

January 2022
Post Newsletter
WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Staff

By Esteban Lopez

630-765-1848

lopez_esteban@hotmail.com

Comrades, we've reached the end of another calendar year. 2021 has presented its challenges, and our Post has met those challenges by applying various forms of innovation to fulfill the VFW's mission statement:

“to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts and to serve our veterans, the military, our communities and advocate on behalf of all veterans.”

This year we have missed some comrades but gained new ones. We are back on track helping veterans and bringing a little relief when possible. I know that our veteran brothers, sisters, and families appreciate your efforts and kindness. In doing so, you also fulfill President Lincoln's promise “to care for those 'who shall have borne the battle.'”

December 2021 marked another milestone for the VFW as the House and Senate passed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (NDAA). The VFW vision is to:

Save the Dates

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

Jan. 14th – deadline for February newsletter

Feb. 8th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting**

“ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.”

The Senate committee passed 25 veteran bills including numerous VFW-supported bills to the Senate floor. The following are highlights of some of these bills.

- **Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options (MAMMO) for Veterans Act** – To strengthen and expand access to high-quality breast cancer screening and life-saving care for veterans.
- **Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act** – Legislation authorizing several VA construction projects

- to serve veterans for fiscal year 2022.
- **Rural Veterans Travel Enhancement Act of 2021** – Legislation to permanently expand travel assistance programs and advance travel reimbursements for low-income veterans.
 - **Veterans’ Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act** – Legislation to expand treatment and research of prostate cancer to help diagnose and treat veterans through the VA, which is the number one cancer diagnosed by the Veterans Health Administration.
 - **Reform and Update Rural Access to Local (RURAL) Exams Act of 2021** – Legislation to improve rural veterans’ access to medical disability examinations by enhancing the transparency of the medical disability examination program and revamping how VA delivers exams to rural and housebound veterans.
 - **Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2021** – Legislation to tackle the Department’s claims backlog, increase transparency over the claims process, and provide veterans with timelier access to their earned benefits.
 - **Burial Equity for Guards and Reserves Act of 2021** – Legislation to ensure all members of Reserve components and the National Guard are eligible to be buried in state veterans cemeteries so long as their service was terminated under honorable conditions.

- **Supporting Families of the Fallen Act** – Legislation to increase the VA’s Service members’ Group Life Insurance and Veterans’ Group Life Insurance coverage – upgrading these coverage amounts for the first time since 2005.
- **Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act** – Legislation requiring VA to expand veterans’ access to the Medical Foster Home program, which allows veterans in need of long-term care to choose to live in the home of a VA-approved caregiver rather than institutional care.

That's all for now. Happy New Year!

Stay Safe!
Ad Maiora

Quartermaster Report

By Mike Winner

(708) 829-0069

Gonakadet@att.net

Statement of funds as of 12/14/21

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Post General Fund | \$5,793.25 |
| Post Relief Fund | 4,082.57 |
| TOTAL: | \$9,875.82 |

Thanks to the members of our Post, in December we donated \$2,000 to the Hines Fisher House, \$2,000 to the Hines, Jr. VA Hospital and \$1,000 to Mission 22, a mission to end Veteran suicide.

Also, our own Walt Bergenthal was able to gift 20 \$25 Christmas cards to patients at the VA hospital spinal ward.

Semper Fidelis!