

**DREW JAMES  
FOR  
2020-2021 DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON SURGEON**

Comrades –

I have had the pleasure of meeting most of you, but for those I have yet to meet my name is Drew James. I have been a life member for 16 years and currently Commander of Post 7511 in Monroe. I would like to announce my candidacy for the position of State Surgeon for the 2020-2021 year. I believe in the core values of the VFW and every day I strive to uphold them in my dealings with Veterans and the community that we serve.

Military service runs in my family, both grandfathers served in WWII, my father during the Vietnam era, brother after the first Iraq war and many others. I am no stranger to helping veterans and identifying their needs, as I have grown up in this environment and experienced it for myself.

Over the past few years we, as a team, have put Monroe Post 7511 and our newly formed Auxiliary on the map. We have had great success both with membership and keeping members active, by becoming family friendly and engaging more with our members. This has created a dynamic group of veterans willing to serve their community. The post has fostered growing and lasting relationships with the city government, local business and the local community to help our veterans and show the community who we are and what we do. We have proven our dedication to helping local veterans and their families, and our town knows we are here to help in any way we can.

I am heavily involved in numerous veteran committees that range from event planning to future planning for the VFW at the district level, as the Jr. Vice commander, and at the Department level as the Chairman of the Iraq/Afghanistan committee.

I enjoy sitting with my fellow Comrades and hearing stories of days past, while also spending the evening at a family friendly event, meeting the children of my Comrades and hearing their stories. Having our families involved with our Post activities ensures that members with families feel welcome and stay engaged. We have found that this creates a stronger sense of Comradery and allows us to serve more Veterans.

I have always supported Veterans from all conflicts and will continue to do so. I consider you all my brothers and sisters and would do anything to help a fellow veteran. I thank you all for your time and for all the hard work you are all doing every day for Veterans.

Again, I am running for State Surgeon and I hope that I can count on your support for the 2020-2021 year.

“On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind.” - Dan Lipinski

Yours in Comradeship,

Drew James

