

# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

# BULLETIN

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



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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### *SERVICE NOT SELF*

#### **VFW COMMUNICATIONS:**

In only a few short weeks, thousands of VFW and Auxiliary members will converge in Kansas City, Mo., for the 119th VFW National Convention.

From notable guest speakers and special presentations, to the installation of a new VFW Commander-in-Chief, our livestream coverage and event app will help ensure you won't miss out on any of the week's important events. Look for the VFW KC 2018 event app in early July!

The convention will stream live at [www.vfw.org/convention](http://www.vfw.org/convention), and be sure to join in the conversation on social media using #VFWConvention.

#### **MEMBERSHIP:**

On June 30, 2018, we ended the year with 1,160,151 members falling 19,278 short of 100%. We are at the start of a new year, so let's hit the ground running. Don't wait until the end of the year to make goal. Find local events and arrange to get a booth. Farmers markets, gun shows, trade shows, and summer festivals are all great places to recruit local veterans. Bring along recruiting materials as well as materials on VFW Programs. If you need materials from Membership, call or email us at 1-888-JOIN-VFW or [membership@vfw.org](mailto: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 get there.

#### **VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION, KANSAS CITY, MO – JULY 21-25, 2018**

**Convention Advertisement Campaign Overview:** To increase awareness to the veterans in the surrounding area and drive attendance, the Membership Department will be endorsing a multi-channel campaign to reach the veteran audience in Kansas City within a 150 mile radius through billboards, bulletins, traditional radio and mobile advertising. The campaign will be running from July 1 - July 30.

**First-Timers Booth:** We encourage all first timers attending the VFW National Convention in Kansas City to stop by our information booth located at the main entrance. We will be open all day starting July 21 - 24 to help guide you to a great experience at our National Convention.

**First-Time Attendees Meet & Greet:** If you're attending the VFW National Convention for the first time, join us to learn more about what the VFW is doing for our veterans, both nationally and in your local community on Sunday, July 22 from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Kansas City Convention Center (KCCC), Hall E, Kansas City, MO.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS FOR ACHIEVING 100%:**

Oregon, Mississippi, Hawaii, Idaho, Delaware, Utah, Georgia, Pacific Areas, Europe, Nebraska, South Dakota, Arkansas, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, Alabama, Virginia, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Florida, West Virginia, Arizona, Texas, New Jersey.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2017-18 ALL-AMERICANS.** We will see you in Kansas City!

**INSTALLMENT LIFE**

**Now Post and Department Quartermasters** have the option to enroll “NEW” members as installment Life on the Online Membership System. See the Hip Pocket Training for Nov/Dec link. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixuesaN90Ps&index=16&list=PLS17GMBriUlatKGz\\_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixuesaN90Ps&index=16&list=PLS17GMBriUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi)

Note: Once the member is enrolled, the member will receive a confirmation email. They have to click and approve the installment in order for the installment to be completed.

**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/>.

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?***

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**Top Three Recruiters (as of 7/1/18):**

**Kenneth L. Kraft - 500**  
VFW Post 12140, Dept. of OR

**Larry M. Gerlt - 459**  
VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

**Glenn F. Tilley - 267**  
VFW Post 2391, Dept. of FL

## ADDITIONAL REMINDERS & CHANGES

**Digital Membership Cards:** Members now have the ability to download their digital version of their membership card. Depending on whether a member has an iPhone or Android, they will be able to download and access their digital membership card from the VFW app.

This will not replace the physical VFW membership card - we will still be sending out membership cards to all our annual and Life members. This is intended as another option for our members' convenience. When asked to show a VFW membership card, a member can either produce their physical card out of their wallet or display their digital card on their smart phone.

**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.

**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. If you have any questions or topics you would like covered, please email them to [membership@vfw.org](mailto: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-HYPERLINK-IT?ASK-TARA](https://youtu.be/z_5MovJgD6E?list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi-HYPERLINK-IT?ASK-TARA).

## NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE (NVS):

Ryan Gallucci, Director, VFW National Veterans Service (NVS), would like to invite all delegates and attendees of the upcoming VFW 119th National Convention in Kansas City, MO, to participate in the following events. Please check the convention schedule or download the convention app for locations.

On Saturday, July 21 and Sunday, July 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., there will be a **Veterans Walk-In Claims Clinic** at which veterans and dependents will be assisted by a combined team of VFW Service Officers and VA benefits and health care representatives to facilitate and expedite new and existing claims, appeals and health care issues.

On Sunday, July 22 from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m., the VFW National Veterans Service and National Legislative Service are co-hosting a session **“Update on Federal Benefits and Services for Veterans”** during which you will hear directly from the VA and Department of Labor representatives responsible for VA benefits & healthcare and DOL employment policies. Also on Sunday, July 22, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, NVS will be presenting the **Veterans Service Update** session, during which time we will be providing information regarding VFW's participation in the VA Voluntary Service Program (VAVS).

We also invite everyone to drop by the National Veterans Service Booth which will be located in the VFW Village on the exhibit hall floor.

## NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ACTION CORPS:

**Come see us at Convention.**

The VFW 119th National Convention will be held in Kansas City, Mo. from July 21-25. We want to invite all of you to stop by our booth in the convention center exhibition hall. We will have our 2018 Priority Goals and Veterans Vote brochures, as well as information pertaining to important veterans'

issues including health care, toxic exposures, sequestration, concurrent receipt, and transition. We also invite you to join us for our “Update on VFW Legislative Priority Goals” on Sunday, July 22, from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. when National Legislative Service Director Carlos Fuentes will give a presentation along with the NLS staff.

The VFW will host a women veterans information fair entitled “Women Veterans: Strong & Growing” during this year’s convention. The fair will be held on July 24 at 2:00 p.m. Information pertinent to the veterans’ community with a focus on women veterans will be provided, and all veterans are encouraged and welcome to attend. Participants will include the VFW’s Women Veterans Advisory Committee; representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs’ offices of women’s health, women veterans, research and development, and veteran experience; the Department of Labor; the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans; and congressional staff from the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. There will be a raffle with prizes, as well as other giveaways. Learn more about the [119th VFW National Convention](#).

### **“BUDDY”® POPPY:**

**NATIONAL “BUDDY”® POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST.** The time frame for registering and setting up the Department winning “Buddy”® Poppy displays for the national judging at convention will be the same as last year. Department winning entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 21, until noon, Monday, July 23, 2018. Winning displays will be identified with appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning and announced later on the convention floor. Displays must be removed prior to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon.

**NATIONAL END OF YEAR AWARDS.** The end of another successful “Buddy”® Poppy Program year concluded on June 30. Please ensure that your Department submits their award forms for both the **“Outstanding Promotional/Public Awareness Program”** and the **“District and County Council Chairmen Award.”** All forms must be submitted to the National Headquarters Office by the deadlines outlined on the information provided to each Department in April.

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 VFW “Buddy”® Poppies.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 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, 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.

**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.

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 nonprofit 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](mailto:BuddyPoppy@vfw.org) or (816) 968-1155 for any questions or concerns.

## **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 (WW1CC) 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. WW1CC 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](mailto:david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org) and/or (540) 379-8584.

WW1CC has also created a special landing page for veterans, history lovers, family members, friends and community members. At [ww1cc.org/veterans](http://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.

**THE WORLD WAR ONE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION WILL BE IN KANSAS CITY!** Please visit us at National Convention on the exhibitor floor. Introduce yourself and your Post! Pick up information on the work of the Centennial Commission! See the marquette on display (model 1:6 size) of our National World War One Memorial we will be building in Washington, D.C.! <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/honor/national-wwi-memorial.html>

**BELLS FOR PEACE.** On November 11 at 11:00 a.m. local time...Americans everywhere and across the nation will toll bells in remembrance of those who served and those who sacrificed in the war that changed the world...

- Pledge to Participate (once you PLEDGE, we will send you updates and notices).
- Recruit others including organizations to pledge with you.
- Find out more and see the special landing page here for information and RESOURCES!  
[www.ww1cc.org/bells](http://www.ww1cc.org/bells)

**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!



## **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 WW1 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>.

**THE WORLD WAR ONE PODCAST** is an award winner! Subscribe here: [ww1cc.org/cn](http://ww1cc.org/cn) and become the envy of your friends and colleagues with your knowledge about all matters related to the Great War!

## **VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:**

Meeting times at the National Convention in Kansas City:

Veterans & Military Support Chairman Committee Meeting  
and check presentation

**Sunday, July 22, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

VFW Programs Workshop - **Open to the public**

**Sunday, July 22, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

1:00 - 2:00 Programs Overview Town Hall

2:00 - 3:00 Veterans Emotional Well-Being Discussion

3:00 - 4:00 Awards & Citation Committee Meeting

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

See you in Kansas City!

## **VFW FOUNDATION:**

### **BURGER KING FRANCHISEE-OWNED RESTAURANTS SUPPORTING UNMET NEEDS IN JULY**

The VFW Foundation is proud to announce that for the 5th consecutive year, select Burger King (BK) franchisee-owned restaurants will be raising funds for the Unmet Needs program during July 2018.

Patrons are encouraged to visit any of the nearly [450 participating restaurants](#) and donate \$1 or more to the program upon checkout. The fundraiser officially begins on July 1. Since 2007, BK restaurants have contributed over \$5 million to the VFW Unmet Needs program, which has helped provide assistance to more than 8,600 veterans and military families since its inception in 2004.

If you have questions about the Burger King/VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaign, please contact Ben Vargas, Assistant Manager, Special Projects, by phone at (816) 968-2720 or email at [bvargas@vfw.org](mailto:bvargas@vfw.org).

## **POST FUNDRAISING WORKSHOP**

This is a friendly reminder that the VFW Foundation will be conducting a workshop entitled "[Grants and Fundraising Ideas for Posts](#)," at the 119th VFW National Convention in Kansas City on Tuesday, July 24, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. (room to be announced).

## **VFW MOBILIZES TO COMBAT HUNGER**

It is a sad realization that 1 out of 8 Americans do not have enough to eat and that 27% of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans face daily hunger. In response, the VFW in collaboration with Humana and local Kansas City-based nonprofit food providers, After the Harvest <https://aftertheharvestkc.org/> and Harvesters <https://www.harvesters.org/> have launched the campaign "Uniting to Combat Hunger."

The goal of the campaign is to provide 50,000 meals in the Kansas City area, and the project coincides with the 119th VFW National Convention, July 21-25 also in KC. Harvesters will place food donation barrels at various KC businesses as well as on the VFW National Convention floor. Convention-goers are encouraged to bring canned goods to donate. The Harvesters Mobile Pantry will be on site if attendees prefer to purchase food items at convention. There will also be a convention food-packing opportunity on July 21-22 where VFW/Auxiliary members can be part of the VFW effort to combat hunger.

The VFW Foundation and Humana will take this hunger alleviation campaign to many different U.S. cities/regions in the upcoming months. The involvement of VFW Posts will be crucial to the program's success. Stay tuned as details develop.

For questions, please contact Richard Freiburghouse, VFW Foundation Manager, at (816) 968-1124 or email at [rfreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:rfreiburghouse@vfw.org).

## **HENRY VFW TRIBUTE EDITION RIFLES**

Henry Repeating Arms continues to offer the Henry VFW Tribute Edition rifles directly from their factory at very special pricing to VFW Posts and members.

These rifles are a great way for your Post to boost fundraising efforts, increase profits, recognize member volunteer efforts or milestones, and for members to build a personal collection.

There are two models, both Made In The USA: the VFW Post Tribute Edition and the VFW Tribute Edition. Both models are collector's items and unique to the Posts and/or members ordering these one-of-a-kind rifles.

For information or to order your Henry VFW Tribute Edition rifle, click on the following order form link: <https://www.henryusa.com/rifles/buy-direct-new-henry-vfw-tribute-rifles/>. If you would like to request additional brochures, please email Teresa at [teresa@henryrepeating.com](mailto:teresa@henryrepeating.com) or call her toll free at 866-200-2354.

## **WALGREENS OFFERS JULY 4TH MILITARY & VETERANS DISCOUNT**

In honor of July 4th, Walgreens is offering a 20% discount on eligible regular-price merchandise to veterans, military and their families with the use of a Walgreens Balance Rewards card and proof of service. Offer valid on July 4, 2018, only at Walgreens and Duane Reade stores. Discount not valid on certain items such as alcohol, tobacco, dairy, stamps, phone/gift cards, lottery tickets, clinic services, prescriptions, pharmacy items or services, transportation passes, etc. Please see flyer in store for the complete list of restrictions.

## **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 & 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 & Support” under Member Resources.

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

## **DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:**

**VFW 2018-19 Special Edition Calendar** – The exclusive 2018-19 VFW Calendar package was mailed the first week of June. We hope you have received it and are pleased with the special Great American Outdoors expanded edition calendar along with a Deluxe Gift Assortment.

Please show your pride in our country and your fellow veterans by displaying your calendar in a prominent place in your home, office or Post. Your calendar is filled with majestic views of our nation’s most breathtaking scenery and contains information on VFW programs available for veterans, service members and their families as well as patriotic holidays and observances. Please remember to display your U.S. flag. You can visit [heroes.vfw.org/flag](http://heroes.vfw.org/flag) to download and print a free flag poster to display.

If you haven’t already, please send the most generous gift you can. Your support of the 2018-19 VFW Calendar program helps your VFW Department serve veterans in need throughout the year.

**VFW Manicure Kit** – This one-of-a-kind manicure kit will be sent out in mid-July and has been created as a special thank you for your continued support of the VFW and the life-changing programs for all veterans. Your support gives wounded veterans hope in the face of tragedy – those coping with Post-Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury and other horrible war wounds that will haunt them forever. When you receive your VFW Manicure Kit, please be as generous as possible. Your donation helps veterans of every generation. Please remember to display the United States flag, especially on patriotic holidays.

**A Simple Way to Make a Big Difference** - Making a gift in your will is the easiest way to support the VFW and your fellow veterans after your lifetime. Did you know that it only takes one or two sentences in your will to complete? We invite you to learn more about this type of legacy gift and the lasting impact you can leave your family and the VFW. Free information is available by contacting 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).

**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](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 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 [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!

### **MEMBER BENEFITS:**

VFWInsurance.com

We are happy to announce that the VFW Insurance Program, administered by Lockton Affinity, has a new and improved website. This site provides one convenient place for VFW members to access the exclusive insurance and life planning products available to them.

Whether you're looking for life insurance, Medicare products or insurance for your Post, you can find the information you need to make a knowledgeable decision about your insurance.

Lockton Affinity’s goal has always been to provide VFW members with excellent service, so they are pleased to launch a new website to make your experience even better. Visit [VFWInsurance.com](http://VFWInsurance.com) to see the improvements.

Check out the new website by clicking [here](#) or call 800-821-2606, option 1 for more information.

### **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.** 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 marks the centennial of World War 1. There is a lot our members can do to help educate the public, commemorate the war, and honor those who served. The WW1 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](http://www.wwlcc.org/veterans). Here are a few suggestions:

-- Subscribe to the **Dispatch** newsletter to keep up to date. Listen to the Centennial News **Podcasts**. Podcast #61 features VFW Post 968 in Raymond, WA, 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 WW1 coin** (\$10 from the sale of each coin funds the memorial).

--Make sure your ancestors or family members who served are listed on the **World War 1 Roll of Honor** and donate in their names toward building the WW1 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.

--Raise money for the Memorial by supporting the **WW1 Poppy Program**.

-- **Learn more** about the memorial and see all the resources available at [www.ww1cc.org](http://www.ww1cc.org).

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>.

**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>.

**NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 21.** Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure. For POW/MIA merchandise, click <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia>.

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN NATIONAL AWARDS.** Every Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen first place Department winner will receive a National scholarship or award. The new amount for the Voice of Democracy National Awards now total \$155,500 and the Patriot’s Pen National Awards total is now \$55,000.

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN THEMES.** The 2018–19 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Vincent “B.J.” Lawrence. The Voice of Democracy theme will be “Why My Vote Matters” and the Patriot’s Pen theme will be “Why I Honor the American Flag.”

**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.

**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 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, September 21, 2018 (third Friday in September); 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.

## VFW STORE:

**Convention Attendees** – stop by the VFW Store in Kansas City to get your convention pins, polos and T-shirts, and to see our large selection of new items. Or click <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems?page=1&size=100> to check out our new items now!



**Celebrating a Post or Department anniversary this year?** Commemorate the occasion with special polos, T-shirts, caps, koozies or other items! We have thousands of products available at competitive prices. VFW Store can also help you with logo design and product selection. (If you are attending the National Convention, stop by and visit with Kim Winston, Custom Consultant, at the store booth.) You can also email Kim at [kwinston@vfw.org](mailto:kwinston@vfw.org) or call her at 816-968-1181.

## ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

TRUAX, RUSSELL D. “RUSS,” All American Commander, Department of Iowa, 1984-1985 and a Life Member of Osage Post 7920, Osage, Iowa, June 4, 2018.

MAUCK, JAMES E., Commander, Department of Colorado, 1989-1990 and a Life Member of J. M. Post 2585, Johnstown, Colorado, June 22, 2018.

KOSIK, ANTHONY C. “TONY,” All American Commander, Department of Illinois, 1999-2000 and a Life Member of Armed Forces Post 8322, Chicago, Illinois, June 26, 2018.