

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

BULLETIN

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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SERVICE NOT SELF

MEMBERSHIP:

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.

Dale E. Smith – Dept. of CA
Jerome Adams - Dept. of NV

CONGRATULATIONS to all the 2016-17 All-American winners! Thank you for a wonderful year and a job well done.

CONGRATULATIONS to The Recruiter of the Year - George P. Fletcher, Dept. of PA!

The **2017-18 Membership Program** is available online at www.vfw.org, under **My VFW**, scroll down to **Member Resources** and click on the **VFW Training & Support**, where you will also find many other tools and resources.

MEMBERSHIP FACEBOOK

Make sure you 'like' and 'share' our VFW National Membership Facebook page. We post updates, links, contest reminders, events, etc. for you. Share the good news of the VFW:
<https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembership/>.

Commanders, Quartermasters, and Adjutants, see our new webinars on Facebook! If you're not on Facebook, you can still view the webinars on YouTube here:
https://youtu.be/z_5MovJgD6E?list=PLS17GMBriUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi.

DUES NOTICE SCHEDULE

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

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

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT OPTIONS

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

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

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

Legacy Life Membership: This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. Three levels of membership each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

<u>Levels</u>	<u>Post</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

V-mail: Go online to <http://www.vfw.com> to stay in communication with other Posts as well as with National Headquarters. Check in often for important VFW updates and news from national. The VFW Membership Department will be using this avenue for communication more regularly. If you need assistance logging in or your password, contact Leticia Cortez in the Membership Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 6292.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ACTION CORPS:

August Congressional Recess – Meet Them in the District

Congress is in recess for the month of August, which means your members will be back in their states and districts. This is a good opportunity for VFW members to contact their members of Congress at their district/state offices or participate in their town hall meetings to discuss the VFW's legislative priorities and the issues important to veterans. The VFW National Legislative Service has compiled a set of talking points outlining our concerns and solutions in six areas that affect veterans: Appeals Modernization/GI Bill Improvements/VA Caregiver Program/Veterans Health Care/Toxic Exposures/Concurrent Receipt. For your reference, these talking points may be found at: <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service>. Familiarize yourself with our stance on these important issues and discuss them with your Senators and Representatives. You can find contact information by visiting the websites of your Senators at: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/> or your Representatives at: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/>.

“BUDDY”® POPPY:

VETERANS DAY “BUDDY”® POPPY CAMPAIGN. Plans should be under way for the Veterans Day “Buddy”® Poppy Campaign. **Contact your Department Quartermaster to place your order for “Buddy”® 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.

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) 968-1155 for any questions or concerns.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS JOINS “WORLD WAR I POPPY PROGRAM.” The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission in announcing the WWI Poppy Program to raise awareness about World War I and generate funds for local VSO chapters all over the country.

The VFW is proud to share with you the WWI Poppy Program; an opportunity to generate resources for your Post while helping to honor the 4.7 million Americans who wore the uniform during WWI.

Poppies grew across the war-torn battlefields of Europe after World War I, and this year marks the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entering that war. From 2017 to 2019, the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission United States will tell the story of those American Veterans, through events, exhibits, and memorial efforts, and the VFW is proud to be a partner in this important commemoration.

Click on this link to learn about the WWI Poppy Program and how your purchase of a Poppy Kit helps build the new National World War I Memorial in Washington, DC while also helping to raise money for your Post.

Link: ww1cc.org/poppy

Here is a quick video that can help people understand why it is so important that we honor those who served during World War One: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_y4l49mZso.

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.

The 118th National Convention “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest winners are:

CATEGORY 1 (Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign)

First Place - Sgt. Benito Alaniz Post No. 7473 and its VFW Auxiliary
Elsa, Texas

- Second Place - Iroquois Hill Post No. 6182 and its VFW Auxiliary
Louisville, Kentucky
- Third Place - Hometown Murray Post No. 9773 and its VFW Auxiliary
Hometown, Illinois
- Honorable Mention - Millstadt Post No. 7980 and its VFW Auxiliary
Millstadt, Illinois
- Directors Award - Superstition Mountain Post No. 9399 and its VFW Auxiliary
Apache Junction, Arizona

CATEGORY 2 (Memorial or Inspirational Displays)

- First Place - Cole-Miers Post No. 3619 and its VFW Auxiliary
De Ridder, Louisiana
- Second Place - VFW Auxiliary to the Billy Simpson Post No. 470
Erie, Pennsylvania
- Third Place - Bob Milby Post No. 6450
Chester, West Virginia
- Honorable Mention - VFW Auxiliary to the Albert J. Breault Post No. 1523
Putnam, Connecticut
- Directors Award - VFW Auxiliary to the Corporal Ben Scott Post No. 769
Quartzsite, Arizona

CATEGORY 3 (Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies)

- First Place - Frank T. Strayer Post No. 1587 and its VFW Auxiliary
Indianapolis, Indiana
- Second Place - VFW Auxiliary to the Mechanicsburg Memorial Post No. 6704
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
- Third Place - VFW Auxiliary to the George O'Breece Post No. 401
Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Honorable Mention - VFW Auxiliary to the Gandy-Brown Post No. 4588
Bossier City, Louisiana
- Directors Award - Fred Needham Post No. 2669 and its VFW Auxiliary
Port Orchard, Washington

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>.

50TH ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION PROGRAM. The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other

non-governmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families. As a Commemorative Partner, VFW Posts are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam Veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

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

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

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

Applications are available at www.VietnamWar50th.com 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 15. 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>.

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

NEW 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 and Auxiliary national event.

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

Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org/#login>, 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.

VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS. Departments are asked to submit three nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs Office no later than February 1, 2018. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician

Each Department will receive their three awards and contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department Commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient's peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the general public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters and EMT's, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership.

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 (November 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 19, 2018 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 28, 2018 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; National POW/MIA Day, September 15,

2017 (third Friday in September); Independence Day, July 4; and Veterans Day, November 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP237>.

IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW programs Patriot's Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

You've risked everything to protect our freedom and as you live out your golden years, we want to protect yours! A medical alert system from LifeStation provides independence and peace of mind to you and your loved ones while you age gracefully in your own home. Whether you are at home or on the go, LifeStation's got you covered with access to help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Call (866) 328-2477 or visit us at www.lifestation.com/vfw to learn more about LifeStation's exclusive offer for VFW members starting as low as \$23.95/month.

VFW FOUNDATION:

VFW FOUNDATION REGULAR & POST/VFW AUXILIARY COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS WILL RESUME SEPTEMBER 1, 2017.

This is a reminder that the VFW Foundation Regular and Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grants will begin accepting applications beginning September 1, 2017.

VFW community service projects are extremely important and shouldn't be hindered by budgetary limitations. In an effort to help VFW Posts and Auxiliaries succeed in serving their communities, the VFW Foundation – the official 501(c)(3) charity of the VFW – established the **VFW Foundation Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant** to help fund local community service projects. Qualifications for the grant have been updated. Please visit the website at <https://www.vfw.org/grants> for details.

Available to any VFW Post or VFW Auxiliary in good standing, a **VFW Foundation Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant** will provide up to \$1,000 for performing important and needed qualifying outreach projects in your community! With an easy and streamlined application process, Post and VFW Auxiliaries can expect to receive a decision within thirty (30) days of the application submission.

No one understands military and veteran support quite like we do. To help VFW Departments, Posts and VFW Auxiliaries, as well as qualifying nonprofits provide the vital support America's heroes and their families deserve, the VFW Foundation established the **VFW Foundation Regular Grant**.

Grants ranging from \$1,000 - \$15,000, will be awarded the **VFW Foundation Regular Grant** for activities that directly support veterans, active duty military personnel and their families. Requests displaying innovation in service delivery, unique program design that addresses an under-served need and the likelihood of sustainability after the grant period ends will be given special consideration.

To review the qualifications of these grants and apply, go to the "Post Grants" page on the VFW website at <https://www.vfw.org/grants> on or after September 1 and click on the link provided.

VFW Foundation grant funds must be expended within nine (9) months of the award date which coincides with the time frame expected for project completion. A final report documenting how the

funds were used is required by July 1, 2018. For questions, please contact Jason Couch, Grants Coordinator, by email at jcouch@vfw.org or phone at (816) 968-1174.

Don't wait! Apply early!

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:

For all Veterans & Military Support program information and forms, login to the VFW website, under the "General Member Tools & Resources" section, click VFW Training and Support, then click on "Veterans & Military Support."

Thanks to all of you that stopped by our booth, participated in the service challenge and our workshop during the 118th National Convention in New Orleans, LA!

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

2017-18 VFW Day Planner – In mid-July, we mailed out the one-of-a-kind VFW Leatherette Day Planner and Deluxe Pen as a special thank you for your support of the VFW and the life-changing programs for all veterans. We hope it has arrived and in good condition. As you use this special gift, let it serve as a reminder of all the veterans your past support has helped. It is also a great reminder of when to display the United States flag. When you receive your new VFW Planner, please be as generous as possible. Your continued support gives fellow wounded veterans hope in the face of tragedy – those coping with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury and other horrible war wounds that will affect them for the rest of their lives. Military members, veterans and their families from your Department are counting on you!

Free Estate Planning Resources from the VFW – Over half of adult Americans do not have a will or any estate plan. Because it is important to have a plan in place, the VFW provides a free Personal Estate Planning Kit, which you can download at www.vfw.org/plannedgiving. Once you have made sure your family and loved ones are taken care of, we invite you to consider a gift to the VFW in your will. It is simple and only takes a few words to provide support for future generations of veterans. Learn more by contacting the VFW 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 lets you support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate unwanted mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact the VFW Development Department Donor Services at 816-756-3390, ext. 7108 or email us at partners@vfw.org 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 and look for the banner that says "Find Out What's Happening" to sign up. As a member of the VFW's Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation's veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit www.vfw.org/vfwatwork 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!

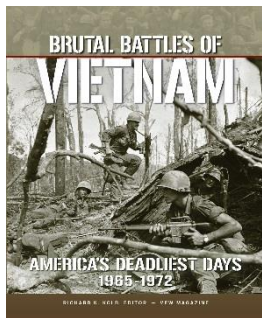
ARMY DONATIONS PROGRAM:

There is an upcoming reconciliation and inventory review campaign that the Army Donations Program Office is launching. To ensure asset accountability, the Commanding General has directed a review of all program equipment to ensure appropriate documentation is on file and up-to-date.

The Army Donations Program, as the executive agent for the Army, has the mission responsibility for operating the Army Ceremonial Rifle and Army Static Display Programs. It is the intent of this office to contact organizations assigned an Army asset and to request a completion of any missing or outdated paperwork, which the organization is required to complete and return within thirty (30) days of receipt. By updating these documents, each organization will comply with the regulatory requirements of the program(s). In cases where an organization is non-responsive, or if a letter is returned undeliverable, they may request assistance at the District, State or National level.

Army Donations Program customers should expect processing delays while this accountability campaign is underway. The timeline for when the program will resume will depend largely upon the timeliness of organizational responses.

VFW STORE:



“Brutal Battles of Vietnam” is now available! The 480-page book makes a great keepsake for veterans, family members, and collectors alike. Click <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/31296> to order a copy today.

Check out VFW Store’s new items: Ball caps, coins, apparel 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 1-800-821-2606 or go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=all-american>.



ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

LE FAVE, RICHARD E.”CHIC”, Commander, Department of Michigan, 1993-1994 and a Life Member of Tousignant-Ramile Post 5670, Gwinn, Michigan, May 4, 2017.

THOMAS, RALPH E., Commander, Department of Georgia, 2006-2007 and a Life Member of George Edward Smith Post 4985, Dalton, Georgia, April 8, 2017.