

# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 41, NO. 11

JUN. 2017

### *CLEAR THE WAY*

#### VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION:

Housing opened in February and response has been overwhelming! Many department blocks are now **sold out**. Where possible, we have secured additional rooms at our official VFW hotels. However, as we have a large number of rooms blocked with the hotels, in some hotels, we are at capacity.

VFW Departments were notified on Monday, May 1, any remaining rooms available at 5 p.m., Thursday, May 4, would be put into “free-sell” (one main block) in order to fulfill as many waitlisted reservations as possible. The **June 9** housing reservation deadline was **NOT** a guarantee there would be rooms available in your department block by that date. Housing reservations are always first-come, first-served. Based on our needs, and if available, we will work with an overflow hotel to secure additional rooms as needed. We will keep VFW Departments updated on the housing situation.

The three official hotels selected for the 118th National Convention are: Sheraton New Orleans (VFW Headquarters Hotel) \$144 (single/double) \$174 triple, \$199 quad; New Orleans Marriott (Auxiliary Headquarters Hotel) \$144 single, \$154 double, \$164 triple, \$174 quad; Hilton Riverside - \$145 (single/double/triple/quad). Tax rates for New Orleans are currently 15.75% plus \$2 or \$3 occupancy fee. Tax rates are subject to change. For VFW Department housing assignments, refer to the list located on the convention website.

For additional information regarding housing, call VFW Housing #800-873-7265.

**Convention Registration:** Section 222 of the National By-Laws requires each Post will pay, in advance, a national convention registration fee of \$25 which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the national convention. Each additional delegate attending the national convention will pay a \$10 delegate fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, ATTN: Convention Registration or you may register on-line by going to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

#### “BUDDY”® POPPY:

**NATIONAL “BUDDY”® POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST.** The time frame for registering and setting up the “Buddy”® Poppy displays for the National judging at convention will be the same as last year. Entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 22, until noon, Monday, July 24, 2017. Winning displays will be identified with appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning and announced later on the convention floor. Displays must be removed prior to 3:30 on Tuesday afternoon.

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS JOINS "WORLD WAR I POPPY PROGRAM."** The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War I 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, and this year marks the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entering that war. From 2017 to 2019, the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission United States 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 this link to learn about the WWI Poppy Program and how your purchase of a Poppy Kit helps build the new National World War I Memorial in Washington, DC while also helping to raise money for your Post.

Link: [ww1cc.org/poppy](http://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 One: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l\\_y4l49mZso](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.

**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. The bigger issue is that we simply don't have the inventory on hand to fulfill the potential orders that could come in if we open these items up to be ordered by anyone at any time.

Remember: With "Buddy"® Poppy, every day is Veterans Day.

- No extra cost for the commemorative poppies.
- Designate part of your regular poppy order as anniversary poppies if your Post is eligible.
- Different sizes of ads can be found at VFW Training & Support. (Please go to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and log on to My VFW and click on VFW Training & Support and select Community Service & Youth Programs, then select "Buddy"® Poppy and you will see the printable Advertisements.)

Contact information: [BuddyPoppy@vfw.org](mailto:BuddyPoppy@vfw.org) or (816) 968-1155. For "Buddy"® Poppy merchandise, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy>.

## **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>.

**WORLD WAR I COMMISSION PARTNERSHIP.** In observance of the upcoming centennial of World War I, 100 matching grants of up to \$2,000 apiece will be awarded for the restoration of 100

World War I memorials across the United States. Any municipal government, individual, or organization may apply. The purpose of the program is to get local communities involved in recognizing and commemorating the WWI centennial and assisting them in restoring their local memorials. Pritzker and WWICC have jointly allocated \$200,000 for matching grants. Very little has been dispersed so far, as they expect most applications to come in closer to the deadline which is June 15, 2017. Applicants have until November 11, 2018, to complete their projects.

More than 100 projects will be supported. The top 100 will be highlighted in a coffee table book. All projects will be listed on their website.

The VFW's 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.

There is a process for submitting a grant application, which helps to guide the local organization in assessing the project and getting all the right approvals (local governments, historical societies, etc.) before beginning any work. In their blog, they address a question from a VFW Post about the grant writing process which is meant to help guide the applicant - <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/100-cities-100-memorials-blog.html>.

To participate and submit a grant request, go directly to <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/2016-07-06-00-52-42.html>.

For any follow up questions, please contact Lynn Rolf, Programs Director, at [lrolf@vfw.org](mailto:lrolf@vfw.org) or (816) 968-1116.

**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 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](http://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](mailto:whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil). For Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam>.

**FLAG DAY, JUNE 14.** All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Wednesday, 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.

**PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11.** Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11, is designated as "Patriot Day." The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States. For flags and other patriotic items, click here <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic>.

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN NATIONAL AWARDS.** Every Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen first place Department winner will now receive a National scholarship or award. The new amount for the Voice of Democracy National Awards now total \$154,000 and the Patriot's Pen National Awards total is now \$54,500.

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES.** The 2017–18 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Keith E. Harman. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "American History: Our Hope for the Future" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "America's Gift to My Generation."

**VFW HONOR'S AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2016–17 PROGRAM YEAR.** Congratulations to the following teachers who were selected National winners for 2016-17:

Elementary School level – Theresa Early, Laurel Ridge Elementary School, Fairfax, Virginia, selected by VFW Post 8469 and Auxiliary, Fairfax Station, Virginia.

Middle School level – Jeffrey Benes, Antioch Middle School, Gladstone, Missouri, selected by VFW Post 10906, Kansas City, Missouri.

High School level – Steve D. Johnson, Churchill County High School, Fallon, Nevada, selected by VFW Post 1002 and Auxiliary, Fallon, Nevada.

National awards will be presented in July to each teacher during the VFW National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. Each of the winners will receive an all-expenses paid trip to the National Convention and \$1,000 cash award for professional development expenses (winners will receive a 1099-MISC); \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and his or her school. Each Department's recipients and their schools will receive a National Commendation citation, which will be sent to the Department Headquarters for presentation.

**NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD DEADLINE DATES.** Please update all websites, publications, announcements, etc. with the new teacher award entry deadlines for the 2017-18 program year. The dates are now October 31, 2017, (instead of February 15, 2018) for entries to the Post, November 15, 2017, for completion of Post judging, December 15, 2017, for completion of District judging, January 10, 2018, for completion of Department judging and the Department winners are due to National Headquarters by January 15, 2018. The updated entry forms are up on the VFW website and are available in the VFW Store.

Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org/Login.aspx>, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Additional Resources**. Here you will find all program manuals, and on the same page are all other program materials.

Additionally, anyone (including students, coworkers and chairmen) can download and print the teacher award entry form by visiting the below link:

<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year> or order a quantity of the brochures through the VFW Store -- <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22917>.

**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.

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN DEADLINE DATE.** Please update all websites, publications, announcements, etc. with the new student entry deadline for the 2017-18 program year. It will now be October 31, 2017, (instead of November 1, 2017) for both the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests. The updated entry forms are up on the VFW website and are available in the VFW Store.

Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org/Login.aspx>, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Additional Resources**. Here you will find all program manuals, and on the same page are all other program materials.

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 link:

<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>.

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.

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN BROCHURES.** The new 2017-18 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are available on the VFW website. Brochures in quantity are available at the VFW Store. Voice of Democracy -- <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22904>. Patriot's Pen -- <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22916>.

**POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS.** Public Law 105-85 (November 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 19, 2018 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 28, 2018 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; National POW/MIA Day, September 15,



2017 (third Friday in September); Independence Day, July 4; and Veterans Day, November 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.

**VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:**

We will be having a check presentation with the Commander-in-Chief at the VFW Programs Workshop on Sunday, July 23 at 1:00 p.m. Please call Linda Ferguson at 816-968-1102 or email at [lferguson@vfw.org](mailto:lferguson@vfw.org) as soon as possible if your Department/District/Post/Auxiliary will be presenting.

Meeting times at the National Convention in New Orleans:

Veterans & Military Support Chairman Committee Meeting  
Sunday, July 23, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

VFW Programs Workshop - **Open to the public**  
1:00 - 2:00 Mental Health Wellness Panel Discussion  
2:00 - 3:00 VFW Programs Town Hall  
3:00 - 4:00 Mental Health Wellness Panel Discussion

Be sure to stop by the Veterans & Military Support booth to support the **Service Challenge** and get your **“new designed” Veterans & Military Support lapel pin!**

See you in New Orleans!

**MEMBERSHIP:**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**  
**Top 5 Recruiters (as of 5/24/17):**

**George P. Fletcher - 327**  
VFW Post 7043, Dept. of PA

**Thomas A. Brown – 201**  
VFW Post 928, Dept. of PA

**David B. Norris - 186**  
VFW Post 1051, Dept. of CA

**Jack E. Turner - 181**  
VFW Post 3787, Dept. of CA

**Rodney L. Raulston - 161**  
VFW Post 812, Dept. of TX

**DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:**

Department of Texas  
Department of Pacific Areas

## **“POT O’ GOLD” MEMBER DRAWING**

Three (3) winners will be drawn and accompany the Commander-in-Chief on an all-expense paid trip to Ireland (Fall 2017) along with their spouse or guest.

For any new/reinstated member recruited between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017:

- You will receive one (1) chance for every five (5) new/reinstated members recruited.
- You will receive ten (10) chances for every increment of 25 new/reinstated members recruited.

➤ **Attention Post and District Commanders:**

- ✓ You will receive ten (10) chances in recognition of 85%+ Post and District retention.

Drawing will take place **July 1, 2017**. All awards are non-transferable.

## **MEMBERSHIP FACEBOOK**

Make sure you ‘like’ and ‘share’ our VFW National Membership Facebook page. We post updates, links, contest reminders, events, etc. for you. Share the good news of the VFW:

<https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembership/>.

Commanders, Quartermasters, and Adjutants, see our new webinar on Facebook! It tells you how to get the most out of the new Post query function within the Online Membership System! If you’re not on Facebook, you can still view the webinar on YouTube here:

[https://youtu.be/z\\_5MovJgD6E?list=PLS17GMBriUlatKGz\\_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi](https://youtu.be/z_5MovJgD6E?list=PLS17GMBriUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi).

## **DUES NOTICE SCHEDULE**

Annual members will receive a *mailed renewal* notice five months, three months, and one month prior to their subscription end date. Annual members with a valid email address will also receive an *emailed renewal notice* six months, four months, and two months prior to their subscription end date.

Annual members will receive a *mailed lapsed notice* one, three, and five months following their subscription end date.

## **MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT OPTIONS**

- **Members now have the option to enroll in two beneficial programs.** Once enrolled in either program, automatic payments are processed using the credit card information provided on the application. These are simply added options on the membership application. The traditional methods of signing up for both annual and Life membership are still options as well.

- VFW Autopay—renews your annual membership automatically!
- Life Installment Plan—automatic monthly payments option—with this option, there is no need to complete a payment authorization form.

- **Recruiting Notes:** Encourage annual members to take advantage of the Life member installment plan. Encourage Life installment plan and annual members to take advantage of the automatic payment option.

- **Legacy Life Membership:** This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. 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:**

<b><u>Levels</u></b>	<b><u>Post</u></b>	<b><u>Departments</u></b>	<b><u>National</u></b>
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?***

**ADDITIONAL REMINDERS**

- **V-mail:** Go online to <http://www.vfw.com> to stay in communication with other Posts as well as with National Headquarters. Check in often for important VFW updates and news from National. The VFW Membership Department will be using this avenue for communication more regularly. If you need assistance logging in or your password, contact Leticia Cortez in the Membership Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 6292.
- **Are you ready for ALL-AMERICAN?** The 2016 – 17 Membership Program is available online at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) under VFW Training & Support.
  - Please contact Membership for questions regarding All-American and/or submitting All-State lists to National.
  - All-State lists, including commanders' cap sizes, should be received in Membership by June 15, 2017.
  - Additions or revisions to All-State lists will be accepted until June 30, 2017. Contact: Carla Darnell at 816-756-3390, ext. 6208 or e-mail at [cdarnell@vfw.org](mailto:cdarnell@vfw.org).

**MEMBERSHIP WEBINAR TRAINING**

The Membership Department wants to continue training at all levels. We will be rolling out monthly webinars starting on June 5, 2017. This will be a live webinar, that is also recorded, where we will take questions from any member. Questions and topics can be submitted by email to [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

These webinars will then be posted to the VFW National Headquarters YouTube page, as well as the Membership Facebook page.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:**

In an effort to better serve the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, tools are available at "VFW Training and Support." There you will find Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates; training material relating to Membership Recruiting and Retention; Community Service & Youth Programs; Communications & Public Affairs; Post Service Officers; and Veterans & Military Support. To utilize these valuable training guides, videos, forms and templates, please login at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), proceed to "My VFW" and click the link "VFW Training and Support."

The online "Document Repository" is a system of managing documents utilized primarily by Department Officers and members of the National Council of Administration.

**Important Reminder:** Department Roster reports must be filled out by the Department Adjutant and returned to the office of the Adjutant General no later than the day following the close of your Department Convention. Do not delay in submitting your information.



## **DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:**

**Show Your Patriotism!** – 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. Late in May, the VFW mailed patriotic address labels and we hope you have received them and are using them with pride. We also hope they inspire you to send a generous donation so we may continue providing much-needed services for our fellow veterans. Enclosed with your address labels is a 2017 Veterans Day Card. There is still time to sign and return the Veterans Day Card so we can deliver it to a current service member or hospitalized veteran by Veterans Day so they know fellow veterans are thinking of them.

**Announcing the New 2017-18 VFW Calendar** – The 2017-18 VFW Calendars will be mailed early in June. Your 2017-18 VFW Calendars include reminders of days to display the United States flag and other important dates in history to remember the sacrifices of America's veterans. If you do not have a flag to display, you may visit [heroes.vfw.org/flag](http://heroes.vfw.org/flag) and print a free flag poster to display in your home or office. You will also find useful information on VFW programs available to all veterans, service members and their families throughout the calendars. Additionally, in the back of the calendars you will see the section showing VFW membership eligibility information. We certainly hope you find the information included in the calendars to be helpful. And remember, your VFW Department is counting on you to show your support of the vital programs available to the veterans, service members and their families, right in your state.

**Independence Day is Coming Up** – The VFW is preparing for a special online celebration of freedom with our annual observance of Independence Day. Please visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) to find ways you can honor our nation's veterans and service members by spreading a message of patriotism and remembrance to your friends and family.

**Sign Your Name, Change Your Future** – VFW members like you frequently tell us, "I wish I could do more." Learn about ways you can impact future generations of veterans, just by signing your name – and with gifts that cost you nothing now. Call the VFW Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119, email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org) or visit [www.vfw.org/plannedgiving](http://www.vfw.org/plannedgiving) for more information.

**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 without receiving all of the unwanted mail? The VFW has developed an option that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate unwanted 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. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact the VFW Development Department Donor Services at 816-756-3390, ext. 7108 or email us at [partners@vfw.org](mailto: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 [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and look for the 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 [www.vfw.org/vfwatwork](http://www.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](http://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 FOUNDATION:**

### **THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT**

A reminder to all VFW Posts that the 2017 Home Depot (HD) Foundation Community Impact Grant is available to receive applications. Eligible Posts may receive up to \$5,000 to fix up their buildings; however, of course, there is no guarantee of funding. To begin the process, go to the following internet link: <http://homedepotfoundation.org/page/applying-for-a-grant>.

To help you complete the application, the VFW Foundation has prepared a step-by-step how-to-apply guide. Any deviation from this guide will most likely result in not being able to submit the application.

To receive this how-to-apply guide, send an email to: [foundation@vfw.org](mailto:foundation@vfw.org)  
Type the following in the email subject heading: Home Depot Guide Request

After submission of the application, you should receive an email response from HD Foundation, usually within six weeks, letting you know if you received the grant.

Should you have any further questions or need to discuss special concerns, please contact Jason Couch, VFW Foundation Grants Coordinator, at (816) 968-1174 or email at [jcouch@vfw.org](mailto:jcouch@vfw.org).

GOOD LUCK!

## **MEMBER BENEFITS:**

“Love them back” is the best advice one can give to a pet owner. Beloved pets offer so much – a welcoming presence, a loyal companion, a friend who is always happy to see you. And in return they deserve the best we can offer – including the finest care; and that can now include insurance specifically for pets and exclusively offered to members of the VFW.

Nationwide Pet Insurance protection is available for dogs and cats and offers a wide-ranging amount of coverages for preventative care such as physical examinations and vaccinations, and medical coverage for everything from minor accidents to major illnesses. As a policyholder with Nationwide, you can use any licensed vet in the US, and you get specially negotiated rates – because affordable coverage that is accepted everywhere is true peace of mind.

For additional information on these options, click [here](#) or call Nationwide at 1-877-738-7874.

## **VFW STORE:**



Before you hit the green this golf season, check out the VFW Store's **new golf accessories**, including a logoed towel, tee and divot set, plus a dozen logoed golf balls. Go online to <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=golf> for details!

**Flag Day** is a great day to recognize those in the community who daily fly their flag, to educate youth on the history, symbolism and proper etiquette of the flag, and to inspect and replace any flags that are in disrepair. VFW Store can help –

go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/flagday?page=1&size=100> to see all of our Flag Day items!



Order your patriotic items now for your **4th of July** celebration! VFW Store has table runners, patriotic apparel, flags, jewelry and much more! Go to

<http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/4thofjuly?page=1&size=100> to get ready for your Independence Day celebration.

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### **ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:**

WHITEHEAD, EUGENE, Commander, Department of West Virginia, 1994-1995 and a Life Member of Blennerhassett Post 1212, Parkersburg, West Virginia, May 27, 2017.

MANFREY, EUGENE R., Commander, Department of Florida, 1991-1992 and All American Commander, Department of Pennsylvania, 1968-1969 and a Gold Legacy Life Member of Sunshine City Post 6827, Saint Petersburg, Florida, April 10, 2017.