

Membership

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WILLIAM J. “DOC” SCHMITZ!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS: The Triple Crown Pin is awarded to those who have made All-American Commander at the Department, District and Post level.

Jerry Anger – Dept. of Arkansas
James Vergott – Dept. of Europe
Charles Dobbins – Dept. of Georgia
Matthew West – Dept. of Louisiana
Jack Hawley – Dept. of Montana
Arthur Widhalm – Dept. of Montana
Gerald Peterson – Dept. of Nevada
David Sousa – Dept. of Nevada
Rick Higgins – Dept. of Oregon
Kenneth Kraft – Dept. of Oregon
Linda Fairbank – Dept. of Washington

Congratulations to Richard Eubanks from the Dept. of Oregon for being a two-time Triple Crown Winner!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECRUITER OF THE YEAR:

Mark Short – Dept. of Arizona. Recruited 543 members.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ELITE RECRUITERS:

Tim Peters – Dept. of Montana
Carlo S. Davis – Dept. of Texas

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018-19 ALL-AMERICANS! As our largest All-American group in history, the VFW had 49 Departments, 145 Districts, and 463 Posts achieve All-American status for a total of 657 All-Americans! Thank you for a great year and a job well done!

POST DEVELOPMENT

As you are planning out for the new year, make sure your Departments are in contact with the National Membership Department to lay out an area in need of post development or a revitalization effort. There are many resources available to you, all you need to do is call. We are looking to start a Post or revitalize an existing Post in every single Department. Let’s not wait until the middle of the year to start identifying an area, let the Membership Department know now what you’re working on so they can start tracking that

information and provide assistance, as needed. For any questions or further information, you may contact the Membership Department via email at membership@vfw.org or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

DEPARTMENT WITH NEW POST:

VFW Post No. 12190 in Evans, GA

The 2019-20 Membership Program is available online at www.vfw.org, under MY VFW, scroll down to Member Resources and click on the VFW Training and Support, click on Membership Recruiting and Retention, where it will be in blue letters 2019-20 VFW National Membership Program.

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?

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

REPEAT RECIPIENT OF CHARITY NAVIGATOR FOUR STAR RATING!

The VFW Foundation is proud to announce that for the second year in a row, we have received the prestigious "Four Star Rating" from the influential nonprofit watchdog group, Charity Navigator. This award (Charity Navigator's highest ranking) is reserved *only* for America's best charities that exemplify transparency, financial health and donor accountability. "Considering that only 32% of those evaluated by

Charity Navigator have been so ranked for the last two years, it is a real honor that the VFW Foundation remains at the upper echelon of all U.S. nonprofits,” said Richard Potter, Foundation Administrator.

Development

VFW 2019-20 Special Edition Calendar – Are you using the exclusive 2019-20 VFW Calendar that was mailed at the beginning of June and displaying it in a prominent place in your home, office or Post with pride? We hope so! VFW members like you have told us how pleased they are with the special Great American Outdoors expanded edition calendar along with the Deluxe Gift Assortment they received.

Please remember as you use your calendar, not only is it filled with majestic views of our nation’s most breathtaking scenery, it also contains important information on VFW programs available for veterans, service members and their families, as well as patriotic holidays and observances. Please remember to display the U.S. flag. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/flag to download and print a free flag poster to display.

And if you haven’t already, please send the most generous gift you can. Your support of the 2019-20 VFW Calendar program helps your VFW Department serve veterans in need throughout the year.

VFW Manicure Kit – We hope you are finding this one-of-a-kind manicure kit that was sent out the last week of June useful! We sent this as a special thank you for your continued support of the VFW and the life-changing programs for all veterans. When you use your VFW Manicure Kit, please remember that your generosity and 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. Your donations help veterans of every generation. And please, remember to display the U.S. flag, especially on patriotic holidays.

Keep a close eye out for other exciting mailings and patriotic gifts in the coming months! And please remember that your generosity and support of the VFW and our programs that help veterans, service members and their families is life changing!

Simplify Your Will Planning While Supporting the VFW – If you are considering a gift to the VFW through your will or other estate plans, you can visit at vfw.org/plannedgiving for helpful tips, tools and other FREE resources – to include our Estate Planning Kit which will help simplify and organize the estate planning process for you and your attorney. For assistance or more information, please contact our 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

Next week, visit the VFW’s YouTube page at youtube.com/c/vfwhq, to relive the greatest moments of the 120th VFW National Convention!

With segments covering everything from Sunday’s Memorial Service, to Wednesday’s election and installation of our new national officers, catch up on everything that happened during the convention.

Veterans & Military Support Programs

For all Veterans & Military Support program information and forms, use provided link below:

VMS Formstack Links:

- **Virtual Pins:** <https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/virtualpinrequest>
- **VFW Website Solution:** <https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/websolutionapp>
- **AUX Website Solution:** <https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/auxwebsolutionapp>
- **Chairman Report:** https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vms_chairman_report
- **MAP Grant Application:** www.vfw.org/MAPGrantApplication
- **MAP Grant Report:** www.vfw.org/MAPGrantReport
- **Adopt a Unit Application:** www.vfw.org/AdoptAUnitApp
- **Adopt a Unit Report:** www.vfw.org/AdoptAUnitReport
- **Programs Donation Form:** https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation.

Special thanks for all the support in Orlando for our Service Challenge!

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>.

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 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 I 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.

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>.

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 20. 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>.

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.

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 \$154,000 and the Patriot's Pen National Awards total is now \$55,000.

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.

NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD DEADLINE DATES. The VFW wants to recognize the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history, traditions and institutions effectively through the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award program. Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for the next competition. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, VFW Posts, supervisors or other interested individuals (not relatives). Self-nominees are not eligible.

VFW's National Citizenship Education Teacher awards include: three national \$1,000 awards for the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses; \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and school; and an all-expenses-paid trip to attend a VFW National Convention.

Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. has the correct teacher award entry deadlines for the 2019-20 program year. The dates are October 31, 2019, for entries to the Post, November 15, 2019, for completion of Post judging, December 15, 2019, for completion of District judging, January 10, 2020, for completion of Department judging and the Department winners are due to National Headquarters by January 15, 2020. The entry forms are up on the VFW website and are available in the VFW Store.

Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org/#login>, 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, the interested individuals may download and print the teacher award entry form by visiting this link: www.vfw.org/teacheroftheyear or order a quantity of the brochures (item #4450) through the VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22917>.

Order the Citizenship Education Teacher Recognition Citation from the VFW Store, product #4320, <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/23980>. Present to all teachers nominated at all levels for the national award.

NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD SUBMISSION CHANGE.

Post Level

National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – submit an entry in all three categories (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) advanced to District judging. (Any Post can donate \$75 to National in lieu of each entry**.)

**Donations made to replace a Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, National Citizenship Education Teachers Award and towards Veterans & Military Support Programs Services as listed above will only be accepted through the following link. Do not donate through your Department or by any other means. https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation

District

National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – submit an entry in all three categories (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) advanced to Department judging. (Overseas District donate \$100 to National in lieu of each entry**.)

**Donations made to replace a Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, National Citizenship Education Teachers Award and towards Veterans & Military Support Programs Services as listed above will only be accepted through the following link. Do not donate through your Department or by any other means. https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation

Department

National Citizenship Education Teacher Award – submit an entry in all three categories (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) and entries must advance to National judging.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING. All VFW Post and Auxiliary chairmen will report to their respective Department chairman in a timely fashion so as to allow the Department chairman to report to the VFW National Programs office by May 31. The VFW Post chairmen’s report should include whether or not their Auxiliaries participated.

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 16, 2020 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 25, 2020 (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.

VFW Member Benefits

Nothing can put a damper on a relaxing vacation faster than illness or an unexpected medical emergency. It doesn't matter if you're traveling domestically or internationally, Emergency Assistance Plus®(EA+®) gives you peace of mind with 24-hour emergency assistance if you were to have a medical emergency.

This service includes medical transportation, recommendations on care options, help with translation services, and makes sure your vehicle is returned home safely. It also looks after your beloved travel companions.

As a VFW member, you're eligible to enroll in EA+ to give you the peace of mind you truly deserve. Start learning about all the benefits [today!](#)

“Buddy”® Poppy

NATIONAL END OF THE YEAR AWARDS. The 2018-19 Buddy Poppy year has come to a close and we would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone that participated in this amazing program. Once again, with all of your help and hard work, we have completed another successful campaign. Please do not forget about the July deadlines for the entry forms you received in April. Once we have received the Department nominations and can compile our annual data, we will start processing the end of year awards (shortly after National Convention). As we complete the citations and plaques, they will be sent directly to the Department Headquarters so they can find the appropriate time to present them.

The 120th National Convention “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest Winners are:

CATEGORY 1 (Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign)

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| First Place | - Hometown Murray Post No. 9773 and its VFW Auxiliary
Hometown, Illinois |
| Second Place | - VFW Auxiliary to the Mecklenburg Post No. 9488
Charlotte, North Carolina |
| Third Place | - General Dwight D. Eisenhower Post No. 3279 and its VFW Auxiliary
Abilene, Kansas |
| Honorable Mention | - Jefferson County Memorial Post No. 3522 and its VFW Auxiliary
Charles Town, Virginia |

CATEGORY 2 (Memorial or Inspirational Displays)

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| First Place | - VFW Auxiliary to the Verle Huffman Post No. 9644
Fort Logan, Colorado |
| Second Place | - Roscoe Post No. 2955 and its VFW Auxiliary
Roscoe, Illinois |

- Third Place - Dusenberry-Flannery Post No. 2064 and its VFW Auxiliary
Maybrook, New York
- Honorable Mention - VFW Auxiliary to the Captain John P. Monahan Post No. 12136
Indian Land, South Carolina
- Directors Award - Hugh-Matejcek Post No. 3723 and its VFW Auxiliary
Owatonna, Minnesota

CATEGORY 3 (Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies)

- First Place - Crawford County Post No. 4549 and its VFW Auxiliary
Robinson, Illinois
- Second Place - Doucet-Aucoin Post No. 8971 and its VFW Auxiliary
Eunice, Louisiana
- Third Place - VFW Auxiliary to the Sgt. J.D. Wadkins, Jr. Post No. 3713
Coolidge, Arizona
- Honorable Mention - VFW Auxiliary to the Clyde E. Newman, Jr. Post No. 10054
Pahrump, Nevada

“BUDDY”® POPPY CAMPAIGN. 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.

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=1_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

2020 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship is Open!

The 2020 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship is now accepting applications! We ask for your support in finding qualified candidates. The program, which is in its sixth year, is for VFW members who attend an accredited institute of higher learning. Ten student-veterans will be selected for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by veterans, service members, and their families. The highlight of the program is participation in the VFW Legislative Conference, which in the past has included meetings at the White House and with senior officials from the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Congress. Those selected also spend time with their VFW Department members on Capitol Hill pushing the VFW's legislative priorities, and this interaction has resulted in actual legislation. Alumni of the program have become more active in all levels of the VFW and some now work on Capitol Hill. [Learn more](#) about the fellowship.

August Recess: Meet Them in the District

Congress is in recess for the month of August, which means members of Congress will be back in your states and congressional districts. August is a great time for VFW members to connect with their

members of Congress in their home offices or attend town halls to focus attention on [VFW's legislative priorities](#). Make sure your [Senators and Representatives](#) understand what they need to do to meet the needs of our service members, veterans, and their families. Help us hold Congress accountable!

VFW Store

Check out VFW Store's new items: Caps, polos, accessories and more! Go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems> to browse or look for your new catalog in the mail!

Congratulations to All-American Posts, Districts and Departments! To help you celebrate your success, VFW Store is proud to offer All-American custom apparel. To find out more, call Kim Winston at 816.968.1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org. To place an order for ball caps, name tags, pins or rings call 1.833.VFW.VETS or go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=all-american>.



Roll Call of Departed Comrades

MADDOCKS, GARY W., Judge Advocate, Department of Rhode Island, 2019-2020 and Commander, Department of Rhode Island, 2013-2014 and a Life Member of Department of Rhode Island Member-at-Large, July 26, 2019.