

**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 Villeo, 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 Villeo, 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-

pines) 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**

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

#### **2010 - 2011**

Commander: **Al Serrato, Post 9876**

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

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

## **2011 - 2012**

**Commander: Al Serrato, Post 9876**

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

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

- District V Commander requests DPA support for VFW Flood Relief in Thailand.
- DPA Commander Barry Hirshbein appoints District Commander 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
- Pat Clark – Pattaya Post, appointed Chairman VOD/PP/Teachers Award
- Service Officer's Skype Chat was set up – This bi-monthly chat allows our officers to become better informed and thereby provide the best knowledge about issues affecting Veterans and dependents. Kudos given by the DPA Commanders for our innovative approach to the Service Officer Program.

## **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 Veterans
- District V Commander attends DPA convention at Olongopoh, Philippines.
- The BSA and the VFW District 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 this term were Eric Larsen VFW Post 9876 and Byron Petrides VFW Post 10217
- All State Quartermasters for this term were also selected from Ken Miller VFW Post's 9876, Ed Medlin VFW Post 10217 and Christian Berger VFW Post 11575.
- District V awarded VFW National Military Services "Certificate of Recognition"
- District V member Bear Hudson elected as Senior Vice Commander – DPA.

## **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 Udon 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 where 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 hand 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 Farris 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 us-

ing 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**

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 October 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 30 April - 1 May 2021.**

**TBD During 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr.** - D5 hosted or participated physically or virtually in the following: Korat 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary congratulations (phone con), Thai Government Lifts 2<sup>nd</sup> wave Covid19/ Pandemic on shore country restrictions, the offshore traveler 14-day quarantine requirements remain with no immediate loosening in sight, DPA June Physical convention Pattaya Beach “not likely”, Chiang Mai Post anniversary (sent message), Super bowl “breakfast tail gating” (physically) Chinese New Year dinner (physically), BCU Post anniversary (physically), Valentine Day (physically), Nat’l. Legislative Conference (virtually), St Patrick Day celebrations (physically).

### **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**

Udon, 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

**VFW Post 11575**

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Chartered: 15 May 2000

Number of Charter Members: 42

Note: Mayaguez VFW Memorial Post.

**VFW 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

**VFW 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

**VFW 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

**VFW Post 2054, Samaeson, closed in 1976 and the number was assigned to a Post in Seoul Korea in 1979.**

**VFW 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.**

**VFW Post 10239, Saigon Vietnam was established in 1972. It closed in 1977 and the number was assigned to VFW Post in West Yellowstone, Montana**

**VFW Post 10275, Pattaya, was active from 1973-1976; it is now a VFW Post in Duncan Falls, Ohio.**

**VFW 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 [hisdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:hisdpa@vfwpacific.org) or [webdpa@vfwpacific.org](mailto:webdpa@vfwpacific.org) with the information in Word Document format.*

*For the period from 1971-1972 through 2007-2008:*

*Submitted by:  
(signed)  
B.K. Hubbard  
District V Historian  
18 May 2008*

*Approved by:  
(signed)  
Jim Oden  
District V Commander  
18 May 2008*

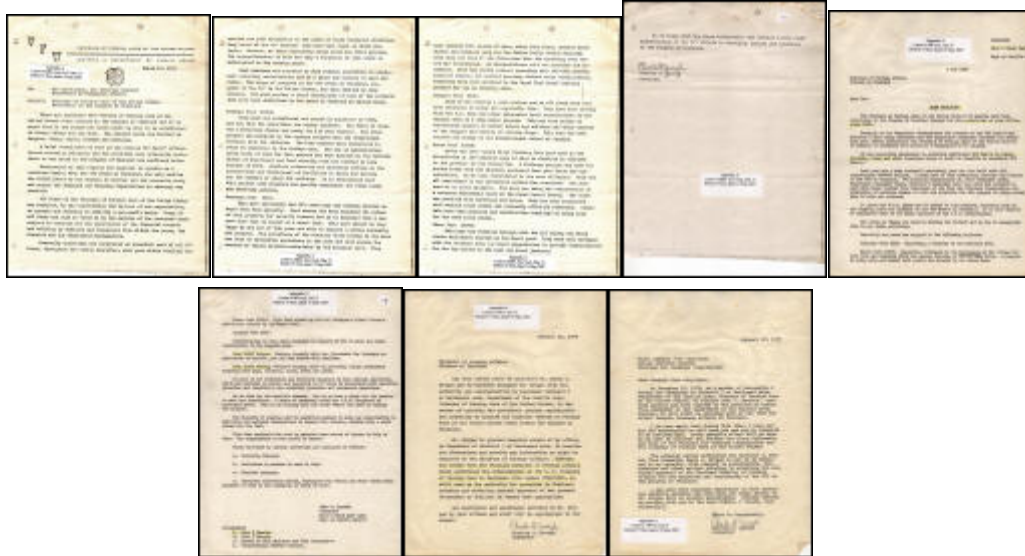
## **APPENDIX A**

### **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>*

***VFW Post 9876***

*Pattaya Beach, Thailand*

*Chartered: 7 March 1981*

*Number of Charter Member:*

*Post WEB Site: <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>*

***VFW Post 12074***

*Chiang Mai, Thailand*

*Chartered: 17 January 2008*

*Number of Charter Members:*

*Post website: <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)*



