



United We Stand



Indiana Combat Veteran

Volume 68 Issue 3

May 2026

From the Commanders Desk:



Fellow Veterans,

We as the Department of Indiana VFW have had a very busy past few months doing what we do best, taking care of Veterans, their families along with our communities.

May is National Military Appreciation Month. Loyalty day is the 1st, Military Spouse Appreciation day the 9th, Armed Forces Day the 16th and Memorial Day the 25th.

Just a reminder that the VFW Day of Service is also due to be done in May if you wish to be All American. This is an opportunity fulfill our motto **STILL SERVING.**

Thank you for allowing me to be your Commander this past year. It has been my honor to represent each of you and the Department of Indiana.

Yours in LOTCS,

**Roger Ferguson
Indiana VFW Commander**



Greetings Comrades & VFW Auxiliary Members,

I hope the May 2026 issue of our Combat Veteran finds you doing well.

I sorta feel like I am beating a dead horse here, but I still don't believe that my message to get reports of our deceased comrades in timely is working. So, I once again ask that you assist me in performing my duties by completing the Graves Registration form. A copy of the form is on the following page, but it is also available on the State web page. If you don't like the form, please feel free to Email me the information [ljpatch@mail.com]. I need the Veterans full name, Post #, District #, date of death, next of kin name & address and location of their grave site (cemetery). I can usually find the Obituary once I have the basic information.

I appreciate the feedback and support from you as I visit your post/district in my travels.

Please keep our hospitalized Veterans in your prayers, and thank you to those who have taken the time to go visit them in the hospital and nursing homes. Having been on the receiving end it really is appreciated!

May your summer be fruitful and enjoyable! God bless our deployed troops!

Yours in LOTCS,

Larry Patch
Chaplain





**Graves Registration Report
Department of Indiana VFW**



Mail to: Larry J Patch

Department of Indiana VFW Chaplain

9034 Eiderdown Way

Indianapolis, IN 46234

Or Email report to ljpatch@mail.com

Subject: Report of Deceased Comrade

Post # _____ District # _____ regrets to report the death of

(Last Name)

(Middle Initial)

(First Name)

Whose address was _____

Who served with _____ During _____

(Branch of Service) War or Conflict

Date of Death _____ Place of Death _____

Place of Burial Cemetery _____

Name & Address of next of kin

(Mailing Address)

Relationship _____ Obituary Enclosed Yes/No

Signed: _____ Name _____ Office _____ Date _____

(Print Name)



INDIANA VETERAN PROPERTY TAX REFORM 2026

What Does This Mean?



TOTAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF
For TOP top tier



LIFTING VALUE CAP
• Simplifies tax structure with both-line credits.



CREDIT SYSTEM



URGENT ACTION REQUIRED: YOU MUST ACT!

HOW DO I REGISTER?



REGISTRATION TIMELINE



SURVIVING SPOUSES
The veteran satisfied the eligibility requirements; Surviving own by the deceased veteran.

1



DISABILITY 10-90% & OVER AGE 62

\$250.00
Annual Tax Credit

3



DISABILITY 10-90%, WARTIME SERVICE & OVER AGE 62

\$600.00
Annual Tax Credit


2



DISABILITY 10-90% & WARTIME SERVICE

\$350.00
Annual Tax Credit

4



DISABILITY 100% OR INDIVIDUAL UNEMPLOYABILITY (IU)

100%
ANNUAL TAX DEDUCTION

GET CONNECTED WITH YOUR CVSO



www.in.gov/dva



call 317.232.3910 or scan this code.



Indiana Veteran Property Tax Reform 2026

What Does This Mean?

1. Total property tax relief for 100% Service Connected and Individual Unemployable veterans.
2. Eliminates all assessed value caps.
3. Simplifies tax structure with bottom-line credits.

Do I NEED to Do Something?

YES! You Must Act!

All Indiana veterans and surviving spouses currently receiving Indiana Disabled Veteran Property Tax Deductions, and new applicants, **MUST** register for property tax credits.

How Do I Register?

You must bring a completed and signed State Form 51186 to your County Auditor's Office.

- The State Form 51186 can be completed at your County Veteran Service Office.

When Do I Register?

After July 1, 2026 and before Dec. 30, 2026

- Be prepared. Get your State Form 51186 completed by making an appointment with your CVSO office.

When Will I See the Benefit?

The benefit will begin with your 2027 tax bill.

What About Surviving Spouses?

The surviving spouse is eligible if:

- The veteran satisfied the eligibility requirements at the time of passing; and
- Surviving spouse owns or is buying the property.
(Regardless of whether the property was owned by the deceased veteran)

How Do I Qualify?

Veteran must have a current VA Service Connected Disability rating of: 100% **OR** Individual Unemployability (IU) to earn: **100%** Annual Property Tax Deduction

Veteran must have a current VA Service Connected Disability rating of: 10%-90% **PLUS** Wartime Service **AND** be over age 62 to earn: **\$600.00** Annual Property Tax Credit

Veteran must have a Current VA Service Connected Disability rating of: 10%-90% **AND** be over age 62 to earn: **\$250.00** Annual Property Tax Credit

Veteran must have a Current VA Service Connected Disability rating of: 10%-90% **AND** Wartime Service to earn: **\$350.00** Annual Property Tax Credit

To be connected with your CVSO: visit www.in.gov/dva, call 317.232.3910, or scan this code.



Indianapolis 1500 Gun & Blade Show



VFW State
Commander Roger
Ferguson, Jr. Vice
Commander Ken Lange
and Membership
Director Dan Gann
working hard at the
Indianapolis 1500 Gun
& Blade Show!

Veterans day at the State House



Veterans day at the State House



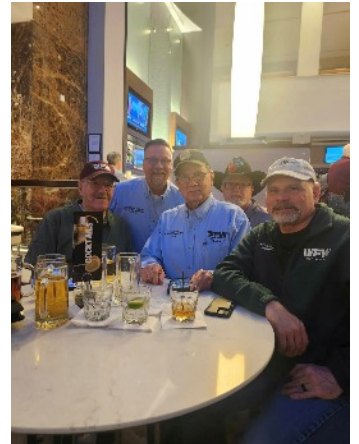
Veterans day at the State House



Veterans day at the State House



Washington Conference



Washington Conference



Washington Conference



Spring Conference



Spring Conference



Spring Conference



Spring Conference



Commander & President Testimonial



Commander & President Testimonial



Commander & President Testimonial



Commander & President Testimonial



Commander & President Testimonial



Auxiliary Photo's



Auxiliary Photo's



MESSAGE FROM THE COOTIES

Hello Cooties & Cuties!

I have done my goodest to keep our Pup Tent in line, but it's been a lot like herding cats! Our elections have been held and I am very pleased to report I am no longer the one to blame! Congratulations to our crummiest member "**Russell 'Gabby' Pryor**" who will be totally in charge of any future confusion of our small group of misfits!

All in all, we ended up with some reasonable numbers for 2025-2026. It is with heavy heart that I advise all of the passing of Supreme Commander Eric Bell. He will truly be missed when we go to Reno for the Supreme Convention. Our Provost Marshall Gabby attended Eric's Celebration of Life in Michigan.

We are doing OK in membership, but we still need 2 more Pup Tents to regain our Grand in Indiana. We have one nearly done so let's get our work clothes on and get the other one done! You can contact myself or Gabby for help. All the paperwork to start a new Pep Tent is available to download from the Supreme website www.lotcs.org. It is very easy to do, just takes a bit of time.

It is my great hope that 2026-2027 will finally see Indiana recapture our Grand. I hope that many more VFW leaders will join our ranks as VFW Honor Degree members.

Till we meet again, safe journeys and fair skies be with you! Remember, "Keepem' Smilin' in Beds of White!" God Bless our Veterans.

Yours in LOTCS,

Larry Patch

Pup Tent 11 Seam Squirrel



iiCootie Pictures!!

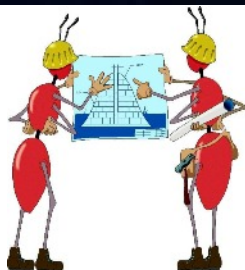
COOTIE CHECK

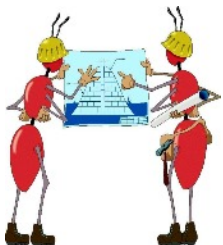
ONE..



CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

TO A COOTIE IN NEED.





iiCootie Pictures!!

SUPREME Pup Tent



MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

"The Honor Degree of the Veterans of Foreign Wars"



*From the Office of the Supreme Quartermaster a.k.a.
"Custodian of the Crummy Duffel Bag"*

107th Supreme Scratch Reno, NV

30 July – 1 August 2026

Location: Nugget Casino Resort, 1100 Nugget Ave, Sparks, NV 89431

Room Rates: 4 Night Average Rate of \$104.50 plus taxes.

Why "Average Rate"? Reno hotels have a Monday – Thursday Rate of \$89 and Friday/Sunday Rate of \$120. If you stay Wednesday & Thursday (at \$89x2=\$178); Friday & Saturday (at \$120x2=\$240) the Average nightly rate is \$178+240/4 nights = \$104.50.

3 Night Average: Thursday, Friday, Saturday will be \$89+240/3 nights = \$109.66 nightly

Sorry for making you do math to book the hotel

These rates are available for Booking: 25 July through 2 August 2026

VFW Convention (25 – 28 July) at Cootie Rates for a Huge Savings

Supreme Convention (30 July 2 August)

Book Your Rooms NOW!

Booking Instructions, use the following link to book your room.

<https://nuggetcasinoresort.book.pegasbe.com/promo?offerCode=GMOC26&hotel=NCR>

Or you can call 8006481177, use the MOC Group Code: GMOC26

Ask for the Complimentary Coffee Maker in your room. You'll have to get Coffee Pods from the front desk daily. No cost for our group!

Here is what's included:

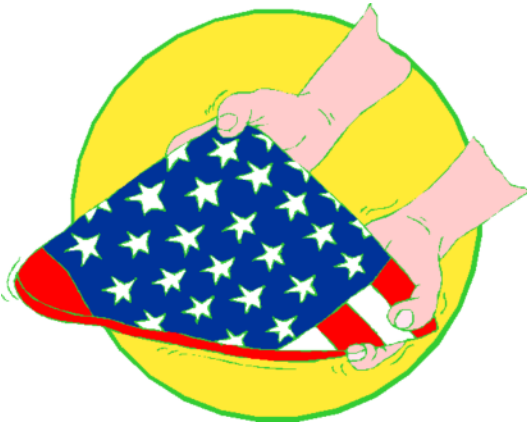
- **NO** Resort Fees, this is usually an additional \$40 fee per night
- Free Shuttle from Reno/Tahoe International Airport
- Complimentary Coffee Maker and Coffee in room, usually extra \$10 per day
- Free in room internet
- Free Parking

LOTCS

Marcia Eggers

Marcia Eggers

Supreme Seam Quartermaster



TAPS



- District 4* Dave Taylor | Post 1421 | 12/26/2025***
District 4* Roger Watson | Post 1421 | 3/11/2026*
District 5* Joseph Arehart | Post 5782 | 11/18/2025*
District 5* Daniel C Myers | Post 1152 | 12/6/2025*
District 5* George B Brittain | Post 1152 | 2/3/2026*
District 7* William Salisbury | Post 1111 | 1/1/2026*
District 7* Robert L Harbstreit | Post 3321 | 3/17/2026*
District 8* William Shroeder | Post 2939 | 12/24/2025*
District 8* Charles E Guyillaume | Post 2939 | 8/15/2025*
District 8* Stephen Gofinet | Post 2939 | 9/21/2025*
District 8* Curtis L Cronin | Post 2939 | 2/15/2025*
District 8* Denney Hess | Post 2939 | 6/12/2025*
District 9* Jonathon J Tracy | Post 1925 | no date*
District 9* Dennis W Motsinger | Post 1925 | 4/20/2026*
District 9* Herbert L Lane Sr | Post 1925 | 4/22/2026*
District 10* George L DeLay | Post 2695 | 12/18/2025*
District 10* Wilbur E Tressler | Post 2695 | 1/5/2026*
District 10* James M Ferrell | Post 1282 | 2/26/2026*
District 10* Mearl C May | Post 2695 | 3/27/2026*

Russell "Gabby" Pryor

VFW Department of Indiana

Candidate For

Surgeon 2026 - 2027



Thank you for considering me to be your 2026-2027 Department of Indiana Surgeon!

I am dedicated to serving my fellow Veterans through the VFW and believe strongly in our mission of Serving the Finest! Alongside my wife, Jennifer Pryor, who is actively involved in the VFW Auxiliary, we have raised three wonderful children—Dakota (29), Noah (26), and Savannah (22)—all of whom support our work. Let's move forward with strength and purpose!

VFW ELIGIBILITY

- OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/STORM - USS ACADIA AD-42
- US NAVY BOATSWAIN'S MATE 3RD CLASS (BM3), (1988-1994)

SERVICE ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

- VFW MEMBER SINCE 2011, SILVER LIFE LEGACY
- NATIONAL HOME CENTENNIAL LIFE MEMBER
- MILITARY ORDER OF COOTIES, RED STAR LIFE MEMBER
- AMERICAN LEGION, DAV

VFW HIGHLIGHTS AND RECORD OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE

- 2012-2013 POST 5626 COMMANDER
- 2017-2018 ALL STATE & ALL-AMERICAN DISTRICT 11 COMMANDER
- 2017-2018 COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, KANSAS CITY TRIP
 - * 3RD IN DIVISION MEMBERSHIP
- 2017-2018 ROUND ROBIN & EISENHOWER AWARD
- 2017-2019 & 2023-2024 NATIONAL AIDE-DE-CAMP
- 2020-2021 ALL STATE & ALL-AMERICAN POST 261 COMMANDER
- 2022-2025 CERTIFIED NATIONAL RECRUITER
- 2023-2024 CENTURY RECRUITER (recruiting over 100 members)
- 2023-2024 COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AWARD
- 2024-2025 DISTRICT 11 COMMANDER

VETERAN FOR LEADERSHIP DAN GANN

Experienced. Dedicated. Ready to Serve.



★ VFW ELIGIBILITY:

- Served in Iraq and Kuwait
- Retired U.S. Army Reserve 1SG, served from 1984–2007
- Purple Heart Recipient

★ VFW BILLETS SERVED:

- 2016–2019 Post Quartermaster/ Adjutant
- 2018–2019 Team Captain, All State
 - ★ Recipient of the Holycross Award
- 2019–2020 & 2022–2024 All State Commander
- 2022–2023 All State District Quartermaster
- 2022–2024 All-American Post Commander
- 2024–2026 District Sr, Vice Commander
- 2022–2026 National Aide-De-Camp
- 2026 Appointment to National Bylaws Committee
- 2026–Present Membership Chairman

★ SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS:

- VFW Member since 2003
- Legacy Gold Member
- Centennial Life Member, National Home
- Life Member, DAV
- Life Member, VFW National Home

★ COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- ★ Co-Founder, Mishawaka Troop Town
- ★ Co-Founder, Stop 22 Michiana
- ★ Recipient of the Drum Major Award (City of Mishawaka)

— Vote Dan Gann —
for Department Surgeon

District

4



New Haven, IN Police Department

1h · 🌐



Great work Millie! Earlier this morning officers were dispatched regarding a missing two year old child. During this investigation, Millie conducted a k9 track in which the child was safely located roughly 700 yards into a cornfield!

K9 Millie was brought onto our department just a few months ago and is currently the newest member of the k9 group at New Haven! It's very exciting to see her already doing great work! 🐕🚓

While this call for service was conducted by multiple departments, we are always thankful for the working relationship we have with Fort Wayne PD, Allen County Sheriffs Office and Indiana State Police



District

4



Matt Newbauer



2m ·

Congratulations to New Haven's newest police officer K9 Millie.

For those of you who may have missed the news story this is the officer along with her Handler [Zach Moord](#) who found a missing 2-year-old in a cornfield in 6 minutes 14 seconds. Could have taken hours of human effort to do what she did so quickly.



District 4



District 5



American Legion Post 6 presenting
\$1,000 donation for the VFW Post 1152
Military Rites Team.

District 6



!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Thank you Volunteers!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



District 6



DISTRICT II



DISTRICT 11



April 25, 2026



April 25, 2026



April 25, 2026



April 23, 2026



April 25, 2026



April 25, 2026

We had a blast, Jennifer, Shana, Tabitha (Army vet) MgStg Vincent Liddle (USMC) and Warren Central JROTC had the privilege of marching in the 70th birthday of Lowell Little League Parade representing VFW 11th District, Dept of Indiana. We also met a couple Navy Veterans who serve with IFD Firehouse 25 in Irvington. It was a beautiful day for baseball. I even umpired a game! Great memories at this ballpark! I want to say THANK YOU to Lowell Little League and the board for having us, and their continued support for the Military, Veterans, community and our first responders (IMPD, IFD).

Trading Card Event

POKÉMON

SPORTS

ONE PIECE

MAGIC The Gathering

and MORE!

Free to SHOP & TRADE

WHEN?

ARMED FORCES DAY

Saturday May 16th

9am—6pm

WHERE?

Mars Hill

VFW

3011 S Lockburn St
Indianapolis, IN 46241

Off of Kentucky Ave & Holt Rd
across from AutoZone

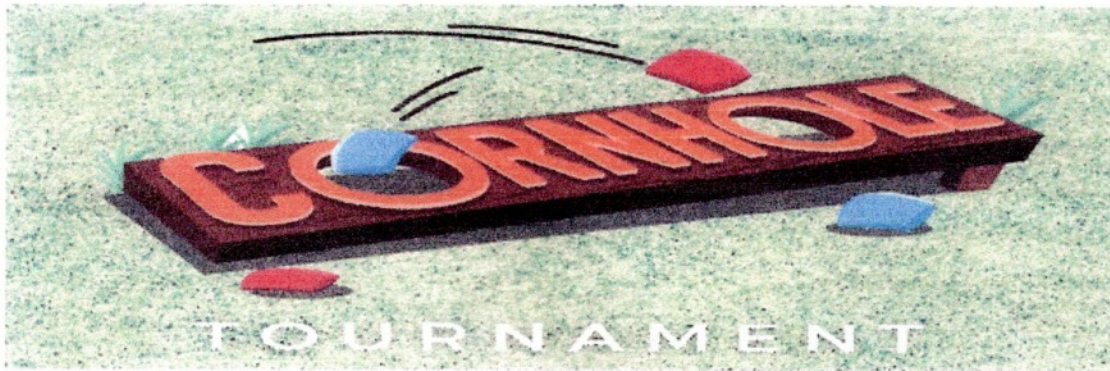
Family Friendly



JUST SHOW UP!

Call or text questions or
to reserve vending tables:
(219) 363 - 4032





HOSTED BY THE BRICK

(ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TO THE VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN)

*DATE/LOCATION: MAY 16TH, 2026 AT THE BRICK IN JONESVILLE.

*THE TOURNAMENT STARTS AT 12PM. NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINKS PLEASE.

*SIGN UPS BEGIN NOW AND THE LAST DAY TO SIGN UP IS THE DAY OF THE EVENT, SIGN UPS WILL BE FROM 11AM TO 1130AM THAT DAY.

*TEAMS ARE 50.00, NO SINGLES PLEASE. THE FIRST 12 TEAMS TO SIGN UP WILL GET A T-SHIRT THE DAY OF THE EVENT. PLEASE STOP IN THE BRICK TO PAY AND SIGN UP.



VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

NEVER FORGET OUR FALLEN JULY 10-12, 2026



GoldStars Tribute Wall™

Gulf - Iraq - Afghanistan Wars
A Traveling Memorial



**Kokomo VFW POST
#1152
(920 N Washington St.)**



Greater than both us and they both. And a man for whom we live for. **July 15, 11**



NEVER FORGET OUR FALLEN HEROES RIDE!

July 11 2026

Ride starts at Kokomo VFW Washington St. Sign at 9:30. Departal ride at 10:00. Everyone is welcome. Bring your own food. **FREE!** 100% of the ride goes to the **INDIANA FALLEN HEROES**

INDIANA FALLEN HEROES

Friday—July 10th
10:00 AM
Arrival of the GoldStars Tribute Wall
2:00 PM
Arrival of the Indiana Fallen Heroes

Saturday—July 11th
GoldStars Tribute Wall
Indiana Fallen Heroes
Never Forget Our Fallen Heroes
Ride—Sign In 9:30AM

Sunday—July 12th
AM Only
GoldStars Tribute Wall
Indiana Fallen Heroes

MORE TO SEE & DO INSIDE!
War Dog Display
VFW Information
Ride Information
Food & Drinks
Restrooms
And more!



VFW Post #1152 Contact: 765-452-1521



SUMMER CAMPOUT 2026

WHERE: Lake Melissa Campground, Quincy Indiana

WHEN: August 21st - 23rd, 2026

FRIDAY NIGHT:

Campfire at the Shelter House

SATURDAY NIGHT:

Dinner Night 1700 (5:00 PM)

Bring a Covered Dish. Fried Chicken will be provided.

Evening Entertainment: A Team Karaoke

SUNDAY MORNING: 0830 (8:30 AM)

Pitch-in Breakfast with Biscuits and Gravy supplied.

****Campers Association Meeting will follow breakfast****

There will be a \$15 Registration Fee
(All attendees 16 or older. Includes a t-shirt)

****All visitors must stop to register at the office. The owners have asked all campers to PLEASE WATCH THEIR SPEED!!!**

****Please call to Make or Confirm Reservations. Sites are LIMITED!!!**

DEPOSIT REQUIRED!!!

Call: Jennifer Morris 812-236-4403



2026 Department of Indiana VFW

Jim Thiel Memorial

State Golf Outing

Shotgun Start

Both Days 9:00 am

Hosted By:

Lawton-Byrum VFW Post 972
1111 Veterans SQ
Terre Haute IN 47807

Host Course:

Rea Park Golf Course
3500 S 7th St
Terre Haute IN 47802

Friday, August 14th - Practice Round Available - \$31 Fee (cart included)

Practice Round Tee Times Available after 1200 call course to schedule.

Saturday, August 15th - Individual scores to determine Sunday's round.

Sunday, August 16th - A,B,C,D four person scramble, Best Ball Format.

Players are limited to the first 120 VFW and Auxiliary Members with current dues paid.

Entries must be received with payment no later than August 7, 2026

Cost is \$75 per person. To sponsor a hole will be \$100.

Entry Form: Make your own foursome or we will include you in a foursome

NAME	POST NUMBER	MEMBER NBR	POST	AUX

(Bring Membership Card and have ready at check in on first day).

Amount Enclosed

Mail Entries and Check payable to:

\$75 X _____ = \$ _____
(# of Golfers)

VFW Post 972
ATTN: Quartermaster/ Golf
1111 Veterans SQ
Terre Haute, IN 47807

Hole Sponsor Fee \$ _____
(\$100 per Hole)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Check Number



**BROTHERS WHO FOUGHT WITHOUT
AMERICA'S SUPPORT
BROTHERS WHO RETURNED WITHOUT
AMERICA'S WELCOME
BROTHERS WHO WILL
ALWAYS BE
"THE BEST AMERICA HAD"**



**VIETNAM VETERAN
1959-1975**

★ ★ ★
PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS & RECOGNITION DAYS



- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- Presidents' Day (third Monday of February)
 - Star-Spangled Banner Day (March 3)
 - K-9 Veterans Day (March 13)
 - Rosie the Riveter Day (March 21)
 - Medal of Honor Day (March 25)
 - National Vietnam War Veterans Day (March 29)
 - Gold Star Spouses Day (April 5)
 - Anniversary of the day the Gulf War ended (April 11)
 - Purple Up! Day, part of Month of the Military Child (April 15)
 - Loyalty Day (May 1)
 - Silver Star Service Banner Day (May 1)
 - V-E/Victory in Europe Day (May 8)
 - Home Front Heroes Day (May 9)
 - Military Spouse Appreciation Day (Friday before Mother's Day)
 - Children of Fallen Patriots Day (May 13)
 - Armed Forces Day (third Saturday in May)
 - Memorial Day (last Monday of May)
 - Anniversary of D-Day (June 6)
 - National Women Veterans Recognition Day (June 12)
 - Flag Day (June 14)
 - Juneteenth (June 19)
 - PTS(D) Awareness Day (June 27)
 - Made in America Day (July 2)
 - Independence Day/Fourth of July (July 4)
 - National "Hire a Veteran" Day (July 27)
 - National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (July 27)
 - National Buffalo Soldiers Day (July 28)
 - Purple Heart Day (August 7)
 - Agent Orange Awareness Day (August 10)
 - Navajo Code Talkers Day (August 14)
 - V-J Day (September 2)
 - Patriot Day/National Day of Service & Remembrance (September 11)
 - Uncle Sam Day (September 13)
 - VFW Auxiliary Birthday (September 14)
 - Constitution Day & Citizenship Day (September 17)
 - POW/MIA Recognition Day (third Friday in September)
 - Gold Star Mother's & Family's Day (last Sunday in September)
 - Johnny Appleseed Day (September 21 OR March 11)
 - VFW Day (September 29)
 - Global War on Terrorism & Desert Storm Veterans Day (October 7)
 - Day of the Deployed (October 26)
 - Statue of Liberty's Birthday (October 28)
 - Veterans Day (November 11)
 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (December 7)
 - Bill of Rights Day (December 7)



**Deadline for submission for the
September 2026 Combat Veteran Newsletter
is August 24, 2026!!!**

Let's share our special events to everyone! I will need all articles, pictures and special event fliers to me by **August 24, 2026** for our September 2026 Combat Veteran newsletter! As far as format goes, articles can be in Microsoft word, Email text or Adobe PDF file. Pictures should be in JPEG but I have a pretty large selection of photography programs so I should be able to accommodate most formats. Fliers can be in Word, PDF or any Photo format. Please submit the items for the Newsletter to me at: (**ljpatch@mail.com**) or send to me at 9034 Eiderdown Way, Indianapolis, IN 46234. If you have any questions please Email me or call me (317)450-9408.

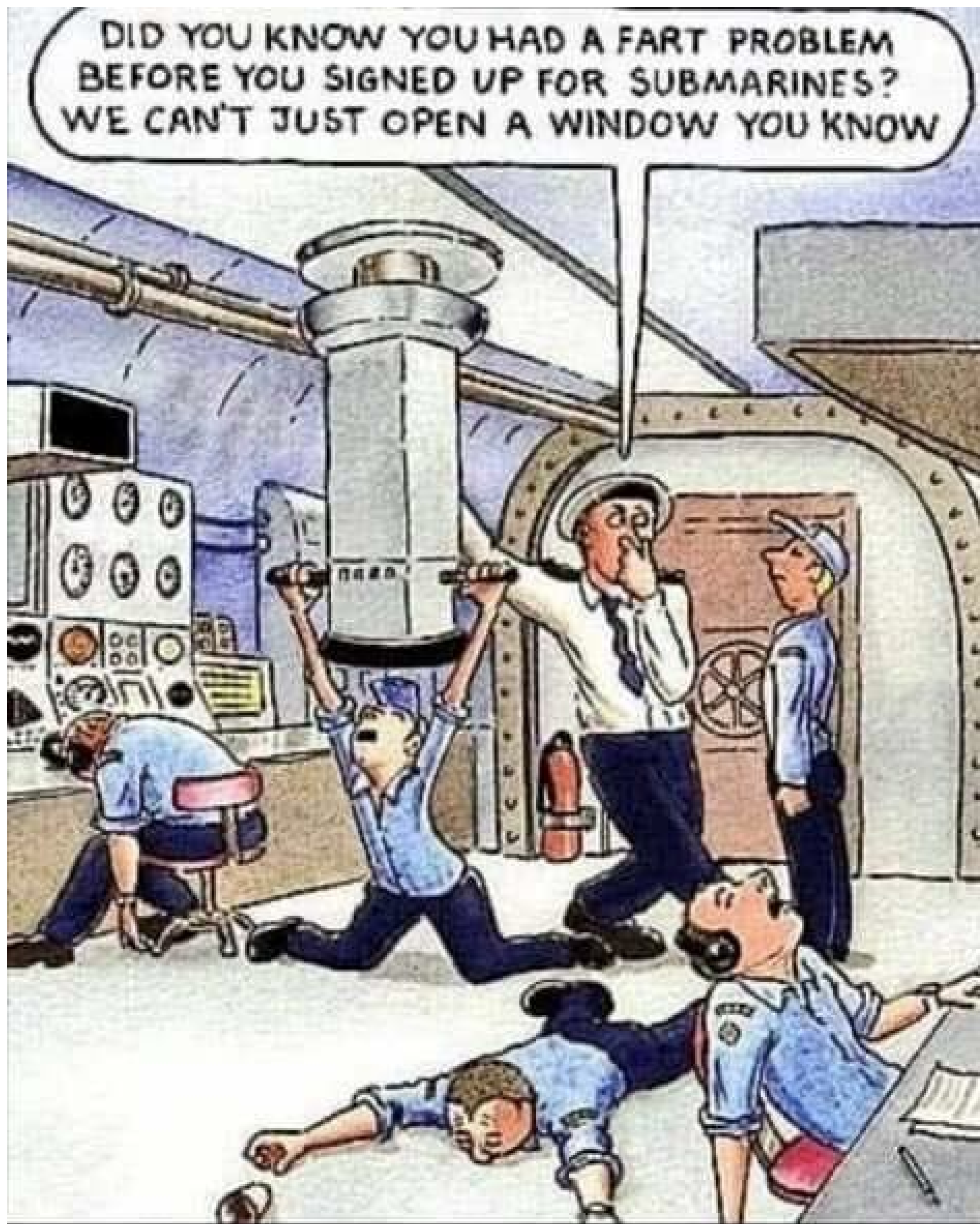
Yours in LOTCS,

Larry J Patch

Larry J Patch



MILITARY HUMOR



MILITARY HUMOR





EVERYTHING WE DO, WE DO FOR VETERANS.



Learn more or join at vfw.org.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.