

## ***From the Junior Past Department Commander:***



Comrades,

My congratulations to all on your highly successful recruiting efforts thus far. Department is second in membership in the VFW with over 95%, and we have nine Posts over 100%; significant accomplishments this early in the VFW year. Maintain our pace and this will be an exceptional year for your Posts, Districts and the Department.

We necessarily tend to focus on current requirements and near term upcoming events, but it is mid-way through the VFW year we need to also consider actions affecting the future:

- Identify, mentor, and develop those who will lead your Posts and Districts into the future. This is something we did well on active duty, but not always so well in the VFW. Waiting until two weeks before the next election to identify candidates is all too common.
- Start now to screen those deserving of end of year awards. The Department Awards program only serves as an effective incentive if the most deserving candidates are recommended and selected.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Council of Administration meeting in Angeles City in December. As this is the last Typhoon of the year, I wish you all an early Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a joyous, healthy and prosperous New Year.

If I can be of assistance, please contact me at [pdcgilbert@vfwdeptpacific.org](mailto:pdcgilbert@vfwdeptpacific.org)

Yours in Comradeship & Service,

John Gilbert  
Junior Past Department Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas

***Get It Done!***