



May 13, 2020

Bud St. Onge
Commander
District VII (Philippines)
Department of Pacific Areas
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Dear Commander St. Onge:

Subject: COMMANDER'S REPORT

It is with great honor and pleasure to report VFW Post 124's accomplishments for this quarter:

1. A frontrunner in membership statistics, Post 124 led all Posts in District VII and Department of Pacific Areas, occupying the number 1 spot in membership throughout the past three (3) quarters. At this time, Post 124 is number 9 in Division 5 (National), and is once again in contention to achieve "All State" and "All American" status for the fifth consecutive year. Current membership is at 113.06% with 100% retention and a total of 225, all life members. This past quarter, we balloted 11 new members and inducted nine (9) life members. One (1) member is awaiting balloting while an additional 5 members are in a pending status awaiting copies of DD Forms 214 or payment of membership fees. Our Post continues to average almost four (4) new members per month.

2. Our Post closed out this quarter with the following Community Service Report: 32 total projects; 269 volunteers; 1,041 hours; travelled 4,796 miles; and total expense of \$13,629.44. We also sold \$112.80 worth of buddy poppies. Post 124 consistently stands by its motto of "Doing the Right Thing!", continues to advocate support to the community and has sustained a positive impact through the following significant community projects:

- a. On February 11, 2020, Post 124 partnered with Diego Silang Masonic Lodge No. 417 and ETAIROS Business Process Outsourcing Services and travelled 900 miles to unreachable areas close to ground zero in Batangas to deliver over \$700.00 worth of relief goods to more than 400 families affected by the Taal Volcano unrest.
- b. Donated a total of \$200.00 to the bereaved family of a Post member and a non-Post member to help defray burial expenses.

c. Post Commander, a Past Post Commander, Post Chaplain and Post Surgeon conducted four (4) hospital visits and provided bedside assistance to two (2) members who were hospitalized.

d. During this COVID-19 pandemic, regular Post welfare checks were done via two (2) text messages followed by two (2) Facebook and chat group postings, achieving a 64% response. PC, SVC and JVC were the points of contact.

e. PC provided financial alms, amounting to \$100.00 to two (2) demised household breadwinners in Purok 8 and Purok 9A, Irisan, Baguio City. He also provided full scholarships to four (4) well deserving and less fortunate students; three (3) K-8 to K-12 and one (1) TESDA student who graduated in March 2020. Furthermore, PC continues to provide cash assistance and maintains a home for a less fortunate family of five (5) in Purok 9A, Irisan, Baguio City.

f. During this COVID-19 pandemic, Post 124 actively showcased its strong commitment to the community by actively supporting not only the City of Baguio in its efforts to provide relief to the local community but also to a neighboring community through the following services:

(1) During the onset of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in the city, two (2) post members took the initiative to purchase and deliver \$150.00 worth of bottled water to the City's frontliners, particularly to the personnel of the Philippine National Police and medical staff of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

(2) PC provided food items to 10 less fortunate families and residents of Purok 8 and Purok 9A, Irisan, Baguio City who were unemployed. In addition, he provided \$120.00 worth of food items to Barangay Irisan frontliners.

(3) Post Service Officer Chris Cabrera provided food items worth \$425.00 to 553 ECQ recipients in Aurora Hill, Baguio City.

(4) Post donated \$200 worth of facemasks thru PC Joe Bandao and SO Chris Cabrera to the City of Baguio Mayor, Mayor Benjie Magalang.

(5) Post donated \$200.00 to the Baguio – Benguet Medical Association to purchase masks and personal protective equipment for the City's frontliners. We also purchased and distributed over 200 masks to our members.

(6) Life Member Larry Smith and his wife, Rosette donated \$400.00 to the City of Baguio through Major Benjamin B. Magalang to aid in the LGU's relief operations.

(7) Four (4) Master Mason Post 124 members provided cash donations of \$500.00 and engaged in a joint project with Diego Silang Masonic Lodge No. 417 and ETAIROS Business Process Outsourcing Services to support a feeding program and relief goods distribution at Sto. Tomas, La Union.

(8) Post Life Member Dominic Osboro donated food relief goods worth \$220.00 to 11 less fortunate families in Barangay Gibraltar, Baguio City.

(9) Post JVC donated \$100.00 worth of bottled water to PNP Checkpoints in Baguio City.

(10) Post SVC donated \$150.00 worth of healthcare items to needy residents of Barangay City Camp Proper, Baguio City.

g. Post 124, through its monthly diaper program led by Surgeon John Lagrew donated 1,950 diapers to 256 indigent patients at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

h. Proactive in recruiting, Post 124 continues to utilize our monthly Veterans Recognition Day (VRD) combined with our members' monthly birthday celebration as our top recruiting tool. On February 16, 2020, we held our monthly VRD in conjunction with our Annual Fun Day and Fundraising event which was attended by more than 160 veterans, family members and guests. During these events, we were able to accomplish our goal of fostering camaraderie among our members and at the same time reached out to promote the Veterans of Foreign Wars to non-member U.S. veterans who attended the occasion. Our teamwork and collective efforts also raised more than \$7,800.00 consisting of donations and raffle proceeds from our annual fundraising event.

i. A veteran advocate, Post 124 provided a total of 50 administrative and 125 mailroom support to veterans and family members during this quarter. These services were provided through the Retired Activities Office which is staffed by volunteer Post members. During this quarter, the Post assisted 10 Veterans in submitting VA compensation claims with a 90% approval rating, resulting in benefits received

amounting to more than \$28,000.00. During this ECQ period, RAO services continue with the RAO Director and our Post QM/Adjutant Jun Poyaoan coordinating delivery of mail to his residence and subsequently arranges for pick-up at the office of the Managing Director of ETAIROS BPOS and our Service Officer Chris Cabrera. He also provides remote assistance in ordering VA medication refills and in answering various correspondences. The Post also uses the RAO customer service hours on Wednesdays and Fridays as another recruiting tool.

j. Seven (7) Post members traveled to Angeles City to participate and assist in the gravesite burial rites of the late “All State, All American” Past DPA, Past D7 and Past Post 2485 Commander Bob Zaher.

k. Post member donated personal items and household goods worth \$5,000.00 in Seattle, Washington.

3. On March 17, the Post relocated to Travelite Hotel located at Legarda Road Corner Bukaneg Street. This move was due to the management of Giligan’s Island Restaurant imposing a stiff consumables expense for every day that the Post uses the second floor for VFW meetings and RAO operations; an expense determined by the Post to be unsustainable.

4. This being my last District meeting, I would like to extend my appreciation to all the District officers for their superb support to the Post; for assisting in my smooth transition as Post Commander and successfully performing my role all throughout this VFW year.

5. VFW Post 124 pledges its continuous support to District VII and we look forward to hosting the District Convention in April 2021 here in the City of Pines.

Yours in Comradeship and Service
and “Doing the Right Thing!”,



Joseph T. Bandao
Commander

Copy to:
Adjutant, District VII (Philippines)