

# Weirton VFW Post 2716 Commander George Ash gains highest status possible within VFW

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WEIRTON Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States announced earlier this month that George E. Ash Sr. has achieved All American status as Post Commander of VFW Post 2716, the highest status possible within the organization.

"It's such a great honor to receive this. I'm really grateful to all of the members of this post, including lifetime, auxiliary and guest members," he commented. "They all went out of their way to help and make sure things were completed. Everyone worked together to achieve these fantastic awards."

Ash, who also represents Weirton's Ward 4 on City Council, is one of only 130 VFW post commanders selected worldwide for the honor. He has been a member of Weirton's VFW for about eight years.

"It's amazing what this post has been able to accomplish in such a short amount of time. I'm very proud of it," Ash said. In May of last year, Post 2716 was facing the threat of being shut down by the state level VFW for a variety of issues related to taxes and paperwork, according to Lyndon "Sarge" Allman, post member and former commander. "We went from being under suspension to being an All State Team Post and having an All American Commander in just one year," Allman said. Post 2716 was one of just two West Virginia VFW Posts designated for the elevated "All State Team" status this year, Ash noted. "He's done an outstanding job," Allman remarked. Ash observed that the perspectives and attitudes within VFW have changed over time. "I remember 45 years ago when I came back from serving my second tour in Vietnam, I came to the VFW and I was asked to leave. It still bothers me after all this time," he said, restraining emotion. "They called me a 'baby killer' and asked me not to come in anymore. All these years later, I'm not only in; I'm an All American Post Commander. That means everything to me. "I want to extend an open invitation and a 'Welcome Home' to all Vietnam veterans and ask them to come join us. This is not 45 years ago. You are welcome here."

Ash recently attended the VFW national convention where he listened to President Barack Obama speak up close, which he described as "an honor and a privilege." "The convention was amazing. There were people there from all over the world," Ash commented. "The new VFW commander in chief also was elected, and he's from McKee's Rocks. So I'm hoping our post can develop a working relationship with him."

The VFW is a nonprofit veterans service organization comprised of veterans and eligible military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. Founded in 1899 and chartered by Congress in 1936, the VFW is the nation's largest organization of war veterans and its oldest major veterans organization. For more information or to join, visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

**VFW Post 2716 is located at 3534 Main St. To learn more, call the post at (304) 7489674**