

# TEXAS VFW

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER | 2017

## NEWS



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# TEXAS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS NEWS



## AMARILLO, TX DISTRICT 9, POST 1475

District 9 Commander Richard Herman presents a U.S. flag to family member of a deceased veteran. Post members also assisted in the U.S. flag presentation.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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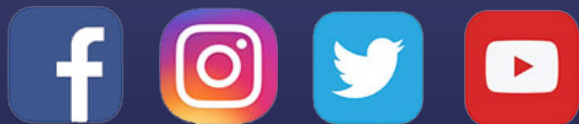
### DECEMBER - JANUARY

#### Mid-Winter Conference and VOD Banquet

- Christmas & New Year Community Involvement
- Pearl Harbor Day

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@TEXASVFW



## SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1899

### What Does the Texas VFW Offer You?

- + Camaraderie with Fellow Veterans + Community Networking & Involvement
- + Remembrance Programs + Full Time Support of Today's Service Members
- + Programs for Families and Youth + Full Time Watchdog on Capitol Hill & at the Texas Legislature + Free Representation in VA Claims + An Award-Winning Magazine

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Flippable online version of this magazine is available at [www.texasvfw.org/news](http://www.texasvfw.org/news).



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30.....	4376 Randall Johnston.....	192 Oak Hills Dr, Mabank, TX 75156





## STATE COMMANDER **EDWARD C. TORRES**

### **WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED OUR FIRST QUARTER OF THE FISCAL YEAR.**

We applaud all the appointed volunteer team leaders and District Commanders for their dedication and commitment. A special

thank you to those volunteer leaders serving to assure that all Posts and Districts comply with our congressional charter, By-laws and Manual of Procedure Rituals. National expects us to obligate our Posts to hold meetings, keep precise records on membership, and Post business accounting in compliance with IRS, State, County, and City laws. Posts that do this then have the privilege of being classified as a non-profit organization representing and working for the purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Much work still lies ahead to successfully accomplish this year's goals. Be proud to recruit. Ask qualified veterans to join the mission of our longstanding record of service as the oldest war veteran's organization. This year, next year, and every year recruit, retain, and reinstate members. The dues special of \$21.50 will be running through December 15, 2017. This is a great advantage and opportunity to help your Post membership.

Accessing and analyzing reports from field Post inspections and feedback from State Inspectors, the concern of Posts barely meeting the requirements of a quorum to address Post business, alerts issues that effects a Post's existence. Maybe the five tops chairs are present and when the meeting is over the Commander and Quar-

termaster are left alone to pay bills, attend to required programs and to reach out to members to pay their annual dues.

At the annual Post inspection or the District meetings we detect posts not holding meetings, money issues, program neglect, or a Post member reports there are problems, then the Inspectors are alerted to address these issues for the sake of the Post's existence.

We find most of the Post problems are in the Post Canteen and that has no business with our Veterans of Foreign Wars Post goals and nonprofit status. Bar stool Commanders lash out stating that we are closing their Posts. We are not in the business of closing Posts. Only your members can do this by not attending to Post business. If this scenario sounds like your Post, it's time to set your priorities straight. Members demonstrate your patriotism; stand up for veterans and community. Complete your required programs, fundraise if you have a monetary need, and work membership. This is what will keep your Post in existence in your community. Thousands of eligible war veterans live all around your Post areas.

So fire-up your Post members and communicate before your problems escalate.

Enjoy the holiday season with your family. Pray for those that are sick or have lost a loved one and our soldiers in harm's way. "United we are a team." •

*Edward C. Torres*

**Edward C. Torres, State Commander 2017-18**



### **USS COLE CEREMONY | OCTOBER 12, 2017**

Texas VFW District 20 performed the USS Cole Ceremony at the grave site of USN Gary Graham Swenchonis, one of seventeen victims of that fateful terrorist attack in October 2000. VIPs present were our Department Commander **Edward Torres** and the widow of USN Gary Swenchonis, **Olivia Rux**. Numerous Post Commanders, District 20 Auxiliary and Post Officers also attended the service. Our uniformed serviceman attending, Petty Officer's 1st Class **Matthew Eittreim** and **Denny Schriefer** are attached to the Naval Detachment at Joint Base San Antonio Lackland.



# Children & Youth



## **CONROE, TX | District 17, Post 4709**

District 17 Chaplain and Post member spent a morning teaching the Americanism and Buddy Poppy programs in classroom. He taught 20 kindergartners. Each of the students received an American flag, a Buddy Poppy, a military coloring page and snack. Five students had a parent or a family member currently serving or have served in the Armed Forces.



## **RUSK, TX | District 19, Post 3406**

Post members participated in the Veterans in the Classroom initiative by interacting with the 4th grade of their local intermediate school. Post members talked about who veterans are and the VFW Buddy Poppy program.



## **ALICE, TX | District 6, Post 8621**

Post Commander Hector L. Villarreal along with Post members participated in a flag raising ceremony at the local Noonan Elementary School for the students.



## **BELTON, TX | District 14, Post 4008**

Post members attended a "Share Your Service Day" event at Henry T. Waskow High School. Post members told students stories of what it was like to be in the military.



## **GALVESTON, TX | District 16, Post 880**

Post Commander Michael Caballero and Senior Vice Commander Fernando "Penny" Perez assisted the Ball High School 2017-18 Cheerleaders to organize and promote their fundraiser. The fundraiser helped in offsetting the costs associated with cheerleading camps and competitions that the cheerleaders attend throughout the year.





**BOERNE, TX | District 13, Post 688**

Post members gave a presentation to the local Cub Scouts on how to respect the American flag.



**BELTON, TX | District 14, Post 4008**

Post members attended a flag retirement service with Boy Scouts. The pledge was recited along with a class on how to properly fold retired flags.



**DALLAS, TX | District 3, Post 6796**

Post and Auxiliary members collected/purchased hundreds of pairs of socks for boys and girls aged infant through 18 years of age. They donated them to the **CASA** group for distribution among the abused and neglected children.



**PEARLAND, TX | District 16, Post 7109**

Post members supported the local **Cub Scout Troop 486** with a pancake breakfast and popcorn sales at the Post home.



**HOUSTON, TX | District 4, Post 6010**

Post Commander **Steve Benavides** presented a \$200 check to the **Sharpstown High School JROTC** in support of their upcoming banquet on behalf of the Post members.



**SAN MARCOS, TX | District 5, Post 3413**

Post members donated school supplies to **Mendez Elementary School** to help low income children that attend the school.



**KINGSVILLE, TX | District 6, Post 2375**

Post members taught a lesson on the proper ways to handle and respect the U.S. flag to 30 students at **Harrel Elementary School**.

**BURNET, TX | District 14, Post 6974**

Post members and local Boy Scout Troop 289 rendered honors for a football game at **Burnet High School** in front of the community.



**TEMPLE, TX | District 14, Post 1820**

Post members donated the use of Eugene May Hall Breezeway area to **St. Mary's Catholic Church** for their 2017 Poker Run, a nonprofit organization that promotes education. Additionally, riders were served coffee, pastries and water at this check point.



**GALVESTON, TX | District 16, Post 880**

Post members partnered with **Bikers Against Bullying Chapter 212** to raise awareness and bring support to local schools to provide aid and support for students in reporting bullying in their schools.



**LA COSTE, TX | District 13, Post 8134**

Post Chaplain **Ray Martinez** participated in a **Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA)** ride to Kerrville, Texas. A total of 12 hours and 164 miles were completed for this project.



## SENIOR VETERANS



**DUNCANVILLE, TX | District 3, Post 7843**  
Post members prepared briskets for Patients Day Out at the State Fair. Prepared 6 briskets.



**1. WAXAHACHIE, TX | District 30, Post 3894**  
Post members provided meals for senior veterans at North Texas VA Hospital.



**2. DALLAS, TX | District 3, Post 3369**  
Post members participated in VA Patients Day at the State Fair in Dallas.

**3. SAN AUGUSTINE, TX | District 19, Post 9313**  
Post members held two "Recognizing Veterans" program at the Twin Lakes Nursing Home and Colonial Pines Nursing Home. The veterans were so happy to be recognized for their service and to have other veterans come visit them.



**BELTON, TX | District 14, Post 4008**  
Post members donated \$200 worth of t-shirts and boxer shorts to Temple VA Homeless Veterans Chairman Paula Wood.



**WHARTON, TX | District 16, Post 4474**  
Post members assisted a local church food pantry by collecting, sorting and distributing food to families in need.



**GRAND SALINE, TX | District 30, Post 6635**  
Post members hosted a chili cook-off and other festivities to raise money for the Texas VFW Foundation Disaster Relief Fund. Post members competed in cook-off, organized timeline, assisted in cleanup and judging.



## EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDERS



### **DUNCANVILLE, TX | District 3, Post 7843**

Post members donated a wood burning grill and an electric smoker grill to the Cedar Hill Fire Department, Station #2.

### **HOUSTON, TX**

#### **District 4, Post 8790**

Post members and the City of Houston jointly sponsored a Public Safety Fair for the community.



### **LUFKIN, TX**

#### **District 19, Post 1836**

Post Commander Jimmie Mosby and Post Quartermaster Chelsea Bostick presented a \$1,000 check to Sheriff Greg Sanchez for the purchase of lawn care equipment for the station.

Post members donated 20 Chic-Fil-A sandwiches and four Marco's pizzas to Lufkin Fire Department, Station #3.



### **SAN ANTONIO, TX**

#### **District 20, Post 9174**

Post Commander, Auxiliary President, Auxiliary Secretary and Junior Vice Commander went to Fire Station #33 to present them with a plaque and goodie bags in appreciation of their service to the community and putting their lives on the line everyday.



### **AUSTIN, TX | District 28, Post 856**

Post members, VA and volunteers served 62 veterans in this year's Austin "Stand Down." The members and volunteers provided these veterans with health examinations, flu shots, haircuts, clothing, shoes, sleeping bags, food and other services.



### **ELSA, TX | District 18, Post 7473**

Post member Raymond Abecerra, represented the Post and helped with clean up efforts in the Rockport, Texas area which was affected by Hurricane Harvey.



### **CLEBURNE, TX | District 21, Post 12152**

Post Commander Jon Laureles, Senior Vice Commander Beverly Williams and Service Officer Shawna Loftis attended a Hurricane Harvey Benefit. Country singer Randy Travis was also in attendance.





**Inge Conley**

**WOW! TIME IS FLYING SO FAST, NOVEMBER JUST ENDED AND NOW IT IS DECEMBER 2017. THEN SHORTLY HEREAFTER ITS THE NEW YEAR 2018.**

Everyone has been busy the past few months and with Hurricane Harvey hindering some of us, we continue the VFW mission, just ask some of our Comrades South of Houston. As our Nation's Largest Veterans Organization, we must continue our fight

daily and never lose focus on our primary mission: To serve our veterans. Last month is a perfect example; National disaster came about with Hurricane Harvey. We witnessed firsthand how our Department Headquarters sprung into action along with our Foundation and made funds readily available to our VFW veterans and Auxiliary who were in immediate need of financial monies, grants, etc. It was amazing to see the outpour of support from within our state's VFWs, who supported everyone in need across this great state of Texas. I received numerous calls from out of state of those who wanted to provide assistance to our veterans. It was greatly appreciated. I thank all our VFW families throughout the country that also provided support. Also I would like to personally thank our most southern (Valley) VFW Posts for the superb support they provided to Aransas Pass Post and Houston Baytown Post. You were our "Heroes" in time of need. Thank you comrades and Auxiliary for a job well done.

So now it is off to the Southern Conference in Biloxi Mississippi. I am looking forward to meeting with all of you at Mid-Winter Con-

vention in January 2018 in Austin. In the meantime, just a reminder! We need to get our state back on top with membership, so let's push hard to get those numbers up. Many of our goals throughout this year have taken a variety of success and setbacks. However, this will not affect our drive to continue to support our veterans and expand our efforts toward these achievements. With adding new members, we should expect new ideas and activities to prosper for the remainder of 2017 and 2018. Our challenges do not come from unawareness to the various requirements of our fellow veterans and the consequences that haunt them in their daily efforts to seek out solutions. We must stay vigilant to the task and true to our goals, comrades. For every veteran that comes to our doorstep, a solution must be at hand in all of the traditions and valor of the VFW. We are veterans helping veterans and we must be their best source for help, assistance and leadership.

I now call on the membership to make this year and all the years to follow the best progressive years of our generation so we can proudly pass on this great organization with pride. Again, what better time now to commit ourselves to "Why we are the VFW".

In closing, I wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Also if you can take a moment out of your busy schedule, please visit our comrades at local VA hospitals and retirement centers. Please remember we are one VFW and we are in this together, so let's do what we do BEST! Comrades and Auxiliary, "Recruit, Recruit and Recruit."•

Thank you for all you do daily,

*Inge Conley*

**Inge Conley, Senior Vice Commander**



**Keith King**

**HELLO AGAIN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS, THIS VFW YEAR IS ALREADY MORE THAN ¼ OF THE WAY THROUGH AS I WRITE THIS AND OUR ORGANIZATION IS A BUSY ONE!**

With Harvey affecting almost every member in one way or another, be it directly or with friends and family, we are coming together as Texans in a way that is making the nation take notice. At the same time, we have an opportunity. This being, to show our

communities how we support not only present military and veterans, but the entire community. It has been awesome to see all the various drives for food, clothes, cleaning supplies, etc. VFW Posts across the state have organized. VFW Departments across the country have sent truckloads of supplies along with monetary donations to not only Texas but to Florida, and those states affected by Harvey, Irma, and the states plagued by wildfires. This is being picked up by the media and is good publicity for all Posts and Auxiliaries. I want to thank all of you for everything you are doing to assist those in need!

I hope each post was successful in promoting our V.O.D., P.P. and Teacher of the Year programs. We must also keep reporting our community service and VPRs. We have all heard before, "Job's not done till the paperwork is finished" or "The e-mail is sent," in most cases. I would encourage everyone to recruit members as well. When I attended JV training at HQ recently, they stated that overall our membership was down by over 50,000 members com-

pared to the same time last year. Please go over the unpaid list and contact those members as well as those who could be reinstated. If need be, contact Rick Butler at National HQ to get a list of those members in your area. This would be by zip code.

We have just returned from the Southern Conference meeting where they reiterated that membership was still down considerably and to encourage all posts to contact National for any support they may require. This could mean materials or some of the staff coming to assist as possible. Chief Harmon also informed us that he was requested by NFL Commissioner Goodell to attend a meeting, which he accepted. He said that there were several team presidents there as well as a Hall of Famer (he didn't recall name, said not Jim Brown as he would remember that). Goodell asked him what could be done to repair the rift with veterans. His reply, "You will not find one veteran who does not agree that the 1st amendment right is everyone's. However, if it deals with disrespecting our National Anthem and the flag, we will not stand for it." He said the Commissioner replied something to the effect that "These are young men, very impressionable, you understand?" His response, "We have younger men than that, dying, overseas for their right to express themselves. Do you understand?" This was greeted with a resounding ovation.

Again, I want to say thank you for all you do for our great organization and look forward to seeing many of you at Mid-Winter, or as I travel across the state. •

Yours in Comradeship,

*Keith King*  
**Keith King, Junior Vice Commander**



# TEXAS VFW FOUNDATION



## YOUR DONATIONS MATTER

"I am forever thankful. I faced a serious crisis that could have left me homeless and bankrupt. But thanks to your help, I have recovered, I now have a steady job and am quickly recovering financially. Most of all, I am pleased that someone really does help the veterans out who have served this country. Thank you again." Jon E., USAF.

### First Quarter Review

July 2017 - September 2017

*The Texas VFW Foundation assisted 266 veteran households, which include 98 dependents and 4 surviving spouses with \$151,257.41 in financial assistance.*

### REMINDER

Contribute to Foundation prior to December 31 for 2017 tax contributions.

### THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS THAT PROVIDED DISASTER RELIEF:

Auxiliary 5579, Dept. of New Jersey

Post 8053, Dept. of Arizona

Post 4618, Dept. of California

Dept. of Iowa

Dept. of Alabama

Dept. of Alaska

Post 7507, Dept. of AZ

Dept. of California

Dept. of California, VFW Foundation

Post 3010, Dept. of California

Post 501, Dept. of Colorado

Post 9460, Dept. of Connecticut

Dept. of LA

Aux. 6365, Dept. of North Carolina

Aux. 5202, Dept. of North Carolina

District 11, Dept. of New Jersey

Post 3020, Dept. of New Jersey

Post 5561, Dept. of New Jersey

Post 395, Dept. of New York

Post 9969, Dept. of Oklahoma

Aux. 6704, Dept. of Pennsylvania

Dept. of Texas, VFW Auxiliary

Post 99376, Dept. of Virginia

Post 1036, Dept. of Wisconsin

Post 9469, Dept. of Wisconsin

Aux. 2673, Dept. of Wyoming

Aux. 1446, Dept. of PA

Post 1446, Dept. of PA

Post 2493, Dept. of PA

Post 556, Dept. of PA

Post 7045, Dept. of PA

Aux. 8053, Dept. of AZ

Aux. 9982, Dept. of IN

Post 6053, Dept. of MA

Aux. 9736, Dept. of NC

Aux. 10727, Dept. of NE

Post 1231, Dept. of NY

Post 5497, Dept. of NY

Post 9257, Dept. of NY

Post 1213, Dept. of PA

Post 6704, Dept. of PA

Post 43, Dept. of PA

Post 6830, Dept. of SC

Dept. of Virginia

Aux. 3067, Dept. of WA

Dept. of Wyoming, Auxiliary

Dept. of Wyoming, VFW

Post 954, Dept. of WY

Massachusetts VFW Foundation

Dept. of West Virginia

Dept. of Florida, Auxiliary

## YOUR SMALL DONATION MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE.

The Texas VFW Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 Public Charity, Veterans Assistance Program is available to any Texas veteran with an honorable discharge, widow or immediate family member thereof, regardless of where or what time they served.

PLEASE MAIL DONATIONS TO TEXAS VFW FOUNDATION, P.O. BOX 14468, AUSTIN, TX 78761.

PAYPAL LINK IS ON TEXASVFW.ORG BOTTOM OF PAGE.



# START OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM AFGHANISTAN, 2001



## LYTLE, TX | District 20, Post 12041

Post Commander **Larry Sanders**, Post and Auxiliary members took part in a ceremony for the Start of Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan 2001, at the Main Square in Lytle, Texas. Comrades were recognized for their service and spoke of their time in Afghanistan.



2



1

## 1. BOERNE, TX | District 13, Post 688

Post members gathered at the Post home to remember the Start of Operation Enduring Freedom and held a roll call of Operation Enduring Freedom veterans.

## 2. ABILENE, TX | District 8, Post 6873

Three Post members who are Operation Enduring Freedom veterans shared cake with guest and other Post members at their annual OEF ceremony. Left to right: Post Commander **Rich Stokes**, Post Chaplain **Terry Lopez** and Post Junior Quartermaster **LeRoy Haynes**.





### MEXIA, TX | District 29, Post 4694

Post members conducted a program commemorating the Start of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) on October 7, 2001. A moment of silence was held for the 2,380 U.S. service men and women who gave their lives serving during Operation Enduring Freedom. Post Commander **Lamar Evans** gave a presentation covering the history of OEF and recognized Comrade **Ray Marsh** for his service with the U.S. Navy in Afghanistan in 2005. Post members present were **Lamar Evans, Ennis Carroll, Chris Davis, Ray Marsh, Tom Parker, David Graham, and Travis McAlister**. Post Chaplain closed the program with a prayer.



### WAXAHACHIE, TX | District 30, Post 3894

Post members held an Operation Enduring Freedom presentation at the Post home and invited the public to the event. The main speaker was **Steven Salazar**, OEF veteran, medic. General information about the Operation was given and they provided major dates of the Operation. Steven provided private insight to his deployment and the challenges he faced during his deployment.



### HOUSTON, TX | District 4, Post 8790

Post Commander **Robert Wilkinson** installs Operation Enduring Freedom veterans as new Post members at the Post's annual OEF remembrance event.



### 3. ROMA, TX | District 18, Post 9175

Post Commander **Rafael Aguirre** and other Post officers and members met at the local Whataburger for a meal and listened to **Luis Barrera**, LTC, Ret., talk about his experiences assisting mobilizing Reserve and National Guard Brigades at Fort Hood during the start of Operation Enduring Freedom. He converted units from Vietnam era equipment to modern equipment and they were used in this operation.

### 4. CENTER, TX | District 19, Post 8904

Post members held a program that honored and remembered those veterans who served and are still serving in Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan. The event was held at the Veterans Memorial on the grounds of the Historic Court House in Center, Texas. Post Surgeon Dr. **Robert Hughes** (right) presents a framed certificate of recognition to his son Robert III.





# Recognition of WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE

**SAN ANTONIO, TX**  
District 20, Post 7108

Post members set up a picture display with flyers of military women from the past and present. Comrade LaShalette Cooks acted as director and answered numerous questions regarding the roles of females in military service. Chili dogs served.



1

## 1. PHARR, TX | District 18, Post 10712

Post member had lunch with **Capt. Robinson** from the UTRGV ROTC for Recognition of Women in Military Service Day at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

## 2. LANCASTER, TX | District 3, Post 8913

Post members invited active duty military women to a luncheon and discussed their role in the military.

## 3. AUSTIN, TX | District 28, Post 4443

Post members gave a presentation on Recognition of Women in Military Service. This presentation was held at Camp Mabry, Exchange. The members distributed information on the history of women in the military service.



2



3






#### 4. CONROE, TX | District 17, Post 4709

Post members held their annual observance of Recognition of Women in Military Service. Many of the Post's female veterans spoke about their service in war zones and life in the military. Gold Legacy life member **Kristin Parkinson** created a slide show of pictures of Post 4709 women veterans while they were in the service.

#### 5. PORT ISABEL, TX | District 18, Post 8791

Post Quartermaster **Robert Vela** and Post member **Mario Vela** recognized Commander **Irene Camacho**, members **Sandra Holland** and **Annette Holland** for their service in the military. Event was held at the Veterans Park in Port Isabel.



**SPRING BRANCH VFW POST 8790**  
 1560 Foley Street, Houston, 77055  
**Canteen:** 713-465-1342 **Office:** 713-465-1950  
**Join Today! Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday of the month @7pm

**LET US DO THE COOKING!**  
**1st Friday of the Month:**  
 Steak Night \$12 Salad, Steak, Baked Potato & Dessert  
**3rd Friday of the Month:** Hamburger/Hot Dog Night:  
 \$6 Hamburger/Hot Dog, Trimmings & Dessert  
**LET US HOST YOUR PARTY! Hall Rentals:**  
**A (475 people) or B (175 people) 713-465-1342 CALL TODAY!**

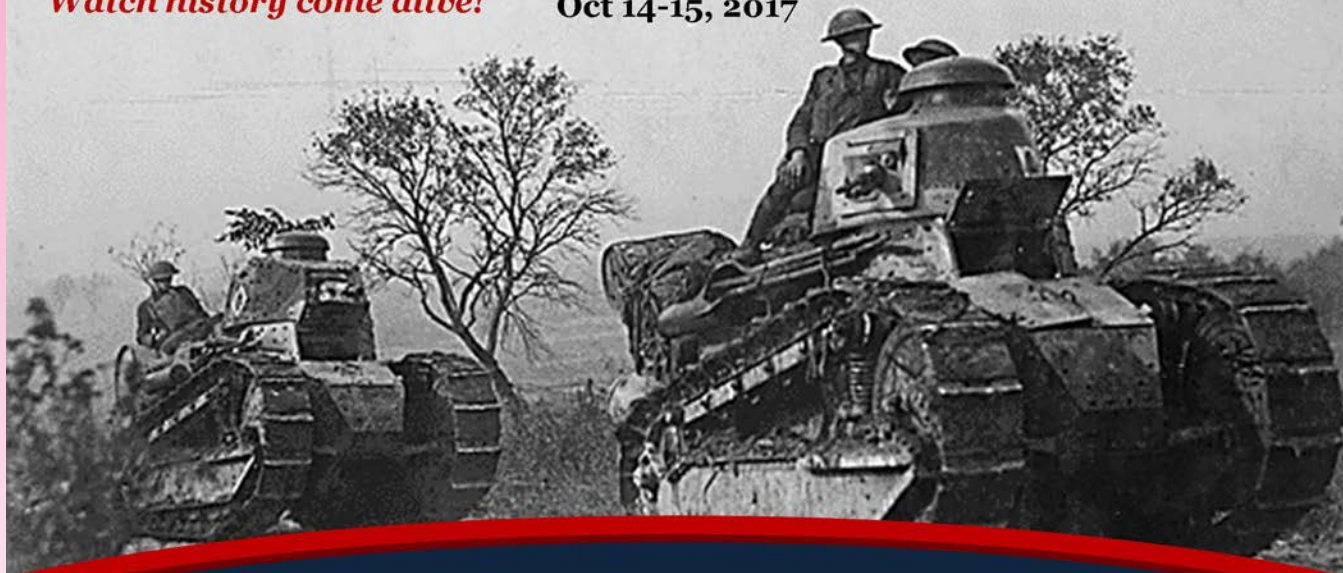


## MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN G.I.

*Watch history come alive!*

### Special Exhibit Over There: America in WWI

WWI Living History Weekend  
Oct 14-15, 2017



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19124 HWY 6 S, College Station, TX | (979) 446-6888 | [www.americangimuseum.org](http://www.americangimuseum.org)

Programs made possible in part through Hotel Tax Revenue funded from the City of College Station through the Arts Council.







# Norman Macey

for Department of Texas VFW  
State Jr Vice Commander 2018-2019



## MILITARY

United States Marine Corps – Vietnam 3<sup>rd</sup> MAF Combined Action Group

**Awards** – Bronze Star w/“V” for Valor, Combat Action Ribbon; Navy Unit Citation, National Defense, Vietnam Service Medal with 3 Campaign Bronze Stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal, RVN Gallantry Cross Unit Citation Medal w/Palm

## POST 4816 PORTER TEXAS

Post Jr. Vice Commander, All-State Commander (2), Post Chaplain, Trustee (3), Chief of staff (2)

## DISTRICT 17

Jr Vice Commander, Sr Vice Commander, District Commander, Trustee (2), Chief of Staff, Chaplain

## DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

State Inspector, Membership Chairman, Chaplain (3)

**Awards** – John Spahr Awarded Outstanding Immediate Past District Commander 2012-2013

## NATIONAL

Aid-De-Camp (2) Assistant Inspector General, Deputy Chief of Staff, “Special” Aid-De-Camp

## COMMITTEES

Post - Chairman - Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Citizenship Teacher Award, Public Safety Award  
District - Chairman - Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Citizenship Teacher Award, State - Chairman  
By-Laws Review Committee (2) National - Veterans Resolutions - Programs Committee



Join the **“Still Fit To Serve” TEAM**

**Support Norman Macey for State Jr Vice Commander**

Gold Legacy Life Member  
njmaceyiii@aol.com





# Veterans Day



## GRANBURY, TX | District 21, Post 7835

Post members assisted the **City of Granbury** with organizing and participating in their local Veterans Day parade. A Post member set up the sound system and assisted in announcing the parade's events.



## LEANDER, TX | District 28, Post 10427

Post members hosted and participated in the "Veterans Day Walk for Veterans" to raise money for veterans. Post members walked 25 miles. After the walk, Post members and guests attended Veteran Day festivities at the Post home. Post members shown with Williamson County Sheriff **Robert Chody**.



## 1. DALLAS, TX | District 3, Post 6796

Post members, Auxiliary members and guests participated in the local Veterans Day parade. Breakfast was prepared by Post members and served at the parade staging area to several Posts from District 3 that were in the parade with the Post. After parade Post 6796 served dinner to all who came.

## 2. WHITE SETTLEMENT, TX

**District 21, Post 5617**

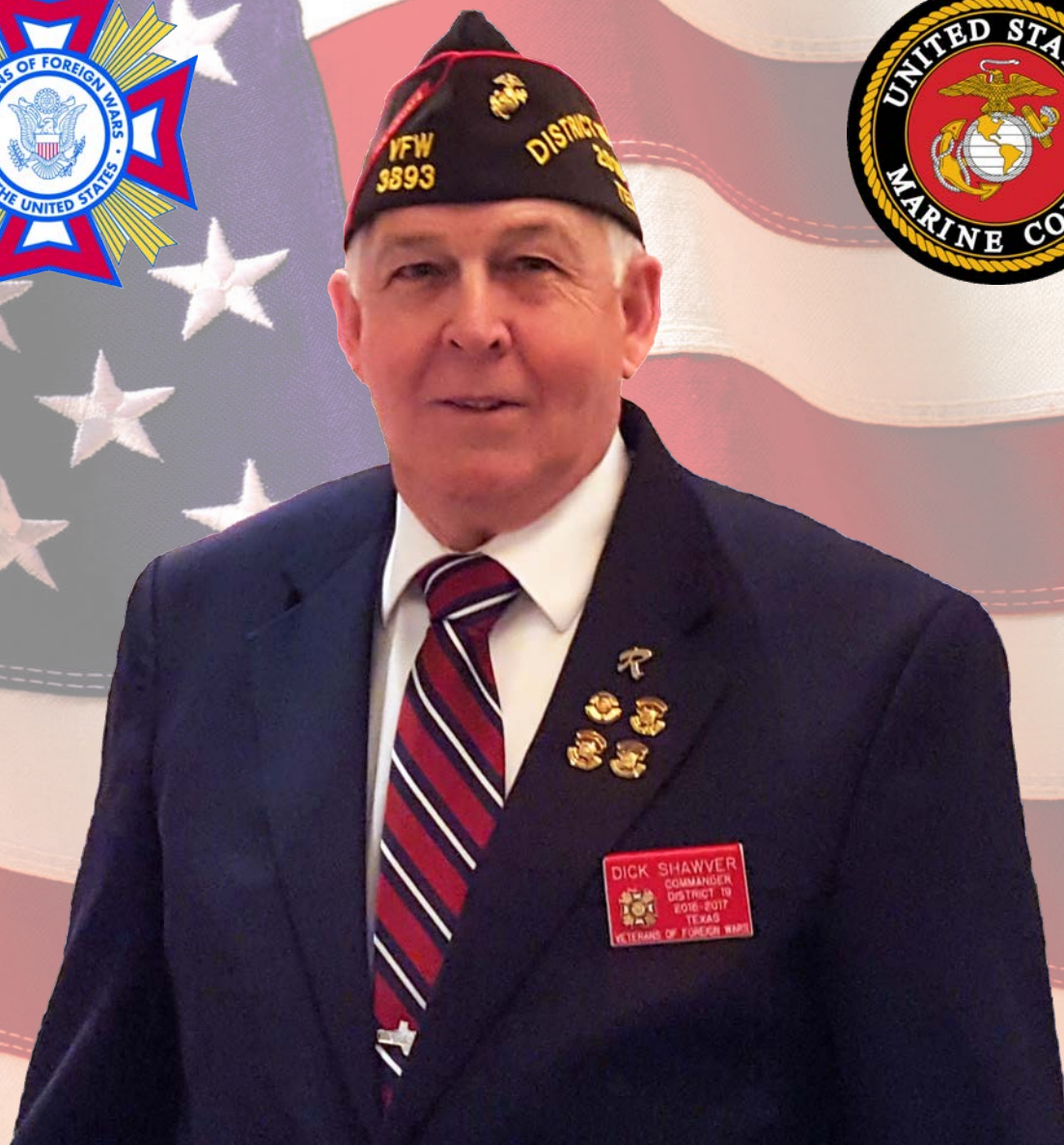
Post members went to two nursing homes and gave out fruit bags for all the veterans. Then the members went back to the Post for free hamburgers and hot dogs. Post members held a flag retirement ceremony and Cub Scouts attended. After the ceremony, the children played games outside, football and softball.



★ ★ ★ **ELECT** ★ ★ ★

# **DICK SHAWVER**

**State Jr. Vice Commander  
2018 - 2019**



- Post Commander 3x
- Post Quartermaster 8x
- District Commander 4x
- District All State & All American Commander 2x
- Deputy State Inspector
- Department Budget & Finance Committee

- National Deputy Chief of Staff
- Assistant Inspector General 2x
- National Aide - de - Camp 3x
- National Special Aide - de - Camp
- Duane Shriver Past District Commander Award
- Past State Commanders Leadership Award
- J. T. Rutherford Award





**POTEET, TX | District 20, Post 6970**

Post members held a flag raising ceremony after providing a breakfast. After the ceremony, the members also provided lunch for all in attendance. 57 members and guests attended the ceremony.



**LA COSTE, TX | District 13, Post 8134**

Post and Auxiliary members participated in a local Veterans Day program at the Memorial Walkway. The **La Coste Elementary** 4th Grade class read poems and letters of thanks to the veterans. Post Quartermaster/Adjutant **Daniel Hinojosa**, **Glen Woodruff**, **Walter Hock**, **Henry Medellin**, **Fred Balderama** were in attendance.



**FRISCO, TX | District 1, Post 8273**

Post members participated in the local Frisco Veterans Day Community Parade.

  
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Helping Neighbors”*

*Supporting Our Veterans*

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Texas Homes,  
Farms, and Ranches  
Since 1901*

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## Melvin "Mel" Parker

CANDIDATE FOR

# STATE JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER 2018-2019

Retired from the United States Air Force after 22 years of service. Serving this great organization for 23 years in many capacities at the Post, District, Department and National levels. Fully retired - willing and able to serve our great organization with your support and vote.



- 1996 - 1997 ALL-AMERICAN POST COMMANDER
- 1996 - 1997 CAPTAIN ALL-STATE POST COMMANDER
- 1997 - 1998 ALL-STATE POST COMMANDER
- 1997 - 1998 STATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
- 1998 - 1999 STATE OFFICER OF THE DAY
- 1999 - 2000 CITIZENSHIP, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE MEMBER
- 2001 - 2002 STATE BUDDY POPPY CHAIRMAN
- 1997 - 1998 NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE MEMBER
- 2001 - 2002 NATIONAL BUDDY POPPY COMMITTEE MEMBER
- 10 Time DISTRICT 25 COMMANDER
- 3 Time NATIONAL AIDE-DE-CAMP
- 2 Time NATIONAL DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF
- 2014 - 2015 J.T. RUTHERFORD AWARD RECIPIENT

*Remembering the Past,  
Working for Today,  
Preparing for the Future.*





## TEXAS WAR MEMORIAL ANNOUNCES “THE PRICE OF LIBERTY” MONUMENT UNVEILING ON STATE CAPITAL GROUNDS

**AUSTIN, Texas (December 3, 2017)** - Department of Texas VFW senior officials received a Limited Edition Art Bronze replica of the “Price of Liberty” Memorial dedicated at the Texas Capitol December 2, 2017. The Art Bronze was a gift from Colonel (Retired) James Stryker and his Board, DBA Texas War Memorial, to thank the Department, Posts and Auxiliaries that donated to support the monument.

“We hope the Department of Texas VFW will proudly display the Art Bronze and accept our deepest appreciation for VFW support from across Texas,” said Colonel Stryker.

Stryker continued, “The Texas VFW did more than any other Veteran’s organization to help us, not only monetarily but by allowing us to attend multiple conferences, at no charge, to display the monument and get the word out to service members and families about the impending dedication. In addition, the Texas Department of VFW allowed us to have a story about the purpose and the progress of the memorial.”

The monument is to honor services members from all branches of service, and their families, serving in the Global War on Terror. The unveiling and dedication ceremony took place on Saturday, December 2, 2017.

The keynote speaker at the dedication was Senator Brian Birdwell, who was a Lieutenant Colonel on active duty at the Pentagon, on 9/11. Birdwell was severely injured in the blast but continues to serve Texas and his country. He is a native Texan and serves District 22.

Many other Legislators attended, including Members of the House Defense and Veterans’ Affairs Committee, the Senate Veteran Affairs & Border Security Committee and the authors of the House and Senate Concurrent Resolution 70, authorizing the construction of “The Price of Liberty” Memorial will serve as the Honorary Legislative Host Committee.

The Legislative Host Committee includes Representative Diana Arevalo, Representative Trent Ashby, Representative Cesar Blanco, Representative Dennis Bonnen, Representative Briscoe Cain, Representative Sarah Davis, Representative Dan

Flynn, Representative Roland Gutierrez, Representative Jason Isaac, Representative Celia Israel, Representative Stan Lambert, Representative Mando Martinez, Representative Will Metcalf, Representative Ina Minjarez, Representative Tom Oliver, Representative Kevin Roberts, Representative Leighton Schubert, Representative Tony Tindholt, Representative John Zerwas, M.D., Senator Brian Birdwell, Senator Donna Campbell, Senator Craig Estes, Senator Bob Hall, Senator Lois Kolkhorst, Senator Boris Miles, Senator Jose Rodriguez, Senator Larry Taylor, Senator Carlos Uresti and Senator Kirk Watson.

Stryker said, “We have been working for years to build this monument with veterans, legislators, community leaders and services members and their families,” said Colonel (Retired) James Stryker, the Chair of the Texas War Memorial Board. “As Texans, we owe it to our service members and their families to honor them and offer a place for reflection, a place for healing, and a place for fellow Texans to pause and recognize our Veterans’ and families’ sacrifices.”

On the eve of the dedication ceremony, sponsors and contributors were invited to a dinner where they were joined by wounded warriors, Gold Star families (families who have lost a loved one in the Global War on Terror) and various representatives from different military branches. Lieutenant General Rick Lynch was the keynote speaker at the program.

We were honored to have Lieutenant General Rick Lynch as keynote speaker and part of unveiling ceremonies. He helped us honor the 225,000 Texas Veterans who have fought and over 600 who sacrificed their lives for Texas and our nation. We recognized families, who supported their loved ones as they answered the call to protect our liberty.”

Now that the dedication is over, the Board has hired a landscape company, who will make the site a place where service members and their families can visit, reflect and heal. There will be benches and an assortment of beautiful plants and trees to make the spot special.

If you did not make the dedication

events, visit the site at the Capitol Complex, on the corner of 12th Street and San Jacinto. There is a parking garage directly across the street, so every visitor of the Capitol will be able to walk directly by the monument when they go to the Capitol for business or a tour.

Major General Stevens says she is proud of her part in the monument but, “Please do not forget to visit the associate “Living Memorial” to see stories, photographs and videos of our great GWOT Veterans. She encourages Texas GWOT Veterans and families to share some details about their deployments, where they served, what unit they were in, what happened while the service members were away and most importantly to post information about the Fallen, so they remain alive, each time someone sees their story. It is a way to record the history, service and sacrifice of our great Texans. <http://texaswarmemorial.com/instructions/>

Major General Stevens says, “My father was in the Navy during World War II. He was at Pearl Harbor during the attack but would never speak about his service. When I would ask him, he would joke and say that the women on the beaches were beautiful (mostly to irritate my mom) and that he ate pineapple until his teeth turned black. But the joking was a cover for sober feelings and thoughts, that had he shared, it may have helped him heal. It would have also helped me understand what he and my mother lived through. He has since passed away and my mom does not remember the details. To make it worse, his records were lost. That history is gone, and I can never recover it. That is why the Living Memorial is so important to me and so much a part of the actual monument.

The Texas War Memorial Board includes the Chair, Army Colonel (Retired) James Stryker and Board Members, Army Major General (Retired) Joy Stevens, Air Force Brigadier General (Brevet) (Retired), Marine Corps Warrant Officer Joe Beatty and Jim Swenke. The entire Board thanks the Department of Texas VFW, Posts and Auxiliaries for living their motto, “No one does more for Veterans.” •



2018-2022

# PEYTON LUMPKIN

THE VFW - NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

## ACCOMPLISHED LEADER

Highly successful service career and VFW service

## PROFESSIONAL

Fair but firm in all matters. Honest and trustworthy

## EXPERIENCED

Successfully served on numerous boards, panels, committees and councils

## DEDICATED

Will work in the best interests of all veterans and the VFW

## FULL-TIME

Will serve as full-time Council Member

---

*Veterans provide hope  
Veterans provide compassion  
Veterans stand for excellence  
Veterans stand for valor*

---



**AS YOUR TEXAS NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER, I WILL  
DO WHAT IS BEST FOR ALL VETERANS IN THE STATE  
OF TEXAS AND THE NATION!  
YOU WILL BE MY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY!!!**

**FOR DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS  
NATIONAL COUNCIL**

COURAGE | HONOR | INTEGRITY



## BOERNE, TX

### District 13, Post 688

Post members had a public birthday celebration on Veterans Plaza for the VFW's 118th birthday with community youth members.



## CENTER, TX

### District 19, Post 8904

Past Post Commander **Mike Langford** interacting with young citizen he met on the street while Post and Auxiliary members walked around the square in Center, Texas and distributed 144 cupcakes to residents and employees in various businesses in honor of the 118th Birthday of the VFW and the upcoming 103rd birthday of the Auxiliary.

# HAPPY 118<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY VFW



## 1. HOUSTON, TX

### District 4, Post 8790

Post members celebrated with the community for the VFW 118th birthday.



## 2. NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

### District 5, Post 7110

Post members held a flag raising ceremony to say Happy 118th Birthday to Veterans of Foreign Wars. VFW Post Commander **Martin Moncebal** starts the Post and Auxiliary members with the birthday song. Then they gathered for a group photo, of those who attended.

## 3. PHARR, TX

### District 18, Post 10712

Post members met up to celebrate The Veterans of Foreign Wars Birthday at the **Pharr Memorial Library**.



## VETERANS' REFLECTIONS

### HISTORY PRESERVED



WILLIAM R. GRASER

**THERE ARE 60  
FIRSTHAND ACCOUNTS  
OF VETERANS WHO  
SERVED DURING  
WORLD WAR II, THE  
COLD WAR, KOREAN  
WAR, CUBAN MISSILE  
CRISIS, VIETNAM  
WAR, KOREAN DMZ  
CONFLICT, OPERATIONS  
DESERT STORM AND  
ENDURING FREEDOM.**



**William R. Graser** was a Sergeant First Class recruited by the US Army Security Agency in 1965. His assignments included Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, West Germany, occupied West Berlin—and the US Army Security Agency's headquarters at Arlington Hall Station, Arlington, Virginia. He earned the Army of Occupation Medal and was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal for his exceptionally meritorious conduct in the

performance of outstanding services and achievements while serving with the US Army Field Station Berlin.

**Graser wrote *Veterans' Reflections*:** History Preserved to increase our general understanding of American warfare through the eyes of those who were there. He concludes with a phrase that will be familiar to anyone who has a veteran in the family: "When you see a veteran, say thank you!" This book is a remarkable tribute to the sacrifice made by our veterans who fought for our country.

**VETERANS' REFLECTIONS IS COMPELLING AND INSPIRING TO SAY THE LEAST. OUR HEROES DESERVE TO BE HEARD.**

### HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

#### *Pacific Book Review Star*

As a veteran himself, the author is obviously very close to this work, and it shows not only in his passion for his subject, but also his attention to detail. His method, which weaves the veteran's own stories into an historical overview of a specific conflict, is extremely effective.

The soldiers' accounts go well beyond the war's scorecard and reveal some of the actual fears and experiences of the participants. Anyone can tell the facts behind a story, but those who lived it can share insights no secondhand history can match.

### RECOMMENDED!

#### *The US Review of Books*

**Online Barnes & Noble, Amazon and other booksellers.**

Author page: <https://www.amazon.com/-/e/B06Y5S83Y1>

Author's Website: [www.graser-vetsreflect.com](http://www.graser-vetsreflect.com)

Author's Email: [williamgraser@gmail.com](mailto:williamgraser@gmail.com)



#### **BELTON, TX | District 14, Post 4008**

Post and Auxiliary members celebrated the VFW birthday by providing information on the history of the VFW and what it does for all veterans. Commander and Auxiliary President presented a cake and served to guests present.



#### **POTTSBORO, TX | District 1, Post 7873**

Post members celebrated the VFW Birthday with a program and cake! After a welcome by Commander **Sam Kurtin**, a prayer was offered by the Auxiliary Chaplain **Amy Kurtin**. The pledge of Allegiance was led by Auxiliary **Priscilla McMurray**. Commander Kurtin gave a brief program. Following the program, cake was served by the Commander.



#### **VILLAGE MILLS, TX | District 2, Post 1514**

Post members celebrated the VFW Birthday with a program and a ceremonial cake cutting.



Triple Crown All-American Past State Commander

# DAN WEST

for National Council

2018 - 2022



**A PROVEN LEADER  
UNIQUELY QUALIFIED**



**"VFW MEMBERS FIRST"**

*"As your National Council Member I will continue to fight for the individual members of the VFW at the Post level as I did when I served as your State Commander."*



# The VFW

WHAT WE DO  
WHO WE ARE  
WHAT WE STAND FOR  
HOW YOU CAN JOIN THE TEAM



## HARKER HEIGHTS, TX | District 14, Post 3892

Post Commander and Post members assisted in the Support the Veterans Association Fish Tournament. The Post members partnered up with **393rd Brigade Engineering Battalion**, **120th Infantry Brigade** and **Central Texas Veterans Health Care System** in an attempt to further develop a positive relationship with fellow veterans both past and present. District 14 Commander **Lora Land** came and supported this awesome event.

**MISSION :** TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO HAVE SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR  
THIS COUNTRY—ALL VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.



LOBBYING FOR  
VETERANS &  
MILITARY



FUNDING  
COLLEGE  
SCHOLARSHIPS



EMERGENCY  
FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE



PROVIDING  
DISASTER  
RELIEF



PHONE CARDS  
FOR TROOPS



SUPPORTING  
MEMORIALS



COMMUNITY  
VOLUNTEERISM



SUPPORTING  
YOUTH  
GROUPS



ASSISTING VETERANS  
WITH EARNED  
ENTITLEMENTS





# THE DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please fill out the VFW Membership Application below and mail in, or sign up online at [www.texasvfw.org](http://www.texasvfw.org) > Home > Membership and follow link.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last Suffix (Jr., Sr., etc)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD/YY)

Military Service: ☐ Air Force ☐ Army ☐ Coast Guard ☐ Marines ☐ Navy

Current Status: ☐ Active Duty ☐ Veteran ☐ National Guard/Reserve

I served in: ☐ Pre-World War II ☐ Korean War 1950-54 ☐ Desert Storm/Shield Afghanistan 2001  
☐ World War II ☐ Korea 1955 ☐ Bosnia/Kosovo 1995 Iraq 2003  
☐ WWII Occupation ☐ Vietnam 1958-75 ☐ Global War on Terrorism - Expeditionary 2001  
☐ 1945-55 (Europe, Korea, Japan) ☐ Expeditionary Operations 1958-2003 (Thailand, Grenada, Libya, Panama, Haiti, Somalia, etc.)  
☐ 1945-90 (Berlin)

Qualified recipient of: ☐ Imminent Danger/Hostile Fire Pay ☐ \*SSBN Nuclear Deterrent Patrol\*

\*Period Covered: \_\_\_\_\_ (Required for applicants with no other reported qualifying service.)

I would like to join the Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars as a(n): ☐ Annual Member ☐ Life Member ☐ Life 12 Mo. Install\* (\$45 Initial payment)

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE

AGE as of December 31st	One-Time Payment	Initial Payment	11 Payments of
Through Age 30	\$425.00	\$45.00	\$38.64
31-40	\$410.00	\$45.00	\$37.27
41-50	\$375.00	\$45.00	\$34.09
51-60	\$335.00	\$45.00	\$30.45
61-70	\$290.00	\$45.00	\$26.36
71-80	\$225.00	\$45.00	\$20.45
81 and over	\$170.00	\$45.00	\$15.45

**Automatic Payment Plan Terms and Conditions:** You authorize the VFW to initiate electronic debit entries or affect a charge by any other commercially accepted practice to your account set forth above for the payment of dues reflected on this application. You understand such charges may be made within 2-3 business days of payment due date. For installment payments, charges will be made on or around the 1st or 15th day of the month. This authorization will remain in full force until VFW has received notification from you of its termination or upon completion of the installment payments. Annual dues are subject to change. By completing this authorization, you acknowledge that you will only receive notice when the payment would differ by more than \$10.00 from the most recent payment. Call VFW Customer Service at 1-800-963-3180 or write to VFW at: VFW, P.O. Box 119028, Kansas City, MO 64171 to inquire about or cancel a payment, or to report problems such as bank closures, lost or stolen account numbers, closed accounts, or unauthorized transactions. Cancellation requests must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Central Time ten business days prior to the scheduled payment date. If you are unaware of the charge date for your account, please contact VFW. If a payment is returned by your financial institution (e.g., due to insufficient funds, incorrect account information, closed account, etc.) The VFW will contact you at the address we have on file for you, explaining why the payment could not be processed, and providing alternative payment options. The privilege of making payments under this agreement may be revoked by VFW if any item is not paid upon presentation. You may have additional rights and responsibilities under the Electronic Funds Transfer Act.

**Life Membership Installment Plan Terms and Conditions:** The VFW Membership Installment Plan allows any VFW member/applicant to purchase a Life Membership by making an initial payment of \$45.00 and (11) monthly payments. The member will be issued an Annual membership card at the time of enrollment. The member may elect to receive a monthly statement by mail or may set up a payment profile to make the monthly payment automatically using a credit/debit card or bank account. A payoff amount will be printed on each monthly invoice, allowing the member the option to pay in full. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon the completion of payments. The Life Membership fee is determined from the schedule using the applicant's age on December 31 of the year in which the application is submitted. Delinquencies will be handled as follows: Up to 30 days - continue to bill; 31 to 120 days - delinquency can be corrected through make up payment(s) or plan end date pushed forward; More than 120 days - member is dropped from the Installment Plan, all monthly payments made to date, are applied to future years annual dues.

I attest by forwarding this application that I am a citizen of the United States, that I qualify for the VFW and that my Campaign Service was honorable, and that I have never been discharged under other than honorable conditions or I am still serving honorably in the armed forces of the United States of America. I further give authority to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to verify my entitlement to membership in the VFW and that if no proof can be found or provided that I am subject to discharge from the VFW without refund.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Include membership payment by check or money order (DO NOT SEND CASH) or pay by credit card.

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ American Express Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Texas VFW • P.O. Box 14468 • Austin, Texas 78761 | For questions call: (512) 834-8535





## AUSTIN, TX

### *"THE PRICE OF LIBERTY" MEMORIAL UNVEILED*

The Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars supports the Texas War Memorial's "The Price of Liberty" Monument at the Texas Capitol to honor Texas veterans and their families, from all branches of service, for their service and sacrifice in the Global War on Terror.