

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

**General Orders No. 1**

**2017-18 Series**

1. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief and having been installed in office in accordance with the By-Laws 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 118th National Convention will be accorded the recognition due them:

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Vincent "B.J." Lawrence, Post 7686, Alamogordo, New Mexico

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

William J. "Doc" Schmitz, Post 524, Corning, New York

Quartermaster General

Debra L. Anderson, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Chaplain

James W. "Jim" Gray, Post 4706, Decatur, Georgia

Judge Advocate General

Dana E. Hussey, Post 1772, Rochester, New Hampshire

Surgeon General

Patrick J. "Doc" Higgins, Post 10216, Songtan-Si, Korea

National Council of Administration Members

Alabama	George H. Jones, Post 6073, Scottsboro, Alabama
Alaska	Walter W. Watts, Jr., Post 3629, Fairbanks, Alaska
Arizona	Michael K. "Mike" Ferguson, Post 3632, Tempe, Arizona
Arkansas	Terry G. Callahan, Post 9095, Little Rock, Arkansas
California	Earl D. Fulk, Post 9934, Dana Point, California
Colorado	Bruce R. Dolan, Post 7945, Thornton, Colorado
Connecticut	Richard G. DiFederico, Jr., Post 7330, Oakville, Connecticut
Delaware	William R. "Russ" Hall, Post 8801, Clayton, Delaware
Europe	Norberto "Tony" Millet, Jr., Post 9342, Ansbach, Germany
Florida	Daniel P. "Dan" Duffy, Post 1966, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Georgia	Pledge M. Cannon, Sr., Post 9998, Warner Robins, Georgia
Hawaii	Stanley Y. Fernandez, Post 10276, Honolulu, Hawaii
Idaho	Rick W. Johnson, Post 4902, Cottonwood, Idaho
Illinois	John W. Davin, Post 5917, Bolingbrook, Illinois
Indiana	Gregory L. Baker, Post 6978, New Whiteland, Indiana
Iowa	Darrell A. Blasberg, Post 2208, Waverly, Iowa
Kansas	Bobby J. Cox, Post 2715, Mc Pherson, Kansas
Kentucky	Claud F. Wyatt, Post 5704, Liberty, Kentucky
Louisiana	Fred A. Wesley, Post 12065, New Iberia, Louisiana
Maine	David D. Williams, Post 1641, Rumford, Maine
Maryland	R. Brian Sturgis, Post 5118, Easton, Maryland
Massachusetts	Robert A. "Bob" Graser, Post 1822, Plymouth, Massachusetts
Michigan	Harry L. "Les" Croyle, Post 6756, Center Line, Michigan
Minnesota	Gary R. Anderson, Post 6587, Spring Lake Park, Minnesota
Mississippi	Johnnie L. Richard, Post 2539, Gulfport, Mississippi
Missouri	Phillip A. "Phil" Pippins, Post 2593, Maxville, Missouri
Montana	Arthur J. "Art" Widhalm, Post 3107, Glasgow, Montana
Nebraska	John L. Iossi, Post 3704, Columbus, Nebraska
Nevada	Gilbert "Gil" Hernandez, Post 2350, Elko, Nevada

New Hampshire	Paul J. Lloyd, Post 1631, Concord, New Hampshire
New Jersey	William F. "Bill" Thomson, Post 6192, Washington Township, New Jersey
New Mexico	Kathie D. Schiebel, Post 401, Albuquerque, New Mexico
New York	Robert E. "Bob" Barnhart, Post 686, High Falls, New York
North Carolina	Gene D. Kent, Post 7034, Sparta, North Carolina
North Dakota	James H. "Hoppy" Hapala, Post 7564, West Fargo, North Dakota
Ohio	Chuck Keller, Post 3761, Baltimore, Ohio
Oklahoma	Michael H. "Mike" Devenitch, Post 8706, Moore, Oklahoma
Oregon	Bert W. Key, Post 4273, Sandy, Oregon
Pacific Areas	Shawn C. Watson, Post 2917, Agat, Guam
Pennsylvania	Robert C. Eiler, Post 7842, Linesville, Pennsylvania
Rhode Island	Guyde A. Lombari, Jr., Post 2812, Thornton, Rhode Island
South Carolina	Melvin H. "Hugh" Gunter, Jr., Post 8738, Lexington, South Carolina
South Dakota	Darold D. Couch, Post 3442, Custer, South Dakota
Tennessee	Darryl B. McPheron, Post 9754, Church Hill, Tennessee
Texas	Lazaro "Larry" Velasquez, Jr., Post 8932, Flour Bluff, Texas
Utah	Dennis L. Parizek, Post 1481, Ogden, Utah
Vermont	Allston J. "Joe" Gilmond, Post 782, Burlington, Vermont
Virginia	Kim A. DeShano, Post 2216, Staunton, Virginia
Washington	Frederick A. "Fred" Green, Post 2669, Port Orchard, Washington
West Virginia	Robert W. "Bob" Caruthers, Post 9926, Mason, West Virginia
Wisconsin	John T. Giese, Post 6375, Elkhorn, Wisconsin
Wyoming	Rodney A. Birkle, Post 3558, Wheatland, Wyoming

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

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant General

Brian J. Duffy, Post 1170, Middletown, Kentucky

National Chief of Staff

Roger A. Frye, Post 8487, Mogadore, Ohio

Inspector General

William A. "Bill" Backes, Post 8320, Brookfield, Wisconsin

Assistant Adjutant General & Executive Director, Washington Office

Robert E. Wallace, Post 9503, Bayville, New Jersey

Assistant Adjutant General

Kevin C. Jones, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Assistant Adjutant General - General Counsel

John R. Muckelbauer, Post 3712, Paola, Kansas

Director, Administration & Operations, Washington Office

Robert H. Jackson, Post 2725, Frankenmuth, Michigan

Director, Administrative Operations

David E. Prohaska, Post 4434, Belleville, Michigan

Director, Communications & Public Affairs, Washington Office

Joseph E. Davis, Post 3391, Pago Pago, American Samoa

Director, Human Resources

Steven A. Chambers, Post 7397, Lenexa, Kansas

Director, Membership

Rick L. Butler, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, National Legislative Service

Carlos U. Fuentes, Post 5627, College Park, Maryland

Director, National Security & Foreign Affairs

Sarah Maples, Post 4283, Dade City, Florida

Director, National Veterans Service  
Ryan M. Gallucci, Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia  
Director, Operations  
Bernard K. Hill, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri  
Director, Publications & Editor-in-Chief, VFW Magazine  
(vacant)  
Director, VFW Programs  
Lynn W. Rolf, III, Post 56, Leavenworth, Kansas  
Director, VFW Properties  
Billy R. Weissend, Post 8950, Lanham, Maryland  
National Sergeant-at-Arms  
Bryan P. O'Brien, Post 2550, Dunedin, Florida

5. 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.

6. Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2017-2018 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teachers' Awards, "Buddy"® Poppy and National Military Services. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

7. 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.

8. DEPARTMENT RESERVE: Attention is called to section 518(a)(4)(f), Manual of Procedure which requires Department Quartermasters to maintain a dues reserve fund as prescribed in sections 717 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure.

9. POST RESERVE: Due to the passage of By-Law Amendment B-13 at the 118th National Convention, it is no longer necessary for Posts to maintain a dues reserve fund effective August 25, 2017.

10. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to action of the National Council of Administration prohibiting the wearing of VFW sport caps and/or western style caps at VFW meetings in place of the regulation cap of the VFW official uniform as set forth in sections 803 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure. This prohibition is in accordance with previous directives of Commanders-in-Chief that it is held to be objectionable and contrary to accepted rules of order and proper decorum implicit in the ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to permit the wearing of other than the official VFW cap at VFW meetings.

11. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to section 703 of the National By-Laws 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.

12. 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.**

13. 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.

14. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day (see section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).

15. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to section 1001(25) of the Manual of Procedure concerning alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting: "The presence, dispensation, and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings is unacceptable and is prohibited."

16. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department By-Laws 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.

17. U.S. Army ARDEC has issued new guidance on the operation and maintenance of the M1 Garand. The new manual can be found in the VFW Training & Support section at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) or you can visit the M1 Garand Associated Website: [www.m1garandtraining.com](http://www.m1garandtraining.com).

18. The distribution of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in sections 711 of the National By-Laws 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 By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure.

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

- Post Nos. 2668 and 3677 consolidated as Post No. 2668, Mina, Nevada
- Post Nos. 3484 and 7408 consolidated as Post No. 3484, Saddle Brook, New Jersey
- Post Nos. 3219 and 6002 consolidated as Post No. 3219, Phoebus, Virginia
- Post Nos. 2793 and 3858 consolidated as Post No. 2793, Thief River Falls, Minnesota
- Post Nos. 9972 and 10432 consolidated as Post No. 9972, Sierra Vista, Arizona
- Post Nos. 751 and 6458 consolidated as Post No. 751, Randallstown, Maryland
- Post Nos. 4731 and 4486 consolidated as Post No. 4731, Indianola, Mississippi
- Post Nos. 2693 and 8257 consolidated as Post No. 2693, Greenfield, Indiana
- Post Nos. 1117 and 8677 consolidated as Post No. 1117, Caseyville, Illinois
- Post Nos. 9557 and 4048 consolidated as Post No. 9557, Westminster, California

20. Announcement is made of the authorization of the charter for the following Post:

Post No. 12161 – Buda, Texas

BY COMMAND OF  
KEITH E. HARMAN  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:



Brian J. Duffy  
Adjutant General