

Department of Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars



1103 N. Blackwelder Ave. OKC. OK 73106 405 525-2680/ www.vfwoklahoma.org

August 2020 2020-2021 Series

"The most dangerous phrase in our language is "we've always done it this way." Rear Admiral Grace Hopper

DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA HEADQUARTERS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

General Orders No. 2 2020-2021 Series

1. 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.

2. 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, Campaign/Conflict, 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.

/os/

MICHAEL L. MERIT STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

/ os /
Curtis A. Watts
Adjutant

1

FROM THE COMMANDER



Michael L. Merit State Commander Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Oklahoma



Comrades, First of all, I hope this finds all of you and your family healthy and well. If not, I pray for a speedy recovery. I ask everyone to keep Past All American State Commander Darryl Mabry in your thoughts and prayers as his father passed away today. To all of you, remember to stay safe out there during this continued pandemic! Every one of you are an essential member of our TEAM OKLAHOMA, so we need all of you.

Our Schools of Instruction are this month! We will be having the first one in Eufaula at VFW Post 8798 on August 15th at 9am. The Auxiliary will not be participating with us since they have decided to hold theirs virtually. So, that means we will not be crunched up in the bar area this time. We will be in the large meeting hall were plenty of social distancing can occur. There will also be face masks and hand sanitized for anyone who needs them. We will be having ribs provided by Post 8798 for lunch, so come hungry! Our second SOI will be in Del City at VFW Post 9969 on August 22nd at 9am. They have an extremely large meeting hall so, again, social distancing will not be a problem. We will be having a burger and hot dog buffet provided by Post 9969 for lunch. I hope to see all of you there. *Remember, in order to eligible for All State status, the Commander, Quartermaster, one Trustee and either the Sr. Vice Commander or Jr. Vice Commander must attend one of the SOIs.*

We are going to be open to all ideas that will grow and strengthen our Department this year. We are going to have to be creative in what we do this year as we continue to face the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. That means that we must think outside of the box when it comes to promoting our programs and growing our membership. That also means finding ways to stay in contact with our membership and checking in on them from time to time. We are our own best support system, but it requires ALL of us to take part in it.

Our Membership Chair, State Surgeon Stacy Reddig has worked with our Membership Retention Chair National Council Member Robbi Clark, PSC and have formulated an aggressive membership program. It is a comprehensive design utilizing grassroots efforts as well as support at all levels. It is an amazing program that will officially launch at our SOIs. *REMEMBER*: 100% BY DECEMBER 31ST, 2020 110% BY JUNE 30TH, 2021. That means we are looking to add 1,161 members to our ranks by the end of the administrative year. This is an extremely aggressive goal, but I know that we can pull up our bootstraps and accomplish anything, so long as we put our mind to it. Our Department Auxiliary President Steven Hodge and I have created a competition for everyone to participate in. The VFW member that recruits the most for the Auxiliary and the Auxiliary member that recruits the most for the VFW will both receive awards at the next convention. Don't forget my Commander's Challenge as well: The first Post and District to reach 110% will receive a \$100 reward should they make it prior to 31 Dec 2020. Each post or District that makes it after the first one but prior to 31 Dec 2020 will receive a \$50 reward. Again, it begins with you.

For our All State Program this year, we are keeping a very aggressive stance when it comes to the competition. All State is supposed to highlight those Posts and Districts who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to exemplify everything the VFW stands for. That is why the rules for the competition are as tough as they are. I

will say though, the requirements to meet All State this year are basically what each Post and District should already be doing in the first place. I know it is going to be tough to meet the requirements, but we would not have set them that way if we did not think that you could do it.

Our Department Centennial is April 16th, 2021. By this point, all of you should have received a card in the mail asking you to update your information and submit your picture and story to be added to our Centennial Memory book. I hope all of you have participated and have purchased a book. It is a great memento to have. Not many



get to celebrate 100 years, so this is going to be an amazing experience for all of us. Speaking of mementos, our Centennial Coin design was released at the State Convention. District 1 Commander Matt Ward had the winning design. The coins are currently being made and will be available at the Schools of Instruct August 15th in Eufaula and August 22nd at the State Headquarters. All the State Officers and District Commanders have preorder forms.



They are two inches wide and the price per coin

is \$20. Each coin will be individually numbered, and the current set is 500 coins. We would love to have to order another 500! So, get in contact with one of the state officers to reserve yours today!

Finally, again I want to thank all of you for elevating me to this high office. As I said before, this year is about you and TEAM OKLAHOMA. That is going to be a recurring theme this year: TEAM OKLAHOMA. We are all in this together as a team. We will make it. We will strive. We will continue to be the "First to Fight for Veterans!" Why, because we are TEAM OKLAHOMA! Carry on!

Michael L. Merit State Commander

Dear Comrades, Auxiliary Members, Brothers and Sisters,

We are writing this letter to you today as a call-to-arms. Our Oklahoma VA system is failing our veterans. We are hearing stories of veterans telling us their care is getting pushed further and further back or canceled all together. We understand that this is a trying time, but we will not accept the utter disregard for our veteran's health and wellbeing at any time.

We come to you today to ask for information regarding the VA (hospital or clinics) in their timeliness and regard to your health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Have you had appointments canceled? Have your appointments been pushed back by weeks, even months? Have you been denied service due to lack of staffing or scheduling? Have you been told that your condition or appointments are considered elective, even though the condition is debilitating and/or affecting your quality of life?

Our veterans deserve better than this. They should not be left so frustrated and dejected by their healthcare system that they start to contemplate their lives. This is an absolute failure at the highest level, and we need to demand a change.

Please send your information as soon as you possibly can so we can get this to our lawmakers and demand the right to timely and caring healthcare for our veterans.

Information to include

Name

Phone number

Address

Dates and times of appointments (original, canceled, rescheduled) and if they gave reasons for the change.

Location of appointments

If you feel uncomfortable providing this information via letter or email, please feel free to call us.

Please send this information to

Michael Merit

or

Rebecca Merit

michael.l.merit@gmail.com

918.314.3951

rebeccamerit1@gmail.com

918.210.9688

124 W. Dogwood St Skiatook, OK 74070

FROM THE STATE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

State Senior Vice Commander National and State Legislative Chair Bylaws/Resolutions Chair Jim Bassett

State Senior Vice Commander National and State Legislative Chair Bylaws/Resolutions Chair Jim Bassett

Centennial:

adjective

- pertaining to, or marking the completion of, a period of 100 years.
- pertaining to a 100th anniversary.
- lasting 100 years.
- 100 years old.
- Per Dictionary.com

Why am I pointing this out? Who noticed that I put 199 years for our convention? This gives me a great opportunity to point out that we are coming up on the year 2021, and that is our centennial year. In fact, the actual date is April 16th. That means that we are celebrating 100 years of Excellence, 100 years of Service, and 100 years of taking care of our veterans, families, and communities. This is something to be proud of!

Covid-19 does not appear to be leaving anytime soon. So please! Please! Keep the social distancing up, keep wearing the mask, and keep washing your hands! We have VFW members that have compromised systems that are susceptible to Covid-19 or other illnesses. Remember, this will help you and also help those around you.

With the new year, come new responsibilities. With my new responsibilities this year come new challenges. If you have any inputs towards legislative or bylaws and resolutions, please let me know.

In case you missed it, this is an election year. You are encouraged to register, and to vote for any candidate or party you desire. The VFW's concern is the erosion of benefits that veterans receive. Please keep an eye on legislation that impacts your benefits. One way to do that is through knowledge and not hearsay. Simply register to receive the Action Corps newsletter. This is a simple and easy way to stay informed. You can register at https://votervoice.net/VFW/register.

The State Adjutant has sent a copy of the proposed changes to the Voice of Democracy program. This is a premier program for the VFW. It is scheduled to be put in front of the National Council of Administration for discussion. I wanted all of our members to read it, understand it, and make an informed decision. Please read it.

It is a new year and we have some great recruiting opportunities planned down the road. Well, if Covid-19 lets us. If you have a recruiting membership drive, please let us know. We have a lot of talented recruiters willing to assist you with your drives.

You may have noticed that I talk a lot about retention. What good is bringing one new member in when you have two or three leave? Some ideas have been assigning someone as your post have a greeter. This would be someone to welcome everyone and talk to them? New and old members, someone to talk to them, make them feel welcome and encourage them to participate.

Normally, this is where I begin to let you know about our upcoming events. Minor League Baseball, the Oklahoma City Dodgers, have canceled their season. The future of soccer is still unknown at this time. Basketball, which was canceled is trying to make a comeback. Go figure. The 45th Fallen Heroes Marathon has canceled. The Tinker AFB 911/POW Memorial Marathon is going to be held virtually. How this is going to be accomplished is in the works and I don't know how we are going to support it yet. So, we still do not have dates for any sporting events. As soon as I know, I will get word out. These have been great events to attend.



DONATE!! DONATE!! A new year and new drives. We will be getting them scheduled at our events. If you have an event that

would benefit from a Blood Drive, let me know. This is another way that we can help our veterans, families, and communities. In the meantime, the American Red Cross and Oklahoma Blood Institute are running low. Donate some blood if able, help our community. The Supreme Military Order of the Cooties has set up an online report of blood donated. They will send you a certificate of recognition if you donate, please submit the information at http://vampire.puptent1.org/. The blood drives are being sponsored by the Military order of the Cooties Grand of Oklahoma.

Be Visible!

The VFW and the Auxiliary used to be very active within their communities. What are you doing in your community? When you're out volunteering for the VFW or Auxiliary, please wear something that identifies you as a VFW or Auxiliary member; it helps increase public awareness. Any time you help a veteran is also a good time to wear something that identifies you as a member of the VFW or Auxiliary. There are some exceptions if you are working with other entities, check with them to find out if you can wear VFW or Auxiliary items.

Be Visible!

Jim Bassett

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FROM THE STATE JUNIOR. VICE COMMANDER

I hope to hear that our membership is doing good this month. Upcoming for the month of August are the Department Schools of Instruction, I hope to see everyone there, we are going to have some good training at these schools. As State Inspector I am hoping to get to visit several district meetings and possibly inspect the districts that are ready. Please remember to get your accountable officers bonded before 31 Aug 2020. I know I am jumping around but this is a busy month and I am trying to hit on key topics. Recruiting, State Commander Merit has given us a challenge this year on recruiting and retention. This is a very obtainable goal. If you have a recruiting event, make it known, there are several people who would love to help! In closing, let's try to stay healthy and safe as we continue to focus on our goals and mission.

Jeremy J. Owen State JR Vice Commander Department of Oklahoma

FROM THE STATE SURGEON

Comrades, after visiting different posts and calling posts to see if we can help in anyway regarding what is needed for memberships, it is plainly clear from everyone who I have spoken to that you need a "member at large" list. I can see that! It also has come to mind that current addresses and phone numbers are needed as well. Not all the time will a member provide a current number or address, or they move or something else happens. I suggest until we get the problem fixed, utilize your roster of those who have not paid in over 2 years. They are considered a re-instate, so let us look at that for the moment. Remember, they still have a VFW membership number, that will not change.

Also, with what I just stated, WE (meaning All of us, Not just a handful like normal, but All of Us) need to be getting out within our communities and showing just what the VFW has a reputation of showing what we do for our veterans. For instance, service officer work, going to hospitals and talking to veterans and their families plus doing other things like putting in wheel-chair ramps; basically, helping where we can and doing community projects. In doing this, veterans and their families will ABSOLUTELY want to be in our VFW! With that being said, our Auxiliary here in Oklahoma is doing a tremendous show of force and helping also. I would like us to have an excellent year. Like we as veterans have heard it before, "LEAVE NO COMRADE BEHIND!"

Stacy Reddig State Surgeon

FROM THE STATE CHAPLAIN

Chaplain's Note

Greetings Comrades, I hope this finds you doing well as we move thru the dog days of summer. August brings the Schools of Instruction for the new leadership in the organization. I pray we are successful in all our endeavors this year. The memorial was not able to happen at Convention in June so we will be conducting it at the October Council of Administration. Hope to see you all there.

This month I have a small clip from an article I read about taking care of yourself, especially during these unprecedented times.

We've Reached Peak Wellness. Most of It Is Nonsense. Here's what actually works

By Brad Stulberg

Once someone's basic needs are met (e.g., food and shelter), scientists say that wellness emerges from nourishing six dimensions of your health: physical, emotional, cognitive, social, spiritual, and environmental. According to research published in 1997 in The American Journal of Health Promotion, these dimensions are

closely intertwined. Evidence suggests that they work together to create a sum that is greater than its parts. Wellness—the kind that actually works—is simple: it's about committing to basic practices, day in and day out, as individuals and communities.

Physical: Move Your Body and Don't Eat Crap—but Don't Diet Either Emotional: Don't Hide Your Feelings, Get Help When You Need It Social: It's Not All About Productivity; Relationships Matter, Too

Cognitive: Follow Your Interests, Do Deep-Focused Work

Spiritual: Cultivate Purpose, Be Open to Awe

Environmental: Care for Your Space

God Bless

Richard Willey State Chaplain Department of Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars (580) 318-3782 rickwilley@hotmail.com

"The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy."

— Kalu Ndukwe Kalu

James 4:12

There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?











FROM THE OKLAHOMA VFW FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION: The Oklahoma VFW Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, assists Oklahoma veterans and their families, promotes patriotic programs, provides relief for veterans and veteran support organizations, and provides educational scholarships.

This has been a busy month for the Oklahoma VFW Foundation. In the month of July, the Foundation awarded a number of grants to fund Oklahoma Honor Guards, one of its core programs, including:

\$700 Grant to the Blanchard Veterans Honor Guard



\$700 Grant to the VFW Post 9969 Del City Honor Guard



\$700 Grant to the VFW Post 1317 Shawnee Honor Guard



The first weekend of August, the Foundation awarded a \$2,000 grant to what is probably the most active Honor Guard unit in Oklahoma, the Oklahoma District 5 Honor Guard.

Oklahoma District # 5 Honor Guard



One of the things we are most proud of is that we have been able to start giving back to the Department of Oklahoma VFW as well. The Oklahoma VFW Council of Administration voted to make a large increase in the VSO (Veteran Service Officer) program with the hope of hiring more staff to be able help more veterans process their claims and get the benefits they so greatly deserve. To assist in being able to increase that budget amount, the Oklahoma VFW Foundation presented a \$5,000 grant to Dept. of Oklahoma VFW Service Officer James Dockemeyer.



We also chipped in and helped another great Oklahoma-based organization whose mission it is to help veterans. Oklahoma VFW Foundation Co-Founders John Fischer and Curt Watts spent a hot and sunny Saturday at Winter Creek Golf Course as the OK VFW Foundation sponsored one of the holes at the Warriors for Freedom golf outing.

Remember, we need donations to keep doing the great things that we are doing. We appreciate the donations we receive from VFW & Auxiliary members, but to truly grow, we need to start working on getting donations from those that support veterans who are not members of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary. At the Schools of Instructions, we will be providing Posts with brochures on the Foundation that we want to encourage them to share with their communities.

We urge all our veteran heroes to be safe and be healthy.

As a reminder, you can be one of our Founding Donors for a donation of \$100. Founding Donors will receive a limited-edition pin and a numbered certificate, there will only be 200 founding donors. You can earmark your donation to go to one of our established programs (Service Officer Funding, VFW Scholarship Funding, Honor Guard Funding or Disaster Grants) or have the donation go to the program with the most need. With a donation of \$1,000, you can be a Founding Sponsor, which will include a numbered plaque. There will only be 45 Founding Sponsors. Founding Sponsors can request the funds to go any of the items Founding Donors can request, or they can also work with the Foundation to establish a separate program for their funds. With a donation of at least \$2,000 the Foundation will work with you to create a Donor Advised Fund. Contact us for more information on any of these programs.

John H. Fischer President/Executive Director Oklahoma Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation 1103 N. Blackwelder Avenue Oklahoma City, OK 73106

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FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Administrative Operations There re are currently 30 Posts under suspension, five of which are new. We received two new submissions for Post consolidations and processed five pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. One Charter revocation was completed pursuant to Section 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization currently has 6,067 active chartered Posts. Administrative Operations is engaged in 26 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, nine administrative actions and five pending membership eligibility challenges. This past week we processed one membership termination and two voluntary resignations. This past week we received nine new Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review. We also reviewed and approved 26 total Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions which currently leaves eight submissions pending review and approval. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 14 days. as of June 30 (end of term), 5,449 Posts have submitted their election report utilizing the Online Membership System (OMS), and 496 unique Post election reports have been entered manually for a total of 5,945 successfully submitted reports. 522 Districts have submitted their election report through OMS, and 65 unique District election reports have been entered manually for a total of 587 successfully submitted reports. **Human Resources**; **Retiring**: Sonja Cutright will be retiring as the VFW Store Manager on July 31, after more than 40 years of service to the VFW. She will be missed. You can wish her well at SCutright@vfw.org. Promotion: Congratulations to Hank Ellis, who is being promoted from the VFW Warehouse and Technical Operations Manager, to the position of the VFW Store Manager, effective July 31. He has been with the Store for many years, and we look forward to working with him in his new role. Meeting and Events Continuing to participate in, as they come available and are relevant, various educational online meetings/webinars pertaining to meetings, e.g., face to face vs. virtually. Ongoing - weekly ZOOM call with ALHI hotels and presentations of the current state of the industry as provided by CEO/President Michael Dominguez. His presentation includes overall updates on COVID-19. Sources include Johns Hopkins and CDC. Phone call introduction with new Hilton Hotels Global Sales contact. Previous contact's job was eliminated. Brought new contact up to date on VFW. Continuing to work through contract for Baltimore Convention Center (2021) with regard to changes in force

majeure clause as proposed by center. Consulting with legal to come up with equitable solutions for both entities. Researched past conventions housing and registration numbers as Baltimore wants to use numbers of people vs. a percentage to quantify should a cancellation become necessary. Former Passkey, Housing manager assisted by providing housing reports, e.g., specific numbers of people occupying rooms which provides a total number of people in the hotels vs. the number of rooms booked. Continuing to work with KCI Airport hotel on current procedures/logistics for upcoming August Budget, Finance, Council of Administration to include limitations on seating and food & beverage functions. VFW Foundation the VFW Foundation and Humana once again collaborated to promote and facilitate the "Uniting to Combat Hunger" (UTCH) campaign, an initiative to combat food insecurity in the veteran and military communities. This year's goal of providing 500,000 meals to those in need was greatly exceeded when the final tally reached over 1 million meals. VFW Quartermaster General and VFW Foundation Secretary/Treasurer Debra Anderson and Ed Sandrick, director of Humana's Strategic Alliances and Veteran Channel, made the special UTCH announcement live Monday during the VFW's #StillServing Celebration. Initially planned as a national food drive, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic forced the 2020 UTCH campaign to drastically shift its focus from food collection to financial donations in support of local VA food pantries. National **Legislative Service:** NLS is working to secure the inclusion of the *Major Richard Star Act* in the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021. Last Thursday, VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director Matthew Doyle testified at a hearing hosted by the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. The bills discussed covered issues regarding burial benefits, life insurance, and reinstatement of the 48-hour rule. Read the VFW's testimony. The VFW currently supports 147 pieces of legislation pending before the 116th Congress. communications and Public Affairs **Delivered** invitation letter to both the Trump and Biden presidential campaigns to participate in a 2020 Presidential Campaign Virtual Veterans Forum with all 12 VSOs led by VFW, DAV and American Legion scheduled for September 16. Met with both the Trump and Biden presidential campaigns to participate in the special election insert for the VFW magazine scheduled for October. Both campaigns agreed to participate and responses to questions for the insert should be delivered to the VFW magazine staff no later than July 31 Attended the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's 2020 National POW/MIA Recognition Day poster unveiling at the Pentagon on behalf of the VFW. Attended the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Weekly COVID-19 briefing for VSOs. Participated in the Merging Vets and Players (MVP) workout and huddle to gain an understanding of the organization and share the VFW mission. MVP is a non-profit organization that empowers combat veterans and former professional athletes by connecting them after the uniform comes off and providing them with a new team to assist with transition, promote personal development, and show them they are never alone. **Operations Attended** the House Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity hearing, where Veteran Benefits Administration, Veteran Education & Training and DOLVETS all testified on their post COVID-19 strategies to ensure the reemployment of veterans. Attended Secretary of Labor ACVETEO Committee meeting, where the emphasis was on the employment of veterans after the COVID-19 pandemic. National Veterans Service NVS staff participated in the Senate

Committee on Veteran Affairs – Women & Minority Veteran Subcommittee roundtable. Hearings at the Board of Veteran Appeals have resumed. Veterans have the option of continuing in person, via an IHP prepared by the VFW or virtual hearing with a Veterans Law Judge. Planning is fully underway for VASLT training (Virtual Advanced Skill Level Training) in September via ZOOM for VFW accredited reps with five or more years' experience. The first VPTC (Virtual Proficiency Training Conference) was a success with 92% rating the use of ZOOM (virtual delivery) as "satisfied" or "extremely" satisfied. We will use the overall responses to improve our next session. That is all for this month!

District Meetings for 2020: "Any Changes or corrections to Districts meetings, please notify the State Adjutant ASAP."

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D-1 > 08 \text{ Aug } 20
                    @ 1100 > Post 5307, Salina>State Jr. Vice CDR Jeremy Owen
D-3 > 01 \text{ Nov } 20
                    @ 1100 > Post 8384, Muldrow
D-4 > 07 \text{ Nov } 20
                    @ 1100 > Post 5805, Ft. Towson
D-5 > 01 \text{ Nov } 20
                    @ 1000 > Post # 2976, Claremore
D-7 > 07 \text{ Nov } 20
                    @ 11 am > Post # 539 Henryetta
D-8 > 01 \text{ Nov } 20
                    @ 11am > Post # 2855, Blackwell
D-9 > 15 \text{ Aug } 20
                    @ 10am > Post # 2270, Enid > PSC Darryl Mabry
                    @ 10 am> Post #9969, Del City > Sr. Vice CDR. Bassett/Surgeon Stacy Reddig
D-10 > 12 \text{ Sep } 20
D-13 > 29 Aug 20
                    @ 12:30 pm > Post # 5914, Thomas > Sr. Vice CDR. Jim Bassett
D-14 > 15 Aug 20
                    @11 am > Post #5263, Lawton> PSC Bob McGill
D-15 > 12 Sep 20
                    @11 am> Post # 4876, Altus > Commander Mike Merit
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DATES TO REMEMBER:

04 Aug>	U.S. Coast Guard Established (1790)
07 Aug>	Purple Heart Medal Established (1782)
14 Aug>	Japan Surrendered, Ending WWII (1945)
15 Aug>	VFW Oklahoma School of Instruction, (Post 8798, Eufaula)
22 Aug>	VFW Oklahoma School of Instruction, (Post 9969 Del City)