

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
General Raymond G. Davis
Post 12002
Alpharetta, Georgia

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of Each Month
7 PM at 2970 Webb Bridge Road
(Behind Fire Station #1)
Alpharetta, Georgia 30004



Membership Information

June 2009

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Post Welcome

Welcome to VFW Post 12002 where your sacrifice and service to the defense of our nation is remembered and honored. You joined this particular post for a reason. If you are like most of us who joined we were looking for others who understood our experiences and our reflections of service in an environment of mutual respect and dignity. There is only one place to openly reflect upon your combat deployments and that is among your peers, your fellow Veterans of Foreign Wars, your comrades. You will only get back what you put into this fellowship at Post 12002. If you are not actively involved you will not know what is going on. If you are not actively involved you will not know what benefits you are due. However, there is no obligation to come to a single meeting. It is up to you and as the old saying goes, "If it's to be, It's up to me".

You are reminded that when you repeated the VFW pledge in front the members of the post you accepted the obligations of membership. There is much to learn about our organization our rich history and traditions. Participation in Post and Department meetings is a great learning tool, but the real key to understanding and appreciating your membership is your involvement in post activities. The General Raymond G. Davis VFW Post 12002 is a hands on post. We do not do Bingo or the Bar. We help Vets. "Remembering our Veterans and Supporting Our Troops" is what we are all about.

The purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is to preserve and support the patriotic and historical interests of our country, our communities and our veterans; to strengthen the common bonds of the men and women who have served and who are currently serving in our military; to assist them and their families; to enhance their quality of life; and to maintain true allegiance to the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and defend her from all enemies, whomsoever.

We will accomplish our mission by:

- Perpetuating the memory and history of our dead through public and private acts of remembrance;
 - Preserving and defending the honor, integrity and rights of all veterans and those currently serving in the military;
 - Fostering patriotism through education and volunteerism within the community;
- and
- Advocating for a strong national defense.

Welcome to VFW Post 12002! Welcome Home!

CALENDAR 2009-2010

The calendar below is an anticipated listing of planned events as of June 30, 2009. Committee meetings should be scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month as necessary except the Operation Santa Committee which will meet in September, October, November ending with Operation Santa in December. Check the website for updates.

July

- 4 Independence Day Observance
- 14 Post Meeting

August

- 1 Old Soldiers Day Participation (Post Function)
- 7 – 9 Georgia Leadership Training, Macon, Georgia
- 11 Post Meeting and Monthly Reports to Department of Georgia
- 15-20 VFW National Convention, Phoenix, Arizona
- 29 Department of Georgia District 3 Meeting, Post 5257 Stone Mountain

September

- 1 Operation Santa Committee Meeting
- 7 Labor Day Observance
- 8 Post Meeting (Mail Paid dues notification to Continuous Members)
Monthly reports to Department of Georgia
- 11 Patriot's Day Observance – Buddy Poppy Event
- 18 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 25 Payment to National for Continuous Members 160 x \$18.00 = \$2880

October

- 1 General Raymond G. Davis Post 12002 Alpharetta 100% Membership
- 9-11 Department of Georgia Fall Meeting, Macon
- 12 Operation Santa Committee Meeting
- 13 Post Meeting (Mail request for charitable contribution to Life Members)
Monthly reports to Department of Georgia
- 24 Department of Georgia District 3 Meeting, Post 6449 Fairburn

November

- (Military Family and Veterans in the Classroom Month)
- 1 November – Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Citizenship
Nomination and Contest Deadline to Post
- 3 Operation Santa Committee Meeting
- 11 Post Meeting and Veterans Day Observance – Buddy Poppy Event
- 26 Thanksgiving Day Observance

December

- 8 Post Meeting
- 9-12 Operation Santa Distribution

Calendar of Events 2010

General Raymond G. Davis VFW Post 12002 Alpharetta, Georgia

January

12 Post Meeting – Operation Santa Recap
18 Martin Luther King Holiday Observance

February

9 Post Meeting
12-14 Department of Georgia Mid Winter Meeting
15 President's Day Observance

March

6 Department of Georgia District 3 Meeting Post 6330 Jonesboro
9 Post Meeting (Nominations)

April

13 Post Meeting (Election)

May

1 Department of Georgia District 3 Convention – Post 7583 Roswell
11 Post Meeting (Installation)
31 Memorial Day Observation and Buddy Poppy Event

June

8 Post Meeting
17-20 Department of Georgia State Convention, Macon

Did you know?

The only authorized headgear to be worn at a VFW meeting is the official cover.

When leaving a post meeting prior to adjournment saluting the colors upon exiting the room and entering the room is proper.

The proper salutation when addressing a fellow member is the term Comrade followed by office held or name.

To be recognized at a meeting courtesy is to raise your hand, be recognized by the chair and salute addressing the individual as Comrade (office) or (name).

The General Raymond G. Davis VFW Post 12002, Alpharetta, Georgia

History

VFW Post 12002 is a post rich in history although a relatively new post by VFW historical standards. Organized in 2002 and chartered in 2003 we quickly became a respected post whose membership included representation from WWII through our current conflicts. At the onset we determined that our focus would be on helping veterans not just each other and could best be accomplished without a post home. From an initial membership of 25 we have quickly grown to a post of over 226 (year end 2009) members from all over the United States and wherever troops are deployed. The Charter Post Commander in April 2002 was Comrade Chuck Weist, Korean Service. Our record of accomplishments is long and has been recognized by both the National Headquarters and the Department of Georgia:

All State Post 2003-2004

Commander Dominic Listermann, Gulf War I Service

All American Post 2003-2004

Commander Dominic Listermann, Gulf War I Service

All State Post 2005-2006

Commander Al Lipphardt, Vietnam Service

All American Post 2005-2006

Commander Al Lipphardt, Vietnam Service

All State Post 2006-2007

Commander Al Lipphardt, Vietnam Service

All State Post 2007-2008

Commander Al Lipphardt, Vietnam Service

All State Post 2008-2009

Commander Terry Haynes, Vietnam Service

2009-2010 ELECTED POST OFFICERS

Commander, Terry Haynes, Vietnam Service

Quartermaster, Hopp Hopkins, Vietnam Service

Senior Vice Commander, Christian Stevens, Kosovo Service

Junior Vice Commander, Jim Lake, Vietnam Service

Judge Advocate, Larry Zepp, Korean Service

Surgeon, Dennis DeGive, Vietnam Service

Chaplain, Chuck Weist, Korean Service

1 Year Trustee Sam Eckstein, WWII

2 Year Trustee, Tony Hilliard, Vietnam Service

3 Year Trustee, Dan Brown, Vietnam Service

Adjutant Jim Lake, Vietnam Service (appointed)

Service Officer Al Lipphardt, Vietnam Service (appointed)

Veterans of Foreign Wars
General Raymond G. Davis
Post 12002
Alpharetta, Georgia

OPERATION SANTA

Beginning in 2004 the signature project of the VFW General Raymond G. Davis Post 12002 has been and continues to be "Operation Santa". This ongoing year long project has a singular purpose... To provide assistance for the families of Georgia's deployed military. This assistance is without regard to rank, unit, or branch of service. Named Operation Santa it is a reflection on the day our loved ones return from deployment. It does not matter the day or month, it becomes Christmas and takes on the Christmas spirit. From a simple idea fostered by dedicated veterans of Post 12002 who remembered what it was like to be deployed from home and loved ones has come a project whose purpose has remained steadfast and been embraced by more and more corporate and individual contributors. Come to a Post meeting to learn more and find out how you can help.

While the bulk of fundraising is done in the fall, the mission continues throughout the year. Each year has brought new milestones. 2004 saw the startup with members from Fort Stewart being the major recipient. What a story to tell of the delivery of the truckload of presents: 2005 the need was strong with Georgia's 48th Brigade deployed: 2006 and Fort McPherson's Operation Gift became a partner: 2007 and members of the 3rd Brigade deployed out of Fort Benning had a great time at the PX funded by Post 12002's contributors and members. And 2008 we achieved authorization to be listed as an accredited charitable organization in the Combined Federal Campaign. In 2008 the recipient was again Fort McPherson's Operation Gift and over 400 families and children. Since the project's inception over 2,500 families and children have received gifts they probably would not have gotten if not for the caring of the Post 12002 members. Since the project's inception almost \$40,000 has been contributed. Since the project's inception over ten thousand man hours have been spent begging, selecting, buying, packing and delivering gifts. Since the inception cars have been repaired, utility bills have been paid, roofs have been fixed, plumbing and electrical repairs have been made and all because the General Raymond G. Davis Post 12002 members care.

We are proud of Operation Santa, our project. If there is only one project you contribute to this year make it this one. Don't give 'till it hurts – Give 'till it feels good!

The Cross of Malta



The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States adopted for its symbol the Cross of Malta, which has a heritage of honor, duty, sacrifice and courage that dates back to the 11th century. The Cross has its origin in the Knights of St. John, a strict order of crusaders originally founded to maintain a hospital for pilgrims journeying to the Holy Land. From this order evolved two divisions, the Knights Templar, famed for their ability to fight, and the Knights Hospitaller, humanitarians who provided for the sick and distressed. The Knights established branches throughout Europe and moved their headquarters to Cyprus. From Cyprus the headquarters was eventually moved to Rhodes in the 14th century and was transferred from there to the island of Malta in the 16th century. There they became known as the Knights of Malta. The insignia of the Knights of Malta is basically the same as the one used today by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is an 8-pointed cross formed by four arrowheads meeting at the points. Each represents one of the Beatitudes taken from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The arrowheads indicated the knights were willing to fight for the principles of justice and truth although their order was basically a peaceful one.

This outlook is similar to that of the VFW, devoted to peace but comprised of men who have fought and are willing to fight again, for those principles which embody the individual liberties and dignities of men. The fundamental objectives of the organization are set forth in a charter granted it by the Congress of the United States in 1936

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Facts

ORIGINATED: 1899 – Oldest major U.S. combat veterans organization
1936 – Congressional Charter

In 1899, the American Veterans of Foreign Service (Columbus, Ohio) and the National Society of the Army of the Philippines (Denver, Colo.) were organized to secure rights and benefits for veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippines War (1899-1902). These two organizations merged in 1914, creating the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. VFW was chartered by Congress in 1936

POSTS: Approximately 7,800 worldwide

MEMBERSHIP: 1.6 million

ELIGIBILITY: An applicant must be a U.S. citizen, have served honorably overseas in the armed forces of the United States and earned a recognized campaign/service medal or badge; served in Korea after June 30, 1949, until present; or earned Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay. Also, those who received the SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia, the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB), the Combat Medic Badge (CMB), The Combat Action Ribbon (CAR), The Combat Action Badge (CAB), the Air Force Combat Action Medal (AFCAM), or Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon (with Gold Bar).

PROGRAMS: Veterans Service
National Security & Foreign Affairs
Legislative Service
VFW Action Corps
National Military Services
Youth Development, Scholarship & Recognition
Buddy Poppy
Citizenship Education & Community Services

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Thousands convene each August at VFW's national convention to elect officers, adopt resolutions and discuss business affairs. Leading the organization are the elected commander-in-chief, senior vice commander-in-chief and junior vice commander-in-chief. The National Council of Administration serves as the VFW's board of directors. More than 7,800 Posts comprise 54 Departments in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Latin America, the Pacific Areas and Europe. Posts form the basic local chapter.

CURRENT PRIORITY ISSUES FOR 2009-2010

- **VA Healthcare:** Ensure funding is authorized and appropriated that is sufficient, timely and predictable to fill the healthcare demands of all veterans. Ensure unique challenges of OEF/OIF veterans are met, including increased funding for traumatic brain injuries, PTSD, and improved access to care. Increase services provided to women veterans by hiring specialized care providers trained in gender specific healthcare. Improve outreach efforts to all veterans, especially women, minorities, and those residing in rural areas.

- **VA Benefits & Compensation:** Ensure VA's disability compensation programs is fully funded and preserved in its current form. Oppose any change to current definitions of "line of duty" or "programs for disability and survivors benefits." Reduce the VA claims backlog.

- **Veterans Employment:** Ensure the provisions of the Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act are strictly enforced; support the National Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve; and urge Congress to enforce Public Law 106-50, which requires at least 3% of all government contracts be awarded to service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses.

- **Military Affairs:** Seek to improve the quality of life of all active-duty, Guard and Reserve members and their families. Provide affordable healthcare, and adequate housing and work facilities for themselves and their families. Provide military pay increases to restore full comparability with private sector wages. Support efforts to lower the Guard and Reserve retirement pay age to 55. Oppose any TRICARE fee increase.

- **War on Terrorism & Homeland Security:** Call for increased and timely funding to support U.S. troops in their mission to prosecute the war on terrorism around the world. Secure U.S. borders, shorelines and all points of entry. Halt the flow of illegal immigration.

- **Defense & Foreign Affairs:** Increase defense spending to fund all needed weapons programs, personnel initiatives and military service end strength requirements. Urge the continued development and deployment of a ballistic missile defense system.

- **POW/MIA:** Achieve the fullest possible accounting of missing American servicemen from all wars.

Headquarters : 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111
Phone 816-756-3390, Fax 816-968-1199
Website www.vfw.org — E-mail: info@vfw.org

Department of Georgia
District 3
VFW Post 12002

Members Obligation

In the presence of almighty God and the members of this order here assembled I (your name) do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise and declare that:

I will bear true allegiance to the United States of America and I will always be loyal thereto and will never bear arms nor in any way use my influence against it's laws or institutions.

I do further solemnly promise and declare that I will comply with the Constitution Bylaws and Ritual of this order and I will always be loyal thereto.

That I will never wrong or defraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit any wrong to be done to either, if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership any person nor eligible according to our Constitution nor one whom I know to be unworthy.

I will never make known to anyone not authorized to receive it any of the work of this order. Should my affiliation with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America cease in any way I will consider this pledge as binding outside of the order as though I had remained a member of same.

All this I promise and pledge upon the honor of a true comrade and a citizen of our great republic.

Post By-Laws

Alpharetta Post No 12002 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Article I *Name and Location*

Section 1 By virtue of charter granted, this post shall be known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, General Raymond G. Davis Post No 12002, Alpharetta, Georgia.

Section 2 The location of this post shall be in the City of Alpharetta, County of Fulton, State of Georgia

Article II *Subordination*

Section 1 The supreme power of this association is vested in the National Convention and this post shall be at all times governed by the Congressional Charter and By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the By-Laws of the Department of Georgia. Orders issued by authority of the National Convention, National Council of Administration, the Commander-in-Chief, the Department Convention, Department Council of Administration and the Commander of the Department of Georgia. For the purposes of this Article and Section, Resolutions adopted by the National Convention are held to be lawful orders

Article III *Meetings*

Section 1 The regular meeting of this post shall be 11140 State Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30022.

The post may change its meeting place in accordance with the provisions of Section 206 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.

Section 2 The regular meeting of the post shall be held on the second Thursday of each month, to be called to order at 1900 hours. The appointed day and time of regular meetings may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular meeting. The post members and the Department Commander shall be notified of any change of the appointed day and/or time of the regular meeting.

Section 3 Special meetings may be called in accordance with the provisions of the National By-Laws.

Section 4 Thirteen (13) members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Article IV *Membership*

Section 1 Membership in this post, eligibility to, application for, acquiring and maintenance of, loss of and discipline shall be in accordance with the provisions of the National By-Laws.

Section 2 The admission fee of this post shall be \$1.00 payable in accordance with the National By-Laws.

Section 3 The dues of this post shall never be less than the amount required to cover Department and National dues.

Article V *Officers*

Section 1 Eligibility to nomination, election or appointment, installation and term of office shall be in accordance with the provisions of the National By-Laws.

Section 2 The duties of all officers shall be those prescribed by National and Department By-Laws, lawful orders as the post may direct and these By-Laws may provide.

Section 3 Election of officers will be by poll system, and preprinted ballot in accordance with the provisions of Section 217 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.

Article VI

Committees and Duties

Section 1 All committees and their chairmen, unless otherwise provided, shall be appointed by the Commander as promptly as possible after the election to office, and as such shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Commander. The Post Quartermaster, by virtue of his office, shall be treasurer of all committees having funds.

Section 2 The standing committees of the post shall be as follows:

Americanism	Legislative
Awards	Membership
Buddy Poppy	Political Action
Benevolent Fund	Public Relations
Community Service	Safety
Employment	Scouting
Hospital	Youth Activities

Article VII

Control of Subsidiary Units

Section 1 Any activity, unit or clubrooms sponsored, conducted or operated by the post, incorporated separately from the post or unincorporated, shall at all times be under the direct control of the post.

Section 2 All funds derived from any of the above shall be in the in the custody of the post quartermaster.

Section 3 All money, property, and assets of every kind as well as all records in connection therewith used, held and owned by any of the above activities is the property of the post and must be placed in the care and custody of the post quartermaster.

Section 4 For purpose of this article the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Military Order of the Cootie and its Ladies Auxiliary are governed by Articles XI and XII respectively of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective By-Laws, Rules and Regulations.

Article VIII

Expenditure of Funds

Section 1 Expenditure of funds shall be made only after prior authorization by the post and on proper receipt provided to the adjutant and approved by the commander. All checks for the expenditure of post funds shall be numbered in sequence, the number of each check to correspond with the receipt authorizing the same and in addition to the signature of the quartermaster, the check shall be countersigned by the commander.

Section 2 The adoption of this article shall constitute authorization by the post for the payment of bills when and as due for monthly rental, public utility service, postage, janitor service and for janitorial supplies and minor emergency repairs authorized by a duly installed House Committee provided that the amounts to be paid for monthly rentals and janitorial service shall have been previously established by the post.

Section 3 No other payments or expenditures shall be made except on the specific authorization of the post in each and every case presented for adoption by those members present at a regular meeting. All amendments shall be forwarded through channels and reviewed by the Department Commander and the Commander-in-Chief before becoming effective.

Section 4 Wherever these By-Laws or subsequent amendments may be found to be in conflict with the present or any future National By-Laws and By-Laws of the Department of Georgia, the latter shall prevail and be binding upon this post as though written herein.

These By-Laws were adopted, subject to the review of the Commander-in-Chief and the Commander of the Department of Georgia, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on this 14th day of October, 2004 at a regular meeting of this post in the city of Alpharetta and County of Fulton, State of Georgia.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
General Raymond G. Davis Post 12002
Alpharetta, Georgia

Thomas A. Cole, Post Commander
Dominic J. Listermann, Post Adjutant