

Oct. 10, 2025

Greetings,

We hope you enjoy this issue of the National Council Monthly Update summarizing the pertinent operations at VFW National Headquarters over the last month.

### **General Counsel**

Below is an update on the most pressing legal issues currently facing the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States:

#### **Hencely v. Fluor**

As mentioned last month, the VFW filed an *amicus curiae* (Friend of the Court) brief in *Hencely v. Fluor*, a case arising from injuries sustained by a service member at Bagram Airfield allegedly due to contractor negligence. The case presents critical issues concerning the scope of the *Boyle* government-contractor defense and the “political question” doctrine. Our brief emphasizes that these doctrines should not be expanded to bar state-law tort claims where contractors act outside the scope of precise military directives.

Oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court are scheduled for Nov. 3, 2025.

#### **Veterans Guardian Litigation – Maine Deposition Preparation**

The VFW continues to defend its position in ongoing litigation brought by Veterans Guardian, a for-profit claims consulting company. Our Director of National Veterans Service, Michael Figlioli, will be deposed in Maine as part of the discovery process. Preparation for this deposition is underway to ensure that our testimony is clear, accurate and consistent with the VFW’s longstanding position that protecting veterans from predatory “Claims Sharks” is a core part of our mission. This case has the potential to affect how aggressively the VFW can continue to speak out on these issues in the future.

#### **GI Bill Benefits Litigation – Rudisill/48-Month Rule**

The VFW continues in the litigation and advocacy surrounding the application of the 48-month cap on GI Bill benefits, particularly in the aftermath of the Rudisill decision and the VA’s subsequent manual updates.

A press release, including a call to action for members impacted by VA’s implementation of its 2024 guidance, is pending.

#### **Brand and Intellectual Property Protection**

The VFW continues to devote resources to safeguarding its federally chartered name and marks. Recent disputes — including with organizations attempting to use confusingly similar names such as “Foreign War Veterans Motorcycle Club” — illustrate the need for vigilance. While some matters are being resolved through negotiated distinction, others may require formal enforcement to prevent reputational harm and unauthorized affiliation with the VFW’s brand.

Contact: VFW General Counsel John Muckelbauer, [JMuckelbauer@vfw.org](mailto:JMuckelbauer@vfw.org).

## **Development**

The first month of the new fiscal year exceeded projections and set a strong tone for the year ahead. We projected revenue at \$3.7 million for September and closed the month at \$5.2 million. A key driver was the USPS's timely delivery performance — over 3 million pieces dropped on Sept. 2, and our seed mail was already hitting staff mailboxes by the end of that week, a major improvement by the USPS. Our receipts processor also played an essential role, quickly and efficiently handling the influx of responses. Compared to September of last year, we received nearly 73,000 more gifts and an additional \$1.4 million in revenue. This early success underscores the importance of flawless execution, as we know even the smallest ripple can negatively impact results.

Contact: VFW Development Director Kelly Jones, [KellyJones@vfw.org](mailto:KellyJones@vfw.org).

## **Human Resources**

- New Hire:
  - Martin De St. Pierre is a new Planned Giving Officer in the Development Department in the KC Office.
- Promotions/Transfers:
  - Nancy Springer was promoted to Deputy Director, National Legislative Services in the DC Office.
- Current Vacant Positions in Recruiting Process:
  - National Pre-Discharge Claims Representative, Veterans Service Programs – JB Myer & JB Anacostia-Bolling
  - National Pre-Discharge Claims Representative, Veterans Service Programs – JB Andrews
  - Network Security Analyst, IT Department – KC Office
  - Member Services Advisor, Membership and Member Services – KC Office

Contact: VFW Human Resources Director Sari Maple, [SMaple@vfw.org](mailto:SMaple@vfw.org).

## **Membership and Member Services**

- After the first quarter of the membership year, we show increased membership numbers as compared to one year ago, over 5,500 members ahead of last year's end-of-September benchmark. One of the main factors as compared to last year is increased retention which is necessary to maintain our numbers. If this rate of growth fueled by retention and recruiting keeps up, then we are well on track to meet the 101% membership goal set out by the Commander-in-Chief.
- We are preparing new "Membership Mondays" online training for all members at the Post, District and Department level to make use of. Our goal is to make this live training more accessible to our members who wish to take part, so we are looking at scheduling these webinars in the evenings so that more of our comrades can make use of this opportunity.
- So far this year the National Headquarters has provided support for six Department-level recruiting events, bringing in many new and reinstated members. If your Department is looking to take part in

state-level events and would like support or possible reimbursement of costs using the new Membership Outreach Event Grant, have your Department Quartermaster contact the Membership Department at 888.564.6839 or email us at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

- If your Posts, Districts or Departments need membership brochures, applications, or supplies to fulfill their recruiting and retention goals, they can be ordered online through our website. Simply log into [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), click on the “Membership Recruiting Brochures Order Form” link, and let us know what you need!

Contact: VFW Membership and Member Services Director David Prohaska, [DProhaska@vfw.org](mailto:DProhaska@vfw.org).

### **Administrative Operations Updates and Actions Since Sept. 5, 2025:**

- There are currently 40 Posts under Department Suspension

State	Post	Charter city	Suspension expiration date
Alabama	6020	Daleville	12.3.2025
California	5477	Imperial Beach	11.6.2025
Colorado	6612	Hugo	11.8.2025
Colorado	8449	Bennett	11.8.2025
Colorado	4281	Holly	11.8.2025
Colorado	1247	Grand Junction	12.11.2025
Florida	10174	St. Petersburg	10.29.2025
Illinois	630	Urbana	12.23.2025
Illinois	1104	Carlinville	12.23.2025
Illinois	1241	Staunton	12.23.2025
Illinois	1301	Marion	12.23.2025
Illinois	2199	Joliet	12.23.2025
Illinois	2978	Chicago	12.23.2025
Illinois	3601	Paris	12.23.2025
Illinois	5300	Hanover	12.23.2025
Illinois	5790	Mount Olive	12.15.2025
Indiana	1550	Greencastle	9.2.2025
Maryland	10078	Baltimore	10.8.2025
Massachusetts	6536	South Boston	Ongoing litigation
Mississippi	4881	Ripley	10.2.2025
Mississippi	5697	Holly Springs	10.2.2025
Mississippi	11350	Woodville	10.2.2025
Missouri	3416	Wappapello	11.26.2025
Missouri	5329	Albany	11.30.2025
Nebraska	10045	Deweese	6.15.2025
New Mexico	7688	Questa	11.16.25 (also CIC suspension due 10.16.25)
North Carolina	2908	Albemarle	10.31.2025
Ohio	2850	Cleveland	12.15.2025
Ohio	5647	Wellsville	12.1.2025
Ohio	6861	Fairborn	12.16.2025
Ohio	9866	Jacksonville	12.12.2025
Oklahoma	5307	Salina	7.11.2025

Oklahoma	9265	Oklahoma City	1.1.2026
Oklahoma	11201	Chickasha	7.9.2025
Oregon	661	Salem	10.30.2025
Pennsylvania	6675	Pittsburgh	11.5.2025
Pennsylvania	7783	Saint Benedict	11.26.2025
Virginia	6975	Bristol	11.18.2025
Washington	3057	Westport	12.16.2025
West Virginia	4595	Marlinton	11.21.2025

- There are currently 39 Posts under Commander-in-Chief suspension due to not submitting a 2025-26 election report. These suspensions are due to expire on Oct. 16, 2025.

Dept	Post Number	City	Status
Alaska	10032	Cordova	
California	8399	San Pablo	
California	12114	Tehachapi	
Colorado	4001	Springfield	Request to revoke charter - pending
Connecticut	6726	Ivoryton	
Georgia	4382	Waycross	
Georgia	4904	Bainbridge	
Georgia	5743	Dawson	Request to consolidate - pending
Illinois	4602	Depue	
Iowa	1655	Newton	
Kansas	12157	South Hutchinson	
Kentucky	7225	West Liberty	
Massachusetts	7608	Georgetown	
Michigan	2777	Burton	
Michigan	3897	L Anse	
Montana	4725	Red Lodge	
Nebraska	181	Omaha	
Nebraska	3355	Superior	
New Jersey	192	Ho Ho Kus	
New Jersey	376	West Orange	
New Jersey	4589	Spotswood	
New Jersey	4914	Willingboro	
New Jersey	10184	Parsippany	
New Mexico	7688	Questa	
North Dakota	3379	Cooperstown	
North Dakota	3545	Ellendale	
North Dakota	9367	Drayton	
Oregon	4065	Albany	
Oregon	12123	Seaside	
Pennsylvania	20	Doylestown	
Pennsylvania	245	Sellersville	
Pennsylvania	520	Midway	
Pennsylvania	5937	Dickson City	
Pennsylvania	7840	Emlenton	

Pennsylvania	8051	Philadelphia	
Pennsylvania	8225	Beaver Meadows	
South Dakota	2821	Marion	
South Dakota	5751	Faith	
Texas	8136	Yorktown	Request to revoke charter - pending

- There were three Post Consolidations:

State	Post No.	Consolidated w/Post No.	Date Approved
Massachusetts	625	3236	9.8.2025
Ohio	3521	2074	9.12.2025
Pennsylvania	3575	1690	9.8.2025

- There were eight Defunct Posts:

State	Post No.	Termination Date
Colorado	5485	9.9.2025
Mississippi	4540	9.26.2025
Mississippi	4731	9.25.2025
New York	8664	9.26.2025
New York	3180	9.26.2025
Pennsylvania	5321	9.25.2025
Pennsylvania	8253	9.15.2025
Pennsylvania	9765	9.9.2025

- Administrative Operations is engaged in 16 Article IX Disciplinary Actions:
  - o California:  
Post 6476 (Life member) – disciplinary action
  - o Connecticut:  
Post 399 (annual member) – disciplinary action
  - o Georgia:  
Post 4346 Life member – Commander-in-Chief to issue disciplinary hearing panel
  - o Minnesota:  
Post 9625 (Life member) – disciplinary action
  - o Nebraska:  
Post 2503 (Life member) – disciplinary action
  - o New Jersey:  
Post 7677 (Life member) – disciplinary action
  - o New Mexico:  
Post 7686 (Life member) – 30 days to appeal severity of sentence
  - o North Carolina:  
Post 6018 (Past Dept. Commander) – disciplinary hearing panel – Oct. 29, 2025
  - o Ohio:

Post 3297 (Life member) – disciplinary action

- o Oklahoma:  
Post 9265 (Post Quartermaster) – awaiting Commander-in-Chief's decision
- o Oregon:  
Post 4015 (Past Dept. Adjutant/Quartermaster) – disciplinary action
- o South Carolina:  
Post 8738 (Life member) – summary disposition – Oct. 14, 2025
- o Texas:  
Post 1907 (Life member) – disciplinary action
- o Wisconsin:  
Post 10232 (Life member) – disciplinary action  
Post 10407 (Life member) – disciplinary action
- o Wyoming:  
Post 3558 (Past Dept. Commander) – disciplinary action

- Seven Administrative Removals/Actions:

- o Florida:  
Post 4337 Commander - awaiting possible appeal
- o Indiana:  
Post 5864 Commander – awaiting possible appeal
- o New York:  
Post 8728 Commander – submitted appeal
- o South Dakota:  
Past Dept. Commander – awaiting possible appeal
- o Texas:  
Post 3992 Commander - awaiting possible appeal
- o Washington:  
Post 3057 Commander - awaiting possible appeal  
Post 3057 Quartermaster - awaiting possible appeal

- Three Pending 518's:

- o Texas:  
Post No. 1922 – Due Oct. 6, 2025
- o California:  
Post No. 7480 – Due Oct. 10, 2025
- o Oregon:  
Post No. 661 – Due Oct. 17, 2025

- Five Membership Eligibility Challenges:

Member Name	Post No.	Dept	Due Date
Roderick Walsh	2125	MA	10.5.2025
John Crawford	4843	PA	10.22.2025
James Werfelman	5480	KY	10.25.2025
Shawn Durnen	MAL	WA	11.17.2025
Richard Jacoby	3932	IA	11.29.2025
Daniel Deal	788	IA	11.29.2025

- There have also been three Voluntary Resignations, one Voluntary Surrender, one Termination, two Reintatements and one found Eligible.
- Administrative Operations has 77 Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation submissions for review. Since Sept. 5, 2025, 57 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporations have been received, 68 have been approved and distributed, and four have been returned for corrections and resubmission through proper channels.
- There have been 10 total Charters produced:
  - o Three Post Consolidation Charters
  - o One Post Replacement Charter
  - o Four Post Name Change Charters
  - o Two District Replacement Charters

Dept	Post/District No.	Unit Designation	Document Type
PA	1718	Post	Name Change Charter
OK	1719	Post	Name Change Charter
PA	1690/3575	Post	Consolidation Charter
MA	3236/625	Post	Consolidation Charter
OH	2074/3521	Post	Consolidation Charter
LA	5	District	Replacement Charter
TX	10358	Post	Name Change Charter
NH	8214	Post	Name Change Charter
LA	9	District	Replacement Charter
AR	8671	Post	Replacement Charter

- **Department Inspections:** As the 2025-2026 term is getting started, the following 10 Departments have been identified and are tentatively scheduled for inspections. We are currently working on availability, scheduling and logistics with hopes that the first inspection will take place in November of 2025. Special Orders will be sent to each Department with instructions on the next steps once they have been officially scheduled. Those Departments that have been identified are as follows:
  - o California
  - o Connecticut
  - o Florida
  - o Kansas
  - o Minnesota
  - o Montana
  - o New Jersey

- o Pennsylvania
- o Tennessee
- o Texas

Contact: VFW National Administrative Operations Director Quentin Carroll, [QCarroll@vfw.org](mailto:QCarroll@vfw.org).

## **VFW Foundation**

- Sport Clips Haircuts launched its 2025 “Help A Hero” scholarship campaign on Oct. 6, 2025, in partnership with the VFW. The campaign runs through Nov. 15 and aims to raise \$1.35 million to fund the nation’s largest scholarship initiative of its kind for military veterans and service members.

Since 2013, Sport Clips has been the primary supporter of the VFW’s "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program, which provides scholarships for service members and veterans for use at post-secondary and trade schools. To date, the program has awarded more than 3,350 scholarships totaling \$15.3 million.

We ask that during the fundraiser, you visit our great friends at your local Sport Clips, get a haircut and donate to the campaign!

Contact: VFW Foundation Corporate Relations Manager Savanna Cavanaugh, [SCavanaugh@vfw.org](mailto:SCavanaugh@vfw.org).

## **National Legislative Service**

- **VFW Fall Legislative Conference:** The VFW National Legislative Committee gathered in Washington, D.C., Sept. 7-11, to meet with senators, representatives and congressional staffers regarding key [VFW legislative priorities](#). This year’s discussions focused on passing concurrent receipt legislation, specifically [S. 1032](#), the Major Richard Star Act; advancing [H.R. 1845](#), the TAP Promotion Act, to strengthen service member transition; supporting alternative treatments for PTSD; and pushing for reforms to VA community care. Committee members brought the voices and experiences of veterans from every corner of the country directly to the halls of Congress, ensuring lawmakers cannot ignore the needs of those who have served.
- **House Passes NDAA Including VFW-Backed TAP Promotion Act:** The House passed [H.R. 3838](#), the Streamlining Procurement for Effective Execution and Delivery and National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2026, with a bipartisan vote of 231-196. Included in Section 562 is the TAP Promotion Act, which is a top priority for the VFW to ensure that transitioning service members have direct access to accredited representatives for VA claims assistance to enable prompt receipt of earned benefits. This inclusion reflects the VFW's ongoing advocacy efforts to streamline the benefits process and support successful reintegration into civilian careers. This legislation also authorizes a 3.8% pay raise for service members and allocates funds to increase military readiness end strength by approximately 26,000 troops in 2026. [Read more.](#)
- **House Passes 14 Veteran Bills:** Fourteen bipartisan veteran bills passed the House and now head to the Senate for consideration. They address a range of health care and benefits issues. VFW-supported bills include [H.R.3400](#), the TRAVEL Act of 2025, to allow VA physicians to serve temporarily as traveling physicians in territories and possessions of the United States to provide health care services to veterans in underserved areas; [H.R. 3951](#), the Rural Veterans’ Improved Access to Benefits Act of 2025, to extend license portability allowing eligible health care providers to perform disability examinations across state lines and expanding access for veterans; and [H.R.2334](#), the Servicemember Residence Protection Act, to preempt state laws regarding squatter’s rights for premises owned by individuals who are on active military service. [Read more.](#)



- **Legislative Service Director Shares Priorities with Service Officer Corps:** VFW National Legislative Service Director Kristina Keenan presented a legislative update at the VFW's service officer training for VA-accredited representatives in Annapolis, Maryland. In addition to informing new and returning service officers of recent legislative victories and record participation in congressional hearings this year, she also discussed the variety of veteran issues for which the National Legislative Service is advocating, including health care, benefits and military to civilian transition. She highlighted the top [legislative priorities](#) that were recently brought to legislators in Washington, D.C., by the VFW's National Legislative Committee during the VFW Fall Legislative Conference.

Contact: VFW National Legislative Service Director Kristina Keenan, [KKeenan@vfw.org](mailto:KKeenan@vfw.org).

## **National Veterans Service**

September is always a busy month for NVS as we gather our accredited representatives from around the world to attend the Skill Level and Basic Training Conference in Annapolis, Maryland. This year we were honored to have Medal of Honor Recipient Will Swenson attend as our keynote speaker. With more than 150 live and 85 virtual attendees, our accredited representatives learned about updated VA regulations and new skills to help veterans navigate the VA claims process.

Along with the training conference, NVS also accomplished the following:



*Medal of Honor Recipient Will Swenson and NVS Director Mike Figlioli at NVS Training in Annapolis, Maryland*

- NVS leadership met with VA officials regarding the new VA accredited representative portal (ARP).
- NVS leadership attended the weekly DAV VSO benefits meeting.
- NVS special assistant attended the monthly VA Education Service meeting.
- NVS pre-discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at military installations across the country.
- NVS BDD leadership briefed Navy and Army General Officer TAP courses about VFW assistance.
- NVS health leadership participated in an Optum Serve Quarterly health update,
- NVS BDD leadership collaborated with the Wounded Warrior Program's grant personnel and provided an update.
- NVS BDD leadership collaborated with the VA OTED program leadership for TAP updates.
- NVS health team participated in the VA Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs.
- NVS health team participated in the quarterly The Military Coalition health meeting.

Contact: VFW National Veterans Service Director Michael Figlioli, [MFiglioli@vfw.org](mailto:MFiglioli@vfw.org).

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