



## Convention Highlights

Saturday, July 16, 2022

National Council of Administration Meeting

### Council Meeting Kicks off First Full-Length Convention in Three Years

VFW Commander-in-Chief Matthew M. “Fritz” Mihelcic opened the first full-length in-person VFW National Convention since 2019 by encouraging VFW members to “thank our vendors, talk to other attendees, meet new people, share your stories and enjoy the convention.”

Adjutant General Kevin Jones said country music artist Teddy Robb and performing-arts group Modern Warrior LIVE, which documents an Afghanistan War veteran’s time in the war zone, will appear during convention. Jones said that in order to attend the Commander-in-Chief’s reception at 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 21, you must have a ticket. To receive a ticket, you must attend the installation of new officers at 8 a.m. that morning.

Quartermaster General Marc Garduno announced that VFW will end the year “right around budget.” He also thanked the VFW staff for its work in convention preparation.

VFW Washington Office Executive Director Bob Wallace asked Council members to thank their fellow VFW members in their states for contacting law makers regarding the **Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022**. “Your help was the ammunition we needed,” Wallace said. He further stated that individuals, such as retired Army Gen. Martin Dempsey and VA Secretary Denis McDonough, are speaking during convention.

Wendy Griffin, Nadine Newman and Jon Gohn will each receive the *John A. Biedrzycki Accredited Service Representative of the Year Award*. The award is named for recently deceased former VFW Commander-in-Chief John A. Biedrzycki.

VFW’s national officers concluded the meeting by commending the National Council of Administration.

Mihelcic offered his thanks to the Council for his year as Commander-in-Chief. “It was a pleasure to serve all of you this year,” he said. “This has been a highlight for me. We professionalized the way we do business. Thank you for taking it seriously.”

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland lauded VFW’s Southern Conference for four years of consecutive membership growth. He also praised VFW’s outgoing Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant General. “Congratulations to both Fritz for an outstanding year and Kevin for his 26 and a half years of service to the VFW.”

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento thanked the Council members for their role as the VFW’s board of directors. He also wished Adjutant General Kevin Jones “all the best” in his retirement. Noting the number of VFW donors in attendance, Sarmiento encouraged members to offer their thanks. “Let’s support those who support us,” he said.

-The End-