

1. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief and having been installed in office in accordance with the Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command.
2. The following officers have been duly elected and installed by the 124th National Convention and will be accorded the recognition due them:

**Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief**

Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt, Post 12002, North Fulton, Georgia

**Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief**

Carol L. Whitmore, Post 9127, Des Moines, Iowa

**Quartermaster General**

Marc Garduno, Post 3238, Camden, Delaware

**Chaplain**

David T. Frei, Post 4902, Cottonwood, Idaho

**Judge Advocate General**

J. Douglas Whitaker, Post 9675, Papillion, Nebraska

**Surgeon General**

Curtis O. Bohlman, M.D., Post 1335, Woodward, Oklahoma

**National Council of Administration Members**

Alabama	Scott F. Gedling, Post 6226, Arab, Alabama
Alaska	Johnathon "J.R." Hackett, Post 9365, Wasilla, Alaska
Arizona	Lewis E. "Gene" Wood, Post 9400, Sunnyslope, Arizona
Arkansas	Donald R. "Don" Barnes, Post 8245, Huntington, Arkansas
California	Dale E. Smith, Post 3783, Ramona, California
Colorado	David L. Stone, Post 3917, Security, Colorado
Connecticut	David G. Greene, Post 10004, Jewett City, Connecticut
Delaware	John G. Mitchell, Post 7234, Ocean View, Delaware
Europe	Peter J. Mascetti, Jr., Post 27, Wiesbaden, Germany
Florida	Kenneth Corr, Post 10097, Fort Myers Beach, Florida
Georgia	Jeff Carroll, Post 2667, Newnan, Georgia
Hawaii	Norbert K. Enos, Post 2875, Honolulu, Hawaii
Idaho	Rockey A. Davis, Post 10043, Lewiston, Idaho
Illinois	Matthew C. Claussen, Post 2868, Brookfield, Illinois
Indiana	Johnny R. Capps, Post 972, Terre Haute, Indiana
Iowa	Michael J. Braman, Post 3519, Knoxville, Iowa
Kansas	Patrick M. Briggs, Post 3111, Great Bend, Kansas
Kentucky	Robert A. Daugherty, Post 1298, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Louisiana	Robert J. Lovergne, Jr., Post 3750, Luling, Louisiana
Maine	Steven J. "Steve" SanPedro, Post 6859, Portland, Maine

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**WASHINGTON OFFICE**

Maryland	Denise E. Perry, Post 6054, Aberdeen, Maryland
Massachusetts	Eric Segundo, Post 3236, Ludlow, Massachusetts
Michigan	Kevin A. Conklin, Post 6248, Decatur, Michigan
Minnesota	Dale E. Hoogeveen, Post 1791, Chaska, Minnesota
Mississippi	Steven M. "Steve" Organ, Post 5395, Pontotoc, Mississippi
Missouri	Eric D. Sullivan, Post 5789, Lees Summit, Missouri
Montana	Jack A. Hawley, Post 1087, Great Falls, Montana
Nebraska	Joseph E. Smith, Post 2280, Bellevue, Nebraska
Nevada	Gerald L. "Jerry" Peterson, Post 12101, Las Vegas, Nevada
New Hampshire	Leon Rideout, Post 3041, Lancaster, New Hampshire
New Jersey	William F. "Bill" Thomson, Post 6192, Washington Township, New Jersey
New Mexico	Lenwood P. "Len" Hampton, Post 6917, Las Cruces, New Mexico
New York	Eugene J. "Gene" Ratigliano, Post 420, Saratoga Springs, New York
North Carolina	Gregory A. "Greg" Stafford, Post 6060, Elizabeth City, North Carolina
North Dakota	William L. "Bill" Tuff, Post 7564, West Fargo, North Dakota
Ohio	Christopher W. "Chris" Haynes, Post 7596, Franklin, Ohio
Oklahoma	Curt Watts, Post 2027, Stillwater, Oklahoma
Oregon	George E. Carroll, Post 3973, Molalla, Oregon
Pacific Areas	Kenneth A. Stein, Post 12146, Ban Chang, Rayong Thailand
Pennsylvania	Glenn R. Umburger, Jr., Post 7155, Trappe, Pennsylvania
Rhode Island	Eric A. Dukat, Post 152, North Kingstown, Rhode Island
South Carolina	Edwin A. Tufts, II, Post 3433, Summerville, South Carolina
South Dakota	Barbara K. McKean, Post 3298, Parkston, South Dakota
Tennessee	Brian K. Walker, Post 5066, Collierville, Tennessee
Texas	Ingeborg A. Conley, Post 12075, Humble, Texas
Utah	Dennis L. Parizek, Post 1481, Ogden, Utah
Vermont	Charles A. Magnant, Post 778, Swanton, Vermont
Virginia	Kenneth B. Wiseman, III, Post 1503, Dale City, Virginia
Washington	Frederick A. "Fred" Green, Post 1854, Gig Harbor, Washington
West Virginia	Thomas V. "Vernon" Anderson, Post 4442, Elm Grove, West Virginia
Wisconsin	Cory L. Geisler, Post 721, Waukesha, Wisconsin
Wyoming	Rodney A. Birkle, Post 3558, Wheatland, Wyoming

3. All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant General

Dan West, Post 3413, San Marcos, Texas

Executive Director/Assistant Adjutant General, Washington Office

Ryan M. Gallucci, Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia

Assistant Adjutant General, Administration & Programs

Brian K. Walker, Post 5066, Collierville, Tennessee

Chief of Staff

Carey W. Pritchett, Post 5579, Gibbstown, New Jersey

Inspector General

Peter J. Mascetti, Jr., Post 27, Wiesbaden, Germany

Sergeant-at-Arms

Brian Willette, Post 3104, South Hadley, Massachusetts

General Counsel

John R. Muckelbauer, Post 3712, Paola, Kansas

Interim Director, Administrative Operations

Quentin S. Carroll, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, Communications, Kansas City

Randi K. Law

Director, Communications & Public Affairs, Washington Office

Robert Couture, Department of Maryland Member-at-Large

Director, Development

Kelly J. Jones

Director, General Services

Alisa Neilon

Director, Human Resources

Sari Maple

Director, Information Technology

Sean Barnes, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, Meetings & Events

Vanessa Kane

Director, Member Services

David E. Prohaska, Post 4434, Belleville, Michigan

Interim Director, Membership

Corey R. Hunt, Post 7397, Lenexa, Kansas

Director, National Legislative Service

Patrick Murray, Post 152, North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Director, National Security and Foreign Affairs

Jeremy Williams, Post 341, Washington, DC

Director, National Veterans Service

Michael S. Figlioli, Post No. 2017, Dedham, Massachusetts

Director, Operations

Robert H. Jackson, Post 341, Washington, DC

Director, Publications, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief, VFW Magazine

Tim Dyhouse

Director, VFW Programs

Lynn W. Rolf, III, Post 56, Leavenworth, Kansas

Director, VFW Properties

D'Marillio Holland

Director, VFW Store

Hank Ellis

5. Attention of all members is directed to the purposes listed within the VFW's Congressional Charter. "To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom" is one of the VFW's chartered purposes; as such the VFW represents fighting for American rights, civil rights and humanitarian impulses that have always guided the VFW's principles.

Today the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States reaffirms its commitment to that chartered purpose by first recognizing that in order to end racism within our organization, it is not enough to be non-racist/non-discriminatory: we must be proactive. While we focus on education and mentorship we work to identify, address, and eradicate any and all forms of racial bias and discrimination. We will work to eliminate racial injustices and discriminatory practices within our organization. The VFW's leadership is united in the pursuit to end racial bias and discrimination while empowering our members and the greater veteran community towards this collective goal.

6. Attention of all members is directed to Section 901 of the National Bylaws, "Discipline of Members." Members who have committed offenses recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may be subject to disciplinary action. Members are reminded that acts of Sexual Harassment, Racial or Sexual Discrimination, and all other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct determined to be unbecoming of a member will not be condoned. In general, harassment and discrimination consists of any form of verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive enough to have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment or otherwise interfering with another's ability to participate in VFW events. All members will be treated with dignity and respect.

7. For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its VFW Auxiliary.

8. Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2023-24 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, "Buddy"<sup>®</sup> Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

9. Post Commanders and District Commanders are directed to forward all resolutions or communications relative to federal legislation or to the policy or procedure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other governmental agency, to their respective Department Headquarters for consideration and referral to the Adjutant General. Department Commanders will not take direct action on any such resolutions or communications without first obtaining full knowledge of existing National Headquarters policies governing such legislation or agencies. Posts, County Councils, Districts and officers and members thereof shall not publicly communicate or promulgate any such resolutions until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief.

10. DEPARTMENT DUES RESERVE: Due to the passage of Bylaw Amendment B-38 at the 119th National Convention, it is no longer necessary for Departments to maintain a dues reserve fund effective August 24, 2018.

11. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to Section 703 of the National Bylaws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable.

12. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustees' Report of Audit (VFW Store product #4214) to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September. **Do not mail these reports to National Headquarters.**

13. Attention of Department and Post Commanders is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990/T, where applicable. Forms may be secured from your local Post Office or branch office of the Internal Revenue Service.

14. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).

15. The Manual of Procedure amendment passed by the 119th National Convention modified Section 1001(25) to read, "The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are prohibited."

16. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department Bylaws and directives. Department and District Inspectors shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.

17. U.S. Army ARDEC has issued guidance on the operation and maintenance of the M1 Garand. The manual can be found in the VFW Training & Support section at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) or you can visit the M1 Garand Associated Website: [m1garandtraining.com](http://m1garandtraining.com).

18. The distribution of VFW "Buddy"<sup>®</sup> Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Sections 711 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of "Buddy" Poppies in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of "Buddy" Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 704 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure.

19. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:

Post Nos. 1747 and 10135 consolidated as Post No. 1747, Oroville, California  
Post Nos. 1631 and 11490 consolidated as Post No. 1631, Concord, New Hampshire  
Post Nos. 3289 and 8165 consolidated as Post No. 3289, New York Mills, Minnesota  
Post Nos. 7224 and 2265 consolidated as Post No. 7224, Shenandoah, Iowa  
Post Nos. 941 and 4119 consolidated as Post No. 941, Harlan, Iowa  
Post Nos. 1192 and 4888 consolidated as Post No. 1192, Marlow, Oklahoma

BY COMMAND OF  
DUANE T. SARMIENTO  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan West". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the word "West".

Dan West  
Adjutant General