



## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON  
5213 PACIFIC HIGHWAY EAST  
FIFE, WA 98424



DREW JAMES, DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

### General Order Number 1

July 2025

1. Having been duly elected and installed, I, **Drew James**, assume command of the Department of Washington, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, effective June 28, 2025.
2. All previous appointments are null and void unless reappointed herein.
3. The following Officers of the Department of Washington were duly elected or appointed and installed. :
  - a. Senior Vice Commander: Frank Persa
  - b. Junior Vice Commander: Holly Pierce
  - c. Judge Advocate: Jason Paxton
  - d. Surgeon: Doug White
  - e. Quartermaster: Chad Hassebroek
  - f. Chaplain: Dale Ienello
  - g. 1-Year Trustee: Linda Fairbank
  - h. 2-Year Trustee: Otis Wolfe
  - i. 3-Year Trustee: Joe Chartier
  - j. Chief of Staff: Joshua Schreck
  - k. Adjutant: Joe Wright
  - l. Asst. Adjutant: Rob Wallace
  - m. Inspector: Daniel Bujok
  - n. Inspector Deputy: Brad Pieratt
  - o. Service Officer: Gabe Leach



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4. The following District Commanders have been duly elected and installed and will be accorded the recognition due them:
  - a. District 1: Terry Stinson
  - b. District 2: Alyson Teeter
  - c. District 3: Josh Wheeldon
  - d. District 4: Daniel Bujok
  - e. District 5: Julia Arnold
  - f. District 6: Jenny McCullagh
  - g. District 7: Filiberto Rivera
  - h. District 9: Dan Hillmann
  - i. District 11: Jim Beatty
  - j. District 15: Chuck Bond
  - k. District 16: Chuck Zandecki
  - l. District 17: Lloyd Becker
5. In accordance with the National Manual of Procedure, Article V, Section 516, the Department Commander retains the authority to remove appointed officers, committee chairmen, and committees at any time.
6. In accordance with the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures, each elected officer is required to familiarize themselves with the duties and obligations assigned in Sections 218, 418, and 518.
7. **Chain of Command:** Utilizing it correctly is important. Problems encountered at the Post level can often be managed effectively by using appropriate measures and forming a committee to address the issue. If the problem remains unresolved, assistance can be requested from the District Commander. Department intervention shall be the last means of resolving internal problems; however, the officers and staff in the Department are more than willing to assist or provide guidance.
8. **Email Requirement:** Post Commanders without email must designate someone who can receive and disseminate communications.
9. **Bonding Requirement:** As per Section 703, all accountable officers must be bonded.



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10. **Agency Contacts:** Report any contact with enforcement agencies (e.g., WSLCB, IRS, Police) within 72 hours.
11. **Ownership Restrictions:** No Post or Department entity may own property jointly with any outside organization per Section 709.
12. **Compliance with Article II Section 213:** Ensure bonding, insurance, and timely audits. Noncompliance risks suspension.
13. **Reports:** The department will not accept paper, fax, or mailed reports. If you cannot submit on the State dashboard, you can submit by emailing the Assistant Adjutant, Chairperson, or the committee member overseeing that program only.
14. **Program Participation:** Posts must actively participate in all core programs listed in the Department Roster and Program Book.
15. **National Convention:** August 9–13 in Columbus, OH.
16. **Joint School of Instruction:** September 6, 2025  
  
    **Location: Yakima, WA, VFW Post 379, 9 am**  
  
    **118 S 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Yakima WA 98901**
17. **Website/Social Media Policy:** All VFW WA-affiliated sites or pages must be pre-approved by the Department Commander.
18. **Official Correspondence:** Will come through and be sent to the Department Adjutant unless otherwise directed by the Department Commander.



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As an organization rooted in tradition, it is important to mentor and teach both the workings of our order and its traditions. I am serving as the Department of Washington's 104th State Commander, and I am proud to be a part of our Department of Washington VFW. Together, we aim to achieve significant accomplishments. As we move into this year, serving veterans and families, we must also prepare for the future, as you will see our Sr. and Jr Vice Commanders taking a more front-line approach to continue helping us lead from the front in our service efforts this year and the years to come. This is a pivotal time for the VFW in Washington State. **"Stand for What's Right."**

BY COMMAND OF:

Drew James  
Department Commander

OFFICIAL:

Joe Wright  
Department Adjutant