

# THE PACIFIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS



No One Does More for Veterans  
EXCELLENCE in All We DO

Volume XXV, Number 1

July/August 2022

FREE

## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Carrying the Voice of 22 Million Veterans

When you visit your congressional representatives, please stress these are the issues we will be fighting for in the 117th Congress. To find out who your congressional representatives are, visit [vfw.org/ActionCorps](http://vfw.org/ActionCorps).

### Our 2022 Priority Goals:

- **BUDGET:** To fully fund programs for veterans, service members, and their families.
- **DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS:** To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits.
- **EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND TRANSITION ASSISTANCE:** To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service.
- **HEALTH CARE:** To ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares.
- **MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE:** To maintain a quality, comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for an all-volunteer force.
- **NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND POW/MIA:** To fully support service members, and protect our nation's citizens and interests around the world.

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Click [HERE](#) to visit the National Legislative Service to read the entire 2022 Priority Goals.

*We are the voice that represents veterans everywhere and defends their rights and benefits. Our representatives stand for veterans every time.*

# COMMANDER'S CALL

Comrades,

We are kicking off the 2022 2023 year as of 1 July. There are no wild surprises that will slow your efforts in achieving 100%, All State and All American. I have sent out to the Department council, and I have also posted on the DPA 2.0 Facebook page this year's All State District and Post requirements. Augie will also post them to the webpage. I have also supplied them with this year's Membership Program, and it will be on Facebook and the Webpage. I wish you all the best in achieving All American and All State. You can do it just do what you always have done, and it will happen. I would love to be putting caps on all the District and Post Commanders at next June's convention. Again, Good luck.

We just had our first Convention in two years, and it was a complete success. I do not want to leave out any name, so I just want to say to the whole DPA 2022 Convention staff, you knocked it out of the park. Thank you for all the hard work, you all picked up the challenge and it was a great event.

I would like us all to get back on track to who we were prior to the fun. Time to put all petty jealousies and trivial personalities in our rear view mirror. The past is the past and it is time to stop living in the past and move forward. Reach out to each other with an open hand, shake hands and get back to helping our fellow veterans and their families when they need us. For the ole timers we call that a clean slate.

I have been in contact with our District Commanders, and we are working a schedule for SVC Fores and JVC Lutman and myself to be making some trips to get out and see you all including District meetings and Post visits so plan on seeing us in your local area, we will hit as many places as we can.

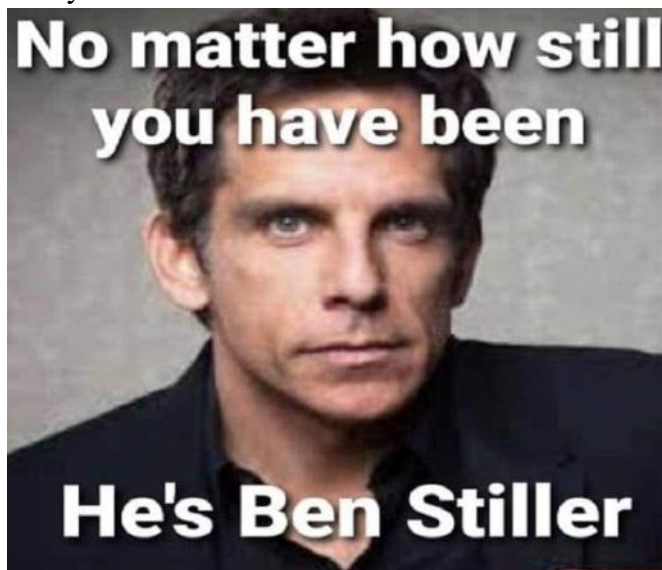
Lastly, I would like to thank you all for this honor, however, this year is not about **me**, this is **YOUR** year. I took one of the Core values of my beloved Air Force as this year's motto,

## **EXCELLENCE in all we DO**

I felt nothing could explain to the rest of the VFW what the DPA does every day. It is in the heart and soul of each and every one of you and I will work my hardest to not let you down and again, thank you.

Yours in Comradeship

Warren "Max" Maxson  
Commander  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Department of Pacific Areas  
**EXCELLENCE in all we DO**



Commander

**Warren Maxson**



# UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES



**VJ Day**, also known as Victory Over Japan Day, is observed on September 2 every year in the United States. It commemorates the official surrender ceremony of the Japanese aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay—an event that occurred on September 2, 1945. Read more at <https://www.defense.gov/Experience/VJ-Day/>



**Patriot Day** is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. Many Americans refer to Patriot Day as 9/11 or September 11. Read more at: <https://militarybenefits.info/patriot-day-september-11th-9-11/>



**POW/MIA Recognition Day** is commemorated on the third Friday of every September, a date that's not associated with any particular war. Resolutions making it official were passed in 1979 by Congress and the president after the families of the more than 2,500 Vietnam War POW/MIAs pushed for full accountability. The remains of almost 82,000 Americans are still missing, according to the [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency \(DPAA\)](#).



**Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)** was the name used by the US Government for the Global War on Terrorism. On 7 October 2001, in response to the September 11 attacks, President George W. Bush announced that airstrikes targeting Al-Qaeda and the Taliban had begun in Afghanistan. Operation Enduring Freedom primarily refers to the War in Afghanistan, but it is also affiliated with counterterrorism operations in other countries. Read more at <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/u-s-led-attack-on-afghanistan-begins>



**18 October Recognition of Women in Military Service.** From the Revolutionary War to present day conflicts, women have proudly served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard as nurses, pilots, engineers, soldiers and other specialties. During World War I, about 35,000 women officially served as nurses and support staff. During World War II, 140,000 women served. Read more at: <http://dev.legion.org/womenveterans/248582/%E2%80%98we-can-do-it-history-women-military-service>



# In the SPOTLIGHT

In the VFW, we know our veterans are #StillServing and rising to meet the challenges of this uncertain time. We want you to share your stories and maybe even inspire others across our Department to do the same. Click here to tell us your story. [pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org](mailto:pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org)



Ban Chang - Utapao VFW Post 12146 Comrade Don Meurett delivered food and beverages for the children of Anne's House for Abandoned and Displaced Children on 11 May 2022. The donations were made possible through the VFW Post 12146 Community Outreach Programs.



Local VFW Post 9723 co partnered with Local American Legion Post 28 Plus Local scout members participating in Memorial Day events presenting Bouquets at the grave sites of fallen service members at the TOMARI Cemetery Naha and International Peace Park OTOMAN Okinawa Japan

# In the SPOTLIGHT



One of our two Post sponsored teams, the Pala Girls Soccer Team called UNLIMITED won a trophy at a tournament at Bowin Arena in Sri Racha, Chonburi this weekend. Congratulations and we are VFW proud.



On 28 June 2022 Comrade Lou Holub (newly elected DPA Chaplain) VFW Post 12146 chairman for the Annual Clean out Your Closet charity drive coordinated with the Banchang ladies club to help them receive donated clothing and items from Post members and the Saturday Soi Dog yard sale and donated the items to the " Hand to Hand Foundation" a nonprofit who teaches sustainability, self-worth and feeds thousands in local communities of the Eastern Seaboard of Thailand. Pictured are the donated items and Thais teaching gardening, clothes mending, cooking & raising Chickens.



# In the SPOTLIGHT

Ulysses G. Buzzard VFW Post 12130 comrades from Cebu City, Cebu, Philippines doing another quarterly donation to the Little Lambs Orphanage. Pictured are Comrade Jag Montecillo, Comrade David Auringer, Brother Mark, Comrade Melvin Stanton and Comrade Tony Frey who provided support to the missionary on 18 May 2022. Submitted by QM Melvin Stanton.



Ulysses G. Buzzard VFW Post 12130 comrades from Cebu City Veterans Memorial Park and the Carreta Spanish-American Cemetery for Memorial Day 2022. Pictures are of the Cebu City Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery and partnering with Cebu Descendants of the Spanish-American War at the Carreta American Cemetery.

# In the SPOTLIGHT



The VFW serves the Community every day, Wednesday June 29 2022, Ban Chang - Utapao VFW Post 12146 of Thailand, provided 70 School Uniforms, Shoes and Socks to children in need at Phala Wat School Ban Chang. The smile on the children's faces, when they saw their new shoes and uniform, warmed our hearts. To all our sponsors, Thank You for your continued support of our Community Service Outreach Programs.

The Exchange's Pacific Region Deputy Commander supports local VFW. Please click [HERE](#) to view the Stars and Stripes Article.



Your feedback is important to us. Please submit your Letters to the Editor or Suggestions by clicking [pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org](mailto:pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org)

# In the SPOTLIGHT

## PDC Robert Moses

Out and About at the DPA Convention and MOC Grand Scratch  
June 2022



Commander Mitchell n  
Grand Commander Moses



Dept. Commander Mitchell, Inspector Moses and  
National Home Chairman Himes



MOC ADJ Mitchell and Grand Bug Bug Moses  
Incoming Big Bug on the Laptop Fred Berg



Incoming Senior Vice Commander Flores,  
Past Dept. Commander Moses and Incoming  
Dept. Commander Maxsom,



Left photo  
Our Grand Outgoing  
Big Bug Moses  
Incoming Middle Bug  
Gley  
Incoming Grand Little  
Bug Himes.



Right side  
Our Yellow Shirts  
Past Supreme CDR Malott, Outgoing Grand Big Bug Moses and  
Past Supreme CDR Ellingwood



# SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades!

As we start on our New Fiscal Year, we need to start focusing on all the requirements in making **All State** and **All American** and it's not that early to start and try to work on the small items that you can easily accomplished.

Our membership count, as of June 28, we are at 100.14% and we are proud to say we made it and we give thanks to all the outstanding recruiters out there who put their valuable time in recruiting new members. As you all know that we have dissolved the VAC Grants this year since it was underutilized, but we urged all Posts to keep assisting their Veterans in any way they can. For the DPA All State and All-American Program, please ensure that you have verified with the respective DPA Program Chairman that you have completed the required items and I will in turn coordinate with all of them to ensure that you are credited.

Follow up on our DPA and VFW National Dashboard and see where you stand with regards to membership requirements for the year and keep yourself updated on our DPA Commander's All State and All-American requirements for this year (**Click Image Below**. Please note, it takes about 30 seconds for the dashboard to generate the image.).

If you need help or assistance with regards to your membership drives, please let me know. Look forward in working with you all this year. Yours In Comradeship and Service!

Alexander Fores  
 Senior Vice Commander  
 Department of Pacific Areas  
**EXCELLENCE in all we DO**



**Alex Fores**

Veteran of Foreign Wars of the United States  
 Department of Pacific Areas  
 Department/District/Post Administrative Operations Status

Location	Service Tag Report QTR Board Status (as of 6/30/2022)	Service Officer JBL - 6/30/2022	Inspection Status #1 (As of 6/30/2022) #2 (As of 6/30/2022) #4 (As of 6/30/2022)	Delegation To Programs Delegation To National District	Budget Pledge Goal	Budget Progress Overall Budget Pledge Drive	Voice of Democracy Patriotic Pen LEAD/LEAD Teacher	Action Corps Programs Participating Troops Social Media	Programs				Membership Membership as of June 30, 2022	Qualification
									Q1 Veterans Assistance	Q2 Veterans Assistance	Q3 Veterans Assistance	Q4 Veterans Assistance		
<b>District 1</b>														
9723 Post 9723 DeWanda/LGI Franck C Allen Memorial Post														
<b>District 2</b>														
1054 Post 1054 John C. Fisher Memorial Post														
9555 Post 9555 General Claire L. Chenuault Post														
9612 Post 9612 Howard F. Noonan Post														
<b>District 3</b>														
8180 Post 8180 Colonel Lewis L. Hibbs H.R. 180 Memorial Post														
9985 Post 9985 Freedom Bridge Memorial Post														
10033 Post 10033 H.R. 302 Memorial Post														
38229 Post 38229 CWB Sergeant K. Humphreys Memorial Post														
<b>District 4</b>														
9537 Titan Post														
<b>District 5</b>														
9876 Post 9876 Fred J. Estes														
9953 Post 9953 C. L. Bova														
10217 Post 10217 Karl W. Richter														
10248 Post 10248 447th Memorial Post														
11575 Post 11575 Stegeman Memorial Post														
12074 Post 12074 Ken Chapman														
12146 Post 12146 Bouchard Oleson														
12183 Post 12183 Western Australia														
<b>District 6</b>														
1209 Post 1209 Hilda Ada Post														
2917 Post 2917 Gas Ace Post Memorial Post														
3457 Post 3457 Sagan Post														
<b>District 7</b>														
124 Post 124 Rear Admiral Charles Fyfe Post														
2485 Post 2485 Robert W. Zafar														
9892 Post 9892 Colonel W. J. Smith Post														
11447 Post 11447 Paul F. Suzuki Post														
12130 Post 12130 Ulysses G. Buzzard Memorial														

# #STILLSERVING UPDATE



## **You Proved It: America's Veterans are Still Serving in a Big Way!**

Last month marked the first-ever VFW Day of Service. What a success it was! With hundreds of activities held throughout the country, VFW members, veterans and advocates made clear their commitment to serve. Thank you to everyone who participated in this hugely successful inaugural event!

Be sure to mark your calendar for the next VFW Day of Service on May 6, 2023. If you're wondering how to keep up the good work until then, check out our [resources page](#) for tips and ideas.

[Check Out Day of Service Resources](#)

## **Congratulations to VFW Post 3834 – June Post of the Month**

Members of VFW Post 3834 in San Fernando, California, are celebrating its recent achievement of earning All-American status. They are celebrating for good reason. This is the first time in the Post's 80-year history to have received the honor. A quick look at the Post's community involvement makes clear the title is well-deserved. The VFW is proud to honor the members of Post 3834 who are #StillServing.

[READ MORE](#)

# #STILLSERVING



## 4 EASY WAYS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR #STILLSERVING POST OF THE MONTH

- 1 Submit your #StillServing story via [todaysvfw.org](http://todaysvfw.org)
- 2 Post on social media using #StillServing hashtag
- 3 Community involvement during the duration of the campaign (Feb. 2020 to present)
- 4 Verified in good standing with recorded community service hours

[LEARN MORE](#)

[SHARE YOUR STORY](#)

[SHARE A PHOTO](#)

[REQUEST A DECAL](#)

[WATCH THE VIDEOS](#)

[GET YOUR GEAR](#)

#STILLSERVING

WE ARE  
#STILLSERVING

# JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

Konnichiwa and welcome to the 2022-2023 **“Excellence In All We Do”** term. I am honored to be your JVC and look forward to a totally excellent year (que the Wyld Stallyns). I regret I was not able to join you at the convention in Angeles City, but the business of our beloved organization is in great hands with CDR Maxson and SVC Fores spearheading the charge. Congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed Comrades!!!

Our course remains clear, and that is focusing on taking care of Veterans. We must also be mindful of what drives our ability to do so and that is each and every Comrade in this Department. We are the fuel that drives the DPA engine and as we take care of ourselves, our duties and each other, we supercharge our efforts. Now is the time to plan ahead for awards and other administrative items that seem to sneak up on us toward the end of the term. Checklists and POAMs (Plans of Action and Milestones) are great tools to help us steer clear of administrative shoals. I will specifically be helping you with CSRs and AWARDS this year.

**CSRs:** They are no different than last year in that they are entered on the DPA website. Please fill them out as comprehensibly as you can. Refer to PAGE 8 of the All-State Program for general guidance on CSR entries. If you have an issue with one of your inputs, feel free to email me at [jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:jvcdpa@vfwpacific.org) and I will do my best to resolve it. Specifically, if you need to update an entry with information or forgot to include something, let me know and I will go in and adjust as the system will allow. Don't forget the 3 CSR input requirement PER month.

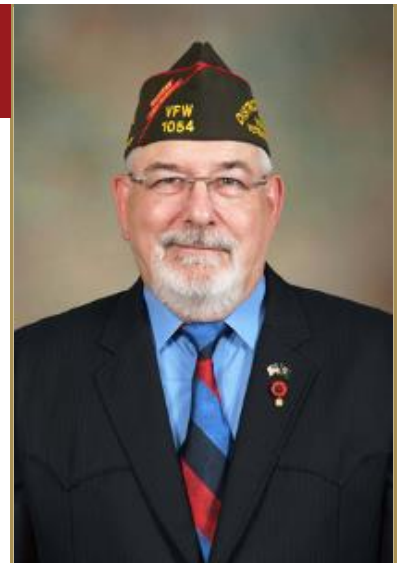
**AWARDS:** I believe one of the reasons awards tend to be thought of as an administrative burden is because we sometimes don't focus on data collection until the need to turn in the award arrives. Post CDRs should, in whichever means is the easiest and most readily available, start entering individual line items (XX Comrades attended, participated, organized, etc. a Memorial Day remembrance ceremony, date, location, etc.) and/or those repetitive events that can be updated (Executed XX recruiting tables, recruiting XX new members). Use the meeting minutes as well since they should reflect events and other activities of the post and members therein. You can do the same with some of the other awards as well. Then when the awards are about to become due, you only have to organize your information. We can only recognize those Comrades and Posts for which awards are submitted. Also, don't forget about the DPA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD. No ticket, no ride.

DUE DATES:

**DPA Community Service Award: Due to DPA JVC NLT 1APR23.**  
**Post Awards (ONE EACH) – Due to District Commanders or appointee**  
**District Awards Chairman NLT 15APR23.**  
**District Awards (ONE EACH) – Due to DPA JVC NLT 1MAY23.**

I hope you all had a great Independence Day holiday period. I am indeed privileged to be part of the 2022-2023 DPA team and I look forward to serving with you all. Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Mike Lutman  
Junior Vice Commander  
**“Excellence In All We Do”**



Department of Pacific Areas

Junior Vice Commander

Michael Lutman

The “C” in CSR is for community, which means there are usually community members, active duty or Veterans involved in your activity. If it is just a post related task (attending a meeting, executing specific duties, etc.) it is most likely not a Community SERVICE-related task.



To See The DCPA's Award Programs, [CLICK HERE](#). Please note, some of these may be out of date do the recent installations of 2022-2023 officers. Check back occasionally or ask the Award Chairman.

## MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Remembering Michael Joseph Daly who was an Irish American who served in the United States Army and received the United States military's highest decoration for valor the Medal of Honor for his actions in World War II.

Daly was born on September 15, 1924, in New York City, but resided his entire life in Fairfield, Connecticut, except for one year he and his wife lived in County Wicklow, Ireland. His father, Colonel Paul Daly, was a World War I and World War II veteran who was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross and was also nominated for the Medal of Honor twice but did not receive it. His great-grandfather Thomas F. Gilroy was an Irish immigrant who was the mayor of New York City in the 1890s.

Daly graduated from Georgetown Preparatory School in 1941 and joined the United States Army from Fairfield's Southport neighborhood in 1942. He attended the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, where he was classmate of George Patton IV. While he was at the academy he was, by his own admission, a mediocre student. After having severe disciplinary problems and continuously being placed on special confinement and walking off punishment tours he resigned his appointment after only one year to fight in World War II. Sent to Europe as an eighteen-year-old infantry private, he trained in England and took part in the D-Day landings at Omaha Beach with the 1st Infantry Division. Daly participated in the drive through France and was wounded in Aschen, Germany, and was sent to England to recover. After he recovered, he was reassigned to the 3rd Infantry Division and was given a battlefield commission to second lieutenant. By April 18, 1945, he was a first lieutenant in command of Comp. A 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, 7th Army.

On that day, he led his company in their advance through Nuremburg, Germany, and single-handedly engaged German forces several times. As his unit passed a city square, a German machine gun opened fire, causing several casualties. Daly rushed the position and killed the three gunners. Advancing ahead of his men, he came across a German patrol preparing to use his rocket launchers to ambush American tanks. He again attacked alone and, despite being outnumbered and outgunned, killed all six patrol members. When a machine gun opened fire at close range, he picked up a dead man's rifle and killed the two-man German crew.

By fearlessly engaging in 4 single-handed fire fights with a desperate, powerfully armed enemy, Lt. Dal, voluntarily taking all major risks himself and protecting his men, killed 15 Germans, silenced 3 enemy machineguns, and wiped out an entire enemy patrol.

On April 19, 1945, Daly was shot through the head; a bullet entered at his ear and exited from the opposite cheek. He was sent to England and eventually the United States to recuperate. At about the same time, his father, who had been wounded in France, was also being evacuated to the United States. Daly was subsequently promoted to captain and on August 23, 1945, was awarded the Medal of Honor. In addition to the Medal of Honor, Daly received three Silver Stars, a Bronze Star with "V" device, and two Purple Hearts. This true American hero passed away on July 25, 2008, and he was buried at Oak Lawn Cemetery with full military honors.

We are forever grateful for his service.

<https://fallenyetnotforgotten.com>



# DPA ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

Comrades,

It was great seeing all the Comrades that attended the Department Convention last month. To be able to have conversations face to face and work together shows that we are finally getting over this pandemic.

Now that the new VFW year has begun. There are several things that we need to ensure we get done. I have sent out to all the Quartermasters the bonding information for the 2022-23 year. Please ensure that you fill out the application completely. I would like to have all the applications back by the end of the month. This will enable me to complete the certifications and send the information to National.

Buddy Poppy's for this year will be order the same as in past years. The cost is \$58 per 500. I know that some Post's have not received their order from the past year. I am still working with National to get those sent to you. The person that was handling the orders at National has moved on to another job, so things have slowed down.

All Post's have submitted their election reports for this year. I am still waiting on most of the General Orders. Please send them once you get them prepared.

As a reminder, quarterly Audits are due the month after the quarter has ended. Posts need to email me a completed signed audit no later than July for the April – June audit, October for the July – September audit, January for the October – December audit and April for the January – April audit.

Yours in Comradeship,

Shawn Watson  
Adjutant/Quartermaster



Department of Pacific Areas

Adjutant / Quartermaster

Shawn Watson



## A BIT OF HISTORY AND HUMOR

85 years ago on May 12, 1937, George Carlin was born in Manhattan. In the 1970s, he underwent a professional makeover going from clean cut to someone who represented American counter-culture. In 1972, he began performing his most well-known monologue "Seven Words You Can Never Say on Television" that got him arrested (pictured) and was the centerpiece of the 1978 Supreme Court case *F.C.C. v. Pacifica Foundation* which affirmed the government's authority to censor material on public airwaves. His 50-year career generated 23 albums, 14 HBO specials, 130 Tonight Show appearances and 3 books. Here are a few quotes (without any dirty words) in honor of the occasion:

- I think I am, therefore, I am ... I think.
- Isn't making a smoking section in a restaurant like making a peeing section in a swimming pool?
- I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, 'Where's the self-help section?' She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.
- What if there were no hypothetical questions?
- Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?
- If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?
- When I ask how old your toddler is, I don't need to hear '27 months.' 'He's 2' will do just fine. He's not a cheese. And I didn't really care in the first place.
- If the black box flight recorder is never damaged during a plane crash, why isn't the whole airplane made out of that stuff?
- Think of how stupid the average person is, and realize half of them are stupider than that.
- Some people see things that are and ask, 'Why?' Some people dream of things that never were and ask, 'Why not?' Some people have to go to work and don't have time for all that.
- Most people work just hard enough not to get fired and get paid just enough money not to quit.
- 'Bipartisan' usually means that a larger-than-usual deception is being carried out.
- Fighting for peace is like screwing for virginity.
- Men are from Earth, women are from Earth. Deal with it.
- I have as much authority as the Pope. I just don't have as many people who believe it.
- One can never know for sure what a deserted area can look like.
- When you step on the brakes, your life is in your foot's hands.
- Some people have no idea what they're doing, and a lot of them are really good at it.

George Carlin died on June 28, 2008 in Santa Monica, CA. He was 71 years old



# IMMEDIATE PAST DPA COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

Once again, I would like to congratulate Warren “Max” Maxson on his selection as our Department Commander and the Excellence in All We Do team for the 2022-23 term. With our support, Commander Maxson will continue the DPA’s long tradition of being the best Department within the VFW! So, lets buckle up for another outstanding year!!

The DPA All State (AS) Program has been forwarded to our Post Commanders, posted on the DPA FB page, and will be on the DPA Website very shortly. Please take the time to go through the Guide to see what your Post/Districts needs to do to qualify for AS. The goal for the term is for each Post/District to meet AS.

Please remember that the GO that will be forwarded to Post Commanders and posted on the DPA Website. It contains a lot of important information to assist Posts/Districts of our Councilmembers and Programs. For Programs, please contact the Chairperson for any questions.

After two and a half years of dealing with the pandemic, if all holds up, we should have a great in person C of A in Ban Chang, Thailand. Hopefully, we will be back to normal and each of us who would like to attend will be able to do so.

In closing, let’s do what we can to ensure Commander Maxson has a great year!! Please communicate and contact the Program Chairman once your Post/District completes a required Program so you can receive credit for All State and/or All American. Last word will be on membership. For the good of our organization, we need to continue to recruit new members into our Posts with the hopes they will be active members. We also want to encourage our annual members to go Life! Let’s start now on the road to 100% for 2022-23!!! Wishing you and yours all the very best!!!

In Comradeship and Service,

Kevin E. Mitchell  
Immediate Past Department Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas  
**EXCELLENCE in all we DO**



Department of Pacific Areas

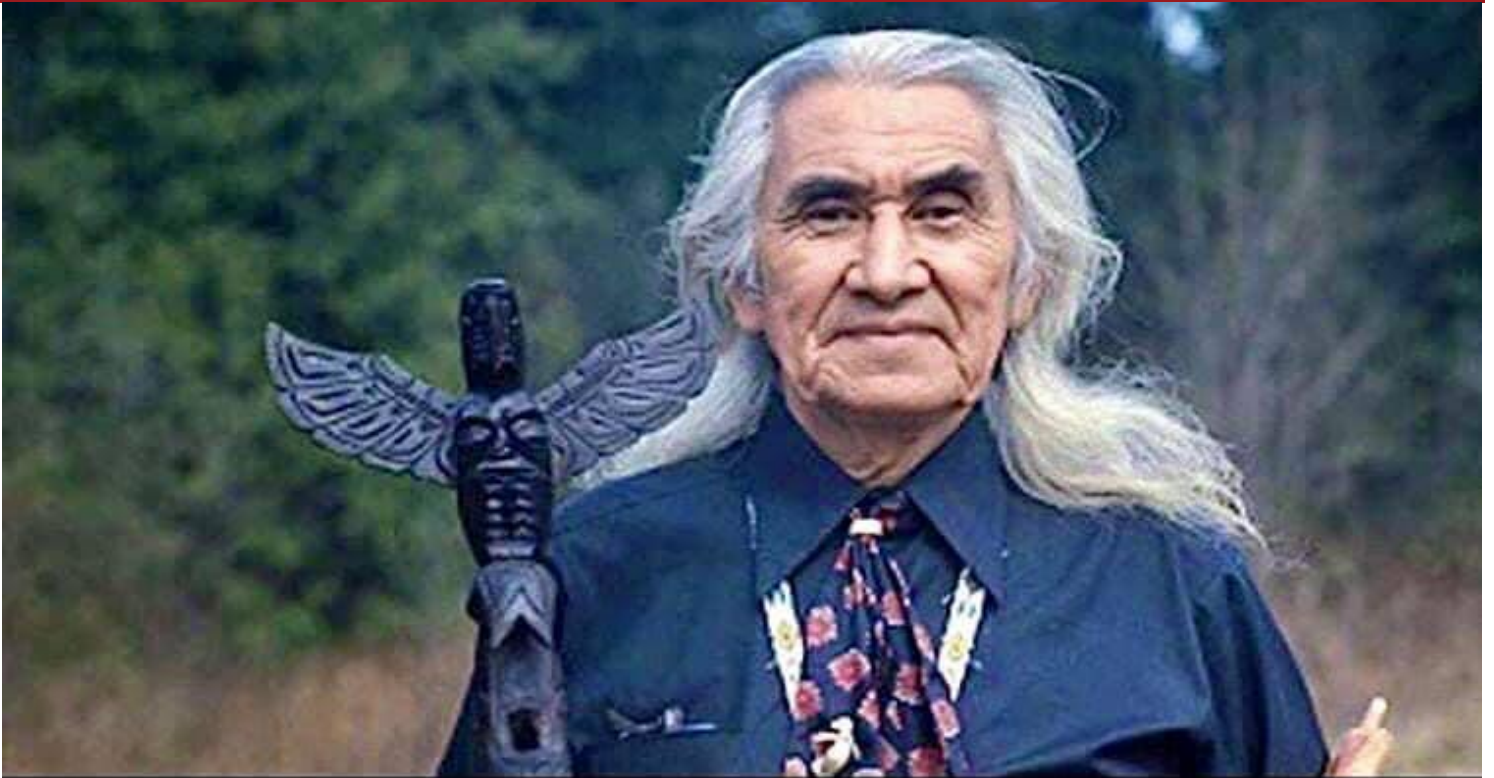
Immediate Past DPA Cdr

Kevin Mitchell





## WORDS OF NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY



“It is hard for me to understand a culture that not only hates and fights his brothers but even attacks Nature and abuses her. Man must love all creation or he will love none of it. Love is something you and I must have. We must have it because our spirit feeds upon it. Without love our self esteem weakens. Without it our courage fails.

Without love we can no longer look out confidently at the world. Instead we turn inwardly and begin to feed upon our own personalities and little by little we destroy ourselves.”

- Chief Dan George -

# RULES FOR BEING HUMAN

**1. Rule One - You will receive a body.** Whether you love it or hate it, it's yours for life, so accept it. What counts is what's inside.

**2. Rule Two - You will be presented with lessons.** Life is a constant learning experience, which every day provides opportunities for you to learn more. These lessons specific to you and learning them 'is the key to discovering and fulfilling the meaning and relevance of your own life'.

**3. Rule Three - There are no mistakes, only lessons.** Your development towards wisdom is a process of experimentation, trial and error, so it's inevitable things will not always go to plan or turn out how you'd want.

**4. Rule Four - The lesson is repeated until learned.** Lessons repeat until learned. What manifest as problems and challenges, irritations and frustrations are more lessons - they will repeat until you see them as such and learn from them.

**5. Rule Five - Learning does not end.** While you are alive there are always lessons to be learned. Surrender to the 'rhythm of life', don't struggle against it.

**6. Rule Six - "There" is no better than "here".** The other side of the hill may be greener than your own but being there is not the key to endless happiness. Be grateful for and enjoy what you have, and where you are on your journey.

**7. Rule Seven - Others are only mirrors of you.** You love or hate something about another person according to what love or hate about yourself. Be tolerant; accept others as they are and strive for clarity of self-awareness; strive to truly understand and have an objective perception of your own self, your thoughts and feelings.

**8. Rule Eight - What you make of your life is up to you.** You have all the tools and resources you need. What you do with them is up to you. Take responsibility for yourself. Learn to let go when you cannot change things. Don't get angry about things - bitter memories clutter your mind.

**9. Rule Nine - Your answers lie inside of you.** Trust your instincts and your innermost feelings, whether you hear them as a little voice or a flash of inspiration. Listen to feelings as well as sounds. Look, listen, and trust. Draw on your natural inspiration.

**10. Rule Ten - You will forget all this at birth.** We are all born with all of these capabilities - our early experiences lead us into a physical world, away from our spiritual selves, so that we become doubtful, cynical and lacking belief and confidence.

The ten Rules are not commandments, they are universal truths that apply to us all. When you lose your way, call upon them. Have faith in the strength of your spirit. Aspire to be wise - wisdom the ultimate path of your life, and it knows no limits other than those you impose on yourself.

This summary is merely a brief outline and simply does not do the book justice, nor the wisdom within it. If you are interested in making the most of your life, and helping others do the same, buy Cherie Carter-Scott's book [\*'If Life Is A Game, These Are The Rules'\*](#).

# CHIEF OF STAFF

From the desk of the Chief-of-Staff, DPC Rick Farris,

What an honor it is to have been appointed Chief-of-Staff by Cdr. Maxson. I am here to serve all of you, so if you have any questions, hard or easy, please ask.

I want to congratulate Cdr. Michell on All-American, the DPA's 18<sup>th</sup> straight year. There are few States or Departments that can claim such a feat, and it is a tribute to all of you that makes the DPA such a great department. I would also like to acknowledge the job that his staff did during the 2021-22 year. My hat is off for all of you. WELL DONE!!

As we look towards a new year for the DPA, let us remember the reason the Veterans of Foreign Wars is such an elite organization. Nobody Helps Vets Like the VFW. This is why we have been in existence for 123 years. We Help Vets. No Post or District is bigger or better than the reason we are here. Do let personal reasons or feelings interfere with our cause. Come together as a unit to accomplish this.

To my fellow staff members, I look forward to a continuation of DPA excellence, and working with all of you.

Rick Farris  
DPA Chief of Staff



Chief of Staff

Rick Farris



# BALLAD OF THE TALL SUBMARINER

“Down the hatch, Down the ladder, Bonk the head, see brain cells scatter.” And so it was, at the bottom of the main hatch, I turned to see my new home. It left an impression. On my right temporal lobe, specifically. It was more solid than anything I’d ever felt. Being a nub, I had no idea what I’d clocked my cranium on. But therein lay the beauty of the Submarine qualification program. I would soon be able to identify every single head trauma by ship’s frame, subsystem, associated components, function, and nomenclature. It still hurt though.

My first destination was the ship’s office. Maybe 20 steps through control and the upper level passageway - past Sonar, past Supply, across from Radio. In those 20 steps, I found two battle lanterns, two vents, two pipe mounting brackets the hard way. In somewhat of a daze, I took a hard draft reading of the ship’s office door, height from the deck. It stood approximately 6’2”. I was 6’4”. I still remember which wrinkle of my aggravated forehead collected this data.

The first underway was the next morning. I met what would become my defining nemesis shortly. But first, the torpedo room/crews mess watertight door softened up the back of my head, ungently calibrating the extent to which I needed to bury my head in my chest to get my torso through. I would soon learn to go feet first whenever possible.

But immediate problems demanded immediate attention. Still rubbing the base of my skull, I discovered the vent in the crews mess - the one that protruded only an inch or so from the overhead, and painted to match (which is how everything gets painted on a submarine). It’s edge caught me well up into the (1986 vintage) hairline, and with absolutely no warning. I rocked back a bit, and re-adjusted. And sat down a moment on one of the benches whereupon someone asked me where my qual card was, and why was I sitting and not working on it.

I tried not to glare. But the glaze in my eyes was misinterpreted. Sensing a tedious discussion, I stood back up, only to hit the same vent in the same spot. Yeah, the crew’s mess wasn’t going to be my friend.

I managed finally to stagger clear of the galley, only to bump-test a pipe at the top of the ladder to lower level. In my own head, the impact seemed to say, “Clang!” It would evolve into an entire battery of imagined sound effects, some of which I would utter out loud at times. This would prove later to be a bad idea.

It happened again on returning to the torpedo room, this time on the starboard torpedo ram handle that sat waiting for someone just over 6’2” to duck through the watertight door NOT feet-first, and in a hurry. There really was a “clang” that time, and may have been a couple minutes downtime. It happened again while avoiding the head valve in ops upper level. It happened in AMRLL. It happened in Shaft Alley. It happened in LL Berthing. Always, in my head, I heard and said, “Clang”. And I moved on.

In a couple short weeks of underway, I memorized the overhead layout of the boat faster than anything else. I developed the skill of sensing impact with my hair, reflexively preventing the worst of impacts. As I would navigate a passage, my head would flop and bend like a curb feeler in a downtown Chicago Cadillac. The first few days’ worth of damage had begun to heal, and my qual card began to fill out with signatures. I began to walk with a little confidence. I walked a little straighter, as it hurt to hunch constantly, letting my neck control my destiny.

And so it was that I came to be gliding through the crew’s mess again one day, intent on my task at hand. With a full head of steam, I spectacularly failed to duck for the vent as I strode through towards the Torpedo room. What happened next is a little fuzzy, but there was a “clang” that wasn’t mine. I was busy holding my head from the gritty impact on the Vent of Despair, which had set me down on a bench again, so someone took the liberty of saying it for me. In my misery, I burst out with some sailor-ish vulgarity, signaling to the ever-attentive crew that I’d reached some sort of emotional limit. Suddenly the entire space erupted in enthusiastic chorus of “Clang!”

And thus for many weeks, I endured being known simply as “Clang”. The name lasted through my time of qualifying, until my next snarky outburst at the end of a stores load, when I found myself walking through lower level berthing on two layers of #10 cans, whereupon I carelessly said to myself, “hey! I’m Harry the Hamster, walking through my Habitrail.



# NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

Well, another year is getting ready to begin. The All-State and All-American slates will be wiped, and we will start working on the 2022-2023 year with our New DPA Commander Max Maxson.

The requirement to the National Home for Children has remained the same as last year. Each of our DPA, District's and Posts are requested to make a Donation of \$50.00 to the National Home.

Below is a quick guide to help you in making your donation. This is one of the easiest checks off you can make to begin your climb for DPA All-State. Please read and if you do not understand send me an Email and I can assist you.

## How to make your Donations:

To make online donations go to [www.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org) Click on **Donate Now** (TOP right hand corner)

**Choose Donation Amount:** \$25.00, \$50.00, \$100.00, Other (Amount for All State again this year is only \$50.00.)

**Designation:** (where you want your Donation use for) Where Needed Most, Activity Fund, Amy Ross Endowment Fund, Education Fund, Helpline Fund, Maintenance Fund, Scholarship Fund, Technology Fund, Transportation Fund, Recreation Area Improvement Fund and Museum Fund.

**Recurring Gift:** Check this block if you wish to make this a monthly Donation.

**Tribute Gift:** Checking this box will open another drop down were you can add the person name that you are honoring.

**Billing Address:** Here is the BIG one. If you are making this gift on behalf of an organization like your District or Post CHECK this block. In the Organization name block please put your District or Post number If would help if you put it in as DPA, POST (#####).

Continue on with putting your Billing address in. I always leave a comment like Donation on Behalf of Post (#####).

**Payment details:** Finish this and click on Donate.

They should send you a notice to the Email address that you put in the Billing Address area. This is the email that you should forward to the DPA National Home Chairman so your District or Post can get check off. It is also used it to double check the monthly listing received from the National Home.

**Donation by Mailing in a Check:** If this is done on a personal check, please insure that you have written in the memo area that it is on behalf of DPA & your Post number. You should also include a small note in the envelope with your email address so they can send you a receipt. Please use this **USPS** address: VFW National Home, 3573 South Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Yours in Comradeship,

Randell E. Himes  
[nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org)  
[rehimes@gmail.com](mailto:rehimes@gmail.com)



National Home Chairman

**Randell Himes**

**Please report any and all donations that you make to the National Home to me so they can be recorded and tracked. Email them to:**

**[nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:nhcdpa@vfwpacific.org)**

*The VFW National Home for Children serves as a living memorial to America's Veterans by helping our nation's veteran and military families during difficult times.*

Visit their website [here](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org)



VFW  
NATIONAL HOME  
FOR CHILDREN

## GET YOUR NERD ON

1. I'm reading a book on anti-gravity. I can't put it down.
2. The past, the present and the future all walk into a bar at the same time. It was tense...
3. A neutron walks into a bar and orders a drink. When the barman gives it to him, he asks, "How much?" The barman replies, "For you – no charge."
4. I have a new theory on inertia but it doesn't seem to be gaining momentum...
5. Argon walks into a bar. The bartender says, "We don't serve noble gasses here!" Argon doesn't react.
6. Two atoms are walking along. One of them says:  
"Oh no! I think I lost an electron."  
"Are you sure?"  
"Yes, I'm positive."
7. An infectious disease walks into a bar. The barman says, "We don't serve your type here". The disease replies, "Well you're not a very good host."
8. There are 10 kinds of people in this world. Those who understand binary and those who don't.
9. A photon checks into a hotel. The bellhop asks if they can help with the luggage. The photon replies, "I don't have any, I'm travelling light"...
10. What does a subatomic duck say? Quark.

# DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Greetings Comrades,

Great seeing all the attendees during our convention in Angeles City. An outstanding convention that included the camaraderie we have been missing.

Congratulations to Commander Max, SVC Alex, JVC Mike, QM Shawn, Surgeon Jack, and Chaplain Lou on their election.

Congratulations to IPDC Kevin for an outstanding All American year.

The “**EXCELLENCE in all we DO**” year is going to be outstanding.

Regarding the Department Inspection Program, please review Commander Max’s program and visit the DPA Website under programs for Inspection forms, instructions, and general information.

## INSPECTION PROCEDURES

2022-2023

The following are some of the key points regarding the inspection program for the 2022-2023 term.

We believe inspections are designed to identify potential problems and resolve them before they become serious issues within the post or district. As such we will refer to the program as the DPA Assessment and Assistance Program.

Inspections are a Department Program. MOP Sec 418 (11) & Sec 519 (9).

No later than 1 July each District Commander shall appoint an Inspector and if warranted an Assistant Inspector(s).

Inspectors should be thoroughly familiar with all VFW National and Department Programs, Policies, Bylaws, and Ritual. Preferably with experience as a District or Department officer, quartermaster, or trustee.

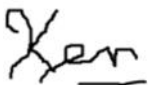
Each District Commander shall provide the Department Inspector the name(s) and contact information for all appointed Inspectors. Submit electronically to [inspd-pa@vfw-pacific.org](mailto:inspd-pa@vfw-pacific.org). The Department Inspector will be the approving authority for all inspector appointments.

All assessments (inspections) shall be accomplished no earlier than 1 October and completed no later than 30 April.

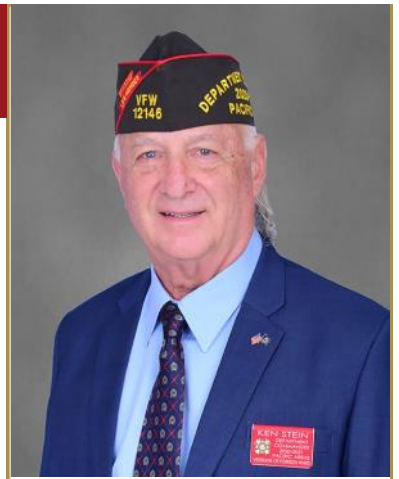
The complete DPA Assessment and Assistance Program guidelines, as well as the NEW inspection form with instructions are available on the DPA website under programs/Inspections.

Look forward to working with all of you this term.

Yours in comradeship and service to veterans,



Kenneth A. Stein  
Inspector  
Department of Pacific Areas  
**EXCELLENCE in all we DO**



Department of Pacific Areas

Department Inspector

Ken Stein



## THAT'S NOT MY JOB!

This is a story about four people named: **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realised that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.



## A BIT OF HISTORY

The interception of the Ocean vessel Rex was a training exercise and military aviation achievement of the United States Army Air Corps prior to World War II. The tracking and location of an ocean-going vessel by B-17 Flying Fortresses on 12 May 1938 was a major event in the development of a doctrine that led to a United States Air Force independent of the Army.

The mission was ostensibly a training exercise for coastal defenses of the United States, but was conceived by planners to be a well-publicized demonstration of the capabilities of "heavy bombers (as) long range instruments of power"

In July 1921, promoting the concept of an independent Air Force, Gen. Billy Mitchell staged a series of aerial bombing exercises that resulted in the sinking of the former German battleship Ostfriesland by the U.S. Air Service. Although he incurred the enmity of the Navy, which considered the achievement nothing more than a publicity stunt, Mitchell continued to discredit the value of the battleship as the main weapon for projection of power by sinking several more obsolete ships in the next two years. However, the Air Service was limited by Army policy to being an auxiliary of the ground forces and was unable to obtain a role that would employ the use of long distance bombers

In May 1938 the Air Corps conducted one of the largest maneuvers in its history. 468 officers, 2,380 enlisted men, and 131 aircraft based on the East coast. The Navy, involved in fleet exercises off the West Coast, did not provide ships to play the role of the Black Force. The scenario was meant to depict simultaneous attacks on America by hostile fleets on both coasts, with the Air Corps tasked to defend against one of them.

When newspapers, including the Los Angeles Times, criticized the maneuvers for using a "mythical fleet" as a target, it was suggested that an ocean liner be substituted for naval vessels. The Italian Line's SS Rex was bound for New York and would pass the 1,000 nautical miles mark on 11 May, thus it was recommended that the Rex become the target for the interception.

At 08:30 on 12 May, the three B-17s took off from Mitchel Field at 08:45 and cruised east from Sandy Hook at 170 mph on a true course of 101 degrees through rain, hail, downdrafts, and an intense headwind that reduced their ground speed by 11.5 mph. The crew were unable to check the effect of the winds on ground speed and drift because of a heavy overcast that limited their altitude to 1,100 feet.

At 10:00 they emerged into good weather that lasted an hour. LeMay took double drifts until the B-17s had to separate to transit a cold front. At 11:15 they reassembled in clear weather on the other side, where they checked their course again. At noon the B-17s encountered an area of "scattered rain squalls," spreading into a line abreast formation with the aircraft 15 nautical miles apart to increase their chances of spotting the Rex.

At 12:23, the bombers broke out of a squall line, and immediately sighted the Rex. "There it is! There it is!" transmitted by radio to the other pilots, twelve o'clock."

At 12:25, as predicted, the B-17s flew by the Rex while it was 620 nautical miles east of Sandy Hook. The aircraft reversed course and came up the ship's port side, "at smokestack level". The crew were in contact by radio with the ship's captain, who invited "all members of the flight to come down to lunch." The ship's passengers filled its decks, waving to the bombers, with a group of Americans purportedly singing the Star Spangled Banner.

On 24 August 2007, three B-52 Stratofortress's of the 2nd Bomb Wing, successor to the 2nd BG, conducted "Operation Rex Redux", a training mission commemorating the interception of the Rex. Flying from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, and using the radio call signs Rex 51, Rex 52, and Rex 53, the B-52s intercepted the Military Sealift Command ship MV 2nd Lt. John P. Bobo east of Bermuda to test the capabilities of a new targeting system.

[www.Sierrahotel.net](http://www.Sierrahotel.net)



# DEPARTMENT SURGEON

As your newly elected Surgeon for the Department. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the honor and trust you have placed in me as your Department Surgeon.

Over the course of the next year. I will provide you with a range of information as it pertains to prevention and identifying potential member health issues, as well as information from our National Surgeon.

If there is ever a topic that you are seeking information on, or would like to pass along. Do not hesitate to reach out and send me your input.

For this issue of Pacific Times. I want to focus our attention on an ongoing health concern that affects all of us. This topic deals with Diabetes which knows no age limit, but is running rampant in our varying communities. As you know. Over the course of the past few years, we have lost several comrades due to complications with Diabetes.

Please take the time to read the following information. Also, share it with your loved ones. At times, they are quicker to notice these changes when we do not.

High blood sugar levels (or hyperglycemia) are a symptom of diabetes mellitus. They are also a precursor to this disease, which can be life-limiting. When you ingest sugar or any food high on the Glycemic Index (GI), your blood sugar levels quickly increase. They peak within 45 minutes of eating. In a normal person, the blood sugar then begins to decrease. Within 2 hours, it's back to normal levels. When you eat foods that are low on the GI, your blood sugar rises and stays level for an extended time before declining again.

In a diabetic person, the blood sugar levels cannot be managed by the body and do not lower. These constant high blood sugar levels place an enormous strain on the organs and cells of the body. After a prolonged period of not addressing high blood sugar levels, permanent damage is possible. That is why most diabetics have to use insulin. Our bodies produce insulin in the pancreas. A normal body produces enough insulin to control blood sugar levels. A diabetic's pancreas cannot produce enough insulin. So, people with diabetes must supplement the insulin supply in their bodies.

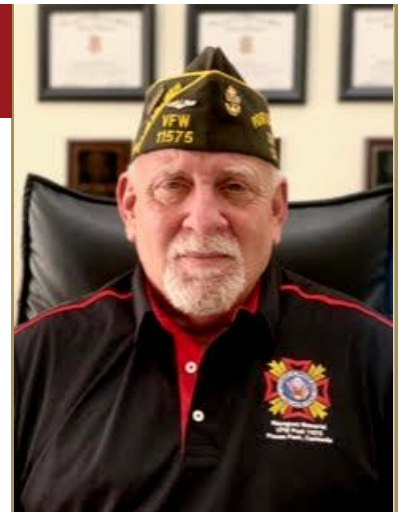
Another way to manage and minimize the blood sugar levels is to eat foods that are low on the glycemic index. That way the body's blood sugar levels are not on a rollercoaster ride of ups and downs. Therefore, most diabetics have to be careful about what they eat and drink. They avoid sugary drinks and foods rich in bad carbohydrates.

Studies suggest that many people have high blood sugar levels but aren't even aware of it. They are a ticking time bomb because their bodies are becoming more and more damaged. If they aren't aware of their condition, they won't change their eating habits and seek help. If you display some of these symptoms, you may have high blood sugar levels. A simple blood test can determine this. It may not yet be diabetes, and dietary changes and exercise will be treatment enough.

[20 Signs of High Blood Sugar.](#)

Yours in Service to Veterans

Jack Farrell  
Pacific Areas Surgeon



Surgeon

Jack Farrell



No stranger to the pain...

Faded flag tattooed high on his right arm  
When the going gets tough he remains calm  
Walks like it's sunny on a rainy day  
Ain't no stranger when it comes to pain

He's a Veteran of the Vietnam war  
Even the devils afraid to knock on his door  
He won't back down, he'll defend his rights  
A good old boy still fighting the fight

Too many Brothers fell on a warriors field  
Fought just the same knowing their fate was sealed  
Remembers every Brother that he ever met  
Shed a million tears and he ain't done yet

He still stands at attention when Old Glory passes by  
If you ain't standing tall he's gonna question why  
You had better have an answer and it better be true  
Seen to many return wrapped in the Red, White and Blue

He's the guy wearing that worn out military hat  
With Eagles and flag pins, mini ribbons, this and that  
You can see he's been through hell by the look in his eyes  
His knees may buckle when he remembers the goodbye's

Faded flag tattooed high on his right arm  
When the going gets tough he remains calm  
Walks like it's sunny on a rainy day  
Cause tears are hidden in the pouring rain

He ain't no stranger to the pain.....

Boon 5/21/2014

## CERTIFIED NATIONAL RECRUITER

Happy VFW New Year DPA,

First of all I would like to Congratulate Commander Max and his newly elected or appointed Council of Administration. I look forward on working together with his new team.

With COVID19 seemingly to be for the most part behind us and back to our regular recruiting rhythm we need to continue with this and not get behind.

With that in mind District III, Korea has pledged to Commander Max at our last District Meeting in May that we would shoot to be 100% in membership for District III by the CofA this coming December. This was last done when Dave Teets was DPA Commander in 2005/06. DPA then was 100% in membership that spring. Dave was also from District III for those who did not know him down in Dague where he was very instrumental in opening that post.

Thus as the Certified National Recruiter I challenge all Districts to make the same pledge and get out there and keep Department of Pacific out in front and to be the first Department to be 100% this year!

Last April I ordered new recruiting material however it still has not come in but you can always sell the VFW on what your Post, District and Department does for our Veterans and their dependents in our own local areas. For those that have military near you the MAP Program is a great way to build a relationship with the military and they see first-hand on what the VFW can do for GI's today which makes recruiting easier. Just before the Convention I had a MAP program here at K-16 and we were able to sign up 14 members!

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Thank You for keeping our Freedom. If I can help in recruiting, please feel free to contact me at [PDCLyons935@Gmail.com](mailto:PDCLyons935@Gmail.com)

Yours Always in Comradship,

Larry Lyons  
Certified National Recruiter  
Department of Pacific Areas  
Past Department Commander 08/09  
**EXCELLENCE in all we DO**

**Me: Please bring  
me a screwdriver.  
Wife: Flat head,  
Phillips, or  
Vodka?**

**And that was  
when I knew she  
was the one.**



Certified National Recruiter

**Larry Lyons**

# **The Reunion**

**by Clive Sanders**

**The old soldiers met friends of long standing,  
With lots of warm handshakes and hugs.  
Their friendships were close, not demanding;  
Requests met with nodding, not shrugs.**

**There were drinks being bought by the tray-full,  
For friendships that had lasted for years.  
The old soldiers grouped tight round a table,  
Telling tales full of fighting and beers.**

**The wives smiled as they listened to stories,  
That they wished everyone would forget.  
Their husbands remembered old glories,  
Or something they'd done for a bet.**

**They remembered the good times together;  
They remembered being soaked in the rain;  
They remembered the hot and cold weather;  
But ignored all the suffering and pain.**

**Much later the drinking became slower,  
And the chatter then began to die down.  
The tone of those speaking grew lower,  
And foreheads began slowly to frown.**

**Thoughts turned to those who were missing,  
They remembered with fondness and pride.  
And their names came with warm reminiscing,  
Of old friends who had stood by their side.**

## DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER (DSO)

“Enough is Never Enough”. It sounds ridiculous written this way but time after time I will be talking to someone that says something like “when I left the service (retired, quit, medically retired) booted, etc., I got (insert percent) and I think that was fair, so I never saw a need to apply for more.

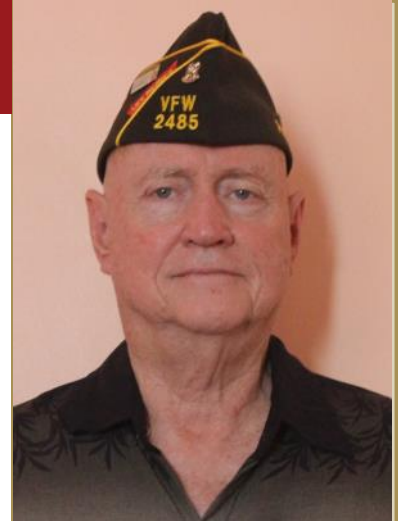
The VA is constantly adding new presumptive and areas where they were considered a problem. A good example is burn pits; another is contaminated water. Whether in tents or temporary buildings, there were often burn pits from the latrines in most places the military had a “temporary home”. Gulf war vets were given “vaccinations” that are still in question and were exposed to smoke from burning oil fields, often for long periods. Functional gastrointestinal disorders, Chronic fatigue syndrome, Fibromyalgia, and Other undiagnosed illnesses, including but not limited to cardiovascular disease, muscle, and joint pain, and headaches can all be service connected. Afghanistan had new and varied gifts for our men and women in arms.

In case no one noticed we age. Let’s say you fell off the back of a truck, jumped out of airplanes, slipped off an icy wing – the list is endless. In so doing you wrenched your back, twisted your ankle, or bonked your head. It’s noted in your medical record that you were given pain medicine for a back injury and returned to duty. You hobbled around for a while and then seemed to get better. Young and resilient you kept on trucking. Thirty years later you have a bad hip, two bad knees, and a bad ankle. Maybe you didn’t notice you favored one side or the other all your life. An examination from an ortho specialist might say all your physical issues might relate to that. Maybe not, but if it is, then the difference might be service connected. For those outside the US VA system, it would mean the difference between the Foreign Medical Program (FMP) paying for your visits and treatment or you either not getting treatment or paying for it yourself.

Post Traumatic Stress (PTSD) is another area where we often “shake it off” and say “it’s just the way it is in the service” and try to ignore it. However, any number of life issues (continually fired, multiple divorces, alcoholism, etc.) might be related to being unable to detach yourself from an incident that occurred while you were in the service. Do not make the mistake of self-adjudicating and don’t listen to the “bar experts”. If you are already seeing a doctor, then talk to him or her about it. If you are not seeing a doctor, then it might be a good idea to investigate seeing one. Consider googling “VA DBQ” – as simple as that and look for the one that matches what you think was caused by your service. Print it out and take it to the doctor and ask them to fill it out IF you think there is a connection. You can then call or visit your local service officer to see about filing a claim with the VA, or do it yourself, there are instructions available.

This is not intended as an invitation to file dishonest or frivolous claims, but if you are suffering from something that was caused by your service then your uncle should help you with it. The VA is overloaded with claims, and many take more than a year to be adjudicated so fishing expeditions do not benefit anyone. However, every veteran should be compensated for those things that are affecting his or her life today because of what happened in service to their country.

John Dibble  
DSO Department of Pacific Areas



DSO Pacific Areas

John Dibble

## WORDS OF WISDOM



My Grandmother always cooked tasty food. But one day, she put a burnt pie in front of my Grandpa. Not just a little burnt, but black as coal. I waited to see what my Grandpa would say.

But he just ate the pie and asked how my day was. Then I heard my Grand Mother apologize to him for his dinner. I'll never forget his response.

"Dear, I like your pie."

Later, I asked him if he had told the truth.

He put his arm on my shoulder and said, "Your Grandma had a tough day at work. She was tired."

"The burnt pie didn't harm me but, a sharp word could've hurt her."

We all make mistakes. We shouldn't focus on mistakes but, support those we love.

-Unknown Author

# VOP/PP/TA CHAIRMAN

Comrades,

It was great seeing a lot of you in-person at the convention. I want to congratulate our new Department commander, Max and the new DPA officers; I stand by to assist you with anything you need as well as the VoD, PP, and TA chairs that need it. I look forward to working with you for my second year; lets see if we can get a first-place winner at National for the Pacific. Please send me the name and email address for your District Chairs

**All-State:** Posts must participate in VoD and PP by submitting at least one entry to their respective District Chairmen or make a \$75 donation to VMS programs. Districts must participate in VoD and PP by submitting at least one entry to their respective District Chairmen or make a \$100 donation to VMS programs. Please send the donation receipts to the DPA Chairman.

**All-American:** Posts and Districts need to meet the All-State criteria as well as participate in the Teachers Award. Posts can make a \$75 donation to VMS programs and Districts can make a \$100 donation to VMS programs in lieu of entry. Please send the donation receipts to the DPA Chairman. Department must submit one entry for all three programs to qualify.

As soon as I have the new donation link, I will get it out to all of you. This year's topics are:

**Voice of Democracy:** – *“Why is the Veteran Important”*

**Patriot's Pen:** – *“My Pledge to our Veterans”*.

Please get these out to schools, homeschools, and youth centers so that children can start working on them now. I also want to encourage you to work with the schools more to try and get them more involved with the program. One way is to get some teachers to help with the voting as it suggests in the VoD/PP Chairman's guide.

**Deadlines:** 31 October to the Post and 21 November to me from the Districts. This gives three weeks for Post and District level. If there is any doubt if a submission may not be valid, please get with me ASAP so we can check and give a youth plenty of time to fix it before it is too late. The last thing I want to do is invalidate an entry.

Finally, I worked with our webmaster to change the DPA website to make it a little easier to find the forms and information by having it all on one page versus three separate pages. The documents are at the bottom of the page. <https://vfwpacific.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=120296>, please let me and Augie (AugieSr@gmail.com) know if you have any issues with it.

Yours in comradeship and service,

David Gley



Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen /  
Teacher's Award DPA Chairman

[vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:vodppdpa@vfwpacific.org)

Phone: +82-10-2724-7176



VOD/PP/TA Chairman

David Gley





**#STILLSERVING**

**THE CALL  
NEVER ENDS.  
#STILLSERVING.**

**SHARE YOUR STORY**



The VFW strives to bring attention to the commitment and continued service of America's veterans. U.S. veterans are 1.5 times more likely to work in public service or charitable organizations, volunteer 25 percent more hours per year and give 17 percent more in dollar donations. The VFW has seen this data come to life in the everyday actions of its more than 1 million members.

**#StillServing** showcases how America's veterans continue to serve in ways outside of their military service. Veterans are involved in their communities and exemplify the best of America, and many are VFW members representing the heart of today's VFW.

**Veterans make a difference, and the VFW wants #StillServing to give them the respect and recognition they are due.**

This campaign will serve to amplify the perception of the VFW as a place for dedicated veterans from all walks to continue their service to country and their communities.

[Click HERE](#) to submit a story or signup for the Newsletter

Contact [rlaw@vfw.org](mailto:rlaw@vfw.org) for media inquiries.

For VFW promotional materials, PSAs and latest releases, visit the [VFW Media Room](#).



# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER / TAPS REPORT

Comrades as we enter a new year, I pray all are well and in good spirits able to continue our work our mission. Continue to take care of Veterans, their families our Active-duty service members and the less fortunate in our communities. This past month I was able to travel to the DPA Convention in Angles City Philippines and want to congratulate our DPA Commander Max and Immediate Past Commander Kevin all in coming and past elected and appointed Officers and council, job well done in difficult times, the Lord is with us! Thank you, to my predecessor Comrade Past DPA Chaplain Ron Davis for his many years of loyal, dedicated service and ministry.

TAPS reporting process will not change, what is working, works. Continue to Email TAPS reports to: [chapdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:chapdpa@vfwpacific.org) which is linked to my personal Gmail account. Let us remember the following comrades who passed away since our previous report:

Post	Name	Date of Death
2485	Robert L. Delves Jr.	27-May-22
	Albert L. Hopkins Jr.	06-May-22
9876	Paul E. Berisford	29-May-22
12146	Paul V. Hensel	22-Apr-22
	Ronnie W. Williams	03-Jun-22
	Barry P. Moshinsky	19-Jun-22
9951	Daniel James Arquette	29-Jun-22
	Richard Alfred King	12-Jul-22

*Entries listed by Post 3, in sequence notification received*

2022-2023 Chaplain goal while following the DPA Commanders programs is to advance the DPA ministry, always maintaining a positive attitude towards my fellow veterans, widows, orphans and the less fortunate and to provide ministry to the membership wherever there is a need. Coordinate with and support the DPA Service Officer, Surgeon, Safety Chairman and Department Chaplains. Ready to travel again!

Yours in Comradeship

Louis S. Holub  
Chaplain DPA



Chaplain

**Lou Holub**



**Let us bow our heads in prayer to All Mighty God. Remember our fallen comrades and pray for those still missing in action. Pray for them and their families that they may be reunited. Amen**



## DPA WEBSITE SPONSORS



### Notice

**Districts, to offset the costs of our website and newsletter please find at least one Sponsor of \$100 for a year. Congratulations to District 5 for going above and beyond!!**

We ask each District to submit at least one DPA Website Sponsor. Each Sponsor must donate a minimum of \$100. The term is one year and their Logo will be included on our Sponsor Website page and here in our Bi-Monthly newsletter. Contact the Webmaster at [webdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:webdpa@vfwpacific.org) or The Pacific Times Editor at [pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org](mailto:pacifictimes@vfwpacific.org) for information on how to submit your Sponsors.