Comrades, The following information is to update and re-educate everyone on the official rules/rituals that govern the conduct of all members at any VFW Meeting at the **Post, District, Department and National levels.**

**Our Reference is the:** **2022 VFW PODIUM EDITION, CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER BY LAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE RITUAL**

**These are just a few of the important list of rituals when conducting and attending a meeting. All can be located in the Ritual section under General Rules pages 2 and 3 covering Sub-section #s 1-13.**

**These are presented in no specific order!**

1. The only authorized head dress is the official VFW Cover. All other covers/hats are **not** authorized for wear at any meeting.
2. When removing the cover for prayers it will be held by the right hand over the heart with the VFW Cross of Malta facing outwards. When recognizing the VFW National Home, you will face in a “northerly” direction with the Cross of Malta outwards.
3. While the meeting is in session, no member will pass between the altar and the Commander’s station/podium.
4. All Members must stand and be recognized by the Commander before asking questions or addressing the body.
5. When addressing the Commander all members will salute in a military fashion and use the greeting: **“Comrade Commander”**. This will be done prior to and after stating your business with the Commander. (That’s at all levels)
6. All officers will exchange salutes when addressing each other.
7. Any member needing to leave the meeting will stop at the door and salute the Commander before departing. When said member re-enters the meeting they will stop inside the door and salute the Commander again for re-admittance. They must wait for a return salute before departing and/or returning to the meeting. (This is done with a Sgt at Arms or Guard at the State and National level meetings, so that the Commander or speaker is not distracted from conducting formal business at the Podium).
8. Raps of the gavel: One rap is to call attention or seat the body. Two raps call everyone to standing attention.
9. Side bar conversations are not authorized and could be grounds for removal from the meeting.

Current as of: 18 August 2022

**VFW MEETING RULES/RITUALS**

Comrades, this is from the VFW RITUAL section page 1, FOREWORD.

The ceremonies described in our Ritual symbolize the high ideals for which we strive. All ceremonies should be presented expressively and accurately so that recruits and members alike are impressed by the full meaning of every action.

The altar with its flag and Bible, the prayers, pledges, and the official stations comprise the inner sanctum of our order. They express the distinctive character of the world’s oldest overseas war veteran’s organization.

Veteran’s coming to us from military forces of all wars appreciate painstaking attention to details. Our first influence upon recruits and new members will be through presentation of the VFW Rituals. Every participant (**all of us**) is urged to give their best.