

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

**General Orders No. 1**

**2009-10 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 110<sup>th</sup> National Convention will be accorded the recognition due them:

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Richard Eubank, Post 4084, Ridgecrest, California

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Richard DeNoyer, Post 1012, Medford, Massachusetts

Quartermaster General

Lawrence Maher, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Judge Advocate General

Vito S. DeMarco, Post 771, Springfield, Vermont

Surgeon General

Dennis Guthrie, Post 4108, Redmond, Oregon

National Chaplain

Valentin R. Obregon, Post 3568, Bay Minette, Alabama

National Council of Administration Members

District 1 Eugene A. Pawlik, Post 1617, Derry, New Hampshire

District 3 Richard S. Udoff, Post 521, Owings Mills, Maryland

District 5 Paul E. Connors, Post 30, Blue Springs, Missouri

District 7 John H. Ranson, Post 6095, Latonia, Kentucky

District 9 Roy C. Meares, Post 10400, Boiling Spring Lake, North Carolina

District 11 Larry J. Larson, Post 839, Marshalltown, Iowa

District 13 Charley Shoemaker, Post 12003, Lansing, Kansas

District 15 Vincent B.J. Lawrence, Post 7686, Alamogordo, New Mexico

District 17 Michael H. Musgrove, Post 2350, Elko, Nevada

District 19 Thomas J. Kijak, Post 5951, Bossier City, Louisiana

District 21 Steven Van Bergen, Post 6587, Spring Lake Park, Minnesota

District 23 William Dobbie, Post 4659, Disco, Michigan

District A Albert S. Thomas, Post 974, Darby, Pennsylvania

District B Donald R. Smithenry, Post 4226, Olney, Illinois

District C Bernard Thompson, Post 1896, Jamaica, New York

District G John P. Wolfe, Post 4084, Ridgecrest, California

District J Robert Shepherd, Post 4864, Citrus Springs, 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

National Chief of Staff

Earl D. Banks, Jr., Post 2708, Edgerton, Wisconsin

Inspector General

Rick W. Barg, Post 628, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Assistant Adjutant General & Executive Director, Washington Office

Robert E. Wallace, Post 1851, Newark, 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 and Operations, Washington Office

Eric A. Hilleman, Post 9274, Falls Church, Virginia

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, Emblem & Supply Department

M. L. “Bud” Cale, Post 112, Wichita, Kansas

Director, General Services

David L. Swindler, Post 5606, Kansas City, Missouri

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

Eric Hilleman, Post 9274, Falls Church, Virginia

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, VFW Magazine

Richard K. Kolb, Post 5717, Kearney, Missouri

National Service Officer & 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 2009-2010 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 the Commander-in-Chief's decision in response to questions raised concerning alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting as set forth below:

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 alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting. Accordingly, the presence, dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting is completely unacceptable and any such practice known to exist shall be terminated.

It is the intent of the Commander-in-Chief's decision regarding this response to include Post, County Council, District and Department meetings, at which it is held to be objectionable. Section

1001 of the Manual of Procedure has been amended to reflect such objection.

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 for the relief of disabled and needy veterans and their dependents.

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

Post Nos. 10394 and 5272 consolidated as Post No. 10394, Hales Corners, Wisconsin  
Post Nos. 10272 and 8447 consolidated as Post No. 10272, Oregon-Brooklyn, Wisconsin  
Post Nos. 7356 and 4050 consolidated as Post No. 7356, Parkville, Missouri  
Post Nos. 4618 and 3956 consolidated as Post No. 4618, San Francisco, California  
Post Nos. 1397 and 1862 consolidated as Post No. 1397, Linden, New Jersey  
Post Nos. 1045 and 3017 consolidated as Post No. 1045, Longview, Washington  
Post Nos. 5048 and 6473 consolidated as Post No. 5048, Florence, Mississippi  
Post Nos. 69 and 2310 consolidated as Post No. 69, Redwood City, California  
Post Nos. 9352 and 766 consolidated as Post No. 9352, St. Albans, New York  
Post Nos. 5391 and 9504 consolidated as Post No. 5391, Hugoton, Kansas  
Post Nos. 5520 and 1237 consolidated as Post No. 5520, Champaign, Illinois

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

Post No. 12084 – Seymour, Connecticut

BY COMMAND OF  
THOMAS J. TRADEWELL, SR.  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:



Allen "Gunner" Kent  
Adjutant General