



## Convention Highlights

Saturday, July 21, 2018  
National Council of Administration Meeting

### President Trump to Speak Tuesday at Municipal Auditorium

President Donald Trump will be the featured speaker during Tuesday's Business Meeting. He is scheduled to appear at 11 a.m., at **Municipal Auditorium**, which is a change to the original location. Doors will open at 6 a.m. and all attendees must have a convention badge to get through security. Attendees are reminded to be respectful. Tuesday also includes remarks by acting VA Secretary Peter O'Rourke; former Marine Corps Lt. Col. Oliver North, a life member of VFW Post 668 in Birmingham, Ala.; Kelly McKeague with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and Fox News anchor Harris Faulkner. VFW will present its *News Media Award* to cartoonist Maximillion Uriarte and Andrew Lumish will receive a *James E. Van Zandt Citizenship Award*, for his work in cleaning veterans graves in a cemetery in Tampa, Fla.

Monday's Joint Opening, which begins at 7:30 a.m., includes appearances by U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-Mo.), U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) and retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Worthe S. Holt Jr. Former Navy SEAL David Goggins, a member of VFW's Department of Tennessee, will accept VFW's *Americanism Award*, while Army Command Sgt. Maj. William F. Thetford, a member of VFW's Department of Florida, will receive the *Armed Forces Award*. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr. will receive the *Dwight D. Eisenhower Award* and Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, president of the mental health awareness organization Give an Hour, also will accept a *James E. Van Zandt Citizenship Award*. Recipients of the *Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award* will accept their awards and speak, too.

VFW's Department of Michigan presented a check for \$1,097 to help replenish the organization's Emergency Relief Fund. VFW has donated more than \$600,000 in the past year for hurricane and fire relief efforts.

Members wanting to attend the Commander-in-Chief's Reception Wednesday at 4 p.m. must be present at the installation of national officers that morning to receive a ticket – no ticket, no entry.

During closing remarks, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief William "Doc" Schmitz encouraged the Council to keep up membership efforts. "I'm relying on you as leaders to lead and stay focused," he said. "Hang in there. We'll get to 100 percent coming up really soon."

Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence thanked the retiring Council members for their work on behalf of VFW. "I look forward to working with the incoming Council members," he said.

Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman concluded the meeting by saying that his year in office has been a "privilege" leading the nation's oldest major veterans group. "You sent me on a journey of a lifetime for the past three years and it's been an honor," he said. "This is not goodbye because I will continue to work for veterans."

**-The End-**