

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



More details on page 25 and 26

Call 334-475-2010

**NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2022 Newsletter** 

https://VFW6683.ORG



Itansjon In appreciation to our military families and the local community we are offering a free traditional Thanksgiving meal on Hanksgiving Day. Please come out and spend Thanksgiving with amily and Friends of Chopper's Ol' School BBQ. Check our facebook page for any updates and additional information. Come join us for our free Thanksgiving Meal. This year we will also be able to deliver at 12 noon and again at 2:00 p.m. at the following drop off points:

Enterprise Ozark Fort Rucker New Brockton Level Plains Wicksburg

We will also still have our eat-in dining and take out. If you would like to pick up at one of these locations please **call** the restaurant at **334-447-8049**. If we are unavailable to answer the phone, we will call you back. Please leave a message



In appreciation to our military families and the local community we are offering a <u>free</u> traditional Thanksgiving meal on Thanksgiving Day.

This year we will also be able to deliver to a drop off point in Enterprise, Level Plains, Ozark, Fort Rucker, New Brockton and Wicksburg at <u>12:00pm</u> and <u>2pm</u>. We will also still have our eat in dining and take-out. If you would like to pick up at one of these locations please contact the restaurant. If we are unavailable to answer the phone, please leave a message.



334-447-8049 224 Donnell Blvd Daleville AL 36330 Enterprise Big Lots parking lot by Dairy Queen Level Plains Inland parking lot on right side of the building Ozark All In on 231 South Fort Rucker PX parking lot & Boss parking lot at 2pm only New Brockton The Outpost Casual Dining 711 E. Mckinnon Street Wicksburg High School Parking

Please come out and spend Thanksgiving with family and friends of Chopper's Ol' School BBQ.



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# **UPCOMING EVENTS**



#### 29 November 2022

Make plans to join us in Downtown Enterprise for the annual Enterprise Christmas Parade. Parade Entry Applications are available until Friday, Nov. 15, 2022.

#enterprisealabama #EnterpriseAL #enterprisechamber

#### 1 December 2022

Join Mayor William E. Cooper on Thursday, December 1st at 6 p.m. for the official City of Enterprise Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony located at Enterprise City Hall (501 S. Main Street).

This fun family holiday event is filled with live entertainment, singing, hot chocolate, cookies and lots of special guests including Santa, our City Queens

and the Who Crew from Whoville. The evening's main attraction will be the official lighting of the city's 30foot tall Christmas tree. The tree is decorated with more than 500 ornaments and 10,000 lights that will adorn the front lawn at Enterprise City Hall during the holiday season!

This event is free to attend so grab your family and friends and come help us light up the holiday season in Enterprise! For more information, contact Kay Kirkland, City of Enterprise Special Projects Coordinator (334) 406-1394







#### **3 December 2022**

The annual **Whoville Celebration** takes place in Downtown Enterprise the first Saturday of December. It is an event that is fun for all ages and boasts local holiday shopping, food trucks, holiday themed activities, music and more!

#### **10 December 2022**

Please Assist John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683 in raising food for the Wiregrass Area Food Bank. Every donation, no matter how small or large will go a long way feeding those in need for the holidays. Come by Walmart, 600 Boll Weevil Circle, Enterprise, AL

#### **10 December 2022**

Come join us for the annual **Army-Navy Game**. This game ranks among the most historic matchups in college football since it was first played on Nov. 29, 1890. Since then, the teams have played 123 times



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#### FROM THE COMMANDER Robert Schmidbauer

Greetings Comrades,

I think this has been our busiest month to date since I took office. We continued to recruit new members and existing members continue to return to active participation with the post and our activities.

Since October's meeting, we have held numerous events and participated in multiple activities, both at the post and within our community.

We had our fourth Post Fellowship Dinner, which this month was Chicken and Dumplings (Noodles for you Chris), It was exciting to see so many of our Comrades welcoming our new members in attendance, and observing the conversations and esprit de corps. In fact we were able to recruit a new life member once again at this dinner. A huge thank you to Chris Woods, Dawn Schmidbauer, Larry Jones, Ken and Carmen Donahue, Bob Skinner, and Jim Steddum.

The Post Board of Management Committee continues their Post Building and grounds maintenance. The lights have been installed on our roadside sign and the ceiling fans were placed on the front porch. Thank you, Randy Black, for all the time you put in at the post. If any Comrade wants to assist, you can call Randy to see when help is needed or come to a Post Board of Management Meeting which is held the first Monday of each month, 1730 hours at the Post.

We had a fundraising booth selling baked potatoes and performed some membership recruitment. We sold 126 loaded baked potatoes and recruited three life members. A huge thank you to Chris Wood, Dawn Schmidbauer, Ken and Carmen Donahue, Bob Skinner, Brett and Stephanie Feinstein, Will Clark, Larry Jones, Jeff Osler and Jim Steddum. Thanks also to Mo, Commander of Daleville VFW for giving us some time as well. Great job! Our post was represented extremely well at the Fort Rucker Veterans Day Ceremony on 10 Nov, as well as at the American Legion Flag Retirement, The City of Enterprise Wreath Laying at the Memorial at Johnny Henderson Park which was led by the DAV and the City of Enterprise Veterans Tribute Ceremony at the Enterprise Civic Center, which we led. I was honored to read the nomination of Chris Wood for Veteran of the year and SSG Matthew Vecchione for Soldier of the Year. Russ Smith, read the nomination of Jim Steddum for Veteran of the vear. We have some outstanding members doing great things in our community and this ceremony was great way to show case what our members have done over the past year. I will not say who won the two categories as that will be in another article.

Pam Smith led the thirteen folds and our Post Color Guard participated in the Flag Folding Ceremony at Sam Boswell Hondas Flag Retirement Ceremony on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Our post was again represented well and participated in the Garrison Flag Replacement Ceremony.

Upcoming events are the Christmas Parade on 29 Nov, please come out and march with us. Our Food Drive on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> from 0900 to 1400 at the Enterprise Walmart, The Army Navy Game Viewing Party at the Post on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> from 1400 to Complete. The Post Meeting and Christmas Party on Dec 13<sup>th</sup>. We will also be putting together Christmas Laurels and placing them at the grave sites of our fallen Comrades at Meadowlawn Cemetery, an email and Facebook post will be coming out very soon with more details. There are multiple other events and activities throughout our community, and I encourage you to follow the Enterprise Chamber Calendar to stay abreast of dates, times, and details.

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.





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

Happy Veteran's Day! As folks in Enterprise were adjusting their celebrations because of hurricane Nicole, Jenn and I were enjoying our Veteran's Day snowed in. Medora, ND received about eight inches of snow, and we made it to the lodge barely ahead of the main weather, with only a few slips and slides on I-94 heading west. The attached photo is the "beauty after the storm."



Being away from the hustles and bustles of everyday life, has me thinking about volunteerism and just how fortunate we are to have exceptional leaders at the helm of our local and state VFW. Some years ago, I authored an essay on EXERCISING LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE VFW. I am not sure if it was ever published, but I would like to share a piece of it because I think it's an awesome reminder for those of us in leadership as well as those doing most of the volunteering to make our organization extraordinary.

For the VFW to remain successful and relevant it will need to grow or simply find leaders who understand service and embrace volunteerism! The very definition of volunteerism is a service of one's own freewill. Leaders must have an innate ability to inspire others toward action. I believe that this action can only be possible if members embrace both the mission of the organization and succumb to the authority of the leader who shares the same passion. I think even the most humble of Veterans appreciate being recognized for their service. Many of our Veterans "use" the VFW and other Veteran organizations as a way to receive recognition and feel good about their service. These are the folks we need to remain members and not accept or pursue leadership positions to promote their own agenda or simply to feel good about themselves. We as members of the VFW need to figure out how to get Veterans to see beyond themselves and contribute back to a nation that has provided us with so much. Service to your country should not end with a member's military service. Only by embracing this philosophy and exercising the spirit of volunteering, will we be able to continue the great work of the Veterans of Foreign Wars...

As Thanksgiving approaches, I am grateful for the leadership and especially the VOLUNTEERS of **John Wiley Brock Post 6683**. As always, thank you for what you do! Your service matters! It continues to be my honor to serve as YOUR Jr Vice Commander





# And now word from our sponsors

John Wiley Brock WFW Post 6683

We want to thank all our sponsors for their continued support and generosity. It is this support that helps and allows John Wiley Brock **VFW Post 6683** to continue to grow, support, and play a major role in our community.

Again, thank you!



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#### FROM THE QUARTERTMASTER/ADJUTANT James Steddum

October and November have been wildly successful. The All In Federal Credit Union Grant, the Fort Rucker Thrift Store Grant, and a few other grants will help our Post become the envy of the Department of Alabama! I am especially proud of the \$300 from the Holly Hills Elementary School Penny Drive for Veterans—That school is a very patriotic group of students and teachers!

Keep up the magnificent work comrades! We are at 103.3% membership with several more pending. Reach out at connect with your Veteran friends and neighbors and see what it will take to get them to join JWB Post 6683!



Our next major activity that can help us grow our membership and support the Wiregrass is our food drive on December 10th! We need volunteers, dry goods, and cash (or plastic). Every pound, dollar, and hour counts toward our United to Combat Hunger campaign goal of \$3000 for the Wiregrass Area Foodbank—which directly support Veterans, Families, and our community in a five-county area. Read more about it on our website, VFW6683.org.

Speaking of Volunteerism, did you know that Fort Rucker authorized VFW Post 6683 to operate on the installation. This opens the post up to a new level of communication with Soldiers and their families. One of the benefits of this development is the use of the Army's Volunteer Management Information System. This will help our members track volunteer/community service hours. This will also advertise opportunities for members of the military community to help up at the post with projects that we need completed. For more information, go to VFW6683.org, and select "Volunteerism" in the menu.



# on demand





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#### https://doctorondemand.com/microsite/humanamilitary/

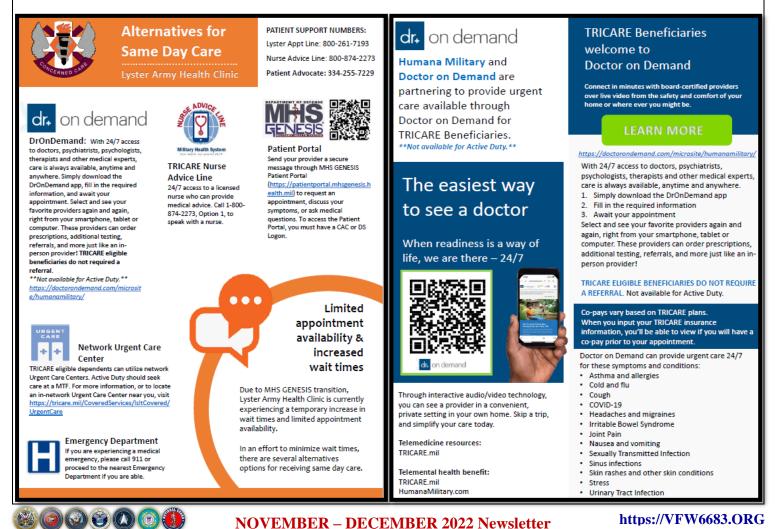
Contributed by: Celeste N. Melena, Chief, Logistics Division, Lyster Army Health Clinic, DHA-SSO / Stand Alone Clinic

With 24/7 access to doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, therapists and other medical experts, care is always available, anytime and anywhere.

- 1. Simply download the DrOnDemand app
- 2. Fill in the required information
- 3. Await your appointment

Select and see your favorite providers again and again, right from your smartphone, tablet or computer. These providers can order prescriptions, additional testing, referrals, and more just like an in-person provider!

No referrals are needed. Active-Duty Family Members do not have a co-pay. When they register and input their TRICARE info, it'll show if there is a co-pay. They can request their prescriptions to be sent to Lyster. If labs are needed, they can send the request to Lyster. They can also request their visit record be sent to Lyster.



#### Holly Hill Elementary School Veteran's Day Ceremony.

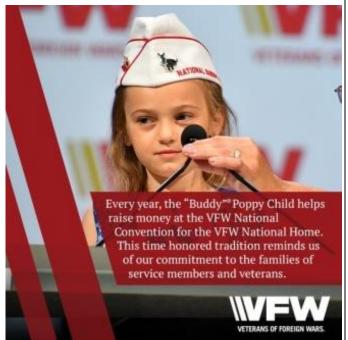
Jim Steddum was honored to represent JWB Post 6683 and American Legion Post 73 at the Holly Hill Elementary School Veteran's Day Ceremony. The exceptionally patriotic students presented both organizations \$300 from a penny drive campaign.



#### Buddy Poppy Committee Report – Pete Hill, Chair

The **#VFWBuddyPoppy** is significant in many ways – one way being through the support it generates for **VFW National Home**. Get in touch with the **John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683** or your local VFW Post and host a "Buddy" Poppy drive today!

Every year, the "Buddy" Poppy Child helps raise money at the VFW National Convention for the VFW National Home. This time honored tradition reminds us of our commitment to the families of service members and veterans.







#### **Educating our Youth**

Post members CSM(R) Mike Sutterfield and CW5(R) Russ Smith participated in the Veterans Day program held at Dauphin Junior High School. They conducted a flag folding ceremony while explaining the meaning of the 13 folds of the American flag



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#### Staff Judge Advocate and By-Laws Committee - Brett Feinstein, Chair

We are revising the Post By-laws, waiting for the By-laws of the National, State and District to be finalized first.

Presently the main reason for the change is to remove the name of the House Committee which will now be the Board of Management. This is a relatively minor change but this is also your opportunity to give your input/feedback on our by-laws too.

The By-laws are on our private FB page. Here is the link: https://www.facebook.com/groups/VFWPOST6683/permalink/10162949557068079

You can email me, Brett Feinstein at <u>bgoodmug@gmail.com</u>, or talk to me directly or contact any or all of the members on committee with your suggestions or comments or just to ask questions.

The following members of Post 6683 volunteered for the By-laws committee:

Patrick Riordan	Patriordan@twc.com
Thomas Grandinetti	tcgrandin@gmail.com
Otis Smith	smittysmit45@hotmail.com
Ken Donahue	rmeav8er@aol.com
Jim Steddum	jagsted@gmail.com
Robert Schmidbauer	rschmidbauersr@gmail.com

Our first event with USAWOCC, our adopted unit. Col McHugh and Commander Schmidbauer say some words at the CW5 Sharon Swartworth Memorial on 7 Nov at Swartworth Hall, the USAWOCC Headquarters Building, on Ft Rucker



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#### **Fallen Heroes of Operation Iraqi Freedom**

Remembering the servicemembers who died in the service of their country.

CW5 Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Virginia, died on 7 November, 2003, when the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter she was in was shot down by unknown enemy ordnance in Tikrit, Iraq. CW5 Swartworth was the regimental warrant officer for the Judge Advocate General Office, based at Headquarters Department of the Army, Pentagon.



#### **VFW 101 - VFW Hat and Uniform**

Proper Attire: The proper attire for a VFW meeting is the VFW hat (no ball caps unless authorized for medical purposes), optional name badge and casual clothes. Caps and badges can be purchased from the VFW Store found at <u>http://vfwstore.org/</u>. The member cap most often worn is the Member Cap, Regular weight and can be ordered in either the Ft Knox Style which is squared or regular style which is rounded.

When ordering your VFW hat, you will need your size, if you do not recall your size, or are afraid it has changed due to weight loss/gain, or age. Utilize a sewing tape measure, measure the widest part of your head, just above the ears and eyebrows, and round up to the nearest 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch, this way the hat will fit and won't be too tight.

		CAP S	SIZE SCALE		
SIZE OF CAP	HEAD SIZE IN INCHES	SIZE OF CAP	HEAD SIZE IN INCHES	SIZE OF CAP	HEAD SIZE IN INCHES
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	19-3/8" 19-3/4" 20-1/8" 20-1/2" 20-7/8" 21-1/4"	7-1/8 7-1/4 7-3/8 7-1/2 7-5/8 7-3/4		8-1/8 8-1/4 8-1/2 8-5/8 8-3/4 8-7/8	

Members are allowed to place pins and patches related to their military service, the VFW, religious or other forms of pride on their hats. Although there are no official rules, traditionally military items are placed on the left side and VFW related items are placed on the Cross of Malta side. Items should not be distracting or offensive in nature.

The post Service uniform is optional for post members but is sometimes required at State or National Meetings and or Conventions. The basic shirt is a button front, short sleeve white shirt.



The shirt is worn, pressed, and tucked in the pants or skirt. A white t-shirt is worn underneath. The shirt bears the American Flag on the left sleeve and the POW/MIA (optional) on the right. The VFW Malta cross is on the left chest. On the left pocket flap, members can include former service ribbons or medals, if medals, miniatures are recommended. On the right pocket flap the VFW name tag or former service qualification badges, again miniatures are recommended.

Collar devises are not required, but if worn, should be brass. VFW goes on right collar, and Post Number is worn on the right. Both are worn aligned with the top and bottom edges of the collar.

For formal social events, typically the National Level, a Navy Blue Blazer is worn with a long sleeve white dress shirt, blouse for females, that can be buttoned to the collar. A red with navy striped tie is recommended. Pants should be grey, and females have the option of wearing a grey skirt no shorter than 2 inches below the crease of the back of the knee. Black belt, black dress shoes (females may were pumps) and black socks.

You may accessorize the blazer. VFW Cross of Malt membership pin, life or legacy membership pin should be worn on left lapel. Officers and past officers may wear the appropriate pin as well. The recommended name plate should be worn on left breast pocket.

John Wiley Brock

# Youth Activities Committee – Sam Baker, Chair

# Jayden helping Schmidbauer and myself clean up after a rental this past Friday!

Things to do on a Sunday Service morning volunteering with others. Got quite a bit done around the post and still more to do and the weather is just right.









https://VFW6683.ORG



FROM THE POST CHAPLIN Myroan Brown





### The One Who Said Thanks

#### Luke 17:17-19

17And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

18There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

19And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Thanks You For All The Gifts God Has Given Us

Leprosy was a terrible disease in ancient days. There was no cure and anyone who had been diagnosed with leprosy was an outcast and had to stay away from any populated place and call out "unclean, unclean" when people came near. The ten lepers approached Jesus in hopes that he would heal them, and he did. Why is it that only the Samaritan returned to give thanks? I've given this some thought over the years and the only answer I could come up with is that he didn't take Jesus' healing for granted. After all, he was an outsider, and worse, he was hated by the Jews and had no reason to expect that Jesus, a Jew, would take pity on him. The other nine, presumably, were Jewish. Did they take for granted that Jesus would heal his own? It made me think about what I take for granted. I was born into a stable family that loved me, provided for me, and gave me a good education. We weren't well off by any standard, but we had what we needed.

I was grateful and realized that God had been very good to me, but I never really understood how much I took for granted until I went to Haiti. After ten days of using a bucket to wash my hair, no hot water, no flush toilets, having to use bottled water to brush my teeth, little electricity, sharing a concrete surround with a multitude of cockroaches while using the bucket of water for a shower, I realized just how much I took for granted! You can bet that I am much more conscious of not wasting water or electricity than I used to be. My trip to Tanzania reinforced my gratitude for the blessing of being born where I was. I feel like one of the nine who didn't return and try each day to remember to say thank you for all the gifts God has given me.

#### Prayer

Generous God, may I never take all your blessings for granted. May I be a good steward of the earth and work to help those who have so much less than I have. Amen.





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



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#### FIND YOUR VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

The Alabama Department of Veterans' Affairs (ADVA) has Veterans Service Offices located in 61 counties throughout the State of Alabama. While we do not have an office in every county, we have taken steps to ensure anyone seeking assistance can find it close to their home. https://va.alabama.gov/serviceofficer/

# **Coffee County Veterans Service Office** Service Officer: James A. Brandt **#7 Coffee County Complex 1065 East McKinnon Street** New Brockton, Al 36351 TI PI Tel: (334) 894-5858 Need help with filing VA Claims Fax: (334) 894-6506 LEASE CONTACT OUR POST SERVICE OFFICER FOR ASSISTANCE **Mike Sutterfield** 334-400-6133 Hours of Operation: nichael.sutterfield@gmail.co M-F 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ilky M®® Enterprise Ozark 113 E College St 158 E Broad St 334-348-2202 334-443-0222 Forge and Farm **Homemade Ice Cream** Brewing Company



# COMMAND SGT. MAJ. BENNIE G. ADKINS STATE VETERANS HOME

Progress continues daily at the future site of the Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home in Enterprise since construction began in July.

Rabren General Contractors was selected by ADVA to build the state-of-the-art skilled-care nursing facility. It will be approximately 182,000 square feet and house 174 residents and is expected to open in 2024.

"We look forward each time we visit Enterprise to see the progress being made on the Adkins home," said Commissioner Kent Davis. "Excitement in the Wiregrass community has continued since the groundbreaking in June and we look forward to serving those Veterans for a long time with this facility."







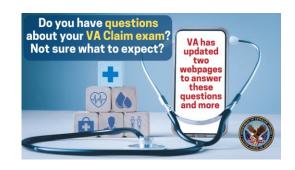


# U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

# VA Claims Exam/Find Locations

Find a VA location or in-network community care provider. For same-day care for minor illnesses or injuries, select Urgent

care for facility type. **Coronavirus update:** Please call first to confirm services or ask about getting help by phone or video. We follow CDC guidelines for wearing masks at our facilities.



#### Dear Veteran,

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recognizes that you may have questions regarding the VA claim exam (also known as a compensation and pension, or C&P, exam) process if you have filed a disability claim. To help answer many of these questions, VA has updated the following two websites regarding VA claim exams:

- Claim Exam Information Compensation (va.gov) https://benefits.va.gov/compensation/claimexam.asp
- VA Claim Exam (C&P Exam) | Veterans Affairs https://www.va.gov/disability/va-claim-exam/

VA claim exams are a critical part of the claims process and VA wants to help you understand this process. VA's updated websites provide answers about why a claim exam may or may not be needed, who contacts you about scheduling exams and how you may be contacted. These new webpages contain answers to additional questions such as:

- What to do if an exam is missed;
- How to reschedule an appointment;
- What to bring to the exam and how to prepare for it;
- Who completes the exam;
- Costs or travel expenses and so much more.

Please visit our updated websites for answers to frequently asked questions and for updated information regarding VA claim exams.

#### For Urgent and Emergency Care

#### **American Family Care**

606 Boll Weevil Cir # A

Enterprise, Al 36330-2734

Main Number: 334-475-2462

Call To Confirm Services and Hours

#### **Enterprise Urgent Care**

6582 Boll Weevil Cir Enterprise, Al 36330-9424

Main Number: 334-347-2027

#### For VA Healthcare

#### Wiregrass VA Clinic

301 Andrews AvenueFort Rucker, AL 36362-5107Main number: 334-503-7800Mental health: 334-272-4670 x7831

#### **Dothan 2 VA Clinic**

3753 Ross Clark Circle Suite 4 Dothan, AL 36303-2291 Main number: 334-678-1933

#### Marianna VA Clinic

4970 Highway 90
Marianna, FL 32446-6802
Main number: 850-718-5620
VA health connect: 877-741-3400
Mental health: 850-718-5620



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## **Be Vigilant of PACT Act Scams**

The PACT Act was signed into law, bringing new opportunities for expanded health care, benefits, and fraud to Veterans. Stay safe against new scams by protecting yourself with these tips.

On August 10, President Biden <u>signed the PACT Act into law</u>. This bill will help millions of Veterans and their survivors by:

- Extending *VA health care* eligibility for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 (Post-September 11, 2001) eras
- Expanding *benefits* eligibility for Veterans exposed to toxic substances and their survivors

#### How to Apply for PACT Act Benefits

We want Veterans and survivors to **apply now** for their PACT Act-related benefits. You can learn more and sign up at <u>www.va.gov/PACT</u>, or call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411).

If you need help applying for benefits, <u>VA</u>, <u>accredited representatives</u>, <u>and Veteran Service Officers</u> are always standing by and ready to help. There's no cost for the forms, no fees to apply, and VA will never charge Veterans for processing a claim.

#### **Tips to Avoid PACT Act Scams**

Scammers are taking advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud. There's been an increase in PACT Act-related <u>phishing (email)</u>, vishing (phone), and <u>social media scams</u> targeting Veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or submit claims on their behalf.

Veterans should be cautious of anyone who guarantees a lucrative financial benefit or service. To report suspected fraudulent activity, please contact at <u>vaoighotline@va.gov</u> or call (800) 488-8244.

#### Protect yourself against new scams with these tips:

- **Do not** provide personal, benefits, medical, or financial details online or over the phone. Federal agencies will not contact you unless you make a request.
- **Do not** click on online ads or engage with social media that seem suspicious.
- Check for "https://" at the start of website addresses.
- Enable multi-factor authentication on all accounts.
- Work with Veteran service providers you already know.
- Submit any suspected fraud to <u>ReportFraud.ftc.gov</u>.

Visit the <u>Cybercrime Support Network</u> for additional <u>resources</u> to help Veterans, service members, and their families' combat cybercrime.





# Visit ACTION CORPS WEEKLY TO LEARN MORE

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

# October 24, 2022



**VA Mission Statement Survey** In accordance with the Deborah Sampson section of VFW-supported Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 that became law last year, VA needs to engage with veterans and gain an understanding of their perception of VA's mission statement. As a result, VA recently released a follow up to its March 2022 survey asking for feedback on

possible alternatives that are more inclusive. Take the survey now and share your ideas before Oct. 29, 2022. https://survey.voice.va.gov/?yz9mAW-Mission



**PSLF Waiver Deadline** The Department of Education (ED) is allowing student loan borrowers seeking financial relief through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program to submit a DD-214 to certify periods of eligible employment. Many individuals with outstanding federal student loans may be eligible for PSLF, including eligibility from time served on active duty. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ED is offering a limited-time waiver to allow borrowers to receive credit for past periods of repayment on loans that would

otherwise not qualify. Individuals must have been working full time for a qualifying employer. This waiver is available through Oct. 31, 2022. Learn more and check your eligibility.

https://studentaid.gov/welcome/?redirectTo=%2Fannouncements-events%2Fpslf-limited-waiver



**SVA Releases Annual Census** Student Veterans of America (SVA) has released a demographic survey to gather data on the needs of veterans, activeduty military, and their dependents. You do not have to currently be attending school or involved with an SVA chapter to take part. The VFW encourages as much participation as possible so we can use this data alongside SVA to best advocate for policies on education benefits for veterans. Take the survey

before it closes Nov. 1, 2022. https://studentveterans.org/research/sva-census/





**President Signs Veterans Legislation into Law** President Biden signed into law two VFW-supported bills. The Solid Start Act requires the VA to reach out to newly separated veterans three times within their first year of separation to check in and help connect them to VA programs and benefits. It is open to all newly separated veterans regardless the type or characterization of service. Finally, Supporting Families

of the Fallen Act will increase the automatic maximum coverage under Service members' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance from \$400,000.00 to \$500,000.00. <u>https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1198/text</u>, <u>https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2533/tex</u>



**VA Closes Gap for LGBTQ+ Veterans and Survivors** The VA will now allow certain survivors of LGBTQ+ veterans to apply for survivor 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 survivor 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:** https://news.va.gov/109836/va-closes-gap-survivor-benefits-lgbtq-survivors/

# October 31, 2022



**Veteran Oral Health Survey** The oral health of our veteran population is chronically underserved. Preventive dental care can significantly impact a veteran's overall health and quality of life, including job security. The VFW is collaborating with the American Institute of Dental Public Health on a survey to evaluate the access, quality, and experiences of oral health care for veterans. This survey may be completed

by all veterans and service members. You do not need to be enrolled in VA or TRICARE health programs. **Take the survey:** <u>https://aidph.org/voh2022/</u>



**Annual DOD Suicide Report Released** The Department of Defense (DOD) released the DOD Annual Report on Suicide in the Military: Calendar Year 2021. In 2021, 519 service members died by suicide, marking a decrease compared to 2020. Although rates decreased this past year, there is still an upward trend. Young, enlisted males exhibited the highest suicide risk. Military family suicide data from 2020 also

included in the report indicates 202 dependents died by suicide, and male spouses exhibited a higher rate than their civilian peers. Firearms were the most common suicide method for both service and family members. **Read the report.** 



**TRICARE Open Enrollment Season Coming Soon** TRICARE Open Season will run Nov. 14 - Dec. 13, 2022. This is your chance to enroll or change your health care plan for the next year. If you are satisfied with your current plan, no action is necessary, and your coverage will continue automatically for 2023. It is important to note that new retirees have only one year to enroll for TRICARE Prime. Enrollment in

TRICARE Prime or Select is not automatic for retirees. Learn more. <u>https://www.tricare.mil/openseason</u>





**Questions on Camp Lejeune Justice** Act Many veterans have reached out to the VFW regarding the Camp LeJeune provision (Section 804) of the recently passed PACT Act. Please be advised that there are currently many unknowns as we await implementation. Veterans are encouraged to speak to an accredited veterans service officer before signing any contracts with law firms as this could have an effect

on VA benefits and healthcare based on final interpretation. VA regulations are expected in the coming months. For clarification on the impact to your current or future VA benefits, contact an accredited VFW service officer near you. Read more: <u>https://www.vfw.org/PACTActInfo</u>

# November 7, 2022



MILITARY AND VETERANS DISCOUNTS & DEALS





**Veterans Day Events** The National Veterans Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery will be held on Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. The public is invited to attend. Read more for details and updates. At 1 p.m., the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund will host a special observance and 40th anniversary event at The Wall. Read more. https://www.vvmf.org/veteransday2022/

**Veterans Day Discounts and Freebies** As a display of gratitude and appreciation, community partners have joined together for Veterans Day, Nov. 11, to honor service members, veterans, and their families for their sacrifice and dedication to our nation. Participating Sport Clips locations will be offering free haircuts to active duty service members and veterans. Other Veterans Day discounts are being offered for a variety of restaurants, retailers, and services.

#### VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" Closing Soon

Scholarship applications for the spring 2023 semester will be accepted through Nov. 15. Veterans can face many challenges while furthering their education. Let Sport Clips and the VFW help you succeed in reaching your education goals. This scholarship can help ease the financial burden by providing up to \$5,000 of assistance per semester, per family, for service members and veterans in the rank of E-5 and below. Apply now. https://www.vfw.org/studentveteran

**National Family Caregivers Month** VA is honoring the estimated 5.5 million family members and friends who provide much-needed care for chronically ill, injured, or disabled veterans during National Family Caregivers Month. Resources for caregivers have significantly increased since the passage of the VFW-supported *VA Mission Act of 2018*. The VA Caregiver Support

<u>Program</u> offers tools and information for caregivers and the veterans they serve. Additionally, <u>Building Better</u> <u>Caregivers</u> provides an online workshop with self-paced lessons and a connection with the caregiver community. <u>Learn more: https://www.caregiver.va.gov/NFCM.asp</u>



# November 14, 2022



**VFW Participates in Veterans Day Events** VFW National Commander Tim Borland took part in two ceremonies in the Washington, D.C., area on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2022. He represented the VFW at Arlington National Cemetery where he laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Borland and VFW Auxiliary National President Jane Reape laid a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial during an

afternoon ceremony.



**VFW, Bergmann & Moore Collaborate to Assist with Camp Lejeune Lawsuit** Section 804 of the VFW-championed *Honoring our PACT Act of 2022* authorizes veterans and military families who were exposed to toxic water at Camp Lejeune from August 1953 to December 1987 to file a federal tort claim for harm caused by such exposure. "Since the PACT Act added another recourse for veterans and their families

suffering the effects of toxic exposure at Camp Lejeune, getting the right legal advice is crucial," said VFW National Commander Tim Borland. "That's why we turned to our long-trusted relationship with Bergmann & Moore to provide counsel for those we assist." The VFW encourages anyone who wishes to join the Camp Lejeune Justice Act lawsuit to visit vfw.org/CampLejeuneHelp or call 800.898.9450.



**TRICARE Open Season Begins Today** TRICARE Open Season will run from Nov. 14 to Dec. 13, 2022. This is your chance to enroll or change your health care plan for the next year. If you are satisfied with your current plan then your coverage will continue automatically for 2023, as long as you remain eligible. It is important to note that new retirees have only one year to enroll for TRICARE Prime. Enrollment in

TRICARE Prime or Select is not automatic for retirees. Learn more.



**National Park Service Lifetime Passes Now Available** With the passage of the VFW-supported *Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act* that passed into law last December as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022, service members, veterans, and Gold Star Families are now eligible for the National Park Service Lifetime Pass. The passes provide access to U.S. national parks and other include access for up to them.

federal recreation areas, include access for up to three guests, and may cover some parking fees. Learn more.



**The PACT Act and VA Benefits** Following the recent passage of the *Honoring our PACT Act*, VA is providing responses to commonly asked questions. What is the PACT Act and how will it affect my benefits? What does it mean to have a presumptive condition for toxic exposure? What is the eligibility for veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras? Read more from VA regarding both veteran and survivor

benefits. For more information or assistance filing a claim, please contact a VFW Service Officer.



**VA Caregiver Phase II Expansion** Caregivers of veterans who served after May 7, 1975, and before Sept. 11, 2001, can apply for VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC). This program offers education and training, access to health care insurance, mental health counseling, financial stipends, and respite care among other benefits for caregivers of eligible veterans. As part of the *VA* 

*MISSION Act of 2018*, PCAFC will expand in two phases. The first phase launched in 2020 is for caregivers of veterans injured in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975. The second phase is for those injured in the line of duty between May 7, 1975, and Sept. 11, 2001. Read more.



# **City of Enterprise, Alabama**

# Veterans Day Proclamation

Mayor William E. Cooper, Sr., Wednesday signed a proclamation recognizing Nov. 11, 2022, as Veterans Day.



#### The proclamation reads as follows:

"WHEREAS, throughout our history, courageous men and women have donned the uniform of our Armed Forces and built a noble tradition and dedicated service to our Nation; and



**WHEREAS**, Veterans Day is observed to honor those who have served in our armed forces during our country's history and who have given the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, since returning from service, Veterans have greatly contributed to our state and nation by offering, skills, education, leadership and dedication; and

**WHEREAS**, although we may never fully repay our debt of gratitude to these heroes, today presents an opportunity for our citizens to honor and thank our Veterans for their service to our country.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, William E. Cooper, Sr., as Mayor of the City of Enterprise, Alabama, do hereby proclaim, November 11, 2022, as VETERANS DAY in the City of Enterprise as a special day for honoring those who have served our country and do encourage all citizens to join in the celebration of this event and to honor these outstanding citizens."

#enterprisealabama
#veteransday2022

#EnterpriseAL





# City of Enterprise, Alabama

# Veterans Day Wreath-Laying and Tribute Ceremony 11/11/2022

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the Veterans Day Wreath-Laying and Tribute Ceremony at the Enterprise Civic Center.

A special congratulations to Buddy Keen, the 2022 Veteran of the Year and Matthew Vecchione, the 2022 Active Duty Service Member of the Year.

Thank you also to the Army West Point Athletics Rabble Rousers for making a special appearance at the event. #enterprisealabama #EnterpriseAL #enterprisechamber #visitenterprise #veteransday2022





# **EVENT RENTAL SPACE**

VFW Post 6683 2615 County Road 537 Enterprise, AL

334-475-2010

VFW6683.org



https://VFW6683.ORG

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SN'T FREE

HONE



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



**NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2022 Newsletter** 



# John Wiley Brock WFW Post 6683 All American Post 2021-2022 VETRANS 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 <u>https://www.facebook.com/VFW6683/</u> 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

#### 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 <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 <u>VFW6683.ORG</u> 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





# https://www.facebook.com/VFW6683

John Wiley Brock WFW Post 6683 All American Post 2021-2022 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS. ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA

# 2022-2023 Leadership

#### **Elected Officers**

r. Vice Commander Pamel		Carroll III Idum rown ler ith	518-423-3390 808-561-6149 910-584-8773 907-854-1320 334-389-7359 678-372-5235 334-489-4197 912-271-2816	robert.schmidbauer@yahoo.com pysmith.pb@gmail.com abnavnltc@yahoo.com jagsted@gmail.com myroan.brown4@gmail.com oslerj@hotmail.com russell8765@twc.com malcolmwise@hotmail.com
Post Board of Management 3 year	Thomas G	randinetti	520-249-0711	tcgrandin@gmail.com
Post Board of Management 2 year Post Board of Management 1 year	Pete Hill Larry Jone	es	610-389-1041 334-447-9841	petehill1956b@gmail.com larry.jonescw5@gmail.com
Appointed Officers				
Judge Advocate Service Officer Surgeon Officer of the Day/Sergeant of Arms	Brett Feinstein Mike Sutterfield Bob Cooper JT Coleman		334-470-6804 334-400-6133 334-477-7076 334-494-0329	bgoodmug@gmail.com michael.sutterfield@gmail.com bobbcooper@gmail.com dianegrey62@yahoo.com
Permanent Committees				
Chair, Post Board of Management Chair, Membership Committee Chair, Youth Activities Committee Chair, Poppy Committee Chair, Fellowship and Fundraising Con	nmittee	Randy Black Ken Donahue Sam Baker Pete Hill Chris Wood	334-389-0738 321-332-2902 334-494-2599 610-389-1041 334-447-3790	gblack11265@roadrunner.com rmeav8er@aol.com gruntwithwings@yahoo.com petehill1956b@gmail.com cwwoodie@yahoo.com
Special Committees				
Chair, Memorial Day Committee Chair, Christmas Laurel Committee Chair, Veterans Day Committee	Myroa Vacan Vacan		334-389-7359	myroan.brown4@gmail.com
Chair, Bylaw Committee	Brett I	Feinstein	334-470-6804	bgoodmug@gmail.com
Editor/Publisher	Angel	S. de la Cruz	334-477-2582	angeldiving@roadrunner.com



ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA



**NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2022 Newsletter** 

# John Wiley Brock WFW Post 6683 All American Post 2021-2022



# 2022-2023 LIFE TIME MEMBERS

Charles	G	Adams, Jr.	William	С	Childree	James
Brett		Aderhold	William	А	Church	Douglas
Edward	С	Aldecoa	Todd	А	Clark	Anthony
William	К	Anger	William	J	Clark	George
Carl	Μ	Babski	Frederick	L	Cobb	Calvin
Lisa	С	Bailey	Eddie		Coffey	Ray
Sam	R	Baker	Chad	Е	Coffman	Deanna
William	J	Baker	James	Т	Coleman	Keith
Buster	W	Barber	John	В	Collins, III	Ralph
Gregory	F	Barnes	Shane	Е	Cook, III	Joseph
Bradford	Е	Baum, Sr.	David	Е	Cooper	Yenny
Clarence	L	Belinge	Robert	Ν	Cooper	Thomas
Randall	С	Black	James	W	Coquat	Allen
William	S	Blackstock	Lawrence	D	Cornell	Thomas
William	J	Blocker	Billy	G	Cotter	Nelson
Edsel	Е	Bonds	Walter	Е	Crawford, Jr.	Arthur
Sam	0	Boswell	Benny	D	Crocker	Dennis
Robert	М	Bourne	Michael	С	Cron	Roger
Paul	В	Brandt	Ismael		Cuadrado	J
Robert	В	Bridges	Laird	В	Culver	Jim
Donna	М	Brion	Peter	G	Cutler	Hector
Iohn	Α	Brock	Butch		Daniel	Chris
William	D	Brooks	Earl		Daniels	James
Angela	М	Brotzman	Robert	А	Davis	Christoph
John	С	Brotzman	Angel	S	de la Cruz, Jr.	George
Gary	М	Brown	Robert	R	Dickman	Kenneth E
James	W	Brown	Leon	Н	Dixon	Mahyar
Myroan	L	Brown	Ken		Donahue	Jerome
Carlie	Е	Bryant, Jr.	Michael	G	Doran	Christoph
Craig	J	Buehl	Dean	Е	Doudna	David
Eric	R	Bull	Loren	К	Dow	Sean
Nicholas	D	Burney	William	Е	Drumm	Allen
Joe	L	Burt	Curtis	В	Duncan	Connie
Maria	Α	Byrd	Jeremy	S	Earley	Michael
Jack	Н	Caradine	Laura	L	Enns	Edward
Clarence	L	Carroll, III	Paul	Н	Evans	Larry
Demetrio		Castro, III	Garland	J	Faust	George
Candice	С	Caudill	Brett	Μ	Feinstein	Marion
Fred	Н	Caylor, II	Chad	С	Fenner	Michael
George	Т	Chattin, Sr.	Susan		Fondy	Robert

L Garcia С Garich F Garwood D Gentzyel К Gerebics А Gerebics Gilgenast А D Giusto Giusto R Glass R Godfrey С Grandinetti Gray, V В J Gribensk Е Griffin Griffin Μ S Griffith Ρ Hartnett Μ Haas Haynes L L Heaton pher J Heiniger Heneveld А Hill hΒ Ν Hodiwala J Hogan pher J Holley L Horton Hoye Μ Huber L G Hudson В Isom Т Jansen F Jarrett Johnson Μ Johnson, Jr. F Johnson L Johnson

С

К

Fussell

Gallinger



Vernon	В	Johnson	Jeffrey	D	Osler	James	E	Steddum
Arthur	F	Jones, Sr.	Lisa	M	Pair	James	C	Stockton
Larry	D	Jones	Jerry	L	Parris	Mickey	Ū	Sullivan
Ronald	A	Jones, Jr.	Gerard	S	Partridge, III	Michael	D	Sutterfield
Ronald	В	Kaita	Palmer	J	Penny	John	-	Tallas
Henry	G	Kakatin	Marvin	A	Pinckney	William	J	Teeter
James	P	Kennedy	Carolyn	В	Pittman	Derrick	J	Tevebaugh
Anthony	S	Kenward	Kenneth	D	Pouncey	David	Т	Thomas
, Sarah	М	Kidwell	Janine	А	, Pridgen	Michael	А	Thomas, Jr.
Edward	L	Kimbley	Kristi	А	Pruitt	Ronald	L	Thompson
Arbie	L	, Kincey	Michael	А	Pruitt	Charles	Е	Truman
James	Н	Kitterman	Everett	С	Queen	Jeff		Turner
Albert	D	Klang	Dylan	W	Rathburn	Benjamin	S	Valentine
Jeff	J	Knepper	Donald	Е	Ray	April		Wallace
Rodney	D	Lacewell	Grady	Н	Reeves	Justin	В	Watts
Andrew	В	Lecuyer	David	W	Rice	Virgil	F	Weakley
Ernest	L	Love	Donald	W	Rice	Clifford	Е	Whittum
Vanessa	А	Mahone	Tammy		Richmond	John	W	Wilkes
Melba	J	Mahoney	Mary	J	Riley	Charles	S	Williams
James	D	Mc Carty	Andrew		Rivers	Jason	К	Wills
Stephen	L	Mc Carty	Max	Н	Roberts	Robert	L	Wills
Billy	J	Mc Ghee	Allan	W	Rodriguez	Paul		Wilson
James	Е	McDaniel	John	D	Ryan, Jr.	Phyllis	J	Wilson
Patricia	S	Mcdaniel	Arthor	В	Salinero	Robert	Е	Wilson
Gary	S	McLeod	Dawn	Е	Schmidbauer	Malcolm	L	Wise
Celeste	Ν	Melena	Robert	А	Schmidbauer, Sr.	Jennifer	Е	Wolf
Howard	Ρ	Mikkelsen	John	J	Sciascia	Roger	С	Worthington
Christopher	Ρ	Miller	Charles		Seitz	Kenneth	R	Wright
David	А	Minkler	Heather	А	Sheltrown	Melvin	L	Yanda
Michael	F	Monaghan	Matthew	Р	Siegel	Amoreena	L	York
Patrick	G	Morris	Andrew	G	Siegner, III	Ellington	Т	Zimmerman
Jeffery	С	Morrison	Robert	С	Skinner	David		Villanuevo
Mark	А	Moser	Jeffrey		Slaker	Bryon		Nelson
Steven	R	Mulcahy	Jeremy	Н	Smith	Hector Hass		Hass
Steven		Nicolucci	Otis		Smith, Jr.	Virginia Fricks		Fricks
Cecil	С	Nix	Pamela	Y	Smith	Edward		Kimberly
Michael	Т	Nolin	Russell	Р	Smith	Charles		Rummel
Jerry	L	Ogles	Willie	Е	Smith			
Daris	А	Orr	Lawrence	J	Steck			

# Become a Life Time Member of John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683



**NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2022 Newsletter** 

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