

Convention Highlights

Saturday, July 20, 2019

National Council of Administration Meeting

VFW Celebrates 100 Percent Achievement Monday Night

VFW will host a special recognition ceremony Monday night for Post, District and Department commanders who helped the organization achieve 100 percent membership in 2019, the first time since 1992. Sponsored by USAA, the “Made it Happen” celebration in Hall WD2 is open to all convention attendees, as well as spouses and guests. From 6-8 p.m., All-American commanders will receive their caps, followed by a party. Light snacks, soda and water will be served during this time, with beer and wine served after the ceremony. Come early to receive 100 percent membership T-shirts on a first-come, first-served basis.

“A lot of leaders excelled this year, which is why we chose to do this Monday night,” VFW Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence said. “All of you deserve recognition and a stand-alone event to celebrate together.”

Monday’s Joint Opening, which begins at 8 a.m., includes appearances by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Fisher House CEO Ken Fisher. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie will speak during Tuesday’s Business Session, while retired Air Force Gen. Chuck Horner will offer an update on the National Desert Storm War Memorial.

The 2023 VFW National Convention will take place in Phoenix, following a vote by the National Council of Administration. Columbus, Ohio, had been considered as the site, but scheduling conflicts prevented its selection.

The Council voted to replenish and increase VFW’s Military Assistance Program (MAP) fund to \$400,000 should a surplus be available at the end of this fiscal year. MAP provides grants to VFW Posts, Districts and Departments sponsoring events for troops and their families.

Members wanting to attend the Commander-in-Chief’s Reception Wednesday at 4 p.m. must be present at the installation of national officers that morning to receive a ticket – no ticket, no entry.

Lawrence and Quartermaster General Debra Anderson presented a citation to Dave Selvin, owner of Philadelphia-based Keystone Uniform Cap, a family-owned business that has provided VFW’s overseas hats for more than 100 years. This year, Keystone quickly produced 656 All-American caps on short notice for VFW’s convention. This was some 200 more than usual. Keystone’s Senior Manager Keith Selvin also was on hand for the presentation.

VFW National Chaplain Charlene Cobb awarded James Muys with the 2019 Chaplain of the Year Award.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief William “Doc” Schmitz and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch both congratulated Lawrence and all recruiters on achieving 100 percent membership for the first time in 27 years. Lawrence thanked the Council members for their professionalism and dedication: “I look forward to working with all of you in the future. I’ll be in the trenches with you.”

-The End-