To: Commander John Shipley, District 20 Commander, Department of Texas

Subject: Comrade Steven Mueller

As a post member serving as Post Quartermaster of VFW Post 4853 under Commander Steve Mueller, I witnessed numerous un-ethical behaviors both inside the Post and during Post meetings. On several occasions he openly blamed the Vietnam-era and prior Post members of being too old and not as technologically savvy. He stated that this was one of the main reasons that the VFW, as a whole, was "failing to meet the needs of the "DESERT VETERANS". He also stated that they were going to "DIE SOON and were becoming irrelevant." It became apparent that he was actively working to push out the older members at the Post-level, we lost at least 8-10 active members due to his behavior and attitude towards them.

Comrade Mueller does not like to follow VFW By-Laws, specifically for membership. He stated that the National By-Laws are out of date and need to be up dated to a more modern business plan. He finds them to be a hinderance to his goals in the VFW.

Commander Mueller told the Post officers that he had one of his personal employees to do background checks on all post members looking for convictions. This was done without the consent of the officers and membership. The officers immediately stated that he needed to stop all investigations, as what he was doing was illegal and the findings needed to be deleted and/or destroyed.

Commander Mueller was also was making plans on how to take members from VFW Post 6970 and was trying to take over that post and make one big post inside Atascosa county.

Commander Mueller would take every opportunity talk about all the money he had lined up to remodel/rebuild VFW Post 4853. He attempted to enter into agreements that were both un-ethical and not permissible under VFW BY-LAWS. The agreement was to have an "investor" front the money for remodeling/rebuilding of the Post home and allow them to run a business from a subsidiary Post property and return their "investment" thru the profits from the business. He did this without the approval of the Post membership.

Commander Mueller misused Post funds by spending $500 on items for a Post bar, this was to come out of his monthly Commander's allowance of $250, which was to be voted on by membership and based on Post finances. He was asked to provide a detailed receipt for the items received, which he was unable to do. Commander Mueller told me that this would not be possible due to his having a personal dispute with the individual from whom he received the items. Additionally, Commander Mueller withdrew another $250 for use at the Department convention. This was done without the knowledge of the Quartermaster or vote of membership to approve the withdrawal. Post By-Laws require two signatures to withdraw funds or write checks on Post financial accounts.

With regards to Commander Mueller's actions and comments to Laura Edwards, an active Post volunteer and Auxiliary prospect, he made statements to her on multiple occasions about her "being fat and ugly and never would be a good-looking female." I approached Commander Mueller asking him to

write a formal apology to her; his response was "I DO NOT HAVE TO FUCKING APOLOGIZE TO HER, THIS IS MY FUCKING POST AND SHE IS NOT A FUCKING MEMBER AND THAT HE DID NOT HAVE TO."

We received a call from a charter Post member, Victor Gaydos, who stated that he didn't want his membership transferred to the Pleasanton Post and that Comrade Mueller was telling him that he was going to transfer his membership. He wanted to remain a charter member of Post 4853 and not transfer to the Pleasanton Post.

Commander Mueller, during the final months of his last year as Post Commander of VFW Post 4853, stated to me personally; that 'he was going to destroy Comrade Patricia Hewitt's creditability in the VFW organization and make it hell on the rest of the officers that remained a part of VFW Post 4853.' During this period, Commander Mueller directed me to replace Comrade P. Hewitt as the Senior Vice Commander with Comrade Stephanie Pino without a Post vote or disciplinary actions against Comrade P. Hewitt removing her from the position or on receipt of her personal resignation. I refused to do this as it was a direct violation of the National By-Laws.

Commander Mueller scanned all Post records into his personal computer, including personal records like individual DD214s from the Post inspection book. He returned all physical records to the Post and Commander Rankin upon request but we were unable to confirm whether or not he deleted these electronic records from his personal computer or other cyber storage devices. This was of extreme concern for VFW Post 4853 leadership as he was no longer an officer and when he transferred to VFW Post 12162 as he no longer had a need for access to nor was he authorized to possess this data according to the National By-Laws.

Douglas P. Edwards
Senior Vice Commander
Atascosa County VFW Post 4853

Dedwards.qm4853@gmail.com

SANDRA G. HOLLAND
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires 07-11-2019
Notary ID 433588

State of Texas
County of Atascosa
Sworn and subscribed before me a Notary Public in and for the State of Texas by Douglas P. Edwards on this the 28th day of November 2018.

Sandra G. Holland