

1. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief and having been installed in office in accordance with the Bylaws 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 120th National Convention and will be accorded the recognition due them:

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Harold J. "Hal" Roesch, II, Post 3219, Phoebus, Virginia

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Matthew M. "Fritz" Mihelcic, Post 2698, Sparta, Illinois

Quartermaster General

Debra L. Anderson, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

National Chaplain

James G. "Jim" Jenkins, Post 6401, Bonner Springs, Kansas

Judge Advocate General

J. Douglas "Doug" Whitaker, Post 9675, Papillion, Nebraska

Surgeon General

Curtis O. "Doc" Bohlman, Post 1335, Woodward, Oklahoma

National Council of Administration Members

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Alabama     | George H. Jones, Post 6073, Scottsboro, Alabama              |
| Alaska      | Walter W. Watts, Jr., Post 3629, Fairbanks, Alaska           |
| Arizona     | Michael K. "Mike" Ferguson, Post 3632, Tempe, Arizona        |
| Arkansas    | Ashley A. Little, Post 4548, Jacksonville, Arkansas          |
| California  | Earl D. Fulk, Post 9934, Dana Point, California              |
| Colorado    | Bruce R. Dolan, Post 7945, Thornton, Colorado                |
| Connecticut | Richard G. DiFederico, Jr., Post 7330, Oakville, Connecticut |
| Delaware    | William R. "Russ" Hall, Post 8801, Clayton, Delaware         |
| Europe      | Norberto "Tony" Millet, Jr., Post 9342, Ansbach, Germany     |
| Florida     | W. Benny Bachand, Post 4287, Orlando, Florida                |
| Georgia     | Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt, Post 12002, North Fulton, Georgia  |
| Hawaii      | Stanley Y. Fernandez, Post 10276, Honolulu, Hawaii           |
| Idaho       | Rick W. Johnson, Post 4902, Cottonwood, Idaho                |
| Illinois    | Philip L. "Phil" Maughan, Post 3873, Naperville, Illinois    |
| Indiana     | Johnny R. Capps, Post 972, Terre Haute, Indiana              |
| Iowa        | Carol L. Whitmore, Post 9127, Des Moines, Iowa               |
| Kansas      | Bobby J. Cox, Post 2715, McPherson, Kansas                   |
| Kentucky    | Robert O. "Bob" Hendrickson, Post 8639, Okolona, Kentucky    |
| Louisiana   | Gerald G. "Snake" Dugas, Post 3121, Gretna, Louisiana        |
| Maine       | David D. Williams, Post 1641, Rumford, Maine                 |
| Maryland    | R. Brian Sturgis, Post 5118, Easton, Maryland                |

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**WASHINGTON OFFICE**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Massachusetts  | Robert A. "Bob" Graser, Post 1822, Plymouth, Massachusetts            |
| Michigan       | Gerald J. "Jerry" Gorski, Post 2645, Southfield, Michigan             |
| Minnesota      | Thomas L. "Tom" Hanson, Post 1639, Willmar, Minnesota                 |
| Mississippi    | Steven M. "Steve" Organ, Post 5395, Pontotoc, Mississippi             |
| Missouri       | Jessie L. Jones, Post 2657, Fulton, Missouri                          |
| Montana        | Arthur J. "Art" Widhalm, Post 3107, Glasgow, Montana                  |
| Nebraska       | Larry M. Gerlt, Post 2704, South Omaha, Nebraska                      |
| Nevada         | Gilbert "Gil" Hernandez, Post 2350, Elko, Nevada                      |
| New Hampshire  | Paul J. Lloyd, Post 1631, Concord, New Hampshire                      |
| New Jersey     | William F. "Bill" Thomson, Post 6192, Washington Township, New Jersey |
| New Mexico     | Kathie D. Schiebel, Post 401, Albuquerque, New Mexico                 |
| New York       | Robert E. "Bob" Barnhart, Post 686, High Falls, New York              |
| North Carolina | Gregory A. "Greg" Stafford, Post 6060, Elizabeth City, North Carolina |
| North Dakota   | James H. "Hoppy" Hapala, Post 7564, West Fargo, North Dakota          |
| Ohio           | Christopher W. "Chris" Haynes, Post 7596, Franklin, Ohio              |
| Oklahoma       | Robert A. "Robbie" Clark, Post 4876, Altus, Oklahoma                  |
| Oregon         | Bert W. Key, Post 4273, Sandy, Oregon                                 |
| Pacific Areas  | Shawn C. Watson, Post 2917, Agat, Guam                                |
| Pennsylvania   | Robert C. Eiler, Post 7842, Linesville, Pennsylvania                  |
| Rhode Island   | Guyde A. Lombardi, Jr., Post 2812, Thornton, Rhode Island             |
| South Carolina | Augustus "Gus" Singleton, Post 4262, Columbia, South Carolina         |
| South Dakota   | Rick L. Williamson, Post 3164, Canton, South Dakota                   |
| Tennessee      | Henry Hooper, II, Post 11333, Memphis, Tennessee                      |
| Texas          | Daniel L. "Dan" West, Post 3413, San Marcos, Texas                    |
| Utah           | Dennis L. Parizek, Post 1481, Ogden, Utah                             |
| Vermont        | Allston J. "Joe" Gilmond, Post 782, Burlington, Vermont               |
| Virginia       | Thomas F. "Tom" Gimble, Post 1503, Dale City, Virginia                |
| Washington     | Frederick A. "Fred" Green, Post 2669, Port Orchard, Washington        |
| West Virginia  | Todd C. Kingsbury, Post 3522, Charles Town, West Virginia             |
| Wisconsin      | Gundel "Gundy" Metz, Post 1318, Madison, Wisconsin                    |
| Wyoming        | Rodney A. Birkle, Post 3558, Wheatland, Wyoming                       |

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

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant General

Kevin C. Jones, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

National Chief of Staff

Paul R. Phillips, Jr., Post 2863, Richardson Park, Delaware

Inspector General

Duane T. Sarmiento, Post 5579, Gibbstown, New Jersey

Assistant Adjutant General & Executive Director, Washington Office

Vincent B.J. Lawrence, Post 7686, Alamogordo, New Mexico

Assistant Adjutant General, Administration & Programs

Kim A. DeShano, Post 2216, Staunton, Virginia

Director, Administration & Economic Opportunity, Washington Office

Anthony J. Lowe, Post 341, Washington, DC

Director, Administrative Operations

Johnathan R. Duncan, Post 1829, Kansas City, Missouri

Director, Communications & Public Affairs, Washington Office

Joseph E. Davis, Post 3391, Pago Pago, American Samoa

Director, Member Service Center

David E. Prohaska, Post 4434, Belleville, Michigan

Director, Membership

Rick L. Butler, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, National Legislative Service

Carlos U. Fuentes, Post 5627, College Park, Maryland

Director, National Security and Foreign Affairs

Johnathon N. Towles, Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia

Director, National Veterans Service

Ryan M. Gallucci, Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia

Director, VFW Programs

Lynn W. Rolf, III, Post 56, Leavenworth, Kansas

Director, VFW Properties

Brian T. Opalewski, Post 7397, Lenexa, Kansas

National Sergeant-at-Arms

Bryan P. O'Brien, Post 2550, Dunedin, Florida

5. For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its VFW Auxiliary.
6. Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2019-20 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teachers' Awards, "Buddy"<sup>®</sup> Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.
7. Post Commanders and District Commanders are directed to forward all resolutions or communications relative to federal legislation or to the policy or procedure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other governmental agency, to their respective Department Headquarters for consideration and referral to the Adjutant General. Department Commanders will not take direct action on any such resolutions or communications without first obtaining full knowledge of existing National Headquarters policies governing such legislation or agencies. Posts, County Councils, Districts and officers and members thereof shall not publicly communicate or promulgate any such resolutions until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief.
8. DEPARTMENT DUES RESERVE: Due to the passage of Bylaw Amendment B-38 at the 119th National Convention, it is no longer necessary for Departments to maintain a dues reserve fund effective August 24, 2018.

9. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to Section 703 of the National Bylaws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable.
10. Attention of 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 their Post Commander, a Post Trustees' Report of Audit (VFW Store product #4214) to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September. **Do not mail these reports to National Headquarters.**
11. Attention of Department and Post Commanders is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990/T, where applicable. Forms may be secured from your local Post Office or branch office of the Internal Revenue Service.
12. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).
13. The passage of Manual of Procedure Amendment M-30 has modified Section 1001(25) to read, "The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are prohibited."
14. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department Bylaws and directives. Department and District Inspectors shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.
15. U.S. Army ARDEC has issued guidance on the operation and maintenance of the M1 Garand. The manual can be found in the VFW Training & Support section at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) or you can visit the M1 Garand Associated Website: [www.m1garandtraining.com](http://www.m1garandtraining.com).
16. The distribution of VFW "Buddy"<sup>®</sup> Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Sections 711 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of "Buddy"<sup>®</sup> Poppies in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of "Buddy"<sup>®</sup> Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 704 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure.
17. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:
- Post Nos. 402 and 5756 consolidated as Post No. 402, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania  
Post Nos. 8322 and 3592 consolidated as Post No. 8322, Chicago, Illinois
18. Announcement is made of the authorization of the charter for the following Post:
- Post No. 12190 – Evans, Georgia

BY COMMAND OF  
WILLIAM "DOC" SCHMITZ  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin C. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kevin C. Jones  
Adjutant General