



United We Stand



Indiana Combat Veteran

Volume 67 Issue 2

May 2025

From the Commanders Desk:



As the State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Indiana, I have the honor of representing some of the most courageous men and women this country has ever known. Veterans—regardless of branch, era, or background—have all answered the call to serve. And while that service often required strength, courage, and sacrifice on the battlefield, it also demands something just as important when we return home: the strength to heal and to ask for help.

Mental health is not a weakness. It is a core part of our overall well-being—just like physical health. For far too long, the invisible wounds of war have been overshadowed by outdated stigmas and silence. But we know better now. We know that trauma, stress, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress are not signs of failure; they are human responses to extreme circumstances.

The VFW is committed to creating a culture where no veteran feels alone in their struggle. Here in Indiana, we are taking bold steps to address mental health challenges head-on. Through peer-to-peer support, community outreach, and partnerships with organizations like the VA and Irreverent Warriors, we are working to bridge this divide.

But mental health is only one side of the coin. The other is resiliency.

Resiliency is not about never falling; it's about rising after the fall. It's the ability to adapt, to recover, and to thrive in the face of adversity. And there is no better example of resilience than the veteran community. From combat zones to civilian life, from hardship to hope, our members have shown time and again that they are capable of extraordinary strength and perseverance.

We must continue to foster that spirit in every VFW Post, in every home, and in every conversation we have. It starts with checking in on one another, listening without judgment, and sharing our own journeys when we're ready. It continues by ensuring that every veteran knows where to turn when the weight gets too heavy.

If you are struggling, I urge you to reach out—to a fellow veteran, a counselor, or a crisis line. You are not alone. You are valued. And your story is far from over.

Let's lead with compassion. Let's act with courage. And let's stand strong—together.

Yours in LOTCS,

Cory Mahan

Indiana State Copmmander



Greetings Comrades & VFW Auxiliary Members,

As I said in my last article, this year's National Convention will be very covenant as it will be located in Columbus, Ohio August 9 -13, 2025. If you are able, I strongly recommend that you attend. Among the many training courses/workshops that will be available free of charge, I highly recommend the National Chaplains workshop! Having attended the National Conventions for many years, I am always amazed that I learn something new every time I attend!

I have would like to stress the importance of reporting your deceased members. Our goal is to create an accurate database listing of all our deceased members with their final resting place so that we can provide which cemetery the Veteran is located when assisting extended family/friends requesting the information from our department. Our departments form is located on our State Website under the Resources tab, then Documents and scroll down to Post Forms and select Graves Registration Report (fillable); copy attached on page 27. The form can be sent directly to my Email address ljpatch@mail.com or mailed to me at 9034 Eiderdown Way, Indianapolis, IN 46234. This information also assists me in sending out sympathy cards and creating the TAPS page in our Combat Veteran Newsletter.

I truly have enjoyed my term as your Chaplain, and have had a great time visiting during my travels!

Please contact me by email or text/call [317 450-9408] if there is anything I can assist you with.

Yours in LOTCS,

**Larry Patch
Department of Indiana Chaplain**



Both photos are from the District 6 Loyalty Day event at Noblesville Post 6246 on April 26, 2025.



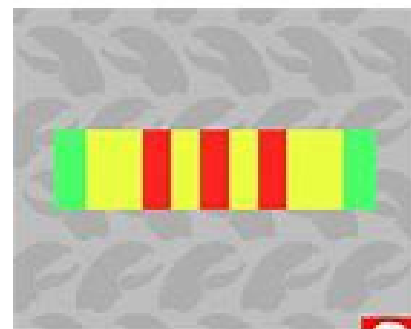
Ken Lange

State Surgeon

VFW Department of Indiana



Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Ceremony



March 28, 2025 Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Ceremony conducted at the Emmett J. Bean Federal Center in Indianapolis. (7) Post 10003, District 6 members were present and Post member Tim McNally was the keynote speaker for the event.

Indiana delegation to Washington DC



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
VOICE OF DEMOCRACY - PARADE OF WINNERS
Use this card to check off the winners as they are announced.
Will your State/Department be the national winner?

State/Department	Amount	State/Department	Amount
Alabama	2000	Nebraska	1000
Alaska	1000	Nevada	1000
Arizona	1000	New Hampshire	35,000
Arkansas	2000	New Jersey	2000
California	2500	New Mexico	1000
Colorado	2000	New York	1000
Connecticut	1500	North Carolina	3000
Delaware	2000	North Dakota	15,000
Europe	2000	Ohio	1500
Florida	2500	Oklahoma	1000
Georgia	2000	Oregon	3500
Hawaii	2000	Pacific Area	5000
Iaho	2000	Pennsylvania	2000
Illinois	2000	Rhode Island	1000
Indiana	2000	South Carolina	3500
Iowa	1000	Tennessee	1000
Kansas	1000	Texas	1000
Kentucky	2000	Utah	4000
Louisiana	2000	Vermont	7500
Maine	1500	Virginia	2000
Maryland	21,000	Washington	2000
Massachusetts	4000	West Virginia	2000
Michigan	1000	Wisconsin	1000
Minnesota	1500	Wyoming	1000
Mississippi	1000	Unaffiliated	3000
Missouri	2000	Puerto Rico	3000
Montana	1000		



Indiana delegation to Washington DC



Indiana delegation to Washington DC



Indiana delegation to Washington DC



Indiana delegation to Washington DC



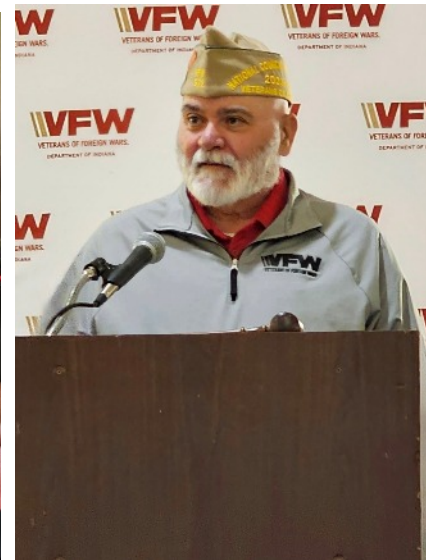
Spring Conference



Spring Conference



Spring Conference



Spring Conference



Spring Conference



State Commander & President Testimonial



MESSAGE FROM THE COOTIES

Hello Cooties & Cuties!!!!

Well, my term as your lousy leader of sorts is rapidly coming to an end! At our last scratch we had a real tough time trying to find some unsuspecting and equally unprepared cootie to assume the position of Seam Squirrel for the 2025-2026 year. Unfortunately, the only Cootie in the scratch that had the same hat size was Cootie #9! You might recognize him as he parades around as our Department of Indiana Chaplain! Cootie Larry Patch will fill this unappreciated role upon the installation of our Supreme Commander in August.

Speaking of August, our 2025 106th Supreme Convention will be very convenient for our State Cooties as it will be held right next door in Worthington, Ohio on August 14th – 17th! This turns out to be a special day for our new/old Seam Squirrel Cootie #9 as he will turn 78 on the last day of the Convention! I'm sure Cootie milk will be free flowing!!

Fellow cooties, please send in your annual dues as soon as possible. Our CCDB has to try to keep our records accurate despite our best efforts to thwart her progress! I truly would like all who haven't taken the leap to sign up for life membership. It is very affordable and then you won't have to hear us nag you every new term!

We are still actively trying to start 2 new Pup Tents in our State so we can finally get our Grand back in Indiana. It is very possible as Indiana had over 15 Pup Tents at one time. So please, let's all get moving and recruit some new members and let's geter-done this year!

**Yours in LOTCS,
Russell “Gabby” Pryor
Seam Squirrel**



Online:
VFWSTORE.ORG
Call: 1.833.839.8387



125TH



ZIPPO® LIGHTER AND ETCHED LOGO CASE Limited Edition, numbered case. Single torch insert, push-button ignition. Adjustable blue flame height. Shipped with no butane. Cannot request specific number. No

BLACK CAP Five-panel, mesh back medium profile cotton blend with embroidered logo. Adjustable brass buckle. Imported.
7186 \$19.95



SILVER AND GOLD COIN SET
1.5"
0.999 silver coin (made in the USA) and 1.5" 24K gold-plated coin (imported). Comes in hard black clamshell vinyl-covered case.



LIFE MEMBER CARD Include your name, Life Member number and date, Post number, city and state. Aluminum. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.
1125 \$12.00



VFW COOLING TOWEL
Fight fatigue and minimize heat stress. Cool fiber. 32" x 7".



NEW! BEACH TOWELS 100% cotton. VFW logo screenprinted. 30 x 60". **\$26.00 each**
1095 Red
1258 Orange



VFW GRAVE MARKER
Emblem measures 4 1/4"



U.S. VETERAN GRAVE MARKER Emblem measures 6"



U.S. VETERAN GRAVE MARKER Anodized zinc alloy made to last. Emblem measures 6" with 1 1/2" aluminum rod. Flag holder attachment on back. Flag sold separately. **3205 \$19.95**



VFW BRONZE GRAVE MARKER Flag holder attachment on back. Emblem measures 5" with 1 1/2" rod. Flag sold separately. **3500 \$64.00**

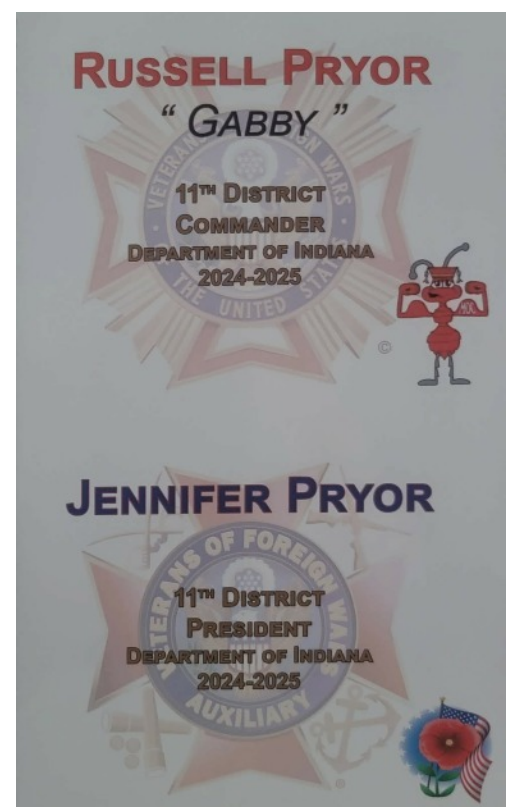
DISTRICT 11

Post 1587 Children's Easter Party



DISTRICT II

District II Commander/President's Testimonial





Mooresville American Legion #103



&

Mooresville VFW #1111

hosts

Live
Entertainment

50/50
Poker Run
Raffles

5th Annual
Bill
"Kickstand"
Dixon
Memorial Ride
2025



Can't make the ride but want to make a difference? Scan the QR code with your phone to be taken to the National Pancreas Foundation to make a donation directly to them. Be sure to mention the Bill Dixon Ride in the Tribute Name or Comments section.

June 28, 2025

- o **Date:** June 28, 2025
- o **Start Location:** Mooresville American Legion Post #103
- o **Breakfast:** 8:30-11:00 a.m. Provided by the American Legion Sons
- o **Kickstands Up:** 11:00 a.m.
- o **Return Location:** Mooresville VFW Post #1111
- o **Return Time:** 5:00 p.m.
- o **Band:** Highway 9 Blues Band
- o **Food:** Pulled Pork Dinner
- o **Fee:** \$25.00 per person - \$30.00 per couple
- o **50/50 Tickets:** \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00
- o **Non-riding Guests:** \$10.00 for the meal
- o **T-shirts:** Available before and after the ride

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO RIDE
ALL TYPES OF BIKES ARE WELCOME

Ride Stops:

Mooresville American Legion | IndyWest Harley Davidson | Martinsville VFW
| Spencer VFW | Cloverdale Legion | Danville American Legion | Mooresville VFW

All proceeds benefit: The National Pancreas Foundation

*ALR 103**Inaugural Women's Ride**To benefit the Desert Rose Foundation***May 17th, 2025****Starting Location:**

American Legion Mooresville

350 E Main St Mooresville 46158

Registration: 9am

\$25 per rider/\$5 for passenger

KSU: 11am

Stops:*Whit's Inn**1020 US 31 S. Whiteland 46184**Crowbar Restaurant**209 IN-135 Trafalgar 46181**Martinsville VFW**1000 S Josephine St Martinsville 46151***Final Stop:**

Pioneer Pointe – Mooresville

211-233 E High St Mooresville 46158

At Final Stop:

Raffles

50/50

Food

Drinks

Music

All proceeds go to the Desert Rose Foundation.

-Desert Rose provides emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault along with their dependent children for both residential and non-residential clients. Desert Rose also provides therapeutic counseling, legal advocacy, a wide variety of life skills classes, and case management to residential and non-residential clients. (Located in Martinsville)

Even though this event is called a Women's ride, all are invited to ride and help to give back to the community and show our support for women's causes. **Lady Riders are invited to join us and help lead the ride at the beginning.** All are welcome at this event, but we would love to see a lot of lady riders and the people that love them here to support a vital part of the local community.



TAPS



District 1 Roger E Baker | Post 6841 | 3/19/2025
District 1 Jesse J Morando | Post 802 | 2/12/2025 PDC 2007-08
District 5 Jeffrey D Handy | Post 1152 | 2/19/2025
District 8 Dennis Reynolds | Post 2939 | 7/3/2024
District 8 Hubert Harpenau | Post 2939 | 12/14/2024
District 8 Harold M Mathena | Post 2939 | 8/21/2024
District 8 James Kessner | Post 2939 | 10/23/2024
District 8 Charles W Pryor | Post 2939 | 10/10/2024
District 8 Ronald Cook | Post 2939 | 8/12/2024
District 10 Wendell Voiles | Post 1282 | 1/21/2025
District 10 Jimmey Sneed | Post 1282 | 12/29/2024
District 10 Kenneth Edwards | Post 1282 | 7/8/2024
District 10 David M Tuggle | Post 1282 | 2/14/2025
District 10 Harold K Sample | Post 2695 | 3/18/2025
District 10 Mark Combs | Post 1108 | 2/13/2025
District 10 Troy Marcum | Post 1108 | 12/22/2024
District 10 Danny J Ramey | Post 1282 | 1/12/2025
District 11 Richard C Harrison | Post 1587 | 4/10/2025
District 11 Ronald B Heblund | Post 1587 | 4/18/2025





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

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.



HOOSIER VETERAN

Newsletter

GRANTS FOR VETERAN SERVICES FY 2026

Grant opportunity for nonprofit organizations serving Indiana veterans concerning:

- Preventing Veteran Suicide
- Homeless Assistance:
 - Eliminating homelessness
 - Preventing near-term homelessness
 - Providing safe & secure living conditions
- Assisting veterans in moving from public housing assistance programs to:
 - Home ownership; or
 - Stable, long-term rental status
- Assisting veterans with federal and state resources
- Providing therapeutic services
- Providing job training & job search assistance



This Month has meaning for many of our
Indiana Military & Veteran Community

April 5
Gold Star
Spouses Day

Birthdays:
Army Reserves
April 23, 1908
Air Force
Reserves
April 14, 1948



April 9
National
Former POW
Recognition
Day

March 29
Vietnam War
Veterans Day

Month of the Military Child



317.232.3910



outreach@dva.in.gov



www.in.gov/dva



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)



Listen Cooties,
The 2025 106th Supreme Convention
14th - 17th Aug 2025

Advanced payment is required for the 106th 2025 Supreme Convention Banquet to be held Saturday evening, 16 Aug 2025 at the Cootie Convention Hotel, Wyndham Columbus Hotel & Events Center, 175 Hutchinson Avenue, Worthington, Ohio 43235.

All information is on the Supreme Events page:
<https://lotcs.org/events.html>.

Yours in LOTCS,

Dale Iannello

Supreme Newshound/Geek



**Deadline for submission for the
September 2025 Combat Veteran Newsletter
is August 22, 2025!!!**

Let's share our special events to everyone! I will need all articles, pictures and special event fliers to me by **August 22, 2025** for our September 2025 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

Combat Veteran Editor



MILITARY HUMOR

IN-COUNTRY



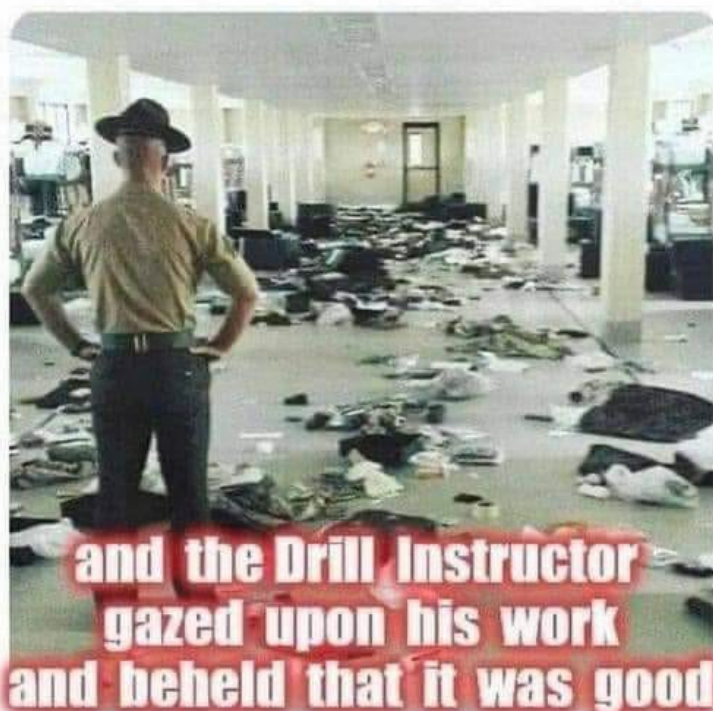
REMEMBER HOT TOWELS ON YOUR R&R FLIGHT?
NEARLY EVERYONE LOVED THEM!

Before there was My Pillow



There was "my" pillow

Tuesday May 31, 2022 at every NAVY recruiters office.



memflip.com





EVERYTHING WE DO, WE DO FOR VETERANS.®

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Learn more or join at vfw.org.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®