



LAVA LEDGER

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Message from the Department Commander

Talofa Comrades,

Welcome to the October edition of the "Lava Ledger"! As we observe Columbus Day, let's reflect on its evolving significance, with many now celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day to honor Native populations impacted by colonialism.

At the 125th VFW National Convention, a historic amendment to the VFW Manual of Procedures was approved, making the Purple Heart a qualifying award for membership. This recognizes the sacrifices of those who serve and strengthens our organization.

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the Western Regional Conference at the Ala Moana Hotel. Special thanks to George Bartlett, Norbert and Geri Enos, Anita Loando-Acohido, Randy Grant, Cassie, JT, Rodney, Jame, and the many Department, Post, and Auxiliary members who made this gathering an invaluable opportunity for collaboration and recommitment to serving veterans and their communities.

This month, we proudly recognize "Al Moreno" of VFW Post 3830 as "Comrade of the Month". We also commend the Auxiliary members of Post 12122, who supported Soldiers at Pohakuloa Training Area during the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Capabilities (JPMRC) Training Exercise. Your dedication to veterans and active service members inspires us all. Mahalo for all you have done and continue to do for your comrades in arms!

Please share your Post's updates, outreach, and "Comrade of the Month" nominations with Comrade Chelsea Mack at chelsea.mack@gmail.com by the 25th of each month.

Stay healthy, positive, and ready to support fellow veterans.

Fa'afetai ma ia faatasi le Atua,

Ben Fuata
Commander
VFW Dept. of Hawai'i



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WAR'S

VFW NATIONAL NEWS

THE PURPLE HEART AWARD IS NOW A VFW QUALIFIER

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
AL LIPPHARDT

At VFW's 125th National Convention, delegates approved M-2, an amendment to VFW's Manual of Procedure. The approval makes the Purple Heart a qualifying award for VFW membership.

The Purple Heart now stands alongside awards such as the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Combat Medical Badge and the Combat Action Badge denoting that an individual has earned eligibility into our great organization. The Purple Heart is awarded for wounds received as a result of enemy action.

Most Purple Heart recipients would already be eligible for VFW membership through receipt of a campaign medal, but there are incidents that have occurred within the United States where the Purple Heart was issued by itself. U.S. troops wounded or killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the 2009 shooting at the former Fort Hood in Texas and the 2015 terrorist attack on two military installations in Chattanooga, Tenn., are examples.

But let me be clear: The Purple Heart is a military award. It is not a civilian award, and civilian awards are not VFW qualifiers.

At VFW's recent convention, we had the honor of being joined by Robert Olivarez and Carder Ferguson, both VFW life members and life members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Robert is the current MOPH national commander and Carder is the MOPH immediate past national commander.

Carder has told the VFW that approximately 230,000 Purple Heart recipients do not belong to either the VFW or the MOPH. These are potential VFW members that should be a part of our great organization.

I am proud of our new relationship with the MOPH. While the MOPH is and will remain a separate organization, the act of partnering with them in the cause of serving veterans will keep the MOPH's great legacy alive and bolster our own influence.

The VFW also has begun training and accrediting service officers who are VFW life members and MOPH life members. The first two participated in VFW's annual service officer training classes in September. The MOPH has chapters in areas of the country where the VFW does not have Posts, and vice versa. To me, it makes sense to be able to offer services to veterans at more locations around the nation.

Purple Heart recipients like me have shed blood for this country. I personally hold the medal in high esteem because it was created by Gen. George Washington, and the medal's history is that of the U.S. military.

The Purple Heart is one of the military's most esteemed awards, and anyone who earns it — anywhere in the world — can join our great organization.

Welcome to the VFW!

VFW POST 3830

COMRADE OF THE MONTH

COMRADE AL MORENO – A TRUE CHAMPION FOR VETERANS

This month, we proudly recognize Al Moreno of VFW Post 3830 as our Comrade of the Month. Comrade Moreno is an exceptional asset to our Post, exemplifying the very best of what it means to be a dedicated VFW member and veteran advocate.

Serving as the Post Canteen Manager, Al is the heartbeat of our Post's social activities, ensuring our members and guests are always welcomed with a friendly atmosphere. His talents as our Post DJ keep the energy high, making every gathering a memorable one. Beyond his official roles, Al plays a crucial part in our public affairs efforts, helping to spread the word about our mission and engage the community.

But what truly sets Comrade Moreno apart is his unwavering commitment to his fellow veterans. He is the first to volunteer his time, whether it's attending meetings, supporting events, or assisting veterans in need. His dedication goes beyond the Post walls; he spends his off hours providing help to veterans and their families, offering not just a helping hand but also a listening ear and a compassionate heart.

For his outstanding service and selfless dedication to VFW Post 3830 and the veterans in our community, we are honored to recognize Al Moreno as our Comrade of the Month. Thank you, Al, for your tireless commitment to our mission and your unwavering support for those who have served. Your hard work and spirit of camaraderie are truly inspiring.



VFW WESTERN CONFERENCE HONORING SERVICE & STRENGTHENING BONDS



VFW WESTERN CONFERENCE 2024

The VFW Western Conference convened from October 31st to November 2nd, 2024. Hosted at the bustling Ala Moana Hotel in downtown Waikiki, it was an ideal setting for members from across the Western Conference to gather, exchange ideas, and reinforce their commitment to serving veterans and their communities.

A Gathering of Leaders and Advocates

The conference brought together Department leaders, Post delegates, and VFW and Auxiliary members from 17 different VFW Departments. These incredible advocates came together to address key issues affecting veterans and their families with a shared mission to strengthen the VFW's mission of service, advocacy, and camaraderie. Dedicated to protecting and enhancing the rights of those who have served, the conference also featured informative sessions on navigating VA benefits, supporting military families, and addressing the unique challenges faced by veterans across the country. These sessions provided valuable insights and practical tools for VFW members to bring back to their respective Posts, ensuring a lasting impact on their local veteran communities.

Fostering Camaraderie and Connection

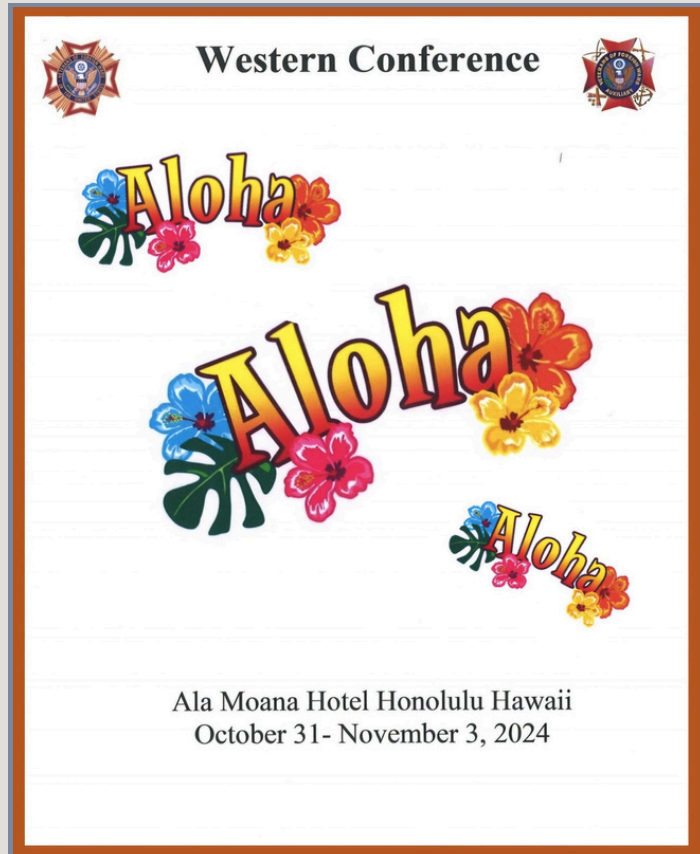
Beyond the formal sessions, the VFW Western Conference offered ample opportunities for camaraderie and fellowship. Comrades and their families were given plenty of down time to forge stronger bonds, all while experiencing the rich culture and hospitality the island of O'ahu has to offer. The spirit of aloha was evident as members shared their experiences, celebrated their accomplishments, and reaffirmed their dedication to the VFW's mission.

Looking Ahead

As the conference drew to a close, attendees left Hawai'i with renewed energy, a stronger sense of purpose, and a commitment to advancing the VFW's mission. The VFW Western Conference continues to be an essential platform for collaboration, growth, and advocacy, ensuring veterans' voices are heard and their needs are met. A resounding success, all attendees left with a renewed dedication to serving veterans, promoting patriotism, and fostering a sense of unity among those who have bravely served our nation.



VFW WESTERN CONFERENCE ALA MOANA



VFW WESTERN CONFERENCE ALA MOANA



VFW WESTERN CONFERENCE ALA MOANA



VFW Post 12122 AUXILIARY MEMBERS VISIT THE POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA



VFW Auxiliary members from the Lance Corporal Christopher Camero Memorial VFW Post 12122 spent time at the Pohakuloa Training Area USO located on Hawaii island on October 14, 2024. Post 12122 Auxiliary members provided food, drinks, and nourishment to Soldiers participating in the recent Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center exercise held there. Mahalo to 12122 Auxiliary members for their continued support of our nation's veterans and those who continue to serve in our nation's armed forces.



VFW Post 12122 POST MEMBERS SUPPORT U.S. VETS



VFW Ewa Beach Post 12138 was honored to sponsor a tee during the U.S. VETS' 11th Annual No Vet Left Behind Golf Tournament on Monday, October 28, 2024.

This golf tournament brings together local partners, sponsors, golfers, community veterans and their supporters in an effort to raise critical funds and awareness for U.S. VETS Barbers Point.

VFW Post 12138 continues to support our community and U.S. VETS' mission to prevent and end veteran homelessness.



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 take action by contacting lawmakers. Open to all patriotic Americans, the Action Corps is free to join and helps amplify the voices of veterans' 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 Service 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](https://votervoicenet.net/vfw/register)



LAVA LEDGER ANNOUNCEMENTS



VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY,
PATRIOT PEN,
AND TEACHER
NOMINATIONS
ARE DUE!

Don't forget this very important deadline. All applications must be approved by your Post Commander and submitted to Department no later than **October 31st!**

*****THIS IS A
REQUIREMENT TO BE
ALL-AMERICAN FOR
YOUR POST!**

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:
chelsea.mack@gmail.com