



Department of Hawaii General Orders # 004

Series 2024-2025

Commander's Moment

Aloha Comrades, Auxiliary, and Friends,

Your Department Leadership and Staff are continually working to elevate the quality of life and services provided to our Posts, members, and their families. On October 23rd, we will be conducting a comprehensive audit review of all Department processes, including the Adjutant's records and documents, to refine and strengthen our operations and ensure we deliver the highest level of support and efficiency.

Recruitment remains a top priority—not only to bolster our numbers but to amplify our members' voices in addressing State and National issues. I encourage you to keep up the momentum in recruiting new members while actively engaging our existing membership. Your participation helps honor our veterans and makes a significant impact on the goals of both the Department and the National organization.

Additionally, please note that applications for the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher Awards are due by October 31st and must be uploaded to the Scholars App before final submission to the Department by November 30, 2024. Let's make this a banner year and proudly showcase the talents of Hawaii!

I look forward to seeing you at the Western Conference from October 31st to November 2nd, 2024, at the Ala Moana Hotel.

I'll leave you with today's thought:

"Just one small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day." — Dalai Lama

Talofa Comrades,

Fa'afetai Tele Tofa Soifua,

*Benedict Lui Lea'ana Fuata
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Hawaii Commander*

Polynesian Pride ~ "Where Veterans Matter Most!"

1. Ron Lockwood has resigned from all official duties in the VFW due to health concerns.



Department of Hawaii General Orders # 004

Series 2024-2025

2. The following appointments are hereby made:

Department Adjutant	George Barlett	Post 10154
Department Inspector	Randy Grant	Post 3292
Service Office Oversight	Ronald Schaedel	Post 10276
Community Activities	George Barlett	Post 10154
Voice of Democracy	Randy Grant	Post 3292
State Convention Chair	Jame' Schaedel	Post 12138

3. The following appointments are declared null and Void:

Student Veteran Assistant	Ronald Lockwood	Post 8616
State Convention Member	Ronald Lockwood	Post 8616

4. The VFW Department of Hawaii remains steadfast in upholding our customs, traditions, and ceremonies to honor our veterans with the respect they deserve. However, the growing demands and limited resources have posed challenges in supporting all events and ceremonies at the Department level. We encourage all Posts to take an active role by volunteering, participating, attending, and proudly wearing their VFW colors at every event, regardless of direct Department involvement. Your presence and support are essential in maintaining the visibility and legacy of our organization.

5. Western Conference

- a. **Dates:** October 31 – November 3, 2024
- b. **Location:** Ala Moana Hotel
- c. **Registration:** Visit our website at vfwhi.org for further information.

6. Commander's Homecoming.

Commander's Homecoming will occur Friday, 7 February from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Natsunoya Tea House. More details will be provided later.

7. Elected officers and Committee members.

Any Officer or committee member who fails to pay current annual dues by their anniversary date will forfeit eligibility to hold any office in that administrative year.



Department of Hawaii General Orders # 004

Series 2024-2025

- 8. **Community Service Reporting: Post Adjutants** are required to submit Community Service Reports on the All-American Dashboard at least quarterly, monthly is recommended. Total money expended, Volunteer Hours, Total Volunteers, Mileage, and Event Explanation is required for each volunteering opportunity. Reports sent into Department will be entered into the Dashboard for the Post.
- 9. **The State Commander, Chief of Staff, Quartermaster, and Adjutant will be informed of all official neighbor island trips.**
- 10. **The State Commander, National Council-Member, State Adjutant and Chief of Staff will be cc'd on all reports sent to National or sent for further distribution.**

BY COMMAND OF:

Ben L. Fuata

State Commander

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Department of Hawaii

OFFICIAL:

Department of Hawaii

State Adjutant



Department of Hawaii General Orders # 004

Series 2024-2025

DEPARTMENT PLANNING CALENDAR:

SCHEDULE OF CEREMONIES VFW MEETINGS, AND EVENTS

Rev. October 2024

2024

- October 31 – November 3: Western Conference at Ala Moana Hotel Honolulu HI
- October 10-13- Department Junior Vice Commanders Training Kansas City MO.
- November 11: Veterans Day
 - 0700 at WWII Memorial
 - 0730 at Korean/Viet Nam Memorials VFW Department conducts this ceremony
 - 1000 at Punchbowl OVC
 - 1000 at Natatorium
 - 1100 at Parche Memorial, Subbase JBPHH
 - Warriors Barbaque Fort Derussy
- October 31- November 3 Western Conference at Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, HI
- November 16 at 0900: Training Day for QMs, Adjutants, and Commanders at OVC
- December 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- December 7 at 1100: Auxiliary COA at OVC
- December 21 at 0900: VFW COA at OVC

Department of Hawaii General Orders # 004
2025

Series 2024-2025

- February 7 at 1730-2100: Homecoming for Commander Fuata Natsunoya Tea House
- February 8 at 0900: COA Meeting at OVC
- February 8 at 1100: Luncheon for Teacher, VOD and Patriot Pen Winners
- March 2-6 Washington Conference, Washington DC
- March 29 National Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day
- April 10-13 Department Senior Vice Commanders Training, Kansas City, MO
- April 12 at 0900 Training Day for Service Officers, QMs, Adjutants, Senior Vice Commanders, and Commanders at OVC
- April 18: Ernie Pyle 80th Anniversary at Punchbowl
- VFW Day of Service (ALL Month)
- May 26: Memorial Day
 - 0700 at WWII Memorial
 - 0730 at Korean/Viet Nam Memorials VFW Department conducts this ceremony
 - 1000 at Punchbowl OVC
 - 1100 at Parche Memorial, Subbase JBPHH
 - 1300 at State Veterans Cemetery Kaneohe
- June 12-15 Department Convention at Kilauea Military Camp (KMC), Big Island
- June 14 Department COA following Close of Convention KMC, Big Island
- June 28 VFW National Home 100th Anniversary Celebration
- August 9-13 VFW National Convention Columbus, OH

Department of Hawaii General Orders # 004

Series 2024-2025

- September 11 9-11 Remembrance Day
- September 20-21 Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming Des Moines, IA
- POW/MIA Remembrance Day (TBD)
- September TBD 20th Annual Joint Memorial Service Punchbowl for 442
- October 2-5 Department Adjutant/Quartermasters Training Kansas City, MO.
- October 16-19 Department Junior Vice Commanders Training Kansas City, MO
- November 5-8 Western Conference Boise ID

2026

- February 28- March 5 Washington Conference
- April 16-19 Senior Vice Training
- June State Convention Time and Place TBD
- August 15-19 National Convention Salt Lake City, UT
- September 24-27 Commander-in-Chiefs Homecoming Billings, MT

2027

- July 31- August 4 National Convention Milwaukee, WI J
- June State Convention Time and Place TBD

2028

- August 5-10 National Convention San Antonio, TX
- June State Convention Time and Place TBD

Department of Hawaii General Orders # 004

Posts should arrange special ceremonies and all Commanders shall alert comrades to their obligations for appropriate commemoration of the following outstanding action dates in U.S. history:

THE DATES

January 27 - Signing of the Vietnam Peace Accord in 1973.

February 15 - Sinking of U.S.S. Maine, 1898.

February 28 - Liberation of Kuwait—Operation Desert Storm 1991.

March 24 - Start of Kosovo Campaign 1999.

March 29 - *National Vietnam War Veterans Day.*

March 31 - End of Operation Restore Hope—Somalia 1995.

May 1 - Loyalty Day, annually.

May 8 - VE Day: German unconditional surrender signed, 1945.

May 30 - Memorial Day.

June 6 - D Day: Allied invasion of Europe, 1944.

June 14 - Flag Day.

July 4 - Independence Day.

July 27 - Signing of the Korean Armistice in 1953.

August 31 - End of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2010.



Department of Hawaii General Orders # 004

Series 2024-2025

September 2 - VJ Day: Japan surrendered, 1945, ending World War II fighting.

September 11 - Patriot Day.

September, 3rd Friday - POW/MIA Recognition Day.

October 7 - Start of Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan 2001.

October 18 - Recognition of Women in Military Service.

October 23 – Beirut Bombing.

November 11 - Signing World War I Armistice, 1918. Veterans Day.

December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day, since 1941.