

COLE-MIERS COURIER

Operating in a COVID 19 Environment

Comrades the year has started, currently we have 7 new members in the Post and we are well on our way to achieving our goals.

Please keep in mind that we are still in a COVID19

Environment and must protect our members and Auxiliary. Bingo is going, but you are required to wear a mask. Additionally, the canteen is open, but for Members/Auxiliary Only. No guests will

be allowed, or signed in, until the Governor lifts the closure of bars and relaxes the restriction emplaced. Thanks for Understanding.

Special points of interest:

- Happenings at the Post
- Commander
- How Do We Reach Our Fellow Veterans?
- POW/MIA 24-hour Vigil
- Riders Group/Bingo
- All State/American
- Post Pride
- Bingo Start Up

Happenings at the Post

Aug 6: Monthly Meeting 7pm we will hold a regular Meeting.

Aug 18: Planning Session 6:00 PM

Aug 27: Riders Group Meeting 6:30 PM

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

Aesop



How Do We Reach Our Fellow Veterans?

If you do any type of statistical analysis, you will find that we as the Only Combat Veterans Service Organization out there are sitting around 11,627 members. This is somewhat disheartening due to the fact, by the Veterans Data Central numbers, there are approximately, 210,600 Combat Veterans in our State. 5.1% are WWII Veterans, 9.1% from Korea, 35.6% from Vietnam, 20.8% from the Gulf War and 16.5% from Afghanistan and Iraq. So, let's say we don't include the Vietnam Veterans, many of whom said they would never join the VFW, due to the treatment they received when they

returned from Vietnam. You would still have approximately 133,730 Combat Veterans in the State (*Now I am not saying we should not include them, just using that as an example*). Now remove the approximately 11,000 already members, and you still have 122,730 available Veterans to recruit from! So, why are we struggling to increase membership each year? It doesn't make a lot of sense.

The highest membership the department has ever had, was 29,736 Members in 1990, accumulating all of

the years together, we have an average of 15,351 Members per. But, even after almost 20 years of fighting in Afghanistan, and 17 years, or so, in Iraq, we have not maintained our membership at the high level of the 1990's.

The top five Departments by Membership alone, are Pennsylvania at 69,746; Texas at 68,721 members; California at 65,851; Florida at 55,783, and Ohio at 54,010. We have the ability to reach so many Veterans in the State, that we could become the largest department in the National Organization if we wanted to. These numbers are a little misleading as well. We

How Do We Reach Our Fellow Veterans?

have 1,614 of our 11,627 that live in other States or Countries. So, realistically, we only have 10,000 Members *in* Louisiana. So, that is only 85% of our membership, and only 4.4% of the eligible Veterans within the State! So, what is the solution? How do we get these folks to be part of our great Organization? What is the trick to do it? How do we entice them to be part of our family? KNOWLEDGE, PARTICIPATION and INTEREST! If we do not know what we are about, how are we going to explain it to someone else? If you are just a member on paper, and do not participate in your Post, how do you expect to get a new member

prospect to join? If there is nothing of interest happening at your Post, then why would they want to be a part of that?

Comrades, I implore you to go out, set up recruiting booths, and go talk at other Veteran Service Organizations like the American Legion, DAV, or AMVETS. Talk to your local Team Rubicon, Team Red, White and Blue, or Iraq and Afghan Vets of America (IAVA). Showcase what our Post is doing in the community, working with schools on Americanism, helping needy Veterans, working

with the Veterans Affairs to help Veterans get their benefits. If we do these simple things, and quit worrying about the canteen, bingo and gossip, we might just be able to grow this organization again, just like they did in 1990. Now is the time for action!

Matthew West
Past State Commander
2018-2019

From the Desk of the Commander

Well, we are month in already! As the new officers took their place at the Department, District and Post level, we begin the 2020-20201 VFW year. Now is the time to start thinking of the ways we can make our Post better, more efficient, and welcom-

ing to new members. Our Quartermaster has already started with getting 4 or 5 new members for the Post, who is next? Who is willing to step up and start recruiting some new members to help us achieve our goals? For those that don't know, All American



is the Goal for this year! Who is willing to help?

Commander
Josh Morgan

From our Senior Vice Commander

Comrades, again I am serving the Post in a position I have held several times. My goals this year is to assist the Leadership in whatever capacity that is required. Look forward to getting back to some kind of normal, hopefully soon. Thank you

for electing me, and I will do what I can, when I can.

Ken Gresham



From our Junior Vice Commander

Dear comrades, I have the pleasure this year to be the new Jr Vice Commander. I am looking forward to assisting and guiding the post into the future. The biggest thing I am wanting to do this year, is work on our public image. For example our signage,

property landscape, and working on our buddy poppy beds. Thanks, for electing me, and you'll hear from me again next month.

Jeremy Golden



From our Quartermaster/Adjutant

So, as your new Quartermaster, I ask that you all bear with me as the transition to this important job is critical. We look forward to leading the Post this year, to new heights, get some new members, and maybe do some new events. Everything

we do, should be for the Veterans and their families. So I ask each of you to step up and help where you can. Mary always needs help with Bingo, and as that is our main revenue, we need to keep it going. Thanks for all you do each



and every day. If you need anything please feel free to contact us.

Shane Fowler

POW/MIA 24-HOUR VIGIL

SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2020

SPONSORED BY

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 3619 AND AUXILIARY

HONORING ALL POW/MIAS FROM ALL WARS

FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2020

**POW/MIA MEMORIAL CORNER OF WASHINGTON ST AND 171
SOUTH (PARKING BY THE FARMERS MARKET)**

RIDE FOR FREEDOM

SPONSORED BY THE COLE-MIERS VFW RIDERS

BEGINS AT 1630 AT VFW POST 3619

**ROUTE WILL BE DEPART POST, GO NORTH HWY 27, TURN ON 9TH
STREET, TURN LEFT ON WASHINGTON STREET, AND PARK BY THE
FARMERS MARKET**

THE CEREMONY WILL BE AT 5:30 PM

UNIFORM:

BUSINESS CASUAL

DUTY UNIFORM (ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL)

RIDERS GROUP ATTIRE FOR MOTORCYCLISTS

“NEVER FORGET”

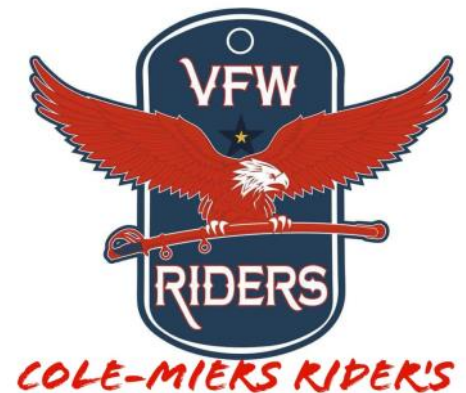
From the VFW Riders Group

Date for the 3rd Annual Bobby D Memorial Ride has been announced for September 12, 2020. Registration is at 0900, kickstands up will be 1000 hours. \$20.00 Riders, and \$10.00 for passengers. Poker run prizes are High Hand—\$200.00 and Low Hand—\$50.00.

Raffle and table prizes

will be available. Registration consists of Poker Card and meal.

Pre-register no earlier than 6 SEP at the Post home, or call 463-3977 and let the Secretary know, who and how many.



Bingo

Bingo was started back up on 29 May 20, please come out and enjoy our sessions, or come out and work, so we can continue to bring in much needed funds to help our programs, and Veterans in need. Since

we started Bingo back up, we have a need for additional workers, as we have to ensure we are playing in the safest of conditions. This includes temperature checkers, paper sales and

payouts. There is a calendar on the Bingo Managers' door, please sign up for just one session a month. It is greatly appreciated!



All State

Commanders seeking All-State status must complete listed requirements and submit an entry form (supplied) to the Department Headquarters by 7 May 2021, only the top 15 Post will be selected for the All-State Team. Qualifying membership activity and program items must be completed on or before that date. All-State selections will be made in sufficient time to allow post members to plan for attendance at the state convention in late June. NOTE: If total number of All State is NOT 15 Posts then, Posts that meet all final applied criteria after 7 May of current year but before June 30 current year will also be considered to receive recognition as All-State, but not necessarily receive caps, citations, and pins at the state convention; for those posts, recognition will be provided at the August Council of Administration.

The primary requirements are divided into Membership Requirements and VFW Program Requirements. Both must be fulfilled in order for a Post to be on the All-State Team!

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

Greater than 50 members on May 7 of current year - Membership greater than 100%

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

Voice of Democracy - minimum of one entry advanced to District Judging **(31 OCT 20)**

Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging **(31 OCT 20)**

National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – one entry advanced to District judging **(31 OCT 20)**

Buddy Poppy- must purchase Buddy Poppies (5 per member on roster as of 30 June prior year) **(2500)**

Hold a fundraiser with the proceeds going to National Veterans & Military Support Services, minimum of **\$100.00**

National Veterans Service – Appoint a Post Service Officer **DONE**

Post submitted Community Service Record Book for State judging

Post submitted election report for 2020-2021 year. **DONE**

Post is appropriately bonded (**QM - \$75,000; BINGO CHAIR - \$25,000; CANTEEN MANAGER - \$10,000**) Bonds are \$7.00 per \$1,000, so \$750 for QM; \$175 for Bingo; \$70.00 for Canteen, total \$995.00, due by end of August 2020.

Post submitted four Trustee Reports for the 2020-2021 year

Post inspection completed and all discrepancies corrected

Extra Points will be given for the following:

Safety – entry in at least one category for Department judging

Post submitted monthly Community Service reports (done monthly)

Post conducted at least one Hospital or Veteran Home visit (**September and December visits**)

Post participated in a POW/MIA event or ceremony (**We have a huge event this year**)



All American

Our goal is to be All American, it will take every member of the Post to help us achieve this. Programs and Membership are the driving forces behind achieving All American!

Hold a fundraiser with the proceeds going to National Veterans & Military Support Services, minimum of **\$100.**

Division 3 - 356-749 =
Over 113%.

We will need to get 65 new or reinstated members to achieve this. That also includes getting all of our members to pay. By putting in 6 members a month, we would have 66 done by May 2021. (499x113%= 563.87 members, so 564 required)

Finish in the top **25 posts** in your respective division

Meet the following Program Participation Criteria:

Voice of Democracy - minimum of one entry advanced to District Judging
(31 OCT 2020)

Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging **(31 OCT 2020)**

Buddy Poppy- must purchase five Buddy Poppies per member **(2500 poppies)**



#Post Pride

Members and guests posted the Flags at the Cemetery and the Post home, in honor of Independence Day!



3rd Annual Bobby D Memorial Ride



**COLE-MIERS VFW POST 3619
VFW RIDERS GROUP**



3RD ANNUAL BOBBY D MEMORIAL POKER RUN

**12 SEPTEMBER 2020 (TENTATIVE)
VFW POST 3619, 1115 HWY 27 SOUTH, DERIDDER, LA**

9 AM - REGISTRATION - 10 AM - KICK OFF

\$20 PER BIKE, \$10 PER RIDER

**PROCEEDS WILL BE SPLIT BETWEEN NATIONAL VETERANS
MILITARY SUPPORT AND THE VFW RIDERS GROUP**

Come out and support a great event!



VFW Post 3619
 1115 Hwy 27 South
 DeRidder, LA 70634

Points of Contact

Commander: Joshua Morgan
 Auxiliary President: Sonja Lambert
 Post Secretary: Mary Gibson

Phone: 337-463-3977
 Email: secvfw3619@gmail.com

**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>

AUGUST 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUE SDAY	WEDNE SDAY	THUR SDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Bingo	3	4	5	6 Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm	7 Bingo	8
9 Bingo	10	11	12	13 Council of Administration Alexandria	14 Bingo Council of Administration Alexandria	15 Council of Administration Alexandria
16 Bingo Council of Administration Alexandria	17	18 Planning Session 6:00 pm	19	20	21 Bingo	22 District Leadership Workshop Post 3106 Reg 9 AM, 10:00 AM Start
23 Bingo	24	25	26	27 VFW Riders Meeting 6:30 pm	28 Bingo	29
30	31	NOTES:				



**Veterans Of Foreign
 Wars Post 3619
 Cole-Miers
 DeRidder, LA 70634**

**Commander:
 Joshua Morgan**

**Auxiliary President:
 Sonja Lambert**

