

**Chartered: 1 July 1971**

**Original Location: Bangkok, Thailand**

**New Location: Determined by Incumbent Dist Cdr's Home Post**

**Commander-in-Chief: Herbert R. Rainwater**

**District V**

**Department of Pacific Areas**

**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

The following represents the District V History with change (1) incorporated. This supersedes the history dated 15 May 2007 (all change (1) entries are underlined).

**Notes: (1)** This history is written in the order of the Commander's year (July-June) vice the calendar year.

**(2)** Appendix A contains copies of letters, circa 72/73, about early beginnings of District V.

**(3)** Appendix B contains a list of known Posts at time of the 1971 Charter. Note: As copies of the other Charters are found, this Appendix will be updated.

**(4)** Appendix C contains a list of Past District Commanders, Past District V Department Commanders and Past District V MOC, Grand of the Pacific Commanders.

VFW Department of Pacific Areas (DPA), **District V was chartered 16 June 1971.**

Note: The original charter does not indicate the boundaries of District V. It just states The boundaries and composition of which has been determined by action of the Department Convention.

**1971 - 1972**

**Commander: John J. Donahue, Post 10217/Charles Joseph**

**Senior Vice Commander: Charles Joseph/Emery Brogan**

**Junior Vice Commander: Emery Brogan**

- Commander Donohue resigned as District V Commander after being elected to a position in the Department.

- AFTN Memorial Post 10249 was instituted On 8 January 1972.

\* Original location: Taharn Rd, outside Main Gate at RTAFB, Udorn, Thailand

\* The Post was named in memory of nine Airmen killed on duty when a battle damaged RF-4C Phantom crashed into the Armed Forces Thailand Network (AFTN) Udorn Radio Station on 10 April 1970

- The following extract from a letter, Commander John Donohue, District V, wrote to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand, dated 3 February 1972 The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America have been functional in the Kingdom of Thailand through the kind permission of your office since 1966 (See Appendix A for entire letter).

### **1972 - 1973**

**Commander: Charles Joseph**

**Senior Vice Commander: Emery Brogan**

**Junior Vice Commander:**

- In May, Korat Air Base Post 10217 changed its name to Karl W. Richter Post 10217

- At the Department Convention, Comrade John Donohue, Post 10217 was elected as Commander Department of Pacific Areas for 1973-1974.

### **1973 - 1974**

**Commander: Emery Brogan**

**Senior Vice Commander:**

**Junior Vice Commander:**

- 15 year old Ms Lisa Seale, was the winner in the Department of Pacific Areas Voice of Democracy (VOD) Program. She was the daughter of LCOL and Mrs Thomas Seale. LCOL Seale was the Assistant Air Attaché at the US Embassy, Bangkok. Ms Seale was honored with a party at the Royal Cliff Hotel in Pattaya. The party was attended by her parents, District V Commander Emory Bogan, Department Commander John Donohue, VFW members and supporters.

### **1974 - 1975**

**Commander: Larry Lobach**

**Senior Vice Commander:**

**Junior Vice Commander:**

### **1975 - 1976**

**Commander: Charles J. Pierce**

**Senior Vice Commander:**

**Junior Vice Commander**

- In October 1975, due to the closure of RTAB Udorn, Post 10249 held its final meeting and all funds and assets were sent to the Department of Pacific Areas.

- In June 1976, Post 0249 was reactivated. The institution ceremony was conducted by Past Department Commander John Donohue.

### **1976 - 1977**

**Commander: Jesse J. Henry**

**Senior Vice Commander: Kit G. Price. Post 10249**

**Junior Vice Commander**

- Post 10249 Commander Kit Price was designated as a National Aide de Camp

*for signing up 50 new VFW members.*

*- At the Department Convention held in June:*

*\* Post 10249 Commander Kit Price was designated as an All State Post Commander.*

*\* Posts 9951 and 10249 were presented Department Membership Awards*

*\* Posts 9951 and 10249 were presented with 1977 Victory Streamers.*

### **1977 - 1978**

**Commander: Kit G. Price, Post 10249**

*Senior Vice Commander:*

*Junior Vice Commander:*

*- In December, Post 9951 received a Perpetual Life Membership Charter, now all three Thailand Posts have one.*

*- District V Membership as of 23 January 1978:*

*\* Post 10249 - 46 (33 Life Members, 13 Annual) or 74.19 % of last years total*

*\* Post 10217 - 67 (49 Life Members, 18 Annual Or 81.71 % of last years total*

*\* Post 9951 - 87 (68 Life Members, 19 Annual Or 83.65 % of last years total*

*- A letter from District V Commander Kit Price to S.R. McDonough, dated 15 April 1978:*

*\* stated S.R. McDonough was to conduct an audit of the financial records of Post 9951.*

*\* stated Commander Price would issue Post 9951 Commander nominee Norman Grubb a Letter of Reprimand that would prevent him from ever holding an officers post in the VFW or any position that handle funds.*

*\* stated Commander Price would request a courts martial from the Department or National on Comrade Grubb.*

*- 6 May, District V meeting at Korat.*

*- 29 June, date and sponsor of future District V Meetings:*

*\* 5 August - C.L. Elms, Post 9951, Bangkok*

*\* 4 November - AFTN Memorial, Post 10249, Udorn*

*\* 3 February - Kari W. Richter, Post 10217, Korat*

*\* 5/6 May - C.L. Elms, Post 9951, Bangkok*

### **1978 - 1979**

**Commander: Kit G. Price, Post 10249**

**Senior Vice Commander: Harry C. Ried, Post 10249**

**Junior Vice Commander: Thomas A. Kee**

*- On 5 August, the District V meeting was held in Bangkok. The meeting was hosted by C.L. Elms, Post 9951*

*- On 18 August, the District and all Posts were 100% in Community Activity, also*

*this is the third year in a row that the District has been 100% in membership*  
**1979 - 1980**

**Commander: William H. Coppedge**

**Senior Vice Commander:**

**Junior Vice Commander: Robert Washington, Post 9951**

*- District Commander Coppedge recommended Department Awards for:*

*\* COL William Deans, Chief of JUSTMAGTHAI for support and assistance to the Retired Community in Thailand.*

*\* John Dyste, Retired Affairs Office (RAO), JUSTMAGTHAI, he single handed setup and organized the JUSTMAGTHAI RAO.*

**1980 - 1981**

**Commander: Jack DeMello, Post 9951/Post 9876**

**Senior Vice Commander:**

**Junior Vice Commander:**

*- On 7 March, Commander Jack De Mello instituted E.S. Hamilton, VFW Post 9876 in Pattaya Beach..*

*- District Commander DeMello transferred to Post 9876 from Post 9951.*

*- In May, the District meeting was held at Korat. The District V meeting was hosted by the Karl W. Richter Memorial 10217. This was the initial District V meeting attended by members of the new Post 9876.*

**1981 - 1982**

**Commander: James C. Carey, Post 10217**

**Senior Vice Commander: Benjamin C. Hammonds, Post 10217**

**Junior Vice Commander: Harry Ried, Post 10249**

*- On 14 November, the District V meeting was held in Bangkok. The District V meeting was hosted by C.L. Elms Post 9951.*

*- Past District V Commander Jack De Mello, SMGT, USAF passed away on 19 January. Post members from both Post 9876 and Post 9951 attended the burial services at St Nickolaus Cemetery in Pattaya..*

*- On 13 February, the District meeting was held in Pattaya. The District V meeting was hosted by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876. This was the initial District V meeting hosted by Post 9876.*

*- On 8 May, the District V meeting was held in Udorn. The District V meeting was hosted by AFTN Memorial Post 10249.*

**1982 - 1983**

**Commander: James C. Carey, Post 10217**

*Senior Vice Commander: **Dick Vileo, Post 9951***

*Junior Vice Commander:*

- *Commander Jean Bingham, Post 9876, was appointed a National Aide de Camp*
- *On 21 May, the District meeting was held at the Regent Marina Hotel in Pattaya. The District V meeting was hosted by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876.*

#### **1983 - 1984**

*Commander: **Jean Bingham, Post 9876***

*Senior Vice Commander:*

*Junior Vice Commander: **John Woodfin/XX George, Post 9951***

- *On 19 November, the District V Meeting was held at Udorn. The District V meeting was hosted by AFTN Memorial Post 10249.*

\* *A motion was approved to establish a permanent District V office in Bangkok.*

\* *Department Membership Awards were presented to Post 10217 and Post 10249*

- *On 4 March, the District V special meeting was held in Bangkok. The District V meeting was hosted by C.L. Elms Post 9951*

\* *Two District Posts, 9951 and 10249, were 100% in membership. District V was in First place in the Department*

\* *Junior Vice Commander Woodfin passed away on 19 January and Comrade George was elected to replace him.*

- *On 19 May, the District V meeting in Bangkok. The District V meeting was hosted by C.L. Elms Post 9951 in Bangkok.*

#### **1984 - 1985**

*Commander: **Jean Bingham, Post 9876***

*Senior Vice Commander: **James C. Carey, Post 10217***

*Junior Vice Commander:*

- *On 12 January, the District V Meeting was held in Pattaya. The District V meeting was hosted by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876.*

- *On 11-12 May, the District meeting was held at Korat. The District V meeting was hosted by the Karl W. Richter Memorial 10217.*

#### **1985 - 1986**

*Commander: **Dick Vileo, Post 9951***

*Senior Vice Commander: **XX George, Post 9951***

*Junior Vice Commander: **Harold Thompson, Post 10249***

- *On 28 September, Post 9951 celebrated the Posts 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Bangkok. The celebration was held at the JUSTMAGTHAI compound.*

- *On 12 October, the District V Meeting was held in Pattaya. The District V meet-*

ing was hosted by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876.

- The District was re-chartered on 7 December 1985 as Department of Pacific Areas, District V (Thailand & Philippines). It consisted of four Posts in Thailand, Post 9876, Pattaya; Post 9951, Bangkok; Post 10217, Korat; Post 10249 and an unknown number of Posts in the Philippines Department of Pacific Areas Commander Raymond G. Eberhardt and Department Adjutant Roger O. Schoer signed the charter

- On 11 January, the District V Meeting was held in Bangkok. The District Meeting was hosted by C.L. Elms Post 9951.

\* Post 10217 was given a Department Membership Award.

- A special meeting was held at Post 9876 on 12 March, in order to decide if the Post could/would continue. It was decided to continue. District V Officers, Comrades Villeo and Coons were in attendance

- On 18 May, the District V Meeting was held in Korat. The District Meeting was hosted by Karl W. Richter Post 10217.

\* The Court Martial of James W. Smedley, Post 9951, was approved by the National CinC. He was given a Dishonorable Discharge from the VFW.

\* Past District V Commander Jean Bingham was elected as the District V Delegate to the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual DPA Convention, 23-27 June.

\* A letter from Department Senior Vice Commander O'Dowd stated that the District was allowed to use the Thai War Veterans Organization's Buddy Poppy with a stipulation that the District would forward \$20 to the National Home for every one thousand poppies purchased.

\* All Posts in District V were 100% in membership

\* Elections were held. After the elections Past District V Commander James Carey installed the officers for the 1986-1987 year.

\* The members approved the meeting dates/places for the 1986-87 year as follows:

July 12, Post 10249, Udorn

October 11, Post 9876, Pattaya

January 10, Post 9951, Bangkok

May 9-10, Post 10217, Korat

- At the June DPA Convention, District Commander Dick Vileo was elected to the position of Department Junior Vice Commander.

### **1986 - 1987**

Commander: **Dick Vileo, Post 9951/Robert Jones, Post 9951**

Senior Vice Commander: **Robert Jones, Post 9951/Harold Thomson, Post 10249**

*Junior Vice Commander: Harold Thompson, Post 10249/Thomas A. Kee, Post XX  
- On 12 July, the District V Meeting was held in Udorn. The District Meeting was hosted by AFTN Memorial Post 10249. The meeting was followed by a luncheon at the Chareon Hotel for attendees and supporters*

*\* Commander Vileo resigned as District V Commander due to his election as DPA Junior Vice Commander*

*\* The following Awards were presented:*

*\*\* For Distinguished Service:*

*Comrade George, Post 9951*

*Comrade Coons*

*Comrade Dunlap*

*\*\* For furthering the Aims of the VFW*

*Post 9876*

*Post 9951*

*Post 10217*

*Post 10249*

*Comrade Bingham , Post 9876*

*Comrade Willsey, Post 10249*

*\*\* Membership:*

*Comrade Towns, Post 10217*

*\*\* Youth Activities:*

*Comrade Zuill, Post 10217*

*\*\* Service Officer*

*Comrade Lubin, Post 10217*

*\*\* Hospitality:*

*Comrade Harold Thompson, Post 10249*

*\*\* For Personal Commitment to the VFW*

*Comrade Dyste, Post 9951;*

*Comrade Kee, Post 9951*

*Comrade George, Post 9951*

*Comrade Coons, Post 9951*

*Comrade Vileo, Post 9951*

*\*\* For Distinguished Service as Service Officer*

*Comrade Luckinbill;*

*\*\* Outstanding Post*

*Post 10217*

*\*\* Outstanding Post Adjutant*

*Comrade Davis, Post 10217*

*\*\* Outstanding Post Service Officer*

*Comrade Luckinbill*

*\* \* Outstanding Post Commander Awards*

*Comrade Dunlap*

*\* \* Community Services Award for District Commander 1985-86*

*Comrade Vileo*

*\* \* Meritorious Service as Commander, Post 9951.*

*Comrade Vileo*

*. - On 15 April Department Commander O'Dowd, Department Junior Vice Commander Vileo and District V Commander Jones attended the April GMM of Post 9876*

*- On 11 October, the District V Meeting was held in Pattaya. The District V meeting was hosted by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876 at Suthep's Restaurant.*

*\* The District decided to make a bid to hold 1988 Department Convention in Bangkok.*

*- The District meeting was held at Korat on 9 May 2007. The meeting was sponsored by VFW Post 10217. District membership figures were as follows:*

*\* Post 9876 - 48 for 100%*

*\* Post 9951 - 146 for 116%*

*\* Post 10217 - 91 for 102%*

*\* Post 10249 - 75 for 93%*

*- A 15 May issue of the Membership Extra of the Pacific Areas Typhoon states District V needs only 3 more members to achieve 105%, and at that figure, they will add an additional 18 members over the last year.*

*- At the June DPA Convention, Dick Vileo, Post 9951 was elected as Department Commander.*

**1987 - 1988**

**Commander: Robert L. Jones, Post 9951**

**Senior Vice Commander: Harold Thompson, Post 10249**

**Junior Vice Commander: Frank Palumbo, Post 10217**

*- On 13 July, the District V meeting was held at the Chareon Hotel, Udorn. The meeting was hosted by AFTN Memorial Post 10249.*

*\* Department Commander and Past District V Commander Dick Vileo was in attendance.*

*\* As of 30 June, District membership:*

*Post 9876 - 48*

*Post 9951 - 150*

*Post 10217 - 90*

*Post 10249 - 77*

*\* It was decided that the District V meetings would rotate among the four District Posts*



*\* Commander Jones announced the DPA Convention would be held in Bangkok in June 1988.*

*\* Awards were present to the following individuals/Posts*

*\*\* Comrade XX Luckinbill, Post 9951 - Outstanding Department Service Officer*

*\*\* Comrade XX Coons, Post 9951, Outstanding Department Post Adjutant*

*\*\* Post 9951, Award for exceeding 105% Post Membership*

*\*\* Post 10217, Incentive Award*

*\*\* Post 10249, Incentive Award*

*\*\* District V, Incentive Award*

*\* DPA Commander Vileo briefed all present on the Cootie Program and stated 15 members would be needed to start a new Pup Tent. Personnel must be recommended and approved by each Post Commander*

*\* DPA Commander Vileo stated National VFW CinC Staab would visit Bangkok on 18 July. He requested as many Comrades as possible to meet the CinC that evening at his hotel in Bangkok.*

*- On 10 October, the District V meeting was held in Pattaya. The meeting was hosted by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876.*

*- On 16 January, the District meeting was held in Korat. The District V Meeting was sponsored by Karl W. Richter Post 10217*

*- On 7 February, Department Commander Dick Vileo and District V Commander Jones attended the GMM of Post 9951 in Bangkok.*

*- In March, National Senior Vice Commander Rivers, National Junior Vice Commander Hogan and Director of National and Foreign Affairs Steadman visited Thailand. Due to the absence of Department Commander Vileo, the visitors were escorted by District Commander Jones and Past District Commander Bingham. District members met the delegation at the Lone Star Bar in Bangkok.*

*- On 16-17 April, the District meeting was held in Bangkok. The District V Convention was hosted by C.L. Elms Post 9951.*

*- Comrade Tom Smith presented a DPA Recruiting Award*

### **1988-1989**

**Commander: Jean Bingham, Post 9876**

**Senior Vice Commander:**

**Junior Vice Commander:**

*- On 9 July, the District V Meeting was held in Pattaya. The District V meeting was hosted by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876.*

*\* District V Commander Bingham presented Post 9876 a Letter of Appreciation and Certificate for the Post donation to National Korean War Veterans Memorial Fund.*

- *The District V Meeting was held in Bangkok on 14 January. The District V Meeting was sponsored by C.L. Elms Post 9951.*
- *On 13-14 May, the District V Meeting was held in Korat. The District V Meeting was sponsored by Karl W. Richter Post 10217.*
- *On 22 June, District V presented a Citation of Appreciation to Ms Margaret K. McMillion, American Consul, US Embassy, Thailand in recognition of her assistance to the American Military Veterans and their dependents in the Udorn Area.*
- *Comrade Tom Smith, Post 10249, designated as DPA Quartermaster of the year.*

### **1989 - 1990**

**Commander: Jean Bingham, Post 9876**

**Senior Vice Commander:**

**Junior Vice Commander:**

- *District members attended the District V Meeting at the S.P. Hotel in Korat on 13 May. The District V Meeting was sponsored by Karl W. Richter Post 10217.*
- \* *District membership stood at 104% with all District Posts being over 100%.*
- \* *All Post participated in the Buddy Poppy Program.*
- \* *Election were held and Past District V Commander Jean Bingham installed the 1990-1991 year officers.*
- \* *A motion was made and approved to change the District meeting to the third Saturday of the month and the Convention moved back to April.*

### **1990 - 1991**

**Commander: Dick Vileo, Post 9951**

**Senior Vice Commander: Harold Thompson, Post 10249**

**Junior Vice Commander: Frank J. Palumbo, Post 10217**

- *In July, the District V Meeting was held in Pattaya. The District V meeting was hosted by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876.*
- *On 20 October, the District V meeting was held at the Chareon Hotel in Udorn. The meeting was hosted by AFTN Memorial Post 10249 District V.*
- \* *District V was an All State District for 1989-1990*
- \* *Post 10249 was designated an All State Post and Commander Thompson was selected as an All American State Commander*
- \* *Comrade Valenzuela, Post 10217, was named All State Adjutant*

### **1991 - 1992**

**Commander: Dick Vileo, Post 9951**

**Senior Vice Commander: Harold Thompson, Post 10249**

**Junior Vice Commander: Frank J. Palumbo, Post 10217**

- District members attended the District V meeting in Bangkok on 2 May. The District V Meeting was sponsored by C.L. Elms Post 9951.

### **1992 - 1993**

**Commander: Dick Vileo, Post 9951**

**Senior Vice Commander:**

**Junior Vice Commander:**

- On 17 April, the District meeting was held in Bangkok. The District V Meeting was sponsored by C.L. Elms Post 9951.

- Post 10249 designated an All State Post for 92-93.

### **1993 - 1994**

**Commander: Dick Vileo, Post 9951**

**Senior Vice Commander: Frank J. Palumbo, Post 10217**

**Junior Vice Commander: Forest Williams, Post 10249**

- District members attended the District Meeting at the Sri Pattana Hotel in Korat on 17 July. The District V Meeting was sponsored by Karl W. Richter Post 10217.

- On 21 October, the District meeting was held at the VFW Post 10249 Post Home in Udorn.

- Past District V Commander and Past Post 9876 Commander Jean Bingham passed away on 13 January 1994.

- On 15 January, the District Meeting was held in Pattaya. The District V meeting was hosted by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876.

- On 16 January, Post 9876 conducted a VFW Ceremony at Wat Nokius in Pattaya for Comrade Jean Bingham. The Ceremony was attended by members of all Thailand Posts and District V officers.

- District members attended the District meeting in Bangkok on 16 April. The District V Meeting was sponsored by C.L. Elms Post 9951.

- At the DPA Convention, Post 9876 was named an All State Post and Post Commander Montgomery being named as an All State Commander.

### **1994 - 1995**

**Commander: Dick Vileo, Post 9951**

**Senior Vice Commander: Frank J. Palumbo, Post 10217**

**Junior Vice Commander: Harold Thompson, Post 10249**

- On 15 July, the District meeting was held in Korat. The District V meeting was sponsored by Karl W. Richter Memorial Post 10217.

- District members attended the District meeting in Udorn on 15 October. The District V Meeting was sponsored by AFTN Memorial VFW Post 10249.

- VFW Department of Pacific Areas, District VII (Philippines) was instituted 23

October 1993.

*(Note: There should have been a new Charter for District V issued)*

- On 21 January, the District Meeting was held at the Diana Inn in Pattaya. The District V meeting was hosted by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876.

\* The DPA Commander E. Ralph Milward was in attendance

### **1995 - 1996**

**Commander: Dick Vileo, Post 9951**

**Senior Vice Commander: Frank J. Palumbo, Post 10217**

**Junior Vice Commander: Harold Thompson, Post 10249**

- On 4 July, Commander Vileo sent a letter to General Euamsak Chulacharitta, Director General, The War Veterans of Thailand requesting his assistance in placing a VFW sponsored monument at Kanchanaburi in honor of US POWs that were used along the Death Railroad.

- District members attended the District Meeting at the All American Grill in Korat on 15 July. The District V Meeting was sponsored by Karl W. Richter Post 10217.

- District members attended the District meeting in Udorn on 21 October. The District V Meeting was sponsored by AFTN Memorial VFW Post 10249.

\* Awards were presented to Posts 9876, 9951 and 10217.

\* An award was presented to All American Post Commander Harold Thomson.

\* The District voted to investigate the possibility of building a monument to the Americans who died at Kanchanburi during WWII

- On 20 January, the District meeting was held at the Diana Inn in Pattaya. The District V meeting was hosted by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876.

\* DPA Commander Joe Carsley was in attendance.

### **1996 - 1997**

**Commander: Dick Vileo, Post 9951**

**Senior Vice Commander: Harold Thompson, Post 10249**

**Junior Vice Commander: Charlie Zuill, Post 10217**

- On 11 March, Mr Ron Beattie, Group Supervisors of Allied Cemeteries in and around Kanchanaburi contacted Commander Vileo to state that permission had been granted to the VFW to place a monument at Kanchanaburi in memory of the US POWs that worked on the Death Railroad.

- On 26 May the District membership figures were as follows:

Post 9876 - 68 (106.25%)

Post 9951 - 197 (105.35%)

Post 10217 - 104 (100.97%)

Post 10249 - 148 (103.50%)

- On 18 January, the District meeting was held at the Diana Inn in Pattaya. The District V meeting was hosted by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876.

\* DPA Commander Bob Zaher was in attendance.

### **1997 - 1998**

**Commander: Dick Vileo, Post 9951**

**Senior Vice Commander: Forest Williams, Post 10249**

**Junior Vice Commander: Harold Thompson, Post 10249**

On 24 July, Commander Vileo requested the National VFW present a plaque to General Wanchai Ambunandana, Director General, The War Veterans of Thailand for his assistance in obtaining permission to build the District V Monument at Kanchanaburi.

- District members attended the District meeting in Korat on 19 July. The District V Meeting was sponsored by Carl W. Richter VFW Post 10217.

- On 14 September, District V dedicated the Monument at the Bridge at the River Kwae. The monument was dedicated to the 688 American prisoners that worked on the infamous Death Railway, of these 356 died. The dedication read *And now in the name of District V, Department of Pacific Area, Veterans of Foreign was of the United States, we dedicate this monument to those imprisoned in the prison camps in or near Kanchanaburi, Thailand. May their noble deeds live forever.* Dedication attendance included US Ambassador to Thailand William H. Itoh; US Embassy officials: Kanchanaburi Governor Suchart Pong-nua, New Aspirations MP Sornchai-Montriwat, a delegation from the Australian Embassy and former Allied POWs.

- On 18 October, the District meeting was held in Udorn. The District V Meeting was sponsored by AFTN Memorial VFW Post 10249.

- On 17 January, the District meeting was held at the Diana Inn in Pattaya. The District V meeting was hosted by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876.

### **1998 - 1999**

**Commander: Dick Vileo, Post 9951**

**Senior Vice Commander: Harold Thompson, Post 10249**

**Junior Vice Commander: Charlie Zuill, Post 10217**

- Commander Vileo presented a Plaque of Appreciation to Mr Ron Beattie, Group Supervisors of Allied Cemeteries in and around Kanchanaburi for his assistance in placing the District V Monument at Kanchanaburi

- District members attended the District Meeting in Udorn on 17 October. The District V Meeting was sponsored by AFTN Memorial Post 10249.

- On 16 January, the District meeting was held at the Diana Inn in Pattaya. The District V meeting was hosted by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876..

- On 17 April, the District meeting was held in Bangkok . The District V Meeting was sponsored by C.L. Elms VFW Post 9951.

\* DPA Commander Emory Russell was in attendance.

- On 25 April, in conjunction with ANZAC Day, a ceremony was held at the District V Monument at Kanchanaburi to replace the original plaque that had been defaced by vandals.

### **1999 - 2000**

**Commander: Dick Vileo, Post 9951**

**Senior Vice Commander: Forest Williams, Post 10249**

**Junior Vice Commander: Thomas Smith, Post 10249**

- District members attended the District meeting in Udorn on 16 October. The District V Meeting was sponsored by AFTN Memorial VFW Post 10249.

- On 15 January, the District meeting was held at the Diana Inn in Pattaya. The District V meeting was hosted by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876.

- District members attended the District V meeting in Bangkok on 15 April. The District V Meeting was sponsored by C.L. Elms VFW Post 9951.

\* Past DPA Commander Joe Carsley was in attendance.

- On 15 May, Mayaguez Memorial VFW Post 11575 was instituted in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The installing Officer was District V Commander Dick Vileo.

\* There were 42 members on the Charter.

\* John Smart was the CinC who signed the Charter.

\* Tom's Irish Pub in Phnom Penh was the first Post Home

### **2000 - 2001**

**Commander: Dick Vileo, Post 9951**

**Senior Vice Commander: Forest Williams, Post 10249**

**Junior Vice Commander: Thomas Smith, Post 10249**

- District members attended the District V meeting in Korat on 10 August. The District V Meeting was sponsored by Carl W. Richter VFW Post 10217.

- On 21 October, District members attended the District meeting at Udorn. The District V Meeting was sponsored by AFTN Memorial VFW Post 10249.

- Post 9876, Pattaya Beach, hosted the District V meeting on 21 January.

\* DPA Commander Paul Gasperson. Past DPA Commander Bob Zaher, Department Quartermaster Tom Elliott, Department Chief of Staff Cliff Wilsey were in attendance.

- District members attended the District meeting in Bangkok on 21 April. The District V Meeting was sponsored by C.L. Elms VFW Post 9951.

- On 25 April, Post 9951 members joined other US, Australian and New Zealand Veterans organizations on a trip to Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Kan-

*chanaburi to observe ANZAC Day, a wreath was laid by the Post Commander. During this trip the a wreath is also laid at the District V Monument at the River Kwai. This trip is sponsored by Post 9951.*

### **2001 - 2002**

**Commander: Dick Vileo, Post 9951**

**Senior Vice Commander: Forest Williams, Post 10249**

**Junior Vice Commander: Charlie Zuill, Post 10217**

*- In October, District members attended the District Meeting in Udorn. The District V meeting was hosted by AFTN Memorial Post 10249.*

*- At the December Department Council of Administration (CofA) in Barrio Barettto, Philippines, District V Commander Dick Vileo made a presentation on the Post 9876 preparations for the 2002 Department Convention to be held in Pattaya Beach.*

*- On 18-19 January, Post 9876 hosted the District V meeting at the Hog's Breath Saloon in Pattaya.*

*\* MOC Grand Commander of the Pacific Areas B.K. Hubbard was in attendance.*

*- On 20-21 April, District members attended the District meeting in Bangkok. The District V meeting was be hosted by C.L. Elms Post 9951*

*- On 25 April, Post 9951 members joined other US, Australian and New Zealand Veterans organizations on a trip to Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Kanchanaburi to observe ANZAC Day, a wreath was laid by the Post Commander. During this trip the a wreath is also laid at the District V Monument at the River Kwai. This trip is sponsored by Post 9951.*

*- On 15-21 June, Post 9876 hosted the 36th Annual Department Convention and 33th Annual Grand Scratch at the Royal Twin Hotel, Pattaya Beach,.*

*\* Post 9876, Pattaya Beach, forwarded a successful bid for the 2003 Department of Pacific Areas Convention to be held in June 2003*

### **2002 - 2003**

**Commander: Dick Vileo, Post 9951**

**Senior Vice Commander: Forest Williams, Post 10249**

**Junior Vice Commander: Jerry Karwacki, Post 9951/Charlie Zuill, Post 10217**

*- In July, Junior Vice Commander Jerry Karwacki resigned.*

*- On 30 July, District members attended a meeting and luncheon for National VFW Commander James N. Goldsmith and VFW Assistant Adjutant General Ron Browning at the JUSTMAGTHAI Teak Room, Bangkok.*

*- On 18-19 October, District members attended the District Meeting in Udorn. The District V meeting was hosted by AFTN Memorial Post 10249.*

- District members, along with other Veterans organizations in Thailand met with the US Ambassador to observe Veterans Day.

- On 17 January, Post 9876 hosted the District V meeting in Pattaya.

- In April, District V Commander Dick Vileo, Post 9951 Commander Jerry Karwacki and Post 9876 Commander Dodson accompanied a party of National VFW VIP's on a trip to the District V Memorial at Kanchanaburi. The VIP's included National VFW Commander Ed Banas; National Chief of Staff Frank Burchill; District 16 Councilman Frank Lamson

- In April, District members attended the District meeting in Bangkok. The District V meeting was hosted by C.L. Elms Post 9951.

- On 25 April, Post 9951 members joined other US, Australian and New Zealand Veterans organizations on a trip to Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Kanchanaburi to observe ANZAC Day, a wreath was laid by the Post Commander. During this trip the a wreath is also laid at the District V Monument at the River Kwai. This trip is sponsored by Post 9951.

- District members attended the District Convention in Bangkok. The District V Convention was hosted by C.L. Elms Post 9951.

- Post 9876 hosted the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Convention and 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Scratch at the Royal Twin Hotel, Pattaya Beach, 14-20 June.

\* District Commander Vileo's Report to Department Commander:

\* \* Post 9876 - 101 membership (112%)

- - Hosting Department Convention

\* \* Post 9876 - 225 membership (105%)

- - Attended Thai War Memorial and ANZAC Day at Kanchanaburi

- - Ceremony and wreath laying at District 5 Monument

- - Attended Veterans Day Reception at Ambassadors residence

\* \* Post 10217 - 106 membership (98%)

- - Support to local orphans

- - Repair flood damage to local school

- - established crutch and walker factory

- - donated needed items to Home for the Aged

\* \* Post 10249 - membership (106.6%)

- - contributed to American/Thai Monument in Nakorn Phanon

- - donated furniture to local school

- - hosted several picnics for local community

- - donated beef to local university

\* \* Post 11575 - 103 membership (111%)

- - hosted POW/MIA officials

- - welcomed new Ambassador



## 2003 - 2004

**Commander: Dick Vileo, Post 9951/Forest Williams, Post 10249**

**Senior Vice Commander: Forest Williams, Post 10249**

**Junior Vice Commander: Charlie Zuill, Post 10217**

- District V members holding Department positions for the 2003-2004 year:

*Jerry Karwacki, Post 9951 - Surgeon*

*Safety Officer: Post 11575 - Monte Marchant*

*Bob White, Post 9951 - Deputy Department Inspector*

*Charlie Zuill, Post 10217 - Deputy Department Inspector*

- On 5 July, District members attended the C.L. Elms Post 9951 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic in Bangkok.

- On 18-19 July, District members attended the District Meeting at Korat. The District V Meeting was hosted by Karl W. Richter Post 10217.

- The Annual Ambassador's Reception in Bangkok. District members, along with other Veterans organizations in Thailand meet annually with the US Ambassador to observe Veterans Day.

- On 13 January, Post 9951 Commander Jerry Karwacki was a guest at the Post 9876 January General Membership Meeting.

- On 17 January, Post 9876 hosted the District V meeting at the Hog's Breath Saloon in Pattaya. - In April, District members attended the District V Meeting in Udorn, Thailand. The District V meeting was hosted by AFTN Memorial Post 10249.

\* Due to the death of Commander Vileo, Senior Vice Commander Forest Williams, Post 10249, assumed duties a Commander District V.

- On 25 April, Post 9951 members joined other US, Australian and New Zealand Veterans organizations on a trip to Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Kanchanaburi to observe ANZAC Day, a wreath was laid by the Post Commander. During this trip the a wreath is also laid at the District V Monument at the River Kwai. This trip is sponsored by Post 9951.

## 2004 - 2005

**Commander: Jerry Karwacki, Post 9951/Charlie Zuill, Post 10217**

**Senior Vice Commander: Charlie Zuill, Post 10217/Ed Hughes, Post 10249**

**Junior Vice Commander: Ed Hughes, Post 10249/Jim Oden, Post 9951**

- District V Commander Jerry Karwacki transferred into the Post 9876, Pattaya.

- In July, District members attended the District Meeting in Korat, Thailand. The District V meeting was hosted by Karl W. Richter Post 10217.

- In October, District members attended the District meeting in Bangkok. The Dis-

trict V meeting was hosted by VFW Post 9951.

\* Department Senior Vice Commander Dave Teets, Hill 303 Post 303, Teagu, Korea attended the meeting.

- District V Commander Jerry Karwacki attended the November Post 9876 meeting..

- In December, Post 9876 hosted the Department of Pacific Areas Mid Term Council of Administration (CofA) at the Royal Twin Hotel in Pattaya Beach, Thailand.

- In December, Commander Jerry Karwacki resigned as District V Commander. Senior Vice Commander Charlie Zuill, Post 10217, assumed duties as Commander District V.

- On 15 January, Post 9876 hosted the District meeting at the Hog's Breathe Saloon, the Post Home.

- On 23 April, District members attended the District meeting in Udorn. The District V meeting was hosted by AFTN Memorial Post 10249.

- On 25 April, Post 9951 members joined other US, Australian and New Zealand Veterans organizations on a trip to Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Kanchanaburi to observe ANZAC Day, a wreath was laid by the Post Commander. During this trip the a wreath is also laid at the District V Monument at the River Kwai. This trip is sponsored by Post 9951.

## 2005 - 2006

Commander: **Delbert N. Marhol, Post 10249/Ed Hughes, Post 10249**

Senior Vice Commander: **Ed Hughes, Post 10249/James Oden, Post 9951**

Junior Vice Commander: **James Oden, Post 9951**

- District V members holding Department positions for the 2005-2006 year:

Jim Oden , Post 9951- Deputy Department Inspector

Eric Larsen, Post 9876 - Deputy Department Inspector

- On 16 July, District members District Meeting at the Imperial Tara Hotel in Bangkok. The District meeting was hosted by the C.L Elms Post 9951.

- On 14 October, District members attended the District V Meeting at Korat. The District meeting was hosted by Karl W. Richter Post 10217.

- In December, U.S. Ambassador Ralph Boyce presented Post 9876 Commander Don Ratcliffe an award for his efforts as an Embassy Warden in the Pattaya area. The award was presented at the Ambassador's residence in Bangkok.

- On 20-21 January, District members attended the District V Meeting at Udorn. The District V meeting was hosted by AFTN Memorial Post 10249.

- On 28 February, Post 9876 members were invited to a reception hosted by the Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet onboard his flagship, USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19). The ship was berthed at the Laem Chabang Post Facility (North of Pattaya Beach). Post 9876 members attending included Commander Donald Ratcliffe, Se-

nior Vice Commander George Bell, Comrades Eric Larson, Radford Mays and Jerry Karwacki.

- The following is an excerpt from DPA Commander Dave Teet's column in the 5 March 2006 DPA newspaper, the Pacific Typhoon

*Quote*

*I want to publicly congratulate Post 9876 on their upcoming 25th anniversary. This is an important milestone for the Post and for the membership. It proves that those fine Comrades are in the VFW thing for the long term. They have worked hard in their community, their District, and our Department to do the right things in the areas of Community Programs and Membership Retention. Take the time to drop them an email and those of you that can, please take time to stop by the Post and take part in their celebration. It is well earned.*

*Unquote*

- On 7 March, Post 98976 celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

\* In conjunction with Post 9876 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony, a wreath was laid at the grave of Past District V Commander and Post Charter member Jack DeMello, SMSGT, USAF (Ret). Comrade DeMello was the District V Commander who instituted the Post on 7 March 1986. In attendance were 15 Comrades and Ladies, including DPA Senior Vice Commander Ken Schaefer, Post 2485.

\* The Post Anniversary Ceremony and Party was held at the Hog's Breath Saloon, the Post Home. Approximately 60 Post members, families and guests were present, including DPA Senior Vice Commander Ken Schaefer, Post 2485.

\* A variation of the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) Two Bell Ceremony was conducted in memory of departed Post members.

\* Comrade Schaefer presented the Post with a banner entitled Best wishes to VFW Post 9876 on the occasion of your 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Department of Pacific Areas.

\* Comrade Schaefer won the Anniversary 50/50 Raffle (B3,900) and donated it to the Post.

- District V Commander Marhol resigned and Senior Vice Commander Hughes assumed the Commanders position.

- Post 9876 hosted the District V meeting at the Hog's Breath Saloon on 22 April.

- On 25 April, Post 9951 members joined other US, Australian and New Zealand Veterans organizations on a trip to Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Kanchanaburi to observe ANZAC Day, a wreath was laid by the Post Commander. During this trip the a wreath is also laid at the District V Monument at the River Kwai. This trip is sponsored by Post 9951.

- The 40<sup>th</sup> DPA Convention was held in Bangkok 18-22 June. The Department Convention was hosted by C.L. Elms Post 9951 at the Imperial Tara/Impala Hotel Complex..

### **2006 - 2007**

**Commander: James Oden, Post 9951**

**Senior Vice Commander: Tom Black, Post 10249**

**Junior Vice Commander: Chris Palombi, Post 9876**

- District V members holding Department positions for the 2006-2007 year:

*Jim Oden, Post 9951 - Department VFW PAC Chairman*

*William Hudson, Post 9951 - Deputy Department Inspector*

- On 22 July, District members attended the District Meeting at Korat. The District meeting was hosted by Karl W. Richter Post 10217.

- On 3 August, District members, from Post 9876 and 9951, attended a District V Luncheon for National VFW CinC Mueller and his party. The luncheon was held at the Amari Boulevard Hotel in Bangkok.

- On 21 October, District members attended a District V meeting in Pattaya. The District V meeting was hosted by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876.

*\* DPA Commander Ken Schaefer were in attendance.*

- In October, in a combined project of Post 9951 and Maeng Das - Pup Tent 6, the roof and floor were replaced/repared at the Kaotagrub Pattana School, Sakaeo Provence Lunch Room.

- On 22-23 October, DPA Commander Ken Schaefer visited Mayaguez Memorial Post 11575, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Comrade Steve Gray, Post 9876, accompanied Commander Schaefer on the visit.

- On 14 November, District Commander Jim Oden was appointed to a National Deputy Chief of Staff position.

- On 6 January, District V Commander Jim Oden attended the GMM of Karl W. Richter Post 10217.

- On 20 January, District members attended the District V Meeting at Udorn. The District V meeting was hosted by AFTN Memorial Post 10249

- On 26 February, Junior Vice Commander and District Service Officer Chris Palombi, Post 9876, was selected as Department Service Officer of the Year He is a candidate for National Service Officer of the Year.

*\* On 4 March, Comrade Palombi was appointed Department Assistant Service Officer.*

- On 23 March, District V hosted a luncheon for National Senior Vice Commander George Lisicki and VFW Director of National Security, Michael Wysong. The luncheon was held at the Amari Boulevard Hotel in Bangkok. Commander Oden,

members of the District staff and members from Posts 9876, 9951 and 10249 were in attendance.

- On 21-22 April, the District V Convention was held at the Omni Tower Hotel in Bangkok. The District Convention was hosted by C.L.Elms Post 9951. Posts 9876, 9951 and 10249 were represented

\* District Membership stood at 101.8%.

\* District Commander Oden announced the Department All State selections:

- - All State Post Commander, Don Ratcliffe, Post 9876

- - All State Post Commander, Jim Oden, Post 9951

- - All State Quartermaster, Eric Larsen, Post 9876

\* Elections were held and Past District Commander Hughes installed the officers for 2007-2008.

\* Schedule of District V Meetings/Convention:

July - Post 9951, Bangkok

October - Post 9876, Pattaya

January - Post 10249, Udorn

April - Post 10217, Korat

- On 25 April, Commander Oden, members from Posts 9876, 9951 and supporters attended the Annual ANZAC Day Ceremony at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Kanchanaburi, Thailand. Commander Oden, in his role as Post Commander, Post 9951, laid a wreath at the Main Cemetery Monument.

- After the ANZAC Day Ceremony, Commander Oden, VFW members and supports assembled at the District V Monument at the Bridge over the River Kwai. In a rededication of the monument Commander Oden stated .....One we shall long remember with pride for the small part we are contributing. We are assembled here to pay tribute to the men who have served in the United States Armed Forces, who have fought in defense of our country.....

- Past District V Commander and current Maeng Das - Pup Tent 6 Seam Squirrel Ed Hughes passed away on 5 May. Members from District Posts attended his cremation, outside of Khon Kaen.

- District V Commander James Oden, Post 9951; Senior Vice Commander/Assistant DPA Service Officer Chris Palombi; Post 9876 Commander Don Ratcliffe; and Post 9876. District V Quartermaster/Adjutant Eric attended the DPA Convention on Angeles City, Philippines, 18-22 June.

\* Post 9876 received a Membership Award for leading the small Posts in Department membership

\* All State Hats were given to District V Commander James Oden, Post 9951; Post 9876 Commander Don Ratcliffe, and Post 9876. District V Quartermaster/Adjutant Eric Larsen

\* Post 9876 was awarded the 2008 DPA Convention.

- District V achieved 100% in membership for the 2006-2007 year

### **2007 - 2008**

**Commander: James Oden, Post 9951**

**Senior Vice Commander: Chris Palombi, Post 9876**

**Junior Vice Commander: William Hudson, Post 9951**

- District V Comrades holding Department of Pacific Areas position, 2007-2008

\* Jim Oden, Post 9951 - Buddy Poppy Chairman

\* David Neutzler, Post 9951 - VFW PAC Chairman

\* Eric Larsen, Post 9951 - Assistant Inspector

\* Robert Owns, Post 9951 - Assistant Inspector

\* Chris Palombi, Post 9876 - Assistant Service Officer

- District V was selected as an All American District and District V Commander Jim Oden was selected as an All American District Commander.

- The Quarterly District V Meeting was held at the Imperial Tara Hotel in Bangkok on 21 July. All District Posts were present with the exception of Post 11575, Phnom Penh. The District Meeting was sponsored by C.L Elms Post 9951.

- District V Commander James Oden, Post 9951 attended the VFW National Convention, 18-23 August in Kansas City, Mo

- The Quarterly District V Meeting was held at the Post 9876 Post Home (Hog's Breathe Saloon), Pattaya Beach, Thailand on 20 October. All District Posts were present with the exception of Post 11575, Phnom Penh. The District Meeting was sponsored by E.S. Hamilton Post 9876.

- During the period 12 - 22 January, Department of Pacific Areas (DPA) Commander Rhett Webber and his wife Rose visited Posts in District V.

\* On 12 January, Commander Webber attended a scheduled Post 9951 meeting visited with Post members

\* On 13 January, Commander Webber and District V Commander Oden and their wives visited Post 9876. They met with the Post 2008 DPA Convention Committee. A buffet luncheon was served at the Post Home (Hog's Breathe Saloon).

\* On 15 January, Commander Webber journeyed to Korat and visited with Post 10249 members at the PB Restaurant.

\* On 17 January, DPA Commander Webber, DPA Senior Vice Commander Larry Lyons and DPA Junior Vice Commander Jim Malott performed the institution ceremony for the Squadron Leader John "Scarsdale Jack" Newkirk VFW Post 12074 at Chiang Mai, Thailand. Commander Webber also issued Oath of Allegiance to new Comrades and installs Post 12074 Officers. Also present were District V Commander Jim Oden, District V Senior Vice Commander Chris Palombi and 24 members of the new Post.

\* On 18 January, DPA Commander Webber (Cootie in PT 7, La Union, Philip-

piners) attended the Maeng Das - PT 6 Scratch. The Scratch was held at the Chareonsri Grand Hotel in Udorn Thani. After the Scratch, he attended a social at Steve's Bar, hosted by Maeng Das - Put Tent 6.

\* On 19 January, Commander Webber attended the scheduled District V Meeting. The Meeting was held at the Chareonsri Grand Hotel in Udorn Thani. The District V meeting was hosted by AFTN Memorial Post 10249.

\* On 21 January, Commander Webber visited with member of VFW Post 11575 at Tony's Bar in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

- Post 9876 celebrated it's 27th Anniversary on 7 March. A buffet luncheon with a Birthday Cake was served to approximately 80 guests, which consisted of members, guests and supporters. A small ceremony was held with excerpts from the Post History and the reading of names of deceased member since the Post 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

- On 17 March, District V hosted a luncheon for VFW National Senior Vice Commander Glen Gardner, Director VFW Office in Washington, DC. Robert Wallace, RADM Donna Crisp, Commander JPAC was also a guest. The luncheon was held at the Amari Boulevard Hotel in Bangkok. Commander Oden, members of the District staff and members from Posts 9876, 9951, 10217 and 12074 were in attendance.

- The Annual District V Convention was held at the Sripatana Hotel in Korat on 19-20 April. The Convention was hosted by the Karl W. Richter Memorial Post 10217. All District V Posts were present, with the exception of Post 11575, Phnom Penh.

\* The District Delegates voted B7,000 for installation and maintenance of a new plaque at the District 5 sponsored monument at the Bridge over the River Kwai in Kanchanaburi, Thailand

\* District Delegates voted a new time/location for District meetings/convention as follows:

August 2008 - Post 10249, Udorn

November 2008 - Post 12074, Chiang Mai

February 2009 - Post 9876, Pattaya Beach, Thailand

May 2009 - Post 9951, Bangkok (District Convention)

\* District Delegate voted to order new District V pins

\* Post 10217 Commander David Miller, former District Commander in Arizona, installed the District 2008-2009 Officers

\* Commander Oden installed the Post 12074 officers for the 2008-2009 year

- On 25 April 200, District V Commander Oden, members from Posts 9951, 10217, 12074, the US Embassy Defense AttachJ office and supporters rededicated the US Memorial at the Bridge over the River Kwai in Kanchanaburi, Thai-

land. The memorial commemorating WWII POW's forced to work on the Death Railway, was originally dedicated 14 September 1997. The brief ceremony recognized the survivors of the USS Houston and 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery who were captured in Indonesia early in 1942 and moved by the Japanese to prison camps in Thailand and Burma. A total of 45 VFW members and supporters attended the ceremony.

- After the rededication ceremony at the Bridge over the River Kwai, the group attended the Annual ANZAC Day Ceremony at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Kanchanaburi, Thailand. Post 9951 Commander Owens, laid a wreath at the Main Cemetery Monument and the members joined comrades from Australia and New Zealand in remembering the thousands of allied prisoners that lost their lives due the harsh treatment and sparse conditions of the prison camp while forced to work on the Railroad.

- On 28 April, District V Commander Oden was selected as an All State District Commander, Post 9876 Commander Donald Ratcliffe was selected as an All State Post Commander and Post 9876 Quartermaster was selected as an All State Quartermaster. This was the second year in a row for all three.

- Membership as of 15 May, 1041 (800LM, 241 Annual) or 108.21%

- Community Service total for May 2007- April 2008 Year:

\* Number of Projects: 621

\* Number of Volunteers: 3,279

\* Number of Hours: 25,934

\* Dollars Expended: \$79,023

***The following updated by District V Webmaster Dave Borchers 5 September 2020:***

**2008 - 2009**

**Commander: B.K. Hubbard, Post 9876**

**Senior Vice Commander: Bill "Bear" Hudson, Post 9951**

**Junior Vice Commander: Robert Owens, Post 9951**

*Bill "Bear" Hudson assumed command of District V as of 28 April, due to B.K. Hubbard passing away and was cremated at Wat Chai in Pattaya. Over 200 attendees were at his cremation. Swa of the Lookout Inn, hosted a Wake for Hub following the cremation.*

**Brief Remembrance of Hub**



Bobby Kent B.K. Hubbard “Hub” was “The Man.” Hub, was amongst my closest of friends and a totally unforgettable wonderful human being.

A salty sailor, thru and thru, he loved to use his nautical jargon as part of his persona. He delighted friends and acquaintances with his enjoyable “sea” stories of his varied romances and the successes and more than often non-successes. A North Carolina boy who emulated the image of a “down to earth” guy; he hated meat-loaf but loved white wine, Bloody Mary’s and his favorite nurses (whether they worked in the traditional medical field or, as happened most of the time, in Hub’s non-traditional medical service.) He believed there should always be a work place for youthful nurses.

You could not find a better friend or a person who looked out for those around him. A Senior Chief Petty Officer in the Navy, Hub epitomized the term “True Leader.” When Hub spoke, people listened. However, even more than that, when people spoke to him, he listened.

After a distinguished naval career, Hub dedicated himself to his other love, serving veterans. He was a supportive member of the American Legion China Post #1. However, he was a major force in the Veteran’s of Foreign Wars (VFW). Hub, as he did in the Navy, worked his way up from the smallest of jobs to some of the highest positions of leadership.

Hub, commanded VFW posts and Districts throughout Asia. He was a powerhouse of leadership in the Philippines, where he also was elected as the MOC (VFW Honor Organization) Grand Commander for the Department of Pacific Areas. His remaining years continued with his passionate work as Commander of VFW District V, Department of the Pacific. The District now ranks as one of the best if not “The Best” of VFW Districts in the Pacific Area. Even with failing health, Hub strived on and traveled to all the Posts from the far North of Thailand to the

Capital of Cambodia. We all truly profited from his work, dedication and caring.

Just a couple of weeks prior to his passing, Hub was devastated by the loss of his daughter to cancer. Hub loved his family and cherished their lives.

Bobby Kent “Hub” Hubbard died painlessly of a massive heart attack on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, 2009; but remains in our memories as “The Man” with the Biggest, Healthiest, and Kindest Heart of all.

Your friends, family, nurses and everyone associated with you, miss you “big guy” and wish you smooth sailing forever.

Bless you Hub,

Bear

#### **2009 - 2010**

Commander: **William (Bear) Hudson, Post 9951**

Senior Vice Commander: **Michael Holmes, Post 12074**

Junior Vice Commander: **Robert Owens, Post 9951**

Quartermaster: Patrick Webb

Adjutant: Ed Medlin

Judge Advocate: James E. Oden

Chaplin: Ken Miller

Surgeon: Al Evans

1 Year Trustee: Michael Glatz

2 Year Trustee: Burt G. Nestle

3 Year Trustee: Donald Ratcliffe

District V was number one (1) in Membership for the Department of Pacific Areas with 1,225 members.

- Al Serrato, Post 9876 named All State Commander

- Eric Larsen, Post 9876 named All State Quartermaster

-David Neutzler, Post 9951 named All State Quartermaster

- Michael Holmes, Post 12074 named All State Commander

-Patrick Webb, Post 12074 named Outstanding Post Member

August 2009 District V meeting hosted by Korat Post 10217 no minutes available

**21 November 2009 Dist V meeting was hosted by AFTN Memorial VFW Post 10249 at Charoensri Grand Royal Hotel in Udorn Thani**

Meeting was promptly called to order by Commander William “Bear” Hudson at 0933 hours. All officers were present or otherwise appropriately excused. A total of 25 members were present. There was one guest, Grand Councilman of the Pacific Bear Hudson in attendance. Absent was Sr Vice Dave Miller, JAG Jim Oden, SURG Al Evans, and Trustee 1yr Mike Glatz. Posts Cdrs attending:

1. 9876 Pattaya: Post Commander, Al Serrato, Present with report
2. 9951 Bangkok: Post SVC, Nuttaporn “Lake” Ooppapan, Present with report
3. 10217 Korat: Post Commander, Byron Petrides, Present with report
4. 10249 Udorn Thani: Post Commander, Michael Alvanos, Present with report
5. 11575 Phnom Penh: Post Commander, Jay Steed, Present with report
6. 12074 Chiang Mai: Post Commander Michael Holmes, Present with report

**-Minutes** of August’s meeting in Korat were read by ADJ Nuttaporn “Lake” Ooppapan. A motion to accept the minutes as read by Comrade Ken Miller, and seconded by Comrade Burt Nestle. Motion carried.

**-QM Report:** Patrick Webb read his report for 3rd quarter of FY 2009. A motion was made to accept the report as read, subject to audit by Comrade Mike Holmes, and seconded by Comrade Ken Miller. Motion carried. Additionally, Comrade Pat Webb reported that a new electronic transferring system is now in place.

Commander and Hudson commended Comrade Pat Webb for his efforts, and were applauded by all comrades in attendance. No Bills were presented

**-Comrades in distress;** two members from Pattaya Post passed away; Comrades Michael Wallace, and past Post Commander Fred Estes passed away both were active members and will be missed. SVC David Miller is slowly recovering and Comrade Tom Cowperthwaite of Bangkok Post is out of coma and is recovering at Smithivej Hospital, in ICU 3, room 321. Both are able to talk and desirous of visitors.

**-Committee Reports:**

**-Membership:** Commander Hudson gave updated membership stats.

**-Community Services:** Chairman, JVC Mike Holmes gave a report.

**-Service Officer’s Report:** Comrade Mike Holmes gave the SO’s report. Following the meeting Comrade Holmes announced that he would provide a class for all Post Commanders and Post Service Officer’s & any others who would like to attend a class on Veteran's Care, FMP, & Casualty assistance training after the meeting. Handouts, including a Veteran's Assistance Checklist provided all attendees.

**-Awards:** Chairman, SVC Miller was not avail for updates. Commander Hudson presented Comrade Jay Steed with various outstanding services awards.

**-Safety Report:** Safety Chairman Nicholls was not available for updates. Comrade Lake reminded everyone to take special care due to the second round of AH1N1 spreading in Thailand again; Comrade Byron Petrides provided examples of possible symptoms for those who may be possibly infected by the AH1N1 virus.

**-Buddy Poppies:** Comrade Mike Holmes, Buddy Poppy Officer reported.

**-Historian Report:** Historian Comrade Nuttaporn "Lake" gave a historian report.

**-VOD/Patriots Pen:** Chairman, SVC Dave Miller was not avail for updates.

**-POW/MIA Recognition:** Chairman, Serrato gave a report; all posts held various solemn ceremonies to honor comrade POW's and others missing in action.

**-National Home:** Committee Chairman, Surgeon Al Evans was not available.

**-Cootie Activities:** Comrade Mike Holmes gave the Cooties Activities reports on behalf of Comrade SVC Dave Miller.

**-Old business:** None

**-New Business:**

- Comrade William Chapman spoke about a possible partnership with active duty units in Washington State. Commander Hudson tasked Comrade Chapman to come up with talking point for this potential project.

- An election was conducted to fill the vacant Junior Vice Commander (JVC,) when the current JVC Michael Holmes automatically moved up to fill the Senior Vice Commander's position that was vacated by Comrade Dave Miller. Comrade Bob Owens was elected JVC by a result of unanimous votes.

**-Good of the Order:**

1. Newly elected JVC Bob Owens reported annual inspections for all Posts and D5 were completed for the year. Commander Hudson commended JVC Owens, all District inspectors, as well as all posts for a job well done for these inspections.

2. Phnom Penh Post Commander, Jay Steed gave an overview and expectations of next District V meeting that post will be hosting this historically first VFW meeting in Phnom Penh.

3. Commander Hudson thanked Udorn Thani Post for hosting another successful meeting. The next meeting of District V will be at 0930 on 20 February, 2010, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia The meeting was promptly closed IAW the VFW ritual at 1143 hours by Commander Hudson.

**20 February 2010 District V Meeting was hosted by Mayaguez Memorial Post 11575 at Sharkey's Bar in Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

District V Meeting was promptly called to order by Commander William “Bear” Hudson at 0900 hours. All officers were present except for Surgeon Al Evans, Trustee 2 year Burt Nestle, and Trustee 3 year Donald Ratcliffe. 29 members were present. There was one guest, Rob Robinowski from the US Embassy in Phnom Penh. **Post Cdr’s attending:**

1. 9876 Pattaya: Post Commander, Al Serrato, Present with report
2. 9951 Bangkok: Post Commander James Oden, Present with report
3. 10217 Korat: Delegate Post QM Ed Medlin, Present with report
4. 10249 Udorn Thani: Delegate Ken Falk, Present with report
5. 11575 Phnom Penh: Post Commander, Jay Steed, Present with report
6. 12074 Chiang Mai: Post Commander Michael Holmes, Present with report

Guest speaker Rob Robinowski spoke on the following points: **Security** here in Cambodia is considered to be a dangerous place. The streets at night do not have much police presence to be seen. Petty theft and armed robbery do occur, but not too often. Westerners are targeted, of course and advised us to be vigilant at all times, especially when using ATM machines. Late at night is a bad time to be out on the streets as there are very poor and very rich people out, so don’t mess with the rich ones as they have guns and body guards and you will lose. Drugs here can be dangerous, as in drugstore purchased items. The quality can vary, as can the strength.

Rob told us that fees for ACS (American Citizen Services) are going up soon. You can view the embassy web site for details. For example, the cost for getting extra passport pages will go up to \$83. He advises us to get them now, as within 3 or 4 months the new high prices will be in effect. He noted that when renewing your passport, you can request 52 pages rather than 30 pages at no additional cost. This July the embassy will observe the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cambodia-USA diplomatic relations. Rob requested input from US citizens about how to improve ACS. Here they have online reservation system, and soon will do more online. Social Security certified copies are still free.

CDR Hudson asked about relations between Thailand and Cambodia and about convicted fugitive & former PM Thaksin and what the embassy has to say on that. Rob said that they have had some security drills lately at the Embassy, and that security posture appears to be heightened. Trade between Thailand and Cambodia has dropped about 22% and it seems that relations have deteriorated in the past few months.

**-Minutes:** Minutes from November meeting in Udorn Thani were read by ADJ Ed Medlin. A motion to accept the minutes as read by Comrade Ken Miller, and seconded by Comrade James Oden. QM Pat Webb asked that the words “4<sup>th</sup> quarter” be corrected to “3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Motion carried.

**-QM Report:** QM Patrick Webb read his report for 4th quarter FY2009. A motion was made to accept the report as read, subject to audit by Comrade Ken Miller, and seconded by Bob Owens. Motion carried.

**-Communications:** CDR Hudson read aloud a letter from VFW National Commander in Chief Tradewell congratulating us on our District V being the first DPA District to attain 100% membership and its high MemStats. Commander Hudson showed the streamer we were awarded. The streamer was passed to membership chairman SVC Michael Holmes.

**-Comrades or family members of comrades in distress:** Comrade Al Serrato told of one member who was bitten by a dog. He also told about Don Ratcliffe being in a hospital in LA suffering from complications with eye surgery.

**-Post Commanders gave their reports!**

**-Committee Reports:**

**-Membership:** SVC Michael Holmes gave updated membership stats for the district. One new member of Post 9951, Darryl Martinez, recently transferred into Thailand from Iraq, was introduced.

**-Community Services:** Junior Vice Cdr., Bob Owens gave his report and also passed on some good advice about reporting promptly and completely.

**-Service Officer's Report:** Comrade Mike Holmes gave his report and talked about his dealings with FMP, various hospitals, and the VA in the states. He stated he has had very good results in all 25 cases he has worked on thus far. He said that all required forms must be done properly and accurately to ensure such success in obtaining benefits promptly. He said that post service officers can feel free to ask him for advice or assistance.

**-Awards:** CDR Hudson presented SVC Michael Holmes with an All American Commander Award from National for his fine work as CDR of Post 12074. He reminded us all to recommend awards for deserving members of our posts. SVC Holmes reminded all to submit the correct forms with these recommendations. Forms are available on the DPA website.

**-Safety Report:** Safety Chairman Nichols gave his report. East of Bangkok in certain areas there has been an outbreak of rabies infections in dogs. He recommended that we all be more careful around soi dogs.

**-Buddy Poppies:** Judge Advocate Oden talked about the buddy poppy program, and told of how some members had made a wreath out of these poppy's, which was presented at a ceremony with our commonwealth allies near Kanchanaburi.

**-Historian Report:** None

**-VOD/Patriots' Pen:** None

**-POW/MIA Recognition:** None

**-National Home:** Committee Chairman, Surgeon Al Evans was not available.

**-Cootie Activities:** Comrade James Oden gave a report and talked about last night's Cootie Scratch. He described what the Cooties are and what they do, and solicited new members. He told us about choosing a new winner for the motorcycle from the Cootie raffle, as the previous winner could never be located. Bob Owens is the new Seam Squirrel.

**-Reading of Bills:** No Bills were presented.

**-Old Business:** None

**-New Business:** CDR Hudson talked about upcoming visit by VFW National officers Eubank and Kent. There will be a Noon Luncheon on Saturday, 20 March 2010 at the Tara Hotel on Soi 26 Sukhumvit and National will pay the bill. He encouraged all District V members to attend. He needs a head count of approximately how many will attend, can email to Dist CDR and CDR of Post 9951 Bangkok by the end of next week.

Information for all QM's and CDR's:

The recent dues increase will result in \$20.50 being sent to National for each annual member and this becomes effective on 15 January 2010.

He offered congratulations to newly appointed D5 ADJ Ed Medlin.

QM Patrick Webb moved that we increase the District V donation to post hosting District Convention from \$50 to \$100. Seconded by JVC Robert Owens. Discussion. Motion carried. QM Webb then moved that the District official exchange rate be changed from 35 to 33 baht/dollar. Seconded by Comrade Sapp. Motion carried. Comrade Sapp asked that we talk to the National officers at the luncheon in Bangkok about the FMP. SVC Michael Holmes said he will do so.

**-Good of the Order:** CDR Hudson mentioned that he had passed out CD's to all Post Commanders containing the VFW Bylaws, Ritual and Manual of Procedures etc. and asked that the information be passed on to members of our posts. QM Webb pointed out that Post dues to Department must be paid up in May in order to be eligible to vote. Judge Advocate Oden reminded us all to take a delegate letter naming primary and alternates to the convention. CDR Hudson offered big thanks to Andy, who runs Sharkey's Bar where we're meeting today. Congratulations to Phnom Penh Post 11575 Commander Jay Steed and his team for a really good job. Comrade Al Serrato showed us a copy of Survival Assistance Guide. This book is a very helpful guide for service officers in Asia. It will be available soon online at the District V website.

**-Nominations for District officers opened:** Commander Hudson announced that he would not be running for another re-election, as he wanted to give some of the other talented and enthusiastic Comrades an opportunity to serve in this position.

**Commander:**

Comrade Willy Sapp nominated Comrade Michael Glatz, he accepted  
Comrade Len Nichols nominated Comrade Robert Owens, he accepted  
Comrade Ken Miller nominated Comrade Al Serrato, he accepted

**Senior Vice Commander:**

Comrade Michael Glatz nominated Comrade Robert Owens, he accepted

**Junior Vice Commander:**

Comrade Michael Glatz nominated Comrade Al Serrato, he accepted

**Quartermaster:**

Comrade Ken Miller nominated Comrade Pat Webb, he accepted

**Judge Advocate:**

Comrade Robert Owens nominated Comrade James Oden, he accepted

**Chaplain:**

Comrade Robert Owens nominated Comrade Ken Miller, he accepted

**Surgeon:**

Comrade Pat Webb Nominated Comrade Byron Petrides. Advised by Judge Advocate that if the member is not present and no letter of acceptance is on file, the member can not be nominated. No nomination at this time.

**Trustee 3 year:**

Comrade James Oden nominated Comrade Burt Nestle, and presented his letter of acceptance.

Nominations will remain open until the next meeting, when elections will be held.

Meeting was promptly closed IAW the VFW ritual at 1135 hours by Commander Hudson. The next meeting of District V will be at 0930 hrs on May 25, 2010 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

**25 May 2010 District V Meeting hosted by Post 12074 a Lanna Palace 2004 Hotel in Chiang Mai, Thailand**



District V Meeting was promptly called to order by Commander William “Bear” Hudson at 0930 hours. All officers were present and there were 32 members present. CDR Hudson introduced all the newly elected Post Commanders.

**Post Commanders attending:**

1. 9876 Pattaya: Post Commander, Al Serrato, Present with report
2. 9951 Bangkok: Post Commander James Oden, Present with report
3. 10217 Korat: Post Commander Byron Petrides, Present with report
4. 10249 Udorn Thani: Post Delegate Ken Falk, Present with report
5. 11575 Phnom Penh: Post Commander, Jay Steed, Present with report
6. 12074 Chiang Mai: Post Commander Michael Holmes, Present with report

**-Minutes:** Minutes from February meeting in Phnom Penh were read by ADJ Ed Medlin. A motion to accept the minutes as read by Comrade Ken Miller, and seconded by Comrade Bob Owens. Motion carried.

**-QM Report:** QM Patrick Webb read his report for the 1st quarter of FY 2010. A motion was made to accept the report as read by Comrade Ken Miller, and seconded by Willy Sapp. Motion carried.

**-Communications:** CDR Hudson spoke briefly about a letter from Post CDR Humfleet of Post 727 in Tai Chung, Taiwan thanking us for all the donations our posts have made to their VOD/Patriots Pen program.

**-All Post commanders presented their quarterly reports.**

**-Comrades or family members of comrades in distress:** Comrade David Miller of Post 10217 Korat is in Korat Army Hospital and in need of blood donations. Donations can be made at any local Red Cross office in Thailand on his behalf. Age and blood type not important, however those on certain medications and those drinking alcohol within the previous 24 hours would be unacceptable donors.

**-Committee Reports:**

**-Membership:** SVC Michael Holmes gave updated membership stats for District. He also explained about how they are computed. There was discussion about dues for annual members. For example, a new annual member paying dues after July 1, 2010 would be paid up through the end of 2011.

**-Community Services:** Junior Vice Cdr. Bob Owens gave his report on totals of Community Service. He offered special acknowledgement to Post 12074 for their outstanding work in community service.

**-Service Officer’s Report:** Comrade Mike Holmes gave his report. He recommended that if any of our post web sites are to have info about the Survival Assistance Guide, it should be a link to the District V web site, as the Guide is updated

from time to time. He spoke about FMP and the progress being made with various hospitals in Thailand. He told us about efforts to get federal legislation passed to improve medical benefits for disabled vets living outside the USA.

**-Awards:** CDR Hudson presented SVC Michael Holmes and all members of the post present with an All American Post Award Plaque for Post 12074.

**-Safety Report:** Safety Chairman Nichols gave his report. He spoke about increased hazard of rabies in the area east of Bangkok with Soi dogs and bats being carriers.

**-Buddy Poppies:** Judge Advocate Oden talked about the buddy poppy program, and told of how the money from sales of poppy's go to the National veterans relief fund. At the post level, we receive donations for the poppy's we distribute, and these funds go into the Post relief fund. He noted that posts can purchase poppy's from the Post relief fund.

**-Historian Report:** None

**-VOD/Patriots Pen:** None

**-POW/MIA Recognition:** None

**-National Home:** Comrade James Oden talked about donations to the National Home, and encouraged all posts to donate.

**-Youth Activities:** None

**-Surgeon:** Chiang Mai post surgeon is doing a great job and can email info to any and all who wish to receive such info.

**-Cootie activities:** Comrade James Oden talked about last night's scratch, the presenting of prizes to winners of the Cootie raffle, and apologized for it taking so long to get the prizes delivered. He explained what Cooties are and encouraged all to join.

**-Reading of Bills:** QM Webb spoke about some bill pending and another one which has been taken care of. No bills presented for payment.

**-Old Business:** None

**- New Business:** CDR Hudson said it looks like we will be able to have the Department Convention in Bangkok next month, although with all the civil unrest there may be some changes. Comrade Oden told about how some DOD contractors and others may be prohibited from travel to Thailand due to their contracts and security clearances. He passed greetings to us from CDR DPA James Malott. He talked about Post name changes and the proper procedures for same. Pattaya is in the process of changing their name, and apparently Korat did so about 20 years ago and neglected to go through the proper procedures. Post 10217 is still listed as "Korat Air Force Base", rather than "Karl W. Richter Memorial" Post. In the reporting of Community Service we need to be more proactive. All Post Commanders need to talk with their JVC's about this. CDR Hudson talked about the lunch we had in Bangkok with National Officers in March. Comrade Sapp spoke about

the dues increase which we never approved, and CDR Hudson said it is being addressed.

**-Good of the Order:** CDR Hudson complimented us all on the good turnout and great venue as well. Post 9951 Service Officer Wayne Harrison told us that veterans and widows in his area will need to contact the VFW Service officer, as the RAO JUSMAGTHAI will only assist Retired military veterans. CDR of Post 10249 Ken Falk asked that any requests for reports etc. needed from his post please be directed to him, as in "Follow the Chain of Command."

### **Nominations opened for District Officers.**

**CDR:** Michael Glatz, Al Serrato

**SVC:** Bob Owens, additionally Mike Holmes was nominated and accepted.

**JVC:** Al Serrato withdrew his acceptance & nominated Erick Larsen who accepted.

**QM:** Pat Webb

**JAG:** James Oden

**Chaplain:** Ken Miller

**Surgeon:** Byron Petrides, accepted

**Trustee 3 year:** Richard Haugh, declined. Jim Gilmore, accepted.

Broke for lunch at 1153 hrs, to return at 1300 hrs.

**Reconvened at 1300 hrs.** CDR Hudson reopened nominations, due to some earlier possible confusion about members accepting multiple nominations.

**Richard Haugh nominated for Trustee 3 year, accepted.**

**Bob Owens nominated for JVC, accepted.**

**-Elections:** Nominees were asked to leave the room during the voting. ADJ and QM verified that all posts dues and delegate letters were received. ADJ pointed out that the numbers of 99 total votes and 50 votes needed to win might be changed due to some Post and District Officers being unable to vote both their own vote as well as the delegate strength. **Election results as follows:**

**CDR:** Glatz/Serrato = **Al Serrato** win

**SVC:** Holmes/Owens = **Mike Holmes** win

**JVC:** Larsen/Owens = **Bob Owens** win

**Trustee 3 year:** Haugh/Gilmore = **Haugh** win

JAG Oden moved that the ADJ cast one vote to elect those nominees running unopposed. Seconded by Comrade Falk. Motion carried. ADJ Medlin cast one vote electing the remaining District Officers.

New District V Officers were installed IAW VFW Ritual and Bylaws by former District Commander Oden. He then installed Mike Holmes as CDR of Post 12074 and Jay Steed as CDR of Post 11575.

All present gave a big round of applause and a salute in appreciation of the fine work done by departing District Commander Bear Hudson.

The meeting was promptly closed IAW the VFW ritual at 1346 hours by Commander Hudson. The next meeting of District V will be at 0930 hrs on August 21, 2010 in Pattaya, Thailand.

### **2010 - 2011**

Commander: **Al Serrato, Post 9876**

Senior Vice Commander: **Robert Owens, Post 9951**

Junior Vice Commander: **Eric Larsen, Post 9876**

Quartermaster: Patrick Webb

Adjutant: Ed Medlin

Chaplain: Ken Miller

Surgeon: Al Evans

1 Year Trustee: Burt G. Nestle

2 Year Trustee: Donald Ratcliffe

3 Year Trustee: Richard Haugh

### **21 August 2010 District V Meeting hosted by Post 9876 at Hogs Breath Saloon in Pattaya, Thailand**

District V Meeting was promptly called to order by Senior Vice Commander Robert Owens at 1000 hours. All Officers were present except CDR Serrato (in the USA for medical reasons) and JAG Oden (in USA attending VFW National Convention) and . there were 22 members present and no guests.

#### **Post Commanders attending:**

9876 - CDR Larsen, present with report

9951 - Chaplain Owens, present without report

10217 - CDR Petrides, present with report

10249 - CDR Falk, present with report

11575 - CDR Steed, present with (electronic) report

12074 - SVC Glatz, present with oral report

**-Minutes:** Minutes from May meeting in Chiang Mai were read by ADJ Ed Medlin. A motion to accept with needed corrections was made by Chaplain Miller, seconded by Comrade Falk, motion carried.

**-QM Report:** QM Pat Webb read his report for the past quarter. A motion to accept subject to audit was made by Chaplain Ken Miller, second by Comrade Ken Falk, motion carried.

**-Communications:** None

**-Post Commanders/Representatives presented their Quarterly Reports**

**-Committee Reports:**

**-Service Officer Report:** None

**-Surgeon Report::** Surgeon Petrides described how having a safety meeting can make our VFW meetings valid for the CSR. He talked about gout and read a medical report on that subject, also stressed the importance of proper hydration. He agreed to send email copies of his monthly newsletter to the post commanders in the district.

**-Reading of Bills:** QM Webb paid 500 baht to Comrade Medlin for funeral wreath at Dave Miller's funeral.

**-Old Business:** None

**-New Business:** None

**-Good of the Order:** Presentation of Award from National Commander Tradewell for high membership statistics. Two award pins for Al Serrato and Mike Holmes from CDR DPA. National Recognition for Post 10217 for youth activities and National Recognition for Post 12074 for up link and unmet needs programs. Awards for Post Citizenship and Community Service activities to Post 12074. Cootie awards of merit for Mike Holmes and Al Evans. Post 9876 received national recognition awards for citizenship and community service. DPA certificates of appreciation to Eric Larsen, Jerry Karwacki and Donald Ratcliffe. DPA award for essay contest and certificate of appreciation to Edward Medlin. DPA certificates of appreciation to Morris Sapp, David Neutzler and Jonathan

Braze. Plaque award for outstanding member to Patrick Webb.

QM Webb talked about the importance of buying wreaths to honor the families of our comrades who pass away. He reminded us to go ahead and buy a wreath for District V and reimbursement will be made automatically.

The meeting was promptly closed IAW the VFW ritual at 1115 hours by Senior Vice Commander Owens. The next meeting of District V will be on November 20, 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand.

### **20 November 2010 District V Meeting hosted by Post 9951 at Imperial Tara Hotel, Soi 26 Sukhumvit, Bangkok, Thailand**

District V Meeting was promptly called to order by CDR Al Serrato at 0900 hours. All Officers were present except Judge Advocate Oden (at hospital all night with his sick son), Trustee Ratcliffe (having health problems), and Surgeon Petrides. There were 19 members present and one distinguished guest: Comrade Orville Humfleet, CDR District IV, CDR of Post 727 in Tai Chung, Taiwan and CDR MOC Grand Pacific.

**-Minutes:** Minutes from August special and regular meetings in Pattaya were read by the Adjutant. Moved to accept them as read by Comrade Ken Miller, seconded by Comrade Bob Owens, motion carried.

**-QM Report:** QM Pat Webb read his report for the past quarter. A motion to accept subject to audit was made by Comrade Ken Miller, seconded by Comrade Ken Falk, motion carried.

**-Reading of Bills:** None

**-Service Officer Report:** None

**-Comrades or Family of a Comrade in Distress:** Judge Advocate Oden called earlier to report that his 1 year old son was very ill and that he and his wife had been at the hospital all night. Trustee Don Ratcliffe is reported to be on his way to the US for medical treatment.

**-Committee Reports:** CDR Serrato talked about committees and their reports. Committee reports as follows:

**-Membership:** Comrade Owens gave his report and quoted MemStats.

**-POW/MIA:** Comrade Haugh gave his report and talked at length about JPAC and other POW/MIA issues. He passed out printed info concerning JPAC (Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command).

**-Buddy Poppies:** Comrade Pat Clark gave a report and talked about the Buddy Poppy program. He told us about some new ideas for distributing poppies with boxes similar to those used by the British Legion.

**-History:** Comrade Medlin, no report. CDR Serrato talked about what he has found about District history and his plans to further develop our history program.

**-National Home:** No report

**-Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen:** No report

**-Youth Activities:** Comrade Falk reports that there is more to come on this in the near future. Some ideas were discussed.

**-Awards:** CDR Serrato talked about various awards and the deadlines for submission. It was mentioned that in addition to being recommended for an award, the candidate must complete all the requirements for such an award.

**-Post Commanders/Representatives presented their Quarterly Reports**

9951 Bangkok: CDR Oden read his Post report

10217 Korat: Delegate Medlin read his Post report.

9876 Pattaya: CDR Larsen read his Post report.

10249 Udorn Thani: CDR Malvanos present, no report

12074 Chiang Mai: CDR Glatz read his Post report.

11575 Phnom Penh: Not present, ADJ Medlin read the report which CDR Steed emailed.

**-Old Business:** None

**-New Business:** QM Webb moved that we change the District official exchange rate from 33 to 30 baht to the dollar. Seconded by Comrade Falk, motion carried. Comrade Glatz spoke about a proposal to have a golf tournament at Chiang Mai and gauged members' interest. Local assistance and support would be provided by Post 12074. Comrade Pat Clark spoke about an idea for a golf tournament in the Pattaya area this coming March.

CDR Serrato talked about the District web site and payment for same. Moved to approve monthly payment of 500 baht for website by Comrade Ken Miller, seconded by Comrade Ken Falk, motion carried. Moved to approve payment of \$42 annual fee for website by Comrade Pat Webb, seconded by Comrade Bob Owens, motion carried.

**-Good of the Order:**

- A question was raised by a member about the email distribution list for District V. Advised to email ADJ D5 and ask to be included on the list.
- Comrade Haugh spoke briefly about selling lottery chances for a DPA hospitality fund raiser.
- QM Webb pointed out to all that in order to win an All-State award etc., all requirements must be met in addition to being recommended. He asked how we can keep track of all this stuff. Discussion followed.
- CDR Serrato passed out CD's with useful data for each post. We took a 5-minute recess. Resumed the meeting after the recess.
- CDR Serrato passed out Survivor Assistance Guidebooks for all posts.
- CDR Serrato talked about a District meeting he attended in the US recently and distributed a manual that serves as their District 2 Guidebook for each Post.
- CDR Serrato told about his visit to the VA, VFW service officer and DAV offices in Pittsburgh, PA during his trip to the US a few months ago. There was discussion.
- CDR Serrato discussed at length a "Fast Track" system he had developed with the VA and DAV for responding to Post service Officer inquires. CDR Serrato has managed to secure the special email address of the VA Supervisor and his more direct telephone line. Also, since CDR Serrato's visit to Pittsburgh, the DAV has now created a special email address to forward foreign claims to Pittsburgh - DAV. CDR Serrato said the communication lines developed in Pittsburgh will only be made available to Service Officers and their Commanders.
- CDR Serrato told about the CSR training session yesterday and CSR reporting.
- Comrade Jerry Thompson of Post 9951 told us about a Christmas party and dinner the post will have here in Bangkok on December 18<sup>th</sup>. More info is available on their website.



- Comrade Mike Glatz talked about an award of some kind for Mike Holmes. He moved that we buy him a plaque to cost not more than 2000 baht, seconded by Comrade Haugh, motion carried. Pat Webb is to get the plaque and deliver it.

Our distinguished guest from Post 727 in Taiwan, Orville Humfleet addressed the meeting. He talked about his dealings with VA and his claim. He talked about having Post bylaws or using the National bylaws. He complimented us all on being a good VFW unit. He discussed submission of reports for Post, District and Cooties. He is traveling doing Cootie business and offered to make a personal donation to any of our programs. Comrade Humfleet talked about VOD and Patriots Pen and thanked us for our many donations to his post.

Comrade Ken Miller spoke about the Cootie scratch last night, and other Cooties spoke as well.

50-50 drawing – big winner Comrade Mike Taylor, who donated his 1900-baht winnings back to the District.

The meeting was adjourned at 1140 hours by CDR Serrato. The next meeting of District V will be on 19 February, 2011 in Korat, Thailand.

### **19 February 2011 District V Meeting hosted by Post 10217 at Rachaphruk Grand Hotel, 311 Mittraphap Road, Korat, Thailand**

District V Meeting was called to order by CDR Al Serrato at 0905 hours.

All District officers present and all Posts present with reports except Post 11575 Phnom Penh. There were 21 members present and one distinguished guest DPA CDR James Oden.

**-Minutes:** Minutes from November meeting were read by the ADJ. A motion to accept with a correction or amendment suggested by Comrade Haugh was made by Comrade Owens, seconded by Comrade Haugh, motion carried. ADJ agreed to amend the minutes promptly.

**-QM Report:** QM report for the last quarter was read by QM Pat Webb. There was a question about the 1900 Baht from the 50-50 drawing, which was clarified. Moved to accept subject to audit by Comrade Miller, seconded by Comrade Oden, motion carried.

**-Reading of Bills:** None

**-Comrades or family of a comrade in distress:** Comrade Ratcliffe told about one aging veteran who is on dialysis and perhaps on his last legs.

**-Service Officer Report:** District SVO Serrato gave a report on assisting widows whose husbands were not VFW members – by referring them to Posts nearest to the widow’s house. He also talked about aid to widows he has been working on recently.

**-Post Commanders/Rep’s gave their reports:**

9876 Pattaya – CDR Eric Larsen read his report

9951 Bangkok – CDR Oden read his report

10217 Korat – CDR Petrides read his report

12074 Chiang Mai – CDR Glatz read his report

10249 Udorn Thani – CDR Alvanos read his report

11575 Phnom Penh – Not present - no report

**-Committee Reports:**

**-Membership:** SVC Owens gave his report and quoted MemStats.

Discussed membership issues, paying of needy members’ dues from relief fund, and having annual members be more active in the post. QM Webb explained about adopting active-duty service members and paying their dues. He also spoke about using QM tools on the VFW website, doing a district query, and offered to provide info to any members who need it. Discussion about follow up on new members and maintaining commo.

**-Community Service:** JVC Larsen gave a report, including details about money and statistics.

**-Awards:** CDR Serrato talked about All-State Cdr awards and explained the requirements. He also discussed All American Post awards and buddy poppy purchases.

**-Buddy Poppies:** Comrade Pat Clark talked about an idea for distributing poppies with plastic bottles with a distinctive VFW logo affixed to the bottle.

**-Safety:** Surgeon Petrides gave his report and a brief talk about stroke symptoms. He talked about the exercise program he has initiated for 6 older gentlemen in his area. He offered to email information about the exercise regimen to anyone who is interested.

**-VOD/PP:** This committee/report to be dropped as being N/A to our organization.

**-POW/MIA:** Comrade Haugh talked about JPAC and DPMO and passed out printed matter explaining what these units are and what they do. He told us about recently recovered remains of MIA service men from WWII Pacific Theater and Korea.

**-History:** ADJ Medlin spoke about some Korat Post history which had recently been found and put on the Post web site. He pointed out that CDR Serrato has been

adding a lot more info to the District V web site showing past Commanders of the District as well as other items of historical interest.

**-Cooties:** Seam Squirrel Owens spoke about the Cootie scratch last night. Pup Tent 6 is looking for new Cooties to be recommended by their posts. He said, "We need new blood!" He told us of the new officers elected and installed and explained what some of the Cootie terms mean.

**-Remembered our National Home with a prayer at 1134 hours.**

**- Old Business:** None

**- New Business:** QM Pat Webb moved that we approve donation of \$25 to each of the following causes: Post 727 in Taiwan – VOD/PP; National Home for Children; and National Military Service. Seconded by Comrade Ken Miller, motion carried.

**-Nominations opened for District officers for the coming term:**

**CDR** - Ken Miller nominated Al Serrato, he accepted.

**SVC** - Pat Webb nominated Bob Owens, he accepted.

**JVC** – Pat Clark nominated Eric Larsen, he accepted.

**QM** – Ken Miller nominated Pat Webb, he accepted.

**Chaplain** – Eric Larsen nominated Ken Miller, he accepted.

**Judge ADV** – Pat Webb nominated James Oden, he declined.

Bob Owens nominated Burt Nestle, he accepted.

Pat Webb nominated Pat Clark, he accepted.

**Surgeon** – Ken Miller nominated Byron Petrides, he accepted.

**Trustee 3 year** – Eric Larsen nominated Pat Clark, he accepted.

Eric Larsen nominated Burt Nestle, he accepted.

Judge Advocate Oden reminded all Posts to have proper delegate letters filed with the District ADJ. He told about a change in the bylaws which now makes the "delegate strength" 1 vote per 30 members rather than the previous 1 vote per 15 members. The District credentials committee was explained. We discussed voting, delegate strength, and some points were clarified by Comrades Oden and Nestle. It was stated that a Post CDR can vote his own single vote and also, if acting as delegate, can vote the Post's delegate strength.

**-Good of the Order:**

- CDR 12074 Glatz talked about a resolution concerning disabled veterans' medical coverage and FMP benefits outside CONUS. He read the resolution and moved that we approve passing this on to DPA. Seconded by

Comrade Bear Hudson. Discussion followed, and the motion carried with the normal hand vote.

- Comrade Haugh moved that we purchase a POW seat cover for not more than \$25, seconded by Comrade Owens, motion carried.

Comrade Glatz spoke about Mike Holmes working with a widow and securing for her about \$20 K in benefits.

- Comrade Oden spoke to us as Department Commander, giving a short speech about several VFW topics. He acknowledged us all for our volunteer work that we do. He discussed his upcoming trip to Washington DC. He spoke about the Pittsburgh VA office and recent staffing cuts there, also told us about how our needs would be met and not remain secondary to the PA vets. He talked about Service officer training and being accredited. He also told us about the Department fund raiser calendar which is for sale here today.
- CDR Serrato talked about a morning Service Officer training session he has arranged with the DPA SVO. It will be held one day prior to the DPA convention in Bangkok in June. In the afternoon, Vets will meet with the Dept SVO regarding any specific questions they may have regarding their claims. 30-minute sessions are being arranged. More information to follow.
- Comrade Glatz offered to share information with anyone about setting up the FMP direct billing with local hospitals.
- Comrade Webb talked about Cobra Gold, the adopt a unit program, and the BBQ they had recently for US military personnel in Chiang Mai. He described the \$2500 annual grant from MAP to help fund this event. It is possible that in the future funds would be available to Posts in other locations for similar projects.
- Comrade Pat Clark spoke about the upcoming birthday party for Post 9876 and a golf tournament he is organizing. Email him for more info. Comrade Miller invited all to attend the party at the Hogs Breath Saloon.

- CDR Serrato said he has been holding training sessions every Wednesday and going through the Survival Assistance Guide. A flow chart has been developed to help in figuring out benefits. When it is completed, it will be sent to Post Commanders and Service Officers.

50-50 drawing, big winner Comrade Mike Glatz. Profit to Post 10217 1400 Baht. Profit to District V = 400 Baht.

The meeting was adjourned at 1240 by CDR Serrato. The next meeting of District V will be on 21 May 2011 at Udorn Thani.

### **21 May 2011 District V Meeting hosted by Post 10249 at Charoen Hotel, 549 Posri Rd. Udorn Thani, Thailand**

District V meeting was called to order by CDR Serrato at 0935 hours IAW VFW ritual. The CDR led us in reciting Section 230102 of the Congressional Charter. Prior to the opening of the meeting acting QM Larsen collected District dues from the Posts plus the \$25 donation to help fund the early visit by DPA SVO prior to the June convention. We also discussed delegate voting and letters and how the election would be done. All District officers were present except QM Pat Webb, excused – medical leave and CDR Mike Glatz - absent. At this point CDR Serrato, speaking as SVO, gave a brief SVO report.

**-Minutes:** ADJ Medlin read the minutes from last District V meeting. Motion to accept as read by SVC Owens, second by Comrade Hudson, motion carried.

**-QM Report:** Acting QM Larsen read details of quarterly audit and stated there were errors in the report. He will communicate with Comrade Webb and provide a corrected report. Motion to accept subject to correction and audit by Chaplain Miller, second by Comrade Hudson, motion carried. There was then discussion about the money bequeathed to the District by our late CDR BK Hubbard. It was stated by Judge Advocate Oden that perhaps we have too much money in the District bank accounts.

**-Reading of Bills:** None There was discussion about recent bills and payments not shown on the QM Audit.

**-Post Commanders Reports:** Key points

Post 9876 – CDR Larsen: 30-year anniversary of the Post, 130% membership achieved.

Post 9951 – CDR Oden: River Kwai Memorial ceremony, 27 May upcoming Memorial Day observance, 100.74% membership achieved. He reminded us all that

we need to register for the DPA convention even if not staying at the Windsor Suites.

Post 11575 – CDR Steed: Hosted National SVC Richard De Noyer and Adjutant General Gunner Kent during their visit to Cambodia, 109.18% membership achieved.

Post 10249 – CDR Alvanos: Details of problems within the post as concerns election of officers, 95.42% membership achieved.

Post 10217 – CDR Petrides: Reported several members in distress with health problems, 95% membership achieved.

Post 12074 – CDR Glatz: Not present. Report was sent to ADJ D5 electronically, and ADJ Medlin did not read it to the members present. Some important points of the missed report are added belatedly here as follows. Michael Holmes, founder of the Chiang Mai Post is moving to the USA. In recognition of his outstanding efforts, he has been presented with a Certificate of appreciation by Consulate General Susan Stevenson, a plaque by District V Commander Al Serrato, and a plaque by 3<sup>rd</sup> Thai Army Commander. The Thai Army Commander even created a special Michael Holmes Day in tribute to Mike's service. VFW volunteers will soon be working at the Consulate mail room assisting Consulate staff. The Post was represented at the local ANZAC Day memorial ceremony. 130.86% membership achieved – leading the Dept of the Pacific.

**-Service Officer Report:** Comrade Serrato, speaking as District SVO, gave his report. He has arranged with the American Legion in Pittsburgh to process widow benefit updates. Though widows have completed their annual Eligibility Verification Report in compliance with VA procedures, many widows have had their benefits stopped. There was some Q & A and general discussion about SVO related issues.

**-Comrades or family of a comrade in distress:** None

**-Committee Reports:**

**-Membership:** SVC Owens gave his report including MemStats wherein District V was leading the Department of the Pacific and 4 out of 6 Posts had achieved 100% membership.

**-Community Service:** JVC Larsen gave an abbreviated report, due to the DPA website and CSR reporting being down at this time of year.

**-Awards:** No report as awards have already been done.

**-Buddy Poppy:** Chairman Pat Clark gave a brief report and presented some ideas on better ways to distribute poppies during the coming year.

**-Safety:** Surgeon Petrides requested emails from all members about new ideas for safety topics. He gave a talk about protection from the harmful effects of sun rays and will email the safety report to all commanders.

**-POW/MIA:** Chairman Haugh gave his report. He talked about JPAC and DPMO, told of the numbers of MIA from various wars and how progress is being made in recovering and identifying remains. He described in detail several recovery projects recently completed.

**-History:** Chairman Medlin – No report

CDR Serrato spoke some about District history on the web site and seeks photos of former District V CDRs, including Charlie Zuill – Korat, Delbert Marohl and Ed Hughes – Udorn, and Dick Vileo.

**-Cooties:** Seam Squirrel Owens gave a report on last night's scratch

**-Old Business:** A question was raised about the POW chair cover which we were to have purchased. Comrade Haugh stated that it was in Bangkok and would be brought to the next meeting.

**-New Business:**

Judge Advocate Oden stated our District bylaws were in contradiction with National and Department bylaws and therefore invalid. He moved that we cancel the old District V bylaws and operate under National bylaws. Seconded by Comrade Larsen, motion carried.

CDR Serrato asked for approval of buying a full-page color ad for \$200 in the DPA convention book. SVC Owens moved to approve same, second by Comrade Ken Falk, motion carried.

CDR Serrato asked for approval of a memorial ad in the DPA convention book for BK Hubbard, to cost \$100. Moved to approve same by Chaplain Ken Miller, second by Comrade Burt Nestle, motion carried.

CDR Serrato talked about SVO DPA coming to Bangkok a day early to meet with us and discuss issues with us. It now appears that the cost will be much more than previously expected, possibly about \$600 for the room and projector, depending on how many attendees there are. It was discussed with DPA CDR Oden about how

we could possibly save some money by using a room which DPA had already rented. Moved by CDR Serrato to approve payment not to exceed 22,000 baht to rent room and projector, second by Comrade Ken Miller, motion carried. Comrade Oden sternly reminded all Post CDRs to get their people to attend this event, as it is quite important and costly as well.

**-Election:** Nominations continued from previous meeting:

**CDR** – Al Serrato

**SVC** – Robert Owens

**JVC** – Eric Larsen, Eric Larsen nominated Pat Clark, he accepted

**QM** – Ken Miller nominated Eric Larsen, he accepted and withdrew his previous acceptance as JVC nominee

**Chaplain** – Ken Miller

**Judge Advocate** – Burt Nestle, Pat Clark withdrew his previous acceptance as JAG nominee

**Surgeon** – Byron Petrides

**Trustee 3 Year** – Pat Clark and Burt Nestle withdrew their previous acceptance as nominees for T-3. Bear Hudson nominated Mike Alvanos, he accepted.

As directed by CDR, with all positions being unopposed in the election, the ADJ cast one unanimous vote to elect them all. We proceeded to the installation ceremony, with DPA CDR Oden properly installing the officers. Afterward we discussed bylaws concerning installations, appointments, etc.

**-Good of the Order:**

CDR Serrato congratulated Comrades Glatz, Sapp and Miller on their All-State awards received. He talked about shortcomings in the verification procedures in this program and how they would be improved upon.

**CDR Serrato talked about the BK Hubbard estate and the bequest to our District. We are to receive about \$19, 872. We discussed how this money can be safeguarded and properly disbursed. We will form a committee to oversee this. The District will need to vote on how these funds can be used. We also discussed the legality of how this money could be spent.**

CDR Serrato described an unauthorized website using the District name. The links on a previous D5 website led to spurious pages purporting to contain District V Service Officer related information. He stated the unauthorized site has been delet-



ed. CDR Serrato is working with the Webmaster to permanently protect the District website.

50-50 drawing, Jim Oden big winner. He donated his 900-baht winnings to Post 10249, and the other 900 baht went to acting QM Larsen for the District.

The meeting was adjourned at 1232 hours by CDR Serrato. The next meeting of District V will be on 20 August 2011 at Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

## 2011 - 2012

Commander: **Al Serrato, Post 9876**

Senior Vice Commander: **Robert Owens, Post 9951**

Junior Vice Commander: **John (Pat) Clark, Post 9876**

Quartermaster: **Eric Larsen, Post 9876**

Chaplain: Ken Miller

1 Year Trustee: Don Ratcliffe

2 Year Trustee: Richard Haugh

3 Year Trustee Burt Nestle

-DPA Cdr Barry Hirshbein appoints District Cdr Al Serrato and Jim Oden as Flood Co-Chairmen and agrees to apply to National VFW to matching funds raised

-Bear Hudson – Korat Post, elected DPA Junior Vice Commander

### **20 August 2011 District V Meeting hosted by Mayaguez Memorial Post 11575 at Sharkey's Bar, Street 130, Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

District V Meeting was called to order by CDR Al Serrato at 0930 hours.

All Officers were present except for SVC Bob Owens (on business in Chiang Mai), JVC J. Pat Clark (medical appointment), Surgeon Byron Petrides, Trustees Burt Nestle and Mike Alvanos. There were 13 members present and no guests.

**-Minutes:** As the previous District meeting minutes had been emailed to all and published on the web site, it was moved by Chaplain Ken Miller to accept them as published, seconded by CDR 10249 Ken Falk, motion carried.

**-QM Report:** QM Eric Larsen read his report for District V financial transactions since he assumed the position at our last meeting in Udorn Thani. He read a list of receipts and disbursements and stated that **we have received more than \$19,000 from the estate of former CDR D5 BK Hubbard**. A question was raised by Comrade Oden about the MAPS fund reimbursement from DPA. QM will check with DPA QM about additional money due to District V, and/or possibly the check

went directly to Post 12074 Chiang Mai. Motion to approve QM report subject to audit by Chaplain Miller, seconded by Comrade Falk, motion carried.

**-Reading of Bills:** Trustee Haugh presented a bill for 420 baht for POW chair cover. CDR Serrato requested reimbursement of \$150 which he gave DPA SVO Pete Scalzo during June in Bangkok. It was noted that these items were both approved at a previous District V meeting.

**-Post Commanders Reports:** Key points

9876 Pattaya: CDR Larsen read his report including CSR, Post activities, hosting of AVWC, Buddy Poppy program, the passing away of two life members, and Post MemStats.

9951 Bangkok: JVC Richard Haugh read his report, including the passing away of Life Member Frederick Waid, Post MemStats, Buddy Poppy donations received, CSR, and Post activities on Memorial Day and Independence Day.

10217 Korat: QM Ed Medlin read the Post report, with apologies from CDR Petrides for being unable to attend. Details included Post recruiting efforts and MemStats, aid to local members in ill health and hardship, Post activities such as 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and hosting of visiting VIP's, a special meeting on August 2, and CSR with special commendation of our JVC.

11575 Phnom Penh: SVC John Muller read the Post report, with apologies from CDR Steed, who is in the US helping his family relocate. He told of Post activities during the past quarter here in Cambodia. QM Larsen gave him \$100 as District contribution to help pay for this meeting.

10249 Udorn Thani: CDR Ken Falk read his report, including Post activities on Memorial Day and 4<sup>th</sup> of July, CSR and details of charity work in their area, and Post MemStats.

12074 Chiang Mai: ADJ Medlin read the report emailed by CDR Glatz. Details included Post MemStats, Post recruiting efforts, CSR figures, large work load and list of accomplishments by the Post SVO and his assistants, to include work as mail room volunteers at US Consulate, Drug and Alcohol rehab success by local vets, and the possibility of the Post having a new meeting place, free of charge.

**-Service Officer Report:**

CDR Serrato, speaking as District SVO, spoke of veterans and dependents he is helping in many locations. He talked about our status without a certified SVO and

his contact with Mr. Bradshaw to improve our situation and have representation at VA Pittsburgh, and work with DPA SVO Pete Scalzo to get these positions funded. Comrade James Oden told of his having been appointed assistant DPA SVO and will travel to the US for training in September to become an accredited VFW SVO. He will also attend the National Convention in San Antonio and told us of some important proposals to be voted on there. There was some Q & A about how paperwork is done at different levels in the VFW and VA with lengthy discussion on this subject. SVO Serrato talked about using the help of the DAV, computer security issues with thumb drives and CDs to be distributed from DPA SVO Pete Scalzo. Cdr Serrato spoke of a SVO “tool kit” and ideas about training and a plan to conduct a “webinar” with Service Officers within the Department. This is to be a sort of online conference call. He discussed the Aid and Assistance benefit available to qualified disabled persons and their care givers. There was a suggestion by former D5 CDR Bear Hudson that the District fund travel and training for service officers, as it will be repaid many times in benefits received for our members.

**-Comrades or families of Comrades in Distress:** Comrade Hudson gave an update about Pat Webb and his condition, saying that Pat was doing somewhat better. CDR Serrato told about his recent conversation with Mrs. Webb, and mentioned about a retired Veteran in Pattaya who is in bad shape with Parkinson’s disease and how the US Embassy will help him get back to the states for care.

**-Committee Reports:**

**-Membership:** SVC not present, no report

**-Community Service:** QM Larsen gave the CSR, quoting all details of man hours, money, miles etc. contributed in service to our community.

**-Awards:** CDR Serrato talked about the importance of meeting all requirements for award recommendations and submissions with having proof of required contributions.

**-Buddy Poppies:** Chairman not present, no report.

**-Safety:** Surgeon not present, no report.

**-POW/MIA:** Chairman Haugh presented his usual highly detailed and complete report, quoting figures about recovered and identified remains of MIA service personnel from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

**-History:** Chairman Serrato spoke about his search for photos of past commanders of the District of which he has now found many pictures and still needs a few more. He asked about possibly searching old Department Convention books for usable pictures.

**-Cooties:** Chaplain Ken Miller reported about the informal Cootie Scratch held here last night, which lacked enough members to be a formal scratch.

**-National Home:** We remembered our National Home with a prayer at 1110 hrs. Comrade Oden reminded us that this is not done at District meetings.

**-Old Business:** CDR 10249 Ken Falk asked about a Department money raffle. There were questions about this raffle and some explanations were offered. CDR Serrato said he will take care of it.

**-New Business:**

Comrade Ken Miller moved that we skip having the next District V meeting in Chiang Mai. There was no second and the motion died.

CDR Serrato told how SVO DPA Pete Scalzo gave him some thumb drives and CDs at Department June Convention in Bangkok and he lost them. He said he sent \$50 to Pete Scalzo in payment for the lost items and requested reimbursement. He thereafter withdrew his request and asked about how to distribute these items to the Posts. Motion by Chaplain Miller to reimburse CDR Serrato \$50, seconded by Trustee Haugh, motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Haugh to buy a new small VFW flag, base, and gavel stand, seconded by QM Larsen, motion carried. Comrade Oden volunteered to pick up these items at the National convention in San Antonio and asked to be reminded.

CDR Serrato said he paid Pete Scalzo out of pocket for his early visit to do SVO training in Bangkok prior to DPA Convention \$125 and requests reimbursement. Moved to approve payment by QM Larsen, seconded by Comrade Hudson, motion carried.

CDR Serrato described how DPA QM refused to reimburse him for hotel expense during DPA Convention, 5 nights X \$50 = \$250. There was discussion about who gets reimbursed for what. Moved by QM Larsen to reimburse CDR Serrato \$100 for expenses incurred in setting up SVO training in Bangkok, seconded by Comrade Hudson, motion carried.

CDR Serrato talked about webinar to cost about \$36 for 4 times. Moved to approve payment for webinar by Chaplain Miller, seconded by Comrade Falk, motion carried.

CDR Serrato talked about our website being hijacked again and how he paid to have it fixed and also have web searches directed to our correct site.

**-Good of the Order:**

CDR 10249 Ken Falk asked about the QM bond document, as he has not yet received it. He was advised to be patient and wait; it will come in due time. Comrade Oden talked about proposed amendments to National Bylaws to change effective date officers assume their duties and explained the reasoning behind this. He told about how the PAC is to be disbanded by a floor vote, and there was some discussion about political matters. He told how the VFW seeks to have no cuts in federal entitlements and benefits to veterans, and there was discussion about this and other VFW National and US legislative issues, and about who speaks for our cause as veterans.

CDR Serrato talked about the bequest to District V from the estate of BK Hubbard. He passed out a report he had prepared which showed some consensus of opinions and ideas submitted by various members about how we might effectively use and safeguard this money. There was a list of possible budget items for the District, many of which are normal expenses each year. Comrade Hudson described how the Cooties are handling their money which they received from Hub. There was general discussion, and several ideas were presented on this matter with no firm decisions made at that time.

50-50 drawing: Big winner = Ken Falk.

The meeting was closed IAW the VFW ritual at 1215 hours by Commander Serrato. The next meeting of District V will be on 19 November 2011 at Chiang Mai, Thailand.

**19 November 2011 District V Meeting hosted by Post 12074 at Lanna Palace Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand**

District V Meeting was called to order by Senior Vice Commander Robert Owens at 0900 hours. SVC Owens said that as there may have been some confusion about the time of this meeting, a recess would be called, and we would reconvene at 0930. All Officers were present except for CDR Al Serrato, Trustee Don Ratcliffe, and Surgeon Byron Petrides. There were 18 members present and no guests.

**-Minutes:** ADJ Ed Medlin read the minutes from last District V meeting. Moved to accept as read by Comrade Ken Miller, seconded by Comrade Bear Hudson, motion carried.

**-QM Report:** QM Eric Larsen read his report, including details of receipts and disbursements and location of all funds. Moved to accept subject to audit by Comrade Ken Miller, seconded by Comrade Ken Falk, motion carried.

**-Reading of Bills:** SVC Owens presented a bill of a funeral wreath for Pat Webb. QM Larsen explained that such bills are pre-approved for payment. Comrade Burt Nestle reminded all to buy a wreath from District V and from the Cooties (if the deceased was a Cootie) and it will be reimbursed.

**-Committee Reports:**

**-Membership:** Chairman Owens reported our MemStats. We are still at less than 100% and he encouraged all Posts to work on their renewals and retention.

**-Community Service:** JVC Clark reported District V CSR totals, and explained category 1, 2, 3 and 4. He encouraged all Posts to endeavor to complete and submit reports in each category.

**-Awards:** No report. SVC Owens spoke about how his house had been flooded and the amount of gear he could transport out by boat was limited. He reminded us all to recommend worthy individuals for awards.

**-Buddy Poppy:** JVC Clark read totals of Buddy Poppy donations and discussed ways of distributing poppies. He reminded everyone that Post purchases of Buddy Poppies is a requirement for All State and All-American awards.

**-Safety:** No report.

**-Surgeon:** SVC Owens read aloud the report sent by Surgeon Petrides. There was discussion and comments by several members about reports submission. SVC Owens explained the importance of submitting required reports to Department, as it adds strength and credibility to the VFW, as it helps the lobbying efforts at the national legislative level.

**-POW-MIA:** Chairman Haugh distributed POW-MIA posters for each Post, also a printed copy of his report. He gave a brief synopsis of what the printed report had to say about MIA personnel from several conflicts in our history.

**-Cooties:** SVC Owens and former D5 CDR Bear Hudson talked about last night's scratch and introduced two new inductees into Pup Tent 6. They praised the hospitality of Post 12074 for the great social at Dukes, and as always, seek new members in the Cooties.

**-Post Commanders Reports:** SVC Owens discussed inspections – all have been done except for Posts 10217 and 11575. He said he will do 10217 and JVC Clark will do 11575.

9876 Pattaya: CDR Larsen read his report including MemStats, members ill and being visited and SVO is in US for a time getting medical care. He told about some

flooding in Pattaya, Veterans Day party and buffet they had there, participation with our comrades in arms the British on their Remembrance Day. He told about some plans for the coming holidays and about Buddy Poppies. CSR for Post was reported by JVC Clark. He told about a visit of aircraft carrier George Washington which members of Post 9876 were privileged to tour. One member of the post, Siamrad Maher, was singled out for commendation for the tremendous amount of community service he performs. Comrade Clark spoke about his recent visit to Korea and his participation in Korea – America Friendship Day with Post 10216. 9951 Bangkok: CDR Key read his report, including Post MemStats, Buddy Poppies, CSR totals, and Post activities both recent and near future planned. Comrade Haugh shared some recent news from BKK US Embassy and JUSMAGTHAI.

10217 Korat: Post QM Ed Medlin read their report, with apologies from CDR Petrides for being unable to attend. Details included MemStats and the recruiting efforts underway, the passing away of several Veterans in our area lately, the continuing hard work our SVO is accomplishing, the observance of Veterans Day in Korat, CSR totals, and the volunteer work one of our members has been doing with the RTAF Museum at Don Muang.

11575 Phnom Penh: No one present. CDR Steed emailed a quarterly report to ADJ Medlin, which somehow got misplaced. Some points of the report included MemStats and CSR totals, monthly meetings and safety briefings, and Post attendance at US Embassy 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. Several Post members are active in volunteer work in aid and support of the community, including donations of food to needy, Social Security, IRS and legal advice, and various social and medical assistance. \*Note: The Post 11575 report has been emailed to all District Officers and Post Commanders.

10249 Udorn Thani: CDR Ken Falk reported, including MemStats, CSR totals, and considerable detail about the big help they give to the local disabled people.

12074 Chiang Mai: CDR Glatz asked if anyone from the Pattaya Post could carry two sets of cremated ashes for burial at sea. After some discussion it was agreed that he would bring them to Pattaya himself when he attends the next District meeting. He also invited anyone to come to Chiang Mai for medical care and to take advantage of their FMP arrangements, which work very quickly and easily. Also, there is a drug and alcohol treatment program here which is covered by some Veterans insurance. There are 3 hospitals here which accept FMP. He gave his report, including MemStats, CSR, aid to post office for US consulate. The Post is working to expand medical insurance claims expediting. The Post has had 2 members pass

away lately and several members suffering ill health. He briefly discussed some personnel problems in the Post which are being dealt with.

**-Old Business:** QM Larsen asked for DPA raffle tickets and money. There was discussion about which posts received tickets, and apparently several Posts did not receive any. SVC Owens asked about the new flag and gavel stand we were to have bought, also about the SVO “webinar”. These items are all “TBD” (To Be Determined) later.

**-New Business:**

JVC Clark moved that District V donate \$400 for flood relief food supplies, to be administered by Thai Navy and monitored by Pat Clark himself. Seconded by Bear Hudson, motion carried. QM Larsen wrote him a check for \$400.

SVC Owens told about his home being flooded, and of several other comrades who have had their homes flooded and the hardships they have been enduring.

Comrade Nestle suggested that we increase the amount of money the District gives to the Post hosting the District meetings. **There was discussion about what amount, and about the use of the BK Hubbard bequest.** Moved by Comrade Bear Hudson to increase the amount given by District V to Host Post to \$250, seconded by Comrade Ken Miller, motion carried.

**-Good of the Order:**

SVC Owens told us that Comrade Pat Clark has applied for Bronze Legacy Membership, and we all gave him a round of applause. He explained what this type of membership represents.

Comrade Haugh asked that at future District meetings, the Post hosting the event let us know who is in hospital or ill at home, so we can visit them.

Comrade Nestle said that each Post should have a charity they can recommend for the Cooties to donate too.

Comrade Bear Hudson said that the flooding has displaced many of our members. He will go to the C of A midterm meeting in Angeles City next month and offered to help any Post or member with their business there. He also announced that he will run for DPA JVC.



Comrade Pat Clark talked about the AVWC and how strongly they support us, and how deserving they are of our support.

Comrade J. Sapp, QM 12074, asked if the \$100 check his Post received for hosting this meeting could be made for \$250. It was agreed to give an additional \$150 to the Post. Moved by Comrade Bear Hudson to do so, seconded by Comrade Ken Miller, motion carried. QM Larsen wrote the Post a check for \$150.

The meeting was closed IAW the VFW ritual at 1148 hours by SVC Owens. The next meeting of District V will be on 18 February 2012 in Pattaya.

### **18 February 2012 District V Meeting hosted by Post 9876 at Hog's Breath Saloon, Pattaya, Thailand**

District V Meeting was called to order by Commander Al Serrato at 1008 hours. Distinguished members present were introduced and acknowledged.

All Officers were present except for Trustee Richard Haugh. There were 24 members present and no guests.

**-Minutes:** Minutes of previous District V meeting were read aloud by the ADJ. Moved to accept as read by Chaplain Miller, seconded by SVC Owens, motion carried. There was clarification about Cootie's preauthorized purchase of funeral wreaths for deceased Cooties only.

**-Quartermaster Report:** QM Eric Larsen read his report, including details of receipts and disbursements, location and totals of all funds. Moved to accept subject to audit by Chaplain Ken Miller, seconded by Comrade Burt Nestle, motion carried.

### **-Reading of Bills:**

CDR Serrato talked about some bills for District webmaster and asked for approval. Moved by Comrade Burt Nestle to approve payment of a total of 11930 baht for website expenses, seconded by Chaplain Miller, motion carried.

CDR 10249 Falk presented a bill for one funeral wreath and said he would have another one very soon. He was advised that such bills are preapproved for payment.

**-Service Officer Report:** CDR Serrato, speaking as SVO, had a training session yesterday evening here and he explained details about that. Recently, a webinar Skype chat was held which worked out very well. He discussed aid and attendance and how to fill out the forms. He told about the SVO training he has been doing and how it may be helpful to all SVOs. He told about a new policy at Social Security which may deny benefits to recipients who have not lived in the US for the previous 6 months. He said he plans to write to the director of SS for Pacific Areas to correct this error, which is contrary to the published rules.

**-Comrades or Family of a Comrade in Distress:**

It was reported that Comrade Tom Smith of Udorn fell and broke his hip. Post 9876 reports several members injured or ill.

**-Committee Reports:**

**-Membership:** SVC Owens reported, reading memstats for the District.

**-Community Service:** JVC Clark reported the CS totals, and corrected the Buddy Poppy totals from an earlier report. He said we all are reporting more community service and our totals are up.

**-Awards:** CDR Serrato said that a report was not prepared, and he suggested we recommend worthy individuals to Department for awards. He advised that we see more on this subject at the DPA website and offered for anyone to view samples of award recommendations which he had here. He talked about Buddy Poppies and the success of the distribution program at various American bars in this area.

**-Safety:** Surgeon Petrides reported. February is American Heart Month. He gave a synopsis of his written report, which has been emailed to all. CDR Steed of Post 11575 stated that he extensively uses the safety and health information which the District Surgeon sends out for the benefit of his Post members. CDR Serrato told of his recent weight loss program success. He also told of some dangers of visiting massage parlors.

**-VOD/PP:** CDR Serrato stated that he has sent a letter to DPA requesting a waiver of our participation in these programs. He also talked about getting and or submitting proof from DPA of our donations as requirements for All American and All State awards. He said that National can provide certain waivers, if requested.

**-POW/MIA:** Chairman Haugh not present, no report.

**-History:** CDR Serrato talked about District history on the website, and said he is seeking pictures of former District Commanders: Robert Jones – Post 9951 – 1986, and James Carey – Post 10217 – 1981.

## **-Post Commanders Reports: Key points**

9876 Pattaya: CDR Larsen reported with MemStats, CSR totals, Post activities in past quarter, donations received and Buddy Poppy program success.

9951 Bangkok: CDR Key reported with MemStats, Buddy Poppy donations, CSR, and described Post activities.

11575 Phnom Penh: CDR Steed reported with MemStats, CSR, Post activities and meetings. He talked about their plans for events soon.

10249 Udorn Thani: CDR Falk talked about recent Post activities and philanthropic efforts, MemStats, and CSR.

10217 Korat: CDR Petrides reported with MemStats, CSR totals, describing recent Post activities including Children's Day and Thai Veterans Day. He spoke about the committee which has been locating and establishing commo with more of the members and the success so far. Other Post CDRs asked for more info about how they can do a similar project.

12074 Chiang Mai: Not present, no report. Note: An emailed report was received from CDR Glatz at about 1900 this date by the ADJ and will be sent to all District Officers and Post Commanders. Some points of that report included MemStats, Post recruiting efforts, CSR, Post relationship with the US consulate and the local medical community, and Service Officer work in their area.

## **-Old Business:**

CDR 11575 Steed talked about a life membership which was awarded to his Post about 3 years ago which has not yet been accomplished.

JVC Clark explained about the flood relief donation check from District V which he returned as the refugees had already departed.

## **-New Business:**

QM Larsen said funeral wreaths have gone up in price from 500 to 800 baht, possibly due to the floods wiping out the flower farms. He moved to preapprove payment for funeral wreaths not to exceed 1000 baht, seconded by Chaplain Miller, motion carried.

CDR Serrato brought up the subject of DPA convention book ads. Moved by JVC Clark to approve a \$200 color ad for District V and a \$100 ad for BK Hubbard. Seconded by Chaplain Miller, motion carried.

CDR Serrato talked about VFW Thai Flood Relief fund for VFW members and how he had been appointed countrywide chairman of the committee in December by Dept. Commander Barry Hirshbein. Donations thus far from District were as follows: Bangkok Post \$2,000; Pattaya Post \$1,000; Chiang Mai Post \$1,000, Korat Post \$1,000; Phnom Penh Post \$300; Pup Tent 6 \$1,000. Department has raised approximately \$8,000. If funds are matched by National, there will be about \$30,000 for distribution to District 5 VFW members who suffered from the flood. CDR Serrato explained how the money will be distributed. He further talked about work he and some other members have done in helping clean up flood damage at some VFW members' homes. Moved by Chaplain Miller to donate \$1000 District funds to the VFW Thai Flood Relief fund, seconded by CDR 10249 Falk, motion carried.

Comrade Lake talked about his flood experiences and how much he appreciated the help and support he received from his VFW comrades.

JVC Clark told of his idea for a project. This will involve the sponsoring of a hole at a golf tournament. Moved by JVC Clark to sponsor a hole at the Pattaya Sport Club Charity Golf Tournament for 10,000 baht, seconded by Comrade Hudson, discussion, motion carried.

**-Nominations opened for District Officers** and will remain open until the election at the next meeting.

CDR – Ken Miller nominate Al Serrato, he accepted  
SVC – Ed Medlin nominated Bob Owens, he accepted  
Ken Falk nominated Pat Clark, he accepted  
JVC – Ken Miller nominated Pat Clark, he accepted  
QM – Ken Miller nominated Eric Larsen, he accepted  
JAG – Ken Miller nominated Burt Nestle, he accepted  
Chaplain – Bob Owens nominated Ken Miller, he accepted  
Surgeon – Ken Miller nominated Byron Petrides, he accepted

There was some discussion about the fact that Trustee Haugh will soon be leaving for the states and would be unable to run for Trustee again, and what Trustees we needed to nominate and elect.

T-1 – Pat Clark nominated Ken Falk, he accepted  
T-3 – Eric Larsen nominated Don Ratcliffe, he accepted

**-Good of the Order:**

JVC Clark thanked CDR Serrato for his work with Flood Relief.

SVC Owens thanked CDR Serrato for his SVO work.

CDR Serrato said the new website for District V will be kept more current. The new site is [www.vfwdistrictfive.com](http://www.vfwdistrictfive.com).

CDR Serrato told about how he and Comrade Jim Oden traveled to Chiang Mai to investigate and iron out some problems the Post members were having there. He said that the trip was requested by Department, so they would bill them for travel expenses, etc.

CDR Serrato talked about a new member of Post 9876 who can maybe be extremely helpful in getting certain papers from the states due to his past work experience at the bureau of vital statistics in Wisconsin.

50-50 drawing, big winner: Jay Steed CDR 11575. Profit to District V = 1500 baht.

The meeting was closed IAW the VFW ritual at 1225 hours by CDR Serrato. The next meeting of District V will be on 19 May 19 2012 in Bangkok.

**19 May 2012 District V Meeting hosted by Post 9951 at Tai-Pan Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand**

District V Meeting was called to order by Commander Al Serrato at 0930 hours. Distinguished members present were introduced and acknowledged, to include William “Bear” Hudson, Burt Nestle, Don Ratcliffe, and Barry Hirshbein DPA CDR. CDR Serrato led us all in recitation of Article 1, Section 230102 of the Congressional Charter.

All District Officers were present except for JVC Clark and Trustee Alvanos

**-Minutes:** Minutes of last District meeting presented. Moved by Trustee Haugh to accept the minutes as published, seconded by Comrade Falk; motion carried.

**-QM Report:** QM Larsen gave a detailed report of receipts and disbursements, and location of all funds. Moved to accept his report by Comrade Falk, seconded by Chaplain Miller, motion carried.

**-Reading of Bills:** QM Larsen spoke about a receipt, which had been presented for 700 baht of a funeral wreath, and some discussion followed. It was pointed out that a motion had been passed at a previous meeting pre-authorizing such wreath purchases not to exceed 1000 baht.

**-Post Commanders Reports:** Key points

9876 Pattaya: CDR Larsen apologized for having forgotten his prepared report. ADJ will send a copy of said report to all D5 Officers and D5 Post CDRs.

9951 Bangkok: CDR Key gave his report, including Post MemStats, CSR totals, Buddy Poppy report, and Post activities.

10217 Korat: CDR Petrides gave his report, including Post MemStats, CSR totals, recent Post activities, a change of Post meeting place and time, and congratulations to several distinguished Post members.

10249 Udorn Thani: CDR Falk gave his report. Details included reporting the death of a long-time member John Pough, and the wife of another member had passed away due to an accident. He reported Post MemStats and CSR totals, and described several Community Service projects the members have worked on.

11575 Phnom Penh: CDR Steed gave his report, including details of Post MemStats and CSR totals. He described topics of safety meetings, post activities, their planning for a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, and Post volunteer activities.

12074 Chiang Mai: CDR Glatz gave his report, which told the Post MemStats and CSR totals, recent Post activities and their continuing work in their community.

**-Service Officer Report:** CDR Serrato, speaking as District Service Officer, talked about members and survivors he has aided with claims and about some problems via the Skype group chats with other service officers. He described how the VA had stopped some veteran checks due to a misunderstanding of the rules about EVR's. He will have posted on DPA web site, under FAQ's, information on how to resolve this type of problem. There was some discussion about VA forms and submission dates.

**-Comrade or family of a Comrade in distress:**

Chaplain Miller talked about Bob Horn having been in ill health at Bumrungrad Hospital and due to be discharged on Monday.

Comrade Bear Hudson told us that Bert Marohl in Udorn had a heart attack and is doing better now.

CDR Ken Falk of Post 10249 Udorn Thani reminded us all that homebound people often feel lonely and abandoned and we need to remember to go visit them.

**-Committee Reports:**

**-Membership:** Chairman SVC Owens read the District MemStats and gave a brief report.

**-Community Service:** JVC Clark not present; no report.

**-Buddy Poppy:** same as above for CSR.

**-Safety:** Surgeon Petrides spoke about “Tips for Good Health for Older Men”. He has sent a full copy of this report to all Post CDRs, who are asked to share the information with their members. Some of the main points he covered were get regular health checkups, go to the doctor if you feel sick more than a few days, don’t self medicate (you are probably not a doctor), health care is cheap here compared to prices in the states, get your shots, vaccines for things like pneumonia, hepatitis, diphtheria, tetanus, and shingles.

**-VOD/PP:** CDR Serrato said he is seeking a waiver for these things.

**-POW/MIA:** Comrade Haugh said this will be his last meeting here, as he will be moving to Manchester, NH. He thanked us all for his experiences here in District V and we gave him a big hand. He told about a recent change of command at JPAC, some recoveries in PDR Lao, quoted numbers of MIA’s from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and the Cold War. He said the missing from the Gulf War are all accounted for now. It was requested that an E copy of his report be sent to the ADJ.

**-History:** CDR Serrato, District Historian said he has photos of most past D5 CDRs and is still seeking more.

**-Cooties:** SVC Owens, speaking as Seam Squirrel of Pup Tent Six, talked about the lousy scratch last night. He said they are seeking new members and that Cootie Haugh would be sorely missed when he goes.

**-Old Business:**

Comrade Nestle asked about a fund to renovate the monument at Khanchanaburi and there was discussion. Comrade Haugh said he will be going to Kanchanaburi in July and can inspect the condition of the monument, take pictures, and recommend whatever maintenance may be needed.

Surgeon Petrides asked about the National Home prayer, and was told by CDR Serrato that it was not done at District level.

**-New Business:**

**-Nominations and Elections of Officers:** The following were nominated at the previous meeting on 18 Feb 2012 in Pattaya and there were no further nominations:

**CDR** – Al Serrato  
**SVC** – Pat Clark and Bob Owens  
**JVC** – Pat Clark  
**QM** – Eric Larsen  
**JAG** – Burt Nestle  
**Chaplain** – Ken Miller  
**Surgeon** – Byron Petrides  
**T3** – Don Ratcliffe  
**T1** – Ken Falk

There was some discussion and research of documents, and it was determined that Mike Alvanos was Currently T3 and would become T2, and Trustee Haugh was resigning due to his moving to the USA, therefore we are correct in electing a T1 and T3 at this time.

Voting: Bob Owens was asked to leave the room. There was election by a show of hands and Bob Owens won the position of SVC. As directed by the Commander, ADJ Medlin cast one unanimous vote electing all those running unopposed.

Installation of Officers: Barry Hirshbein, CDR DPA, installed all officers (except for JVC Clark and Trustee Alvanos) IAW VFW ritual and bylaws.

**-New Business:**



CDR Serrato moved to approve annually a \$100 grant to attendees of District V election, to include D5 officers, Post Commanders, and D5 ADJ, exclusive of members of the host post. Seconded by SVC Owens, motion carried.

CDR Serrato moved to approve reimbursement for expenses of 3519 baht incurred for trip to Udorn to attend John Pough's funeral. Seconded by Chaplain Miller, motion carried.

Moved by Chaplain Miller to approve \$100 toward payment of hospitality room at DPA convention next month. Seconded by Comrade Falk, motion carried.

Moved by Chaplain Miller to approve purchase of a gift to outgoing CDR DPA Hirshbein not to exceed \$100. Seconded by Comrade Hudson, motion carried.

Moved by Chaplain Miller to approve payment for D5 Social expenses of 2538 baht for food. Seconded by SVC Owens, motion carried.

Moved by Chaplain Miller to approve payment of miscellaneous expenses of D5 SVO for office supplies totaling 1041 baht. Seconded by Comrade Falk, motion carried.

There was discussion about \$250 that was paid to Post 9951 for this meeting expense and luncheon. The issue was resolved and explained to everyone's satisfaction. There was also discussion and questions raised about money paid to Post 12074 at November meeting in Chiang Mai. This also was explained and settled.

A resolution from Post 12074 Chiang Mai, concerning expanding FMP coverage, was read aloud by Comrade Sapp. Moved to approve passing this resolution to Department by Comrade Glatz, seconded by Comrade Falk, motion carried.

CDR Serrato told about receiving a phone call from the person 3<sup>rd</sup> in command at the US Embassy telling of an American veteran who was having possible mental problems and living homeless on the streets of Bangkok. The embassy person asked if the VFW could help this guy. Moved by Comrade Falk to make a one-time grant of 5000 baht to aid this man, named Marvin Flynn, said money to be processed and handled by the US Embassy. Seconded by Chaplain Miller, motion carried. There was some additional discussion about how the embassy can not and will not help just any US citizen who comes there seeking a handout.

CDR Serrato said that SVC in Chief Hamilton and Adjutant General Kent would be arriving in Bangkok tonight, and would be hosting a luncheon for us tomorrow at Giusto's Italian Restaurant across the street. Moved by Comrade Falk to buy 2 fruit baskets as gifts for them, cost not to exceed \$25, seconded by Chaplain Miller, motion carried.

CDR 11575 Jay Steed asked about all the spending of money motions we were making, and he was assured that they are not open ended and would be valid for this term only.

### **-Good of the Order:**

CDR Serrato read his report, which he will present at DPA convention next month. Much of this report had to do with the Thailand Flood Relief Fund. There was discussion at length about how the money would be disbursed fairly.

Luncheon tomorrow with National Officers with National to pay. D5 officers, Post CDRs and other VFW members are invited to attend. Time will be 12 noon.

Comrade Neutzler of Post 9951 asked about who has a voice at D5 meetings and who can attend the luncheon on Sunday. CDR Serrato answered his questions.

There was discussion about whether family members would be invited to the luncheon Sunday. CDR DPA Hirshbein advised us that this would not be ethical, as the luncheon is a business meeting of VFW members and senior officers. Non-VFW members, such as family, could attend, and pay their own tab.

CDR Serrato spoke about the DPA convention June 10-14 in Subic and the National convention July 21 – 25 in Reno, NV.

Comrade Burt Nestle reminded us all to buy a funeral wreath when needed in our areas, and District would automatically reimburse for it. Also, if the deceased is a Cootie, buy a wreath on behalf of the MOC and it also will be reimbursed.

Comrade Ken Falk, CDR 10249 Udorn Thani, described how his Post members meet informally several times a month at various locations, wearing their VFW shirts, as a way of advertising our presence here in Thailand and as a recruiting effort.

Surgeon Petrides suggested that we put up an informational poster at the US Embassy, to let American Vets know that we are here.

CDR DPA Hirshbein addressed the group and talked about a possible new VFW policy requiring 85% retention rate of new annual members in order to receive All State awards. He said this might pose difficulty for our Posts in Pacific Areas, as many of our potential recruits are transient, active duty military personnel. He thanked us for the warm welcome and comradeship we all offered him here in Thailand.

50-50 drawing, big winner Mike Glatz.

The meeting was closed at 1205 hrs by CDR Serrato IAW the VFW ritual. The next meeting of District V will be on 18 August 2012 in Korat.

### **2012 - 2013**

Commander: **Al Serrato, Post 9876**

Senior Vice Commander: **Robert Owens, Post 9951**

Junior Vice Commander: **John P. Clark, Post 9876**

-District V Commander Al Serrato attends National VFW convention in Reno, Nevada, as a member of National Resolutions Committee.

- Chiang Mai Resolution RE: FMP passes unanimously
- District Commander meets daily with VA employees to review individual status claims of Vets and dependents.

- District Commander meets with representative from St. Louis Archives to investigate expediting missing DD214's on behalf of Vetera

- District V Commander attends DPA convention at Olongopoh, Philippines.

- The BSA and VFW Dist. 5 have agreed to develop a partnership of co-operation. District V has begun the process of inviting BSA to submit essays for our Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen programs. District V will likely become involved in developing a charitable contributions program on behalf of the BSA.

- All State Commanders were Eric Larsen Post 9876 & Byron Petrides Post 10217

- All State Quartermasters were Ken Miller Post 9876, Ed Medlin Post 10217 and Christian Berger Post 11575.

- District V awarded VFW National Military Services "Certificate of Recognition"
- District V member Bear Hudson elected as Senior Vice Commander – DPA.

## **18 August 2012 District V Meeting hosted by Post 10217 at Rachaphruk Hotel, Korat, Thailand**

District V Meeting was called to order by SVC Robert Owens at 0930 hours. He introduced distinguished guests Past DPA CDR and DV James Oden, Past Dist. CDR Bert Marohl, newly appointed D5 SVO Barry Moshinsky, and Past D5 CDR and current DPA JVC William "Bear" Hudson. All District Officers were present except CDR Serrato, Trustees Alvanos and Falk with 22 members present. All Posts present except 11575 Phnom Penh.

**-Minutes:** Minutes of the last meeting were read by ADJ Medlin. Moved to accept with needed corrections by Chaplain Miller, seconded by Advocate Nestle, motion carried.

Point of order: Question by Surgeon Petrides if Section 230102 of the charter should be read and repeated by all. There was discussion, and it was stated by Judge Advocate Nestle that such recitation was part of the order of business for Posts.

SVC Owens acknowledged distinguished members present.

**-Quartermasters Report:** QM Larsen gave his report, including disbursements and receipts. Moved to accept as audited by Chaplain Miller, seconded by Comrade Hudson, motion carried. QM Larsen told which posts have paid and which owe District dues.

**-Reading of Bills:** All bills due have been taken care of before the meeting.

**-Reading of Communication:** None

After discussion about order of business we proceeded to Post Reports.

**-Post Commanders Reports:**

9876 Pattaya: CDR Larsen gave his report, speaking about MemStats, CSR totals, and Post activities. Post members who attended the DPA convention in Philippines, and CDR D5 Serrato attended the National convention in Reno, NV.

9951 Bangkok: CDR Key reported on MemStats, recruiting program, buddy poppy distribution, CSR, and recent Post activities.

10217 Korat: CDR Petrides spoke about his Post's activities, MemStats, CSR, and buddy poppies distribution. He mentioned that Jerry Holman, a life member, and longtime resident of Thailand, had passed away. He reminded new Post Commanders of the ritual draping of the Post Charter in honor of Comrades who pass away.

10249 Udorn Thani: CDR Sell gave his report, speaking of Post activities, website expanded to include a Cootie section, CSR, MemStats, and buddy poppies.

11575 Phnom Penh: Not present. ADJ promised to check to see if a report had been submitted by email. \*Note: none found.

12074 Chiang Mai: CDR Engborg reported on MemStats, CSR totals, and Post activities. He stated that a member of the Post was present at the DPA convention as well as National convention.

QM Larsen asked for clarification about what time frame CDR's reports should cover. It was agreed that the time frame would be since the last District meeting.

**-Service Officer Report:** D5 SVO Moshinsky reported that Post 11575 has greatly improved FMP and TRICARE service for members in their area, and also now have much better ambulance service available. He described the various hospitals in different areas of Thailand which now participate in the FMP, billing the insurance rather than requiring the patient to pay everything up front. He told about one widow whom he helped win an appeal and receive about \$89,000.

**-Comrade or family of a Comrade in Distress:**

Chaplain Miller talked about Bob Horn, who is back home and doing better now. SVC Owens spoke of Richard Hayes who is bedridden now.

**-Committee Reports:**

**-Membership:** SVC Owens talked about MemStats online and problems with same. ADJ Medlin (also QM 10217) will email to all the latest D5 MemStats, as only the Quartermasters has access to all MemStats on the VFW National website.

**-Community Service:** JVC Clark read his report and passed out printed matter. He talked about last year's totals being high and congratulated all who helped achieve this. See attachments 1 and 2 for further details.

**-Safety Committee:** Surgeon Petrides gave a talk about “Avoiding Food Borne Illness”. The full report has been emailed to all Post Commanders, who are urged to share this information with their members. He requests that all Posts submit a monthly Post Surgeon’s report to the District Surgeon.

**-VOD/PP:** SVC Owens described details of requirements for the submission of awards recommendations. JVC Clark added more information on this subject, as did Comrade Oden.

**-POW/MIA:** ADJ Medlin passed out printed copies of committee chairman Alvanos’s report and read same aloud. Comrade Oden told of a retired US general officer who gave a presentation at the National Convention which was relevant. JVC Clark talked about making donations to VOD/PP and said to see him personally for more information.

**-History:** SVC Owens spoke about the importance of each Post maintaining and improving their Post history and it being a requirement for certain awards.

**-Cooties:** SVC Owens talked about last night’s lousy scratch and acknowledged Cootie recruit Ron Sell.

#### **-Old Business:**

It was stated that Trustee Alvanos had been installed properly at a regular meeting in Udorn Thani by past District CDR Marohl. Also, JVC Clark was installed properly at a regular meeting in Pattaya.

**Memorial plaque at Kanchanaburi:** JVC Clark said that no report had been received from former Trustee Haugh about the condition of the plaque and that he will visit and inspect same in the near future. Comrade Nestle suggested he contact the person in charge of the cemetery there, an Australian named Ron Bee. JVC Clark asked for permission to place a wreath at the memorial when he visits there. Moved to approve purchase of wreath by Comrade Hudson, seconded by CDR 9951 Key, motion carried.

#### **-New Business:**

Surgeon Petrides asked to discuss the CAMP (Continuous Annual Membership Program) as recently sent out from DPA. It was generally agreed that it is confusing, and it was suggested that we, as a District, communicate with Past DPA CDR

Lyons about this subject. There was extended discussion about the intent of the program and possible problems with it and Posts can vote to participate or not. It was explained that CAMP can possibly benefit Posts in Korea more so than in other areas with more discussion. Surgeon Petrides asked if the District could have a membership program, and Comrade Oden said "Yes."

JVC Clark talked about the Legacy Life program and how it pays money to the Post after a member's death. Several Legacy Life members present were named and acknowledged. He urged us all to look into becoming a Legacy Life member.

### **-Good of the Order:**

SVC Owens told about a TRICARE benefits seminar or meeting which will happen soon in Pattaya. Further information is available on the Post 9876 website.

SVC Owens told representatives of Post 10249 that "The refund check is in the mail for their 2012 Convention book ad."

JVC Clark told about attending the funeral of Chris Palombi. He also said that John Hanford, new member of Post 10217, wishes to become a Cootie.

Surgeon Petrides asked all Post CDRs to check their DPA mailboxes regularly. He said that Post SVO's have a DPA mailbox also.

SVC Owens passed the floor to former CDR Post/District/Department James Oden to address the meeting. Comrade Oden talked about his time in the VFW and how much he has enjoyed it. He thanked all who helped him during that time. He encouraged all of us to be more involved with the VFW, and to take on higher office and more responsibility. He talked about National CDR John Hamilton and his history in the VFW and his past career as a professional wrestler. He said that in the VFW, we are all comrades of equal rank. He spoke about pending legislation in the US Congress to recognize Clark Cemetery and fund its care. He thanked all who donated to the Thailand Flood Relief Fund, which collected \$14,480 and was matched with equal funds by VFW National for a total of \$28,960. Checks have been mailed from DPA to relief awardees. He complimented all SVO's for the work they have been doing. He described the training he has had to become an accredited Service Officer and the limitations caused by the lack of a VA office here in Thailand. He talked some about VA claims processing.

SVC Owens talked about the flood last year in the Bangkok area, and how Comrades Oden and Serrato were the prime movers behind the flood relief efforts for our members.

Comrade Bear Hudson, JVC DPA, told us about the new staff at DPA, and how the young and energetic officers are doing a great job. He spoke highly of all our leaders at Department.

**-50-50 drawing:** Drawn by Comrade Bear Hudson, lucky winner Robert Engborg. Profit to Post 10217 1500 baht.

Comrade Bear Hudson talked about 2 more Cootie recruits and we all gave them a big hand of applause.

The meeting was closed by SVC Owens IAW VFW ritual at 1200 hours. The next District V meeting will be 17 November 2012 at Udorn Thani.

### **17 November 2012 District V Meeting hosted by Post 10249 at Charoen Hotel, Udorn Thani, Thailand**

District V Meeting was called to order by CDR Al Serrato at 0930 hours. He introduced distinguished members present: Past D5 CDR Bert Marohl; Past D5 CDR and current DPA JVC William "Bear" Hudson. All District Officers were present except Chaplain Miller and Trustee Don Ratcliffe with 19 members present. All Posts present with reports except 11575 Phnom Penh.

**-Minutes:** Moved by ADJ Medlin to accept the minutes as published, seconded by SVC Owens, motion carried.

**-Quartermasters Report:** QM Larsen gave his report, including disbursements and receipts and totals of all accounts. Moved to accept subject to audit by Comrade Nestle, seconded by Comrade Hudson, motion carried.

**-Reading of Bills:** JVC Clark presented a bill for 350 Baht for business cards. Moved to approve payment by SVC Owens, seconded by Comrade Ken Falk, motion carried.

**-Reading of Communication:** None. Comrade Nestle suggested that we follow past practice and have Post Reports same time as Roll Call.



## **-Post Commanders Reports:**

9876 Pattaya: CDR Larsen reported on MemStats, CSR totals, Buddy Poppies, Post activities including Veteran's Day, donations to orphanage, Jesters Fair, hosting of JPAC team. The Post JVC attended the JPAC organized POW/MIA recognition day at the US Embassy. He spoke about SVO work, donation to AVWC, support for bowling team, and buddy poppy distribution program working well.

9951 Bangkok: CDR Key reported on Post MemStats. He said that SVO Oden had resigned and moved to the US and acknowledged all the work he had done here. He talked about recruiting efforts, gave Buddy Poppy report and CSR totals. He described Post activities and invited all to the Post Christmas party, and had tickets for sale at discount price.

10217 Korat: CDR Petrides read MemStats for the Post. He told about recent change of meeting place, and how we had Embassy Warden Frank Anderson as a guest at one of our meetings. The Post is in the process of electing a new SVC to replace Jack Sungsakris, who resigned recently. Post History was recently updated with pictures on the web site, kindly provided by Dr. George Stoneman, who was flight surgeon at Korat RTAFB 1966-67.

10249 Udorn: CDR Sell spoke of Post activities during the past 3 months. He told about how JPAC had identified MIA remains in Korea of a relative of QM Bert Marohl. He described how the Post has instituted its own membership retention incentive program. He quoted MemStats and CSR totals and Buddy Poppy report. He told of the Post's observation of Veteran's Day at St. Mary's Cemetery. He told of several comrades in ill health and spoke about some other Post projects.

11575 Phnom Penh: Not present, no report

12074 Chiang Mai: SVC Horner told the Post MemStats, CSR totals, and described recent Post activities. He said the Post had passed inspection. He told about the visit by the US Ambassador and the Post providing an honor guard. The Post participated with the British Legion in a wreath laying ceremony. In addition, they have been working with the Thai Veteran's organization and donations to the needy. He told of one comrade who had been injured in a traffic accident and is now partially paralyzed. He appealed to anyone who could come up with an idea for a helpful device or method for this man to get in and out of bed.

**-Service Officer Report:**

SVO Moshinsky described his efforts in aiding Veterans and dependents. He talked about Skype chats with SVO's in the District. He told about one Vet in Khon Kaen who has cancer and is in the hospital in Bangkok now.

CDR Serrato talked about the flow chart to aid survivors in event of death of a Veteran. He has provided same to the US Embassy personnel for use by wardens. This flow chart will be available on the D5 website soon.

CDR Serrato continued many points connected with SVO work. There have been problems with Vet's exam results being rejected and claims denied by VA due to incomplete reporting. There are now available rating sheets used by VA which can be used as guidelines by examining physicians. These forms will be available on the District website soon.

He showed and described a document which will provide access to all VA medical exam guidelines, which also will be posted soon on the website. Hearing exam is to be provided separately.

He talked about a problem one Vet had with Tricare and they had denied a claim for cash payment, and he advised that it would be better to use a credit or ATM card to have a better record of expense to be reimbursed.

He talked about expedited claims process. VA can now take up to 2 ½ years for a claim. It is possible to expedite claims to be resolved within about 90 days. There is something called (FTPC) – Fast Track Process Center and more information is being sought.

He talked about VA office Pittsburgh and speed of claims processing. There have been good results in expediting claims for Vets needing quick service, for reasons such as being near death or being broke. He plans to discuss this with National SVC Bill Thien at the luncheon in Bangkok tomorrow and spoke of an idea for District V to help fund an additional employee at the Pittsburgh VA office to work on behalf of Pacific Areas, and possibly having DPA or National help fund this position as well.

He talked about research of medical facilities available for Vets from all over DPA to receive treatment in Guam. He said there are 3 hospitals there: Memorial Hospital, Naval Hospital and VA Clinic, and it might be possible for our members to get

treatment there rather than having to travel back to the US mainland. CDR Serrato intends to research this further and report back.

**-Comrades or family of a Comrade in Distress:**

SVO Moshinsky told about one Vet in Rama IX Hospital in Bangkok whom he will go visit tomorrow.

**-Reports of All Committees:**

**-Membership:** SVC Owens read MemStats for District. He commended Legacy Life members: 2 from Post 10249 and one from Post 9876.

**-Community Service:** JVC Clark reported on Buddy Poppy purchases by Posts and stated that Post 10217 had ordered Poppies and that Post 9951 will do so soon. He gave CSR totals for the District: Projects – 741, Poppies bought - \$406, Poppies sold - \$573.29, Volunteers – 2702, Hours 1908.75, Miles – 60020, Total \$ - \$58,524.91.

**-Awards:** No report

**-Safety:** Surgeon Petrides gave a talk about eating safely and avoiding illness such as food poisoning. A full report has been emailed to all Post Commanders.

**-VOD/PP:** CDR Serrato quoted the line “...to foster true patriotism...” and told of how in the past we have requested waivers for this requirement. Now we have contact with BSA (Boy Scouts of America) and some local units of that organization. We have liaison with an international school in Bangkok, and there are Boy Scout units in Bangkok, Chiang Mai and possibly one other location in Thailand. There are scholarships available for award to worthy scouts. Posts may get a waiver on a case-by-case basis if there is no scouting activity in their area. He said he will seek further clarification about this, as the rules can change from year to year. JVC Clark told some of what he has learned about this matter.

**-POW/MIA:** Comrade Alvanos read his report what has been going on with JPAC.

**-History:** CDR Serrato spoke about the importance of each Post maintaining and improving their Post history and it being a requirement for certain awards.

**-Cooties:** SVC Owens talked about last night's lousy scratch, introduced several new members, and talked about a donation they made to the Bamboo School.

**-Old Business:** None

**-New Business:**

CDR Serrato began a list of requests for approval of expenditures, beginning with the 1200 Baht stipend from DPA for out-of-town attendees of the luncheon with National officers in May 2012. As this money was provided by Department and is being distributed by D5 QM no motion was necessary.

Motion to approve 10,000 Baht for website expense by Comrade Falk, seconded by Comrade Nestle, motion carried.

Motion to approve \$250 for donation to NMS by Comrade Falk, seconded by Comrade Alvanos, motion carried.

Motion to approve \$100 early payment of DPA convention book ad by Comrade Fitchett, seconded by Comrade Falk, motion carried.

Motion to approve \$50 gift to CDR DPA in December by Comrade Alvanos, seconded by Comrade Horner, motion carried

Motion to approve \$50 for hospitality suite at National convention by Comrade Hudson, seconded by Comrade Clark. Motion amended to say \$100, and seconded, discussion followed. Motion carried.

Motion to approve \$100 for upkeep maintenance of Kanchanaburi memorial plaque by JVC Clark, seconded by Comrade Falk, discussion, motion carried.

Motion to approve donation of \$100 to each: VOD, PP, and Teachers by JVC Clark, seconded by Comrade Falk, motion carried.

CDR Serrato talked about the District providing a money prize for essay winners in the PP and VOD contests. He said that next year the District will have a committee for this project. Motion to donate \$100 prize money to winners of PP and VOD essay contest by JVC Clark, seconded by Comrade Falk, discussion and clarification, motion carried.

CDR Serrato talked about making a trip to Guam to research medical facilities there, as described in Service Officer report, above. He seeks approval of \$500 for this trip and said he will make a request to Department for \$500 as well. Moved to approve payment by SVC Owens, seconded by Comrade Nestle, discussion followed, motion carried.

JVC Clark Talked about the maintenance of the plaque at Kanchanaburi and plans to go there on 27 April for the wreath laying ceremony.

**-Good of the Order:**

Comrade Hudson thanked Post 10249 for hosting this event, and we all gave them a big hand. He told about the meeting of Department JVC's which he recently attended in Kansas City, where our District Service Officers were commended, and our Community Service efforts acknowledged. He told about the Western Conference annual convention which will be hosted by DPA in Cebu, Philippines in November 2014.

CDR Serrato passed out VA benefits guides to all Posts. Also, he passed out copies of 2012 DPA convention book to all Posts who wanted one.

CDR Serrato talked about diabetes and the threshold limit being recently lowered. This is an Agent Orange type claim.

CDR Serrato talked about the relationship between VFW and BSA which is being developed here in Thailand. A question was asked: Is this BSA or BST? He assured us that is BSA (America rather than Thailand), and these are American kids.

CDR Serrato talked some about the lunch tomorrow in Bangkok with National Officers at Giusto Restaurant. A representative of the BSA is to be there, and possibly someone from President Obama's security detail.

CDR Serrato talked more about the luncheon at Giusto, saying there would be cocktail hour 1100-1200, then lunch at noon. He talked about his proposed agenda and points he wants to discuss with SVC Thien.

CDR Serrato talked about Chiang Mai possibly hosting the DPA convention in the future and will send a waiver request for VOD/PP and Firefighters to DPA.

CDR Serrato talked about the next D5 meeting to be held at Phnom Penh, pros, and cons of having meeting there, discussion by several members, a show of hands of who all can attend. There was a suggestion that we change the meeting place for February to Chiang Mai, and more discussion followed. There was no motion to change the meeting place, so it will remain Phnom Penh.

Comrade Bert Marohl, QM 10249 told us about lunch after the meeting today.

SVC Owens told about having received his check from the flood relief fund and thanked all for their efforts in making this happen. He also told us that all inspections within the District have been completed.

QM Larsen asked all who are owed 1200 Baht stipend from the May luncheon event to see him after the meeting.

Comrade Nestle reminded all about buying funeral wreaths which will be reimbursed by D5 and if applicable, Pup Tent 6.

ADJ Medlin reminded all to send letter of acceptance of nomination to Phnom Penh meeting if they will not attend, and asked all Post CDRs to email him a copy of their report. CDR Serrato noted that nominations for District officers will remain open until the following meeting in May 2013.

**-50-50 drawing:** big winner Mike Alvanos.

The meeting was closed by CDR Serrato IAW VFW ritual at 1147 hrs and the next District V meeting will be on 16 February 2013 at Phnom Penh.

### **16 February 2013 District V Meeting hosted by Post 11575 at The Exchange, Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

District V Meeting was called to order by CDR Al Serrato at 0900 hours. He introduced distinguished guest DPA SVC Shawn Watson.

All District Officers were present except Chaplain Miller, Trustees Alvanos and Falk, and Surgeon Petrides with 18 members present, including late arrivals. Note: DPA JVC William "Bear" Hudson is here in Phnom Penh for the meeting, and unable to attend, as he is laid up in bed with an injured knee.

**-Reading of Minutes:** Moved by Comrade Jay Steed to accept the

last District minutes as published, seconded by SVC Owens, motion carried.

**-Quartermasters Report:** QM Larsen gave his report, including disbursements and receipts and totals of all accounts. Moved to accept subject to audit by Comrade Jay Steed, seconded by ADJ Medlin, motion carried.

**-Reading of Bills:** None

**-Post Commanders Reports:**

9876 Pattaya – CDR Larsen reported on MemStats, having lost 2 life members who passed away, CSR totals, Buddy Poppy figures, Post activities and plans for activities soon. He described the success of their Buddy Poppy distribution system.

9951 Bangkok – Not present, report has been emailed to ADJ D5 and will be appended to these minutes.

11575 Phnom Penh – CDR Steed reported on his Post's MemStats, CSR totals, Post activities and volunteer work in the local community, upcoming events planned. There were additional comments by SVC John Muller, who spoke about U.S. Navy landing ships coming in. Posts will soon be invited and can attend should they wish.

10249 Udorn Thani – CDR Ron Sell Reported on his post having received a \$200 donation from PT 6 and matching that amount, which was used for local charity. He talked about Post activities, having a life member pass away on 7 February, MemStats, CSR totals, and Buddy Poppy donations.

10217 Korat – JVC Fred Berg reported on Post activities since the last District meeting. He told of several members in ill health, the Post's recruiting efforts, MemStats, CSR totals, Post participation in local community events such as Christmas and Thai Veterans Day, and donating 10,000 baht to a Children's Scholarship fund.

12074 Chiang Mai – SVC Bill Horner explained that CDR Engborg was unable to attend, and he presented the Post report. He told about the Post activities in their community, CSR totals, having several Veterans pass away in their area during the past few months. He told about the Post celebrating its 5 year anniversary, and also about their participation in Thai Vets Day.

**-Service Officer Report:** SVO Moshinsky talked about helping a veteran who passed away, and later helping the widow file for her benefits. He told about visiting ailing Veterans in various hospitals. CDR Serrato commended SVO Moshinsky for operating the Skype chats for the Service Officers.

**-Comrades or Family of a Comrade in Distress:**

JVC Clark told about several Vets who are ill and in hospital.

SVO Moshinsky told about two members of Post 10217 who are quite ill: one with liver disease and one with cancer.

QM Larsen told about Chaplain Ken Miller having bladder cancer and undergoing chemotherapy.

SVC 12074 Horner talked about a Veteran in his area who had a motorcycle wreck and became quadriplegic, then later being robbed of his wallet and military ID card.

CDR Serrato talked about an 83-year-old Vet with whom he is familiar who had a motorcycle wreck and broke some bones, etc. He cautioned all of us that as we are getting older, perhaps it would be a good idea to not be riding motorcycles in this part of the world.

**-Reports of All Committees:**

**-Membership:** SVC Owens gave an overall description of memstats throughout the District, quoting numbers and totals.

**-Community Service:** JVC Clark had passed out a printed CSR for the District. He described CSR totals and said he will amend the report to better reflect certain projects.

**-Buddy Poppies:** JVC Clark encouraged all Posts to buy Buddy Poppies, and the one Post which has not yet purchased is to do so shortly.

**-Awards:** JVC Clark talked about the possibility of Posts 10217 and 9876 making All American or All State.



**-Safety:** SVO Moshinsky reported on behalf of Surgeon Petrides and conducted a short safety meeting. Subject: Falls. After age 40 people tend to lose their balance and can be injured from falls. He told of how more people die from falls in Japan than they do from vehicle accidents. CDR Serrato told of falling in a hole recently and showed us his wounds. Comrade Burt Nestle told that Comrades Bear and Tom Tom are both injured from falls.

**-POW/MIA:** Not present, no report.

**-VOD/PP:** JVC Clark reported on Department wide totals so far. CDR Serrato talked about the waiver request letters he has sent, and how Post 9951 is working with the BSA and having them write essays. Therefore, the waiver will not apply to that Post. SVC DPA Shawn Watson told more about All American requirements, and that such waivers would not apply. Posts must participate or donate a certain amount of money to National in lieu of participating in the program.

**-History:** CDR Serrato told of how he had recently added another photo of a past commander of District V to the history on the website. He reminded us all that Posts must update their history on the DPA website in order to qualify for AA and AS awards.

**-Cooties:** Seam Squirrel Owens talked about the Pup Tent 6 Scratch last night and introduced and welcomed two new Cooties.

**-National Home:** We observed our National Home with a prayer. We were then promptly reminded by Judge Advocate Nestle that this is not required at District meetings.

**-Old Business:** None

**-New Business:**

**-Nominations opened for District Officers 2013-2014 Term:**

**CDR:** Bill Horner nominated Pat Clark, he accepted; Bob Owens nominated Al Serrato, he accepted

**SVC:** Pat Clark nominated Mike Glatz, letter of acceptance Eric Larsen nominated Bob Owens, he accepted

**JVC:** Ed Medlin nominated Jay Steed, he accepted

**Judge Advocate:** Bob Owens nominated Burt Nestle, he accepted

**QM:** Jay Steed nominated Eric Larsen, he accepted

**Surgeon:** Ed Medlin nominated Byron Petrides, letter of acceptance

**Chaplain:** Pat Clark nominated Bill Horner, he accepted

**Trustee 3 Year:** No nomination currently

Note: Nominations will remain open until closed at the next meeting.

**Recess for 10 minutes -continue with New Business:**

CDR Serrato told about his presentation to the American Veteran Wives Club at Nong Nooch Botanical Gardens near Pattaya and explained in detail how VA is to speed up claims processing from 2 years 6 months to 125 days. CDR Serrato also stated that Eligibility Verification Reports (EVR) were no longer required as of October 2012.

CDR Serrato requested payment for an 800-baht taxi fare to attend the above function. Moved to approve payment by SVC Owens, seconded by Comrade John Brazee, motion carried.

CDR Serrato presented a bill for 500-baht printing expense for Service Officers Guide. Moved to approve payment by JAG Nestle, seconded by SVC Owens, motion carried.

CDR Serrato said he had received input from several SVO's in developing the new Service Officers Guide. This guide will be on the District V website in the near future. He said the hot line telephone numbers will be deleted from the guide, and only available the District V CDR and SO will expedite hot line requests on behalf of Post Service Officers.

CDR Serrato requested payment for a bill of \$240 for graphic artist. Moved to approve payment by SVC Owens, seconded by JAG Nestle, discussion. Motion carried.

CDR Serrato talked about the Boy Scouts of America and our growing relationship with them. He said they have some unmet financial needs and he requested that we make a \$500 donation to them. Moved to donate \$500 to the BSA by SVC Owens, seconded by Comrade Horner, discussion followed. CDR Serrato said there are US companies here who may also donate, and that he will seek such donations on behalf of the BSA, as he has had experience in this area. Motion carried.

**-Good of the Order:**

Joe Marquez, SVO of Post 11575 talked about his work with a local doctor and hospitals, treatments for different illnesses, care for vets with stage 4 cancer, and so forth. CDR Serrato requested that he email all the information he talked about so it can be included in a Commander's Chat to all posts. There was talk about getting an ambulance for the Phnom Penh area for use by Veterans.

CDR Serrato announced that the DPA convention is to be held June 9-13 at Cebu, Philippines. SVC DPA Shawn Watson expanded on this subject and explained about the new post there, the Ulysses G. Buzzard Memorial Post 12130. He said that Gunner Kent may attend, as this may be his last year as ADJ General.

CDR Serrato told of how Pattaya and Chiang Mai had bid to host the 2014 DPA convention. Chiang Mai has withdrawn their bid. Pattaya Post will present its proposal at Cebu. Big plans are being made, on a contingent basis, to have the senior Social Security person in Asia attend and answer questions, as well as have elaborate flag ceremonies and other pageantry.

CDR Serrato talked about the VA 5-year transformation plan. Major changes are to be made in how claims are processed. It will become less paper and more digital. There will be more training for VA employees, with testing for promotions. There will be what is called an electronic crossover, where all files will be electronic. He spoke about a Disability Benefits Questionnaire which will be in the SVO Guide. He spoke about technology, and how VA will have "Digital E Folders", eliminating paper folders. He described how he has been putting all his paper folders on a thumb drive. He spoke of Veterans Relationship Management and how VA is working on improving phone service. He said the EVR's will soon be phased out that will free over 100 VA employees (400,000+ annual hours) to work on the 2 year backlog.

JVC Clark talked about the Legacy Life program and urged all to consider upgrading their membership.

Distinguished Guest Shawn Watson addressed the group briefly. He commended us for all our work in the community and in aid of Veterans and their dependents. He offered to be of help to anyone here if we just ask.

CDR Serrato presented some awards, including Outstanding All State CDR and QM hats to Post 10217, a pin to J. Morris Sapp of Chiang Mai Post 12074, who recruited 5 members, and passed out many hat pins from Bill Thien, National SVC.

The meeting was closed by CDR Serrato IAW VFW ritual at 1100 hours. Next District V meeting will be on 18 May 2013 at Chiang Mai.

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**Addendum: Post 9951 Quarterly Report**

**The following information is submitted for C. L. Elms Post 9951, Bangkok for the Quarter 1 November 2012–31 January 2013.**

**Membership:** As of 31 January, our membership is 248, which is 95.4% of our goal of 260. Thankfully, no members passed away this quarter.

**Buddy Poppies Sold:** \$46.67.

**Community Activities:** For this Quarter we had 76 volunteers participate in 73 projects. Time spent was 340 hours with 3,439 miles for transport. Totals were USD 3,871.

**Post Activities:** We attended the Veteran's Day Ceremony at the U.S. Embassy on 9 November. On November 11, we laid a wreath at the British Embassy for Remembrance Day. Then we laid another wreath at Sanam Luang for Armistice Day and Thai Soldiers who died in WW I.

**ARTHUR KEY, COMMANDER**

**18 May 2013 District V Meeting hosted by Post 12074 at Lanna Palace Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand**

District V Convention was called to order by CDR Al Serrato at 0900 hours. He asked that all Post Commanders and District V officers sit at the tables near the front. CDR Serrato explained that this was a District meeting and that VFW members who were not District Officers could not vote or speak to a motion per Section 403 of the VFW By-Laws.

**-Roll Call of Officers and Posts:** All District Officers were present except Trustee 2 Year Alvanos and Surgeon Petrides.

- Post 9876 Pattaya – CDR Larsen present
- Post 9951 Bangkok – JVC Reece present
- Post 10217 Korat – JVC Berg present
- Post 10249 Udon Thani – CDR Sell present
- Post 11575 Phnom Penh – CDR Steed present
- Post 12074 Chiang Mai – CDR Engborg present

**-Point of order by Comrade Glatz** requesting recognition of the distinguished guests. CDR Serrato introduced JVC DPA and Past CDR D5 William “Bear” Hudson, Seam Squirrel PT 6 MOC Bob Owens, and DPA CDR Darin Combs.

JVC Clark asked that CDR DPA Combs sit at the head table with District Officers and Post Commanders; Commander Combs declined.

**-Reading of Minutes:** Moved by Chaplain Miller to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published, seconded by Trustee Falk, motion carried.

**-Quartermasters Report:** QM Larsen reported, including disbursements, receipts, and totals, as well as amounts in each account. Moved by CHAP Miller to accept subject to audit, seconded by Trustee Falk, motion carried

**-Reading of Bills:** QM Larsen presented a bill from SVO Moshinsky for business cards for 700 baht.

CDR Serrato presented several bills:

1500 baht for transportation to Kanchanaburi to lay a wreath at the District V monument.

3000 baht for transportation to Bangkok while acting as SVO for Vets in that area.

1455 baht for expense of printing report on both the Guam medical services fact-finding trip and the 34-page Service Officers Guide.

Moved to approve payment of all bills by SVC Owens, seconded by Chaplain Miller, motion carried. QM Larsen mentioned having paid a pre approved bill of 800 baht to Post 10249 for a funeral wreath.

## **-Post Commanders Reports:**

9876 Pattaya: CDR Larsen reported on Post activities, donations, buddy poppies, MemStats, and having had 2 members pass away in the last Qtr.

9951 Bangkok: JVC Reece (also CDR elect) talked about CDR Key having been in hospital recently for surgery and having lost 3 Comrades during the last quarter.

10217 Korat: JVC Berg (also CDR elect) told of the passing away of our old Comrade and Cootie Florencio “Val” Valenzuela. He told of recruiting efforts, MemStats, the QM and Post having received All State awards for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, the Post electing and installing officers, and CSR totals.

10249 Udorn Thani: CDR Sell told about 10 April marking the 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the F4 crash which took the lives of 9 men and became the namesake of their Post AFTN Memorial Post. He described the ceremony they held and the research which has led to more information being added to the Post history archives. He told of the passing away of Comrade Larry Greenhalgh. He told of giving a grant of \$1000 to assist local Vets and widows, cited CSR totals, Buddy Poppy program, and MemStats.

11575 Phnom Penh – CDR Steed gave MemStats, CSR totals, described Post activities, and safety meetings. He talked about the Mayaguez incident and how some of his Post members were involved in that engagement.

12074 Chiang Mai: CDR Engborg told of his Post’s recruiting efforts, MemStats, activities, work in aid of the US Consulate, and CSR totals. He described how their SVO has been busy assisting Vets and widows.

**-Service Officer Report:** SVO Moshinsky talked about the monthly Skype chats. He talked of SOS Tricare in Singapore and how hospitals could call them directly concerning insurance billing and of training Post Service Officers in the District. He told about a new requirement that beneficiaries submit SSAN or ITIN or their payments would be suspended. CDR Serrato added that Comrade Moshinsky had been appointed ADSO. CDR Serrato spoke of his fact-finding trip to Guam and listed the following key findings: Only residents were authorized to use the Guam VA clinic. The US Naval Hospital is available to military retirees and their dependents only. Veterans are not allowed to use their Medicare card even though Guam is a US Possession. A full copy of his report is posted on the District website. SVO Moshinsky told about Senator McCain speaking of removing the re-

strictions of this sort at Government medical facilities in Guam and in the Philippines. He also talked about the advantages of SOS Singapore compared to the TRI-CARE office at JUSMAGTHAI.

**-Comrades or Family of a Comrade in Distress:** Chaplain Ken Miller told about his personal medical problems in the past months, dealing with cancer. JVC Clark told about 83-year-old John Keenan's condition, his removal from ICU, and his departure back to the USA.

**-Reports of All Committees:**

**-Membership:** SVC Owens quoted MemStats of Posts and relative ranking percentage wise. He spoke about life members and congratulated District CDR Serrato, Post CDRs Larsen and Petrides for having achieved double digit membership recruitment.

**-Community Service:** JVC Clark said he will depart for the USA in July. He talked about the Buddy Poppy program and cited CSR totals for the District.

**-Awards:** JVC Clark stated Posts 10217 and 9876 had made All State.

**-Safety:** SVO Moshinsky reported on behalf of Surgeon Petrides. Subject: "Heat related casualties". Full details of the presentation are contained in the monthly newsletter published by Post 10217 and available on request.

**-VOD/PP:** CDR Serrato talked about meeting with representatives of the BSA with the hopes that their scouts will be able to submit VOD/PP student essays.

**-POW/MIA:** No report as Comrade Alvanos is not present.

**-History:** CDR Serrato reported that District history and 3 Post histories were sent to DPA but have not yet been acknowledged. He stated he would be providing documents confirming their submittals to DPA.

**-Cooties:** SVC Owens, Seam Squirrel of PT 6 MOC, talked about lousy scratch they had last night and some new members from Chiang Mai.

**-Old Business:** None

**-New Business:**

**-Credentials Committee Report in preparation for election.** QM Larsen stated that all Posts had paid dues to District and that all delegate letters had been received. Post 11575 has not submitted Election Report or GO #1, therefore is unable to vote today.

Comrade Glatz of Post 12074 interrupted the Business Session to speak.

CDR Serrato ruled him out of order per Section 403 of the Bylaws. Comrade Glatz, in defiance of the CDR and the earlier stated By-Laws concerning who could have a voice in the meeting, continued speaking.

CDR Serrato waited until the interruption had ended then continued with the Business Session of the District.

QM Larsen reported that Delegate Letters and GO #1 on hand for all posts except 11575, as noted earlier. He reported Delegate Post Voting Strength as follows:

Post 9876 - 17

Post 9951 - 11

Post 10217 - 4

Post 10249 - 9

Post 11575 - 4 (not voting today)

Post 12074 – 4

CDR 12074 Engborg asked for explanation about delegate voting and QM Larsen explained.

CDR Serrato talked about voting, said that in the past we had stopped voting when one nominee reached 51%, and recommended that we continue so all votes were cast.

CDR 12074 Engborg moved that we have a secret ballot in today's election, seconded by SVO Moshinsky, motion carried.

CDR Serrato asked that all who have several entitlements to vote declare how they would vote.

JVC Clark asked for the dates on delegate letters. ADJ Medlin said he would show him later.

9876 – Larsen vote as Post CDR, 1 delegate: Carr



9951 – Reece vote as Post CDR, 1 delegate: Cowperthwaite  
10217 – Berg vote as Post CDR, 1 delegate: Moshinsky  
10249 – Sell vote as Post CDR, 3 delegates: Falk, Marohl, Fitchett  
11575 – No vote  
12074 – Engborg vote as Post CDR, 4 delegates: Horner, Glatz, Sapp, Torrent

JVC Clark suggested a caucus of the 4 delegates from Post 12074. He also stated that Post 9951 had not paid their QM bond. Several other senior officers stated that the bond had been paid and the Typhoon article was incorrect.

Moved by Chaplain Miller to approve the report of the Credentials Committee, seconded by CDR 10249 Sell, motion carried.

JVC Clark asked about delegate letters dates written and submitted to D5 ADJ. CDR Serrato advised Clark to review each individual letter from the Adjutant's laptop rather than taking time away from the Business Session

CDR Serrato opened nominations for District Officers.

CDR – JVC Clark withdrew his acceptance of nomination and nominated Mike Glatz. He accepted. CDR Serrato asked he submit his DD214 for review. It was reviewed by both the ADJ and CDR and found to be adequate proof of eligibility.

SVC – Mike Glatz and Bob Owens are already nominated. JVC Clark nominated Fred Berg, he accepted.

JVC – JVC Clark nominated Al Fitchett, he accepted. Jay Steed withdrew his acceptance.

JAG– Burt Nestle remains the only nominee

DPA CDR Combs pointed out that we should vote for CDR, then return to nominations.

There was a 5-minute break. Resumed meeting at 1115 hours.

We discussed who all will vote. CDR Engborg of Chiang Mai Post 12074 announced that their caucus had decided to have only one delegate, Bill Horner, represent their Post at the District Convention.

JVC Clark quoted what he claimed was DPA By-Laws, saying that the delegate letter from Post 9951 was invalid. He said that Post delegate letters must be submitted to the District ADJ 30 days prior to the District Convention. ADJ Medlin consulted DPA By-Laws and found nothing to support JVC Clark's claim.

Moved by SVC Owens to accept Post 9951 delegate letter, seconded by JA Nestle, motion carried with 2 opposing votes.

Proceeded to election by secret ballot:

**CDR** – Serrato win, vote tally = 47 Serrato, 11 Glatz

**SVC** – Owens's win, vote tally = 44 Owens, 6 Glatz, 8 Berg

**JVC** – Fitchett (ADJ cast 1 vote)

**QM** – Larsen win, vote tally = 47 Larsen, 11 Sapp

**JAG** – Nestle (ADJ cast 1 vote)

**Chaplain** – Miller win, vote tally = 44 Miller, 14 Horner

**Surgeon** – Petrides (ADJ cast 1 vote)

Reverted to nominating Trustees and voting one at a time, on advice of DPA CDR Combs.

T3: Eric Larsen nominated Ken Falk, he accepted Pat Clark nominated Fred Berg, he accepted Voting: Falk win, vote tally = 30 Falk, 27 Berg. It was noted that the vote total was 57 rather than the correct 58. As a difference of 1 vote would not affect the outcome, the result was accepted, and the vote counters (QM and D5 ADJ) apologized.

T2: Fred Berg and Bill Horner were nominated and accepted.

Voting: Berg win, vote tally = 40 Berg, 18 Horner

T1: Don Ratcliffe incumbent and Bill Horner nominated and accepted. Voting: tie vote 29-29. On advice from CDR DPA Combs, CDR Serrato withdrew his vote and Horner win, 29-28.

Newly elected officers were installed IAW VFW ritual and procedure by DPA CDR Combs. When the ADJ was asked if he had proof of eligibility for all officers, he answered "No, Sir. Not for all of them."

ADJ Medlin left at 1300 hours, and the remainder of meeting notes and transcribed minutes below was done by QM Larsen.

Chaplain Miller made a motion to reimburse District Officers and Post Commanders \$100 each to offset travel expenses to District Convention. Motion seconded by SVC Owens. Motion carried.

JVC Clark said that Comrade Pritchett had offered his services at no charge to become the District Webmaster and made a motion to make him the Webmaster. Motion seconded by Comrade Falk. Motion carried.

JVC Clark made a motion that the District Commander establish a committee to manage, organize and maintain the District V Website. Furthermore, that most of its members are required for any entry or addition to the website. Motion died for lack of a second.

JVC Clark made a motion that a page for Legacy Life Members and Pup Tent 6 be added to the District Website. Motion seconded by Comrade Berg. Motion carried.

JVC Clark made a motion that the District contribute \$500 to SVO Moshinsky for expenses to the Department Convention as the Assistant Department Service Officer. Motion seconded by CDR 12074 Engborg. Motion carried.

Comrade Sapp made a motion that the District endorse and forward to Department the National Resolution regarding FMP changes. Motion seconded by Comrade Clark. Motion carried.

### **-Good of the Order:**

Commander Serrato recognized the new Post Commanders and congratulated them on their elections.

Department Commander Combs addressed the Convention and made the following observations and comments:

He felt it was important that District Officers focus more carefully on the by-laws i.e., elections, stipends, delegate committees etc. and suggested that the District re-draft their own by-laws.

He suggested that the District invest a portion of their cash reserves in an interest-bearing account or CD.

He suggested that any letters with complaints or suggestions should not be unsigned as they lacked credibility and they should follow the chain of command and not be sent directly to Department or National levels.

He said that the District had recruited enough Legacy Life Members to win a \$1,000 gift at the Department Convention. He invited all members to attend the Convention in Cebu and reminded the posts to get their ads in for the Convention book.

He commended the District on the Service Officer SKYPE program.

He announced that “Scout of the Year” was a female scout from Dist. II.

He said the District should follow meeting protocols more carefully paying particular attention to saluting, flag procedures and prayers. He said that we were “grumpy old farts” and that we should try to make our camaraderie better and individually do something to bring the membership together.

District 50/50 raffle was 2,450 Baht and was won by JVC Clark who donated 450 Baht back to the District.

The meeting was closed by CDR Serrato IAW VFW ritual at 1400 hours. Next District V meeting will be on 17 August 2013 at Pattaya.

## **2013 - 2014**

**Commander: Al Serrato, Post 9876**

**Senior Vice Commander: Robert Owens, Post 9951**

**Junior Vice Commander: Alanson R. Fitchett, Post 10249**

- District V, Pup Tent #6 (Military Order of the Cooties) along with posts throughout the district made financial contribution to our fellow comrades in the Philippines when a typhoon devastated their homes.
- Assistant Department Service Officer, Barry Moshinsky, submitted a resolution for equality for veterans serving in Thailand when submitting claims for herbicide exposure.
- Monthly Webcon session are being held to train Post Service Officers and keep them up to date on the latest news about VA issues and claims.
- VFW Commander In Chief, William Thien made a stop in Bangkok while on his Pacific Tour.

- Members of Post 9951 attended the annual ANZAC Day celebration in Kanchanaburi and placed a wreath on the VFW War Memorial at the bridge.
- Post 10217 was awarded the National Community Service Award
- All State Commanders for this term are Fred Berg Sr., Post 10217 and Delbert N. Marohl, Post 10249
- All State Quartermaster for this term are Ed Medlin, Post 10217 and Al Fitchett, Post 10249
- Post 10249 Udorn, hosted the District Convention in May
- Post 9876, Pattaya City, was host for the Department of Pacific Annual Convention in June.
- William Hudson Post 10217 was elected as Commander, Department of Pacific Areas for term 2014-2015.
- Post 10217 William Chapman awarded the Outstanding Membership Chairman
- Post 12074 awarded the Safety Award for the 2013-2014 Term

#### **2014- 2015**

Commander: **Al Serrato, Post 9876**

Senior Vice Commander: **Fred Berg, Post 10217**

Junior Vice Commander: **Robert Owens, Post 9951**

- SVC Berg chaired the August District Meeting hosted by VFW Post 12074 at the Pornping Tower Hotel.
- D5 meeting schedule for remainder of term; **November** 14-15 Phnom Penh,
- **February** 20-21 Pattaya, **May** District 5 Convention 15-16 Bangkok.
- VFW Post 11575 hosted the November District 5 meeting.
- 19 February 2015 The Ban Chang VFW Post 12146 was instituted by Department Commander William (Bear) Hudson.
- February D5 meeting was hosted by VFW Post 9876 Pattaya
- May 2015 VFW Post 11575 celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Mayaguez Incident.
- The 2014-2015 D5 Convention was hosted by VFW Post 9951 Bangkok. Elected Officers for the 2015-2016 Term are: CDR Fred Berg (Post 10217), SVC Tom Friend (Post 9951), JVC Ernie Mayeaux Jr., (Post 12074)

#### **2015- 2016**

Commander: **Fred Berg, Post 10217**

Senior Vice Commander: **Tom Friend, Post 9951**

Junior Vice Commander: **Ernie Mayeaux Jr., Post 12074**

- The August District V Meeting was hosted by the Karl W. Richter Memorial Post 10217 at the Sima Thani Hotel in Korat
- The November District V Meeting was hosted by AFATN Memorial Post 10249 at the Charoen Hotel in Udorn Thani
- Post 12146 Ban Chang, Rayong hosted the Department Mid-Term C of A in December. An outstanding accomplishment for post that was just chartered this past February (9 months ago).
- District V members traveled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia were Post 11575 hosted the February District meeting.
- VFW Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Brian Duffy and Executive Director Washington D.C. Office Robert E. Wallace visited District 5 on 11-12 March 2016
- Post 12074 was originally scheduled to be host the May D5 Convention. However, since they will be hosting the Department Convention in June the May meeting location was changed to Pattaya City and will be hosted by Post 9876. Annual budget was approved, Changes to the District By-Laws were adopted and Officers for the 2016-2017 Term were elected and installed. Commander Berg was re-elected as the Commander, Tom Friend was re-elected as our Sr. Vice, and Michael Cooperman was elected as the New Jr. Vice Commander.
- Post 12074 hosted the Department Convention at the Porn Ping Towers in Chiang Mai. 5-9 June 2016. VFW National SVC Brian Duffy was on had to install the newly elected Department Officers. All State Posts include 9951, 10217 and 12146. Fred Berg was selected as the Outstanding Post Adjutant, Bob Duffy was selected as the Outstanding Post Service Officer, and Ken Stein was selected as the Outstanding Post Commander. Post 9876 received a National Recognition Award!

**2016- 2017**

Commander: **Fred Berg, Post 10217**

Senior Vice Commander: **Tom Friend, Post 9951**

Junior Vice Commander: **Michael Cooperman, Post 12146**

- Post 12146 hosted the August District Meeting and Cootie Scratch at the Camel Pub in Ban Chang
  - o The VFW Memorial located at the infamous Bridge on the River Kwai received a facelift. Post 12146 spearheaded the project and Mick Newbatt, curator of the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, completed the work.
- Post 9951 hosted the November District Meeting at JUSMAGTHAI
  - o Next April marks the 20th anniversary for the dedication of the VFW

Memorial in Kanchanaburi. Plans are being made to host a special ceremony in conjunction with the annual ANZAC Day festivities held on the 25th of April.

- o Post 11575 was put on notice for failure to purchase a QM Bond for this term and failure to submit Trustee's Reports of Audit.

- The DPA Mid Term was held in Angeles City, PI All-State recognition bestowed on District V for meeting all requirements by the 30 June deadline.

- Post 10217 was host for the February District Meeting at the Best Hotel in Korat. DPA SVC John Gilbert was in attendance.

- o Post 11575 has now purchased a QM Bond and required Trustee's Audits are now on file with the DPA QM.

- o Nominations were opened for election of officers for the 2017-2018 VFW term.

- DPA Commander Moses, Chief of Staff Bob Zaher, and DPA QM Pete Callaghan traveled to Mount Hawthorn, Australia on 5 May 2017 to institute VFW Post 12163.

DPA Commander Moses assigned the new post to the care of District V. Having a VFW Post so far from the home district will surely present some logistics issues that need to be addressed.

- The District Convention was hosted by Post 10249 in Udorn on 19-20 May at the Charoen Hotel.

- o Nominations, Election and Installation of Officers for the 2017-2018 VFW term was concluded. Ken Stein (Post 12146 Commander) Jack Farrell (Post 12146) Sr. Vice, and Larry Williams (Post 12146) Jr. Vice

- o District meeting schedule was approved for next term.

- DPA 51st Annual Convention was held in Subic Bay, PI. District 5 along with Posts 12146, 9951, 10217 and 10249 were recognized for All-State and 12146 was also selected as All-American Posts this term.

## **2017 - 2018**

Commander: **Ken Stein, Post 12146**

Senior Vice Commander: **Jack Farrell, Post 12146**

Junior Vice Commander: **Larry Williams, Post 12146**

- With the addition of VFW Post 12163 in Mount Hawthorn Western Australia a new District V Logo was designed by Comrade Marohl (VFW Post 10249)

- Post 12074 hosted the August District Meeting and Cootie Scratch in Chiang Mai - Commander Stein accompanied by DPA Commander John Gilbert and DPA QM Pete Callaghan visited the new post in Australia

- District raffled off an iPad Pro that netted @ 158,000THB of which 30% went to the district. Burt Nestle of Post 9951 was the lucky winner.
- Post 11575 hosted the November District Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia while there District donated @ \$750 to help recover the cremated remains of a USAF Veteran and reunite them with his surviving spouse and son.
- § Randy Riggs, Post 9951 was elected to fill the vacated Trustee 1 year position
- § Commander Stein also appointed Comrade Tom Friend as the new District Service Officer.
- Ø Our November meeting was also historical in that it was the first ever meeting conducted using video conferencing. Connecting three (3) countries on two (2) continents despite a few sound issues it was a great success. Thanks to the innovative thinking of Commander Stein District was also able to purchase a video conferencing system for use at our future meetings.
- The DPA Mid Term was held in Cebu, Philippines
- Post 12146 was selected to host the Department Convention in June
- Post 9876 hosted our February District Meeting in Pattaya where nominations were opened for officers for the 2018 – 2019 VFW term. 9876 Commander Eric Larsen also announced the closing of the Hogs Breath, which has been home to Post 9876 for many years.
- April 2018, Commander Stein installed the newly elected officers of Post 12163, Mt. Hawthorn, Australia via video chat.
- This year six posts from District 5 participated in the annual ANZAC Day Ceremony by providing a wreath for the Kanchanaburi War Memorial. District also placed a wreath on the VFW Monument near the Bridge at the River Kwai.
- May 2018 District Convention was hosted by Post 12146 Bert Marohl of Post 10249 was elected District Commander. Comrade Ken Stein installed all officers.
- June 2018 Post 12146 also hosted the Department Convention. It was a great turnout with approximately 100 members in attendance. This Term Post 9951, 10217, 11575, 12146 and 12163 received All-State recognition and several are also in the running for All-American. Dan Morgan was selected as the Department Outstanding Membership Chairman; Lou Holub was selected as Department Quartermaster of the Year; and Fred Berg Post 10217, Dan Morgan & Lou Holub Post 1246 were also recognized for recruiting new members this year. Comrade Ken Stein was elected as the Department Junior Vice Commander for 2018-2019

## 2018 - 2019

Commander: **Delbert N. Marohl, Post 10249**

Senior Vice Commander: **Randy S. Riggs, Post 9951**

Junior Vice Commander: **Larry Williams, Post 12146**



- Post 9951 hosted the August meeting at the JUSMAG Thai compound in Bangkok All-American recognition given to Post 11575 Phnom Penh
- The October district meeting was hosted by Post 10217 at the Best Hotel in Korat. DPA Commander Mike Verville attended the Pup Tent 6 Scratch (also accomplished the annual inspection) and the District Meeting.
- Post 10249 hosted the January district meeting at the Charoen Hotel in Udorn while the wife's enjoyed a side trip to Nong Khai for a little shopping.
- Post 12074 hosted the district convention at the Lanna Palace Hotel in Chiang Mai. Elections of officers for the 2019-2020 VFW Term was conducted and DPA JVC Ken Stein installed the new slate of officer.
- In October Post 10217 conducted a special project with the Opportunity Foundation that provide shelter and relief services to homeless, abandoned, or trafficked children, orphans, and women.
- Post 12146 initiated a special project at the Children's Special Needs School in Sattahip. Project included upgrade of plumbing, electrical and sanitary conditions to enhance the quality of life for the children.
- Post 10249 also concentrated their efforts towards enhancing the quality of life for three shelters for abused and abandoned children. Project included a donation of food, clothing and toys. In addition they also donated school supplies, sports equipment, fans, lunch trays and water chillers to three local schools.
- Comrade Riggs once again spearheaded the ANZAC Day activities for District V VFW Memorial wreaths were placed at the Cemetery Monument and the VFW Memorial Plaque near the Bridge.
- District V had a great year. Every post made a contribution to the various VFW Programs, VOD, PP, TA, National Home and the Veterans and Military Support Programs. 7 or the 8 posts obtained 100% in membership and All-State Recognition. District V, along with Post 10217 and 12146 also received All-American recognition.

## 2019 - 2020

Commander: **Randy S. Riggs, Post 9951**

Senior Vice Commander: **Larry Williams, Post 12146 (Resigned) / Jack Farrell, Post 11575**

Junior Vice Commander: **Phil Jones, Post 10217 (Resigned) / Carl Manchester, Post 12074**

- **District V 1st Qtr.** meeting held at Hotel Cambodiana, Phnom Penh 20 July 2019, host Post 11575. All other officers and commanders except Phil Jones from Post 10217 were present! Comrade Larry Williams resigned in April, prior to 1st Qtr.

meeting as Dist V- SVC, SO, and ADSO for personal reasons. Comrade Robert Rositer was appointed and accepted as District V Adjutant.

Cdr Riggs reported all of District V had completed its requirements for members early this year. Cdr Riggs urged Post to encourage Annual Members to consider renewing as Life Members. Comrades in distress: William Bragg 10217; Jack Angel 9951; and George Quinton 9951.

Nominations/Acceptance for vacant positions: Jack Farrell 11575 for SVC and Carrie London 9951 for Surgeon were completed. Announcement: Mid-Term C of A in Phnom Penh on 6-8 December 2019 at Hotel Cambodiana! 2020 DPA Convention will be scheduled in Bangkok on 13-18 June 2020 at Windsor Suites Hotel.

New District V website is officially open, Cdr Riggs to handle initial Webmaster duties. Past Cdr James Maughmer 12163 congratulated on his Recruiting Award for Membership. Legacy Life Membership Drawing \$400 awarded to Post 12074 Chiang Mai. Adjustment to Balance of District meetings in review, once completed notice will be sent out.

Next meeting scheduled for 18-19 Oct 2019 in Pattaya hosted by Post 9876.

- **District V 2nd Qtr.** meeting held on 19 Oct at Post 9876 home location in Pattaya. DPA SVC, JVC, QM, and MOC Grand Cdr were in attendance for briefing presentations! All officers and post commanders except MacNamara 12163 were present! Comrade Phil Jones Dist JVC resigned his position for personal/medical reasons as of 2 Sep 2019. Nomination/Acceptance for vacant JVC position: Carl Manchester Post 12074. VOD/Patriot Pen theme announcement: "What Makes America Great" A-A awards were presented by DPA SVC with comments from other DPA officers. Next meeting is scheduled for 17-18 Jan 2020 in Bangkok hosted by Post 9951.

- **District V 3rd Qtr.** meeting held on 18 Jan at JUSMAGTHAI conference room in Bangkok. DPA Commander Rick Farris in attendance along with PDC Berg. Several Dist officers were absent along with Post Cdr MacNamara 12163. Dist QM adjustment corrections issued due to error of double entry on Trustee Report/QM log. District purchased a Wreath for departed comrade William C. Foster, Post 9876.

Delegate Letters have been sent to all Post for Mar/Apr 2020 voting. Cdr Riggs reminded Post to keep Svc Officer and CSR reports as important issues per template. Surgeon London reported on importance of Diabetes and its serious complications. Inspector Farrell briefed on Status all Post inspections are completed for District V.

Credential Com. Chairman reported that on 1 Apr delegate strength and dues are expected from Post Cdr's. Congratulations to Post 11575 for outstanding C of A conducted last month December 2019. Cooties had another great Scratch meeting and funds are being moved from Pen Fed to Navy Fed. Cdr Riggs recommended all Post change from Pen Fed to Navy Fed as easier to do business with.

Cdr Riggs opened floor for District Nominations for following positions: CDR – Randy Riggs; SVC Jack Farrell; JVC Carl Manchester; QM Dan Morgan; JAG open; Chaplain open; SURG Carrie London; Trustee 3yr open, other 2 Trustees move down. Cdr Riggs indicated issues on Dist Website; Members Roster reviewed and Calendar updated, Reminder Khanchanaburi Ceremony on 25 April and D5 meeting to take place same location. Dist JAG to review By Law updates for consideration at April meeting. Cdr Riggs made a presentation to DPA Cdr Faris followed by a speech of encouragement.

Next meeting scheduled for 24-25 April in Kanchanaburi, hosted by District 5.

Note: Between the January and April meeting, Thailand went into Lock down mode due to the COVID-19 China Corona virus plague!!

All activities suspended in country including VFW resulting in cancellation of April District V meeting and June DPA Convention. Per National E.O. District to continue VFW business via online procedures as to not further delay operations.

**-District V 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. -**

Cdr Riggs arranged a District Video/Online conference on 13 May via Google Meet upon opening of meeting, he reconfirmed DPA Convention was canceled, and announced SVC Jack Farrell will conduct the Voting procedure for today.

SVC Farrell requested a Credential Committee Report on status of Post eligibility, delegate letters, dues accountability, election reports, procedures on nominations and voting steps. A vote on Credential Committee Report was ordered and approved with no discussion. Comrade Robert Rositer announced his resignation as 2yr Trustee for personal reasons, accepted.

Nominations reopened for the following positions: CDR – Randy Riggs accepted; SVC – Jack Farrell accepted; JVC-Carl Manchester accepted; QM - Lou Holub declined; Dan Morgan declined, Manny Guarnuccio accepted; Chaplain - Shane Curtis accepted and William Chapman accepted; SURG-Carrie London accepted; following accepted Trustee 1-Dan Morgan; Trustee 2-Richard Garcia; Trustee 3- David Borchers and Donald Delomba, correspondence read from self-nominees with no other nominations action was closed.

Voting initiated, all unopposed positions unanimously elected and only Chaplain and Trustee 3yr positions were voted on by approved Voting member/delegates:

Position of Chaplain: Shane Curtis 31 votes and William Chapman 32 votes, Chapman elected Chaplain; Position of Trustee 3yr Donald Delomba 35 votes and David Borchers 29 votes, Delomba elected Trustee 3yr.

SVC Farrell closed Voting and announced the Elected/Appointed Dist. V Officers for 2020-2021: **Commander** – Riggs; **SVC** – Farrell; **JVC** - Manchester; **QM** - Guarnuccio; **CoS**: Vacant; **ADJ** - Sartain; **CHP** - Chapman; **JAG** - Borchers; **SURG** - London; **Trustee 1yr** - Morgan; **Trustee 2yr** - Garcia; **Trustee 3yr** - Delomba; **INSP** - Farrell; **SVO** - Bischoff.

The Voting proceedings was heavily contested by several members with Point of Orders to be submitted supporting their objection as noted by SVC Farrell concluding his action and turning the balance of the meeting back to Cdr Riggs to conduct a regular district meeting as follows:

All Dist Officers present except Garcia and absent was Post Cdr Floit 10249 and ADSO Bischoff. Cdr Riggs indicated an unauthorized entry to last Jan meeting minutes were not approved. A QM report was not provided at the meeting and election results were being challenged by the D5 QM. Cdr Riggs announced he was removed as DPA Webmaster per incoming DPA Cdr Stein which was unexpected. Reading of all Post Cdr activity reports were waived and paper copies are submitted for the Record. JAG/By-Law committee to begin review process for next D5 meeting July 2021. Website bill of \$360 was submitted by Commander Riggs using his credit card. Meeting concluded with next district meeting scheduled for 15 August 2021 in Chiang Mai hosted by Post 12074.

13 May election proceedings were challenged, in response to the challenged election and the vacancy of a district Commander. DPA Commander, directed Dist. 5 Senior Vice Cdr Farrell to assume the duties of District V Commander pending completion of a new election. This was required based on the fact that Commander Riggs term was ended prior to the challenged election per National memorandum.

On 18 May 2020 Commander Farrell announced that a Special Meeting for Elections would take place on 22 May. On 19 May Commander Farrell, after consultation with National, and DPA leadership, a decision was made to cancel the Special Meeting and conduct Dist V election via Email with step by step procedures for

Post and Delegates to follow in accordance with National and Department directives.

On 26 May a new list of Nominee's were distributed to the all Posts' along with affirmation of Delegate counts to review prior to 29 May 2020.

Election Ballots were prepared with the new nominees and distributed to all Posts on 31 May 2020 with NLT return of 4 June to allow for the for Voting results to be tabulated. All Posts responded accordingly, with election results announced by District Adjutant and Commander Farrell on evening of 3 June.

**The results of the election were as follows:**

Cdr - Lou Holub; SVC - Steve Sartain; JVC - Shane Curtis; QM - Manny Guarnucio; Chap - William Chapman; Trustee 1yr - Dave Borchers; Trustee 2yr - Dan Morgan; Trustee 3yr - Don Delomba

On 13 June 2020, Lou Holub was installed as District 5 Commander for 2020-2021 term relieving Commander Farrell from current term.

On 23 June Department Commander Farris declared that the election was valid and final per his message. Additionally, Commander Farris indicated that some affected members were planning to appeal the results of the election.

### **2020 – 2021**

Commander: **Louis Holub, Post 12146**

Senior Vice Commander: **Steve Sartain, Post 12163**

Junior Vice Commander: **Phillip (Shane) Curtis, Post 12146**

Quartermaster: **Manny Guarnuccio, Post 9876**

Chaplain: **William (Chappie) Chapman, Post 10217**

Trustee 3 year: **Don Delomba, Post 9876**

Trustee 2 year: **Dan Morgan, Post 12146**

Trustee 1 year: **Dave Borchers, Post 10217**

The VFW term started under the same Covid 19/Pandemic restrictions as previous term ended Thailand, Cambodia, and Australia (D5 2 continents, 3 countries) remained in lock down same as rest of DPA & World. Newly elected D5 Commander Holub (former D5 "AS-AA" ADJ, QM and "AA" Post 12146 Cdr.) congratulated and thanked the 2019-2020 Commander (s) and Officers and asked all to set petty jealousies aside after a competitive election process, the Success of District/DPA

will count on teamwork, virtual communications and getting back to D5 mandate, membership, training, and convention.

**Commander Holub Dist. V 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. meeting held at AVANI Hotel Pattaya Beach Sat 19 October, hosted by D5 leadership!** Host Post 9876 was unable to host meeting at their Post venue concerned over pandemic social distancing rules however Hotel was able to support with over 32 in attendance & others on ZOOM VDO meeting was highly successful D5 getting VFW business done. The budgeted host Post \$250 stipend was not required/utilized. SVC Sartain, JVC Curtis coordinated ZOOM pre-meeting activity included D5 Training “Nat’l essay programs familiarization VOD, PP & Teachers” job well done by newly appointed D5 Training Chairman Comrade Trustee Don Delomba.

Cdr. Holub and all other Officers were present either attending physically or on-line. Distinguished guest; DPA Cdr. Stein, PDC Marohl, PDC Riggs, JPDS Farrell, American Legion Post #2 (ALP2) Cdr Bill Albergh. Minutes of previous meeting accepted, motion by ADJ Friend, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Surgeon Steuer.

QM Pro Temp Weld presented 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. 2019-2020 status with lengthy discussions over concerns of auditing, an independent D5 past 10 years 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit commissioned by DPA resulted in discovery of minor admin errors (QM records and Trustee report of Audits) but the accounting verified over a 10-year period variance of few dollars most likely due to FX conversions (THB/USD). D5 moved from Pen Fed to NFCU QM ledger reset. Post Cmdr. Cooperman motioned to approve report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Surgeon Steuer motion carried. New Term Balanced Budget was presented with detail line items & approved FX 30THB/USD. Nat’l teacher’s awards donation requirement rescinded so the budgeted line item replaced with Training budget a D5 mandate, the CDR Travel line item reduced/shifted to augment training program. CoS Farrell motioned to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by JVC Curtis motion carried.

All Post Cmdr.’s provided oral and/or written activity reports. ADJ has copies for review. Committee Reports were provided with announcement of Nat’l requirement for each Post to purchase 5 ea. Buddy Poppy (BP) for each member requirement for “AA” program, after the meeting it was announced Nat’l rescinded the BP requirement for “AA” program however DPA requires the purchase of 1 box for a Post to compete in the “AS” program.

Gov. Body was informed that the 13 May election was declared invalid by DPA & later by National, IAW Nat’l-DPA direction with Cmdr. Riggs resigning, SVC Farrell was advanced to DV Cmdr. IAW Nat’l Special Order 1 new Elections with email balloting was scheduled & executed with results of election: Cmdr. Holub

Post 12146, SVC Sartain Post 12163, JVC Curtis Post 12146, QM Guarnuccio Post 9876, Trustee 3yr Delomba, and Trustee 1yr Borchers.

D5 Meeting locations announced: 16-17 Oct BKK; 15-16 Jan Korat (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary); 16-17 Apr Udorn with Pandemic lock down provision” should Covid 19 restrictions continue D5 Cmdr. will preside virtually from BCU Post 12146 home via ZOOM VDO.

It was announced Post 12163 Australia will sponsor US Marine rotation unit under “Adopt a Unit” program. PDC Riggs announced his Protest against the D5 meeting over pending issues from last term, D5 Cmdr. Holub acknowledged protest. (Later all D5 protest, appeals etc. were rejected by National CINC, DPA ruling stands). DPA Cmdr. Stein spoke encouraging everyone to stay focused on “Membership/ and remember Department motto “Veterans Are Our Business”

**Next District meeting scheduled for 16-17 Oct in BKK hosted by Post 9951!!**

**During 1st Qtr.:** D5 hosted or participated physically or virtually the following: Independence Day (physically), National Convention (virtually), Kicked off annual Essay program VOD/PP, 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary VJ Day Kanchanaburi (physically), reviewed and ordered repairs to D5 River Kwai Monument, VFW Birthday (physically), and POW/MIA Remembrance Day (physically US Embassy BKK).

**Dist. V 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. meeting held at Post Home 12146, Ban Chang on 17 October due to scheduling conflict with JUSMAGTHAI (BKK) conference room being unavailable.** Cmdr. Holub called meeting to order, Officers absent Post Cmdrs. McNamara and Floit but represented by Post SVC’s all others physically present or via ZOOM VDO. Pre meeting activity included D5 Training guest speaker Comrade John Letaw which included his Expert outline–guidelines on TRICARE 101/ FMP. All members encouraged to enroll in the Tricare programs Nov to Dec becomes effective 01 Jan 2021. TRICARE briefing posted on District Website.

Distinguished guest; DPA Cmdr. Stein, DPA SVC Mitchell, ADSO Fitchett, PDC Marohl, PDC Riggs, JPDC Farrell, ALP2 Cmdr. Albergh. Minutes previous meeting accepted, motion by ADJ, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cmdr. Manchester. The ZOOM VDO streamed over 2 continents, 4 countries as DPA SVC linked in from the Philippines. QM Pro Temp Weld presented QM/ Trustee report of Audit, motion by Cmdr. Cooperman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by JAG Marohl, accepted!

DPA Cmdr. Stein email on National Membership, Dept. Training Programs, update on All State/American checklist was read. All Post Cmdr.’s provided oral and/or

written activity reports. ADJ has copies for review. Committee reports; Webmaster/Historian to complete District History and post on the Website, VOD/Patriots Pen Scholarship Programs reminder; update on Membership; Cmdr. Holub reminded Post to cc D-V ADJ on info to DPA; Webmaster Borchers resolved issue of Website payment, not due until April 2021.

D5 Inspector announced Post inspection dates mandated by DPA to be accomplished NLT 31 Dec 2020 original D5 plan was March 2021. Inspector "Wild Bill A." saddled up with family in tow and with excellent cooperation from all the D5 inspections were completed/reported as requested by DPA. All D5 Posts are very mature with few administrative recommendations so basically continue to build on D5-Post "AS-AA success".

Cmdr. Holub announced Korat Post 10217 will host 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner 15 Jan with DV meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2021, Korat Hotel! A motion by JVC Curtis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Comrade Albergh to donate \$250 matching D5 host Post stipend of \$250 in support of Post dinner (social) & meeting, motion carried.

DPA SVC Mitchell provided message of Encouragement via VDO attendance. Cmdr. Holub stated on 11 November an Armistice Day Memorial ceremony in Khanchanaburi will be conducted and D5 planned a van trip for physical attendance (Cancelled due to Pandemic).

**Next District meeting scheduled for 16-17 January in Korat hosted by Post 10217!!**

**During 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr.** - D5 hosted or participated physically or virtually the following: D5 & DPA VOD/PP & T judging (SVC Sartain, virtually), Western Conference (virtually), Halloween celebrations (physically), US Elections (mail in), Veterans / Remembrance Day (physically), Thanks Giving Day dinner (s), (physically), Pearl Harbor Remembrance (physically), DPA Mid-Year COFA (virtually) D5 Thailand was awarded VIA competitive bid with possibility of hosting Physical DPA Convention in Pattaya June 2021, Christmas celebrations/CS and children's activities (Physically), Post 12163 and Post 12146 earned Membership 100%+1 early bird awards from Nat'l. & DPA. Celebrated New Year's Eve activities (physically).

**Dist. V 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. meeting held virtually at Post Home 12146, Ban Chang on 16 January due to COVID-19 Outbreak and 2<sup>nd</sup> Government "lockdown" which started 04 Jan 2021.** Hotels were closed and inter provincial travel suspended consequently immediate combined decisions by D5 Commander and Host Post 10217 Post Commander and Anniversary committee to cancel the physical events planned



for Korat with alternative dates being researched.

Cmdr. Holub called the 3rd Qtr. ZOOM VDO meeting to order, Trustee 3yr Delomba, DSO Williams, and Cmdr. 10249 excused represented by Post SVC. Pre meeting activity included D5 Training by DPA/D5 JAG Marohl with topic of Convention credentials and delegate letter requirements refresher.

Distinguished guest; DPA Cmdr. Stein, PDC Riggs, JPDC Farrell, ADSO Fitchett, MOC SS Rositer.

Minutes of previous meeting accepted, motion by ADJ; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee 1yr. Borchers, motion carried. QM Report by Guarnuccio presented update moved to accept, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cmdr. Farrell, motion carried. Communication read: DPA Mid-Yr. minutes available; Nat'l Website, Store, and OMS had issues & fixed; Covid-19 update by Cmdr. Holub; update on Dist./Post By-Laws by JAG; All Post Cmdr.'s provided oral and/or written activity reports. ADJ has copies for review. Committee Reports: ADSO Fitchett update on cases; Surgeon Steuer on Q-Tips and Cool showers, JAG Marohl reemphasis pre meeting training information Convention delegate and credential requirements; Buddy Poppy requirement hasn't changed except for All-American, waiver is granted, but 1 box purchase still required for All-State, JAG clarified if a Post had requested BP and had not paid then convention representation would be forfeited.

Webmaster/Historian Borchers stated new position e-mail addresses were sent out in Nov to all D5 Officers; reminder Website Annual Fee due on 9 April; update of history comments for current term being worked on and will coordinate with Cmdr. Holub; keep working Membership; MOC SS Rositer briefing on two new members (Borchers & Guarnuccio); Cmdr. Holub congratulated all VDO/PP participant's/nominees with D5 nominees having a strong showing in tight competition but were not selected to represent the DPA at Nat'l. The DPA winners are congratulated and wished them good luck at Nat'l in Feb and thanked all Post who participated in Essay contest.

D-5 River Kwai monument repairs completed and paid for by direct anonymous donation; no changes on hosting DPA June convention, the Bayview hotel Pattaya Beach was selected and hopefully a DPA confirmation "go-no go" is expected in early May; JAG reminded all Post to prepare local VDO usage/voting procedures; D-5 Inspections are now completed; Cmdr. Holub announced he will try to visit as many Post as possible once the COVID-19 restrictions are eased up.

Nominations for next term 2021-2022 were solicited in the following positions:

**Dist. Cmdr.** - Holub/PDC Riggs; **SVC** - Sartain; **JVC** - Hart/Holzworth;  
**QM** - Guarnuccio; **Chaplain** - Chapman; **Trustee 3yr** - Borchers

JAG Marohl reminded Post required credentials need to be submitted NLT 30 April, Cmdr. Holub reminded Post credential requirements need to be adhered too and if any questions contact the Credentials Committee Chairman for resolution or himself directly.

The lingering issue of BK Hubbard fund was discussed and agreement by all to find permanent solution for control and disbursement of the fund (note no request or monies disbursed since 2017), Commander Holub requested QM Guarnuccio to Chair the Committee, with JAG Marohl and Trustees, review and recommend a program to be voted by Gov. Body at April meeting or special meeting (ASAP) if required. QM Guarnuccio provided a detailed synopsis of discrepancies during recent Post audits, which primarily were a result of FX similar to DPA D5 audit. Commander Holub & JAG Marohl reemphasized D5 FX is established via annual Balance Budget with Governing Body approval (current term 30THB) however for future clarification a line item will be recorded in the convention or quarterly meeting minutes stating the FX used by D5.

ANZAC Day ceremony on 25 April is still pending, Cmdr. Holub will announce when confirmation is received. Cmdr. Riggs briefed on Post 9951 National Grant project to repair benches and plates with QR codes at the Khanchanaburi cemetery. Sample of Bench embedded designed revealed and copy placed on Website. DPA Cmdr. Stein stressed the importance for Dist. officer nominee's ability, qualifications, communication skills, and their reputations to adhere with Dept/National level objectives during the continuing Pandemic/Virus emergency situation. Cmdr. Holub thanked D-5 leadership for continuing the business of the VFW across two continents and three countries and that "Veterans are our Business". Cmdr. Holub commented that D5 was disheartened by Pandemic events which required Thai Government officials to curb the recent spread of COVID-19 cases and forcing online meetings but until an all-clear is given health and safety remains paramount. He also thanked Udorn Post for agreeing to sacrifice hosting the Dist. Convention meeting in April assigning the dates to Korat Post 10217 so we may celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in conjunction with D5 Convention 30 April-1 May, looking forward to seeing a huge turnout, also continue to focus on Membership, Training, and Convention, because "Veterans are our Business".

**Next District meeting will be conducted in Korat hosted by Post 10217 on 1 May 2021. (Rescheduled)**

**Dist. V 4th and final Convention meeting term 2020-2021 was again conducted “virtually” from Post Home 12146 Ban Chang on 01 May 2021.**

The 3rd COVID-19 outbreak and Thai Governmental “lockdown and restricted inter provincial travel” was imposed in mid-April with hotels, meeting venues, restaurants and bars closed and/or restricted in terms of public gatherings of no more than 50 people, consequently Korat Post 10217 unable to physically host the meeting and cancelled their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner, the annual remembrance ceremony marking the 53rd anniversary of the death of Sergeant First Class Wallace Gumbs US Special Forces hosted by 46th SF Company JUSMAGTHAI also cancelled.

Cmdr. Holub called D5 Convention ZOOM VDO meeting to order due to Thai Government Covid-19 rules & regulations announced on/about 18 April 2021; D5 Convention meeting is restricted to Electronic Means established per Video Conferencing Meeting Procedures, D5 Thailand Cambodia and Australia, dated Nov 2020! All Post/Staff Officers registered “online” except Cmdr. Post 10249 who was absence.

Pre-meeting activity included Convention credentials committee with report of delegate letters members in good standing strengths and status of credentials with much discussion and confirmation it was determined all Post credentials were in order; motion to accept the committee report approved by the Governing Body. Distinguished guest: DPA Commander & Past Dist. Cdr Ken Stein; DPA Adjutant/QM, Past Dept. Cdr, National Councilman & Grand of the Pacific Shawn Watson (ZOOM Video coordinator); ADSO Al Fitchett; JPDC John “Jack” Farrell; PDC Randy Riggs; DPA JAG & PDC Delbert Marohl; PDC & Past SS Fred Berg; MOC Pup Tent 6 SS Bobby Rositer; and American Legion Thailand Post 2 Commander William “Bill” Martin.

Minutes of previous meeting, QM Report and Trustee Audit approved

Communication read included MEMSTATS, AS-AA Program status, DPA Mid-Year CofA Minutes Dec 2020, DPA CDR Important Life membership incentive, DPA Virtual Convention updates, 122nd National Convention Resolutions and the National youth scholarship programs.

The new scholarship topics 6-8th graders “How can I be a good American?” and 9-12th graders “America - Where do we go from here?” and the CINC Video message to the DPA.

Post Commanders Activity and Chairman Reports were presented, followed by a 15-minute comfort break.

Comrade or the family of a Comrade in distress were recorded

Bills none presented to be read.

Unfinished Business included updates Karl Richter Memorial VFW Post 10217 50th anniversary dinner cancellation; DPA Annual Convention to commence virtually 19 June 2021 0830 hrs Thai time; ANZAC Day observance cancelled; review of Term 2019-2020 Awards received for Post 10217 National Community Service, Outstanding Post 12146 Commander L. Holub, Outstanding Post 10217 & 12146 awards to be mailed to recipients.

D5 BK Hubbard Policy Memorandum for Veterans assistance funds program report and motion made by JAG Marohl to accept was discussed but tabled for further committee review until next District V meeting.

Nominations and Vote for District V Officers Term 2021-2022

**District Commander:** Randy Riggs; **SVC:** William Chapman; **JVC:** Harold Hart; **QM:** Manny Guarnuccio; **Chaplain:** Ed Sostack; **Trustee 3 year:** Dave Borchers. No appointments by newly elected D5 Cdr were announced at this time.

**Installing Officer** was our Past DPA Commander **Shawn Watson**.

No New Business was discussed.

Good of the Order included congratulations to the newly elected 2021-2022 Term Officers, a summary of DPA Awards nominations which were submitted on 18 Apr 2021, D5 nominees Outstanding QM, Post Member & Service Officer. Commander Holub congratulated Post Commanders who took time to recognize achievements of their Post Members/nominees and thanked all who supported virtual meetings and Convention,

Congratulated Karl W. Richter Memorial Post 10217 on their efforts in attempting to make the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary happen. Hopefully the Pandemic will soon be behind us and don't forget the District mandate and continue to focus on Membership, Training and Convention because "Veterans Are Our Business".

Next District meeting TBD by incoming District V Officers Term 2021-2022.

### **Term 2021-2022**

Commander: **Randy Riggs, Post 9951**

Sr Vice Commander: **William (Chappie) Chapman, Post 10217**

Jr. Vice Commander: **Harold (Hal) Hart, Post 9876**

Quartermaster: **Manny Guarnuccio, Post 9876**

Chaplain: **Ed Sostack, Post 10217**

Trustee 3 year: **Dave Borchers, Post 10217**

Trustee 2 year: **Don Delomba, Post 9876**

Trustee 1 year: **Dan Morgan, Post 12146**

### **Current Posts of District 5 as of: 5 September 2020**

#### **VFW Post 9951**

Bangkok, Thailand

**Chartered: 27 September 1965**

Number of Charter Members: 68

Note: With permission of family, the Post was renamed C. L. Elms VFW Post 9951 in February 1972. Before then it was known as the Bangkok Post.

#### **VFW Post 10217**

Korat, Thailand

**Chartered: 21 January 1971**

Number of Charter Members: 108

Note: VFW Post 10217 was chartered on 21 January 1971. The Post changed its name from Korat Air Base Post 10217 to Karl W. Richter Memorial Post 10217 on 14 May 1973.

#### **VFW Post 10249**

Udorn, Thailand

**Chartered: 08 January 1972**

Number of Charter Members: 263

Note: Named AFTN Memorial Post 10249, in honor of the nine (9) airman killed when an RF-4C crashed into the AFTN Broadcasting Station on 10 April 1970

#### **VFW Post 9876**

Pattaya Beach, Thailand

**Chartered: 7 March 1981**

Number of Charter Member: 47

Note: E.S. Hamilton Post changed its name to Fred J. Estes Post in 2010

**FWW Post 11575**

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Chartered: 15 May 2000**

Number of Charter Members: 42

Note: Mayaguez VFW Memorial Post.

**FWW Post 12074**

Chiang Mai, Thailand

**Chartered: 17 January 2008**

Number of Charter Members: 47

Note: John "Jack Scarsdale" Newkirk Memorial Post, Changed its name to Ken Chapman VFW Post 12074, 9 Feb 2013

**FWW Post 12146**

Ban Chang, (Rayong) Thailand

**Chartered: 19 February 2015**

Number of Charter Members: 57

Note: Changed its name to Ban Chang - U-Tapao VFW Post 12146, 12 Mar 2017

**FWW Post 12163**

Mount Hawthorn, (Perth) Western Australia

**Date of Institution: 7 May 2017**

Number of Charter Members: 43

Note: Changed its name to Western Australia – VFW Post

**FWW Post 2054, Samaeson, closed in 1976 and the number was assigned to a Post in Seoul Korea in 1979.**

**FWW Post 10235, Saigon Vietnam, was established in 1971. It closed in 1974 and the number was assigned to a VFW Post in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.**

**FWW Post 10239, Saigon Vietnam was established in 1972. It closed in 1977 and a the number was assigned to VFW Post in West Yellowstone, Montana**

**FWW Post 10275, Pattaya, was active from 1973-1976; it is now a VFW Post in Duncan Falls, Ohio.**

**FWW Post 10365, NKP Thailand was established in 1974. It closed in 1975 and the number was assigned to a VFW Post in Pryor, Oklahoma**

*updated as of: 5 September 2020*

***Past District V/DPA/Grand Commanders*** \* **Deceased member**

**Note:** The Commander's **term year** runs from **July-June**

1971 - 1972 John J. Donahue - Resigned to become DPA Officer\*  
Charles Joseph Post 10217

1972 - 1973 Charles Joseph Post 10217

1973 - 1974 Emery Brogan

1974 - 1975 Larry Lobach

1975 - 1976 Charles J. Pierce

1976 - 1977 Jesse J. Henry

1977 - 1978 Kit G. Price, Post 10249

1978 - 1979 Kit G. Price, Post 10249

1979 - 1980 William H. Coppedge

1980 - 1981 Jack DeMello, Post 9951/Post 9876 \*

1981 - 1982 James C. Carey, Post 10217

1982 - 1983 James C. Carey, Post 10217

1983 - 1984 Jean Bingham, Post 9876

1984 - 1985 Jean Bingham, Post 9876

1985 - 1986 Dick Vileo, Post 9951

1986 - 1987 Dick Vileo, Post 9951, Robert Jones,  
Post 9951 + Resigned to become DPA Officer

1987 - 1988 Robert L. Jones. Post 9951

1988 - 1989 Jean Bingham, Post 9876

1989 - 1990 Jean Bingham, Post 9876 \*

1990 - 2003 Dick Vileo, Post 9951

2003 - 2004 Dick Vileo, Post 9951 \* deceased in office

2003 -2004 Forest Williams, Post 10249

2004 - 2005 Jerry Karwacki, Post 9951 # resigned  
Charlie Zuill, Post 10217\*

2005 - 2006 Delbert Marhol, Post 10249 # resigned  
Ed Hughes, Post 10249\*

2006 - 2008 James Oden, Post 9951\*

2008 - 2009 B.K.Hubbard, Post 9876\*

2009 - 2010 William "Bear" Hudson, Post 9876\*

2010 - 2015 Al Serrato, Post 9876

2015 - 2017 Frederick Berg Sr., Post 10217

2017 - 2018 Kenneth A. Stein, Post 12146

2018 - 2019 Delbert N. Marohl, Post 10249

2019 - 2020 Randy Riggs, Post 9951  
2020 - 2021 Louis Holub, Post 12146

***District V Department of Pacific Area Commanders***

1973 - 1974 John J. Donohue \*  
1987 - 1988 Dick Vileo, Post 9951 \*  
2010 - 2011 James Oden, Post 9951 \*  
2014 - 2015 William "Bear" Hudson 10217\*  
2015 - 2016 Homer Kemper Post 9876\*  
2020 - 2021 Kenneth A. Stein, Post 12146

***District V MOC, Grand of Pacific Area Commanders***

1990 - 1991 Jean Bingham, Post 9876\*  
1992 - 1993 Dick Vileo, Post 9951 \*  
2011 - 2012 James Oden, Post 9951 \*  
2017 - 2018 William "Bear" Hudson, Post 9876\*

***"Pictures of the Past"  
Click on Thumbnail to Enlarge***



*If you have anything to add to the History of the Department of Pacific Areas, either to the Department, Districts or Posts, Please Email [histdpa@yfwpacific.org](mailto:histdpa@yfwpacific.org) or [webdpa@yfwpacific.org](mailto:webdpa@yfwpacific.org) with the information in Word Document format.*

*For the period from 1971-1972 through 2007-2008:*

*Submitted by:  
(signed)*

*Approved by:  
(signed)*



*B.K. Hubbard  
District V Historian  
18 May 2008*

*Jim Oden  
District V Commander  
18 May 2008*

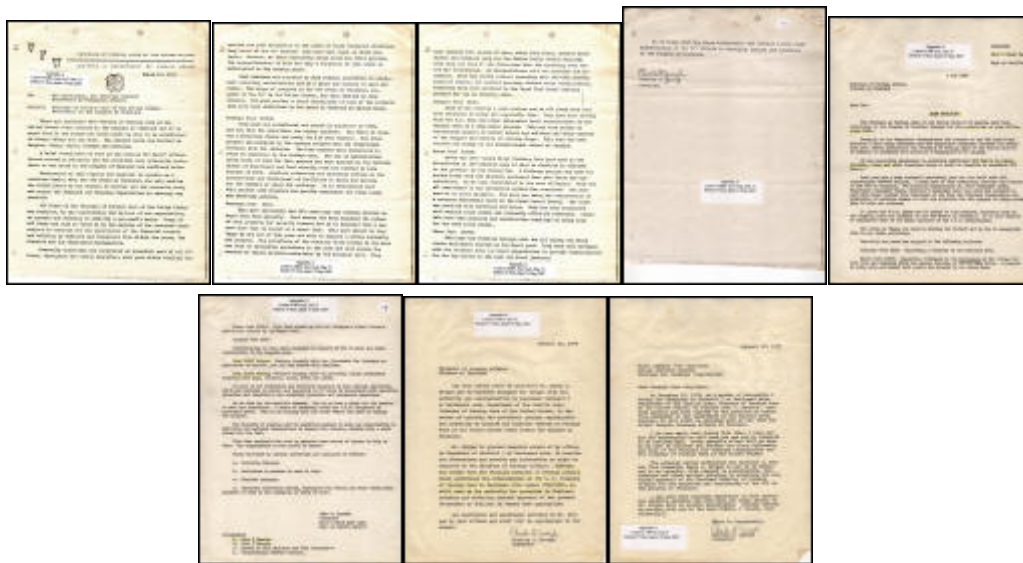
## APPENDIX A

### A-1 ~ A5



A-6. The letter to MRA, dated Mar 73, Encl 2 is not available. It will be filed here, if and when it is found

### A7 ~ A14



## **APPENDIX B**

### ***Known and current Posts at Time of 1971 Dist V Charter***

#### ***VFW Post 9951***

*Bangkok, Thailand*

*Chartered: 27 September 1965*

*Number of Charter Members: 68*

*Post WEB Site: <[www.vfwbkk.org](http://www.vfwbkk.org)>*

*Note: With the permission family, the Post was renamed C.L. Elms VFW Post 9951 in February 1972. Before then it was known as the Bangkok Post.*

#### ***VFW Post 10217***

*Korat, Thailand*

*Chartered: 21 January 1971*

*Number of Charter Members:*

*Post WEB Site: <[www.vfw10217.com](http://www.vfw10217.com)>*

*VFW Post 10217 was chartered on 21 January 1971. Post changed name from Korat Air Base Post 10217 to Karl W. Richter Memorial Post 10217 on 14 May 73.*

***After Charter approved:***

#### ***VFW Post 10249***

*Udorn, Thailand*

*Chartered: 8 January 1972*

*Number of Charter Members:*

*Post WEB Site: <[members.tripod.com/udornvfw/index.htm](http://members.tripod.com/udornvfw/index.htm)>*

#### ***VFW Post 9876***

*Pattaya Beach, Thailand*

*Chartered: 7 March 1981*

*Number of Charter Member:*

*Post WEB Site: <[www.vfwpost9876.org](http://www.vfwpost9876.org)>*

#### ***VFW Post 11575***

*Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

*Chartered: 15 May 2000*

*Number of Charter Members: 42*

*Post WEB Site: <[www.geocities.com/vfw\\_post\\_11575](http://www.geocities.com/vfw_post_11575)>*

#### ***VFW Post 12074***

*Chiang Mai, Thailand*

*Chartered: 17 January 2008*  
*Number of Charter Members:*  
*Post website: <[www.vfw-chiangmai.org](http://www.vfw-chiangmai.org)>*

***Distribution List*** (electronically), except where noted)

*Commander, Department of Pacific Areas*

*Department Adjutant*

*Department Historian*

*Commander, District V*

*District V Adjutant*

*Post 9876*

*Post 9951*

*Post 10217*

*Post 10249*

*Post 11575*

*Post 12074*

*Post 12146*

*Post 12163*

*District V Webmaster/Historian (on file)*