

TO BE READ AT MEETINGS AND POSTED:

1. Having been elected to Department Commander and having been installed in the office in accordance with the Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Department of Utah, I hereby assume command.
2. The following officers have been duly elected and installed at the 2023 Department of Utah Summer Convention and will be accorded the recognition due to them:

**Commander**

Heath Silcox, Post 12087, West Jordan, Utah

**Senior Vice Commander**

James Shepard, Post 7442, WVC, Utah

**Junior Vice Commander**

Laurie Charry, Post 8307, Layton, Utah

**Quartermaster**

Dennis Parizek, Post 1481, Ogden, Utah

**Judge Advocate**

Tim Von Bon, Post 8307, Layton, Utah

**Surgeon**

Glenn Spencer, Post 12087, West Jordan, Utah

**Chaplain**

Gabrielle Tekurio-Armstead, Post 409, SLC, Utah

**District 1 Commander**

Danny Zaharias, Post 409, SLC Utah

**District 3 Commander**

Gerald Bedel, Post 1481, Ogden, Utah

**District 4 Commander**

Randy Morgan, Post 6395, Spanish Fork, Utah

**District 5 Commander**

Thearon Crosby, Post 2628, St. George, Utah

**District 6 Commander**

Stephen Tallerico, Post 2379, Price, Utah

3. All previous appointments have expired and are declared null and void.
4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

**Adjutant**

Dennis Parizek, Post 1481, Ogden, Utah

**Chief of Staff**

Roy Kunzi, Post 10900, Moab, Utah

**Inspector:**

Brent Colledge, Post 9413, Tooele, Utah

**Service Officer**

Harley Boyles, Post 1481, Ogden, Utah  
(subject to confirmation by the Department Council of Administration)

**Sergeant-at-Arms**

Doug George, Post 409, SLC, Utah

5. For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States – Department of Utah and its VFW Auxiliary.
6. Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2023-2024 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, "Buddy"® Poppy, and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and District Commanders comply with all provisions of the National and Department Bylaws and the National Manual of Procedure and Ritual.
7. Attention of incoming Commanders at all levels; you are directed to Section 703 of the National By-Laws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable. Information on bonding will be sent via email by the Department Quartermaster on approximately August 15, 2023. A hard copy of the instructions are included with this General Order for Commanders/Quartermasters who do not have an email address on file with the Department
8. Attention of incoming Post Commanders, you are directed to Section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustees' Report of Audit (VFW Store product #4214) to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report for the quarter ending 6/30/2023 is due July 31, 2023.
9. Attention of incoming District and Post Commanders you are directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990-T, where applicable. Forms may be secured from [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or the local branch office of the Internal Revenue Service.
10. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).
11. The 2023-24 Utah VFW Membership and All-State Program requirements are attached/ enclosed. All Commanders should make themselves familiar with the content of this document.
12. A thorough program of District and Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department Bylaws and directives. The Department Inspector will inspect the Districts. The District Commander will inspect their Posts. If a District Commander needs assistance with inspecting Posts, the Department Inspector should be contacted for assistance. Department and District Inspectors shall make every effort

to inspect every District and Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.

13. The distribution of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Sections 711 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure. District and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of "Buddy"® Poppies in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of "Buddy"® Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 704 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure.
14. The 2023 Western Conference will be held in Salt lake City, Utah. November 2-5, 2023. Registration information is located on the Department web site: [www.vfwut.org](http://www.vfwut.org)
15. District and Post Commanders are required to attend all District and Department meetings to include but not limited to CoA's, Mid-Winter Conference and State Summer Convention. If a scheduling conflict occurs, then the District or Post Commander are required to send either the Senior Vice Commander or Junior Vice Commander. Please update the Chief of Staff of any scheduling conflicts
16. Attached is a listing of the appointments I have made to date for the Program Chairpersons for 2023-2024.



HEATH N. SILCOX  
DEPARTMENT OF UTAH  
COMMANDER



Attachments:

2023-2024 Utah Officers and Committee Chairman  
2023-2024 Membership & All-State

Upcoming Dates:

National Convention: 22-27 July 2023 (Phoenix AZ)  
National President Homecoming: 28 July 2023 (Phoenix AZ)  
UT CofA : 9 Sept 2023 (Spanish Fork, UT)  
UT Commander & President Homecoming: 9 Sept 2023 (Spanish Fork, UT)  
Mid-Winter: 2-4 Feb 2024 (Lehi, UT)