

December 2021
Post Newsletter
WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Staff

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This month is the push for COVID-19 boosters. Please check with your doctor if you want to receive the shot. Also, for those who want, flu shots can be taken at the same time as the booster. If you go to a VA hospital or clinic, you have the option to walk in for the shots.

VA News

New Added Presumptive – Over the last six months, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun processing service-connected disability claims for six new presumptive conditions related to environmental exposures during military service. They want to help make more veterans aware of these newly added presumptive conditions, and help them file a claim and obtain any earned benefits.

In May 2021, VA started implementing provisions of the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA), adding bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism to the list of medical conditions presumptively

Save the Dates

Dec. 14th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** In person

Dec. 17th – deadline for January newsletter

Jan. 11th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** In person

associated with exposure to Agent Orange. A few months later, the VA added asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis (to include rhinosinusitis) on a presumptive basis based on particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas.

Any veteran who was previously denied service-connection for any of these six conditions but had symptoms manifest within 10 years of military service would need to file a supplemental claim.

Veterans Legacy Memorial

The Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) is the nation's first digital platform dedicated entirely to the memory of more than 4.3 million Veterans interred in VA's national cemeteries.

Interactive features allow family, friends and others to preserve their veteran's legacy by posting tributes (comments), upload images, share their veteran's military service timeline and achievements, biographical information, historical documents and more.

That's all for now. Until next time, stay safe!

Ad Maiora

Quartermaster Report

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Statement of funds as of 11/9/21

Post General Fund	\$6,297.25
Post Relief Fund	9,328.97
TOTAL:	\$15,626.22

Semper Fidelis!

Holiday Fun Facts

Fun Fact #1

Santa makes a six figure salary! In 2016, researchers compared Santa's many duties, including checking lists, wrapping gifts and piloting a sleigh with data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics to calculate his annual salary.

His most lucrative task, running a workshop, earns him \$121, 779. Tasting cookies and milk only nets him \$210. Santa's overall salary in 2016 was \$146,308.

Fun Fact #2

Those chestnuts roasting on an open fire were most likely imported into the United States because a blight wiped out out North American chestnut trees over a decade ago.

The American Chestnut Foundation is on a mission to change that by planting new trees. To make a donation, visit acf.org.

Fun Fact #3

The US branch of Italy's famous Bauli bakery offers a gluten-free version of its famous panettone cake for the holidays.

This product offering required government intervention in Italy, where lawmakers submitted a 1,965-word amendment to the European Commission petitioning it to expand baking regulations to include gluten-free flour – and allow the treat to be called by its official name, panettone.

Fun Facts #4-5

Real Christmas trees are better for the environment than artificial trees. This is for a number of reasons, from the toxic materials fake trees are made of to the fact that Christmas tree farms serve as a habitat for local wildlife.

Speaking of trees, Norway sends a Christmas tree to Britain every year as a symbol of gratitude for their help preserving Norwegian liberty during World War II.

Source: Food Network Magazine & BuzzFeed