

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

BULLETIN

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 38, NO. 7

FEB. 2014

SERVING THE DESERVING AMERICA'S VETERANS **THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION GRANTS TO OPEN ON FEBRUARY 1, 2014**

The Home Depot (HD) Foundation will be accepting applications for the Community Impact Grant beginning February 1, 2014. Eligible VFW Posts may receive up to \$5,000 to fix up their buildings; however, of course, there is no guarantee of funding. To begin the process, go to the following internet link: <http://homedepotfoundation.org/page/applying-for-a-grant>.

To help you complete the application, the VFW Foundation will once again prepare a step-by-step how-to-apply guide. Any deviation from this guide will most likely result in not being able to submit the application.

To receive this how-to-apply guide, send an email to: foundation@vfw.org
Type the following in the email subject heading: Home Depot Guide Request

Please note that the guide will not be emailed until HD Foundation Community Impact Grant application is reviewed first to ensure the how-to guide is up-to-date.

The application must be filled out via the internet only (no telephone calls to HD, emails or written submissions will be accepted nor will you be able to turn this application in at your local HD store).

Pay close attention to the Tax ID Instructions Section. You will use the Employee Identification Number (EIN) of your Post and upload the Post's 501(c)(19) IRS determination letter at the end of the application. If your Post has lost its 501(c)(19) IRS letter, please immediately email the VFW Foundation (foundation@vfw.org) to get instructions on how you can obtain a duplicate copy from the IRS.

If your Post receives funding, it will come in the form of HD gift cards that can be used to buy materials at your local HD store. You will need to recruit Post members or other community volunteers to do the work. The project must be completed within 6 months. You will also be required to fill out a final project report. Failure to do so will negatively impact your Post's ability to receive any future funding from HD.

After submission of the application, you should receive a written email response from HD Foundation, usually in six weeks, letting you know if you received the grant.

Should you have any further questions or need to discuss special concerns, please contact Richard Freiburghouse, VFW Foundation, Manager, at (816) 968-1124 or rfreiburghouse@vfw.org.

GOOD LUCK!

MEMBER BENEFITS:

Post Liability & Loss Control Training Course - Free Online Training Now Available for all Posts

As VFW's exclusive provider of property and liability insurance for VFW Posts, the VFW Post Insurance Program is pleased to announce the launch of a new online training course for Posts that is designed to help Posts manage losses and keep operations safe. The course highlights the risks present at most Posts that can create real liabilities if left unattended. By taking the course, you'll learn practical tips to help your Post successfully manage these risks and prevent costly accidents and injuries.

- There is no fee to take the course—it's free for all Posts
- The course takes about 30 minutes to complete
- All course-takers receive a certificate of completion via email

The course is available on the VFW Insurance website and can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#). Simply select 'Post Liability & Loss Control Training Course' under the Free Online Training Courses section and click on the 'Take Post Liability Courses' link to get started.

MEMBERSHIP:

KANSAS CITY SPREE

The first place Post Commander in each of the ten post divisions and the first place District Commander in the six district divisions and their spouse/guest can win this exciting Kansas City award trip on May 8-11, 2014. Commanders have to be 100% in membership and meet the 85% retention goal to qualify for this award by **March 31, 2014**, to win.

- The award winners will receive round-trip travel from the airport nearest the commander's home to Kansas City, Mo.
- A fun-filled weekend is planned that may include touring, shopping, a major league baseball game, and a complete tour of National Headquarters.

100% COMMANDER DRAWING

Every Post and District Commander who achieves 100% on or before **June 15, 2014**, will be placed in a drawing to attend the 115th National Convention in St. Louis, MO. **25 POST COMMANDERS** and **SIX DISTRICT COMMANDERS** will be drawn:

- Round-trip airfare to the 115th National Convention, St. Louis, MO
- A \$599 stipend, less any other national stipends, to help defray expenses

*may only receive one National paid compensation package
**non-transferable

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:

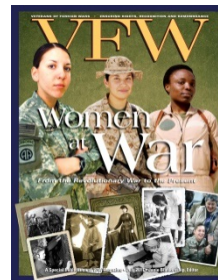
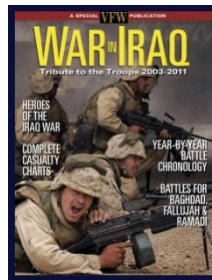
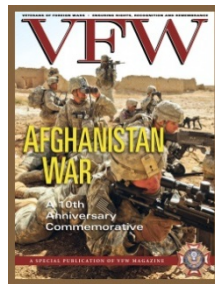
Membership applications have been updated. Members now have the option to enroll in two beneficial programs:

- 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.

***Also, please note it asks for Dates of Service. Dates of overseas service are not required.**

- **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 took 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 was mailed on November 20, 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 began on 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.

Levels:	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?

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

TOP TEN RECRUITERS (as of 1/24/2014):

Dennis F. Flynn (CNR)

VFW Post 2866, Dept. of MO

Total Recruited: 355

Stephen A. Ward

VFW Post 27, Dept. of EU

Total Recruited: 309

George F. Foy

VFW Post 5917, Dept. of IL

Total Recruited: 262

Gasper Delise

VFW Post 9985, Dept. of PAC

Total Recruited: 230

Thomas R.L. Glover (CNR)

VFW Post 2451, Dept. of TX

Total Recruited: 191

John A. Lenhardt

VFW Post 6504, Dept. of IL

Total Recruited: 133

Paul E. Kallembach (CNR)

VFW Post 2287, Dept. of IL

Total Recruited: 119

Daniel L. West (CNR)

VFW Post 3413, Dept. of TX

Total Recruited: 109

William J. Gault
VFW Post 8154, Dept. of FL
Total Recruited: 99

Ignacio H. Castilleja
VFW Post 76, Dept. of TX
Total Recruited: 98

DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:

No new VFW Posts in the last 30 days.

**WASHINGTON D.C. LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
EARLY BIRD AWARD WINNERS:**

POST WINNERS:

Division 1

VFW Post 8951
Commander Eugene Myers
Quartermaster Lloyd Greenwood

Division 2

VFW Post 1350
Commander Steven Maukstad
Quartermaster Howard Lentsch

Division 3

VFW Post 3320
Commander Freeman Foughty
Quartermaster Todd Reveron

Division 4

VFW Post 8532
Commander Larry Rutt
Quartermaster James Dahlem

Division 5

VFW Post 8690
Commander Michael Cadoret
Quartermaster Charles Sweet

Division 6

VFW Post 7972
Commander Herbert Schwartzkopf
Quartermaster John Tillitson

Division 7

VFW Post 7308

Commander Paul Frederickson
Quartermaster John McCoy

Division 8

VFW Post 12041
Commander Larry Sanders
Quartermaster Carlos Vela

Division 9

VFW Post 12119
Commander Arthur Frederick
Quartermaster Ronald Turner

Division 10

VFW Post 10222
Commander Larry Reid
Quartermaster Victor Fredlund

DISTRICT WINNERS:

Division 2

VFW Department of Illinois
District 14 Commander
Gary Stork

Division 3

VFW Department of Pennsylvania
District 10 Commander
James Frisbie

Division 4

VFW Department of Oregon
District 15 Commander
Bert Key

Division 6

VFW Department of Louisiana
District 1 Commander
Steven Manville

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

Legislative Conference/Sr. Vice Commanders Meeting - NMS Check Presentation

The check presentation will be on **Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.** when Commander-in-Chief Thien meets with the Department Commanders. It is preferred all donations be made to NMS so the funds can be used where needed the most.

Please let Linda Ferguson (lferguson@vfw.org) know if your department will be presenting a check at the conference.

Special Thanks to Sport Clips who donated \$500,000 to the Help A Hero Scholarship Program, administered by the VFW. The Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship Program awarded 43 scholarships for the 2014 Spring Semester.

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.

2014 VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) Annual Campaign - You should have received the 2014 VFW Survey of Veterans in January. If you haven't filled out your survey and sent it in with your gift, you may be receiving a reminder in the mail. Your support is still urgently needed for the 2014 VFW NVS Annual Campaign. Your donation right now ensures the VFW's national force of highly trained service officers is at the ready to help America's veterans - of all generations - navigate the VA system to get their hard earned benefits.

Annually, every VFW Service Officer helps an average of 315 veterans and their survivors cut through red tape to receive the VA benefits they have earned. In 2012, the VFW's nationwide cadre of 1,200 VA-accredited service officers helped more than 125,000 veterans obtain an organizational record of \$3.7 billion in compensation and pension benefits from the VA. The final numbers are not in for 2013 at this time, but rest assured, VFW Service Officers are there for all veterans to help them apply for and receive their hard earned VA benefits.

This service is available to all veterans FREE OF CHARGE — and made possible through donations. Please watch your mail for this important campaign.

If you do receive the reminder, you will also notice an "Open Letter to the United States Congress" that has been included. The VFW is doing everything it can to remind our Congressional leaders to uphold the promises made to those who have fought for this nation. Please sign and return the letter so we can forward it along with many others to Washington, D.C. When you do, please consider sending a gift to help the VFW National Veterans Service.

VFW Tribute Pages: Paying it Forward - Give the veteran or service member in your life the recognition they deserve by creating a personal fundraising page in his or her honor ... all while paying it forward for their comrades in need. Show the world - and your hero's family - just how much their sacrifice means to you. Whether it's a fallen soldier, a current service member or a veteran - it's a great opportunity to say "thank you," "I salute you," or "I miss you" to the warrior closest to your heart. Visit heroes.vfw.org/tribute to learn more.

Stay on top of the hottest issues on Capitol Hill - With new threats to veterans' benefits on the horizon, it's more important than ever to stay informed and find out how you can help protect veterans' rights in D.C. Visit heroes.vfw.org/washingtonweekly and sign up for VFW's Washington Weekly today.

Voice of Democracy State Winners Coming to the Web - It's almost time! Watch the VFW's website in late February to see the faces - and hear the performances - of the state winners of the Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition. Sign up at www.vfw.org to receive alerts in your inbox.

Join the VFW Heroes Circle - By making a gift that will have a lasting impact on the VFW and the veterans and family members it serves, you can become a member of the VFW Heroes Circle. For more information on how to join this exclusive group of patriots, contact the Planned Giving office at (816) 968-1119 or email at 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 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:

VFW Posts and Auxiliaries reported donating almost 4 million volunteer hours and over \$19 million towards community service work from May 1 to October 31, 2013. The total value of our volunteers' efforts is valued at over \$107 million.

A SATURDAY SALUTE. In honor of our nation's heroes, the VFW is working with Tractor Supply Company (TSC) to make this year's "**A Saturday Salute**" a fun, nationwide community event! TSC, the largest farm and ranch store chain in the United States, is partnering with local VFW Posts on May 24, 2014, to express their appreciation of the sacrifices made by service members and veterans.

VFW Posts and their Auxiliaries are encouraged to host events at TSC stores throughout the country on May 24, to honor our veterans, showcase VFW patriotism and get the community involved! Events may vary at each location, ranging from Buddy Poppy distribution, recruiting opportunities, hosting a Memorial Day event, car washes, BBQs, Color Guard Ceremonies and any other fun activity. Additional information will be provided in the coming months. Now is the time to begin planning your Post/Auxiliary event at your local TSC.

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 www.vfwstore.org (#2227, #2228, #2229, #2226, and #2225).

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.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES. The 2014-2015 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief John W. Stroud. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "Why Veterans are Important to our Nation's History and Future" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "Why I Appreciate America's Veterans." This information has been posted on the VFW website.

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 816-968-1116 or via e-mail at kjones@vfw.org.

Please note that the first place Patriot's Pen award on the National level is \$5,000 (total national awards are at \$46,000).

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."

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 Guide or contact the VFW Programs department at 816-968-1148 for a nomination form.

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, go to www.vfwstore.org (#2233).

BUDDY POPPY:

Plans should be under way for the Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Campaign. Contact your Department Quartermaster to place your order for Buddy Poppies. Remember that your Poppies should be ordered a minimum of 12 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required; do not use, "ASAP". Miscellaneous items (coin cans, caps, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at www.vfwstore.com or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

"To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs." The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Youth Essay, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of Buddy Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the post general fund.

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.

Remember: With Buddy Poppy, every day is Veterans Day.

- No extra cost for the commemorative poppies.
- Designate part of your regular poppy order as anniversary poppies.
- Different sizes of ads can be found at department resources. (Please go to www.vfw.org and log on to MyVFW and click on Department Resources and VFW Buddy Poppy.

Contact information: nclifton@vfw.org (816) 968-1148. For Buddy Poppy merchandise go to www.vfwstore.org.

An opportunity for a Buddy Poppy distribution is outlined in the Programs section of this Bulletin. Refer to "A Saturday Salute" which is in conjunction with nearly 1,300 Tractor Supply Company Stores nationwide.

VFW STORE:



Congratulations to All American Posts, Districts and Departments! To help you celebrate your success, VFW Store is proud to offer new All American ball caps (#7253) and custom apparel. To find out more, or to place an order, call us at 800-821-2606 or go online at www.vfwstore.org.



Hosting a fundraising golf tournament this year? VFW Store can help! We have hundreds of inexpensive giveaway ideas, commemorative t-shirt options, golf balls, golf towels, tees, koozies, divot tools and ball markers. These, and more, can be customized with your logo. To get a **FREE, NO OBLIGATION** quote, call Kim Winston at 816-968-1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org.

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

HUBERT, RONALD F., Junior Vice Commander, Department of Illinois, 2013-2014 and a Life Member of Champaign County Post 5520, Champaign, Illinois, January 11, 2014.

BENSON, TERRY M., National Council of Administration member, 2001-2003, Commander, Department of New Mexico, 1987-1988 and a Life Member of Tularosa and Alamogordo Post 7686, Alamogordo, New Mexico, January 28, 2014.