VFW POST 3904 NEWS YOU CAN USE

STEWART-WENDELL DISPATCH

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4 JANUARY 2023

2022 WAS A GREAT YEAR!

An eventful year for the Post, 2022 saw us buy a pre-existing building, have many successful Burger Burns, obtain our Bingo License, add 13 new Post members and, finally, we are working hard on getting our new building fully operational.

The only thing we are missing is you!

Of course, Bingo is coming once we have the electrical work, bathrooms, office/cash cage, spray foam and HVAC complete. In mid-December, we finally got our ducks in a row and were able to move forward at more than a snail's pace. Look for family friendly events, Saturday lunch at the Post and other activities we will be able to do once Phase I of our renovations are complete.

2023 looks to bring the Post more into the community. Our Facebook page is now more active and our website is, slowly but surely, becoming more current.

We look forward to helping more veterans and being more active in the community this year. We hope you can join us soon!

VFW LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES IN 2022

One of the many benefits of membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) is a major presence on Capitol Hill. Over 1,600,000 veterans' voices are heard loud and clear through the VFW's National Legislative Service.

This Service advocates on behalf of the VFW membership on it annual legislative priorities which may be viewed at https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service. This priorities are updated annually.

Anyone can be part of the grassroots efforts through the VFW Action Corp and Alerts. Please visit https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts and add your voice to help veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

(continued on page 2)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *VFW Legislative Victories*
- *COLA increase VA Disability*
- *To Understand a Vet you must Know …*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

COLA INCREASE FOR VA DISABILITY	2
FRIENDS OF POST 3904	3
CALENDAR	4
GUN RAFFLE	6
VETERAN CAREER EXPO	7

COLA INCREASE FOR VA COMPENSATION BENEFITS!

Due to the record increase in the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Social Security Benefits of 8.7% which is based on the ever increasing Consumer Price Index, those who receive disability compensation benefits, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation or one of three special payments from the Veterans' Administration (VA) will see the largest increase in compensation benefits in over 30 years.

If you or someone you know receives any of the VA Benefit payments, please visit https://news.va.gov/113397/record-pay-increase-va-compensation/ for more information.

Persons receiving this increase should see the increase in their monthly payment starting January 2023. If this increase is not reflected correctly in the January payment, please contact your Regional VA Office. More information on how to contact your Regional VA Benefits Office is available at https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp. If you are in the Coastal Bend, contact the Houston offices via the link above.

For Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income increases, visit https://blog.ssa.gov/social-security-benefits-increase-in-2023/.

VFW LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES DURING 2022

THE VFW LEGISLATIVE TEAM HAD MANY WINS THIS YEAR INCLINCLUDING THE PACT ACT AND NO TIME LIMIT ON VR&E

(continued from page 1)

This calendar year has seen major and minor victories for veterans in the national legislature. Below is a listing of these.

Passage of the *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022*, known as the PACT Act. This historic, comprehensive legislation expands health care for generations of veterans who previously had to prove their conditions or illnesses were the result of service-connected exposure to toxic substances or environments. It includes VA provisions for 23 presumptive conditions for rare respiratory diseases and cancers, and creates a framework for the establishment of future presumptions of service connection related to toxic exposure.

Passage of the *Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act* expands eligibility for VA mammography screenings to veterans who served in certain areas during specific time periods, and the Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options for Veterans Act addresses provisions of mammograms and breast cancer treatment within VA.

Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act and Uniform Code of Military Justice reform on sexual assault and harassment included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022.

Passage of the *PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act* which will establish a pilot program on dog training therapy for veterans diagnosed with PTSD and require VA to provide service dogs for those veterans, including veterinary insurance.

Passage of the Deborah Sampson Act, which removing the barriers to health care impacting women veterans.

Inclusion of bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and parkinsonism to the list of Department of Veterans Affairs presumptive conditions for herbicide exposure.

Implementation of VA's maternity care coordination program to equip community care providers with training and support for the unique pregnancy and postpartum needs of women veterans.

Elimination of the 12-year limit on using Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits.

Friends of Post 3904 stands up on January 25

We constantly get asked, "How can I help? What can I do to help out the Post?"

We finally have an answer!

On January 25, 2023, at 6PM, there will be an inaugural meeting of the Friends of Post 3904. The mission—to assist the Post in helping Veterans and helping the community.

Who can be a member? If you are breathing you can be a member!

"I am 12 years old and I want to join. Can I?" Of course you can!

"I have children and cannot find a sitter. What can I do? Join us! We are family friendly. The Post is no-smoking (we smoke outside) and we do not have a bar. Your child being a child can put a smile on the face of someone who needs it just by running around and being themselves.

We will be meeting at the Post (916 HWY 35 S - just south of Air Boss and next to the Children's Coalition Day-care Center on Business 35 south of Market). Please come down and be part of the solution!

If you cannot attend this meeting, please email 3904Commander@gmail.com to let us know you are interested. Please leave you name, phone number and email and you will be added to the distribution list.

Veterans in need of assistance

Are you or do you know a veteran who needs assistance? The Stewart-Wendell VFW Post 3904 is here to help.

The first and foremost mission of the VFW is to assist veterans and their families. It was why we were founded in 1899 and why we still exist today.

Through an amazing coincidence, we have been granted a large sum of money to assist veterans with basic needs, housing, bill payments among other monetary needs. We are also working on networking throughout the County and the Coastal Bend so if we cannot help, we can connect you will someone who can.

We also have a Post member who is very good at helping in filing claims for VA Benefits. Contact Rob at 909-721-8980. He will help you with getting your claim filed. He is also very knowledgeable about many areas of the VA Healthcare System.

Need someone to talk? Stop by when we are open (M,W,F 7am-1pm and T,Th 9-11am) and we can talk with you or just listen. Tony with Point-man Ministries is usually available.

> The first and foremost mission of the VFW is to assist veterans and their families since 1899.

Paris Peace Accords signed January 27, 1973

The negotiations to end the Vietnam Conflict culminated in the signing of the *Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam* also known as the Paris Peace Accords.

Negotiations began in 1968 and were mainly between US National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger and North Vietnam Politburo member Le Duc Tho. The signing required a cease fire in South Vietnam, withdrawal of all US and allied forces within 60 days, exchange of all Prisoners of War and other concessions on both sides.

To everyone's chagrin, fighting broke out again by the end of March 1973.

US Forces were not completely removed from Vietnam until the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975.

A very unpopular war at home, 58,281 personnel were killed in action or died in captivity or as the result of non-combat situations. Of the 153,372 wounded in action with approximately 46,000 dying from their wounds.

US Secretary of State William P Rogers signing the Paris Peace Accords—January 27, 1973

VFW Post 3904

August 2023

July '23

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September '23

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October '23

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Coast Guard Bday (1790)	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Aviation Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
		Notes			Calendar Templates by Vertex42.com https://www.vertex42.com/calendars/ © 2022 Vertex42 LLC. Free to print. 2023 Calendars 2024 Calendars	

ASK THE COMMANDER

Every month, Post Commander Katy Jackson answer veteran and Post related questions received at 3904Commander@gmail.com. Please email in your questions and they will be answered here.

Question - I am a widow of a service member and am enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). I had heard a while back the payment I receive will increase. Can you please tell me more?

Answer - Great questions which I am sure affects other surviving spouses in the area.

Called the Widow's Tax, if a service member was receiving VA benefits when they died, the surviving spouse then received Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the VA. The amount of DIC received from the VA was subtracted from the SBP payment. Called the SBP-DIC Offset, it was essentially a "tax" on surviving spouse.

The last time surviving spouses will see the offset in their payments is February 2023. The March 2023 payments will be the full SBP and the full DIC. For more information, please visit www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/survivors/SBP-DIC-News.

Question: I have driven by the Post several times and noticed the different flags in front of the building. What flags are you flying>

Answer: Thank you for the question. We currently have the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard Service flags along with a VFW flag. We rotate through these as the mood strikes. Soon, we will have a schedule for which flag will be flown when and for how long.

TO UNDERSTAND A VETERAN YOU MUST KNOW:

* We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.

* We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.

* We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.

* We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.

* We found new friends and new family.

* We became brothers and sisters regardless of colour, race or creed.

* We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.

* We didn't get enough sleep.

* We smoked and drank too much.

* We picked up both good and bad habits.

* We worked hard and played harder.

* We didn't earn a great wage.

* We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.

* We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.

* We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.

* We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.

* Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.

* Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.

* Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.

* We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.

* We participated in time honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.

* We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.

* We have dealt with victory and tragedy.

* We have celebrated and mourned.

* We lost a few along the way.

* When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.

* We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.

* We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.

* We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.

* We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.

* Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.

* It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.

Posted on Facebook on November 8, 2022, by Bobby Robson. The last two items sums it up - being a Veteran is earned and it is priceless.

VFW POST 3904
ANNUAL GUN RAFFLE

Ruger American Predator W/ Vortex Scope 6.5 Creedmoor 16953

- Equipped with a factory-installed Vortex® Crossfire II® riflescope with the Dead-Hold BDC reticle mounted on one-piece Picatinny scope base.
- Also includes: one magazine; sling swivel studs.

Tickets: $20 each
Drawing will be held Jan 22, 2023
Must be 21 or older and be able to pass a background check to purchase a ticket
Tickets may be purchased in person, online, or scan the QR Code to buy.

ROCK ISLAND ARMORY M1911-A1 GI PARKERIZED 10MM 5" BARREL 8-ROUNDS CAMO VZ G10 GRIPS

The Rock Island Armory M1911-A1 GI is perfect for self defense. This 1911 is chambered in 10mm, has a 5-inch barrel, and comes with one 8-round magazine. With a Parkerized finish, it features fixed GI style sights and has Mil-Spec Camo VZ G10 grips.

SPONSOR A TABLE

SUPPORT VFW POST 3904

ADVERTISING FOR LIFE

8' RECTANGLE TABLE AND 8 CHAIRS – $550

INCLUDES:

- TABLE WRAP WITH 12"X12" (SPONSOR PROVIDED DESIGN)
- SMALL PLASTIC PLATE WITH SPONSOR NAME ON CHAIRS
- MAINLY USED IN HALL FOR BINGO AND LARGE EVENTS

4' ROUND TABLE AND 4 CHAIRS – $350

INCLUDES:

- TABLE WRAP WITH 8"X8" LOGO(SPONSOR PROVIDED DESIGN)
- SMALL PLASTIC PLATE WITH SPONSOR NAME ON CHAIRS
- MAINLY USED IN STOREFRONT AND SMALL EVENTS

ALL TABLE AND CHAIRS ARE MADE IN THE USA BY LIFETIME PRODUCTS

PLEASE EMAIL 3904COMMANDER@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION WE WILL GLADLY COME TO YOU TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

TABLES PURCHASED PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 2023, WILL NOT BE CHARGED FOR PRICE INCREASE

TEXAS VFW FOUNDATION

I GAVE. WILL YOU?®

Military & Veteran Career Expo

January 19, 2023
10am—2pm

Preregister online at:
TexasVFWFoundationCareerExpo.eventbrite.com

In Person!

Omni Hotel | Corpus Christi, TX
900 N Shoreline Blvd,
1st Floor—Bayview room
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

NEW YEAR NEW CAREER!
Meet employers in person to learn about available career opportunities & explore new careers.

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Texas Veterans Leadership Program

STEWART-WENDELL POST
3904 VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

PO Box 184
Rockport, TX 78381

Email: vfw.post.3904@gmail.com

WE ARE ON THE WEB!
WWW.VFWPOST3904.COM

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

The purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States are patriotic, historical, charitable and educational, and are:

1. To preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members;
2. To assist worthy comrades;
3. To perpetuate the memory and history of our dead and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans;
4. To maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States and fidelity to its Constitution and laws;
5. To foster true patriotism;
6. To maintain and extend the instructions of American freedom; and
7. To preserve and defend the United States from all enemies.

From: Congressional Charter - Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United Stated. Incorporated on May 28, 1936 and last amended on December 4, 2014

Advertise with the Stewart Wendell Dispatch!

Would you like to advertise in this newsletter? Our circulation is growing and we would like to offer a very affordable venue for your advertising needs. Options are listed below

One business card

Black and white - one month $5, six months $25, one year $50.

Color - one month $6, six months $30, on year $60

Two business cards (one on top of the other)

Black and White - one month $10, six months $50, one year $100

Color - one month $11, six months $55, one year $110

Please see our advertising policy at www.vfwpost3904.com/post-3904-advertising-policy.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS®