

NEWSLETTER
2022
March

GENERAL W.S. ROSECRANS VFW POST 3261
1822 W. 162nd St., Gardena, CA 90247
Phone (310) 324-6161



"It's not the dues you pay to be a member, it's the price you paid to be eligible"

Nominations for elected Post Officer's positions will be held on Sunday, March 27, at 10:30 a.m. at Post 3261. You must be present or on ZOOM to nominate an officer. If you wish to participate by ZOOM please submit your email address to jimmyc_90250@yahoo.com not later than 4:00 p.m.(PST) on Saturday, March 26.

POST CALENDAR

Monthly Post Meetings:
Second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Post 3261.

Membership meetings are held on Zoom.
Send your email address if you would like to participate.

Bingo: Every Wednesday-
Doors Open at 4:30 p.m.-
Starts at 6:30 p.m.

(L.A. County COVID guidelines are followed.)

CORRECTION:

Membership Dues are \$40.00 Annually

James "Jimmy C" Carradine - Commander's Comments

When I was elected Post Commander there were several goals I wanted to complete before my term expired this June. The goals were to:

- 1) Publish a monthly post newsletter,
- 2) Renew our partnership with the City of Gardena,
- 3) Develop a website for Post 3261, and
- 4) Increase community involvement.

The progress we have made in completing some of these goals is due to the support and encouragement of our membership and the numerous people who attend Post 3261. They have contributed their time and donations when needed. We will provide them with much-deserved recognition in an upcoming edition of the newsletter.

Post 3261 now has an active website (vfw3261.org) which will still require to be updated and new content added such as our monthly newsletters which as previously stated will be posted on the website in lieu of being mailed, with the exception of members who request that the newsletter be mailed to them directly.

If you want to continue receiving the newsletter by mail, please notify me at jimmyc_90250@yahoo.com. We are also asking our members to submit suggestions on what they would like to see added to the website.

VFW Post 3261 wishes to express our deepest sympathy to Juan C. Guerrero and family for the loss of his father.

CANTEEN

Open Daily
2 – 10 p.m.

Join Our Great Bartenders Sweeney and Nakia!

TACO Tuesday 4-9 p.m.

Carne Asada & Chicken \$1.50

BINGO Wednesday

Doors open @ 4:30 p.m.

Starts at 6:30 p.m.

Kitchen Hours: 5 - 9 p.m.

MENU

Hot Dogs / Hamburgers

Cheese Toast / Patty Melt

Taco Salad / French Fries

Desserts: Brownies & Pineapple Upside
Down Cake

RENT THE HALL FOR
YOUR NEXT PARTY OR EVENT!

(Capacity: 250 Persons)

Security Deposit - \$500
(Required to hold the date)

Sunday (3-10 pm) - \$950

Monday-Thursday - \$550

Friday & Saturday - \$2,000
(Bar Closes at Midnight)

Patio (10 am-6 pm) - \$650
(No Kitchen)

*Please Note: L.A. County COVID
guidelines apply.*



VFW POST 3261 PRESENTS

EASTER EGG HUNT

SAT 16 APRIL • 11:AM-3PM

FOOD • GAMES • BOUNCE HOUSE • FUN

VFW BACKYARD
1822 W. 162ND ST.
GARDENA, CA

FREE ENTRY
KIDS 5 TO 13 YEARS OLD
FOR MORE INFO CALL 310-720-8758
COMMANDER JAMES CARRADINE

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VFW Department of California National Home for Children March 2022 Newsletter

Greetings Comrades,

It is March, we are on the back end of Winter. March brings Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Day, Cesar Chavez Day and Lent for those of us that celebrate it. Daylight Savings Time starts on the 13th, so we will spring ahead an Hour. Let us not forget Vietnam War Veterans Day on the 29th!

The VFW National Home's Board of Trustees and staff conducted a strategic planning session. The session was themed "creating a bright future". One of the group's accomplishments was to update the mission statement to the following: "The VFW National Home assists military, veterans, and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment."

Executive Director, Mike Wilson, led the session and motivated the group to develop priorities and goals for the future. He stated, "With this unified vision, together, we share the mission and values and know the way ahead for our organization. We can all share in the accomplishments of completing our goals together".

The National Home has a YouTube Channel that you can take virtual tours of the Homes and the Campus and see videos of events held at the National Home. Please have a look and send the link to you members, here is the YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/vfwnhc>

If you know of a Veteran or Active-Duty Family struggling, make sure they contact the National Home for assistance. They can go to this link to see if they qualify: <https://vfnationalhome.org/get-help>

Please encourage your Post members to become National Home Life Members, they can apply online at the following URL: <https://www.vfnationalhome.org/membership> God Bless You!

And God Bless the VFW National Home for Children!

Christopher J. Ingraham
National Home for Children Chairman
Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
 News Sections: Health, Women Veterans
 Published on March 26, 2021

During Women's History Month, VA celebrates valiant women Veterans of yesterday, today and tomorrow. Women have honorably served in the military for generations and continue to break barriers even today.

This month, VA is spotlighting a few of our nation's valiant women Veterans to highlight their unique stories of courage, bravery and persistence.

Women have shaped the history of the U.S. military. VA recognizes and celebrates these achievements.

Throughout March, VA is recognizing valiant women Veterans and the many VA women employees across social media channels.



WOMEN VETERANS OF YESTERDAY

Florence Blanchfield

Women were not allowed to serve in the military during the American Revolution, but that didn't stop them. Deborah Sampson was the first woman known to enlist in the Continental Army. She disguised herself as a man, served as an infantryman and was wounded in action.

Florence Blanchfield was instrumental in advocating for the law allowing full rank for nurses. She became the first woman to receive a military commission in the Army.

WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT

World War II saw a significant increase in women serving, especially in the Army and the Women's Army Corps, where they performed critical jobs such as military intelligence, cryptography and parachute rigging.

Cathay Williams, also disguised as a man, was the first Black woman to enlist during the Civil War and the only known woman Buffalo Soldier. During World War I, about 35,000 women served as nurses and support staff.

Grace Hopper was a Naval Reservist during World War II. She was at the forefront of computer programming and devised the theory of machine-independent programming languages that was used to create COBOL, which is still used today.

In 1948, Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act granting women permanent status in the military, entitling them to the [Veterans' benefits](#) they earned and deserved. Shortly thereafter, more than 7,000 American women deployed to Southeast Asia to support Vietnam War efforts.

Aida Nancy Sanchez, a Puerto Rican physical therapist, established the first physical therapy clinic at the 95th Evacuation Hospital near Da Nang, serving American and Cambodian soldiers. In 1978, only two years after the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs began accepting women students, Marcelite Harris became one of the first women to command at the Academy.

Lanette Wright enlisted in 1989 and deployed to support Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom and Unified Protector. She became the first woman Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) sergeant major in the history of the Marine Corps.

Clara Adams-Ender was the first woman in the Army to qualify for the Expert Field Medical Badge, and the first Army nurse and the first Black woman to command a major Army base (Fort Belvoir, Virginia).

On Jan. 24, 2013, U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta removed the military's ban on women serving in combat. Today, every military occupational specialty (MOS) is open to women, and active-duty service women continue to pave the path for future generations.

Sgt. 1st Class Leigh Ann Hester is the first woman awarded the Silver Star since World War II. She's also the first ever woman to be cited for valor. The valor citation is for her actions during a close combat firefight in 2005 that took place outside Baghdad, Iraq.

In 2017, Capt. Marina Hierl became the first woman to complete the Marine Corps' Infantry Officer Course at Marine Corps Base Quantico, becoming the first woman Marine infantry officer.

In 1978, Kathy LaSauce became the first woman pilot to command a C-141 Starlifter. She also became the first woman to serve as a presidential support pilot. More than 1,000 women flew aircraft for the Women Airforce Service Pilots.



WOMEN VETERANS OF TODAY

Oleg Custodio, first Latina Pilot

Olga Custodio was the first Latina pilot in U.S. military history. While Custodio was serving in the Air Force Reserve, she flew for American Airlines. She was one of the first Latina commercial pilots, too.



WOMEN VETERANS OF TOMORROW

Lt. j.g. Madeline Swegle, first woman to fly the F-35A Lightning II in combat

In 2020, Lt. j.g. Madeline Swegle became Navy's first Black woman tactical jet pilot. Around the same time, Capt. Emily Thompson, an Air Force officer, became the first woman to ever fly the F-35A Lightning II in combat.

Please join us on VA's [Facebook](#) and Instagram (@DeptVetAffairs) and follow [Center for Women Veterans](#) to follow their extraordinary stories. Learn more about how VA is celebrating valiant women Veterans [here](#).

Dr. Patricia Hayes is the chief officer for Women's Health at the Veterans Health Administration.

Source: <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/86406/celebrating-womens-history-month-2/>



Cari Gasiewicz was born in Buffalo, New York, in June 1976. She graduated from Depew High School in 1994, then attended Canisius College in Buffalo and majored in elementary education. While at college, she joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

After three years of college, in 1997, Gasiewicz joined the Army. She went to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, for her basic training. She then began counterintelligence training at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Working in military intelligence, she served two tours in Korea. In 2001, she attended the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, California, to study Arabic and graduated in 2003.

Gasiewicz served with B Company, 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Gordon, Georgia. In support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, she deployed to Iraq in January 2004 with her unit. Gasiewicz was a translator at Abu Ghrabib prison. Even though Gasiewicz was fluent in Arabic, she was not familiar with the local dialect, and on her lunch breaks offered to teach Iraqi contractors English if they would teach her their dialect in return. She impressed the people of Iraq with her fluency of the language and her knowledge of their culture.

January 2005 would have marked the end of Gasiewicz's yearlong tour. On Dec. 4, 2004, she was traveling in a convoy beginning the long trip home. They were northeast of Baghdad headed for Kuwait when two improvised explosive devices hit Gasiewicz's vehicle, killing her. She was 28 years old.

In a [memorial service](#), Reverend Joseph H. Penkaul remembered Gasiewicz: "No matter where Cari was, she always found time to help others."

When serving in Korea, Gasiewicz had given free English lessons to Korean children and adults and rescued a puppy that she brought home to New York. She once mentioned to her father's co-workers that Iraqi children were in need of clothes and school supplies, and the co-workers sent Gasiewicz a dozen boxes full of items for the children. Shortly before her death, she was working with her congressman to provide Christmas dinner for her unit.

The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, California, where she studied Arabic, named a building Gasiewicz Hall. She was the first woman to receive this honor. At Fort Gordon, Gasiewicz's unit's headquarters building was also named after her. In her hometown, they named a street Cari Lane.

Gasiewicz rose to the rank of sergeant. She received a Bronze Star Medal, a Purple Heart and an Army Commendation Medal.

We honor her service.

Nominate a Veteran for [#VeteranOfTheDay](#)



VFW PRIORITY GOALS FOR 2022

WHERE VFW STANDS ON THE ISSUES

Listed below are VFW's official positions on issues impacting veterans, service members and their families, as well as national defense and homeland security. They are based on national convention resolutions and rated as priorities by direct feedback from VFW members.

BUDGET

To fully fund programs for veterans, service members, and their families, Congress must:

- Reform the dysfunctional federal budget process.
- Authorize VA to receive reimbursement from Tricare and Medicare.
- Never reduce one veteran's benefits to pay for another.

DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits, Congress and VA must:

- Implement comprehensive toxic exposure reform, including improvements to the claims process, to provide health care and benefits to all toxic exposed veterans.
- Consider treatment of presumptive conditions as a claim for disability compensation.
- Properly implement the modernized appeals process.
- Reinstate a pre-decisional review period for claims representatives prior to final ratings decisions.
- Require VA to accept private medical evidence in lieu of VA examinations.
- Update regulations and laws governing claims to account for digital claims processing.
- Improve the accuracy of disability compensation claims related to military sexual trauma.
- Increase Dependence and Indemnity Compensation benefits for survivors.
- Increase burial allowances to account for inflation and include spouses' information on all headstones.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service, Congress, VA, DoD and the Department of Labor must:

- Conduct oversight of transition assistance program pathway attendance and ensure access to community transition resources.
- Improve education benefits through increased online student housing allowances, childcare stipends, parity for Guard and Reserve members, and elimination of delimiting dates.
- Enhance small business and entrepreneurship resources for veterans and military spouses.
- Expand preferences and tax incentives for hiring veterans and military spouses.
- Fund and track outcome for career-focused training programs.
- Increase funding for HUD-VASH vouchers, grant and per diem payments, and pilot programs to combat veteran homelessness.
- Authorize more than one adaptive automotive grant for disabled veterans.

HEALTH CARE

To ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares, Congress, VA and DOD must:

- Reduce the number of service members and veterans who die by suicide.
- Strengthen care and research for mental health and traumatic brain injuries.
- Require an assessment of Vet Centers to ensure adequate staffing, resources, and funding.
- Research and effectively treat health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- Eliminate copayment requirements for preventive health care, including medications.
- Research the efficacy of medical cannabis.
- Preserve the integrity of Tricare.
- Implement VA and DoD health IT systems.
- Expand telehealth services.
- Expand nursing home eligibility and long-term care options.

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE

To maintain a quality, comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for an all-volunteer force, Congress and DoD must:

- Increase military base pay comparability with private sector wages.
- Protect and improve on-base quality of life programs.
- End the military retirement pay and VA disability compensation off set.
- Ensure military family members are gainfully employed.
- Eliminate food insecurity in the military.
- Establish the Armed Forces University.
- Ensure equity of benefits for Reserve component service members.
- Improve stability and support for military families.

NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND POW/MIA

- To fully support service members, and protect our nation's citizens and interest around the world, Congress and DoD must:
- Preserve the all-volunteer force.
- Ensure DPAA is fully funded to perform its personnel recovery mission.

SOURCE: February VFW Magazine/pg. 8

VA AID AND ATTENDANCE BENEFITS AND HOUSEBOUND ALLOWANCE

VA Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits provide monthly payments added to the amount of a monthly VA pension for qualified Veterans and survivors. If you need help with daily activities, or you're housebound, find out if you qualify.

[You can still file a claim and apply for benefits during the coronavirus pandemic](#)

Get the latest information about in-person services, claim exams, extensions, paperwork, decision reviews and appeals, and how best to contact us during this time.

[Go to our coronavirus FAQs](#)

Am I eligible for VA Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits as a Veteran or survivor?

VA Aid and Attendance eligibility

You may be eligible for this benefit if you get a VA pension and you meet at least one of these requirements.

At least one of these must be true:

- You need another person to help you perform daily activities, like bathing, feeding, and dressing, **or**
- You have to stay in bed—or spend a large portion of the day in bed—because of illness, **or**
- You are a patient in a nursing home due to the loss of mental or physical abilities related to a disability, **or**
- Your eyesight is limited (even with glasses or contact lenses you have only 5/200 or less in both eyes; or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less)

Housebound benefits eligibility:

You may be eligible for this benefit if you get a VA pension and you spend most of your time in your home because of a permanent disability (a disability that doesn't go away).

Note: You can't get Aid and Attendance benefits and Housebound benefits at the same time.

How do I get this benefit?

You can apply for VA Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits in one of these ways:

Send a completed VA form to your pension management center (PMC)

Fill out VA Form 21-2680 (Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance) and mail it to the PMC for your state. You can have your doctor fill out the examination information section.

[Get VA Form 21-2680 to download](#)
[Find your PMC](#)

You can also include with your VA form:

Other evidence, like a doctor's report, which shows you need Aid and Attendance or Housebound care

Details about what you normally do during the day and how you get to places

Details that help show what kind of illness, injury, or mental or physical disability affects your ability to do things, like take a bath, on your own

[Learn about the evidence you'll need to support your claim](#)

If you're in a nursing home, you'll also need to fill out a Request for Nursing Home Information in Connection with Claim for Aid and Attendance (VA Form 21-0779).

[Get VA Form 21-0779 to download](#)

Apply in person.

You can bring your information to a VA regional office near you.

[Find your nearest VA regional office](#)

How long does it take VA to make a decision?

It depends. We process claims in the order we receive them unless a claim requires priority processing.

SOURCE: [VA.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound/](https://www.va.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound/)

GENERAL W.S. STARK ROSECRANS VFW POST 3261**OFFICERS**

Commander – James "Jimmy C" Carradine

Senior Vice Commander – Noe Rubio

Junior Vice Commander - Juan C. Guerrero

Quartermaster – Norman "Norm" Chibana

Chaplain - Michael J. McArdle

1st Year Trustee – Arnulfo Ochoa

2nd Year Trustee – Horace Yonamine

3rd Year Trustee – Patrick F. Tubal

Adjutant – Norman "Norm" Chibana

Service Officer – Larry "Skip" Anglin

Judge Advocate – Vincent K. Warren