

September 9, 2022

Greetings,

We hope you enjoy this week's National Council Weekly Update on the pertinent happenings of your VFW departments.

### **Human Resources**

- Promotions:
  - Marvin Dotson was promoted to Recruitment Incentives Program Coordinator in the Membership Department in the K.C. Office

Contact: VFW Human Resources Director Sari Maple, [SMaple@vfw.org](mailto:SMaple@vfw.org).

### **Development**

- Sept. 6 Appeal:
  - September eNews to all nonmember Friends of Freedom.

Contact: VFW Development Director Kelly Jones, [KellyJones@vfw.org](mailto:KellyJones@vfw.org).

### **Communications and Public Affairs**

- Communications and Public Affairs Director Rob Couture drafted and disseminated three press releases on behalf of the organization, Aug. 30 – [\*Leaving Afghanistan – One Year Later\*](#); Sep. 2 – [\*Peace in the Pacific: Commemorating V-J Day\*](#); and Sep. 9 – [\*Where were you on 9/11?\*](#).
- Director Couture hosted a live discussion with NLS directors and celebrity veteran advocate Jon Stewart focusing on the passage of the PACT Act. The interview entitled, [\*“Landmark Legislation: a discussion about the PACT Act with Jon Stewart”\*](#) took place virtually via Zoom streamed live on Sept. 8 at 2 p.m. EST on the VFW's national Facebook page.
- Director Couture continued to coordinate for guest interviews for future episodes of the podcast.

Contact: VFW Communications and Public Affairs Director Rob Couture, [RCouture@vfw.org](mailto:RCouture@vfw.org).

## Administrative Operations

- There are currently 75 Posts under suspension; two of which are new with six suspensions lifted since last week. We are working two Post consolidations; we have completed one Post charter surrender; and we are working six and have completed one charter revocations pursuant to Sections 209, 210 and 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,831 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 14 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 16 administrative actions and four membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 11 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, eight of which are new. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately one week.

Contact: VFW Administrative Operations Director Johnathan Duncan, [JDuncan@vfw.org](mailto:JDuncan@vfw.org).

## National Legislative Service

- Veterans now have the option to **Dial 988 then Press 1** to connect with caring, qualified responders for 24/7 crisis assistance. “During a crisis, every second counts,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “This new, shorter number makes it easier for veterans and those who care about them to reach lifesaving support without having to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care.” While [Dial 988 then Press 1](#) is a new option for contacting the Veterans Crisis Line, the original number, 1.800.273.8255 and press 1, remains available, and individuals can make contact via chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat) or by texting 838255.
- VA is making several changes to its [Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#) to expand eligibility and make it easier to use. Veterans are now eligible to participate if they have deployed to one of three new locations – Syria or Uzbekistan since Sept. 11, 2001, or Egypt since August 1990. Other veterans and service members who can participate include those who deployed to the Southwest Asia theater of operations any time after Aug. 2, 1990, or Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after Sept. 11, 2001. In addition, VA is making the registry more user friendly and ensuring that veterans have the option to have an in-person health exam. [Read more](#).
- The VFW currently [supports 177 bills; and opposes one bill](#) pending before the 117th Congress.

Contact: VFW National Legislative Service Director Patrick Murray, [PMurray@vfw.org](mailto:PMurray@vfw.org).

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