, the Delphine Metcalf-Foster VA Clinic” and US Rep. Mike Thompson and US Rep. John Garamendi sponsored the H.R. bills, which did not become Public Law mainly because Metcalf-Foster is NOT deceased per Congressional Research Service Report No. R46740 titled Naming Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Facilities; and

WHEREAS, On June 6, 2022, the Salem Virginia Women’s Health Clinic officially became the MSG Silverine Vinyard James Women’s Health Clinic, with the woman for whom it was named in attendance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California at the Department Convention in Sacramento, California, on June 17 - June 21, 2026, that the Veterans Affairs should use the Salem Virginia template and must name all Women Veterans’ rooms/clinics after Women Veterans by Federal Fiscal Year 2027.

Subject: PASS THE WWII NURSES CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Submitted By: Nestor.Aliga@comcast.net

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, During World War II, more than 59,000 Army nurses and 14,000 Navy nurses volunteered to serve, providing critical medical care in combat zones, aboard

hospital ships, and in evacuation aircraft, often under fire and in extreme conditions; and

WHEREAS, These nurses endured bombings, sniper attacks, and captivity as prisoners of war, while continuing to care for wounded service members with skill and compassion, contributing to a historically low mortality rate among American soldiers; and

WHEREAS, Their service extended beyond the battlefield to post-war humanitarian missions, including caring for victims of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and preventing disease outbreaks in refugee camps across Europe; and

WHEREAS, The WWII nurses included women of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, such as African-American, Chinese-American, Japanese-American and nurses from the American territories of Guam, Hawaii and the Philippine Commonwealth, who overcame discrimination to serve honorably and heroically; and

WHEREAS, Despite their valor, many of these nurses served without full military status, equal pay, or veteran benefits, and their contributions have not been adequately recognized; and

WHEREAS, S.2195 (introduced by Senator Tammy Baldwin and cosponsored by Senators Steve Daines and Ben Ray Lujan) and H.R.4901 (introduced by Representative Elise Stefanik and cosponsored by Representatives Christopher Deluzio and Jennifer Kiggans) seeks to honor these nurses with a Congressional Gold Medal, one of the highest civilian honors in the United States; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California at the Department Convention in Sacramento, California, on June 17 - June 21, 2026, that the US Congress must pass WWII Nurses Congressional Gold Medal Act in 2026.

Subject: REOPEN NATIONAL CEMETERIES IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WHILE AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE ALAMEDA POINT NATIONAL CEMETERY IS DEVELOPED

Submitted By: Nestor.Aliga@comcast.net

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Alameda Point National Cemetery (APNC) was a planned U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facility purposely initiated to address a shortage of burial space for San Francisco Bay Area veterans; and

WHEREAS, The APNC’s \$395 million plan included a columbarium cemetery (for cremated remains) with up to 300,000 niches; and

WHEREAS, In 2025, the VA abruptly canceled the APNC project, citing the high mitigation costs (estimated at \$1.3 billion) and shifted focus toward a clinic in Oakland and a potential cemetery in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) Facts for Fiscal Year 2022

https://www.cem.va.gov/facts/Facts_About_NCA.asp “Of 582,000 U.S. Veterans who passed away in the U.S. and

Puerto Rico in FY 2022, 22% (or 127,896 Veterans) were buried in a national, state, or tribal Veterans cemetery;” and WHEREAS, Even though 94% of Veterans have access to national, state, or tribal veterans cemeteries within the NCA’s 75 mile-radius mandate, only 22% of veterans chose to be buried at veterans cemeteries because of personal, religious, and especially family preferences to be buried closer to home (as unhindered by traffic/distance/time/tolls/etc. visitation) is a significant part of the grieving and closure process; and WHEREAS, the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, the San Francisco National Cemetery in San Francisco, the Mare Island Naval Cemetery in Vallejo, and the Benicia Arsenal Post Cemetery in Benicia are closed to new interments, and could reopened faster than a potential cemetery ; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California at the Department Convention in Sacramento, California, on June 17 - June 21, 2026, that the Veterans Affairs must reopen the closed-to-new-interments national cemeteries in the San Francisco Bay Area while an alternative to the suspended Alameda Point National Cemetery is developed.

Subject: VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION (VSO) LIKE THE VFW MUST CONSIDER PARTNERING WITH ATTORNEYS AND CLAIMS AGENTS TO GET SHARE OF VA FEES

Submitted By: Nestor.Aliga@comcast.net

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Veterans and survivors have a choice when filing a claim with Veterans Affairs (VA) as they can hire a VA-accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO), an Attorney, or a Claims agent who is authorized by VA to represent them, and their family, in matters related to VA benefits; and Attorneys and Claims agents receive payment for their assistance; and as of January 21, 2026, the VA paid \$394.7 million in the last 12 months, with a monthly average of \$32 million; and

WHEREAS, While VA-accredited VSOs assist with preparing and submitting claims for free, some VA-accredited attorneys and claim agents provide services for free on initial claims only (it’s important to note that they may not, by law, charge a fee for initial claims); and while most VA-accredited attorneys and claim agents provide their services after VA has decided the initial claim and at this later stage in the claims process, the attorneys and claim agents may charge a fee for their services; and

WHEREAS, the VA pays the VA-accredited attorneys and claims agents fees first out of the Veteran’s past-due benefits, often called backpay, and these fees cannot exceed 20% of the calculated backpay before any other withholdings (such as military retired pay); and

WHEREAS, Veterans Service Organization (VSO) like the VFW are always doing fund raising activities to offset their massive costs of their operations therefore VSOs should

consider partnering with Attorneys and Claims agents who are authorized by the VA to represent veterans so that VSOs can get a percentage of the monthly average of \$32 million; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California at the Department Convention in Sacramento, California, on June 17 - June 21, 2026, that the Veterans Service Organization (VSO) like the VFW must consider partnering with Attorneys and Claims agents who are authorized by the VA to represent veterans so that VSOs can get a percentage of the monthly average of \$32 million.

Subject: PRESERVATION OF AFRICAN - AMERICAN MILITARY HERITAGE AND HISTORICAL RECOGNITION

Submitted By: William Reed wreed86297@aol.com

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, recent policy changes related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives within the Department of Defense have resulted in the removal, redaction, or alteration of certain historical recognitions and educational materials; and

WHEREAS, while unity of mission and clarity of focus across the Armed Forces are essential to readiness, such changes risk diminishing or unintentionally erasing the documented accomplishments of African American service members and other historically significant contributors; and

WHEREAS, the history of the United States Armed Forces is indivisible, and the courage and service of the Buffalo Soldiers, Harlem Hellfighters, Tuskegee Airmen, Montford Point Marines, 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, and countless others represent foundational chapters of American military heritage, not matters of political ideology; and

WHEREAS, these service members strengthened national defense, expanded opportunity, and advanced the effectiveness of the force through valor, sacrifice, and patriotism that transcended race and preserving these legacies is essential to honoring service, sustaining morale, and ensuring that every service member understands that excellence in the Armed Forces has always been defined by merit and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, the strength of the United States military lies in its unity, and that unity is reinforced when the full and accurate history of American service—across all eras and demographics—is preserved and honored without omission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California at the Department Convention in Sacramento, California, on June 17 - June 21, 2026, that the Department of War (Defense) and all military branches must ensure that, as policies are reviewed and implemented, historical recognition of all who served with distinction remains intact, visible, and accessible.

VFWCA Life Membership Campaign

<https://vfwca.org/uploads/documents/LifeMembershipCampaign.pdf>

The VFW Department of California pays half of a Life Membership dues when the member pays the other half. This program starts August 1, 2026, and is on a first-come, first-served basis; therefore, when the funds are expended for the year no more memberships will be processed under this program.

Purple Heart/Operation Iraqi Freedom-Operation Enduring Freedom Membership Campaign

<https://vfwca.org/uploads/Documents/PH-OIF-OEFCampaign.pdf>

The first year's membership dues is paid for by the VFW Department of California and provides for current Purple Heart recipients who are annual members to be placed in a monthly drawing for an upgrade to Life Member. All upgrades and applications must be processed by the State Adjutant/Quartermaster. There is NO reimbursement if the Post or individual member processes the Life Membership.

AVOID SCAMS

Please protect your government benefits from potential fraud by being aware of scams and, more importantly, by NOT falling for scams. Remember that very persuasive offers that seem to good to be true are usually scams.

Common Scams Targeting Veterans

Pension Poaching: A financial advisor may exploit you by advising you to hide your assets to falsely qualify for VA benefits, sometimes resulting in lost investments and lucrative fees to the advisor.

Identify Theft: When someone uses your personal or financial information without your permission (example: Social Security Number, financial account information).

Phishing: Someone contacts you and attempts to acquire your sensitive information (usernames, passwords, etc.). Scammers often pose as trustworthy organizations and use email or social media.

Imposter Scams: Someone pretends to be an official from the IRS, VA, Medicare or other government agencies to get your money and personal information.

Investment Opportunities: Someone promises high returns without financial risks.

Romantic Schemes: Someone you just met online asks for money or sensitive information, especially someone you haven't met in person yet or don't know well.

Contact the VA immediately at 1-800-827-1000 if: You miss a VA benefits payment; Identify a discrepancy in payments; Find suspicious activity with your direct deposit account.

10 Things to Know to Protect Your VA Benefits File benefits claims with the VA directly by contacting: 1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411); our Post 1123 Service Officer Hank Howard; Solano County Veterans Service Office (707) 784-6590 to make appointment to meet at Mare Island VA clinic, 201

Walnut Avenue.

<https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/veterans/>

Be cautious of media ads from companies that say Veterans can **only** obtain VA benefits with their help.

Never sign a contract to pay an unaccredited or unauthorized company to help with your claim.

Accredited Veteran Service Organizations like VFW will help with your claim for free. Check to see if an organization is accredited online at <https://benefits.va.gov/vso/> or the VA Office of General Counsel's Accreditation Search at <https://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/>

You should never have to pay to submit a new claim at VA. VA does not charge processing fees.

Review all documents thoroughly.

Never sign a blank form for someone else to complete.

Always keep a copy of completed forms for your records.

VA does not threaten claimants with jail or lawsuits.

Report Suspected Fraud

VA Office of Inspector General - Toll Free: 1-800-488-8244
Contact VA immediately at 1-800-827-1000 if you miss a VA benefits payment, identify a discrepancy in payments, find suspicious activity with your direct deposit account.

Federal Trade Commission Complaint Line - Toll Free: 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357) For more information on how to avoid a scam, please visit

<https://department.va.gov/privacy/> and

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-avoid-scam>

The PACT Act expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances

<https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/pact-act-and-toxic-exposure-information>

The PACT Act - www.VA.gov/PACT - that: Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras; Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures; Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation; Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care; and Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures.

WWW.VFW.ORG says Do NOT fall victim to predatory practices! The VFW provides free, expert assistance to help you get the PACT Act benefits and compensation you deserve.

Nestor's videos of VFW1123 & local Veterans & Community events are posted at

<https://www.youtube.com/@nestoraliga7537>

WALL THAT HEALS – VFW PIERRE WASHINGTON



From Oct. 16-19, The Wall That Heals was displayed at American Canyon's Independence Park. The exhibit brought the official three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located in Washington, D.C., to thousands of local visitors. The opening ceremony video is posted at youtu.be/jzP1Szm8p78 and please visit www.americancanyon.gov/The-Wall-That-Heals for more pictures. (Photo courtesy Nestor Aliga)

CRAB FEED VOLUNTEER - VFW HANK HOWARD



On Jan. 17, the Napa-Solano Building Trades held its successful 26th Annual Crab Feed at the Vallejo Veterans Memorial Building (VVMB) with over 500 in attendance. Pictured at left are some of the many VVMB volunteers and pictured at right in the kitchen are Vietnam War combat Veterans Steve Fox, U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, and Hank Howard. On March 7 at 6 p.m. at 420 Admiral Callaghan Lane, the VVMB will hold its next much-needed fundraiser, “All you can eat crab, pasta, salad, garlic bread, and raffle” for only \$70 per person. Presale tickets only and cutoff is Feb. 27; please contact Building Manager Kayla at VallejoVMB@gmail.com or (707) 551-9435 or (707) 644-3097. (Photo courtesy Nestor Aliga)



BBQ, JAZZ AND SELF-CARE AT VFW BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT
Organizer Dwight Richardson: “This is about unity, culture, legacy and service”.
Dwight Richardson,

organizer of Friday’s Black History Month event at the Veterans Memorial Building in Vallejo, shares information about VFW Post 1123 with a member of the community Friday, Jan. 13, 2026 during the event. (Times-Herald – Janis Mara.)

<https://www.timesheraldonline.com/2026/02/14/bbq-jazz-and-self-care-at-vfw-black-history-month-event/>

JBHS NJROTC – VFW CHIEF IVERY HOOD



On Mar. 7, the Vallejo Veterans Memorial Building (VVMB) presented a generous contribution to thank and assist the Jesse Bethel High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JBHS NJROTC) with their volunteer projects for Veterans and our beloved community. At front from left (in white) are: C/PO1 Leonard J. Mendoza-Pacheco, C/SR Brooklyn B. Calvin, C/SA Jhon S. Gonzalez-Parra, C/SN Juan Miguel G. Gonzalez, and C/CPO Helen N Dominguez Diaz; and NJROTC Naval Instructor Chief Ivery Hood. At rear from left are: VVMB Council Chair Kittie Cox, VVMB Fundraising Chair Steve Fox, and VVMB Council Vice Chair Robert Mattson. (Photo courtesy Nestor Aliga)

VFW LUTHER HENDRICKS 101 YEARS YOUNG



On April 3, Luther Hendricks of Vallejo, center right – a World War II U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and recipient of the Montford Point Marines Congressional Gold Medal – celebrated his 101st birthday with his wife Shirley, seated left, and several friends, including Jill Peeler (Post Traumatic Stress specialist), Veronica (Nurse/Caregiver), and Firefighter Bullock, Engineer Trujillo, and Apprentice Runyon of the Vallejo Fire Department. (Photo courtesy Nestor Aliga)

<https://www.timesheraldonline.com/2026/04/20/april-23-vallejo-vacaville-arts-entertainment-source-faces-and-places/>

Previous Menus

January: Soup Night with Salad
 February: Valentine's Day: Italian Night – Alfredo Sauce, Pesto Sauce.
 March: St. Patrick's Day: Corned Beef
 April: Ham
 May: Chicken Cordon Bleu or Mexican (for Cinco de Mayo)
 June: Ribs or Fried Chicken w/corn on the cob
 July: Chili beans, Potato salad, Hot Links/Dogs
 August: Salad, Fruits, BBQ Chicken
 September: Peel/Eat Shrimp (Cold), Salad, Chowder
 October: Oktober Fest menu
 November: Thanksgiving menu – Turkey
 December: Christmas menu – Ham

Suggested Menus

- Chicken Cordon Bleu 1
- Italian Night 1
- Mexican Night 4 August
- French Night 2 September
 - Appetizer: Fondue with French Bread
 - Lemon Chicken Stew
 - Romaine Lettuce Salad with beets/beans/cucumber/tomato
 - Rice Pilaf
 - Broccoli
 - French Bagget and butter

- (East) Indian Night Menu 3 July
 - Curry Chicken
 - Roast potatoes
 - Steamed Vegetables
 - Salad
 - Flat Bread (Naan) Butter

Summer – Asst Sausages/Franks 3 October

- Fried Chicken 3
- Roast Chicken 3
- Meat Loaf 2
- \$\$ Steak & Beef
- Pork Medallions 2
- Chinese 1
- Ham (Dec.) must have
- Turkey must have
- Corned Beef (March) must have
- Ribs
- Scampi
- Shrimp Peel/Eat (Cold) VERY POPULAR – Great Dinner 2
- Salmon and chicken (not everybody likes Salmon) 4 October

Date	Event	Time	Location	Notes
7-May	Vallejo Veterans Council Meeting	19:00	Vets Building	
12-May	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
16-May	Armed Forces Day			1949
16-May	Buddy Poppies	9:00	Various	
17-May	Buddy Poppies	9:00	Various	
18-May	JBHS NJROTC Awards Night	18:00	1800 Ascot Pkwy	
18-May	Post Social	19:00	Vets Building	
19-May	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
20-May	NJROTC - Flags Out @ All Souls & Skyview	15:00	Cemeteries	
23-May	Scouts - Flags Out @ Sunrise	8:30	Cemetery	
25-May	Memorial Day - Ceremony	9:00	Mare Is Natl Cemetery	Federal Holiday
25-May	Memorial Day - Ceremony	11:00	Behind City Hall	Federal Holiday
26-May	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
27-May	NJROTC - Flags In @ All Souls & Skyview	15:00	Cemeteries	
28-May	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
30-May	Scouts - Flags In @ Sunrise	10000	Cemetery	
1-Jun	Post Meeting	19:00	Vets Building	Installation
2-Jun	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
4-Jun	Vallejo Veterans Council Meeting	19:00	Vets Building	
6-Jun	www.VallejoPistaSaNayon.com	10:00	Mare Coal Sheds	VA Resources
6-Jun	D-Day (Normandy Landings)			1944
9-Jun	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	

14-Jun	Army Birthday			1775
14-Jun	Flag Day Ceremony	9:00	Vets Building	9AM - 12PM
15-Jun	Post Social	19:00	Vets Building	
16-Jun	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
17-Jun	State Convention 6/17 - 6/21		Sacramento, CA	
20-Jun	www.VallejoJuneteenth.com	11:00	Vjo Waterfront	VA Resources
23-Jun	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
25-Jun	Start of Korean War			1950
30-Jun	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
4-Jul	www.VallejoJuly4.com VFW lead Parade	8:00	Vets Building	
6-Jul	Post Meeting	19:00	Vets Building	
7-Jul	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
14-Jul	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
20-Jul	Post Social	19:00	Vets Building	Independence
21-Jul	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
24-Jul	National Convention 7/24 - 7/30		Reno, NV	
27-Jul	Korean War Veterans Armistice Day			1953
28-Jul	WWI began			1914
28-Jul	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
3-Aug	Post Meeting	19:00	Vets Building	
4-Aug	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
4-Aug	U.S. Coast Guard Birthday			1790
6-Aug	Vallejo Veterans Council Meeting	19:00	Vets Building	
11-Aug	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
17-Aug	Post Social	19:00	Vets Building	
18-Aug	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
25-Aug	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
1-Sep	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
3-Sep	Vallejo Veterans Council Meeting	19:00	Vets Building	
7-Sep	Post Social	19:00	Vets Building	Labor Day
8-Sep	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
11-Sep	Patriot Service & Remembrance Day			2001
15-Sep	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
18-Sep	POW/MIA Remembrance Day			1979
18-Sep	US Air Force Birthday			1947
21-Sep	Post Meeting	19:00	Vets Building	
22-Sep	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
29-Sep	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
29-Sep	VFW Organizations Established			1899
1-Oct	Vallejo Veterans Council Meeting	19:00	Vets Building	
3-Oct	Vallejo Waterfront Weekend	9:00	Waterfront	9AM - 5PM
5-Oct	Post Meeting	19:00	Vets Bldg	
6-Oct	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
7-Oct	Afghanistan War Begins			2001
13-Oct	Columbus Day			Federal Holiday
13-Oct	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
13-Oct	U.S. Navy Birthday			1775
16-Oct	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
19-Oct	Post Social	19:00	Vets Building	Halloween
20-Oct	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	

25-Oct	Grenada Campaign			1983
27-Oct	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
1-Nov	Daylight Savings time ends	2:00		Fall Backward
2-Nov	Post Meeting	19:00	Vets Building	
3-Nov	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
4-Nov	JROTC - Flags Out @ All Souls & Skyview	15:00	Cemeteries	
5-Nov	Vallejo Veterans Council Meeting	19:00	Vets Building	
7-Nov	Scouts - Flags out @ Sunrise	9:00	Cemetery	
7-Nov	Buddy Poppies	9:00	Various	
8-Nov	Buddy Poppies	9:00	Various	
10-Nov	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
10-Nov	Marines Birthday			1775
11-Nov	WWI Armistice Signed			1918
11-Nov	Veterans Day - Ceremony	10:00	Mare Is. Cemetery	Federal Holiday
11-Nov	Veterans Day - Ceremony	10:00	Behind City Hall	Federal Holiday
14-Nov	JROTC - Flags In @ All Souls & Skyview	15:00	Cemeteries	
16-Nov	Scouts - Flags In @ Sunrise	9:00	Cemetery	
16-Nov	Post Social	19:00	Vets Building	Thanksgiving
17-Nov	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
24-Nov	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
26-Nov	Thanksgiving Day			Federal Holiday
1-Dec	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
3-Dec	Vallejo Veterans Council Meeting	19:00	Vets Building	
7-Dec	Post Meeting	19:00	Vets Building	
7-Dec	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day			1941
8-Dec	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
15-Dec	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
20-Dec	Space Force Birthday			2019
21-Dec	Post Social	19:00	Vets Building	Christmas
22-Dec	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
25-Dec	Christmas Day			Federal Holiday

**Carl H. Kreh, Post 1123 And Auxiliary
Veterans of Foreign Wars
420 Admiral Callaghan Lane Vallejo, CA 94591**

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