



LAVA LEDGER



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Talofa Comrades,

Welcome to the January edition of the Lava Ledger! As we step into the New Year, we reflect on the accomplishments of 2024 with gratitude. Your unwavering support has led to remarkable achievements in recruiting and membership, enhanced services for our veterans and their families through our Department Veterans Service Officers, and a steadfast commitment to honoring our fallen heroes and those who continue to defend our freedoms. Through numerous ceremonies, we uphold our Polynesian Pride and live by our mottos: "No One Does More for Veterans" and "Where Veterans Matter Most!"

This month, we highlighted our VFW National Home in Lansing, Michigan, where our Department proudly sponsors a home. For a century, the National Home has provided vital support to military personnel, veterans, and their families, helping them build a foundation for a brighter future. As we celebrate its 100th anniversary, we reaffirm our commitment to this invaluable mission.

We also honor Comrade Jame Schaedel as our Comrade of the Month. Serving as a Non-Commissioned Officer with the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Jame also dedicates himself as the VFW Department of Hawaii's Legislative Liaison and Adjutant for VFW Post 12138. His diligence ensures timely and accurate legislative reporting, strengthening our advocacy at both state and federal levels. Additionally, his outstanding coordination of our upcoming D.C. visit has resulted in an efficient and impactful itinerary, maximizing our engagement with congressional leaders. Jame is a true patriot, and his unwavering dedication to our mission is exemplary. Fa'afetai tele lava, Comrade Schaedel!

This month, we also recognize VFW Post 2875 for their continued commitment to community service. Through their Adopt-a-Highway initiative, they give back to North Shore residents of Oahu, keeping our land clean and embodying the Hawaiian value of "Mālama 'Āina"—caring for our land. Mahalo Nui to VFW Post 2875 for your service!

We encourage all Posts to submit your "Comrade of the Month" nominations and share stories of fundraisers, events, and veteran support initiatives—we want to hear from you!

Until next month, stay healthy, positive, and ready to serve those who served us.

Fa'afetai ma ia faatasi le Atua!

Ben Fuata
Commander
VFW Dept. of Hawai'i



VFW NATIONAL NEWS

THE VFW NATIONAL HOME IS A 'SPECIAL PLACE'

*THIS ARTICLE WAS
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MAGAZINE

The VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Mich., celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. Its mission is to provide a safe haven for the families of active duty troops, veterans and relatives of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

This unique campus of 42 homes is a true community. The campus includes a fitness center, gymnasium, game room, computer lab, library, fishing pond, four miles of hiking trails and five playgrounds. There also is a real feeling of patriotism and respect for veterans that is palpable.

Children who spent some of their lives at the Home are examples of that sense of duty. Since 1925, more than 250 former residents went on to serve in the military. Four of them paid the ultimate sacrifice for the nation.

The Home's Director of Community Development and Alumni Engagement, Brian Daniels, is a former resident who served in the Iraq War. Daniels credits the Home's Executive Director Mike Wilson for leading the Home into a new era.

Wilson is a former Army command sergeant major who served in 1991's Persian Gulf War. Wilson, a Gold Legacy Life member of VFW Post 1355 in Sturgis, Mich., has led the Home since 2022. He summed up why the Home's mission is so popular with VFW members: "Children shouldn't have to struggle just because mom and dad do."

Improving the lives of veterans and their families is at the heart of why the Home exists and why it is important for VFW members. An example is the VFW Auxiliary Child Care and Early Education Center, which offers free child care while parents are working or attending school.

Each of the Home's 42 houses is sponsored by a VFW Department, with some Departments sponsoring more. The Home receives donations from VFW and Auxiliary units at all levels of the organizations, from members up to Departments.

In February, VFW Auxiliary President Brenda Bryant and I plan to attend the Home's 100th anniversary gala. The important thing for me is that the Home offers a hand-up instead of a hand-out for its residents. The Home gives parents a chance to readjust and reassess while preparing for the next stage of their lives. And they can deal with the transition in a patriotic, stress free environment that nurtures their development.

I also believe the Home tells our members throughout the country that if they or a veteran's family needs a hand-up, the VFW has a resource to help. Check out this month's cover story to learn more about the VFW National Home's rich history of helping veterans and their families. It is a special place.

The VFW National Home is a 'Special Place'

COMMAND POST | FROM THE CHIEF
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Al Ipphart



**Photos were taken from www.vfwnationalhome.org

VFW POST 12138 COMRADE OF THE MONTH

JAME SCHAEDEL - A CHAMPION FOR VETERANS EVERYWHERE

This month, we proudly spotlight Comrade Jame Schaedel from Post 12138, a dedicated advocate working tirelessly behind the scenes to support and protect veterans' rights. Jame is our legislative representative, ensuring that the voices of our VFW brethren are heard at the local, state, and federal levels.

Jame's commitment to veterans' advocacy is evident through his timely and accurate legislative reports to National, which have played a pivotal role in advancing crucial legislation. His work has helped push forward key initiatives such as the Elizabeth Dole Bill and the Claims Shark Initiative—two essential measures aimed at protecting veterans and preventing predatory claims practices within the VA and VFW.

Beyond his legislative efforts, Jame is an integral part of our organization's day-to-day operations. He has been instrumental in planning the upcoming State Convention, ensuring that every detail is meticulously arranged for a successful event. Additionally, he works diligently to keep our Department's website and social media platforms updated, ensuring that members stay informed and engaged with the latest news and developments.

Jame's dedication and hard work often take place behind the scenes, but his impact is felt throughout our organization. His unwavering support and advocacy for veterans make him a true asset to the VFW and an exemplary Comrade. We are proud to recognize Jame Schaedel as our Comrade of the Month!

Thank you, Jame, for your service and dedication!



VFW POST 2875 IN ACTION: GIVING BACK TO NORTH SHORE OAHU



Members of Post-Aux 2875, along with State Chaplain Stan Fernandez, recently gathered for a community service project on the North Shore of Oahu. As part of their ongoing commitment to keeping their community clean, the team participated in their regular Adopt-a-Highway cleanup.

Pictured from left-to-right: Todd Okuma Post 2875, Tim Wong Post 2875, Norbert K. Enos Post 2875, Stan Fernandez Post 10276, Gerri Dee Enos Aux Post 2875 and Jesse Worthen Commander, Post 2875. Alongside several other members of Post 2875, these dedicated comrades are working together to maintain the beauty of their local area. Their continued efforts exemplify the VFW's mission of service, showing that even small actions can make a big impact.

Mahalo to Post-Aux 2875 for their hard work and dedication to keeping Hawaii's roads clean and safe!



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.org/vfw/register)



LAVA LEDGER ANNOUNCEMENTS



IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS:

87th Annual VFW & 66th Auxiliary State Convention

Date: June 12th-16th

**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:
chelsea.mack@gmail.com