OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OREGON VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Oregon NEWS



HONORING THE PAST WHILE EMBRACING THE FUTURE



VOL-83 SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2026 NUMBER 3

VFW DEPARTMENT OF OREGON WELCOMES A NEW YEAR

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and its Auxiliary, Department of Oregon, gathered in Salem June 18–20 for the 2026 State Convention. Members from across Oregon came together to conduct Department business, participate in training, recognize outstanding achievements from the 2025–2026 year, and prepare for the year ahead.

During Convention, Joseph Steller was sworn in as the new Department Commander for 2026–2027. Members also recognized outgoing Department Commander Bert Little, who was presented with his Past Commander's vest in appreciation of his service and leadership.

Visitors also enjoyed beautiful weather and the opportunity to experience some of the restaurants and attractions Salem has to offer. A special thank-you goes to the Convention Committee for their hard work in making sure everything was in order and the event ran smoothly.

As a new year begins, Oregon's VFW looks forward to another year of service to Oregon's veterans, their families, and our communities.



Department Commander Joseph Steller is sworn into office by National Representative Paul Herrera during the 2026 State Convention in Salem.



The Convention pin, designed through a collaboration between the Convention Committee and the Admin. Assistant, Nicole Bornstedt.



VFW and Auxiliary members look on as Joseph Steller is sworn in as Department Commander during the 2026 State Convention.



Auxiliary Treasurer Sonya Sallee and Chaplain Kathy McCauley



Past Department Commander Bert Little returns the gavel to National Representative Paul Herrera.



Swearing in of the VFW and Auxiliary Department Officers.

DEPARTMENT OF OREGON LEADERSHIP

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Comrades,

I would first like to thank you for putting your trust in me and electing me as your Department Commander for the 2026–2027 year.

I would also like to thank all of our District and Post Commanders for stepping up to help lead and educate our members about what the VFW does for you and our communities.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our members, because without you, we have no voice and our comrades would be at the mercy of the government. Thank you all.

The National Convention was held in Reno, Nevada, in July, where we elected Cory Geisler as our Commander-in-Chief. Congratulations, Cory! Oregon had a great showing at National this year, with 27 delegates representing 16 VFW Posts from 11 of our 12 Districts. I want to thank everyone who made the trip to Reno and represented Oregon.
Having our delegates there gives Oregon a voice in the decisions being made at National, and I appreciate you taking the time to represent your Posts, Districts, and our Department. If you have not been to a National Convention, it is a great place to reunite with old friends, meet new comrades, and see firsthand how National works. If you have not attended one, I highly recommend it.

Our Officer Training Schools (OTS) have been underway across the state, with trainings held in Union, Eugene, and most recently Gresham. Bert Little has put together a great agenda designed to give our officers information and resources they can take back and use at their Posts. Our final OTS will be held in Bandon on September 26. Having at least one Post officer attend an Officer Training School is a requirement for earning All-State recognition, but the value goes well beyond checking a box. These trainings provide important information to help your officers better understand their responsibilities and strengthen your Post. If your Post has not yet attended an OTS this year, Bandon is your final opportunity.

We also offer a Zoom training session on the first Tuesday of each month at 1900 hours. These training sessions are geared toward going more in-depth on a specific topic. If there is a subject you would like more training on, please let us know so we can get it scheduled.

Our biggest obstacle is membership. Retaining our existing members and adding new ones is how we grow. We have several recruiting events planned at the Department level, and several Posts are doing the same. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help. With everyone's help, we can make 100%+ and move up at the National level so Oregon is not sitting in the back of the room.
Remember to reach out to the students in your communities and encourage them to apply for the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy scholarships. And don't forget about our teachers and the Teacher of the Year program.

Then come join us for Mid-Winter at the Riverhouse Lodge in Bend, January 22–24. The scholarship banquet will be held on January 23, followed by the Council of Administration meeting on January 24. More information about the banquet and hotel will be available soon on the VFW Department of Oregon website.

Again, thank you for your support. If you need help with anything, please reach out to me or one of the line officers. We are here to help and guide you.

Remember, we are stronger together.



Joe Steller
Dept. Commander
(Joe.steller@gmail.com)

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

It is my distinct honor to serve this year as the Department of Oregon's Sr. Vice Commander. I have big shoes to fill and will do my best. We have a great team of Line Officers and committee members; I am sure all VFW members of our great state will support them as they are able, and above and beyond!

With respect and comradeship,

Greg Arnold
Sr. Vice Commander



Greg Arnold
State Sr. Vice Commander

STATE JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER



James Horton
State Jr. Vice Commander

I would like to thank all my Comrades for putting your trust in me and allowing me to be your Jr. Vice commander for the 2026-2027 year.
I will do my utmost to do my job to the best of my ability. It's my honor to assume this high office.
Start getting all of the VFW's programs started. The earlier the better. Let's show everyone that the Oregon VFW is the "BEST."
Let's make Oregon proud. Let's make this year our very best year.
Again, thank you very much.

In comradeship,

Jim Horton
JR. Vice Commander

ONE TEAM. ONE MISSION. VETERANS FIRST.

The above is the newly elected VFW National Commander in Chief's national theme. I had the privilege of hearing his acceptance speech at the 127th National Convention at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center held this last July. Newly elected Commander Cory Geisler called on every member to embrace this theme."These six words are more than a motto," Geisler said, "they are a commitment. They remind us that regardless of our differences, we are united by a single purpose. That is to serve veterans, their families and our communities."

Cory also said in his speech that "The strength of the VFW has never come from it's buildings or it's canteens, it has always come from its members."

As the Department of Oregon's recently elected Senior Vice Commander, it is my job to support our Department Commander, Joe Steller, and his programs for the 2026-2027 year, which I am honored to do. As I get the opportunity to visit more Posts in Oregon, I am looking forward to seeing how Commander in Chief Geisler's vision of "One Team. One Mission. Veterans First" is applied and put to task in partnership with Joe Steller's vision and programs for the Department of Oregon.

What I have seen so far has been very encouraging in the Post's I have visited. True, there is work to be done, challenges to be met.But like a ship at sea, we sail onto waters known as well as unknown. I know I am encouraged that the VFW Department of Oregon is up to the tasks at hand, as "One Team. One Mission. Veterans First."

Anchors Aweigh. Eagle Strong.
Greg Arnold
Department Senior Vice Commander.

P.S. You can go to vfw.org to watch or read Commander Cory Geisler's acceptance speech.



ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER'S CORNER



Brandy Olmstead
Dept. Adj/Quartermaster

THE GOLD FISH EDITION OF THE VFW PODIUM EDITION

For those of us who know we've read it somewhere…

The Department Quartermaster would like to remind everyone that the answers to many of our most frequently asked questions can be found in the VFW Podium Edition.

In fact, we've considered producing a special Gold Fish Edition of the Podium Edition— because sometimes you remember that you read the answer, just not where you read it.

Before calling the Department with a question, take a moment to check the Podium Edition. You may discover that the answer is already there, waiting patiently for you.

And if you've checked the Podium Edition, checked again, and still can't find it, then give us a call. That's what we're here for.

Goldfish not included.



SURGEON

Comrades,

Welcome to another exciting VFW program year! Thank you for electing me as your Department of Oregon Surgeon at our Convention in June at Salem. I look forward to working with all of you this year on a variety of health and wellness programs.

Members might ask what the Post, District or Department Surgeon do? What are their duties and responsibilities? Do they actually perform surgery? Not exactly!

As the Surgeon, you should be promoting health and wellness programs for the benefit of your Post members and community. Other duties could include: leading health-related committees and initiatives or tracking prevailing health issues affecting veterans and their families. Staying informed of and advocating for (Local/State National/) legislation related to the health of Veterans is very important as well.

Some suggestions that Posts and Districts can do are:
- Conduct Veteran Buddy Checks
- Assist with a Veteran Stand Down
- Host an American Red Cross Blood Drive
- Hold a Health and Wellness Resource Fair
- Hike to raise awareness on Veteran Suicide
- Coordinate visits to local VA Hospitals/Nursing Homes
- Promote mental health programs and self-care awareness

Did you know that the Department of Oregon Surgeon has a Facebook page (VFW Department of Oregon Surgeon)?

Check it out and follow us!

Please reach out if you have questions can be reached at asummerlin23@gmail.com or (541) 252-0515.

There is an Arabian Proverb that says "He who has health, has hope; and he who has hope, has everything. It is my wish that you remain healthy in all ways (physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual). As we move through this year, let us continue to Honor the Past - While Embracing the Future.





Andrea D. Summerlin
Department Surgeon

TREASURERS NOTES

Sonya Sallee, Auxiliary Treasurer

What a great two Academies that the Department of Oregon had at Redmond and Albany in the last two weeks.

There were a lot of questions asked by Treasurers, Trustees and just members that wanted to learn about doing the books and keeping up with the books for their Auxiliary, district, and department. I was totally impressed in the groups at both places, and they asked great questions to help their auxiliaries and districts in the next year.

It was amazing to go through the by-laws book and find out things that I had forgotten were in there and things that have been added to the rules in the yellow section that none of us, even some of the treasurers that have been at that position for several years were unable to find. So please, if you haven't been to either of the academies so far, please attend the one that Cathy Lindsay is doing in Roseburg this coming week. She has been an Auxiliary treasurer for many years, and she has attended the training that I did the last two weeks.

Please remember that the trustees are supposed to make out the audit form, it's not up to the treasurer to do that part of the paperwork. That is part of the responsibilities of the trustees, there is a list of jobs for each of the trustees, and you can follow that list. Also, it is not the treasurer's responsibility to set up the audits that should be the responsibility of the trustee and usually it's Number #1 that decides when the audit needs to be done. You can in a period of time before the meeting or some other day that is good for everyone that needs to be there. And also, you need to have the secretary and treasurers' books at the
audit so that you can do the audit properly. Make sure all trustees sign the audit sheet, the secretaries' minutes, the treasurers' monthly report and sign the bank statements. Also remember that if you have a debit card or the bank puts through your checks as an ACH, you need to have the trustees sign the bank statement.

Thank you all that got their bond in by the end of July, I am immensely proud of all of you. That makes 20 points for the circle for Terri for this coming year.

Thank you all very much and the auxiliaries that I put in their bonds for them for varied reasons, please get the check for $30.00 into me as soon as possible. I so far have only 2 of the auxiliaries that I paid for have sent the money in, so you know who you are so please get your checks in.

If you have any questions, please contact me. I might not get you answered between August 27-September 8 as I am going to be on the Commanders' Cruise. I will answer your phone calls, emails, and text messages after I get home. I will be having some Zoom meetings in the next couple of months so think of some questions that you would like to ask me or learn about, please let me know. Have a great rest of your summer.



UPDATES

VFW STANDING UP FOR VETERANS TODAY — AND TOMORROW



For more than 125 years, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has upheld a simple principle: America must honor its contract with those who serve. That means supporting today's veterans while protecting promised benefits for future veterans. This principle guides the VFW's position on the Take Care of America's Veterans Act (H.R. 9237/S. 4744), which includes more than 60 veterans-related provisions.

VFW supports many of them, including the Major Richard Star Act, which would correct a longstanding injustice for combat-injured medically retired veterans. However, the VFW cannot support the bill as written because of Section 108. That section would change how VA calculates disability compensation for tinnitus and obstructive sleep apnea. While existing ratings would generally be protected, future veterans with the same conditions could receive far less under a new rating schedule. VFW-cited estimates say the changes could reduce compensation by about $57 billion over 10 years and affect up to 1.5 million veterans.

That is where the VFW draws the line. Disability compensation is not a handout; it is payment for service-connected injuries and illnesses. Ratings should be based on medical evidence and real-world impact, not used to offset the cost of other veterans' benefits. As VFW Past National Commander Carol Whitmore said, "A grateful nation pays its debts to veterans; it does not send them the invoice." The Major Richard Star Act would fix what many call the "wounded veteran tax." Under current law, some combat-injured service members medically retired before 20 years must offset military retired pay with VA disability compensation. The act would allow qualifying combat-disabled retirees with fewer than 20 years of service to receive both earned retired pay and VA compensation. The VFW strongly supports this change. The fight for the Major Richard Star Act began in 2021. It honors Army Major Richard Star, who was medically retired after deployment-related cancer following service in Afghanistan and Iraq.

He died on February 13, 2021, and his family and fellow veterans continue the fight in his memory. The bill has repeatedly gained strong bipartisan support but has not become law. In the 118th Congress, H.R. 1282 drew 326 cosponsors and advanced from the House Armed Services Committee. In 2025, H.R. 2102 and S. 1032 continued the effort, with H.R. 2102 gaining more than 300 cosponsors. In 2026, the VFW again made passage a major legislative priority. The Take Care of America's Veterans Act includes the Major Richard Star Act as Section 101, which the VFW supports. But Congress should not make one group of veterans pay for another's earned benefits. VFW urges Congress to remove Section 108 and find another way to fund the bill's important provisions. The House was scheduled to consider H.R. 9237 in July. After a July 16 motion to recommit failed 210–211, House leadership Postponed further action. The bill has not passed the House, has not become law, and Section 108 is not in effect. The VFW continues pressing Congress to remove Section 108 while preserving provisions such as the Major Richard Star Act.

VFW and Auxiliary members can help. Use the VFW Action Center's current Action Alert on the Take Care of America's Veterans Act to tell Congress:

☒ Support the Major Richard Star Act and concurrent receipt for qualifying combat-injured retirees.
☒ Remove Section 108 and reject cuts to disability compensation for future veterans.
☒ Find responsible funding for veterans' benefits without making one generation of veterans pay for another.

Visit https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts to join VFW Action Corps and sign up for Action Alerts.

The answer is not to pit today's veterans against tomorrow's. Congress must honor the contract with all who serve.

For Oregon and every VFW Post in our state, our message is clear:
☒ We support the Major Richard Star Act.
☒ We support improving care and benefits for veterans, their families and survivors.
☒ We oppose using earned disability compensation as a funding source for other veterans'
programs.

The VFW will not ask one generation of veterans to fund another's benefits. America made a promise to those who serve, and the VFW will keep fighting to ensure that promise is kept.

By Anthony Barber
Department Judge Advocate

UPDATES

BUILDING A BRIDGE WITH STAMPS AND CLICKS

Communication in the VFW is growing — not in a complicated way, but in a way that feels welcoming, modern, and still deeply rooted in community. We never leave a buddy behind, and we're not going to start now. It is okay to communicate in the way you feel most comfortable — as long as you communicate. Whether you're a member who loves your smartphone or someone who prefers a friendly conversation at the Post, our communication tools are finally meeting people wherever they are. At the heart of this evolution is Cubbies, our new digital system that keeps Post documents tidy, accessible, and easy to understand. Officers appreciate how it streamlines their work, but members benefit too: clearer information, better transparency, and a smoother way to stay connected with what's happening across the state. All you need is the desire to stay in the loop and to type the Post number to be in the know. As I build it and expand it organically this year, and our headquarters team gets more functionality as it grows, I hope to bring real time savings to our officers.

If you want to check it out, Cubbies is on the Members Only side of our Department website under Reporting. All members can see how Posts are doing, and officers can see the status of their tasks when they log in. This removes many emails from the queue — and all the time that goes with them. Less paperwork and email mean more time for veterans. Communication should be about connection, inspiration, and the spark that happens when we share what we're doing. That's why we're asking for your help in expanding our Events to Share page — and this year, we opened it up to the community. If a school, club, business, or neighbor has an event that might interest veterans, they can submit a flyer. This means that wherever you live in Oregon, you or people in your community can drop by vfwor.org and find all sorts of community communication under the News tab, including amazing local events. I go through each Tuesday and review all the flyers before they go live, to keep our site safe. So, encourage members to add to our destinations and recreations! We want to engage our communities and help people find something new, fun, or meaningful to share. You might even discover an idea another group tried that you want to bring home to your own community. And speaking of inspiration… We're adding a crafty little idea to double up on effective outreach as we head into fall "family season."

As Posts visit schools for youth scholarship programs — meeting students, encouraging civic engagement, and representing the best of our organization — I'm challenging each Post to expand its mission with Military & Veteran Appreciation Card stations. These are simple, fun, and completely Post-driven. Cards stay right in your community, ready to be delivered to local veterans in hospitals, care facilities, and community centers — or even included in special batches for holiday care packages downrange. And do you have a Polaroid or Instax camera? Let them send a friendly "selfie"; with the card if they would like to… esprit de corps for everyone!

A card-making station is one of the easiest ways to draw people in when you table at events. Stamps, stickers, markers, and crafty supplies catch the eye of children and parents, and suddenly your table becomes a place where families create something meaningful together. It's a warm, approachable way for Posts to connect with their neighborhoods and show what service looks like in action. And one last shameless plug for communicating… be sure to send in some photos of your Post or veterans in action in your communities for the next newsletter. Or even a picture of your favorite card from a kids station (submit it under "News" and then "Newsletter" using the link).

So… here's the big picture:
- Communication is growing in ways that include everyone.
- Cubbies is helping Posts stay organized and connected.
- Events to Share is becoming a statewide inspiration hub — even for community partners.
- Post-level appreciation card stations can add warmth, creativity, and family engagement to our service.

This is the VFW evolving — not away from tradition, but toward a future where every member feels informed, included, inspired, and connected in our communities. Whether you're an experienced veteran, a new member, a busy parent, or someone who stops in when you can, there's a place for you among our VFW comrades. Let's keep building, keep connecting, and keep showing Oregon what the VFW can do when we grow together with purpose, care, and comms 4x4.

Happy Fall Y'all!



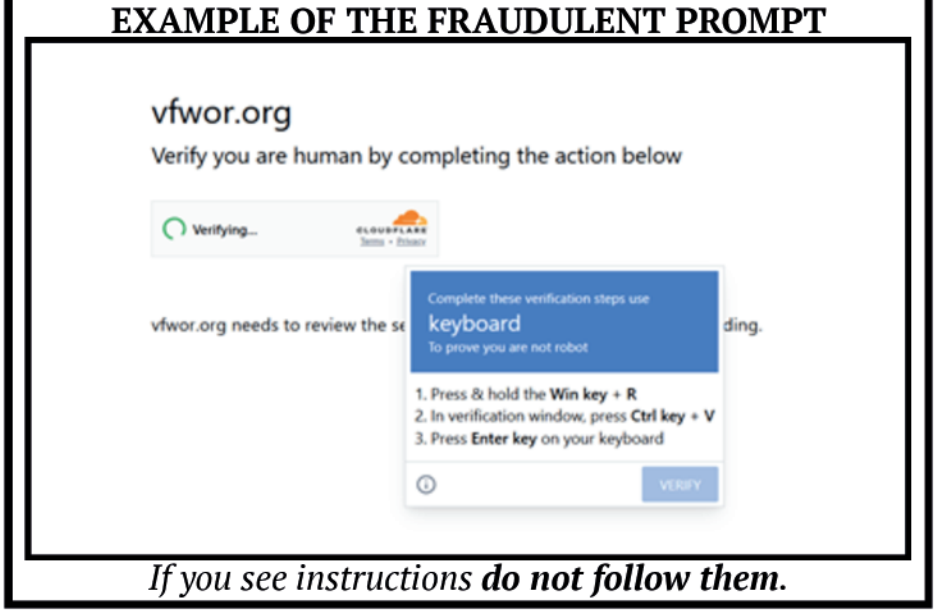
By Theresa Dearman
VFWOR Webmaster &
Communications Chair



UPDATES

CAPTCHA SCAM WARNING

EXAMPLE OF THE FRAUDULENT PROMPT



*If you see instructions **do not follow them.***

Seeing a strange CAPTCHA on the VFW Department website?

STOP. DON'T FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS. CLOSE THE BROWSER WINDOW.

If you see this window DO NOT CLICK OR VERIFY ANYTHING! Close out of the window, use the "x" in the top right corner.

This is NOT a legitimate CAPTCHA verification.

Simply close the browser window or tab.

Be aware. When in doubt, close the window out.

If you need to access the Department Webpage, close out of the browser and try again until the website loads normally (without a human verification screen).

If you followed the instructions, clicked on the box, or pasted and executed a command, stop using the computer for sensitive activity and contact a qualified computer professional as soon as possible.

MORE THAN A RANCH: A PLACE TO CONNECT

PURPOSE GROWTH COMMUNITY — THE RANCH — GROUNDED IN NATURE ROOTED IN PURPOSE

CENTRAL OREGON VETERANS RANCH





The Central Oregon Veterans Ranch (COVR) is creating a place where veterans can connect with one another, find purpose, and contribute to their community. Through agricultural projects, veteran workdays, workshops, gatherings, and other hands-on activities, the Ranch provides opportunities for veterans to build relationships and spend time with others who understand their experiences.

The VFW Auxiliary is highlighting COVR to help bring awareness to this unique resource and the many ways our members and communities can support its mission.

Whether you donate, volunteer, sponsor a project, or simply help spread the word, your support can make a difference.

Learn more and find out how you can help at **vfwauxor.org**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025–26 SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING WINNERS!

During the 2025–26 program year, we started a contest to encourage Posts to raise additional funds for Voice of Democracy scholarships. The Posts raising the most money per member earned a pizza or hoagie sandwich party presented by the Department VOD staff.

Congratulations to our 2025–26 winners:

Willamette Post 293 — Eugene
Alberti Post 12140 — Lake Oswego
Hutchinson-Rempelos Post 3182 — North Bend

Commanders of these Posts, please contact me to schedule your party.

Thank you to all of the Posts that supported Voice of Democracy scholarships during the 2025–26 program year. The contest continues for 2026–27, so let's see which Posts rise to the top this year!
Let's get our flyers out, our students recruited, our judges ready, and our Posts prepared for another successful Voice of Democracy year!

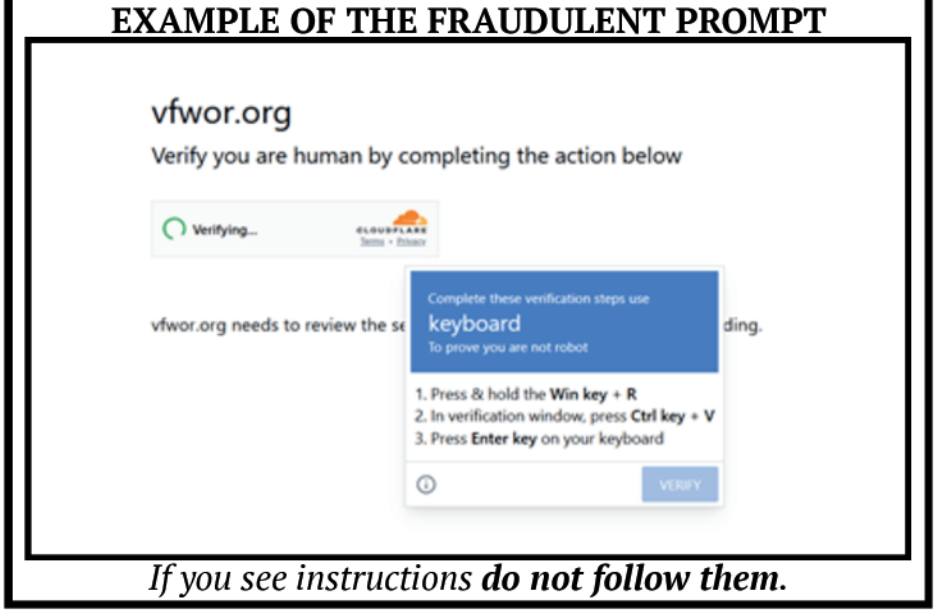
Bob Beck, Voice of Democracy Chair
Cell: 541-992-3942
Email: beck.bobnhs65@gmail.com

Please note: The phone number and email address above are new following a serious hacking incident.

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Bob Beck, Voice of Democracy Chair
Cell: 541-992-3942
Email: beck.bobnhs65@gmail.com

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NEWS FROM AROUND OREGON

PATRIOTISIM IN PENDLETON



4 July 2026

Let er Buck Post 922 VFW

The 4th of July Parade is back and getting stronger every year now. Let er Buck Post 922, Pendleton Oregon is the sponsored and organizer of our local 4th of July parade.

Our Post Commander, Johnny Blagg, put in many days and hours of preparation for this large community event. The Post was assisted on the day by members of Pendletons Main Street Cowboys.

POST 10580 BUILDING UPDATE

Our Post 10580 has been working on bringing our building up to ADA standards.

The City of Warrenton voted to give the local VFW Post a building for their meeting hall two years ago and now the grants have started coming in with funds to put the foundation, new roof, gutters, French drains, porch (front & back), and hook up a temp electrical panel.

Phase one is almost completed. Phase two is about to start when the funds build back up again to do the siding, plumbing, and inside projects.

Since 1981 when we were formed, we have moved from a residential home to the basement in a church, then when the church was being remodeled our Post moved to another church for two years and then asked to move when they turned the room into a childcare room during church services. The local Masonic Lodge has let us rent there for the past five years.

During the summer months for the past nine years our Post and Auxiliary have been serving hamburgers/hotdogs and much more at the city park snack shack. We have been voted by the teams as the best snack shack in the area. Early on our department officers made a special trip down here to help with the BBQing. Awesome!!!

Without the Auxiliary we could not do what we do for the community and youth programs in our area. (Thank you Auxiliary 10580)

Bert Little
Quartermaster, Post 10580



Progress photo of Post 10580's new building.

WW2 MARINE CELEBRATES HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY



Department Senior Vice Commander, Greg Arnold (left), presents George Gordon Mackender (right) a certificate from the VFW.

George Gordon MacKender, born June 27, 1926, in Palo Alto, California, celebrated his 100th birthday among family, friends, and neighbors at the Maple Lane Estates Community Center in Oregon City, Oregon. The celebration honored not only a milestone birthday, but also a life marked by service, resilience, family, and lasting dedication to fellow veterans.

George grew up in the California Bay Area and, favoring work over school, joined the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. After boot camp, he served for a year in aviation at El Toro before transferring to infantry and deploying to Pearl Harbor, Guam, the Philippines, and eventually Kyoto.

After his military service, George married, raised two children, and worked in numerous industrial fabrication roles before joining the State of California in bridge repair. Following a work accident, he shifted into sales, where he found both a passion and a career that carried him through to retirement.

His life and career took him through Salt Lake City, Seattle, and Las Vegas before he eventually settled near his son in Oregon City. True to the saying, "Once a Marine, always a Marine," George remained proud of his service and devoted much of his retirement to supporting deployed veterans.

An avid writer, George, corresponded with many soldiers on deployment throughout his retirement. At the celebration, VFW Department of Oregon Senior Vice Commander Greg Arnold was honored to present George with a commendation letter, and a VFW Post 1324 commemorative 100th anniversary coin, while Sergeant Emmanuel Cuetocabrera, in dress blues, presented a letter of recognition on behalf of the U.S. Marine Corps.
Semper Fi, George!

******

Follow up on George: Sadly, while at the VFW National Convention in Reno, Greg received a phone call from Denyse McGriff, Mayor of Oregon City, and friend of George, that he had passed away early in July.



NEWS FROM AROUND OREGON

PRESERVING OUR MILITARY

Preserving Our Military History: VFW Post 180's Military Memorabilia Gallery

For generations, veterans and their families have preserved photographs, uniforms, medals, letters, models, and other artifacts that tell the story of military service. VFW Post 180 in Gresham is helping ensure these pieces of history are not lost.
The Post has established a Military Memorabilia Gallery, creating a space where veterans, families, students, historians, and community members can connect with Oregon's military heritage through physical artifacts and personal stories.

A centerpiece of the growing collection is a remarkable assortment of detailed military models. When Portland's longtime outdoor and surplus store Andy & Bax closed, Coast Guard volunteer and expert model builder Joel Hernandez acquired many of its displays. Along with more than 250 models he has built himself, Hernandez's collection has found a permanent home at Post 180.

The gallery includes scale military aircraft, naval displays, and detailed models of historic vessels, including the USS Hornet (CV-8) and the USS Skipjack.
The project has also become a community effort. Post members secured seven museum-quality display cases from a closing museum in Hood River, while the Historic Downtown Gresham Business Association and Gresham Historical Society donated additional cases.
But the gallery is about more than displaying artifacts. Post 180 hopes to create a resource for education and research, helping students and community members better understand military history while assisting veterans and families in researching photographs, heirlooms, and the service of previous generations.
Through this effort, Post 180 is preserving more than objects—it is preserving the stories and sacrifices behind them.
The Military Memorabilia Gallery is part of Post 180's continuing effort to preserve and share military history with the community.

Interested in learning more?

Contact VFW Post 180 to learn about the gallery, its collections, and opportunities to support the Post's preservation efforts.

Kenneth Manske
Post 180









Amazing lifelike miniature dioramas



Historic WW2 magazine ads and art





VFW Post 180 creates a home for artifacts, models, and stories that might otherwise be lost.

WRIGHTS SPRING FIRE



Pictures in this section by District 5 Commander, Cherilynne Meschke

VFW IN ACTION: NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

When the Wrights Spring Fire threatened communities in Klamath County, District 5 Commander Cherilynne M. Meschke didn't wait for someone else to answer the call.

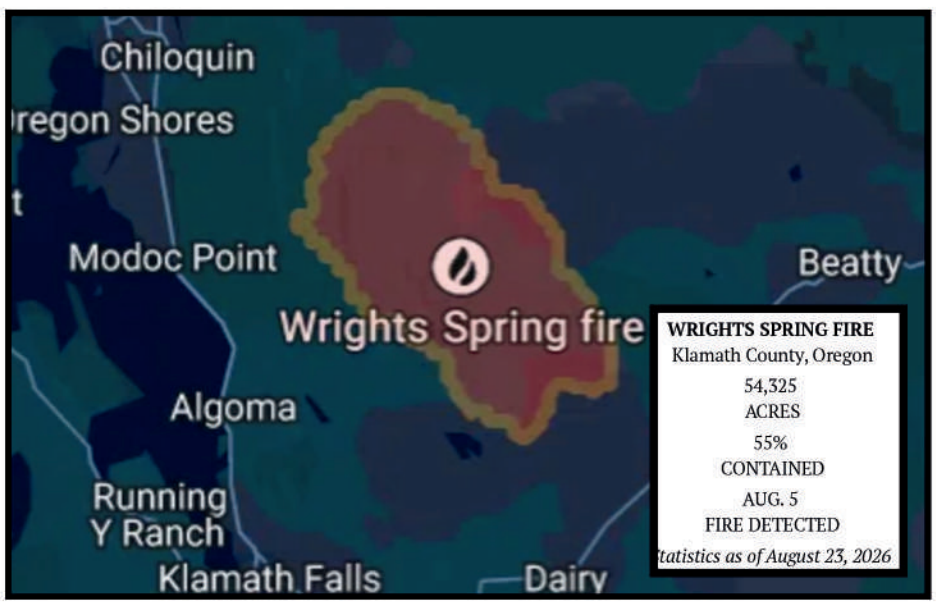
"The strength and resilience of Southern Oregon were put to the test this month as the fast-moving Wrights Spring Fire (Incident 286) tore through more than 54,000 acres of timber and brush east of Chiloquin. Triggering widespread emergency evacuations near Sprague River and Bly Mountain, the disaster demanded an all-hands-on-deck response from first responders, volunteer groups, and our local service members.
Among those answering the call were 73 Airmen from the Oregon National Guard's 173rd Fighter Wing, activated out of nearby Kingsley Field. These Guard members—many of whom are veterans or active components of our local communities—provided critical frontline evacuation support, helped families pack their belongings, and secured fire zones. Right alongside them, local families, farmers, and community members mobilized to haul trailers, shelter livestock, and keep emergency centers stocked with supplies."

—Dist. 5 Commander Cherilynne Meschke

District 5 Commander personally helped farmers by hauling livestock out of the danger zone!

Well done, Cherilynne! Thank you for your service.





**Affected fire zone image from Google maps*

UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY — SEPTEMBER 18

Each year, National POW/MIA Recognition Day reminds us of the American service members who were prisoners of war and those who remain missing in action.
This year, National POW/MIA Recognition Day will be observed on September 18.
For the Veterans of Foreign Wars, remembering our POWs and MIAs is more than an annual observance. The familiar words "You Are Not Forgotten" represent a promise that we will continue to remember those who endured captivity, those who never returned home, and the families who have lived with uncertainty and loss.
We encourage every VFW Post in Oregon to take time to recognize this important day.
Your observance does not have to be elaborate. Display the POW/MIA flag, conduct a POW/MIA remembrance ceremony, set the Missing Man Table, share information with your community, or partner with a local school or civic organization. Most importantly, take a moment to ensure that their service and sacrifice are remembered.



On September 18, let us pause together as a Department and reaffirm our commitment:

You Are Not Forgotten.

Bob Beck & Marie McCandless
Co-Chairs, POW/MIA Program



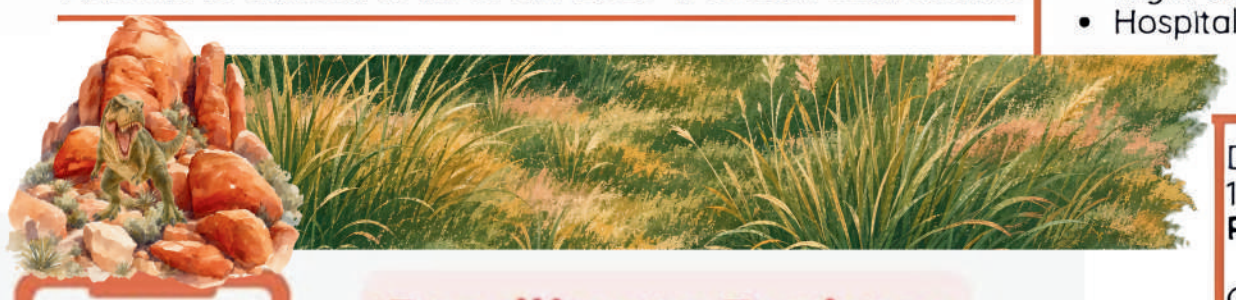
2026 VFW & Auxiliary Western Conference
November 6-8, 2026

Arizona is excited to host the 2026 Western Conference

Registration

Registration Fee $170 each
Registration Includes
- Conference Bag
- Saturday Hot Coffee/Tea
- Saturday Buffet Lunch
- Saturday Banquet
- One Raffle Ticket for Free Room Night or other prizes
- Hospitality Room





Host Hotel

DoubleTree Phoenix Mesa
1011 West Holmes Ave, Mesa, 85210
Rate: $169.00 plus taxes

Our Group rate Includes Complimentary Overnight Parking and Wifi

This hotel does not have an airport shuttle.



SCAN ME!
MORE INFO

Deadline to Register Online is October 19, 2026

Visit VFW Arizona website for direct links to online hotel reservations, electronic Conference Registration, and paper downloads for snail mail orders.

https://www.vfwaz.com *About >> Western Conference 2026*

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:
Registration is $170 per person and must be received by **October 16, 2026**.

SAVE THE DATE: JAN 26-27 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE



MID-WINTER CONFERENCE/ VOICE OF DEMPCRACY AWARDS BANQUET

January 23, 2027

We are excited to announce that the 2026-2027 Mid-Winter Conference and Voice of Democracy Awards Banquet will be held at The Riverhouse Lodge in Bend, Oregon!

More details are coming soon. Keep an eye out for information about hotel accommodations, registration, and payment links.

We look forward to seeing you in Bend!

UPDATES

INTRODUCTION TO THE VFW NATIONAL HOME

The VFW National Home is in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, on a 472 acre farm.

This property was generously donated to the Veterans of For- eign Wars (VFW) after its first residents, a mother and her six children, moved in following the tragic loss of the father, a Veteran, in an accident. The family was welcomed into a large farmhouse, and the farmer's wife pledged to "honor the dead by helping the living," setting the foundation for the National Home's mission.

Growth and Development

Since its establishment on January 7, 1925, the National Home has expanded to include 43 single-family homes. These homes are provided free of charge to Veteran families, including single parents with children. Residents receive support and opportunities to attend schooling, helping them build a productive future for their families after their time at the National Home

Support and Contributions

The 43 homes are constructed and maintained by various State VFW Departments. For example, Oregon supports one home, while some states contribute two. Financial support for these homes comes from contributions, making ongoing donations crucial to sustaining the National Home's services.

Educational Opportunities

During a visit in June, it was noted that there were no school buildings on the National Home's property. Instead, grade school and high school children attend local schools in Eaton Rapids. Parents can further their education by attending trade schools, junior colleges, colleges, or universities in the surrounding area, including institutions as far as Detroit, which is 65 miles away. Within three to four years, parents can earn degrees to help support their families.

Family Support and Activities

Both parents can attend school, as a nursery is available onsite for childcare. The National Home provides numerous amenities for children and families, including playgrounds, hiking trails, a fishing pond, and group activities for holidays. An annual highlight for residents is the Poppy Girl contest.



The Oregon House at the VFW National Home.

All VFW and Auxiliary members should have a sense of accomplishment for funding and maintaining this home.

Proudly sponsored by the VFW Department of Michigan
and its Auxiliary.
Built in 1957
1,620 Square Feet
3 Bed and 1.5 Bath
More information can be found at:
https://vfwnationalhome.org/about-us/community/homes/oregon/

Take a virtual tour of the Oregon house at the VFW National Home!

Story by Michael Malish National Home Committee Chair

HOW TO PRINT OR ORDER A HARD COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER

To print one or more pages of this edition of Oregon VFW News, open the PDF in Adobe Acrobat and in the Print Dialogue box, specify which page(s) you want to print.

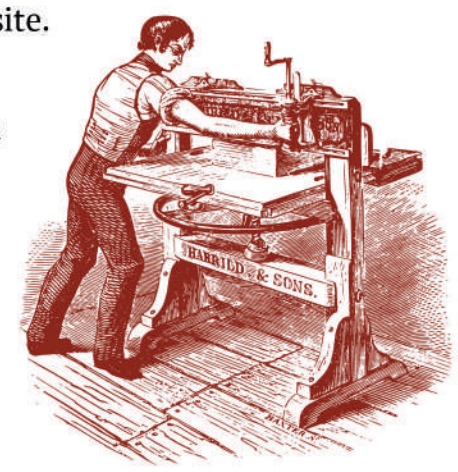


The default size is 11" x 17" paper.

To print on 8.5" x 11" paper, choose 'Shrink to printable area' or 'Scale to Fit'.

If you prefer to receive a hard copy of the Oregon VFW News printed on 11" x 17" paper, you can make a purchase through our website.

The cost is $15 per year for a black & white copy, or $20 per year for color.



Have a story to share?

Scan the QR code or visit:
VFWOR.ORG → Newsletter → Submit an Article

Share your Post's news, events, photos, and stories with the Department newsletter.



ALL AMERICAN*

District	Post	DPAA Donation	Buddy Poppy	Community Service
2	1440			Met
2	2848			Met
2	2994			
2	4362			Met
2	10580	Met	Met	Met
3	1325			
3	4248			
4	965			Met
4	966			
4	2928			
4	3182			
4	3440			
4	4439			
4	6102			
5	1383			Met
5	4070			
6	3048			
6	4060			
6	4307			
6	5452			
6	7847			
7	1833			Met
7	2302			Met
7	6881			
7	9670			
8	922			Met
8	2471			
8	3597			
8	4567			
10	1412			Met
10	1643			
10	4108			Met
10	7242			
10	8138			
10	12141			Met
13	293			

District	Post	DPAA Donation	Buddy Poppy	Community Service
13	2468			
13	3232	Met		Met
13	3473			
13	3965			
13	4039			Met
13	4166			
13	9448		Met	Met
13	9745			
13	10639		Met	
14	584			
14	661			
14	732			
14	3156			
14	3203			
14	3437			
14	3957			Met
14	4065			
14	4227	Met		Met
14	5638			Met
14	12214			Met
15	180			Met
15	1324			Met
15	3973			
15	4273			
15	6057			
15	12140			
15	12211			
16	2666			Met
16	3452			Met
16	4015			
16	4211			



**As of August 21, 2026.*

DISTRICT MEETINGS

2026-2027 Fall Meeting Schedule					
DIST.	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	Dept Rep	REMARKS
2	Sep 12, 2026	1:00 PM	Kilchis-Tillamook Bay 2848	Sr. Vice CDR	
			1904 ½ Second St		Potluck
			Tillamook, OR 97141		12:00 PM
3	Sep 26, 2026	10:00 AM	Post 4248	Sr. Vice CDR	
			3281 SE Rivere Dr		No Potluck
			Milwaukie, OR 97267		
4	Oct 17, 2026	1:00 PM	Frank C. High Medal of	Judge	
			55352 Bates Rd		Potluck
			Bandon, OR 97411		12:00 PM
5	Sep 19, 2026	1:00 PM	Pelican 1383	CDR	
			515 Klamath Ave		Potluck
			Klamath Falls, OR 97601		12:00 PM
6	Sep 26, 2026	1:00 PM	Halfway 7847	Surgeon	
			45875 Cornicopia Hwy		Potluck
			Halfway, OR 97834		12:00 PM
7	Aug 29, 2026	1:00 PM	Crater Lake 1833	Sr. Vice CDR	
			241 E Barnett RD Suite B		Potluck
			Medford, OR, 97301		12:00 PM
8	Sep 27, 2026	11:00 AM	Let'Er Buck 922	Surgeon	In Person/Zoom
			1221 SE Court Pl		No Potluck
			Pendleton, OR 97801		
10	Sep 19, 2026	11:00 AM	Deschutes 4108	Judge	
			491 SW Veterans Way		Potluck
			Redmond, OR 97756		12:00 PM
13	Sep 19, 2026	10:00 AM	Springfield 3965	Jr. Vice CDR	
			5344 Main St.		Potluck
			Springfield , OR 97478		12:00 PM
14	Sep 20, 2026	2:00 PM	Sweet Home 3427	Jr. Vice CDR	
			580 Main St		Potluck
			Sweet Home, OR 97456		1:00 PM
15	Sep 19, 2026	1:00 PM	Gresham United 180	Sr. Vice CDR	
			39 NW 3rd St		Potluck
			Gresham, OR		11:00 AM
16	Aug 15, 2026	1:00 PM	Post 4015	Sr. Vice CDR	
			200 S. College Street		
			Newberg, OR 97132		

MEMBERSHIP

Recruiters*

Every Member Makes a Difference!

Our recruiters are helping grow the VFW one conversation at a time. Thank you to everyone reaching out, sharing the VFW story, and welcoming new members into our organization!

District	Post #	Recruiter	Members
2	2848	Dean J. Massender	1
2	2848	Donavan J. Goff	1
4	966	Michael A. Hamilton	1
5	1383	Jesse J . Gray	1
8	922	James L. Humphrey Sr.	2
8	922	Johnny L. Blagg	2
10	1412	David Schwab	1
10	4108	Aundrea Pea Leese	1
10	4108	Dennis G. Guthrie	1
10	4108	Joseph J. Steller	1
10	4108	Larry Moyer	1
10	8138	Lyle C. Musel	1
10	12141	Leonard L. Parsons	1
10	12141	Leonard P. Hellwig	1
13	2468	David L. West	2
13	3232	Gary W. Covert	2
13	3965	Michael L. Beyerlin	1
13	4039	Jonathan David Tellason	1

District	Post #	Recruiter	Members
14	584	Nicole White	1
14	661	Eric A. Rutherford	1
14	3437	Ryan P. Matteson	1
14	3957	Donald H. Strine	1
14	3957	Leeland J. Manghelli	1
14	3957	William W. Woodke	1
14	4227	Andrea D. Summerlin	1
14	4227	Michael R. Petersen	1
14	5638	David L. Welch	1
15	180	Michael L. Martin	1
15	1324	Bryan K. Smith	2
15	1324	Damon L. Mabee	1
15	12140	Anthony L. Barber	3
16	3452	Paul A. Maidel Jr.	1
16	4211	William E. Karger	1

**As of August 21, 2026.*

THE MEMBERSHIP RACE IS ON!

FY 2026–27

It's too early to call the standings — but the race has begun!

WHO WILL LEAD THE PACK?

Watch next issue for the first membership standings.



LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Honoring our Legacy Life members*

Legacy Life membership gives VFW Life members an opportunity to leave a lasting impression on our great organization and help support veterans for generations to come.

Three prestigious levels of Legacy Life membership are available: Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Each level offers exclusive benefits, while an annual endowment in the member's name is made to their Post, Department, and the national organization.

Legacy Life members can take pride in knowing their contributions help support today's veterans and the veterans of tomorrow. Members may also purchase a Memorial Legacy in honor of a deceased VFW Annual or Life member, helping future generations remember their service and contributions.

Below are the newest members to join the Legacy, along with Legacy Life members who have been called to their final Post.

Post	Name	Level
180	Chad L Stevens	Gold
1383	Cherilynne M Meschke	Gold
3437	Donald Thompson	Gold
1833	Hugh E Crawford	Bronze
1833	Jonathan P Lucky	Silver
2848	Kevin L Lindsey	Gold
3452	Lyle A Simshaw	Gold
1383	Melanie J Heap	Gold
10580	Melvin H Jasmin	Bronze
2468	Michael D Eakin	Bronze
3473	Monroe W Parrish	Bronze
966	Nelson J. Sprague	Bronze
1833	Oscar C Willis	Bronze
4108	Raymond C Tsumpti Jr.	Gold
15038	Richard E Perry	Bronze
293	Rikard N Bellerue	Bronze
1383	Roland C Schuyler	Silver
293	Adalbert E Toepel Jr.*	Bronze
4248	Albert A Reijonen *	Bronze
4039	Alfred R January *	Bronze
3232	Anthony V Cavarno *	Bronze
12140	Boyd C Yaden *	Bronze
10580	Bradley D Horn *	Bronze
2666	Carl G Anderson *	Silver
3965	Carl M Pelzel *	Gold
10580	Charles S Parker *	Bronze
6881	Clarence O Neville *	Silver
15038	David H Wallace *	Gold
584	David H Wallace *	Gold
15038	David H Wallace *	Gold
3973	David H Wallace *	Silver
3232	Dennis R Marsh *	Silver
3203	Dennis R Pratt *	Silver
15038	Donald C Sopher *	Bronze
12140	Donald L Reed *	Gold
5452	Donald M Ristow *	Gold
4015	Donald R Cooke *	Bronze
2666	Ellsworth H Bell *	Gold
10580	Eugene Bonk *	Bronze
12141	Floyd W Leach *	Gold
12141	Fred E Beebee *	Bronze
3232	Frederick T Kolbeck *	Gold
4108	Gary D Pitman *	Silver
5452	Gary M Good *	Bronze
10580	George I Gunn *	Bronze
6881	Gerald A Zieman *	Bronze
1324	Gerry B Mcateer *	Silver
4248	Gregory L Drais *	Gold
3232	Harley O Youngblood *	Bronze
4108	Harold G Davidson *	Gold
3452	Harvey A Pitcher *	Gold
661	Herman A Mac Donald *	Bronze
1833	Hugh E Crawford *	Bronze
922	James F Hand *	Gold
1325	James H Mc Gee Jr. *	Gold
293	James I Bell *	Bronze
15038	James M Poling *	Silver
2848	James W Allenbrand *	Gold
3232	James W Gerth *	Bronze
3973	Jason Carroll *	Gold
4362	Jerry Peal *	Bronze
3965	Jess M Wise Jr. *	Gold
1324	John A Baranek *	Gold
4039	John R Clark *	Bronze
4108	John R Wrinkle *	Gold
1833	Jonathan P Lucky *	Silver
1324	Justus P. Mills *	Silver
3452	Lawrence J Howard *	Bronze
4015	Leonard Schorzmann *	Bronze
4015	Leonard D. Braithwait Jr. *	Bronze
4015	Lester E Beecroft *	Bronze
15038	Louis J Neubecker *	Gold
180	Maynard C Smith *	Bronze
10580	Melvin H Jasmin *	Bronze
4039	Melvin L Northcutt *	Bronze
3232	Merritt C Mosby *	Bronze
4039	Michael G Coltharp *	Bronze
1643	Michael P Boehme *	Gold
3232	Milton G Gravell *	Bronze
3473	Monroe W Parrish *	Bronze
966	Nelson J. Sprague *	Bronze
10580	Norman A Doney *	Bronze
1833	Oscar C Willis *	Bronze
1324	Phillip M Jarvis *	Gold
1324	Randall E Savage *	Bronze
1324	Rex L Ruck *	Gold
1324	Richard G Lightfoot *	Bronze
1324	Rick L Higgins *	Gold
1324	Robert A Dougherty *	Bronze
1324	Robert B Woerner *	Silver
1324	Robert D Walsh *	Bronze
1324	Robert F Osterlund *	Bronze
1324	Robert J Jackson *	Bronze
1324	Robert L Anderson *	Bronze
1324	Robert W Black *	Bronze
1324	Roble Anderson *	Bronze

**As of August 21, 2026.*

**Indicates Legacy Life members who have passed on.

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Post	Name	Level
1324	Ronald W Jagodnik *	Gold
1324	Roscoe V Dorsett *	Bronze
1324	Russell E Downs *	Bronze
1324	Seth J Forquer *	Bronze
1324	Shannon M Kelly *	Bronze
1324	Steven M Boosinger	Gold
1324	Terry E Boyer *	Silver

Post	Name	Level
1324	Thomas A Lazette *	Bronze
1324	Thomas G Laing *	Gold
1324	Thomas R Mc Neal *	Bronze
1324	Timothy K Marler *	Bronze
1324	Vincent R Le Piane *	Bronze
1324	Wallace L Fulbright *	Bronze
1324	William M Trumble *	Bronze

**Indicates Legacy Life members who have passed on.



TAPS-IN MEMORIAM

THIS PAGE HONORS OUR AMERICAN MILITARY VETERANS WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US. WHILE HISTORY MAY OVERLOOK MANY OF THE BRAVE DEEDS OF OUR GALLANT SERVICEMEN AND SERVICEWOMEN, THEIR MEMORY WILL FOREVER LIVE IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLE OF THE GREAT NATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

READ EACH NAME WITH PRIDE AND GRATITUDE, FOR THEY ANSWERED THE CALL TO DUTY, AND NOW THE HONOR AND GLORY ARE THEIRS. THEY GAVE THEIR ALL FOR US, AND THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.

TAPS ARE SOUNDING.

Post	Name	Date
180	Francis R Weatherly	8/1/2026
293	John R Hackbarth	7/19/2026
584	Norman D Oleman	8/18/2026
661	William L Hubble	7/14/2026
661	Clinton Williams	8/4/2026
922	Robert W Linnebur	8/7/2026
922	Edward L Mc	8/7/2026
922	Andrew Stapleton	8/7/2026
1383	Irvin M Burris	8/7/2026
1383	Raymond L Holmes	8/7/2026
1383	Charles Maloney	8/7/2026
1383	James R Pope	8/7/2026
1383	Maximilian Rozum	8/7/2026
1383	Sheridan L Scott	7/16/2026
1383	Gail V Webb	8/7/2026
1412	Clarence E Smith	8/7/2026
1440	Preston O Thomas	8/7/2026
1643	Bob L Busenbark	8/7/2026
1643	Julius L Cordoni	8/17/2026
1643	George T Cutting	7/16/2026
1643	Robert E Kerns	8/7/2026
1643	John W Sales	7/16/2026
1643	Calvin N Stidham	8/7/2026
1833	Norman N Goldberg	8/7/2026
1833	Ted Wharton	8/7/2026
2302	George A Eder	7/16/2026
2302	Otto C Gaither	7/21/2026
3156	Francis E Sievers	8/7/2026
3182	Evor Thomas	8/7/2026
3232	Chester L Robertson	8/7/2026
3440	Harold J Larsson	8/7/2026
3452	Gary D Spelce	8/18/2026
3473	Patrick R Smith	8/18/2026
3597	Kenneth L Kindig	7/7/2026
3973	Curt P Christiansen	8/4/2026
3973	Johnny L Selvaggi	7/21/2026
4015	Paul E Clayton	8/7/2026
4015	Robert H Mitchell	8/7/2026
4070	Ross C Cox	8/7/2026
4108	John W Sinclair	8/4/2026
4211	George T Howell	8/7/2026
4273	Robert F Hickman	8/17/2026
4307	John C Joyce	7/14/2026
4567	Bruce K Lee	8/4/2026
5452	Warren Edwards	8/7/2026
6057	Edward W Schultz	8/7/2026
10580	Melvin H Jasmin	7/24/2026
MAL	William V De Bellis	8/7/2026
MAL	Kenneth L Joy	7/7/2026
MAL	Ernest F Luoma	8/7/2026
MAL	Lawrence R Miller	7/6/2026
MAL	Victor Nunenkamp	7/16/2026
MAL	Robert F Remillard	8/7/2026
MAL	Todd A Vangen	8/18/2026

