

General Orders No. 1

2025-26 Series

1. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief and having been installed in office in accordance with the Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command.
2. The following officers have also been duly elected and installed by the 126th National Convention and will be accorded with the recognition due them:

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Cory L. Geisler, Post 721, Waukesha, Wisconsin

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Glenn R. Umberger, Jr., Post 7155, Trappe, Pennsylvania

Quartermaster General

Marc Garduno, Post 3238, Camden, Delaware

Chaplain

Timothy “Darren” Atkins, Post No. 5829, Whitesburg, Kentucky

Judge Advocate General

Ronald Rusakiewicz, Post 9460, Stratford, Connecticut

Surgeon General

Douglas E. Welch, Post 10043, Lewiston, Idaho

National Council of Administration Members

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Alabama | Scott F. Gedling, Post 6226, Arab, Alabama |
| Alaska | Daniel F. Garcia, Post 1685, Anchorage, Alaska |
| Arizona | Jeffrey A. Eiler, Post 1433, Glendale, Arizona |
| Arkansas | Donald R. “Don” Barnes, Post 8245, Huntington, Arkansas |
| California | Dawn M. “Dusty” Napier, Post 9561, Willow Creek, California |
| Colorado | David L. Stone, Post 3917, Security, Colorado |
| Connecticut | Stanley W. Borusiewicz, Jr., Post 10004, Jewett City, Connecticut |
| Delaware | John G. Mitchell, Post 7234, Ocean View, Delaware |
| Europe | Peter J. Mascetti, Jr., Post 27, Wiesbaden, Germany |
| Florida | Kenneth Corr, Post 10097, Fort Myers Beach, Florida |
| Georgia | Jeff Carroll, Post 2667, Newnan, Georgia |
| Hawaii | Ron H. Schaedel Sr., Post 10276, Honolulu, Hawaii |
| Idaho | Bobby D. Tettleton, Post 9036, New Plymouth, Idaho |
| Illinois | Matthew C. Claussen, Post 2868, Brookfield, Illinois |
| Indiana | Johnny R. Capps, Post 972, Terre Haute, Indiana |
| Iowa | Robert P. Quinn, Post 6414, Riverside, Iowa |
| Kansas | Patrick M. Briggs, Post 3111, Great Bend, Kansas |
| Kentucky | Robert A. Daugherty, Post 1298, Bowling Green, Kentucky |
| Louisiana | Robert J. Lovergne, Jr., Post 3750, Luling, Louisiana |
| Maine | Anthony R. Kimble, Post 3108, Belfast Maine |

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON OFFICE

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Maryland | Michael J. Eason, Post 9376, Clinton, Maryland |
| Massachusetts | Keith Jackson, Post 6538, Townsend, Massachusetts |
| Michigan | Kevin A. Conklin, Post 6248, Decatur, Michigan |
| Minnesota | Dale E. Hoogeveen, Post 1791, Chaska, Minnesota |
| Mississippi | Steven M. "Steve" Organ, Post 5395, Pontotoc, Mississippi |
| Missouri | Eric D. Sullivan, Post 5789, Lee Summit, Missouri |
| Montana | James L. Layton, Post 4067, Malta, Montana |
| Nebraska | Joseph E. Smith, Post 2280, Bellevue, Nebraska |
| Nevada | David A. Sousa, Post 3396, Sparks, Nevada |
| New Hampshire | Leon Rideout, Post 3041, Lancaster, New Hampshire |
| New Jersey | Luddie H. Austin, Post 12165, Trenton, New Jersey |
| New Mexico | Victoria R. Haddox, Post 5890, Rio Rancho, New Mexico |
| New York | Eugene J. "Gene" Ratigliano, Post 420, Saratoga Springs, New York |
| North Carolina | Victor R. Letourneaut, Post 9960, Cedar Point, North Carolina |
| North Dakota | William L. "Bill" Tuff, Post 7564, West Fargo, North Dakota |
| Ohio | Christopher W. "Chris" Haynes, Post 7596, Franklin, Ohio |
| Oklahoma | Curtis A. "Curt" Watts, Post 2027, Stillwater, Oklahoma |
| Oregon | Bert W. Key, Post 4273, Sandy, Oregon |
| Pacific Areas | Kenneth A. Stein, Post 12146, Ban Chang, Rayong Thailand |
| Pennsylvania | Nathanial Smith, Post 7293, Egypt, Pennsylvania |
| Rhode Island | Scott F. Gould, Post 6342, North Smithfield, Rhode Island |
| South Carolina | Edwin A. Tufts, II, Post 3433, Summerville, South Carolina |
| South Dakota | Barbara K. McKean, Post 3298, Parkston, South Dakota |
| Tennessee | Brian K. Walker, Post 5066, Collierville, Tennessee |
| Texas | Ingeborg A. Conley, Post 12075, Humble, Texas |
| Utah | Heath N. Silcox, Post 12087, West Jordan, Utah |
| Vermont | Charles A. Magnant, Post 778, Swanton, Vermont |
| Virginia | Kenneth B. Wiseman, III, Post 1503, Dale City, Virginia |
| Washington | Paul M. Herrera, Post 2224, Puyallup, Washington |
| West Virginia | Richard E. Ogden, Post 3663, Buckhannon, West Virginia |
| Wisconsin | |
| Wyoming | Danielle P. Smith, Post 9439, Casper, Wyoming |

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

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant General

Dan West, Post 3413, San Marcos, Texas

Executive Director, Assistant Adjutant General, Washington Office

Ryan M. Gallucci, Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia

Assistant Adjutant General, Administration & Programs

Brian K. Walker, Post 5066, Collierville, Tennessee

Chief of Staff

Kevin C. Jones, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Inspector General

Christopher W. “Chris” Haynes, Post 7596, Franklin, Ohio

Sergeant-at-Arms

Brian Willette, Post 3104, South Hadley, Massachusetts

General Counsel

John R. Muckelbauer, Post 3712, Paola, Kansas

Director, Administrative Operations

Quentin S. Carroll, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, Marketing & Communications, Kansas City

Randi K. Law

Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Outreach, Washington Office

Robert Couture, Department of Maryland Member-at-Large

Director, Development

Kelly J. Jones

Director, Human Resources

Sari Maple

Director, Information Technology

Sean Barnes, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, Meetings & Events

Taylor Engle

Director, Membership & Member Services

David E. Prohaska, Post 4434, Belleville, Michigan

Director, National Legislative Service

Kristina Keenan, Post 605, Paris, France

Director, National Veterans Service

Michael S. Figlioli, Post 2017, Dedham, Massachusetts

Director, Operations & Administration

Bradley G. Hazell, Post 1677, Casa Grande, Arizona

Director, Publications, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief, VFW Magazine

Tim Dyhouse

Director, VFW Programs

Lynn W. Rolf, III, Post 56, Leavenworth, Kansas

Director, Supply & Logistics

Hank Ellis

5. Attention of all members is directed to the purposes listed within the VFW’s Congressional Charter. “To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom” is one of the VFW’s chartered purposes; as such the VFW represents fighting for American rights, civil rights and humanitarian impulses that have always guided the VFW’s principles.

Today the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States reaffirms its commitment to that chartered purpose by first recognizing that in order to end racism within our organization, it is not enough to be non-racist/non-discriminatory: we must be proactive.

While we focus on education and mentorship we work to identify, address, and eradicate any and all forms of racial bias and discrimination. We will work to eliminate racial injustices and

discriminatory practices within our organization. The VFW's leadership is united in the pursuit to end racial bias and discrimination while empowering our members and the greater veteran community towards this collective goal.

6. Attention all members, Pursuant to Section 901 of the National Bylaws, "*Discipline of Members*," any member who commits offenses recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may be subject to disciplinary action. Acts of sexual harassment, racial or sexual discrimination, or any other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or deemed unbecoming of a member will not be tolerated. Harassment and discrimination includes any verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment, or that otherwise interferes with another's ability to participate in VFW activities. All members are expected to conduct themselves with dignity, respect, professionalism, and common courtesy at all times.
7. For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its VFW Auxiliary.
8. Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2025-26 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, "Buddy"® Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.
9. Post Commanders and District Commanders are directed to forward all resolutions or communications relative to federal legislation or to the policy or procedure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other governmental agency, to their respective Department Headquarters for consideration and referral to the Adjutant General. Department Commanders will not take direct action on any such resolutions or communications without first obtaining full knowledge of existing National Headquarters policies governing such legislation or agencies. Posts, County Councils, Districts and officers and members thereof shall not publicly communicate or promulgate any such resolutions until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief.
10. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to Section 703 of the National Bylaws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable.
11. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustees' Report of Audit (VFW Store product #4214) to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September. **Do not mail these reports to National Headquarters.**
12. Attention of Department and Post Commanders is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990/T, where applicable. Forms may be secured from your local Post Office or branch office of the Internal Revenue Service.

13. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).
14. The Manual of Procedure amendment passed by the 119th National Convention modified Section 1001(25) to read, "The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are prohibited."
15. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department Bylaws and directives. Department and District Inspectors shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.
16. U.S. Army ARDEC has issued guidance on the operation and maintenance of the M1 Garand. The manual can be found in the VFW Training & Support section at vfw.org or you can visit the M1 Garand Associated Website: m1garandtraining.com.
17. The distribution of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Sections 711 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of "Buddy" Poppies in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of "Buddy" Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 704 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure.
18. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:

Post No. 1747 and 5731 consolidated as Post No. 1747, Oroville, California
Post No. 5539 and 10045 consolidated as Post No. 5539, Harvard, Nebraska
Post No. 454 and 2029 consolidated as Post No. 454, Bloomington, Illinois
Post No. 699 and 1190 consolidated as Post No. 699, N. Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania
Post No. 7028, 6219 and 9155 consolidated as Post No. 7028, Trenton, Nebraska
19. Announcement is made of the authorization of the charter for the following Post:

Post No. 12243 – Union, Missouri

BY COMMAND OF
CAROL L. WHITMORE
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:



Dan West
Adjutant General