

COLE-MIERS COURIER

Why are Combat Veterans not Members of the VFW?

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is the largest fraternal organization specifically designed for those Service Members that deployed to Combat during their service period. We have Veterans from every conflict, starting in 1899 to present. Obviously we lost all of the Spanish American

War, World War I, and are losing the majority of our World War II Veterans at an ever increasing rate. As Korean War Veterans are reaching their 80's, and Vietnam Veterans rolling into the 70s, it is up to all of those other Conflicts to keep this organization moving forward and rele-

vant. As we look inside of our Posts and Districts, we need to understand what is keeping all of these Veterans away. Why are Veterans not knocking down our doors to be a part of our Awesome Organization? What is it we are doing or not doing that is keeping them away? (Cont on Page 2-3.)

Special points of interest:

- Happenings at the Post
- Commander
- Why are Combat Veterans not Members of the VFW?
- Supporting Local Seniors
- Riders Group/Bingo
- Post Pride
- Bingo Start Up

Happenings at the Post

Jul 2: Monthly Meeting
7pm we will hold a regular Meeting.

Jul 21: Planning Session
6:00 PM

Jul 30: Riders Group Meeting
6:30 PM

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



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

Why are Combat Veterans not Members of the VFW?

'Cont First of all, let's look at what a current Veteran of Afghanistan and Iraq look like. Remember, we have been fighting in these countries for 19 and 17 years respectively. According to research there are approximately 2.7 million Veterans of Afghanistan/Iraq. In all services, the breakdown looks like this: 47% of Enlisted Personnel were between 20-24 years old; 26% of Officers were between 25-29 years old. So, realisti-

cally, you can see that the majority of Deployed Service Members were between 20-29 years old. Marital status also differs somewhat by component and service branch. Of the active-component force, 55.2% are married in the Department of defense. The Air Force has the highest proportion of married members, 60.6%. Senior enlisted and senior officers are also more likely to be married. In addi-

tion, 6.7% of active-component military personnel are reported to be married to other military personnel (dual-military marriages); again, the Air Force has the highest percentage, 12.8% (DOD, 2007). A higher percentage of female military personnel is in dual-military marriages than males: over 26% of female Marine Corps members and 30% of female Air Force members are married to members of the military. Some 43% of active-component members have children, two on the average. Similarly, reserve-component members who have children have an average of

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two. So, we have Veterans that are between 20-29 years old and married with children. That is your average Afghan/Iraq Combat Veteran. So, let's go back to the question, what are we doing or not doing, to attract these newest Combat Veterans in our Posts and Districts? After interviewing, several Veterans, here is what they are doing with their lives. For those, that performed three to four year Enlistments, single Service Members are normally, trying to go to school, meet someone, and settle down. They will hopefully, find a job, so they can start a family. Normally, unless you have family or friends in the VFW, they (Veterans) do not have time, nor the inclination to join a group. They are focused on starting their life, especially, one that is following Combat. But, you will tend to see that after about ten years of doing this, they miss the camaraderie of the Military, they have begun to realize their Volunteerism, and want to be part of something bigger than themselves.

These are the Veterans we are most likely get. But, how do we find them? Some of

them were given an application to join when they returned, and possibly became a member. Most likely they did not attend a single meeting, event, or convention. They let their membership's lapse, because they really got nothing from it, except a few emails and mailings for the VFW. Others, were too busy to know what the VFW does. Some have no idea, because, generally, we have a problem with advertising ourselves. So, we are talking about 30-39 year old members that have got some stuff figured out in their lives. They are generally, more mature, understand teamwork, understand group structure, and are willing to help out when they can.

Bottom line, these Veterans are out there. If we do not give them something to WANT to be a part of, they are not going to join. The VFW (National and Department level), has some things it needs to work on as well, not at all uncommon for a Business of our size and magni-

tude. However, even on a national level, we are a diminishing organization, and soon, we could lose our seat at the Table when dealing with the Congress on Veteran related issues. When you have 2.7 million Veterans, and we only have 1.04 million members, we need to think about the Future of the Organization. Get out there, show what your Posts and Members are doing for Veterans, each and every day, and allow your deeds to recruit as much as your words!

Supporting our Local Seniors

The DeRidder High School Class of 2020 had their Senior Formal on June 27 to make up for having to miss their prom due to coronavirus.

The community came together to plan the event for the Seniors. Amber Maricle LeBlanc coordinated the event, as a mother to a Senior she knew she wanted to plan something special.

“All of the girls were just gorgeous and the fellas were as handsome as ever! I want to take a minute and say a huge thank you to everyone who made the event possible,” said Maricle.

Amber Maricle LeBlanc wrote the following thanks on Facebook:

“First I would like to thank the Bayou Reaperz and Lady Reaperz. You guys helped with set up, gave such a generous donation, and stopped by to see all of the kids! I can not thank you guys enough! Secondly thank you to eve-

ryone involved with the VFW on Hwy 27 for their donation.

A huge thank you to Claudia with Vintage Girl for the donation of our beautiful decorations! Thank you to Kay Allen for your kind heart and the use of the Exhibit Hall. Also, tell Mr. Robert we appreciate him so much! Jeannette Mulligan thank you so much for your contribution to the security! That meant more than you know.

A big big thank you to Andrea Wilson with Cake It Bakery. The food was amazing and the set up was beautiful!

Thank you to everyone who donated dresses for the girls! They will now go to Rosepine for their upcoming formal.

Thank you to Ciao Bella for giving a discount on their rentals. Thank you to Planet Nutrition for their bottled water donation. Thank you to Brad with Barrie Shaw for coming to take pictures.

Thank you to Amber McDaniel with Through the Looking Glass for coming to capture candid moments that I am sure

these kids will treasure for years to come.

Now to thank the ones who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure these kids had a blast, Kenneth Austin and Sheila Austin, Cody LeBlanc, Milfred and Kelly Newman, Mary Day, Jasmine Hoychick, Neelum Purba, and Melissa Cobb.

I appreciate everything you all did. I know there maybe someone I failed to mention and if so I am so so sorry!

You all meant so much to me being there and helping. We really do have the best community! Thank you to everyone for getting behind this and supporting our Senior class of 2020!

I hope it was a night they never forget!

#classof2020strong

By Carly John | Staff Reporter
Beauregard Daily News

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 5 SEP at the Post home, or call 463-3977 and let the Secretary know, who and how many.



Bingo

Bingo was started up on 29 MAY, 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.



#Post Pride

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



Bingo

Bingo reopened and it was a Great!



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
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**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>

JULY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				BJACH Bike Ride Monthly Meeting 6:30	No Bingo	Canteen Closed
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Bingo					Bingo	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Bingo					Bingo	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Bingo		Planning Session 6:00 PM			Bingo	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Bingo				6:30PM Riders Group Meeting	Bingo	
NOTES:						



Veterans Of Foreign
 Wars Post 3619
 Cole-Miers
 DeRidder, La. 70634:
 Commander:
 Joshua Morgan

Auxiliary President:
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