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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

SPECIAL ORDER
NO. 27

2018-2019 SERIES
April 15, 2019

Steve J. Mueller
[redacted]

Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested
No. 7018 0680 0000 6781 1074
DW: wdl

Reference: Article IX Disciplinary Action

Comrade Mueller:

Please be advised that a disciplinary action has been initiated against you pursuant to Article IX of the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Attached to this order is a copy of the Charges and Specifications (Form DA-2) and Request for Hearing (DA-6).

Pursuant to Article IX of the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, you are advised that you may request a Disciplinary Hearing by using the attached Form DA-6, Request for Hearing. To request a hearing you must notify:

Ingeborg A. Conley, Department Commander
Department of Texas VFW
P.O. Box 14468
Austin, Texas 78761

In writing, within fifteen (15) days of the date that this order and the Charges and Specifications attached to this order were received by registered or certified mail or either personally delivered to you. If not using Form DA-6, the notification must specifically state that a Disciplinary Hearing is requested and mailed via **Registered or Certified Mail**. If you do not request a Disciplinary Hearing within the time stated, disciplinary penalties may be imposed without a hearing. Those penalties may include termination or suspension of membership and relief from office.

By order of:
Ingeborg A. Conley
Ingeborg Conley
Commander-Department of Texas VFW

OFFICIAL:
Dan West
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
AUSTIN, TEXAS

Form DA-1 (Ref: MUELLER, Steve J., Member No. 10425259)

VFWP-01255

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CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS

Reference: MUELLER, Steve J., Life Member No. 10425259

Charge (1): Violation of Section 902, paragraph 6: "Conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct unbecoming a member in their relations to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or other members".

Specification (1): On or about October 11, 2017 you posted on Facebook a comment as follows "If anyone kneels during the national anthem, yes they are a disrespecting little pussy. If a GB told him to do that (unlikely) then yes- he is a pussy. Probably a member of 10th Group (many slackers in that unit)." Your comments were an embarrassment to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and elicited negative comments from members of the 10th Special Forces Group about the VFW.

Specification (2): That you, while serving as the Post Commander of VFW Post 4853, Jourdanton, Texas during the VFW 2017-2018 administrative year, called Comrade Patricia Hewitt, at the time, the Senior Vice Commander of VFW Post 4853 in Jourdanton, Texas as a "Bitch and a Fucking Pussy".

Specification (3): That you, while serving as the Post Commander of VFW Post 4853, Jourdanton, Texas during the 2017-2018 VFW administrative year, directed Comrade Douglas Edwards to replace Comrade Patricia Hewitt as the Senior Vice Commander of VFW Post 4853 without a Post vote or disciplinary action.

Specification (4): That you, while serving as the Commander of VFW Post 4853 in Jourdanton, Texas during the VFW 2017-2018 administrative year, stated that you were going to "destroy Comrade Patricia Hewitt's credibility in the VFW organization and make it hell on the rest of the officers that remained a part of VFW Post 4853."

Specification (5): That you, while serving as the Commander of VFW Post 4853 in Jourdanton, Texas during the VFW 2017-2018 administrative year, made derogatory statements about Viet Nam veterans openly blaming them for being too old and not as technologically savvy. Because of this the VFW was failing to meet the needs of "Desert Veterans" and that they (the Viet Nam veterans) were going to die soon and were becoming irrelevant.

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Specification (6): That you, while serving as Commander of VFW Post 4853, Jourdanton, Texas during the VFW 2017-2018 administrative year, made several comments to Laura Edwards, a member of the VFW Auxiliary to VFW Post 4853 in Jourdanton, Texas about being "fat and ugly". When asked by Comrade Douglas P. Edwards, then the Senior Vice Commander of VFW Post 4853 to make a formal apology to Ms. Edwards, you stated "I do not have to fucking apologize to her. This is my fucking Post and she is not a fucking member" and that you did not have to.

Specification (7): That you, while serving as Commander of VFW Post 4853, Jourdanton, Texas during the VFW 2017-2018 administrative year, on June 16, 2017 withdrew $250.00 from the accounts of VFW Post 4853, such expenditure not authorized by the Post members.

Specification (8): That you, while serving as Commander of VFW Post 4853, Jourdanton, Texas during the VFW 2017-2018 administrative year, did criminal background checks on Post members without permission of the Post members.

Charge (2): Violation of Section 902, paragraph 4: "Disobedience or disregard of the provisions of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws (at all levels), Manual of Procedure, Ritual, General Orders or any other laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or any order of the Commander in Chief."

Specification (1): In that you forwarded to the District 20 Commander a letter (undated) in which you stated as the Commander of VFW Post 12162, Pleasanton, Texas "Also, you will be pleased to know that 12162 complete with recruiting for the year and will be focused on other, more important objectives" and "We will end the year with 85 total members". This letter was sent approximately November 23, 2018 far in advance of the end of VFW year 2018-2019. Additionally, the letter stated that "I have capped our membership at 85 for the 2018-2019 year. Our candidate class for next year is already at 70% and those selected by membership will be put in prior to August 1st 2019. Section 218(a)(1), paragraph (5) specifically directs that one of the duties of a Post Quartermaster is to "Receive annual membership dues (admission fees if applicable) and life membership fees and forward the Department and National dues and life membership fees immediately to National Headquarters as prescribed in Section 104. Section 218(a)(1), paragraph b under the duties of the Post Commander states in part that the Post Commander must "Enforce strict observance of the laws and usages of this organization" which you failed to enforce.

Specification (2): In that same letter as referenced above, you stated that "I will be launching 2 more VFW Posts this year, as soon as I'm confident with the leadership selection", a violation of Section 217 - Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office which specifies that the members elect their own leadership, not the organizer of a new VFW Post.

Form DA-2, Page 2 reference: MUELLER, Steve J., Life Member No. 10425259

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Specification (3): In a report entitled "Post 12162, Pleasanton, Texas, End of Year Report" dated June 11, 2018, you added qualifications for membership by stating: "Pleasanton VFW Post 12162 does not allow just anyone to join. The Post is very selective. Most members must have already proven themselves and acquired community service to even be considered for membership" a requirement not included in Section 101- Eligibility, of the VFW National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.

Specification (4): In that you allowed fundraising to be conducted outside the geographical area of VFW Post 12162 , a violation of Section 214- Solicitation of Funds, of the VFW National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, even after having been told by the District 20 Commander, John Shipley that this was not allowed.

Charge (3): A violation Section 902, paragraph 2 by failing to fulfill the obligations taken at time of application and admission or obligations taken upon installation of any office.

Specification (1): In that you violated your obligation to surrender immediately, all records, money or other properties of VFW Post 4853, Jourdanton, Texas after your departure.

Charge (4): A violation of Section 902, paragraph 8 by Preparing or signing any false record, return, regulation, order or other official document of or concerning the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States knowing it to be false, or making any other false statements with intent to deceive.

Specification (1): That between the periods of September, 2017 and January of 2018 that you, as the Post Commander of VFW Post 12162, Pleasanton, Texas submitted or allowed to be submitted 10 community service reports in which it was claimed Post members provided 553 hours of community service and the Post spent $8,350.00 in costs when these hours were from activated military post members, paid by the U.S. Government, as part of their employment.

Specification (2): That between the dates of September 30, 2017 and November 26, 2018 that you, as the Post Commander of VFW Post 12162, Pleasanton, Texas submitted or allowed to be submitted, community service reports reflecting over $53,432.00 in expenditures for community service, a fact not documented in Post Audit reports for the same period.

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"On my oath or affirmation as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I declare that I have a reasonable belief that the above described act or acts have been committed."

Dated this 15th day of April, 2019

Dan West
Accuser

Ingeborg A. Conley
State Commander
Department of Texas VFW

Form DA-2, Page 4 reference: MUELLER, Steve J., Life Member No. 10425259