



Greetings Comrades:

I would like to thank everyone in the Department for your continued hard work. Your support of VFW programs, your local communities, individual and groups of Veterans, and achieving our membership goals has, as always, been outstanding. You exemplify on a daily basis the values of the VFW and although we have some challenges the remainder of the year, you have proven yourselves equal to the tasks before us.

Membership remains a major challenge to complete our successful year. Although we are still ranked third nationally among the 52 Departments, over the coming five months we will need 600+ new, reinstated or renewed members for 100%. We must maintain our momentum and bring in good numbers in all categories. If you aspire to be an All American District or Post, please note the 5% new or reinstated member requirement, which may require some adjustment to your recruiting strategy.

The more focused Typhoon has received numerous positive comments, as have the two new Facebook pages. The DPA Around the Pacific Facebook page replaces the Around the Pacific section of the Typhoon, and serves as a means for Districts and Posts to publicize their events and activities. The VFW Department of Pacific Areas Facebook page serves as an additional Official Communications link. Thanks to Typhoon Editor Lenee Zaher for the new look Typhoon, and to SVC Mike Verville and Post 10223 Adjutant Brian Hamic for bringing the new Facebook pages on line.

Due to our geographic dispersion, effective communication will always be a challenge, but we are making progress. Essential information is now available in multiple locations and more are using our back up systems. District 5 recently received VFW National grant funding to purchase video conferencing equipment, allowing them to better conduct District business in three countries on two continents. This is great use of both available technology and the Grant program.

As always, thank you for all you do on a daily basis to make the Department of Pacific Areas a high performing organization.

Yours in Comradeship & Service,

John Gilbert
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas

VFW – Honoring Our Past, Securing Our Future