

# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

# BULLETIN

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



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 42, NO. 2

SEPT. 2017

### *SERVICE NOT SELF*

#### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Membership numbers are already tracking below last year's figures. We must work together to finally turn this ever-steady decline in membership around! We're already a quarter of the way through the 2017-18 membership year, and recruiting opportunities will soon lessen as the winter months quickly approach. The time to act is now! Find local events and ask if you can have a booth. Bring materials for our programs, as well as recruiting materials. If you need anything from Membership, call or email us at 1-888-JOIN-VFW or [Membership@vfw.org](mailto:Membership@vfw.org). In order to make a strong recruiting effort, you have to step out of your Post and get involved in the community.

#### **ALL-AMERICAN**

To those Posts, Districts, and Departments who attained All-American status in the 2016-17 membership year, the National Membership Department wishes to once more extend our gratitude for all your hard work. For those Commanders who were unable to attend the National Convention in New Orleans, your All-American packet with cap, badge, citation, lapel pin and streamer is being sent to your Department Headquarters to be presented to you officially. All framed Post (home) citations are included in the shipments going to Departments as well.

In addition, All-American Quartermasters may purchase an All-American cap through the VFW Store by going online to [www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org) or by calling them directly at 1-800-821-2606. All-American Quartermaster pins can be purchased through the Membership Department. To order a lapel pin, the cost is \$45.00 (including shipping) and you can contact Carla Darnell at [cdarnell@vfw.org](mailto:cdarnell@vfw.org) or at 1-816-756-3390, ext. 6208.

The Membership Department has decided to bring back the issuance of All-American pins to the Posts. All 279 All-American Posts will be receiving a package of 25 pins in the near future. If more than 25 are needed, they can be ordered through the VFW Store: <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/21648?Action=SkipLogin> or by calling 1-800-621-2606 and identifying Product Code 00404.

#### **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](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:**

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

***What will your Legacy be?***

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

Top 5 Recruiters (as of 8/28/17):

**Larry M. Gerlt - 52**  
VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

**William H. Whiddon - 38**  
VFW Post 10695, Dept. of AZ

**Geoffrey D. Lyster - 36**  
VFW Post 9835, Dept. of VA

**Joseph T. Allen - 36**  
VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

**Travis W. Holden - 34**  
VFW Post 738, Dept. of IA

## **NO DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS**

### **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:**

#### **VFW Sponsors VA Women Veterans Summit**

In August, the VFW sponsored the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Women Veterans Summit in Houston. More than 800 attendees were expected, but Hurricane Harvey limited attendance and forced the summit to conclude a day early. Though time was minimal, VA's Director of the Center for Women Veterans and VFW member, Kayla Williams, worked to ensure those in attendance were able to participate in various panel discussions focused on women veterans health, service, outreach, and benefits. There was also a screening of the documentary *Journey to Normal*.

#### **VFW-SVA Student Veteran Legislative Fellowship Opens Application Process**

The application process for the 2018 class of legislative fellows has opened. The program, which is in its fourth year, is for VFW members who attend school on a campus with an approved SVA chapter. Ten student-veterans are selected for the semester-long program. Focusing on real policy issues faced by veterans, the military and their families, the capstone of the program is participation in the VFW's Legislative Conference. In the past, this capstone has included meetings at the White House and with senior officials from the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Labor. Those selected also spend time with their VFW Departments on Capitol Hill pushing the VFW's legislative priorities. The program has generated actual legislation. Recently, two laws were passed to help veterans and improve VA. In addition, nearly half of all past fellows have earned academic credit from their schools. Alumni of the program have gone on to be more active in all levels of the VFW and even find jobs on Capitol Hill. This is a unique and valuable program, and we ask for your support in finding qualified candidates to apply. You can learn more by visiting: <https://www.vfw.org/studentfellowship>.

### **“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 six to eight 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](mailto: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, 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.

### **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](http://www.VietnamWar50th.com) on the Commemorative Partner Program.** The approval process is usually less than 30 days. Partners will be kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved as a Partner, the Commemoration will provide organizations with a starter kit of materials for developing and implementing their programs. If you have any questions regarding the Commemorative Partner Program application process, please direct them to: [whs.vnwar50th\\_cpp@mail.mil](mailto:whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil). For Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam>.

**PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11.** Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11 is designated as “Patriot Day.” The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States. For flags and other patriotic items, click here <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic>.

**NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 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 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 addition of the Freedoms Foundation Trip offered to the top 10 national high school teachers and the new teacher award entry deadlines for the 2017-18 program year. The deadline 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](http://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.

**VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM MONTH IN NOVEMBER.** VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are encouraged to volunteer in their schools to talk about their military and home front experiences to students. Invite your local military recruiter to join you to talk about military service today. Additional information can be found in the 2017-18 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman's Guide. Simply visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and LOG IN (or create an account if you do not have one.) After logging in, you'll be redirected to the "My VFW" page where you will click on VFW Training & Support and then Community Service, Youth Scholarships & Activities where you'll have access to the "CHAIRMAN GUIDES." *Participate in this activity as part of "National Veterans Awareness" week, November 5-11, as designated by Congress.*

**2016-17 FRED C. HALL MEMORIAL OUTSTANDING POST SPECIAL PROJECT WINNER ANNOUNCED AT VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION IN NEW ORLEANS.** "Warriors in Transition Event" was this year's recipient from Sacramento Mountain VFW Post No. 11999 in Cloudcroft, N.M. The Post helps service members from the nearby Fort Bliss (Texas) Warrior Transition Battalion and their families to rest and recuperate from their traumas of war in a peaceful, alpine environment. Since 2011, Post members have generously donated their time and money, working with the local community to ensure visiting service members and their families receive accommodations, meals, and

access to activities like fishing, hiking, swimming, and other outdoor recreational entertainment – free of charge.

**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.

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

#### **VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”**

The spring 2018 application is now available online at [www.vfw.org/scholarship](http://www.vfw.org/scholarship). Deadline for applications is November 15.

The VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” program awarded 107 scholarships totaling over \$497,000 for the 2017 fall semester. Since beginning the program in January 2014, 825 veterans have been awarded scholarships totaling over \$3.6 million.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:**

#### **REQUESTING CEREMONIAL RIFLES, AMMUNITION & MILITARY EQUIPMENT -**

Department Adjutants and Quartermasters are asked to remind all Post officers to refer to the revised information located at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) where they will need to log in to the “My VFW” page and select the “VFW Training and Support” link, then “Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates” where you’ll have access to “Training Guides & Standard Operating Procedures” and then click on “Ceremonial Rifles, Ammunition & Military Equipment” when requesting a “conditional” donation of any government military equipment, ceremonial rifles or ammunition.

Before contacting the governmental agency, a formal written request is to be addressed and mailed to the Adjutant General at VFW National Headquarters, and must be completed and signed by the current *Post Commander, Post Adjutant or Post Quartermaster*, one of whom needs to be the contact person.

Also to be included is that contact person’s mailing address and phone number, not the Post address. Address the request to the Adjutant General, VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Include the proper information as outlined in the “Ceremonial Rifles, Ammunition & Military Equipment” pages in the website. It is requested that a Post *not* go through their Department Headquarters (but send them a courtesy copy). This only slows down the processing and creates unnecessary paperwork for the Department personnel.

**CAPS DURING CHAPLAIN PRAYERS** – In accordance with the Ritual General Rule 13(b), “members will follow the action of the Chaplain or presiding officer relative to removal of caps during prayers; if uncovering, the hat shall be placed on the extended closed fingers of the right hand in such a way that the Cross of Malta is exposed and held over the heart.”

## **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, is in good condition and you have found it very useful. 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. You may receive a reminder in the mail this month if you haven't had a chance to respond. Please know that your continued support gives fellow 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!

**VFW's Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2017** – This month we are mailing the VFW's Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2017. Summer is coming to a close and the holidays are quickly approaching! We certainly hope you enjoy these special edition cards along with the bonus gifts that are included in the package. In the letter that accompanies the cards and gifts, we are asking you to consider making some time to visit a hospitalized service member or veteran in your community. You can visit [heroes.vfw.org/volunteer](http://heroes.vfw.org/volunteer) to find out about volunteering at your local VA facility. And please remember, the VFW's life-changing programs would not be available for veterans of all generations without the generosity of its members. Your donation to the VFW helps support programs for veterans and service members right in your own Department.

**Helping the VFW for Generations to Come** – One of the easiest ways to continue providing support for your fellow veterans and their families is to name the VFW in your will or trust. It's easy and only takes a few words, and you remain in control of your assets during your lifetime. Just a small percentage of your assets could go a long way in helping the VFW continue its mission into the future.

Free estate planning information is always available by contacting the VFW Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119, email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org) or visit [www.vfw.org/plannedgiving](http://www.vfw.org/plannedgiving).

**Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism?** – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 7108 or email us at [partners@vfw.org](mailto:partners@vfw.org) with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

**VFW Friends of Freedom** – If you are not already a member of the VFW's online community, please visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and look for the gold banner that says "Find Out What's Happening" to sign up. As a member of the VFW's Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation's veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit [www.vfw.org/vfwatwork](http://www.vfw.org/vfwatwork) and click on "**Read VFW success stories**" to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans' rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!



**Department Resources** – Many great resources are available for your Department to use in promoting fundraising programs. You need only go to [heroes.vfw.org/vfwtools](http://heroes.vfw.org/vfwtools). The latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department can be found here. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items for your Department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mailing schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the Department Resources tools to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

### **MEMBER BENEFITS:**

Proudly serving America's Heroes. VFW members, save each time you rent at Alamo® Rent A Car, Enterprise Rent-A-Car® or National Car Rental®. You'll enjoy great rates, award-winning customer service and a wide selection of vehicles at our neighborhood and airport locations.

To learn more and shop rates with VFW's three preferred car rental partners, visit Travel Services at [www.vfw.org/memberbenefits](http://www.vfw.org/memberbenefits).

### **VFW FOUNDATION:**

#### **VFW FOUNDATION NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR THE REGULAR & POST/VFW AUXILIARY COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS**

Applications are now being accepted for the VFW Foundation Regular and Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grants.

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> 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](mailto:jcouch@vfw.org) or phone at (816) 968-1174.

## **VFW STORE:**



Have you seen the VFW Store's new catalog? Go online to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems> to see our selection of new polos, jackets, caps and more!



Check out POW-MIA items at <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia> and order now for POW-MIA Recognition Day, September 15.



School's in session – advertise your Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests! Hang posters and hand out brochures at the school, your Post and around town. For Voice of Democracy supplies, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy>; for Patriot's Pen supplies, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen>.

Get your "Buddy"® Poppy campaign items such as aprons, table covers, posters and more at <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy>.



## **ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:**

HARROW, JR., JOHN J., Past National Chief of Staff, 2001-2002, Commander, Department of Michigan, 1988-1989 and a Silver Legacy Life Member of Arenac County Post 3724, Standish, Michigan, August 15, 2017.

HUDSON, WILLIAM J., Adjutant, Department of Pacific Areas, July 2015 through August 2017, All American Commander, Department of Pacific Areas, 2014-2015 and a Gold Legacy Life Member of Fred J. Estes Post 9876, Pattaya City, Thailand, August 17, 2017.