



**John E. Hamilton**  
**Commander-in-Chief**  
**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

John E. Hamilton was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 25, 2012, at the 113th VFW National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

In July 2013 he was appointed Adjutant General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a position he held until his retirement in 2016.

John served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1968 to 1970, including a tour in Vietnam. His decorations include three Purple Hearts, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Gallantry Cross Color, Republic of Vietnam Unit Citation Civil Actions Color (First Class), and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.



He joined the VFW in 1974 at Post 7909 in Jacksonville, Florida, later transferring to Post 5450 in Crestview, Florida, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served the VFW in many leadership positions, including the National Council of Administration from 1989 to 1991, and as Florida's Department Commander from 1987 to 1988. He served on the board of the VFW National Home from 2002 to 2008, and as its president from 2004 to 2005. He also served as Supreme Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie from 1992 to 1993.

John graduated with honors from Georgia Military Academy in 1967. He worked as a professional wrestler throughout the United States and the world for 15 years as Johnny Montana (also known as "Dr. Death"), along with other names and identities.

He was named Florida's Young Veteran of the Year in 1981. John served as a commissioner on the United States World War I Centennial Commission board located in Washington, D.C., from 2014 to 2016, and served on the board of the World War I Museum located in Kansas City, Missouri., from 2011 to 2016. He has been honored by Presidents Jimmy Carter and George H. W. Bush for his outstanding community service and leadership.

John is a member of the Military Order of the Cootie, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, AMVETS, Fleet Reserve Association, and the Semper Fidelis Society.

He resides in Crestview, Florida.

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