

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

BULLETIN

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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SERVICE NOT SELF

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION:

Housing opened in February and response, again this year, has been overwhelming! Many department blocks are now **sold out**. Where possible, we have secured additional rooms at our official VFW hotels. However, as we have a large number of rooms blocked with the hotels, in many hotels, we are at capacity.

VFW Departments were notified on Wednesday, April 25, that any remaining rooms available by Friday, May 4, would be put into “free-sell” (one main block) in order to fulfill as many waitlisted reservations as possible. The **June 18** housing reservation deadline was **NOT** a guarantee there would be rooms available in your department block by that date. Housing reservations are **always first-come, first-served**. Based on our needs, and if available, we will work with an overflow hotel to secure additional rooms as needed. We will keep VFW Departments updated on the housing situation.

The official hotels selected for the 119th National Convention are: Kansas City Marriott Downtown (VFW Headquarters Hotel) \$154 (single/double) \$184 triple/quad; Westin Crown Center Hotel (Auxiliary Headquarters Hotel) \$145 (single/double), \$170 triple, \$195 quad; Hotel Phillips - \$189 (single/double); Aladdin Holiday Inn - \$164 (single/double), \$174 triple, \$184 quad; Crowne Plaza - \$159 (single/double) \$179 triple, \$199 quad; Sheraton Crown Center - \$145 (single/double), \$170 triple, \$195 quad. Tax rates for Kansas City are 18.1% plus a city development fee of \$1.75. Tax rates are subject to change. For VFW Department housing assignments, refer to the list located on the convention website at www.vfw.org/convention.

For additional information regarding housing, call VFW Housing #877-464-6840.

Convention Registration: Section 222 of the National By-Laws requires each Post will pay, in advance, a national convention registration fee of \$25 which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the national convention. Each additional delegate attending the national convention will pay a \$10 delegate 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.

MEMBERSHIP:

As of May 30, 2018, we need 37,745 members for National to reach 100%. The time to recruit is now! Find local events and arrange to get a booth. Farmers markets, gun shows, trade shows, spring and

summer 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.

INSTALLMENT LIFE

Now Post and Department 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=PLS17GMBriUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi.

Note: Once the member is enrolled, the member will receive a confirmation email. They have to click and approve the installment in order for the installment to be completed.

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/>.

Recruiting Notes: To be eligible for All-American, all Post, District and Department levels need to make sure that all new recruit and reinstated members equal to 5% of Prior Year Total.

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.

In March 2018, annual members who are five months prior to their membership expiration date should have received a Wrap Edition of their VFW magazine with a special offer to upgrade to Life membership.

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 5/30/2018):

Larry M. Gerlt - 415
VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

Kenneth L. Kraft - 362
VFW Post 12140, Dept. of OR

DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:

VFW Post No. 12172 in Brandon, Mississippi
VFW Post No. 12173 in Toms River, New Jersey

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS & CHANGES

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=PLS17GMBrijUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi- [HYPERLINK IT? ASK TARA.](#)

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ACTION CORPS:

Congress Passes Historic VA MISSION Act

With a vote of 92-5, the Senate overwhelmingly passed S. 2372, the [VA MISSION Act of 2018](#). The VFW thanks the Senators who put veterans first and voted in favor of this important bill, which is the result of bipartisan and bicameral work by members of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs to improve VA health care, expand caregiver benefits to pre-9/11 veterans, fix the Choice Program, consolidate VA's confusing community care programs and improve VA's infrastructure to better serve veterans. The bill now heads to the White House. President Trump has announced he will sign it. The VFW thanks its members and supporters who wrote and called their members of Congress. [See how your senators voted.](#) [See how your representative voted.](#)

VFW FOUNDATION:

VFW MOBILIZES TO COMBAT HUNGER

It is a sad realization that 1 out of 8 Americans do not have enough to eat and that 27% of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans face daily hunger. In response, the VFW will be collaborating with Humana and local Kansas City-based nonprofit food providers, After the Harvest <https://aftertheharvestkc.org/> and Harvesters <https://www.harvesters.org/> to launch the campaign "Uniting to Combat Hunger" on June 6.

The goal of the campaign is to provide 50,000 meals in the greater Kansas City area, and the project coincides with the 119th VFW National Convention, July 21-25, also in KC. As a kick-off, volunteers will participate in an After The Harvest “gleaning” event on June 6 to include hand picking edible crops that still remain in local farmers’ fields after a formal harvest.

In addition, Harvesters will place food donation barrels at various KC businesses as well as on the VFW National Convention floor. Convention-goers are encouraged to bring canned goods to donate. The Harvesters Mobile Pantry will be on site if attendees prefer to purchase food items at Convention. There will also be a Convention food-packing opportunity on July 21-22 where VFW/Auxiliary members can be part of the VFW efforts to combat hunger.

The VFW Foundation and Humana will take this hunger alleviation campaign to many different U.S. cities/regions in the upcoming months. The involvement of VFW Posts will be crucial to the program’s success. Stay tuned for details as they develop.

For questions, please contact Richard Freiburghouse, VFW Foundation Manager, at (816) 968-1124 or email at rfreiburghouse@vfw.org.

HENRY VFW TRIBUTE EDITION RIFLES

Henry Repeating Arms continues to offer the Henry VFW Tribute Edition rifles directly from their factory at very special pricing to VFW Posts and members.

These rifles are a great way for your Post to boost fundraising efforts, increase profits, recognize member volunteer efforts or milestones, and for members to build a personal collection.

There are two models, both Made In The USA; the VFW Post Tribute Edition and the VFW Tribute Edition. Both models are collector’s items and unique to the Posts and/or members ordering these one-of-a-kind rifles.

For information or to order your Henry VFW Tribute Edition rifle, click on the following order form link: <https://www.henryusa.com/rifles/buy-direct-new-henry-vfw-tribute-rifles/>. If you would like to request additional brochures, please email Teresa at teresa@henryrepeating.com or call her toll free at 866-200-2354.

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:

Meeting times at the National Convention in Kansas City:

Veterans & Military Support Chairman Committee Meeting
Sunday, July 22, 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

VFW Programs Workshop - **Open to the public**
Sunday, July 22, 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

1:00 - 2:00 Programs Overview Town Hall

2:00 - 3:00 Veterans Emotional Well-Being Discussion

3:00 - 4:00 Awards & Citation Committee Meeting

Be sure to stop by the Veterans & Military Support booth to support the **Service Challenge and get your “Newly designed” Veterans & Military Support lapel pin!**

See you in Kansas City!

“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.

NATIONAL “BUDDY”® POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST. The time frame for registering and setting up the Department winning “Buddy”® Poppy displays for the national judging at convention will be the same as last year. Department winning entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 21, until noon, Monday, July 23, 2018. Winning displays will be identified with appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning and announced later on the convention floor. Displays must be removed prior to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon.

VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES. The silver, gold and diamond anniversary “Buddy”® Poppies are only for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th, 75th or 100th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don’t pass those costs on to the Posts. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out.

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. 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:

In an effort to better serve the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, tools are available at "VFW Training and Support." There you will find Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates; training material relating to Membership Recruiting and Retention; Community Service & Youth Programs; Communications & Public Affairs; Post Service Officers; and Veterans & Military Support. To utilize these valuable training guides, videos, forms and templates, please login at www.vfw.org, proceed to "My VFW" and click the link "VFW Training and Support."

The online "Document Repository" is a system of managing documents utilized primarily by Department Officers and members of the National Council of Administration.

Important Reminder: Department Roster reports must be filled out by the Department Adjutant and returned to the office of the Adjutant General no later than the day following the close of your Department Convention. Do not delay in submitting your information.

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>.

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

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

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

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

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

- As you know, 2018 marks the centennial of World War 1. There is a lot our members can do to help educate the public, commemorate the war, and honor those who served. The WW1 Centennial Commission has created a landing page on their website for veterans to simplify navigation to key areas. You'll find it at www.ww1cc.org/veterans. Here are a few suggestions:

-- Subscribe to the **Dispatch** newsletter to keep up to date. Listen to the Centennial News **Podcasts**. Podcast #61 features VFW Post 968 in Raymond, WA, talking about their 100 Cities/100 Memorial project.

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

--**Purchase a commemorative US Mint WW1 coin** (\$10 from the sale of each coin funds the memorial).

--Make sure your ancestors or family members who served are listed on the **World War 1 Roll of Honor** and donate in their names toward building the WW1 National Memorial with a “digital” remembrance wreath. The Roll of Honor features individual profiles for many of the more than 4 million American service members who responded to the call of “Over There” in support of the war-weary Allies and helped achieve victory. All donations go directly toward funding the memorial.

--Raise money for the Memorial by supporting the **WW1 Poppy Program**.

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

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

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>.**

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

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>.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN NATIONAL AWARDS. Every Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen first place Department winner will receive a National scholarship or award. The new amount for the Voice of Democracy National Awards now total \$155,500 and the Patriot’s Pen National Awards total is now \$55,000.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN THEMES. The 2018–19 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Vincent “B.J.” Lawrence. The Voice of Democracy theme will be “Why My Vote Matters” and the Patriot’s Pen theme will be “Why I Honor the American Flag.”

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM. This program is designed to provide recognition and awards to VFW members who volunteer their time to outside organizations. Recognition is in the form of certificates and/or lapel pins which are given to volunteers who have completed the number of hours prescribed for those awards. For more information, see the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairmen’s Manual or contact Tammy at 816-756-3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN BROCHURES. The new 2018-19 Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen entry forms are available on the VFW website and brochures are available to purchase from the VFW Store.

Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org/Login.aspx>, log in to My VFW, then click on **VFW Training & Support** under the **Member Resources** heading, then click on Community Service & Youth Programs and Activities, then click on **Chairman Manuals** under the **Additional Resources** heading. Here you will find all program materials.

Additionally, anyone (including students, parents, teachers, and chairmen) can download and print the student entry forms for Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen by visiting the below links:

Voice of Democracy: <http://www.vfw.org/VOD/>

Patriot’s Pen: <http://www.vfw.org/PatriotsPen/>

For Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store: <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy> for Voice of Democracy and <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen> for Patriot’s Pen.

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 27, 2019 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, September 21, 2018 (third Friday in September); 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:

Travel Accident

Whether you're on a solo adventure backpacking through Europe or in town for a weekend staycation, it's important to be prepared.

With travel accident insurance, underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, you can help secure your family's financial security in the event of your injury or death from a travel-related accident. This coverage provides \$150,000 in accidental death (death while traveling in a private motor vehicle), an additional \$150,000 for death while traveling in a common carrier vehicle and a \$500 cash benefit for every day you stay in the hospital because of a covered accident. All benefit amounts reduce to 50% of the original benefit amount at age 75 regardless of age at enrollment.

As a VFW Member, you're pre-approved for this coverage, and cannot be turned down, regardless of your health, occupation, past driving records or the number of miles you travel annually.

Protect your travels [today](#).

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

Show Your Patriotism! – Thanks to the continued support of members like you, veterans receive help filing for their hard-earned VA benefits, receive life-changing assistance and have their voices carried to Capitol Hill to fight for legislation to protect their rights. Late in May, the VFW mailed patriotic address labels and we hope you have received them and are using them with pride. We also hope they inspire you to send a generous donation so we may continue providing much-needed services for our fellow veterans, service members and their families.

Announcing the New 2018-2019 VFW Calendar – The 2018-19 VFW Calendars will be mailed early in June. Your VFW Calendars include reminders of days to display the United States flag and other important dates in history to remember the sacrifices of America's veterans. If you do not have a flag to display, you may visit heroes.vfw.org/flag and print a free flag poster to display in your home or office. You will also find useful information on VFW programs available to all veterans, service members and their families throughout the calendars. Additionally, in the back of the calendars you will see the section showing VFW membership eligibility information. We certainly hope you find the information included in the calendars to be helpful. And remember, your VFW Department is counting on you to show your support of the vital programs available to the veterans, service members and their families right in your state.

Independence Day is Coming Up – The VFW is preparing for a special online celebration of freedom with our annual observance of Independence Day. Please visit www.vfw.org to find ways you can honor

our nation's veterans and service members by spreading a message of patriotism and remembrance to your friends and family.

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 for helpful tips, tools and other FREE resources, including our Estate Planning Kit. The Estate Planning Kit will help simplify and organize the estate planning process for you and your attorney. For assistance or more information, please call our Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org.

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that 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 1-833-VFW-GIVE (1-833-839-4483) 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!

VFW COMMUNICATIONS:

If you're looking for tools to help you tell the VFW story, the new Media Room has you taken care of! From PSAs and videos, to downloadable brochures and promotional materials, the Media Room makes sharing what we do with the world as easy as click, save and share!

Visit VFW.org, and select the Media Room located under Media & Events to gain access to tools and resources that will help you share the VFW story with the world.

VFW STORE:



Flag Day is a great day to recognize those in the community who fly their flag, to educate youth on the history, symbolism and etiquette of the flag, and to replace any flags that are in disrepair. VFW Store can help – go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/flagday?page=1&size=100> to see all of our Flag Day items!

Order your patriotic items now for your **4th of July** celebration! VFW Store has table runners, patriotic apparel, flags, jewelry and much more! To get ready for your celebration, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/4thofjuly?page=1&size=100>.



Don't forget your **officer cap, pins and accessories!** Orders can be placed at www.vfwstore.org or by calling 1-800-821-2606. We also have a variety of business essentials, from business cards to padfolios, ink stamps to award certificates. To see all the options, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/officergiftsandawards?page=1&size=100>.



ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

PARISH, HUBERT R., Commander, Department of Tennessee, 2015-2016 and a Life Member of Franklin Wilkins Post 1294, Lexington, Tennessee, May 14, 2018.

HOFERMAN, CLINTON L., Commander, Department of Iowa, 1995-1996 and a Life Member of Alta Post 6172, Alta, Iowa, May 13, 2018.