

GEN. WILLIAM STARK ROSECRANS
VFW POST 3261

1822 W. 162nd St., Gardena, CA 90247
Phone (310) 324-6161



SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



**SEPTEMBER 22ND IS THE
FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN!**

CANTEEN
Open Mon - Sun
2 - 10 p.m.

Join our Great Bartenders
Sweeney and Nakia!

TACO Tuesday 4-9 PM

Tacos \$1.50
(Asada & Chicken)
Wet Burrito \$7.00
(Asada or Chicken)
Nachos \$5.00
(Asada or Chicken)

BINGO Wednesday

Doors open @ 4:30 p.m. Starts at
6:30 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)

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

**L.A. County COVID guidelines
are followed.**

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

POST CALENDAR

Monthly Membership Meetings: Second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Post 3261. Meetings may also be held on Zoom. [Send your email address if you'd 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 at Post 3261.



Commander's
Comments

Post
Commander
James
"Jimmy C"
Carradine

As we near the end of this year and reflect on the past year, it is important keep in mind that as veterans we must be vigilant about vaccinations. The different variances of COVID increases the importance of keeping up to date on the development of new vaccines to protect our well-being as well as that of our family members. The Veterans Administration (VA) encourages all veterans to get their vaccinations, so get those shots as needed.

We will continue to post information on our new website (vfw3261.org) that is relevant to our members, auxiliary and the community. That includes information on the cost to play bingo, hall rental, our monthly calendar and announcements, pictures of our activities and other things that may be of interest. Please send your suggestions for website or newsletter content to jimmyc_90250@yahoo.com.

We will be starting a new Face Book page for VFW Post 3261. More will be announced on the website and in October's newsletter.

I'm pleased to announce that we will be voting to approve two (2) new applicants for membership into Post 3261. One applicant served in Vietnam and the other in Iran. Their names will appear in the October newsletter after our September meeting.



We will be coordinating with the State, District 4 and our local Auxiliary to publish informative articles on VFW Auxiliaries including eligibility requirements, history and mission, and articles from Auxiliary members. We will also include information about our local Auxiliary on vfw3261.org in hopes of recruiting new members to Post 3261.

Happy Birthday US Air Force!

The VFW salutes all airmen, past and present, who continue to innovate, accelerate and thrive.

WASHINGTON – On Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) joins in with our grateful nation in celebrating the birthday of the U.S. Air Force, who has protected and defended our country for the past 75 years.

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Originally organized as part of the U.S. Army in 1907, the United States Air Force became a separate military department when a fellow VFW Life member, President Harry S. Truman, signed the National Security Act of 1947. Today, “Big Blue” continues its mission to fly, fight, and win — delivering airpower anytime, anywhere, in defense of our nation, all thanks the airmen who innovate, accelerate and thrive on behalf of the world’s greatest air force.

Please join the more than 1.5 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary in saying ‘thank you’ to every American airman, both past and present, and wishing them a happy 75th birthday!

Source: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2022/9/happy-birthday-us-air-force>

VFW Celebrates 100 Years of the "Buddy"® Poppy

August marked 100 years since VFW declared the poppy as the official VFW flower. At VFW's 1922 national convention in Seattle, Washington, the organization officially adopted the blood-red flower.



In February 1924, VFW registered the name "Buddy Poppy" with the U.S. Patent Office. The term "Buddy"® was coined by the poppy makers, who, at the time, were disabled veterans. It was a tribute to the veterans who did not come home and those disabled or scarred for life. A Boy Scout unit displays a basket of Buddy Poppies at VFW Post 2423 in Indian Trail, N.C., in 2020. Scouts were just one of many groups to help assemble 300,000 VFW Buddy Poppies at the Post. Photo courtesy of VFW Dept. of North Carolina Sr. Vice Commander Tim Woods. Since May 1924,

when the trademark was granted, VFW has owned all rights to it.

Buddy Poppies have enjoyed broad popular support since their inception. American presidents have had poppies pinned to their jackets by girls from the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Mich. During the 1940s and 1950s, leading Hollywood actresses became "Buddy Poppy Girls," representative of the American ideal "girl next door."

Distribution of poppies remains a staple of Veterans and Memorial Day activities at VFW Posts throughout the country. One extraordinary Buddy Poppy donation was made in New Jersey in 1997. An anonymous donor gave \$13,640 in cash and checks to Post 2294 in Jersey City. By any measure, which display of generosity is unique in the annals of the program.

More than 1 billion Buddy Poppies have been distributed since 1922. Under VFW bylaws, the proceeds are designated for Post Relief Funds that assist disabled veterans, or for maintaining the National Home or similar facilities dedicated to the care of veterans.

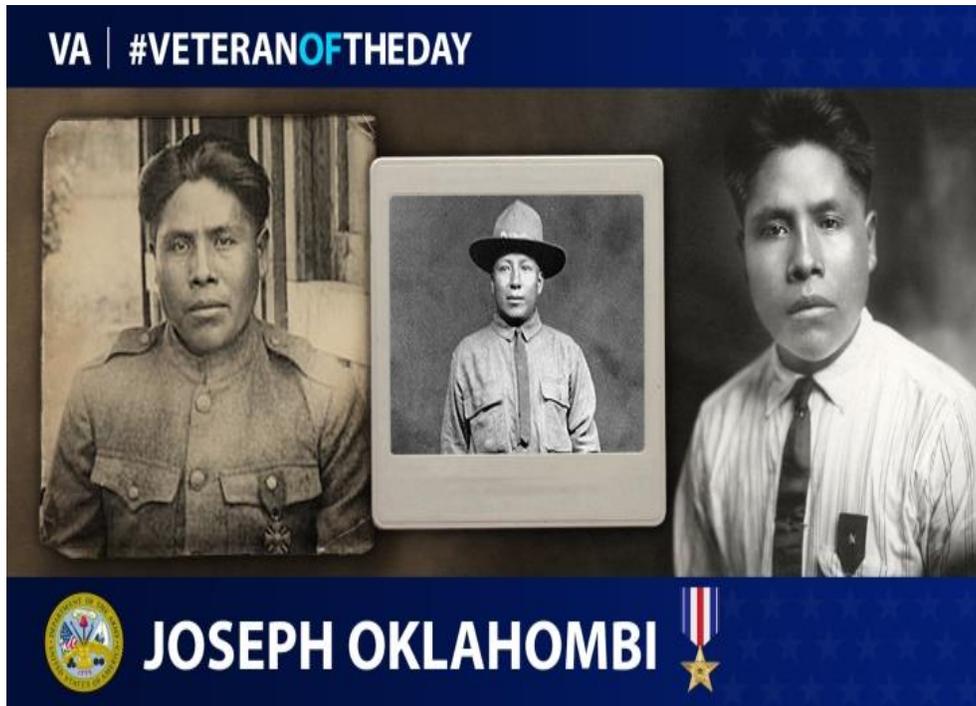
9 MILLION POPPIES ASSEMBLED

When COVID-19 shut down Buddy Poppy assembly centers, VFW members mobilized across the country to build nearly two years' worth of the red flowers of remembrance. According to VFW Programs Director Lynn Rolf, through the efforts of VFW Posts, he was able to collect 9 million Poppies, which came close to two years' worth of Buddy Poppies.

"When I put the word out that we needed help, a lot of people stepped up to do just that," Rolf said. "Many found that it helped bring the community together." Rolf drove to Minnesota, where he visited the Minnesota Veterans Home in Silver Lake and also the Veterans Home in Hastings. Residents at those homes assembled Poppies as well.

"We are very proud of our Buddy Poppy program," Rolf said. "It is extra special to the VFW because we were the originators of the flower which commemorates our war dead. With the proceeds assisting our living veterans, their families and our local communities, it goes hand in hand with VFW's pledge to 'Honor the Dead by Helping the Living.'"

This article is featured in the 2022 August issue of [VFW magazine](#), and was written by [Janie Dyhouse](#), senior editor for VFW magazine.



Army Veteran Joseph Oklahombi, who was a member of the Choctaw nation and served in the infantry as a code talker in World War I.

Born in May 1895 as a member of the Choctaw nation, Joseph Oklahombi was not officially recognized as a citizen of the United States at the time of his enlistment. Despite this, he enlisted in the Army and served as part of the [Company D, 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment, 71st Brigade of the 36th Infantry Division during World War I.](#)

The Army established the use of “code talkers” as a part of a strategy to combat against Central Powers intelligence-gathering capabilities, and they used Choctaw in their communications in the [36th Infantry Division due to their predominance in the division itself.](#)

Oklahombi, a native speaker, played a vital role as code talker, and proved to be an integral factor in the closing days of World War I during the [Mousse-Argonne offensive.](#)

Oklahombi served as a translator in Company D. He accompanied 23 soldiers in an assault on an enemy position in [St. Etienne, France](#), during which he helped lead the capture of a machine gun nest by [purportedly dashing 210](#) yards through barbed wire entanglements while under fire.

[Alongside the rest of his company, he captured 171 enemy combatants.](#) Oklahombi held his position for four days, braving fire while collecting information and aiding the wounded.

At the close of the war, Oklahombi returned to his wife and son in Wright City, Oklahoma. [He would enlist again in World War II but was not selected for the draft.](#) Later in life, he was offered a role in a movie but declined it, as he did not want to leave his farm or fishing behind.

For his service, Oklahombi was awarded a [Silver Star](#) with a victory ribbon and the [Croix de Guerre](#) from the Republic of France. He was honored once more, on the 100th anniversary of World War I, when the Joseph Oklahombi World War I Choctaw Code Talker Bridge was dedicated in his name. According to his wife, this bridge was built over the creek in which he often fished.

Oklahombi died on April 13, 1960.

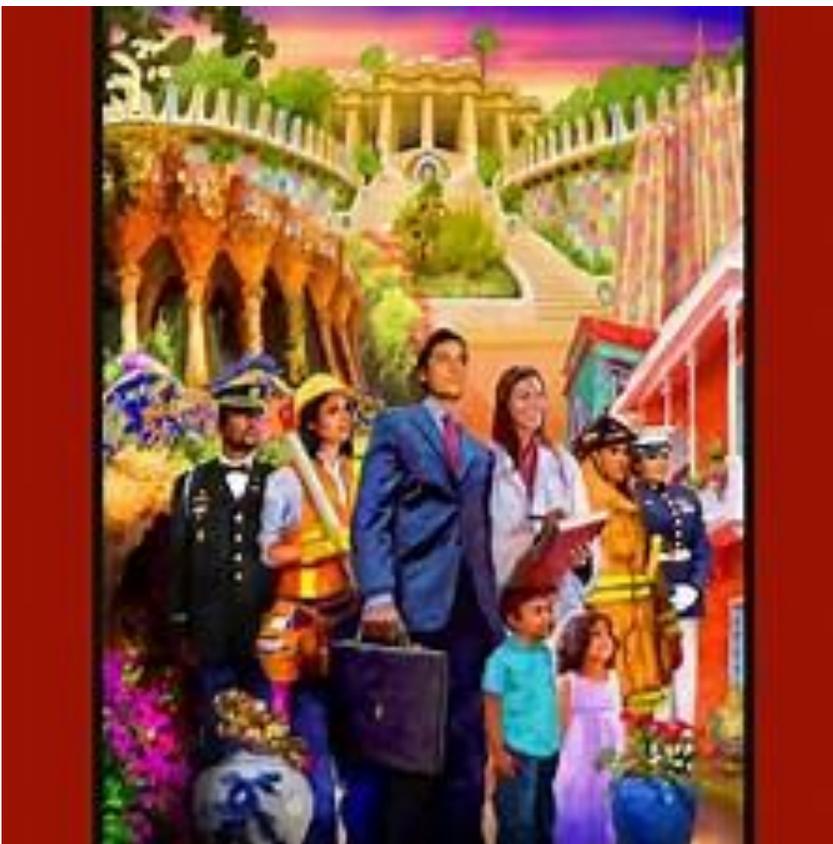
We honor his service.

SOURCE:

<https://news.va.gov/108360/veteranoftheday-army-joseph-oklahombi/>

Unidos: VFW Commemorates National Hispanic Heritage Month Observance

The commemoration recognizes the heritage of Hispanic people and their contributions to the U.S.A.



WASHINGTON — The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) recognizes all service members, veterans, comrades, and their families of Hispanic heritage in commemorating the National Hispanic Heritage Month Observance Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

Woven into the fabric of our country's fight for freedom, Hispanic Americans have served in large numbers in every conflict since the Revolutionary War. To celebrate their contributions to the nation, the 90th Congress introduced legislation to authorize the president to designate the week of September 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Week. In 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed bill for the national observance into law.

Twenty years later, President Ronald Reagan expanded the observance to 30 days to encompass the anniversaries of independence for seven Latin American countries.

Today, the observance commemorates the heritage of U.S.-born and naturalized Hispanic American citizens, as well as Hispanic immigrants to the United States from Latin American countries.

On behalf of the more than 1.5 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary, we salute our fellow Americans for their

immeasurable contributions to our freedom and our way of life. Though we are all different strands, America is stronger when we are braided together. Unidos.

SOURCE: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2022/9/unidos-vfw-commemorates-national-hispanic-heritage-month-observance>

September is Suicide Prevention Month.

Data has revealed that on average, approximately 22 veterans a day commit suicide. It's a national crisis, and one that we need to do more to fight.

TAKE ACTION



- Dial 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 to talk to someone
- Start a confidential online chat session at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat
- Send a text message to 838255 to connect to a VA responder
- Take a self-check quiz at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/quiz
- If you or a Veteran you know is in crisis, find a facility near you
- Visit www.MilitaryCrisisLine.net if you are Active Duty, Reserve, or Guard
- Connect through chat, text, or TTY if you are deaf or hard of hearing



Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Some research has shown that *the military and veteran suicide rate is 50 percent higher than that of civilians*, which is as sad as it is alarming. But there is something I can do, and there is something you can do to help save the lives of these veterans.

There are many reasons that veterans in particular feel like there's no way out of a difficult time – whether it's PTSD, survivor's guilt, financial strain, family problems, or a combination of these – so many factors come into play. But it's up to all of us to help them realize that help is available!

The [Veterans Crisis Line](http://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net) is a free, confidential crisis resource that Veterans and their families and friends can access any day, anytime. Trained responders — some of them Veterans themselves — are ready to listen, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The VA counts on grass-roots networks and community organizations to spread the word that support is just a call, click, or text away — because we're all in this together, and one small act shows you care.

Other important resources for anyone experiencing invisible wounds or depression:

PTSD Coach: The Department of Veterans Affairs has [a website and app called PTSD Coach](#) that aims to help troops and veterans manage issues like anger, sleep and trauma triggers. **The VA:** The Department of Veteran

Affairs' [Mental Health page](#) is filled with resources to address a variety of mental health concerns.

Identifying Signs of Crisis

Sometimes, a crisis may involve thoughts of suicide. The following signs require immediate attention:

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying, or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.

If you notice any of these in a Veteran or Service member you know, connect him or her with the Veterans Crisis Line's 24/7/365 resources: Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat](http://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat), or text to 838255.

SOURCE: <https://www.dvnf.org/september-suicide-prevention-month-spread-word>



Women Veterans

Ensuring women veterans receive veterans' benefits and services that honor their brave military service is one of the VFW's top priorities. Currently, women comprise 15 percent of the active-duty military and 18 percent of the Guard and Reserve. With the steady increase of women wearing our nation's uniform and their increased role in military operations, it has never been more important that we ensure women veterans have a VA that is ready and able to care for them when they transition back to civilian life.

Background

To gauge how well VA is serving women veterans and to identify areas where it needs to improve, the VFW's women veterans' advisory team commissioned a survey of women veterans to collect direct feedback from women veterans around the country. After analyzing survey responses and direct feedback from nearly 2,000 women veterans, the VFW has identified multiple recommendations to improve VA health care, outreach, training and homeless programs.

[Read the VFW Survey of Women Veterans Summary of Findings here.](https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Advocacy/2016VFWWomenVeteransSurveyFindings.pdf?v=1&d=20180322T190045Z&la=en)

(<https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Advocacy/2016VFWWomenVeteransSurveyFindings.pdf?v=1&d=20180322T190045Z&la=en>)

Health Care

The overwhelming majority of women veterans want VA to expand access to women-specific health care, which includes hiring more VA health care professionals who are able to identify and treat their unique health care needs. More specifically, women veterans want the opportunity to receive their health care from women health care providers. The VFW has urged Congress and VA to expand its Designated Women's Health Primary Care Provider model to mental health clinics and other health care specialties. This would ensure all women veterans have access to health care professionals with specialized women's health care training. The VFW has also urged VA to allow all women veterans to choose the gender of their health care provider.

Women veterans who use VA health care for family planning services are also concerned that VA requires copayments for preventative prescription drugs, such as contraceptives. This is counter to industry standards for private health insurance plans, which do not require out-of-pocket costs for preventative care prescriptions. The VFW has urged Congress to align VA's cost share requirements with industry standards.

Identity & Outreach

The VFW was disturbed to hear from survey respondents that VA employees continue to confuse them for spouses and caregivers or challenge their veteran status. This is unacceptable and the VFW has urged VA to properly train its workforce to treat women veterans with the respect and dignity they have earned.

The VFW also found that older women veterans were less likely to use their earned benefits and services compared to their younger counterparts, despite being equally as likely to be eligible or need such benefits and services. No veteran should be left to wonder what, if any, benefits she is eligible to receive. The VFW has urged VA to conduct targeted outreach to older women veterans who may not be aware of the veterans' benefits and services VA provides.

Homelessness

Women veterans with children who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless face much different barriers than homeless veterans without children. In fact, homeless and at-risk veterans with children report the lack of childcare services impact their ability to receive the VA health care and job training services they need. The VFW has urged Congress and VA to ensure homeless veterans have access to childcare when receiving health care and job training services.

Homeless veterans were also concerned with the lack of access to job training programs and counselors who understand the challenges of being homeless. The VFW has urged Congress and VA to expand successful employment and peer-support programs to all homeless veterans to ensure they are able to obtain meaningful employment and stay off the streets. The VFW wants to hear from you. If you would like to share your experience with VA health care or benefits, [email the VFW](#) or call 1.800.VFW.1899 (1.800.839.1899).

Do you have questions, comments or need additional information - [send us an email!](#)

SOURCE: <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/women-veterans>

'The VFW is a Secondary Family'



Top row left: Brian Wiener (far right) appointed his father, Norman (far left) as his chief of staff when Brian became the Department of New Jersey commander in 2020. Father and son are members of VFW Post 8098 in Brigantine, New Jersey, as is Brian's son, Colin, also pictured. Brian's daughter, Breana, is also pictured in her Marine Corps band uniform. Top row, middle: Carlo and Lee Ann Davis of VFW Post 9191 in Killeen, Texas, believe that the VFW is a secondary family that delivers an important support chain. Top row, right: Husband and wife duo Jack and Dawn "Dusty" Napier of VFW Post 9561 in Hoopa, California, said they cherish the VFW as it keeps them connected with a sense of military camaraderie. Bottom row left: Bobbi and Dave Sheets work together as husband and wife at VFW Post 6365 in Locust, North Carolina. Bottom row, right: The Va'a family of VFW Post 3391 in Pago Pago, American Samoa, counts multiple family members involved in the VFW.

Families from across the country share how the VFW experience binds them and their love of the nation.

While it is hard to gauge the extent family relationships are intertwined with VFW memberships, it is clear, after talking with members of VFW Posts from New Jersey, North Carolina, Texas, California and as far away as American Samoa, that VFW "family ties" often become VFW "force multipliers." Here is a look at some of those families.

CARLO AND LEE ANN DAVIS VFW POST 9191, KILLEEN, TEXAS

In October 2019, when Lee Ann Davis — a retired U.S. Army chief warrant officer — took the Post 9191 commander's gavel from her husband, Carlo Davis — an active-duty Army chief warrant officer — she described the opportunity as "very overwhelming and ... humbling."

Three years later, Lee Ann, an Iraq War vet, reflected on that initial assessment: "I've got to be honest with you, only after I started doing the job did I fully realize just what [it] truly requires," she said. "That's when the light bulb came on. I was expecting others to come help me until I realized I had to do it on my own. I was elected and Carlo was deployed."

Lee Ann said that when she was in need of guidance or information, Carlo was there for her.

“You know,” Carlo said, “because Lee Ann is a combat veteran like me, [this transition] fit like a glove. Not only can she and I do stuff that we’re passionate about, but it also brings us closer together.”

From a broader perspective, the Davises emphasized the importance of family support. It is especially important, they said, for veterans facing PTSD and mental health challenges.

“For veterans who feel they are on an island all by themselves, the VFW is a secondary family that can deliver the support chain,” Carlo said.

For the marital tag team, leading Post 9191 represents both prestige and challenges for the couple. Not chartered until May 1959, when it was officially named for Benjamin O. Davis, the first African American general officer in the U.S. armed forces, the facility was originally called “The Colored Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.”

“One thing we’re trying to do right now is get our Post to be an historical landmark in the city of Killeen,” said Carlo, a veteran of both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. “At the same time, I believe the VFW should also better recognize our history. Because of racial division, it was not always a good history. But it’s part of our heritage, so let’s not hide that.”

**SONNY FATU VA’A, MARIA VA’AIGAFO, WANDA VA’A BAINES, SONNY VA’A JR., CHRISTY VA’A FIELDING,
CHRISTOPHER FIELDING, MARY VA’A
VFW POST 3391, PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA**

If the VFW set out to determine the biggest family cohort in a single Post, the Va’a family would make strong contenders for the title.

Maria Brown Va’a-Igafo, the 61-yearold Va’a matriarch, counts a next-generation flock of five: a son, two daughters, a son-in-law and a daughter-in-law. Four are on active duty in the Air Force or Army. Maria earned her VFW eligibility in Korea.

As Maria’s daughter, Wanda Va’a Baines, an Army major, said, it was the death of patriarch Sonny Fatu Va’a, also a member of VFW Post 3391, that convinced the younger generation to consider entering the VFW fold.

“My mom first introduced the VFW to us when she planned to attend the 2015 VFW National Convention in Pittsburgh,” said Wanda, an Iraq and Afghanistan War vet. “I remember very clearly how she informed us of VFW benefits and resources.”

Wanda said the VFW really left a “lasting impression” on the family when it helped the Va’a’s navigate the VA after Sonny’s death in 2013.

“She was very passionate [for] us to become members, so we all attended the 2015 convention to learn more,” Wanda said.

Not only did this sojourn spur new Post 3391 memberships, but it also became family tradition.

“Most of us are on the East Coast [in Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia, with one in-law deployed to Poland] while my mom and non-military siblings are out west.” Wanda said. “We don’t get to see each other 11 months of the year. So we use the annual national conventions as opportunities to have a family reunion, as well as show our patriotic support of VFW.”

**NORMAN WIENER, BRIAN WIENER AND COLIN WIENER
VFW POST 8098, BRIGANTINE, NEW JERSEY**

In June 2020, Brian Wiener — a six-year Navy veteran and now an Atlantic City, New Jersey, firefighter — became commander of the VFW Department of New Jersey.

One of his first acts was appointing his father, Norman Wiener, a Korean War vet, as his chief of staff.

“Not many people get to do that,” said Brian, a Persian Gulf War vet. “We became much, much closer [and] genuinely wanted the best for each other. I would do it all over again if I could.”

A National Guard veteran, Norman took charge of Brian’s daily schedule.

“Sometimes he missed a date,” Norman said.

And, even though Brian was the boss, Norman occasionally stepped in as father.

“But I did it tactfully,” Norman said. “Sometimes he didn’t know it. All in all, we worked together pretty [well].”

Not surprisingly, the Wieners’ inter-generational VFW affiliation — Brian’s son, Colin, an Army officer, also is a member of Post 8098 — entail different perspectives on the VFW.

Brian, 51, understands that Norman, 86, and Colin, 27, have different age and lifestyle agendas.

“My father,” Brian said, “is of a completely different generation than my children. (Brian’s daughter, Breana, serves in the Marine Corps band.) His beliefs and his service are just different than ours. I have a vested interest, not only with my children’s and father’s VFW future, but also my own.”

**DAWN AND JACK NAPIER - POST 9561, HOOPA, CALIFORNIA
KEVIN DALGLEISH - VFW POST 1872, LOWER LAKE, CALIFORNIA**

For Dawn “Dusty” Napier, a Native American and member of the Kurak Tribe, leaving home for a Navy career meant leaving behind her family and indigenous heritage.

Returning 30 years later — retired as a senior chief in radio communications — Dusty found herself disconnected from two extended families — military comradeship and the Kurak Tribe.

“Had I not gone off to serve,” said Dusty, a Persian Gulf War vet, “I likely would have been active in restoration of tribal ceremonies and language. Since being back home, I’ve attended Kurak ceremonies, but reintegration has been slow.”

In Dusty’s view, VFW efforts to connect with “native veteran brothers and sisters” face daunting hurdles. To some tribal members, for example, VA and even veteran service organizations represent a government they do not trust.

Dusty said that for the most part, Native American veterans prefer having their health care provided by the Indian Health Service instead of VA.

As VFW Department of California commander, Dusty encourages VFW Posts to partner with their tribes.

“I’m putting my energies into the VFW, a tight-knit association that bonds my husband and me together as family,” Dusty said.

The complete article is featured in the 2022 August issue of VFW magazine and was written by David Sears is a Vietnam War veteran and VFW member in New Jersey.

GEN. WILLIAM 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 – Elvin Carter

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