

## DEPARTMENT UPDATE

July 18, 2025

### 1. Today in Military History - July 17th

Here are some notable military history events that occurred on July 17th:

- 1944: Port Chicago Disaster - A massive explosion occurred at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in California while two ships were being loaded with ammunition. The explosions, felt as far as 48 miles away, instantly killed 320 individuals, [most of whom were African American sailors](#). The disaster highlighted dangerous working conditions and a lack of training for predominantly Black sailors in loading ammunition during World War II.
- 1945: Potsdam Conference Begins - President Harry S. Truman, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met in Potsdam, Germany, for the final Allied summit of World War II to discuss the terms of surrender for Germany and Japan and make post-war plans.
- 1936: Spanish Civil War Breaks Out - A revolt by right-wing Spanish military officers in Spanish Morocco initiated the Spanish Civil War. General Francisco Franco called for all army officers to join the uprising against Spain's leftist Republican government, triggering a conflict that lasted for nearly three years.
- 1898: Spanish-American War - Santiago, Cuba Surrenders - Spanish forces at Santiago, Cuba, surrendered the city to troops commanded by Major General William R. Shafter during the Spanish-American War. This surrender followed a week-long bombardment by U.S. Navy warships and resulted in the capture of eight Spanish vessels.
- 1453: Battle of Castillon - French forces decisively defeated the English in this battle, considered the final battle of the Hundred Years' War. The English commander, John Talbot, 1st Earl of Shrewsbury, was killed, and the French victory marked the effective end of English dominance in Gascony. Notably, this was the first major European battle won primarily through the extensive use of field artillery.

## I. National

### 126th National Convention Proposed Bylaws, MOP and Ritual Amendments and All National Resolutions 126th VFW National Convention – Columbus, Ohio

Listed below are the proposed National Bylaw, Manual of Procedure and Ritual amendments to include all National Resolutions that will be considered and voted on during the 126th VFW National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 9-13, 2025.

- [Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual Amendments and all National Resolutions - Proposed](#)
- [Finance & Internal Organization Resolutions \(200 series\) - Proposed](#)
- [General Resolutions \(300 series\) - Proposed](#)
- [National Security & Foreign Affairs Resolutions \(400 series\) - Proposed](#)
- [Veterans Service Resolutions \(600 series\) - Proposed](#)

Please click on the links to review each of them before the convention.

(We will provide a link in the slider on the vfwca.org site as well).

### Membership.

#### *i. Life Membership Incentive*

1. The Life Membership Campaign uses restricted funds as approved by the Council of Administration to assist annual members and new members with becoming Life Members of the VFW Department of California. The campaign provides for the Department of California to pay half of a Life Membership dues when the member pays the other half. This program starts August 1, 2025, ***and is first come, first served***; therefore, when the funds allocated of \$25,000.00 are expended for the year, no more memberships will be processed under this program.

**2. How to Sign Up:** The process for the Life Membership Campaign is as follows:

- a. If you are a current member of the VFW, Department of California
  - i. Provide the State Adjutant/Asst. Quartermaster with your name and VFW Membership ID Number.
  - ii. Submit payment for your half of the Life Membership dues by either making a check out to the "VFW Department of California" or submitting a credit card authorization form which can be found on the website at [https://vfwca.org/uploads/Documents/Forms/CreditCardAuthorizationForm\(Fillable\).pdf](https://vfwca.org/uploads/Documents/Forms/CreditCardAuthorizationForm(Fillable).pdf)
- b. If you are a new member joining a VFW Department of California Post
  - i. Provide the State Adjutant/Asst.
  - ii.
  - iii. Quartermaster a copy of the application and a copy of the Post Meeting minutes where the member was approved for membership as dictated by the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure Sections 102 and 103.
  - iv. Submit payment for your half of the Life Membership dues by either making a check out to the "VFW Department of California" or submitting a credit card authorization form.
- c. If you are a new member joining the VFW Department of California's Members at Large
  - i. Provide the State Adjutant/Asst. Quartermaster a copy of your application and a copy of Proof of Eligibility,
  - ii. i.e., DD214, orders, pay warrant noting imminent danger pay, etc...
  - iii. Submit payment for your half of the Life Membership dues by either making a check out to the "VFW Department of California" or submitting a credit card authorization form.

All upgrades and applications must be processed by the State Adjutant/Quartermaster. There is NO reimbursement if the Post or individual member processes the Life Membership. If credit cards are rejected, we will move on to the next batch,

**NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2025.**

**II. National Bylaws Section 703 – Bonds (First notice)**

- a. Each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these Bylaws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, they may be accountable. The bond premium shall be paid from the funds of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department, District, County Council or Post to which each officer is accountable.
- b. The bonds of such accountable officers, in amount and as to surety, shall be approved by their respective units and held by their respective Commanders. The Commander of each unit shall be responsible for the proper and adequate bonding of all accountable officers in their unit.
- c. The new bonding paperwork is now available on the Department's website at <https://vfwca.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=74127> .
- d. ***Bonds or proof of bonding are due by August 31, 2025!***
- e. The slides to the PowerPoint on how to correctly submit your bonds class given on July 9<sup>th</sup> can be found <https://vfwca.org/uploads/Documents/Training/BondClass.pdf>
- f.

**III. Monday Updates**

- a. Every Monday's Zoom The line officers will meet from 4:00 to 5:00 pm and then everyone else will be let into the meeting.
- b. The last Monday of the month is an open meeting for Districts and Posts. The line officers will meet from 4:00 to 5:00 pm and then everyone else will join at 5:00 pm.

#### IV. Up Coming Events

- July 19 – Districts 2, 7 and 8 meetings.
- July 26 – Districts 10, 11, 14 and 5 meetings
- July 30 - Zoom Training, 710 & Suspensions (See Dept Calendar)
- August 2- Districts 16, 13 and 9 meetings.
- August 6 – Peer Led training (Scholar app for VOD & PP)
- August 9 – District 15 School of Instruction
- August 9 – District 12 meeting
- August 9 – August 9 through August 14 (NATIONAL CONVENTION)

Next weekly update will be Friday August 25, 2025

**Have a great week ahead**

Andrew "Skip" Miller  
VFW Department of California  
State Adjutant

