



LAVA LEDGER

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Message from the Department Commander

Talofa Comrades,

Welcome to the April edition of the Lava Ledger. This month marks a milestone as the VFW Department of Hawaii successfully completed our mission to American Samoa, focused on partnership, outreach, and the 125th Samoan Flag Day celebration.

Thanks to our Department Service Office and staff, we exceeded expectations by delivering vital, on-site support to veterans and families long underserved. At the invitation of Governor Pulaali'i Tuiteleapaga Iuli Nikolao Pula, we proudly joined Flag Day events, honoring cultural traditions and reaffirming our presence across the Pacific.

Most importantly, we forged a lasting partnership with the American Samoa Government Veterans Service Office, laying the groundwork for future outreach—including next year's visit by our VFW Commander-in-Chief—and proving no veteran is ever out of reach.

We proudly honor Comrade Ray Loo for his exceptional dedication as a Veterans Service Officer. His tireless efforts—counseling over 40 veterans in just four days during our outreach—set the standard for advocacy and care. Ray truly embodies our mission: “No One Does More for Veterans.”

This month, we also recognize VFW Posts 3391 and 2875 for installing new officers. We thank outgoing leaders for their service and welcome the new, confident they will carry our values forward with honor and integrity.

Finally, the Lava Ledger honors Military Child Month and Gold Star Spouse Day, recognizing the sacrifices of military families. We also observe Anzac Day, remembering the bravery of Australian and New Zealand forces at Gallipoli.

Quote of the Month:

“Participating in the 125th Samoan Flag Day reaffirmed our sacred duty to serve every veteran, no matter how remote. Our partnership with the American Samoa Government Veterans Service Office proves geography is never a barrier when commitment leads the way.” — Ben Fuata, Cdr VFW-HI

Our membership goals are closing in on 101%—let's push for 102% by our June State Convention!

Stay sharp, stay motivated, and keep driving forward for those who served. Together, we rise!

Fa'afetai ma ia fa'atasi le Atua!

Ben Fuata
Commander
VFW Dept. of Hawai'i



Let's Never Forget our Ohana!

In April, veterans, their families, and the military community come together to celebrate the Month of the Military Child. This month recognizes the unique challenges and experiences faced by military children, who are often impacted by their parents' service. The month also includes Gold Star Spouses Day, honoring those whose spouses died in service.



VFW Post 10276 COMRADE OF THE MONTH: RAY LOO



The Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Hawaii proudly recognizes Comrade Ray Loo for his outstanding service, dedication, and advocacy as a VFW Veterans Service Officer (VSO). Comrade Ray Loo brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as a VFW VSO. He currently works as part of the VFW Team at the Tripler Army Hospital, where he provides benefits/entitlement counseling for veterans and their families.

Comrade Ray Loo's tireless efforts were on full display during the outreach in American Samoa. Through his expert mentorship and devotion to the veterans, he spent over 40hrs over over a 4 day period assisting over 40 veterans with counseling. His deep knowledge of the VA processes and his compassion for veterans have set the standard for VSO excellence. If you know Ray, he always goes above and beyond the call of duty to serve those who have served. He is not one to short-cut the process. He is always willing to provide a way forward to help the veteran get their well deserved entitlements. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Hawaii proudly honors you for exemplifying the highest ideals of our mission: "No One Does More for Veterans."

Mahalo Ray for all you do for our Veterans!



Outreach: American Samoa

ITINERARY:

American Samoa Outreach Dates: 07-17 April 2025 DAY

DAY 1-3: Met with veterans at the Veterans Affairs Center

DAY 4: Met with Governor Pulaalii and Lt. Governor Pulu

DAY 6: Attended the Flag Day Opening Church Service

DAY 7 Outreach to Aunu'u Island for VSO support

DAY 8 Fautasi Race / Navy 250th Birthday Anniversary

DAY 9: Fautasi Race / Governor's Lucheon

DAY 10: Parade at Tafuna Stadium



On April 17, 2025, American Samoa marked the 125th anniversary of Flag Day—commemorating its official partnership with the United States and honoring generations of Samoan patriotism and service. This year's milestone carried special meaning, uniting Pacific Island veterans with the broader VFW community in a powerful demonstration of respect, heritage, and unwavering support.

Led by State Commander Benedict Fuata, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of Hawaii traveled more than 2,600 miles to stand in solidarity with VFW Post 3391. They proudly marched in the Flag Day parade, celebrated Samoan culture, and delivered essential services to local veterans—embodying the Department's motto: Polynesian Pride – Where Veterans Matter Most!



VFW Department of Hawaii met with Governor Pulaalii'i.

Outreach: American Samoa



Outreach: AMERICAN SAMOA



AMERICAN SAMOA VFW POST 3391



During the Staff Visit, VFW Department of Hawaii Commander Ben Fuata was able to install the FY25-26 Officers for Post 3391. The Post also welcomed 7 new Life Members during the visit.

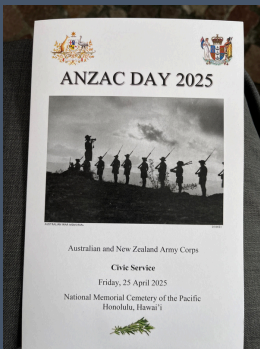
VFW Hawaii POST 2875 Officer Installation



VFW Post 2875 induction of FY2025-26 Post Officers and Trustees during their monthly meeting.

Congratulations to the incoming Officers and Trustees.

Aloha in Action: Celebrating ANZAC DAY



Anzac Day, observed on April 25th, is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand. It commemorates the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during World War I, particularly the Gallipoli campaign. The name ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, and the day is a time to honor the sacrifices and bravery of those who served.

SUPPORT VETServe2025

VA NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

#VetResources, VA Volunteers, Vets Experience / VetServe 2025: Join VA in National Day of Service, April 23



VetServe 2025: Join VA in National Day of Service, April 23

April 2, 2025

Matt Campbell
Veterans Experience Office

Each year, VA joins the nation to observe and celebrate National Volunteer Week, which occurs this year on April 20 – 26, 2025. As part of this special week, join us in supporting a National Day of Service through “VetServe 2025,” a campaign to strengthen volunteer capacity across the nation on April 23, 2025.

This special observance highlights the tremendous impact volunteers make in Veterans’ lives. Your time and dedication can make a lasting difference in the lives of those who have served our nation.

VetServe 2025 brings together volunteers, Veteran Service Organizations, community leaders and VA staff in a synchronized day of service across all 50 states. From maintaining Veterans’ memorials to organizing resource fairs and providing home repairs for disabled Veterans, participants are making a tangible difference in Veterans’ lives.

<https://news.va.gov/139258/vetserve-join-national-day-service-april-23>



LAVA LEDGER ANNOUNCEMENTS

VFW Action Corps:
Sign up now!



The VFW Action Corps is a national grassroots advocacy network of over 300,000 VFW members and supporters dedicated to veterans' issues. They stay informed on challenges facing veterans, the military, and their families, and are ready to be contacting lawmakers. Open to all patriotic Americans, the Action Corps is free to join and helps amplify the voices of veteran advocates across the country.

Members receive:

- The VFW Action Corps Weekly newsletter, covering advocacy efforts.
- Access to contact information for elected officials nationwide.
- Regular "Action Alerts" to engage when veterans' issues require attention.

The VFW Action Corps strengthens the VFW's mission to support veterans, working closely with the National Legislative Council in Washington, D.C., to drive change.

Recent legislative victories include:

- The PACT Act, expanding VA healthcare for veterans exposed to toxic substances.
- The SERVICE Act, improving VA mammogram eligibility.
- Reforms to the Uniform Code of Military Justice on sexual assault and harassment.
- VA's maternity care coordination program for women veterans.
- The PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act, providing service dogs for veterans with PTSD.
- Inclusion of bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and parkinsonism as presumptive conditions for herbicide exposure.
- The Deborah Sampson Act, addressing healthcare barriers for women veterans.
- Removal of the 12-year limit on using Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits.



Join the VFW Action Corps today, or encourage others to do so, and be part of the movement making a difference for veterans.
To sign up, visit: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>



LAVA LEDGER



ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS: 87th Annual VFW
& 66th Auxiliary State Convention

Date: June 12th-15th

Location: Kilauea Military Camp, Volcano National Park,
Big Island For more information visit: www.vfwhi.org

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Share your upcoming Post events, fundraisers, service projects, and community activities with us to be featured in an upcoming edition of the Lava Ledger. We also welcome summaries of events and photos for publication, so don't hesitate to send them our way!

Email your information to: vfwhawaii66@gmail.com