

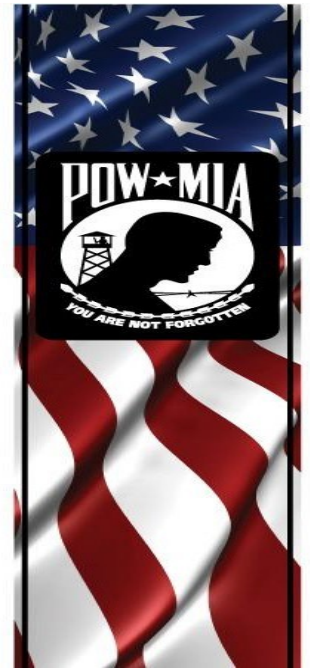


VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

June 2026/ Volume 8, Issue 6

VFW Post 8555 Newsletter/Calendar

Message from the Commander-Elect, Flag Day, D-Day 82 year later, Veteran Fathers Day Message, and Community Service Opportunities.



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A Commander's Message for June

Comrades, families, and friends of VFW Post 8555, as your Commander-Elect, it is my profound honor to address you in this June 2026 newsletter. The spirit of service, camaraderie, and patriotism that defines our Post continues to shine brightly even as we honor significant anniversaries and move forward with purpose. From our successful Memorial Day observances and flag placements to our support of the Food Distribution, we are actively living the ideals that embody the spirit on which the VFW was founded - **"No One Does More For Veterans"**.

Please prepare to come and take part in our celebration of our nations' 250th anniversary. We will be participating in the La Vernia 4th of July Parade, and our July 11th dance Titled: America 250!" held here in the large hall. Please bring your families, neighbors, and friends to these events as we build our legacy in the community. I encourage every member to invite a fellow veteran or eligible comrade to our next gathering, participate in available service opportunities, and contribute to the growth and vitality of Post 8555. Our strength lies in our unity, our shared commitment to American values, and our willingness to support one another as we did in uniform. Thank you for your continued dedication to veterans, our local communities in Wilson County, and this great nation. With steadfast patriotism, mutual respect, and forward-looking resolve, we will build an even stronger and more impactful Post.

— Commander-Elect Johnathon Farrell, VFW Post 8555

Flag Day – June 14: Honoring Old Glory

June 14 marks Flag Day, commemorating the adoption of the Stars and Stripes by the Continental Congress in 1777. This beloved symbol of our republic has flown over battlefields, parades, schools, and homes for nearly 250 years, representing the unity, resilience, courage, and enduring ideals of the United States of America.

For veterans of VFW Post 8555, the American flag is far more than cloth and thread—it is a sacred emblem of the oaths we took to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Each star and stripe tells a story of sacrifice: the blood shed at Bunker Hill, Gettysburg, Iwo Jima, and beyond. Proper respect and display of Old Glory honor those who fought under it and those who continue to defend the nation it represents.

Key guidelines for respectful display include flying the flag from sunrise to sunset (or properly illuminated at night), ensuring it is never allowed to touch the ground, and retiring worn or tattered flags with dignity through our Post's ceremonial disposal ceremonies. These traditions uphold the reverence our veterans have earned through service.

This Flag Day, let us reflect deeply on the American ideals it represents: life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, equality under the law, and the right to self-governance. In Wilson County and across our great nation, we continue to stand as guardians of these principles amid changing times. Post 8555 encourages all members and their families to fly the flag proudly at homes and businesses, participate in educational events for youth, and teach younger generations its proper reverence and historical significance.

By honoring the flag, we reaffirm our commitment to the republic for which it stands—one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. In doing so, we strengthen the bonds of camaraderie within our Post and inspire continued service to community and country. Together, we affirm that America's best days remain ahead when we remain faithful to the values, traditions, and sacrifices that made her strong. Let this Flag Day renew our patriotic spirit and resolve to protect the freedoms Old Glory symbolizes.

D-Day Anniversary: 82 Years of Courage

On **June 6, 1944**, Allied forces launched the largest amphibious invasion in history, storming the beaches of Normandy in a daring strike against Nazi tyranny. This year marks the 82nd anniversary of D-Day, a pivotal moment when American courage, ingenuity, and resolve helped turn the tide of World War II and secure the future of freedom for generations to come.

More than 156,000 Allied troops landed on five beaches that fateful day, facing withering enemy fire, mines, obstacles, and the sheer terror of combat. American forces, alongside their British, Canadian, and other Allied brothers-in-arms, exhibited extraordinary bravery under the most harrowing conditions. Texas sons were among the heroes who charged forward from landing craft into the surf and onto the sands of Omaha, Utah, and the other beaches. Their sacrifice embodied the highest American ideals: liberty, bravery, selflessness, and the unyielding defense of democracy against oppression.

The success of Operation Overlord opened the path to liberate Europe from fascist control and ultimately contributed to the defeat of tyranny in the European theater. Countless veterans from the Greatest Generation carried the memories of that day for the rest of their lives, often sharing stories of fallen comrades, the importance of unit cohesion, and the profound sense of duty that drove them forward.

Today, as members of VFW Post 8555 in Wilson County, Texas, we honor those who stormed Normandy and the many who followed in their footsteps through subsequent conflicts. Their legacy reminds us that freedom is never free—it is purchased with the blood, sweat, and sacrifice of patriots. In an era where global challenges continue to test our resolve, the lessons of D-Day call us to remain vigilant, to value the constitutional republic our forebears defended, and to teach our children and grandchildren the true cost of liberty.

We salute every veteran whose service echoes the valor of D-Day. Whether you served in the Pacific, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf, or more recent operations, your contributions stand as testaments to the enduring American spirit. Post 8555 encourages all members to reflect on this anniversary by attending local commemorations, sharing personal or family stories of service, and recommitting ourselves to the principles that define our great nation. May their memory inspire us to stand strong for the United States and the timeless ideals of freedom, justice, and human dignity that continue to light the world.

God bless our D-Day veterans, God bless all who have worn the uniform, and God bless the United States of America.



Fathers Who Served: Celebrating Veteran Dads

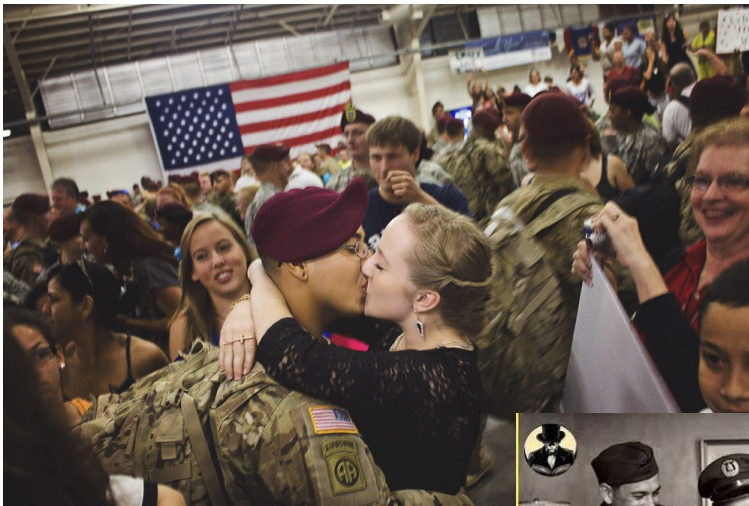
This Father's Day, VFW Post 8555 pays heartfelt tribute to the veteran fathers, grandfathers, and father figures whose service and sacrifice have shaped our families, our communities, and our nation. These men embodied the finest American ideals—duty, honor, selfless love for family and country, resilience in the face of adversity, and quiet leadership by example.

Many of our members answered the call to serve while raising families, often missing birthdays, holidays, milestones, and everyday moments so that others might enjoy the blessings of liberty and security. Deployments separated them from loved ones, yet their commitment never wavered. Their stories are woven into the fabric of American history: the WWII father who returned home to build a better life, the Vietnam-era dad who instilled discipline and patriotism, and the more recent veterans balancing service with fatherhood in an evolving world.

These veteran dads taught us that true patriotism begins at home—with responsibility, integrity, moral courage, and the willingness to stand for what is right. They modeled the American dream through hard work, faith, and dedication to providing opportunities for the next generation. Their dual service—to the United States and to their families—continues to inspire us today.

To all veteran fathers in our Post and across Wilson County: thank you for your sacrifices, both in uniform and at home. Your example strengthens the fabric of our communities and reinforces the American ideal that free men and women, guided by faith, family, and personal responsibility, build a better tomorrow for all.

Post 8555 salutes you. This Father's Day, we encourage members to gather with family, share stories of service, and reflect on the profound impact veteran dads have had on our lives and our nation. May this day bring joy, reflection, gratitude, and renewed appreciation for the veteran fathers who helped keep America the land of the free and the home of the brave.



Community Service Opportunities

VFW Post 8555 thrives through active, hands-on community service that embodies the American spirit of neighbor helping neighbor, veterans serving those who served, and citizens giving back to the communities they love and defended. Numerous opportunities exist for members to make a meaningful, lasting difference in Wilson County and beyond this summer.

- **Food Distribution:** First Wednesday of every month we support the Poth Food Bank with our monthly food distribution. Be at the post at 0800 to help get setup for the event.
- **Post Clean-Up:** There are several things that need fixing and maintaining around the post, Lawn mowing, Weed Eating, Painting, cleaning, etc. Please see the Commander for a list of things that need volunteer support.
- **Funeral Ceremonies:** From time to time, our post is called upon to render final services to those who are departed and their families. This is a task of solemn importance. If you would like to support our team providing those services please see the Commander.
- **Youth Engagement:**
 - **Floresville JROTC:** The Floresville JROTC commander would like to engage with our organization to support activities and in return we would like to support them with their activities. We need a liaison between the organizations to better support each other.
 - **Voice of Democracy \ Patriots Pen:** The VFW's own program for scholarship is utilizing the Scholar's Application (<https://scholarsapp.com/>) for submissions. Our theme this year for both programs is, "**What a Veteran Taught me about America**".

These service efforts reflect core American ideals: selflessness, civic duty, personal responsibility, unity across differences, and the enduring belief that free people, working together, can accomplish great things. Participation also provides opportunities for fellowship, skill-sharing, and the deep satisfaction of continuing our military tradition of mission accomplishment in civilian life.

Contact Post leadership today to learn how you can get involved in ways that match your availability, interests, and talents. By giving back through the VFW, we honor our fallen comrades, support our brothers and sisters in arms, and demonstrate the strength and character of American veterans. Together, one act of service at a time, we make a real and positive difference in Wilson County while upholding the proud traditions that define our nation and our organization's motto: "**No One Does More For Veterans**".



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3 Food Distribution	4	5	6 D-Day Invasion of Normandy (D-Day, World War II, 1944)
7 Battle of Midway (World War II, 1942)	8 19:00 - 21:00 Monthly Post Meeting	9	10	11 Department Convention	12	13
14 Flag Day	15	16	17 Battle of Bunker Hill (Revolutionary War, 1775)	18	19 Juneteenth National Independence Day	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Battle of Little Bighorn (Indian Wars, 1876)	27
28 Battle of Monmouth (Revolutionary War, 1778)	29	30	1 Battle of San Juan Hill (Spanish-American War, 1898) 08:00 - 10:00 Food Distribution	2	3 Battle of Gettysburg (Civil War, 1863) Independence Day (Observed Federal Holiday)	4 End of Battle of Vicksburg (Civil War, 1863) Independence Day

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28	29	30	1 Battle of San Juan Hill (Spanish-American War, 1898) 08:00 - 10:00 Food Distribution	2	3 Battle of Gettysburg (Civil War, 1863) Independence Day (Observed Federal Holiday)	4 End of Battle of Vicksburg (Civil War, 1863) Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 18:30 - 23:30 America 250!
12	13 19:00 - 21:00 Monthly Post Meeting	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 First Battle of Bull Run (First Manassas, Civil War, 1861)	22	23	24 Women Veterans Enrollment Initiative – Southwest Regional Summit more	25
26 National Convention	27 Korean Armistice	28	29	30	31	1