

# Cole-Miers Courier

## Elections Are Here!

Congratulations to the following  
Elected Officers for the 2022-  
2023 VFW Year.

Commander: Larry Koons

Senior Vice: Lori Bates

Junior Vice: Liz Dawson

Quartermaster: Bob Bates.

3-year Trustee: Nate Rogowski

2-year Trustee: Bob Conner

1-year Trustee: Mike Baker

Chaplain: Ted Stoneburner

Judge Advocate: Matthew West

Service Officer: Andrey Loria  
Calvo

Surgeon: John Schmidt

Public Affairs Officer (PAO): Lori

Bates

Adjutant/Asst QM: Shane Fowler

Guard: Ken Gresham

Best of luck to each of you, as we  
begin the new year, and move  
forward in assisting our Veterans,  
and our Community!

### Special points of interest:

- Elections are Coming
- Officer's Input
- Flyers
- Legislative Information
- Quilts of Valor
- Community Market-  
place
- Americanism and Safety  
Banquet
- Calendar

### Upcoming Events

**May 4:** Cornhole Tournery

**May 5:** Post Meeting 6:30  
joint/7:00 PM Membership  
meetings (Elections)

**May 8:** Mother's Day

**May 11:** Cornhole Tour-  
ney

**May 14:** Hall Rental

**May 16:** Installation of Of-  
ficers

**May 17:** Planning Ses-  
sion 6:00 PM

**May 18:** Cornhole Tour-  
ney

**May 21:** VFW Community  
Marketplace 8:00 AM

**May 24:** Riders Group  
Meeting 6:30 PM

**May 25:** Cornhole Tournery

**May 30:** Memorial Day

**Remember: Each Friday in  
May, and first Friday in  
June, will be Gun Raffle  
Drawing. During Bingo.**



## *Commander's Corner*

Comrades, welcome to another Commanders installment. Well, with elections completed, we are moving into installing the officers for the next year at the VFW. Please congratulate all of our new officers when you see them. And, it's crunch time! We are coming into one of the busiest times of our year. We have our Americanism and Safety Awards banquet as well as a multitude of veteran and community events. Memorial Day is just around the corner and we are working on a Youth Summer Safety Fair. This event will be managed by our Junior Vice, Comrade Elizabeth Hedt-Dawson, please provide her with the help she needs to make this operation a success. Our Memorial Day events will require all of the assistance we can muster. We will be placing flags at three different cemeteries as well as the ones we place at our Post. We will meet at the Post at 0630 for coffee and placing our flags. Then, we will move on to our local cemeteries. Please come out and help us show our respect for our Fallen Brothers and Sisters. Our Installation of Officers will be an event for everyone to come out and get to know the incoming group that will lead our organization into the future. Hope to see you all there.

Larry Koons

Post Commander

## *Junior Vice's Voice*

"I'm sure they have it covered; I would only be in the way."

"They didn't ask me specifically, so they must not mean to include me."

"I'm not sure I will want to do this when the time comes, so I am not going to bother anybody by reaching out for more information."

"Ugg... people... I hate people... except when I don't..."

"I am not comfortable talking to people or being around people, I have nothing to say."

"They probably don't want me there anyway."

"Nobody will notice if I don't show up, my presence doesn't matter."

"No one wants to hear what I have to say, why bother"

Do any of these statements ring true or hit home for you? I have felt or thought all of these statements and more at one point or another. Sometimes, the thoughts still creep in. I need you to understand something, and its important.

**You are not alone. You do matter. Your presence matters. Your voice matters. Your actions matter.**

Our post is here for all of us. Not just for certain clicks or groups, but all of us. We all have one thing in common, we have been to hell and back. Sometimes the fight to stay in the present and look for the future is harder than others. These are the times when I need you to reach out. I need you to fight the fight and reach out. Allow us, your brothers and sisters to help keep your chin above the water so you can breathe, allow us to help hold you up so you can rest and make good decisions. You are not alone.

We have some heavy holidays on the horizon. Please check in on your friends, brothers & sisters. Listen to the tones in their voices, the slant of their shoulders and the looks in their eyes. Be present and help them join you in the present. Get active in the community, find and enjoy a hobby together or join us in supporting the VFW programs (We can seriously use your help! Yes, you!)

Elizabeth Dawson  
Jr. Vice Commander

# Flyers

MARCH/APRIL  
2022



## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

# Events @ Post 3619

1115 LA-27, Deridder, LA

(337)463-3977

**COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE**  
VFW POST 3619, 1115 LA-27, DERIDDER.

**SHOP & SUPPORT LOCAL!**  
10AM - 4PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022  
SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022  
SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022

- POP-UP SHOPS
- EASTER PHOTOS
- BLOOD DONATION
- VFW SURPLUS SALE
- FOOD TRUCKS
- LOCAL NON-PROFITS

**VENDOR REGISTRATION  
BOOTH RENTAL**

VFW AUXILIARY MEMBER \$25  
VETERAN/ACTIVE DUTY \$30  
COMMUNITY VENDOR \$35  
FOOD TRUCK \$35

10x10 BOOTH SPACE

FUNDRAISER PROCEEDS GO TO OUR VETERAN PROGRAMS

**LifeShare BLOOD CENTER**  
SCHEDULE TO DONATE

APRIL 9 9:30AM-4:00PM  
MAY 21 9:30AM-4:00PM  
JUNE 11 9:30AM-4:00PM

**FOLLOW US FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
VFW 3619 COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

**All American COFFEE BAR**  
VFW POST 3619  
DERIDDER, LOUISIANA

**FREE COFFEE**  
DAILY  
8A - 11A

OPEN TO ALL VETERANS & THEIR FAMILY

**RIFLE RAFFLE**  
FIVE RIFLES IN FIVE WEEKS

**TICKETS 1/\$20**  
\*NON WINNING TICKETS ROLL-OVER TO THE NEXT WEEK\*  
MUST BE 18+ TO PARTICIPATE

ONLY 1000 TICKETS!

WEEK 1 - 5/12/22 MORNING ADULT & YOUTH \$500	WEEK 2 - 5/19/22 SUNSHINE & 4 THINGS \$500	WEEK 3 - 5/26/22 MEMORIAL DAY TWIN REM M&C \$300	WEEK 4 - 6/2/22 CIVILIAN RIGHTS DAY AA SHOTGUN \$800	WEEK 5 - 6/9/22 DIE HARD TRUNK & 24 \$1,000
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**DRAWING: During BINGO Intermission**  
5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27, and 6/3  
\*NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN\*

Raffle Tickets Available at VFW POST 3619 Events & Canteen

**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.  
Post 3619

**EVENT VENUE RENTAL**  
DERIDDER, LOUISIANA  
HOLIDAY PARTY - PAGENT - WEDDING

CALL TODAY TO CHECK AVAILABILITY & AMENITIES  
337-463-3977

**BINGO!**

**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.  
Post 3619

**BINGO EVERY  
FRIDAY & SUNDAY**

DOORS OPEN  
Friday @ 5P  
Sunday @ Noon

BINGO BOOKS  
\$15/Small  
\$20/Large

**CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT & Karaoke**

**WEDNESDAYS**

**BEAUREGARD BAGGERS**

DOORS OPEN @ 5PM  
START @ 7PM  
\$20 ENTRY FEE  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

VFW POST 3619 - HWY 27 - DERIDDER, LA

# Bingo



Attention! We appreciate all those that have helped with Bingo. Our Bingo numbers are down right now since the jackpot went. But, we really could use some more help! If you are unable to help with Bingo, you could help out in the kitchen. We are all here to support our Veterans, but we need more help. The new year is coming up fast, and we have to renew our License, so if you want to come help once or twice a month please contact Mary, 463-3977. Any and all help will be appreciated!



## Legislative

### April 4<sup>th</sup>:

**Senate Hearing on Toxic Exposure:** VFW National Legislative Associate Director Kristina Keenan testified before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the comprehensive toxic exposure bill, [H.R. 3967](#), the *Honoring our PACT Act of 2021*. "The *Honoring our PACT Act* is THE comprehensive solution for toxic exposures," said Keenan. "To the members of this committee, you have the opportunity to be leaders in this historic moment. All eyes of the veteran community are on you right now." During the hearing, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough pledged his support for the PACT Act. He commented on technical aspects of the bill and said he shared the overall goal to bring more veterans into VA. [Watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 18:15 mark or [read the testimony](#).

**Toxic Exposure Press Conference:** The VFW participated in a press conference organized by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) regarding [H.R. 3967](#), the *Honoring our PACT Act*. The event was attended by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA), veteran advocates Jon Stewart and John Feal, representatives of veteran organizations, and family and friends of burn pit victims. VFW National Legislative Associate Director Kristina Keenan expressed, "Toxic exposures have affected every generation of service members, in all conflicts, in all eras. The *Honoring our PACT Act* would help veterans who have been waiting far too long for benefits. Let's work to provide VA the resources it needs to implement the PACT Act and not delay any longer." [Watch the press conference](#).

**House Subcommittee Holds Bill Hearing:** VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Tammy Barlet testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on several pieces of pending legislation. She spoke about the importance of VA improving the PTSD claims process according to Office of Inspector General (OIG) recommendations, as well as addressing benefits automation, the definition of marriage, and expanding outreach concerning benefits to survivors of veterans and active duty members. Barlet explained the VFW has long echoed OIG concerns about VA's overdevelopment of PTSD claims, including those related to military sexual trauma. [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony](#).

**House Subcommittee Hearing on Pending Legislation:** VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. He discussed the importance of strengthening the Office of Inspector General authorities, and the necessity to collect important information on benefits usage and the VA patient population. "The VFW believes collecting basic demographic information of veterans is necessary and could save lives," said Murray. "Veteran suicide numbers have decreased slightly, but we don't fully know why. This information could help us understand who needs help the most." Murray also expressed support for other draft bills that include supply chain upgrades, whistleblower protections, and expanding resources for LGBTQ veterans at

## *Legislative*

VA. [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony](#).

**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced four burial updates and two new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- **Navy Seaman 1st Class Wilbur F. Newton, 29**, of San Leandro, California, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Newton. He will be buried in Mound City, Missouri, on May 28, 2022. [Read about Newton](#).

-- **Navy Fire Controlman 2nd Class George Gilbert, 20**, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Gilbert. He will be buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Honolulu, on Jun. 6, 2022. [Read about Gilbert](#).

-- **Army Staff Sgt. Gerald R. Helms, 29**, of Chicago, was assigned to Company E, 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. In 1944, he was reported missing in action near Katerbosch, Netherlands, during Operation Market Garden after he failed to return from a lone scouting mission. His body was never found by his unit, and there was no evidence he had ever been captured. A presumptive finding of death was issued on Oct. 3, 1945. Helms will be buried in Elwood, Illinois, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Helms](#).

-- **Army Pfc. William L. Groh, 22**, of Tiffin, Ohio, was assigned to Company F, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. He was reported killed in action on Nov. 20, 1944, when his unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Hürtgen, Germany. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Groh will be buried in Phoenix, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Groh](#).

-- **Army Pfc. Sanford K. Bowen, 26**, was assigned to Company I, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. He was reported killed in action on Jan. 20, 1945, when Company I and four other companies were engaged in battle with German forces near Reipertswiller, France. Bowen could not be recovered because of the ongoing fighting. Interment services are pending. [Read about Bowen](#).

-- **Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Louis V. Girard, 20**, was assigned to 68th Bombardment Squadron, 44th Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Girard was piloting crashed as a result of anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. Interment services are pending. [Read about Girard](#).

**April 11<sup>th</sup>:**

**Take Action Now on Toxic Exposure:** Thanks to your action last month, the *Honoring our PACT Act* passed the House with a broad bipartisan vote. Now it is time for the Senate to do its job. This historic legislation would ensure toxic-exposed veterans receive the VA health care and benefits they need. It would provide a list of presumptive conditions associated with burn pits and establish a permanent presumptive framework to address any toxic exposure, foreign or domestic, past, present, and future. It would help Post-9/11 veterans, Persian Gulf War veterans, K2 veterans, Atomic veterans, and Vietnam veterans, including those who served in Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos. Contact your Senators and tell them to vote YES when the *Honoring our PACT Act* is brought to the Senate floor. [Click to take action!](#)

**HVAC Markup Hearing:** The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs conducted a full committee markup on legislation previously discussed in pending legislation hearings. The committee recommended that 17 bills be moved to the House floor. These bills would improve VA's claim process, extend VA work-study allowance, improve Office of Inspector General oversight, increase entrepreneurship opportunities, and offer medical foster homes to veterans who qualify for long-term care. One of the advanced bills, [H.R. 5754](#), *Patient Advocate Tracker Act*, stemmed from a proposal by 2021 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellow Cameron Zbikowski. The VFW has provided congressional testimony on several of these bills and will closely monitor their progress. [Watch the markup.](#)

**Month of the Military Child:** April is a time to acknowledge and reflect on the sacrifices and challenges military children experience as a result of their parents' service to our nation. These children maneuver childhood like their civilian peers but with stressors that are unique to the military lifestyle. Separations from parents, frequent relocations, and missed milestones like birthdays are commonplace. Further still, some of them must care for service-injured parents while others experience the loss of a parent as a result of service. Learn more about children's [monthly activities](#) or [health resources](#).

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month:** VA is raising awareness of its [available resources](#) for military sexual trauma (MST) survivors. One in three women and one in fifty men stated "yes" when asked by a VA provider if they experienced MST. Like other types of trauma, MST can negatively impact a person's physical and mental health. Some MST survivors may feel unsafe and isolated, or struggle with sleep or substance use issues. VA offers a wide range of mental and physical treatments for those who experienced MST. [Watch a VA video](#) or contact your local [VA MST Coordinator](#) for more information. If you need assistance with a VA claim, reach out to a [VFW Accredited Service Officer](#).

**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one burial update and two new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- **Navy Seaman 2nd Class Walter R. Pentico, 17**, of Lexington, Nebraska, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Pentico. He will be buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific



(Punchbowl) in Honolulu, on April 29, 2022. [Read about Pentico.](#)

-- **Navy Storekeeper 3rd Class Harry E. Nichols, 21**, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Nichols. Interment services are pending. [Read about Nichols.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces Sgt. Elvin L. Phillips, 23**, was assigned to 66th Bombardment Squadron, 44th Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Phillips was serving as gunner crashed as a result of anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. Interment services are pending. [Read about Phillips.](#)

### April 18<sup>th</sup>:

**VFW to Host Toxic Exposure Press Event in Kansas City:** On Tuesday, April 19, at 12:00 p.m. CDT, the VFW will host a press event with a coalition of veteran organizations and veteran advocate Jon Stewart to call on the Senate to pass the comprehensive toxic exposure legislation, [H.R. 3967](#), *Honoring our PACT Act of 2021*. VFW National Commander Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic and Stewart will speak at the event which will be held at the VFW National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri. Veterans and supporters from Missouri and Kansas are encouraged to attend in person. You will also be able to watch the event live on [VFW's Facebook page](#).

**VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" Closing Soon:** Scholarship applications for the fall 2022 semester are being accepted through April 30. Veterans can face many challenges while furthering their education. Let Sport Clips and the VFW help you succeed in reaching your education goals. This scholarship can help ease the financial burden by providing up to \$5,000 of assistance per semester, per family, for service members and veterans in the rank of E-5 and below. [Apply now.](#)

**VFW National Home for Children:** The National Home was founded in 1925 as a place where the families left behind by war could remain together. Today's families face different challenges, and the National Home has evolved over decades to meet those needs. The community is open to the families of active duty military personnel, veterans, and relatives of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members. Families can be one or both parents with one or more children. [Learn more.](#)

**Alcohol Misuse Awareness:** Alcohol is the third leading preventable cause of death in the United States. VA research indicates that veterans with PTSD who are over the age of 65 and have a drinking problem or depression are at a higher risk of suicide. Substance use disorder, commonly known as addiction, is a disease with which an individual cannot control the use of alcohol and/or drugs. VA offers a variety of both inpatient and outpatient care treatment options. [Read more](#) or [take the next step](#) if you need help for yourself or a loved one.

**Parkinson's Disease Awareness:** According to VA, it provides health care for approximately 400,000 veterans with Parkinson's disease. Risk factors for Parkinson's disease are: male, 60 years or older, familial connection to the disease, and exposure to herbicides or pesticides. Symptoms include but are not limited to tremors, rigid or still muscles, balance issues, change in speech, and reduction of automatic movements like blinking or smiling. VA established six [Parkinson's Dis-](#)

[ease Research, Education and Clinical Centers](#) that provide clinical care, education, and research. [Read more.](#)

**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one new identification for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II. Returning home for burial with full military honors is:

-- **Army Air Force Lt. Col Addison Baker, 36**, was commander of the 328th Bombardment Squadron, 93rd bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Baker was piloting crashed as a result of anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Interment services are pending. [Read about Baker.](#)

**April 25<sup>th</sup>:**

**VFW Holds Toxic Exposure Press Event:** More than 120 people gathered outside the VFW National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, to urge the Senate to pass the *Honoring our PACT Act*. "The cost of war must include the cost of taking care of our injured and sick veterans," said VFW National Commander Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic to rousing applause from the crowd. "Every veteran that has been in harm's way has earned the right to health care." Featured speakers also included veteran advocate Jon Stewart, Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS), and representatives from Disabled American Veterans, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Wounded Warrior Project, and Burn Pits 360. [Watch the video.](#)

**Protecting Veterans from Claims Predators:** The VFW and Wounded Warrior Project have co-authored an op-ed for *Military Times* on how to protect our veterans from predatory claims practices. VA's current process of applying for earned benefits can be confusing, and sadly some non-accredited businesses take advantage of the confusion and prey on vulnerable individuals. Veterans Service Organizations provide free assistance from VA-accredited representatives, and want to raise awareness of the fraudulent methods used by predators. [Read the op-ed.](#)

**DPAA Family Updates and Annual Briefings:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) conducts monthly updates for the families of American service members and annual government briefings on DPAA's worldwide mission. These meetings include formal presentations, question and answer sessions, and discussions between government officials and family members. Veterans Service Organizations are encouraged to attend. [Read more and register](#) or [view the Livestream archive.](#)

**VA Provides Adoption and IVF Options:** The last week in April is National Infertility Awareness Week. Veterans who lost their ability to reproduce due to a service-connected disability may be eligible for [reimbursement of adoption expenses](#) or for in vitro fertilization (IVF) [through VA](#) or [community care](#). Infertility evaluation, management, and treatment services are also provided to veterans enrolled in VA health care regardless of service connection. Veterans interested in infertility services should contact their VA provider.

**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced six burial updates and two new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II and Korea. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- **Navy Seaman 1st Class David F. Tidball, 20**, of Independence, Iowa, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Tidball. He will be buried in his hometown on May 14, 2022. [Read about Tidball.](#)

-- **Army Pvt. Hillary Soileau, 23**, of Bunkie, Louisiana, was a member of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, when American forces went on the offensive to clear Guadalcanal of Japanese forces. Soileau was wounded on Jan. 14, 1943, during fighting on a group of hills nicknamed Galloping Horse. Following the battle, he could not be found. Soileau was declared missing in action on Feb. 3, 1943, and officially declared killed in action on Dec. 13, 1945. He will be buried in Washington, Louisiana, on May 21, 2022. [Read about Soileau.](#)

-- **Navy Seaman 2nd Class Tceollyar Simmons, 18**, of Detroit, was assigned to the battleship USS California, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS California sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to catch fire and slowly flood. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 104 crewmen, including Simmons. He will be buried in Hacoda, Alabama, on June 14, 2022. [Read about Simmons.](#)

-- **Navy Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Everett R. Stewart, 22**, of Anderson, California, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Stewart. He will be buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Honolulu, on June 18, 2022. [Read about Stewart.](#)

-- **Navy Musician 1st Class Joseph W. Hoffman, 24**, of Chillicothe, Ohio, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Hoffman. He will be buried on Aug. 26, 2022, but the location has yet to be determined. [Read about Hoffman.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. Paul Mitchem, 20**, of Avondale, West Virginia, was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 7, 1950, after his unit sustained heavy casualties while defending against the North Korean army's advance near Ch'onan, South Korea. His body was not recovered because his unit was forced to retreat, and no remains found could be identified as Mitchem. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Mitchem.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Merl W. Holm, 22**, was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 126th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division. On Nov. 26, 1942, he was reportedly killed while his unit attempted to flank the enemy defensive line to Port Moresby, in present day Papua New Guinea. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star. Interment services are pending. [Read about Holm.](#)

--**Marine Corps Reserve Cpl. William R. Ragsdale, 23**, was assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. His unit was part of the invasion force when American forces participated in the battle for Saipan, which was part of a larger operation to secure the Mariana islands. Ragsdale was initially reported as wounded, and later as deceased. Interment services are pending. [Read about Ragsdale.](#)

# #PostPride Honor Quilts



MIKE BAKER



LORI BATES



ROBERT BATES



BRENT CAMPBELL



ANDREY LORIO CALVO



RANDY CARSON



JEVAN COMBS



LIZ DAWSON

## *#PostPride Honor Quilts*



SHANE FOWLER



KEN GRESHAM



JOHN HARPER



LARRY KOONS



SUSAN KOONS



JOHN SCHMIDT



TED STONEBURNER



CATHY VITTORIA

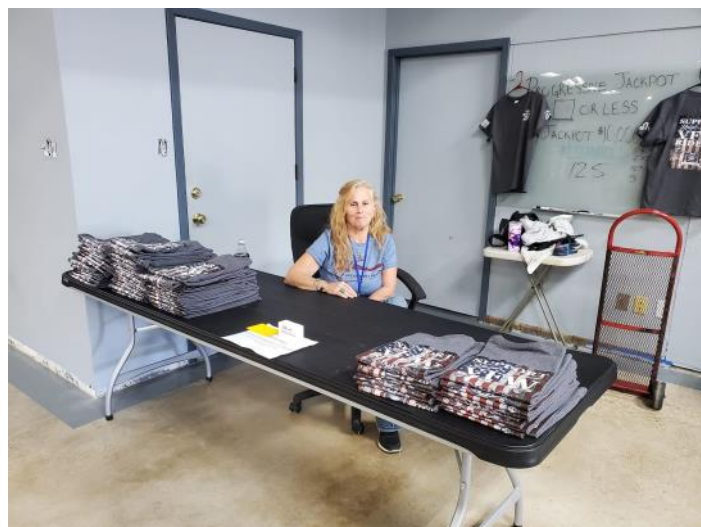
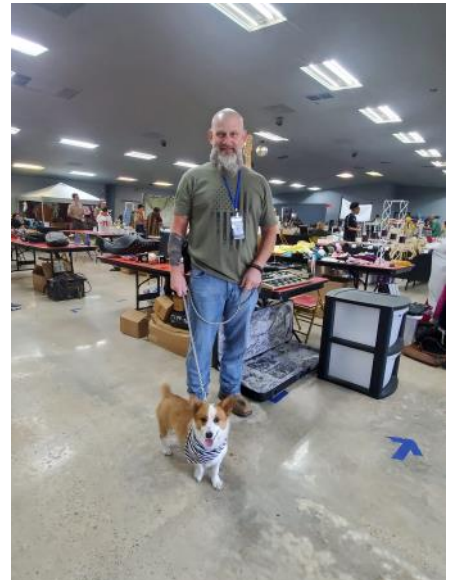


TARA WATKINS

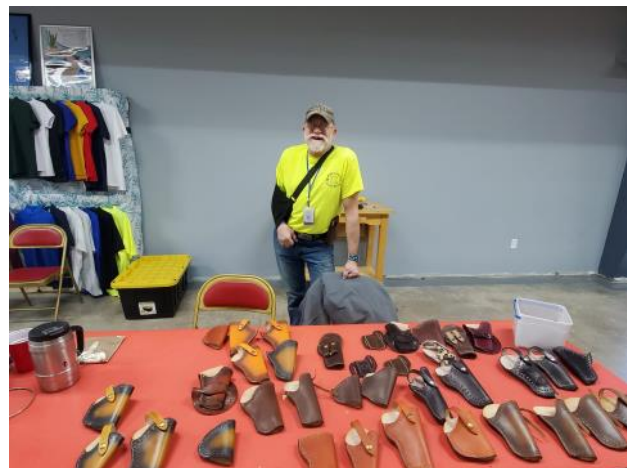


MATTHEW WEST

# Community Marketplace



# Community Marketplace

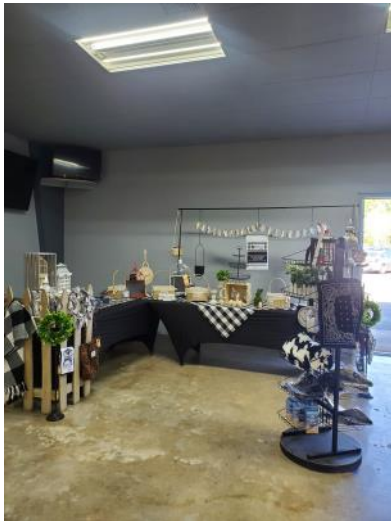


# Community Marketplace





# *Community Marketplace*



# *Americanism and Safety Banquet*



## *Americanism and Safety Banquet*



## *Americanism and Safety Banquet*



## *Americanism and Safety Banquet*



## *Americanism and Safety Banquet*



## *Americanism and Safety Banquet*



VFW Post 3619  
 1115 Hwy 27 South  
 DeRidder, LA 70634

*Points of Contact*

Commander: Larry Koons  
 Auxiliary President: Sonja Lambert  
 Post Secretary: Mary Gibson  
 337-463-3977

**No One Does More For Veterans  
 than the VFW!**

LOOK FOR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

[https://www.facebook.com/VFW.Post3619/?epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/VFW.Post3619/?epa=SEARCH_BOX)

AND WEBSITE

<http://vfw3619.org>

# MAY 2022



**Veterans Of Foreign  
 Wars Post 3619  
 Cole-Miers  
 DeRidder, La.  
 70634  
 Commander:  
 Larry Koons  
 Auxiliary  
 President:  
 Sonja Lambert**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Bingo	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Cornhole tournament/ Karaoke	<b>5</b> Joint Meeting 6:30 Reg. Meeting 7:00	<b>6</b> Bingo Rifle Drawing	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Bingo <b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Cornhole tournament/ Karaoke	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Bingo Rifle Drawing	<b>14</b> <b>Hall Rental 7 PM</b>
<b>15</b> Bingo	<b>16</b> <b>Installation of Officers 6:00 PM</b>	<b>17</b> Planning Session 6pm	<b>18</b> Cornhole tournament/ Karaoke	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Bingo Rifle Drawing	<b>21</b> <b>Community Marketplace 8:00 AM</b>
<b>22</b> Bingo	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Riders Group Meeting 6:30 PM	<b>25</b> Cornhole tournament/ Karaoke	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Bingo Rifle Drawing	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Bingo	<b>30</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>31</b>				
		<b>NOTES:</b>				
		<b>Bold are non-standard events</b>				