



**HOWARD MARTIN RICARHDSON VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS OF THE UNITED STATES POST NO. 5394
2022-2023 YEAR-IN-REVIEW**

Email/Hall Posting/General Release

GETSOME!

**Commanders Desk: Howard Martin Richardson VFW Post 5394
2022 Year in Review.**

Comrades, Your Post Officers completed the transition into this administrative year on 01 July 2022. Shortly after, your Commander tasked his officers to follow VFW's National Manual of Procedure and the Post by-laws to the letter, thus keeping with tradition cemented with "dignity and respect". Post 5394 was made possible by the Vietnam Veterans whose efforts charted the post on 25 April 1965. Their continued challenging work and selfless sacrifice made it possible for us to continue with their legacy of continued service to our families, country, and community. In opening, I asked your officers to follow your Commander's vision and direction to further the success of 5394. Thus, in doing so the following occurred.

Post Business/Veteran Outreach

The reorganizing of our Post Home language is attached. During the first of its kind the VFW Department State Audit of our post resulted in an overwhelming passing with excellence and not a single negative mark was recorded against your new Post administration. Furthermore, your officers and Comrades continued to assist Veterans and Community members that needed assistance. the Assistance that was provided by those are not limited to. Food giveaways, sleeping bags, Veteran referrals to HUD-VASH, Homeless Resources, gift cards to community members in need, linking veterans to Veteran Service Officers (VSOs). Your Post Adjutant/Service Officer provided essential updates concerning Veteran legislation changes to benefits and entitlements, and VA Medical changes. This list is never ending.

Community Service/Beautification Projects

Community Service is one of the most important areas of the VFW. VFW "Still Serving" Campaign falls right in line with the various organizations your comrades have the privilege of partnering with. Our Post has partnered with nationally recognized Veteran led organizations such as: The Mission Continues, National Montford Point Marine Association, Team Red, White & Blue (Team RWB), Team Rubicon, and many more we have participated in during community enrichment projects and events. National organizations are important for others to see what a small Post on a beautiful hill in Compton can do with limited resources. The local small grassroots nonprofits are extremely essential to our Post future in making sure these bonds are strong for future generations that will take the helm going forward. The local organizations that we have partnered with is long, here are a few: The Makers Hub, Inner City Child Development & Youth Foundation, Sunny Cove Block Club, East Side Riders Bike Club, Spring Street Block club, Faith Inspirational Church, Semper Utilis, LA Chapter Montford Point Marines, Walker Family Events Foundation and Sunshine Community Resource Organization/Center. Comrades there are many more we fostered bonds with, and the list is fast growing.

Post Events

Throughout the year 5394 has planned and executed various Veteran and Community enrichment gatherings. Some of these comrade-led mental health events assisted Veterans and community members with Dental services, Los Angeles County (LAC) mental health information, Various local and state-run benefit agencies. This list includes and not limited to: LAC Department of Mental Health, VPAN- Veteran Peer Access Network, Volunteers of America (VOA), Housing Urban Development - Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH), Mental Health America of Los Angeles (MHALA), Supportive Services of Veterans and their Family (SSVF), National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Compton Branch – Armed Services & Veterans Affairs Committee, Grand Canyon University Veteran Outreach Educational Resources, LAC Military & Veterans Affairs and Compton Veterans. Finally, the City of Compton Veterans Stand Down. Comrades, I may have missed more than ten organizations, get with our Post Adjutant or your Senior Vice Commander for more information concerning how exactly all these partnerships benefit the Post, and our shared Communities at large.

VFW Traditions

In addition, in keeping VFW traditions your comrades held annually observed programs, such as MIA/POW in partnership with our Post Auxiliary. Memorial Day observance. Veterans Day, Purple Heart Recognition, and many more.

Post Improvements 2023-2024 House Committee Kicking Ass!

Comrades a Post improvement Implementation plan was in place dating back 2018 during my time as a Comrade and soon asked to be 3 Year Post Trustee. These Post Improvements are made possible due to community led Post beautification events and hundreds of hours of Veteran and Community Volunteers. Pictures of your post improvements can be seen just left of the Comrade Corner, your Post home Information Resource Announcement area. During this Calendar year the Post Auxiliary/Community Computer Resource space is 98.9% completed. The Pantry was given a much-needed upgrade with new flooring throughout Flowing to the computer lab, and new shelving was placed to hold and store essential emergency food items for our Homeless Veteran Community and Community members in need.

The Canteen area has seen much-needed improvements: a new POS System are Point of Sales. This purchase was critical in tracking Items spent and keeping accurate inventories of items purchased; a new Coca-Cola sponsored soda-gun system with a state-of-the-art water filter system that ensures the best tasting product delivery to our comrades and patrons. Your Canteen Manager and his assistant have made sure your favorite “Root beers” are fully stocked for your support of our Post. In addition to the POS system, a new Ice Machine and water-filter system was purchased and installed to ensure cold beverage service and great taste. Some canteens in the VFW CA District 4 (Mighty 4th) do not have some of the amenities that we have! Your Assistant Canteen Manager has made many positive changes in making sure our Post Canteen will serve the next generation of Veterans and Community members privileged to pass through our doors.

Post Improvements Continued.

Clean and serviced restrooms (latrines) and communal areas bring a relaxing feel to those that visit our post home. For your enjoyment and convenience, we have re-habilitated our two pool tables, brought in a new AMI Music jukebox and an Automated Teller Machine (ATM). Our latrines have been updated with new hand-soap and hand-towel dispensers. Being small, or big, these additions have made Legendary Thursday nights and Hall Rentals run a lot smoother. As you may have noticed the Blue Recycling Bins placed beside the new trash can rollers have made trash pick-up faster and easier, and recycling proceeds are being dedicated to bringing essential support to our homeless veterans.

Comrades, your Post Home is overall operating as healthy as it can be without missing Community Led Events, Meetings, and Hall Rentals. More Changes are on the Horizon, and Post Improvements. Collaborative effort and community engagement is the most important part of this puzzle. The need to remain visible within the City of Compton and its surrounding communities fosters bonds that can assist our Post Home in its continued effort in being the beacon of light and change on this "Compton hill".

Lastly, the few officers and trusted agents combined with volunteer comrades cannot do this alone. Your participation is needed and welcomed. Your ideas and help will be much appreciated. 5394 Administration of 2022-2023 only has a solid 3 months remaining this term. We ask you to continue to call, attend meetings and try to make it out to Community Engagement events, now and in the future for the newly elected administration of 2023-2024.

PS. I will see you at our Post Home

In Comradeship

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherman Watson Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Post Commander Sherman Watson Jr (USMC Ret.) 2022-2023

**Commanders Desk: Howard Martin Richardson VFW Post 5394**

Our legacy. Post 5394 was Chartered in 1965, for returning Veterans that served Honorably during the Vietnam Conflict and previous wars such as WW2 (World War 2), Korean War during 1950-1953, and all Conflicts Our United States of America answered the call for its Allies and Territories. These Veterans lived in or around the Great City of Compton and they needed a place to call home. Throughout the Years VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), Post 5394 assisted hundreds of Veterans and their families with a wide range of Federal, State and Local benefits concerning Veteran issues. Their Selfless service to the community does not stop with Veterans. Over 62 years your Post Veterans and its Auxiliary have brought much needed change to The City of Compton by hosting Community Gatherings, Baseball Teams For youth and Mentorship to hundreds of youths. Moreover, your Veterans. answered the call during the Covid-19 outbreak by providing food drives, Clothing and Hygiene kits to countless Compton residents and LA County.

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.*

Our Vision: *Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.*

Who We Are

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a nonprofit veteran's service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, guard and reserve forces.

We trace our roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves.

In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations that would eventually band together and become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. After chapters were formed in Ohio, Colorado and Pennsylvania, the movement quickly gained momentum. Today, membership stands at more than 1.5 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary.

Our voice was instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration, development of the national cemetery system, in the fight for compensation for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange and for veterans diagnosed with Gulf War Syndrome. In 2008, we won a long-fought victory with the passing of a GI Bill for the 21st Century, giving expanded educational benefits to America's active-duty service members, and members of the guard and reserves, fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. We were the driving force behind the Veterans Access and Accountability Act of 2014, and continually fight for improved VA medical centers services for women veterans.

Besides helping fund the creation of the Vietnam, Korean War, World War II and Women in Military Service memorials, in 2005 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to contribute to building the new Disabled Veterans for Life Memorial, which opened in November 2010. And in 2015, we became the first Supporter of the National Desert Storm War Memorial which is planned for construction at our nation's capital.

We have many programs and services that work to support veterans, service members and their families, as well as communities worldwide. **No One Does More for Veterans.**

Our Core Values:

- Always put the interests of our members first
- Treat donors as partners in our cause
- Promote patriotism
- Honor military service
- Ensure the care of veterans and their families
- Serve our communities
- Promote a positive image of the VFW
- Respect the diversity of veteran opinions

Lastly, VFW's big are small do operate in similar ways, such as providing services for returning Veterans and their families, aiding the community in outreach endeavors, not limited to food giveaways, toy drives, computer lab resources, and much needed youth mentorship. In certain areas of our nation, we must foster peace in those that are not entirely lost, they just need to be shown another way. Your donation will continue to enable us to provide resources to our nation's Veterans and Their Families and our local Community Residence

Post 5394 Commander 2022-2023
Sherman Watson Jr USMC Ret



Commanders Desk

Thank you for considering choosing our Post for your beautification project. Before your visit. I would like to share with you, our legacy. Post 5394 was Chartered in 1965, for returning Veterans that served Honorably during the Vietnam Conflict and previous wars such as WW2 {World War 2}, Korean War during 1950-1953, and all Conflicts Our United States of America answered the call for its Allies and Territories. These Veterans lived in or around the Great City of Compton and they needed a place to call home. Throughout the Years VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), Post 5394 assisted hundreds of Veterans and their families with a wide range of Federal, State and Local benefits concerning Veteran issues. Their Selfless service to the community does not stop with Veterans. Over 62 years your Post Veterans and its Auxiliary have brought much needed change to The City of Compton by hosting Community Gatherings, Baseball Teams For youth and Mentorship to hundreds of youths. Moreover, your Veterans. answered the call during the Covid outbreak by providing food drives to countless Compton residents and LA County.

Lastly, your improvement plans big or small will enable us to continue to provide resources to our nation's Veterans and Their Families and our local Community Residence.

Commander:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherman Watson Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sherman Watson Jr USMC Ret

Dream/Wish List

- * New Roof throughout the entire post and AC Units Replaced with upgraded duck work. This will facilitate the installation of our new Community Computer Room. Additionally, we host a wide range of outreach events and post meetings and having a non-leaky roof and cool dry place is much needed.
- * Restroom remodel: New Toilets and urinal/sinks, and paint. The upgraded Restrooms will accommodate our ageing Veteran and Community population.
- * New Floors Throughout the post.
- * Kitchen Items: New Stove/Handwashing Station/ Storage Racks in Pantry. Post Kitchen is the Heartbeat of the post. We have single-handedly provided meals to homeless Veterans and Community members in need. The Kitchen is one of our main Fundraising tools and without it we are not able to assist those in need as frequently.

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