

## General Orders No. 1

## 2026-2027 Series

1. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief and having been installed in office in accordance with the Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command.
2. The following officers have been duly elected and installed by the 127th National Convention and will be accorded the recognition due them:

### Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Glenn R. Umberger, Jr., Post 7155, Trappe, Pennsylvania

### Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Robert J. Lovergne, Post 3750, Luling, Louisiana

### Quartermaster General

Marc Garduno, Post 3238, Camden, Delaware

### Chaplain

Deborah I. Halter, Post No. 3500, Richmond Heights, Missouri

### Judge Advocate General

Kenneth B. Wiseman, III, Post 1503, Dale City, Virginia

### Surgeon General

William "Bill" Roland, Jr., Post 914, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania

### National Council of Administration Members

|             |                                                                         |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alabama     | Eric M. Dudash, Post 3128, Fort Payne, Alabama                          |
| Alaska      | Daniel F. Garcia, Post 1685, Anchorage, Alaska                          |
| Arizona     | Jeffrey A. Eiler, Post 1433, Glendale, Arizona                          |
| Arkansas    | Marcus W. "Mark" Davis, Post 2242, Paragould, Arkansas                  |
| California  | Dawn M. "Dusty" Napier, Post 9561, Willow Creek, California             |
| Colorado    | David L. Stone, Post 3917, Security, Colorado                           |
| Connecticut | Stanley W. Borusiewicz, Jr., Post 201, Waterbury-Naugatuck, Connecticut |
| Delaware    | John G. Mitchell, Post 7234, Ocean View, Delaware                       |
| Europe      | Peter J. Mascetti, Jr., Post 27, Wiesbaden, Germany                     |
| Florida     | Kevin S. "Scott" Hice, Post 12204, Niceville, Florida                   |
| Georgia     | Charles A. "Tony" Dobbins, Post 5080, Morrow, Georgia                   |
| Hawaii      | Ronald H. Schaedel Sr., Post 10276, Honolulu, Hawaii                    |
| Idaho       | Bobby D. Tettleton, Post 9036, New Plymouth, Idaho                      |
| Illinois    | Matthew C. Claussen, Post 2868, Brookfield, Illinois                    |
| Indiana     | Johnny R. Capps, Post 972, Terre Haute, Indiana                         |
| Iowa        | Robert P. Quinn, Post 6414, Riverside, Indiana                          |
| Kansas      | Patrick M. Briggs, Post 1361, Hutchinson, Kansas                        |
| Kentucky    | Merlin N. "Nate" Sesco, Post 3769, Pikeville, Kentucky                  |
| Louisiana   | James M. Prestenback, Post 3665, Raceland, Louisiana                    |

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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|                |                                                                   |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Maine          | Anthony R. Kimble, Post 3108, Belfast Maine                       |
| Maryland       | Michael J. Eason, Post 9376, Clinton, Maryland                    |
| Massachusetts  | Keith Jackson, Post 6538, Townsend, Massachusetts                 |
| Michigan       | Kevin A. Conklin, Post 6248, Decatur, Michigan                    |
| Minnesota      | Dale E. Hoogeveen, Post 1791, Chaska, Minnesota                   |
| Mississippi    | Stephan P. Trochessett, Post 2132, Gautier, Mississippi           |
| Missouri       | Eric D. Sullivan, Post 5789, Lees Summit, Missouri                |
| Montana        | James L. Layton, Post 4067, Malta, Montana                        |
| Nebraska       | Joseph E. Smith, Post 2280, Bellevue, Nebraska                    |
| Nevada         | David A. Sousa, Post 3396, Sparks, Nevada                         |
| New Hampshire  | Leon Rideout, Post 3041, Lancaster, New Hampshire                 |
| New Jersey     | Luddie H. Austin, Post 12165, Trenton, New Jersey                 |
| New Mexico     | Victoria R. Haddox, Post 5890, Rio Rancho, New Mexico             |
| New York       | Eugene J. "Gene" Ratigliano, Post 420, Saratoga Springs, New York |
| North Carolina | Victor R. Letourneaut, Post 9960, Cedar Point, North Carolina     |
| North Dakota   | William L. "Bill" Tuff, Post 7564, West Fargo, North Dakota       |
| Ohio           | Christopher W. "Chris" Haynes, Post 7596, Franklin, Ohio          |
| Oklahoma       | James L. Dockemeyer, Post 1317, Shawnee, Oklahoma                 |
| Oregon         | Bert W. Key, Post 4273, Sandy, Oregon                             |
| Pacific Areas  | Kenneth A. Stein, Post 12146, Ban Chang, Rayong Thailand          |
| Pennsylvania   | Nathaniel Smith, Post 7293, Egypt, Pennsylvania                   |
| Rhode Island   | Scott F. Gould, Post 6342, North Smithfield, Rhode Island         |
| South Carolina | Dwight M. Hora, Post 8760, Beaufort, South Carolina               |
| South Dakota   | Barbara K. McKean, Post 3298, Parkston, South Dakota              |
| Tennessee      | Eric Spurbeck, Post 5156, Sweetwater, Tennessee                   |
| Texas          | Robert Martinez, Jr., Post 2059, Kirby, Texas                     |
| Utah           | Heath N. Silcox, Post 12087, West Jordan, Utah                    |
| Vermont        | Charles A. Magnant, Post 778, Swanton, Vermont                    |
| Virginia       | Douglas E. Hoffman, Post 2216, Staunton, Virginia                 |
| Washington     | Paul M. Herrera, Post 2224, Puyallup, Washington                  |
| West Virginia  | Richard E. Ogden, Post 3663, Buckhannon, West Virginia            |
| Wisconsin      | Thomas E. Heath, Post 1621, Janesville, Wisconsin                 |
| Wyoming        | Danielle P. Smith, Post 9439, Casper, Wyoming                     |

3. All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant General

Dan West, Post 3413, San Marcos, Texas

Executive Director, Assistant Adjutant General, Washington Office

Ryan M. Gallucci, Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia

Assistant Adjutant General, Administration & Programs

Brian K. Walker, Post 5066, Collierville, Tennessee

Chief of Staff

Adam S. Wallace, Post 328, Stoughton, Wisconsin

Inspector General

Merlin N. "Nate" Sesco, Post 3769, Pikeville, Kentucky

Sergeant-at-Arms

Brian Willette, Post 3104, South Hadley, Massachusetts

General Counsel

John R. Muckelbauer, Post 3712, Paola, Kansas

Director, Administrative Operations

Quentin S. Carroll, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Senior Director, Marketing & Communications, Kansas City

Randi K. Law

Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Outreach, Washington Office

Robert A. Couture, Post 2462, Pasadena, Maryland

Director, Development

Kelly Jones

Director, Information Technology

Sean Barnes, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, Meetings & Events

Taylor Engle

Senior Director, Membership & Member Services

David E. Prohaska, Post 4434, Belleville, Michigan

Director, National Legislative Service

Kristina Keenan, Post 605, Paris, France

Director, Operations/Chief of Staff

Michael S. Figlioli, Post 2017, Dedham, Massachusetts

Director, Publications, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief, VFW Magazine

Tim Dyhouse

Director, VFW Programs

Lynn W. Rolf, III, Post 56, Leavenworth, Kansas

Director, Supply & Logistics

Hank Ellis

5. Attention of all members is directed to the purposes listed within the VFW's Congressional Charter. "To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom" is one of the VFW's chartered purposes; as such the VFW represents fighting for American rights, civil rights and humanitarian impulses that have always guided the VFW's principles.

Today the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States reaffirms its commitment to that chartered purpose by first recognizing that in order to end racism within our organization, it is not enough to be non-racist/non-discriminatory: we must be proactive.

While we focus on education and mentorship we work to identify, address, and eradicate any and all forms of racial bias and discrimination. We will work to eliminate racial injustices and discriminatory practices within our organization. The VFW's leadership is united in the pursuit to end racial bias and discrimination while empowering our members and the greater veteran community towards this collective goal.

6. Attention of all members is directed to Section 901 of the National Bylaws, "Discipline of Members." Members who have committed offenses recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may be subject to disciplinary action. Members are reminded that acts of Sexual Harassment, Racial or Sexual Discrimination, and all other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct determined to be unbecoming of a member will not be condoned.

In general, harassment and discrimination consists of any form of verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive enough to have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment or otherwise interfering with another's ability to participate in VFW events. All members will be treated with dignity and respect.

7. For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its VFW Auxiliary.
8. Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2026-27 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, "Buddy"® Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.
9. Post Commanders and District Commanders are directed to forward all resolutions or communications relative to federal legislation or to the policy or procedure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other governmental agency, to their respective Department Headquarters for consideration and referral to the Adjutant General. Department Commanders will not take direct action on any such resolutions or communications without first obtaining full knowledge of existing National Headquarters policies governing such legislation or agencies. Posts, County Councils, Districts and officers and members thereof shall not publicly communicate or promulgate any such resolutions until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief.
10. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to Section 703 of the National Bylaws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable.
11. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustees' Report of Audit (VFW Store product #4214) to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September. **Do not mail these reports to National Headquarters.**
12. Attention of Department and Post Commanders is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990/T, where applicable. Forms may be secured from your local Post Office or branch office of the Internal Revenue Service.
13. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).
14. The Manual of Procedure amendment passed by the 119th National Convention modified Section 1001(25) to read, "The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are prohibited."
15. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department Bylaws and directives. Department and District Inspectors shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.

16. The distribution of VFW “Buddy”® Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Sections 711 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of “Buddy” Poppies in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of “Buddy” Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 704 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure.
17. The Veterans of Foreign Wars name and insignia, including but not limited to official caps, shirts, jackets, patches, emblems, or any other garments or items identifying affiliation with the VFW, shall not be worn at rallies, protests, demonstrations, court proceedings, or events supporting or opposing individuals or entities involved in alleged criminal activity, legal proceedings or other sensitive public controversies. This expectation also extends to social media activity in which members should refrain from posting photographs, videos, comments, or other content on social media platforms. Any member choosing to attend such events or support these activities must do so strictly in a personal capacity and shall not reference, imply, or otherwise represent the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in any manner.

Even when attending in a purely personal capacity, the presence of VFW identifiable material can create the public perception that the organization itself is endorsing or opposing a particular cause or position which is strongly discouraged. The VFW is a nonpartisan organization and maintaining that neutrality is essential to preserving our credibility, unity, and standing in the communities we serve. Each of us retains the right to express personal views as private citizens; we simply ask that members do so without the use of VFW-identifying attire or insignia.

18. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:

Post Nos. 5136 and 890 consolidated as Post No. 5136, Lexington, Nebraska  
Post Nos. 1791 and 5462 consolidated as Post No. 1791, Chaska, Minnesota

BY COMMAND OF  
CORY L. GEISLER  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan West".

Dan West  
Adjutant General