

Daily Coffee with a Veteran

A VFW Post commander in New York won't let COVID-19 disrupt the progress he's made in bridging a gap between local veterans and their community

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For the past two years, VFW Post 2913 Commander Dave Rogers has pioneered a way to connect local veterans with citizens of Patchogue and surrounding areas through storytelling.

Now despite a COVID-19 crisis swarming the nation, Rogers, a 14-year Army veteran, found a way to maintain the recommended physical distance without socially distancing both populations again.

What had become a daily "Coffee with a Veteran" session at noon between members of the community and local veterans like Rogers at Roast Coffee and Tea Trading Co. in Patchogue, N.Y., will now be held virtually on Zoom.

Rogers said he wanted to keep people connected as he remembers how hard self-isolation was for him many years ago. He also wanted to remind people that they're not alone during this perilous time.

The Zoom conference meetings online will bridge a safe gap between physical and social distance, while continuing to serve as a vehicle for veterans and civilians to share experiences.

Rogers also has actively held informal VFW meetings to keep members updated on the current state of affairs in wake of the pandemic. If you're interested in participating in the Zoom call, [contact Rogers for more information](#).

By Ismael Rodriguez Jr./VFW magazine

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