

Membership

Congratulations to the Departments of Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Hawaii, Alaska, Texas, Pacific Areas, Washington, Maryland, Kentucky, Maine, New York, California, Georgia, Tennessee, and Colorado for achieving 100 percent in membership! National membership is just over 99 percent and we are less than 10,337 members from reaching 100 percent goal for the first time in over 27 years! We are making it happen! Keep your foot on the accelerator and let's make our next goal of 100 percent by May 15, 2019. Contact the National Membership Department if there is anything we can do to help you achieve our end of year goal of 1,200,000 members!

“LUCKY STARS” MEMBER DRAWING

Five (5) winners were drawn and will accompany the Commander-in-Chief on the Commander-in-Chief Membership Seminar; an all-expense-paid trip May 6-12, 2019, along with their spouse or guest.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 5 WINNERS!

Stephen Torosian, Dept. of MA; Merle Carlton, Jr., Dept. of MI; Elizabeth Miller, Dept. of PA; Robert Nerbetski, Dept. of NJ; Craig Dougherty, Dept. of WA.

CONGRATULATION TO THE KANSAS CITY SPREE WINNERS!

The Membership Team at National Headquarters is looking forward to welcoming the following Kansas City Spree Winners on May 16-19, 2019!

Lary D. Rutt, Dept. of AR; Joe R. Lewis, Dept. of CA; Steven D. Williams, Dept. of CA; Amy M. Valadez, Dept. of ID; Charles W. Hollon, Dept. of KY; James F. Wade, Sr., Dept. of MD; Joseph T. Allen, Dept. of MD; Lamont R. Gibson, Dept. of MD; Landon R. Becker, Dept. of MD; Michael J. Eason, Dept. of MD; Brian W. Willette, Dept. of MA; William H. Long, Dept. of MS; Melvin W. Kieninger, Dept. of MT; Kris Kilgour, Dept. of NY; Donald A. Clifford, Dept. of OH; Elmer S. Frederick, Dept. of OH; Albert A. Little, Dept. of OR; Allen P. Anderson, Dept. of OR; Chad E. Laing, Dept. of OR; Kenneth L. Kraft, Dept. of OR; Marc D. Warren, Dept. of OR; Richard L. Eubank, Dept. of OR; Robert A. Beck, Dept. of OR; Scott J. Ellinger, Dept. of Pacific Areas; Bobby A. Johnson, Dept. of TN; Carlo S. Davis, Dept. of TX; Gary A. Leofsky, Dept. of TX; John M. Tellier, Dept. of TX; Loy D. Gardner, II, Dept. of TX; Raymond O. Richardson, Dept. of TX; Cory L. Geisler, Dept. of WI; Daniel J. Milkey, Dept. of WI.

WE GOT THE GOODS!

Since the Veterans of Foreign Wars rebranded, we have all new material in the Membership Department. You can find the order form by logging into www.vfw.org and clicking on the Membership Recruiting & Retention section of the Training and Support link. All forms can be downloaded and/or printed, and you can order materials directly to your house for a small fee! The link to the form: <https://vfworg->

cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/MY_VFW/Training-and-Support/Membership/Membership-Order-Form.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20190123T185235Z.

If you need materials from Membership, call or email us at 1.888.JOIN.VFW or membership@vfw.org. If you're needing help to pay for a booth at a local event, call your Department Quartermaster as they have the funds available to help you.

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to www.vfw.org, click on JOIN, scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video on the right. This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are three levels of membership, each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

<u>Levels</u>		<u>Posts</u>	<u>Departments</u>	<u>National</u>
Gold-	\$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver-	\$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze-	\$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

What will your Legacy be?

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Top Three Recruiters (as of 4/26/19):

Mark A. Short – 462

VFW Post 9400, Dept. of AZ

Carlo S. Davis – 226

VFW Post 9191, Dept. of TX

Joseph T. Allen – 174

VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:

VFW Post No. 12185 in Alabaster, Alabama

VFW Post No. 12186 in Oldsmar, Florida

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS & CHANGES

Hip Pocket Training: Login and go online to <https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/membership-recruiting-and-retention> to view the latest training videos from the Membership Department.

ALERT! If you have any topics you would like to see us cover, please email them to membership@vfw.org in advance and we will cover them on the next training video. We also post these webinars on our Facebook

page! If you're not on Facebook, you can still view the webinars on YouTube here:
https://youtu.be/z_5MovJgD6E?list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us via email at membership@vfw.org or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

VFW Foundation

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT STILL AVAILABLE

Over \$55,000 remains in the VFW Foundation Community Support Grant fund so there is still time for Posts to apply. Please visit www.vfw.org/grants to obtain a copy of the application that includes guidelines and eligibility information. If you have any questions, contact Grants Coordinator Jason Couch at jcouch@vfw.org or by calling 816.968.1174.

BURGER KING APPRECIATION WEEK

#Thank BK Appreciation Week – May 12-18, 2019. On the week leading up to and including Armed Forces Day (May 18, 2019), the VFW and Auxiliary will recognize our great friends at BURGER KING® (BK) by mobilizing membership to visit their local [BK restaurants](#).

VFW National Convention

CONVENTION HOUSING: 120th National Convention housing opened February 17, 2019. A memo was sent to the VFW Departments on April 25, 2019, with the following information.

We have had an overwhelming number of early housing reservations for the National Convention. Due to this early booking pattern, many state Department blocks are now **sold-out**. For those sold-out Departments with new reservations, we have encouraged individuals to be placed on a wait list for their assigned hotels. In order to accommodate this growing wait list, all remaining rooms at each hotel in (*VFW Department blocks*) will be placed into one **common block of rooms**, known as “**free-sell**.” This means any remaining available rooms in each State block will no longer be earmarked for a specific state and will be part of the **free-sell block**, giving every state in its assigned hotel the ability to book rooms from the **free-sell block** and allowing us/VFW to fill the contracted room blocks.

NOTE: All wait list requests will be fulfilled before new reservations are processed.

If a VFW Department has rooms remaining in their assigned block, attendees have until **9:00 PM EST, Thursday, May 2**, to book these rooms. **Beginning Friday, May 3**, any remaining rooms will be put into the **free-sell** block to fulfill wait listed requests. Beyond that, all subsequent new housing reservations will be taken from the “**free-sell block**” **based on availability**. Room type requests will be honored when possible, however, it will be dependent on the availability of each type of room in each hotel. VFW National *is* under contract with the current VFW hotels, therefore, it is our goal to utilize all rooms contracted in each of those hotels **first** to avoid any penalties for not filling the contracted blocks.

In the event a hotel or hotels sell out completely, we will make every attempt, based on availability, to secure additional rooms at that hotel or to secure overflow rooms at other nearby hotels. If this occurs beyond the

cut-off date, of June 14, a determination will be made if VFW National is in a position to sign a contract for overflow hotels and to be obligated should those contracted overflow rooms not be utilized.

We encourage attendees to make their reservations now for the National Convention. We **cannot** guarantee there will be availability through housing **deadline of June 14** as the rooms are booking quickly and are **first come, first served**.

To make a reservation, go online to www.vfw.org or call 833.277.7335 (801.715.4419 internationally). The Customer Care is open from 7:00 am – 6:00 pm, MST, Monday – Friday.

Development

Matching Gift Opportunity to Support the VFW's Programs – The VFW has been presented with a great opportunity by generous friends of the VFW. They have extended the offer to triple your gift until June 6, 2019, up to \$50,000! Many veterans and returning service members are turning to the VFW for assistance in finding and training for jobs when they return from long deployments, as well as financial assistance grants for rent, food, medicine ... and so much more. Thanks to dedicated members like you, we have been able to provide the life-changing assistance our veterans need. The VFW is on the front line in the fight for education, jobs, health care and justice FOR VETERANS! This is a great opportunity to help support veterans of all ages, right in your Department. Be as generous as you can and send your gift in by June 6, 2019, to make sure it is tripled!

Show Your Patriotism! – Late in May, the VFW will mail patriotic address labels. We hope they inspire you to send a generous donation so we may continue providing much-needed services for our fellow veterans. The dollar bill included along with your address labels are critical dollars we'll put toward the VFW's programs that fight for veterans' rights ... help veterans claim their benefits ... and support hardworking American military families. So please, return the dollar bill with your donation to add to all the others to keep our programs strong! Thanks to the continued support of members like you, veterans receive help filing for their hard-earned VA benefits, receive life-changing assistance and have their voices carried to Capitol Hill to fight for legislation to protect their rights. And please, remember to display the United States Flag in honor of all veterans and service members.

Honor Your Hero This Memorial Day – The VFW is calling on every grateful citizen to honor their personal heroes on the VFW Wall of Honor, a special online tribute to the service and sacrifice of veterans. Please visit heroes.vfw.org/honorwall to view the VFW Wall of Honor and post the name of a friend or family member. The VFW hopes to add as many names as possible to the VFW Wall of Honor by May 27, 2019!

May is National Military Appreciation Month – Is your Post planning to commemorate a special event for Military Spouses Day on May 10, Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15, Armed Forces Day on May 18, National Maritime Day on May 22 or Memorial Day on May 27?

If your Post is planning a special event this month to commemorate any of the above mentioned special days, please share your success story with us. We will be looking for special stories from Posts like yours to feature in upcoming monthly e-newsletters and on vfw.org/vfwatwork in the Story Archive. You may email your story to success@vfw.org.

Free Estate Planning Resources From the VFW – Most people know the importance of a will or estate plan. But did you know more than half of American adults do not have one in place? So the VFW is

providing a free Personal Estate Planning Kit, which you can download at vfw.org/plannedgiving. Once you have made sure your family and loved ones are taken care of, we invite you to consider a gift to the VFW in your will. It is simple and takes only a few words to provide support for future generations of veterans. Learn more by contacting the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org.

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483) or email us at partners@vfw.org with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

VFW Friends of Freedom – If you are not already a member of the VFW's online community, please visit vfw.org and look for the gold banner that says "Find Out What's Happening" to sign up. As a member of the VFW's Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation's veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit vfw.org/vfwatwork and click on "**Read VFW success stories**" to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans' rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

Department Resources – Many great resources are available for your Department to use in promoting fundraising programs. You need only go to heroes.vfw.org/vfwtools. The latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department can be found here. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items for your Department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mailing schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the Department Resources tools to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

VFW Communications

VFW support is often best illustrated at the local level, in communities and cities all over the world. And as the VFW's summer calendar quickly fills up, now is the perfect opportunity to show everyone the vital work VFW Posts provide and why our mission is so important.

If you're seeking new ideas on how to best connect with your community to share the VFW's story with them, or perhaps you're thinking about enacting a new local program entirely, our VFW Post pride initiative was created to showcase our community efforts in an environment which perpetuates sharing.

Don't be afraid to utilize every available tool to communicate with the military and veterans community. Capture a photo or video during your Post's next community service project, activity or troop support event, and share it to social media using the hashtag [#VFWPostPride](https://twitter.com/VFWPostPride). Your Post's event or project will then be shared with thousands on VFW.org. Visit www.vfw.org/VFWPostPride for ideas today.

Veterans & Military Support Programs

Meeting times at the National Convention in Orlando:

Veterans & Military Support Chairman Committee Meeting
Sunday, July 21, 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

VFW Programs Workshop - **Open to the public**
Sunday, July 21, 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

VFW Programs

DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS. Military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP238>.

50TH ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION PROGRAM. The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other non-governmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families. As a Commemorative Partner, VFW Posts are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

Events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war and the losses suffered by many. Commemorative Partners should communicate how their events will achieve the congressionally-mandated objectives of the program. Events or activities should meet one or more of the following objectives.

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

For the VFW Posts interested in becoming an official Commemorative Partner, they must submit an application and a signed Statement of Understanding.

Applications are available at www.VietnamWar50th.com on the Commemorative Partner Program.

The approval process is usually less than 30 days. Partners will be kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved as a Partner, the Commemoration will provide organizations with a starter kit of

materials for developing and implementing their programs. If you have any questions regarding the Commemorative Partner Program application process, please direct them to: whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil. For Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam>.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM. This program is designed to provide recognition and awards to VFW members who volunteer their time to outside organizations. Recognition is in the form of certificates and/or lapel pins which are given to volunteers who have completed the number of hours prescribed for those awards. For more information, see the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairmen's Manual or contact Tammy at 816.756.3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME! As April was the perfect month to begin contacting schools, youth groups, parent organizations and others with information about Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen, we should continue in May also. Schools are making curriculum decisions now and parents are thinking about scholarships.

Please remember that Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are VFW programs supported by the VFW Auxiliary. It is inappropriate for the VFW Auxiliary to conduct a separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email lrolf@vfw.org or call 816.968.1116.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES. The 2019–20 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief William J. "Doc" Schmitz. The Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "What Makes America Great." The new 2019-20 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

Additionally, anyone (including students, parents, teachers, and chairmen) can download and print the student entry forms for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen by visiting the below links:

Voice of Democracy: <http://www.vfw.org/VOD/>

Patriot's Pen: <http://www.vfw.org/PatriotsPen/>

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN BROCHURES. For Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store:

<http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy> for Voice of Democracy and

<http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen> for Patriot's Pen.

YOUTH PROGRAMS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org/Login.aspx>, log in to My VFW, then click on **VFW Training & Support** under the **Member Resources** heading, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs and Activities**, then click on **Chairman Manuals** under the **Additional Resources** heading. Here you will find all program materials.

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG. The U.S. Flag should be at half-staff on Memorial Day, the last Monday in May (federal holiday - half-staff until noon). Flags available at VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags>.

VFW SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRAM. This program was put in place to recognize VFW units for creating and completing unique and extraordinary community service projects.

Record book entry nominations that are found to be complete and well-substantiated should be endorsed by the Department Adjutant or VFW Department Community Activities Chairman and forwarded to National Programs Department. Deadline for entries is April 30 of each year.

Every Post Special Project receiving the Award of Excellence in the May judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the 2018–19 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman’s Manual.

WORLD WAR ONE COMMISSION PARTNERSHIP. Any municipal government, individual or organization may apply. Likewise, any individual, organization or company can become a sponsor of this effort, as the more we can raise toward this program, the greater the amount of the matching grant to the winning memorials.

<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/about-the-program.html>

The VFW role is to help publicize the program and get local Posts (and Auxiliaries) involved.

A sample project is at: <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/resources.html#project-profiles>. (See the Ocean Springs video.)

A fun starting point is to first find memorials around the country. Information on this is at <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/memorial-hunters-club-about.html>. Scouting groups and 4-H Clubs can also get involved.

As you know, 2018 marked the centennial of World War I. There is a lot our members can do to help educate the public, commemorate the war, and honor those who served. The World War One Centennial Commission has created a landing page on their website for veterans to simplify navigation to key areas. You’ll find it at www.wwlcc.org/veterans. Here are a few suggestions:

-- **THE WORLD WAR ONE PODCAST** is an award winner! Subscribe here: [wwlcc.org/cn](http://www.wwlcc.org/cn) and become the envy of your friends and colleagues with your knowledge about all matters related to the Great War! Subscribe to the **Dispatch** newsletter to keep up to date. Listen to the Centennial News **Podcasts**. Podcast #61 features VFW Post 968 in Raymond, Wash., talking about their 100 Cities/100 Memorial project.

--Take advantage of the vast store of **education materials**, and use any meeting opportunity in your community to discuss the war and kindle interest in all matters related to the “War that Changed the World.”

--**Purchase a commemorative US Mint WWI coin** (\$10 from the sale of each coin funds the memorial).

-- **POPPY SEED PACKETS & PROGRAM.**

--The poppy as a symbol of remembrance was first proposed after the war by an American woman, Moina Michael, who wrote “*We shall keep the faith.*”

--Use the WWI poppy program to raise money for your organization and help us build the National Memorial! Flanders poppies are living symbols of the great sacrifice made by the doughboys, marines and sailors. They grow everywhere! Remember the Great War by planting poppies in your community. Go here and learn more: <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/1881>.

--Make sure your ancestors or family members who served are listed on the **World War I Roll of Honor** and donate in their names toward building the WWI National Memorial with a “digital”

remembrance wreath. The Roll of Honor features individual profiles for many of the more than 4 million American service members who responded to the call of "Over There" in support of the war-weary Allies and helped achieve victory. All donations go directly toward funding the memorial.

MEMORIAL HUNTERS -- WE NEED YOUR HELP. Dust off your Indiana Jones outfit - grab your smartphone/camera and get ready to hunt for treasure!

--Beginning 100 years ago at the end of WWI, thousands of local memorials were erected in honor of those who served. The memorials were put up by towns, cities, veterans' organizations, schools, churches, civic organizations and clubs. Today, there is no national register of these important and long forgotten American cultural and historical treasures.

--Join the Memorial Hunters Club and help us hunt down and catalog this fading national treasure.

--We have already had huge help from the state Centennial teams, especially those in Alabama, Georgia and New Jersey who have cataloged hundreds of WWI memorials for their states.

--When you find some of these gems in your state, go here to register:

<https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/memorial-hunters-club-about.html>

--Get your [anthropology](#) on...It's time to go treasure hunting!

--Raise money for the memorial by supporting the **WWI Poppy Program**.

--**Learn more** about the memorial and see all the resources available at www.ww1cc.org.

For any follow-up questions, please contact Lynn Rolf, Programs Director, at lrolf@vfw.org or 816.968.1116.

WORLD WAR ONE CENTENNIAL NEWS:

WAS YOUR POST NAMED AFTER A WORLD WAR ONE VETERAN OR VETERANS? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! The U.S. World War One Centennial Commission (WWICC) is seeking information about VFW Posts named in honor of a local or national World War I veteran, along with stories of his or her service, photographs, newspaper clippings and/or other historical information. WWICC will endeavor to honor these Posts by showcasing this special information on its website and feature highlights in its electronic *Dispatch* newsletter. Please note: any information received will be maintained by the commission and will become part of the U.S. Government's historical (Library of Congress) records/archives upon the expiry of its mandate. The point of contact is David W. Hamon, VSO/Military Director for the commission, at david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org and/or 540.379.8584.

WWICC has also created a special landing page for veterans, history lovers, family members, friends and community members. At ww1cc.org/veterans, visitors will find "tiles," easy to access and read, in order to educate, commemorate and honor the Great War, as per the commission's congressional mandate and charter.

FLAG DAY, JUNE 14. All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Thursday, June 14 and to conduct a ceremony or program as feasible. You may contact the VFW Communications Department for a Flag Day speech. It is also suggested Posts should award the VFW Patriotic Citizen Award (Product No. 4385) for those who have daily displayed our National flag.

POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 18, 2019 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 27, 2019 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, Sept. 20, 2019 (third Friday in September); and Veterans Day, Nov. 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP237>.

IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW programs Patriot's Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

"Buddy"[®] Poppy

MEMORIAL DAY CAMPAIGN. You should already be planning for the Memorial Day "Buddy"[®] Poppy Campaign. Contact your Department Quartermaster to place your order for poppies. Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 6 to 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required; do not use "ASAP." Miscellaneous items (coin cans, caps, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy> or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

Although we emphasize Buddy Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, Buddy Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, Buddy Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as "They Gave, Will You?" is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of the VFW Buddy Poppies.

The Manual of Procedure provides that Post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of Buddy Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the Post general fund.

Contact information: BuddyPoppy@vfw.org or 816.756.3390, ext. 6722 for any questions or concerns.

VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES. The silver, gold and diamond anniversary Buddy Poppies are only for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th, 75th or 100th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don't pass those costs on to the Posts. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out. These are ordered through the Department and processed the same as the red poppies. Annotate on the order to National that it is for anniversary poppies and specify which one.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS JOINS "WORLD WAR ONE POPPY PROGRAM." The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission in announcing the WWI Poppy Program to raise awareness about World War I and generate funds for local VSO chapters all over the country.

The VFW is proud to share with you the WWI Poppy Program; an opportunity to generate resources for your Post while helping to honor the 4.7 million Americans who wore the uniform during WWI.

Poppies grew across the war-torn battlefields of Europe after World War I. From 2017 to 2019, the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission will tell the story of those American veterans, through events, exhibits, and memorial efforts, and the VFW is proud to be a partner in this important commemoration.

Click on the following link to learn about the WWI Poppy Program and how your purchase of a Poppy Kit helps build the new National World War One Memorial in Washington, D.C., while also helping to raise money for your Post.

Link: ww1cc.org/poppy

Here is a quick video that can help people understand why it is so important that we honor those who served during World War I: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_y4l49mZso.

The red poppy is an internationally recognized symbol of veteran remembrance. Its use began in World War I and was captured in the war poem "In Flanders Fields," by Lt. Col. John McCrae.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

VA Ordered to Lift Hold on Blue Water Navy Appeals

VA was recently ordered to lift its hold on Blue Water Navy appeals as a result of the recent *Procopio v. Wilkie* court decision. The VFW-supported Procopio decision clarified that Blue Water Navy Vietnam War veterans are eligible to receive presumptive disability compensation benefits for health conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange. After the decision was issued on January 29, 2019, VA requested a stay, which places a hold on Blue Water Navy claims and appeals while the agency deliberated whether to appeal the decision. VA's request to stay Blue Water Navy claims was denied and VA is now forced to start taking action on appeals. This means veterans affected by the Procopio decision may see activity on their appeals in the near future. The VFW urges Blue Water Navy veterans who receive notice of action on their claims to contact a VFW-accredited Service Officer at www.vfw.org/NVS. The Procopio decision still leaves certain questions unanswered for Blue Water Navy veterans and others exposed to Agent Orange. This is why the VFW continues to advocate for the swift passage of H.R. 299, the *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019*. Urge your members of Congress to [cosponsor and support passage of H.R. 299](#).

Administrative Operations

Post Election Reports must be submitted no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS), which is located behind the member's "LOGIN" at www.vfw.org.

The 2019-2020 Department Roster is now an Online Membership System (OMS) submitted report. The interactive report will cover reporting of all Department elected and appointed officers and committee chairman. In addition, the District Election Report is also contained within the Online Membership System (OMS). Portions of the District report will feed into the Department report (i.e. the District Commander position).

Adjutants and Quartermasters can access the roster by logging into their OMS account under the "Election Report" drop down in the left hand navigation pane. Membership numbers of each elected/appointed officer

and/or chairman is needed to complete the report. Your cooperation in completing the roster immediately following your convention is appreciated. Any additions, corrections or changes will be submitted through OMS as they occur throughout the year.

On Thursday, May 30, 2019, at 7:00 pm CDT, the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP) and the VFW will join forces to provide an online workshop on parliamentary procedure!

Registration is FREE but limited, so sign up now! <https://www.parliamentarians.org/nap-vfw-webinar>

The workshop will provide an opportunity to compare parliamentary law from the perspectives of Demeter and Roberts. The panel discussion will be moderated by Lucy Anderson, PRP with context by Johnathan Duncan, VFW Deputy Director of Administrative Operations. James (Jim) Stewart, PRP will speak for Demeter and Helen McFadden, PRP will speak for Robert.

VFW Store



Get items you need for your Memorial Day events and Buddy Poppy campaigns at the VFW Store! We have flags, grave markers, floral arrangements, Buddy Poppy posters, brochures, apparel and more! To see Memorial Day merchandise, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/memorialday>. For Buddy Poppy, <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy>.



The VFW Store is always adding new products! Pictured are a new hook-and-loop patch and coordinating cap. Check out the new items we're adding at <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems>.



Roll Call of Departed Comrades

HALL, A. L. "LYNN," National Judge Advocate General, 2000-2001, All American Commander, Department of Kansas, 1997-1998 and a Life Member of Russell Post 6240, Russell, Kansas, April 9, 2019.