

**Volume 6, Issue 10**

**April 2025**



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Our Total For 2024-2025 – 841

Year-To-Date – 776

Percentage – 92.27 %

District 1 2024-2025 – 3444

Year-To-Date – 3066

Percentage – 89.02%



# ***THE DISPATCH***

***NEWS AND INFORMATION***



## **Honoring Easter 2025: A Time of Reflection and Renewal** *From Harvey F. Eckhoff VFW Post 7674*

As Easter Sunday arrives on April 20, 2025, we join millions worldwide in celebrating a season of hope, renewal, and faith. For many of us in the veteran community, Easter is more than a holiday—it's a reminder of resilience, sacrifice, and the promise of brighter days ahead.

Just as spring brings new life and growth, Easter reminds us of the strength we carry within and the bonds we share. It's a time to reflect on those we've lost, honor our comrades, and give thanks for the freedoms we've fought to preserve.

At VFW Post 7674, we encourage our members and community to take a moment this Easter to reconnect with family, faith, and fellow veterans. Whether attending a sunrise service, sharing a meal, or simply enjoying a quiet morning, may you find peace and renewal in the season.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and meaningful Easter.



## **Commander Kevin Thurman Gives His Thoughts About The Post**

Spring is here and we are making things happen at an **OUTSTANDING** pace. Most of you have seen the new ballroom and dining room floors that we are putting in. Since we are working with a contractor, I can't really state the completion date but hopefully by the time this letter is made public it will be completed. It looks **GREAT** and will be much easier for upkeep and repairs. Special **THANKS** to Alan and Hollis for taking on the daily task for keeping the project moving forward! Also, with Spring here it is time to spruce up our outside area. Alan has been taking care of a lot of the cleanup and Hollis and his grandson Kaydon have been taking care of the lawn. We need to put together a big team for a big Saturday cleanup, so please keep your eyes open for the date to be decided soon...**WE NEED YOU!**

Our snowbirds have finished their winter migration for the most part and they all were absolutely terrific in supporting the Post in all of our meals, bingo, events and canteen operations. I want to **THANK** them all and wish them God's speed and safe travel and we look forward to your return next year.

We have been making great strides in our membership drive. We have had 8 re-instatements and 12 new members so far this year and a whole bunch of new transfers from other Posts. We are happy to have them all on board. We still have 49 members whose memberships will expire by the end of June and 18 members that have allowed their memberships to expire. We still need another 35 renewals or new sign ups before the end of April to make All State first selection process. I know everyone has been working hard but we basically need 1 person a day for the entire month to make this goal. Please pay your membership renewal **ASAP** or bring in one new person each, to help us all make this goal. We have made All State for 6 straight years and All American for 5 out of 6 of those years, so I know we can do it.

Lastly, it's that time of the year already to start considering who the next fiscal year of leadership will be. March opened nominations for all positions in the Post and we have many new faces stepping up to take a leadership role. We will be having new elections at our monthly

Meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm. **YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO VOTE!** If you are interested in serving in any of these positions and can not be present for the nomination, then you must submit a letter prior to the meeting stating you will accept the nomination. I highly encourage anyone seeking a position to speak with the current leadership for guidance and expectations. Our Post has thrived over the past several years from **GREAT TEAM WORK** and we have had many wonderful folks stepping up to make this Post the best in the State and maybe even the VFW overall. There are many training videos on the VFW.ORG website that can give you some insight into many of the positions and there are formal one day in-person courses that can get you going, if elected, in that leadership position. **THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR THE OUTSTANDING WORK YOU ALL DO EVERY DAY!**



Great work Cooties. We have finished the degree work on two more of our crummy vermin and we look forward to fully consuming them with the work and leadership positions that they so dearly deserve. Congratulations to Cootie's Byron and Tim; we are glad to have you both so deeply involved in everything we do.

We held our annual elections at our March Scratch and all the positions were filled and even a couple of new faces in new positions. It is going to be a **GREAT** year ahead and I look forward to many great events ahead. But most of all I want to **THANK** all of our hard working **VOLUNTEERS** for all the work that you do to help keep the Post /Pup Tent running and being involved in our number one priority of taking care of our Veterans. Cootie Hollis has been doing a tremendous job on making sure all of our hospital reports are put in monthly but he needs our help in making sure that we get him the information to make these reports. So many of you are doing these activities daily and we **THANK YOU** for that but just a short little blurb will help in the reporting and show National the hard work that our Pup Tent does every day.

Thanks to all that have been "keeping 'em smiling in beds of white!"

Kevin Thurman  
Seam Squirrel

### **4 USC 9: Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag** (Text contains those laws in effect on November 29, 2024)

#### **§9. Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag**

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other person's present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

# APRIL 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 WINGS & THINGS 5 – 7 PM QUEEN OF HEARTS 6:00 PM	2	3 BINGO 5 -???? PM	4 MOC FISH FRY 5 – 7 PM BEACH BAR LOUIE 6:30 PM	5 POST INVENTORY 8:30 AM
6 BREAKFAST 8 – 11:30 AM	7	8 WINGS & THINGS 5 – 7 PM QUEEN OF HEARTS 6:00 PM	9 OLD-TIMERS 5 -???? PM	10 BINGO 5 -???? PM	11 PORK CHOP OR FISH 5 – 7 PM THE “WRECKING CREW” 6:30 PM	12 DISTRICT MEETING POST 706 10:00 AM KATRINA 6:30 PM
13 BREAKFAST 8 – 11:30 AM	14 MOC SCRATCH 6:01 PM	15 WINGS & THINGS 5 – 7 PM QUEEN OF HEARTS 6:00 PM	16 HOUSE COMMITTEE 6:00 PM	17 BINGO 5 -???? PM	18 STEAK NIGHT OR SALMON 5 – 7 PM RANDY GARDNER 6:30 PM	19
20 BREAKFAST 8 – 11:30 AM  EASTER SUNDAY	21 POST MEETING 6:15 PM OFFICER ELECTIONS	22 QUEEN OF HEARTS 6:00 PM	23	24 BINGO 5 -???? PM	25 COUNTRY FRIED STEAK 5 – 7 PM GLEN MCCLEAN 6:30 PM	26
27 BREAKFAST 8 – 11:30 AM BAKE SALE	28	29 QUEEN OF HEARTS 6:00 PM	30			
SUNDAY POOL 2 PM		TUESDAY CRIBBAGE 6 PM	TUESDAY QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 6 PM	THURSDAY MINDFUL YOGA 9:30 AM		CANTEEN HOURS M-F 12 -10 PM Sat: 10 AM – 10 PM Sun: 8 AM – 10 PM





## Honoring Gold Star Spouses Day: A Salute to Enduring Strength

Each year on April 5, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) joins the nation in honoring **Gold Star Spouses Day**, a day dedicated to the husbands and wives of fallen service members who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Gold Star Spouses carry a profound burden—living with the loss of their loved one while continuing to embody the strength, resilience, and dedication that defines our military families. This day serves as a solemn reminder of their sacrifice and an opportunity for all Americans to offer gratitude and support.

The VFW stands committed to supporting Gold Star families, ensuring they are never forgotten and always honored. Whether through community events, ongoing assistance, or simply a heartfelt “thank you,” we encourage everyone to recognize the courage of these incredible individuals.

Today and every day, we remember the fallen—and stand with those they left behind.



# LAST CALL

We enjoyed all the snowbirds that stopped in for a drink, dinner, to play cards, and of course for breakfast. We hope to see you again next year. Stay safe and healthy.

Thank you for your patience while our new floors were installed.

We are serving a fish option for the Friday dinners through April 18<sup>th</sup> for Lent.

Meals for April (all meals available from 5pm-7pm):

- Tuesday, April 1. Wings and Things
- Friday, April 4. MOC Fish Fry
- Tuesday, April 8. Wings and Things
- Friday, April 11 Pork Chops/fish option available
- Tuesday, April 15 Wings and Things
- Friday, April 18 Steak dinner/Salmon
- Tuesday, April 22 Wings and Things
- Friday, April 25 Country Fried Steak
- Tuesday, April 29 Wings and Things

Breakfast every Sunday from 8am-11:30am. Come join us for our delicious breakfast menu and enjoy a refreshing mimosa or loaded Bloody Mary.

Entertainment for April (all entertainment goes from 6:30pm-till):

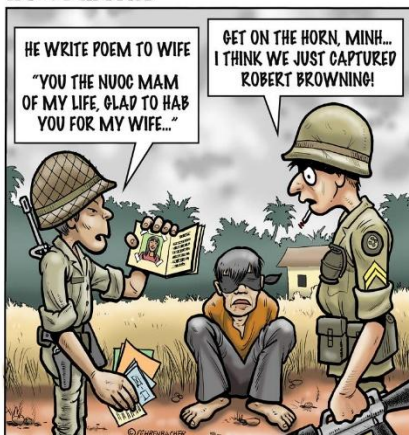
- Friday, April 4, Beach Bar Louie
- Friday, April 11, The Wrecking Crew
- Saturday, April 12, Katrina
- Friday, April 18, Randy Gardner
- Friday, April 25, Glen McClean
- Saturday, April 26, Katrina

Did you know you can rent the hall for your special occasions? We have some reservations already for the summer and the December Holidays, so don't wait!!

Come out and enjoy a delicious meal, your favorite drinks, and some good tunes with fellow Veterans, Friends, and Family.

**BINGO lovers!!!** We look forward to seeing you and having a great Bingo season in 2025.

### IN-COUNTRY



A satirical  
reflection by  
Author/Artist  
Phil  
Fehrenbacher

EVALUATING CAPTURED DOCUMENTS.

**POST SERVICE OFFICERS ARE  
LOCAL ADVOCATES WHO ASSIST  
VFW Post 7674's Post Service Officer  
"Eddie Baker" is here to fulfill that  
commitment.**

National Headquarters of the Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars has changed the responsibilities of the local post's service officers. Posts have been directed to stop filling out claims for veterans or offering guidance to veterans about VA Claims.

This is new as of 1 August 2024. Our Service Office, Eddy Baker, is still getting information about this change and he will ensure that the post is briefed.

National Headquarters is currently rewriting the duties of the Service Office and that will tell us more.

If you need help with filling a claim, Eddy can direct you to the Department of Florida VFW Veterans Service Office.

*Eddy may be contacted via email. or text mgs at  
[eddbkr1@earthlink.net](mailto:eddbkr1@earthlink.net)  
[bakereddie181@gmail.com](mailto:bakereddie181@gmail.com) PH .(850)218-2314.*

**DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA VFW  
2024-2025 STATE CONVENTION  
JUNE 12 – JUNE 15  
RENAISSANCE ORLANDO @  
SEAWORLD  
6677 SEA HARBOR DRIVE  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

1-(407) 351-5555 – You must mention Veterans of Foreign Wars 2025 Annual Convention/VFW to receive the room rate.  
Or go to <https://book.passkey.com/go/VFW2025>  
**ROOM RATE: \$128.00 PLUS TAX – SINGLE/DOUBLE/TRIPLE  
AND QUAD RESERVATION  
CUT OFF DATE: ON OR BEFORE MAY 20, 2025  
CHECK IN: 4:00 P.M. CHECK OUT: 11:00 A.M.  
Please book only the rooms needed so that every member  
can get a room at the hotel.  
FREE SELF-PARKING ONLY and No Resort Fee**



**UPCOMING!**  
**We hope to be serving  
coffee and donuts at the  
Eglin VA Clinic one day  
a week.**

**We are awaiting approval from VA Headquarters to  
start serving coffee and donuts one morning a  
week at the clinic. We need dedicated volunteers to  
do this cause we need to make sure this works. Let  
Steve Blackwell know if you want to help.**



Your mental health is as important as your physical health. In fact, they affect each other. If you are depressed, anxious, uncertain, etc., the chances are good that you might be physically affected with headaches, stomach ailments, trouble sleeping, and skin issues, just to name a few.

Sometimes, what to do or how to think is core to our discontent. When we are not sure if we are on the right course or making the right decisions, our ambiguity can cause us distress.

Sometimes the words of someone else can give us comfort, reinforce our opinions on doing the right thing or doing the unpopular thing for the right reason. Or listening to someone else may just give us a different perspective.

I'd like to share with you the words of Pastor Martin Niemöller, a German imprisoned for seven years for opposing the Hitler regime.

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out –

because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out –

because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out –

because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak for me.

His words are food for thought during tough times. We should never be afraid to state our position or beliefs, it's healthy. Remember our Veterans creed: "Maintain My Physical and Mental Discipline."

Today's quote: "We will either find a way or make one."

See you at the Post. Think health!

*Doc G*





**April 12, 2025      POST 706      10:00 AM**  
**(Lunch for sale at all meetings)**

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Thank you so much for your patience and understanding during our recent flooring project. We know the process may have caused some disruption, and we truly appreciate your support as we worked to improve the space.

We're excited about the refreshed look and hope you enjoy the updated flooring as much as we do. Your continued support means a lot to us!



## **POST ELECTIONS ARE ON THE 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2025!**

Voting for VFW Post officer positions is a vital part of ensuring strong, effective leadership within the organization. These officers play a key role in shaping the direction of the Post, organizing events, supporting fellow veterans, and advocating for important causes. By casting your vote, you help select leaders who reflect the values and priorities of the membership, ensuring your voice is heard in how the Post operates. Participation in the election process strengthens the unity and integrity of the Post, promotes accountability, and helps build a vibrant, active community of veterans committed to service and camaraderie.

The following positions are open for nominations before each election.

- Commander
- Sr-Vice Commander
- Jr-Vice Commander
- Quartermaster
- 2-Year Trustee
- 3-Year Trustee

Prior nominations from last month's meeting are:

- Commander – Bruce Eddy
- Sr.-Vice Commander – James McMann
- Jr-Vice Commander – Tim Pettigrew
- Quartermaster – Jane Lowery
- 2-Year Trustee – Open
- 3-Year Trustee – Open

If there is more than one nomination for a position, we will conduct a silent ballot. Ballots will be counted by the Adjutant and Judge Advocate before the next vote is taken. This allows the person, or persons, not selected for that position to be able to be nominated for other positions.

**No matter who gets elected to what position, lets support them and keep this Post running smoothly and a place that welcomes Veterans.**