

# **Eric Sullivan**

## **Candidate for Department of Missouri National Council of Administration ~ 2023 - 2027**



I am a candidate to serve as Missouri's representative on the National Council of Administration for the 2023-2027 term. I am asking for your support and your vote.

The VFW is poised to face a crisis in the coming decades. According to the Veterans Administration, there are approximately 17.4 million veterans in the United States today. Approximately 77% of those veterans have combat experience; yet, our organization is struggling to maintain 1 million members. This data begs the question: Why is the VFW struggling to maintain such a small number of eligible veterans? In the year 2045, the VA predicts that there will be 12 million veterans in the United States. If this prediction comes to pass, one must ask: How might the VFW continue to grow in membership despite a much smaller pool of eligible veterans? These are important questions the VFW must pursue, for its political clout and financial existence rely upon meaningful yet candid answers. The VFW cannot hope to continue to shape veteran friendly legislation or impact communities - in essence, realize its mission – if it does not consider how its messaging consistently misses the mark with the vast majority of veterans who are eligible to join its cause.

If I am elected as Missouri's National Council Representative, I will work with my peers to address these vital questions and encourage the National organization to craft a long-term plan to shape its message so as to better recruit and retain members and maximize the VFW's capacity to realize its mission well into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Through my varied and ongoing VFW service, I hope comrades see that I highly value, respect, and strive to live the VFW's mission. I also hope that comrades recognize through my interactions that I work to listen closely, ask tough yet fair questions, and problem solve with honesty and respect in order to benefit the organization on all levels. My intent, however imperfect it may be at times, is to promote service to the organization and advance its cause and not to promote myself. My record since serving as your Department Commander in 2020-2021 bears out my claim. In 2021-2022, I served the VFW as my post's Senior Vice Commander and as District 5 Chief of Staff. I also coordinated the 2021 Lee's Summit Veterans Day parade and participated in several Honor Guard services. Currently, I serve as my post's Quartermaster and as the District 5 Adjutant. I am eager to continue to live our mission and serve veterans.

For these reasons, I feel I am uniquely qualified to serve as Missouri's representative on the National Council of Administration and ask that you vote for me for this high office.

## ELECTED OFFICES & APPOINTMENTS

### POST

- Quartermaster 2008 - 2012  
2022 -
- Commander 2012 - 2014
- Trustee 2014 - 2017
- Senior Vice Commander 2021 - 2022

### DISTRICT

- Adjutant 2011 - 2012  
2022 -
- Surgeon 2012 - 2013
- Junior Vice Commander 2013 - 2014
- Senior Vice Commander 2014 - 2015
- Commander 2015 - 2017
- Trustee 2017 - 2020
- Chief of Staff 2021 - 2022

### DEPARTMENT

- Surgeon 2018
- Junior Vice Commander 2018 - 2019
- Senior Vice Commander 2019 - 2020
- Commander 2020 - 2021

### NATIONAL

- National Aide de Camp 2014 - 2015

## COMMITTEES & CHAIRMANSIPS

### POST

- Veterans Day Parade 2021
- Student Scholarship 2015 - 2020
- Color Guard 2012 - Present
- Budget 2008 - 2012  
2022 -
- Ways and Means 2008 - 2012
- House 2008 - 2012

### DISTRICT

- Student Veterans 2017 - 2020
- Membership 2014 - 2017
- Ways and Means 2013 - 2014
- Americanism 2013 - 2014
- Veteran Service Information Officer 2012 - 2013

### DEPARTMENT

- Student Veterans 2016 - 2019
- Ways and Mean for National Convention 2018
- Community Service 2018 - 2019
- Americanism 2018 - 2019
- Employee Handbook 2018 - 2019
- SOP/Standing Rules 2018 - 2019
- By-Laws 2019 - 2020
- Membership 2019 - 2020

### NATIONAL

- By-Laws, Manuel of Procedure and Ritual Cte. 2022
- Convention Registration 2021 - 2022