

Lou Diamond Phillips to Serve as VFW National Spokesperson

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The VFW is pleased to announce that renowned actor Lou Diamond Phillips will serve as the official VFW national spokesperson.

In addition to being an actor, director, producer and writer, Phillips is also a veterans' advocate. His biological father, Gerald Upchurch, was in the Navy and Phillips was born on the Subic Bay Naval Base in the Philippines. His own name bears military roots, as he was named after the World War II marine hero, Gunnery Sergeant Leland 'Lou' Diamond. His stepfather, George Phillips, was also in the Navy, serving two tours in Vietnam.

Phillips' partnership with the VFW demonstrates his deep commitment to the veteran community. "I've always been inspired by those who serve. I'm proud to be the voice of the VFW, an organization that does tremendous work for veterans," Phillips said.

As the VFW national spokesperson, Phillips will appear in a series of television and radio commercials designed to increase awareness about the VFW's programs and services available to veterans, service members and military families. He will also make appearances at various VFW events.

"The VFW is excited to begin this outstanding relationship. Lou Diamond Phillips has established himself in the entertainment industry with a successful and varied career spanning decades. He's a long-time supporter of veterans, and this partnership proves his devotion to the veteran cause," said VFW National Commander Bill Thien.

Phillips is a Golden Globe® and Tony Award® nominated actor who was introduced to audiences through his portrayal of Ritchie Valens in *La Bamba* and then solidified his reputation through his award-winning performance in *Stand and Deliver*. Phillips can currently be seen in the award-winning film, *Filly Brown*, and the hit A&E series, "Longmire," in addition to hosting "An Officer and a Movie" on the Military Channel.

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