



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

vfwmd.org

September—October 2019

Volume 43—No. 2

ONE FORCE ONE MISSION



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

Dear Comrades, Brothers and Sisters of the Auxiliary,

No more fun, summer's over and the kids are going back to school. Time to get those programs completed while they're still fresh in your mind. Getting out in the schools and public will spark membership. We're still working for the younger membership and my goal is to change the VFW to help the veterans and their families. Our future is in the next generation.

I recently met with Secretary Owens about Maryland's veterans. He has asked the VFW for help. Charlotte Hall needs a roof/carport over the front entrance. Veteran patients are arriving and leaving in all weather conditions without shelter. While we work for our younger veterans we also need to remember those older or vulnerable ones. We have 372,000 veterans in this state - if each one gives just one dollar we could be successful in helping Charlotte Hall. Please send your donations to headquarters marked Charlotte Hall. Working together we

can accomplish anything.

Cynthia and I had a great homecoming! Our special projects are doing great - thanks to you all. I want to thank all the volunteers, along with Post and Auxiliary 467. It was a great old fashioned picnic for families. We had 26 different posts sign the guest book!

I have a meeting with Governor Hogan soon. We are going to talk about the Eastern Shore, veteran's transportation, and other issues.

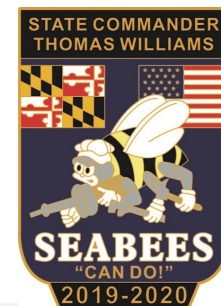
I've been traveling all over the state talking with members. If you have an event you want me or my staff to attend send me an email, USNR23@outlook.com.

Come to the meetings, get involved! I'll see you around.

Yours in Comradeship,

Thomas Williams

USNR — State Commander





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

Hello VFW, Auxiliary & Cootie Members,

While attending the 2019 National Convention, I've noticed the importance and the benefits of what we do as VFW, and Auxiliary Members.

As the State of Maryland VFW Department Junior Vice Commander, I've been amazed how energized and dedicated our volunteer force has been and continue to strive towards taking care of our Veterans and their Families.

Please remember those brave men and women heroes who lost their lives and also to those men and women who risked their lives during September 9, 2011. Never Forgotten and Always Remembered.

Continue to support our Department Commander's Special Projects.

I would like if all District Commanders please continue to communicate with your Post Commanders, by keeping them informed of information which comes from Department. Post Commanders, please understand that communications works both ways as well.

Family First; Veteran Always

James F. Wade, Sr.

Jr. Vice Commander
240-401-7429

Jfwadesr.vfw@yahoo.com



Tiffany Daniel
Chaplain
Dept. of MD VFW

Comrades,

Every year since 9/11/2001, we have taken time to honor, mourn, ponder and recognize the sacrifices made on that day. We have visited grave sites, disaster sites and memorial sites, yet many of us still wrestle with an uneasiness inside. You see, on that day the terrorists may have instilled fear in many, but it also restored in many that esprit de corps, that comradeship that many of us had forgotten. And it caused us to rise, to band together and fight for what's ours. America made it known on that day that we would not be defeated nor would any terror reign on our soil again.

So, my brothers and sisters in arms, I say thank you once more for your loyalty to our country, family and most of all to the higher power that comforts and consoles us all, our Heavenly Father. Amen!

I extend an invite to you all as our community plans to commemorate 9/11 on Sunday, September 8, 2019. The actual memorial service to honor those who died, all who survived, and the sacrifices of first responders and recovery workers will begin at 1:00pm. Please share the flyer (located on Page 5), all are welcome.

Always Say A Prayer

Blessings,

Tiffany Daniel

Chaplain Daniel

THE MARYLAND VFW COMBAT VETERAN

STATE COMMANDER
Thomas Williams

ADJUTANT
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The Maryland VFW Combat Veteran is published six times per year — July—August, September—October, November—December, January—February, March—April and May—June by the Department of Maryland, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, 101 North Gay Street, Room J, Baltimore, MD 21202, 410-752-6474
MDVFWCombatVet@comcast.net

Send all communications for publication to MDVFWCombatVet@comcast.net. Deadline for submissions is on the 20th, during the months of June, August, September, December, February and April.

WEBSITE
www.vfwmd.org





Comrades,

We are once again starting a new year, and with that comes time to make sure you have the items in place to make sure you are operating in compliance with the VFW, the State of Maryland and Washington D.C.

Some of the items that you may need to review are:

- Quartermaster bonded, (Posts with outside bonds must submit a copy to the Department)

- Bank account signatures updated
- Current 990
- Quartermaster access to OMS (Online Membership System)
- Bank statements, back-up documents for expenditures
- Liquor licenses are up to date (Post's with Canteens)

Trustees remember that your signature on the Trustee audit report certifies that:

- You audited the books and records of the Adjutant and the Quartermaster
- You certify that they are true and correct.

The 50/50 life membership program is still in effect. Remember that the person must be a member of a post for at least one year to be eligible.



Trustees Guide for Proper Audit (4).pdf

Denise Perry

Denise Perry

State Quartermaster



Department of Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U. S.

War Memorial Building, Suite J
101 N. Gay Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Phone: 410.752.6474

Fax: 410-783-2939



January 1, 2019

Program Goal:

- To increase Post Life Membership and convert existing Annual Members to Life Members.
- Free up efforts to recruit new members versus spending time chasing down existing members to pay annual dues.
- Increase Life member rebates to the Posts and Department.

Program Parameters:

50K pulled from the investment account to fund the program for a 3-year period (or until funds are exhausted and not voted by the COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION to be replaced).

For any **existing annual member of a Maryland Post** the Department of Maryland will pay 50% Percent of the member's Life Member Dues. **This Program is not available for "New" or "reinstatements"; "New" or reinstatements" must join/rejoin a Maryland Post first and be in good standing for a period of 1 year. This program is also not for "At Large" Members, unless they join a Maryland Post first and are members in good standing for 1 year.**

This membership program is a great benefit and a valuable tool for recruiting new members as it provides a substantial savings over a period of years to younger members. Indicated below are the potential savings based on age brackets:

Age Group	Department Pays	Member Pays	Savings to Member based on Life Expectancy of 72 years and \$30.00 annual dues
Thru 30	\$212.50	\$212.50	\$1317.50 (21) to \$1047.50 (30)
31—40	\$205.00	\$205.00	\$1025.00 (31) to \$755.00 (40)
41—50	\$187.50	\$187.50	\$742.50 (41) to \$472.50 (50)
51—60	\$167.50	\$167.50	\$462.50 (51) to \$192.50 (60)
61—67	\$145.00	\$145.00	\$185.00 (61) to \$5.00 (67)
68—80	\$112.50	\$112.50	NOT APPLICABLE
81 & Over	\$85.00	\$85.00	NOT APPLICABLE

Requirements to process:

All applications for this program will be processed thru the State Quartermaster after receipt from the Post Quartermaster.

ALL applicants will need to submit an application, DD Form 214 or other acceptable proof of service and payment of their half of the proper life dues according to their age.



Brian Lankford
Surgeon
Dept. of MD VFW

From The Desk of the Surgeon

Your Surgeon Reports are flowing in. Our Post and District Surgeons are doing this, even with the confusion with the reporting process, as we update the web page. Reports overlap, between the Community Activities report, Surgeons report, and some Committee reports. I know our posts are actively helping veterans and will receive recognition. I look forward to receiving monthly reports with no Post left behind or allowed to fail. The Mrs. and I are traveling and look forward to visiting each post in the State of Maryland. If you would like me to attend your meeting or district meeting please e-mail or text me the date, time, and location. As long as there's not a conflict in scheduling I'll be there.

September is National Suicide Prevention Month



Don't become obsessed with numbers. We hear 22 a day over and over again, one Veteran committing suicide is one too many. The Veteran suicide rate is higher than those who never served in the military. The actual number of Veteran suicides is closer to one a day, as I said, one is too many. The numbers are higher among Vet-

erans that never went to Iraq or Afghanistan, which suggest the causes extend beyond war trauma.

If you didn't attend the National Convention in Florida some interesting statics were passed along. In suicides where a firearm was used 85% are successful, less the 5% when a fire arm wasn't used.

As a group, Veterans are firearm owners. We all solemnly swore an oath that never expires to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies. Makes sense we as a group have firearms and will not turn them over, unless it's to a brother or sister Veteran to hold while the individual works on the issues that are making them suicidal. I have done this for several Veterans personally, it works. Ask them if they don't ask you to hold their guns while they work through this, be ready to leave your home in the middle of the night just so they can talk and you listen. In two cases they asked me to come get their firearms, in three I asked them. All five have their firearms back and we have lifelong friendships.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian M. Lankford

Bryan M. Lankford
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Bryan Lankford on FaceBook and Messenger

VA RELEASES LAUNCHPAD APP TO STREAMLINE HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR VETERANS AND CAREGIVERS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently launched a new mobile application designed to save Veterans and their caregivers time online. VA Launchpad for Veterans simplifies and organizes several existing tools and resources into one convenient location to help manage healthcare needs. "VA has developed dozens of apps for Veterans to take charge of their health care," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "VA Launchpad makes it easier to have these important tools available at your fingertips. "VA Launchpad arranges all of VA's apps into five categories for Veterans: health management, health care team communication, vital health information sharing, mental health improvement and quality of life improvement. The new app enables Veterans to access all the features with a single secure login. The app also includes many mental health care and personal improvement tools for individuals who are not enrolled in VA health care services. These tools are free and do not require secure logins to use. VA Launchpad for Veterans is available for download in the Apple App Store and Google Play. To access VA's secure apps within VA Launchpad, users must be a VA patient and have one of the following accounts: Premium My HealtheVet, DS Logon Level 2 (Premium) or ID.me.

With VA Launchpad, you can access apps that allow you to:

- Manage your VA health care
- View and share your VA Electronic Health Record (EHR)
- Share health information that you entered yourself with your VA health care providers
- Book your own VA appointments
- Refill a VA prescription
- Communicate with your VA health care providers
- Improve your health using apps designed for special health related issues



ANNUAL INDIAN HEAD CAR SHOW & VETERANS HEALTH FAIR & RECOGNITION DAY

Sunday Sept 8, 2019

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Registration: 8:30 a.m. – Noon

CAR SHOW Sponsored by **Indian Head Baptist Church**
SPECTATORS FREE



FEATURING
Oldies & Praise Music



Free lunch to All
Veterans,
Active Duty Military
and their Families

Veterans Recognition Day
& 9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY – 1:00P.M.
Sponsored by Local Veterans Organizations

Health Fair Inside Pavilion 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7461

Special Recognition and Services will be offered to
all First Responders, Veterans,
Active Duty Military and their Families
• Thank You for Your Service! *



of Bryans Road

THANK YOU MAJOR SUPPORTERS



DIRECTIONS TO:

"The Village Green at Indian Head" located in Charles
County at the end of RT 210 (Indian Head HWY) just
outside the gate of the Naval Support Facility
Indian Head, MD 20640

*For additional information, please call:
Car Show – Tom Bowie @ 240-585-2588
Car Show – Emmett Posey @ 240-320-3806
Venue - Karen Williams @ 240 375-4061
Veterans Recognition – Dr. JoAnn Fisher 240-305-5516



VA UPDATES THE DISABILITY RATING SCHEDULE FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES, IMMUNE DISORDERS AND NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCIES

As of Aug. 11, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) updated portions of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD, or Rating Schedule) that evaluate infectious diseases, immune disorders and nutritional deficiencies.

The collection of federal regulations used by the Veterans Benefits Administration helps claims processors evaluate the severity of disabilities and assign disability ratings.

"VA is in the process of updating all 15 body systems of the VASRD to more accurately reflect modern medicine and provide Veterans with clearer rating decisions," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "By updating the rating schedule, Veterans receive decisions based on the most current medical knowledge of their condition."

The complete list of updates to the rating schedule is available online. Claims pending prior to Aug. 11, will be considered under both the old and new rating criteria, and whichever criteria is more favorable to a Veteran will be applied. Claims filed on or after Aug. 11, will be rated under the new rating schedule.

Updating the rating schedule for conditions related to infectious diseases, immune disorders and nutritional deficiencies, enables VA claims processors to make more consistent decisions with greater ease and ensure Veterans understand these decisions. VA remains committed to improving its service to Veterans continuously and staying at the forefront of modern medicine as it has for decades.

Since Sept. 2017, VA has updated the schedules for dental and oral conditions, conditions related to the endocrine system, gynecological conditions and disorders of the breast, the general rating formula for diseases of the eye, skin conditions and the hematologic and lymphatic systems.



Auxiliary News



Aloha!



Communication is key to being a healthy Auxiliary. If you have a problem in your auxiliary, reach out to your deputy chief of staff (district president) and discuss a solution. If necessary, the Department is here to assist you. A "Helping Hand" is just a phone call away. There are many resources on our National website that will assist your Auxiliary to be healthy and in good working order. Visit www.vfwauxiliary.org. All officers and program chairmen are encourage to use this information to gain knowledge that will benefit your Auxiliary. Also found on the National website is the "**Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation**" handbook. Have you ever thought about being an officer but not sure what to do? This is the handbook for you. The more we know about our organization the better we can support our Veterans, our active military and their families.

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

We are "*Staying Connected to Our Veterans*" so that we can continue "*Serving our Veterans with Aloha*"! Be Healthy and stay on the right path!

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty J. Stahm

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



BUS TRIP



COME JOIN THE VFW DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND AND
VFW DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND AUXILIARY

AS WE VISIT THE VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN



VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

3573 S Waverly Rd
Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827

Thursday October 10th – Saturday October 12th, 2019

Departing from Charles Evering VFW Post 6506
8777 Philadelphia Road, Rosedale, MD 21237

Depart from Post 6506 at 6:00 am on Thursday October 10th
Returning to Post 6506 on Saturday October 12th, 2019 at
approximately 7pm

Transportation price is **150.00** per person.

Due to the dates of this trip, the full cost of \$150.00 is needed to reserve a seat. This amount is non-refundable unless the trip is cancelled by the VFW Department of MD.

Bus holds 54 and we need to fill it. First Come/First Served.

Deadline for reservations is September 5th, 2019.

Make checks payable to: **Dept of MD VFW**; Earmark: **National Home Bus Trip**

Mail to: VFW Department of Maryland, War Memorial Bldg, Room J,
101 North Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

OR

If you would like to pay by Credit Card contact the VFW Dept Quartermaster,
Denise Perry at 410-752-6474

Please call to make your personal room reservations at the:

Comfort Inn:

1302 E Packard Hwy
Charlotte, MI 48813
517-543-7307

Group Name: VFW Dept of Maryland/Group# 3815850

Room Types:

NK – King - \$75.00 + Tax

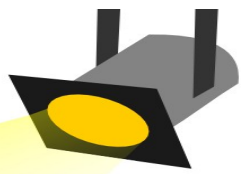
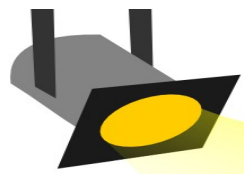
NQQ – 2 Queen Beds - \$85.00 +Tax

For further information please call:

Doug MacArthur at 410-459-1275/Lyn MacArthur at 410-459-1149

MD VFW & AUXILIARY In the Spotlight





MD VFW & AUXILIARY In the Spotlight

