

Farewell Message from Immediate Past Chief Duane Sarmiento

‘As we look back on this past year, let us also look forward with renewed determination and hope’

Aug 02, 2024

LOUISVILLE, Ky., — Comrades, I am deeply honored to have had the privilege of serving as your commander-in-chief.

Over the past year, we have faced numerous challenges and achieved remarkable milestones together. Our strength lies in our unity, in the resolute bond that connects each and every one of us, and in our shared mission to advocate for and support our veterans. It has been a humbling experience to lead this incredible organization ... an organization which remains steadfast in its dedication to those who have served our nation with valor and distinction.

I would like to again extend my heartfelt thanks to VFW Post 5579 in Gibbstown, New Jersey. Your resolute support has been instrumental in our collective success. Your commitment to our cause and your continuous encouragement have been a source of strength for me. It is through the dedication of Posts like yours that our organization thrives and makes a real difference in the lives of veterans across the country and around the world.

To my wife, Ellen, your love and support have been my anchor throughout this journey. You have stood by me through the long days, the late nights and whirlwind travel schedule, offering your encouragement and understanding. Your commitment and belief in me and my mission as commander-in-chief meant so much to me. Thank you for being my partner in this endeavor and for your enduring devotion to our veterans and their families. I'm forever grateful to you.

As we look back on this past year, let us also look forward with renewed determination and hope. We met the challenge, but our work is far from over. The needs of our veterans continue to evolve, and it is our duty to rise to the occasion, to adapt, and to ensure that no veteran is left behind. Let us continue to advocate for better health care, more comprehensive benefits, and the support systems that our veterans and their families

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deserve.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Your dedication, your passion, and your tireless efforts are what make the Veterans of Foreign Wars the remarkable organization that it is. It has been an honor to serve as your commander-in-chief, and I am confident that the future of our organization is bright because of you.

Thank you, and may we continue to serve our veterans with the honor, dignity, and respect they so richly deserve.

God bless you all, and God bless the United States of America.

Thank you.

Duane Sarmiento
VFW National Commander, 2023-2024