



June 15, 2021

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Providence, RI – The Rhode Island Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States held its annual State Convention on Saturday, June 5, 2021. The following individuals were elected and inducted into office during the event:

- Department Commander: Dora Vasquez-Hellner of VFW Post 8955
- Department Senior Vice Commander: Joe “Tiger” Patrick of VFW Post 916
- Department Junior Vice Commander: Rachael S. Garcia of VFW Post 152
- Department Quartermaster: Sean R. Smith of VFW Post 5392
- Department Chaplain: Raymond Denisewich of VFW Post 272

Department Commander Vasquez-Hellner appointed the following individuals to serve during the 2021-2022 administrative term:

- Department Adjutant/Inspector: Matthew B. McCoy of VFW Post 152
- Department Chief of Staff/Officer of the Day: William G. Siano of VFW Post 8955
- Department Judge Advocate: Kasim Yarn of VFW Post 152
- Department Surgeon: William D. Hellner of VFW Post 8955

The following individuals were previously elected to serve as District Commanders within the Department of Rhode Island:

- District 1: Antonio S. Fonseca of VFW Post 10011
- District 2: Joseph R. Diniz of VFW Post 237
- District 3: Robert W. Mason of VFW Post 152

Finally, Guyde A. Lombardi of VFW Post 10011 was elected to serve as the Department’s Nacional Council Member. John P. Gallo of VFW Post 306 was appointed as the Department’s representative on the National Legislative Council.

The Rhode Island Department of the Veterans of Foreign Was of the United States consists of twenty-four Posts with a membership of approximately 3,000 veterans distributed throughout the state. Eligibility criteria to join the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may be found at www.vfw.org.

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