

'A Community-Driven Movement'

VFW Post 3219 makes sure their Day of Service events are a meaningful way for each participant to feel good about contributing to a worthy cause

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VFW Post 3219 in Hampton, Virginia, will hold its fourth annual blood drive for its 2025 VFW National Day of Service event. By participating in and leading the blood drive, veterans continue their service far beyond the military, demonstrating commitment to their community.

Post Commander Joe Perkins said, “Veterans don’t stop serving when they take off the uniform. Instead, they channel their dedication into impactful initiatives like lifesaving blood donations, showing that their mission has evolved — but never ended.”

Perkins adds that the event also gives veterans the opportunity to lead by example, “making it clear that this isn’t just a Post-driven effort — it’s a community-driven movement, guided by veterans who continue to answer the call to help others.”

He said that hosting a blood drive is not only a group effort. It’s also a meaningful way for each participant to feel good about contributing to a worthy cause.

“A blood drive is far more than a singular event — it serves as a lifeline, fostering unity and reinforcing the principle that every individual has the power to make a lasting difference.”

Each year, the blood drive has been a collaboration between the Post and community members working together for the good of everyone. It’s a rewarding activity that helps form strong connections for all involved, and Perkins has some tips for other Posts planning Day of Service events.

“Organizing a Day of Service is effortless when you are fully engaged with the community. Your family, friends and neighbors have all been part of your military journey, and now, they remain integral to the mission of giving back,” Perkins said. “Make it clear that this isn’t just an event, it’s an extension of veterans’ lifelong commitment to service.”

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Office 816.756.3390
Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

“When planning a Day of Service event, keep an open mind and approach the effort in a way that supports everyone, whether they’ve worn the uniform or not,” he said. “After all, service isn’t about where you come from, it’s about where you’re willing to go to help others.”