



# **\*\* VALOR \*\***

George E. Smith Post 7142, VFW

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**APR-MAY-JUN 2014 – 2015**

**Volume III Issue 2014/15-4**

## **COMMANDER'S COMMENTS**



From the VFW Department of California February 24, 2015

**CONGRATULATIONS**, it is my pleasure to advise you that you have been selected as a member of the “**ALL STATE TEAM**” FOR THE 2014-2015 YEAR. The Certificate will be presented on Saturday June 13, 2015 at 0730 at the Double Tree Hotel, Bakersfield, California at the State Convention.

State Commander Howard Hagen.

**Congratulations All.** This is the second year that this Post has made All State Team. This does not come easy to a Post. We first have to have a good recruitment and retention program. Membership must be over 100% and each year you have to replace and recruit more. Retention is extremely important for All State Team, this year we had to have renewals for all 2014 members less 2. The All American Standards changes yearly with each new Commander and Council. We also must participate in or fund major programs such as Poppy Days, Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Teacher, EMS, Police and Scouting Award programs. We also have to meet mandatory monetary donations for VFW Programs. Attainment of these awards relies heavily on the Quartermaster, who has to submit timely audits and reports on membership to District and State. Thank you Alex Neil, for always being timely and accurate in our reporting. Of course we have to pass the Post Annual Inspection that is done by District 2 in the fall of the year. It really takes a **TEAM** of **DOERS** to manage a successful Post as ours.

Awards and Recognition are Great and a Big Morale Booster, but the Real Role of our Post is giving back to all Veterans and supporting our Active Duty Components. Our numbers are dwindling as we say farewell to the Greatest Generation of Fighting and Men and Women. The number of Veterans from Korea and Vietnam are also in the twilight years. We had a long period of Cold War and then the surge of a 14 Year War. Like those of us from the Vietnam era and Desert Storm we were slow to join the VFW for whatever reason: tired of the military, misconception about the VFW's role, not being accepted by some Posts because you were from the Vietnam Conflict, or a woman, or just raising your family and getting through life. I worry we aren't reaching the Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans fast enough to keep our VFW Posts alive and active in legislation. We aging veterans and these disabled veterans are going to need **STRONG ADVOCATES** and **SUPPORT** from these young men and women veterans. **GET OUT THERE RECRUIT, DEVELOP AND MENTOR THESE YOUNG PEOPLE.**



B-Day: 6/14/1775



B-Day: 11/10/1775



B-Day: 10/13/1775



B-Day: 9/18/1947



B-Day: 8/4/1790

# COMRADE PROFILES



John Carretti, born in Lancaster, PA in 1959, is a 1981 graduate of Penn State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Administration of Justice, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps through the NROTC program. John served more than 23 years as an Infantry Officer, retiring from active duty in 2004. His highlights include a combat tour as a rifle company commander during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and command of Battalion Landing Team 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Marines, (22<sup>nd</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit Special Operations Capable) onboard USS WASP assigned to Central Command in support of the Global War on Terrorism in 2002, with deployments to Pakistan and Djibouti, Africa. During John's tour in command of Battalion Landing Team 2/6 he was concurrently designated Commander of Troops, USS WASP. During this tour he participated in the Embassy Reinforcement of the Consulate General in Karachi, Pakistan following a major car bombing that breached the consulate wall. John served in 4 infantry battalions: 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marines; 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines; 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Marines, and; 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Marines. John served in 7 infantry regiments, including a tour as Executive Officer of 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton.

Outside of the operating forces, John served as an instructor and unit leader at Officer Candidates School, Quantico VA; as the operations officer of the School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, CA; as the Staff Secretary for Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA, and; as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff Operations and Training, Camp Pendleton, CA. John attended the Marine Corps' Amphibious Warfare School in 1988 where he graduated with honors. As a Major, John also graduated from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College.

John retired as a Lieutenant Colonel; his decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with 3 gold stars (in lieu of a 4th award), the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal with 3 gold stars (in lieu of 4<sup>th</sup> award), the Navy Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Since retiring from active duty in 2004, John has served as a federal civil service employee at Camp Pendleton. For more than 10 years he was assigned as Director of Range and Training Area Management, responsible for the program management and modernization of ranges, training areas, and training systems across the Marine Corps Western Installations which includes Camp Pendleton, CA; Miramar, CA; Barstow, CA, and; Yuma, AZ. He was just reassigned as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff G-3/5, Operations, Plans, and Training for the same region. John recently used his post-911 GI Bill to attain a Masters of Management degree from University of Phoenix, conferred in May 2014. He and his wife, Kitty, CDR USN, CEC (Ret), also a federal civil service employee at Camp Pendleton working for U. S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, have been residents of San Clemente, CA, since 1993. John has agreed to take over the duties of Newsletter Editor for the Post.



## In Memorium

With sadness the Post announces the loss of a World War II/Korean War veteran.

Charles W. Keihn passed away on February 10, 2015 at Saddleback Memorial Hospital in San Clemente. Chuck became a member of our Post in June 1993 ( a 22 year member) and served as Post Commander for two years. He served in the Navy from 1942 to 1963; then 7 years in the Reserves. A Memorial will be held on April 4, 2015 at the clubhouse in Cyprus Shores.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Derek S. Holland, USMC active duty  
Jonathon K. Spangler, USMC active duty  
Tyler E. Matthews, USMC active duty  
Charles W. Hall, Navy, Korean veteran  
Clarence Graham II, USMC, active duty  
Cory E. Weeks, USMC, active duty

**The Post has attained the status of “All State”, for the 2nd straight year, with the acquisition of new members!**

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## Congratulations to our 25 + Year Club:

Larry Batulis ————— 39 years  
G. Arabian ————— 32 years  
Anthony Schneider ——— 27 years  
George Gibbs ————— 27 years  
Burns Parker ————— 27 years  
James Klinger ————— 27 years  
Robert Carrick ————— 27 years  
Kenneth Mann ————— 27 years  
Samuel Thorndyke ——— 26 years  
Paul Duclos ————— 26 years  
John Meiling ————— 25 years  
George Key ————— 25 years  
Fred Bouman ————— 25 years  
James Carson ————— 25 years  
Edward Chapman ——— 25 years

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## Leadership Perspectives by John Hamilton, Adjutant General

### **Videos Offer Training and Insight**

I'm proud to announce a new feature on VFW's website that will help our leaders and active members perform their jobs better. The VFW Training Hub can be accessed through My VFW, the members-only section at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). To get there, you'll need to create an account using your VFW membership number and a valid e-mail address. After accessing My VFW, click on "VFW Training Hub" in the "General Member Tools and Resources" list. There, you'll find the videos. They are organized in four categories: Post Service Officers; Administrative Operations; Programs; and Membership. The videos for Post service officers provide key information to help them understand their role in the VA claims process and fulfill the objectives of their position. They also serve as an educational tool for Department service officers to use during annual training of their Post service officers. It is a "must-have" for every Department. The videos cover: • When to Consult Your Department Service Officer • Identifying Veterans Who Need Help • Basics of the VA Claims Process • Getting a VA Claim Started • Important Cautions. Under Administrative Operations, we offer four videos that can help Post leaders manage basic functions like how to open, close and conduct a Post meeting, and how to challenge a member's eligibility. In the Programs section, you'll find two videos narrated by VFW's Director of Programs Kevin Jones. In the first, he gives a general overview of all our Programs, and in the second, he provides specific details of each. The final section is a two-part video hosted by VFW's Deputy Director of Membership Rick Butler. In the video, Butler explains how effective recruiters communicate to prospective members the features and benefits that VFW offers them. All these videos offer something for any VFW leader or activist. So take a look. There's important information that can serve you and your Post.

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## **CORPORATE/BUSINESS SPONSORS**

**Comrade Marc Gold has designed a program to enhance revenues to the Post. It calls for recruiting sponsors from the Corporate and Business community and individuals to pledge their financial support to our Post in fulfilling our role of assisting veterans and their families through our philanthropic donations. Subscribers may participate at these levels:**

**Bronze .....\$50**

**Silver..... \$100**

**Gold..... \$250**

**Platinum.....\$500**

**Titanium.....\$1,000**

**A subscriber's list will be prepared and letters of invitation will be sent to prospects the Post feel are candidates to pursue. Those that do will be recognized through the Post's website, Newsletter, and Buddy Poppy table promotions. A Certificate of Participation and/or plaque will be issued to each to publicize their patriotic support of our VFW Post. Individual members, their families and friends are encouraged to be sponsors as well. This effort should contribute greatly in allowing our Post to continue to provide the services it has over the years. Kudos to comrade Gold for his work on this program.**

**This program is also open to individuals and it is hoped that Post members will consider a "tax deductible" contribution to assist the Post in maintaining the VFW motto: "We honor the dead by helping the living".**

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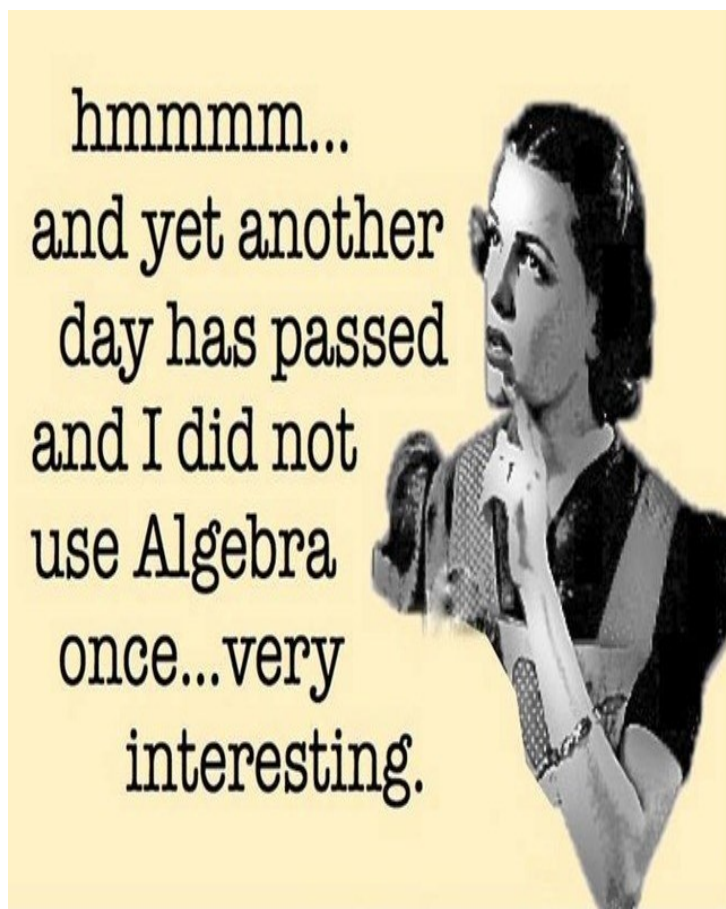
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## **WISDOM FROM THE PAST**

"The Budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest Rome will become bankrupt. People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance." - Cicero, 55 BC

**(So what have we learned over the past 2,069 years?)**

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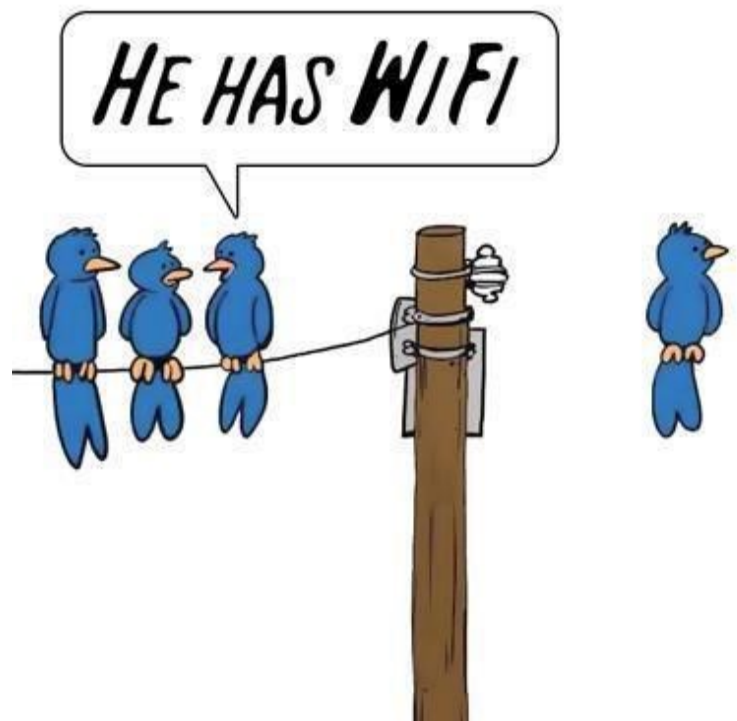




## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR BIDS ADIEU:**

Having served as the Newsletter Editor for the past three years, I feel it's time for someone else to take the reins. Since I'm currently serving as the Quartermaster, a position I've held for ten years, and also holding down the Judge Advocate position, the demands of meeting schedules and keeping up have caught up with me and I feel the "editor" function would be better served by someone new. As you may already know, the Newsletter is made available, in color, on the Post's web-site, along with other important information. Members should visit: [www.vfw7142.com](http://www.vfw7142.com) and select Newsletters from the menu bar. The Post minutes are also available under this tab. Because of the web-site availability, copies of the Newsletter (in black and white) were then reduced to being mailed only to members who had not advanced to the technology of using computers. We currently mail to 38 members. One of the highlights brought to the Newsletter, the past few years, is the Comrade Profile section where comrades are encouraged to submit a picture in uniform from their early military career along with a brief biography (300 to 400 words or less) describing their military experience. Any member can do this and if you haven't done so yet, please consider doing so. It's a good way to have your other comrades to get to know you. Another way the Post benefitted from having the Newsletter designed and completed in house was to see it's annual cost drop from about \$1,700 to its present cost of \$200 per year while changing its publication from bi-monthly to quarterly and increasing it to six pages from four. That \$1,500 a year saving is better served in our other charitable funding that goes directly to assisting veterans and their families. At the Post meeting on January 14th, a brave and worthy comrade, John Carretti, stepped forward to take on this function of Newsletter Editor. Thank you, thank you, John! Let's give John all the support we can.

Alex J. Neil, Newsletter Editor Outgoing





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## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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*"We honor the dead by serving the living"*

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### POST OFFICERS:

Commander:	Dolores J. Padgett
Sr. Vice Comdr:	Mike Turner
Jr. Vice Comdr:	Wayne Greenleaf
Quartermaster:	Alex J. Neil
Chaplain:	Michael Wiechman
Adjutant:	Wayne Greenleaf
Judge Advocate:	Alex J. Neil
Surgeon:	Terrell DeVoe
Trustee #3:	Francis Reyes
Trustee #2:	Barry Trauger
Trustee #1:	Terrell DeVoe
Officer of the Day:	James Ferguson
Service Officer:	Michael Wiechman

