















### Greetings Comrades,

I do hope everyone is doing good and remaining safe and healthy.

The month of June is my first month as your Post Commander and it is a jam-packed month for our post. On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, I attended the Wounded Warriors Veterans Counsel Meeting. June 8<sup>th</sup>, we retrieved the Flags from the Meadowlawn Memorial Park. June 10-12, I had the honor to attend the Alabama State Conference in Montgomery Alabama with members of our past and current leadership. It was a great experience, and many connections were made with VFW Leadership from across the State of Alabama and National. 17 June, Pamela Smith, Randy Black and I attended the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Command Sergeant Major Bernie Adkins Veterans Home here in Enterprise. 18 June, We took part in the Flag Retirement Ceremony at Sam Boswell Honda and received a generous donation from his organization. Again, on 18 June, our members conducted a VFW Buddy Poppy and Membership Drive at the Military Appreciation Day in Downtown Enterprise.

Future events for June are the Military and Veterans Affairs Meeting at the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce on 22 June at 0800 and Freedom Fest on Fort Rucker on 30 June. We will kick off July with our Independence Day Celebration at the post at 1600 hours. Bring an appetizer (hors d'oeuvre) to share along with your own beverages and enjoy great fellowship and fireworks. I hope to see you there.

I am really excited to see so many of our members coming back to the Post and enjoying the fellowship and getting caught up with the other members. Our Comradeship is something that not just anyone can understand. In the coming months, I will be instituting a Buddy Call Program where we will reach out to the members we have not seen in a while and check on their health and well-being. Hopefully our attendance will continue to grow as a part of this, and I welcome any assistance in this endeavor.

Remember, this is your Post. Make sure you come support your Post and enjoy comradery of your fellow members. We are always adding new members, come and meet them and build friendships. Our Post is only as good as you make it, and we are a great Post that can always get better. If you have an idea, or want to get involved more, there are plenty of opportunities, and ideas are always welcome.

Post Commander Robert Schmidbauer











# JOHN WILEY BROCK





ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA It's not the price you pay to belong, It's the price you paid to be eligible.

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	abnavnltc@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	petehill1956b@aol.com
Post Board of Management 1 year	Larry Jones	334-447-9841	larry.jonescw5@gmail.com

## **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	bobbcooper@gmail.com
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	rmeav8er@aol.com
Chair, Youth Activities Committee	Sam Baker	334-494-2599	gruntwithwings@yahoo.com
Chair, Poppy Committee	Pete Hill	610-389-1041	petehill1956b@aol.com
Chair, Fellowship and Fundraising Committee	Chris Wood	334-447-3790	cwwoodie@yahoo.com

### **Special Committees**

Myroan Brown	334-389-7359	myroan.brown4@gmail.com
Vacant		
Mike Sutterfield	334-400-6133	michael.sutterfield@gmail.com
Brett Feinstein	334-470-6804	bgoodmug@gmail.com
Angel S. de la Cruz	334-477-2582	angeldiving@roadrunner.com
	Mike Sutterfield Brett Feinstein	Vacant Mike Sutterfield 334-400-6133 Brett Feinstein 334-470-6804









# A Quick Guide for Members in Our Organization VFW 101



## JOHN WILEY BROCK VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 6683



I have been initiated and received my obligation. I am a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

### Now what???

Organization of the VFW

The post is the lowest level within the VFW. The next level is District, then Department (State), and National.

John Wiley Brock Post 6683 is one of six posts in District 7. The other posts that comprise of District 7 are: Eufaula, Dothan, Daleville, Brundidge, and Red Level.

District 7 is one of seven districts within the Department.

### **Membership Types**

- Post Member
- Member at Large
- Annual Member
- Life Member
- Legacy Life Member

#### **Our Mission**

- Veteran Support
- Veteran Advocacy

### **Our Responsibility**

- Take to heart the words spoken in the obligation of induction.
- Learn the work of our order.
- Do the work of our order.
- Teach the work of our order.
- Mentor the future leaders of our organization so we can continue the legacy, traditions, and history of our organization into the future to

ensure every generation of veterans before us, now, and in the future are supported and continue advocating for all the benefits they earned.

#### **Order of Business**

- Opening in Due Form
- Reciting of Purpose of the VFW
- Roll Call of Officers
- Read and Ballet Membership
- Muster in Recruits for Initiation Ritual
- Previous Meeting Minutes
- Quartermaster Report and Bills to be paid
- Report of Service Officer
- Comrades or Families in Distress
- Report of all Committees
- Remember our National Home
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Good of the Order
- Closing in Due Form

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### **Speaking**

Members holding office shall be addressed as "Comrade" followed by the title of officer they hold. All other members shall be addressed as "Comrade".

### **Motions (Making a Motion during a Meeting)**

Any Post member in good standing may make a motion.

### Only after being recognized by the Commander.

- 1. Address the Commander by stating
- 2. Comrade Commander and who you are.
- 3. I make a motion and what it is.
- 4. Another member must  $2^{nd}$  the motion or it fails due to lack of  $2^{nd}$ .
- 5. Once motion is made and proper 2<sup>nd</sup>, it is open for discussion by all.
- 6. After discussion, Commander calls for a vote.
- 7. Commander gives results of vote (pass or fail) and raps gavel one time.

### **Gavel Raps**

### **Several Raps of Gavel:**

Used to get attention of the Membership.

#### 2 raps of Gavel:

Used to get all Membership to stand.

### 1 rap of Gavel:

- Used to get all membership to sit or maintain order
- Used to call to order, declare meeting open, declare recess, declare adjournment, declare meeting closed.
- Used after completion of a business item.























### Good day, Comrades!

I trust that everyone had an OUTSTANDING 4<sup>th</sup> of July. For my inaugural newsletter submission as the Post's Service Officer I want to address an issue that I consistently run into throughout the Veteran community; the difference between Benefits and Entitlements.

The dictionary states that a benefit is "an advantage gained from something". While an entitlement is "a right to benefits specified especially by law or contract". In layman's terms, all entitlements are benefits, but not all benefits are entitlements. Like the adage that 'all bourbons are whiskey, but not all whiskies are bourbons'

Eligibility for most Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Dishonorable and bad conduct discharges issued by general courts-martial may bar VA benefits. Your entitlements/benefits may also be 'stopped' for a Veteran or their dependent that is un jail or has an outstanding felony warrant.

An easier way to tell if a benefit is an entitlement or not, is to determine if the benefit can be 'taken' away. If you are receiving a pension for your service (retirement pay), this is an entitlement as it usually cannot be taken away from you; there are laws that govern this. Your medical care is an entitlement derived by your specifics of service. However, how that entitlement is provided is a benefit (again, determined by your specifics of service). Meaning, that your medical care could be provided at a military medical treatment facility (i.e. Lyster Army Health Clinic), the Veterans Health Administration (VA Clinic or Hospital), a private provider, or other primary care service provider(s). You have an entitlement to care and the benefit of the care could be provided on Post, but the ability to utilize LAHC as your medical provider/pharmacy is not a 'guarantee'

As the medical care question is the area that is most often confused with the terms, I am addressing that example specifically. Recently, the Department of Defense established a new interagency organization to codify and oversee the medical care within the DOD. Remember that the DOD and VA are separate governmental agencies... The Defense Healthcare Agency (DHA) is that agency. The DHA is implementing several changes with the DOD healthcare that many of us were used to from our separate services. One of those is who receives what care from a military medical treatment facility. As such, Lyster is undergoing some changes in the near future that I will provide more data on these changes in next month's newsletter, with input from the LAHC Commander/Sergeant Major and their Staff. These changes will affect the benefit of utilizing LAHC services for Veterans and our Family Members.

If you have any questions that you would like for me to ensure that I address, please send them to me at the contact information provided in the Roll Call section of this newsletter.

# Need help with filing VA Claims

PLEASE CONTACT OUR POST SERVICE OFFICER FOR ASSISTANCE.

Mike Sutterfield 334-400-6133

michael.sutterfield@gmail.com











# 2022 Patriots Day Planning



Members of Enterprise Veterans Organizations and Police/Fire/EMS, it is time to start planning for our Patriot's Day events! We need a lot of help planning for this particularly important event! Volunteer Sign-up for Planning, Organizing, and Running Patriots Day Observances and Ceremonies to be held on or about 11 September 2022. Please complete the form at the link below and/or scan the QR Code, or email post.6683.vet@gmail.com at your earliest convenience with your contact

information to join the planning committee.

# **Fellowship Dinner**

We will kick off our inaugural Fellowship Dinner on August 3rd and on the first Wednesday of each month thereafter. Check out our events tab (<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/VFWPOST6683/events">https://www.facebook.com/groups/VFWPOST6683/events</a>) on our Facebook page (Enterprise VFW - Post 6683). We are continuing to work and expand the activities of our Post, and look forward to seeing you and your families at an upcoming meeting or event.

# Poppy Committee Report (Pete Hill, Chair)



The committee set up a booth in the downtown Enterprise area in support of the City's Military Appreciation Day. There were seven volunteers who supported this event throughout the day. Their names are listed below. The hours of display were from 10:00 hours until 13:30 hours. The Post accepted donations for the Poppy's handed out in the amount of \$60.00. The committee did not have a clear picture of how many Poppys were handled out because we didn't have a clear inventory at the start of the

drive, but will ensure that there is a system in place to track this for the next event. The Post currently has 1850 Poppys on hand.

Committee Volunteers were: Thomas Grandinetti, Patrick Riordan, Pamela Smith, Dave Minkler, Jeff Olser, Dawn Schmidbauer, Brett Feinstein

# Membership Committee (Ken Donahue, Chairman)

I am Ken Donahue, Chairman of the Membership Committee, and per our governing documents the committee includes the Commander and Quartermaster. However, all Post Comrades are informally on the membership committee and are encouraged to solicit new members. The Post cannot flourish without your active support in recruitment.

Per our bylaws, the Membership Committee is responsible for recruiting, vetting member qualifications and ensuring payment of dues. When a new or transfer member is identified please pass the name and contact information to me or the Post Quartermaster (Jim Steddum) for processing of the application.

We have printed literature and membership applications at the post and I encourage each of you to take them as necessary to invite friends, family and acquaintances that qualify for membership.

Again, the best recruiters for any organization are the very ones that are active in the organization. <u>I challenge each member to bring in at least one new candidate annually</u>...this will benefit the Post by making it stronger, benefit the National organization by increasing lobbying numbers for veteran issues, and improve the outreach to our local veterans in need.







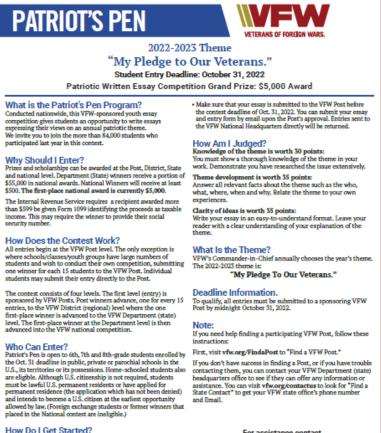


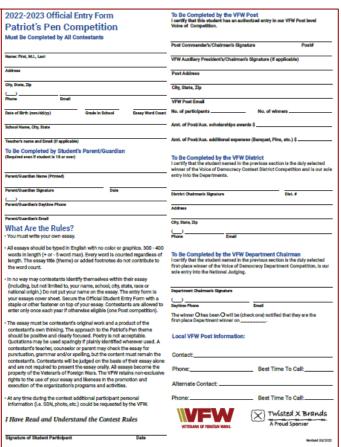
# Youth Activities Committee (Sam Baker, Chair)

### National Youth Scholarship for Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy

Comrades, I am concerned with the lack of participation locally in the National Youth Scholarship programs for the Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy for 2023. There were more than 28,000 entries last year and we here at Post 6683 had only ONE per category last year. As a father with my own children who are eligible to participate, I to, have had a challenge getting them to participate. Your children and those in our community who are not veterans well know military service and the sacrifices made for our Nation. I pledge to you to get into the schools locally in Enterprise and Coffee County, however I need your help in motivating and spreading the word to our youth in the community. The themes are easy enough for a 6-8 grader to pen an essay of 300-400 words on "My Pledge to Our Veterans" and for the High Schooler (9-12) to give a 3-5 minute video voicing their opinion on "Why is the Veteran Important".

These contests both have a deadline into the next school year of 31 October 2022. We have time, however we need to get our youth started thinking now and share the knowledge. We will get time in the schools in August and September to brief students if possible and definitely share throughout the community the scholarship opportunities available. Other comrades and I can assist anyone requesting information and/or mentorship in submissions. Anyone of you who wishes to gain the application for either contest may get them from the VFW national website at <a href="https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships">https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships</a> or contact myself during a meeting or by emailing me at <u>samricebaker@gmail.com</u> or reaching out to me 334-494-2599.







participating.

its VFW Auxiliary.

Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing contest.

Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in

Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or



For assistance contact

the VFW National Headquarters at 816.756.3390 ext. 6155

Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org



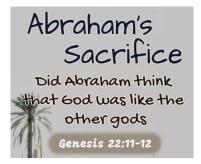




### FROM THE CHAPLAIN

# Myroan Brown Chaplain





Did you ever wonder what went through Abraham's mind when he believed that God wanted him to sacrifice his son? Of course, at that particular time in history, sacrifice of the first-born was not unusual and seen as an offering to the gods who would then allow the rest of the children to live. Did Abraham think that God was like the other gods? We will never know in this world. But God did not want sacrifice in the flesh, but sacrifice in the heart. Abraham was prevented from sacrificing Isaac and was given a ram instead, and for his willingness was promised great blessings. What are we willing to sacrifice for God?

Today, in America, we celebrate our independence. Many men and women sacrificed a great deal for this to happen and many people all over the world have sacrificed a great deal for their independence, independence from tyranny, independence to practice their religion, freedom from fear. Isaac was freed so that he could become the father of Esau and Jacob and thereby the grandfather of Israel. Jesus has freed us, has given us independence from the tyranny of law by giving us the law of love to follow. He has freed us so that we might experience the joys of eternal life. We all have much to celebrate today no matter where we live, so let us thank God for freedom.

### Prayer

Loving God, you gave Abraham back his son and you give us so much. May we always be grateful for all your gifts, and today, especially, we thank you for the gift of freedom of fear of death and the gift of salvation. Amen.



What's YOUR experience around money and investing? ...Let's Talk!

(334) 464-0201











# FROM THE QUARTERMASTER/ADJUTANT Jim Steddum



### Quartermaster/Adjutant Notes

We are starting our first month of the new Fiscal Year this month. This is the time to RECRUIT new members. As of this writing, we have transferred three members to the post and upgraded one of them to life member status. We are sitting at about 251 active members, but 27 members will expire this year. Each and everyone of us need to ensure that the annual members WANT to renew do so before the end of March 2023. One way of doing that is to like and share our Facebook Page: <a href="www.facebook.com/VFW6683">www.facebook.com/VFW6683</a> and visit and share our official website: <a href="VFW6683.org">VFW6683.org</a>. Our Facebook page is about to hit 500 Likes—Let's get it to 1000 by the end of the Year!

There are several things we need each member to do to help develop our Post into one of the best Posts in the Department of Alabama. First every member with an email address needs to Join the VFW Action Corps. It is simple to sign up, but I will do it for you—just text me your email address and ask me to sign you up! You will get a weekly email about what is going on legislatively to support Veterans. From time to time, you may be called to action. This means you will get an email asking you to write your congressman. They make it easy. All you after do is click a button and follow the prompts. Emails will be generated for your two Senators and member of the House of Representatives with a pre-made letter.

Next month, we will address community service requirements for our members (Hint: Keep track of all your service to others in the community.)

Thanks for all that you do!

Jim Steddum

Quartermaster/Adjutant

























# Pricing:

There is a flat per day rate fee of \$100.00 for VFW members; \$150 non-members Veterans; and \$200 for the general public.

# 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











# Official John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683 and VFW Auxiliary 6683 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 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/VFW6683/">https://www.facebook.com/VFW6683/</a> and titled <a href="https://www.facebook.com/VFW6683/">Enterprise VWF – Post 6683</a>.

The VFW Auxiliary still has its own Facebook site titled VFW Auxiliary 6683, but is encouraged to use our events tab on the Facebook page for our post home. The Facebook site is open to the public, once on the page if you like the page it will send you updates when events or posts are made.

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: <a href="mailto:post.6683.vfw@gmail.com">post.6683.vfw@gmail.com</a>

### **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 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/VFW6683">https://www.facebook.com/VFW6683</a>



Official John Wiley Brock VFW Auxiliary 6683 Public Facebook Site <a href="https://www.facebook.com/VFWauxiliary6683/">https://www.facebook.com/VFWauxiliary6683/</a>



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

# **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 <a href="VFW6683.ORG">VFW6683.ORG</a> and place your order! Call me if you need assistance:

Jim Steddum

O: 334-475-2010 or 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











