

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

General Orders No. 1

2011-12 Series

1. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief and having been installed in office in accordance with the By-Laws 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 112th National Convention will be accorded the recognition due them:

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

John E. Hamilton, Post 7909, Jacksonville, Florida

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

William A. Thien, Post 3281, New Albany, Indiana

Quartermaster General

Lawrence M. Maher, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Chaplain

John J. Holland, Post 1, Denver, Colorado

Judge Advocate General

Matthew M. "Fritz" Mihelcic, Post 6368, Dupu, Illinois

Surgeon General

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

National Council of Administration Members

District 1 Thomas R. Lussier, Post 6859, Portland, Maine

District 3 Otto A. Gollon, Post 7679, Mantua, New Jersey

District 5 Richard M. "Rick" Faulk, Post 2839, Indianapolis, Indiana

District 7 John H. Scott, Post 4848, Chattanooga, Tennessee

District 9 Francis M. "Frank" Fogner, Post 10804, North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

District 11 Allen W. Kochenderfer, Post 10406, Cochrane, Wisconsin

District 13 Ronald J. Lattin, Post 5061, Denver, Colorado

District 15 Raymond K. Thomas, Post 3632, Tempe, Arizona

District 17 H. Merle Jackson, Post 4108, Redmond, Oregon

District 19 Wayne W. Aldridge, Post 10567, Southaven, Mississippi

District 21 Dan G. Petersen, Post 131, Lincoln, Nebraska

District 23 Russel L. Dramstad, Post 1776, Huron, South Dakota

District A Robert C. Eiler, Post 8805, Hopewell Township, Pennsylvania

District B J. D. "Butch" Spindler, Post 4549, Robinson, Illinois

District C Ronald J. "Ron" Bush, Post 6433, Waterloo, New York

District G Jack E. Turner, Post 1512, Lemon Grove, California

District J A. E. "Gene" Hall, Post 7909, Jacksonville, Florida

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

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant General

Allen F. "Gunner" Kent, Post 9972, Sierra Vista, Arizona

Chief of Staff

Walter Gansenberg, Post 834, Everett, Massachusetts

Inspector General

John A. Biedrzycki, Jr., Post 418, McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania

Assistant Adjutant General & Executive Director, Washington Office

Robert E. Wallace, Post 9503, Bayville, New Jersey

Assistant Adjutant General, Operations

John J. McNeill, Jr., Post 5412, Burke, Virginia

Assistant Quartermaster General

Robert B. Greene, Post 7397, Lenexa, Kansas

Director, Administrative Operations

Kevin C. Jones, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, Administration & Operations, Washington Office

Fredrick W. Burns, Post 2562, Silver Spring, Maryland

Director, Communications & Public Affairs, Kansas City

Jerry L. Newberry, Post 2492, Imlay City, Michigan

Director, Communications & Public Affairs, Washington

Joseph E. Davis, Post 3391, Pago Pago, Hawaii

Director, VFW Foundation

John G. Lowe, Post 2111, Chula Vista, California

Director, Human Resources

Debra L. Anderson, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, Information Technology/CIO

Patrick J. Botbyl, Post 1593, Hawthorne, New Jersey

Director, National Legislative Service

Raymond C. Kelley, Post 160, Glen Burnie, Maryland

Director, National Military Services

Michael G. Penney, Post 1191, Paducah, Kentucky

Director, Member Dues Processing

Robert A. Crider, Post 2801, Villa Park, Illinois

Director, Membership

Matthew C. Claussen, Post 2378, Berwyn, Illinois

Director, Programs

Stephen L. Van Buskirk, Post 7397, Lenexa, Kansas

Director, VFW Properties

Billy R. Weissend, Post 8950, Lanham, Maryland

Director, Publications & Editor-in-Chief, VFW Magazine

Richard K. Kolb, Post 5717, Kearney, Missouri

Director, National Veterans Service

William L. Bradshaw, Post 284, Washington, D.C.

National Sergeant-at-Arms

Bryan P. O'Brien, Post 2394, Melrose, Massachusetts

5. 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 Ladies Auxiliary.

6. Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2011-2012 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, National Citizenship Education Teacher's Awards, Buddy Poppy and National Military Services. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

7. 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.

8. DEPARTMENT RESERVE: Attention is called to section 518(a)(4)(f), Manual of Procedure which requires Department Quartermasters to maintain a dues reserve fund as prescribed in sections 717 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure.

9. POST RESERVE: Attention is directed to section 218(a)(5)(f), Manual of Procedure which mandates Post Quartermasters to maintain a dues reserve fund as prescribed in sections 717 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure.

10. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to action of the National Council of Administration prohibiting the wearing of VFW sport caps and/or western style caps at VFW meetings in place of the regulation cap of the VFW official uniform as set forth in sections 803 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure. This prohibition is in accordance with previous directives of Commanders-in-Chief that it is held to be objectionable and contrary to accepted rules of order and proper decorum implicit in the ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to permit the wearing of other than the official VFW cap at VFW meetings.

11. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to section 703 of the National By-Laws 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), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustees' Report of Audit (Supply Department Stock No. 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. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to section 1001 (24) of the Manual of Procedure concerning alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting: "The presence, dispensation, and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings is unacceptable and is prohibited."

16. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department By-Laws 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. The distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in sections 711 of the National By-Laws 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 By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure.

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

Post Nos. 1177 and 9478 consolidated as Post No. 1177, Leesburg, Virginia
Post Nos. 2798 and 913 consolidated as Post No. 2798, Pinole, California
Post Nos. 6704 and 617 consolidated as Post No. 6704, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
Post Nos. 5193 and 10600 consolidated as Post No. 5193, Belvidere, New Jersey
Post Nos. 1961 and 9938 consolidated as Post No. 1961, Gardena, California
Post Nos. 8762 and 1999 consolidated as Post No. 8762, West Sacramento, California
Post Nos. 3970 and 3995 consolidated as Post No. 3970, Sutherlin, Oregon
Post Nos. 1037 and 9748 consolidated as Post No. 1037, Waupaca, Wisconsin
Post Nos. 8797 and 5512 consolidated as Post No. 8797, Williamsburg, Iowa
Post Nos. 3620 and 980 consolidated as Post No. 3620, Gloucester, New Jersey
Post Nos. 12107 and 5574 consolidated as Post No. 12107, High Point, North Carolina
Post Nos. 1 and 6616 consolidated as Post No. 1, Denver, Colorado
Post Nos. 5539 and 4678 consolidated as Post No. 5539, Harvard, Nebraska
Post Nos. 7285 and 5210 consolidated as Post No. 7285, Sabetha, Kansas

19. Announcement is made of the authorization of the charter for the following Post:

Post No. 12114 – Tehachapi, California

BY COMMAND OF
RICHARD L. DENOYER
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:



Allen "Gunner" Kent
Adjutant General