

MEDIA DAYBOOK
127th National Convention
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Reno-Sparks Convention Center
Reno, Nevada
July 25-29, 2026



MEDIA CREDENTIALING: Although not open to the public, the VFW National Convention business sessions will be live streamed at [VFW.org/Convention](https://www.vfw.org/convention), beginning with the Joint Memorial Service on Sunday, July 26 at 9:00 a.m. PDT. A full schedule of events can be accessed using the “VFW Events” app, available for download at both the Apple App and Google Play stores. Only registered and credentialed media from bona fide news organizations, verifiable independent journalists, and established, vetted influencers and content creators will be approved to cover convention activities. [Click here to pre-register for media credentials.](#)

*** ALL unlisted sessions are closed to anyone holding media credentials ***

Saturday, July 25, 2026

8:00am – 4:00pm Exhibitor Stage **Registration Lobby**
9:00am – 3:00pm Veterans Walk-in Claims Clinic **Hall 2-3**
9:00am – 2:00pm Community Service Activity – Uniting for Veterans (Seed Sorting) **Hall 2-3**
10:00am – 3:00pm Vander Clute Memorial Ride **Offsite**
6:00pm – 9:00pm Irreverent Warriors Hike **Offsite**

Sunday, July 26, 2026

8:00am – 4:00pm Exhibitor Stage **Registration Lobby**
9:00am – 10:00am Joint Memorial Service **Hall 4-5**
9:00am – 3:00pm Veterans Walk-in Claims Clinic **Hall 2-3**

Monday, July 27, 2026

8:00am – 12:00pm Joint Opening Session **Hall 4-5**
Presentation of VFW Gold Medal of Merit & Citation to Lois Callahan, National President of the VFW Auxiliary
Speaker – Honorable Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno
Speaker – Mary Devine, Director of Nevada Department of Veterans Services
Speaker – Wu, Chih-Yang, Vice Minister of the Veterans Affairs Council, Taiwan
Presentation of Distinguished Service Medal & Citation to Past Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt
Speaker – Prasad Reddy, Twisted X
Presentation of Commander-in-Chief Gold Medal of Merit & Citation to Gundel “Gundy” Metz
Speaker – James Ellzy, VP Federal, Health Executive & Market Lead, Oracle Health
Speaker – Sean Kingsbury, Chairman of the Board, VFW Foundation
Presentation of Distinguished Service Medal & Citation to Mike DeRosa

Speaker – Col. Joe Morris, USMC (Ret.), Director of Veteran & Fraternal Relations, Arrow International

Presentation of Commander-in-Chief Gold Medal & Citation to Jason Johns

Speaker – Jose Garcia, Senior Vice President, Government Solutions, Fiserv

Speaker – Phyllis Wilson, President, Military Women's Memorial

Speaker – Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Robert Whittle, Senior Vice President, USAA

Speaker – Cara Brown, National Director, Humana

Speaker – Ryan Gallucci, Executive Director, VFW Washington Office

Presentation of 2025-2026 Elite Recruiters of the Year Awards

Presentation of 2025-2026 National Recruiter of the Year Award

Presentation of 2025-2026 All-American Awards to Department, District and Post Commanders

Presentation of All-American Triple Crown Awards

9:00am – 3:00pm Veterans Walk-in Claims Clinic **Hall 2-3**

1:00pm – 4:00pm VFW Business Session (Committee Reports) **Hall 4-5**

4:00pm – 5:00pm Briefing from the Afghanistan War Commission **A7-9**

5:00pm – 8:00pm Cornhole Tournament – Championship **Silver Legacy, Silver Baron A/B 1-6**

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

8:00am – 12:00pm VFW Business Session (Nominations to follow) **Hall 4-5**

Speaker – Capt. (Ret.) Flo Groberg, Medal of Honor Recipient & Commissioner, American Battle Monuments Commission

Speaker – Brian Brown, CEO, Grover Gaming / Light & Wonder

Presentation of Accredited Service Representative of the Year (John A. Biedrzycki Award) to Colin Anderson, Director, Veterans Service, Dept. of NY

Introduction of Tracy Woodman, Supreme Commander, Military Order of the Cootie

Presentation of Commander-in-Chief Gold Medal of Merit & Citation to Todd Jacobus

Speaker – David McIntyre, CEO, TriWest

Presentation of Outstanding Community Service Post of the Year Awards

Announcement of National Buddy Poppy Contest & Silent Auction Winners; Vander Clute Memorial Ride Check Presentation – Lynn Rolf, Director of Programs

Announcement of Legacy Life Proclamations

Speaker – Kelly McKeague, Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

Speaker – National Home, Interim Executive Director Dr. Jerred Johnson, Presentation of 2026 Buddy Poppy Child, Noelani

Presentation of Commander-in-Chief Gold Medal of Merit & Citation to Ken Wiseman

Speaker – Cory Boatwright, Student Veterans of America

Presentation of Commander-in-Chief Gold Medal & Citation to Patsey Schrieber

Presentation of Posthumous Purple Heart to Ronald G. Newlander, accepted by Jackie Newlander

Presentation of Commander-in-Chief Gold Medal of Merit & Citation to Kevin Conklin

Nomination of 2026-2027 National Officers

9:00am – 12:00pm Veterans Walk-in Claims Clinic **Hall 2-3**

6:00pm – 8:00pm Patriotic Rally & Entertainment **Hall 4-5**

7:15pm – 8:15pm Entertainment: Sing-a-long (DJ Karaoke) **Hall 4-5**

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

8:00am – 12:00pm Wednesday Business Session

Opening Ceremonies

Election and installation of new VFW National Officers for Year 2026–2027
Acceptance Speech, new VFW Commander-in-Chief 2026–2027
Closing Ceremonies

About the VFW: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and most established major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With more than 1.3 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in nearly 6,000 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim “NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS” than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans’ service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit our website at vfw.org.

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