

# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

# BULLETIN

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



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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### *SERVICE NOT SELF*

#### **“BUDDY”® POPPY:**

By the time you read this, VFW and VFW Auxiliary members will have spread out across the landscape distributing the familiar red poppy. Although we emphasize “Buddy”® Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of “Buddy”® Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, “Buddy”® Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, “Buddy”® Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as “They Gave, Will You?” is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW “Buddy”® Poppies.

**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 nonprofit 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 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 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>.

**VFW HONORS AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2017-18 PROGRAM YEAR.** Nominations for this award and the judging at the Post level should be close to completion and District level should be preparing to begin. Districts are to send their winning recipient from each level to the Departments by December 15. After department judging, each department forwards the names of its selections to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national award contest. Deadline is January 15, 2018. Each department's selections will receive a National Commendation citation.

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.

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.

**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>.

**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 Manual. 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.*

**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 2017–18 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman’s Manual.

**YOUTH HUNTING AND SHOOTING PROGRAMS.** VFW has been involved with the National Rifle Association (NRA) since 1920. Through the NRA, hundreds of VFW Posts provide hunter safety courses and sponsor shooting competitions. Annually, VFW and NRA offer junior and adult small-bore rifle and air rifle individual and team matches conducted by mail called Postal Matches\*.

NRA Postal Matches are designed for VFW rifle teams as a sport activity for youth and adults to build interest in rifle shooting and safety. A Postal Match is a match in which competitor’s fire on their home ranges using targets which have been marked for identification. The team match is a series of four monthly matches for teams sponsored by VFW Posts held from December through March. The individual VFW match is fired in the fall with a December closing date. The scores are then mailed to the NRA for ranking of awards.

If your VFW Post does not already participate in the Youth/Adult Rifle Program and would like to take part in a program that has great appeal for youngsters as well as adults, please go to the NRA's Postal Match website <http://www.nrahq.org/compete/dept-postal.asp>.

Complete program information, rules, and entry form (in PDF format) are available: <http://postalmatches.nra.org/documents/pdf/compete/Postals/VFW%20Postal.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact the NRA directly at:

National Rifle Association  
Competitive Shooting Division  
11250 Waples Mill Rd.  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
e-mail: [postals@nrahq.org](mailto:postals@nrahq.org)  
phone: (703) 267-1482

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact the VFW Programs Office at 816-968-1155 or e-mail [qcarroll@vfw.org](mailto:qcarroll@vfw.org).

\*There are clubs and Posts, etc. that have local shooting programs all around the world. They teach gun safety and target shooting. Often, they wish to compete against other groups but cannot afford to travel to competitions. The NRA created "postal matches," where a team of shooters can have their own local competition using paper targets. These are NRA-sanctioned targets and must be signed by local officials verifying the manner in which the competition was conducted and the age of the participants. Those targets are then sent to the NRA Postal Match Program and, using the targets from the various groups, the NRA judges determine who wins, places, etc. and awards prizes. That way, the shooting match can involve shooters and clubs from almost anywhere without anyone having to travel. It's all done through the U.S. Postal System. Hence, the term, "Postal Match."

**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 Award

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 EMTs, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership.

**HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG ON DECEMBER 7.** Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates December 7 as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" and requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day. To order a flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags>.

**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 21, 2018 (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:**

**REMINDER:** Visit your local Sport Clips for a haircut from now until November 11 and donate to VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program. Your donation will provide scholarships to service members and veterans. **On Veterans Day**, November 11, Sport Clips will donate \$1 to the VFW for every haircut given at more than 1,500 locations nationwide. Please contact Linda Ferguson at 816-968-1102 if you have any questions about the Help A Hero Scholarship Program.

**Spring 2018 Help A Hero Scholarship application deadline ~ November 15, 2017.**

Click following link to apply: <http://www.vfw.org/Scholarship/>.

### **VFW FOUNDATION:**

#### **DONATE YOUR VEHICLE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Donate your car, truck, motorcycle, RV, or boat while supporting the VFW! Donating your vehicle is easy. Simply call 844-839-4438 (7 days a week—any questions answered) or complete the simple online form at [www.vfw.careasy.org](http://www.vfw.careasy.org).

Then schedule a convenient free pick-up time (most vehicles can be picked up within 24-72 hours).

You will receive an initial car donation receipt upon pick-up that can be used for tax purposes and if your vehicle sells for more than \$500, you will be mailed an additional more comprehensive "IRS Form 1098-C" receipt.

The VFW benefits 80% from the proceeds (after expenses) of any vehicle donation. That's money to support great VFW programs that directly aid military service personnel, veterans and their families!

#### **BURGER KING FRANCHISEE OWNED RESTAURANTS SUPPORTING UNMET NEEDS IN NOVEMBER**

The VFW Foundation is proud to announce that for the 11th consecutive year throughout the month of November participating Burger King (BK) Franchisee Owned restaurants across nearly 40 states will be raising funds for the Unmet Needs program. Since 2007, BK restaurants have contributed nearly \$4.5 million for the program. BK customers are encouraged to donate \$1 or more during a meal purchase. Proceeds will help veterans and military families with assistance for rent, mortgage, utilities, medical expenses, vehicle repairs and food/basic necessities.

We ask that you mobilize Post members, their families and friends to patronize their local Burger King and to thank the restaurant manager for his/her commitment. Also, be sure to publicize the campaign by mentioning Burger King on VFW Post websites (#VFWPostPride), message boards outside Post buildings, newsletters, or ask members to organize a BK food night-out. It's only natural that VFW members would support Burger King Franchisee Owners who strongly believe in patriotism by actively assisting U.S. military service personnel.

Beginning November 1, an updated list of participating Burger King locations will be available on the VFW website at [www.unmetneeds.com](http://www.unmetneeds.com). Check out the interactive map to find a participating Burger King location near you!

**MEMBERSHIP:**

We are now 33,218 behind our last year’s figures. The time to recruit is now! You have to leave the Post in order to recruit new members. Find local events and ask if you can have a booth. Farmers markets, gun shows, trade shows and fall festivals are all great places to recruit local veterans. Bring along recruiting materials as well as materials on VFW Programs. 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 get there.

**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/>.

**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 Three Recruiters (as of 10/26/2017):**

**Kenneth L. Kraft - 174**  
VFW Post 12140, Dept. of OR

**Larry M. Gerlt - 110**  
VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

**Donald Cannon - 69**  
VFW Post 10692, Dept. of EU

**DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:**

Post No. 12164 in Atlanta, GA  
Post No. 12165 in Trenton, NJ

**ADDITIONAL REMINDERS & CHANGES**

**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.

**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 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).

**Changes to Find a Post:** When a visitor goes to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) in their browser, one of the first links they will see at the top of the page is "Find a Post." Clicking on this link takes the visitor to a page where they can enter a zip code or city and state and then search by distance for VFW Posts in the area. Now, in addition to the Post information, they will now see the dues amount for the Posts in their area. This is useful information for veterans looking to connect with a local Post, but it is also useful information for recruiters looking to connect veterans with a Post in their area.

**DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:**

**VFW 2018 “Fly the Flag” Calendars** – The VFW is proud to let you know that you may soon receive a special edition 2018 “Fly the Flag” Calendar. You probably already received the Expanded Edition 2017-18 VFW Calendars in June ... but we created this special patriotic “Fly the Flag” 2018 VFW Calendar in recognition of your loyal membership and generous support of the VFW. We have also included a special BONUS 2018 “American Songbirds” Calendar for you to use or to share with a family member or friend, and two special edition birthday cards. We hope these special gifts inspire you to show your patriotism by displaying the United States flag, especially on the days marked in your calendars, to show everyone in your community that all veterans are remembered and appreciated for their service. You can visit [heroes.vfw.org/flag](http://heroes.vfw.org/flag) to print a free flag poster to display. **Your donations** to this important effort help **your VFW Department** serve veterans in need throughout the year. If you haven't done so already, please send as generous a gift as you can. Veterans in your Department are counting on you!

**VFW National Veterans Service Quarterly Supporter Newsletter** – Your quarterly update on what the VFW National Veterans Service is doing for veterans will arrive this month. You will see stories of how the VFW is in D.C. fighting for veterans' rights and legislation affecting veterans. We also share stories of VFW Service Officers assisting veterans in obtaining their VA benefits – all because of your support of this vital program. If you, or a fellow veteran, are in need of assistance in filing a VA claim, please visit [www.vfw.org/nvs](http://www.vfw.org/nvs).

**Simplify Your Will Planning While Supporting the VFW** – If you are considering a gift to the VFW through your will or other estate plans, you can visit [www.vfw.org/plannedgiving](http://www.vfw.org/plannedgiving) for helpful tips, tools and other FREE resources - to include our Estate Planning Kit that will help simplify and organize the estate planning process for you and your attorney. For assistance or more information, please contact our Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119 or email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org).

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

Unfortunately, for four out of five people who have a stroke, their first symptom *is a stroke*. The good news is that according to the American Heart Association, 80% of strokes and heart disease can be prevented. Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, uses sophisticated ultrasound to look inside your arteries for plaque buildup, a major risk factor for stroke. Find out your risk for vascular disease now **before you have any symptoms**, while you and your doctor can still take action. Screenings are convenient, painless, and non-invasive and you don't have to remove any clothing. We are coming to your neighborhood soon. Special discount pricing is available to members of the VFW, who receive four vital screenings for \$135, with the option of adding an osteoporosis screening for an additional \$10. VFW members should call toll-free today 1-800-679-5195 or [click here](#) and select Life Line Health Screening.

## **NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE:**

### **Call for nominations for VAVS National Advisory Committee (NAC) Volunteer of the Year Award.**

It is time to submit nominations for VAVS National Advisory Committee (NAC) Volunteer of the Year. This Award Program recognizes one male and one female volunteer who have given extraordinary service to our nation's veterans.

Nominees for this award must participate in established VAVS assignments, serve as a Regularly Scheduled (RS) Volunteer and meet one of the following criteria:

- a. Volunteer with hospitalized Veterans;
- b. Volunteer with Veterans at Outpatient Clinics;
- c. Volunteer with Veterans in Community Living Centers;
- d. Volunteer with homeless Veterans;
- e. Volunteer with Veterans and Veterans groups in the community;
- f. Host Veterans' functions in the Lodge, Post, Chapter, i.e., Memorial Day, July 4th and Veterans Day observances, etc. that qualify as a VAVS assignment;
- g. Host Veterans' functions outside the Lodge, Post, Chapter, i.e., fishing trips, day at the races, sporting events, etc. that qualify as a VAVS assignment;
- h. Visit Veterans confined to their homes as a VAVS assignment; Adopt-A-Veteran

All nominations must include the "NAC Volunteer of the Year Award Nomination Support Form," (attached) and be submitted in narrative format, not to exceed 500 words, with nominee's name in the upper left-hand corner. Letters of recommendation may be submitted with the narrative. The package must be submitted to James W. Moss, VFW National VAVS Representative at 200 Maryland Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002 or email at [jmoss@vfw.org](mailto:jmoss@vfw.org) by no later than **November 30, 2017**.

### **Accredited Representative of the Year Award**

The National Veterans Service (NVS) sponsors the Accredited Representative of the Year Award (service officer of the year). This award recognizes the contributions our professionally trained, accredited advocates make to the lives of veterans and their families every day.

Over the past two years, NVS has recognized service officers from the Departments of New Hampshire and Rhode Island respectively. These service officers stood out from our nationwide cadre for not only meeting the challenge daily, but exceeding it through exemplary commitment, technical knowledge, and customer service.

We will begin soliciting candidates after the first of the year. We encourage every Department to put forth a candidate. A nomination shows that Department leadership is aware of the significant contributions your program makes in your community every day.

More information will follow in future bulletins.

## NAC Volunteer of the Year Award Nomination Support Form

Name of Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ VA Facility \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ Date Prepared \_\_\_\_\_

**Purpose:** This form should be completed as part of the preparations for submitting a nomination for any volunteer who is being considered for the NAC Volunteer of the Year Award. This award recognizes volunteers who have given extraordinary service to our nation's veterans. Two award recipients (one male and one female) are selected each year by the Executive Committee of the VA Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee (NAC).

**Nomination Procedure:** The required format for nomination submissions is letter style, between 300-500 words. It is recommended that a completed copy of this form be attached to the nomination letter as a supporting document. Letters of support from local VA facilities are also allowed to accompany each submission. All local nominations must be submitted to the affiliated volunteer's National VAVS Representative who will select the organization's candidate to be forwarded to the VA Voluntary Service Office on the national letterhead of the nominating organization.

**Criteria:** Nominees for this award must participate in established VAVS assignments, serve as a regularly scheduled volunteer and meet one of the criteria listed below. To assist in development of the formal nomination letter, complete each of the sections below, as applicable for the potential nominee, making sure to clearly distinguish between current volunteer activities and past volunteer activities.

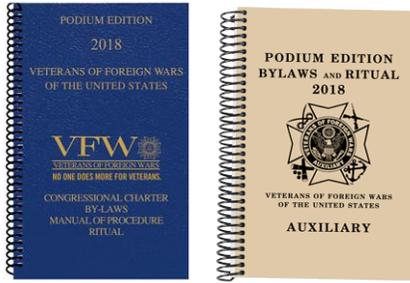
Criterion	Description of Volunteer Activities in Year of Nomination (Current)*	Description of Volunteer Activities in all preceding years*
a. Volunteer with hospitalized Veterans.		
b. Volunteer with Veterans at outpatient clinics.		
c. Volunteer with Veterans in community living centers.		
d. Volunteer with homeless Veterans.		
e. Volunteer with Veterans and veterans groups in the community.		
f. Host Veterans' functions outside the Lodge, Post, Chapter, e.g., Memorial Day, July 4th.		

g. Veterans Day observances, etc., that qualify as a VAVS assignment.		
h. Host veterans' functions outside the Lodge, Post, Chapter, e.g., fishing trips, day at the races, sporting events, etc., that qualify as a VAVS assignment.		
i. Visit Veterans confined to their homes as a VAVS assignment.		
j. Adopt-A-Veteran.		
<b>Additional Considerations</b>	<b>Description of Volunteer Activities in Year of Nomination (Current)</b>	<b>Description of Volunteer Activities in all preceding years</b>
Other factors involving VAVS assignments the nominator believes are noteworthy.		

**VFW STORE:**

**Order your Department Mid-Winter apparel today!** Raise funds for your Department by having a shirt made to sell at your Mid-Winter conference. Contact Kim Winston at 816-968-1181 or email her at [kwinston@vfw.org](mailto:kwinston@vfw.org) to place your order or get shirt design ideas! Please order by November 30.

**Veterans Day is a great time to inspect your Post's flags for rips, fraying or fading.** To order a new U.S. flag, check out VFW Store's wide selection at <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags> or get a POW-MIA flag at <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP237>. We also offer state flags: <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/flags/otheroutdoorflags>.



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

ROMANO, DOMINIC J. "DOM," All American Commander, Department of Connecticut, 1971-1972, Department Adjutant/Quartermaster, 1979-1996, Department Quartermaster, 1996-2010 and a Bronze Legacy Life member of Department of Connecticut Member-at-Large, October 1, 2017.

SANDBERG, WILLIAM C. "BILL," Commander, Department of Georgia, 2016-2017 and a Gold Legacy Life member of Chickamauga Post 3679, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, October 5, 2017.

HANEY, CHARLES E. "CHUCK," National Council of Administration member, 2012-2014, All American Commander, Department of West Virginia, 2008-2009 and a Gold Legacy Life member of Hershel "Woody" Williams Post 7048, East Fairmont, West Virginia, October 13, 2017.

MOYE, ALVIN J. "AL," All American Commander, Department of Alaska, 2011-2012 and Gold Legacy Life member of Northland Post 10252, Mountain View, Alaska, October 17, 2017.

CURRIEO, JAMES R. "BOB," Past Commander-in-Chief, 1982-1983, Director of PAC in the DC office, 1989-1996 and a Gold Legacy Life member of Sierra Vista Post 9972, Sierra Vista, Arizona, October 17, 2017.