



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

California

VFW Department of California Elects Paula Jansen as State Commander During 106th Annual State Convention

Veterans from across California gathered in Sacramento for leadership elections, training, recognition, and more

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SACRAMENTO, CA – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of California concluded its 106th Annual State Convention on June 21 in Sacramento, where members elected a new slate of statewide officers led by State Commander Paula Jansen. The five-day convention brought together VFW and Auxiliary leaders from across California to conduct organizational business, receive leadership training, recognize outstanding service, and establish priorities for the coming year.

2025-2026 State Commander David Kuta praised the newly elected officers and the great work accomplished at the convention. “It has been an honor to serve as the State Commander of the VFW Department of California. Our department has accomplished great things for individuals and their families and I am thrilled to see how the newly elected officers enhance this record of service. I extend my greatest thanks to everyone to who attended the convention and helped set the tone for the new year to come!”

“The VFW continues to play a vital role in supporting veterans, military families, and our communities across California,” said 2026-2027 State Commander Jansen. “I am honored to serve as State Commander and look forward to working with our Posts and members to strengthen our programs, expand our membership, and ensure every veteran has access to the support and resources they have earned.”

During the convention, delegates reviewed statewide programs, advanced organizational priorities, and recognized Posts and individuals for exceptional service to veterans, military families, and their communities. Attendees also participated in leadership development sessions, committee meetings, and training designed to strengthen support for veterans throughout California.

Commander Paula Jansen was officially installed as State Commander, along with all other new officers, during the convention. Her motto for the year is: “Going Over & Above Together.”

Jansen is a California native from a long line of military veterans spanning all branches of service. After 21 years of service, Jansen retired from the U.S. Navy as an Aviation Storekeeper Chief. She joined the VFW in 2012 and became a Gold Legacy Life Member in 2021. She is a Cootie Life Member of Pup Tent 79, a charter member of Pup Tents 66 and 79, and a Century Life Member of the VFW National Home. Jansen brings extensive leadership experience within the VFW, having served at the Post, District, and Department levels in both elected and appointed positions.

Read Commander Jansen's full biography at:

<https://vfwca.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=74101&d=y&subid=35415>

Additional officers elected and installed during the annual State Convention include:

- John Hernandez – Senior Vice Commander, Marines
- Wendy Calderon – Junior Vice Commander, Navy
- Deborah Johnson – Quartermaster, Army
- Frank Correa – Chaplain, Air Force
- Andrew Miller – Adjutant, Army

View the full list of 2026-2027 department and district officers at:

<https://vfwca.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=74101>

For more information about the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of California, please visit vfwca.org.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is a nonprofit veterans' service organization composed of combat veterans and those who currently serve on active duty or in the Guard and Reserves. Founded in 1899 and chartered by Congress in 1936, the VFW is the nation's largest organization of war veterans and is one of its oldest veterans' organizations. With 2.1 million members located in 7,700 VFW Posts worldwide, the VFW and its Auxiliaries are dedicated to "honor the dead by helping the living" through veterans service, legislative initiatives, youth scholarships, Buddy Poppy and national military service programs. Annually, the VFW and its Auxiliaries contribute more than 11 million hours of community service to the nation.



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