

THE KANSAS BULLETIN

VFW

THE OLDEST STATE PUBLICATION IN THE VFW

Volume 87, Issue 4

State Commander
Patrick Briggs

May 2019

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VFW Kansas Website

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State Commander

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

I know that I have said this before but I still can't believe that my year as your State Commander is almost over. At this time I would like to Thank All Of You for giving me the Opportunity and Privilege to be your State Commander for 2018-2019. **"TEAM KANSAS" is "Making It Happen" and this is happening due to our Strong Desire, Positive and Can Do Attitudes, Effective Communicating, Hard Work, Motivation and TEAM WORK.**

Let me share with you our accomplishments to date: Districts 1-4-5 and 7 are ALL STATE DISTRICTS, 70 of our Post have attained 100% Membership, 19 of our Posts are "ALL STATE" POSTS and I "SALUTE YOU COMRADES". Department Kansas is currently at 99.67% and 38 more needed to make 100% as well as being an "ALL AMERICAN DEPARTMENT". The last time that the Department of Kansas made 100% was in 1993-1994 and the last time that we were an ALL AMERICAN DEPARTMENT was when our ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER HERB SCHWARTZKOPF was State Commander 2008-2009. I'm SO PROUD of "TEAM KANSAS". CONTINUE TO MOTIVATE AND GENERATE, SLIDE AND GLIDE. REMEMBER: **"I CAN'T HELP YOU IF YOU DON'T ASK"**.

Patrick Briggs

Department of Kansas State Commander





State Sr. Vice Commander

Comrades,

Congratulations to all the Post and Districts who have reached 100% in membership and also congratulations to the Post and Districts who have acquired the status of All State. It has been a very successful year in achieving our goals working together to retain current members and in recruiting new ones. The tools supplied to the Districts and Post have not gone unnoticed and I commend everyone using them. I believe they have made a difference.

As of today the Department of Kansas only needs 38 new or reinstates to make the State 100%. Every day we get closer to our goal and with your continuous help we can make this happen.

Membership is the life blood of this Fraternal Organization, without members there would not be any Post, Districts, **or State for that matter. Membership is a continuous program. Just as we think it's about over for the year it's not, a** New Year has started and we must keep persevering to help reach the goals of our successors.

I am proud to have been your Membership Chairman for this year. I appreciate your hard work and enthusiasm you have shown me. As always I cannot help if not asked.

In Comradeship,
Lee Hursey
State Sr. Vice Commander



State Jr. Vice Commander

Comrades,

It has been a pleasure to serve you in the capacity of JR VICE CMDR this year, the year has been one of learning and teaching and working with comrades during the year to better the mission of Team Kansas. The hospitality that I received thru my travels was second to none, I thank you for this.

The final totals of the 70 posts that submitted Community Service Reports are submitted below.

PROJECTS:	5600
HOURS:	91,742.90
VALUE:	\$233,646.68
MILES:	393,154.70
MEMBERS:	19,311

To the comrades who where part of this a well- earned THANK YOU.

I wish to work with you again next as I will be a candidate for Department Senior Vice Commander for next year.

KEN ALLRED
Dept JR Vice Cmdr





State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Comrades:

To Quote Department Commander Briggs, “I can’t help you if you don’t ask”, is an understatement. Please, if you need help contact our officers or Kansas State VFW Headquarters. It is much simpler for all if it is done right the first time.

We are here to help our members with all aspects of the VFW, from membership/eligibility questions to program information and monthly/quarterly duties of different officers for reports and etc.

It is the time of the year when, after Post elections are complete, the Post submits its election report. If **you submit it electronically on the OMS then “Please”, double check the addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses for each name on that report!** This is very essential as that is where we get the information for the Post Roster books. If the Post does not have the capability of submitting it on OMS, then mail it to us at Department HQ and we will submit it for you. Do not mail it to National, because if a mistake is made, they will contact your Department Headquarters to fix it.

As a repeat side note, Posts do not have to Bond through the VFW/Tallman Insurance. They can be bonded by an outside Company, but, they must show proof that they are bonded and we need a copy of that proof at Kansas VFW Headquarters.

The employees at Kansas VFW headquarters work for you! If you are having trouble with programs, audits, or other problems pertaining to the VFW, contact us and we will do our best to assist you.

In Respectful Comradeship
Herb Schwartzkopf
Department of Kansas Adjutant/Quartermaster





State Chaplain

Greetings my fellow veterans, sisters and brothers,

I pray this article finds you making the best of your circumstances and realizing how blessed we are to be residents of the United States. This past year I have gotten involved in a Bible Study that is multi-ethnic and multi-culture. It has been a blessing to be a part of such a **diverse group that is able to come together as one to study God's Word.** It reminds me that we as members of the VFW and Auxiliary need to strive to come together and work as one.

Because of our different ethnic groups and different cultural background, we may have various ideas on what and how to do something. We need to consider the ideas of all and come to a compromise that all can agree on and get the job done. Our task is too important to allow petty jealousies or trivial personalities to get in the way and influence our deliberations. May God richly bless each of you as to uphold loyalty to our organization. As we do, we will be unselfishly serving out veterans and our communities promoting patriotism, meeting needs and leaving an impression that is positive.

Chaplain Jim 913-302-7620

Jim Jenkins for State Chaplain

I am asking for your support for another year to serve as your State Chaplain. I am here to serve and help the veterans of the State of Kansas. May God bless our Convention in Hutchinson in June. See you there!



State Inspector

Comrades,

Next month we will be completing our 2018-2019 business year. It has been a very busy and successful year for all of us. I congratulate all Comrades in this endeavor to serve the Veterans of Kansas.

I would like to offer my congratulations to all the Posts and Districts in the State of Kansas that reached or exceeded 100% Membership this year.

I would like to reiterate my philosophy that the State Inspection Program is a three tiered program of Education, Support and Compliance. The goal is to ensure our Posts and the respective officers of these posts are provided the education, support, and tools necessary to be successful.

Effective and complete Quarterly Audits are important for the survival of a Post. Posts should be aware of the fact that if they suffer a financial loss due to a bonded employee or officer, the first thing the insurance carrier will do when evaluating the claimed loss is to review quarterly audits to determine they were properly conducted and well documented. Missing signatures, incomplete or poor financial records or other anomalies could lead to disapproval of the claimed loss. It is my experience that the primary cause for a Post to lose its Non-Profit status is failure to file a Form 990 with the IRS for three consecutive years. The incorporation of a VFW Post offers legal protection to the elected **officers from personal financial liability for a post's debts or financial obligations. These items are on the Post and District Inspection forms to be reviewed.** We as an organization have an obligation in our leadership roles to assist and support our Posts to the best of our abilities to identify problem areas and offer assistance when necessary. Many of these pitfalls can be avoided with an effective Inspection Program built and conducted to have education and assistance as the main goals. After completing the review of every Post Inspection form completed last fall and each of the Quarterly Trustee audits received during the year I have determined the most common errors in these documents that we should all strive to improve upon. This will help insure our Posts remain strong and viable. The Post Inspection form and Trustee Audits are the two main source documents to determine where education is needed. Education is the key to being a successful.

James Ratcliff
State Inspector





State Judge Advocate

Comrades,

By the time you read this all of the officers of both the Posts and Districts should be installed and ready to work. They will be able to hit the ground running to promote all of the programs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Congratulations to all the officers and wish you all a very successful year.

A reminder that if your Post or District election report is not received by Dept. before State Convention you will be deprived of all representation until such time that you correct this as well as audit reports quartermaster bond monies owed to Dept. or National.

If any questions on any of this ask Dept. HQ what you are missing.

Again Good Luck to all.

As some of you have heard there will possible be a new Judge Advocate this year and I would like to take this time to thank all who have supported me thru out the past years as your Judge Advocate. It has been my honor to have served you. Please give the new Judge the same support that you have given me.

Congrats to all who may have won a Commander in Chief's Challenge. Keep up the good things that you do each and every day.

Bob Cox
State JAG
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

National Council Member

Comrades,

On the 3rd 4th and 5th of April I went on the annual hospital tour hopefully it will continue into the future. Robin Ray State Surgeon, Jim Jenkins State Chaplain and myself started in Leavenworth toured the campus and received a briefing about all of the construction and the different wings etc. that were being remodeled to fit specific issues such as Women's Health, addiction rehab dementia etc. While there we were able to visit with some patients and listen to there believes about the V.A. care they were receiving.

On to Topeka State Inspector joined as well as Cootie rep. again briefing followed by a tour of hospital and able to visit with patients.

Thurs.. Wichita Vet Center with visit and Q and A about there mission for the veterans that come in to see them. Then to Bob Dole V.A. for beefing and tour and again visit with patients. On to Winfield Soldiers Home and briefing and tour of facility with time again to ask questions and visits with veterans.

Friday Fort Dodge Soldiers Home Dodge City another briefing and tour with again visitation with some of the veterans. State Inspector and Chief of Staff joined us.

All in all I believe that we had a productive tour. Hopefully lit will just grow and be better attended . This year was too many things going on with our state leadership and we had to work around that.

As many of you know that the first part of March was the Washington conference and parade of winners for PP an VOD our state winner received la 2500 hundred dollar scholarship and a laptop. Storm the hill mission I believe got many of our objectives across to our senators and representatives and hopefully they will proceed with these for all veterans and veterans issues in the future. The big push was for the passage of the Blue Water Navy Act and all toxic exposure issues.

Kansas had a large group attending meetings with congressmen. A big thank you goes out to Cheyne Worley for his efforts to make this happen.

In Comradeship
Bob Cox
KSNM

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS





State Chief of Staff

Team Kansas VFW and Auxiliary,

We are headed for the finish line and need a few more members to be 100% as a TEAM. About 38 for VFW and 200 for Auxiliary. **Let's finish this year in a blaze of glory.**

Post issues are still going on. Most problems come from members not knowing what the rules are or just not following them. Some members are just burned out. Get together and make yourself proud of what you can accomplish as a team. Read the National By-Laws, State By-Laws and Post By-Laws to be sure everything is being done correctly.

Always remember District Officers and State Officers are here to help the Post's. If you need help, call someone and ask questions. As the Commander say's "We can't help you if you don't ask."

This is my last article as Chief of Staff and it has been a fast and busy year. Thanks to all who have participated in Training for VFW Programs and How to do Business.

The District Conventions are over and new District Officers elected. Post Elections are finished and all election reports need to be to Department and National by June 1. All Post officers need to be installed before the Department Convention.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at Department Convention in Hutchinson on June 7-9, 2019.

My contact information is: Email gmarvin@gbta.net Phone 785-222-6748
Address Gerald Marvin PO Box 37 La Crosse, Ks 67548. Please get ahold of me if you need help.

GO TEAM KANSAS

Please help Commander Pat Briggs and President Kristi Meid meet their goals of 100% by June 30, 2019.

Gerald Marvin

Chief of Staff



Past State Commander

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters of the VFW and VFW Aux.,

Here we are on the threshold of another year. This has been a prosperous and busy year for our VFW.

We have kept pushing on our programs, and making a difference on membership. It keeps getting better.

District Conventions and electing new officers, and Department convention and electing new officers is just around the corner.

We have to support our new Department, District, and Post Officers. Give all the help, council, and encouragement that we can.

It is beneficial to our VFW and Auxiliary. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Hutch.

Wear RED on Fridays,

Yours in Comradeship,

Michael B Holland

Past State Commander





1st District Commander

1st District continues to strive to meet our membership goals. As a District we are already over **100% and we currently have nine Posts over the 100% mark. We won't slow down until we have all 16 Posts over 100%.** Several of our Posts are All-State Eligible and at least one Post is currently All-American eligible as is the District.

Congratulation to our newly elected officers for 2019-2020. Comrade Mike Hare, Post 1367, Holton will be the District Commander, Comrade Tom Poulter, Post 56, Leavenworth, will be our Sr. Vice Commander, and Comrade Bob Cooper, Post 9271, will serve as our Jr. Vice Commander.

Additionally, Jim Worsley, Post 1650, will continue as our Quartermaster, Jamie Cox, Post 56, will be the District Adjutant, and Art Brennan, Post 1650, is the Chaplain, Ken Romine, Post 56, will be the Judge Advocate, and Jeffrey Falley, Post 9271, is our new Surgeon. Special thanks to others who have volunteered to serve as program chairpersons throughout the year.

It has been a great year for the District with record numbers of participants in the various VFW Programs throughout the year. My thanks to all the Program Chairpersons and Post leaders who made these activities so successful. We also had two family members from the District selected for the State Endowment Scholarships. All our Posts are focused on Memorial Day events and Buddy Poppy distribution during the month of May.

Community Service was a strong point for the District with over \$40,000 donated, 1,600 volunteer hours, and 116,000 miles logged. We are pushing for a strong showing in VMS donations to the Vander Clute Ride and several of our Riders are planning to make the trip to Orlando for the National Convention in July.

It has been my honor to serve as the District Commander this past year. I continue to be amazed at the tremendous dedication to Veterans, their families, and our communities by all the Posts in the District.

In Comradeship,
Steve Davis, 1st District Commander

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3rd District Commander

As I end another term as District Commander, although sadly we lost another post in the 3rd District, I am pleased with the progress we have made. But we still have a lot of work to do. We need to continue to support our individual posts and speak to every person, man or woman, we meet that might be eligible or know someone that is eligible for the VFW or Auxiliary. And inform them how the VFW continues to insure we as veterans have the benefits we have and is always striving to improve. I'm still surprised at the number of veterans that don't know what the VFW is about. There may be many that thought as I did for a lot of years. If I support the canteen, I am doing everything I can to help the VFW. Every time I meet a person I think might be eligible for the VFW I get on my "soap box" and inform them as best I can what the VFW does for them and will do for them. If I don't know the answer to a question I will contact someone that does.

Also, just a reminder. We are approaching the elections. Please, if you are elected to a position, **DO THE BEST JOB YOU CAN DO**, whether you had planned on that position or not.

Yours in Comradeship,
Charlie Cravens

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4th District Commander

Hello Everybody,

I first like to thank you all for the Hard work that you comrades have done to make this year a successful year for the Post, District and the State. 4th District has 17 Post that reached 100%. The District is over 100% and the State is closing in on it, but the year is not finish yet. We need to continue to seek out new, reinstated and continuous members. We have seven posts that made All State and District made All State. We need to continue to push to make All American. We can do it.

We have had post come together to support each other; I like to see more of it. That shows the nonmembers we are a family and will help convince them to join. We have had our elections and I hope to see the Post push as hard to be a team for Dave Ebersole as you have for me. Congratulations to the New officers and I wish you a great year.

Vince Van Cleave,
4th District Commander

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5th District Commander

Comrades,

Congratulations to all of you in the 5th District on being selected All State and I also congratulate Haysville Post 6957 for making All State and Derby Post 7253 and Commander Jay Boyle for being **selected "All State Captain"**. **I couldn't be more proud of "all of you" in the 5th District** when it comes to Membership. At the time of writing this our District has 10 Post out of 16 that are at 100% or more in Membership and we are currently as a District at 101.11%. That is outstanding. Your efforts as well as others throughout the Department have really shown this year. The Department only needs 38 more Members to be 100%. Please keep up the great work and let us get the Department to the 100%+ mark in Membership.

It has been a been a great honor serving as your District Commander the past two years. I am very fortunate to have had two Great Auxiliary Presidents to work with and to have some great mentors throughout the Department. I can rest easy knowing that Sr. Vice Commander Vance Hill and Jr. Vice Commander John Herrman are coming in behind me. They have done an Outstanding job and have seen the good and not so good things about being a District Commander the last two years. They have learned and are well prepared for whatever challenges lie ahead to keep our District on track.

Any success I may get credited for as a District Commander, I can honestly say it is a true reflection on all of you and you deserve the credit for doing the work of this great organization. Thank you for letting me serve you.

In Comradeship,

Terry Fletcher
Dept. of KS. 5th District Commander

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7th District Commander

Comrades and Sisters,

It has been a great year. We did slide to 27th in the running for All-American, so again MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP. Hope to see everyone at Ft. Dodge for Loyalty Day at 11:30 AM on 5 MAY 19.

I am a candidate for Department Surgeon. I will appreciate your support. See you in Hutchinson 7-9 June 19 for Department Convention.



James SARGE Langley
7th District Commander
VFW POST 3166 JVC
(620) 544-1786
jlangle1966@gmail.com

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May 2019 State Legislative Bulletin Report

Comrades:

The Kansas Legislature is currently in recess until May 1, 2019. There has been very little if any committee activity since the last Bulletin report.

As stated in the February 2019 Bulletin Legislative Article, is the fact that Kansas VFW applied with the American Legion for an increase in the VCAP amount from \$600,00.00 to 700,000.00 which is split equally between the VFW and American Legion to fund our Service Offices which assist veterans in filing claims. Your Kansas Legislative Chairman provided written testimony that was read in both the House and Senate budget meetings. Our request was cut in half by the respective committees and the amount of \$650,000.00 to be split equally will be voted on by the full Senate and House and if passed will go to the Governor for her approval. It will be a small victory and much appreciated, but, rest assured if this does pass, we will be back next year asking for an additional \$25,000.00 per for the VFW and American Legion. This program is essential to all Kansas Veterans as it allows them the opportunity to get trained assistance from a professional in filing claims or appeals. As of April 16, 2019, this has yet to be passed. Write, email, or call your Kansas Legislator and tell them you want the Budget for the new fiscal year passed with the VCAP monies intact.

To repeat from earlier articles, make sure that you attend town hall meetings held by State Legislators and U.S Senators and Representatives. Make sure you take time to introduce yourself before or after the meeting so they know you personally and yes, “Wear your VFW cover”, so they know whom you represent. Remember, it is your right to disagree, but do so respectfully!

In Comradeship

Herb Schwartzkopf

Kansas VFW Legislative Chairman





VFW NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR STATE CONVENTION

John E. Hamilton
Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

John E. Hamilton was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 25, 2012, at the 113th VFW National Convention in Reno, Nev.

In July 2013 he was appointed Adjutant General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a position he held until his retirement in 2016.

Since his retirement from VFW National Headquarters in 2016, he is currently serving as executive director of Florida's Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation.

John served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1968 to 1970, including a tour in Vietnam. His decorations include three Purple Hearts, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Gallantry Cross Color, Republic of Vietnam Unit Citation Civil Actions Color (First Class) and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.



He joined the VFW in 1974 at Post 7909 in Jacksonville, Fla., where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served the VFW in many leadership positions, including the National Council of Administration from 1989 to 1991, and as Florida's Department Commander from 1987 to 1988. He served on the board of the VFW National Home from 2002 to 2008 and as its president from 2004 to 2005. He also served as Supreme Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie from 1992 to 1993.

John graduated with honors from Georgia Military Academy in 1967. He worked as a professional wrestler throughout the United States and the world for 15 years as Johnny Montana (also known as "Dr. Death"), along with other names and identities.

He was named Florida's Young Veteran of the Year in 1981. John served as a commissioner on the United States World War I Centennial Commission board located in Washington, D.C., from 2014 to 2016, and served on the board of the World War I Museum located in Kansas City, Mo., from 2011 to 2016. He has been honored by Presidents Jimmy Carter and George H. W. Bush for his outstanding community service and leadership.

John is a member of the Military Order of the Cootie, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, AMVETS, Fleet Reserve Association, and the Semper Fidelis Society.

He resides in Crestview, Fla.



The
Kansas Bulletin

2019 Department Elections

Section 516 of our National By-laws and Manual of Procedure states, in part: (a) The elective officers of each Department shall be a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Surgeon and Chaplain.

In addition to those offices required by our National By-laws to be elected at our annual Department Convention, we will also be electing one 5 year member of the VFW Endowment Association, one 3 year member of the Board of Directors for the Convention Corporation and one 5 year member for the Veterans Service Committee.

Department elections will be held at the State Convention in Hutchinson on Sunday, June 9, 2019.

Delegate voting strength of a Post is determined by one delegate for each thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post as of the end of April 2019. Additionally, Past Commanders-in-Chief, National Council Members, the Department Commander, all Past Department Commanders (who are members in good standing of Posts within the Department), all elected officers of the Department, the Chief of Staff, the Inspector, all District Commanders and all Post Commanders, shall be entitled to one vote. Any individual possessing more than one qualification to vote at the Department Convention shall have no more than one vote.

Any Post in arrears for National or Department dues, poppy money, supply money, or other financial obligations, failing to have their Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703 of the National By-Laws, failing to ensure the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709 or failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit or Post Election Report shall be deprived of all representation at Department Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

The following officers are elected positions to be filled.

Commander

Senior Vice Commander

Junior Vice Commander

Quartermaster

Judge Advocate

Surgeon

Chaplain

Convention Corporation – 3 year

Endowment Association – 5 year

Veterans Service Committee – 5 year



2019
STATE CONVENTION COMMITTEES
ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ANY COMMITTEE MEETING

RESOLUTION/BY-LAW COMMITTEE

Chairman – Bobby Cox / Vice – Gerald Marvin

Steven Davis	Terry Fletcher
Mike Petersen	Richard Wahlmeier
Charlie Cravens	Jim Langley
Vince VanCleave	

RULES OF ORDER COMMITTEE

Chairman – Clyde Lindsey

**COMMUNITY SERVICE &
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Chairman – Ken Allred / Vice – Cheyne Worley

Tom Poulter	John Davoren
Greg Goode	John Herrman
Lisa Snyder	David Calvin
Daniel Watkins	Terry Warner

**VETERANS SERVICE &
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Chairman – Lee Hursey / Vice – Dallas Love

Allen Barnes	Jim Denison
Roy Taylor	Fred Churchill
Jim Jenkins	Todd Schroeder
David Tinsley	David Kennedy
James Sanchez	Michael Holland
Bill Gale	James Ratcliff
Robin Ray	Leslie Clayton
Gerald Marvin	Bruce Fischbach

KANSAS BY-LAW CHANGES

ARTICLE II—GOVERNING BODY

SEC. 3: The elected positions of this Department shall be the Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain, Judge Advocate and Surgeon. The appointed positions shall be Adjutant, Inspector, Chief of Staff, Officers of the Day; with approval by the Council of Administration.

ARTICLE IV—DEPARTMENT COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 1: The Council of Administration shall be Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, Adjutant/Quartermaster, Chaplain, Judge Advocate, Chief of Staff, Inspector, Surgeon, All District Commanders and the Immediate Past Department Commander.

ARTICLE V—PER CAPITA TAX

SEC. 2: Each Post of the Department shall collect one dollar (\$1.00) from new members on a one time assessment of all new members of their respective Posts, to be transmitted to Department Headquarters.



FEDERAL CIRCUIT RULES IN FAVOR OF BLUE WATER CLAIMANT IN HERBICIDE EXPOSURE CASE

On January 29, 2019, the Federal Circuit, in a decision *Procopio v. Wilkie*, (<https://www.va.gov/shiplist-agent-orange.pdf>) overturned their previous decision in *Haas v. Peake*, restoring presumptive service connected compensation for herbicide related conditions to Blue Water Navy Veterans who served within the territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

This means that any veteran who can show they served within the 12 nautical miles of the landmass of Vietnam during the presumptive period (January 9, 1962 through May 7, 1975), is once again eligible for presumptive service connection for any of the herbicide-related diseases listed in 38 CFR 3.309(e).

The court reasoned that Congress intended in the Agent Orange Act of 1991 to include veterans who served in the territorial seas **in the definition of “service in the Republic of Vietnam”, so the *Nehmer* effective date rules should also apply to these veterans.** The court stated that their colleagues on the court in 2007 failed to consider all the applicable law and had made the wrong decision over a decade ago in *Haas*.

If this ruling stands, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans will be entitled to receive the same presumptive compensation benefits, DIC, health care and ancillary benefits just as “boots on the ground” Vietnam Veterans.

However, VA may choose to appeal to the Supreme Court. In that case, all such cases should be “stayed” at the VA, meaning they will not be worked on or decided until the Supreme Court declines to review or makes a decision.

We will provide further updates when VA announces it will appeal this ruling or not. If VA does not appeal the ruling, we should see additions to the M21-1 and/or proposed regulations to define how VA will be adjudicating claims and appeals for Blue Water Navy veterans.

What this means for you:

This case adds presumptive service connection for Blue Water Navy veterans. Unless and until other action is taken by VA to appeal, or Congress to change the law, this is the law of the land.

Please take action to CONTINUE all appeals that are currently pending for Blue Water Navy veterans, whether they are in RAMP or the Legacy appeals process.

Please FILE or REOPEN claims for herbicide related diseases for Blue Water Navy veterans.

Please REFERENCE this case if you have a hearing coming up or are filing paperwork on such a claim.

Some practical considerations:

You may need proof that your veteran served within the territorial seas (12 nautical miles) of Vietnam. VA’s [Agent Orange Ships List](https://www.va.gov/shiplist-agent-orange.pdf) (<https://www.va.gov/shiplist-agent-orange.pdf>) includes many ships that docked in Vietnam. Veterans who went ashore were previously covered by the presumption, but now any veteran aboard those ships is eligible.

Veterans whose ships docked in Vietnamese harbors such as Da Nang, Qui Nhon, Ganh Rai, Nha Trang, Vung Tau, and An Thoi, will be covered.

Veterans whose ships were involved in combat operations providing gunfire support and coastal interdiction will most likely be covered as they were close to shore.

Veterans who can prove their ship was in the territorial seas, by using ship logs, will be covered.

What about the bills pending in Congress?

The court case does not include any expansions of the law for veterans who served in Thailand, the Korean DMZ, or locations more than 12 miles offshore of the landmass of Vietnam.

The currently pending bill in Congress, “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019”, [H.R. 299](https://www.congress.gov/bills/116th-congress/house-bill/299/text), (<https://www.congress.gov/bills/116th-congress/house-bill/299/text>) is more expansive, and includes presumptive service connection for additional Korean DMZ veterans during the Vietnam War, and includes spina bifida benefits for children of veterans with Thailand service during the Vietnam War. It also requires VA to provide updated research on Gulf War related illnesses. This bill still needs support to assist those veterans.

David Kennedy
VFW Veterans Svc Officer
5500 E. Kellogg, Wichita, KS 67208
(316)688-6801
david.kennedy6@va.gov



2019
VFW CONVENTION



Department of Kansas, VFW
P.O. Box 1008
Topeka, KS 66601-1008
PH: 785-272-6463

This is a great way for Posts, Auxiliaries, individuals & businesses, to support the State Convention by advertising in the Annual State Convention Program Book.

Advertising space is provided in the 2018 VFW State Convention Souvenir Program Book. Advertising copy must reach Department Headquarters by **April 15, 2019**

PLEASE NOTE! ADD \$10.00 PER PHOTO TO COST OF AD

DO NOT TAPE OR STAPLE AD
ORDER FORM

SOLD

_____	Outside Back Cover -	\$300.00
_____	Inside Back Cover -	\$200.00
_____	Inside Front Cover -	\$200.00
_____	Full Page Inside -	\$100.00
_____	1/2 Page Inside -	\$ 50.00
_____	1/4 Page Inside -	\$ 30.00
_____	Business Card -	\$ 20.00
_____	PHOTO	- \$ 10.00 EACH

ADVERTISEMENT FOR: **COMPANY NAME, PERSONS NAME, POST/AUX # & NAME**

_____ CITY: _____

Signature _____ (_____) _____
(Person placing ad & phone number)

Make checks payable to **Department of Kansas, VFW** and mail to Post Office Box 1008, Topeka, Kansas 66601-1008.

Signature _____
(Person selling advertisement)

— AD SIZES ON REVERSE —

DEPT HQ USE ONLY

REC HQS _____ PAID _____ CA/CK# _____



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



The
Kansas Bulletin

Suggestions of copy points to include in your ad

Visit our website at _____
_____ years in business
Visa and Mastercard accepted
Hours of operation
Featured products and services-Name Brands
Directions to locations
Phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc
Specializing in _____
Warranties, guarantees
See our ad in the Yellow Pages
_____ salutes our Veterans
_____ welcomes VFW Convention
members
Your Copy Points _____

**PLEASE NOTE!
ADD \$10.00 FOR EACH PHOTO**

2019 VFW CONVENTION AD BOOK BOOSTER PAGE

Each booster space may contain up to *30 characters and spaces* for the cost of \$5.00 per line. Please make checks payable to the Department of Kansas VFW and send to P.O. Box 1008, Topeka, KS 66601-1008.

Please fill out the form below for INDIVIDUAL NAMES, POSTS and/or AUXILIARIES and BUSINESSES. This is a great way to support the State Convention. Deadline is April 15, 2019.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

DEPT HQ USE ONLY REC _____ REC FROM _____ PAID _____ CK# / CA _____



DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
2019 CONVENTION
JUNE 7-9 - HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

YOU MUST TELEPHONE
THE MOTEL LISTED BELOW FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS

(Please state this is for the VFW Department Convention to receive our group rates)

***** RESERVATIONS DEADLINE MAY 23, 2019 *****

Atrium Hotel
1400 North Lorraine
\$65.00 + TAX
1-800-362-5018

SAVE THIS TOP PART

MAIL THIS BOTTOM PART

2019 DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS V.F.W. CONVENTION - JUNE 7-9 - HUTCHINSON, KS

PRE-REGISTRATION & TICKETS **MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MAY 24, 2019**

PLEASE REGISTER BY **COUPLE (2 WITH SAME LAST NAME)** OR **1 INDIVIDUAL** PER FORM

PRINT
NAME _____ SPOUSE _____
Last First
MAILING
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____ DAY PHONE (____) _____ EMAIL _____

(CIRCLE AFFILIATION)

VFW/////AUX POST # _____ TITLE _____

SPOUSE

VFW/////AUX POST # _____ TITLE _____

PRE-REGISTER BY MAY 24TH AND SAVE \$5.00 PER PACKET ONLY - SEND \$40.00

Number of

_____ Registration	\$ 15.00
_____ Saturday Banquet	\$ 25.00
_____ Saturday Dance	\$ 5.00
_____ Packet per person	\$ 45.00

MAIL CHECK & REQUEST TO:
DEPARTMENT OF KS, VFW
PO BOX 1008
TOPEKA, KS 66601-1008

REFUNDS ONLY when CONFIRMED CANCELLATION with DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS by MAY 24th
NO REFUNDS FOR OVERPAYMENTS

REC HQ'S _____ PAID _____ CA/CK # _____ REG # _____



The
Kansas Bulletin

June 7-9, 2019

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 6, 2019

- 6:30 PM - Budget & Finance Meeting - *Ambassador*
- 6:30 PM - Auxiliary Audit - *Apollo II*

Friday, June 7, 2019

- 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM - Registration -
- 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM - Auxiliary Council Meeting - *Endeavor III*
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AUXILIARY COUNCIL MEETING -
- Auxiliary Floor Practice - *Endeavor III*
- 10:00 AM - Buddy Poppy & Record Book Displays - *Mercury*
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Convention Corporation Meeting - *Ambassador*
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Resolution Meeting - *Endeavor I*
- 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM - Rules of Order Committee - *Endeavor I*
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM - VFW Council Meeting - *Endeavor I*
- 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM - Lunch - *Buffet Available at Hotel*
- 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM - VFW Business Meeting - *Endeavor I*
 - (a) Assign Resolutions - Time & Place for meetings
 - (b) Introductions of guests
 - (c) Nomination of Officers
 - (d) Candidates Forum
- 4:00 PM - Veterans Service Meeting - *Endeavor I*
- 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM - Auxiliary Business Meeting - *Endeavor III*
 - (a) Auxiliary Credentials
 - (b) Opening Ceremony
 - (c) Nomination of Officers
 - (d) Candidates Forum
- 5:00 PM - Hospital Workshop - *Endeavor III*
- 6:00 PM - VFW District Caucuses - **District Commander's Choice**
- 6:15 PM - Past State Auxiliary Presidents Dinner - *Ambassador*
Host Post 1361 Open

Saturday, June 8, 2019

- 8:00 AM - Memorial Service - VFW & Auxiliary - *Endeavor II*
- 8:00 AM - Buddy Poppy & Record Book on Display by 12:00 Noon - *Mercury*
- 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM - Registration -
- 9:00 AM - Auxiliary Business Meeting - *Endeavor III*
 - (a) Business Meeting Reconvenes
 - (b) Committee Reports
- 9:00 AM - VFW Business Meeting - *Endeavor I*
 - (a) Committee Reports
 - (b) Introduction of guests
- 11:30 AM - Past State Commanders Luncheon - *Ambassador*
- 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM - Lunch - *Buffet Available at Hotel*
- 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Auxiliary Business Meeting - *Endeavor III*
 - (a) Committee Reports Resume
 - (b) Nomination of Officers
- 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM - VFW Business Meeting - *Endeavor I*
 - (a) Other unfinished business
 - (b) Nomination of Officers
- 3:00 PM - Awards & Raffle Winners - *Endeavor I*
- 6:30 PM - Convention Banquet - *Endeavor II*
- 8:00 PM - Dance - *Host Post 1361*

Sunday, June 9, 2019

- 7:30 AM - Past Commanders Club Breakfast - *Apollo II*
- 9:00 AM - Closing of Auxiliary Credentials - *Endeavor III*
- 9:00 AM - VFW Business Meeting - *Endeavor I*
 - (a) Nomination, Election & Installation of Officers
- 9:15 AM - Auxiliary Business Meeting - *Endeavor III*
 - (a) Nomination, Election & Installation of Officers
- IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING INSTALLATION OF AUXILIARY OFFICERS
- Auxiliary Council of Administration Meeting - *Endeavor III*
- IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING INSTALLATION OF VFW OFFICERS
- Endowment Association Meeting - *Ambassador*
- Convention Corporation Meeting - *Endeavor I*
- 11:00 AM - Lunch - On your own
- 12:00 PM - VFW Department Council of Administration & Luncheon - *Mercury*



CANDIDATES FOR STATE CONVENTION



Lee Hursey
for State Commander



Jim Jenkins
for Chaplain



Herb Schwartzkopf
for Adj/Quartermaster



I am declaring my candidacy for the position of Department of Kansas Senior Vice Commander. After my year as Junior Vice Commander I feel that I am ready to move forward to another level with Team Kansas.

Ken Allred
Junior Vice Commander



Todd Hokanson
for Jr. Vice Commander



Jim Langley
for Surgeon

If I am elected as Department Surgeon, I will put my heart and soul into the job, as I have always done with previous chairs that I have held. I will do my best to uphold the highest standards that previous Surgeons have brought to this position. I work for you.



Ken Romine
for Judge Advocate



Lynn Rolf Jr.
for Convention Corp





Volunteers Needed
for the
75th Commemoration
of
D-Day

Eisenhower Museum Chapel
June 5th
8:30 PM to Midnight

This is an Honor for us to be requested by the Eisenhower Museum Complex to participate in their recognition of the 75th Commemoration of D-Day

Contact Sr. Vice Commander Lee Hursey
at 316-644-4441 to sign up your Post, District, or
individual name for this VIGIL.
Can be reported as Veterans Service



SPRING HILL GOLF COURSE-ARKANSAS CITY, KS

VFW POST 1254

4 PERSON SCRAMBLE

Saturday & Sunday, August 17 & 18, 2019

7:30 AM & 1:30 PM TEE-OFF TIMES

ENTRY FEE **\$300.00** PER TEAM (INCLUDES MULLIGANS SATURDAY)

"NO PARTIAL ENTRIES" (CASH OR CHECK MUST ACCOMPANY ENTRY FORM)

\$200.00 FOR ALL HOLE-IN-ONES - GENE GRAHAM & FRANK WHITE MEMORIAL

CASH PRIZES

LIMITED TO THE 1ST 36 ENTRIES

"PLAYERS DO NOT HAVE TO BE VFW MEMBERS"

MAIL, TAKE ENTRY TO VFW 1254, OR TAKE ENTRY TO

SPRING HILL GOLF COURSE

CONTACT SPRING HILL GOLF TO RESERVE CART: **620-441-4330**

CHECK **AM** OR **PM** TEE-TIMES

"PLEASE READ THIS ENTRY FORM AGAIN!"

(SEND ONLY THE BOTTOM HALF FOR ENTRY)

MAIL ENTRIES: VFW POST 1254, 3212 N. SUMMIT, ARKANSAS CITY, KS 67005

TEAM CONTACT & PHONE: (1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

\$300 PER TEAM- **"NO PARTIAL ENTRIES"** (_____) AM _____ P.M. _____



If your Post would like to purchase Red Friday T-shirts long or short sleeve, through Headquarters give Kim a call and she will take care of you, minimum pre-paid order of 36 shirts. 785-272-6463



Commander-In-Chief BJ Lawrence dropped in to Post 56 Rider meeting to thank them all for a job well done!



[VFW Post 7397 Car & Bike Show](#)
Saturday June 1 10:00 am

[VFW Post 3166 Liberal Kansas](#)

Texas Holdem at the VFW every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Starts at 7. Food served most nights starting at 6.

Continued prayers for all comrades
and auxiliary we have lost and
to all Comrades deployed





Dept. Law Enforcement Officer of the year Alvin Babcock. Pictured left to right past State Commander Phil Irby, next is Mayor Pat Landes, next to him is awardee Alvin Babcock followed by Chief Dan Breci, 4th District Commander Vince VanCleave, and Post 8773 Commander Brian Coleman. The presentation was made at the Junction City Commission Meeting 2/19/19.



VFW Post 1650 held a vendor sale at the post to bring the community into the post with the potential to gain new members and have the M1 Grand fundraiser and Buddy Poppies available to raise funds for their respective funds. The vendors were selling: Avon, Mary Kay, Sentsy, garage sale items from post Veterans, various baked goods jams, fudge, cheese cakes, banana bread, Baseball cards, Military Items from Karl, wreaths, MOAA had a table, for the cold weather we had a decent amount of traffic come through the post and the Ladies of the Moose had some wonderful chili and other goodies available in the kitchen.



Kenneth Linot, Derby Firefighter II, center left, was selected as the Kansas VFW 2018-19 State Firefighter of the Year. With him is, from left, Mayor Randy White; Jay Boyle, VFW Post 7253 Commander; and Vance Hill, VFW Fifth District senior vice commander.



AUXILIARY NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR STATE CONVENTION



Chrissy Harlan

Scholarships Ambassador 2018-2019

Chrissy Harlan of Tucson, Ariz., currently serves the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Auxiliary as the 2018-2019 National Ambassador for the Scholarships Program.



A Life Member of Casas Adobes Auxiliary 10188, she joined on the eligibility of her husband, Gary, who served in the United States Army in Vietnam from 1968-1969. She has served the organization in many capacities, including District and Department President, and she was the Department Chief of Staff in Arizona from 2016-2018.

Chrissy has also served as the Western Conference chairman for the Veterans & Family Support program in 2016-2017 and as the Western Conference chairman for the Americanism program in 2017-2018.

She enjoys crafts, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends.

Chrissy's family includes five children, one of whom served two terms in Afghanistan with the Army National Guard, and eight grandchildren.



Auxiliary News

STATE PRESIDENT



Greetings Auxiliary Members:

Wow, the year is just rolling right along and will be over before we know it. In March I had the honor of escorting our Department of Kansas Voice of Democracy Winner, Alyssa Troyer at the Parade of Winners in Alexandria, Virginia. It was an exciting event as we waited through the announcements of winners to see Alyssa receive a \$2,500 scholarship. Promoting our scholarship programs benefits the youth of our communities and is also a great recruiting tool. A week later it was off to Tucson, Arizona for National Mid-Year Conference and the Department Presidents Night Out hosted by National President Sandi Kreibel. We had a total of 8 members present and a fun time was had by all. The National Program Ambassadors put on a Family Freedom Festival complete with games, giveaways, program information and grilled hot dogs. Information about hosting a Family Freedom Festival is available on the

National website under Resources. This is a great publicity for your Post and Auxiliary as well as a recruiting tool.

As the year comes to an end make sure your Auxiliary has made the obligatory donations to Health and Happiness, Cancer Aid & Research, General Hospital Fund, National Military Service, National Home Kitchen Renovation Project, etc. Supporting our Auxiliary and VFW programs helps our Veterans, families, and youth and helps maintain your non-profit status. Another worthy program is the Department of Kansas Patriotic Art Scholarship Escrow account; we need just under \$3,000 to sponsor a 9th National Patriotic Art Scholarship in the name of our very own Past National President Evelyn McCune.

I am very proud of the Department of Kansas VFW Auxiliary, you have met all the goals we had set; installation reports submitted, bonds paid, Auxiliary officer dues paid by 31 December 2018, bi-annual reporting. There is one more goal that we need to achieve and that is 100% plus membership, keep working on membership. There is still award money and monetary incentives for those Auxiliaries that reach 100% plus. Contact your unpaid Annual members and former members; keep asking friends, family, and acquaintances to join our wonderful organization. We can do it Team Kansas !!!!

Congratulations to all newly elected Auxiliary and District officers, hoping you all have a fun and successful year for 2019-2020.

Hope to see you all at Department Convention in Hutchinson in June and maybe I will be wearing that pink sparkly dress!!!

Always loyal,

Kristi Meid
Department President

Auxiliary News

STATE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT



Hello Team Kansas:

Gail Vance
Sr. Vice President
Dept of KS VFW Auxiliary

STATE JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT



Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

This year has flown by and what a great year we have had! It has been an honor serving as your Junior Vice President! It has been a very busy year and I have enjoyed all of it! It is so impressive to see all the awesome things that our auxiliaries have been doing for our veterans and their communities.

Congratulations to all newly elected officers! Thank you for taking these positions so our wonderful organization can continue to serve our veterans! It has been a pleasure serving you and I am learning more everyday. Looking forward to seeing you at the Department Convention in Hutchinson, Ks. in June, and if possible, please try to go to the National Convention in Orlando, Florida in July. There is so much to see and do!

I am looking forward to meeting new friends and traveling to visit more auxiliaries!

Keep up the Good Work!

Jane Ryser
Department Jr. Vice President



2018-2019 Department Officers

Commander

Patrick Briggs
1018 S Grand Ave
Lyons 67554
620-474-1896

Sr. Vice Commander

Lee Hursey
622 N Young St
Wichita 67212
316-644-4441

Jr. Vice Commander

Ken Allred
1452 Melrose Ln
Wichita 67212
316-721-3630

Adjutant/ Quartermaster

Herb Schwartzkopf
P.O. Box 1008
Topeka 66601-1008
785-272-6463

Judge Advocate/

National Council Member

Bob Cox
1504 Manchester Street
McPherson 67460
620-241-7475

Surgeon

Robin Ray
701 E 56th St S
Wichita 67216
316-522-7483

Chaplain

Jim Jenkins
647 N. Nettleton Avenue
Bonner Springs 66012
913-302-7620

Chief of Staff

Gerald Marvin
PO Box 37
LaCrosse 67548
785-222-6748

Inspector

James Ratcliff
109 E Yauger St
Lincoln 67455
620-253-0759

Past Department

Commander

Michael B. Holland
919 N 11th St
Arkansas City 67005
620-446-0045

District Commanders:

1st District

Steven Davis
2124 S 19th St
Leavenworth 66048
913-775-3840

2nd District

"Big" Mike Petersen
14622 W 85th Ter
Lenexa 66215
913-636-1527

3rd District

Charles Cravens
4769 182nd Rd
Winfield 67256
620-222-4846

4th District

Vince VanCleave
1513 Bel Air Dr
Junction City 66441
785-375-9442

5th District

Terry Fletcher
501 E Pecan Ln
Derby 67037
316-619-8193

6th District

Richard Wahlmeier
PO Box 31
Ellis 67637
785-726-1294

7th District

James Langley
PO Box 5
Rolla 67954
620-544-1786



About Us

Our mission is very simple. We foster camaraderie among United States veterans of conflicts overseas, we serve our veterans, the military, and the communities, and we advocate on behalf of all veterans. We ensure that veterans are respected for their service, receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for their sacrifices that they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

Our core values are to put the interests of our members first, to treat donors as partners in our cause. We promote patriotism, honor military service, and ensure the care of veterans and their families, and serve in our communities. We always promote a positive image of the VFW and respect the diversity of veteran opinions.

