# THE MARYLAND VFW COMBAT VETERAN

### **NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

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### **AMAZON IS HELPING VETERANS START THEIR OWN DELIVERY BUSINESS**

### AMAZON WANTS YOUR DRIVE, LEADERSHIP SKILLS, HUSTLE, AND MISSION-FIRST ATTITUDE

Amazon's Delivery Service Partner program empowers entrepreneurs to build their own small businesses delivering Amazon packages in their local communities. Delivery Service Partners (DSPs) and their drivers are an integral part of what Amazon refers to as the last mile – transporting packages from their delivery stations to their customer's front door.



DSPs generally grow to have between 40-100 employees and a fleet of delivery vehicles (which Amazon assists with leasing), ensuring packages get delivered safely and on-time. Since launching the program in 2018, Amazon has empowered more than 800 small business owners across the country who have provided jobs for more than 75,000 drivers.



Like many small businesses, operating a DSP business is challenging. In

fact, because of these challenges, Amazon is constantly looking for leaders–such as Veterans–because of their drive, leadership skills, hustle, and mission-first attitude. About 1/3 of Amazon's DSPs are Veterans.

"In the military it is all about the team effort, and it is mission orientated. You'll do well as a leader as a commander if you are able to bring out the best in people or play to people's strengths," said Will Boyd, U.S. Army Veteran and owner of Alpha Zulu Logistics, an Amazon Delivery Service Partner. "Amazon has got logistics figured out – what you can bring to the table is really the people aspect, interacting with people, hiring the people, training them, engaging with them, and bringing them along as safe and effective drivers."

### DELIVERY SERVICE PARTNER PROGRAM FOR VETERANS

DSPs also have access to Amazon technology and resources, which includes hands-on training, on-demand support, and access to branded vans, uniforms, insurance and more. Amazon also provides DSPs with the package volume they need to grow their business while building a great team and managing the operations.

See Amazon, Page 5



JAMES F. WADE, SR. SENIOR VICE COMMANDER STATE OF MARYLAND VFW

### Comrades,

Hello to my VFW Brothers and Sisters. I know many of us are looking forward to the end of 2020 and moving into 2021. The year 2020 has really tested our resiliency towards following the guidance from our CDC and medical professionals to wear your masks, wash your hands, and social distancing.

I want to thank everyone for doing their having done an outstanding job. Now it's time for all of us to look forward towards hoping with the COVID vaccine, we all can see some relief within 2021.

In the New Year, I would like to have better communications between both the VFW and Auxiliary members. We

need each other and we are all on the same team - the team of supporting our Veterans and their families. Especially during this pandemic times, we should all unite and show the world that we are together more than ever towards uplifting those Veterans in need of our support from both VFW and Auxiliary alike. Also, in the New Year with the adversity we face with COVID, let us remember we still have a mission and obligation to our Veterans and our Communities. Please try to get out in your communities safely to take part in any capacity possible, and let them know that the VFW is still here. If you would like someone from the Department to attend, please let us know. The New Year brings new beginnings, where you get a chance to reflect on the past and establishing new goals moving forward in 2021.

Everyone is praying that the New Year will bring much happiness and joy into their lives. Veterans pray that this year will also bring much happiness and joy into their lives. People celebrate and enjoy at home or in many hotels. However, when we compare a New Year with Christmas, both events are very exciting, but when it comes to Christmas, most people, including Veterans, love spending it with their families. Here are some New Year's resolutions for the year 2021:

### THE MARYLAND VEW COMBAT VETERAN

STATE COMMANDER Thomas L. Rippon

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WEBSITE www.vfwmd.org



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### Greetings Comrades,

As we roll into 2021 I would like to remind everyone of the VFW mission that we are recognized and looked to at home and abroad. Sometimes we become so focus on Membership and numbers that we lose sight of individuals and insuring that future veteran's of foreign wars have an organization to call home.

BRIAN LANKFORD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STATE OF MARYLAND VFW

Across America, the initials VFW are a familiar sight and symbolize a commitment to the nation both at home and abroad.

Our **Mission**: To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

Semper Fi! Bryan M. Lankford Maryland Jr. Vice Commander

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SERVE



TIFFANY DANIEL CHAPLAIN STATE OF MARYLAND VFW

Greetings,

Happy Holidays! I would be remiss if I did not open in prayer and share this poem from one of our Honor Guard Comrades and a Soldier, "author unknown";

Most gracious and heavenly Father, I just want to take this this time to say thank you for the life of my Comrade that is reading this now. Please bless and watch over them and their family. In Jesus name. So be it, until thy Kingdom come. Hallelujah!

Think About this, then pass it on

T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, HE LIVED ALL ALONE, IN A ONE BEDROOM HOUSE, MADE OF PLASTER AND STONE.

I HAD COME DOWN THE CHIMNEY, WITH PRESENTS TO GIVE, AND TO SEE JUST WHO, IN THIS HOME, DID LIVE.

I LOOKED ALL ABOUT, A STRANGE SIGHT I DID SEE, NO TINSEL, NO PRESENTS, NOT EVEN A TREE.

See Chaplain, Page 4

- Each VFW Post to reach 100%!
- Continue to support youth and local programs in your communities.
- Team up with Student Veterans of America (SVA) to be there for Veterans pursuing their education. Communicate with your local Colleges in your areas.
- Ensuring Women Veterans are receiving their benefits and services.
- Educate the Veterans and their Spouses regarding Survivors Benefits Plans (SBP).
- VFW & Auxiliary are losing many of our Fallen Hero's. Let's show them the Respect they deserve by attending their Passing-on Ceremonies or Repast.
- VFW Mental Wellness Campaign.

This is a great time to reach out to Reserve Centers, National Guard units, Community Colleges, and Universities to explain the VFW's mission, vision, and core values. Please think about sending care packages to deployed units.

Continue to educate the public about the VFW by providing facts on our programs. Let's also continue honoring younger veterans and their families by inviting them to the VFW activities and promoting the VFW as a family group and unit.

## It's imperative that we remember the thousands deployed in defense of our great nation.

From the Department Senior Vice-Commander James and Gaylene Wade, we wish every VFW and Auxiliary Family and their loved ones a safe and festive Holiday season and look forward to seeing you all next year 2021!!

### Continue Supporting our Department Commander!

Family First; Veteran Always!!

James F. Wade Sr. Department of Maryland Sr. Vice-Commander jfwadesr.vfw@yahoo.com

### Chaplain, From Page 3

NO STOCKING BY MANTLE, JUST BOOTS FILLED WITH SAND, ON THE WALL HUNG PICTURES, OF FAR DISTANT LANDS.

WITH MEDALS AND BADGES, AWARDS OF ALL KINDS, A SOBER THOUGHT, CAME THROUGH MY MIND.

FOR THIS HOUSE WAS DIFFERENT, IT WAS DARK AND DREARY, I FOUND THE HOME OF A SOLDIER, ONCE I COULD SEE CLEARLY.

THE SOLDIER LAY SLEEPING, SILENT, ALONE, CURLED UP ON THE FLOOR, IN THIS ONE BEDROOM HOME.

THE FACE WAS SO GENTLE, THE ROOM IN DISORDER, NOT HOW I PICTURED, A TRUE AMERICAN SOLDIER.

See Chaplain Continued, Page 5

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All Veterans with a drive to succeed are invited to apply. Logistical experience is not required.

### HOW TO APPLY?

Apply at: amazon.com/DSP-VA

### WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER APPLYING?

The application process can take as little as one month, depending on your area's needs. Learn more about the process and regional opportunities at: https://logistics.amazon.com/marketing/getting-started

(Taken from VA Website)

### HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR HOSPITALIZED VETERANS



Thanks to Department of MD Auxiliary Hospital & VAVS Chairman, Dee Russo who coordinated Auxiliaries in the Department to donate enough funding for canteen books, cards and flags to ensure that all 956 veterans in VA Community Living Centers in each of the VA Hospital will receive a gift. Gifts were delivered in time for the veterans to receive them before Christmas.

### Chaplain Continued, From Page 4

WAS THIS THE HERO, OF WHOM I'D JUST READ? CURLED UP ON A PONCHO, THE FLOOR FOR A BED?

I REALISED THE FAMILIES, THAT I SAW THIS NIGHT, OWED THEIR LIVES TO THESE SOLDIERS, WHO WERE WILLING TO FIGHT.

SOON ROUND THE WORLD, THE CHILDREN WOULD PLAY, AND GROWNUPS WOULD CELEBRATE, A BRIGHT CHRISTMAS DAY.

THEY ALL ENJOYED FREEDOM, EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, BECAUSE OF THE SOLDIERS, LIKE THE ONE LYING HERE.

I COULDN'T HELP WONDER, HOW MANY LAY ALONE, ON A COLD CHRISTMAS EVE, IN A LAND FAR FROM HOME.

THE VERY THOUGHT BROUGHT, A TEAR TO MY EYE, I DROPPED TO MY KNEES, AND STARTED TO CRY.

THE SOLDIER AWAKENED, AND I HEARD A ROUGH VOICE, "SANTA DON'T CRY, THIS LIFE IS MY CHOICE;

### Chaplain Continued, From Page 5

I FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, I DON'T ASK FOR MORE, MY LIFE IS MY GOD, MY COUNTRY, MY CORPS.."

THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER, AND DRIFTED TO SLEEP, I COULDN'T CONTROL IT, I CONTINUED TO WEEP.

I KEPT WATCH FOR HOURS, SO SILENT AND STILL, AND WE BOTH SHIVERED, FROM THE COLD NIGHT'S CHILL.

I DID NOT WANT TO LEAVE, ON THAT COLD, DARK, NIGHT, THIS GUARDIAN OF HONOR, SO WILLING TO FIGHT.

THEN THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER, WITH A VOICE SOFT AND PURE, WHISPERED, "CARRY ON SANTA, IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY, ALL IS SECURE."

ONE LOOK AT MY WATCH, AND I KNEW HE WAS RIGHT. "MERRY CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT."

This poem was written by a Peacekeeping soldier stationed overseas. The following is his request. I think it is reasonable

PLEASE. Would you do me the kind favor of sending this to as many people as you can? Make people stop and think of our heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed themselves for us. Please, do your small part to plant this small seed. The 16 Worlds of The Pilgrim's Progress: The Journey Begins as a devotional book which contains 16 lessons that guides individuals through Christian's journey from this world to that which is to come. It features a link for the animated Pilgrim's Progress movie broken into 16 powerful segments. These segments are designed to disciple the next generation to stay on the straight path. Please sit and enjoy with your family.

And yes, there is more. I am also sharing a video from Marc Elrich, County Executive, Montgomery County speaking on where we are now with COVID-19 - https://youtube/ eJKXFkmfDmA

Will all the dismay going around, I will continue to invite and share the importance of mindfulness exercises as well as staging of grieving. We do not always realize when we are stuck in a rut, but others can see it because it causes an outward imbalance. When things are all bottled up inside, find someone to talk to or move with. LOL, slow your thoughts, I'm talking exercise....

www.griefshare.org https://www.facebook.com/vyponlinestreamingclasses/

May God continue to bless you and your family throughout the New Year. May we all experience a blessed 2021!

T. Daniel Chaplain Always Say A Prayer (ASAP)



# TAKE A DIVE FOR OUR VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES AUXILIARY NEWS





LIBBY DALLATEZZA SECRETARY STATE OF MARYLAND VFW AUXILIARY Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year!!! Hope you and yours had a wonderful and safe holiday season. It was certainly quiet at our house. Not like the Christmas Eve John and I are accustomed to with a house full of family. Who among us have made the usual New Year's resolution? What's yours? Exercise more? Lose weight? Save money? What about a resolve to show respect and consideration for your fellow members?

Covid-19 is still dictating what our Auxiliary is able to do. The Mid-Year Conference cruise has been cancelled (2) A new event is planned to

take place in Clearwater Beach with a cocktail party, a Council of Administration meeting and a farewell dinner cruise. Hopefully, Dept. President Felicia will be able to have a wonderful night on the town. The 2020-2021 Department Sr. Vice Presidents' Conference has been rescheduled to March 21-24, 2021 with the hopes that the virus will be under control. Sr. Vice President Cheri Brown and I are hopeful that we will be able to go to Kansas City for training. But only time will tell when the Auxiliary will all get back to full swing.

I am beginning to hear many kudos on our VFW Auxiliary Department of Maryland website (<u>www.vfwauxmd.org</u>). If you have not had the opportunity to visit the website, take a minute to go and view all the available information. There is a lot of program guidance from our 2020-2021 Program Chairmen. Be sure to view the wonderful Auxiliary and VFW/Auxiliary newsletters. My praise goes out to them for keeping their members informed.

Looking forward to the 2021 National Convention, July 31<sup>st</sup> through August 5th. As you probably have heard, we will be hosting convention right here in Baltimore, Maryland. As the Auxiliary "National Convention Coordinator of Volunteers for the Dept of MD", I will be looking to many members for assistance. If you are interested in volunteering for a position at National Convention, please reach out to me. There will be plenty of jobs to go around!

I am hoping that 2021 brings us back to normalcy and affords us the ability to do what we do best... serve our veterans.

Stay safe, stay well and stay warm!

Libby DallaTezza



## Sandi Kriebel 2018-19 Past National President

Endorsed as a Candidate By the Department of Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars & its Auxiliary

> For the 2021 Election Board of Trustee Member #4

## VFW National Home for Children and Military Families

## Representing Departments of Maryland, Ohio & West Virginia

Dedicated - Passionate - Experienced

### Sandí Kríebel 2018-19 Past Natíonal Presídent VFW Auxílíary

Sandi Kriebel is a life member of Yingling-Ridgely Auxiliary No. 7472 in Ellicott City, Maryland. She joined in 1962 as a Jr. Girls Unit member and at age 16 became an Auxiliary member under the eligibility of her father, Martin J. Conner, who served in the United States Army during World War II and Korea.

Sandi has held and currently holds offices and chairmanships on both Auxiliary, District and Department levels. She served as a VFW Auxiliary Jr. Girls Unit Leader for over 35 years. On a Department level, she served as the 1996-97 Department President, as National Council Member #3 and held appointments as National Ambassadors and Conference Chairmen.

Sandi served as National President in 2018-19. She is currently serving as the National VFW Auxiliary VAVS Representative. She is a life member of the VFW National Home for Children. As National President, Sandi served on the Board of Trustees, where she gained the experience and knowledge of the inside workings of the National Home, and understands the importance of the six-year commitment it takes to serve and make a difference. The National Home has always had a special place in her heart, and as National President, she chose the VFW National Home as her special project to completely renovate the guest house kitchen. The working budget was \$85,000, and to her surprise and deepest appreciation, the members raised \$123,000 to complete the kitchen and other needed items for the guest house.

In her personal life, as a mother of three (3) children and raising foster children, it kept her involved in the community, working with schools, scouts, and churches. Because of her experiences as a foster mother, she felt the compassion to serve needy families with their health and living environment. With her experience, she knew the proper government agents to contact and helped make a difference in their lives.

Sandi has been retired since 2012. She worked as an Executive Administrator and for a large financial firm. Her job description was preparing the monthly and yearly financial reports for the distribution to the bank's CEO, while meeting and exceeding all required deadlines. Other duties included event planning, contract negotiations, and preparing training manuals. Her final position was as a Craft Care Specialist with Help Heal Veterans at the Baltimore Area VA Medical facilities. Sandi distributed crafts and set up workshops for the blind, PTSD and Mental Health veterans. Working with the VA National Advisory Committee through Help Heal Veterans, she became a trainer for impaired veterans, setting up booths and displays areas.

After 58 years as a member Sandi is a person of strong convictions and commitments. She is positive, a team player and extremely creative. Not afraid to stand up for what is right and without a doubt not afraid to ask questions. The Department of Maryland VFW and Auxiliary have both endorsed and believe that Sandi's experience and passion would make an excellent addition to the VFW National Home Board of Trustees.

### Posts and Auxiliaries Communications...Represents Success

## Organizational communication is the way in which members of our 0 organization interact with each other and the people they serve

- Organizational communication includes the Post Commander, Auxiliary President and the officers, chairmen and members on both sides.
- These interactions can happen face-to-face, over the phone, or electronically.

## The most important result of this communication is how valued a person feels during and after the interaction

- When members interact positively, an emotion is generated, an impression is formed, and an experience is had.
- It is this experience people will carry with them and the perceptions of our organization, as well as the stories they tell others about the successful mission of our organization.
- The more highly developed a person's interpersonal communication skills, the better the all-around communication is.
- The better we communicate together the more our organization can accomplish and provide necessary services to others.
- At the same time, a strategic understanding of how to best serve our organization is formed.

### Why is Organizational Communication Important?

Organizational communication is important because it significantly impacts four (4) very important areas of our organization:

Membership engagement A positive working relationship Effective accomplished projects and programs An impressionable public perception

All four (4) areas are critical to organizational progress. If you overlook the importance of organizational communication, you are really overlooking your organization's ability to succeed.

We all know that communicating with one another is critical to our organization's survival and accomplishments. So....let's start the communications today....together. Forget the past, put away the differences you each may have and start a new day...fresh with no mistakes. We have too much work to do. Too many Veterans and their families depending on us!

If we don't start communicating with one another, we will never accomplish anything. Communicating together (posts/auxiliaries) can help us to grow and become strong and productive. 90% of the problems Posts & Auxiliaries have... Not Communicating.

Sandi Kriebel, PNP, Dept. of MD Chief of Staff/Extension

### PUTTING BELIEFS INTO ACTION: FIGHTING COVID-19

Michele Jones is intimately acquainted with service. The Maryland native has built a career serving in the active and reserve components of the Army, supporting missions in Kosovo and Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

### NOW SHE IS SERVING AGAIN

Jones is one of many Veterans who have volunteered to test a new vaccine for COVID-19. She says her reasons are simple: To help make things better for her family and community.

"I'm volunteering because sometimes you have to ask yourself, 'What can I do to make this better? How can I literally put my core beliefs, who I am, into action?' If I believe in something strong enough, I'm willing to commit myself 100%. "If being a volunteer enables scientists to find a vaccine for COVID-19, I'm willing to do that."

#### SERVING AS A ROLE MODEL FOR OTHERS

During her career, Jones has had many opportunities to take up a call to action for an important cause. She was the first woman to attain the rank of command sergeant major in the U.S. Army Reserve, championing women's rights and serving as a role model for others.

At one point, Jones was the highest ranking African American enlisted woman in any branch of the U.S. military. She believes that effective leaders lead best through a willingness to put themselves in the shoes of their subordinates, to lead by example.

Jones says she is motivated to test a new vaccine because she knows the importance of including people from minority groups in vaccine trials, many of whom are being hit hard by the coronavirus.

According to scientists, a vaccine for COVID-19 will be effective only if it is tested in a diverse group of people, one that includes men and women, young and old, Black, white, Hispanic, and other individuals.

"One size does not always fit everyone. If you want a vaccine to be the right type for the right person, you have to become involved, period," Jones says, encouraging other African-Americans to sign up to test a COVID-19 vaccine.

### Two daughters positive for COVID-19

"You cannot sit back and criticize things," she continues. "If you have an opportunity to be part of something bigger than yourself, then you need to step up and do that."

There is one other group that means quite a bit to Jones. She is the mother of four daughters, two of whom have tested positive for COVID-19. "We always say as mothers, we will do any-thing for our children. I am doing this for my children," she says.

### HOW TO SIGN UP

Anyone over the age of 18 can volunteer to participate in VA research by signing up for the COVID-19 research volunteer list. If you are eligible to participate in a study, you will be contacted by a study coordinator. The coordinator will answer your questions and help you decide if you wish to participate.

(Taken From VA Website)

## HOLIDAY MEMORIAL SERVICE





A ZOOM Holiday Memorial Service was hosted by Women Veterans United Committee, Inc. (WVUCI); VFW MD Post 341, and DAV DC Chapter #1. Picture 1 is the Memorial to remember those who passed in 2020, civilian and/or military. We received 76 names to honor and we lit a candle for them.

Picture 2: Brenda Jamison, WVUCI; Tiffany Daniel, VFW & WVUCI; Georgia Eaves, VFW; Dr. Fisher, WVUCI; and Commander Rich, VFW MD Post 341. V I J B A V R Z C P S Z U R M C S P J Y Y L N W G M S M E Y BOCDZTTLLIJTHUGOYZIPIFNHLLIMHA L U J W D K X K D T B S I A V V P N V N O S P G E O E W M C O E R H A N L A D O M P J D D T W V L V E Z U L F U F U V R B B R P I J P M W N H C V D Y X P O K Y M T C O R R G Z F C O C D S Y N H A R O P B Y S I K H M V T F I R V O M O E I A P F D D X V B G C N F G X B W U G P D R C V J E Z R E S T R O P H U E H K X O T U V C Y M A R A F I L A E S E I O S T M U U M D W S P J O O I N G L D V L U T R J S Y Z N H N O Z Y N M A Y Q M O A P A U C F A R X L K I V Q N W K X O R L A C DIBLZBZHZXKPRJPIRYJZEOMBWLWGMF G X G C B S L Y O N M R X U U O U R S I L W K B R I P M H L W J M A Y P S W X O E Y O Z H L W A S E X F A J H D N C A A C C C A Y W Y L D I U T F J D F F K B I B L I Z Z A R D G N S E G Z E B B D F P Q B Q Z P B I F I Z L A N R E Y T L C N F D J B G M I J Y O J X O G W P N A R C V K I C E S K A T E B Q B L X H U N F G Q B O T N F W A I M R E H T O P Y H H L K O R S W H G V E J D B D A I I Y O G V D I A R M G L W R Z O E T A D J F N X B E Z E W M U P A C G L L F Z J S C A R F V P D P N N L M W Z Y R G C C S S P U L O K S O H Z V N C C F O N W T H N T B A M M D C O O G W Y C C B A I Z X N M P E B F M S M W W S P R I B J A N B U C O A T L O G U T S Y C P A D S O Y E L Z E J O P X I F O I H J N W I N T E R N O G Y B T O G B J A R M F J G C O D O C T M F S I E I N Y S Y E N S C O C B X W K U D H C V S N T P D Q I T B T Q G V E P T J U F O N Z Y Z G O P O H L P O S I X L N Y Y S S V I L C G N C T O G E Y A V R D S G G H V L Z P R K N S E R U W B D F N O O L O J D B C F Y T R O A R V M H Y C Y E K O I C W O W K J C X N S G X H K O Z S M P O S F K L K J N V K D A X M H O M M L D A J O O S U Y U C O E X Q P M Y R C J I S X K D V D

NTER THEME

**BELOW ZERO** BLIZZARD BOOTS CHILLY COAT COLD FIREPLACE FLANNEL FROSTY FROZEN GLOVES HAT HOLIDAYS HOT CHOCOLATE HYPOTHERMIA ICESKATE ICICLE ICY **JACK FROST** NIPPY PINE TREE SCARF SNOW SNOWBALL **SNOWFLAKE** SNOWMAN **SNOWSUIT** TOBOGGAN WIND WINTER