

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

BULLETIN

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 38, NO. 9

APR. 2014

SERVING THE DESERVING AMERICA'S VETERANS

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:

Post Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS).

VFW FOUNDATION:

THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS PROGRAM

Applications for The Home Depot (HD) Foundation Community Impact Grants Program are being accepted through August 15, 2014. Eligible VFW Posts may receive up to \$5,000 in Home Depot gift cards to fix up their buildings. To complete the application process, go to the following Internet link:

<http://homedepotfoundation.org/page/applying-for-a-grant>

To help you complete the application, the VFW Foundation has prepared 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

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

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 you do not have access to your Post's 501(c)(19) determination letter, the first page of your Post's most recent IRS Form 990 filing can be used as a replacement.

If your Post receives funding, you will need to recruit Post members or other community volunteers to do the work. The project must be completed within six 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.

WAYS TO DONATE TO THE VFW FOUNDATION-CAR DONATIONS

Did you know that the VFW Foundation can benefit from used car donations? Don't donate your car or truck to some charity that you've never heard of. Vehicle Donation to Any Charity (V-DAC) ensures your vehicle is properly handled so you get your tax deduction and the VFW Foundation gets the benefit of your donation.

V-DAC is a free and convenient service for converting that used or extra car, truck or RV into a tax deductible donation benefiting the VFW Foundation and the VFW programs it supports. Online donations can be made directly from the "V-DAC" car link located at www.vfwfoundation.org on the "Donate" page. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact the VFW Foundation by phone at (816) 968-1128 or email at foundation@vfw.org.

MEMBERSHIP:

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:

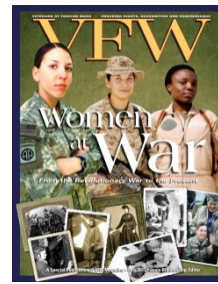
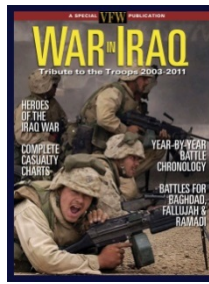
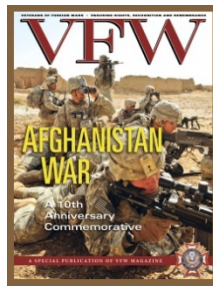
Membership applications have been updated. Members now have the option to enroll in two beneficial programs:

- 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.**

- **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, log onto www.vfw.org, go to My VFW, and go to General Member Tools and Resources.
- **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?

Posts with over 25 Legacy Life Members:

VFW Post 3107, Department of Montana

VFW Post 2485, Department of Pacific Areas

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:
TOP TEN RECRUITERS (as of 2/24/2014):**

Dennis F. Flynn (CNR)

VFW Post 2866, Dept. of MO

Total Recruited: 434

Stephen A. Ward

VFW Post 27, Dept. of EU

Total Recruited: 322

George F. Foy, Jr.

VFW Post 5917, Dept. of IL

Total Recruited: 233

Thomas R.L. Glover (CNR)

VFW Post 2451, Dept. of TX

Total Recruited: 233

Gasper Delise

VFW Post 9985, Dept. of PAC
Total Recruited: 233

John A. Lenhardt

VFW Post 6504, Dept. of IL
Total Recruited: 153

Paul E. Kallembach (CNR)

VFW Post 2287, Dept. of IL
Total Recruited: 142

Terry W. Vance

VFW Post 9789, Dept. of IL
Total Recruited: 114

Kenneth L. Kraft

VFW Post 1324, Dept. of OR
Total Recruited: 114

Glen F. Tilley

VFW Post 2391, Dept. of FL
Total Recruited: 109

DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:

Department of South Carolina

VFW Post 12136 - Indian Land, SC

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

- **NMS Recognition Program** - Donations **must** be received in the office before **April 30**.
The NMS Recognition Certificates will be sent to the Departments for presentation at the Department Conventions.
- **Applying for a VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship for the 2014 Fall Semester** -Please get the word out to your local service members and veterans that are going to school in the fall to apply for this wonderful scholarship program. Go to www.vfw.org/scholarship/ for details and eligibility requirements. Deadline is **April 30**.

Any questions, please contact Linda Ferguson at 816-968-1102.

BUDDY POPPY:

NATIONAL BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST.

The time frame for registering and setting up the Buddy Poppy displays for the National judging at Convention will be the same as last year. Entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 19 until noon, Monday, July 21, 2014. Ribbons should be placed on the winning displays by 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 22 and these displays should remain until photos have been taken by the National photographer. REMINDER: All displays should be removed prior to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22. Any remaining displays past this time will be disposed of by Convention Center personnel.

MEMORIAL DAY BUDDY POPPY CAMPAIGN. 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

<http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy> 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 <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy>.

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.

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/category/flags/otheroutdoorflags>.

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.

IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME! April is the perfect month to begin contacting schools, youth groups, parent organizations and others with information about Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. Schools are making curriculum decisions now and parents are thinking about scholarships.

Please remember that Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are VFW programs supported by the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW. It is inappropriate for the Ladies Auxiliary to conduct a separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please e-mail kjones@vfw.org or call 816-968-1116.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN BROCHURES. The new 2014-15 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are now on the VFW website.

The themes are on the forms, but they are:

Voice of Democracy theme:

Why Veterans are Important to our Nation's History and Future

Patriot's Pen theme:

Why I Appreciate America's Veterans

Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org/Login.aspx>, log in, then click on **Chairman Guides** under the **General Members Tools and Resources** heading. Here you will find all program materials. Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen information is under the Scholarships section.

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/Community/Voice-of-Democracy/>

Patriot's Pen: <http://www.vfw.org/Community/Patriot-s-Pen/>

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.

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. Starting April 7, each VFW Post and Auxiliary can visit www.TractorSupply.com/VFW. This link will direct you to the registration form. **To get connected with the TSC Store near you, all Posts must first register.** It's imperative that you complete the registration process and provide an accurate email address to include all of the additional required contact information. Once you've completed the registration process, the Post will receive an email with the store contact information. Additionally, as part of the registration process, the TSC Store will receive the Post's contact information. Once the Post has received the Store's contact information, you can now begin the dialogue with the TSC Store Manager to accurately plan your "A Saturday Salute" on May 24, 2014. Please contact Nelda Clifton at nclifton@vfw.org or (816) 756-3390, ext. 148, if you have any questions.

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG. The U.S. Flag should be at half-staff on Memorial Day, the last Monday in May (federal holiday - half-staff until noon). Flags available at VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags>.

FRED C. HALL MEMORIAL OUTSTANDING POST SPECIAL PROJECT AWARD. 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. All entries must be postmarked by midnight April 30, 2014. The winning Post receives a plaque at the VFW National Convention and a \$1,000 service scholarship for community projects. The Post Commander (or designated representative) and a guest will receive round-trip air fare, a cash stipend and accommodations to receive the award at the VFW National Convention.

FLAG DAY, JUNE 14. All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Saturday, 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. This product is available at the VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22874>.

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 <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22305>.

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.

It's Never Too Late to Help - The 2014 National Veterans Service Annual Campaign is still in full swing! Your support is urgently needed for the 2014 NVS Annual Campaign, so we can help America's newest veterans — and those of all wars — receive the benefits they have earned. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have created an unprecedented demand for VFW programs. Veterans need our help securing the benefits they were promised by our government. The VFW helped recoup a record \$5.9 billion in earned disability compensation and pension for more than 209,000 veterans in the last two years. Please help ensure we have the resources needed to meet the increasing demand by supporting the 2014 NVS Annual Campaign.

Make Your Gift Go Twice as Far - You will soon receive a special offer to make your gift to the VFW go twice as far! We received notification that an anonymous donor wants to match your donation, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000, between now and Memorial Day, May 26, 2014. This offer will arrive with a set of patriotic address labels. This is a great opportunity to help support veterans of all ages right in your Department. Please send your generous gift in right away to make sure it is matched!

Did Your Special VFW Calculator Arrive Last Month? - Several weeks ago we sent out a special package to VFW members - a VFW Calculator! Did you receive your special gift? We hope you are able to use your special gift and that it reminds you to keep fellow veterans and service members in your thoughts. Will you also send in a generous gift to support the important programs of the VFW? There really is no way to calculate what your gift means to the veterans and service members the VFW is able to help. Remember, your gift will be used to help support the programs right in your own Department.

An Easy, Flexible & Significant Legacy - Beneficiary Designation Forms are the simplest way to ensure the VFW can continue its mission for years to come. On the forms, you can designate the VFW as a full, partial or even contingent beneficiary of your life insurance policy or retirement assets by using the following language: Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Tax ID 44-0474290, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. Easily accomplished, beneficiary designations can be changed at any time if circumstances should arise and you can be sure your generous support will assist veterans of future generations.

If you decide to include the VFW in your estate plans, or have already done so, please let us know! We would like the opportunity to say "thank you" and include you in the VFW's Heroes Circle, a group of people who have made a special commitment to supporting the VFW's mission for generations to come.

For more information, please contact our Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119 or by email at plannedgiving@vfw.org. Or check out our website at 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!

VFW STORE:



Get items you need for your Memorial Day Events and Buddy Poppy Campaigns at the VFW Store! Purchase flags, grave markers, memorial wreaths, Buddy Poppy posters, brochures, donation collection canisters and much more! To see Memorial Day merchandise go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/memorialday>. To see Buddy Poppy Campaign items, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy>.



Raise money for your Post - sell beer steins, wine glasses, shot glasses and goblets with your Post number, city and state on them. Purchase them in quantity (minimum is 72 pieces) for \$2.15 - \$2.70 each and resell for \$8-10. Or simply use this great deal to buy glassware for your canteen. To get a FREE, NO OBLIGATION quote, call Kim Winston at 816-968-1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org.



FW Post 5015 in Lebanon, Tennessee came up with a great idea - have custom buckets made to hold Buddy Poppies in during distribution. Post Jr. Vice Commander John T. Marshall contacted the VFW Store and in a few weeks he had a custom logo designed and 25 buckets printed and shipped to his house. To have something similar made for your Memorial Day Buddy Poppy distribution, contact Kim Winston at 816-968-1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org.

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

COX, WILLIAM C., National Council of Administration member, 2000-2003, Adjutant/Quartermaster, Department of North Carolina, 1965-2001, All American Commander, Department of North Carolina, 1964-1965 and a Life Member of Franklin-Sloan Post 7383, Cary, North Carolina, March 21, 2014.

SMITH, DONALD N., Commander, Department of Colorado, 2007-2008 and a Life Member of Lt. Marion L. Willis Post 101, Colorado Springs, Colorado, March 15, 2014.

PETERSON, VICTOR (BUD) W., All American Commander, Department of Colorado, 1969-1970 and a Life Member of Longs Peak Post 2601, Longmont, Colorado, March 15, 2014.

LUER, HERBERT A., All American Commander, Department of Wisconsin, 1972-1973 and a Life Member of Eau Claire Post 305, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, March 12, 2014.

- 30 -