



United We Stand



Indiana Combat Veteran

Volume 66 Issue 3

September 2024

From the Commanders Desk:



Hello Comrades. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to my special project this year, Irreverent Warriors.

Irreverent Warriors: We bring veterans together using humor and camaraderie to improve mental health and prevent veteran suicide.

Overview

Irreverent Warriors is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the mental health of veterans through camaraderie and humor. Founded in 2015 by a Marine Corps veteran, the organization’s primary mission is to address the unique challenges veterans face, including the pervasive issue of mental health, through unconventional yet effective methods. The goal is simple: bring veterans together using humor and camaraderie to heal the wounds of war and prevent veteran suicide.

Mission and Purpose

The mission of Irreverent Warriors is deeply rooted in the belief that veterans need a supportive community that understands the unique experiences of military life. The organization recognizes that the transition from military to civilian life can be challenging, and the isolation that many veterans experience can lead to severe mental health issues, including depression and suicidal thoughts. By providing a space where veterans can connect with others who have shared similar experiences, Irreverent Warriors aims to create a support network that fosters mental well-being.

The Silkies Hike

The signature event of Irreverent Warriors is the “Silkies Hike,” a light-hearted and humor-filled event where veterans hike together wearing “silkies,” the nickname for the short PT shorts worn by many service members. These hikes are held in cities across the United States and have become a symbol of the organization’s ethos. The purpose of these hikes is twofold: to provide a space for veterans to connect and share their experiences, and to use humor as a tool for healing. The hikes are open to all veterans, regardless of age or service branch, and are designed to create a non-judgmental environment where participants can be themselves, share their stories, and enjoy a day of camaraderie.

You can watch a video about Irreverent Warriors at <https://youtu.be/Q0bPNTNnkFQ>

I am looking forward to this partnership and I hope you are as well. Let’s make a difference in veterans mental health and prevent veteran suicide!



Greetings Comrades & VFW Auxiliary Members,

I had an excellent time at the National Convention in Louisville and attended the National Chaplains workshop. What has not been made very clear over the years is that the workshop is open to all Post & Auxiliary Chaplains. The resources they shared this year were exceptionally well made. I have attached a copy of one of them (next page) that I have found to be very helpful. Next years 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 this workshop for Chaplains at all levels.

I had a short, but very productive segment at the recent School of Instruction on Chaplain duties and resources. I hope to have a bit more time next year. One item that I need everyone's help on is reporting your deceased members. My area is the Comrades and I know that the Auxiliary Chaplain has a similar reporting program. My report form is located on our State Website under Resources tab, then Documents and scroll down to Post Forms and select Graves Registration Report (fillable). This information assists me in sending out sympathy cards and creating the TAPS page in our Combat Veteran Newsletter. I am also creating a database so that when we receive requests on the location of a deceased member's grave site, we can assist extended family or friends with the information.

I am looking forward to all of the travels coming up in the next couple months. Our annual trip to the VFW National Home and the Indiana Veterans Home is always a heartwarming experience. I will also be visiting several of our District Meetings. I truly appreciate the hospitality and enjoy seeing your Posts on my visits.

I pray that each of you have a safe and enjoyable year as we enter into the 2024-2025 VFW year!

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

Yours in LOTCS,

Larry Patch
Department of Indiana Chaplain





VFW National Chaplain Resources

Below are some resources for **VFW Chaplains** to use that hopefully will give you guidance as you serve our veterans and their families:

Use your mobile device to scan the desired QR code below and access the corresponding resource page.

Main VFW National Chaplain web page: https://lotcs.org/vfw_chaplain.html

Help note: On this page you'll find useful information on subjects such as: **Articles, Duties, Ethics, Forms, Handbooks, Links, Memorial, Prayers, Religions, Training, News and Events.**



Mobile device web page for VFW National Chaplain:
https://lotcs.org/VFW_Chaplain_Mobile.html

Help note: On this page you'll find the same useful subjects formatted for your mobile device. You don't have to download a specific app from a store.



Blog page for VFW National Chaplain:
https://lotcs.org/comments_script/blog.php

Help note: On this page you'll find the main **Home** page, **About** page, **Contact** page and a **Prayer** page.



VFW Chaplain POC's (Points of Contact)

David Frei (Outgoing VFW National Chaplain) vfwdfrei@gmail.com
 Peter Hook (Incoming VFW National Chaplain) PeterHook@verizon.net
 Deborah Halter (Past VFW National Chaplain) dihalter@gmail.com
 Jim Jenkins (Past VFW National Chaplain) kschaplain@att.net
 Frank Correa (Western Conference Chaplain) fcorreavfw@gmail.com
 Dale Iannello "Chappy" ("I.T." Chaplain) chaplaindale@gmail.com

State Convention Pictures



State Convention Pictures



State Convention Pictures



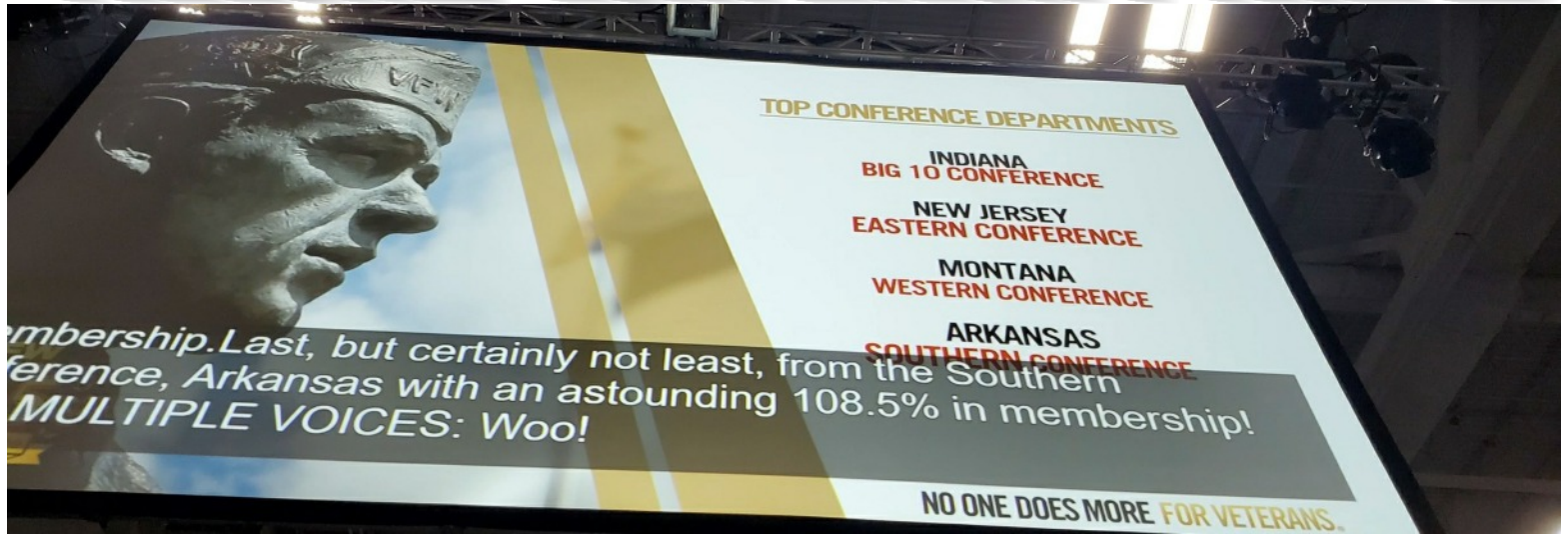
State Convention Pictures



State Convention Pictures



National Convention Pictures



National Convention Pictures



From the Department of Europe, Mark Grimmer, Department commander!
 From the Department of Indiana, Edith M Cole Saylor, Post 2695!



Thank you.
 From the Department of Indiana, Paul S Banka, Post 908!
 From the Department of Indiana, Kenneth A Lang, District 6!



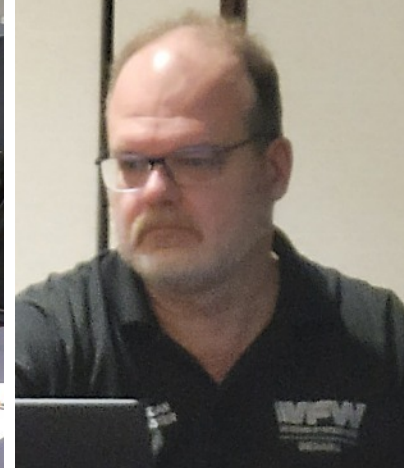
Indiana, Richard D Lineberry, Post 2457!
 Thank you.
 From the Department of Indiana, Paul S Banka, Post 908!



National Convention Pictures



School of Instruction



Misc. Pictures



Misc. Pictures



Misc. Pictures



MESSAGE FROM THE COOTIES

Greetings to all you Lousy Cooties & Cuties!

Summer is almost gone, and we are rolling right into the new year! That Lousy Hide Gimlet, Larry Patch and I along with our worse halves attended the Cooties National Convention. We had a terrible time making new friends and playing with the zoo animals. Congratulations to the 2024-2025 National Supreme Commander Robbie Normand and Supreme President, Patches Presfield and Best Wishes for a great year!

We are excited for the new year! We are actively working with the Brickyard Nursing Home and doing our first activity with them August 24th. We are sponsoring their bingo. Future events will be discussed in our scratches. Our scratches are still the 4th Tuesday of each month @ 6:30 p.m. rotating between posts 261 and 1587.

The Indiana Day National Home trip is scheduled for Saturday, September 21st. There are two buses going from Districts 7 and 11. Please contact Keith Rohloff for 7th and Diane Pettit for the 11th. Please join us for our annual shenanigans.

The Indiana Veterans Home annual visit is scheduled for Sunday, September 29th. Please make plans to attend and bring smiles to all the deserving veterans.

If you are interested in starting a pup tent, please reach out to Russell "Gabby" Pryor, Larry Patch, or Diane Pettit for further information. Please reach out to Indy Pup Tent 11 MOCA President, Jennifer Pryor for more information on joining the auxiliary.

“Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White!”

In LOTCS,

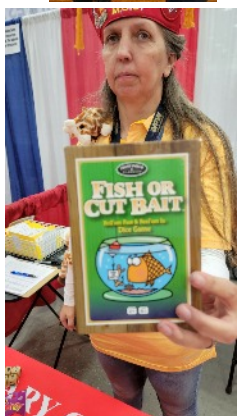
Russell "Gabby" Pryor

Seam Squirrel





Military Order of the Cooties & Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary





Military Order of the Cooties & Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary



Our new mascot "Indymater" is enjoying the 105th Cootie Convention. He will have his own "Towmater" to give him rides to our Scratches. Along with some new traditions!



In a Crisis, don't "Panic"! Remember...A-B-C...

A. Achieve Contact

First, achieve contact with the person or the person's family. No matter where you are, your first response upon learning that a crisis occurred is to make contact with the immediate family. This can be achieved with a simple short phone call. We should not wait until the family contacts us. We should call them. In time, a personal visit may be in order.

Remember, you are not calling to get a blow-by-blow description of what happened or to offer solutions. You are initiating contact because you desire to communicate that you are really concerned and truly care.

B. Boil down the situation

Having achieved contact, the next step is to boil down the situation. Carefully observe all the dynamics that are taking place. Listen carefully and try to grasp who is involved and what is needed or will be needed in the next twenty-four to forty-eight hours.

C. Cope Actively

Third, be available to those involved, and be ready to assist them as they seek to cope actively with their difficult, and many times very painful, situation.

Following this A-B-C Method when a crisis happens should help you to respond appropriately to those whose world has been shattered. In the midst of helping, seek Divine assistance and always remember: "Respond to others as you would have them respond to you when you are hurting."

*A-The chaplain **achieved contact** immediately.*

*B-The chaplain **boiled down** the situation and saw that there was a fire and extinguished it.*

*C-The chaplain comforted the hurting veteran, helping him to **cope**.*

Note: This article was taken from the VFW Chaplain's Handbook, without the cartoon.



Scan the code to see it now.



MILITARY VETERAN STAND DOWN

*With a
Heart*



Supporting Indiana's Veterans



PLEASE BRING YOUR DD214 • MILITARY ID • VA HEALTH CARE CARD to Receive Services

2024 EVENT SCHEDULE

APR 12 **KOSCIUSKO COUNTY**
3:00 PM - 6:00PM EST
Zimmer Biomet Ctr Lake Pavilion
119 E Canal Street
Warsaw, IN 46580

MAY 10 **MARSHALL COUNTY**
3:00 PM - 6:00PM EST
Auto Park Sports Complex
2923 Vanvactor Drive
Plymouth, IN 46563

JUN 15 **ELKHART COUNTY**
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM EST
Shrock Pavilion Shanklin Park
411 W Plymouth Ave.
Goshen, IN 46526

JUL 19 **ST. JOSEPH COUNTY**
3:00 PM - 6:00PM EST
Jackie Walorski VA Clinic
1540 Trinity Place
Mishawaka, IN 46545

AUG 16 **LAPORTE COUNTY**
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM CST
LaPorte County Fairgrounds
2581 IN-2
LaPorte, IN 46350

SEP 13 **PORTER COUNTY**
3:00 PM - 6:00PM CST
American Legion Post 502
429 County Rd. 750 N.
Valparaiso, IN 46385

 **VETERANS**
RESOURCE NETWORK



Interested in getting involved, contact: Jill Powers at jpowers@goodwill-ni.org or call 574.472.7300 Ext 8081.

INDIANA Veterans Affairs 4th Women Veteran Wellness Retreat

October 11-13



Register begins Monday July 22
[in.gov/dva/women-veterans/](https://www.in.gov/dva/women-veterans/)

Relax, rejuvenate, recharge, and reflect in a unique atmosphere designed especially for women veterans

County Veteran Service Officers will be available for claim questions and processing

Share your experiences with other women veterans



Potawatomi Inn
located in
Pokagon State Park

6 Lane 100 A Lake James
Angola, IN



MUST be a Woman who served in the US military

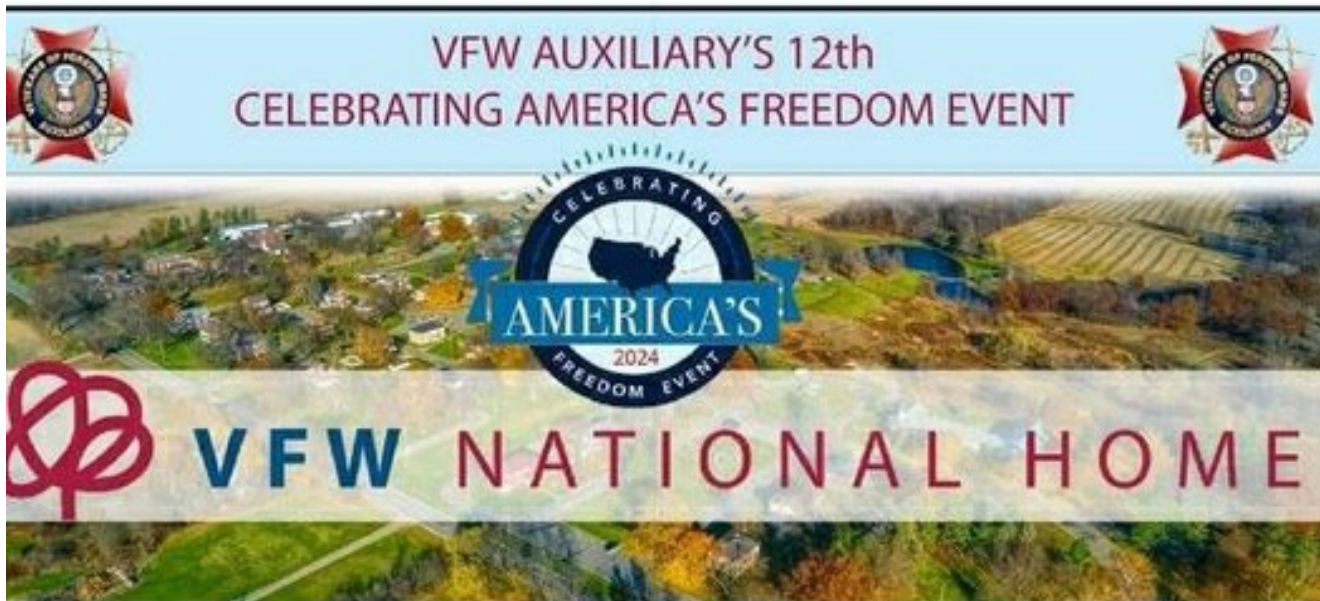
MUST be an Indiana resident to attend

Please REGISTER with IDVA



Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs

777 North Meridian St
Indianapolis, IN 46204



Come Celebrate 100 Years
 SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

When: 9/07/24

- 9/06: Arrivals
- 9/07: VFW National Home
- 9/08: Departures

CAFE Registration Costs:

- \$40 per person includes lunch and transportation to VFW National Home.
- \$20 per person includes lunch only.

Where:

VFW National Home
 Eaton Rapids, Michigan

Register in MALTA from 6/1/24 to 8/07/24.
 Bring spending money for VFWNH Store.

Find more information about the location, visit the VFW National Home website: vfnationalhome.org



DoubleTree by Hilton Lansing

111 North Grand Avenue
 Lansing, Michigan 48933

Accommodations:

- 1 King Bed - \$129.00
- 2 Queen Beds - \$129.00

Reserve by 8/07/24

Call: 1-833-904-2206
 Discounted Group Rate Code: **NSG** & identify as part of NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER Group

DoubleTree Hotel Booking Online:
hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=LANDTDT



Department of Indiana VFW State Campout

October 3-6, 2024

Caldwell Pioneer Acres

(The Pioneer Engineers Club of Indiana)

3707 S. 200 West

Rushville, Indiana 46173

Thursday is set up day. Registration fees are \$10 per person (Children 12 and under are free but they have to wear wrist band). \$10 per night for Camping.

All sites have electric. Water and Dump Station are available at the entrance of campsites. Trash Dumpster at camp entrance.

Fires must be in fire pit. No open fires.

Friday night Dinner is pitch-in with Ham and Beans @ 1800.

Saturday morning pitch-in breakfast @ 0900.

Saturday Fried Chicken Pitch-in Dinner @ 1800.

We will have L/R/C games and card games. Quiet walks over to the Old Steam Engines and walking trails.

Please RSVP to Keith Rohloff (405-535-7210) keith.rohloff@outlook.com or Jennifer Morris (812-236-4403) jenmorrisvfw@gmail.com to ensure enough food is purchased for the weekend.

CLOTHESFORJOES.ORG/STANDDOWN

ALLEN COUNTY VETERANS



STAND DOWN

NOVEMBER 1ST, 2024. 10AM.

ALL VETERANS WELCOME!
JOB FAIR · CAREER SERVICES
HOT MEAL · COMMUNITY RESOURCES

THE GRAND WAYNE CENTER
120 W JEFFERSON, FORT WAYNE, IN



**VENDOR AND SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE**

FOR MORE INFO VISIT
CLOTHESFORJOES.ORG/STANDDOWN

EIN# 81-1287068





Uniting Communities: Navigating the Future

The Military Family Research Institute (MFRI) at Purdue University is proud to present the 2024 BattleMind to Home Summit (BattleMind). This conference brings together subject matter experts to educate Indiana professionals about critical military and veteran-focused issues. Now celebrating its 15th year, BattleMind helps professionals discover how to best support veterans, service members and their families as they reintegrate into their communities. It also increases community awareness about veterans' strengths, challenges and available resources. **BattleMind will be held October 24 in Noblesville, Indiana with preconference sessions on October 23.** It is hosted in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, Indiana National Guard, Indiana State Bar Association, and Roudebush VA Medical Center

“ [BattleMind] is the #1 conference [of] the year for me. There is no better place to connect and learn about service members, veterans and their families in the state.”
– Past participant

Keynote Speaker

The 2024 conference will feature Tonya Oxendine, a Wounded Warrior Project Warriors Speak spokesperson and U.S. Army veteran. Oxendine joined the army a year after finishing high school following a difficult childhood. She served for nearly 30 years, retiring as a Command Sergeant Major. After a challenging upbringing and career, she needed help processing everything she'd seen and experienced. With Wounded Warrior Project and others by her side, she's gone from being a shut-in to traveling the world as an outspoken advocate for veterans' mental health and physical fitness. Today, her passion is helping other veterans by sharing her story.



Tonya Oxendine

Breakout Sessions

This year's featured content will include:

- Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and their Families;
- current research;
- community;
- behavioral health; and
- legal matters

WWW.MFRI.PURDUE.EDU/BATTLEMIND • BATTLEMIND@PURDUE.EDU



Military Family Research Institute

HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN

brought to you by the CMEP Veterans Committee

Wednesday, September 11, 2024
10am - 3pm

Columbus Municipal Airport
4770 Ray Boll Blvd,
Columbus, In 47203

FREE
SERVICES
FOR
VETERANS
IN NEED

- VA Benefits
- Health Checks
- Snack Packs
- Boxed Lunches
- and More...

FREE bus transportation provided by ColumBUS

THE DELAWARE COUNTY 2024 STAND DOWN

1210 N WHEELING AVE, MUNCIE, IN 47303
HEARTLAND HALL

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024
10AM-2PM



FEDERAL AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES



BRING PROOF OF MILITARY SERVICE

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS,
CONTACT LIZ WILCOX AT 765-747-7810 OR EWILCOX@CO.DELAWARE.IN.US



EASTERN INDIANA WORKS

VETERAN'S RESOURCE FAIR & HIRING EVENT



FREE EVENT

for Veterans and their families!

Resource and wellness providers,
hiring employers, light refreshments,
and door prizes!

Along with FREE services for Veterans:
Haircuts, health screenings, etc.

September 26, 2024

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

First Bank Center @ Wayne County Fairgrounds
861 Salisbury Rd N - Richmond, IN

Contact: Brian Rea
brea@work-one.org
765-238-0007



The WorkOne System is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in the programs and services offered. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (800) 743-3333 for TDD/TTY relay services. This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it.

Delaware County 2024 Veterans Stand Down

Save the date: September 17, 2024 (10am-2pm)
Heartland Hall, Delaware County Fair Grounds

The Delaware County Veterans would appreciate information regarding your company or organizations resources.

If you would like to reserve a table or have questions about this event, please contact:

Liz Wilcox - ewilcox@co.delaware.in.us

Please share this with any organization that you think would benefit our veterans. Thank you!



SEPTEMBER 5 | 12-2 PM
INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY
3912 WEST MINNESOTA STREET

PRESENTED BY  **of Indiana, Inc.**
Making Veterans And Families

VETERANS

STAND



DOWN

STANDING WITH THOSE WHO STOOD FOR US

2024 Grant County Veterans Stand Down
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4th | 9:00am - 2:00pm
Opening Ceremony 8:45am

GRANT COUNTY YMCA
123 Sutter Way, Marion

**FREE EVENT for HOMELESS VETERANS
 AND VETERANS IN NEED**

shelter | medical | work-one information | VA Departments
 Veterans' Service Organizations

For more information call
 Grant County VSO, at 765-651-2423

*Presented by the Grant County Veterans' Service Office
 and the
 Grant County Veterans' Assistance Committee.*

*"It's the most help a Veteran in need can get -
 all in one place, on one day;
 and we don't stop there*



GRIFFIN BIKE PARK - WARRIOR TRAIL
"HOOSIER HEROES UNVEILING CEREMONY"



GRIFFIN BIKE PARK
10700 BONO ROAD, TERRE HAUTE, IN

"HOOSIER HEROES UNVEILING CEREMONY"

HONORING 198 INDIANA SOLDIER CASUALTIES
from the GLOBAL WAR on TERRORISM

~~~~ SAVE the DATE ~~~~

SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

(Email for Details - [gene.shepherdsGBP@gmail.com](mailto:gene.shepherdsGBP@gmail.com))



Free Veteran Event



Howard  
County  
Stand Down



November 7, 2024

Event Time: 11am-3pm

UAW 685 Hall – 929 E. Hoffer St.

Lunch will be provided



Free Event Services Include:

VA & State Benefits

Housing & Financial Assistance

Mental Health Screenings & Referrals

Job & Education Information

Legal Assistance

Hair Cuts & Flu Shots

Food & Clothing Referrals

Giveaways and Door Prizes



For More Information Contact:

Angela Ciski: 765-513-8504

Debbie Norris: 765-457-4357 ext.1006





## SAVE THE DATES

### The Indianapolis National POW/MIA Remembrance Day Ceremony

led annually by the Indianapolis POW/MIA Council, Inc.

In Honor of Indiana

Prisoners of War & Missing in Action Service Members

**Friday, September 20, 2024**

12:00 noon

#### Keynote Speaker

**Taylor Kiland**

Former Naval Officer and Author  
Focusing on Vietnam Prisoners of War

#### Watchfire

Field of Flags

Representing Indiana Missing in Action

**Thursday, September 19, 2024**

6:00 pm

Both events will be held

at the

Indiana War Memorial

55 East Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, IN

VA NORTHERN INDIANA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

# CAR AND BIKE SHOW



# 14 SEPT

## 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

### REGISTRATION: 9:00 AM

### MARION CAMPUS | 1700 E. 38TH ST

#### EVENT ACTIVITIES

- ★ PARTICIPANT TROPHIES
- ★ VA BENEFITS INFO
- ★ VA ENROLLMENT
- ★ TES SCREENINGS
- ★ FOOD TRUCK
- ★ MUSIC

**VA**



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
VA Northern Indiana Health Care System

**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUESTED, BUT NOT REQUIRED | CALL (765) 677-3114**

/VANORTHERNINDIANA

/VANIHCS

/VANORTHERNINDIANA

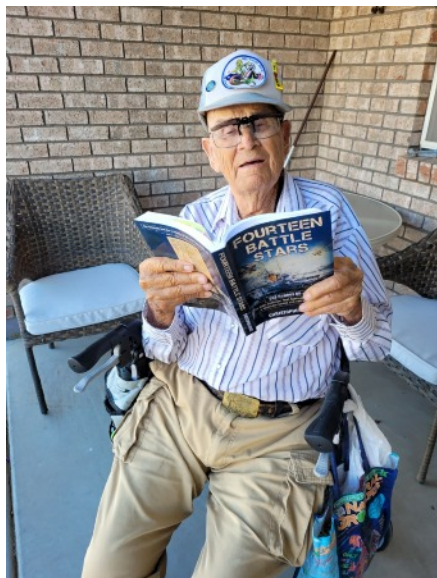
# Oliver Jones

I was introduced to Oliver last year and interviewed him for about six months. My uncle, Glen Edmonson, was the Gunnery Lieutenant on the USS Hughes, but he talked little of the war throughout my life, which is not uncommon for veterans of WWII. The photo from his wedding is attached. At his funeral some years ago, there was a full military honor guard, and it got me to research the ship on which he served. My uncle only told me two things about WWII. Once, when we had just finished watching an HBO show called Kamikaze - The Divine Wind, narrated by Hal Holbrooke, he began to cry and said that had happened to him once. As he teared up, he could not say more but later told me that, because he was an officer, he had received a Japanese samurai sword as a souvenir but could not bear to look at it, and when he got back to Seattle, he opened up a wall, placed it there and sheeted and painted back over it. No one knows where that location is from so many decades ago, even to this day, and he was buried in Port Angeles with that secret. He never talked more about WWII with me.

After his death, I felt guilty that I had not tried to get him to talk more about the war, so I began this project. I got in touch with a reunion group for the USS Hughes and discovered that this ship was an unbelievable and untold story of WWII. It fought from the Atlantic throughout the Pacific and ended up going to Bikini Atoll, where they tried but failed to sink her with two atomic bombs. Unfortunately, it had sailors put back aboard her and spent some time in Bremerton, finally sinking off the coast of California in October of 1948. Parts of the story are almost beyond belief, and some are very tragic, but it is a fantastic story. The reunion group connected me with several daughters of sailors from the ship and Oliver. Oliver is unique, and it is impossible not to love him. He is a remarkable storyteller, and each time I would interview him, he would bug me to finish the book while he was still alive so he could read it. Oliver is very funny. I worked on the book for a year and a half and was talking with a publisher, but they wanted another year and a half to put the book out. After talking with the family members and constant reminders from Oliver about his advancing age, I decided to self-publish on Amazon so Oliver could get a copy of the book. I published the book on April 21st and sent Oliver the very first copy via Amazon. He received his copy two days later, on the 23rd. I called Oliver and told him to go out and look on his porch, but he said, "I know! They delivered it today! I'm reading it now! Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you." I doubt I will ever sell many of the books, and I am just an ordinary guy, but if getting the book to Oliver so he could hold, see, and read it is all that ever happens, I consider the project a success.

I am retired now. My grandfather served on the USS New York, my father was in the USNR, my son was disabled in Afghanistan as a member of the 173rd Airborne U.S. Army, and my nephew was KIA'd in Iraq, so I care deeply about veterans issues. I was elected to the Washington State House of Representatives and proudly served on the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. I was also a 25-year law enforcement Detective and retired in 2006 as the Commander of a 15-city Homicide/Violent Crimes Task Force. I live in Washington State near Mount Rainier. There are so few living WWII veterans now, and we should treasure them all while we still can. NBC News is working on a story about Oliver, but we are concerned that no one victimizes him as he still lives alone. NBC News and his family are working on a plan to see if that can be done safely.

The book is called Fourteen Battle Stars by Christopher Hurst and is on Amazon. By: Christopher Hurst



# State Legislative Day



State Legislation day on Aug 15, 2024 at the Indiana Statehouse. VFW Members present: State Surgeon Ken Lange, Legislative member Judy King, and Matt McNally Sr. Vice Commander Carmel Post 10003.



## **Our National Motto: IN GOD WE TRUST**

Rev. Peter R. Hook, Past National Chaplain

On July 30, 2024, the United States will proudly commemorate the 68th anniversary of our national motto, "In God we Trust." These four words resonate deeply with the foundational principles upon which our nation was built. From the Declaration of Independence to the halls of Congress, the acknowledgment of a Supreme Being has been woven into the fabric of American identity.

Our national motto, "In God we Trust," officially became part of our currency during the Civil War era, a period marked by profound national challenges. In 1864, amid the strife and division of war, Congress authorized the minting of coins bearing this inscription, symbolizing a unifying affirmation of faith and hope in God's providence during a tumultuous time. Then, on July 30, 1956, "In God We Trust" was established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and the U.S. Congress as the official motto of the United States of America.

As a Nation we believe there is one eternal supreme being. Not every individual believes that, but as a Nation, we are one Nation under God.

As a diverse nation, not all individuals share the same beliefs, yet collectively, we stand united under the recognition that there is an eternal supreme being. Our forefathers, inspired by their faith as expressed in the Sacred Scriptures, established a nation where the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are seen as endowed, not by government, but by God Himself.

For 248 years, the United States of America has upheld these principles, becoming a beacon of freedom and opportunity. President George Washington aptly noted, *"It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favors."* These words continue to resonate as we reflect on our history and look toward the future, guided by the belief that our liberties are rooted in divine providence.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us reaffirm our commitment to the values that have made America a land of promise and resilience, where "In God we Trust" remains more than a motto--it is a testament to our enduring faith and unity as a nation.

Blessings as you serve,



**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

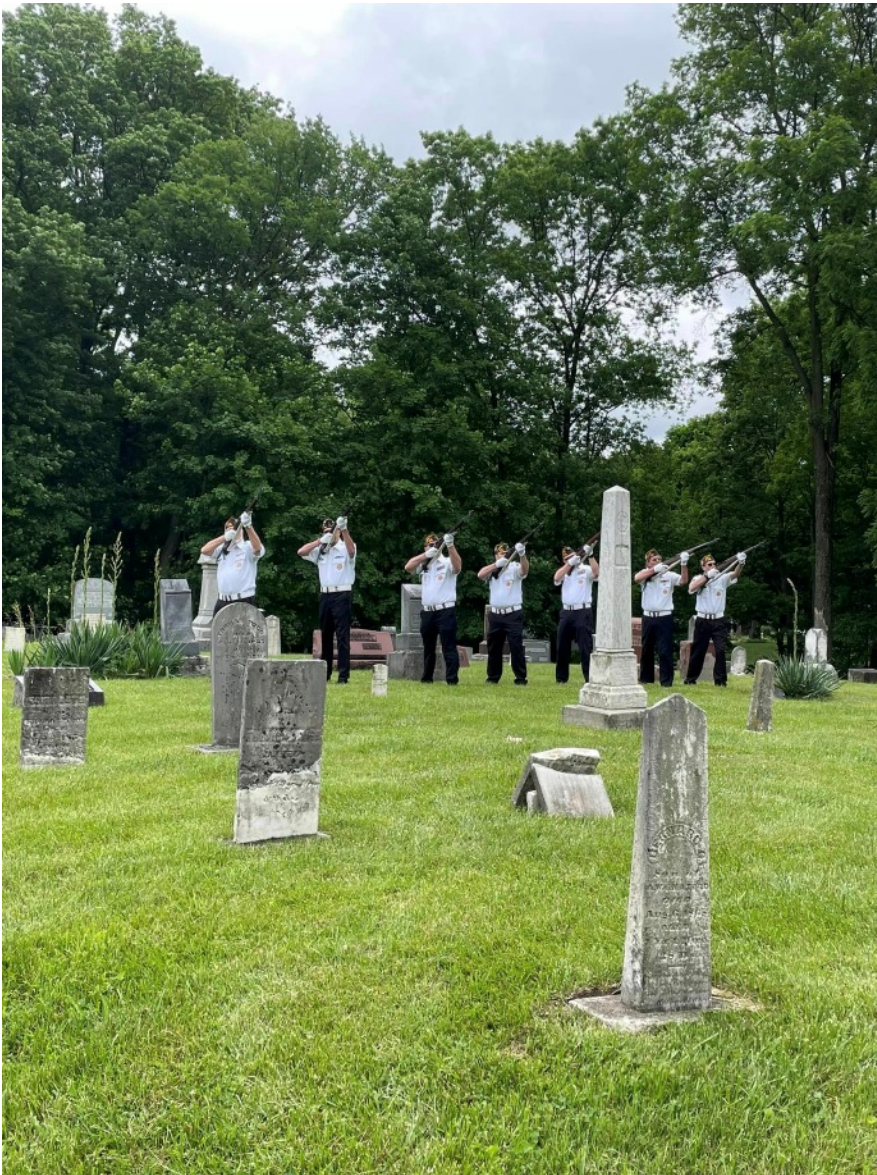
Past National Chaplain  
Eastern Conference Chaplain  
PA State Chaplain  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
534 Parkvale Ave.  
Langhorne, PA 19047  
267-229-7722  
Fax 215-750-1511  
PeterHook@verizon.net



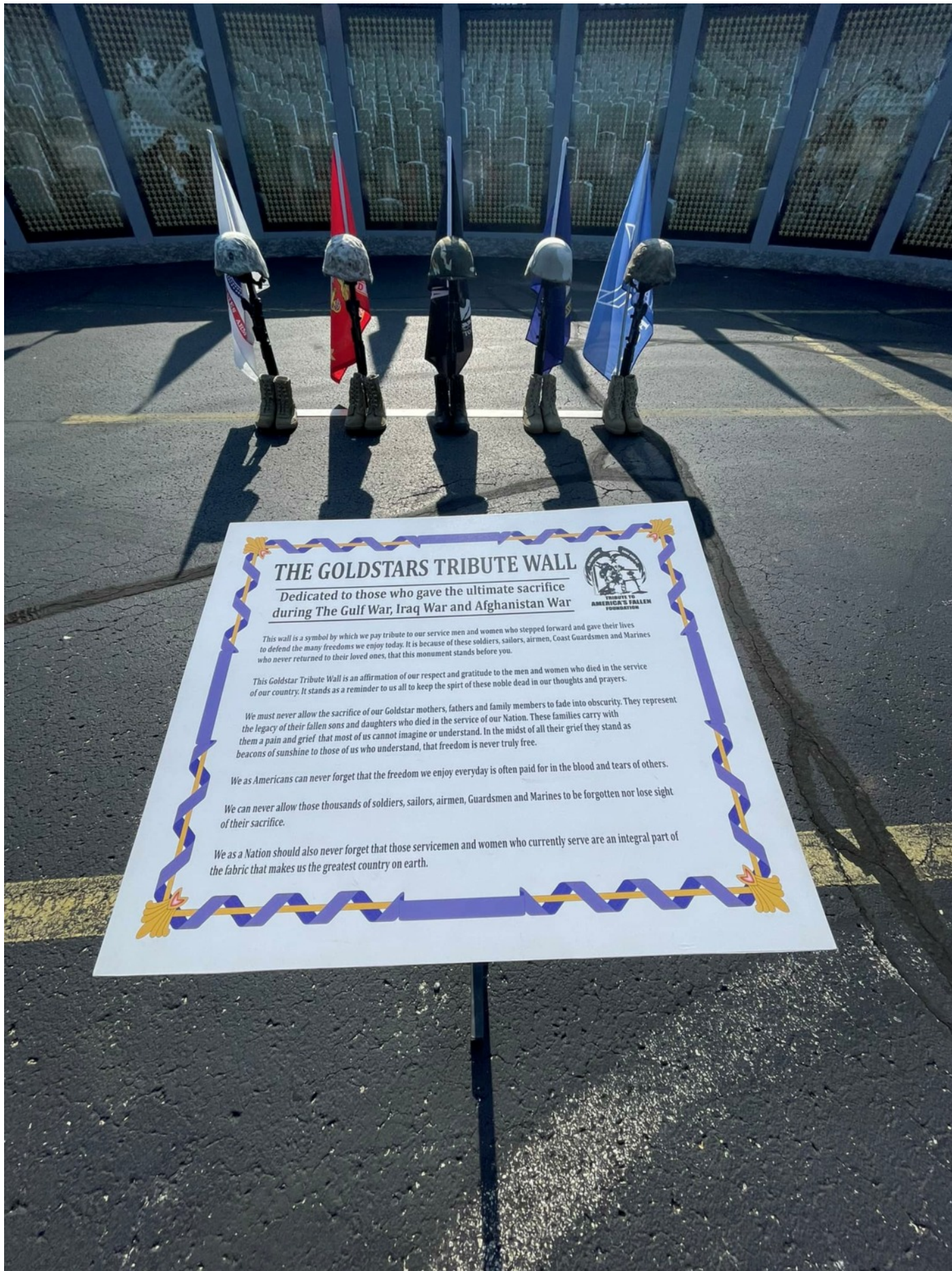
# District 6



VFW Post 10003 Memorial Day Ceremony



# District 10



## THE GOLDSTARS TRIBUTE WALL

*Dedicated to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice during The Gulf War, Iraq War and Afghanistan War*



*This wall is a symbol by which we pay tribute to our service men and women who stepped forward and gave their lives to defend the many freedoms we enjoy today. It is because of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines who never returned to their loved ones, that this monument stands before you.*

*This Goldstar Tribute Wall is an affirmation of our respect and gratitude to the men and women who died in the service of our country. It stands as a reminder to us all to keep the spirit of these noble dead in our thoughts and prayers.*

*We must never allow the sacrifice of our Goldstar mothers, fathers and family members to fade into obscurity. They represent the legacy of their fallen sons and daughters who died in the service of our Nation. These families carry with them a pain and grief that most of us cannot imagine or understand. In the midst of all their grief they stand as beacons of sunshine to those of us who understand, that freedom is never truly free.*

*We as Americans can never forget that the freedom we enjoy everyday is often paid for in the blood and tears of others.*

*We can never allow those thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, Guardsmen and Marines to be forgotten nor lose sight of their sacrifice.*

*We as a Nation should also never forget that those servicemen and women who currently serve are an integral part of the fabric that makes us the greatest country on earth.*



# District 10



# DISTRICT II



Memorial Day Ceremony VFW 1587



July 4th



Justin Stowers and Colt Montgomery donation to VFW post 1587



Awesome presentation at VFW Post 908 followed by monthly post meeting

# DISTRICT II



Kroger presenting VFW Post 7119 a check for \$1000! Past State Commander Ron Martin, Post 7119 Commander Jerry Pitts, and State Surgeon Ken Lange, in addition to Kroger employees and senior management.



# DISTRICT 11



Installation of District 11 2024-2025 Officers & PDC Larry Dennis induction to the Past District Commanders Club!

# DISTRICT II

## VFW Post 1587 Freedom Festival





# TAPS



**District 5 Ronnie L Roach | Post 1152 | 5/2/2024**  
**District 5 Harvey D Carpenter | Post 1152 | 5/18/2024**  
**District 5 Gregory A Nolder | Post 1152 | 5/19/2024**  
**District 5 Ralph R Coulter | Post 1152 | 7/6/2024**  
**District 5 Richard L Bentley Sr | Post 1152 | 7/13/2024**  
**District 5 Morris D Smith | Post 1152 | 7/22/2024**  
**District 5 David L Barnard | Post 1152 | 7/22/2024**  
**District 8 Darrell Harper | Post 2939 | 5/7/2024**  
**District 10 Gene Morris | Post 1108 | 6/20/2024**  
**District 10 James R Anderson | Post 1108 | 4/20/2024**  
**District 10 Ray Hengstler Jr | Post 1108 | 4/28/2024**  
**District 10 David E Sloan | Post 1108 | 4/3/2024**  
**District 10 Billy R Arnold | Post 1108 | 7/13/2024**  
**District 10 John Wyatt | Post 1108 | 5/7/2024**  
**District 10 Robert L "Bud" King | Post 1108 | 7/16/2024**  
**District 10 Robert L "Bud" King | Post 1108 | 7/16/2024**  
**District 10 Arnold Billy Ray | Post 1108 | 7/13/2024**  
**District 11 Richard J Cox Jr | Post 1587 | 7/27/2024**  
**District 11 Larry L Phillips | Post 98 | 5/31/2024**



# 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.

Deadline for submissions for the  
January 2025 Combat Veteran Newsletter is  
December 23, 2024

Let's share our special events to everyone! I will need all articles, pictures and special event fliers to me by **December 23, 2024** for our January 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](mailto: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



Hey, I just got here.  
What's it like spending  
months in the field?

How should I know?  
I just got here a  
week ago myself!



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