



Newsletter - August 2023

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Hello Jim,

John Wiley Brock Post 6683 VFW sends newsletters, other emails, and social media posts to our members, families, volunteers, and interested citizens in and around the Enterprise and New Brockton Alabama communities. Every event we sponsor, host, or participate in directly supports our IRC 501(c)(19) nonprofit organization. Our fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational organization helps Veterans and supports the greater Wiregrass community.

Note from the Commander [OLD]

Greetings Comrades,

The last few weeks have been hotter than normal, and I hope that all of you are finding ways to stay hydrated and cool. Summer vacations for most of us have come to an end, and the kids or grandkids are back to school, please remember to drive safely and be aware of the young ones out there.

The week of July 22, I had the honor to attend the VFW National Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, with Comrade Quartermaster Steddum and multiple Comrades

from throughout the state of Alabama, to include all of the State Leadership. The week was filled with lots of training sessions and executive sessions where we looked at the bylaws, resolutions, and legislative agenda for the VFW. As a first-time attendee, I can tell you, it was a week full of education and great work towards fighting for and protecting Veterans Issues and Causes. The week in Phoenix culminated in five posts to include ours, our District 7, and the State of Alabama being awarded our All-American caps. It was an absolute honor to represent our Post, our district, and the state of Alabama. I have no doubt that due to the hard work we are capable of achieving this accolade for many years to come. The convention next year is scheduled to be in Louisville, Kentucky, and if you are available, I highly encourage you all to attend.

At our meeting on August 8, we provided the update on our Post Home Revitalization. The tree on the hill by our fire pit has been removed, the initial ground leveling completed, and the pavilion structure installed. Over the next couple of weeks, we can look forward to a new "All In Veterans Pavilion." At the meeting, we also voted on seeking sponsors for the 12 picnic tables for the new pavilion for \$150.00 per table. This sponsorship will go towards purchasing the table and having a placard secured to the table indicating the individual or business that sponsored the table. If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring a table, please have them contact the Quartermaster, Post Board of Management Team, or myself. The hope is to have all these tables in place prior to our Pavilion Grand Opening Ceremony with All-In Credit Union (date TBD).

The Department School of Instruction was held from 18 to August 20. The Commander, Quartermaster and at two Post Trustees attended and we all took home some great information related to our positions and the VFW as a whole. I look forward to the team sharing the material with our comrades and implementing it in our positions throughout the Post.

Next month's Fellowship meal is scheduled for September 7 from 5:30-7:30 and will be in concert with NFL Football kick off. The games will be on the screens in the Post Hall and the food will be orders of chicken wings at \$10.00 per order of wings. I hope to see you all there for this event.

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.

Post Commander
Robert Schmidbauer
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Limited Advertising Special

Go to the **VFW6683 Store** and see a special donation schedule for permanent advertising on a picnic table in the ALL IN Veterans Pavilion.



JWB6683 Polos Are Back!

We have a new local vendor and VFW QM General authorization for the design!

The \$30 Polos are available in red and blue from Medium to 3X.

Order a Polo or more!

Join us on Facebook!

Join our Email / SMS List

Quartermaster/Adjutant notes!

Can you believe the first quarter of the 2023-24 VFW year is almost over? Where did the time go?

My goal for **JWB6683** is sustainability. I will work with everyone to ensure our Post thrives and increases sustainability over time. To do this, here are my priorities to help the post:

- **Website / Social Media Presence** - Our Website (VFW6683.org) and public-facing social media (**Facebook**) must be easy to use and draw attention to our intended audiences.
- **Donations** - Our donations Platform needs to be shared, reshared, and reshared. **I need your help** to share our Facebook content and website with EVERYONE in your circles.
- **Fiscal Responsibility** - I will work with the Trustees to ensure every dollar we spend is consistent with the Membership's wishes.
- **Membership** - The most important part of sustainability - is attracting AND maintaining members in good standing who actively participate in our programs! Please help me out! I need much help with membership engagement!

We have eight new members in JWB6683 for the year, and our membership percentage is 2.8%. VFW National Headquarters will move our 249 Life members and Life Transfers to our account in September. This will bring our membership percentage to about 90.2%. To achieve the Department of Alabama VFW standard of 102%, we must encourage all 29 annual members to renew and bring five more combat veterans on board.

We cannot forget our eight Comrades who passed away last year: **Anthony**

Bishop, Carlie Bryant, James Conneway, Edward Jansen, Rodney Lacewell, Kenneth Wallace, Robert Wills, and Paul Wilson. This year, we lost a new member, **CW5 Julian Evans.**

Now--Let's Get Ready for some Football!

Jim Steddum
Quartermaster/Adjutant
cell: 907-854-1320

POST CLEAN-UP / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Just to remind you, our Post Clean-Up is EVERY 3rd Saturday, Rain or Shine. It is not about mowing--there is plenty to do in and outside the buildings, shed, and barn. The next Clean-up / Maintenance is September 16, 2023. Families and Volunteers, WELCOME!

Stay in the Know!

All In Veterans Pavilion is Nearing Completion!

All In Credit Union gave JWB6683 \$26,000 for one of the three phases of upgrades approved by the membership. Phase 2 is nearing completion! We will schedule a ribbon cutting in September!



[Read More about Veterans Programs](#)

From the Post Service Officer

Happy August, Comrades!

If you're like me, you've been inundated with messages from the Veterans Administration about submitting your claim for PACT Act injuries/illnesses. You are probably, also like me, confused about what to do; do I file a claim, do I wait, what do I do?

First, the VA intends to ensure that everyone is aware of the PACT Act and that a Veteran with PACT Act-related injuries/illnesses should file an intent to file. However, if a Veteran DOES NOT have one of the PACT Act presumptive injuries/illnesses, there is NO NEED to file a claim since there is nothing to claim.

You can check your health diagnoses or symptoms against the presumptive list at this link: <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits>.

Below is a quick list of presumptive conditions found on the website above. If you think you have one of the below-listed conditions, please contact me or another Service Officer so we can help you make the right claim.

These cancers are now presumptive:

- Brain cancer
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type
- Glioblastoma
- Head cancer of any type
- Kidney cancer
- Lymphoma of any type
- Melanoma
- Neck cancer of any type
- Pancreatic cancer
- Reproductive cancer of any type
- Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type

These illnesses are now presumptive:

- Asthma that was diagnosed after service
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Chronic rhinitis
- Chronic sinusitis
- Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- Emphysema
- Granulomatous disease
- Interstitial lung disease (ILD)
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Sarcoidosis

Agent Orange presumptive cancers:

- Bladder cancer
- Chronic B-cell leukemia
- Hodgkin's disease
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory cancers (including lung cancer)
- Some soft tissue sarcomas
- Note: These don't include osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma on the list of presumptive conditions

Agent Orange presumptive illnesses:

- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne (or other types of acneiform disease like it)
- Note: Under the rating regulations, this condition must be at least 10% disabling within one year of herbicide exposure.
- Diabetes mellitus type 2
- High blood pressure (hypertension)

- Hypothyroidism
- Ischemic heart disease
- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)
- Parkinsonism
- Parkinson's disease
- Peripheral neuropathy, early onset
- Note: Under the rating regulations, this condition must be at least 10% disabling within one year of herbicide exposure.
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Note: Under the rating regulations, this condition must be at least 10% disabling within one year of herbicide exposure

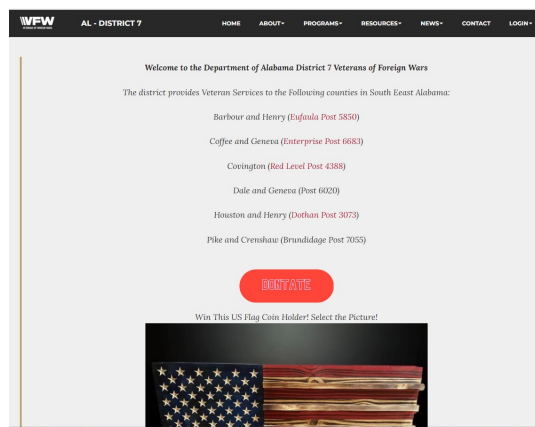
Mike Sutterfield
 Post Service Officer
 Cell: 334-400-6133
 micheal.sutterfield@gmail.com

Have you explored the new content on the VFW Department of Alabama or the District 7 Websites?

(Click images below)



Department of Alabama



VFW AL District 7

Our next Membership Meeting is September 12, 2023, at 1800 hours.



Watch the VFW National Commander talk about VFW membership for the month of August 2023.

**Enterprise Community
Calendar**

**New Brocton Community
Information**



Community Fellowship Meal!

The Enterprise Community is invited to join the VFW on **THURSDAY, September 7**, at **2615 County Road 537** in Enterprise for the monthly Community Fellowship Dinner.

Come between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm.

Dine-in or Take Out.

Theme: **WINGS and NFL Opening Games!**

\$10 Suggested Donation per person.

[Read More](#)

Keeping JWB6683 Projects in Focus

Short Term (FY 2023-24):

- Complete the All-In Veterans Pavilion no later than 1 September 2023 (75% Completion)
- Install a water Purification System (purchased by Girl Scout Troop 9048)
- Install door thresholds (post-purchased, 50% Complete)
- Fix or replace riding lawnmowers and a push mower (damaged by rodents in a shed)
- New Life Member David Lowman volunteered for this effort (100% completed)
- Storage barn siding (self-help)

- Replace solar sign light (self-help)
- Replace kitchen sink faucet (post-purchased)
- Repair women's toilet (self-help)
- Replace bathroom toilet paper/paper towel dispensers (post-purchased)
- Rebuild Playground (Donation from Milky Moo's former owner and contributions of Hardware by Girl Scout Tropp 9048!)
- Finish clearing the front of the property (Quoted as part of the new All In Grant Submission)

Mid-Term (One-Three Years):

- [1] New building roof and [2] old pavilion enclosing ("phase I") [now two separate projects]
- BBQ Pit Improvement
- Create a frisbee golf course (Quoted as part of the new All In Grant Submission)
- Create a pistol range (Quoted as part of the new All In Grant Submission)
- Create an archery range (Quoted as part of the new All In Grant Submission)

Long Term (One-Five Years):

- Storage rooms and Stage
- Upgrade driveway from dirt to compressed gravel
- Level and gravel parking area
- Explore connecting to city water and sewer

Vist our website!



Get your VFW Polos, Member Up Tickets, Renew or Upgrade your Memberships,
Donate Funds or Pay for Advertising Space at the Post Store!

Post Store

EVENT RENTAL SPACE

VFW Post 6683
2615 County Road 537
Enterprise, AL
334-475-2010



www.vfwpost6683.org



Click on the links below to read more about our
sponsors, contributors, and donors.

All in

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