



Volume 7 Number 5

November 2010

# VFW NATIONAL COMMANDER DISSOLVES VFW PAC

Dear Comrades:

As you know, in light of the VFW- PAC endorsements I, along with my leadership team, clearly expressed our deepest concerns to the PAC regarding the negative impact its recent endorsements were having on the organization. We expressed our grave concerns relating to the selection process that, in our opinion, were unintentionally biased toward the incumbent and as a result, patently unfair.

Although the VFW PAC Board of Directors was aware of the magnitude of outrage their decision process had produced among VFW members and supporters, they failed to acknowledge the urgings made by VFW leadership and disregarded the request to rescind all current political endorsements.

In the end, the process and decisions made by [the] PAC failed to represent the best interest of VFW members. The decisions of a relative few have significantly failed the organization and could ultimately hinder the ability of the VFW to fulfill its mandate of

service to our nations' veterans, service members and their families.

For many generations the VFW and its many missions of service have withstood the sands of time. What our members have accomplished for so many years for many people has never been predicated upon loyalty to any political party, persuasion or philosophy. The VFW does not and will not enter the political arena nor embroil itself in partisanship by providing endorsements for political candidates.

Consequently, I have expeditiously moved forward during this critical juncture and have taken significant steps to correct the negative impact this situation is having on the Veterans of Foreign Wars and to regain the trust of our loyal members and supporters. As Commander-in-Chief, I propose to offer a resolution to amend the by-laws at the 112th National Convention for the purpose of dissolving the PAC. Meanwhile, under the authority granted to me as Com-

*(See PAC page 5)*

## HAIL AND FAREWELL

It's an old military tradition to formally greet the new crew members and say good by to those departing. So we are honored to say hello to our newest members:

Phillip Nelson, an Army Vietnam vet and Garnie Jones, an Army WWII vet were both signed up by Damon Grey. Garnie signed up for a life membership.

Ron Dennis and Anne Korsness are both National Guard members who drill at the Armory here in Caroline County. Both have deployed to the sand box.

Charles Davis signed up for a life membership. Charles is an Army Vietnam vet.

*(See Membership on page 3)*

~ NOTICE ~

**Christmas Party**  
Saturday December 11

\$15 per person  
\$25 per couple  
(Guests welcome)

Gift exchange limit  
\$20 (optional)

Catered by Millie Fortune

Call 804-690-7348  
for reservations and  
tickets.

Soft drinks, and beer  
provided, BYOB.

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**Next Membership Meeting Tuesday, November 9, at 7 p.m. @ the Post. Hope to see you there.**

## STATE FAIR BINGO REPORT

Due to the initial contacts made by Comrade Larry Hull with the State Fair of Virginia (SFVA), we were offered the opportunity to conduct Bingo during the State Fair this year.

Because we were late to the program, the SFVA facilities manager, Stephen Brian, a VFW life member, and his staff worked with us to provide a tent for three days. Well the rain forced us to cancel two of those days however, Stephen offered us the use of the tent for another three days.

Bingo at the State Fair was a good experience but not a profitable one. We spent about \$1000 on supplies and equipment and probably broke even. I say probably because the \$1300 we put in the bank from pull tab sales has to stay on the books because we did not sell a complete game and won't be able to until next years State Fair Bingo.

Even though we didn't make the

thousands we thought we would, we learned a lot from the experience.

1. **We need more volunteers.** At least 20 each day
2. **Simplify the game program.** Regular Bingo, no fancy patterns.
3. **Change the pricing scheme.** Concentrate on making a profit selling paper, not pull tabs.
4. **Cheaper pull tab games.** Try selling 25 cent and 50 cent pull tabs.
5. **Don't play Bingo on gray stone.** The mud and dust was hard to clean up and caused problems with the equipment.



The most valuable asset any person has is their time because once given, it can never be returned. Our volunteers devoted many hours of their valuable time

and effort participating in this endeavor and they need to be recognized. In no particular order they are:

- Paul Pitts (Sr. Vice)
  - Doug (Commander) & Lori Fortune
  - Damon and Mary Gray
  - Cleveland Rock
  - Mark & Nancy Brandenburg
  - Don Pitts
  - Moody Pitts
  - George and Linda Bauserman
  - Jeff Truex
  - Larry Hull
  - Ron Currellings
  - Pete Ewing
  - Jeff Sili
  - Percy Ashcraft and the Optimist club
  - Jackie & Vicky Koch
  - Pete Swain
  - JD Crabtree
- Thank you all for your efforts.

## MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup> 2010, Fredericksburg National Guard Armory 1100-1800, 1700 Jefferson Davis Hwy. Fredericksburg, VA.

A day of salute, information sharing, and family fun for all service members, veterans, reservists, members of the national guard and their families.

Schedule of Events:

- 1115 Presentation of the Colors, American Legion Post 55
- 1130-1215 Guest Speaker - DVS



Commissioner Paul Galanti, Vietnam Veteran and POW at the Hanoi Hilton

- 1215-1300 Awarding of Silver Star Banners by the Blue Star Families
- 1315-1345 Kids on the Block Presentation – "Having a Deployed Parent"
- 1400-1500 The Enduring Freedom Honor Team
- 1400 and 1600 Demonstrations of USMC military working dogs

- 1530-1700 Glen Shelton, singer/songwriter "Unsung Hero"
- Over 20 Information Tables
- Free lunch prepared by the American Legion 12<sup>th</sup> District
- Silent Auction
- Door Prizes
- Free Lions Club Eye Screenings
- Free Mini Facials
- Popcorn \*Kick-boxing Demonstrations \*Moon Bounce \*Free Blood Pressure Screenings

## 100 HOURS FOR ONE LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Are you tired of being harassed each year to pay your VFW membership dues? Are you complaining because they seem to go up each year? Become a VFW Life Member and you won't have to worry about dues any more. But Life Membership can be expensive.

Costs range from \$425 for people under 31 to \$170 if you are over 80.

There is a way you can earn a Life Membership. Our post will pay your Life Membership costs if you donate 100 hours of your valuable time to help the

post. You can work Bingo, help with chicken dinners, help solicit donations for Buddy Poppies or any other post event. Your time is the most valuable asset you own. Please consider volunteering to help out. Contact OM Jim Koch, 804-690-73348 to volunteer.

## VFW TO LAUNCH NEW VFW.ORG WEBSITE

The new [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) will require members, to login to access business documents and the new revamped Online Membership System (OMS) website.

As a member of the VFW, chances are at one point or another you've had to explain to either a member of the military community or a civilian, exactly what the VFW is and what we do.

Though we have a rich history of successes — ranging from veterans legislation to our youth scholarship programs — it seems our main purpose and objectives could use some clarification, and as we continue to welcome home a new generation of war veteran, the

time to clarify our mission and our importance in today's world is now.

Today, a mission such as this is best accomplished online, and for VFW, a complete website overhaul is the weapon of choice.

Aside from a new, more aesthetically pleasing design and user-friendly format, the new site features a "members only" section, allowing VFW members to access tools and VFW business documents with ease.

By simply logging in, members are able to quickly renew their membership, request a duplicate card, view recent resolutions and by-

laws amendments and more. The "My VFW" section also acts as a portal to the new Online Membership System (OMS) website where members are able to manage their membership account online. If you don't have an online account, you can create one at any time by clicking "Login," in the website header, then select "[Create an Account](#)."



## LOCAL RESTAURANTS OFFER FREE MEALS TO VETERANS

### Golden Corral

November 15, 2010 will mark the 10th anniversary of Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Monday dinner. The free meal is a special "thank you tribute" to any person who has ever served in the United States Military. If you are a veteran, retired, currently serving, in the National Guard or Reserves, you are invited to join us for Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Monday dinner.

Last year's Military Appreciation Monday was a huge success, honoring over 335,000 veterans and active duty military with a free dinner buffet and beverage. All Golden Corral restaurants nationwide participated in this event and,

together with guests, collected a record total of over \$808,000 for the Disabled American Veterans organization, which will be used by state and local chapters to assist veterans.

To date, Golden Corral restaurants have provided over 2.5 million free meals and contributed over \$4.1 million to the Disabled American Veterans organization.

### Applebee's

November 11 come into Applebee's and simply show proof of military service to enjoy a FREE entrée from their special Vets Day Menu. Proof of military service is required:

- U.S. Uniform Services Identification Card
  - U.S. Uniform Services Retired Identification Card
  - Current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES)
  - Photograph in uniform
  - Wearing uniform
  - Veterans Organization Card (i.e., American Legion and VFW)
  - DD214
- Available during business hours on November 11, 2010 at participating Applebee's only. Dine-in from limited menu only. Beverages and gratuity not included.

## MEMBERSHIP

(Hail from page 1)

Frank Benser finally signed up for a life membership. Frank is an Army Vietnam vet. I have been after Frank for about five years to sign up.

Now if our current members can pay their dues by December 31, that will give us over 100% for the first time since 1998.

We are fortunate to also have some transferees to the post:

Kevin Wightman and Robert Saikowski transferred their life memberships while Jimmy Brinkley transferred his annual membership. WELCOME everyone.

You are all invited to attend our monthly membership meetings on the second Tuesday of each month and of course the Christmas Party. The food is good and the comradeship even better. Don't forget we have our social gathering each Friday starting at 5 p.m.. Hope to see you there.

Now it's time to say farewell to our departing shipmates. We have one in the sand box now, Stan Hubbard, but he will be returning. Stan is a civilian contractor supporting our forces in Iraq. Our Commander, Doug Fortune is heading for the sand box too, as a contractor supporting the Air Force. He will work at Bagram Air Force base for a

year and will come back to visit every few months. Take care Stan and Doug.

An old jarhead, good friend and an active participant in the post, George Hajar is moving out of the area. George was our Adjutant for the last four years and the editor of this newsletter. He did an excellent job with both. George also helped out with Bingo every week (when he wasn't in Los Vegas or Atlantic City) and spent many hours in front of gas stations, soliciting donations for Buddy Poppies. George and his wife Maureen, moved to South Carolina where he now drives a customized golf cart around the neighborhood. Fair winds and following seas good friend.

## THE \$1000 HAIR CUT

Many of you know, our Quartermaster, Jim Koch is growing his hair to donate to "Locks of Love", a charity that makes wigs for cancer patients. Quite a few people have offered to cut his hair because they think he is just trying to regress to the 70's.

Here is your chance.

Comrade Koch said he will cut his hair as soon as the post can raise \$1000 for the Veteran's Relief Fund and he will let the person that donates the most money do the cutting. If there is a tie for the largest donation, a drawing will be held.



There are some restrictions on how his hair can be cut because "Locks of Love" requires the hair to be a certain length and cut a certain way. The cut-

ting must take place in a licensed salon under the supervision of a licensed cosmetologist just to comply with the donation requirements.

The balance in the Veteran's Relief Fund is getting low. We started out the year with over \$2000 and have made donations to other veteran's charities and Scouting programs. Recently we donated \$500 to help out a National Guard member that suffered over \$25,000 in losses from an apartment fire. The balance in the fund is now below \$900 so this is a way you can help us build the fund back up and have some fun.

Send your check or Money Order to:  
 Veteran's Relief Fund  
 17352 A.P. Hill Blvd.  
 Bowling Green, VA 22427

## AGENT ORANGE PRESUMPTIVES

The wait is over. The final rule adding ischemic heart disease (IHD), Parkinson's Disease and B Cell Leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia, took effect on October 30, 2010. This new rule affects Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam anytime during the period beginning January 9, 1962 through

May 7, 1975, as well as veterans who served in specific military units stationed at or near the Korean DMZ during the timeframe of April 1968 through July 1969. For further information regarding the new rule, visit <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/>

## Toxic exposures impact Iraq, Afghanistan veterans, families and survivors

In a 2006 memorandum to the Pentagon, Air Force Lt. Col. Darrin Curtis, who was in charge of assessing environmental health hazards at Balad Air Base in Iraq, raised serious concerns about

toxic exposures from burn pits.

The letter, which was signed by Lt. Col. James R. Elliott, the Air Force's chief medical officer at Balad, confirmed the

environmental dangers that open air burn pits posed to the soldiers and airmen who lived on one of the largest U.S. installations in Iraq.

Smoke from burning plastics, Styrofoam, paper, wood, rubber, waste, metals, chemicals and oils were contaminating the air. Based on studies he conducted on the ground, Curtis cited an

## Veteran's Day Events

Thursday, November 11 at 11 a.m. we will hold our annual Veteran's Day Ceremony on the front lawn of the County Courthouse. The Color Guard is provided by the Caroline County Sheriffs Department. Guest speaker is the Honorable David Storke, mayor of Bowling Green. Refreshments will be served. Event will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

That same evening, at 7 p.m. American Legion post 221, is sponsoring a ceremony to honor the veterans of Caroline county that served in Vietnam and Korea. The event will be held at the Caroline Community Center. Refreshments will be served.

## Computer Resources Available

Much of the information available for veterans today is only available on-line. Many of you don't have computers or high-speed internet access.

But your VFW post does!

That's right, we have high-speed wired and wireless internet access for our members to use, FREE!

And if you don't have a computer, we have computers for your use also. Don't know how to use a computer? We can help you there too.

All the information on the internet is available to you free of charge. Just come by the post any Thursday or Friday evening or call Quartermaster Koch at 804-690-7348 to make an appointment to come by at your convenience.

"acute health hazard" to troops from the black plumes of smoke the burn pit generated around the clock. Like many military facilities, the air base at Balad had been captured after the 2003 invasion of Iraq and was used to advance the war effort. At the time military commanders had few options for ridding themselves of the waste their forces generated. But as the war effort intensified, Balad Air Base and its adjacent Army Logistics Support Area Anaconda, became a hub

*(See Burn Pit on page 5)*

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## Post Officers

Commander.....Doug Fortune  
 Senior Vice.....Paul Pitts  
 Junior Vice.....J. P. McGuire  
 Quartermaster.....Jim Koch  
 Chaplain.....Peter Swain

Judge Advocate.....Garrison Boyle  
 Trustees.....George Bauserman  
 Ryan Ransome  
 J.D. Crabtree

## VA Simplifies Access to Health Care and Benefits for Veterans with PTSD

VA streamlined its process to provide health care and disability compensation for Veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), with the publication of a final regulation in the Federal Register in July 2010. The new rule, which applies to Veterans of all eras, will simplify the process for a Veteran to establish service connection for PTSD by reducing the evidence needed to support a claim. While each claim will be evaluated and require confirmation by a VA psychiatrist or psychologist, the new process is

expected to allow for faster and more accurate decisions to help connect Veterans to medical care and other benefits available through VA. More than 400,000 Veterans with PTSD currently receive VA compensation benefits. PTSD is an anxiety disorder with symptoms that include recurrent thoughts of a traumatic event, emotional numbing, hyper-alertness, anxiety, and irritability. For more information, go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or call 1-800-827-1000.

*(Burn Pit from page 4)*

for personnel, equipment and operations. By 2006, the base had ballooned into a city with 25,000 men and women. Hundreds of thousands of tons of trash were burned daily. Without enough incinerators, smoke from the open air pits smoldered and lingered low to the ground, often cascading over housing areas and giving the base a signature stench.

As the city grew, so did the type of trash it was generating. While considered an "interim solution," use of the pits at Balad went on for years. "It's amazing that the burn pit has been able to operate without restrictions over the past few years," Curtis wrote.

Defense Department documents dated for 2007 indicated that dioxin levels at Balad were 51 times what the military

considered acceptable. Similarly, particulate exposure was 50 times higher than was considered acceptable. For people deployed at the base for more than a year, volatile compounds and cancer risks from dioxin exposures were twice as high as acceptable.

The training letter marks the first time that the VA has addressed an environmental hazard while troops were still being exposed.

"This issue speaks to the very reason why we are united as a community of veterans," said National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson. "The veterans who are suffering right now deserve the benefit of the doubt. They need someone to stand up for them and for our government to own up to its responsibilities to them."

"We're going to go to bat for these veterans in Washington, and our National

Service Officers are going to help them with free representation in their communities," said Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman. "We don't know what impact this is going to have in the long term, but we're going to be there to fight for them as long as we're needed."

A number of lawsuits have been filed against Defense Department contractors from burn pit victims and their survivors since Army Times first reported the story. In that time, legislative efforts have largely curbed the use of burn pits — though not completely.

"I think the burn pits have already left a legacy. I was in Afghanistan, and they're still burning, and everyone here seems very aware about the potential health hazards," Kennedy said. "I'd rather see those fires extinguished, but I'm glad that people know enough that they can talk to their doctors about them if medical problems, such as respiratory problems or cancers, develop."

*(PAC from page 1)*

mander-in-Chief in section 619 of the VFW National By-Laws and under section 620 of the Manual of Procedure I have withdrawn all PAC appointments effective October 15, 2010, thus effectively rendering the PAC inoperable.

The VFW- PAC was created by VFW members and not by VFW national leaders. This is exercised through the VFW convention as the governing body of the organization. As such, it is only the delegates at the convention that can determine the continued existence of the PAC.

Sincerely,

Richard Eubank

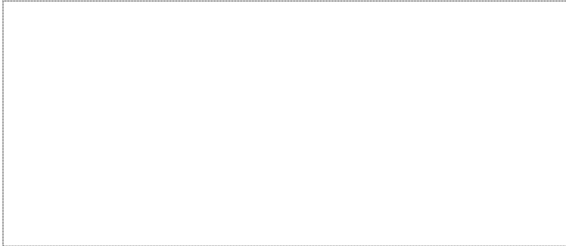
VFW National Commander

To protect yourself against the rising cost of cancer treatments, consider getting VFW's cancer insurance plan. Benefits can be paid directly to you regardless of any other insurance you may have. Like all plans, certain limitations and exclusions do apply. For more information, call 1-800-749-6983 or visit [www.vfwinsurance.com](http://www.vfwinsurance.com).

**VFW POST 10295**










17352 A. P. Hill Blvd.  
Bowling Green, VA 22427  
804-633-6666  
vfwpost10295@verizon.net

*"Honoring the dead by serving the living"*



We're on Facebook:  
Veterans of Foreign  
Wars Post 10295

# November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4  BINGO 6 pm	5 Club Social 1700 \$1 Drafts 	6
7	8	9  1900 Membership Meeting	10	11  Veteran's Day 1100 No Bingo	12 Club Social 1700 \$ 1 Drafts 	13
14	15	16	17	18  BINGO 6 pm	19 Club Social 1700 \$1 Drafts 	20
21	22	23	24	25  Thanksgiving No Bingo	26 Club Social 1700 \$1 Drafts 	27
28	29	30				