

COLE-MIERS COURIER

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all! Please try to remember the reason for the season. This time of year is hard on some people, who have lost loved ones, brother or sisters in arms, or friends. It can be quite lonely when you are not around your loved ones. Look for the signs, and reach

out to those in need. If you have more of something, and you don't need it, give it to someone who might really appreciate that item. Look after each other, as we are all a family, and at the end of the day, that is what matters most.

As we move into a new year, reach out to someone you have

not spoken to in a while. Ask them to come back and be a part of this great organization. Continue to support our Veterans like we always do, and this will be another successful year!

Special points of interest:

- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
- Post Officers
- Legislative
- Veterans Day
- Post Pride
- Flyers
- Calendar

Upcoming Events

Jan 1: New Years

Jan 5: Cornhole Tourney

Jan 6: Post Meeting 6:30 joint/7:00 PM Membership meetings.

Jan 8: Cornhole Tournament 8:00 AM

Jan 12: Cornhole Tourney

Jan 15: AARP Course 7:30 AM

Jan 17: Martin Luther King Day

Jan 18: Planning Session 6:00 PM

Jan 19: Cornhole Tourney

Jan 25: Riders Group Meeting 6:30 PM

Jan 26: Cornhole Tourney

Jan 27-30: Mid-Winter Conference in Alexandria



Commander's Corner

Greetings comrades. As we enter this New Year, we are all looking forward to making a greater impact within our Veteran community as well as our community in general. As you all have helped throughout this past year, we will be asking for your commitment again this next year. We already have a lot of things happening around our wonderful post to start this New Year off right. If you need any information about what is happening at the post, Mrs. Lori Bates has created (and up to date) board in the canteen and we are about to place another one in the hall to keep all of our members informed. Also, our Facebook, Instagram and website have all our current information and upcoming projects. So, please continue to support our Post and plans throughout this new venture.

Thank you,

Larry Koons

VFW Post 3619 Commander

Senior Vice's Vantage

As we come to the end of this year, we have a lot of things to be thankful for. Our health, our friendships and our devotion to helping Veterans. I appreciate everything you do for this organization, and hope that this coming year brings you joy, happiness and a sense of fulfillment.

It is the beginning of a new year, but we have so many members that do not participate in anything we do. So don't live here anymore, but some do. Try helping the team reach out these folks, and let them know of all the good things we do, each and every day.

Happy New Year to all!

Thank you,

Lucas Peterson

VFW Post 3619 Senior Vice Commander

Junior Vice's Voice

As the year comes to an end, I would like to thank those who have donated their time, ideas, sweat, and tears to our organization. I would also like to ask for each of us to take a moment to remember those we have lost, remember their smiles, laughs, and the happy times you shared. Know that their contributions will continue to live on as we solidly build upon the foundation that they laid.

We have had a lot of growing pains in 2021, but we grew together instead of apart and grew stronger instead of weaker. The work that we have put in over the last year has resulted in our having more visibility, an increase in the size of our network, and our outreach capabilities. I am so excited to move into this new year to see how much higher we will climb in membership, volunteer hours, and outreach programs! Of course, none of this would be possible without you. Our post is truly top-notch in your dedication, knowledge, imagination, compassion, and willingness to help others.

As the new year begins, it is common to set goals. While I am not great at goal setting per se, there are a few things I am going to attempt this year.

- * Attend every monthly meeting
- * Volunteer at least once a month
- * Highlight a VFW program for you each month
- * Talk about the VFW more with peers and on social media
- * Continue not smoking (389 days so far on the 1st of January!)
- * De-clutter my house more (lol)

I challenge you to do the following:

1. Set up a reminder on your phone to attend every monthly meeting (1st Thursday of each month at 1845).
2. Volunteer at least once a month at a VFW sponsored event (equals 1 to 4 hours)
3. Talk with your peers about the VFW
4. Make healthier choices (We want you around for a long time still)

I am happy to tell you that we are working on updating the **Volunteer recognition program!!!** I will be handling the sign-up rosters & calendars for volunteer events and helping when veterans are in need.

Elizabeth Dawson
VFW Post 3619
Junior Vice Commander
jrvice3619@gmail.com

Quartermaster's Que

As we ring in the New Year with our friends, family, or both... let us remember to keep moving ahead with our mission and put our best foot forward all the way into 2022's behind.....errr and beyond I mean. 2021 was much like 2020.... CRAZY!!! We've had this new virus or that one. Vaccinated vs the unvaxx'ed and everything else in between.

I have no doubt the forward thinking of this body of Members and Auxiliary have been outstanding and contributed to our success. We don't have to get stuck in "but that's the way we have always done it" while keeping with our rituals and tradition at the same time! Inflation is up 20-30% and our elderly and retirees only received a 5.9% Cost of living adjustment, one of the largest in my lifetime. Our Service Members on the other hand? A whopping 2.7%. A less than 3% raise for our Service Members just proves why our mission is so important! Taking care of Service Members, Veterans, and both their families is how we walk that walk! If you see a Soldier or Veteran, say hello... engage them in conversation and let them know what we do here and why we do it! Our new Members these past few months have been turning into an integral part of our Post, they have stepped up and hit it out of the park!

Our retention rate has been suffering however, so let's reach back out to those we haven't seen in awhile and let them know we still want them....nay...NEED them around. This works best when the mission does not ride on a couple of people to get the job done, and it's more fun with all the different personalities around!

Shane Fowler

VFW Post 3619 Quartermaster/Adjutant

Legislative

December 6th:

Veterans Legislation Signed into Law: VFW National Veteran Service Director Ryan Gallucci was in attendance when President Biden signed into law four VFW-supported bills. The [*Protecting Moms Who Served Act of 2021*](#) will structure VA's maternity care coordination programs to provide community maternity care providers with training and support for veterans' unique pregnancy and postpartum needs. The [*Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021*](#) will create alternative pathways for veterans to attain gainful employment after leaving active duty. The [*Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021*](#) will finally close the loophole for survivors using their Chapter 35, Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) tuition benefits and ensure institutions charge in-state tuition to these students. Lastly, [*S. 1031*](#) will require a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by VA.

Remembering Our Fallen at Pearl Harbor: On the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the VFW solemnly honors the men and women who died in the devastating attack on Dec. 7, 1941. VFW National Commander Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic, along with VFW Auxiliary National President Jean Hamil, will travel to Pearl Harbor on Tuesday to lay a wreath in remembrance of the 2,008 sailors, 109 Marines, 218 soldiers, and 68 civilians tragically lost without warning. Additionally, Mihelcic will attend a private interment service for a group of 33 sailors recently identified from the USS Oklahoma. We ask every American to take a moment to remember and pay respects to these patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice.

TRICARE Open Season Closing Soon: TRICARE Open Season will close on Dec. 13, 2021. This is the last week for beneficiaries to enroll in or change their health care, dental, and vision coverage. Any changes will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2022. If you are satisfied with your current plan then your coverage will continue automatically for 2022, as long as you remain eligible. Beneficiaries should verify their information is up to date and those making benefit changes need to set up an allotment with their regional contractors for enrollment coverage to begin Jan. 1, 2022. Individuals who do not set up their allotment by the deadline will be unenrolled due to nonpayment.

December 13th:

VFW Testifies Before House Subcommittee: The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on removing barriers to homeownership for veterans. VFW National Legislative Associate Director Emily DeVito testified on the need for VA to combat misconceptions about VA-guaranteed home loans that make them less competitive with other loans. "For sellers, accepting an offer with a VA-guaranteed loan may be seen as burdensome as sellers fear not meeting VA ap-

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praisal standards or the hassle of an extended timeline,” said DeVito. She also stressed the need to educate buyers on all the benefits VA-guaranteed loans offer, such as the opportunity to obtain an Energy Efficient Mortgage.

Wreaths Across America: Every December, wreath-laying ceremonies organized by the nonprofit Wreaths Across America to remember and honor our fallen veterans take place at more than 2,500 locations across the United States, at sea, and abroad. You can still [register](#) for this year’s event to be held at Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 18, National Wreaths Across America Day.

Defeating the Holiday Blues: For many veterans, the holiday season intensifies feelings of stress, depression, anxiety, and loneliness. Creating a community and building connections are ways to combat the holiday blues and provide a sense of purpose. For those unable to meet in person with family and friends, you can schedule video calls, online game nights, or virtual dinners, workouts, and watch parties. You can also volunteer with local VFW posts and veteran support organizations in your area.

Veterans’ Childcare Survey: VA’s Office of Women’s Health Services and Veterans Experience Office have released a survey to better understand the childcare needs of veterans and caretakers to facilitate medical appointments. The survey takes less than two minutes.

December 20th:

Congress Passes FY 2022 NDAA: The House and Senate passed the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022* (NDAA). This includes a 2.7 percent pay raise for service members, updates to the Uniform Code of Military Justice regarding sexual assault, and authorization to locate a Global War on Terrorism Memorial on the National Mall. Other important VFW-supported provisions included preservation and update of the Chaplains Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, the Troops to Teachers Program, the VET Rent Act, an ILER Study improvement, and the establishment of the U.S. Naval Community College. The NDAA now goes to the president’s desk for signature.

Student Veteran Bill Passes Congress: Congress passed [H.R. 5545](#), the *REMOTE Act*, which would extend the COVID-19 protections for students using VA education benefits. These protections, which were scheduled to expire on Dec. 21, 2021, include allowing students to continue to receive resident Monthly Housing Allowance even if their courses have temporarily shifted online during the pandemic. Additionally, this legislation would allow students to “round out” during their final term and take additional courses using their VA education benefits to maintain full-time status. The bill now heads to the president’s desk for signature.

Senate Committee Advances VA Nominee and 25 Veterans Bills: The Senate Com-

Legislative

mittee on Veterans' Affairs voted to confirm Kurt D. DelBene for the position of VA Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology. The committee also passed numerous VFW-supported bills to the Senate floor. These legislative proposals address the VA claims process, health care, education, and burial benefits.

Critical Need for Blood Donations: The American Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. The dangerously low blood supply levels have forced some hospitals to postpone major surgeries, including organ transplants. Your donation is desperately needed this holiday season. Please schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor app, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org), or calling 1.800.RED.CROSS (1.800.733.2767).

Country Christmas Beauty Pageant



Country Christmas Beauty Pageant



Keep a Vet Warm Campaign—Bossier



Keep a Vet Warm Campaign—Jennings



#Post Pride Christmas Party




#Post Pride Christmas Party





EVENT VENUE RENTAL
DERRIDER, LOUISIANA
HOLIDAY PARTY - PAGEANT - WEDDING
★ ★ ★
CALL TODAY TO CHECK AVAILABILITY & AMENITIES
337-463-3977

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT & *Karaoke*



WEDNESDAYS

BEAUREGARD BAGGERS

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

VFW POST 3619 - HWY 27 - DERRIDER, LA

The advertisement has a red top section with white text. Below is a blue section with a white background for the text. On the left, there's a stylized illustration of a person in red playing a red cornhole board, and another person in red singing into a microphone. The background of the illustration is a stylized American flag with stars and stripes.

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

AND WEBSITE

<http://vfw3619.org>

JANUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 New Years Day
2 Bingo	3	4	5 Cornhole tournament/ Karaoke	6 Post Meetings 6:30 PM Joint, 7:00 PM Members	7 Bingo	8 8:00 AM Cornhole Tournament
9 Bingo	10	11	12 Cornhole tournament/ Karaoke	13	14 Bingo	15 Hall Rental 7:30 AM AARP Course
16 Bingo	17 Martin Luther Kind Day	18 Planning Session 6:00 PM	19 Cornhole tournament/ Karaoke	20	21 Bingo	22 2-6 PM Polar Bear Bike Night
23 Bingo	24	25 Riders Group Meeting 6:30 PM	26 Cornhole tournament/ Karaoke	27 Mid Winter Conference Alexandria	28 Bingo Mid Winter Conference Alexandria	29 Mid Wnter Conference Alexandria
30 Bingo Mid Winter Conference Alexandria	31	NOTES:				



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

