



Convention Highlights

Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025

National Council of Administration Meeting

VFW Chief Says ‘Be the Best You Can Be’

Past VFW Commander-in-Chief Larry Rivers was recognized today at the start of the VFW National Council of Administration meeting. VFW Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt presented Rivers with a certificate of recognition for representing the VFW in Hanoi, Vietnam, in July. Rivers’ visit there coincided with the 30th anniversary of re-establishing diplomatic ties between the U.S. and Vietnam, as well as the 40th anniversary of the first American recovery mission for those missing in action from the Vietnam War.

Calling the award an “unexpected honor,” Rivers credited the VFW for making decisions based on “truth and facts” more than 30 years ago. “We decided the best thing to do was move forward, to heal those wounds and try to do the right thing,” Rivers said about the VFW’s decision to help the U.S. normalize relations with Vietnam.

VFW Adjutant General Dan West encouraged Council members and those in attendance to download the VFW Convention app, and to officially register for the convention. He reminded members of the Tuesday night Patriotic Rally and urged everyone to “spend your money” at the VFW Store while at Convention. West closed his remarks by thanking the Council, saying, “It has been a distinct honor to work alongside each of you. Your dedication to the VFW ensures that the VFW remains a steadfast organization for veterans.”

National Council of Administration representatives Bill Thomson of New Jersey and Vern Anderson of West Virginia were remembered. Both died this past year while serving.

VFW’s top three line officers concluded today’s meeting with their remarks.

Lipphardt reminded the Council members to “be the best you can be at all things at all times.” He also noted that while the VFW has customs and traditions, it is a changing organization. “There is never a wrong time to do the right thing,” Lipphardt said. “We must take care of each other.”

VFW Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore praised and recognized Council members for their roles and contributions to VFW, saying, “You have the toughest job of all in this organization, and I thank you all for the work you do.” Whitmore reminded the Council members of their obligations: “When you vote, please vote with your courage, not comfort.”

VFW Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Tim Peters wished everyone present a good Convention experience and challenged them to, “make the tough decisions to allow our organization to move forward with pride and integrity.”

-The End-

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