

**JOHN WILEY BROCK**  
**VFW POST 6683**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS. ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA



*It's not the price you pay to belong. It's the price you paid to be eligible.*

2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR





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<https://www.facebook.com/VFW6683>



# 2021-2022

## Roll Call

### VFW CONTACTS:

Commander	Randy Black	334-389-0738	<a href="mailto:gblack11265@roadrunner.com">gblack11265@roadrunner.com</a>
Sr Vice Cmdr	Randy Godfrey	334-393-2202	<a href="mailto:argodfrey58@gmail.com">argodfrey58@gmail.com</a>
Jr Vice Cmdr	Mike Sutterfield	334-400-6133	<a href="mailto:micheal.sutterfield@gmail.com">micheal.sutterfield@gmail.com</a>
Quartermaster/Adjutant	Jim Steddum	907-854-1320	<a href="mailto:jim@steddum.com">jim@steddum.com</a>
Judge Advocate	Brett Feinstein	334-470-6804	<a href="mailto:bgoodmug@gmail.com">bgoodmug@gmail.com</a>
Chaplain	Myroan Brown	334-389-7359	<a href="mailto:myroanbrown@yahoo.com">myroanbrown@yahoo.com</a>
Service Officer	Thomas Grandinetti	520-249-0711	<a href="mailto:tcgran@gmail.com">tcgran@gmail.com</a>
Publisher/Editor	Angel S. de la Cruz	334-477-2582	<a href="mailto:angeldiving@roadrunner.com">angeldiving@roadrunner.com</a>

### AUXILARY CONTACTS:

President	Robin Hill	334-477-7013	<a href="mailto:robin36322@gmail.com">robin36322@gmail.com</a>
SR Vice President	Nancy Rathburn	334-464-2222	<a href="mailto:flynfngs@yahoo.com">flynfngs@yahoo.com</a>
JR Vice President	Vacant		
Secretary/Treasury	Vacant		
Chaplain	Martha McGee		<a href="mailto:marthaannmckee@aol.com">marthaannmckee@aol.com</a>



**Need help with filing VA claims?**  
**PLEASE CONTACT OUR POST SERVICE OFFICER FOR ASSISTANCE.**  
**Thomas Grandinettie**  
**520-249-0711**





## FROM THE COMMANDER

### Randy Black

Comrades,

I would like to welcome you all into the New Year. 2021 proved to be a very taxing year. Please take the time to remember our troops worldwide, but also the brothers and sister we have lost from Post 6683 and the VFW.

A lot of projects were undertaken on the post property and those projects turned out outstandingly successful. Many members donated their time, skills, and finances to bring these tasks to an exceptional conclusion. Be sure to thank them for their efforts.

We are always looking for new members. The increase in numbers at any post, adds to the voice of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. so, I ask each of our members to try and recruit one prospect each. Increasing our numbers does not do us any good if we do not have missions to use our new members talents. I ask that we incorporate some small outreach programs i.e., nursing home visits, roadside clean up, yard work for vets, and so on. Ideas will be welcome.

Please consider volunteering to chair a committee. We have two major jobs coming up, and a chair for each would relieve the burden on the officers that will eventually have to manage these tasks to completion.

I wish our post and each one of you individually a safe, healthy, and prosperous 2022.

May God bless you,  
Randy





# FACT SHEET

*As the nation's oldest major war veterans' organization,* the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4.5 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.

YOUR DONATION OF

**\$20**

ENSURES THE VFW CAN

**Educate** a separating service member about his or her well-earned VA benefits through a private benefits counseling session with a VFW Service Officer.

**Provide** training to 4 VFW Service Officers on signs of emotional suffering so they can better direct veterans to programs and services.

**Help** cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war.

**Deliver** 4 morale-boosting "welcome home" celebrations for service members who have returned from combat.



**2,000+**

Number of VA-accredited VFW representatives across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

**61**

Number of VFW-SVA Fellows (student veterans) who have traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for veterans' rights.

**\$10 billion**

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits.

**2.4 million+**

Number of service members and their family members hosted at VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) events since 2005.

**24**

Number of times the VFW has testified before Congress in the last 12 months alone. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries.

**\$2.9 million**

Amount of scholarships, monetary awards and other incentives the VFW distributes annually to middle and high school students through two major patriotic essay competitions.

**\$12.3 million+**

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 44% of the funds covered basic housing needs.

**\$9.85 million+**

Amount of scholarships awarded to more than 2,200 veterans and service members through VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" since January 2014.

Updated December 2021

Learn more about the VFW's programs and services at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).





# MORE FACTS ABOUT THE VFW



## The VFW by the numbers

**1.5 million**

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

**5,921**

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



## Cutting red tape

**100,000**

Approximate number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2021.

**Nearly 12,000**

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2021 resulting in more than \$152 million in disability compensation.

**20+**

Number of VFW Pre-Discharge offices across the nation, including the military district of Washington, D.C., area.



## Helping struggling military families

**10,972**

Number of grants provided to military families facing financial hardship through **VFW Unmet Needs** since 2004.

**\$5,473,046**

Amount of grants provided through **VFW Unmet Needs** covering housing for struggling military families since 2004.

**3,752**

Number of military families who received assistance with housing needs since 2004.



**1899**

Year the VFW started to fight for veterans, service members and their families.



## Honoring the fallen

**3.3 million**

Number of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies distributed by the VFW last year.

**\$334,500**

Amount raised through the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy program for needy veterans last year.



## Improving life in America

**3.3 million**

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

**\$25.9 million**

Amount donated annually to local community service projects by VFW members.



## Inspiring patriotism in young people

**29,000+**

Number of high school students who competed in the 2020–21 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

**84,000+**

Number of students who competed in the 2020–21 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.

Updated December 2021

Learn more about the VFW's programs and services at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).

**Business After Hours**  
**hosted by John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683**



Join us for Business After Hours  
hosted by John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683,  
Veterans of Foreign Wars on  
**Thursday, January 20th at 5:30pm**  
for food, drinks and prizes!

We are a nonprofit service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members. We are dedicated to veteran's service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs.

2615 County Rd 537  
Enterprise, AL 36330

Visit our Facebook





# Starting the Year Off With a Bang

*Contributed by Robert Schmidbauer*

Over the past year, the John Wiley Brock Post has held many events such as bar-b-que fund raisers, Football Game Watch Parties and Fellowship Bon Fires. At one such bon fire, several post members were talking, and we decided that we wanted to bring the New Year in with a bang.

We solicited some VFW member businesses and before you know it we had support from: **Attainable Wealth**, owned and operated by Life Member Clarence Carrol. **Choppers Ol School Bar-b-que**, owned and operated by life member Chris Wood. The future **Forge and Farm Brewing Company**, owned and operated by life member Bob Schmidbauer. Sam Baker, life member.

We put our funds together and purchased some fireworks, picked up some firewood and put out the Facebook post and emails. The idea was to get together for comradery, share a hors d'oeuvres and bring in the New Year.

The event was attended by 40 VFW families and several families from the community. All and all the event was successful in its intent. We are looking forward to making this an annual tradition at the post.



**Forge and Farm**  
 ————— Brewing Company —————



# Youth and Education Programs

*Contributed by: Jeff Steddum*

The John Wiley Brock Post 6683 concluded a very successful Youth and Education program this year with the presentation of awards in December and January. The program consists of the **Patriot's Pen** essay contest, the **Voice of Democracy** video essay, and **Teacher of the Year** award for up to three teachers (elementary, junior high, and high school). The selectees were chosen from a panel selected by the Post Commander.

The **Patriot's Pen** Youth Scholarship was awarded to **Mikki Steddum**, a sixth-grade student from Hillcrest Elementary School. She read her essay entitled, "How I can be a good American" at the Post Christmas Party on December 4th, 2021. She was presented a certificate and cash award from the Senior Vice Commander, Comrade Randy Godfrey. Her essay is published in this edition of the Post Newsletter.



The **Voice of Democracy** Schwas awarded to **Ethan Momeny**, a senior from Enterprise High School. He read his essay at the Post Christmas party, and we were excited that his entire family was able to join us. Ethan plans to study political science and become active in government upon graduating college. Both his father and grandfather are aviators and combat Veterans, and his mother is an Army civilian working at Fort Rucker. His essay is published in this edition of the Post Newsletter.



**Sarah McLendon** was awarded the **JWB Post 6683 Elementary School Teacher of the Year Award** in a private ceremony on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Sarah is the music teacher for Hillcrest Elementary School and serves as the Junior Beta Club sponsor. She has led a very successful Beta Club for several year winning many state and national titles. Additionally, she leads the Hillcrest In-Harmony performing choir. Her Beta Club contributed significantly to the Post by organizing a community service event where many students and parents painted the Post fence and front porch area of the Post and helped move our new VFW sign to its current location from the pavilion.





**Stephanie Underwood** was awarded the **JWB Post 6683 High School Teacher of the Year Award** at our Post Monthly Meeting January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Stephanie is a History and Government teacher and a proud advocate of Veterans, patriotism, and freedom. A lifelong resident of Enterprise, Stephanie has a very impressive resume. Additionally, she is a downtown Enterprise business owner. Her unwavering commitment to the teaching of the foundations of American history from a patriotic perspective is truly invaluable to our community, State, and Nation. As such, we are proud to announce that she also won the District 7 and Department of Alabama Teacher of the Year awards as well. She will compete for the VFW HQ National Teacher of the Year.



## How I Can Be A Good American

By Mikki Steddum



**Randy Godfrey, Senior Vice Commander and Mikki Steddum**

I can be a good American by doing many different things because lots of people need your help, even animals. There are many different types of examples that I can think of like if you ever go to the beach you can walk around the seashore/water to find trash. This is because you never know when a bird or fish could choke on a piece of trash which you would not want to happen because then it might die.

Another thing that you can do is help animals that are in need like dogs, cats, birds, bunnies, and more. A way that you can help them is by going to animal shelters and giving the animals' good food, getting more supplies for the shelter, and even getting some of the animals' new homes and owners. One thing that you can also do is join Beta in school because if you do it, then you are a leader and you will help anyone in need because we do stuff like canned food drives,

gathering things for the homeless, picking up trash in parks, and we also do other fun things like painting rocks to place around our city to make people feel good and doing conventions.



## Voice of Democracy

By Ethan Momeny

I believe that in order for America to move forward, we should be able to embrace the true freedom of speech and thought. Americans must possess the ability to share our opinions and ideas with people, as equals under the Constitution, without being removed or canceled from the conversation. In order for us to improve ourselves, we have to listen to the opinions and ideas of others. The reality is that if we only listen to ourselves, we can only go so far. However, if we listen to each other's ideas, we can improve ourselves by gaining perspective and understanding, which will improve the humanity of the nation. The key to this revitalization is mutual respect of freedom of speech. If this goal can be achieved, citizens can gain an objective education that explores the foundation of our nation, as well as respect for both the law and the Constitution.

In order to gain an objective education, the school system must not be used for one side's opinion and not divide people against each other. Instead, they should be used to train the leaders of the future to work together with others who may have a different viewpoint and should teach them what they need in order to succeed in the world. Instead of focusing on divisive education, what we should be focused on is education that focuses on the Constitution and that every person has an equal right to an idea or an opinion.

If we embrace the true freedom of speech and gain and objective education, what we need to do next is embrace true equity. If we embrace true equity that means we work towards improving the outcome of ourselves and not taking from others hard work. If we redistribute the wealth that we have now toward all of us being equal within our financial status we would all be stuck in the same position. We would all be the same and not be able to move forward with America's economic growth.



**Randy Godfrey, Senior Vice  
Commander and Ethan Momeny**

Here is the thing; we cannot get equity confused with making it equal to equality. Equality is where we are all equal within our rights as human beings. While the equity that we make comes from our income that we work for and earn with what we do with the chance that we get. We are all humans; we are not perfect, but we all improve ourselves and what we need to do is gain the education that we need to gain the chance. America allows you to have the opportunity if you work hard enough and gain the education needed, you can advance without limit.

But if we step back and not ensure the quality of our education and not ensure the freedom of speech and not be equal under the law. We only cause ourselves to step back and not step forward. Americans get involved less and less. How can we improve? Well, here is the thing we cannot improve if we do not listen to those around us and we cannot earn our opportunities.

Americans cannot advance successfully as nation if they do not consider the opinions or ideas of others and have an education that is based in divisiveness and only want excess government support.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

*The Teacher of the Year baskets contained gifts from the Enterprise community donated by: Café Roma, Downtown Donuts, Dunkin Donuts, Milky Moo's, Publix, Santa Fe, Sonic, The Craft Bar & Grill, and Weevil Nut Company.*



### Italian Restaurant

101 South Main Street Enterprise, AL 36330  
 (334) 598-2700

DOWNTOWN DONUTS



303 North Main Street Enterprise, AL, 36330  
 (334) 763-1099



705 Boll Weevil Circle Enterprise, AL 36330  
 (334) 651-8262



906 Boll Weevil Circle Enterprise, AL 36330  
 (334) 433-9806



847 Boll Weevil Circle, Enterprise, AL 36330  
 (334) 348-1489

**Milky Moo's**



Enterprise

113 E College St

334-348-2202

Ozark

158 E Broad St

334-443-0222

**Homemade Ice Cream**



6011 Boll Weevil Circle Enterprise, AL 36330  
 (334) 308-2004

**The Craft**

**BAR & GRILL**

**STEAK • SEAFOOD • OYSTERS**

1024 Boll Weevil Circle Enterprise, AL 36330  
 (334) 474-4055



A SOUTHERN TRADITION

CANDY • NUTS • GIFTS

107 N Main Street Enterprise, AL 36330  
 (334) 347-NUTS(6887)



## FROM THE CHAPLAIN



*Comrades, as we start our third year with COVID, I pray that each of you are in good health! We need to check on our comrades daily, weekly, and monthly to see if they need any help. Let's us remember our men and women serving all over world too! Let's pray for them daily.*

*As we start a new "YEAR - 2022" I know many of us have make new resolutions that will last until the first weekend. And many of us will continue doing the same thing accepting the past year as normal, and looking forward to no change.*

*But this is not the way it could be, nor should it be. Each of us should expect to change some area of our life and to help improve or help some others in the New Year. You can make a difference in your own life and others; it's your choice.*

*I pray God bless you,*

**Myroan Brown**  
**Chaplain**

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## 2022 Veterans Disability Compensation Rates

*Contributed by: Thomas Grandinetti*



Review 2022 Veterans disability compensation rates. The 2022 VA service connection compensation tables are out and there is an increase in benefits for veterans. Also, if you are at least 30% you can add dependents for more benefits if you haven't already done so.

You can find the increases based on percentage service connection here:

<https://www.va.gov/disability/compensation-rates/veteran-rates/>

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## Get Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

*Contributed by Angel de la Cruz*



Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order #44 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. Order your tests now so you have them when you need them.

[COVIDtests.gov](https://COVIDtests.gov)





## **REPORT FROM HOUSE COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Otis Smith, Jr.**  
**Past Commander**  
**Chairman House Committee**

### **Greetings and Happy New Year from your House Committee**

The past year has seen great improvements within our post building, but a lot remains to be done. Our goal is to make your post, the best post in District 7 and the State of Alabama.

Your house committee will continue to manage matters related to the Post facilities which include the operation, maintenance, and repair of the Post rooms, grounds and manage the rental of our facilities.

#### **Our short term projects to be completed this month include:**

- Install above ground lights for VFW sign
- Flood lights to R/S of building as you face it
- Facets for kitchen sinks
- Replace the threshold and weather-strip at the bottom of both doors

#### **Our near-term projects (within the next year) include:**

- repair/replace gutters
- roof repair for pump house (Boy Scouts project)
- strip light sets and 5-6 fans placed inside the pavilion
- water purification system installed

#### **Our mid-term projects (within the next 1-3 years) include:**

- screen-in the pavilion
- new bar-b-que pit
- purchase new tables and chairs

#### **Our long-term projects include:**


- frame/enclose pavilion

I will continue to report facility status and upkeep to our VFW leadership and our members. The committee will continue to closely monitor the maintenance and operational status of the post and provide reports accordingly. As always, we solicit your input on how we are doing and what can be done better to reach our goal as the best post in District 7 and the State of Alabama. Constructive criticism is always good.



# FEBRUARY - 2022

*Meetings are every Tuesday at 6:00 PM*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			AUSA Board Meeting Ground Hog Day	WWVC Meeting	1-212 <sup>th</sup> Change of Responsibility	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		VFW Meeting		DAV Meeting		CVMA Meeting
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
				Chamber of Commerce Business after hours		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			MAVC Meeting Quarterly Breakfast			
27	28					

WWVC - Wiregrass Wounded Veteran Committee  
CVMA – Combat Vets Motorcycle Association  
EHS – Enterprise High School

MAC – Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
GSA – Girl Scouts of America  
FRAL – Fort Rucker, AL





## MARCH - 2022

*Meetings are every Tuesday at 6:00 PM*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	1 Enterprise City Council	2 AUSA Board Meeting	3 WWVC Meeting	4	5
6	7	8 VFW Meeting	9	10 DAV Meeting	11	12 CVMA Meeting Enterprise St. Patrick's Day Parade
13	14	15	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18	19
20	21	22	23 MVAC Meeting Quarterly Breakfast Hosted by the DAV	24	25	26 American Legion Meeting
27	28	29	30 AUSA Board Meeting	31 WWVC Meeting	April 1	2

WWVC - Wiregrass Wounded Veteran Committee  
CVMA - Combat Vets Motorcycle Association  
EHS - Enterprise High School

MAC - Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
GSA - Girl Scouts of America  
FRAL - Fort Rucker, AL

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# OUR POST CAN BE RENTED

## The New Post Home has the following amenities:

- ✓ **ADA** Accessible Restrooms
- ✓ Over **2475 square feet** of floor space
- ✓ Two new **55" and 65" TVs** w/Internet Broadcasting and linked for presentations
- ✓ State of the Art **WiFi** (inside and out)
- ✓ New **full kitchen** appliances and cabinets
- ✓ On-demand water heater, water purification system
- ✓ New insulation, walls, and flooring
- ✓ All new electrical system
- ✓ New **extra-large campfire**



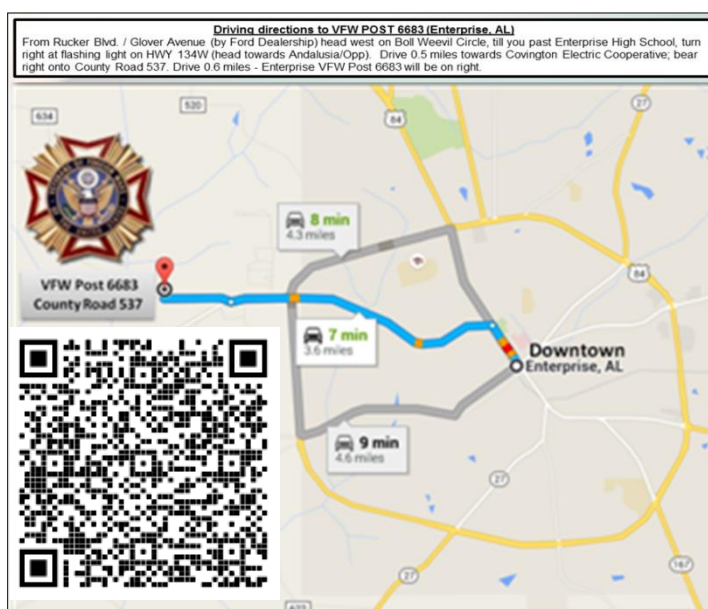
Rental prices for our members are only \$100 and \$150 for non-member Veterans. Public pricing is \$200 with negotiable hourly rates.



**ALL MEETINGS ARE CONDUCTED IN A  
SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENT!**

## THANK YOU.

For more information, call the post at 334-475-2010 or email [post.6683.vfw@gmail.com](mailto:post.6683.vfw@gmail.com).  
Jim Steddum, Quartermaster





# JOHN WILEY BROCK **VFW POST 6683** VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS. ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA *It's not the price you pay to belong, It's the price you paid to be eligible.*



## VFW Post 6683 WEB / Facebook Pages



Official VFW POST 6683 Website  
<https://vfw6683.org>



Official VFW POST 6683 Public Facebook Site  
<https://www.facebook.com/Enterprise-VFW-Post-6683-108662587348334>



Official VFW POST 6683 Auxiliary Public Facebook Site  
<https://www.facebook.com/vfwauxiliary6683>



Official VFW POST 6683 Private Group Facebook Site  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/VFWPOST6683>



Comrades, in an effort to keep members aware of the upcoming events of our organization, we recently established Web and Facebook pages for our organization **[Enterprise VFW – Post 6683]** the original Facebook group was linked to this page and retitled VFW Post 6683. The Auxiliary still has its own Facebook group titled VFW Auxiliary 6683, but is encouraged to use our events tab on the Facebook page for our post home. The Facebook Page is open to the

public, once on the page if you like the page it will send you updates when events or posts are made. [SCAN QR Code for Site.](#)

All post events for John Wiley Brock Post 6683 will be posted on the events tab of the Facebook page mentioned above as well as the Post Google Calendar, the Google calendar will also post other veterans' organization and community organization events of interest to veterans. If you would like access to the google calendar, please send an email to:

[post.6683.vfw@gmail.com](mailto:post.6683.vfw@gmail.com)

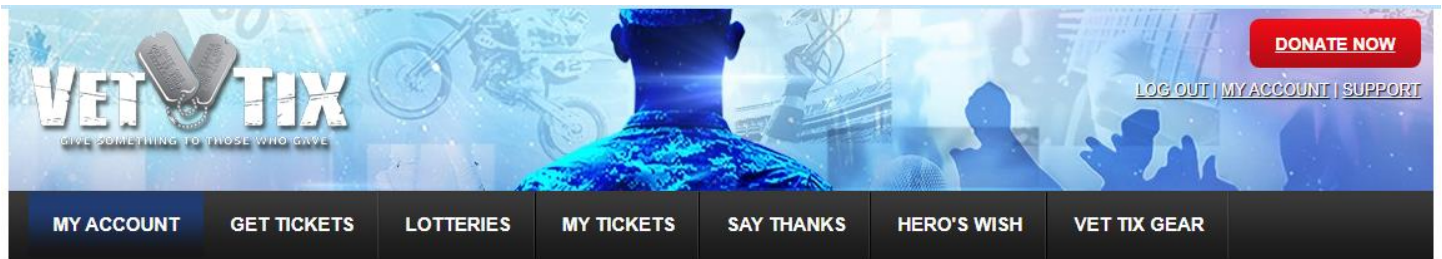
## VFW POST 6683 POLO SHIRTS

If you would like to order a VFW Post 6683 Polo shirt or more shirts, the cost is \$36.50 - Go to the Post Store at [VFW6683.ORG](http://VFW6683.ORG) and place your order! Call me if you need assistance:

**Jim Steddum**  
O: 334-475-2010 or M: 907-854-1320



## SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW



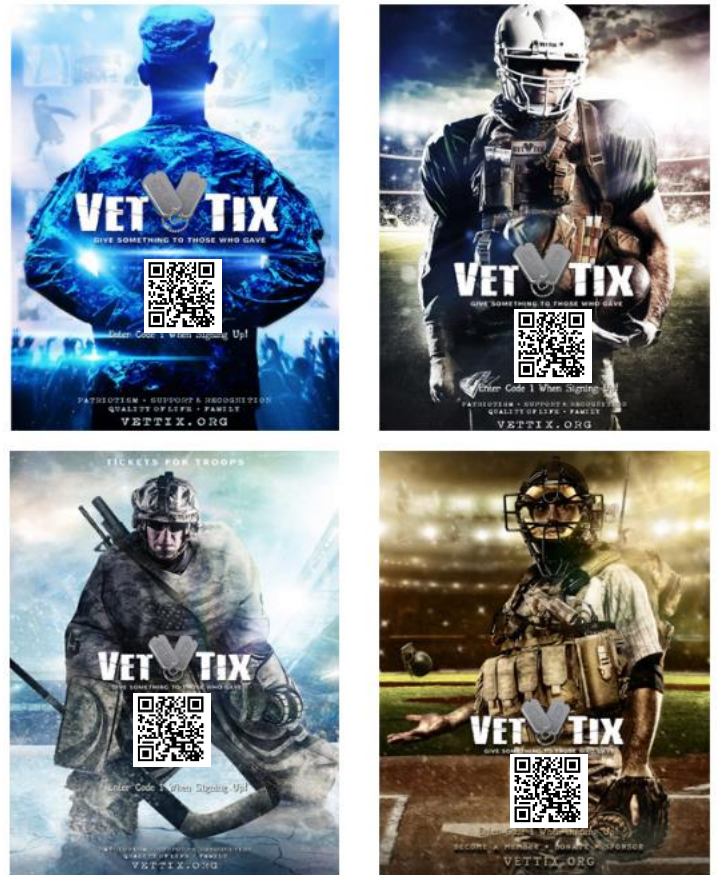
### Give Something to Those Who Gave.

Vet Tix \* provides tickets to events which reduce stress, strengthen family bonds, build life-long memories and encourage service members and veterans to stay engaged with local communities and American life. We support our troops by honoring their service and providing positive family and life experiences, during and after their years of service to our country.

Vet Tix provides tickets to all branches of currently-serving Military and Veterans, including immediate family of troops KIA.

Vet Tix secures tickets to sporting events, concerts, performing arts, educational and family activities across the nation. VetTixers sign up online. We verify their service. VetTixers request tickets to events that interest them, then pay a small delivery fee to receive their free tickets.

### \* Vet Tix is a 95% Charity



Click on one of the flyers to the above or bar code below to open, then print and share locally. You can pin these up at local businesses, VFW, Legion, gym, commissary, day room, company break room, or even email or hand out.

