

COLE-MIERS COURIER

Armistice/Veterans Day

Each year the 11th of November is the National designated Veterans Day. Before it was re-designated as Veterans Day, it was Armistice Day. The Allied powers signed a ceasefire agreement with Germany at Compiègne, France, at 11:00 a.m. on **November 11, 1918**, bringing the war now known

as World War I to a close. President Wilson proclaimed the first Armistice Day the following year on November 11, 1919, with these words: *“To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for*

the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...” Originally, the celebration included parades and public meetings following a two-minute suspension of business at 11:00 a.m.

Special points of interest:

- Armistice/Veterans Day
- Post Officers
- Legislative
- Veterans Day
- Post Pride
- Flyers
- Calendar

Upcoming Events

Dec 1: Cornhole Tourney

Dec 2: Post Meeting 6:30 joint/7:00 PM Membership meetings.

Dec 4: Hall Rental

Dec 8: Cornhole Tourney

Dec 11: Keep a Vet Warm Bossier

Dec 15: Cornhole Tourney

Dec 18: Post Christmas Party; Keep a Vet Warm Vinton

Dec 21: Planning Session 6:00 PM

Dec 25: Christmas (Canteen Closed)

Dec 28: Riders Group Meeting 6:30 PM

Dec 29: Cornhole Tourney

Dec 31: Canteen White Elephant Party 8:00 PM



Commander's Corner

Greetings comrades. Well, tis the season. As we move into the holiday season, we need to keep our less fortunate comrades in our thoughts and prayers. If you know of a veteran in need, please do not hesitate to bring it to our attention. We do not have to wait for a meeting to help veterans in need. It is one of our guiding principles.

Our Thanksgiving dinner went well, we wish we could have served more families but we do what we can. We also had a lot of great folks help out with all the phases of this event and I would like to personally thank each and every one of you. Are there things we could do better, I'm sure. But, we worked together and got the mission accomplished.

We have our upcoming VFW Christmas Party for all of our members, active duty and their families. We would love to see a HUGE turnout for this. Just remember to bring a gift for any children you are bringing for Santa to hand out. We could sure use ideas and help for the meal. We would like folks to prep/cook, serve and clean-up. During the Thanksgiving meal, lots of folks attempted to do all of that and it lead to some of us being completely wiped out. The more the merrier...

As we forge ahead into the Holiday Season, please keep your eye out for anyone that may need some assistance. If you don't feel that you can handle any situation by yourself, reach out to the post for assistance that is what we are here for. Remember the Buddy System/Checks, we have a list at the post for those of us that are willing to help at the drop of a hat.

Happy Holidays,

Thank you,

Larry Koons

VFW Post 3619 Commander

Senior Vice's Vantage

First off, I would like to thank all of you who volunteer so selflessly to keep this organization afloat. Our purpose is vital to this community, and you should not forget it. As a veteran, I can not tell you how much it means to me to see others making my brothers and sisters in arms feel as though the sacrifices they made are still appreciated and remembered. Every meal you help prepare in the kitchen, every time you help with bingo, every time you donate time or money. There are others who notice what you are doing to honor us. We may not always express it, or even say it at all, but we would not be here doing what we do if it were not for you. Our Thanksgiving Day meal was wonderful. I did not taste anything prepared that day that was not delicious and cooked well. I saw many faces that I don't normally see, as well as some I had never seen. Everyone came together and pitched in as one team to create a wonderful environment for the holidays. I would love to see that continue, and hope that everyone that participated feels the same way. With that being said, there is still many ways in which you can serve this organization and this community moving forward. We have several drives going for the holidays, blankets, toys, and clothing are still needed. We are always in need of bingo volunteers. We could use help running the Cornhole nights. We have a Post Christmas party coming up that you could help decorate, cook, or serve for. Please bring your families and help us create that wonderful environment once again.

Thank you,

Lucas Peterson

VFW Post 3619 Senior Vice Commander

Junior Vice's Voice

Why am I a member of the VFW and Post 3619?

Not every combat veteran is a member of the VFW. I am often asked **why** I am a member and **what** we do. As my first article as the Jr Vice, I thought that I would share my answers with you and ask you some in return.

My why- I served as a Combat Medic for 12 years in the US Army and medically retired in 2018. I found that I was, for the first time in a long time, alone. I was raising children and going to school, but I needed to be a part of an adult team again. I needed to be near those who understood the battles I have faced and won... and who understood the losses we shared. To surround me and my family with people who hold similar values and maybe even make some friends. I have a passion for helping my brothers and sisters in arms; we are connected. I had heard of the VFW and hoped to find a new team to be a part of. I am thankful to be able to be a part of Post 3619 and the VFW family. I am pleased that my children love it at the VFW, love to assist with events, and look forward to joining when they are of age

What we do- I spend my free time serving our community and veterans with the VFW. I am proud to be a part of a fantastic team, each of whom has a passion for service. I am here, and we are here to help our brothers and sisters in arms, our veterans, families, and communities when needed. We raise money through multiple activities and events so that we can support them. The money we raise is used for programs that benefit the community. Some of these include scholarships to help with college, team sponsorships so the kids can play sports and grants to veterans and their families who need assistance. We show support to veterans who have lost everything and ensure they know they are not forgotten; they are appreciated, valued, and loved.

My team is amazing, but we cannot do what we do without our Auxiliary. The knowledge and skill the Auxiliary members bring to the table are invaluable to our success. Like when we were in the service, those in the Auxiliary are strong, steadfast, and keep the home fires burning. They show us love when we are sometimes being unlovable, and they always have our backs. I would think the Auxiliary is beneficial to those in it because they have their team of people who understand the unique struggles of being our family members.

My questions to you are:

What is your why? (Why are you a member of the VFW?)

Will you donate 4 hours a month to help the post in our goals?

I look forward to serving you as your Junior Vice Commander, and I look forward to working alongside you.

Elizabeth Dawson
VFW Post 3619
Junior Vice Commander

Quartermaster's Que

Thanks everyone for all of the volunteer work you have done. Each year as we hit the holidays, we have a lot of stuff going on, so we definitely appreciate all of the hard work.

As the year comes to an end, be sure you give thanks to those that stand by you, those that lift you up, and those that are willing to sacrifice to make sure you succeed. We will be escorting the vehicles going to Bossier and then to Vinton, for Keep a Vet Warm. If available, come with us, and enjoy the thought of helping those less fortunate.

Lastly, remember what we do in the community only brings good press. As we post stuff on our social media platforms, you will see it gets shared a lot! So keep bringing the VFW and our community together, and show the successes that we achieve.

Shane Fowler

VFW Post 3619 Quartermaster/Adjutant

Legislative

VFW Testifies Before Senate Committee: The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing on economic opportunity issues including improvements for veterans employment, education, and home loan opportunities. VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray testified on the importance of the Transition Assistance Program stating, "A proper and well-rounded transition from the military is one of the most important things our service members need to ease back into society with minimal hardships." He also stressed the need for oversight and continued funding for retraining programs such as VR&E and VET TEC, and the urgency to pass measures extending student veteran COVID-19 protections which are set to expire on December 21, 2021.

Veterans Oral Health Survey Closing Soon: Veterans oral health is chronically underserved. Preventive dental care can significantly impact a veteran's overall health and quality of life, including job security. The VFW is collaborating with CareQuest Institute for Oral Health on a survey to gain an understanding of the barriers and challenges veterans face concerning their dental care. This survey can be completed by all veterans and service members. You do not need to be enrolled in VA or TRICARE Health Programs to take the survey.

TRICARE Open Enrollment Season Coming Soon: TRICARE Open Season will run Nov. 8 - Dec. 13, 2021. This is your chance to enroll or change your health care plan for the next year. If you are satisfied with your current plan, no action is necessary, and your coverage will continue automatically for 2022. It is important to note that new retirees have only one year to enroll for TRICARE Prime. Enrollment in TRICARE Prime or Select is not automatic for retirees.

Troops to Teachers: The Troops to Teachers program has been sunsetted, effectively ending a 28-year program that provided tens of thousands of veterans with financial support and job placement services to become teachers. Recently, the VFW joined fellow VSOs in a letter to Congress advocating for the return of funding for the Troops to Teachers program in the FY2022 NDAA, citing America's critical need for teachers and the positive outcomes the program has demonstrated since 1993.

Bystander Intervention Training for Veterans: VA is offering free online training to teach veterans the skills needed to contribute to a safe and welcoming environment at all VA facilities. This training provides practical techniques that veterans can use to recognize, respond, and prevent situations of harassment or sexual assault. You do not need to register, and the training takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

VFW Speaks at GWOT Memorial Press Conference: VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci spoke at a press conference on [S. 535](#), the (*Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Memorial Location Act*). This bill would allow the GWOT Memorial, approved by Congress in 2017, to be constructed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. "A Global War on Terrorism memorial belongs on the mall, where all current and future service members, veterans, families, survivors, and all Americans can come to honor and remember those who volunteered to serve in our country's longest war," said Gallucci.

Veterans Day Events: This year, events to commemorate Veterans Day will be in person and virtual.

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A Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Centennial Commemoration Public Flower Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 9, and Wednesday, Nov. 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST. On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, at 9 a.m., the public is invited to [watch or attend](#) the full honors procession, joint service flyover, and laying of the wreath at Arlington National Cemetery. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund will host a commemoration ceremony at The Wall on Nov. 11 at 1 p.m.

TRICARE Open Season Begins Today: TRICARE Open Season will run from Nov. 8 to Dec. 13, 2021. This is your chance to enroll or change your health care plan for the next year. If you are satisfied with your current plan then your coverage will continue automatically for 2022, as long as you remain eligible. It is important to note that new retirees have only one year to enroll for TRICARE Prime. Enrollment in TRICARE Prime or Select is not automatic for retirees.

VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" Closing Soon: Scholarship applications for the spring 2022 semester are being accepted through Nov. 15. Veterans can face many challenges while furthering their education, and even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.

Flu Season is Here: VA has expanded flu vaccine availability to more than 70,000 in-network community providers. Eligible veterans can now receive at no cost a standard, high dose, or preservative-free flu shot at their local VA health care facility, in-network community retail pharmacy, or an urgent care location without prior authorization. If you are eligible, you need to present a valid, government-issued ID at a covered location.

VFW Testifies Before Senate: VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray testified before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on pending legislation. Twenty-one bills were discussed, including expansions for Guard and Reserve troops, student veteran protections, VA claims improvements, and provisions to improve the Office of Inspector General. Murray stated, "Knowing which specific veterans are and are not utilizing VA would help inform stakeholders about any and all gaps in veterans' care." Many of the bills discussed at this hearing were supported by the VFW and we are hopeful they will be swiftly passed into law.

VFW Testifies Before House Subcommittees: The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, and Subcommittee on Health, held a joint hearing on disability claims related to military sexual trauma (MST). VFW National Legislative Associate Director Kristina Keenan testified on the need for VA to improve the quality of mental health compensation and pension exams, carefully weigh all evidence for incidents of MST, and increase resources for MST coordinators. "It is imperative that the Department of Veterans Affairs provides support for MST survivors and delivers benefits and services with dignity and respect at the forefront," said Keenan. She also stressed the need for mental health examiners to receive MST-specific training, as well as training on military culture.

Congress Passes Veterans Legislation: Congress passed four VFW-supported bills -- [S. 796](#)

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(Protecting Moms Who Served Act of 2021), [S. 894](#) (Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021) (, [S. 1031](#) (A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes), [S. 1095](#) (Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021) -- that would improve maternal health care, increase coordination for hiring veteran health professionals at VA, study racial and ethnic disparities in VA claims, and establish tuition fairness for those utilizing the Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance program. These bills were previously passed by the Senate and now head to the president's desk for signature.

House Passes Several Veterans Bills: The House passed nine veterans bills, including three supported by the VFW. [H.R. 147](#) (BRAVE Act), [H.R. 4233](#) (Student Veterans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act), and [H.R. 4626](#) (VA AIM Act) would ensure services and benefits for separating service members and veterans with respect to apprenticeship programs, require VA to furnish counseling including Vet Center access to those using specified DOD or VA educational assistance benefits, and require VA at least once every 10 years to enter into a contract for a private sector entity or entities to conduct an independent assessment of all medical services and care furnished by VA.

VA Women Veterans Survey: VA's Center for Women Veterans has released a women veterans' survey. It wants to hear from as many women who served as possible, regardless if they use or are enrolled for VA benefits and services. The survey takes less than five minutes. Spanish and Tagalog versions of the survey will be released in January.

Urgent Need for Blood Donations: The American Red Cross has issued an emergency shortage alert and strongly urges healthy, eligible individuals who are feeling well to give blood, platelets, or plasma to help maintain a sufficient supply for those battling COVID-19, cancers, other infections, or trauma victims. Those who donate Nov. 24-28 will receive an exclusive pair of Red Cross holiday socks, while supplies last. 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).

Holiday Overseas Mail Deadlines Approaching: The U.S. Postal Service is preparing for more gifts to be mailed this year than usual as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to force many families to spend holidays apart. In order to ensure overseas packages are delivered before Dec. 25, it has provided the following deadlines: **Dec. 9** for all Air/Army Post Office (APO), Fleet Post Office (FPO) and Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) addresses with AE Zip Codes using Priority Mail and First-Class Mail; and **Dec. 16** for APO/FPO/DPO addresses using USPS Priority Mail Express (excluding ZIP 093). The Postal Service offers a free "military care kit," which consists of the items most often requested by military families.

TRICARE Open Season: TRICARE Open Season is currently open through Dec. 13, 2021. This is the time when beneficiaries can enroll in or change their health care 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

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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.

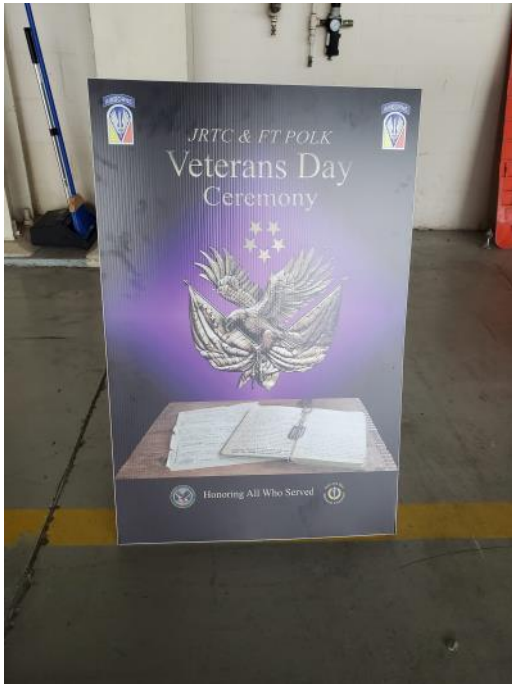
Network Pharmacy Changes Coming to TRICARE: TRICARE has announced that beginning on Dec. 15, 2021, there will be changes to the retail in-network pharmacies. [Express Scripts](#) is the TRICARE pharmacy contractor with oversight of home delivery, military pharmacy, and civilian contract facilities. It is recommended that you contact your pharmacy to see if it will remain in network.

Bring Christmas Joy Through Toys for Tots: Since 1947, Marine Toys for Tots has been bringing the joy of Christmas to America's less-fortunate children and fostering community engagement. Every holiday season, new, unwrapped toys are distributed to children in need. Donated items may be dropped off at designated locations, or you may make a virtual donation.

National Family Caregivers Month: VA is honoring the estimated 5.5 million family members and friends who provide much-needed care for chronically ill, injured, or disabled veterans during National Family Caregivers Month. Resources for caregivers have significantly increased since the passing of the VFW-supported *VA Mission Act of 2018*. The [VA Caregiver Support Program](#) offers tools and information for caregivers and the veterans they serve. Additionally, [Building Better Caregivers](#) provides an online workshop with self-paced lessons and a connection with the caregiver community.

Men's Health Awareness Month: Male veterans die five years earlier than most female veterans according to VA. Many of the reasons are preventable, such as [prostate cancer](#), testicular cancer, [mental health](#) and [suicide prevention](#). VA created a [recommendation chart](#) for preventive care listing recommended screenings and immunizations. As more individuals have received the COVID-19 vaccine and restrictions have been lifted, veterans who are overdue for preventive care need to schedule appointments as soon as possible.

Veterans Day 2021



Veterans Day 2021



#Post Pride Veterans Parade at Jennings



#Post Pride Parade at Jennings



#Post Pride Thanksgiving 2021



#Post Pride Thanksgiving 2021





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

VFW 3619 MEMBERS/AUXILIARY & GUESTS ONLY

**New Years Eve
White Elephant Party**

December 31st
Start @ 20:00

Finger Foods
Welcome!

ADULTS
ONLY!
18+

Please bring a tasteful \$20 gift to
participate in the gift exchange

Dance!

DECEMBER 31 8PM - MID

PLACE: VFW 3619, 1115-LA 27, DERRIDER LA
COST: \$10 PER PERSON MUSIC: DJ DUB
18+ EVENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
CONTACT: DEBBIE PERKINS 337-348-1329

VFW WILL HAVE FOOD, MIXERS, BEER & ICE FOR SALE

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



VFW
 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
 Post 3619

Christmas Party

OPEN TO VFW MEMBERS/AUXILIARY, ACTIVE DUTY,
 VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES

Saturday December 18th

18:00 Social Hour
18:30 Santa
19:00 Dinner

SANTA WILL BE HERE!

Please bring a \$20 gift from Santa for each child attending.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Please bring a side dish for the Holiday Dinner

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>
