



DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY HEADQUARTERS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

GENERAL ORDER #1

2026-2027

1. Having been elected Department Commander and having been installed into office in accordance with the By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command.

2. The following officers have been duly elected and installed by the 107th Department Convention and will be accorded the recognition due to them:

Senior Vice Commander: Brianna Felice Post 6469

Junior Vice Commander: Derek L. Farthing Post 2294

Quartermaster: Filipe Oliveira Post 3117

Judge Advocate: Michael Boll Post 2433

Surgeon: Brian Schreck Post 3117

Chaplain: Andrew Hickman Post 9503

Department Council of Administration Members:

Past State Commander: Luddie Austin Post 12165

District 1: Rudy Hass Post 7198

District 2: Bruce Young Post 3149

District 3: Tony Goodson Post 2294

District 4: Brian Gallagher Post 7925

District 5: Brian Gorczyca Post 2230

District 6: Wilbur Martin Post 1333

District 7: George Bethel Post 303

District 8: Edward Machinski Post 7508

District 10: Brian Bergen Post 2519

District 11: Darryl Wilkins Post 10065

District 12: Carmine Czapla Post 6063

District 13: David Young Post 5579

District 15: Jim Wisor Post 2290

District 16: Mario Perrucci Post 6964

District 17: David Louderback Post 5343

District 18: Terry Smith Post 491

District 19: Georg F. Hambach Post 7921

District 21: Franklin A. Smith Post 5360

3. All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant: Filipe Oliveira Post 3117

Chief of Staff: Barbara Kim-Hagemann Post 6063

Inspector: Edward Machinski Post 7508

Service Officer: Robert Wiess Post 133

Rider Chairman: James Russo Post 12173

Officer of the Day: Francis Nelson: Post 7164

5. Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during to 2026-2027 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Smart/Maher VFW National Citizen Education Teacher's Awards, Buddy Poppy, and National Military Service.

6. Each Post shall make arrangements for observances of Memorial Day, see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased members and, if practicable, conduct Memorial Day Services in the cemeteries in its locality. Each Post shall see that suitable arrangements are made for the observance of Veterans Day, Flag Day, and Loyalty Day. In addition, the Post should arrange special ceremonies, and all Commanders should alert comrades to their obligations for appropriate commemoration of other dates specified in the Ritual.

7. Attention of all Commanders at all levels is directed to Section 703 of the National By-Laws which requires each accountable officer to be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he/she may be accountable.

8. Attention to all Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 (a)(11)(b) Manual of Procedure Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through the Post Commander, a Post Trustee' Report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September.

9. District Commanders and Inspectors shall make every effort to ensure all posts within their jurisdiction are inspected prior to February 1, 2027.

10. All units within the Department of New Jersey shall ensure the timely filing of Internal Revenue Forms 990 and 990T where applicable.

11. All Post Commanders shall ensure attendance at all properly called for District conventions or meetings in accordance with Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure. District Commanders shall ensure compliance.

12. All units within the Department of New Jersey shall adopt and adhere to the Department Policy Prohibiting Discrimination. Section V "Dissemination" of this policy shall become part of the annual inspection process.

13. Any criminal gang, group, or enterprise, including street gangs or motorcycle gangs or clubs, including their individual members, that are identified or listed by a federal or state law enforcement agency in any gang list or threat assessment; are prohibited from wearing apparel or "colors" which signifies membership or allegiance to any criminal gang, group, or enterprise at any VFW Post or business operated by or on behalf of the post regardless of Post membership approval.

This includes the individual or group hosting, renting, or attending any event on VFW property. This does not prohibit clubs or persons officially affiliated with the VFW, VFW Riders, other Veteran Service Organizations/Veteran Motorcycle Clubs, or other benevolent organizations from wearing apparel or "colors" on VFW property.

14. Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars shall not make any statement on behalf of the organization to the news media concerning pending VFW sponsored legislation on a State or National level, or any VFW policies of a State or National nature without first obtaining permission from the Department of New Jersey VFW Headquarters.

BY THE COMMAND OF

KEN HAGEMANN COMMANDER

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY



ATTEST: FILIPE OLIVEIRA STATE ADJUTANT

