



Convention Highlights

Saturday, July 25, 2026
National Council of Administration Meeting

VFW Chief Praises Mobilization on Capitol Hill

During today's VFW National Council of Administration meeting, VFW Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore applauded the efforts of VFW members from across the country who convened on July 15 in Washington, D.C., to voice opposition to *Sect. 108* of the *Take Care of America's Veterans Act*, which would jeopardize benefits and compensation for future veterans. Some 100 VFW members from more than 30 VFW Departments rallied on Capitol Hill. Whitmore said VFW will continue the fight.

VFW Adjutant General Dan West encouraged Council members and those in attendance to download the VFW Convention app. He reminded members of Tuesday night's Patriotic Rally and added that "Crowd Karaoke" will be a new feature at the rally this year. West urged everyone to visit the VFW Store while at Convention and purchase the "Honor Our Contract" T-shirt. Additionally, members who purchased tickets to the Sunday night National Convention Awards Banquet can pick up those tickets at a table near the VFW registration area. West closed his remarks by reminding members to take care of one another during convention. "Make new friends and reconnect with old friends," West said. "Let's return home with nothing but sore feet and good stories."

Chief Whitmore presented VFW Chief Accounting Officer Jim Lierz with the *VFW Commander-in-Chief Gold Medal of Merit and Citation* for nearly 29 years of fiduciary responsibility at VFW. "He is one of our silent heroes," Whitmore said.

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

Whitmore thanked VFW staff at National Headquarters and the VFW Washington Office. "This has been a truly monumental, historic year," she said. "VFW has never been stronger legislatively. It's about taking care of future veterans. It's compensation and benefits for what we endured. Let's go forward."

VFW Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Cory Geisler also praised the efforts of members to rally so quickly in the nation's capital on July 15. "We mobilized immediately," he said. "We were the only veterans service organization whose top leadership showed up. Where was everyone else? That's the power of this organization."

VFW Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Glenn Umberger Jr. thanked Council members. "This job is rewarding, but difficult," he said. "You must always have the best interest of our organization at heart. Give yourself a hand." Umberger concluded by thanking all VFW members: "We do so many wonderful things when we show unity and force."

-The End-

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Office 816.756.3390
Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org