

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
DEC. 2013

VOLUME 38, NO. 5

SERVING THE DESERVING AMERICA'S VETERANS

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

You've done the work....Let NMS know!

Last year through the NMS programs, the VFW provided support to over 1.2 million service members, veterans and their families. We know your support at the local level goes far beyond what is reported. Help us let the general public know the impact the VFW has on military families and veterans by reporting your holiday events to your NMS chairman.

MAP grants have increased for the holiday season. Please complete the MAP after event requirements within the 30 day deadline. If you have any questions, please call the MAP office at 816-756-3390, ext. 211.

MEMBERSHIP TRANSMITTAL DEADLINES FOR THE 2013-2014 YEAR:

To prevent dues notices from being sent to those who have already paid, all membership transmittals must be received in the Dues Processing Department no later than noon on the following closing dates:

MAILED DUES NOTICE SCHEDULE

<u>Mailed Date</u>	<u>Processing Deadlines</u>
JULY 25	JULY 8
SEPTEMBER 25	SEPTEMBER 9
NOVEMBER 25	NOVEMBER 4

* Must be processed by VFW national headquarters by the processing deadlines above in order to prevent the receipt of a subsequent mailed dues notice.

FOR CONTEST PURPOSES

****All membership transmittals must be received in dues processing by noon on the last business day prior to any contest end-date and for year-end processing.***

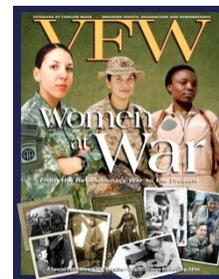
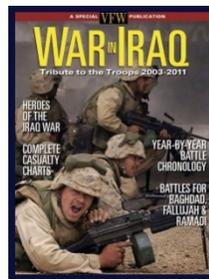
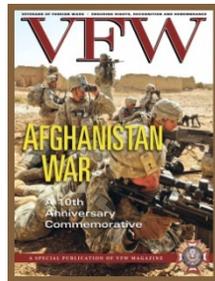
ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:

Membership Applications have been updated. Beginning January 1, 2014, members will have the option to enroll in two beneficial programs:

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

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.

- **Annual Dues:** Resolution M-12 (Sec. 606 - National Dues) was passed at the 114th National Convention in Louisville, KY. The Resolution raised the Veterans of Foreign Wars Annual Dues National Per Capita from \$11.50 to \$21.50. This increase will take effect on **January 1, 2014.**
- **Subscription Dues Training:** The subscription dues training location is located is www.vfw.org, click on “Log In”, when the page loads, go to the “View Training Materials” link in red. The subscription dues presentation is under the link “Subscription Dues.” Please visit: <https://www.vfw.org/oms/TrainingMaterials.aspx>.
- VFW special edition magazines are great recruiting aids! Contact Carla in the Membership Department to place your order today at cdarnell@vfw.org or 816-756-3390 Ext. 208. For a limited time the magazines are free, as long as you pay for the shipping.



- **Recruiting Notes:** Encourage Annual Members to take advantage of the Life Member Installment plan. Encourage life installment plan members to take advantage of the automatic payment option.
- **Shotgun Mailing Lists:** We can obtain lists that will assist you in increasing your membership. Please call Matt Nute in the Membership Department at 1-888-JOIN-VFW (1-888-564-6839) for assistance.
- **National Membership Program:** The 2013-2014 National Membership program is listed in the Leadership Reference Material guide. This can be viewed online via the OMS system.
- **Dues Notices:** The first dues notice was mailed on July 25, 2013. The second dues notice was mailed on September 25, 2013, and the third dues notice will be mailed on November 25, 2013.
- **Subscription Dues:** The subscription dues resolution was approved at the National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Subscription Dues training was given at the 114th National Convention in Louisville, KY. **Subscription Dues will begin January 1, 2014.**
- **Legacy Life Membership:** This prestigious program is available to all Life Members. **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:	Post:	Department:	National:
Gold-	\$1200	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver-	\$800	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze-	\$400	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

What will your Legacy be?

Dennis F. Flynn (CNR)

VFW Post 2866, Dept. of MO
Total Recruited: 295

Stephen A. Ward

VFW Post 27, Dept. of EU
Total Recruited: 265

George F. Foy

VFW Post 5917, Dept. of IL
Total Recruited: 256

Gasper Delise

VFW Post 9985, Dept. of PAC
Total Recruited: 203

Thomas R.L. Glover (CNR)

VFW Post 2451, Dept. of TX
Total Recruited: 134

Daniel L. West (CNR)

VFW Post 3413, Dept. of TX
Total Recruited: 85

Robert P. Harmon (CNR)

VFW Post 1831, Dept. of MO
Total Recruited: 79

Lynn W. Rolf, III

VFW Post 56, Dept. of KS
Total Recruited: 76

Kenneth L. Kraft

VFW Post 1324, Dept. of OR
Total Recruited: 65

Edward J. Damiano

VFW Post 6805, Dept. of NJ
Total Recruited: 64

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

TOP TEN RECRUITERS (as of 10/25/2013):

DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:

None this month.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

Over the last decade, approximately 80% of support received from VFW members and patriotic Americans was applied directly to veterans service, community service, legislative advocacy and military service programs worldwide.

Celebrate the Holiday Spirit by Helping Fellow Veterans – Your support of the VFW this holiday season – and throughout the year – is extremely important in helping the VFW's efforts to serve and assist veterans of all generations in need. There are many ways to help. We have recently mailed a special 12-month edition of the VFW 2014 Calendar, the new 2013 Christmas Cards and a special 2013 Year-End Campaign with personalized address labels. By supporting these programs, you help veterans and their families in need throughout the year in *your Department* and across the country.

Other ways you can help this holiday season are:

- Deliver a warm meal to a veteran, shovel snow for the elderly or volunteer at a local VA facility or nursing home. If you are not sure where the nearest VA facility is, or to find volunteer opportunities in your community to help veterans, visit heroes.vfw.org/volunteer.
- Display the United States flag to show all of America that you support our veterans and service members. Let everyone know how proud you are of this great nation and the men and women who have worn the uniform. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/flag and print a free flag poster for you to display at your home.
- If you, or a fellow veteran, are in need of assistance in filing a VA claim, please visit www.vfw.org/nvs.

These are all very simple ways you can help the VFW carry out its mission and assist your fellow veterans at the same time.

VFW Kicks Off 2013 Year-End Campaign with Online Community – This week marks the beginning of the **VFW's 2013 Year-End Campaign!** Donations raised toward the end of the year meet a large portion of the VFW's program funding needs. With widespread uncertainty in Washington and thousands of service members recently home from Iraq and Afghanistan, response to this year's Internet campaign is more important than ever. Keep an eye out for your email about the 2013 Year-End Campaign and give as generously as you can or visit www.vfw.org and click "Donate" to make your year-end contribution. Please also spread the word about the campaign on your social networks. You'll be helping veterans of all generations receive much needed assistance from VFW Service Officers in applying for and getting their hard earned VA benefits; assisting military families in financial distress to receive emergency aid for rent, utilities and other emergencies; and ensuring all veterans are represented on Capitol Hill to ensure veterans rights and benefits are protected. Take pride in giving to *your* VFW. **NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

Helping Veterans for Generations to Come – You can still make a lasting gift to the VFW and receive a 2013 tax deduction, but time is running out. If you want to make a lasting gift to the VFW but are unsure what must be completed by December 31, please contact the Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119, 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 without receiving all of the unwanted mail? The VFW has developed an option that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate unwanted mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact the VFW Development Department Donor Services at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318 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 "STAY IN THE KNOW" 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 "Story

Archive” to read stories about 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 the fundraising programs. You need only go to www.vfw.org and log in. You will find “Department Resources” under the “How to Get Involved” heading. The latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department can be found here. Download ad slicks, press releases, banner ads and buttons 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!

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, click here <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22300>.

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/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=100>.

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

phone: (703) 267-1482

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact the VFW Programs Office at 816-756-3390, ext. 220 or e-mail swilson@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, Patriot's Pen and Teacher Award winner packets to National Headquarters is January 15, 2014 (even if they have not been personally notified they are the winner).

The deadline for your completed Department report/summary forms (for all three programs) to be sent to National is not until January 31, 2014. Please let us know if you need blank District or Department report forms e-mailed (in PDF or Word format) by contacting Kris Harmer at kharter@vfw.org or 816-968-1117.

PATRIOT'S PEN PROGRAM CHANGE REMINDER. VFW National Headquarters has been informed that, as a corporate entity, the VFW (at all levels) can no longer purchase U.S. Savings Bonds. The program will be modified to provide checks to our winners in the amount allocated for the purchase of the bond. As an example, a student who would have received a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond will now receive a \$500 check instead. If the amount of the check is more than \$599, the IRS requires that the recipient receive a Form 1099 identifying the check as taxable. The 1099 will be issued in the student's name and will likely not create tax issues for the recipient. Anyone with questions about this change is encouraged to contact VFW Programs, Kevin Jones at 816-968-1133 or via email at kjones@vfw.org.

KENNEDY CENTER/STEPHEN SONDHEIM INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER AWARDS.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is now accepting applications for the fourth annual Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards. Teachers of any subject are eligible for nomination. The \$10,000 awards (no strings attached) are presented each year on Sondheim's birthday - March 22 - to a handful of teachers, kindergarten through college, who are nominated via the Kennedy Center website. All applications must be submitted online or postmarked by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on December 15, 2013.

The Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards were created in honor of Stephen Sondheim's 80th birthday and were initiated and funded through the generous support of Freddie and Myrna Gershon.

For more information, please visit the Sondheim Awards website:

<http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/awards/sondheim/rules.cfm>.

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 2013 - 2014 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Guide.

VFW HONORS AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2013 - 2014 PROGRAM YEAR. Nominations for this award and the judging at the Post level should be completed and District level should be close to completion. 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, 2014. 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 2014 in St. Louis, Missouri.

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

VFW PROMOTES NATIONAL GROUNDHOG JOB SHADOW DAY. Over one million students across America will experience first-hand how academic skills they learn in the classroom are put into action in the workplace by shadowing a workplace mentor in a normal day on the job. The first Groundhog Job Shadow day was spearheaded by a coalition that included America's Promise Alliance, Junior Achievement, the Association for Career and Technical Education, the Society for Human Resource Management, the US Department of Education and the US Department of Labor. This program is modeled after the Groundhog Job Shadow Days conducted by the Boston Private Industry Council in 1996 and Bell South in 1997.

Post members should inform their employers about this program and have them contact their local high school, United Way or Junior Achievement to participate. For further information or to get the Teacher's Guide, please go to http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/curr050.shtml.

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 17 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 26 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; National POW/MIA Day, September 19 (third Friday in September); and, Veterans Day, November 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, click here: <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22305>.

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 war dead. Where the VFW appears, Buddy Poppies should be a ubiquitous 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.

Thank you for ordering your Poppy supply ahead of your distribution dates. Orders are currently processed within 1-2 weeks. Continue to order 8-12 weeks prior to your event so that a back log does not occur again as in the past.

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 or 75th 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.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

Long-term Care Insurance Can Help Preserve Independence

Studies report that more than 60% of seniors over age 65 will need some type of long-term care in their lifetime. Long-term care often begins in the home, with family or friends providing care.

But as we age or become ill, the level of care needed can become more than family is able to provide, and the cost of in-home or facility care can consume retirement savings and jeopardize independence. Long-term Care Insurance available through the VFW protects your financial well-being by covering long-term care expenses not covered by Medicare or private medical insurance.

Visit www.vfwinsurance.com to get more information and download a free guide about considering a Long-term Care Insurance purchase.

VFW Insurance and Member Benefits

For information about various insurance and member benefits plans sponsored by VFW National, please call 1-800-821-2606, option 1.

VFW FOUNDATION:

HOME DEPOT "COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT" CLOSED FOR 2013

The Home Depot has closed the application process for its 2013 "Community Impact Grant" which provides support to VFW Posts and other nonprofit groups to fix up their buildings. The good news is that The Home Depot has made a commitment to offer the grant again beginning February 1, 2014. The VFW Foundation will be producing a "how to apply" step-by-step guide and make it available to all VFW Posts. For the past seven years, our friends at The Home Depot have made an incredible financial commitment through the "Community Impact Grant" to a number of VFW Posts throughout the country. Truly Home Depot is a patriotic company that supports America's troops, military families and veterans - something you may want to remember when doing your holiday shopping. SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE STAFF OF THE VFW FOUNDATION!

VFW STORE:



SHOP VFW STORE FOR YOUR HOLIDAY GIFTS!

This holiday season shop the VFW Store for your holiday gifts - not only do you get a great present for someone special in your life, but you support veterans as well! Click [here](#) or call 1-800-821-2606 to find stocking stuffers and presents for your loved ones. Not sure what to get? Order a gift certificate - they can be made for any denomination. Simply call 1-800-821-2606 to place an order.



Have a special event coming up? Need apparel or other items with your logo? VFW Store can help. We have thousands of products available at competitive prices. To get a **FREE** quote, call Kim Winston at 816-968-1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org.

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

LUSTE, PETER H., Commander, Department of Europe, 2005-2006 and a Life Member of Mediterranean Post 8862, Vicenza, Italy, October 2, 2013.

BERRY, JAMES W., All American Commander, Department of Colorado, 1976-1977 and a Life Member of Meles Jain Post 807, Boulder, Colorado, November 9, 2013