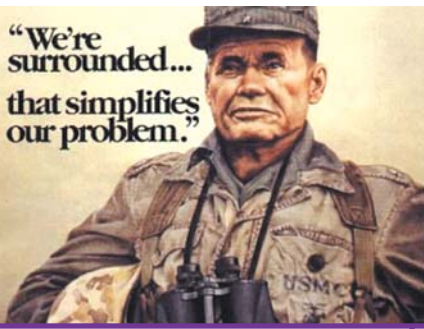


"We're surrounded... that simplifies our problem."



General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

VFW Post 1503

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

APR

14631 MINNIEVILLE ROAD
DALE CITY, VIRGINIA 22193
703.670.4124

www.vfwpost1503.com

2018

CANTEEN HOURS: Sunday / Monday / Wednesday 12 Noon - 11 PM
Tuesday / Thursday / Saturday 12 Noon - 12 Midnight • Friday 12 Noon - 2 AM

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

March was a busy month for the Post starting out with the 10th of the month numerous officers from the membership and the Auxiliary attended the Department Commanders Home Coming in Mechanicsville, VA. On the 17th of March we celebrated St. Patrick's Day in the canteen, outstanding job done by the catering and kitchen staff. On the 18th of March we attended a joint 10th District meeting at Post 8241, in McLean where the Post received recognition as an Honor Post for reaching 100% membership. On the 22nd of March the National Jr. Vice Commander William J. "Doc" Schmitz visited the Post and was extremely impressed by the building and the professionalism of all personnel that he met. Rounding out the month the Auxiliary hosted a Kids Easter Party on the 25th of March 2018, which was attended by over 100 children. Due to the only major snowfall of the year for the area, falling on the 21st of March it was required to cancel the monthly meeting and reschedule it for the 28th of March. The reason for still holding a meeting in March is that we are required to have nominations for officer's for the following year, so at the April meeting we can hold elections and then swear the new officer's in, in May.

We have a lot happening in April. We start out the month with a hospital visit to McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, VA on the 14th. All those interested in going should meet at the Post at 0900 hours for breakfast, and then depart around 1000 hours for Richmond. On the 18th we will hold elections for the 2018-2019 year, the following comrades are running for office: Commander - Thomas Williams; Senior Vice Commander - Thomas Levitt II and Paul Villare; Junior Vice Commander - Ben Guinan and Bernie Carter; Quartermaster - Jim Spiker and Tim Brown, Chaplain - Ed Bennett, 3 Year Trustee - Tom Gimble. The polls will open at 1200 hours and close at 1900 hours. To vote you must show your membership card. Please come and support your candidate. Also at the April meeting on the 18th we will have 2 guest speakers, Author BJ Elliott Prior who wrote "Behind My Wings" detailing her time as a MAC Stewardess from 1969-1971 flying service members to and from Vietnam and Paul Galanti who spent 7 years as a POW from 1966-1973 in Vietnam. On the 21st the MOC/MOCA will be holding a Flea Market in the Pavilion also on the 21st at 0915 hours the Honor



POST OFFICERS

Post Commander Tim Brown
Senior Vice Thomas Williams
Junior Vice Thomas Levitt II
Quartermaster Jim Spiker
Judge Advocate Jim Martin
Surgeon Ben Guinan
Chaplain Ed Bennett
3 Year Trustee John Dodge
2 Year Trustee Ron Laney
1 Year Trustee Tom Gimble
Adjutant Ralph Steinway
Service Officer Ed Tatum
Asst. Service Officer Tami Brown
Past Commander Randy Coker

Guard and any member who wishes will be meeting Honor Buses at the Marine Corp Museum. The members on the buses are WW2, Korea and Vietnam service members traveling to Washington D.C. to take in the sights. Please join us in welcoming these veterans to Northern Virginia. We end the month on the 28th with the Auxiliary holding a Corn Hole tournament in the Pavilion.

Thank you,
 Tim Brown
 Post Commander



VFW AUXILIARY

Happy Easter to everyone! The Children's Easter Party was a big success, we had 150 parents and children in attendance and they were eager to hunt eggs and visit with the Easter Bunny. Of course we could not of had the party without the help of our many volunteers from both the Auxiliary and the Post membership along with the VFW staff who work very hard to assist us with the parties. A big thank you to everyone who took time to help out.

Please join us on April 28th at 12 noon for the Auxiliary sponsored Cornhole Tournament. The entry fee is \$20.00 per person and includes food and drinks, there will also be a 50/50 raffle and prizes for the winners, please sign up in the Canteen.

The 93rd Annual VFW Convention will be held beginning June 13th thru the 17th at the Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel in Portsmouth, VA. Room rates are \$125 per nite.

The Auxiliary will hold nominations and elections for officer positions at our next meeting on April 18th. Anyone interested in being nominated for a position please attend the meeting.

We have had a great year for membership this year! Currently we have over 800 members and I would like to remind those that have not renewed their annual membership to please do so by June 25th to remain a member. If you do not renew by that date you are no longer a member and you will have to go thru the application process again.

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President Karla Coker
 Sr. Vice President Jim Moore
 Jr. Vice President Kelli Levitt
 Secretary Regina Meehan
 Treasurer Betty Gimble
 Chaplain Joyce Del Vecchio
 Conductor Milton Moore
 Guard Monica Walczyk
 1st Yr Trustee . Rebecca Moninghoff
 2nd Yr Trustee . . . Reginald Garland
 3rd Yr Trustee . . Barbara Thomanek
 Historian Joyce Gibbs
 Patriotic Instructor Ernestine Jenkins

Karla Coker
 Auxiliary President
 kjcoker1503@gmail.com

FACILITY HAPPENINGS

I hope you all came to see us on St. Patty's day, if you didn't you're one of the few who missed a great time. Every year this seems to get bigger and bigger. Some were suggesting because we did away with smoking we would lose all of business. Just the opposite happened. The corn beef was the best we've ever served, and that's saying something because it's always the talk of the town. Pam and her band as usual did a great job and look forward to having them back in the near future.

One in house repeat subject. PLEASE, PLEASE if you plan on coming to the club for any reason with a party of 10 or more call us in advance so we can have adequate staff to serve you and also remember we are open to the public on most occasions (breakfast-Friday nights) etc. While the building looks huge, the canteen area is not. Only so many can be accommodated and sometime's, like this past weekend, when a party of 30 showed up it's not fair to other members or our work staff. We do not want to turn anyone away, but in cases like this we sometimes will have no choice. So again please keep in mind the restrictive nature of the canteen area when your making plans. We need advance notice.

Speaking of the canteen area. Thanks Jim and Speedy. They recently repainted the walls in the canteen and it looks great, smell's great and the area seems to have expanded (operative word seems).

Remember the Queen of Heart, Wings and Weekly Drawing every Saturday night from 6 p.m, to 8 p.m.

John Meehan
Facility Manager

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Patriots:

We held our annual elections and Chapter appointments at our Chapter meeting last month and the results are as follows: Commander, Ron Laney; Senior Vice Commander and Service Officer, Mac Garner; Junior Vice Commander and Welfare Officer, Dom Dionne; Finance Officer and Adjutant, Tom Gimble; Judge Advocate, Joe Lopez; Dept. Executive Committeeman, Leo Filipowicz; Dept. Alternate Executive Committeeman, John David Allen; Sergeant At Arms, Matt McGuire; 1 year Trustee and Historian, Florence Iremedio; 2 year Trustee and Chaplain, Joe Ramos; American Officer, David Kline.

We approved to buy the Purple Heart Leadership Awards for the High Schools that we support, as you know the awards are given out in May of each year. March 29 is recognized as Vietnam Veterans Day. We also agreed to visit veterans at the McGuire VA Hospital on a Sunday date to be determined. A reminder that our next Viola Drive is April 21st and we will meet at the Post at 0900 and after the Viola Drive, we will have our Chapter Cookout which will be at Patriot Joe Lopez's house which is close to the VFW.

Our next Chapter meeting is at 1000 on Saturday, April 21st in conjunction with Viola Drive and Cookout. We need to continue to be proactive in helping our wounded Veterans and their families!! Our Chapter's mission is to serve our combat wounded veterans and their families. Call me at 703-244-5428.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!!!

Ron Laney
Commander
Semper Fi Chapter 1775



VA - Rapid Appeals Modernization Program - Fact Sheet

Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP) gives Veterans the opportunity for early participation in the new supplemental claim and higher-level lanes.

As a RAMP participant, you will benefit from:

- Early participation in the new, more efficient review process
- Potentially faster decisions and early resolution of disagreements
- Multiple review options
- The same potential effective date for your benefits regardless of the review option that you choose
- A new requirement that VA must have clear and convincing evidence to change any findings favorable to you in a VA decision

Which Appeals are Eligible for RAMP Processing?

Your appeal must be for a disability compensation-related claim, and pending in one of the following appeal stages at the time of election:

- Notice of Disagreement (NOD) has been filed
- Form 9, Appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board), has been filed
- Certified to Board (but not activated)
- On remand from the Board

Compensation-related appeals certified to the Board and "activated" through formal placement on the Board's docket are excluded and will remain pending in the current appeals process. The Board will have notified you in writing if your appeal has been formally placed on the docket.

Which Review Lane is Right For You?

- Supplemental Claim Lane
 - Select this option if you have additional evidence that is *new* and *relevant* to support granting your benefit claim. VA's goal is to complete these supplemental claims in an average of 125 days.
 - VA will assist you in gathering new and relevant evidence to support your claim.
 - VA's review will include any new and relevant evidence submitted since we last decided your claim.
 - If necessary, you can continue to submit supplemental claims with new and relevant evidence or use the Higher-Level Review Lane after you receive a decision in the Supplemental Claim Lane by making an election for further review within one year of the date on your decision notice.
- Higher-Level Review Lane
 - Select this option if you have no additional evidence to submit in support of your claim but you believe that there was an error in the initial decision. VA's goal is to complete these higher-level reviews in an average of 125 days.
 - A Higher-Level Review consists of an entirely new review of your claim by an experienced claim adjudicator.
 - Factual findings that are favorable to you cannot be changed unless there is evidence to the contrary that is clear and convincing.

- The Higher-Level Reviewer will only consider evidence that was in VA's possession at the time you opt-in. You and/or your representative will NOT be able to add new evidence during this process.
- VA cannot assist you in developing additional evidence. However, if the Higher-Level Reviewer discovers an error in VA's duty to assist in the prior decision your claim will return to initial decision makers for additional processing to correct the error.
- You or your representative can request an optional one time telephonic informal conference with the Higher-Level Reviewer to identify specific errors in the case. Requesting an informal conference may cause some delay in the processing of your higher-level review.
- If necessary, you can use the Supplemental Claim Lane after you receive a decision in the Higher-Level Review Lane, by making an election for further review within one year of the date on your decision notice.

What it Means to Opt-in

If you choose to opt-in to one of the new review lanes, we will no longer process your compensation appeal in the current process. VA will conduct a new review and provide you with a decision. Please note that the effective date for any benefits that VA may award will be based on the date that would have been available had your currently pending appeal been granted – switching to the new process does not change your potential effective date.

Choosing one review option now does not prevent you from submitting another supplemental claim or choosing another review option after receiving an initial decision in RAMP. In addition, you will have the ability to appeal to the Board if you determine that further review of VA's decision is necessary. However, the Board will not process your appeal under the new streamlined process until the new law becomes effective no earlier than February 2019.

When appealing to the Board, you may submit additional evidence and/or request a hearing before a Veterans Law Judge (VLJ). You may also choose for the Board to review your claim without any additional evidence or a hearing, which will likely lead to a faster decision. By selecting one of these options, the Board will place your appeal onto a list for consideration in the order it was received, depending on the hearing and evidence submission elections you make.

What it Means to Stay in the Current Appeals Process

If you choose not to participate in RAMP, you do not need to respond to this letter. Your appeal(s) will remain in the current appeals process. If you no longer wish to pursue your appeal(s), consult your representative (if you have one) or contact us in writing.

You may experience long processing delays if you decide to remain in the current appeals process. Although each individual case is different, in 2016, Veterans in the current process waited an average of 3 years for resolution of their appeals, and those that received a decision from the Board waited an average of 6 years from the date they filed their NOD.

How You Can Opt-in

You can choose to have your compensation claim placed into one of the new review lanes by selecting one of the options on the attached RAMP Opt-in Election document; dating and signing where indicated; and returning it to us with the attached cover sheet on top. If you do not want your claim to stay in the current appeals process and wish to participate in RAMP, please respond within 60 days from the date of this letter. Send the RAMP Opt-in Election document and cover sheet to the address listed on the document.

If any questions about RAMP, please contact me at tbrown3404@verizon.net or text message only at 703-901-0460

Tami Brown
Assistant Post Service Officer

THOMAS WILLIAMS FOR POST COMMANDER

My fellow Comrades of VFW Post 1503,

It is my intent to run for Post Commander in the upcoming election in April.

I have been an active Life Member of 1503 for over twenty years, I have served as Master of Arms, House Committee Chairman, Jr Vice and this last year as Senior Vice.

My intention would be to continue the success of Post 1503 and introduce some new procedures into making the post more efficient in the future to benefit our members, and future members, we must bring the post up to date with the new technology available to us.

I served in the Army for 26 years and am a Vietnam Veteran, most of our members know me by my nickname "Dallas" that was given to me when I joined the post wearing a Dallas Cowboys ball cap.

I'd appreciate your support and if there are any questions you would like to ask me before the voting date don't hesitate I'll be more than willing to answer your questions.

You're Comrade in Arms,
Thomas Williams, Jr (Dallas)

TOM LEVITT FOR SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades of Post 1503,

My name is Tom Levitt; during 2017-2018 it has been my pleasure to serve as Junior Vice Commander of Post 1503 and represent our post as the Adjutant for District 10. This past year has been a great learning experience and has prepared me for moving forward in the post leadership. I would like to officially announce my candidacy for Senior Vice Commander for the 2018-2019 year.

I have been a Life Member of Post 1503 since 1992 while on active duty in the US Army. During that time I have been in and out of the area until I retired after 22 years of service. While in the area I have been very active in the post volunteering and participating in post functions. Our post has a great legacy due in large part to our past leadership and long standing members. I want to continue that legacy as part of the post leadership.

I am asking for your support and would appreciate your vote on April 18th for Senior Vice Commander.

Yours in Comradeship,
Tom Levitt

PAUL VILLARE FOR SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

I seek your support in the upcoming election. As a candidate for Senior Vice Commander, I promise that if elected I will guarantee free parking and unlimited cups of water at the Post, but seriously I have been a member of the Post for over 20 years. Among my contributions to the Post have been establishing our first web page, creating our Facebook page and as a member of the Post Honor Guard. You have likely seen me taking photos for the Post at numerous events, as well as being a member of the Post's Annual Halloween Haunted House. I have chaired, along with Joe Saita, the Post's House committee, seeking to increase the number of live bands and of course our annual Membership Appreciation Night. As we move forward with the new smoking ban I believe it is important that we continue to develop a viable plan to accommodate our smoking comrades with a safe, protected area to smoke out of the elements. We need to continue to improve on the

entertainment provided to the members and their families and grow as a Post by attracting new members. This Post has grown throughout the years and will continue to grow with strong leadership and by providing an environment that caters to the desires of our membership. Again I hope to get you support for this years election, but most of all get out an vote. For without your input the Post cannot continue to grow.

Paul Villare

BERNIE CARTER FOR JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Hi! I'm Bernie Carter and I'm running for the position of Junior Vice for Post 1503 for the upcoming 2018-2019 calendar year. As a member I've volunteered in many capacities, such as bingo, hospital visits as a Military Order of the Cootie member and generally helping out where needed to advance the core values of the VFW. I hope you will help me help you to continue to foster camaraderie and good will among the members of this Post as we strive to continue the great service you've all become accustomed to.

A little about myself; I served over 30 years in the US Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer in various capacities at sea leading to my selection as a Commanding Officer and a Chief of Staff. My shore assignments where equally as important as an instructor, programmer and analyst. Combined my 30 years of service have honed and developed the leadership and management style I possess today. I consider myself a pragmatist, who is friendly, thoughtful and supportive — always looking to progress the welfare of our members. So I hope you will feel the same and engage and vote me your next Junior Vice.

Bernie Carter

BEN GUINAN FOR JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

My name is Ben Guinan and I'm running for Junior Vice Commander for the upcoming year. During my tenure as the Post Surgeon, I have demonstrated my sincere desire to work towards the continued success of our illustrious post. I have taken part in many of our high profile activities including Christmas Tree sales, delivering food baskets, hospital visits as a part of the MOC, various fundraising activities and working Bingo. In my duties as the Post Surgeon, I ran a successful VOD and Patriots Pen scholarship competition program, picked up medical supplies, and put together a new database for tracking our medical supply inventory. I am currently working on setting up a blood drive for the spring. As a project outside of regular duties, I managed/coordinated the installation of the new A/V system in our convention hall and developed a user instruction guide for general system usage. The system has been used successfully and gotten many positive reviews and feedback from people that attended special events such as the Marine Corps Ball and the Kids Christmas Party. I have served as a member of the Post Grievance Committee. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve VFW Post 1503 in the position of Jr. Vice Commander.

Ben Guinan



TIM BROWN FOR QUARTERMASTER

Comrades of Post 1503,

My name is Timothy M. Brown, I would like to officially announce my candidacy for Post Quartermaster for the 2018-2019 year. This Post and its members deserve to be represented by a Post Quartermaster who will be dedicated to the Post Comrades, and provide the very best. I feel as though I have the knowledge of the post finances, to continue the legacy of every Post Quartermaster who has served this Post before me. I have been a member of this Post since 2001. I have been the Post Commander for the past 2 years, and have served in the past as a Trustee for 7 years; along with a member of the Post Honor Guard for the past 16 years; a member of the Grievance Committee; a member of the House Committee and the Master At Arms for the Monthly Post Meetings. If elected as your next Post Quartermaster, I will be dedicated and work very hard to ensure our Post continues its growth and excels to remain the very best VFW Post in the world.

I am asking for your support and would appreciate your vote on April 18th for Post Quartermaster.

Thank You,
Tim Brown

JIM SPIKER FOR QUARTERMASTER

Comrades of Post 1503, I am running for Quartermaster of Post 1503 for the Year of 2018-19, and I am asking for your support. Listed below are my credentials:

Legacy Life Member of Post 1503 • Co-Captain of All American Post Commander 1989-90
Captain of All State Post Commander 1989-90 • Member of MOC Pup Tent 14
Golf Committee Chairman (where I have raised over \$40,000 for Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen
11 Consecutive Recruiter Awards • 2 Time Winner of State Quartermaster Award
4 Time Aide de Camp for Recruiting • 9 Time All American Post Quartermaster

Thank You,
Jim Spiker
Post 1503 Member since 1976



DICKIE MOORE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Hey Comrades and Sisters, it's time to break out your golf clubs for the Dickie Moore Golf Outing. The flowers are blooming and the trees are budding and Benny has his supply of good cheer. The date is May 11th at Quantico Golf Course. Check in time is 7 to 8 with Tee time at 8. The price is \$50. All applications must be submitted to Frank Hoerster by May 2nd.

18th Dickie Moore Memorial Member's Golf Tournament Friday, May 11, 2018

Medal of Honor Golf Club • Marine Corps Base • Quantico, Virginia

Check-In 7:00 a.m. • Shotgun Start 8:00 a.m. • Entry Fee: \$50.00 per person (non-refundable)

Includes: Green Fees, Cart, Prizes, Lunch • Captain's Choice (Foursome) Prizes: 1st, 2nd 3rd

Individual Prizes: Closest to the Pin, Longest and Shortest Drive

ENTRY DEADLINE MAY 2, 2018

(Entry not reserved without payment by this date)

Post-Tournament Lunch Immediately Following at VFW Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road • Dale City, VA (Lunch for Non-Golfers \$5.00)

Name (Please Print Legibly)

Military Rank (Retired, Active Duty, Eligible Civilians)

Name of Guests for Lunch Only

Return Entry Form, With Payment, To VFW Post 1503

VFW Post 1503 April Entertainment

DJ Danny 6th 13th & 27th

DJ Carolokie 7th & 21st

April 14th

**Soul Kitty
(Rock & Roll)**

April 20th

**Just Two
(R&B)**

April 28th

**Pickin Grinnin & Sinnin
(Country Rock)**

CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT

APRIL 28, 2018
\$ 20 / PP
INCLUDES
HOT DOGS, CHIPS,
SODA * BEER * WATER

FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT
HELPING NEIGHBORS in NEED
OUTREACH CENTER
DALE CITY, VA

Registration @ 11am
Games @ NOON
VFW Post 1503
PAVILION
14631 Minnieville Rd

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
PRIZES
50/50 RAFFLE

PLEASE SIGN UP AND PREPAY
IN THE POST CANTEEN

KELLI LEVITT - 703-895-8855
itsmekelli@aol.com

* teams are picked by blind
draw, once all players are
checked in and paid

* bags will be provided and
must stay with boards. NO
carrying of bags to other
boards

SPONSORED BY VFW POST 1503 AUXILIARY * * UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES



MOCA 14 FLEA MARKET

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
HUNTER HOLMES MCGUIRE VA MEDICAL CENTER

DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018

TIME: 8:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

VFW POST 1503 PAVILION
14631 MINNIEVILLE ROAD
DALE CITY, VIRGINIA 22193

Vendor Information

Setup may begin at 7:00 am.

Table rental under the pavilion is \$25.

Parking space rental in front of the pavilion is \$20.

All vendors must be off premises by 3:00 pm.

List of rules and contract form is available in the canteen or call below.

QUESTIONS CONTACT: REBECCA MONINGHOFF (703) 615-9965 OR
JUDY BRIDGES (703) 494-1124

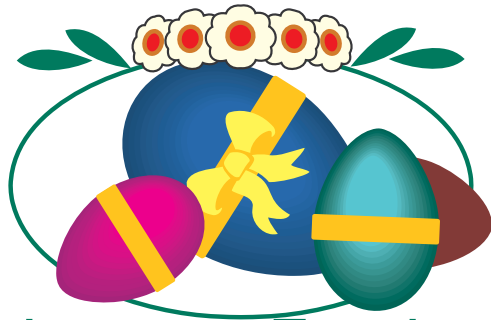
APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 EASTER Buffet 11:00 - 3:00 <i>No Breakfast</i>	2	3 BINGO 7:30	4 Boy Scouts 7:30	5 BINGO 7:30	6 Dinner 5-9 DJ Danny Karaoke 8-12	7 Carolokie Breakfast 9-12 WINGS Weekly Drawings Queen of Hearts
8 Breakfast 9:00 - 12:00	9	10 BINGO 7:30	11 MOCA 7:00 MOC 7:30 Boy Scouts 7:30	12 BINGO 7:30	13 Dinner 5-9 DJ Danny Karaoke 8-12	14 Soul Kitty McGuire Visit Breakfast 9-12 WINGS Weekly Drawings Queen of Hearts
15 Breakfast 9:00 - 12:00	16	17 BINGO 7:30	18 POST Elections VOTE 12-7 Auxiliary 7 Post Meeting 7 Boy Scouts 7:30	19 BINGO 7:30	20 Dinner 5-9 Just Two	21 Purple Heart Mtg. Honor Buses Carolokie Breakfast 9-12 WINGS Weekly Drawings Queen of Hearts
22 Breakfast 9:00 - 12:00	23	24 BINGO 7:30	25 Boy Scouts 7:30	26 BINGO 7:30	27 Dinner 5-9 DJ Danny Karaoke 8-12	28 Pickin Grinnin & Sinnin Breakfast 9-12 WINGS Weekly Drawings Queen of Hearts
29 Breakfast 9:00 - 12:00	30					

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Happy Easter

Next Monthly Meeting

April 18th!

www.vfwpost1503.com

EASTER BUFFET



VFW Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road • Dale City, Virginia

Sunday, April 1, 2018

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Fresh Roast Turkey • Honey Baked Ham
Candied Yams • Mashed Potatoes • Peas • Carrots • Corn
Tossed Salad • Assorted Desserts • Coffee & Tea

Remember, there is no breakfast served on this Sunday.
Sorry, No reservations accepted for this buffet! Come early and enjoy!