

## Declaration of Candidacy

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing this document to announce my intention to be re-elected to the position of National Council member for the Department of Washington for the years 2020 – 2024. Being a former Post, District and Department Commander, I am positive that we have worked together, talked on an issue and probably had dinner and beverages together. The following are my VFW credentials:

- a. Served in the US Navy Submarine Force for the period from 8/1969 up through my retirement in 9/1990.
- b. Was elected as Post Commander of VFW Post 239, after serving the chairs, in June 2005 through July 2010. Reaching All State and All-American status.
- c. Served as the District Four Commander from 2008 -2010. Once again going through the District chairs. Achieving the All State status at District level.
- d. Served as the Department Commander for the 2014-2015 elected term. Subscribe Past Issues Translate
- e. I served as Department Adjutant 4 years – 2014-2015, 2015-16, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019.

As there are three candidates campaigning for this position, I am responding to statements made in a letter posted on social media by candidate Joshua Schreck.

1. “for the first time in 27 years, the VFW attracted and retained over 100% of the membership.” I totally agree that the membership program was at 100%, however, it was not totally due to the Iraq/Afghanistan veterans – it was because of the work of every member to rebuild and bring the VFW image back to the forefront.

2.” Of note, as of 2018, there were 744,000 living Vietnam veterans. Though our organization serves Vietnam veterans, along with Korean veterans and the remaining few WWII veterans, we as an organization cannot survive by only meeting the needs of those veterans and sisters”. I have been at recruiting events and watched the Iraq/ Afghanistan vets actively say they are not the joining generation. How does candidate Schreck’s opinion on the membership and moving forward affect the position of National Council member, I agree that it is everyone’s goal to recruit new members for the National organization however, it does not affect the mission of the Council of Administration.

3. The questions asked were: “Do these elected members represent the current mix of the VFW?” “Do these elected members make up the future of where we want our organization to go?”

As well as the following statement: “The National Council is not adequately representative of what each of our Posts look like?”

Fellow comrades, the National Council is not a representative of what each Post looks like, that is the responsibility of the Post, District and Department Commanders. The National Council duties include being an active representative from your state to ensure that the National organization is doing Subscribe Past Issues Translate the correct thing, supporting programs and doing the best for each member! The duties and responsibilities are clearly defined in the National By-Laws, Article 6, Section 622.

Some of the duties of the National Council include, but are not limited to:

- a. Ensuring the proper financial business of our organization by approving the National budget and sitting on the appointed audit committee.
- b. Review and decide on expenditures and improvements required and needed for the VFW properties in both Kansas City and Washington, DC.
- c. Reviews, studies and makes recommendations for the rules and guidelines for all National VFW employees inclusive of the salary-step program, the severance pay authorization for departing employees and the cost of living differences for both Kansas City and Washington.
- d. In working with the National Legislative representatives for both National and state, promoting the ever-changing rights and benefits for every veteran and ensuring our Congressional staff understands our goals and priorities.
- e. The Council members also are a part of the National Appeals committee. They are tasked with reviewing and making recommendations towards the penalties decided by both the Department Commanders and the National Commander – if appealed.
- f. The guidelines for every National and Department officer that travels at National expense is a very important part of the Council members job. It provides the rules and guidance for every traveler and the procedures to be followed.

4. In another statement- “I am very aware of the voice and understand it, the feelings of frustration-of not being heard-or not being an influence for the change of our organization. Our organization needs to focus on our primary mission of serving veterans, which should not, I repeat not include politics, Subscribe Past Issues Translate petty jealousies or trivial personalities.” “We must put the needs of our veterans first and forgo the individual pursuits of numbers, a cap or position of authority”.

Once again comrades, I do not understand what this has to do with the position of National Council. However, I can understand the meaning and drive behind the statements but I can only ask what steps have been taken at the Post level (starting point), district level (2nd point) to bring any changes as noted to the Department Convention for approval and submission to the National By-Laws and Resolution committees by the membership body.

I truly believe the total position of National Council member is not fully understood by candidates. A majority of the National Council has been a Department Commander or a held a senior committee position at the National level. In order for Comrade Schreck to obtain his goals and accomplishments, I feel that he needs to stand strong and follow his beliefs and pursue his goals and gain the experience and knowledge required. VFW experience is a must for the position of National Council member.

I wish to clarify that my door is always open, my phone is always available and that I will come to you and give assistance if needed. I also wish for each Post to have another successful year and maintain the dignity of this great organization – the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Good luck!!

“REMEMBER-IT IS THE VFW MISSION TO SUPPORT EVERY VETERAN, NOT JUST A SELECT FEW.”

Fred Green  
National Council of Administration