



Munster Indiana Post 2697
VFW
Veterans of Foreign Wars



PASS THE WORD
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF POST 2697

**Munster VFW Post 2697 has been
recognized as an
All-American Post
2023-2024!**

**Congratulations to all the members of the post for doing
the work and helping the post reach this milestone in back-
to-back years!**

July 2024

Next Regular Business Meeting: 18 July @ 1900 hrs

Important Dates to Remember:

2 July – U.S. Army Air Corps established (1926)

4 July – Independence Day

18 July - **Regular Business Meeting at Munster Town Hall @ 1900 hrs.**

27 July – Korean War Ended (1953)

28 July – World War I Began (1914)

VFW Membership

Our VFW Post exceeded the 102% membership requirement for the 2023/24 VFW calendar year. Thanks to John S. and Frank D. for bringing in the new members. Our post received a congratulatory plaque for reaching our membership goal. I'd like to welcome our new members to the post for 2024/25 VFW calendar year, Daniel Rios and Andrew Whaley. For the year, the

Department also met it's 102% goal and is being recognized as an All-American Department. I believe the goal for this year is also 102%.

July General Orders

Highlights from the July General Orders are listed below. If you want any further information on anything below, please don't hesitate to ask and something can be sent out to you specifically.

- **New State Commander** – Our new state commander is Cory Mahan (USMC). District 1 Commander is Jeff Norkus (Post 9323 – Lake Station).
- **Commander Mahan's Special Project – Irreverent Warriors**. The mission of the Irreverent Warriors is to bring veterans together using humor and camaraderie to improve mental health and prevent veteran suicide. This years motto is “Plant – Nurture – Harvest”
- **2024/25 VOD and PP Theme's** – The VOD theme is, “Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?”, the PP theme is, “My Voice in America's Democracy?”
- **VFW National Convention Housing** – Indiana has been assigned the Hyatt Regency for the National Convention in Louisville, KY. Rooms can be found at www.vfw.org if you're interested in going.
- **Post Trustee's Audits** – All audits for the 4th quarter are due to HQ no later than 31 July.
- **2024 School of Instruction** – The SOI is on Saturday, August 17th at the Indianapolis Marriott East. If you are a QM, Adjutant or Trustee and are interested in going, please see Commander Joe.
- **2024-2025 State Shirt** – The state shirt is available for order and must be received by 17 August in order to receive them for the fall conference in October. If interested in a state shirt, please see Commander Joe at the July business meeting.

District 1 Appointments (Voluntold's)

Congratulations to our own Sr. Vice Commander, Jesse Casiano who has been elected as Sr. Vice Commander of District 1. Past District 1 Commander and current post Judge Advocate General Frank Darrington as accepted the position of Chairman of the Patriots Pen Committee, Commander Joe has accepted the position as Trustee and Chairman of the Teacher of the Year Committee. We wish Jesse all the best this year as District Sr. Vice Commander and look forward to his eventual rise to District Commander in the future.

4th of July Debrief

Thanks to all of the post members who came out to support our efforts during the 4th of July Parade. I believe our post was well represented. It was great not having to scrounge around to find people carrying flags or rifles. We had plenty of members on hand to help out, plus be able to walk the parade route handing out flags and we even had a few that were able to ride along and enjoy the parade. Thanks to everyone for coming out and showing up strong for our VFW post. You should all be proud!

New Post Polo Shirts

New polo shirts have arrived! For those who came to the 4th of July Parade, they all received theirs. For some of those unable to make the parade, I have a shirt for them. For those who still need to attend functions to qualify for a polo, we've got some opportunities for you, we've got the National Night Out against Crime, Tuesday, August 6th @ 4:30pm, and we'll have multiple weekends for fundraising in October.

Post Website Update

The post website is now updated with current contact information and links to the National Suicide Hotline. I also added the monthly newsletters and will do my best to continue to add them throughout the year. Most of the pictures on the site are old, so if you have any recent pictures you'd like to add, please send them my way. Many people don't know, but we also have a twitter account and a Facebook account. I will try to link Facebook to the website soon. I admit, I'm a social media idiot so I have no idea if I've set it up correctly (I might need my kid to help.) The website address is: **munstervfw.org**.

Other tech notes.....

For the April Business Meeting, we trialed a TEAMS call, (it's basically a zoom call under a different name.) Surprisingly we were able to get it to work and our Sr. Vice Commander was able to remote into the meeting live. We were unable to try out TEAMS for our June meeting because we were moved to the small conference room by some politicians who surprisingly (sarcasm) went over their scheduled meeting time, and there isn't a TV monitor capable of accessing TEAMS, so we're going to try it one more time here at the July meeting, if it works again, then we'll send it out to the membership so even those members not in the area can still attend a meeting. In order to participate, you'd have to download the Teams app on your phone or computer then you should be good to go. It's very easy to access Teams for remote meeting access. We do need to do some homework on using this new type of remote access, I believe by accessing a meeting remotely, then you are still actively engaged in the functions of the meeting, which means you can make/2nd motions, vote and participate in discussions. The only thing you can't do remotely is eat donuts with the members afterwards.

We are also working on setting up a QR code to assist with our fundraising efforts. Those of us who have worked a poppy day fundraiser always hear, "I don't have any cash on me." Having a QR code takes that excuse away. We're hoping to have it in place for the fall fundraiser.



Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen

It's never too early to start reaching out to any youth we might know about submitting for these two programs. The deadline is 31 October.

Patriot Pen Theme = "My Voice in America's Democracy?"

Voice of Democracy Theme = "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"



"Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition "
Lt Howell Forgy (Chaplain Corps) serving in the heavy
cruiser USS New Orleans (CA-32) during the Japanese
attack at Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941



Carry On!

Send correspondence
Commandermunstervfw@gmail.com
3542 44th Place, Highland, IN

