



# John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683

All American Post 2021-2022

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA



John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683 - Enterprise Alabama

February 20 at 6:59 AM · 🌐

Join your community for fellowship at the VFW Post on March 1st for an Irish meal for just \$10!

2615 CR 537, Enterprise, from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

Shepard's Pie  
White bean soup  
Fried Cabbage  
Irish Soda Bread  
Irish Oat Flap Jacks



John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683 - Enterprise Alabama

23h · 🌐

Mark your calendars! Crawfish DayZ April 22d! Come out at Noon and spend the afternoon with us! 2-pound plates of Crawfish, sausage, corn, and potatoes for \$20! We will also have Cool Bus ice cream and a bouncy house for the kids. There will be hamburgers and hot dogs as well. Crawfish plates are pre-ordered only!

Order on our website: [www.VFW6683.org](http://www.VFW6683.org)!



  
—RENT OUT—  
VFW POST 6683  
FOR YOUR  
NEXT EVENT  
Call 334-475-2010  
More details on page  
**20 - 21**

VFW Post 6683 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month at 6pm  
2615 Country Road 537, Enterprise, AL





**FROM THE  
COMMANDER**  
*Robert Schmidbauer*

**Greetings Comrades,**

Spring is in the air and Summer is almost here. The months of March and April are typically our busiest months of the year, not only for us individually as we do our spring cleanups around the house but as an organization not only taking care of our Post Home but participating in all of the Community Events throughout Enterprise, The Wiregrass area, and across the State of Alabama.

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, we resumed our monthly Fellowship Dinner "Tailgate" style. Chris Woods, the Fellowship Chair and Dawn Schmidbauer planned another great meal. We had several volunteers assist with meal preparation and clean-up this month to include Carmen Donahue, Pam Smith, Larry Jones, Thomas Grandinetti, Will Clark, and Clarence Carrol and Sam Baker on the grill. The event was well attended, if you missed it, you are in luck as the Fellowship Committee is already planning and preparing the March Fellowship Dinner "Irish Meal" for us to enjoy.

On 18 February, the Post Board of Management resumed the Post Clean-up. The focus was on clearing the overgrowth brush from the front tree line. I must say that driving up to the post, you can now see our great post home and it is starting to look great! Special thanks to the volunteers, Jim Steddum, Kimo Steddum, Sam Baker, Ken Donahue, Bob Skinner, Ron Kaita, and Ray Gentzel. The Post Clean-up will continue Saturday 25 February and Saturday 4 March with cadre and ILE students from our Adopt a Unit, the Warrant Officer Career College assisting us. If you are available, please come out and pitch in, we would love your help.

Also on 18 February, we resumed our Fellowship Fires. At our Fellowship Fires, we bring our own

lawn chairs, beverages, and snacks to share and sit around the bon-fire enjoying conversations with our post comrades and families. In addition to the Comradery and esprit de corps, we utilize this time to hold a Flag retirement ceremony and retire any flags we have collected from the community. We will be holding Fellowship Fires on Saturday 25 February and Saturday 4 March starting at 5:00pm, we hope you can join us for one of these events.

We held our February meeting on 21 February. At this meeting we announced that we would be opening nominations for Post Officers at our



March meeting and that nominations would close at the April meeting just prior to elections. The members present voted that our elections will be held via voice vote. In addition to nominations opening, we discussed modifying three items within our current bylaws to ensure alignment with new directives or bylaw changes to the State and National Bylaws. These changes will be made to the bylaws and voted on at the March meeting.

Throughout the month of March and April there will be numerous Veterans and Community events. Some of the highlighted events are 7 March Public Involvement Meeting on SR-167 four lane from Enterprise to Florida. 29 March Vietnam Veterans Day at Johnny Henderson Park, 4-8 April Spring Family Fun Festival at Sam Boswell Honda. Please check out the City Wide VSO Calendar under the news tab located at the top of our website <https://VFW6683.org> for more events happening within our community.

As always, remember that this is your Post, I as well as the other elected leaders are simply your representatives. Make sure you come support your Post, express your ideas, participate in our community, and enjoy the comradery of your fellow members. Our Post is only as good as we make it together and we can always get better.





**John Wiley Brock**  
All American Post 2021-2022

**VFW Post 6683**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA



## VFW 101

### Flag Disposal Ceremony

As we have brought back the Fellowship bon fires and we are conducting Flag Disposal ceremonies at these bon-fires, I thought I would once again share the procedure and ceremonial script for Flag Disposal.

1. The flag should be folded in its customary manner.
2. It is important that the fire be large and of sufficient intensity to ensure complete burning of the flag.
3. Place the flag on the fire.
4. The individual(s) can come to attention, salute the flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance, and have a brief period of reflection.
5. After the flag is completely consumed, the fire should then be safely extinguished, and the ashes buried.
6. Please make sure you are conforming to local/state fire codes and ordinances.

#### Person In Charge States:

My fellow Comrades and friends. We have presented here these flags of our great nation. Flags which have previously provided proud and worthy service. Flags which have paid tribute to our honored dead. They have been inspected and found to be no longer serviceable. It has been recommended that they be appropriately destroyed with solemn dignity. This we shall do.

As you all know, the American Flag comes in all size, from extremely small to the magnificently large; and is made from many types of fabric, from the cheapest of gauze to the finest of silk. Yet, despite its size, material or intrinsic value, the true, priceless worth of our great Flag is that it serves as the visible symbol of the ideal aspirations of the American People... Freedom, Liberty, Justice within a Nation of the People, by the People and for the People.

We are retiring these no longer serviceable Symbols of our wonderful Nation, let us replace them in their duties with new, fresh, bright Flags of equal size and kind. May the replacements amplify our pride in the showing and flying of our beautiful National Colors!

#### Prayer:

Our Dear Heavenly Father, Commander overall, we ask that you bless and consecrate this special occasion.

We thank thee for our Country and the many ideals for which it stands and for our Flag which visibly symbolizes these American aspirations.

To clean and purging flame we commit the Flags. Flags no longer serviceable due to their previous, long, honorable, and worthy service. As we give up their substance to the fire, may your spirit touch all of us, renewing and strengthening our dedication and devotion to our great United States of America.

Amen.



**FROM THE  
JR VICE COMMANDER  
*Clarence L. Carroll III***

It was great seeing everyone at our February meeting. Our meeting was well attended even though we moved the meeting a week to the right. What an incredible testament to the devotion of our members. Thank You for being flexible.

Department Mid-Winter Conference January 19-22 in Montgomery was a huge success. Our post was extremely well represented. The Department of Alabama is increasingly aware of the things we are doing as a post and is seeking our leadership at both District and State levels. Again, a huge testament to the leadership of **John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683**. I have no doubt that we will have a State Commander come from our Post in the future. Outside of the numerous meetings, the Corn-hole tournament and Kentucky Derby themed banquet were highlights of The Mid-Winter Conference and as promised here are a couple pictures in our “Kentucky Derby” get up.



**//Reminder//** Next month we will be hearing nominations for the next leaders of our beloved post. We have so much talent among our members and I would encourage you to consider stepping into an “official” leadership position. On that note...I will be taking a brief hiatus from serving the post as your Junior Vice Commander so that I can focus my time and attention as The Department of North Dakota American Legion Commander from summer of 2023-2024. Jenn and I will be serving primarily in ND next year, but our home is Enterprise and I will still be involved in post activities as much as I can.

Next week I will be attending The Washington Conference in Washington D.C. to lobby for Veterans and promote Legislative Priorities for the 118th Congress. Although I will be wearing a Legion cap, rest assured the VFW Legislative Priorities will be represented as well. For a brief description of our 2023 VFW Legislative priorities please visit: <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service>

As always, I remain grateful for the leadership and especially the volunteers of John Wiley Brock Post 6683. THANK YOU for who you are and what you do! Your service matters! It continues to be my honor to serve as

YOUR Jr Vice Commander.





**FROM THE  
SERVICE OFFICER  
*Mike Sutterfield***

Happy February, Comrades! Just a few more weeks until we start feeling the effects of the Spring and Humidity!

Last month at the Military and Veteran's Affairs Committee's Quarterly Breakfast, the Deputy to the Garrison Commander of Fort Rucker, Mr. John Watson, mentioned that many Veterans do not realize that they can utilize their Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC) to gain an annual Post Access Pass as well as utilize many of the Post's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) benefits and access to Commissary and PX privileges (this includes the Class VI).

This access to these benefits and facilities are the result of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020, which began on 1 January, 2020. But, with COVID happening a few short weeks later, many of us Veterans were not aware.

Veterans who are eligible and want to take advantage of in-person benefits must have a Veterans Health Identification Card, or VHIC. Primary Family Caregivers must have an eligibility letter from VA's Office of Community Care.

Veterans use VHICs for identification and check-in at VA appointments, but will also use them for base access under the new program.

Veterans eligible solely under this act who are eligible to obtain a Veteran Health Identification Card must use this credential for in-person

installation and privilege access. The card must display the Veteran's eligibility status (i.e., PURPLE HEART, FORMER POW or SERVICE CONNECTED).

Veterans eligible solely under this act who are not enrolled in or are not eligible to enroll in VA health care, or who are enrolled in VA health care, but do not possess a Veteran Health Identification Card will not have access to DoD and Coast Guard installations for in-person commissary, exchange, and MWR retail privileges, but will have full access to online exchanges and American Forces Travel.

Medal of Honor recipients and Veterans with 100% service-connected disability ratings are eligible for DoD credentials under DoD policy.

Upon the first visit to an installation, these eligible Veterans and caregivers must stop at the visitor control center. Depending on the type of installation, Veterans may enroll for recurring access, which would allow them to proceed to the gate for entry upon subsequent visits without having to stop again at the visitor control center.

As with all other individuals seeking access to DoD installations, all eligible Veterans must pass a basic on-the-spot background check prior to enrolling, and an automated check each time they enter the installation. Veterans with felony convictions, felony arrest warrants, or other types of derogatory information related to criminal history or terrorism will not be permitted entry.

If you have any questions about how to get a VHIC, or other benefits that may be eligible to you, do not hesitate to contact myself or another Post Officer for assistance.



**Need help with filing VA Claims**  
PLEASE CONTACT OUR POST SERVICE OFFICER FOR ASSISTANCE.

**Mike Sutterfield**

**334-400-6133**

*michael.sutterfield@gmail.com*





FROM THE  
**JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL**  
*Brett Feinstein*

## Taxes, PACT Scams and By-Laws

### Tax Preparation

The tax season is about a month underway and if you are thinking where can I get them done, for free the below may help you decide?

Ft Rucker has closed its face-to face tax preparation, but they have a few computer terminals available to access Military One Source to do your taxes. There may be limited assistance available. Contact base legal for more info (334) 255-3482. [PL Income Tax Preparation Services.pdf \(army.mil\)](#)

You can go directly to Military One Source from your personal computer at [MilTax: Free Tax Filing Software & Support | Military OneSource](#) and file them yourself for free.

The IRS has a Free File program for your federal return. There are 8 online filing companies (3 have multiple offerings) at: [Free File: Do your Federal Taxes for Free | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#). You MAY be able to get a free state return, look at the offers carefully. Any armed forces, federal reservist and National Guard personnel whose AGI is \$73,000 or less are eligible for IRS Free File. Veterans and retirees are **not** automatically eligible and still need an AGI <\$73,000 though. You can go through the questions.

You can set up an Alabama Department of Revenue account (MAT- My Alabama Taxes) and file your Alabama return directly with the state once you have your Federal return completed: [Individual Income Tax Electronic Filing Options - Alabama Department of Revenue](#)

The IRS also sponsors local free filing sites (Ft Rucker previously was one of them). There are only 2 free locations left within 30 miles to have your taxes done either under the IRS VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) or AARP TCE (Tax Counseling for the Elderly) programs in the area. [Free Tax Return Preparation for Qualifying Taxpayers | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#) The closest is the VITA location at the Coffee County Family Services Center at 208 W. Brunson St. in Enterprise. You can either do a drop off one week and then pick it up the following week or a face-to-face where the return is done right there in approximately 1 hour. Both methods require an appointment (334) 393-8538. The appointments are filling up fast! The site is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Fridays 0900 to 1600, and the Mondays 1700-2000 (as of 21 FEB the only Monday evening remaining with appointments is 10 April). You must bring in all your tax paperwork, Social Security cards for everyone listed on the return, and Driver's Licenses for the taxpayers.

### PACT Act Fraud Prevention

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (PACT Act) represents the biggest expansion of Veteran benefits in history, and many Veterans may be eligible to receive compensation for their service.

The PACT Act adds 23 burn pit and toxic exposure-related conditions to VA's list of service presumptions, including hypertension, with the expansion of presumptions related to Agent Orange

exposure by including Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Atoll as locations for Agent Orange exposure.

While this legislation brings great promise to Veterans, it's also a monumental opportunity for fraud. VA has received multiple reports of unaccredited law firms or companies targeting Veterans to offer their services to file claims for presumptive conditions. Unaccredited law firms and companies are reaching out to help for a fee as high as 40% of the Veteran's retroactive payment and first year of entitlement payments.

To avoid being a victim of these schemes, here are some helpful tips to remember

- **Apply directly to VA.** You may submit your application securely online at [va.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT) or in person at any regional office and the VA will help you gather the necessary evidence to support it. There are no costs or hidden fees to apply. Do not agree to pay an unaccredited individual or organization a percentage of your disability compensation payment or retroactive entitlement. If you need help filing a claim, there are [accredited representatives](#) and you can find help to assist you here at the VFW or the local DAV.
- **Be cautious of aggressive law firms or companies.** Firms may use frequent communications (phone, text, and media messages) to establish a sense of urgency.
- **Be cautious of for-profit companies that use VA's name.** They may alter their name to create a false association with VA and establish legitimacy. Examples include a website such as VAclaimsassistance.com that incorporates VA into its name.
- **Review all legally binding documents thoroughly.** Never sign a blank form someone else will fill out later or give them full discretion to act on your behalf. See the contents before you sign and keep a copy for yourself.
- **Be wary of media advertisements regarding legal representation for presumptive VA claims.** Companies advertising legal services may be predatory and financially motivated to obtain your VA benefits.
- **To report suspected fraudulent activity:** Contact the VA Office of Inspector General ([OIG Hotline \(va.gov\)](#)).

## New By-Laws Vote

Please attend the March meeting when the new By-laws will be voted upon. If you have anything you think needs changing or just looked at or would like a copy of the current post by-laws at please contact me at [bgoodmug@gmail.com](mailto:bgoodmug@gmail.com).

Presently these are the only 3 substantive changes:

1. Change the name of the House Committee to Post Board of Management. This name change was directed by state and will keep us in line with the state bylaws.
2. Change the composition of the Post Board of Management to a 1 and 2 year trustee (remove 3 year trustee). We currently have three Post Board Trustees and the Commander, Quartermaster, and Immediate Past Commander. The recommended change was to drop one of the Post Board Trustees to keep it an odd number for voting purposes and bring it in line with the minimum requirement of state bylaws.
3. Change the Chaplain from an Elected to an Appointed position. The National and State bylaws permit us to choose between elected and appointed.



## Lyster Army Health Clinic

<https://lyster.tricare.mil/Health-Services/Pharmacy/Pharmacy-Main-Outpatient>

Receiving a Prescription?

# Q-Anywhere

Activate Remotely



SCAN ME



TEXT



OR

"Get in line"  
1-833-429-7248



## John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683 - Enterprise Alabama

★ Favorites · February 23 at 9:50 PM · 🌐

If you want to save time ordering you refills from Lyster, just scan the Q code on this form and follow the directions. They will contact you when your prescription is ready for pickup and it takes only 10-15 minutes as opposed to the 4 hours it took just a couple of weeks ago.

When you get the notification do not go to the main pharmacy in the lobby by the lab but instead go to the refill windows located in the center of Lyster, through the side entrance.

## Main Outpatient Pharmacy

The Pharmacy kiosk serves Active Duty, patients seen in the clinic, and new prescriptions/renewals. The kiosk helps streamline work processes, improve patient satisfaction, and reduce wait times.

Drop-Off Form No Longer Required.

For new prescriptions, visit the Main Pharmacy and pull a ticket from the kiosk. New prescriptions will be filled same day.

The Pharmacy ticket kiosk closes at 3 p.m. daily to ensure the team can maintain safety and quality control. This will provide time to complete the tickets of those already in the clinic.



For refills, please use the Pharmacy kiosk located in the Pick Up Pharmacy. The kiosks are specific to their respective areas. Pulling a ticket from the wrong kiosk will delay service/increase wait times.

## Electronic Prescription

Next time, ask your doctor for an electronic prescription. The electronic prescription process adds increased patient safety by preventing medication errors. Department of Defense (DoD) Electronic Prescribing Pharmacy **Name:** DoD FT RUCKER EPhcy

**Pharmacy NCPDP/NPI Number:** 0139736/1982010351

**Military Pharmacy Formulary Location:** Fort Rucker, Alabama

This military pharmacy does accept electronic prescriptions for Controlled Substances. View the TRICARE Formulary at: [www.tricare.mil/pharmacyformulary](http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacyformulary)

To improve patient privacy, TRICARE is transitioning from the 9-digit SSN to the 11-digit DBN for medical (non-pharmacy) claims submissions. The newly formatted military and family member identification cards do not have the 9-digit SSN. In its place, they have the 10-digit DoD ID, which is not to be used for TRICARE medical (non-pharmacy) billing.

## Q-Anywhere NOW AVAILABLE!

Remote Pharmacy Check-In with Q-Anywhere. Reduce your wait time at the pharmacy for new or renewal electronic prescriptions. With Remote Pharmacy Check-In, you can activate your electronic prescription with a simple text message from your phone. The pharmacy will process all your NEW/RENEWAL electronic prescriptions (NO REFILLS) entered within the last 2 weeks, and will send you a text when they are ready for pickup. You'll be able to bypass the in-clinic check in and wait by utilizing [Q-Anywhere!](#)

### Process:

- Using your cell phone, text "Get in line" to 833-429-7248.
- Enter the Patient's DOD ID number (Children's DOD IDs are not linked to the Sponsor's DOD ID) to check-in remotely and automatically activate all your new prescriptions.
- Once complete type "DONE". You will receive a ticket number (Qxxx). \*If you do not have the patient's DoD ID #, please stop by the pharmacy front desk for assistance (ex. children)\*
- When your request is submitted, the pharmacy will process any new prescription on your profile entered within the last four weeks as if you were sitting in our waiting room! You are free to read a book or run some errands. You will receive a notification when your prescriptions process through each step and when they are ready for you in the PICKUP Pharmacy.
- Once you receive the text notification indicating your prescriptions are ready, proceed to the PICKUP Pharmacy within 13 calendar days to retrieve your medications.

Q-Anywhere is available during normal business hours with activation request time cutoff of 3:00 p.m. If you send a message after 3:00 p.m., you will need to restart the process during normal business hours (Monday - Friday). The pharmacy team will troubleshoot issues found with you through text message. If you do not have the patient's DOD ID number, please stop by the pharmacy front desk for assistance.



**FROM THE  
QUARTERTMASTER/ADJUTANT  
*James Steddum***

Can you believe it is March already? Happy Saint Patrick's Day (assuming you survived the Ides of March!)

The Post did an Impromptu Post Maintenance on 18 February, followed by the first Campfire of 2023 and Flag Retirement Ceremony. We will repeat the Post Maintenance again on 4 March with volunteers from Warrant Officer Intermediate Level Education Class 23-005. We will wrap up the winter Post Maintenance on 18 March with the Enterprise Day of Service at the Post as Girl Scout Post 9048, Barry Moore Industries, and others will help us clean up in and around the Post home! We need as much help as possible, including tractors, weed eaters, saws, loppers, chains, shovels, rakes, etc...Come on out, even if you can only spend an hour or two. Every little bit helps! Remember to track ALL your volunteer hours and let us get the Post and YOU recognized for your community service.

**Post Clean Up Continues - 8:00 am, 4 MARCH 2023**

Also, please let me know if you still need to purchase your \$5 Member Up tickets. You could receive an upgrade to Life Membership or Legacy Life (a \$400 value). We will draw for the winner after we sell one hundred tickets (just thirty-two to go to before our first drawing). You can pay for your tickets in person or online at VFW6683.org (Post Store). You can order your JWB Blue Polos there as well for just \$30.

Speaking of memberships—we are above **108%**—90% of our memberships are life memberships!

Tickets for the April 22 Crawfish Fundraiser are sale NOW at VFW6683.org!! In the meantime, see you at the Community Fellowship Dinner at 1730 on March 1st and Post Clean up March 4th





# John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683 Sponsors







**FROM THE  
POST CHAPLIN  
*Myroan Brown***



## TIME TO LOVE

So he answered and said, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

We must love the ones whom we care about. We must love the ones whom we hate the most. It's our job to do what Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior wants to do. He wants to follow Him. Now, we must walk and talk like Him in every single day of our lives.

The ones who have lost love ones and the ones who are not able to get out. We need to reach them and love them. Our job is to reach and love them in our community, our city, and our county.

Pray for the following comrades:

Sam Boswell and his wife – Sam has Alzheimer  
Pete Hill and his family – loss of his wife  
Homeless veterans  
Other veterans in time of need  
All those that are deployed and serving





**FROM THE  
EDITOR/PUBLISHER**  
*Angel S. de la Cruz, Jr.*



**To learn more, read more visit:**

<https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts/vfw-action-corps-weekly>

**February 27, 2023**



**House Introduces Bill to Crack Down on Claim Sharks:** Reps. Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (AS), Chris Pappas (NH-01), Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01), and Jeff Van Drew (NJ-02) have introduced the VFW-supported *Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act*, known as the *GUARD VA Benefits Act*. Reintroduced in the new Congress with sixty-nine cosponsors, this bipartisan legislation would reinstate criminal penalties for unaccredited claim representatives who charge unauthorized fees for helping veterans file claims for VA disability compensation benefits. These companies are incentivized to operate outside of the law due to the lack of penalties. Cracking down on Claim Sharks is one of the VFW's top legislative priorities for the 118th Congress. **Read more.**



**VFW Legislative Conference App Now Available:** As the official guide to the 2023 VFW Legislative Conference, the VFW has launched its updated mobile event app to give attendees the tools needed to make the most of their visit to our nation's capital. The **VFW Events** mobile app is available now for download at both the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. For assistance and instructions on how to download and update the app, view our VFW Events App Quick Start Guide.



**Senate Hearing on VA Nominee:** The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing to consider the nomination of Joshua D. Jacobs to be the VA under secretary for benefits. The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is the entity within VA that administers the department's programs that provide financial and other assistance to veterans, their dependents, and survivors. Some of the notable programs VBA is responsible for are disability compensation, education, home loan guarantee, and employment. "I am honored and humbled to be nominated to serve as under secretary for benefits at the Department of Veterans Affairs. I am grateful to President Biden, Secretary McDonough, and Deputy Secretary Remy for their trust in my ability to serve in this important role," said Jacobs. If confirmed, the VFW will look forward to working with Mr. Jacobs in his new role to further enhance and protect benefits for all veterans. **Watch the hearing.**



February 20, 2023



**Independent Budget Released:** Leading veterans service organizations (VSOs) — Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), DAV (Disabled American Veterans), and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) — have released The Independent Budget (IB) Veterans Agenda for the 118th Congress. This report serves as a roadmap to ensure VA is fully funded and capable of carrying out its mission to serve veterans and their families, both now and in the future. “For over 30 years, the IBVSOs have coauthored the IB, offering substantive solutions and policy recommendations to ensure the timely delivery of specialized health care, as well as appropriate earned benefits for the men and women who served,” said VFW Legislative Director Pat Murray. “With this year’s report now complete, it is imperative that Congress and VA work together, along with VSOs and other stakeholders, to put veterans’ needs on the top of their list.” **Read the IB report.**



**VFW Joins Give an Hour Advisory Group:** The VFW recently joined Give an Hour’s Veteran Workforce Advisory Group to develop strategies that meet the needs of veterans in today’s workforce. Recognizing that so much has changed over the last three years, this collective effort aims to improve the quality of life for veterans, families, employers, and the community. As part of this project, the VFW encourages veterans to complete a survey that is designed to determine best practices for creating a workplace environment that supports emotional wellbeing.



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**Education Information:** For any service member or veteran looking to pursue their education goals through the use of the GI Bill, there is an important tool offered by VA. The GI Bill Comparison Tool allows users to compare different programs and institutions. In the past few years, some student veterans have been impacted by the abrupt closures of the schools they were attending. These schools were using predatory business practices and had numerous complaints against them. The tool



gives users the ability to check the schools they wish to attend and provides up-to-date data received from current and past students. This information can help GI Bill users make better, more informed decisions about where to attend school, and hopefully avoid programs that offer little to no value.

**February 13, 2023**



### **Senate Announces Committee on Veterans' Affairs Members:**

The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs has announced its members. Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) has returned as chairman, and Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) has returned as ranking member. The

VFW has successfully worked with both Chairman Tester and Ranking Member Moran in the past, most recently highlighted last year by the historic passage of the PACT Act. Many other senators named to the committee also served on it during last Congress. [Read more.](#)



### **Free Connections to Resources:**

The National Resource Directory (NRD) gives service members, veterans, family members, and caregivers the ability to find and connect with organizations that can assist with specialized recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration needs. The NRD is the product of a partnership with DOD, VA, and

the Department of Labor. This program is meant to facilitate free connections between individuals and stringently vetted resources that provide support in many areas such as employment, education, veteran benefits, caregiver support, housing, and the Military Adaptive Sports Program. [Read more.](#)



### **VA Health Care Open Enrollment:**

As part of the PACT Act, VA has expanded health care eligibility for certain veterans who were discharged after Sept. 11, 2001, and before Oct. 1, 2013. A one-year open enrollment period began on Oct. 1, 2022, for this group of veterans depending on their dates and locations of service,

regardless of disability claim status. Once the open enrollment period has closed, veterans from this group will be eligible for VA health care as part of a phase-in process depending on discharge date. [Apply today.](#)

**February 6, 2023**



### **VFW Visits Forward-Deployed Troops:**

The VFW is continuing its long tradition of visiting forwarddeployed troops. VFW National Commander Tim Borland and VFW Washington Office Deputy Director Ryan Gallucci traveled to Camp Kościuszko, Poznan, Poland, to visit with U.S. service members and learn about the

American mission supporting NATO allies amid tensions with Russia. "This Corps is in great hands," said Borland speaking of V Corps and USAG — Poland leadership who provide services and support to deployed service members. "I am very impressed with the esprit de corps in this unit." The VFW views trips to visit deployed troops as an

essential part of our mission so we can learn what our service men and women need in real time.



### House Announces Committee on Veterans' Affairs Members:

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has announced its members. Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL), a Marine Corps veteran, will lead the committee as chairman. The former chairman, Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA) will assume the role of ranking member. The VFW has worked productively for years with both Chairman Bost and Ranking Member Takano in their previous roles, and we look forward to continuing that strong relationship. Other members of the committee, including many veterans, have been assigned to various subcommittee roles. Read more for a complete list of the members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.



### VA Infrastructure Bill Introduced:

Sen. Jon Tester (MT-D) has introduced VFW-supported S. 42, BUILD for Veterans Act of 2023. This legislation would streamline efforts to reduce the infrastructure backlog and improve the overall management of the capital asset programs of VA. "The BUILD for Veterans Act will require VA to develop and implement plans to remedy this infrastructure problem that has plagued VA for years," said VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray. The bill is cosponsored by Sens. Patty Murray (D-WA), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), and Mark Warner (D-VA).



### VFW Commemorates National Black History Month:

The VFW celebrates our nation's African American service members, veterans, and their families during National Black History Month. We salute them all for their indelible contributions to our freedom and way of life. Read more.

January 30, 2023



### Help VA Stop Education Benefits Fraud:

Scammers are taking advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud. There has been an increase in VA education benefits fraud by VA-approved schools that are billing veterans at a higher tuition rate than civilian students. Veterans and their family members need to be aware and should be cautious of anyone who advertises a lower tuition rate, offers exclusive benefits to civilian students, or bills 20 percent more than a non-VA approved school. To report suspected fraudulent activity, email [vaoighotline@va.gov](mailto:vaoighotline@va.gov) or call 800.488.8244. Read more for tips to protect yourself against these new scams.



### VA Closes Gap for Survivors of LGBTQ+ Veterans:

VA will now allow certain survivors of LGBTQ+ veterans to apply for benefits, such as Survivors Pension or Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Due to past bans on same-sex marriages and previous VA marriage requirements, many survivors of LGBTQ+

veterans were not eligible for benefits. Surviving spouses can now establish they had a “marriage-type” relationship by providing documents such as joint banking statements, joint purchase of a house, tax returns, insurance forms, lay statements, and more. These benefits are not retroactive, but those eligible who apply in the next year will receive benefits backdated to Oct.11, 2022. Contact a VFW Service Officer for assistance filing for benefits. **Learn more.**



### VFW's “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” Open Now:

Applications are being accepted now through April 30 for the fall 2023 semester. Veterans leaving active military duty need to prepare for civilian careers that often require additional college, graduate, and technical degrees or training. To ease the financial burden of going back to school, Sport Clips and the VFW have teamed up for the past eight years to provide up to \$5,000 of assistance per semester, per family, for service members and veterans in the rank of E-5 and below. **Learn more and apply.**

**January 30, 2023**



### VFW Urges President to Take Lead on Eliminating Offsets:

VFW National Commander Tim Borland sent a letter to President Biden urgently asking him to make the repeal of concurrent receipt laws a legislative policy priority in the White House's fiscal year 2024 defense budget request. “Erroneously justified by Congress to prevent “double-dipping,” this policy is nothing more than a way to save money on the backs of veterans,” wrote Borland. “No veteran should question the value of their service to our country due to an unethical budget gimmick.” Offsetting, which forces veterans to forfeit all or part of one benefit to pay for another, is a widely employed practice under concurrent receipt laws. Aside from the 2020 repeal of the “Widow's Tax,” no substantive concurrent receipt reforms have occurred since 2004. **Read the letter next page**



**TIMOTHY M. BORLAND**

Commander-in-Chief



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
OF THE UNITED STATES

January 17, 2023

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and its Auxiliary, I write to request your urgent support in ensuring our nation's veterans receive the benefits they have earned by defending the ideals our nation holds sacred. Concurrent receipt policies impose what is known as an offset, whereby hundreds of thousands of veterans are required to forfeit all or part of one benefit to pay for or pay back another. Erroneously justified by Congress to prevent "double-dipping," this policy is nothing more than a way to save money on the backs of veterans.

The widespread harm caused by offsetting military retirement pay, for example, and the dollar-for-dollar loss of such pay creates an economic burden on military families worldwide. Under current policy, military retirement pay from the Department of Defense (DOD) is reduced by one dollar for every dollar of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation a veteran receives. Military retirement pay is earned for years of vested service, while VA disability compensation is awarded as supplementary income for reduced earning potential of disabled veterans who incur lifelong illnesses and injuries from their service. These are two fundamentally different benefits earned for two entirely different reasons. In 2004, Congress acknowledged this clear injustice by authorizing full concurrent receipt of DOD retirement pay and VA disability compensation *only* for those who served at least twenty years and have at least a fifty percent service-connected rating. At the time, Congress committed to gradually phasing in full concurrent receipt over the next few years, but nearly two decades later, this still has not happened. This inaction has *left countless veterans behind*, creating glaring disparities, resentment, and uncertainty around how much our nation values veterans' service.

In 2020, the 116th Congress moved the needle by repealing the "Widow's Tax," marking a significant win for survivors and families. Most recently, the *Major Richard Star Act* (H. R. 1282/S. 344) garnered overwhelming bipartisan and bicameral support from members of the 117th Congress, yet not enough to make it to your desk. With such little progress in nearly twenty years to sunset remaining offset policies, it has become clear that political will is lacking, warranting the White House's leadership.

The VFW—and by extension the entire veteran community—is looking to you, President Biden, to lead from the front on this issue, as you did with toxic exposure legislation. We implore you to make repealing concurrent receipt policies one of your legislative policy priorities in the fiscal year 2024 DOD budget request. No veteran should question the value of their service to our country due to an unethical budget gimmick. By repealing concurrent receipt, you will let them know that **Every Veteran Counts**.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy M. Borland".

TIMOTHY M. BORLAND  
Commander-in-Chief

**VFW MEMORIAL BUILDING**

200 Maryland Avenue, N.E. Office 202.543.2239  
Washington, D.C. 20002-5799 Fax 202.543.6719

[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)





## City of Enterprise, Alabama

18

**DOWNTOWN ENTERPRISE**

**WORLD'S SMALLEST ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**

SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH - 12:00 PM  
 E COLLEGE ST, ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA

**30th Anniversary**

Hosted by:  
 Enterprise Chamber of Commerce  
[www.EnterpriseAlabama.com](http://www.EnterpriseAlabama.com)

WORLD'S SMALLEST  
 Enterprise Ala.  
 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023 AT 12 PM**

**World's Smallest St. Patrick's Day Parade**

Boll Weevil Monument

25

**DOWNTOWN ENTERPRISE**

*Spring Festival*

AT THE MONUMENT

**DOWNTOWN ENTERPRISE**

**MARCH 25 | 10AM-3PM**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023 AT 10 AM - 3 PM**

**Spring Festival at the Monument 2023**

Boll Weevil Monument

5

*Boll Weevil*

**BLOCK PARTY**

**FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023 AT 3 PM - 8 PM**

**Boll Weevil Block Party 2023**

Boll Weevil Monument



# EVENT RENTAL SPACE

VFW Post 6683

2615 County Road 537

Enterprise, AL

334-475-2010



VFW6683.org







## Pricing:

There is a flat fee of \$300 per day (8am-11pm)  
with substantial discount for  
Veterans and VFW Members.

## Amenities:

- Indoor seating for 50
- Full kitchen to include large counter space, stove and oven, refrigerator and freezer, sink and utensils
- ADA accessible restrooms
- 2 large web enabled TV's
- Free WiFi
- Decorative freedom
- Large outdoor pavilion (seats 50)
- Firepit
- Hiking trail
- Plenty of parking on site
- Fenced in property on 14 acres of land



Please call 334-475-2010





**John Wiley Brock**  
All American Post 2021-2022

**VFW Post 6683**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA



## Official Public and Private Web and Facebook sites.

Comrades, in an effort to keep members aware of the upcoming events of our organization, we have recently established new Web and Facebook sites for our organization. The original Facebook site has been linked to <https://www.facebook.com/VFW6683/> and titled **Enterprise VWF – Post 6683**.

All post events for John Wiley Brock Post 6683 will be posted on the events tab of the Facebook site mentioned above as well as the Post Google Calendar, the Google calendar will also post other veterans' organization and community organization events of interest to veterans. If you would like access to the google calendar, please send an email to: [post.6683.vfw@gmail.com](mailto:post.6683.vfw@gmail.com)

### SCAN QR Code to access site.

Official John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683 Public Website  
<https://vfw6683.org>



Official John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683 Public Facebook Site  
<https://www.facebook.com/VFW6683>



Official John Wiley Brock VFW 6683 Private Group Facebook Site  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/VFW6683/>



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## VFW POST 6683 POLO SHIRTS

If you would like to order a VFW Post 6683 Polo Shirt or more shirts, the cost is \$36.50. Go to the Post Store at [VFW6683.ORG](http://VFW6683.ORG) and place your order! Call me if you need assistance:

**Jim Steddum**  
**O: 334-475-2010**  
**M: 907-854-1320**





## SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW FOR FREE TICKETS



### Give Something to Those Who Gave.

Vet Tix \* provides tickets to events which reduce stress, strengthen family bonds, build life-long memories and encourage service members and veterans to stay engaged with local communities and American life. We support our troops by honoring their service and providing positive family and life experiences, during and after their years of service to our country.

Vet Tix provides tickets to all branches of currently-serving Military and Veterans, including immediate family of troops KIA.

Vet Tix secures tickets to sporting events, concerts, performing arts, educational and family activities across the nation. VetTixers sign up online. We verify their service. VetTixers request tickets to events that interest them, then pay a small delivery fee to receive their free tickets.



### \* Vet Tix is a 95% Charity





# John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683

All American Post 2021-2022 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA



<https://www.facebook.com/VFW6683>



## 2022-2023 Leadership

### Elected Officers

Post Commander	Robert Schmidbauer	518-423-3390	robert.schmidbauer@yahoo.com
Sr. Vice Commander	Pamela Smith	808-561-6149	pysmith.pb@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Commander	Clarence Carroll III	910-584-8773	abnavnlc@yahoo.com
Quartermaster/Adjutant	James Steddum	907-854-1320	jagsted@gmail.com
Chaplain	Myroan Brown	334-389-7359	myroan.brown4@gmail.com
Trustee 3 year	Jeffrey Osler	678-372-5235	oslerj@hotmail.com
Trustee 2 year	Russel Smith	334-489-4197	russell8765@twc.com
Trustee 1 year	Malcolm Wise	912-271-2816	malcolmwise@hotmail.com
Post Board of Management 3 year	Thomas Grandinetti	520-249-0711	tcgrandin@gmail.com
Post Board of Management 2 year	Pete Hill	610-389-1041	<a href="mailto:petehill1956b@gmail.com">petehill1956b@gmail.com</a>
Post Board of Management 1 year	Larry Jones	334-447-9841	<a href="mailto:larry.jonescw5@gmail.com">larry.jonescw5@gmail.com</a>

### Appointed Officers

Judge Advocate	Brett Feinstein	334-470-6804	bgoodmug@gmail.com
Service Officer	Mike Sutterfield	334-400-6133	michael.sutterfield@gmail.com
Surgeon	Bob Cooper	334-477-7076	<a href="mailto:bobbcooper@gmail.com">bobbcooper@gmail.com</a>
Officer of the Day/Sergeant of Arms	JT Coleman	334-494-0329	dianegrey62@yahoo.com

### Permanent Committees

Chair, Post Board of Management	Randy Black	334-389-0738	gblack11265@roadrunner.com
Chair, Membership Committee	Ken Donahue	321-332-2902	<a href="mailto:rmeav8er@aol.com">rmeav8er@aol.com</a>
Chair, Youth Activities Committee	Sam Baker	334-494-2599	gruntwithwings@yahoo.com
Chair, Poppy Committee	Pete Hill	610-389-1041	<a href="mailto:petehill1956b@gmail.com">petehill1956b@gmail.com</a> >
Chair, Fellowship and Fundraising Committee	Chris Wood	334-447-3790	cwwoodie@yahoo.com

### Special Committees

Chair, Memorial Day Committee	Myroan Brown	334-389-7359	myroan.brown4@gmail.com
Chair, Christmas Laurel Committee	Vacant		
Chair, Veterans Day Committee	Vacant		
Chair, Bylaw Committee	Brett Feinstein	334-470-6804	bgoodmug@gmail.com

### Editor/Publisher

Angel S. de la Cruz	334-477-2582	<a href="mailto:angeldiving@roadrunner.com">angeldiving@roadrunner.com</a>
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