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Our Total For 2024-2025 – 865  
Year-To-Date – 15  
Percentage – 1.73%



# THE DISPATCH

NEWS AND INFORMATION



National Purple Heart Day is celebrated annually on August 7th to honor U.S. service members who were wounded or killed in action while serving in the military. The day also aims to raise awareness about the impact of war on veterans and their families and to highlight the importance of providing them with the support they need.

The Purple Heart is the oldest military medal, established by George Washington in 1782. It was originally called the Badge of Military Merit, a purple, heart-shaped piece of silk with a silver edge and the word "merit" embroidered in silver. General Douglas MacArthur redesigned and re-commissioned it in 1932 for George Washington's bicentennial birthday. The first service member to receive the modern Purple Heart was MacArthur for his service in the Pacific during World War II. As of 2023, an estimated 1.8 million Purple Hearts have been awarded.

Purple Heart medals have been awarded to U.S. service members since the award's creation in 1782. This includes eligible casualties from World War I who may not have been awarded the medal at the time.

The Purple Heart is a military decoration given to service members wounded or killed by enemy action while serving. It can also be awarded to the families of those killed in action.

Although each Purple Heart recipient deserves widespread recognition, a handful of honorees stand out as household names, such as the legendary Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller.

Other famous Purple Heart recipients include actors (such as James Arness, Charles Bronson, James Garner, Rod Serling), writers (Kurt Vonnegut, Oliver Stone), athletes (Warren Spahn, Pat Tillman, Rocky Bleier), and even animals Sgt. Stubby (the dog) and Sgt. Reckless (the horse).

Chapter 0811-FL-4 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is a local chapter that meets at the Eglin AFB Armament Museum on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The meeting time is at 10 am and the address of the museum is 100 Museum Dr, off Hwy 85.

The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among combat-wounded veterans, promote patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families





**Commander  
Kevin Thurman  
Gives**

**His Thoughts About The Post**

Summer is flying by and the Post continues to be busy every day. We offer so many activities, dinners and entertainment to help keep our Veterans and families active. The hardest part is finding the things that can satisfy the majority while still not offending anyone. So, I am putting a call out to everyone for your ideas. What types of entertainment do you like? What meals would you like served? What are the activities YOU like to do? Write these down and turn them into my office or give to any officer of the Post and we will see what we can do to make sure that your ideas are heard.

Of course, another way to have your voice heard is by attending our monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month. This is where we present a lot of awards or checks to our charities and give out personal recognition accolades. The meeting is also the place where we make financial decisions for the Post. Although we have 865 members on the books, our meetings are attended by about 16 people every month. Out of the 16 there are 11 officers of the Post leaving only 5 general members participating in the votes. Since a quorum is only 8 members then all business can be conducted and executed by that body of people. Once the meeting is over is not the time to complain about Post issues because everyone is given that opportunity at every meeting.

We have lots of great things planned for the months ahead to include things like the Veteran's Day Parade, Meridian visits with Veterans, Blake visits with Veterans, Octoberfest, ARC Halloween Dance and Christmas party and a great New Year's Eve night planned. We have many opportunities for you to get involved and we need you as part of our TEAM. As I stated in last month's letter, I am still looking for an I-T person, social media person, building and grounds assistant and more help for breakfast on Sundays. We continue to have lots of great volunteers and many of these volunteer times turn out to be a lot of fun for all.

Thanks for all you are doing and let's make this new fiscal year the best yet!

***"IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW  
SLOWLY YOU GO AS LONG AS  
YOU DON'T STOP"  
- CONFUCIUS***



August 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Post 4437	10:00 AM
November 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2024	Post 4407	10:00 AM
February 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Post 7674	11:00 AM
April 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Post 706	10:00 AM

**VOD, PP, TOY Awards on February 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Lunch available at all District Meetings



It's that time of the year to start looking for students to begin on their **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY** and **PATRIOT PEN** entries for this year. The Post must have the entries no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2024. The theme for **Voice of Democracy** is "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision" and the theme for the **Patriot Pen** is "My Voice in America's Democracy". Forms can be downloaded from the National or State Web Site.

We are also looking for **TEACHER OF THE YEAR** for elementary, middle, and high school levels. If you know of a teacher please let the Commander know.

**LET'S GET A EARLY JUMP ON THIS**



**Our Sr-Vice presented a check to the Enlisted Village Women's Veterans Group. This check is the proceeds from the June Bingo night in which we donate to local charities.**

**Bobbi Omarra accepting the check for The Women's Veterans Group**

# AUGUST 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 BINGO 5 - ???? PM	2 MOC FISH FRY 5 - 7 PM BEACH BAR LOUIE 6:30 PM	3 CANTEEN INVENTORY 8:30
4 BREAKFAST 8 - 11:30 AM  US COAST GUARD BIRTHDAY	5	6 WINGS & THINGS 5 - 7 PM QUEEN OF HEARTS 6:00 PM	7 PURPLE HEART DAY	8 BINGO 5 - ???? PM	9 PORK CHOPS 5 - 7 PM THE WRECKING CREW 6:30 PM	10 KATRINA 6:30 PM
11 BREAKFAST 8 - 11:30 AM	12 MOC SCRATCH 6:01 PM	13 WINGS & THINGS 5 - 7 PM QUEEN OF HEARTS 6:00 PM	14 HOUSE COMMITTEE 6:00 PM OLD-TIMERS 5 - ???? PM  VJ DAY	15 BINGO 5 - ???? PM  SERVICE OFFICER OUT	16 STEAK NIGHT 5 - 7 PM RANDY GARDNER 6:30 PM	17
18 BREAKFAST 8 - 11:30 AM	19 POST/AUX MEETING 6:30 PM	20 WINGS & THINGS 5 - 7 PM QUEEN OF HEARTS 6:00 PM	21	22 BINGO 5 - ???? PM	23 RIBS 5 - 7 PM RICK WILSON 6:30 PM	24 KATRINA 6:30 PM DISTRICT 1 MEETING DEFUNIAK 10:00 AM
25 BREAKFAST 8 - 11:30 AM BAKE SALE	26	27 WINGS & THINGS 5 - 7 PM QUEEN OF HEARTS 6:00 PM	28	29 BINGO 5 - ???? PM	30 COUNTRY FRIED STEAK 5 - 7 PM DONNY WEITZ 6:30 PM	31
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



Hey Cooties; you continue to crush it month after month. Our hospital visits and independent care facility visits are way up. Cootie Hollis is our programs reporting POC so if you visit a Veteran or their spouse be sure to let him know. Our First Friday Fish Fry continues to be a huge success and kudos to all the volunteers that show up to help. Also, our Bingo support continues to show the great TEAM work we have. Just a friendly reminder, our Scratch is always the second Monday of the month at 18:01. Please make plans to attend the scratch and let's also see if we can find a few more worthy Nits to join our crummy fraternity. Thanks for all you do.



Reprint from the August 2019 Newsletter

Taking care of yourself. Most of us have kept pretty busy taking care of our families, our job responsibilities, our community and a long list of other things we truly care for.

Many of us forget one person. Not caring for them can affect everyone we care about. A little caring can influence both physical and mental health. Remember the day has 1440 minutes, 60 to spend on you, can have a positive impact on your life!



**AUGUST 14th**



It's been a long hot summer and the fall is around the corner. With that said, just remember our kids will be returning to school. Please watch for them as you are traveling around town and the schools. Remember DO NOT be on your phone or texting while driving.

Hurricane season is upon us, ensure that your important documents are together, generators are maintained, batteries in flashlights work and water jugs on hand, to start. If you need more assistance, please let us know.

We had a successful year so far, thanks to our volunteers.

Meals are from 5pm-7pm or while supplies last, and entertainment plays from 6:30pm-9:30pm, or later:

- Aug 2 MOC Fish Fry with Beach Bar Louie
- Aug 6 Wings & Things
- Aug 9 Pork Chops with The Wrecking Crew
- Aug 13 Wings & Things
- Aug 16 VFW Steak Night with Randy Gardner
- Aug 20 Wings & Things
- Aug 23 Ribs with Rick Wilson
- Aug 27 Wings & Things
- Aug 30 Country Fried Steak
- Breakfast every Sunday from 8 am-11:30am

Wings & Things offers occasional specials; Ms. Tiew's combination fried rice is delicious along with yaki mandu. You don't want to miss out on her cooking.

If you are interested in volunteering for a dinner or to help with breakfast, we would love it! Let us know! See Joe or Cecilia.

Don't miss out on weekly regular events that happen here....Tuesday at 6 pm is Cribbage and Thursday at 930-1030 is Mindful Yoga. Come and join these events. Free of charge....

\*\*\*Friendly Reminder – members are not authorized to be behind the bar, without bartenders' permission. Please respect this request. Too many people are going behind the bar, and we need this to be curtailed. Thank you for your understanding.

Thank you for your support.  
From Assistant Canteen Manager,  
Cecilia McCann



**TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY "QUEEN OF HEARTS". YOU MUST BE A "CURRENT" CARD CARRYING MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF ANY VFW OR AUXILIARY**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



August 4<sup>th</sup> is the United States Coast Guard's 234<sup>th</sup> birthday. Although they are considered part of the U.S. military, they are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland Security and are the primary maritime first responder that protects people and maritime resources.

The USCG conducts search and rescue operations and responds to an average of 45 cases per day. They also provide maritime safety inspections, teach maritime safety to boaters, and operate icebreakers to keep waterways safe and clear.

The USCG is also a law enforcement asset that enforces the law and prevents criminals, terrorists, and drug dealers from entering the United States from the coasts.

The USCG has approximately 43,000 active-duty members and more than 8,000 reserve members. There are also approximately 30,000 auxiliaries that assist with various safety programs and education.

The Coast Guard has about 250 cutters and more than 1,600 other types of ships. Along with the vessels used by the Coast Guard, there are more than 200 aircraft available for different types of operations.

During military operations, the operations of the Coast Guard are transferred to the Department of the Navy. The USCG supports military operations by contributing their unique capabilities in areas such as; landing operations, interdiction, convoy escort, port security, search and rescue, and maritime safety.



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**The Post desperately needs volunteers to help out on Friday night meals and Sunday morning breakfasts.**

**You don't need to have any skills in serving, preparing, or anything else. Just show up!!!!**

## **POST SERVICE OFFICERS ARE LOCAL ADVOCATES WHO ASSIST**

**VFW Post 7674's Post Service Officer "Eddie Baker" is here to fulfill that commitment.**



### What we think a "Claim Shark" is:

- A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to "assist" or "consult" veterans with filing their VA benefit claims – this practice is illegal!
- Claim Sharks are not VA accredited, meaning they aren't required to adhere to the well-established professional and ethical standards of VA accreditation, so their advice can often be misleading or even fraudulent.
- Like a "Loan Shark," once you're in, you can't get out and may be subject to new and hidden fees whenever you get a new rating, no matter who does the work.

### Veterans can protect themselves by:

- Always working with VA-accredited representatives.
- Attending all exams ordered by VA.
- Not signing contracts.
- Not agreeing to fees or payments from future benefits.
- Not agreeing to pay for medical consultations or opinions.
- Not providing access to Protected Health Information or Personal Identifiable Information.

### Some of their predatory practices are:

- Promising or guaranteeing an increased disability rating or percentage increase.
- Advertising expedited VA claims decisions.
- Requesting login credentials to access a veteran's personal information through secure VA websites like eBenefits or VA.gov.
- Using confusing tactics or ambiguous language to mislead claimants or coerce them into signing a contract.
- Telling veterans to forego VA exams and offering health consultations within their network of doctors.

### Who is NOT a Claim Shark?

- VA accredited veterans service organization representatives, like the VFW
- VA accredited claims agents
- VA accredited attorneys
- Attorneys assisting with Camp LeJeune lawsuits who do not charge excessive



# VOLUNTEER INCENTIVE PROGRAM (VIP)



<b>Purpose:</b>	Reward the members for volunteering their time in support of post, community, and VFW goals
<b>Types of Rewards:</b>	Life membership; Legacy life membership (Bronze, Silver, or Gold)
<b>Award Level:</b>	400 points per each upgrade
<b>Qualified Activities:</b>	Determined by VIP Committee (See attached list)
<b>Approval:</b>	VIP committee will approve submitted forms
<b>Point Structure:</b>	1 point for showing up to volunteer at activity 1 Point for every 15 minutes volunteering 15 points for holding any elected or appointed position ( <b>Exception: Quartermaster</b> ) 10 points for committee chair position 5 points for committee member 3 points for attending each Post/House Committee/MOC Scratch monthly meeting 10 Points for each new annual member recruited 15 points for each new life member recruited
<b>Gift Award:</b>	Member may gift his upgrade (i.e., give a new member an annual membership, upgrade an existing member annual to life)
<b>Upgrade Date:</b>	Upgrade date will be after 31 <sup>st</sup> of May of current year. New gifted memberships will be instant.



## Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) Approved Activities

- **Attending State/District Meetings (i.e., School of Instruction, conferences, State Convention, quarterly District meetings)**
- **Post Meals (i.e., Friday nights, Tuesday nights, Sunday mornings and special events)**
- **Post Oktoberfest**
- **Patriot Pen/Voice of Democracy/Teacher of The Year Program**
- **LEO/EMS/Firefighter of The Year Program**
- **Veterans Day Ceremonies (i.e., Beal Memorial Cemetery, assisted living facilities, Mary Esther Parade)**
- **Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Boxes Preparation and Delivery For Adopted Unit**
- **Post Thanksgiving Day Meal**
- **Post Children's Christmas Party**
- **Post Christmas Party**
- **Post Bartending Christmas Day and New Year's Day**
- **Post New Year's Eve Party**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter District Meeting Meal at The Post**
- **Poppy/Recruiting Drives**
- **Hospital Visits**
- **Building And Ground Projects**
- **Multimedia**
- **Other Community Activities**
- **Chamber Of Commerce Events**
- **Memorial Day Events (i.e., Beal Memorial Cemetery, assisted living facilities)**
- **Cooties Events**
- **Auxiliary Events**
- **Thursday talks at Blake Senior Living Facility**
- **Any Post sponsored event**



# Post 7674 Volunteer Hours Log Sheet



Volunteer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Event Name	Date	Hours	Initials

Total Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO POST ADJUTANT NO LATER THAN 31 MAY OR SOONER APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_/DISAPPROVED \_\_\_\_\_