



GENERAL ORDERS #5

1 November 2024
2024-2025 Series

TO BE READ AT MEETINGS AND POSTED:

1. **November District Meetings:** Please see attachment.

2. Members are reminded that under the subscription dues model, an annual member dues expires on the last day of the month of which they paid the previous year. Annual members are encouraged to renew their dues prior to their anniversary month to avoid a lapse in continuous membership. Officers and committee members whose membership is not in good standing by reason to pay current dues by the end of anniversary month, shall forfeit eligibility to hold any office the remainder of the administrative year.

In addition, every effort should be made to renew the membership of continuous members and sign up new and always recover former members during the year.

3. State Headquarters will be closed on 11 November 2024 for Veterans Day.

4. State Headquarters will be closed on 28 & 29 November 2024 for Thanksgiving.

5. Posts and Districts on a July 1 – June 30 fiscal year should file the proper Federal (990) and State Tax Forms not later than 15 November 2024.

6. **Patriot's Pen** entries due to the District by 15 November 2024. District winners need to be sent to Patriot's Pen Chairperson Adam Bethard, 4535 N County Road 400 E, Pittsboro, IN 46167, betharda@hotmail.com by 15 December 2024.

7. **Voice of Democracy** entries due to the District by 15 November 2024. District winners need to be sent to Voice of Democracy Chairperson Keith Rohloff 100 Brinegar Dr., Springville, IN 47462, keith.rohloff@outlook.com by 15 December 2024.

8. **Teacher of the Year** entries due to the District by 15 November 2024. District winners need to be sent to Teacher of the Year Chairperson Bill Clark 237 E County Line Rd, Greenwood, IN 46143, clarknavyvet@sbcglobal.net by 15 December 2024.

9. **Membership Objectives:** As the membership year has begun, keep in mind our membership objectives, also written in the 2024-25 Membership Program.

- Achieve 102% in Membership
- For everyone to recruit at least one new member and then mentor that member.
- Increase membership drives and/or events.

- Develop new Posts and/or revitalize existing Posts. Increase Life Membership and Legacy Life Membership.

10. 3 November – Daylight Saving Time Ends: Set Clock Back one Hour.

11. 5 November – Election Day.

12. 10 November – 249th Birthday of U.S. Marine Corps.

13. 11 November – Veterans Day.

14. 21 November – Grenada Campaign Ended (1983).

15. 28 November – Thanksgiving Day.

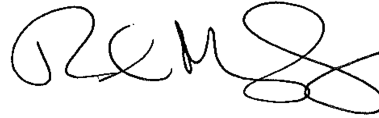
16. Several important documents attached

BY ORDER OF:



CORY MAHAN
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:



REBECCA MURPHY
STATE ADJUTANT



Greetings Comrades,

Indiana

Firstly, Congratulations to Kewanna Post 1121. As of writing this they are at 104%! They will be eligible for the 102% awards when I see them this month at their District Meeting. Also, a Congratulations to Post 857 for making it into the VFW magazine this month. We have a lot to be proud about here in Indiana.

Last month was very busy planning, preparing and executing the VFW Big Ten Conference that we held last month in Indianapolis. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback on how we managed this event, and we couldn't have done it without so many volunteers. There are so many that deserve recognition, and I'd like to list a few. If I missed some, please don't take it as a lack of appreciation. I'm pretty sure I could write a book with all the help we received!

We had 9 drivers that helped shuttle attendees to and from the airport and they put in some late evenings and early mornings doing it. Barb Johnson, Shelley Jacobs, Ken Lange, Michael Jordan, Darrel Knight, Mike Seiler, Roger Ferguson, Johnny Capps and Dave Hammons. They did a fantastic job, and our attendees were so impressed that we even offered this as an option. Thank you so much!

We had 3 running our registration booth and dealing with a couple unruly guests. Edie Toll Seiler, Gabby Pryor and Jennifer Pryor. They handled the stressful situations like champs, and we couldn't have been successful without you! Thank you!

Thank you to the Posts that made donations. Post 1108 Donated the use of their van for shuttling people around, Post 1114 Auxiliary donated crackers, Post 1282 donated the backpacks with custom logo on them and Post 908/6904 donated the koozies with the custom logo on them. Thank you everyone!

The Civil Air Patrol did an amazing job presenting the colors and I really hope to see them return this year for those of you that didn't get to see it. It was absolutely impressive!

One very special Thank you is to our Adjutant Becky Murphy, without her this event would not have gone nearly as smoothly as it did. I can't stress enough how important she was to the success of this event. THANK YOU!

Thank you all for your continued dedication and support. Together, we are making a difference!

Cory Mahan
State Commander
Department of Indiana
Veterans of Foreign Wars

November 2024 Membership Update

CONGRATULATIONS to Post 1121 in Kewanna for attaining 104% in membership as of October 1st. They received \$100.00, two banquet tickets for the Spring Banquet and will also be recognized at the Spring Conference.

Post 6751 in Geneva and Post 6574 in West Terra Haute are tied at 96.15%

District 8 is leading the way at 84.85% and the State is currently at 80.56%

We have 98 people who have recruited at least 1 new or reinstated member. Judy King leads the recruiters at 26, Edie Seiler at 15, Shannon Carr with 11. Gene Richards has 8, Danny Gann has 7 with Dick Lineberry and Larry Gunnell with 5 each. Great job everyone and keep up the great work.

Remember to read both the National and State Membership programs to see what is required, and how you and your members can contribute and earn recognition. The 102% goal is attainable, and we can do this together.

Plant* Harvest* Nurture is State Commander Cory Mahan's theme this year. When the membership team is out recruiting at events and we give the post membership applications, please remember to enter them in a timely manner. I understand that there is a process to verify, and vote on memberships in your post meetings. However, please keep in mind that the "new" member is in limbo and waiting for their account to be charged, etc. I am suggesting that the Post reach out to the new member as soon as possible and explain the process, etc. Make contact and let them know they are a valued member. Every member counts!

Recruiting is the hardest job in the VFW but also the most rewarding. Train and utilize your whole team at the Post level. Membership is a team effort!

Reach out to anyone on the membership team if you need assistance on recruiting and for events.

In Comradeship,

Edie Toll Seiler

Membership Director

November 2024

Comrades,

I recently attended the BATTLEMIND Summit/Conference and received updated information to pass on to our membership pertaining to VA Health Care and overall Veteran's related matters. I have shortened the content and am providing links and/or phone listings for each of the five areas below.

- **Veterans Suicide prevention** is at the forefront of all other Veteran Programs. If you are in trouble or know of another Veteran in trouble. **CALL 988 and select 1** for immediate support from the Veterans Crisis Line. ***The service is private and free and available 24/7.***

Or Text **838255** and start a confidential chat

If hearing impaired, CALL TTY: **800-799-4889**

For an immediate medical emergency CALL 911

- The VA has been using "**The Whole Health**" concept for some years and it is starting to now be used by Veterans as it was designed for.

What is VA whole health?

It equips you to take charge of your health and well-being and to live your life to the fullest. VA facilities across the country are implementing Whole Health as a new approach to provide health services with Veterans as partners in health. The focus is on empowering you to take charge of your health and well-being.

It is designed around "Eight Areas of Self Care": Energy and Flexibility, Physical and Emotional surroundings, Personal Development, Food and Drink, Sleep and Refresh, Relationships, Spirit and Soul, and Power of the Mind.

<https://www.va.gov/wholeheath>

- **SCAMS** against Veterans has become rampant across the State with upwards of 5,200 Veterans getting scammed each year. Scams can be for disability compensation benefits, financial investments, legal fraud, and anything else that doesn't seem right. If you feel that you or a friend/family member has been targeted by a scam based on Veteran status, then contact the Indiana State Attorney General's Office at **317-232-6330 or 800-382-5516 and file a complaint.** There is absolutely no need to feel ashamed or embarrassed as they are here to help.

- **Veteran Homelessness** is a serious concern across the State of Indiana. Daily homeless Veterans across the State average around 540. These are just the ones who have identified themselves as a Veteran. Homelessness can be attributed to many factors in a Veterans life and needs to be addressed immediately. If you are experiencing homelessness or know of other

Veterans needing assistance, help is available. Contact the **National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-424-3838.**

Or go to the **VA** website: va.gov/homeless

- **Veterans Court of Indiana** has been in existence for over 14 years and has helped many Veterans through legal proceedings and life choices. Not every County participates but cases are being transferred to participating courts.

The Courts are always in need of Mentors that serve as such assisting fellow Veterans going through the legal system. Overall, the program has had a very successful graduation rate. For more information about this program, and if you want to volunteer as a Mentor, contact can be made through: INDIANA OFFICE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION courts.in.gov/admin

Below is from the Veterans Court site:

Veterans Court is an interventionist approach that addresses the cause leading to criminal behavior and supports the guarantee of restorative justice founded in the Indiana Constitution. The goal of Veterans Court is to rehabilitate instead of incarcerate. Veterans struggling with post traumatic stress, brain trauma, anxiety, depression, chemical dependency, unemployment, and homelessness are being asked to do more than get treatment. There is a complete case plan, including tools for rehabilitation and readjustment. If a veteran is homeless, then he is going to get off the streets. If a veteran is unemployed, then she will get into a jobs program. Early identification and prompt placement of veterans in the program is an important key component to success. The county sheriff can provide assistance with tracking veterans at the point of first entry into the criminal justice system through the county jail. This is a collaborative effort, and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is a key partner that performs assessments and evaluations, provides evidence-based treatment options for military service-related illness, and reaches out to incarcerated veterans to connect them to services upon release from jail. The services of the VA are not funded by local taxpayers, and local treatment services stay open and available to individuals who have not served in the armed forces.

In Comradeship,

Ken Lange
State Surgeon



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Indiana

1 November 2024

To: District Commanders and Department Representatives

Subj: DISTRICT MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2024

District meetings are scheduled as follows: Department Representatives are listed. If assigned Department Representatives cannot attend the meeting, please send an alternate member, and update the State Adjutant at 317-377-1795 or at adj@vfw.in.org.

District	Date	Time	Place of Meeting	Dept. Rep
One	11/17	*12:00pm	Hammond Post 802	Johnny Capps
Two	11/17	*1:00pm	Rensselaer Post 1279	Cory Mahan
Three	11/3	1:00pm	Laporte Post 1130	Ken Lange
Four	11/16	3:00pm	Columbia City Post 5582	Edie Toll Seiler
Five	11/16	12:00pm	Kokomo Post 1152	Rebecca Murphy
Six	11/17	11:00am	Carmel Post 10003	Larry Patch
Seven	11/17	10:30am	Vincennes Post 1157	Roger Ferguson
Eight	11/17	10:00am	Huntingburg Post 2366	Michael Jordan
Nine	11/10	1:00pm	Mitchell Post 9107	Johnny Capps
Ten	11/17	1:30pm	New Castle Post 1282	Dave Hammons
Eleven	11/9	10:30am	Beech Grove Post 5626	Cory Mahan

By Order of:
CORY MAHAN
STATE COMMANDER

Official:
REBECCA MURPHY
STATE ADJUTANT

*C – Central Time

BIG FOUR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2025 GENERAL SESSION



- * Congressionally Chartered September 16, 1919
- * 80,000 Indiana members
- * 1.9 million nationwide



- * Congressionally Chartered November 2, 1923
- * 18,000 Indiana members
- * 1.3 million nationwide



- * Congressionally Chartered June 17, 1932
- * 29,000 Indiana members
- * 1.6 million nationwide



- * Congressionally Chartered 1964
 - * 3,500 Indiana members
 - * 53,167 nationwide
-

The Big Four, comprised of the largest veterans service organizations, is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for military veterans and their families through legislative advocacy. Representing over 130,500 Hoosier veterans, our combined voice is the most influential in Indiana.

For the upcoming 2025 legislative session, we have identified four key priorities:

Priority 1: Tuition Remission for Children of Disabled Veterans

• **Objective:** Ensure all eligible children of disabled veterans receive full tuition and fee exemptions.

• **Key Actions:**

- o Remove language regarding the 2011 changes to ensure all eligible children receive 100% tuition and fee exemption.
 - o Include the United States Space Force in the eligible categories.
 - o Modify the residency requirement from five (5) years to one (1) year prior to applying for the exemption.
 - o Eliminate the requirement for service during a war or equally hazardous duty recognized by a service or campaign medal.
-

Priority 2: NGAI Indiana National Guard Member Death Benefit Insurance

• **Objective:** Provide financial support to the families of National Guard members.

• **Key Actions:**

- o Introduce a state-sponsored \$10,000 death benefit for National Guard members.
-

Priority 3: Electronic Pull Tabs for Veteran Service Organizations

• **Objective:** Increase revenue for Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) to sustain their community involvement.

• **Key Actions:**

- o Authorize VSOs to utilize electronic pull tabs, which operate similarly to conventional pull tabs. This initiative will help preserve many VSO posts and ensure their continued active participation in their communities.
-

Priority 4: Regulation of Claim Sharks

• **Objective:** Protect veterans from exploitative practices by claim sharks.

• **Key Actions:**

- o Prohibit claim sharks from operating in Indiana unless they adhere to VA rules and procedures. This regulation aims to prevent claim sharks from charging exorbitant fees to veterans seeking benefits.
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These priorities reflect our commitment to supporting Indiana's veterans and their families. By addressing these key areas, we aim to enhance the benefits and protections available to those who have served our nation.

Keith Rohloff



Candidate for Surgeon Department of Indiana 2025-2026

Qualifications:

Eligibility: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal-Operation Earnest Will - Persian Gulf (USS California CGN-36) (1987)

Retired Navy Storekeeper Chief Petty Officer (SKC(SW)) (1984-2005)

- VFW Member since 2001, Gold Legacy Life Member
- VFW National Home Centennial Life Member
- American Legion Member (Post 184 Moore Oklahoma)

Member of Henry Dwyer VFW Post 9297 (Crane)(2006-Present)

House Committee (2007-2009)

Post Quartermaster (Feb 2009–2013, 2014-2019)

Post Commander (2013-2014)

Post Trustee/Service Officer (2022-Present)

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Indiana Foundation Secretary/Treasurer (2023 to Present)

Department of Indiana District 7 Commander (2017-2018)

Department of Indiana District 7 Quartermaster/Adjutant (2018-Present)

Various other appointed/elected positions (2010-present)

Department of Indiana

Voice of Democracy Chairperson (2018-Present)

Department Disciplinary Hearing Panel Member

Appointed Administration Board/Trustee Member

National By-law and General Resolutions Committees (2021, 2022, 2024)

Awards

- All-State Post Quartermaster Team Captain (2009-10) (Orval B. Holycross Award)
- All-State Post Quartermaster (2010-11)
- All-American Post Commander (2013-14)
- All-American District Quartermaster (2022-2023)
- National Aide de Camp (2010-11)(2015-2016) and (2016-2017)

I am married to Cyndi, (Retired Navy Chief Petty Officer (NCC(AW/SW) (VFW Life Member) and we have 2 children Britni and Andrew (both Auxiliary Life Members) and I have their full support.



GENE RICHARDS

Candidate for Surgeon Department of Indiana 2025 - 2026

Leadership in Action!

Military Service

U.S. Army Active Duty: AUG 1989 – JAN 2016; Major - Retired
Enlisted Military Intelligence NCO (O5-H/98-H) 1989 – 1995
Green-to-Gold Scholarship/Distinguished Military Graduate at IU MAY 1998
Army Aviation Officer (15-B: UH-60 Blackhawk Pilot)
6 Qualifying Tours/Deployments for VFW eligibility
Combat Action Badge
Bronze Star Medal
5 Meritorious Service Medals (MSM)
Afghanistan Campaign Medal (25th ID 2011-12)
Korean Defense Service Medal
Numerous other awards and decorations
Flight Platoon Leader, C Co., 5-158 AVN, Germany 2000-01
Deployed to Mali, Africa in 2000
Company Commander, HHC, 1-228th AVN Regt., JTF-B, Honduras 2004-05
Battalion XO, Korean Service Corps BN, Yongsan, Korea 2009-10
Chief of Southeast Asian Exercises, USARPAC (4-Star HQ), Hawaii 2012-16



VFW Service

Joined Post 1154 in Lafayette as a Life Member JUL 2016
Post Jr. Vice Commander 2017-2018
Post Sr. Vice Commander 2018-2019
Post Commander 2019-Present
District 2 Jr. Vice Commander 2020-2022
District 2 Commander 2022-Present
Back-to-Back All-State & All-American Post 2022-2023 and 2023-2024
All-American District 2023-2024
VFW Distinguished Service Award 2024



About Me

Assistant Professor of Military Science at Purdue University Fall 2016
Assistant Professor of Military Science at University of Illinois 2017-2020
Own a small real estate investment/property management company
Live in West Lafayette with my wife, Hyun (Lifetime Auxiliary Member), and three sons; James (22) and Robert (20) who attend Purdue University and Andrew (16) who is a Junior at West Lafayette High School
Financially independent with time to dedicate to improving Indiana's VFW