



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

October 2026/ Volume 8, Issue 10

VFW Post 8555 Newsletter/Calendar

Message from the Commander, Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen & Teacher of the Year, October in Military History, Legislative Update, The PACT Act, VA Claims Help, Veteran Finances, Around the Post, Calendars, and Event Flyers.



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<https://vfwpost8555.com>

A Commander's Message for October

Comrades, Auxiliary members, and friends of Post 8555,

This month's newsletter looks a little different. Alongside Post news, you will find pages meant to be useful to every veteran who picks it up: our history, the bills in Congress that affect your benefits, and plain-language guides to the PACT Act, VA disability claims, and your money. Read them, then pass this newsletter to a veteran who needs it.

Our youth programs come first. The Post has sent Floresville, Poth, and Stockdale ISDs the Scholar's App entry links for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen, and entries are due October 31. This year's theme is "What a Veteran Taught Me About America," so if a student asks to interview you, say yes. We are also taking nominations for the VFW Teacher of the Year award through October 31. If you know a teacher who brings veterans into the classroom and teaches respect for the flag, nominate them.

October carries history for us. The U.S. Navy turns 251 on October 13; to every sailor in this Post, happy birthday. On October 23 we remember the 241 Marines, sailors, and soldiers killed in the Beirut barracks bombing in 1983.

In Washington, the Major Richard Star Act now has enough signatures on a discharge petition to force a House vote, and the bill to apply next year's COLA to VA compensation is moving through Congress. The legislative update explains both. If you have not checked whether the PACT Act covers you, or you have a claim you keep putting off, read the benefits pages. VFW service officers help free of charge, so never pay a claim shark for what the VFW does for free.

To our younger veterans: take a look at Combat Tested Gaming, the VFW's gaming community. That dog tag on our cover is its emblem, and its flyer is on the last page of this issue. If you game, join the CTG Discord at discord.gg/combattestedgaming.

Food distribution continues the first Wednesday of every month at 8:00 AM: October 7 and November 4. Volunteers are always welcome. Our hall is also available for your family events: the Large Hall is \$1,200, the Small Hall \$350, and the BBQ pit \$50, with refundable deposits.

Veterans Day is Wednesday, November 11. Check the calendar pages for everything on the schedule, and see the event flyers and the District 20 events flyer at the back of this issue.

Thank you for all you do. Read this issue, share it, and bring a veteran with you the next time you come to the Post.

In comradeship and service,

Johnathon Farrell

Commander

VFW Post 8555 Wilson County Memorial Post



Commander Johnathon Farrell (front, beside the flag) at the Post 8555 officer installation, May 11, 2026. (Post archive)

Youth & Education Programs: Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen & Teacher of the Year

2026–2027 theme: "What a Veteran Taught Me About America" • Entries and nominations due October 31

Every fall, VFW Posts invite students to share what America means to them and honor the teachers who bring citizenship to life. Post 8555 has sent Floresville, Poth, and Stockdale ISDs the Scholar's App entry links for this year's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests. Both contests share the 2026–2027 theme, "What a Veteran Taught Me About America," and all entries must be submitted to Post 8555 by October 31, 2026.

Voice of Democracy: grades 9–12

High school students create a three- to five-minute audio essay on the theme. Each entry includes the recorded audio essay, a typed copy of the essay, and the entry form. Scholarships and incentives are awarded at the local, district, state, and national levels. More than \$2 million is awarded every year, and the national first-place winner receives a \$35,000 college scholarship. Enter at <https://bit.ly/3YuHILL>.

Patriot's Pen: grades 6–8

Middle school students write a 300- to 400-word essay in English on the same theme, with no color, graphics, or personal identifiers in the essay. The entry form is the cover sheet. Awards are given at the Post, District, state, and national levels. State winners share in more than \$55,000 of national awards, national winners receive at least \$500, and the national first-place winner receives \$5,000. Enter at <https://bit.ly/3Yz5Qgs>. Patriot's Pen questions: nataliedcandela@yahoo.com.

How students enter

Students in public, private, or parochial schools or home-study programs enter online through Post 8555 using Scholar's App, with the links above or the QR codes below. If a school network blocks Scholar's App, ask the school's IT department to whitelist *.scholarsapp.com/*, or complete the entry at home on a personal device. Questions: Commander Johnathon Farrell, commander@vfwpost8555.com or (830) 484-7317.

Teacher of the Year: nominations due October 31

The VFW's Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award honors classroom teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette, and patriotism. The VFW honors one teacher at each of three levels: elementary (K–5), middle school (6–8), and high school (9–12). All current certified or licensed K–12 teachers are eligible, except previous national winners. Anyone can nominate, including the teacher, a fellow teacher, a supervisor, or a family member. Each nomination needs the entry form, a résumé of at least one page, and no more than five pages of documentation in all. Nominations are due at Post 8555 by Saturday, October 31, and the Post's candidates go to the District 20 turn-in on November 14. Each national winner receives \$1,000 for professional development and \$1,000 for their school. Rules and the form are at vfw.org/TeacheroftheYear. Questions: Commander Johnathon Farrell, commander@vfwpost8555.com.

Veterans, you are the theme

This year's theme asks students what a veteran taught them. If a grandchild or neighbor asks to interview you, say yes.

Sources: Post 8555 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen flyers, Scholar's App access sheet, and the Commander's September 2026 letter to area ISDs; vfw.org Teacher of the Year page and Teacher Award rules; Post calendar.



Post 8555 members at a 2022 student recognition in the hall. (Post archive, 2022 Scholarship/VOD folder)

Scan to enter online through Post 8555 on Scholar's App



Voice of Democracy
Grades 9–12
bit.ly/3YuHILL



Patriot's Pen
Grades 6–8
bit.ly/3Yz5Qgs

Entries due by October 31, 2026.
Blocked at school? Ask IT to whitelist *.scholarsapp.com/* or enter from home.
Questions:
commander@vfwpost8555.com
or (830) 484-7317.

October in Military History

The U.S. Navy turns 251 on October 13 • Remembering Beirut, October 23, 1983

Happy 251st birthday, U.S. Navy

On October 13, 1775, the Continental Congress decided to purchase two armed ships to attack British supply ships and keep supplies from reaching British soldiers in the colonies. A second resolution passed the same day created a naval committee to oversee the purchase and to write regulations for managing the ships. Thus was born the Continental Navy, and October 13 remains the official birth date of the U.S. Navy.

The new Navy went on the offensive quickly. On February 17, 1776, Commodore Esek Hopkins, the “commander in chief of the fleet,” sailed from the Delaware with eight vessels. On March 3 he landed 300 sailors and marines on New Providence Island in the Bahamas, took Forts Nassau and Montagu, and captured some 73 cannons and mortars and a large quantity of munitions for the Continental Army.



The Continental brig Andrew Doria receives the first official salute to the American flag in a foreign port, St. Eustatius, Nov. 16, 1776. Painting by Phillips Melville. (Naval History and Heritage Command, NH 85510-KN, public domain)

After independence the Continental Navy's ships were sold. In 1794, to protect American shipping from Algerine corsairs, Congress authorized six frigates. One of them, USS Constitution, launched October 21, 1797, is still in commission and homeported in Boston: the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat. On April 30, 1798, President John Adams signed the act establishing the Department of the Navy. To every Navy veteran of Post 8555: happy birthday, shipmate.

Beirut: October 23, 1983

Forty-three years ago this month, American service members were in Lebanon as part of a peacekeeping operation during the Lebanese Civil War. On October 23, 1983, a suicide bomber detonated a truck bomb at a building housing the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines (Battalion Landing Team 1/8) of the 2nd Marine Division, killing 220 Marines, 18 sailors, and three soldiers: 241 Americans. Minutes later, a second suicide bomber struck the Drakkar building, killing 58 French paratroopers.

It was the deadliest single-day death toll for the Marine Corps since the Battle of Iwo Jima. Each year the City of Jacksonville, N.C., home of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, holds an observance honoring those who served in Lebanon from 1958 to 1984 and in Grenada, and especially those killed in Beirut. This year October 23 falls on a Friday. Take a moment that day to remember the 241, and their families.

Sources: All Hands Magazine (allhands.navy.mil), Navy Birthday timeline; U.S. Navy, "SECNAV Marks the 40th Anniversary of Beirut Bombings" (navy.mil, Oct. 23, 2023).



USS Constitution under sail in Boston, Aug. 19, 2012, the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat. (U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Michael Achterling, public domain)



Smoke rises from the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, Oct. 23, 1983. (Official USMC photo, public domain)



Chaplains, Marines, and families observe a moment of silence at a memorial service for those killed in the Beirut bombing. (DoD photo DM-SC-87-12363, Gunnery Sgt. R.D. Lucas, public domain)

Legislative Update: Veterans' Issues in Congress

VFW 2026 Priority Goals • Bill status from Congress.gov as of September 25, 2026

The VFW's National Legislative Service in Washington tracks every bill that affects veterans, testifies before Congress, and lobbies on behalf of more than 1.3 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary. Here is where three bills tied to the VFW's 2026 Priority Goals stand.

Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 2102 / S. 1032)

This bill would let veterans with combat-related disabilities receive their military retirement pay without reduction at the same time as their VA disability compensation, including those with fewer than 20 years of service. Ending that offset is a VFW Priority Goal. Congress.gov lists 340 House cosponsors; the House sponsor is Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.). The bill is still in committee, but on September 15 a discharge petition reached the 218 signatures needed to force a House vote. It must sit on the House Calendar for seven legislative days, so a vote cannot come before members return in November.

GUARD VA Benefits Act (H.R. 1732)

"Claim sharks" are unaccredited companies that charge veterans for help with VA claims. This bill would reinstate penalties for charging veterans unauthorized fees for VA claims help. Cracking down on claim sharks is a VFW Priority Goal. Introduced by Rep. Chris Pappas (D-N.H.) in February 2025, it has 137 cosponsors and had a House committee hearing on March 18, 2026.

2027 compensation COLA (H.R. 8552 / S. 4487)

The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2026, introduced by Rep. Morgan Luttrell of Texas, would raise VA disability compensation and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation on December 1, 2026, by the same percentage as the Social Security increase. A House subcommittee forwarded it to the full Veterans' Affairs Committee by voice vote on June 30. Last year's version became Public Law 119-42.

Make your voice heard

Call or write your U.S. representative and both Texas senators and ask where they stand on these bills. You can find your representative at house.gov. When you call, say you are a veteran and a VFW member.

Sources: vfw.org National Legislative Service, "Our 2026 Priority Goals"; Congress.gov, H.R. 2102, H.R. 1732, and H.R. 8552 (119th Congress); House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Democrats news release, Sept. 16, 2026.



The west front of the U.S. Capitol. (Architect of the Capitol, public domain)

VFW 2026 Priority Goals

Budget

Fund veterans' programs; oppose cuts to earned benefits.

Disability & Memorial

Fix the claims process; stop claim sharks; toxic exposures.

Education & Jobs

GI Bill, VR&E, homelessness, VA Home Loan.

Health Care

Suicide prevention, community care, TBI and long-term care.

Readiness

End the retirement-pay offset; quality of life.

Security & POW/MIA

Fully fund DPAA's recovery mission.

VA Benefits: The PACT Act and Toxic Exposure

Burn pits, Agent Orange, radiation • Call VA at 800-698-2411 (TTY: 711)

The PACT Act, the Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, expands VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. VA calls it perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in its history, and it is here to stay: veterans and survivors can file at any time.

What the law changed

- Expanded VA health care eligibility for veterans with toxic exposures and veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras.
- Added 20+ presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures.
- Added presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation.
- Requires a toxic exposure screening for every veteran enrolled in VA health care.

Enroll in VA health care now

You can enroll without applying for disability benefits first if you meet the basic service and discharge requirements and you served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after 9/11; deployed in support of the Global War on Terror; or were exposed to toxins or other hazards during service at home or abroad.

Presumptive conditions

With a presumptive condition, you do not have to prove your service caused it. For Gulf War and post-9/11 veterans, presumptive cancers include brain cancer, glioblastoma, kidney cancer, melanoma, pancreatic cancer, lymphoma of any type, and gastrointestinal, head, neck, reproductive, and respiratory cancers of any type. Presumptive illnesses include asthma diagnosed after service, chronic bronchitis, COPD, chronic rhinitis and sinusitis, emphysema, interstitial lung disease, pulmonary fibrosis, and sarcoidosis.

Vietnam-era veterans

The law added high blood pressure (hypertension) and monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) as Agent Orange presumptive conditions, along with new presumptive locations: U.S. or Royal Thai bases in Thailand (Jan. 9, 1962–June 30, 1976), Laos (Dec. 1, 1965–Sept. 30, 1969), Mimot or Krek in Cambodia (April 16–30, 1969), Guam or American Samoa and their waters (Jan. 9, 1962–July 31, 1980), and Johnston Atoll (Jan. 1, 1972–Sept. 30, 1977).

Denied before? File again

If VA denied your claim in the past and now presumes your condition, file a Supplemental Claim; you do not need to wait for VA to contact you. Survivors may be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Every enrolled veteran gets a toxic exposure screening, with a follow-up at least once every five years, so ask about it at your next VA appointment.



Brielle Robinson, daughter of the late Sgt. 1st Class Heath Robinson, for whom the PACT Act is named, at its signing, Aug. 10, 2022. (Official White House photo by Erin Scott, public domain)

Presumed Burn-Pit Exposure

On or after Aug. 2, 1990

Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or the UAE

On or after Sept. 11, 2001

Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, or Yemen

Also

The airspace above any of these locations

Source: VA.gov, "The PACT Act and your VA benefits" (last updated June 2, 2026).

VA Claims and Separation Benefits: Free Help from VFW Service Officers

VFW Accredited Service Officers help free of charge • Start your claim at claims.vfw.org

As the largest organization of combat veterans, the VFW understands the frustrations that can come with leaving the military or filing a claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs. In the VFW's words, the claims process "can be confusing and one that service members and veterans shouldn't try to navigate alone." That is why the VFW established its National Veterans Service (NVS) to help all veterans, service members, their families, and survivors.

Who the Service Officers are

NVS is a nationwide network of VFW Accredited Service Officers who are experts in navigating VA processes. They help veterans develop their cases by reviewing and applying current law, pertinent legislation, regulations, and medical histories. VA reports that veterans represented by the VFW recouped \$16.2 billion in compensation and pension on behalf of veterans and eligible family members in fiscal year 2025.

What they help with

- Disability compensation claims.
- Rehabilitation and education programs.
- Pension and death benefits.
- Employment and training programs.
- Appeals: they will request hearings before VA and the Board of Veterans Appeals to present oral arguments when needed.

Free of charge, every step of the way

VFW Accredited Service Officers stay with veterans every step of the way once they are ready to file a claim. The VFW offers this service free of charge to anyone seeking help with the claims process.

Avoid the claim sharks

The VFW warns veterans not to fall victim to "claim sharks," companies that illegally represent veterans through the VA claims process and can charge thousands of dollars for doing so. Never pay for help that the VFW gives for free.

Leaving the service? Start before you separate

The VFW Pre-Discharge program was established in 2001 through a cooperative initiative with the Pentagon and VA. It helps separating and retiring active-duty service members obtain their VA entitlements and benefits upon discharge. VFW Accredited Service Officers can help prepare and submit forms and evidence to VA before separation and answer questions about VA benefits. Pre-Discharge offices, shown on vfw.org as Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) sites, are on or near major military installations across the country. If you are within 180 days of discharge, contact a VFW Accredited Service Officer to get the process underway. The VFW's website also has a checklist of what to bring to your appointment.

How to get connected

Start your claim online at claims.vfw.org, or find Pre-Discharge locations and contacts at vfw.org/assistance/va-claims-separation-benefits. Post 8555 members who want help getting connected with a VFW Service Officer can call the Post at (830) 484-7317.

Getting Help

Start a claim

Online at claims.vfw.org.

Leaving the service?

Within 180 days of discharge, contact a VFW Accredited Service Officer. Pre-Discharge locations and contacts are listed on vfw.org.

What it costs

Nothing. The VFW's help is free of charge.

Post 8555

Call (830) 484-7317 for help getting connected with a VFW Service Officer.

Source: vfw.org, "VA Claims & Separation Benefits" (read September 25, 2026).

Veteran Finances: Your COLA and Your VA Home Loan

2026 compensation rates • 2027 COLA not yet announced • VA home loan basics

The 2026 increase, and what comes next

By law, VA matches the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) the Social Security Administration gives. On October 24, 2025, SSA announced a 2.8 percent increase for 2026 (it was 2.5 percent for 2025). VA disability compensation rose 2.8 percent effective December 1, 2025, under Public Law 119-42. A veteran rated 100 percent with no dependents now receives \$3,938.58 a month; a veteran rated 30 percent with a spouse receives \$617.47.

The 2027 COLA has not been announced yet. It will match the Social Security increase for 2027, and the bill to apply it to VA compensation and DIC on December 1, 2026 (H.R. 8552) is pending in Congress. Increases are automatic for current beneficiaries. Over the past decade, the annual COLA has averaged about 3.1 percent.



The VA Home Loan Program Reform Act is signed into law, July 30, 2025. (Official White House photo by Joyce N. Boghosian, public domain)

VA home loans: no down payment for most

VA-backed and VA direct home loans help veterans, service members, and survivors buy, build, improve, or refinance a home. You still need the required credit and income, but terms are often better than a traditional loan: nearly 90 percent of VA-backed loans are made with no down payment, and there is no monthly mortgage insurance. Start by requesting a Certificate of Eligibility (COE).

If you have full entitlement, VA sets no loan limit, as long as you can afford the loan and the appraisal supports the price. VA guarantees up to 25 percent of a loan over \$144,000.

The funding fee

Most borrowers pay a one-time VA funding fee, which can be financed. First-time purchase fees are 2.15 percent with less than 5 percent down, 1.5 percent with 5 percent down, and 1.25 percent with 10 percent down; after first use, the fee is 3.3 percent with less than 5 percent down. An interest rate reduction refinance (IRRRL) is 0.5 percent. You do not pay the fee if you receive VA compensation for a service-connected disability, receive DIC as a surviving spouse, or meet certain other conditions. If you are later awarded compensation retroactive to before your closing, you may get a refund.

Behind on payments? New help

The VA Home Loan Program Reform Act (Public Law 119-31), signed July 30, 2025, lets VA pay a loan holder what is needed to avoid foreclosure and sets up a five-year Partial Claim Program for VA loans on primary homes that are in default or at imminent risk of default. If you are struggling, contact VA before you fall further behind.

Sources: VA.gov compensation rates, home loans, funding fee, and entitlement pages; SSA news release, Oct. 24, 2025; Federal Register, Feb. 17, 2026; Congress.gov, H.R. 1815 and H.R. 8552.

2026 Monthly Compensation

Veteran alone, no dependents • effective Dec. 1, 2025

10%	\$180.42	60%	\$1,435.02
20%	\$356.66	70%	\$1,808.45
30%	\$552.47	80%	\$2,102.15
40%	\$795.84	90%	\$2,362.30
50%	\$1,132.90	100%	\$3,938.58

Rates with a spouse, children, or parents are higher at 30% and up. Full tables: va.gov/disability/compensation-rates.

Your money checklist

Know your rate

VA.gov

Check your 2026 rate in the full compensation tables.

Watch the COLA

SSA and H.R. 8552

The 2027 increase follows SSA's announcement.

Buying a home?

Certificate of Eligibility

Request your COE before you shop.

Behind on payments?

Partial Claim Program

Contact VA before you fall further behind.

Around the Post: October and Beyond

Food distribution, color guard, community events, and District 20 news

Food distribution: October 7 and November 4

Food distribution is the first Wednesday of every month at the Post, starting at 8:00 AM. Volunteers who can help set up should be at the hall at 8:00 AM.

Color guard: Saturday, October 17

The Post color guard has a flag detail on the calendar for the Wilson County Friends of the NRA Dinner at the La Vernia Chamber of Commerce Hall (Event Center), 5:30 to 8:30 PM.

Wilson County VSO Breakfast: Saturday, October 24

The Wilson County VSO Breakfast is on the Post calendar from 9:00 AM to noon.



Food distribution at the Post, July 1, 2026. (Post archive)

Birthdays and Veterans Day

The Marine Corps marks its 251st birthday on Tuesday, November 10, and Veterans Day is Wednesday, November 11. (The Navy's 251st birthday on October 13 is covered in this issue's military history page.)

Wreaths Across America: Saturday, December 19

Wilson County, TX – Poth is registered as a participating Wreaths Across America location for 2026 (location ID TXPOTH). National Wreaths Across America Day is Saturday, December 19. Wreaths can be sponsored at wreathsasscrossamerica.org/TXPOTH; the Region 3 cutoff for guaranteed delivery is Tuesday, December 2. More to follow.

From District 20

- District 20 Bowling Tournament: Sunday, November 15, 1:00–4:00 PM, Rush Fun Park, 6301 NW 410, Ste. 200.
- District 20 Christmas Party: Saturday, December 5, Post 9186, 5:00–11:00 PM. Our Post gun raffle drawing is a separate Post event the same day.
- Mid-Winter: January 14–17, 2027, in Corpus Christi. More information is expected in November.
- District fundraising reminders: lotería games require a license, and cash prizes are not allowed (gift cards are).

Event flyers

Flyers for upcoming Post events are on the back pages of this issue, followed by the District 20 events flyer and the Combat Tested Gaming flyer. Post them at work, at church, and on the refrigerator.



Volunteers at the July 1, 2026 food distribution. The next distributions are October 7 and November 4. (Post archive)

October 2026

VFW Post 8555

Post Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Small Hall reserved
4 Fried Chicken Dinner 10 AM–1 PM	5	6	7 Food Distribution 8 AM	8	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day Post Dinner 6:30 PM Membership Meeting 7:30 PM	13 U.S. Navy Birthday	14	15	16	17 Color Guard: Friends of NRA Dinner, La Vernia 5:30 PM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Wilson Co. VSO Breakfast 9 AM–12 PM
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 VoD & Patriot's Pen entries due Halloween Dance & Costume Contest 7:30–11:30 PM

■ Post event
 ■ Meeting / dinner
 ■ District 20
 ■ Deadline
 ■ Hall reserved
 ■ Holiday / observance (italic)

October at a Glance

- Sun Oct 4 — Fried Chicken Dinner, serving 10:00 AM–1:00 PM at the Post. \$15 per plate (1/2 chicken & trimmings). Tickets: (830) 484-7317.
- Wed Oct 7 — Food distribution at the Post, 8:00 AM (first Wednesday of every month).
- Mon Oct 12 — Post dinner 6:30 PM; general membership meeting 7:30 PM, 715 Houston St.
- Sat Oct 17 — Color guard flag detail, Wilson County Friends of the NRA Dinner, La Vernia Chamber of Commerce Hall (Event Center), 5:30–8:30 PM.
- Sat Oct 24 — Wilson County VSO Breakfast, 9:00 AM–12:00 PM.
- Sat Oct 31 — Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen entries due to the Post. Halloween Dance & Costume Contest, 7:30–11:30 PM: \$10 ages 18+, free 17 & under.

From the Post Google Calendar; private rentals shown without names. Schedules can change — call (830) 484-7317.

November 2026

VFW Post 8555

Post Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Daylight saving time ends</i>	2	3	4 Food Distribution 8 AM	5	6	7
8	9 Thanksgiving Dinner 6:30 PM Membership Meeting 7:30 PM	10 <i>Marine Corps Birthday</i>	11 <i>Veterans Day</i>	12	13	14 Teacher's Award turn-in, VFW Post 4676, 3-6 PM
15 District 20 Bowling, Rush Fun Park 1-4 PM Large Hall: Auxiliary Lotería	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> Small Hall reserved	27	28 Large Hall hold (tentative)
29	30					

■ Post event
 ■ Meeting / dinner
 ■ District 20
 ■ Deadline
 ■ Hall reserved
 ■ Holiday / observance (italic)

November at a Glance

- Wed Nov 4 — Food distribution at the Post, 8:00 AM.
- Mon Nov 9 — Thanksgiving Dinner 6:30 PM, then general membership meeting 7:30 PM.
- Wed Nov 11 — Veterans Day.
- Sat Nov 14 — Teacher's Award turn-in date, VFW Post 4676, 3:00-6:00 PM.
- Sun Nov 15 — District 20 Bowling Tournament, Rush Fun Park, 6301 NW 410, Ste. 200, 1:00-4:00 PM. Auxiliary Lotería in the Large Hall.
- Looking ahead — Sat Dec 5: District 20 Christmas Party, Post 9186, 5:00-11:00 PM, and the Post gun raffle drawing. Sat Dec 19: Wreaths Across America Day.

From the Post Google Calendar; private rentals shown without names. Schedules can change — call (830) 484-7317.



VFW POST 8555

in Poth, Texas

Fried Chicken Dinner



Sunday October 4, 2026

Serving 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tickets will be sold pre-sale
Some tickets will be available at the door.

Plates are \$15.00 Each
Includes 1/2 chicken and trimmings!

Call (830) 484-7317 for Tickets

HALLOWEEN DANCE & COSTUME CONTEST

FAMILY FUN & DANCING

*KEEPING THE MUSIC
GOING ALL NIGHT!*



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 31, 2026**



7:30 PM – 11:30 PM



ALL AGES WELCOME!

VFW POST 8555

**715 HOUSTON ST.
POTH, TX 78147**

ADMISSION

AT THE DOOR ONLY
18 & OLDER – \$10
17 & UNDER – FREE!

CASH OR VENMO ACCEPTED

COSTUME CONTEST

COME DRESSED
TO IMPRESS!

PRIZES FOR
CONTEST WINNERS!



REFRESHMENTS

SODAS, WATER & BAKE SALE
ITEMS FOR SALE

**NO ALCOHOL
WILL BE SOLD.**



**NO OUTSIDE
FOOD OR DRINKS**



**SODAS, WATER & BAKE SALE
ITEMS FOR SALE.**



HAVE QUESTIONS?

MESSAGE US ON FACEBOOK
OR CALL US AT

830-484-7317

★ WILSON COUNTY MEMORIAL VFW POST 8555 ★



VFW DISTRICT 20 2026-2027 EVENTS

★ VETERANS SUPPORTING VETERANS & OUR COMMUNITY ★

Join Us. Get Involved. Make a Difference.

AUGUST 21, 2026

VFW DISTRICT 20 **GOLF** TOURNAMENT

📍 OLYMPIA HILLS
🕒 7:00 AM



NOVEMBER 15, 2026

VFW DISTRICT 20 **BOWLING** TOURNAMENT

📍 Rush Fun Park
6301 NW410 Ste. 200
🕒 1:00 - 4:00 PM



DECEMBER 5, 2026

VFW DISTRICT 20 *Christmas* **PARTY**

📍 POST 9186
🕒 5:00 - 11:00 PM



FEBRUARY 6, 2027

VFW DISTRICT 20 **PICKLEBALL** TOURNAMENT

📍 CHICKENPICKLE
🕒 3:00 - 6:00 PM



MARCH 20, 2027

VFW DISTRICT 20 **ROSIE** THE RIVETER *Event*

📍 POST 7108
🕒 2:00 - 7:00 PM



MARCH 21, 2027

VFW DISTRICT 20 **CLAY SHOOT** FUNDRAISER

📍 SHOT THERAPY
🕒 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM



APRIL 17, 2027

VFW DISTRICT 20 **FAMILY** *Appreciation* **PICNIC**

📍 POST 4815
🕒 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM



APRIL 30, 2027

VFW DISTRICT 20 **BATTLE OF THE POSTS** ★ *Karaoke* ★

📍 POST 8541
🕒 7:00 - 11:00 PM



MORE THAN A POST. WE'RE A COMMUNITY.



SERVICE



FRIENDSHIP



PATRIOTISM

TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

JOIN VFW

MAKE AN IMPACT.

Be Part of Something

★ **BIGGER.** ★

HONORING HEROES ★ STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES ★ CHANGING LIVES

COMBAT TESTED GAMING: CONNECT THROUGH PLAY

EST. 2023 • VFW



Camaraderie doesn't end when military service does. Combat Tested Gaming brings veterans together through a shared love of video games, creating opportunities to connect, build friendships, and enjoy some friendly competition.

Whether you're an experienced player or just getting started, gaming can be another way to stay connected with fellow veterans.

Interested in learning more? Contact the Post Commander about Combat Tested Gaming or check them out at <https://discord.gg/combattestedgaming>.

SCAN TO JOIN THE DISCORD ▶

Join the CTG Discord

discord.gg/combattestedgaming

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