

## Membership

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF MONTANA, ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, OKLAHOMA, MISSISSIPPI, WEST VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA FOR ACHIEVING 100% IN MEMBERSHIP!**

### **ALL-AMERICAN 2020-21 UPDATE**

Effective immediately, per Commander-in-Chief Hal, All-American Department criteria has been waived for 2020-21. One new Post or increase the membership of three Posts of 50 members or less to over 50 members by July 1, 2021. If a Department does not have three Posts below 50 members at the beginning of the year, raising all their Posts below 50 members to above 50 members would be required.

### **122ND VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION, KANSAS CITY, MO, JULY 31 – AUG. 3, 2021**

Your All-American packets may be picked up at the Membership Booth.

### **ALL-AMERICAN CAP ORDER INFORMATION**

All District and Post Commanders who achieve 100% in membership will receive an email from National Headquarters requesting their VFW hat size and preference type of cap (female/male).

A District Commander will not be considered All-American until they hit the top 10 in membership in their division and have met all their program requirements.

A Post Commander will not be considered All-American until they achieve the required membership percentage in their respective division and have met all their program requirements.

Only the top 25 in their respective division who achieve All-American status will receive an All-American cap from National Headquarters.

Once the email from National Headquarters has been received, click on the link and provide the data requested for hat sizes. Having the data will make it easier to place the All-American cap orders to ensure they arrive on time for the National Convention.

### **COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE FOR JUNE 2021**

For this month's Commander's Challenge, the top Post in each division with the largest increase in membership percentage for the month of June will receive a \$1,000 award deposited into the Post account.

Membership percentage is calculated by taking your current paid membership total divided by your previous year's total. (Total/Prior Year).

## **NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP MATERIAL ORDER FORM**

As you get started in the new membership year, we have made it easier for you to get all the recruiting brochures you will need to make this membership year successful! It's as easy as one two three!

1. Go to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and click the login link in the upper right corner. Sign in when prompted.
2. Under "Membership Quick Links," select **Membership Online Order Form**.
3. Use the dropdown list to indicate items you need. The form will automatically calculate the cost of items and shipping. When finished, click SUBMIT and it will take you to a billing page if there are any charges.

Follow the simple steps and if you have any questions, you may contact Leticia Cortez at **1.888.564.6839** or email us at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

## **VFW MEMBERSHIP CARDS**

As a reminder, VFW membership cards are always sent directly to the member at the address on file and not to the Post. Our membership cards are printed and mailed from an offsite printing facility as an automated process. We do not have the ability to redirect a member's card to the Post.

In special instances, such as when a Life membership is being presented as an award or a gift, we recommend that the Post contact the Member Service Center directly and we may be able to assist.

## **POST DEVELOPMENT**

The finish line is fast approaching and a preliminary look at membership strength going into June certainly reflects the hard work of those that were able to recruit during this COVID year! Congratulations to the Departments of Louisiana, VFW Post 12203 Fournet-Manuel Post, and Virginia for chartering two new Posts, VFW Post 12201 PFC Clarence W. Jones, Sr. Post and VFW Post 12202 SGT Nicholas C. Mason Memorial Post this year. There are other Departments still working hard to charter a new Post before June 30 and your efforts should be applauded!

It is not too early to start planning for the next membership year! If you have questions and are looking for information, give me a call at 816.968.2788 or email at [coreyhunt@vfw.org](mailto:coreyhunt@vfw.org).

## **UPCOMING TRAINING**

The next Membership Monday training webinar will be June 7, 2021, at 2:00 PM CDT, and we will be covering the topic: **How to End the Membership Year Strong!** Look for the Membership Monday Zoom meeting invite in an OMS notification on June 2, 2021. All members can join. In addition, the Zoom link will be emailed as a meeting invitation to each Department's leadership and VFW Auxiliary President.

If you would like to suggest a Membership Monday training topic, please email us at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

**CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!** As always, please remember you have many resources available to you at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), and don't forget to follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/](https://facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/). The Membership Facebook page is routinely updated to showcase informational videos during the pandemic. View our latest Hip-Pocket training video on Quick Renew function, answering the most frequently asked questions. For any questions or further information, contact the Membership Department via email at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org) or call us at 888.564.6839.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP THREE RECRUITERS!**

Top Three Recruiters (as of 5/26/2021)

**Robert Allan Clark – 234**

VFW Post 4876, Dept. OK

**Matthew B. Northen – 210**

VFW Post 8862, Dept. of Europe

**Larry M. Gerlt – 206**

VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

### **LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), click on JOIN, and 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 and Annual 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:**

<b><u>Levels</u></b>		<b><u>Posts</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?*

## **VFW Foundation**

The VFW Foundation has begun recruitment for the July 2021 Burger King/VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaign. Not surprisingly, the pandemic has had a negative impact on the fundraiser over the past year. Therefore, we are reaching out to all previous participants as well as first-timers. If anyone has information about a potential interested BK franchisee candidate, please forward contact information to VFW Foundation Assistant Manager, Special Projects Ben Vargas at 816.968.2720 or email at [BVargas@vfw.org](mailto:BVargas@vfw.org).

Additionally, the VFW's 2021 #ThankBK Appreciation Week is slated for June 14-18, 2021. Whether you dine in, use the drive-thru or have Burger King delivered, it's important for each of us to find ways to show our appreciation to Burger King. Since 2007, Burger King franchisees have raised more than \$6.5 million for the program, helping the VFW to provide more than \$12 million in assistance to America's military and veteran families.

## **VFW National Convention**

National Convention housing opened **June 1** for the Kansas City Convention, July 31-Aug. 3, 2021. Convention hotel reservations can be made either by calling 877.464.6840 (Mon.-Fri., 9a-6p EST) or International at 980.337.3372 (Mon.-Fri., 9a-6p EST) or online at [book.passkey.com/e/50193779](http://book.passkey.com/e/50193779).

You may also access convention information via the VFW convention page at [vfw.org/convention](http://vfw.org/convention).

VFW Departments were notified on Friday, May 28 of the housing opening of **June 1, 2021**. The **June 30** housing reservation deadline is **NOT** a guarantee there would be rooms available in your Department block by that date. Housing reservations are **always first-come, first-served**. We will keep VFW Departments updated on the housing situation.

The official hotels selected for the 122nd National Convention are: Kansas City Marriott Downtown (VFW Headquarters hotel - \$175 single/double), Loews Hotel (Auxiliary Headquarters hotel - \$179 single/double), Hotel Phillips (\$159 single/double), Hotel Kansas City (\$177 single/double), Hotel Indigo (\$139 single/double), Hotel President (\$159 single/double), Marriott Courtyard (\$169 single/double), Ambassador (\$164 single/double), Hampton Inn (\$119 single/double), Crowne Plaza (\$149 single/double). Tax rates for Kansas City are 18.35% plus \$1.50 per room, per night Kansas City Development fee. Tax rates are subject to change.

For VFW Department housing assignments, refer to the list located on the convention website at [vfw.org/convention](http://vfw.org/convention).

**Convention Registration:** Section 222 of the National Bylaws 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 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, ATTN: Convention Registration or you may register online by going to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).

## Development

**Matching Gift Opportunity to Support the VFW's Programs** – Last month the VFW was presented with a great opportunity by a generous friend to triple your donation. And now they have extended the offer to triple your gift until June 19, 2021, up to \$50,000.

Many veterans and returning service members are turning to the VFW for assistance in filing for their hard-earned VA benefits for injuries received in combat or during deployments, as well as financial assistance grants for rent, food, medicine ... and so much more. Thanks to dedicated members like you, we have been able to provide the life-changing assistance our veterans need. Your generosity also helps the VFW fight — and win — vital legislative battles on Capitol Hill. The VFW is on the front line in the fight for education, jobs, health care and an overall better quality of life FOR VETERANS! This is a great opportunity to help support veterans of all ages, right in your Department. You still have time to participate in the Matching Gift Program.

**VFW Patriotic Socks** – A special VFW Patriotic Socks package will mail the first week of June 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 Patriotic Socks, please be as generous as possible. Your donation helps veterans of every generation. Display your love of this great nation by wearing your VFW Patriotic Socks. And please, remember to display the U.S. flag, especially on all patriotic holidays.

**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 [vfw.org](http://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.

**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 takes only a few 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 visiting [vfw.org/PlannedGiving](http://vfw.org/PlannedGiving), contacting the VFW Planned Giving office at 816.968.1119 or email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org).

**Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism?** – Commander-in-Chief Harold “Hal” Roesch, II would like you to join with him in supporting 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, and a Year End Tax Receipt mailed by the end of January. 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 [vfw.org](http://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](http://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. These resources are available at [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 mail schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the tools found on the VFW Department Resources Page to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

## Veterans & Military Support Programs

**Meeting times at the National Convention in Kansas City:  
VFW Programs VMS Committee and Town Hall Meeting  
Date, Time, and Location to be determined**

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!**

## VMS Formstack Links and Websites:

- **VFW Website Solution:** [VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/websolutionapp](https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/websolutionapp)
- **AUX Website Solution:** [VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/auxwebsolutionapp](https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/auxwebsolutionapp)
- **Chairman Report:** [VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vms\\_chairman\\_report](https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vms_chairman_report)
- **MAP Grant Application:** [vfw.org/MAPGrantApplication](https://vfw.org/MAPGrantApplication)
- **MAP Grant Report:** [vfw.org/MAPGrantReport](https://vfw.org/MAPGrantReport)
- **Adopt a Unit Application:** [vfw.org/AdoptAUnitApp](https://vfw.org/AdoptAUnitApp)
- **Adopt a Unit Report:** [vfw.org/AdoptAUnitReport](https://vfw.org/AdoptAUnitReport)
- **VMS Online Donation:** [heroes.vfw.org/page/22950/donate1](https://heroes.vfw.org/page/22950/donate1)

## 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, Space Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to [vfwstore.org/products/GP238](https://vfwstore.org/products/GP238).

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

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

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

5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

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

**Applications are available at [VietnamWar50th.com](http://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: [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam](http://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam).

**FLAG DAY, JUNE 14.** All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Monday, 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 [vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic](http://vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic).

**IT’S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!** It is the perfect time to be contacting schools, youth groups, parent organizations and others with information about Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen. Schools are making curriculum decisions now and parents are thinking about scholarships.

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

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email [nlopez@vfw.org](mailto:nlopez@vfw.org) or call 816.968.1155.

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN THEMES.** The 2021-22 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Matthew M. “Fritz” Mihelcic. The Voice of Democracy theme will be “America: Where do we go from here?” and the Patriot’s Pen theme will be “How can I be a good American?”

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN ENTRY FORMS.** The new 2021-22 Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

**UPDATED VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN CHAIRMAN’S MANUAL.** An updated version of the Voice of Democracy Chairman’s Manual is now available on the VFW Website. Changes to program include:

- Judging no longer has to be conducted in person, and can be completed remotely at the Post, District and Department level.
- The preferred format for Voice of Democracy audio essays is now Flash Drives/USBs or email submission. CDs will no longer be accepted.

Simply visit [vfw.org/Login.aspx](http://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.

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: [vfw.org/VOD/](http://vfw.org/VOD/)

Patriot's Pen: [vfw.org/PatriotsPen/](http://vfw.org/PatriotsPen/)

For Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store: [vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy) for Voice of Democracy and [vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen) for Patriot's Pen.

**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 (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 21, 2022 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 30, 2022 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, Sept. 17, 2021 (third Friday in Sept.); and Veterans Day, Nov. 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to [vfwstore.org/products/GP237](http://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

Accidents can happen anywhere at any time. With these unexpected dangers, it's important to have a safety net to help protect your family's financial future if something were to happen to you.

As a VFW member in good standing, you automatically receive up to \$1,000 of Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance protection, underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, at no-cost to you. If a covered members' death results from an accident while traveling as a fare-paying passenger in a commercial vehicle, an additional Travel Accident Benefit of \$1,500 will be payable, for a maximum total benefit of up to \$2,500. (All benefits reduce to 50% at age 75, regardless of age at enrollment.)

This benefit is paid regardless of any other coverage you may already have in place. There's no need for you to call to enroll — enrollment is automatic. For additional information about your No-Cost Accidental Death Protection click [here](#) or call 1.877.850.0183.



# “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy

**“BUDDY”<sup>®</sup> 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.”

**BUDDY POPPY UPDATE (5/20/2021):** National Headquarters conducted a review of the Buddy Poppy policy and procedures and the following changes were implemented effective May 20, 2021:

- 1) If you do not receive your order within 8 weeks of placing it with your Department, please contact National Headquarters to report that you have not received the order.
- 2) If you do not report a missing order 3 months after the 8-week processing time, the order will NOT be replaced free of charge and you will have to resubmit your order.

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at [vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy](http://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](mailto:BuddyPoppy@vfw.org) or 816.756.3390, ext. 6722 for any questions or concerns.

## **NATIONAL “BUDDY”<sup>®</sup> POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to changes with the National Convention, the National Buddy Poppy Contest has been cancelled this year.

**VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES.** The silver, gold and diamond anniversary Buddy Poppies are for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary years. For Posts currently in their 100th year anniversary, they can order any color and as many as they need. 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, unless you are currently in your 100th year. 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.

## National Veterans Service

### **National Veterans Service to Resume In-Person Skill Level Training Conferences This Fall**

After careful consideration, the VFW has determined that NVS will resume in-person training conferences this fall for VFW accredited representatives. The decision to resume in-person training is based on current CDC guidance and VFW will ensure that proper safety protocols are in place during the conference.

NVS is currently scheduled to hold three training conferences this fall, all of which will take place at the DoubleTree Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. From Sept. 19-23, 2021, NVS will host the Advanced Skill Level Training, which is intended for accredited representatives with five or more years of experience. Additionally, NVS will host Basic Part 1 Training from Sept. 19-24, 2021, which is intended for newly accredited representatives.

Finally, from Nov. 14-19, 2021, NVS will host Intermediate Skill Level Training, which is intended for accredited representatives who have completed Basic Part 1 Training but have less than five years of experience.

Formal notification to students who are required to participate in these conferences will be sent in the coming weeks, along with instructions regarding travel arrangements and registration.

## National Legislative Service/Action Corps

### **VA To Review Previously Denied Blue Water Claims**

The VFW-supported *Blue Water Navy Act of 2019* extended the presumption of herbicide exposure, such as Agent Orange, to Blue Water Navy veterans who served within 12 nautical miles from the shore of Vietnam. As a result of a recent U.S. district court case, VA is now automatically reviewing the cases of veterans who were previously denied service connection for one or more condition related to Agent Orange exposure. Previous denials based on military service not performed in the Republic of Vietnam or on its inland waterways will have the evidence of record reviewed and replacement decisions provided. These reviews will also apply to eligible survivors of deceased Vietnam-era veterans. We encourage affected veterans and survivors to [contact their VFW Department Service Officer](#) with any questions or concerns they may have or if they may be interested in filing a claim.

## 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 [vfw.org/#login](https://vfw.org/#login), 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:** The 2021-22 Department Roster is now an Online Membership System (OMS) submitted report. The interactive report will cover reporting of all Department elected and appointed officers and committee chairmen. In addition, the District Election Report is also contained within the Online Membership System (OMS). Portions of the District report will feed into the Department report (i.e. the District Commander position).

Adjutants and Quartermasters can access the roster by logging into their OMS account under the “Election Report” drop down in the left hand navigation pane. Membership numbers of each elected/appointed officer and/or chairman is needed to complete the report. Your cooperation in completing the roster immediately following your convention is appreciated. Any additions, corrections or changes will be submitted through OMS as they occur throughout the year.

## VFW Store



**Flag Day** is a great day to recognize those in the community who fly their flag, to educate youth on the history, symbolism and etiquette of the flag, and to replace any flags that are in disrepair. VFW Store can help – go to [vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/flagday?page=1&size=100](https://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 [vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/4thofjuly?page=1&size=100](https://vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/4thofjuly?page=1&size=100).



Don't forget your **Officer Cap, pins and accessories!** Orders can be placed at [vfwstore.org](https://vfwstore.org) or by calling 833.VFW.VETS. We also have a variety of business essentials, from business cards to padfolios, ink stamps to award certificates. To see all the options, go to [vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/officergiftsandawards?page=1&size=100](https://vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/officergiftsandawards?page=1&size=100).

## Roll Call of Departed Comrades

DAVIS, RONNIE L., Commander, Department of Tennessee, 1987-1988, Department Quartermaster, 1988-1989, Department Adjutant/Quartermaster, 1989-2017 and a Life Member of David Crockett Post 1618, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, May 1, 2021.

FRAPPIER, ERNEST R. “PETE,” Commander, Department of Rhode Island, 1998-1999 and a Gold Legacy Life Member of Le Clair-Kozlik-Logan-Bassett Post 6342, North Smithfield, Rhode Island, May 7, 2021.