

## Membership

Congratulations to the Departments of Montana, Oregon, Nevada, Alaska, Pacific Areas, Hawaii, Texas and Washington for achieving 100 percent in membership! National membership is just over 97.5 percent and we are less than 27,516 members from reaching 100 percent goal for the first time in over 27 years! We are making it happen! Keep your foot on the accelerator and let's make our next goal of 100 percent by May 31, 2019. Contact the National Membership Department if there is anything we can do to help you achieve our end of year goal of 1,200,000 members!

### **“LUCKY STARS” MEMBER DRAWING**

Five (5) winners will be drawn and accompany the Commander-in-Chief on an all-expense-paid trip May 6-12, 2019, along with their spouse or guest. \*\*If you win, you will need a passport for this trip!

For any new/reinstated member recruited between July 1, 2018, and April 1, 2019:

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

### **Attention Post and District Commander:**

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

Drawing will take place **April 2, 2019!** All awards are non-transferable.

### **POST COMMANDER AND QUARTERMASTER DIVISION CHALLENGE**

For every ten (10) new/reinstated members recruited between July 1, 2018, and April 1, 2019, Posts will earn one chance for both Post Commander and Quartermaster to be entered into a drawing. One Post per division will be drawn to receive:

- A \$1,000 stipend each for Post Commander and Quartermaster to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.

### **KANSAS CITY SPREE**

The top two Post Commanders and the top two District Commanders in each division who achieve 100 percent membership by April 1, 2019, along with their spouse or guest, will be awarded:

- Round-trip airfare to Kansas City, Mo., from the airport nearest the awardee's home.

- A fun-filled weekend (May 16-19, 2019) that may include but is not limited to – touring, shopping, and a complete tour of the VFW National Headquarters.

**WE GOT THE GOODS!**

Since the Veterans of Foreign Wars rebranded, we have all new material in the Membership Department. You can find the order form by logging into [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and clicking on the Membership Recruiting & Retention section of the Training and Support link. All forms can be downloaded and/or printed, and you can order materials directly to your house for a small fee! The link to the form: [https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/MY\\_VFW/Training-and-Support/Membership/Membership-Order-Form.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20190123T185235Z](https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/MY_VFW/Training-and-Support/Membership/Membership-Order-Form.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20190123T185235Z).

If you need materials from Membership, call or email us at 1.888.JOIN.VFW or [membership@vfw.org](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.

**LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

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

**Enrollment Cost:**

**Annual Payouts:**

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

*What will your Legacy be?*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

Top Three Recruiters (as of 3/25/19):

**Mark A. Short – 363**

VFW Post 9400, Dept. of AZ

**Carlo S. Davis – 221**

VFW Post 9191, Dept. of TX

**Joseph T. Allen – 152**

VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

**DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:**

VFW Post No. 12182 in Patterson, LA

VFW Post No. 12183 in Abilene, TX

VFW Post No. 12184 in Roswell, TX

## **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. If you have any questions or topics you would like to cover, 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](https://youtu.be/z_5MovJgD6E?list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz__QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi).

## Quartermaster General

CBIZ Cottonwood, a professional actuarial firm, recently completed an evaluation of the Life Membership Fund. Based on this evaluation, the Life Membership Board of Trustees, with the concurrence of the National Council of Administration, pursuant to Section 111 of the VFW Bylaws, has determined that, for the 2020 membership year, the Life Membership Fund will pay out **\$3.02** for each **Plan A, B and C** life member, **\$3.48** for each **Plan D** life member and **\$7.08** for each **Plan E** life member to their Post, Department and to National Headquarters. Payment will be made in September 2019 for all life members recorded as of August 31, 2019.

In addition, **\$7.08 will be paid in January 2020** for each life member processed from September through December 2019 (Plan E) to their Post, Department and to National Headquarters.

If you have any questions, please call Debra Anderson at National Headquarters.

## VFW Foundation

### **HUMANA SUPPORTS THE VFW!**

The VFW is proud to include Humana as a Corporate Supporter since 2012. Recently, Humana confirmed their participation in the 2019 National Convention as the Premier Health Fair Sponsor. This is in addition to sponsoring the 2019 NVS training conferences, and serving as the exclusive Medicare Advantage, Medicare Prescription Drug Plan, and Medicare Supplement provider of the VFW.

### **BURGER KING APPRECIATION WEEK**

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

Stay tuned for additional information.

## Development

**Memorial Day “Buddy”® Poppy** – You may soon receive a package with a Thank You Card and VFW “Buddy”® Poppy. Since 1922, the VFW has distributed the “Buddy”® Poppy on patriotic holidays to solemnly honor our nation’s fallen heroes. Please return your poppy to the VFW and they will be used to

create a special wreath to be displayed in honor of Memorial Day at VFW National Headquarters' Centennial Plaza. Also, please sign and return the Thank You Card. Your message of support will be delivered to a service member or veteran who could use a kind word. It will mean a lot to them coming from a fellow veteran like you. Along with the "Buddy"® Poppy and your signed card, please return the most generous gift you can manage in honor of Memorial Day. Your gift to the VFW will help veterans and military families receive financial grants when times are tough, assist veterans in obtaining the benefits they have earned and ensure the rights of veterans of every generation are respected and protected.

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

**Create Your Legacy With Just a Few Words** – Having a will helps ensure your family and loved ones will be taken care of after your lifetime. Should you like to support future generations of veterans once your family is taken care of, you can do so by adding a gift to the VFW in your will. To learn more about wills and how easy it is to make a gift to the VFW in yours, visit [www.vfw.org/plannedgiving](http://www.vfw.org/plannedgiving). You can also contact the VFW Planned Giving Office to request information on estate planning. Call us at 816.968.1119 or email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org) today.

**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 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!

## VFW Communications

The Library of Congress wants to hear from you!

The VFW has teamed up with the National Library Service (NLS) at the Library of Congress to conduct a survey with Gallop about your experiences accessing and using technology. The results of this survey will help the NLS better understand how to best use technology to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

Please visit [tiny.cc/NLS](http://tiny.cc/NLS) or call 1.888.305.6873 and take their 5-minute survey to see if you are eligible to participate in the study and help shape the service they provide to our community.

## Veterans & Military Support Programs

1. As we plan for the 2019 National Convention in Orlando, we want to remind all Veterans & Military Support Chairmen to get their money in for the 2018-19 lapel pins picked up in Kansas City. Please contact the Veterans & Military Support office at 816.968.1102 if you have any questions on how much your Department needs to send in.
2. There will be a new design for the Veterans & Military Support (VMS) lapel pin for 2019-20! Chairmen will be able to request their pins to pick up in Orlando but if you have not turned in your donation for the 2018-19 lapel pins, you will need to pay upfront for the 2019-20 pins. Request forms will be provided sometime in April.
3. **Veterans & Military Support Recognition Program** - Donations *must* be received in the office before **April 30**. The Veterans & Military Support Recognition Certificates will be sent to the Departments for presentation at the Department Conventions.
4. **Applying for a VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship for the 2019 Fall Semester** - Please get the word out to your local service members and veterans that are going to school in the fall to apply for this wonderful scholarship program. Go to [www.vfw.org/scholarship/](http://www.vfw.org/scholarship/) for details and eligibility requirements. Deadline is **April 30**.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Ferguson at 816.968.1102.

## 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>.

**VFW HONOR'S AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2018-19 PROGRAM YEAR.** Congratulations to the following teachers who were selected National winners for 2018-19:

Elementary School level – Bobbie Schamens, Meadowview Intermediate School, Sparta, Wi., selected by VFW Post 2112 and Auxiliary, Sparta, Wi.

Middle School level – Ann Martin, Williams Middle School, Tracy, Ca., selected by VFW Post 1537, Tracy, Ca.

High School level – Kevin Allen Wagner, Carlisle High School, Carlisle, Pa., selected by VFW Post 477 and Auxiliary, Carlisle, Pa.

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

**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](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>.

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

**IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!** April is the perfect month to begin 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 [lrolf@vfw.org](mailto:lrolf@vfw.org) or call 816.968.1116.

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

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN BROCHURES.** The new 2019-20 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

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.

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/>

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

--Make sure your ancestors or family members who served are listed on the **World War I Roll of Honor** and donate in their names toward building the WWI National Memorial with a “digital” remembrance wreath. The Roll of Honor features individual profiles for many of the more than 4 million American service members who responded to the call of “Over There” in support of the war-weary Allies and helped achieve victory. All donations go directly toward funding the memorial.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **WORLD WAR ONE CENTENNIAL NEWS:**

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

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

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

**IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES.** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will

include the VFW programs Patriot's Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

## VFW Member Benefits

### Are You Protecting Your Financial Assets?

You have worked hard to save for you and your family's future. Don't underestimate the importance of protecting those assets.

A common way people protect their assets for future generations is term life insurance. With many available options, you can also purchase a term life insurance policy that fits your needs now and can provide for those you love long after you are gone.

A standard term life insurance policy lasts for a set amount of time—typically 10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 years. During your term, payments and coverage remain the same, making term policies an affordable life insurance option. Senior term life insurance is another popular option. These policies are often guaranteed acceptance for adults aged 50-90.

For additional information about Term Life Insurance, click [here](#) or call 1.800.715.5836, extension 6830.

## "Buddy"® Poppy

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

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

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

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

Contact information: [BuddyPoppy@vfw.org](mailto: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](http://ww1cc.org/poppy)

Here is a quick video that can help people understand why it is so important that we honor those who served during World War I: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l\\_y4l49mZso](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_y4l49mZso).

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

## National Veterans Service

**The April 30 deadline to submit nominations for the Accredited Representative of the Year Award is now here!!!**

Service officers from the Departments of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and New Mexico have received this award. These service officers stood out from our worldwide cadre for not only meeting the challenge daily, but exceeding it through exemplary commitment, technical knowledge, and customer service.

**Don't let the opportunity slip away for your service officer to become a part of this elite group!**

We encourage each Department Commander to nominate a candidate. A nomination shows that Department leadership is aware of the significant contributions service officers make in your community every day.

The individual who is ultimately chosen as the recipient of the award will be furnished round-trip travel (for the winner and one guest) and two night's hotel accommodations to attend the VFW National Convention

where the award will be presented. In addition, the award recipient will receive \$599 in recognition of their accomplishments and to offset travel expenses.

For more information on the award criteria, please contact the National Veterans Service at [vfw@vfw.org](mailto:vfw@vfw.org).

Nominations may be sent to the Director, VFW National Veterans Service, either by mail (200 Maryland Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002, ATTN: Service Officer Award), faxed to 202.547.3196 (ATTN: Service Officer Award), or scanned and emailed to [taldana@vfw.org](mailto:taldana@vfw.org).

### VFW AND ITS AUXILIARY SWEEP THE AWARDS FOR VAVS NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MALE AND FEMALE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

VERY EXCITING NEWS!!! This year, the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary nominees were selected from among all VAVS Member Organizations as the winners of both VAVS Male & Female Volunteer of the Year Awards.

William Talcott from Phoenix, AZ, was nominated by the VFW and is the winner of the VAVS Male Volunteer of the Year Award.

Mariann Hamann of Ann Arbor, MI, was nominated by the VFW Auxiliary and is the winner of the VAVS Female Volunteer of the Year Award.

Congratulations to both of our winners and many thanks to all who submitted nominations for these awards.

## National Legislative Service/Action Corps

### Share Your GI Bill Video Stories

This year marks the 75th Diamond Anniversary of the signing of the landmark World War II GI Bill, and VA would like to share first-hand videos about how the VFW-championed GI Bill impacted your life after service. Half of the 16 million men and women who served during WWII took advantage of the GI Bill, and these veterans are credited with creating not only the middle class and our suburbs, but with being directly responsible for our nation flourishing so much in the second half of the 20th century by becoming our new scientists, scholars, politicians and captains of industry. America also benefited by reaping a return on investment of conservatively \$8 on every \$1 spent in the form of higher taxes paid on the higher wages earned by virtue of their higher education. This is a great opportunity for youth and Scouts to earn community service credits for helping to share stories from America's Greatest Generation, who now number less than a half-million. VA is accepting submissions until June 22. [Upload your video.](#)

## VFW Store

Make some MONEY at your Department Convention! Simply order T-shirts in quantity with your Department logo or Convention logo and sell them at your Department Convention to make a profit. Prices for T-shirts start as low as \$5.25 per shirt and include screen printing. To find out more or to get a no-obligation quote, call Kim Winston at 816.968.1181 or email her at [kwinston@vfw.org](mailto:kwinston@vfw.org).

When you wear logoed apparel, you help promote the VFW by showing pride in the organization. Shop online now at

<http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/vfwlogo?page=1&size=100>.

