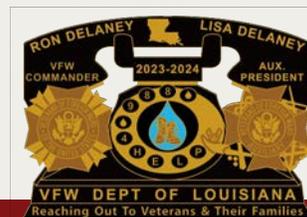


# LOUISIANA VFW COMBAT VETERAN



VOLUME 49 • APRIL 2024

## DELANEYS GAVEL THE YEAR TOGETHER pages 15 & 16



**23-24 State President  
Lisa Delaney**

**23-24 State Commander  
Ron Delaney**

*Commander and President  
working and gaveling together for the Veterans and  
members of the VFW/VFWA Department of Louisiana.*



Entrusted by



Veterans who were at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between 1953 and 1987 and have suffered serious conditions as a result may be eligible for compensation. **The VFW and MCRA have entrusted** the law firm of Baird Mandalas Brockstedt & Federico (BMBF) to support veterans and their families in seeking justice with legal claims related to this toxic water exposure.

The **deadline** to file a lawsuit under the Camp Lejeune Justice Act is August 10, 2024, and preparing a claim can take weeks or even months. **Do not delay** - contact our team today.

Our team is made up of attorneys, advisors, and veterans across the nation who themselves are VFW and MCRA members, including past national and department leadership. Our team is committed to doing right by veterans and their families through:

- A 25 percent contingency fee.
- No out-of-pocket costs or fees, ever.
- Working side by side with VFW-accredited service officers to ensure our clients are pursuing all VA benefits for which they are eligible.
- Conducting in-person or virtual educational briefings on the CLJA.

The VFW and MCRA urge all Camp Lejeune veterans and their families who may be eligible to speak with an accredited service officer about filing a VA claim AND contact our team to discuss filing a federal lawsuit. Pursuing a lawsuit does NOT affect your VA benefits.

The August 10 deadline is quickly approaching – DO NOT WAIT.

To schedule an educational briefing on the CLJA in your local community, please contact VFW of WI Past State Commander Jason Johns at (608) 209-0805 or [jason@johnslaw.biz](mailto:jason@johnslaw.biz).



(443) 412-8696 | [info@bmbflaw.com](mailto:info@bmbflaw.com)

[CampLejeuneGroundwater.com](http://CampLejeuneGroundwater.com)

## NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE



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Commander-In-Chief  
Duane Sarmiento



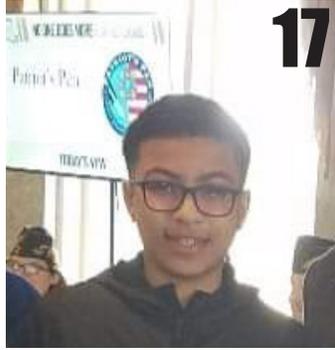
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Josephine Ciuffi



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Post Honors WWII  
WASP by Renaming After Her



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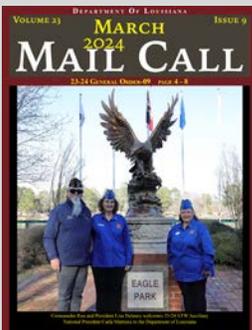
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Cover story  
"Delaney's Gavel The Year Together."  
Starts on page 15 and are only the second couple in Department history to lead both the VFW and VFWA in the past 93 years.

The *Combat Veteran* is one of two official publications for the Department of Louisiana. *Combat Veteran* is published once a year. The other publication is *Mail Call* published once a month.



To view digital versions go to [vfwdeptla.org](http://vfwdeptla.org)

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# **WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE**

## **BY VFW DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA**

**APRIL 27, 2024**  
**10 AM-2 PM**



**LOCATION: GDIT**  
**(GENERAL DYNAMIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)**  
**6310 E TEXAS ST. BOSSIER CITY, LA 71111**

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**PAULA BALDWIN [COMBATSOULSISTER@YAHOO.COM](mailto:COMBATSOULSISTER@YAHOO.COM)**  
**337-424-1379**

# RON DELANEY

STATE COMMANDER  
DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA VFW



Greetings Comrades,

It has been great getting to know so many Department Commanders across this country and more accurately across our world. The camaraderie I have experienced with my fellow Department Commanders has led to what I know will be lifelong friendships.

This year has been special for me because of so many reasons. Being able to serve the VFW Department of Louisiana with my wife as my counterpart was an added bonus. This allowed us as a couple to travel many miles together. We share a love for this organization, veterans and our state and it was awesome to be in a position to do so much together.

I have been invited to many Post and District Americanism Award Programs and while they were each unique, they all had a common theme of taking time to recognize students, teachers and schools who participated. Hearing the essays and seeing the art restored my faith in PATRIOTISM among our country's youth. It was a special privilege to escort our VOD state winner in Washington DC. It was evident the Department VOD winners made friendships and bonds that have enhanced their "horizons". Many VFW's combined their Americanism Award ceremonies with the Safety Awards for Law Enforcement, EMS, and Dispatchers. It was extremely rewarding to know the VFW plays a role in recognizing our first responders.

A total of 13 VFW and Auxiliary members from Louisiana made the trip to Washington DC. We met with our Legislators to discuss the importance of VFW Priority Goals. During the trip we had the pleasure of touring the Capitol. Matt West, my Legislative Chairman, arranged for me and Lisa to have coffee with the speaker of House Mike Johnson. It was an enjoyable and more importantly a successful conference.

One of my top priorities within our State is ***Reaching Out to Our Veterans through Buddy Checks***. The importance of calling on our members is immeasurable. Through the calling efforts we learn if our comrades are in need and how we can help them. Sometimes the call alone serves as an important contact as it lets our members know we care.

As a State, we need to concentrate on membership. It is critical to recruit new members while working on retaining our annual members. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization and is necessary to continue the VFW mission. It is important for every member to contribute to our membership goals.

I am very proud of the leadership we already have in Louisiana. If you are considering serving the VFW in a leadership role at any level, I encourage you to get involved and help make a positive difference. There have been ups and downs throughout my year as Commander and some very difficult "goodbyes" for comrades who received their final call. All in all it has been extremely rewarding.

Thank you for all you do while "Reaching Out To Our Veterans and Their Families".

Ron Delaney



# NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE



## **Duane Sarmiento Commander-in-Chief Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

Duane Sarmiento was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on July 27, 2023, at the 124th VFW National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

He served in the United States Navy from 1988 to 1997, and the United States Naval Reserve from 2002 to 2006, earning his VFW eligibility by serving in Operations Desert Shield/Storm. In recognition of his service, he received the Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Good Conduct Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three campaign stars, the Saudi Arabian Medal for the Liberation of Kuwait, Kuwait Medal for the Liberation of Kuwait and numerous other medals and ribbons. In 2003, he earned the title of the Naval Reserve Center Sailor of the Year at Fort Dix.



Duane joined the VFW in 1990 at Post 5579 in Gibbstown, New Jersey, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as the VFW Department of New Jersey Commander from 2018 to 2019. On the national level, he served as the VFW Inspector General from 2019 to 2020, and has served on the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, General Resolutions Committee, and as Special Aide-de-Camp.

He retired as a police officer with the Greenwich Township Police Department and Gloucester County Sheriff's Department in New Jersey. Duane was the director of Veterans Affairs in Gloucester County, New Jersey, prior to being elected as a VFW National Officer.

He is a life member of the Military Order of the Cootie, at Mighty Pinatubo Pup Tent #15 in Angeles City, Philippines, and a life member of the VFW National Home.

Duane and his wife, Ellen, reside in Gibbstown, New Jersey, and have three children and one grandchild.

-vfw-

# LISA DELANEY

## STATE PRESIDENT

### DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA VFW AUXILIARY

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®



What an exciting year I have had as Department of Louisiana President! The time has gone by so quickly and it is difficult to believe we are almost at the end of the year. I have had the honor and privilege to travel around the state alongside the Department of Louisiana Commander Ron Delaney who also happens to be my husband. Serving together has allowed us the opportunity to spend time together doing what we love, helping veterans. It has been very heartwarming to see so many VFW and Auxiliary members “still serving”. I already knew that our members were busy working the VFW & Auxiliary Programs, but it was truly an eye-opening experience to see the amount of enthusiasm and love our 13,000 plus VFW & Auxiliary members have for Veterans and their families.

As President of the Auxiliary, I have been invited to many special events and programs that embody the Auxiliary theme of “Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes”. What an honor! I have had several opportunities to visit Americanism Award programs at both the local Post & District levels. Ron and I were invited to participate in events remembering our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. We enjoyed a Thanksgiving Dinner open to military members on Thanksgiving Day. Many of these events were long-standing programs that have occurred for as many as 20 years and involved communities across the state bringing awareness to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary. Our members’ commitment to spending their weekends and holidays serving the Department has been outstanding!

One of the highlights of our year was the trip to Washington, DC where we escorted our state VOD winner in the Parade of Winners. Joshepine Ciuffi is a special young lady that not only represented our Department as one of the VOD winners, she is a well rounded young individual who has a very promising future. It was a pleasure to get to know her and her family and watch her interact with all the other VOD students in Washington. As it turned out her family was eligible for the Auxiliary and the Department gained new members and friends! They have already “rolled up” their sleeves and have been active in their new Auxiliary.

It was an honor to welcome the National Auxiliary President, Carla Martinez, to our state and show her the Northern part of Louisiana. We planned a busy day and half, and the weather couldn’t have been better for her visit. We visited Warrior Horse where veterans can go free of charge to work through PTSD and other issues utilizing Equine Therapy. This program is amazing, and it was great to share the excellent work being done there. This is available to veterans not only in Louisiana but across the country. Additional events were hosted by three different VFW & Auxiliaries in our area. I was so proud of the love and respect shown to Carla.

As I approach the end of the year I will continue to travel and stay in touch with our members. While the miles have been long the encouragement has been terrific!

# AUXILIARY NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE



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## Donna Mills

*National Chaplain*

*2023-2024*

Donna Mills of Hesston, Pennsylvania, was elected to the office of National Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Auxiliary at its 110<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. She is now in the third of five offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2026-2027.



A Life Member of the Standing Stone Auxiliary 1754 in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, she has served the organization in many capacities including Auxiliary, District and Department President, National District Council Member, Eastern Conference Membership Coach and Veterans & Family Support National Ambassador.

Donna joined at age 16 on the eligibility of her grandfather, Neal H. Giffin, Sr., who served in the U.S. Army during World War II. She is married to Frank Mills, a VFW Past State Commander in Pennsylvania.

Donna is a retired software engineer for Pennsylvania State University where she worked for 28 years. She spends much of her spare time indulging in her love of computers and computer programming, reading, watching football and creating cross-stitch and embroidery. She is a member of the Methodist church, American Legion Auxiliary 24, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks 976, Moose Lodge 223/220 and Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (MOCA) 33.

2024 VOD WINNER  
**JOSEPHINE CIUFFI**

My name is Josephine Ciuffi. I currently reside in Slidell, Louisiana with my parents, Robert and Lisa Ciuffi. I am a Class of 2024 graduate of Archbishop Hannan High School and Elite Dance Academy in Covington, Louisiana. I will be attending Louisiana Tech University in the Fall where I will be pursuing a Masters in Architectural Design and Engineering.

I learned about the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest by searching for available scholarships to help me with funding my college tuition. There were many scholarship opportunities available, which I submitted my entries, however, this essay, while intimidating at first, was something that I felt needed to be put into words. The topic, "What are the Greatest Attributes of our Democracy," was one that was a bit challenging. I started by asking this question to family, family friends and other individuals I knew to see what their thoughts were about the topic. Everyone had great points in what they thought were the greatest attributes but then some explained it in the context of the differences in today's world from the way of the world a decade or two ago.

I researched our Nation's history and sat with the entry form and my notebook full of ideas for two months before putting together the words contained in my essay. On the heels of the deadline, I finished and submitted my essay to VFW Post 5735. On December 15, 2023 I received a call that my essay had been awarded First-Place and \$100 by the Post and District 9. In the same breath, I was told that my essay was now headed to the State of Louisiana VFW for judging.

On January 27, 2024, the 10 District Winners attended the 93rd Annual Veterans of Foreign Wars & VFW Auxiliary Department of Louisiana Mid-Winter Conference Awards Banquet in Alexandria, Louisiana. District 4 Commander, James Bourque, his wife Crystal, and PDP Mary Johnson of the Louisiana Auxiliary planned a fun filled day of activities and accompanied all of us at the Banquet. I met and made friendships with some incredible peers through this process. It was this night that, Commander Bourque called out my name as the First-Place winner for the State of Louisiana Voice of Democracy audio-essay contest. VFW State of Louisiana Commander, Ron Delaney and his wife, Lisa Delaney, VFW State of Louisiana Auxiliary President, presented me with a \$1,000 check and announced and that they

would be accompanying me to Washington, D.C. to represent the State of Louisiana. While in Washington, D.C. I will be competing against the other Department winners for a \$35,000 First-Place Scholarship.

All of the Department winners will be reunited in June to attend the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. There, we will participate in the Spirit of America Youth Leadership Program.

To give you a little personal background on who I am as a person, here is my story:

My parents, high school sweethearts, originally from St. Bernard Parish have been married since 1999. My mother was not supposed to be able to have children, however, it was during Hurricane Katrina that my mother found out she was pregnant with me. My parent's entire family lost everything. I can tell from the stories I have heard growing up, and the photographs I have seen that it was a difficult and emotional time for them. One thing my parents have always told me is that although this was a very difficult and challenging time in their life, they were able to get through it because of me. They felt that if going through this was the sacrifice, they had to make to be able to have a child, then, as horrible as that experience was for them, they would go through it all over again.

It is that same strength and perseverance that has helped shaped me into being the person I am today. Their continued devotion, involvement in my life and love has created a solid foundation for me to succeed. My parents are two of the hardest working people I know and they have taught me to not be afraid of work and to work hard for yourself and others. This is a lesson that I have utilized in every aspect of my life so far.

I have danced with Elite Dance Academy since I was able to walk. This year I will graduate after seventeen years. Dance is an art form that consists of dedication, discipline, and education. It is a type of art where you can express many different things with just a single move.



Through dance, I have learned many things including stamina and strength.

It is this same dedication, discipline, and education that I used when I began CrossFit. This was something that I threw myself into to help work through grief after losing both my grandparents six months apart. During this difficult time, I pushed myself and worked hard to become stronger for my family and myself. CrossFit is a sport that requires you to be very safe and conscious of your movements because you can quickly harm yourself if not done properly. It was a distraction from my grief but it was also creating something positive inside of me.

At Archbishop Hannan, I joined the powerlifting team to learn more and get stronger. At the time, I was the only female lifter with a team of male athletes. Today, our team has eleven female lifters. I have lettered over the years, been a double coach award recipient and qualified to compete in the 2024 Girls Division II State Meet in Lafayette, Louisiana.

This journey has made me set new personal records for myself which I continue to do every time I show up at

practice or participate in a competition. This sport has taught me that it is ok to fail but do not ring that bell. You get back up and do it again and again. Be persistent, keep trying, fight harder, get stronger, and I will do just that. My parents taught me to never give up or quit. It is this appreciation and my Coach's passion for our team and myself in becoming the best version of ourselves.

While attending Archbishop Hannan, I was enrolled in engineering classes. Our assignments consisted of designing and building sensory toys for children, a cupcake transporter and bridge structures using a variety of materials. Exploring creativity through design is something that I have found myself enjoying. In 2022, as a result of my academic achievements in Engineering, I was nominated for, attended and successfully completed an engineering program at The Georgia Institute of Technology where I received two advanced college credits from George Mason University.

I do hope that you enjoyed learning a little more about my Voice of Democracy experience and about my background on how I became the person I am today.

## “WHAT ARE THE GREATEST ATTRIBUTES OF OUR DEMOCRACY?”

By Josephine Ciuffi

As citizens of the United States of America we are a great example of Democracy. In order to identify what our greatest attributes are we must first understand the history of and why our founding fathers established a government that would protect the individual rights of its citizens and help the Nation be safe while continually allowing us to improve and grow as a society.

The Declaration of Independence is one of the most important historical documents of the United States of America. The famous phrase, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness,” should be a constant reminder to the American people of the freedoms we have and the many sacrifices made for them.

The Constitution of the United States represents the core of the American government in that it created the judicial, legislative and executive branches of our government. Our Constitution, as written, outlines its purpose, governmental organization and rights, which we refer to as our Bill of Rights.

Former President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, played a significant role in the formation of our democracy and is one of the greatest historical figures of our Nation. He stated, that a democracy is “government of the people, for



the people and by the people.” He was responsible for the passing of the emancipation proclamation which put an end to slavery in the United States and made sure that all citizens were treated equally.

Democracy is proven important because it will, more likely than not, secure an appropriate decorum or dignity amongst individuals, enhance economic development and environmental growth, protect American citizens against domestic and international terrorism and crimes while providing a pathway for amicable resolution of conflict.

Protecting our individual rights plays a major role in our democracy today, although there are several controversies surrounding some of these rights. I respect everyone’s right to their own opinion however, I will simply share with you what I feel are the greatest attributes of our democracy.

While it is very difficult to choose, our freedoms of religion and speech, rights to bear arms, to a fair trial and to vote are some of our democracy’s greatest attributes.

Freedom of religion allows us to practice our faith whether we believe in the same things or not. Citizens have the ability to freely practice their religious beliefs together or as an individual without fear of persecution or government intervention.

The ability of being able to publicly share our views and opinions on certain issues without retaliation by our government is protected by our freedom of speech. As citizen we should be respectful towards one another in that we do not use words that are provoking, defamatory or obscene in nature. Many different issues arise and often create differences of opinion but our freedom of speech allows everyone to discuss these issues and opinions in hopes that everyone can find a common ground or compromise that can be lived with.

Our right to bear arms allows citizens the freedom to own weapons for the purpose of protecting life, liberty and property. The ability for the American people to protect what they have worked for and built is what this right is all about. This is a hot and sensitive topic but we need to work together and figure out a better solution to the problem surrounding this right instead of trying to completely abolish it. Again, something our democracy allows us to do.

We are guaranteed the right to a fair trial. This means that every American citizen is considered innocent until proven guilty. One simply cannot be locked up for a crime committed unless and until they have had any and all evidence presented and a verdict decided. Additionally, individuals who cannot afford legal counsel are able to have a public defender assigned to represent them and their interests.

The right to vote is probably one of the biggest attributes as it allows the American citizen the right to choose its leaders and decide issues that are presented to them for change. This is something that can be done over and over again so that we do not have a single person deciding everything or making decisions on our behalf that could have an adverse effect on the Country and its citizens.

Finally, we are a resilient Nation in that we can and have sustained many societal changes that have both hindered and enhanced our progress. Our Nation has endured many atrocities, yet its people have pulled together in solidarity time and time again, showing one another just how strong we are together as a Nation. As long as the American people stick together and prevent governmental interference with our rights, we will certainly prevail and stand united for the rest of time.

For, these are the greatest attributes of our democracy.

# BORN TO FL



HELEN RICKETTS

On July 2nd, 2022, VFW Hammond Post 3652 voted during their monthly meeting to change its name from Hammond to Helen Hooks Rownd. It had come to the Post's attention that an aviation pioneer had lived among them and taught high school for 25 years in their area. Possibly many of her students went on to graduate, going on with their lives in their community. Some may have even gone on to a career in the military themselves, all the while never knowing the contributions she gave as a young woman in her twenties to this great nation of ours.

Born November 27th, 1920 in Loranger, Louisiana, she grew up in a small town, going through high school and then off to college where she had trouble deciding what to major in before eventually choosing a degree that allowed her to become a teacher. In 1941, after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, she joined the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP) where she learned to fly, finding that her true calling was in the air and not in front of a chalkboard in a classroom. But, the times in the 40's were different and would soon be changing, allowing her and other young women to soar through the sky's across the United States.

After learning to fly, she joined the Women's Flying Training Detachment (WFTD) where she was soon recruited by Jacqueline Cochran, a renowned racing pilot who would become the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)

Director. Some 25,000 women would apply to become pilots in the newly formed WASP's to do their part in the war effort. Only 1,830 would be selected for the program and out of those chosen, only 1,074 would complete the



training and earn their wings, Helen (Ricketts) Hooks Rownd was among these talented young women.

Mrs. Rownd started the program with 51 other women in the second WASP class, number 43-W-2. During their training, each of the women cadets learned to operate and fly different aircraft in order to ferry all types of aircraft. These included the A-24, AT-6, AT-10, B-13, B17, B-24, BT-13, P-38, P-39, P-40, P-47, P-51, PT-17, PT-19. However, not all would complete the training and not all would return to the ground safely. In her class, eight would wash out of the program for one reason or another. Sadly, one would be killed during a training accident before their graduation. Six others would lose their lives while serving on Active Duty ferrying planes to their destinations.

Assigned to Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas for training, Mrs. Rownd would certify on the AT-6, AT-10, PT-17, and BT-13. These trainers had the flying characteristics of the war planes they would be ferrying, like the C-47 Skytrain, B-24 Marauder, and the Douglas, SBD-6 Dauntless Dive Bomber, from Love Field (Dallas, TX) and Selma Army Air Field (Monroe, LA) to other locations across the states waiting to be loaded for shipments overseas.

# LY DESTINED To TEACH



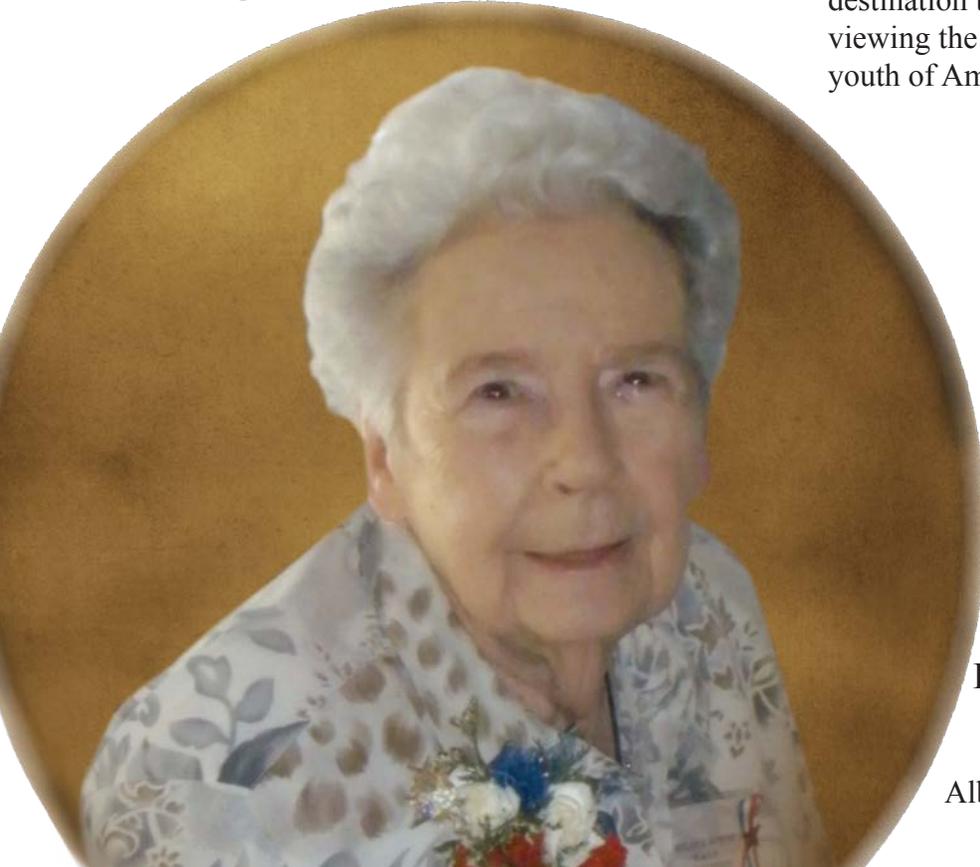
C-47 Skytrain



B-26 Marauder



Douglas SBD-6 Dauntless Dive Bomber



As her male counterpart would receive hazard duty pay for towing aerial target behind their planes, this was not the case for these women as WASP's pilots. Mrs. Rownd towed targets as little as 150 feet or shorter behind her B-26 Marauder, while student gunners trained before being deployed overseas shot at the target she towed. Congress in 1977 would finally recognized these brave women as veterans of War Would II and were granted veteran benefits accordingly. On March 10th, 2010, Mrs. Round received the Congressional Gold Medal Awarded to the Women's Airforce Service Pilots. After the war she would return to her home state of Louisiana, settling down and became a resident of Hammond, marrying twice and being widowed twice.

At the age of 95 Mrs. Helen (Ricketts) Hooks Round passed away on Monday, October 3rd, 2016, in Hammond, LA.

How many of the future generations of aviators she taught probably never knew their high school teacher, a war veteran, a young woman at the time doing her part. Supporting the fight in a world war by being shot at by her fellow Americans, so they can learn to shoot down the enemy. Or fly countless hours ferrying planes for one destination to another, then to set aside her true passion of viewing the great nation from the sky in order to teach the youth of America.



©Walt Disney

Fifinella - WASP Mascot

Namesake of VFW Post 3652  
**Helen Hooks Rownd WASP Pilot.**

Thanks to Post 3652 Commander  
Albert M. "Bert" Cusimano for the story idea.

# 2023 - 2024 LEADERSHIP TEAM



**RONALD "RON" DELANEY**  
State Commander  
Post 4588/D12 - USAF



**DEBBIE MCELHANNON**  
State Sr. Vice Commander  
Post 9854/D5 - US Army



**JAMES M. PRESTENBACK**  
State Jr. Vice Commander  
Post 3665/D3 - US Army



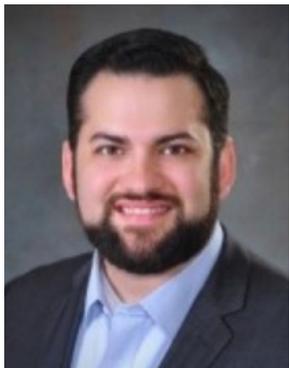
**MITCHELL R. "MITCH" COTA**  
PSC - State Adjutant  
Post 7286/D2 - USAF



**ELVIN R. "RAY" BASS**  
PSC - State Quartermaster  
Post 3337/D2 - US Army



**SHAREE M. ARENDS**  
State Surgeon  
Post 5951/D12 - USAF



**AARON LAWRENCE**  
State Judge Advocate  
Post 3615/D11 - USMC



**DAVID FIELDS**  
State Chaplain  
Post 5951/D12 - US Army



**DON REBER**  
Jr. Past State Commander  
Post 9822/D4 - US Army

## 2023 - 2024 LEADERSHIP TEAM (CONTINUED)



**ROBERT "BOBBY" LOVERGNE**  
PSC - National Council Member  
Post 3750/D2 - USAF



**LEANDER J. "LEE" DAIGLE**  
State Chief of Staff  
Post 9903/D7 - USAF



**PHILIP GALLET**  
State Inspector  
Post 9210/D4 - US Navy

## 2023 - 2024 DISTRICT AND POST

**JOSEPH DUFRENE**  
District 2 Commander



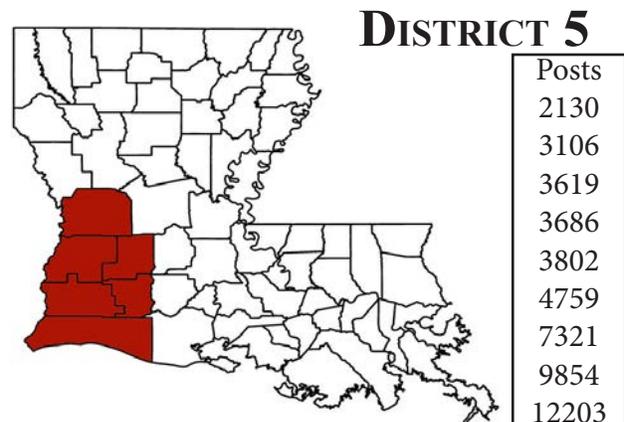
**MURDOCK J. GILMORE**  
District 3 Commander



**JAMES D. BOURQUE**  
District 4 Commander

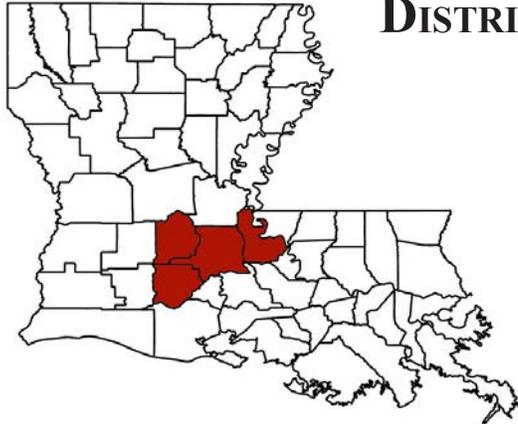


**PAULA S. BALDWIN**  
District 5 Commander



# 2023 - 2024 DISTRICT AND POST

**DENNIS HART**  
District 7 Commander



## DISTRICT 7

Posts
2483
3803
5153
6720
8678
8971
9903

**CARL J. KARNISH**  
District 8 Commander



## DISTRICT 8

Posts
3693
3766
3784
3785
4224
7017
11169

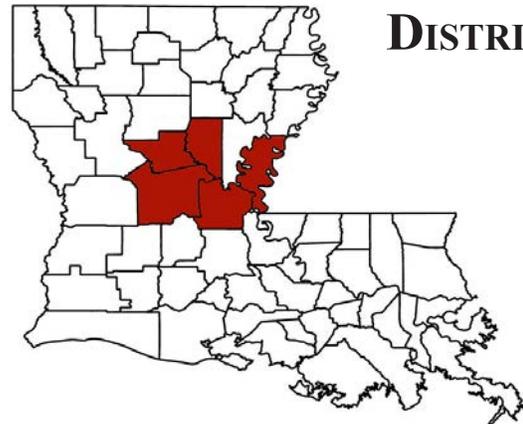
**JASON M. KAHL**  
District 9 Commander



## DISTRICT 9

Posts
3652
5174
7196
7286
8290
8720

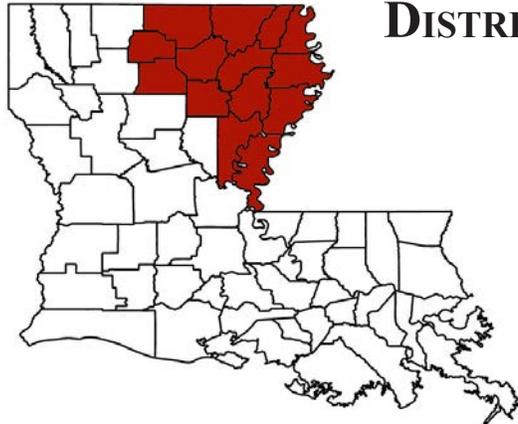
**JAMES M. RABALAIS**  
District 10 Commander



## DISTRICT 10

Posts
1736
1962
3139
3841
5002
7643
8852

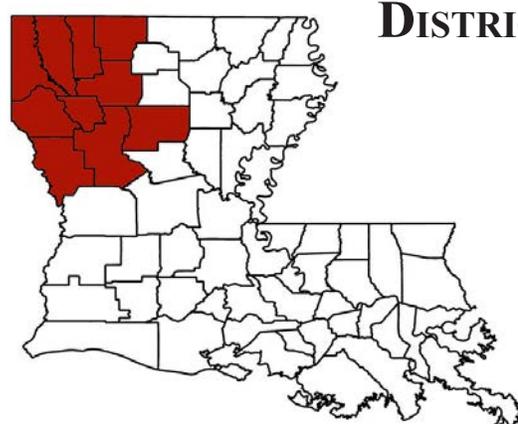
**PHILIP LAWRENCE**  
District 11 Commander



## DISTRICT 11

Posts
1809
3155
3375
3615
3977
4317
5442

**WALTER R. KORB**  
District 12 Commander



## DISTRICT 12

Posts
2885
4586
4588
4858
5187
5951
7287

# Delaney's Gavel The Year Together



Commander Ron Delaney & President Lisa Delaney  
Ron served in the U.S. Air Force for 21 years and retired in 2005 at Barksdale AFB in Bossier City. He has been a member of the VFW since joining Post 4219 in Orchard Farms, Missouri in 1994. He has been a life member since 1996 and is currently a Legacy Gold VFW member of Post 4588 Gandy-Brown in Bossier City, LA. Ron's dad, Donald Delaney, served in the Army Air Corps and was a radio operator on a bomber in the Pacific during WWII. His brother, Steve Delaney, served in the Air Force and was a Vietnam Era Veteran serving in Thailand. Ron was the only member of his immediate family who joined and became active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Ron was born and grew up in Jefferson City, MO as his father became a civilian after he completed his enlistment in the Army Air Corps.

Lisa's dad spent 27 years in the U.S. Air Force and retired from Barksdale AFB in Bossier City, LA. Lisa grew up as a military "brat" and spent her childhood moving many times as her dad was assigned to many different military bases. Lisa joined the VFW Auxiliary after she and Ron were married because her dad was not a VFW eligible veteran. Her family has a long history of VFW Auxiliary membership beginning with her grandmother, Stella Shedd, who joined in 1946 on the eligibility of her son and Lisa's uncle Walter Shedd who served during WWII and landed on Anzio Beach in Italy. Lisa's mom also joined on the eligibility of her brother Walter in 1953 when she was 16. Lisa was unable to join under her uncle and didn't become eligible until she and Ron married.



Ron and Lisa met on a blind date in 2004 and married in 2005. They met in Bossier City, LA and soon found out they had many things in common. Ron retired from the same Communications Squadron in 2005 that Lisa's dad retired from in 1979. Lisa was born in Maine and Ron spent 6 years at Loring AFB in Maine. They both have a heart for service and enjoy spending time serving their community. After meeting and during their early years of marriage motorcycling was their main hobby and interest. Ron and Lisa both served as officers and are life members of the Harley Owners Group. As part of the local HOG Chapter, they were heavily involved in organizing and participating in various charity events with their fellow motorcycle friends.





After becoming more involved in the VFW they served as Commander & Auxiliary President of VFW Post 4588 in Bossier City at the same time. Both have held different positions at the District and State level and now have

had the privilege as serving together as the Department of Louisiana Commander & Auxiliary President. They have enjoyed traveling together across the State of Louisiana attending Post, Auxiliary and District meetings. They have been able to combine their love of motorcycle riding with VFW business and rode their bikes to National Conventions in Kansas City, Orlando and New Orleans. This past year they have logged approximately 20,000 miles together traveling the State of Louisiana and going to the National Convention, Southern Conference and Legislative Conference. The most recent trip to Washington DC for the Legislative Conference was very special as they had the honor together of escorting Louisiana's VOD winner in the Parade of Winners.

Ron has been retired since 2009 and Lisa just retired last year in July. Retirement hasn't been sitting on the porch wondering what they will do because they have been extremely busy serving veterans and their families. They anticipate continuing to be active in the VFW once their year as Department Leaders is completed. They do plan to find more time for family and motorcycling while still being active VFW & Auxiliary members. The plan is to still take trips together and visit other states while checking places off their "bucket list". They are looking forward to enjoying their retirement years by balancing service to veterans with more family time.



# HOW ARE YOU INSPIRED BY AMERICA?



There are numerous ways to be inspired by America such as viewing its historic landmarks, appreciating its freedoms and opportunities and our noteworthy military.

While in history class learning about different people and landmarks that have shaped this country, my new understanding of the United States inspired me to ask my parents if we could take a vacation to Washington D.C. and New York City during our summer break to experience parts of this great country for myself. While in Washington D.C., I visited the Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr. memorials, the White House, and the U.S. Capitol building. As a bonus, while outside the White House, the President flew in using the Marine One helicopter. I was amazed because I never saw a President in person.

Another reason I am inspired by America is while watching the news, I see negative situations happening in other countries that are not occurring here. For example, some countries like Ukraine, Nigeria, and Somalia have wars, extreme famine, continuous financial instability, and a lack of a governmental system. This makes me more appreciative of who we are as a nation. We have freedoms of choice, vote and speech, but even though we have separate opinions, we still work together as a country. These freedoms were paid with many lives in places such as the Middle East, Europe, Africa, and the Pacific.

The last reason I am inspired by America is because of our Armed Forces defending our freedoms and global interest abroad. They help supply and defend other countries while still securing America. For instance, when there are domestic disasters, the National Guard will be sent out to provide health care and assistance to citizens in need. Another example is when the events of 9/11 transpired, first responders, airline agencies, and the military stood tall and did everything they could to render aid and console one another. Currently, over one million active duty and reserve service members are protecting our nation to ensure that terrorist events never take place on America's soil again.

In conclusion, America has shaped me to live as the best citizen I can be because of the ultimate sacrifice of those who believed in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness this country offers. Therefore I am proud to be an American.

By Dejon Sylvester

# 2024 WASHINGTON



2024 Department of Louisiana  
Jr.PSC Don Reber | VFW Legislative Chairman PSC Matt West | National Committeeman PSC Bobby Lovergne | Nellie Baldwin | Sr. Vice Cdr Debbie McElhannon | State Quartermaster PSC Ray



Majority Leader Representative Steve Scalise, R-D1 LA scheduled a tour of the U.S. Capital while our Legislative Team was visiting DC during the 2024 Washington Conference. Above/Below pictures during tour.



# ON CONFERENCE



Legislative Team from left to right;

Lovergne | State Commander Ron Delaney | Angela Prestenback | Jr. Vice Cdr James Prestenback | Dist 5 Cdr Paula Bass | VFWA Legislative Officer Desiree Cota | State Adjutant PSC Mitch Cota



Seven out of the eight congressional members offices were represented during our legislative meetings. Office representatives from Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 and both Senators offices were represent. Congressman Dr. Garret Graves and Senator Bill Cassidy attended in person.

For the past ten to fifteen years Louisiana's VFW Legislative Team have set up meetings with each of our congressional representatives, laying out the VFW Priority Goals, giving each LA Team member time to speak on a subject and time for representatives to ask questions.

# VOICE OF DEMOCRACY



2023-2024 State Commander Ron Delaney and 2023-2024 State President Lisa Delaney escorting Louisiana VOD Winner

**Ms. Josephine Ciuffi**

with two members of the National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms.



Pictured left:

2023-2024 National Commander-In-Chief

**Duane Sarmiento**

and

2023-2024 National Auxiliary President

**Carla Martinez**

presents a \$1,000 scholarship to

**Ms. Josephine Ciuffi**

Pictured right:

Louisiana VFW & AUX members and Josephine's mother and father after the award ceremony.



# NATIONAL AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S VISIT

VFW Auxiliary National President Carla Martinez arrived at the Department of Louisiana being greeted by State Auxiliary President Lisa Delaney and members from VFW and VFWA on February 18, 2024 at the Shreveport Regional Airport.



This was the start of a busy three day visit to the Northwest area of the Department of Louisiana showcasing Louisiana's care for their veterans and the veterans families.

25 members greeted National President Carla Martinez to include three Past State Commanders, six Past State Presidents, and members from the department.



# NATIONAL AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S VISIT

## Eagle Park Wreath laying ceremony



Post 2885 Auxiliary President Sue Williams watches as State President Lisa Delaney and National President Carla Martinez place Wreaths at a ceremony held at Eagle Park in Minden, Louisiana.

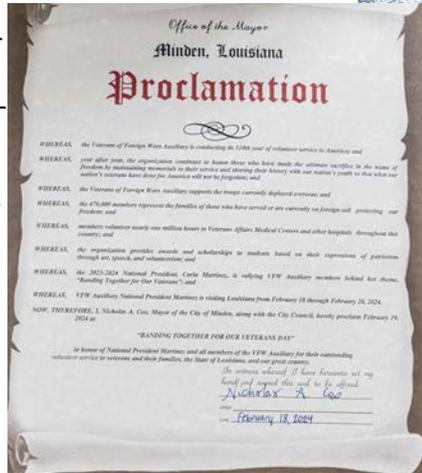


Above: Mayor Nicholas Cox presented National President Carla Martinez with a proclamation proclaiming February 19, 2024 as “*Banding Together for Our Veterans*” day. State President Lisa Delaney and Post Auxiliary President Sue Williams.

Center- Proclamation

Far right State Commander Ron Delaney, State President Lisa Delaney and National President Carla Martinez in front of the Eagle Park Statue.

First day finished with a Mardi Gras themed dinner hosted by Post 2885 Auxiliary President Sue Williams, Aux and Post Members.



# NATIONAL AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S VISIT

## “Warrior Horse” is an excellent program for our veterans.



Kevin Russell, Founder/  
Exec. Director/President

Warrior Horse transforms the lives of military veterans, one horse at a time. The Warrior Horse program uses a personalized and interactive equine-assisted method, which we call the “Bonding Process” to assist military veterans who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to begin their recovery from this debilitating disorder. Our program is open to current and former members of the armed forces of the United States who have been diagnosed with PTSD and have had some “let down” period after a tour of active duty. The program is provided at no financial cost to the veterans.

*(Taken from Warrior Horse’s website)*



Lisa, Carla, and Bunny, a horse that helps veterans.



## Post 4588 Old Fuddy Duddy Club Luncheon

The Old Fuddy Duddy Club (OFDC) was born out of Buddy Checks by Post 4588 Commander Randy Campbell on their older members eighty and older who no longer can make the meetings. As a Post they decided to take the eighty-somethings out on a luncheon once a month so they can share some camaraderie with their old friends and Post comrades. Somehow the term Old Fuddy Duddy Club was coined and stuck as a term of endearment.

The Old Fuddy Duddy Club is now in its thirteenth month with only good praises from the OFDC members. Each month, a Post 4588 member brings the club members to a different restaurant and their meals are covered by the Post or sometimes donated by companies or the restaurant.

This is a good way to keep the older veterans active and in touch with their younger selves through remembering and talking about their youth with veterans from their time.



Carla being made an honorary OFDC member.



Carla being interview by local TV Station.



Old Fuddy Duddy Club Members.



Old Fuddy Duddy Club Members.

# NATIONAL AUXILIARY



VFW National Auxiliary President Carla Martinez addresses the veterans,



Kevin Russell addresses the audience and giving thanks to State President Lisa Delaney for choosing Warrior Horse as a destination the National Presidents visit.



State President Lisa Delaney addressing the audience about her year and the outpouring of love shown over National President Carla Martinez's visit.



Past Department Presidents for L to R:  
2019-20 Kolleen Herndon, 2012-13 Margaret Nixon, and  
2015-16 Cyleria Guidry-Gerrets.



Past Department Presidents for L to R:  
2010-11 Elaine Brown and 2003-04 Alice Kijak.

# Y PRESIDENT'S VISIT



auxiliary members, guests, and honored friends at a banquet in her honor.



National President Carla Martinez presenting her Presidents Coin to both State Commander Ron Delaney and State President Lisa Delaney.

National President Carla Martinez presenting her President's Coin to Past Department Commander and 23-24 State Adjutant, Mitchell R. "Mitch" Cota.



Past Department President:  
2021-22 Ramel Fields.



Past Department Commanders for L to R:  
2009-10 Max Arends III and 2005-06 Tom Kijak.

# February Recruitment Events

## Smoothie King Center Veterans Job Fair, New Orleans, LA



Delaney and Cota  
Recruiting Team



New Member for Post 3337



New Member for Post 3121



Meeting up with a comrade you  
served with 15 years ago.

## Southern Louisiana Boat, Sports, & RV Show, Houma, LA



PSC Don Reber and New VFW Members



## ALL AMERICAN STATUS (AS OF MARCH 25, 2024)

Department	District	Post	Veterans & Military Support Donation	Voice of Democracy	Patriot's Pen	Teacher Award	Buddy Poppy Order	Membership	National Legislative Service	Community Service	Recruiting Events	Department Round Up Tour	NVS Training	Post Service Officer Training	JROTC Cadet of the Year	Employer of the Year	VFW Member of the Year
Louisiana	2	3121	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	2	3267	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Met	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	2	3337	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	2	3750	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	2	5852	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	2	6640	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	2	7732	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	2	8973	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	3	3665	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	3	4222	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	3	4752	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	3	5097	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	3	7755	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	3	8538	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	3	9608	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	3	12182	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	4	1982	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Met	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	4	3793	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	4	4158	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	4	4201	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	4	4215	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	4	9210	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	4	9822	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	4	12065	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	2130	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	3106	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	3619	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Met	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	3686	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	3802	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	4759	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	7321	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	9854	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	5	12203	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	7	2483	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Met	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	7	3803	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	7	5153	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Met	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	7	6720	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	7	8678	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	7	8971	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Met	N/A	Met	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	7	9903	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Met	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	8	3693	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	8	3766	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	8	3784	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	8	3785	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	8	4224	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	8	7017	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	8	11169	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	9	3652	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	9	5735	Unmet	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	N/A	Met	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	9	7196	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	9	7286	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Met	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## ALL AMERICAN STATUS (AS OF MARCH 25, 2024)

Department	District	Post	Veterans & Military Support Donation	Voice of Democracy	Patriot's Pen	Teacher Award	Buddy Poppy Order	Membership	National Legislative Service	Community Service	Recruiting Events	Department Round Up Tour	NVS Training	Post Service Officer Training	JROTC Cadet of the Year	Employer of the Year	VFW Member of the Year
Louisiana	9	8290	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	9	8720	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	10	1736	Met	Met	Met	Pending - District	Met	Unmet	N/A	Met	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	10	1962	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Met	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	10	3139	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Met	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	10	3841	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Met	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	10	5002	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	10	7643	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	10	8852	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	11	1809	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Unmet	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	11	3155	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	11	3375	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	11	3615	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	11	3977	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	11	4317	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	11	5442	Unmet	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	12	2885	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	12	4586	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Met	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	12	4588	Met	Met	Pending - District	Met	Met	Unmet	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	12	4858	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	12	5187	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	12	5951	Unmet	Met	Met	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Met	Met	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	12	7287	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	Unmet	Unmet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## VFW POST 1736

VFW Post 1736 is one of the Original Charter Posts that mustered the Department Of Louisiana on July 5th, 1931.

103 years young Comrade Herbert St. Romain is one of eleven over 100 on the Post roster. It is great to have members like Comrade St. Romain in the VFW and to hear the stories of his youth.



State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year*	Percent	Div	RS	City	State	N/R	LM	Prior Annual	Retention	N/R %
Louisiana	3121	2	149	5	0	27	181	230	78.69%	5		GRETNA	LA		1	93	54.84%	2.61%
Louisiana	3267	2	99	0	0	19	118	127	92.91%	7		HARAHAN	LA		1	59	55.93%	0.79%
Louisiana	3337	2	139	4	1	37	181	286	63.28%	4		LA PLACE	LA		1	145	42.07%	2.10%
Louisiana	3750	2	122	1	0	40	163	173	94.21%	6		LULING	LA		4	61	81.97%	2.89%
Louisiana	5852	2	38	0	0	21	59	71	83.09%	9		LUTCHER	LA		0	26	80.77%	0.00%
Louisiana	6640	2	105	2	0	25	132	155	85.16%	6		METAIRIE	LA		2	46	69.57%	2.58%
Louisiana	7732	2	22	0	0	2	24	25	96.00%	11		KENNER	LA		0	8	87.50%	0.00%
Louisiana	8973	2	240	3	2	33	278	303	91.74%	4		NEW ORLEANS	LA		2	68	50.00%	2.31%
Louisiana	0	2	914	15	3	204	1136	1370	82.91%	5					11	0	0.00%	2.12%
Louisiana	3665	3	105	25	2	106	238	219	108.67%	5		RACELAND	LA		1	89	98.88%	12.79%
Louisiana	4222	3	61	3	0	30	94	100	94.00%	8		MORGAN CITY	LA		0	28	103.57%	3.00%
Louisiana	4752	3	50	3	2	31	86	84	102.38%	9		HOUMA	LA		0	25	104.00%	5.95%
Louisiana	5097	3	68	0	0	22	90	107	84.11%	8		THIBODAUX	LA		0	32	75.00%	0.00%
Louisiana	7755	3	26	0	0	13	39	42	92.85%	11		BOURG	LA		0	16	93.75%	0.00%
Louisiana	8538	3	46	1	0	12	59	96	61.45%	8		LAROSE	LA		0	40	37.50%	1.04%
Louisiana	9608	3	22	0	0	0	22	26	84.61%	11		CHAUVIN	LA		0	0	100.00%	0.00%
Louisiana	12182	3	26	6	0	27	59	54	109.25%	10		PATTERSON	LA		0	26	100.00%	11.11%
Louisiana	0	3	404	38	4	241	687	728	94.36%	6					1	0	0.00%	5.91%
Louisiana	1982	4	72	5	1	43	121	115	105.21%	7		NEW IBERIA	LA		1	39	117.95%	6.09%
Louisiana	3793	4	19	0	0	6	25	28	89.28%	11		KAPLAN	LA		0	9	77.78%	0.00%
Louisiana	4158	4	21	0	0	17	38	42	90.47%	11		ABBEVILLE	LA		0	15	93.33%	0.00%
Louisiana	4201	4	47	0	0	20	67	74	90.54%	9		FRANKLIN	LA		0	15	100.00%	0.00%
Louisiana	4215	4	22	0	0	7	29	36	80.55%	11		BREAUX BRIDGE	LA		0	10	70.00%	0.00%
Louisiana	9210	4	51	0	0	19	70	81	86.41%	9		YOUNGVILLE	LA		2	37	54.05%	2.47%
Louisiana	9822	4	116	63	9	51	239	175	136.57%	6		LAFAYETTE	LA		2	40	82.50%	42.29%
Louisiana	12065	4	27	3	1	8	39	46	84.78%	11		NEW IBERIA	LA		0	12	66.67%	8.70%
Louisiana	0	4	375	71	11	171	628	597	105.19%	6					5	0	0.00%	14.57%
Louisiana	2130	5	122	0	2	21	145	161	90.06%	6		LAKE CHARLES	LA		3	37	64.86%	3.11%
Louisiana	3106	5	510	2	1	37	550	618	88.99%	3		LEESVILLE	LA		4	83	60.24%	1.13%
Louisiana	3619	5	280	16	3	70	369	390	94.61%	3		DE RIDDER	LA		7	209	45.93%	6.67%
Louisiana	3686	5	37	0	0	6	43	43	100.00%	11		JENNINGS	LA		3	5	120.00%	6.98%
Louisiana	3802	5	34	2	0	11	47	47	100.00%	11		DE QUINCY	LA		0	6	100.00%	4.26%
Louisiana	4759	5	31	0	0	5	36	51	70.58%	10	S	STARKS	LA		1	18	50.00%	1.96%
Louisiana	7321	5	121	0	1	11	133	156	85.25%	6		LAKE CHARLES	LA		0	32	50.00%	0.64%
Louisiana	9854	5	74	0	0	5	79	104	75.96%	8		VINTON	LA		0	41	34.15%	0.00%
Louisiana	12203	5	13	0	0	4	17	24	70.83%	11		KINDER	LA		0	9	66.67%	0.00%
Louisiana	0	5	1222	20	7	170	1419	1594	89.02%	4					18	0	0.00%	2.82%
Louisiana	2483	7	25	6	0	7	38	40	95.00%	11		OPELOUSAS	LA		0	14	78.57%	15.00%
Louisiana	3803	7	53	0	0	6	59	68	86.76%	9		VILLE PLATTE	LA		0	9	55.56%	0.00%
Louisiana	5153	7	81	4	1	49	135	131	103.05%	7		ARNAUVILLE	LA		0	42	102.38%	3.82%
Louisiana	6720	7	42	0	0	16	58	67	86.56%	10		CROWLEY	LA		0	19	84.21%	0.00%
Louisiana	8678	7	14	0	0	5	19	22	86.36%	11		PORT BARRE	LA		1	10	80.00%	4.55%
Louisiana	8971	7	98	5	1	98	202	197	102.53%	5		EUNICE	LA		0	63	103.17%	3.05%
Louisiana	9903	7	29	1	1	24	55	55	100.00%	10		CHURCH POINT	LA		1	24	91.67%	5.45%
Louisiana	0	7	342	16	3	205	566	580	97.58%	6					2	0	0.00%	3.62%
Louisiana	3693	8	167	21	3	34	225	206	109.22%	5		GONZALES	LA		6	53	75.47%	14.56%
Louisiana	3766	8	12	0	1	17	30	37	81.08%	11		DONALDSONVILLE	LA		0	23	65.22%	2.70%
Louisiana	3784	8	142	1	0	18	161	177	90.96%	6		BATON ROUGE	LA		1	31	74.19%	1.13%
Louisiana	3785	8	9	0	0	12	21	29	72.41%	11		ADDIS	LA		0	16	81.25%	0.00%
Louisiana	4224	8	65	8	0	14	87	113	76.99%	7		BAKER	LA		0	43	39.53%	7.08%
Louisiana	7017	8	39	13	3	59	114	104	109.61%	8		DENHAM SPRINGS	LA		2	47	112.77%	17.31%
Louisiana	11169	8	52	0	0	7	59	68	86.76%	9		BATON ROUGE	LA		0	12	66.67%	0.00%
Louisiana	0	8	486	43	7	161	697	734	94.95%	6					9	0	0.00%	8.04%
Louisiana	3652	9	69	26	34	64	193	133	145.11%	7		HAMMOND	LA		2	22	95.45%	46.62%
Louisiana	5735	9	90	3	0	33	126	139	90.64%	7		SLIDELL	LA		0	45	77.78%	2.16%
Louisiana	7196	9	27	0	0	2	29	35	82.85%	11		FRANKLINTON	LA		0	6	33.33%	0.00%
Louisiana	7286	9	66	0	0	8	74	86	86.04%	9		COVINGTON	LA		2	22	36.36%	2.33%
Louisiana	8290	9	81	10	1	14	106	109	97.24%	8		LACOMBE	LA		0	35	51.43%	10.09%

Louisiana	8720	9	115	9	0	52	176	199	88.44%	5	ABITA SPRINGS	LA	1	89	62.92%	5.03%
Louisiana	0	9	448	48	35	173	704	701	100.42%	6			5	0	0.00%	12.55%
Louisiana	1736	10	325	7	0	13	345	366	94.26%	3	ALEXANDRIA	LA	4	16	81.25%	3.01%
Louisiana	1962	10	36	1	2	10	49	51	96.07%	10	NATCHITOCHE	LA	0	17	76.47%	5.88%
Louisiana	3139	10	54	0	2	20	76	80	95.00%	9	MARKSVILLE	LA	3	37	78.38%	6.25%
Louisiana	3841	10	11	2	0	7	20	25	80.00%	11	MANSURA	LA	0	8	87.50%	8.00%
Louisiana	5002	10	33	0	0	10	43	52	82.69%	10	JENA	LA	0	13	84.62%	0.00%
Louisiana	7643	10	30	0	0	5	35	45	77.77%	11	SIMMESPORT	LA	0	11	54.55%	0.00%
Louisiana	8852	10	87	1	0	7	95	107	88.78%	8	ALEXANDRIA	LA	0	22	54.55%	0.93%
Louisiana	0	10	576	11	4	72	663	726	91.32%	6			7	0	0.00%	3.03%
Louisiana	1809	11	111	9	3	38	161	181	88.95%	6	MONROE	LA	1	55	78.18%	7.18%
Louisiana	3155	11	47	0	0	14	61	74	82.43%	9	WINNSBORO	LA	0	19	68.42%	0.00%
Louisiana	3375	11	49	0	0	10	59	69	85.50%	9	RAYVILLE	LA	0	21	52.38%	0.00%
Louisiana	3615	11	80	2	0	5	87	105	82.85%	8	RUSTON	LA	2	18	44.44%	3.81%
Louisiana	3977	11	15	2	1	7	25	31	80.64%	11	OAK GROVE	LA	0	13	53.85%	9.68%
Louisiana	4317	11	51	0	0	6	57	95	60.00%	8	JONESBORO	LA	2	43	27.91%	2.11%
Louisiana	5442	11	69	0	0	8	77	82	93.90%	9	FARMERVILLE	LA	1	28	50.00%	1.22%
Louisiana	0	11	422	13	4	88	527	637	82.73%	6			6	0	0.00%	3.61%
Louisiana	2885	12	30	2	0	13	45	56	80.35%	10	MINDEN	LA	0	23	52.17%	3.57%
Louisiana	4586	12	22	1	1	5	29	31	93.54%	11	MANSFIELD	LA	0	7	71.43%	6.45%
Louisiana	4588	12	278	7	1	20	306	322	95.03%	4	BOSSIER CITY	LA	2	61	44.26%	3.11%
Louisiana	4858	12	20	0	0	9	29	31	93.54%	11 S	MANY	LA	0	2	100.00%	0.00%
Louisiana	5187	12	49	4	0	30	83	73	113.69%	9	ZWOLLE	LA	2	9	111.11%	8.22%
Louisiana	5951	12	474	52	3	82	611	702	87.03%	3	BOSSIER CITY	LA	2	48	77.08%	8.12%
Louisiana	7287	12	23	0	0	7	30	48	62.50%	11	COUSHATTA	LA	0	24	50.00%	0.00%
Louisiana	0	12	896	66	5	166	1133	1263	89.70%	5			6	0	0.00%	6.10%
Louisiana	15019	99	1163	67	8	156	1394	1511	92.25%	1	BATON ROUGE	LA	21	0	0.00%	6.35%
Louisiana	0	99	1163	67	8	156	1394	1511	92.25%	4			21	0	0.00%	6.35%
Louisiana	0	255	7248	408	91	1807	9554	10441	91.50%				91	0	0.00%	5.65%

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

### Department of Louisiana

### CONVENTION DATES

#### 2024

~~Midwinter, January 25-28~~

Convention, June 27 – 30

C of A, August 9 – 11

National Convention, Louisville KY, July 27- August 1

~~BENTLEY ONLY~~

CONVENTION CTR (28-30) & BENTLEY

BENTLEY ONLY

#### 2025

Midwinter, January 23 – 26

Convention, June 26 – 29

C of A, August 22 – 24

National Convention, Columbus OH, July August 9 - 14

BENTLEY ONLY

CONVENTION CTR (26-29) & BENTLEY

BENTLEY ONLY

#### 2026

Midwinter, January 22 – 25

Convention, June 18 - 21

C of A, August 28 – 30

National Convention, Salt Lake UT, August 15 - 20

BENTLEY ONLY

CONVENTION CTR (19-21) & BENTLEY

BENTLEY ONLY

#### 2027

Midwinter, January 28 – 31

Convention, June 17 – 20

C of A, August 13 – 15

National Convention, Milwaukee WI, July 31 – August 5

BENTLEY ONLY

CONVENTION CTR (18-20) & BENTLEY

BENTLEY ONLY

#### 2028

National Convention, San Antonio TX, August 5 - 10



Our own PSC Bobby Lovergne announced at the Southern Conference that he is running for National Junior Vice Commander-In-Chief for 2026-2027. He has traveled with other Past Department Commanders to the other 13 Departments making up our conference.

Below are some but not all of the Departments visited so far.



Department of Alabama



Department of Virginia



Department of Tennessee



Department of North Carolina



Past Department Commander Wyatt Lobrano

Speaking at Tennessee conference.



Past Department Commanders Don Reber and Max Arends III

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
 93rd Annual State Convention  
 June 27, 28, 29, and 30, 2024  
 The Hotel Bentley in Alexandria  
 200 Desoto Street, Alexandria, LA 70131  
 All VFW Members Invited

VFW Tentative Agenda

**Thursday, June 27, 2024**

4:30pm - 5:30pm Pre-Paid Registration (VFW Only) Lobby Floor-Bentley

**Friday, June 28, 2024**

8:30am - 11:30am Pre-Paid Registration (VFW Only) Lobby Floor-Bentley

9am - 12n First Business Session (Hall A, B, & C) Riverfront Center

12n - 1:15pm Lunch

12:30pm - 3pm Registration Lobby Floor-Bentley

1:15pm - 3:30pm Second Business Session (Hall A, B, & C) Riverfront Center

4pm - 5:30pm **Budget Meeting** Bentley Forum Room

4pm - 5:30pm Auxiliary Bingo Bentley Claiborne Rm

6:pm - 9pm Auxiliary Party Bentley Ballroom

**Saturday, June 29, 2024**

8:30am - 11:30am Registration Lobby Floor-Bentley

8:45am Officer Line Up (2nd Floor outside Hall "A") Riverfront Center

9am - 11:15am Joint Opening & Memorial Riverfront Center

12n - 1:15pm Lunch

12n - 1:15pm PSC Luncheon Bayou Robert Bentley

12:30pm - 3pm Registration Lobby Floor-Bentley

1:15pm - 3:30pm Third Business Session (Hall A, B, & C) Riverfront Center

6:30pm VFW/Auxiliary Awards Banquet Riverfront Center

VFW Speaker, *National CIC Duane Sarmiento*

AUX Speaker, *National AUX Chaplain Donna Mills*

**Sunday, June 30, 2024**

8am - 9am Registration Lobby Floor-Bentley

9am - 11am Final Business Session (Hall A, B, & C) Riverfront Center

Final Nomination & Election of Officers

11:15am Joint Installation Ceremony

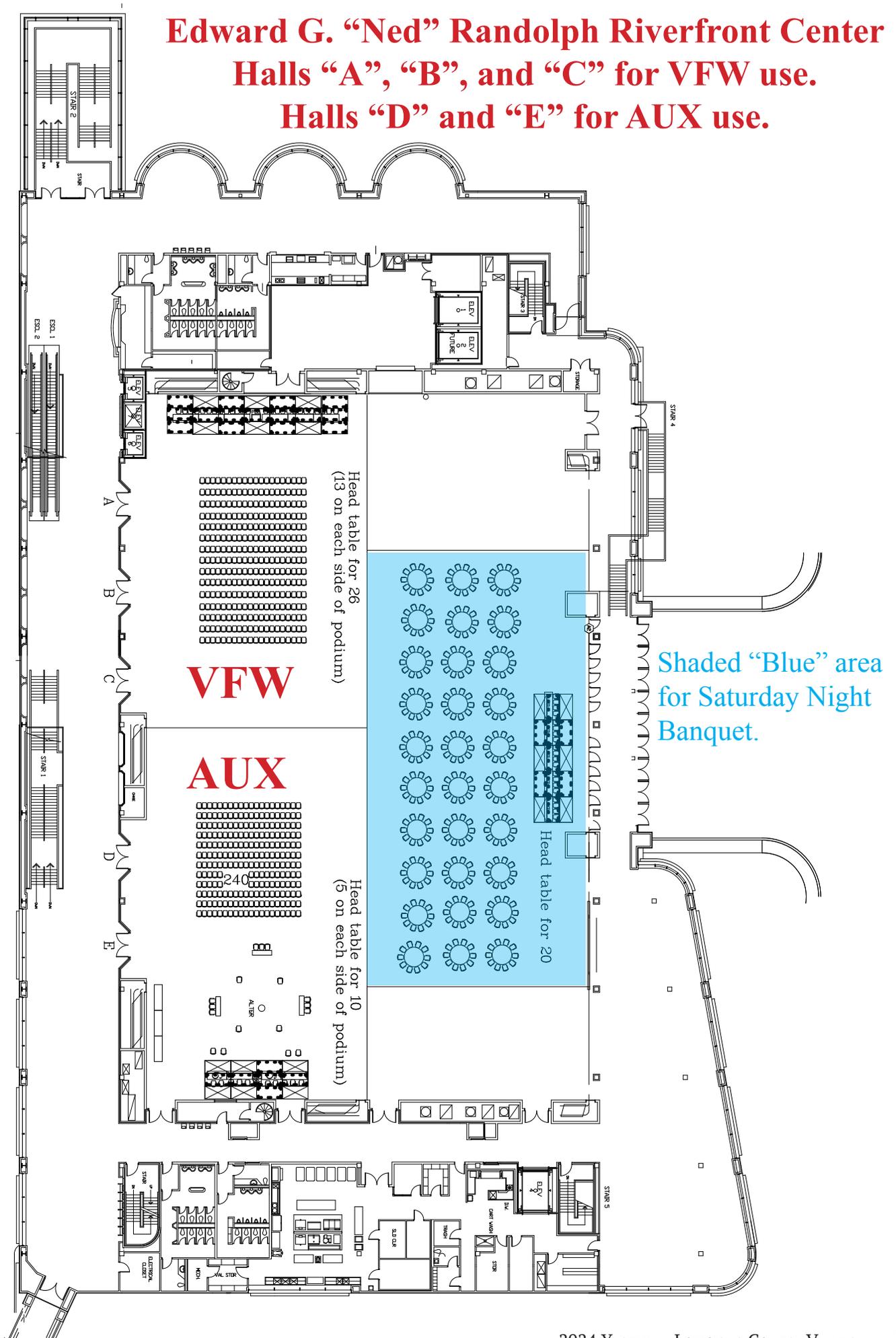
1pm Reception for Incoming State Commander

and President

All Comrades and Auxiliary members invited to attend!

Safe Travels Home

**Edward G. "Ned" Randolph Riverfront Center  
Halls "A", "B", and "C" for VFW use.  
Halls "D" and "E" for AUX use.**



## Hotel Information



### **STATE CONVENTION 2024**

**JUNE 27 - 30, 2024**

#### **THE HOTEL BENTLEY**

200 Desoto Street  
Alexandria, LA 70131  
(318) 442-2226

### **Overflow Hotels**

**JUNE 27 - 30, 2024**

#### **HOLIDAY INN**

701 4th Street  
Alexandria, LA 71301  
Reservation (888) 465-4329  
Front Desk (318) 541-8333

**JUNE 27 - 30, 2024**

#### **FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT**

2830 South Macarthur Drive  
Alexandria, LA 70131  
(888) 392-4091

# VFW State Convention Delegate and Alternate Form

Post #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

One (1) Delegate and One (1) Alternate for each thirty (30) Members or Fraction Thereof. Delegate Fees: **\$5.00 per Delegate, Plus \$5.00 for Post Commander.**

Make checks payable to: VFW, Department of Louisiana. Mail form to: VFW, Department of Louisiana, 10185 Mammoth Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70814.

**Deadline Date is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please only send a list of names of those Delegates and Alternates that will be attending the Convention.** Use a Separate page if more space is needed.

## Delegates – Please Print

1. \_\_\_\_\_
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## Alternates – Please Print

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19. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed – CDR.: \_\_\_\_\_

Adj: \_\_\_\_\_

Post must pay for **all Delegates** that are entitled to vote or it **loses all votes**. If the Post is entitled to 10 + 1 votes and yet only pays for 3, it then losses all votes. The Post must pay for all 10 votes which would be \$50.00 rather than 3 x \$5.00 = \$15.00.

### For Dept. Use Only:

Department Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Louisiana

State Convention

Banquet Ticket Form

Tickets - \$30.00 per person

Deadline: June 15th

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Aux: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make a note if the tickets being purchased are for any State Officers, All State Team, etc....

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to VFW Department of Louisiana Mail to:  
10185 Mammoth Avenue Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70814

PLEASE NOTE:

\*NO PHONE CALL REQUEST FOR TICKETS

\*Tickets will be assigned on a first come first serve bases.

\*No tickets will be held without payment!!

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY:

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Check No: \_\_\_\_\_

# NEW ORLEANS PELICANS



## GROUP TICKETS



### 2023- 24 Season Military

 For Discounted parking, click [HERE](#).

The New Orleans Pelicans are proud to offer discounted Military tickets to active-duty, reserved, veteran and retired service members. Save up to 50% off on New Orleans Pelicans tickets! Thank you for your service!

**Apr 1, 2024**  
Mon - 7:00 PM

**Phoenix Suns at New Orleans Pelicans**  
Smoothie King Center

[VIEW TICKETS](#)

**Apr 3, 2024**  
Wed - 7:00 PM

**Orlando Magic at New Orleans Pelicans**  
Smoothie King Center

[VIEW TICKETS](#)

**Apr 5, 2024**  
Fri - 7:00 PM

**San Antonio Spurs at New Orleans Pelicans**  
Smoothie King Center

[VIEW TICKETS](#)

**Apr 14, 2024**  
Sun - 2:30 PM

**Los Angeles Lakers at New Orleans Pelicans**  
Smoothie King Center

[VIEW TICKETS](#)



# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®

# **WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE**

**BY VFW DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA**

**MAY 25, 2024**

**10 AM-2 PM**



**LOCATION: VFW 6640**

**2809 HARVARD AVE METAIRIE, LA 70006**

**FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

**KOLLEEN HERNDON 504-452-2550**

**WOMEN VETERAN CHAIRMAN**

**PAULA BALDWIN COMBATSOULSISTER@YAHOO.COM**

**337-424-1379**