

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**

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Illinois

2023-2024 Series  
**General Orders No. 3**  
September 2023

**NATIONAL BY-LAWS: POLITICS SEC. 702- POLITICS.**

No officer or member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall in any manner use the Veterans of Foreign Wars for partisan politics and no discussion of partisan questions shall be permitted at any meetings nor shall any nominations, recommendations or endorsements for political office be made, provided this shall not apply to discussion of policies of any organization that seeks to alter our present form of government by force, violence or other unlawful means.

Participation in activities supporting or opposing legislation or administration of laws for veteran's welfare or relating to other matters pertaining to the purposes of the organization shall be permitted. Such participation shall be consistent with the legislative and welfare programs and policies approved by the National Convention.

No Post, County Council, District or Department shall participate in a labor dispute, either on behalf of labor or management. No member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall wear the VFW uniform or VFW cap in any plant or picket line or meeting of employees where a labor dispute arises.

**SECTION 703 - BONDS**

Please refer to Section 703 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure regarding the bonding of officers. We quote in part from Section 703: *"Each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these By-Laws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, he may be accountable.*

The bonds that are purchased through State HQ expire August 31, 2023.

## **ATTN: DISTRICT OFFICERS**

District Meetings are meant to be a school of instruction. District Commanders must make sure instruction is taking place at their meetings. Training is very important to the success of our organization; without it we lose members and Posts. The national web site, [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), contains a great wealth of information that can be used in schools of instruction. Use these materials and more to cause your attendees at District Meetings to leave the meeting knowing more than they did when they arrived. Department representatives are available, from time to time, to provide training at District Meetings or at Schools of Instruction called outside of the normal District Meeting Schedule. Should more than one District decide to join together for a school of instruction a Department Representative is almost sure to attend if invited.

## **RED, WHITE AND BLUE VETERANS SERVICE SUPPORTER PROGRAM**

Districts, Posts and Individuals can once again show their support for our Veterans Service programs through our Red, White and Blue Supporter Program. We have established three levels of Sponsorships - Red for those making donations of at least \$1,000; White for those making \$500 donations; and Blue for those making donations of \$250. Individuals, Posts, Districts and Auxiliaries making donations in the above Supporter Levels will receive a beautiful plaque noting their level of support and signs noting donations will be displayed at the Mid-Winter Conference in February and our 105th annual State Convention in June, 2024.

## **PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11 is designated as Patriot Day. The President requests the flag of the United States be flown at half-staff - sunrise to sunset - and a moment of silence be observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on September 11th, 2001 due to terrorists attacks on the United States. You can find a Patriot's Day Speech on the National VFW website [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). Once you sign in, click on the tab for "Patriotic Holiday Speeches".

## **NATIONAL POW MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023**

Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure. You can find a POW/MIA Recognition Day Speech on the National VFW website [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). Once you sign in, click on the tab for "Patriotic Holiday Speeches".

## **ILLINOIS DAY AT THE VFW NATIONAL HOME**

"Illinois Day" at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, has been set for Saturday, September 23, 2023. We hope to have a large turn-out and would appreciate having a head count of the number of VFW and Auxiliary Members from each Post who will be in attendance.

### **Location**

VFW National Home  
3573 Waverly Road  
East Rapids, MI 48827  
800 424 8360

### **Activities**

We will begin with a visit to the local cemetery (National Home Section) at 9:00 a.m. local time. Campus activities begin at 10:00 a.m. Lunch is at noon and the program (honoring long time participants) will follow the Silver March. Departure is approximately 2:00 p.m. The National Home has a beautiful campus with over 600 acres, we will have visits to Illinois Homes 1 and 2 as well as the museum, gift shop, and Montana Farmstead. There will be games, popcorn and ice cream in the gym

### **Welcoming Dinner**

For those Comrades who arrive on Friday, September 22, we will have a welcoming dinner at the nearby, "Maple City" VFW Post 2406, 695 Lansing St. Charlotte, MI 517 543 1719. Cold beverages and camaraderie at 5:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m.

### **Accommodations**

We look forward to having a great trip and for those staying overnight on Friday, September 22, please make your own accommodations. Blocks of rooms have been set aside for us. Please call and mention you are with the Illinois VFW. Here is a list of hotels:

Comfort Inn  
1302 Packard HWY, Charlotte, MI  
517 543 7307

Holiday Inn  
500 Meijer St, Charlotte, MI  
517 541 5000

America's Best Value Inn  
828 E Shepard St, Charlotte, MI  
517 543 8288

## **ILLINOIS VFW NEWS, FACEBOOK, WEB PAGE**

Photographs, news, and calendar items can be mailed to Editor Barbara Wilson 802 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Riverton, Illinois 62561. Any items can be sent via e-mail to [barb.wilson2@outlook.com](mailto:barb.wilson2@outlook.com). Pictures should be sent as a JPEG attachment. I really would like to start changing out photos on the Department web site more often than once a year. When Posts and Districts have events, consider sending high resolution photos to our Illinois VFW News editor - Barb Wilson ([barb.wilson2@outlook.com](mailto:barb.wilson2@outlook.com)) for possible inclusion on our state Facebook page and on the website slider.

## **2023-2024 Commander's Calls**

State Commander Brett Nila will be holding 5 Commander's Calls this fall at Posts around Illinois

### **Schedule**

#### **September 16, 2023**

Floyd J Tilton Post 3878  
318 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Rochelle, IL 61068

#### **September 17, 2023**

Addison Post 7446  
446 W. Lake St.  
Addison, IL 60101

#### **October 7, 2023**

Dow Stepp Memorial Post 5975  
112 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Marshall, IL 62441

#### **October 8, 2023**

Kahokian Memorial Post 5691

1234 Vandalia St.  
Collinsville, IL 62234

**April 13, 2024**  
LaFore Lock Post 755  
2211 Old Jacksonville Rd.  
Springfield, IL 62704

All Commanders' Calls are scheduled for 10 am to 2 pm on the dates and locations above

ALL Veterans of Foreign Wars officers and members are invited to attend and meet with the State Commander and other State Officers and Chairmen of the IL VFW

As a reminder, A Post Commander or representative must attend at least one (1) of the scheduled Commander's Calls in order to be eligible for All-State Post for 2023-2024.

### **NEW CENTURY RAFFLE**

The New Century Raffle has officially started and will run through June 30, 2024. The tickets are just \$10.00 each. Each ticket entitles you to participate in a weekly drawing of \$100 from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Drawings will be held each Friday beginning July 1, 2023, with each week's winning ticket being returned to the barrel for the future drawings. This means each ticket has multiple chances to win. The seller of each ticket also has a chance to win \$10.00. If seller prints their name on ticket, they will receive \$10.00. If the seller does not sign the ticket, the \$10.00 will be automatically donated and split between Department's Unmet Needs Program and Children's National Home. Winners will be announced each month in the General Orders and posted on <http://vfwil.org> web site.

### **WEEKLY WINNER**

<u>Date of Drawing</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Seller</u>
8/4/2023	Ron Matthey	No seller listed
8/11/2023	Michael Stiern	No seller listed
8/18/2023	Boyd Herbert	Boyd Herbert
8/25/2023	David Lawson	David Lawson

### **VETERAN OF THE MONTH**

Congratulations to Bernadette (Berni) Bland of Belvidere Post 1461-6 on being selected as the August Veteran of the Month! Thank you to all who submitted nominations for this month, please continue to do so and for those that did not please look for those comrades from your post who stand apart from the rest by serving the

community, Veterans and embodying the purposes of our congressional charter: to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead; and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United states from all her enemies.

By Order of:

Official



Joseph H. Bartley

State Adjutant/Quartermaster



Brett Nila

State Commander

**PATRIOT'S PEN**  
**"HOW ARE YOU INSPIRED BY AMERICA"**

Hope your Patriot's Pen program is underway. If not, we have some tools that might help you conduct this year's program in your post. If your post has not previously participated in this program, please consider doing so this year.

Recourse is available to you in the Commanders Leadership Manual which contains in detailed information on all VFW programs. You can access the manual at the VFW website ([vfwil.org](http://vfwil.org)). Once on the site, click on **RESOURCES** and scroll down to select the YOUTH PROGRAMS PILLAR. More information can be found at VFW National website.

You can also purchase Patriots Pen brochure and Posters from the VFW store.

October 31, 2023, is the deadline student entries essays must be in the hands of the Post Chairman.

November 15, 2023. Post judging completed.

November 22, 2023. Post winning entries to District Chairman

December 22, 2023, District winning entry to Department.

John W. Davin  
Youth Activities Chairman  
630 632-9878

Michelle Ramlow  
Assistant Youth Activities Chairman  
217 480-0057

**SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL, CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION  
TEACHER AWARD CITATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE  
AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THEIR SCHOOLS**

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle and high school teachers to participate in the Smart/Mahar VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher program.

For more information simply visit [vfw.org/#login](http://vfw.org/#login), log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on VFW Training & Support, then click on Community Service & Youth Programs, then look under Additional Resources. Print off the teacher Entry form, Instruction sheet and Chairperson's Guide.

**Who is Eligible?**

1. Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. For example, do you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall or organizes community volunteer projects? Maybe you know an instructor who invites veterans in the classroom to discuss their military experiences. Perhaps you are familiar with a teacher who fosters the development of democratic values and beliefs through special projects. If you know of such a teacher, honor him or her today.
2. All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

John W. Davin  
YOUTH ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN  
630 632-9878

Michelle Ramlow  
ASSISTANT YOUTH ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN  
217 480-0067



**SAVE THE DATE!**



*Elizabeth LaKamp's*

# **TRIBUTE TO THE TROOPS**

## **VIETNAM ERA**

**OCTOBER 21ST, 2023**

**COULTERVILLE VFW POST 6865**

511 VFW Street, Coulterville, IL 62237

**Memorabilia, Wall of Honor, Info on Veteran related causes,  
Attendance & raffle prizes, lunch, drinks, and fellowship.**

**Doors open: 11:30 am**

**Lunch served: 12 pm - 1:15 pm**

**Present colors: 2 pm - show begins**

### **Tickets**

**\$15 advanced**

**\$20 at the door**

**Includes meal and show**

**For more information  
or to purchase tickets contact:**

**Diana: 618-758-2880**

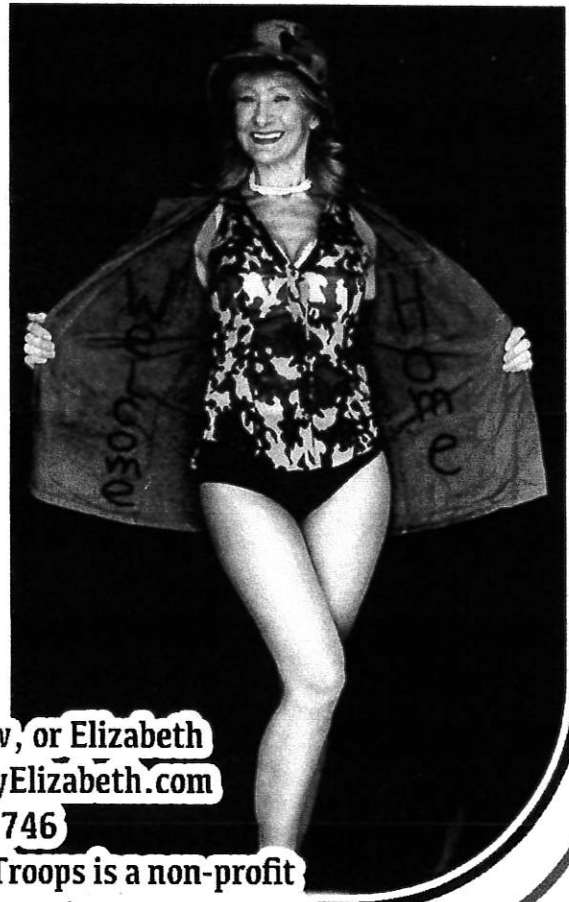
**or**

**Judy: 618-758-2415**

**To learn more about the show, or Elizabeth  
visit - [www.EntertainmentbyElizabeth.com](http://www.EntertainmentbyElizabeth.com)**

**or call: 314-313-7746**

**Elizabeth Lakamp's Tribute to the Troops is a non-profit  
organization dedicated to honoring our Vietnam veterans.**





# JOIN US

As we celebrate Department President Lynn Smith at her homecoming on October 7<sup>th</sup>

Heyde-Pillow VFW Post #1301 located at 201 W. Longstreet Road, Marion, IL

Cocktail Hour 5:00 to 6:00 pm  
Dinner at 6:00 pm  
Ticket Price is \$20.00

Committee is Pat Caraker, Jo Lynn Altvatter, Lori Crites, Diann Dagner, Sherry Haddick, Rachael Hamburger, Carrie Hood, Ruth Janaskie, Chelsea Maynor, Lori Peterson, Karen Robinson and Barb Wilson.

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## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S HOMECOMING

*Ticket Order Form*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Auxiliary # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "15<sup>th</sup> District VFW Auxiliary" and mail to

Lori Crites, Ticket Chairman  
9534 Herrin Road  
Johnston City, IL 62951