

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

JULY 2019

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 1

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### **GENERAL ORDERS ARE TO BE READ AT THE POST MEETING** **AND POSTED IN YOUR POST.**

1. **OFFICERS & APPOINTMENTS:** Having been elected State Commander and having been installed in office in accordance with the By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I, Russell "Doc" Saffell, hereby assume command of the Department of Iowa, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

**The following officers have been duly elected and installed by the Ninety-Eighth Annual State Convention and will be obeyed accordingly:**

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER:	Paul Arnold, <a href="mailto:guns_66@yahoo.com">guns_66@yahoo.com</a>
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER:	Mike Braman, <a href="mailto:michaelbraman26@yahoo.com">michaelbraman26@yahoo.com</a>
QUARTERMASTER:	Jerry Black, <a href="mailto:vfw Iowa@qwestoffice.net">vfw Iowa@qwestoffice.net</a>
CHAPLAIN:	Gary Ruffcorn, <a href="mailto:ruff0518@gmail.com">ruff0518@gmail.com</a>
PAST COMMANDER:	Carol Whitmore, <a href="mailto:whitmorebc@aol.com">whitmorebc@aol.com</a> (PSC)
IOWA NATIONAL COUNCILMAN:	Carol Whitmore, <a href="mailto:whitmorebc@aol.com">whitmorebc@aol.com</a> (PSC)
FIRST DISTRICT:	Denny Snow, <a href="mailto:vfwclubtipton@windstream.net">vfwclubtipton@windstream.net</a>
SECOND DISTRICT:	Dale Henry, <a href="mailto:dale.henry1271@aol.com">dale.henry1271@aol.com</a>
THIRD DISTRICT:	Jeff Ryant, <a href="mailto:jeffryant@hotmail.com">jeffryant@hotmail.com</a>
FOURTH DISTRICT:	Leonard Sloat, <a href="mailto:leo.sloat@gmail.com">leo.sloat@gmail.com</a>
FIFTH DISTRICT:	Ron Leber, <a href="mailto:medicpfd@aol.com">medicpfd@aol.com</a>
SIXTH DISTRICT:	Dennis Smith, <a href="mailto:moingonakid50@gmail.com">moingonakid50@gmail.com</a>
SEVENTH DISTRICT:	Richard Ryba, <a href="mailto:arborguy@frontier.com">arborguy@frontier.com</a>
EIGHTH DISTRICT:	Frank Kofka, <a href="mailto:fkofkas9721@gmail.com">fkofkas9721@gmail.com</a>
NINTH DISTRICT:	Virgil Thorstenson, <a href="mailto:dvthor6787@goacentek.net">dvthor6787@goacentek.net</a>
TENTH DISTRICT:	Mike Dalen, <a href="mailto:mike.dalen@mediacombb.net">mike.dalen@mediacombb.net</a>

**All previous appointments have expired and are rendered invalid. New appointments are as follows:**

Adjutant:	Jerry Black, <a href="mailto:vfw Iowa@qwestoffice.net">vfw Iowa@qwestoffice.net</a>
Judge Advocate:	Michael Young, <a href="mailto:young.michael.a@gmail.com">young.michael.a@gmail.com</a>
Surgeon:	Dennis Abel, <a href="mailto:abel4isu@mchsi.com">abel4isu@mchsi.com</a>
Assistant Chaplain:	Scott McDonald, <a href="mailto:smcdonald275@hotmail.com">smcdonald275@hotmail.com</a>
Chief of Staff:	Don Fisher, <a href="mailto:cathyfisher1948@hotmail.com">cathyfisher1948@hotmail.com</a>
Inspector:	Scott McDonald, <a href="mailto:smcdonald275@hotmail.com">smcdonald275@hotmail.com</a>
Historian:	Don Fisher, <a href="mailto:cathyfisher1948@hotmail.com">cathyfisher1948@hotmail.com</a>
Service Officer, Iowa City:	Richard Davis, <a href="mailto:richard.davis@va.gov">richard.davis@va.gov</a>
Assist. Service Officer, Des Moines:	Shane Pankonen, <a href="mailto:shane.pankonen@va.gov">shane.pankonen@va.gov</a>
Buddy Poppy Chairman:	Jack Lingelbach, <a href="mailto:adjutant.vfwpost9668@gmail.com">adjutant.vfwpost9668@gmail.com</a>
Camp Courageous/Sunnyside Chairman:	Jerry Black, <a href="mailto:vfw Iowa@qwestoffice.com">vfw Iowa@qwestoffice.com</a>
Citizenship Education Chairman:	Rick Martin, <a href="mailto:rickmartin412@aol.com">rickmartin412@aol.com</a>
Community Activities Chairman:	Rick Martin, <a href="mailto:rickmartin412@aol.com">rickmartin412@aol.com</a>
I.T. (Computer) Director:	Russell Saffell, <a href="mailto:resaffell007@yahoo.com">resaffell007@yahoo.com</a>
Webmaster:	Russell Saffell, <a href="mailto:resaffell007@yahoo.com">resaffell007@yahoo.com</a>
Department Outreach Chairman:	Dennis Abel, <a href="mailto:abel4isu@mchsi.com">abel4isu@mchsi.com</a>
Emergency Disaster Chairman:	Russell Saffell, <a href="mailto:resaffell007@yahoo.com">resaffell007@yahoo.com</a>
Fundraising Chairman:	Mike Braman, <a href="mailto:michaelbraman26@yahoo.com">michaelbraman26@yahoo.com</a>
Fundraising 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman:	Jake Beaver, <a href="mailto:worldwidebeaverbeav@gmail.com">worldwidebeaverbeav@gmail.com</a>
Fundraising 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairman:	Aaron Martinez, <a href="mailto:strugglebeyondthedeade.films@gmail.com">strugglebeyondthedeade.films@gmail.com</a>
Homeless Veterans:	Jacob Gruber, <a href="mailto:jbruber@mchsi.com">jbruber@mchsi.com</a> (PSC)
Hospital Chairman:	Dennis Abel, <a href="mailto:abel4isu@mchsi.com">abel4isu@mchsi.com</a>
Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs:	Carol Whitmore, <a href="mailto:whitmorebc@aol.com">whitmorebc@aol.com</a> (PSC)
Legislative Chairman:	Brad Whitmore, <a href="mailto:whitmorecb@aol.com">whitmorecb@aol.com</a>
Life Membership Chairman:	Dennis Abel, <a href="mailto:abel4isu@mchsi.com">abel4isu@mchsi.com</a>
Loyalty Day Chairman:	Steve Streeter, <a href="mailto:cjbrobst@iowatelecom.net">cjbrobst@iowatelecom.net</a>
Marketing & Communications Director:	Aaron Martinez, <a href="mailto:strugglebeyondthedeade.films@gmail.com">strugglebeyondthedeade.films@gmail.com</a>
Membership Chairman:	Dale Boicourt, <a href="mailto:sfcboicourt@gmail.com">sfcboicourt@gmail.com</a>
Membership Recruiter:	Dale Boicourt, <a href="mailto:sfcboicourt@gmail.com">sfcboicourt@gmail.com</a>
National Home Chairman:	Paul Arnold, <a href="mailto:guns_66@yahoo.com">guns_66@yahoo.com</a>
Assistant National Home Chairman:	Darrell Blasberg, <a href="mailto:blaze101@netins.net">blaze101@netins.net</a> (PSC/PNCM)
Patriot's Pen Chairman:	Brad Whitmore, <a href="mailto:whitmorecb@aol.com">whitmorecb@aol.com</a>
POW/MIA:	Todd Jacobus, <a href="mailto:todd.jacobus@gmail.com">todd.jacobus@gmail.com</a>
Public Relations Chairman:	Jerry Black, <a href="mailto:vfw Iowa@qwestoffice.net">vfw Iowa@qwestoffice.net</a>
Safety Chairman:	Mike Braman, <a href="mailto:michaelbraman26@yahoo.com">michaelbraman26@yahoo.com</a>
Scouting Chairman:	Russell Saffell, <a href="mailto:resaffell007@yahoo.com">resaffell007@yahoo.com</a>
Scouting Vice Chair:	Vance Arnold, <a href="mailto:vla1229@yahoo.com">vla1229@yahoo.com</a>

Student Veterans of America Liaison:	Paul Arnold, <a href="mailto:guns_66@yahoo.com">guns_66@yahoo.com</a>
Sergeant-At-Arms:	Jack Lingelbach, <a href="mailto:adjutant.vfwpost9668@gmail.com">adjutant.vfwpost9668@gmail.com</a>
Assist Sergeant-at-Arms:	Jake Beaver, <a href="mailto:worldwidebeaverbeav@gmail.com">worldwidebeaverbeav@gmail.com</a>
State Fair Booth Co-Chairmen:	Jack Lingelbach, <a href="mailto:adjutant.vfwpost9668@gmail.com">adjutant.vfwpost9668@gmail.com</a> Mike Braman, <a href="mailto:michaelbraman26@yahoo.com">michaelbraman26@yahoo.com</a>
State Photographers:	Don Fisher, <a href="mailto:cathyfisher1948@hotmail.com">cathyfisher1948@hotmail.com</a> Dennis Appelhons, <a href="mailto:diappel@mediacombb.net">diappel@mediacombb.net</a>
Teacher Award Chairman:	Don Fisher, <a href="mailto:cathyfisher1948@hotmail.com">cathyfisher1948@hotmail.com</a>
Veterans Service Chairman:	Richard Davis, <a href="mailto:richard.davis@va.gov">richard.davis@va.gov</a>
Veterans & Military Support Co-Chairmen:	Todd Jacobus, <a href="mailto:todd.jacobus@gmail.com">todd.jacobus@gmail.com</a> Patrick Stark, <a href="mailto:vfw.patstark@gmail.com">vfw.patstark@gmail.com</a>
VFW Lobbyist:	Brad Whitmore, <a href="mailto:whitmorecb@aol.com">whitmorecb@aol.com</a>
Voice of Democracy Chairman:	Brad Whitmore, <a href="mailto:whitmorecb@aol.com">whitmorecb@aol.com</a>
Youth Activities Chairman:	Mike Braman, <a href="mailto:michaelbraman26@yahoo.com">michaelbraman26@yahoo.com</a>

2. **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES REPORT:** Please send all Community Activity Reports to the Community Activity Chairman Rick Martin ([rickmartin412@aol.com](mailto:rickmartin412@aol.com)), 412 Nilsen Rd NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. Only 1 report per Post and per Auxiliary will be accepted and is due the eighth of each month. Please use the form attached with these General Orders to report your activities.

3. **INSPECTIONS:** District Commanders your attention is directed to Section 517 of the Manual of Procedure, which states that each Post shall be inspected at least once during the year. Please make sure all the Posts in your District are inspected and report them in a timely manner rather than accumulating reports for 100% mailing. Please send completed Reports to **State Inspector Scott McDonald, 3644 W 4<sup>th</sup> St, Waterloo, IA 50701. Please send white copy only.**

4. **2019-2020 FLYING SQUADRON:** The 2019 Flying Squadron will be July 13, 2019 at VFW Post 9127 Beavertdale Post, 4029 Urbandale Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310 beginning at 10 am. Uniform will be business casual (polo shirt w/ pants) with VFW Cap, (No T-Shirts, Shorts, Sandals, or Flip-flops). All Department Chairmen and Council Members are encouraged to attend this meeting as there will be introductions of all chairmen and new Council members.

5. **2019 BIENNIAL REPORT:** We still have Posts that have not filed their Biennial Report. This year Posts must file a biennial report with the Iowa Secretary of State's office. A **post card (or email if on file)** with the Corporation number and Pin Number, along with instructions you will need to file the report, was sent to the registered agent of the Post. If the report was not

filed by **April 1, 2019** the Post could be administratively dissolved and lose their Non-Profit status.

6. **QUARTERMASTER BOND:** THE RATE UP TO AND INCLUDING \$25,000 IS \$6.00 PER THOUSAND. THE RATE FOR \$26,000 AND UP IS \$5.00 PER THOUSAND. THE RATE FOR \$251,000 AND UP IS \$2.00 PER THOUSAND.

The application for the Quartermaster Surety Bond will be sent out on July 2, 2019 along with a Post bonding information sheet for those not bonding with Department. The Bond is due before September 1, 2019. All bonds will expire on August 31, 2019.

7. **IRS ALERT FOR POSTS WITH NEW QUARTERMASTERS:** A reminder that you must file Form 8822-B within 60 days after the new Quartermaster taking office (July 1, 2019) or if your Post address changes. I have attached a copy of the form and the instructions with these General Orders.

8. **CAR RAFFLE:** The winner of the car raffle was Rachel Bru of Montezuma!! Rachel won the Car Raffle drawing that took place at the 2019 VFW Iowa State Convention Banquet on June 8, 2019. Our **CONGRATULATIONS** goes out to Rachel!!

Thank you to Rachel and everyone that purchased a ticket for supporting our fundraiser!!!

9. **STATE COMMANDER RUSSELL "DOC" SAFFELL'S MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM BOOK:** State Commander Saffell's Program book is now available. We will send it in a separate email and it will also be available on the VFW Iowa website at: <https://www.iowavfw.org/documents-and-forms>

10. **OFFICERS, ELECTED AND APPOINTED:** Section 216 (c) - Post Officers, elected and appointed shall submit proof of eligibility for files to the Post Adjutant following their election or appointment and prior to their installation. Such proof of eligibility records shall be open to the Post Commander, Post Adjutant and Post Quartermaster. Post Officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until such proof of eligibility is in the files of the Post Adjutant. It is the responsibility of the elected and appointed Officer to obtain and submit this proof of eligibility. Section 414 (c) - District Officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the District Adjutant. **Additionally, District Commanders, District Senior Vice Commanders and District Junior Vice Commanders shall submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant.**

11. **DISTRICT OFFICER VACANCIES:** There are Districts that have incomplete Election Reports. They are **6<sup>th</sup> District:** Judge Advocate, **8<sup>th</sup> District:** Judge Advocate & Surgeon.

12. **ELECTION REPORTS:** Election Report filing was improved this year, Thank you. There are District/Posts that have not sent their Election Reports into the Department Headquarters as of this date, **1<sup>st</sup> District:** Post 2271 & 9162 **7<sup>th</sup> District:** Post 9661, **8<sup>th</sup> District:** Post 590, **10<sup>th</sup> District:** Post 4071 & 5232. Please get these sent in so that we may begin printing the Department Roster book. The Posts not having their Election Report into Department Headquarters by July 13, 2019 will not be printed in the Roster book and will be subject to suspension and possible revocation of their Post Charter. Department Headquarters must receive the Election Report in order to complete the Roster book for 2019-2020.

13. **120<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION:** The Veterans of Foreign Wars 120<sup>th</sup> National Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida on July 20-24, 2019. Please go to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), click on "Media & Events" and scroll to the bottom and click on "Events", click on "National Convention". There you will find all the information on this year's National Convention.

14. **REGISTRATION - VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION:** In accordance with the requirements of Section 222 of the National Bylaws, which mandates each Post to register at least one delegate to the V.F.W. National Convention. Register a Delegate now for \$25.00. Do not mail the forms to the Department; it should be mailed to the address on the form or electronically on the VFW National website Online Membership System (OMS).

15. **2019 VFW IOWA FALL POW WOW:** The Fall Pow-Wow will be Sept. 27 - 28, 2019 at the Sheraton West Des Moines Hotel, 1800 50th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50266. Room rates are \$108 plus tax. To reserve a room call 1-888-627-8043 and let them know you are with the VFW Fall Conference. The deadline to reserve a room is Sept. 6, 2019.

16. **VFW & AUXILIARY FALL 2019 DISTRICT MEETINGS:**

District 1 – 1565 Muscatine	Sat. Aug. 24, 2019	-Commander Russ Saffell President Kathy McDonald
District 2 – 9128 Bettendorf	Sat. Sept. 21, 2019	-JVC Mike Braman Guard Renee Quinn Sr. Vice Sandy Weldon
District 3 – 3914 Charles City	Sat. Aug. 24, 2019	-QM Jerry Black Jr. Vice Jeanette Henry
District 4 – 1655 Newton	Sat. Aug. 24, 2019	-JVC Mike Braman Chaplain Mary Shortt

District 5 – 9127 Des Moines	Sat. Aug. 31, 2019	- Commander Russ Saffell President Kathy McDonald
District 6 – 9599 Jefferson	Sat. Sept, 21, 2019	- SVC Paul Arnold Chaplain Mary Shortt
District 7 – 941 Harlan	Sat. Sept. 14, 2019	-SVC Paul Arnold Conductress Drusilla Novak
District 8 – 4514 Spirit Lake	Sat. Sept. 14, 2019	-PSC/NCM Carol Whitmore Chaplain Mary Shortt
District 9 – Johnson’s Restaurant Johnson’s Restaurant, 916 High St NE, Elkader, 52043	Sat. Sept. 21, 2019	-PSC/PNCM Darrell Blasberg President Kathy McDonald
District 10 – 2541 Algona	Sat. Sept. 14, 2019	-Commander Russ Saffell Jr. Vice Jeanette Henry

17. **2019-2020 VOD & PATRIOT’S PEN THEMES:** The 2019-2020 themes are:

**Voice of Democracy Theme:** What Makes America Great

**Patriot’s Pen Theme:** What Makes America Great

18. **BIG TEN CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:** The 2019 Big Ten Conference will be Oct. 18 - 20, 2018 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Omaha Downtown, 1616 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska, 68102. The room rates are \$119 plus tax. You may call 402-636-4918 to make reservations, make sure and ask for the VFW Big Ten Conference block. Room reservation cutoff date is Sept. 16, 2019. Registration fee is \$125.00 until Oct. 1, 2019. Late Registration is \$135.00 each.

19. **IOWA STATE FAIR BOOTH:** The VFW will be hosting a booth in the Varied Industries building during the Iowa State Fair. This year the fair will run from Thursday, August 8, 2019 thru Sunday, August 18, 2019. We are asking Posts or individuals to donate to this great cause. For the posts or auxiliaries willing to donate, please send your checks to Department of Iowa Attn: Jerry Black, QM, 3601 Beaver Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310. Any donation will be greatly appreciated and help to defer the cost of the booth. We are the only Veterans Organization there and it is great public relations and lets everyone know that **“No One Does More For Veterans”** than the VFW.

For those volunteering for a shift, you will be parking at the Fairgrounds’ post (Post 738) 2801 Dean Ave, free of charge and will be given an entrance ticket for the day you are working. Post 738 will provide transportation to the Fair and back until 7 pm.

20. **STATE FAIR BOOTH SCHEDULE:** The State Fair Booth schedule is now available. Please call Department Headquarters at 515-255-2139 to place your name on the schedule if you would like to work the Fair Booth. The slots are first come first serve.
21. **VETERAN'S DAY AT STATE FAIR:** The Veteran's Day Parade at the Iowa State Fair will be Monday, August 12, 2019. Members participating in the parade will receive free Fair tickets. Discounted tickets may be purchased at Des Moines area stores (Fareway, Dahl's, and Hy-Vee).
22. **VFW DECAL LICENSE PLATE:** You may now purchase the decals from the Department of Iowa Headquarters at a cost of **\$20** for 2 decals (**one for front and one for rear license plate**) and will then take the decals to your local county tag office and purchase the decal license plate. An order form for the decals can be found at [www.vfwiowa.org](http://www.vfwiowa.org). Information regarding this decal, including a photo and the contact information, is now available at <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/vehicleregistration/vehicleregistration/decals>.
23. **DISPLAY U.S. FLAG ON JULY 27:** The U.S. Flag should be flown on National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27. Please encourage the observance of this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.
24. **POST ASSESSMENT:** The Post Assessment for 2019 will be \$1.00 per member based on last year's Adjusted Membership total. If your Post achieved 100% in membership by June 30, 2018, your Post does not have to pay the Post assessment. This will be shown on the Status Report block as 100%. The deadline to pay your Post Assessment is Oct. 15, 2019.
25. **GENERAL ORDERS EMAIL:** General Orders will be sent via Email. Please send your e-mail address to Department Headquarters at [vfwiowa@qwestoffice.net](mailto:vfwiowa@qwestoffice.net) if you have not done so and wish to receive them. Post Commanders and Quartermasters please ensure we have your email address on file. If you do not have email, please contact your District Commander for a printed copy.
26. **VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAM:** For questions or concerns about connecting with Iowa Military Units, Adopt A Unit, Uplink Phone Calling, Unmet Needs (soldier/military assistance), Post Donor Cards, and MAP Grants for your Post/Auxiliary, contact **VMSP Co-Chairman Todd Jacobus** at [todd.jacobus@gmail.com](mailto:todd.jacobus@gmail.com) or **515-240-0387**, or **VMSP Co-Chairman Pat Stark** at [vw.patstark@gmail.com](mailto:vw.patstark@gmail.com) or **641-780-9929**, or. Please consider making a donation to Veterans & Military Support Program today. Regarding Operation Uplink, contact Uplink Chairman Pat Stark if you request a phone card for a hospitalized veteran who is in any hospital or nursing home other than one of the VAMF's.



27. **BUDDY POPPIES:** Place your orders **EARLY, AT LEAST 90 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR DISTRIBUTION DATE.** Every Post should be able to receive donations for at least 1,000 Poppies, which is also a requirement for All State Award. Buddy Poppy prices for 500 poppies are \$72.50 and 1,000 are \$145. Many Posts are not sending their orders in early enough to receive them prior to their scheduled date. ***GET THEM IN AT LEAST 90 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR DISTRIBUTION DATE.***

28. **DEFECTIVE BUDDY POPPIES:** For adjustment purposes, it is necessary to report all quality problems and shortages concerning the buddy poppies to Daniela Garcia (816)756-3390 Ext 6722 or BuddyPoppy@vfw.org, in the VFW Programs Department, within 30 days of receiving the order.

After receiving your poppy order, you will need to check it as soon as possible for defective poppies and any shortages. After 30 days, no adjustments will be made.

If a Post fails to report that they haven't received their Buddy Poppy order within 90 days from the date of the invoice to their Department Headquarters, they will not be replaced.

29. **CHAIN OF COMMAND:** Use your chain of command. If there are issues at your Posts, start with the Post Commander, then District Commander, then Department Commander.

30. **CHECKS SENT TO DEPARTMENT (STATE) HQ's:** When forwarding your checks to VFW State Headquarters, please make it out to "**VFW Iowa**" and indicate what the check is to be used for: Hospital Fund, VOD Fund, Disaster Fund, etc. in the **MEMO section at the bottom left of the check.**

31. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**\*\*NEW\*\* 2019 VFW Iowa Flying Squadron** will be July 13, 2019 at VFW Post 9127 Beaverdale Post, 4029 Urbandale Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310 beginning at 10 am.

**120<sup>TH</sup> VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION** will be held in Orlando, FL on July 20 - 24, 2019. The room rates are \$99 single/double, \$119 for triple and \$139 for quad plus tax.

**2019 VFW IOWA FALL POW WOW** will be Sept. 27 - 28, 2019 at the Sheraton West Des Moines Hotel, 1800 50th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50266. Room rates are \$108 plus tax. To reserve a room call 1-888-627-8043 and let them know you are with the VFW Fall Conference. The deadline to reserve a room is Sept. 6, 2019.

**2019 BIG TEN CONFERENCE** will be Oct. 18-20, 2019 at the Doubletree by Hilton, Omaha Downtown, 1616 Dodge St, Omaha, NE 68102. Room rates are \$119 plus tax. The deadline to reserve your room is Sept. 16, 2019.



**2020 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE** will be Jan. 17 - 18, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport, 6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, IA 50321. The room rate is \$103 plus tax.

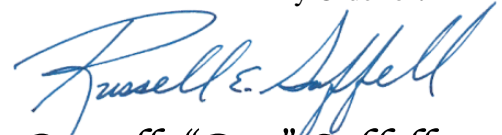
**NEW \*\*99<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL VFW IOWA STATE CONVENTION \*\*** will be June 4 - 7, 2020 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Des Moines Downtown. The room rate is \$114 plus tax, \$124 Triple and \$134 Quad, which includes a free hot breakfast with made to order pancake and omelet station and a free Happy Hour reception in the evening with light snacks and free alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Every sleeping room is a two-room suite with a private bedroom & separate living area that features a microwave, refrigerator, 2 televisions, and a pull-out queen sofa sleeper. The hotel is located in the Historic East Village.

32. **THANK YOU!** Thank you to all who have supported me. I am extremely honored to have been elected to serve as your State Commander. I look forward to working with all of you and participating in many of your great community events. Comradery and just good ol' fun are going to be a major focus this year. I want to breathe new life into our wonderful Posts and help you to succeed. If your Post is struggling, I want to know about it, so we can get you some help as soon as possible. In a time where patriotism seems to be dying, we must band together to restore the spirit of America in our communities throughout Iowa. We are the symbol of honor and the voice of all who have defended freedom. The sacrifices of our nation's Veterans must never be forgotten. All who have served, from every era, must unite in comradeship to carry the torch for those who no longer can. We must reignite that fire in the bellies of those who may feel lost or abandoned, so they may be restored, and rejoin our mission. We must make our presence known and shed light on all of our good works. Mostly, we must welcome new comrades into our ranks and have fun again. I know that this will be an amazing year for the VFW in Iowa, and I cannot wait to see all the fun that we will have.

"Our liberties we prize, and our rights we will maintain"

Semper Fidelis,

By Order of:

  
**Russell "Doc" Saffell**  
Department Commander  
VFW Department of Iowa

OFFICIAL: *Jerry Black*  
State Adjutant-Quartermaster  
VFW Department of Iowa  
RS//jb



