



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

THE MARYLAND VFW COMBAT VETERAN

The Official Publication of the Department of Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

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ONE FORCE ONE MISSION



Thomas Williams, Commander
Dept. of MD Veterans of Foreign Wars

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Convention is over and it's time to put on the gloves and get to work. Everyone should have signed up for OTI. The Department is in the process of going paperless. We are communicating by email, Facebook, and the website. Be sure to check the website calendar. Help pass the word to your comrades without computer skills.

One of my goals is to attend as many activities as possible and visit as many of you as possible. If there's an activity that you'd like me to attend, please call or email me.

I, along with five of my line officers, recently attended an event at Calvert Hall College High School. They had a dedication of their Military Tribute. This memorial wall was built to honor the veterans that attended this high school. Our own judge advocate, Victor Fuentealba, was the oldest veteran there; **Victor graduated from Calvert Hall in 1940!** Another recent event was

the car show/chili cook-off in Mt Airy. The VFW had a recruiting booth set up – check out the pictures on our website.

The Honor Guard van has been completely redecorated with our VFW logo. It looks great & the cost was free! It will be in the 4th of July Parade in Havre de Grace.

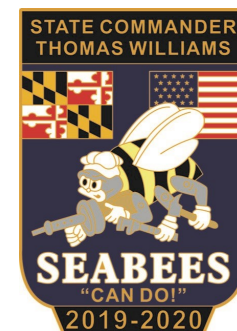
I have another goal that I want to achieve this year. I want to raise our Auxiliary Membership to over 10,500. For every new VFW member there's at least 2 or 3 eligible Auxiliary Members to recruit. The VFW is all about being one big family.

Stay safe this summer. See you all soon,

Yours in Comradeship,

Thomas Williams

State Commander





James F. Wade, Sr.
Jr. Vice Commander
Dept. of MD VFW

Comrades,

A heartfelt thank you to all Comrades for electing me as your next State Junior Vice Commander for the Department of Maryland. I am truly humbled and honored for the trust you have instilled in me to help lead the greatest combat veterans' organization in the world; and I am very excited to get to work. I know that I have big shoes to fill and promise that I will give it my all. I am thrilled to be working with such a great group.

This year's convention and the caucuses was about listening to your questions, concerns, and ideas, I pledge to continue to seek out and be guided by your input. You can count on me to find innovative ways to communicate so that we can work together to support the VFW to our best ability. We are the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the VFW Auxiliary, and I am proud to state that NO ONE does more for veterans, service members, and their families than our great organization.

From the time I was elected as Post Commander, my mantra has always been **Family First; Veteran Always!** I believe you always take care of your family and we are all part of the same family, including the Auxiliary, and what brings us together is we will always be Veterans. It is only with everyone's help, including the families and Auxiliary, that we became successful and can remain successful.

See *Jr. Vice*, Page 3



Tiffany Daniel
Chaplain
Dept. of MD VFW

Comrades,

Just A Little History
Have you ever wondered how Taps, the melody played in the military for lights out became the song for funerals?

Well there are plenty of articles on this subject but I became curious to see if I could find the real reason behind it. So I researched on Wikipedia first then went on to the Pentagon and VA websites to confirm what I read. So what I am about to share is a compilation of all three;

The original bugle call was known as "to extinguish lights" or "tattoo". Now if any of you know the correlation between those two, lights and tattoo, please let me know. But the melody was actually "borrowed" from the French sometime in the early 1800s.

However, it became official in July of 1862, when Brigadier General Butterfield called upon his bugler, Oliver Wilcox Norton, in Virginia after a brutal battle to play the musical notes he had written.

Norton took the notes, tweaked them a bit, but kept the melody intact and presented it back to the General. From that day forward it became the newly revised "to extinguish the lights".

It was said that during that same year, Captain John Tidball, during the Peninsular Campaign, for fear of the loud shots during a funeral while at battle might trigger unwanted hostility, called for the melody to be played at the funeral of one of his fallen soldiers.

To no surprise it quickly spread. And in

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STATE COMMANDER
Thomas Williams

ADJUTANT
Arthur Westbrook

EDITOR
Jacquelyn Kimball

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MDVFWCombatVet@comcast.net

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VFW
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Jr. Vice, from page 2

Working alongside one another, I am positive as a team, we will accomplish everything that can be done for the VFW...our communities... for our military, veterans, and their families. I ask each of you today to get involved within your VFW and your communities and continue to seek out those Iraq and Afghanistan veterans because they will be the main force of this organization in the future.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 240-401-7429 or email: jfwadesr.vfw@yahoo.com.

In Comradeship,

Family First; Veteran Always

James F. Wade, Sr.

Jr. Vice Commander



Cheri Brown, JVP
Membership Chairman
Dept. of MD VFW Aux.

STAYING CONNECTED TO OUR VETERANS!

Brothers & Sisters,
It's time to get
out and **INTE** members
to our great organiza-
tion. Encourage your
members to pay their
2020 dues. Auxiliaries...

an idea... raffle a Lifetime Membership for 2020 dues paid within a deadline. This can be done a couple times (ex: deadline July 30th and deadline

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Chaplain, from Page 2

1891 the melody was officially referenced in the U.S. Army Infantry Drill Regulation.

Here are some of the lyrics that have been placed with the melody;

Day is done, gone the sun,
From the hills, from the lake,
From the sky.
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.

Go to sleep, peaceful sleep,
May the soldier or sailor, God keep.
On the land or the deep, Safe in sleep.

Love, good night, Must thou go,
When the day, And the night,
Need thee so?
All is well. Speedeth all, To their rest.

Fade the light; And afar
Goeth day, And the stars
Shineth bright,
Fare there well; Day has gone,
Night is on.

Thanks and praise, For our days,
'Neath the sun, 'Neath the stars,
' Neath the sky, As we go,
This we know, God is nigh.

Although, it is still unknown the true origin of the name "Taps", it is easy to associate "lights out" and the melody to the death of a service member with sleep and rest. And most of all, when we hear those 24 notes, we all recognize

as Taps, we know to pay tribute to a fallen comrade.

Wishing you all peace and blessings. As we remember our fallen comrades by the sound of Taps, let's not forget the living through a warm welcome, handshake, hug or smile. Remember to visit those that can no longer come out to the Post or meetings. And remember to "Always Say A Prayer's (ASAP).

Blessings,

Tiffany Daniel

Chaplain Daniel





Brian Lankford
Surgeon
Dept. of MD VFW

From The Desk of the Surgeon

Thank you comrades for electing me as your Department Surgeon.

For years we have heard one report 100 percent. This is the bare minimum and in my eyes unacceptable. Our Post and District Surgeons are doing more than this. Reports overlap, between the Community Activities report, Surgeons report, and some Committee reports. I know our posts are actively helping veterans and failing to receive recognition. I look forward to receiving monthly reports with no Post left behind or allowed to fail.

Physical Activity and Nutrition

Research indicates that staying active can help prevent or delay certain diseases, including some cancers, heart diseases and diabetes, also it can relieve depression and improve mood. Like exercise, your eating habits often are not good. It's important to eat foods rich in nutrients and avoid the empty calories in candy and junk food.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian M. Lankford

Bryan M. Lankford

V.F.W. Dept. of Maryland Surgeon

410-924-9899

lankfordtrkinc@gmail.com

Bryan Lankford on FaceBook and Messenger

I Packed Your Parachute!

Charles Plumb was a US Navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience!

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, 'You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down! 'How in the world did you know that?' asked Plumb. 'I packed your parachute,' the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, 'I guess it worked!' Plumb assured him, 'It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today.'

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, 'I kept wondering what he had looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat; a bib in the back; and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said *'Good morning, how are you?'* or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor.'

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent at a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, 'Who's packing your parachute?' Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. He also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory - he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason. As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachutes.

I am sending you this as my way of thanking you for your part in packing my parachute. And I hope you will send it on to those who have helped pack yours! Sometimes, we wonder why friends keep forwarding jokes to us without writing a word. Maybe this could explain it! When you are very busy, but still want to keep in touch, guess what you do - you forward jokes.

And to let you know that you are still remembered, you are still important, you are still loved, you are still cared for, guess what you get? A forwarded joke. So my friend, next time when you get a joke, don't think that you've been sent just another forwarded joke, but that you've been thought of today and your friend on the other end of your computer wanted to send you a smile, just helping you pack your parachute.

Author Unknown



Auxiliary News



Betty J. Stahm, PDP
Chief of Staff
Dept. of MD VFW Aux.



Aloha!

Are you a Healthy Auxiliary? Now is the time to make a checklist. Please refer to the school of instruction manual for information to keep your Auxiliary in good working order. We need all HANDS on deck so that we are ***"Staying Connected to our Veterans"***.

I will be reaching out to all Bachelor Post. Have you ever considered having an Auxiliary? There are many reasons why the Auxiliary can be an asset to your Post.

Top 10 Reasons for Your Post to Have an Auxiliary

1. Offers valuable assistance with event preparation.
2. Assists with "Buddy"® Poppy drives.
3. Opens the door to potential members.
4. Assists in recruiting and retaining members to strengthen the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
5. Provides events and volunteer opportunities for veterans' family members.
6. Boosts the Post's visibility in the community by being involved in more local activities and events.

7. Increases Program participation and helps spread the word on scholarship and youth programs.
8. Presents an opportunity to serve more veterans, active-duty military and their families.
9. Increases the number of advocates to fight for veterans' rights and benefits.
10. Positively reinforces the values and beliefs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

For more information about forming an Auxiliary please contact me. I am available to do a presentation at your monthly meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty J. Stahm

Betty J. Stahm
Chief of Staff
VFW Auxiliary - Department of Maryland
410.598.5895
bjstahm-vfwaux@hotmail.com

We can ***"Serve Our Veterans with Aloha"*** by remaining a Healthy Auxiliary and Growing our Membership to support our Veterans.



October 30th).

INCLUDE your members and ask them to help us reach our goal! Honor your Hero!! We are a voice for veterans on Capitol Hill, we are instrumental in assisting the VFWpass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families. Let us all push for **100% +1. INVEST** in the future of our organization.

I'm looking forward to a great year!! Let's all connect and help our Veterans!

Monthly Membership Drawings – non winning auxiliary in the month they achieve 100% +1 will remain in the drawing until February 28, 2020. Working with percentages will give all auxiliaries an equal opportunity to win awards.

- \$200 August 100% +1
- \$200 September 100% +1
- \$100 October 100% +1
- \$100 November 100% +1
- \$100 December 100% +1
- \$100 January 100% +1
- \$100 ALL AUXILIARIES 100% +1 by February 28, 2020

Respectfully,

Cheri J. Brown

Cheri J. Brown

Membership and Recruitment

cheriwally@hotmail.com

Veterans Can Now Update Their Contact Information Online With The VA

Moving? Taking an extended vacation? New phone number? Simply want VA to reach you at a different address? Whatever the reason may be, VA just made updating your contact information much easier.

First, Login to [VA.gov](https://va.gov)

1. Click on your name at the top right.
2. Select profile
3. Click on edit for anything you wish to change
4. Make your edits, and click update

However, this won't work for all VA databases...yet.

- For education benefits: Call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (ET)
- For home loan benefits: Call 1-877-827-3702, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (ET)
- For Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance: Call the VA Insurance Center (VAIC) at 1-800-669-8477, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (ET)
- For prescriptions: Address updates via VA.gov will change your VA pharmacy, labs, appointment reminders, and postal mail from your VA medical center.

This new feature is one part of an improved, personalized digital experience. But it's also making a big, data-driven impact. More than 17 million Veterans have contact information of some kind housed in Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) data centers, and 12 million Veterans in Veterans Health Administration (VHA) data centers. This data wasn't always up-to-date, and the systems did not talk to each other. Previously, a Veteran could have a different address at both, making it difficult for the VA to keep in contact.

Now, once the contact information is updated in one data center, it will be synchronized with VA systems across the country, including major VBA and VHA data centers. In fact, since deploying this new capability, VA has updated, cleaned up, or authenticated contact information for more than 2.4 million Veterans, ensuring that Veterans are being contacted faster, and where they want to be.

Does VA have your updated contact information? Check now on [VA.gov](https://va.gov).

In Memoriam



Vickie Lynn Stephens, PDP

2010—2011

Vickie Lynn Stephens, 66, of Greenwood, Missouri, was born, January 29, 1953, in Warrensburg, Missouri, the daughter of David L. and Georgia C. (Smith) Scott. She departed this life, Monday, May 27, 2019, at her home surrounded with love and family.

Vickie was a 1971, Lee's Summit High School graduate. Later she furthered her education attending the Longview Community College and the George Meany College in Silver Springs, Maryland.

In July 1984, she was united in marriage to Harvey Stephens in Greenwood.

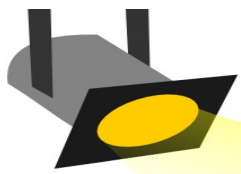
Vickie was employed as Tool and Die Maker for Honeywell. She was a member of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) where she taught health and safety. Prior to her career with Honeywell she was a waitress at the Hollywood Cross Truck Stop in Lee's Summit. She enjoyed mowing, gardening, quilting, and crafting.

Vickie was an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary. She proudly served as the Maryland State President. While serving as president she was charged with the task of helping wheelchair bound veterans. She raised \$50,000.00 dollars helping veterans in Delaware, W. Virginia, and Maryland. She was a member of the VFW Post Auxiliary #2632, California, Maryland, and the Military Order of the Cooties Ladies Auxiliary Pup Tent 1, Lee's Summit.

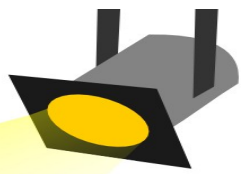
Vickie was preceded in death by her mother.

She is survived by her father, David Scott of Higginsville, Missouri; her husband, Harvey of Greenwood; one son Chad (Ella) Dike of Greenwood; one daughter, Brenna (Shawn) Siegel of Blue Springs, Missouri; one grandson, Justin Moon of Blue Springs; one brother, Al (Linda) Scott of Higginsville; other relatives and friends.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the VFW National Home for Children, 3573 S. Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827.



MD VFW & AUXILIARY



In the Spotlight



MD VFW & AUXILIARY In the Spotlight

