

### Volume 90, Issue 1

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VFW Kansas Website

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"Underway Everyday for Veterans"

# State Commander Lee Hursey





August 2021



### **State Commander**

Comrades,

Again I thank you for putting your trust in me as your Department Commander. I believe as a team working together we can overcome all obstacles that will arise before us throughout the year.

The last two years have been hectic due to the Covid-19 pandemic not being able to recruit, meet new prospects, and making face to face meetings difficult. Now that the pandemic is basically over it is time we start our membership program now with full

force. Two years ago a record breaking amount of Post and Districts made 100% in their membership and it was phenomenal and I know we can do it again. Membership is your Post and Districts life blood. We are losing too many Post due to the lack of membership and Comrades not stepping up to elected positions and taking the helm. Don't let it happen to your Post.

The Department is now in a pilot group program for reporting Community Service to National Headquarters. Every night our Community Service reports are uploaded to the National office through our State Website automatically. It is essential that we document and report all the Community, Legislative, Youth, and Veteran Service that we do. Remember Community Service Reports help maintain our grant we receive from the Commission of Veterans Affairs Office in paying salaries to the Department Service Officers and maintaining their office and equipment.

Congratulations to all the Posts that achieved the status of All State in the Department and a shout out to a job well done to the few Posts that acquired the elite status of the National Commander's program of All American. These Posts can attest that working membership and promoting the State and National programs can bring great rewards.

The new 2021-2022 State programs will officially go into effect after the School of Instruction in WaKeeney, KS in August. I highly encourage everyone to attend. This is where you get the programs from the Chairman themselves and able to ask questions for clarification if needed. If you are not able to attend then attend your District Mid-Summer for the program information. All the 2021-2022 programs are listed on the State website. Also the Kansas State Fair schedule and the District times for the Eisenhower Vigil are listed under resources on the website.

As we returned from the Mid-Summer Council Meeting/School of Instruction in WaKeeney I want to thank all the Comrades who attended and made it a successful weekend. A lot of information on this years programs was presented in a short time and I thought that the chairmen did an outstanding job presenting them. Kudos to the Commander of Post 3449 for supplying a great luncheon and a wonderful banquet meal not to mention the evening's entertainment.

As I travel throughout the State this year I hope to meet with each and every one of you. I work for you and I want to make Kansas stand out from all the other Departments and with your help we can make Kansas successful.

In Comradeship, Lee Hursey Commander











### State Sr. Vice Commander

Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

We are beginning our endeavors for the 2021-2022 Program year for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I would like to start off by thanking the Men and Women in the Kansas VFW for selecting me to serve as your State Senior Vice Commander. We have a challenging year ahead of us. Last year we dealt with the disruption of our organization's activities due to Covid 19. We still have lingering effects from it. However, together we managed to maintain our mission of serving veterans needs, protecting benefits, working to improve medical treatment within the VA Medical system and assist them with issues that impact their families.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars really does do more for Veterans. It is the members at the post level in our communities across the state that are responsible for ALL WE DO! It requires each post to develop and implement a membership plan each year to foster the growth of the VFW to serve and assist veterans. I would like to encourage VFW members statewide to check out the "Membership Monday" webinars offered by VFW National organization. Each Membership Monday training topic is developed with the Post-level leadership in mind. Each of these sessions are intended to be live with ability for audience interaction. Training is open to every member of the VFW and Auxiliary. Each Membership Monday will be recorded and available for viewing for members who cannot attend the training live. These sessions are available at OMS under Membership Recruiting & Retention, VFW.org and additional inquiries or questions can be addressed to Corey Hunt, Associate Director – Post Development and Revitalization VFW National Headquarters, 816.968.2788. Additionally, as I receive the emails throughout the year with "JOIN ZOOM MEETING" login information I will forward them to District Commanders for dissemination as they deem appropriate. Lets have a great year. Reach out to veterans, talk to veterans about issues they find important, recruit them to help us serve all veterans.

Jim Ratcliff Sr. Vice Commander Dept. of Kansas VFW



### State Jr. Vice Commander

Comrades and Sisters,

First, I need to thank all that have supported, encouraged, gave words of wisdom, and functioned as mentors coming to this point in my VFW career as your Jr. Vice Commander. As I said when I was caucusing at Dept. Convention, you were not electing a JVC, but a Dept. Commander in a few short years. Immensely proud and honored to be part of the leadership of such a prestigious and honored organization.

The last 2 years as Dept. Surgeon I got to witness the passion and love that the members of the Dept. of Kansas VFW have. Even in the middle of a pandemic you were still doing events and helping those veterans in need. We need to continue this with the Community Activity reporting, now more than ever.

I was told by Commander Hursey at the picnic in Ransom that Kansas is one of nine states in a pilot program for Community Activity reporting. I know that you comrades are out there doing events, programs, helping Vets, community members and talking to legislatures every day, report it.

Just in case you did not know, the Veterans Service part of the Community Activities is what goes in to pay for our awesome service officers that bust their tails for the Veterans and gets them every benefit that they deserve. Kansas has easily the absolute best there is in the Service Officer category.

I want to be overwhelmed with your reports, make me earn my keep. Get them reports filled out and sent in. If there is anything I can do to help you with the reports, please do not hesitate to let me know. I am here for you, if I don't know the answers, but I know several P1'S-P? that can help find those answers. I am here to serve you. I am not going to speak for the other officers, but if you have an event or program that you would like a Dept. Officer at, I will do my best to attend.

Let us have a momentous year. Here is my contact information if you do not have it.

James SARGE Langley P.O. Box 5 Rolla, Kansas 67954 620.544.1786 Jlangley1966@gmail.com jvc@vfwks.org











# State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Comrades:

It is a new year and we are back to square one and it is time to start the processes all over, again.

First, your current Qm and officer bonds will expire on August 31, 2021, (in most cases). If you do not bond through Kansas VFW with Tallman Insurance Company and bond out with another company, that is not a problem. We just need a copy of your current bond on file here at Department Headquarters.

Check your election report to make sure it is complete and all of the addresses are up to date. This is where we get the information for our roster books for the Post Commander, Adjutant, and Quartermaster. If the election report Information is in error for those positions, then the information in the roster book will be incorrect. If it is, notify us at Headquarters so we can make corrections for the future. Also, make sure your Post address and meeting date and times are correct as we have had Department Commanders traveling the area that want to support the Post at a meeting and they show up and the date and time have been changed without notifying anyone. This change can be made on your election report.

Please, especially if you are new to the Quartermaster or Adjutant position or any new elected or appointed position and you do not understand what your job description may be, contact us and we will do our best to assist you or find someone that can.

Do not hesitate to visit our Kansas VFW Website which is vfwks.org where you can find out information on all of the programs, file a Community Service report, fill out a Post Surgeon's report, fill out a Post audit and find audit training, and many helpful other resources.

The employees at Department Headquarters work for you and are always willing to assist you if at all possible.

In Respectful Comradeship
Herb Schwartzkopf
Department of Ks. Adjutant/Quartermaster

## Legislative

### Comrades:

Comrades, even though there is not a lot going on in the halls of the State Capitol during this summer and fall period of 2021, a lot is going on that veterans need to be aware of and once they have researched the subject, contact their legislators and congressmen to voice their support or dissent.

An important note that effects all veterans indirectly is the new Secretary of the VA is trying to force all workers on VA grounds to be vaccinated. This directly effects our Kansas VFW Service Officers and this involves their personal well being and should be their choice, no matter what your opinion on the vaccination is.

The current Kansas VFW Commanders will be meeting with the new Executive Director of the KCVAO and the Veteran's liaison for Senator Roger Marshall's office to map out plans for positive action that should help the quality of life for our Kansas Veterans and their families.

We will email the District Commanders to disseminate among their District comrades any legislative information that needs to be passed on that we are made aware of.

The employees at Department Hq. work for you and are always willing to assist you if at all possible.

In Respectful Comradeship

Herb Schwartzkopf Department of Ks. Adjutant/Quartermaster Department Legislative Chairman





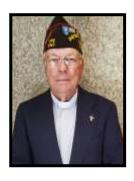






### **National Council Member for Kansas**

Patrick Briggs
Past State Commander
National Counsel of Administration Committee Member



# State Chaplain

Greetings VFW and Auxiliary and Friends. I would like to say "Thank You" for letting me be elected as your Department VFW Chaplain. I would like to give special recognition to Chaplain Jim Jenkins for all his help and advice in my being elected. Chaplain Jenkins continues to help me and advise me as I take on this new assignment. I am confident he will be around and continue to be my "Go To Chaplain."

My theme for this year is to practice a "Ministry of Presence." By that statement, I intend to supply our District and Post Chaplains with God's Guidance through Spiritual helps, materials, and classes on counseling and VFW Procedures at meetings and gatherings.

It is not difficult to realize and see that we have, as an Organization and Nation, slipped into disagreement and contention, and therefore are in danger of losing our focus on helping our Veterans.

Our Veteran suicide rate of 17 Veterans a day (2019) is unacceptable. Suicide has many avenues and paths that bring about hopelessness in our Veterans. I believe it can be greatly reduced through Prayer, helping our Veterans get through difficult times, and a genuine God Given Caring through our Chaplains.

However, trying to handle this horrible problem by ourselves is a process in futility. I will be providing our Chaplains with training and materials (Bibles and Books and Pamphlets) and work-shops. Our first work-shop will be held August 13-15, 2021, in Wakeeny, at our VFW School of Instruction. I would also encourage those attending the Chaplain Work-shop to bring some ideas and suggestions relating to how the VFW can better serve our Veterans.

I have also started a Web Page, "TheChaplainsCorner.net" for anyone that is needing help and guidance in helping our Veterans. It is available by copying the link above or by going to the VFWKS.org web page, click on "Resources" and look for "Chaplains Corner." It is a secure site and you may sign up without fear of your information being given out or sold.

I am excited to work with each of you and getting to make new Friends. It is time we got back to active, fun, patriotic, and genuinely helping our Veteran Brothers and Sisters in need.

One more point. All VFW Members are welcome to sit in on any of the work-shops and may receive training and materials whether you are a Chaplain or not. Our goal is to give our Veterans the Spiritual help and guidance they need.

God Bless You All, Chaplain Terry Warner ChaplainTerryWarner@outlook.com Cell = 785-259-9193











## **State Judge Advocate**

Greetings to the VFW and Auxiliary of the State of Kansas,

Department mid-summer school of Instruction was a success. We had very productive meetings at all levels. Now is the time to get the information through the districts and down to the posts. Do the programs and we will have a successful year.

The By-Laws of the National Organization along with the Post By-Laws govern your local Post. New by-laws will be available late September, be sure to get a copy for your post.

I have enjoyed my time as your Judge Advocate but have decided to try and cut back on some of the "irons in the fire." With that in mind, Bob Cox announced that he is running again for the position of Department Judge Advocate. Bob has my support and I feel he is the best comrade for the job. His goal is always to better the organization.

I had a great time in WaKeeney. The post did an excellent job of adapting and providing what we needed for a successful meeting. I send a big "Thank you" out to the post!

As always if questions arise and you want my input, do not hesitate to contact me.

Dallas Love, State Judge Advocate, 2021 - 2022



### **State Chief of Staff**

Greetings from your Chief of Staff. It's my honor again to serve Commander Lee and all our members again during the upcoming year. With recent events I want to say a few words from an old Vietnam Vet who saw and suffered our withdraw from Vietnam in 1975.

To all of our comrades, especially active duty, veterans and military families that served in Afghanistan, lost loved ones and left a part of yourself in Afghanistan, please please know, your service mattered. The Majority of your countrymen and women will forever be grateful. I know I am grateful for you. Reach out to your battle buddies if

you need to talk and may need any help whatsoever.

Let's have a banner year, work membership, work our VFW Programs, get along in your Posts--let's show everyone we are working to serve our veterans all over the state. Be safe .. be proud and I wish you success in the upcoming year.

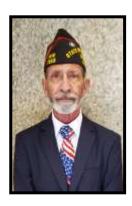
Lynn Rolf Jr. State Chief of Staff lynnwrolfjr@gmail.com 913-775-1998











State Surgeon
Terry Fletcher
State Surgeon
tfletcher1@cox.net
316-619-8193



**State Inspector** 

Comrades,

I hope everyone is doing well.

It was great seeing all of you again at the Dept. SOI.

If you have not secured bonding, please do so now. Bonding needs to be in place by September the 1<sup>st</sup>. Also, please make sure you have adequate bonding.

It's that time of year for Post Inspections. Please be prepared for your inspection by having all the required items ready at the time of inspection.

The District Inspectors along with myself are here to provide assistance, training, and support. Please reach out if we can assist you or answer any questions.

For the Emergency Services programs, please work with your local EMT, Firefighters, and Police for nominations.

In comradeship, Vance Hill State Inspector State Emergency Services Director











### 1st District Commander

Robert Cooper State 1st District Commander bcoop92@yahoo.com 913-709-4720

# 2nd District Commander

Greetings Comrades and members of the Auxiliary,

Hey all just recently completed the Department School of Instruction in WaKeeney, KS, August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and got some great information for the upcoming year.

Our District 2 School of Instruction, Mid-Summer is September 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00a at the Ottawa, KS post, Post 5901. Immediately following the event, the Auxiliary will be having a lunch. Hope to

see ALL POSTS there!

Prior to the meeting in conjunction with the D2 Inspector Mike Peterson, I will be handing out inspection packets and we will be scheduling inspection between September and November. All inspections much be done by the end of November.

The VFW will be hosting a booth at the State Fair in Hutchison, KS and District two has the Duty o September 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00a – 7:00p. We will have 10 tickets to maintain the booth. WFW and Auxiliary are welcome to attend. Please let me know if you can attend. This is the day after the D2 School of Instruction.

As it stands now the Eisenhower properties in Abilene are closed and Eisenhower Vigil is on hold due to Covid. That being said if it does open prior to October 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, District 2 will have the 1<sup>st</sup> watch 5:00p – 7:00p. VFW, Auxiliary and Scouts are invited to join us. The meeting point this year will be the Abilene VFW Post 3279 - 317 N Spruce St **Abilene**, **KS** 67410. We will meet there prior to standing, then go over to the Eisenhower area.

Our District Ride Chairman Chris Stergos would also like to know if anyone from posts without a Riders Group would like to form a District group. As it stands, we have plenty of riders belonging to posts without groups – we can start a district group.

The membership year has started - as of today we have 15 Posts in the District – our Membership is 2.33% or 60 members, and our goal is 2,566 members for the District. Membership starts with you, bring one member in – it is amazing how one is a huge help! Membership is the lifeblood of our organization.

The success of the VFW starts with you and whatever you can do to help would be fantastic. Thanks again for serving and staying "Committed 2 Veterans"!

Bruce Fischbach District 2 Commander Past Department Commander – 2014-2015 913-909-6381











3rd District Commander

Norman Gentry State 3rd District Commander neodynorm1@gmail.com 620-330-4065



### 4th District Commander

Allen Owens State 4th District Commander allen.owens2@gmail.com 785-307-2409



### 5th District Commander

John Hooker State 5th District Commander johnjoanne49@gmail.com 620-474-5637



### **6th District Commander**

David Calvin State 6th District Commander 776fastcat@gmail.com 316-761-0600



## 7th District Commander

Philip Schuck State 7th District Commander phil.schuck64@gmail.com 620-805-9785











# Independence VETERANS ROUNDUP #4

Hosted by VFW Post 1186

August 26 - 28, 2021 9:00AM - 4:00PM

AND CIVIC CENTER
410 N. PENN • INDEPENDENCE, KS

### Please Bring:

- Your questions on benefits (especially widows and dependents)
   The current status of your previously filed claim or claims
  - Discharge papers (usually a DD-214)
    - · Marriage Certificate
- · Family member or friend, we love to hear from those close to you















### Provided for Free to Those Attending:

- · Healthcare Enrollment Services Available
- . Breakfast: Coffee and Donuts . Lunch: Burgers, Hot Dogs, Sides, Water, and Pop

For More Information: Donnie Collier 620-515-6222





### The VFW and Auxiliary

We would like to cordially invite you to our

# 100th Year Anniversary

**Brown Bishop Post 704** 

105 East Main Parsons, KS 2:00 PM September 18th 2021

RSVP: srchief\_hud@yahoo.com



















Dear Endowment committee,

It was an honor to be awarded the Endowment Scholarship. Thank you for the opportunity to further my education at NorthWest Missouri State.

And a huge thankyou to all of you for serving this great country.

> Sincerely Mason Hawk

Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars, Thank you so much for the \$2,000 scholarship! This money will be used to further my education in college. I'm grateful + honored that you chose me as a recipient of this scholarship! Thank you again!!

Sincerely, Trevor Peterson

Endowment Committee

I can't thank you enough for Selecting me to receive the Voterans of foreign Wars scholarship. It is an honor to represent your organization and an honor as an hir of my grandpa. He was so proud of his time of service, and even more proud of his country. I still have the built cusings from his funeral on my dresser Shelf. Beamoun

The







Hello! With the help of the VFW's

Department of Kansas Endowment

Scholarship, I will be able to pursue

a career in journalism, starting with

the continuation of my education.

Thank you so much for the financial

other students achieve our dreams.

It will be put to good use. - within " leiker

assistance to help me and countless

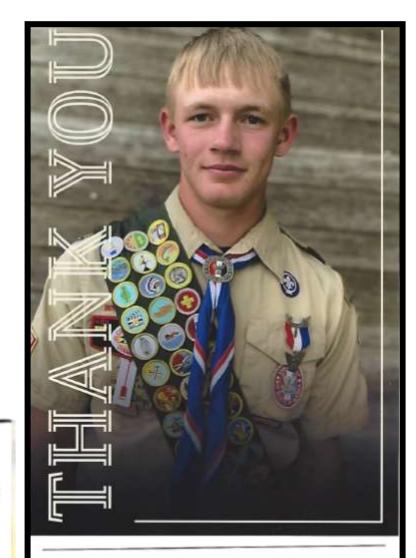


KS Veterans of Foreign Wars, Thank you for selecting me as your scholarship recipient. I know my grandpa would be proud of his country and provid of me for receiving this honor Next year I will be majoring at Fort Hogs in busness, Thanks again, Baden Schutte

Dear VFW Endoument Committee,

Thanh you for selecting me to recive a scholarship. I am Super exited to attend College this fall and major in assuming. Thanh you again.

> Sincerely, Garett Thielen



Your donation helped me complete my Eagle Scout Project. Thank you for giving to the Ga-Ga ball pit. It has been used lots at Ogallah Christian Church. I hope that someday you get to see it.











# 2021 VETERANS ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

### Dear Veteran Artist,

If you are a U.S. Military Veteran and an artist, we want your artwork!

The Emporia Arts Center announces a Call to Veteran Artists for an exhibition celebrating U.S. Veterans during Emporia's annual All Veterans Tribute Celebration. If you have participated in the art show in the past, we thank you for being a part of this great event and would like for you to participate again. If this is your first time, WELCOME!

Each artist may submit up to 3 pieces for display. Handmade, original work only. No commercial kits, molds, patterns, plans or prefabricated pieces allowed.

A juror, selected by EAC, will determine the Best of Show, 2<sup>rd</sup> Place and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winners. The People's Choice Award will be voted on by the public.

ESB Financial has generously donated \$100 for the Best of Show Award and \$100 for the People's Choice Award. Additionally, ESB Financial will provide \$50 to 2<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>st</sup> place winners.

### Important Dates:

October 20 – 29: Artwork can be delivered to the Emporia Arts Center

Tuesday - Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

October 29 (Friday): DEADLINE FOR ARTWORK TO BE DELIVERED (6:00 p.m.)

November 2 – November 13: Exhibition will be open to the public

November 11: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Meet the Artists' Opening Reception and 5:30 p.m.

Awards Ceremony.

Thank you for being a part of this extraordinary show! If you would like to be in this exhibition, please contact me and I will give you further information.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bulinski



Gallery Coordinator

Emporia Arts Council sbulinski@emporiaksarts.org 620.343.6473









### KANSAS HONOR FLIGHT

MISSION "To transport Kansas veterans who served our country during WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War to Washington, D.C. to visit the Memorials that commemorate their service to our country at no cost to the veteran".



There has been a total of 73 flights that have provided the opportunity for over 2300 of our veterans to visit our nation's capital.

The opportunity for this memorable experience is made possible by a grateful public and a large group of volunteers. There are no tax dollars involved. Financial contributions come from many sources: civic groups, military organizations, students, churches, businesses, and individuals.

Some of our aging veterans need assistance to have a safe and comfortable experience. Guardians or helpers travel with the veterans to assist in any way needed. These guardians make a tax-deductible contribution that covers all of their travel expenses, lodging, and meals. While some of the guardians may be family members or friends, some are willing to help serve to help a total stranger.

Priority is given to the older WW II veterans, then the Korean War veterans, and then the Vietnam War veterans. For each war era, the veterans are called in the order that they've submitted their applications.

With a waiting list of over 700 deserving veterans patiently waiting, the program needs the continued support of the public and the efforts of the many volunteers.

Applications are available on the web site: <a href="https://www.kansashonorflight.org">www.kansashonorflight.org</a> or by calling 620-546-2400.

We are requesting that the MISSION of every post in Kansas is to use your INTEL (you know your community and those who would like to sponsor a veteran), and your BOOTS ON THE GROUND to get a sponsor or sponsors, for the KHF Golf Tournament to send one veteran to Washington D.C. The cost to send one veteran to Washington is 800 dollars.

Let's work together to reward our Veterans, most are members of your organization and some are even members of your post. We can get this done.

We have attached information on the golf tournament, tournament sponsorship form, and a registration form to play in the tournament. If you have members of your post that play golf, we would love to have them join us for a wonderful experience.

Thank You

Duane Nickel, Kansas Honor Flight Volunteer (dunick@msn.com)









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







# 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. Check with post because of virus 620-624-7447

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









# Auxiliary News

# STATE PRESIDENT



# Auxiliary News

# STATE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT



Karol Goodin Department Sr. Vice President

# STATE JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Mike McCandless Department Jr. Vice President

### **2021-2022 Department Officers**

#### Commander

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

### Sr. Vice Commander

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

### Jr. Vice Commander

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

### Adjutant/ Quartermaster

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

### **National Council Member**

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

### Judge Advocate

Dallas Love 1400 James St Derby 67037 316-518-7170

### Surgeon

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

### Chaplain

Terry Warner 505 Washington St LaCrosse 67548 913-302-7620 **Chief of Staff** 

### Lynn Rolf Jr

31216 203rd St Leavenworth 66048 913-775-1998

### Inspector

Vance Hill 1550 E Sand Pointe Cir Wichita 67216 316-213-2231

### **Past Department** Commander

Ken Allred 1452 Melrose Ln Wichita 67212 316-350-9860

### **District Commanders:**

1st District Robert Cooper 25902 Metro Ave Tonganoxie 66086 913-709-4720

### 2nd District

Bruce Fischbach 14735 S Glen Eyrie St Olathe 66061 913-909-6381

### **3rd District**

Norman Gentry 304 N 8th St Neodesha 66757 620-330-4065

### 4th District

Allen Owens PO Box 113 Wakefield 67487 785-307-2409

### 5th District

John Hooker 214 E Ave B

South Hutchinson 67505

620-474-5637

### 6th District

David Calvin PO Box 543 Stockton 67669 316-761-0600

### 7th District

Philip Schuck 12735 W Gano Rd Deerfield 67838 620-805-9785





### **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.









