

# COLE-MIERS COURIER

## Giving Thanks

As we move into November, we (The Post) would like to offer our thanks to each of you for not only being a member of the Post, but for all the things you do for our veterans and Community.

As a Veterans Service Organization, we work daily to help

those in need, assist our community and remain vigilant when working with our elected officials to do the right thing for our Veterans. Take time out of your busy schedules, look at the blessings that have been bestowed upon you and just simply, Give Thanks!



### Special points of interest:

- Giving Thanks
- Post Officers
- Bingo
- Legislative
- Around the Post
- Post Pride
- Calendar

### Upcoming Events

**Nov 3:** Cornhole Tourney

**Nov 4:** Post Meeting 6:30 joint/7:00 PM Membership meetings.

**Nov 10:** Cornhole Tourney

**Nov 11:** Veterans Day

**Nov 13:** Information Fair Post 7321 (LC)

**Nov 16:** Planning Session 6:00 PM

**Nov 17:** Cornhole Tourney

**Nov 23-24:** Needy Family Food Box Distro

**Nov 24:** Cornhole Tourney

**Nov 26:** Thanksgiving

**Nov 30:** Riders Group Meeting 6:30 PM



## *Commander's Corner*

Greetings comrades. As we move forward, please trust that the leadership of this great organization has the best interest of the Post in mind and heart. Although this change was unexpected, we will continue to forge ahead and continue to fulfill the purpose of this great organization. Which is to: preserve and strengthen comradeship among our members, assist worthy comrades, foster true patriotism and be a positive influence in our local community.

We are making strides on this last one as I type this. We are sponsoring a local Cornhole League, Beauregard Baggers, every Wednesday evening. If you are interested in a good time with new friends as well as some of your old comrades, please come out and join us.

I would like to extend a personal thanks to Andrey Loria Calvo, Shane Fowler, Lucas Peterson, Sonja Lambert and the other members that devoted their time and effort for the recent Veterans Benefit Fair held at our post. It was an excellent opportunity for veterans of all ages to come out and get any and all information they might need from the vendors that came out to support our veterans.

I'm asking for your help and support as we work together and focus on the way ahead. We have some great plans for our future, and we need everyone's help to make things happen. As always, One Team, One Fight.

Thank you,

Larry Koons

VFW Post 3619 Commander

## *Senior Vice's Vantage*

First off, I would like to thank all of you who have been volunteering and giving so much to the Post. We could not do this without all of you. For those of you who are debating how and why you should help this post, there are many reasons why volunteering could benefit you.

First, volunteering creates a feeling of community. For many of us, we were drawn to the VFW for the comradery that we cherished while serving in the military, both veterans and family members. I am challenging each and every one of you to reach out to those that you don't normally talk to and start building bridges and a family that this post has known in years past. We should set aside our differences and move forward with our common mission.

Second, Volunteering creates a sense of purpose. I'm sure that like me, many of you feel as though you have more to give to this community and thrive on knowing that you make a difference. It has also been proven that taking time out of your everyday life routine can increase your overall happiness in life.

I know that this place can sometimes be demanding and may seem overwhelming. The officers of this post will always ask for your time. It is up to each of us to weigh the benefits of serving with the overall demands of our life and personal health. Burnout can happen easily and is something that we should all be aware of. It is ok to say no if you have too much on your current plate, but it is up to each one of us to make this place a fun and enjoyable place to be. A place that others are proud to come and give their time to help other veterans, their family, and the community. I would like to see each of your faces more often, and welcome any feedback on how we, as a Post, can improve on the family environment that we are trying to build.

With that being said, we have many opportunities for you to serve with the upcoming holiday seasons. We are always in need of help with bingo. Also, we have now started having Cornhole tournaments every Wednesday and need people to cook and help with that as well. Our annual Thanksgiving meal is expected to feed over 200 Veterans and their families within the community and is a great way to give back and help others. We are also having a blanket drive, and a Christmas drive for clothes and toys. Please don't hesitate to ask an officer for more information on any of these events.

Thank you,

Lucas Peterson

VFW Post 3619 Senior Vice Commander

## *Quartermaster's Que*

Rapidly approaching the busiest part of our year for our Programs; Deadlines, judging, and subsequently Award programs are an integral part of our mission! Whether or not we are successful depends on our members participation.

We appreciate all your efforts and the Children and First Responders really benefit from all your involvement, so let's get ready to hit it hard, running!

The Recent Veterans Benefits Fair was mildly successful but it wasn't from a lack of involvement or hard work from our Members & Auxiliary. Everyone came together prepping, cooking and serving our guests. Hopefully in the future we have better attendance from our invited Participants and Vets.

Trunk or Treat 21 went off with a bang! Huge smiles and laughter from all the kiddos...that weren't crying 😊 I appreciate everyone who helped out and it wouldn't have been possible without all the candy donations from our members, auxiliary, and New Step Outreach!

I can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store for us as we close out strong!

Shane Fowler

VFW Post 3619 Quartermaster/Adjutant

## *BINGO*

As you know we worked hard to get the Hall finished, however, we are still having Bingo twice a week. Any help you can provide is beneficial to the Post, and to those that are always there to work. Please give up a little time once or twice a month to help out. Remember Bingo is where we come up with funds to assist Veterans, pay some of the bills, and donate to VFW Programs and services.



## Legislative

**VFW Virtual Fall Legislative Conference:** The VFW National Legislative Committee participated virtually in the VFW Fall Legislative Conference, and were joined via video by VFW national officers to discuss the [VFW's legislative priorities](#) presented to Congress. The committee members held video and phone meetings with legislators and staffers, and took to social media to spotlight their hard work and dedication. The COVID-19 pandemic may have changed the way business is done for now, but it has not stopped the VFW from being the voice of our veterans and fighting for their benefits on Capitol Hill.

**Veteran Proof of Housing History Bill Introduced:** Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ) has introduced VFW-supported [H.R. 5402](#), the *VET RENT Act*, which would provide service members and veterans with a standard record of housing history. For those who have lived only in military-provided housing, this document would provide the needed tenant history to be competitive in the civilian rental market. This legislation originated from the proposal of a 2021 VFW-SVA fellow.

**Congress is Leaving Veterans Behind:** Congress is voting now on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2022. Amendments have been added to the NDAA for [H.R. 1115 / S. 535](#), the *Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act*, and [H.R. 1282 / S. 344](#), the *Major Richard Star Act*. Post-9/11 veterans deserve to be honored with a GWOT memorial on the National Mall and Purple Heart recipients deserve to receive all the benefits they earned. Now is the time to move these two important pieces of legislation forward. Contact your members of Congress TODAY and demand they pass this crucial legislation.

**VFW Testifies Before House:** VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Technology and Modernization regarding pending legislation. Murray testified on important IT funding and transparency-related bills and expressed support for a draft bill to collect demographic data on users of VA benefits. He stated, "Having a better understanding of the veteran population utilizing VA care and benefits will help better inform how and where to direct resources." The VFW is grateful for the subcommittee's attention to these issues and hopes these bills will quickly advance and become law.

**VA Resumes Overpayment and Medical Copayment Collections:** VA is resuming over-payment notifications for new debts and debts that were paused during the COVID-19 pandemic from Apr. 6, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2021. Although debt collections and collections on medical copayments restarted on Oct. 1, 2021, VA will not begin to deduct debts from benefits payments until Jan. 2022. Options to request debt relief due to financial hardship will be included in debt notification letters that will be sent to veterans.

**Veterans Legacy Memorial Adds Webpages for 500,000 Veterans:** VA recently expanded their [Veterans Legacy Memorial](#) website by adding 93 VA grant-funded state, territorial, and tribal veterans cemeteries. This expansion includes individual pages for nearly 500,000 veterans interred at these cemeteries, providing a way to honor and remember their service. Family members and friends may submit photos and stories to be reviewed and potentially added to these pages.

**VFW Testifies Before House Subcommittee:** VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director Tam-



## Legislative

my Barlet testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health regarding several pieces of pending legislation. She spoke about how Vet Centers are a vital resource for veterans, and the importance of VA's Veteran Justice Outreach program (VJO). "As the demand for veterans treatment courts increases, the program's success faces barriers and challenges due to lack of financial support, open-minded prosecutors, and reliance on judges to volunteer for the position," Barlet said on the importance of holding VA accountable for the VJO program.

**Congress Passes Maternity Care Bill:** The Senate passed VFW-supported [S. 796](#), *Protecting Moms Who Served Act of 2021*. This legislation would require VA to coordinate maternity care programs with community providers to meet the unique needs of pregnant and postpartum veterans. It would also require a report on maternal mortality rates, and racial and ethnic disparities in care. The bill, which passed the House in May, now heads to the president's desk for signature.

**Senate Passes Buddy Check Bill:** The Senate passed VFW-supported [S. 544](#), to direct VA to designate one week each year as "Buddy Check Week." This legislation would promote outreach and education concerning wellness checks for veterans. In addition, VA would provide scripts as well as online and in-person training for veterans to facilitate successful buddy checks.

**VFW Remembers General Colin Powell:** The VFW is mourning the passing of retired former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, retired U.S. Army General Colin L. Powell, who was also a Life member of the VFW Department of Maryland. "On behalf of the entire 1.5 million-member VFW family, our deepest condolences go out to the entire Powell family, and we salute this extraordinary man whose life of selfless service is a stalwart example for all of us," said VFW National Commander Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic.

**VFW Urges Navy to Honor Hero:** VFW National Commander Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic sent a letter urging Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro to name the newest commissioned surface ship the "USS Telesforo Trinidad" after a sailor who earned the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions on Jan. 21, 1915. Fireman Second Class Telesforo de la Cruz Trinidad is the only Filipino in the U.S. Navy to have received this award. "The high honor of naming United States Navy ships is the prerogative of the Secretary of the Navy," Mihelcic wrote, "and there is no ship in the United States Naval fleet with a name that recognizes the Asian Pacific Islanders legacy and their unique alliance forged in war and peace."

**House Holds Hearing on Pending Legislation:** The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on pending legislation focused on survivor benefits, VA disability claims for military sexual trauma, and fiduciary program improvements. Included in the discussion was [H.R. 3402](#), the *Caring for Survivors Act of 2021*. This bill concerns a VFW priority issue and would increase the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) to 55%, making it the same as what other federal survivor programs offer.

## *Fair Booth 2021*

Thank you to all that came out and supported our Beauregard Parish Fair Booth this year. The Booth did extremely well, and provided much needed funds to the post that will be used to assist us in our programs, as well helping Veterans in our local community.





# *Fair Booth 2021*



## *#Post Pride Veterans Benefit Fair*





## *#Post Pride Veterans Benefit Fair*



State Senator Mike Reese



Shawn Hanscom, Senator Cassidy's Office



Jerri Ledoux, Representative Mike Johnson's Office



Damion Johnlouis, Louisiana Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA)



Humana Representative

## *#Post Pride Trunk or Treat*



## *#Post Pride Trunk or Treat*





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>

**NOVEMBER 2021**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Cornhole Tournament	Joint meeting 6:30 Reg. Meeting 7:00	Bingo	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Bingo			Cornhole Tournament	Veterans Day	Bingo	Information Fair @ Post 7321
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Bingo		Planning Session 6:30	Cornhole Tournament		Bingo	hall rented for pageant
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Bingo		Needy Family Food Box	Cornhole Tournament Needy Family Food Box	Thanksgiving Dinner	Bingo	
28	29	30				
Bingo		Riders Meeting 6:30				
<b>NOTES:</b>						
13th Post 7321 North Lake Charles Turn in entries to chairman; Information Booth set up 8:00 Reg. & Information Booths 8:30-9:30 Joint Meeting @ 9:30 Separate meeting to follow Lunch TBD						



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

