

# VFW National Commander Denounces Political Violence

## The following statement is in response to the recent rally shooting

Jul 14, 2024

**WASHINGTON** — “The democracy that we hold dear, the very democracy generations of American veterans have fought for and died to protect around the world, holds no place for political violence - we denounce it unequivocally.

Americans should expect an election process free from violence against candidates and voters. Anything less undermines the most paramount rights that our constitution ensures.

For more than 125 years, members of the VFW have seen wars spawned by political violence firsthand in foreign lands. It’s unconscionable that this attack on democracy has happened in our own country.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the innocent victims who were simply exercising their rights as Americans.

This incident should serve as a grave reminder that America is a constitutional republic where voters must determine our nation’s governance free from fear and violence.”

Duane Sarmiento  
VFW National Commander

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111

Office 816.756.3390  
Fax 816.968.1157

### WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Office 202.543.2239  
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org  
www.vfw.org