

GENERAL WILLIAM STARK ROSECRANS | VFW POST 3261

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

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

James "Jimmy C" Carradine, Post Commander

VETERAN'S DAY- November 11, 2024. While those who died are remembered, Veterans Day is also the day set aside to thank and honor ALL those who served honorably in the military – in wartime or peacetime. Therefore, today I want to recognize a veteran who has served honorably in the military.

I am always amazed at the people and veterans who come to our VFW Post for drinks or relaxation, for hall rental, or for Wednesday Night Bingo. **Stanley "Stan" Suzaki**, who is ninety-nine (91) years old, is one of those amazing people. He is always on the move with a smile on his face. Stan recently shared some of his background with me that I would like to share with our readers.

Stan's military career begun in 1950 with the Hawaiian National Guard and continued with a combination of reserve and military service until it ended in 1975 when he retired from the U.S. Army as a 1st Sergeant with an enlisted grade of (E-8). He was awarded numerous commendations and service ribbons. Stan is a Vi-



Stanley "Stan" Suzaki at Wednesday Night Bingo

etnam Veteran who also served tours in Thailand, Europe, and the United States.

After he retired with twenty-five years in the military, Stan worked for Boeing Aircraft from 1977 to 1989. He later worked as a successful real estate investor. Stan is also a big Dodger fan and often watches the games in our Canteen. But his favorite past time is Wednesday Night Bingo



Stan's favorite cap

where he arrives early to help place the flags on the bingo tables so that players can wave them when they win.

It is my honor to know such a man and veteran as Stan Suzaki and we at VFW Post 3261 wish him the best of health and a "Happy Veterans Day".

CANTEEN
Open Monday—Sunday
2 — 10 PM



BINGO WEDNESDAY
Open @ 4:30 PM
Starts @ 6:30 PM

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 is \$500
(Required to hold the date)

Friday & Saturday \$2,000
(Bar closes at midnight)





VFW Day: Celebrate the Legacy

The following is a message from VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt

WASHINGTON — On Sunday, Sept. 29, we proudly celebrated VFW Day, marking the 125th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). This extraordinary milestone is not only a testament to our rich history but also a reflection of the unwavering dedication of veterans across our nation and around the world.

Since our founding in 1899, the VFW has been a beacon of hope and assistance for millions of veterans and their families. We have fought for the rights, recognition and benefits that they earned and deserve. Our organization stands united in its mission of advocacy, service, camaraderie and honoring those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

As we look back on 125 years of service, we also look forward to the future. The challenges facing veterans today are ever evolving, and it is our duty to adapt and continue to be fierce advocates for those who came before us and those coming after us. Together, we will ensure that every veteran receives the care and support they need, and that their sacrifices are never forgotten.

On this special day, I call upon the more than 1.4 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary to reflect on our shared achievements and renew our commitment to one another. Our strength lies in our unity and, together, we can continue to make significant impacts in the lives of veterans and their families. May the spirit of the VFW — our devotion to one another and to the communities we serve — remain unbreakable.

Thank you for your service, your comradeship, and your support to our great organization. Here's to the next 125 years of making a difference, honoring our heroes who have answered the call to defend our nation and ensuring that their voices are heard.

Let us all celebrate the legacy.

**Al Lipphardt, Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)**

SOURCE: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2024/9/vfw-day-celebrate-the-legacy>



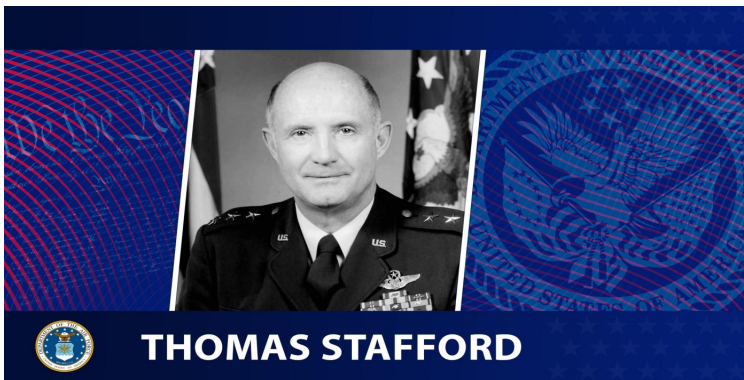
WASHINGTON – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is proud to honor our nation’s service members and veterans of Hispanic heritage from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 – National Hispanic Heritage Month.

The month’s designation encompasses the anniversaries of independence for seven Latin American countries and commemorates the heritage of U.S.-born and naturalized Hispanic American citizens, as well as immigrants to the United States from Latin American countries. The U.S. Census Bureau reported 62.1 million Hispanic or Latino people account for 18.7% of the total U.S. population in 2020, and 17.2% of active-duty military personnel.

Since the Revolutionary War, Hispanic and Latino Americans have served in large numbers in every conflict up to present day. Among them, 61 were awarded the Medal of Honor. Through their hard work, dedication and sacrifice in the U.S., people of Hispanic heritage built large expanses of infrastructure; advanced science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; broadened the arts and humanities; pressed for social and political changes; and secured freedom and democracy, both at home and abroad. Their culture, customs, language and unique American experience are a legacy that makes our nation’s history that much richer.

The VFW salutes all service members, veterans, comrades, and their families of Hispanic heritage for their indelible contributions to our freedom and our way of life.

SOURCE: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2024/9/vfw-honors-national-hispanic-heritage-month>



Honoring Veterans in September: Air Force Veteran Thomas Stafford

Thomas Stafford was born September 1930 in Weatherford, Oklahoma. He grew up watching overhead flights, and his future studies were influenced by his teachers. In high school, he was the football captain, and he went on to spend his college years studying at the United States Naval Academy, earning a Bachelor of Science with honors in 1952.

Stafford was then commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Force and was stationed at Edwards Air Force Base for test pilot school. He graduated at the top of his class and was offered a teaching slot, which is when he co-wrote two textbooks for trainees.

Stafford was appointed as an astronaut with NASA in September 1962. He made his first flight in December 1965 on Gemini 6, a precursor to America’s ability to reach the moon, as it proved with precision the viability of rendezvous in space.

In November 1975, Stafford left NASA and became commander of the Air Force Flight Test Center. He was promoted to lieutenant general in March 1978, then became Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition.

Stafford retired in November 1979 and received multiple awards, including an Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Force Command Pilot Astronaut Wings, two NASA Exceptional Service Medals and a Congressional Space Medal of Honor. Stafford died in March 2024.

We honor his service.

SOURCE: <https://news.va.gov/135126/honoring-veterans-air-force-thomas-stafford/>

VA proposes new legal services grant program to help Veterans upgrade their military discharge status and increase access to earned benefits

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has proposed establishing a first-of-its-kind grant program aimed at increasing access to VA programs and benefits. The proposed program would fund entities that provide legal support to help Veterans and former service members access VA programs, improve their military discharge status or characterization of service, and seek a review of a military record before a board of correction for military or naval records.

The aim of this new program would be to increase access to VA programs and benefits — including compensation and pension, education, health care, loans, national cemetery matters, and VA character of discharge determinations.

VA and the Biden-Harris Administration are committed to ensuring every Veteran gets the care, benefits, and representation they deserve — a commitment that is a key pillar in President Biden’s Unity Agenda for the nation. Earlier this year, VA amended its regulations on character of discharge determinations to ensure the department can provide services to deserving former service members — including certain individuals who faced discrimination, survived sexual assault or harassment, struggled with their mental or physical health, or faced other challenges while serving in the military. This change opened the door for former service members who had previously been found ineligible to reapply for VA care and benefits.

“We encourage former service members with other than honorable discharges to apply for VA care and benefits today. Although VA cannot change your discharge status, we want to provide you with any health care or benefits we can — and we will work with you every step of the way to do exactly that,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “We also know that the process to navigate the review boards and determination process can be daunting — but access to legal support can make all the difference, and we believe this new grant program will help fill that gap.”

This proposed program is a part of VA’s continued efforts to support and expand access to certain former service members with other-than-honorable and bad conduct discharge statuses. VA has conducted extensive outreach to these former service members in recent years, increasing the number who applied for VA care or benefits. Over the past 10 years, VA has granted eligibility to 75% of former service members with other-than-honorable discharge status, equating to over 57,000 individuals.

In certain circumstances, individuals with an other-than-honorable discharge status can qualify for VA programs and services if they receive a favorable outcome through a military service discharge review board, a board for correction of military or naval records, or VA’s character of discharge determination. Key to this new proposed program would be providing former service members the legal assistance they need to navigate these processes.

VA recognizes legal support can be critical to breaking down barriers to access VA services. VA’s new Legal Services for Homeless Veterans and Veterans At-Risk for Homelessness Grant Program, for instance, recently awarded \$11.5 million in grants to 79 public and non-profit organizations in fiscal year 2024.

The rulemaking can be viewed in the Federal Register under public inspection, and will be published and open for comment beginning Oct. 2, 2024 (findable by searching for the rule on VA’s Federal Register webpage). VA anticipates a notice of funding opportunity for this grant program to be published following publication of the final rule.

SOURCE: <https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-proposes-new-legal-services-grant-program-to-help-veterans-upgrade-their-military-discharge-status-and-increase-access-to-earned-benefits/>

VFW Life member demonstrates the importance of service to younger generations

VFW Life member Sam Baker is #StillServing as a member of VFW Post 6683 in Enterprise, Alabama, and by devoting his time to the VFW and several other local organizations.



Baker not only serves his Post as adjutant, he also volunteers as a pilot for the Friends of Army Aviation and is the senior vice president of the Aviation Center Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America. He also organizes the annual dinner fundraiser for the Enterprise High School Junior ROTC Wildcat Battalion. “Supporting young cadets is important to me,” he said.

Foundation for Hospital Art. As a member of the Above the Best Silver Chapter of the United States Army Warrant Officers Association, he also interviews and helps recruit warrant officer candidates from around the country and in Enterprise. “I want to show that military retirees can still contribute to our communities and demonstrate the importance of service to my grandchildren,” Baker said.

Additionally, Baker serves on the boards of the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation and the

SOURCE: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2024/9/we-can-still-contribute-to-our-communities>

VFW Life member Rocky Bixby is #StillServing his community by volunteering at several organizations that help the elderly population.



VFW Life member from Tualatin, Oregon, Rocky Bixby is #StillServing his community by volunteering at several organizations that help the elderly population. “I want to pay it forward to the people who protected our younger generations,” he said.

A member of VFW Post 3452 in Tualatin, Bixby volunteers at Ride Connection, an organization that helps veterans and seniors secure transportation. He also serves on two budgeting committees for TriMet, a bus, light rail and commuter rail service provider in Portland, Oregon, and on the Washington County Disability, Aging and Veteran Services committee.

“Helping the elderly have as much freedom as possible is what motivates me to keep serving,” Bixby said.

SOURCE: ‘I Want to Pay It Forward’

VA awards \$5M in grants through first-of-its-kind program to help Veterans and their spouses transition from military service

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has announced it will award \$5 million in grants to organizations that provide employment-based resources and tools to support recently separated members of the Armed Forces and their spouses.

Through the Veteran and Spouse Transitional Assistance Grant Program – the first of its kind grant program to be extended to support Veterans’ spouses – VA will award grants to 13 organizations. Grantee organizations will offer services such as resume assistance, interview training, job recruitment training, employment placement services, employment education and training, and referrals for employment.

Since day one, the Biden-Harris Administration has focused on eliminating barriers to employment and increasing economic opportunity for Veteran and military families, including through First Lady Jill Biden’s Joining Forces initiative. This new grant program builds on the historic Executive Order signed by President Biden in 2023, which announced a series of new actions aimed at enhancing career stability and expanding employment resources for Veteran and military families, including improving transition assistance support for spouses.

“Each year, more than 200,000 service members make the transition to civilian life, and we know that journey doesn’t just affect the Veteran – it impacts their entire family,” said Under Secretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs. “Through partnerships with community or organizations, we’re providing Veterans and their spouses with the support and resources they need to succeed together in this new chapter of life.”

Each of the selected organizations will receive a grant award up to \$500,000, which they will match. Recently separated service members and their spouses may sign up for the services starting in early 2025. The grant awardees are:

- American Corporate Partners
- Corporate America Supports You
- Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board
- Jacksonville State University
- Jewish Vocational Service
- Kansas City Scholars Inc.
- National University
- Operation Stand Down Rhode Island
- Operation Stand Down Tennessee
- Orange County United Way
- The Commit Foundation
- The Houston Launch Pad
- University Of Massachusetts

VA offers additional services to help Veterans, transitioning service members, and spouses find and keep jobs through programs such as Personalized Career Planning and Guidance and Veteran Readiness and Employment. These programs provide career counseling, assessment, and education planning tailored to Veteran needs.

SOURCE: <https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-awards-5m-in-grants-through-first-of-its-kind-program-to-help-veterans-and-their-spouses-transition-from-military-service/>

VA awards \$52.5M to community organizations working to prevent Veteran suicide

WASHINGTON —The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has announced several new steps in VA's ongoing fight to prevent Veteran suicide — including awarding \$52.5 million in grants to community organizations implementing tailored suicide prevention programs and services for Veterans and their families.

This fiscal year's grantees of the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program include 85 organizations across 41 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico to fund services in FY 2025. Eight additional previous grantees will also continue services into FY 2025. These grants are a part of VA's National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide and the Biden-Harris Administration's strategy to reduce military and Veteran suicide. Since 2021, VA has worked aggressively to expand support for Veterans in crisis, including offering no-cost emergency suicide prevention care, launching Dial 988 then Press 1 to streamline Veterans' access to the Veterans Crisis Line, expanding firearm suicide prevention efforts, and more.

"It takes all of us, working together, to prevent Veteran suicide," said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. "By working together with these organizations in the community, we'll be able to save more lives and get one step closer to our goal of ensuring that no Veteran is ever alone in their time of need." In addition to awarding these grants, VA has taken many additional steps during this fiscal year to expand Veteran suicide prevention efforts, including:

- **Offering free emergency suicide prevention care, regardless of enrollment status.** VA now provides free emergency care at VA and non-VA facilities for Veterans in acute suicidal crisis, regardless of VA health care enrollment status. As of Aug. 14, 2024, VA has provided care to over 74,000 Veterans through this policy.
- **Streamlining access to the Veterans Crisis Line via Dial 988 then Press 1.** Since the launch of Dial 988 then Press 1 as the shortened Veterans Crisis Line number in July 2022, more than 2 million contacts have been fielded. This includes over 1.6 million calls, with an average speed to answer of 9.17 seconds. Increases in daily text messages (76.7%) and online chats received (27.5%) over the two years since Dial 988 then Press 1's launch are evidence that the hotline is working — Veterans in crisis are getting the help they need in the moment they need it.
- ◆ **Conducting outreach to Veterans in need.** Since October 2021, VA and the Ad Council's national "Don't Wait. Reach Out." campaign has encouraged Veterans to reach out for help if they are struggling and provides resources for common life challenges. This year's campaign introduces "The Bravest Thing", a new PSA on how — in the eyes of loved ones — seeking help is an act of bravery. Since 2021, the campaign has reached more than 9.2 million Veterans, including 4.5 million visits to the resource webpage.

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VA awards \$52.5M to community organizations working to prevent Veteran suicide

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- **Collaborating with local partners to prevent Veteran suicide.** Due in part to efforts by VA's Community-Based Interventions for Suicide Prevention program, all 50 states and five territories are now participating in the Governor's Challenge to prevent Veteran suicide. In a coordinated effort to implement the National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide, each state and territory has developed a strategic action plan focused on suicide prevention. VA is also now working with more than 2,000 community-based coalitions on efforts to prevent Veteran suicide. More than 60% of Veterans now live in a community where a coalition has implemented at least one strategy for suicide prevention.
- **Supporting Veterans experiencing financial stress.** Because economic and financial uncertainty can increase the risk of suicide, VA launched the National Veterans Financial Resource Center in March 2024 to provide Veterans and their families with a one-stop website to locate trustworthy financial tools, information, videos, calculators, and worksheets from across more than 25 government agencies.
- ◆ **Informing suicide prevention actions through enhanced data.** VA announced \$10 million in new funding in FY 2024 to better inform Veteran suicide prevention strategies through suicide mortality review committees. Additionally, the VA's latest National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report provided the largest national analysis of Veteran suicides through 2021. VA will release the 2024 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report later this year.

If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive 24/7 confidential support. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect. To reach responders, Dial 988 then Press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text 838255.

SOURCE: <https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-awards-52-5m-to-community-organizations-working-to-prevent-veteran-suicide/>



Honoring Veterans in October: Army Veteran Shelton Ware

Shelton Ware was born in January 1923 in Neptune, New Jersey, to parents Shelton Ralph Ware and Zenobia Kelley Ware. He was one of five children and spent the majority of his life in New Jersey, where he attended public school, including Monmouth Junior College (now Monmouth University).

Ware's life took a significant turn in 1942. Although college had given him a viable reason to bypass the draft, he didn't avoid the option to serve altogether. On April 1, 1942, he joined the Army Enlisted Reserve Corps and then reported for active duty in 1943.

In November 1943, Ware was assigned to the 3420th Ordnance Medium Automotive Maintenance Company in England. "My specialty was small arms," Ware said, in a CSPAN interview. "Give me anything from a .22 to a .75 mm Howitzer, and I can do a job on it."

Ware made history serving as a weapons and vehicle maintenance technician. He served in a unit that became known as the Red Ball Express, named for the red balls that marked its routes and trucks. He served during a period when the military was segregated; the vast majority of his unit were African Americans. Their mission required delivering a multitude of essential supplies to France during World War II, including rations, gasoline and ammunition.

"We fought two wars," Ware said. "You had to fight the war of segregation, and you also had to do your duty as far as the enemy was concerned. Keep them from killing you and the rest of your buddies."

Ware was also stationed in Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany throughout his 26 months of service, and had fought at the Battle of Normandy and the Battle of Northern France. He left the service in 1946.

Following his service, Ware re-acclimated to civilian life and finished his education at Howard University, where he graduated with honors. While at Howard, he concurrently enrolled with the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program (AFROTC), and upon graduation was commissioned as a second Lieutenant in June 1948.

On July 13, 1948, Ware and five of his classmates reported to the 332nd Fighter Wing at Lockbourne Army Base, in Ohio. He later served three years as Director of Training at Wiesbaden Air Base, Germany. And in the early 1960s, he served three years with the Tuskegee Institute AFROTC program in Alabama.

Ware then returned to the Washington, D.C. area, where he worked as an AFROTC Professor of Aerospace studies at his alma mater from 1969 to 1972. In September 1974, he officially retired from the USAF with thirty years of military service.

In retirement, Ware continued his civilian education and earned a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from Howard University in 1981, along with a Master of Public Administration (MPA) and a Doctorate of Public Administration (DPA) from the University of Southern California in 1995. He was happily married to Vivian A. (Lindsay) Ware for 46 years until her death in 1994. Ware died in September 2024 at the age of 101.

We honor his service.

SOURCE: <https://news.va.gov/135537/honoring-veterans-air-force-veteran-shelton-ware/>

VFW Teams Up with “Vetrepreneur” to Aid Vets in Business Ownership

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is pleased to announce the launch of its newest member benefit addition, “Vetrepreneur”, which brings business and franchise ownership coaching directly to VFW members free of charge.

Originally established in 2004 as the Veterans Business Journal, Vetrepreneur has spent the last two decades being a fervent advocate for the 2.5 million veteran-owned businesses nationwide, eventually expanding in 2022 with the Vetrepreneur Franchise Coaching program.



This specialized program assists veterans who aspire to become business owners through franchising, utilizing a 10-step proven process to guide veterans through self-assessment, discovery, selection, validation, and ultimately, ownership. Best of all, its Franchise Coaches are available to veterans completely free of charge, along with all the resources needed to embark on your franchising journey.

“Ensuring veterans and their families have the opportunity to improve their lives and have successful careers after their time in the military is important to the VFW, and we’re excited to provide Vetrepreneur coaching to our growing offering of member benefits,” said VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt.

“Military training translates well to owning a franchise, which is why one in seven franchises is owned and operated by a military veteran. You don’t need business ownership or industry experience. You just need to be motivated and able to execute a plan. We are proud to partner with VFW to offer its members and their referrals a way to get into business ownership,” said Vetrepreneur CEO Chris Hale.

VFW members and any veterans they know who are interested in navigating business and franchise ownership can schedule a free call with a Vetrepreneur Franchise Coach at [vetrepreneur.com/referral/vfw/franchise-coaching](https://www.vetrepreneur.com/referral/vfw/franchise-coaching).

SOURCE: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2024/10/vfw-teams-up-with-vetrepreneur-to-aid-vets-in-business-ownership>

VFW Celebrates the Navy's 249th Birthday

The VFW salutes all sailors of the service that was “Forged by the Sea”

WASHINGTON – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) joins in with our grateful nation in celebrating the birthday of the U.S. Navy, who has protected and defended freedom both at home and around the globe for the past 249 years.



On Oct. 13, 1775, a resolution of the Continental Congress established what is now the United States Navy with “a swift sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns, and a proportionable number of swivels, with 80 men, be fitted, with all possible dispatch, for a cruise of three months ...” While disbanded for a short while after the end of the Revolutionary War, it was permanently established by the passing of the Naval Act, signed into law by President George Washington in 1794. This act authorized the construction of six frigates, which were the first ships of what eventually became the modern U.S. Navy.

Today, the U.S. Navy has a fleet of nearly 300 battle force ships, more than 4,000 aircraft and a combined force of more than 604,000 active duty, reserve and civilian personnel, with a mission to “deliver combat ready Naval forces to win conflicts and wars while maintaining security and deterrence through sustained forward presence.” With its near-futuristic technology, thoroughly trained and highly dedicated professional sailors, and an unmatched winning record “Forged by the Sea,” it is no wonder today’s American naval warfare service branch is touted as “the largest, most advanced and most lethal fighting force the world has ever known.”

Please join the more than 1.4 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary in saying ‘thank you’ to every American sailor, both past and present, and wishing them a happy 249th birthday!

SOURCE: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2024/10/vfw-celebrates-the-navys-249th-birthday>



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VFW POST 3261 OFFICERS

Commander – James "Jimmy C" Carradine

Senior Vice Commander – Anthony Dixon

Junior Vice Commander - Larry "Skip" Anglin

Quartermaster – Norman "Norm" Chibana

Chaplain - Anthony Dixon

1st Year Trustee – Fermyn J. Archer

2nd Year Trustee – Robert J. Galda

3rd Year Trustee – Elvin Carter

Adjutant – Norman "Norm" Chibana

Service Officer – Larry "Skip" Anglin

