

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

BULLETIN

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 42, NO. 6

JAN. 2018

SERVICE NOT SELF

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING:

119th National Convention housing will officially open February 20, 2018. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at www.vfw.org. The convention website will also have general convention information including the registration form and links to other convention related information for Kansas City, MO, July 21-25, 2018, including a tentative agenda.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION: Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a national convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the VFW National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the national convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee provided the Post has paid the mandated \$25 advance registration fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, ATTN: Convention Registration or you may register on-line by going to www.vfw.org.

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE:

Call for nominations for Accredited Representative of the Year Award

The Accredited Representative of the Year Award recognizes the contributions our professionally trained, accredited advocates make to the lives of veterans and their families every day. 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.

ELIGIBILITY:

Eligible nominees include:

- Department Service Officers
- Assistant Department Service Officers
- Claims Consultants/Representative/Analysts/Reviewer
- Veterans Service Officers/Representatives

Individuals NOT eligible for this award are:

- VFW National Staff
- VFW Contractors
- VFW accredited representatives whose primary employer is other than the VFW or a State veterans agency

SELECTION CRITERIA:

1. Nominees for the annual award must have demonstrated exceptional efforts in assisting veterans and their families during the 12 months preceding the April 30 deadline.
2. A brief summary (no more than 2 pages) is to be submitted which explains the who, what, when, where, and how the nominee's efforts are considered exemplary. Suggested items for consideration (but not limited to):
 - # of individuals with VFW POAs assisted
 - Community outreach conducted
 - Excellent customer service provided (examples required)
 - Use of VetraSpec or another electronic claims processing system (specify system)
 - Submission of TIMELY monthly reports (if located in a VA regional office)
 - # of VFW members recruited

AWARDS:

Each Department Commander may nominate one eligible individual for this award. The individual who is ultimately chosen as the recipient of the award will be furnished round-trip travel (for the winner and one guest) and two night's hotel accommodations to attend the VFW National Convention where the award will be presented. A stipend in the amount of \$599.00 will also be given to the recipient to cover out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the trip.

Please note that the selection committee will review our Team Support database to view the number of incidents (both positive and negative, if any) reported to NVS. Additionally, the results of test scores at proficiency training, results of any site visits, and other criteria MAY be used in making the final decision.

Nominations may be sent to the Director, VFW National Veterans Service, either by mail (200 Maryland Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002, ATTN: Service Officer Award), faxed to 202-547-3196 (ATTN: Service Officer Award), or scanned and emailed to taldana@vfw.org.

Nominations must be received not later than April 30.

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.

VFW FOUNDATION:

THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT

The Home Depot (HD) Foundation Community Impact Grant will begin accepting applications for 2018 on February 1. Eligible VFW Posts may receive up to \$5,000 to fix up their buildings; however, of course, there is no guarantee of funding.

To help you complete the 2018 application, the VFW Foundation will provide an updated step-by-step how-to-apply guide prepared for your usage.

Keep an eye out for updates on The Home Depot (HD) Foundation Community Impact Grant in upcoming issues of the Headquarters Bulletin.

Thank you!

SHOP AMAZONSMILE AND DONATE TO VFW FOUNDATION

Even though the holidays have passed, VFW members and supporters can continue to support VFW programs and services by shopping through AmazonSmile and Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Foundation. Purchase items that are eligible for donations are indicated on the products pages.

Copy and share the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/43-1758998> with your fellow VFW members and supporters and begin shopping to help support the programs and services of the VFW through the VFW Foundation. Bookmark the AmazonSmile link and support the VFW Foundation every time you shop on Amazon.com.

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.

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 may be used for tax purposes in 2019 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 veterans, military personnel and their families!

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ACTION CORPS:

VFW Delivers Petition Urging Congress to Expand VA Caregiver Program

The VFW, Disabled American Veterans, The American Legion and Paralyzed Veterans of America joined forces in support of pre-9/11 caregivers who are unjustly denied access to the comprehensive caregiver services VA provides the caregivers of post-9/11 veterans. Together, they delivered a petition with more than 182,000 signatures calling on Congress to expand VA comprehensive caregiver assistance benefits to disabled veterans of all eras. They were joined by Senate and House members also calling on their colleagues to pass caregiver extension legislation. "Caregivers of military veterans, the overwhelming majority of whom are family members, put their lives and careers on hold, often accepting great emotional and financial burdens to ensure their veterans have a meaningful quality of life and stay in their homes instead of having to receive institutional nursing home care," said Bob Wallace, VFW's Assistant Adjutant General and Executive Director, Washington Office. [Read the press release.](#)

VFW Opposes New VA Privatization Attempt

Congressman Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.) recently introduced a bill that would break our promise to veterans. H.R. 4457, the *Veterans Empowerment Act*, would dismantle the VA health care system, charge veterans for service-connected health care, and reduce VA to an insurance program for veterans. Congressman Lamborn and bill cosponsors, Congressmen Mark Meadows (R-N.C.) and Trent Franks (R-Ariz.), must not be allowed to advance this dangerous proposal. Urge your member of Congress to oppose H.R. 4457 and let Congress know if they cannot take care of America's veterans, then Congress should quit creating them. [Click here to take action!](#)

Millions Unaware of New TRICARE Costs

The VFW released the results of a survey that confirmed that potentially millions of military TRICARE beneficiaries are still unaware that in one month their health care program costs are about to increase. The VFW survey was conducted between Oct. 26 and Nov. 8, with more than 11,800 responses tallied. Only 48 percent of respondents were aware of any TRICARE program changes, which take effect in the new year. Thirty percent of respondents identified themselves as TRICARE Prime users, but only 12 percent reported being aware that Prime co-payments for military retirees were increasing. [TRICARE reports](#) 4.6 million beneficiaries in its Prime category, and 1.94 million using either TRICARE Standard or Extra. The changes were mandated by the fiscal year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act. Also beginning Jan. 1, TRICARE Select replaces TRICARE Standard and Extra, and with it comes a new flat-rate co-payment and enrollment fee. VFW National Commander Keith Harman said "I can only hope DOD ups their game to fill in the notification gaps before the Jan. 1 implementation date." [Learn more here.](#)

MEMBERSHIP:

We are now 32,981 behind our last year's figures as of December 15, 2017. 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. 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.

EARLY BIRD AWARD - VFW LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The top three Post Commanders and Quartermasters and the top two District Commanders in each division on January 1, 2018, will be awarded:

- A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., March, 4-7, 2018.

POST COMMANDER AND QUARTERMASTER - NEW AND RECOVERED MEMBER AWARD

The top ten Post Commanders and Quartermasters in each division who report more than 50 new and recovered annual members by January 1, 2018, will each be awarded:

- A distinctive leather zippered Padfolio.

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.

NEW!

Now Department and Post Quartermasters have the option to enroll new members as installment Life on the Online Membership System. See the Hip Pocket Training for Nov/Dec link.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixuesaN90Ps&index=16&list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi

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?

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Top Three Recruiters (as of 12/15/2017):

Kenneth L. Kraft - 215
VFW Post 12140, Dept. of OR

Larry M. Gerlt - 128
VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

Donald Cannon - 94
VFW Post 10692, Dept. of EU

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS & CHANGES

Access to OMS: The number of proxies authorized by Department Quartermasters has now been increased from five to ten.

Digital Membership Cards: Members now have the ability to download their digital version of their membership card. Depending on whether a member has an iPhone or Android, they will be able to download and access their digital membership card from the VFW app.

This will not replace the physical VFW membership card - we will still be sending out membership cards to all our annual and Life members. This is intended as another option for our members' convenience. When asked to show a VFW membership card, a member can either produce their physical card out of their wallet or display their digital card on their smart phone.

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 covered, please email them to 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.

Changes to “Find a Post”: When a visitor goes to 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 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.

Coming soon to VFW.org, “Find a Post” will also include overseas Posts!

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

2018 VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) Annual Campaign Kicks Off – Your support is urgently needed for the 2018 VFW NVS Annual Campaign so we can assist all generations of America's veterans – especially those now home from Iraq and Afghanistan – receive the benefits they have earned. We can't fight for veterans alone. Your donation right now ensures the VFW's national force of highly-trained service officers is at the ready to help America's veterans navigate the complicated VA system.

Annually, every VFW Service Officer helps an average of 317 veterans and their survivors cut through red tape to receive the VA benefits they have earned. Last year, the Department of Veterans Affairs reported that the veterans represented by the VFW received more than \$7 billion in earned disability compensation and pension benefits. This includes more than \$1.2 billion in new benefits, submitted on behalf of more than 116,000 veterans. This service is available to all veterans – FREE OF CHARGE – and made possible through donations. Please watch your mail for this important campaign.

In this package, many will receive a 2018 Petition to Congress and a Memorial Day 2018 card. Please sign the petition and card and return them. We will be collecting the petitions and delivering them to Congress to let them know that we will not sit by and allow Congress to balance the budget on the backs of veterans. The cards will be distributed to hospitalized veterans and service members. Some members will receive the 2018 member survey to fill out and return.

Your 2017 Year-End Tax Receipt Is On Its Way! – Mid-January, we will be mailing the 2017 year-end tax receipts to VFW members who have requested to receive one at the end of the year.

VFW's 2018 Priority Goals Announcement to Friends of Freedom – The VFW 2018 Priority Goals have been released and you will soon receive an email outlining these goals. To learn more about the VFW's goals for 2018, please visit www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service.

Sign Your Name, Change Your Future – VFW members like you frequently tell us, “I wish I could do more.” Learn ways you can impact future generations of veterans just by signing your name – and

with gifts that cost you nothing now. Call the VFW Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119, email plannedgiving@vfw.org or visit 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 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 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 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!

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:

Legislative Conference ~ Washington, D.C.

There will NOT be a check presentation this year at the Legislative Conference. Please send your Veterans & Military Support donation directly to the office:

Veterans & Military Support
406 West 34th Street, Suite 902
Kansas City, MO 64111

ATTN: VMS Chairmen - If you picked up Veterans & Military Support 2017-18 lapel pins at National Convention, now would be a good time to mail in your donation which will represent your Department's fundraiser for VMS to qualify for All-American.

"BUDDY"[®] POPPY:

By the time you read this, VFW and 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.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required, do not use “ASAP.” Miscellaneous items (coin cans, 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.

VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES. The silver, gold and diamond anniversary “Buddy”® Poppies are only for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th, 75th or 100th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don’t pass those costs on to the Posts. The bigger issue is that we simply don’t have the inventory on hand to fulfill the potential orders that could come in if we open these items up to be ordered by anyone at any time.

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 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

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.

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>.

FLY THE FLAG ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR'S BIRTHDAY. The U.S. federal flag code has been amended by Congress and signed by the president to add Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to the list of days on which the flag should be displayed. His birthday is observed on the third Monday in January; therefore, the flag should be flown on that day. To purchase a U.S. flag from the VFW Store, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags>.

Many communities are conducting community service projects that day. It is highly suggested that all members support this day of service.

VFW HONORS AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2017-18 PROGRAM YEAR. Nominations for this award and the judging at the Post and District level should be completed and the Department level should be close to completion. After Department judging, each Department forwards the entries 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.

The Smart/Maher VFW 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 the VFW National Convention in July 2018 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Order the Citizenship Education Teacher Recognition Citation from VFW Store, product #4320, <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/23980>. Present to all teachers nominated at all levels for the national award.

The Department report forms for the Teacher Award program are due to National Headquarters by January 31, 2018. You may forward them by email, to Tbeauchamp@vfw.org or fax to (816) 968-1149, to the attention of Tammy Beauchamp or they can be mailed to: VFW Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. If you have any questions, please contact the VFW Programs office at (816) 756-3390, ext. 6287.

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.

SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM. Annually, the VFW awards three individuals who are: Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Summit Award recipients and/or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the qualities of that rank. An

applicant has to have reached his or her 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection. Awards are as follows: \$5,000 – 1st place scholarship, \$3,000 – 2nd place scholarship and \$1,000 – 3rd place scholarship. The deadline for entry to a VFW Post is March 1st. A program brochure (designed to be duplicated for distribution) can be viewed at http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/MY_VFW/ScoutoftheYearBrochureandEntryForm.pdf. For Scouting certificates go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=scout%20of%20the%20year>.

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>.

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
email: 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 email 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."

PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT DEADLINE REMINDER. The deadline for mailing the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winner packets to National Headquarters is January 15, 2018 (even if they have not been personally notified they are the winner).

The deadline for your completed Department report/summary forms (for both programs) to be sent to National is not until January 31, 2018. Please let us know if you need blank District or Department report forms emailed (in PDF or Word format) by contacting Quentin Carroll at Youthscholarships@vfw.org or 816-968-1155.

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.

WORLD WAR I COMMISSION PARTNERSHIP. In observance of the upcoming centennial of World War I, a total of 100 matching grants of up to \$2,000 a piece will be awarded for the restoration of 100 World War I Memorials across the United States. The first 50 of these were announced on September 27, 2017 and the second 50 will come from ROUND #2 of the matching grant challenge.

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

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

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

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

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

There is a process for submitting a grant application, which helps to guide the local organization in assessing the project and getting all the right approvals (local governments, historical societies, etc.) before beginning any work. In their blog, they got a question from a VFW Post about the grant writing process which is meant to help guide the applicant -

<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/100-cities-100-memorials-blog.html>.

To participate and submit a grant request go directly to <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/2016-07-06-00-52-42.html>.

For any follow-up questions, please contact Lynn Rolf, Programs Director at lrolf@vfw.org or 816-968-1116.

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.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

Humana Medicare Announcement

VFW is excited to announce that we have joined together with Humana to give you access to their flexible Medicare plans that work specifically for military veterans. Humana goes above and beyond insurance to encourage healthier lifestyles. Together, you can build a road map for a better future. Humana is offering a suite of Medicare products to VFW members, including Medicare Supplement, Medicare Advantage and a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan.

Learning how Medicare plans work is crucial when shopping for an insurance policy that fits your needs. Whether you're looking for Medicare Supplement, Medicare Advantage or even a Part D Plan, Humana can help you find a plan that meets your specific needs.

For additional information on these options, click [here](#) or call 1-877-713-6177.

VFW STORE:

Have a Post or Department Anniversary coming up? Need apparel, giveaways or other items with your logo to commemorate the event? VFW Store can help. We have thousands of products available at competitive rates. To get a **FREE, NO OBLIGATION QUOTE**, call Kim Winston at 816-968-1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org.



One of the most effective and visible ways to show your pride in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary, and raise awareness of their programs in your community, is to purchase branded merchandise from the VFW Store. When you purchase items through the VFW Store, you know your money stays in the VFW family and is used to assist veterans, military service members and their families.

How can VFW Store items attract new members?

They Spark Curiosity – When the VFW or VFW Auxiliary logo is displayed on a shirt, pin, table drape or flag, it will cause potential members to find out what it stands for. Their curiosity may help drive them to your recruitment booth or your Department’s website or Facebook page to learn more.

They Start Conversations – VFW Store items can lead potential members from initial curiosity to meaningful conversations. Items are great “icebreakers” for asking potential members if they are familiar with the VFW or the VFW Auxiliary, and if they have a veteran in their family.

They Last – The longevity of branded, high-quality merchandise makes it messaging that lasts. The totes, magnets, stickers or other items that you purchase will be promoting the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary, and starting conversations for many years to come.

They’re Worn/Used by Supporters – Generally, members who have had a great experience with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary are the ones who will proudly wear or use VFW Store items. This means that every time they are asked about that shirt or pin, they will be gushing about how amazing their organization is!

To request a current copy of the VFW Store Catalog, call 1-800-821-2606. If you would like to view and purchase items online, you can visit the VFW Store at www.vfwstore.org.

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

PERREIRA, PRINCE K., All American Commander, Department of Hawaii, 1994-1995 and a Life member of Wilbert Wah Hu Tom Post 3850, Wailuku, Hawaii, November 17, 2017.