

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 39, NO. 10

MAY 2015

DEFENDING FREEDOM'S DEFENDERS

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING:

CONVENTION HOUSING: 116th National Convention housing opened February 17, 2015. Housing reservation information is located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at www.vfw.org. You may also call the VFW Housing Bureau directly (#412-325-0316) - M-F, 9a-5p EST) (International #412-325-0316) to make reservations. Please note the **housing cut-off is June 12, 2015**. Please **do not wait** to make your room reservations as room blocks are filling up fast! There are no guarantees rooms will be available if you wait until the cut-off date. The convention website also has registration forms and links to other general convention related information for Pittsburgh, July 18-22, 2015.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:

Post Election Reports must be submitted 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), which is located behind the member's "LOGIN" at www.vfw.org.

Department Roster reports must be filled out by the Department Adjutant and returned to the office of the Adjutant General not later than the day following the close of your Department Convention. Do not delay in submitting your information.

MEMBERSHIP:

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is approaching; it's a time to Honor our fallen soldiers and pay tribute to their sacrifice. Don't forget to recruit new members while you are handing out Buddy Poppies.

MEMBERSHIP WEBINAR TRAINING

Continuing Membership webinar training is held on the **second Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. CST via Adobe Connect.**

The next VFW Membership Department webinar link **will be sent Monday, May 11, 2015 and conducted May 13, 2015.**

All interested parties are encouraged to participate. Each session will be recorded for those unable to participate live.

After the live webinar is presented, they are archived and able to view on www.vfw.org. Login to the website and under How to Get Involved, the webinars will be located in the Membership Recruitment and Retention Materials.

No computer? No problem! Download “Adobe Connect Mobile” from the App Store or Google Play store and tune in on your iPhone or Android device.

If there is a Membership topic that you would like to see and discuss, all suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. Please contact Bob Crider, Director of Membership at 816-968-1138 or bcrider@vfw.org.

100% COMMANDER DRAWING

Every Post with over 50 members that exceeds 100% in membership and achieves the 85% retention goal and the District Commander that exceeds 100% in membership on or before **June 15, 2015**, will be placed in a drawing to attend the 116th National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. 20 Post Commanders and 12 District Commanders will be drawn to win:

- Round-trip airfare to the 116th National Convention, Pittsburgh, PA
- A \$599 stipend, less any other national stipends, to help defray expenses

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

The 2014 – 2015 Membership Program is available online at www.vfw.org. The Membership Program can be found in the Document Repository located in the General Member Tools & Resources.

- The membership application was updated in January of 2014, and is now an easier tool to use when recruiting. Please note it asks for Dates of Service, the dates of overseas service are not required.
- 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.

DUES NOTICE SCHEDULE

Annual members will receive a *mailed renewal notice* 5 months, 3 months, and 1 month prior to their subscription end date. Annual members with a valid email address will also receive an *e-mailed renewal notice* 6 months, 4 months, and 2 months prior to their subscription end date.

Annual members will receive a *mailed lapsed notice* 1, 3, and 5 months following their subscription end date.

Renewal Notice Received on:	5 Month Renewal Recipients	3 Month Renewal Recipients	1 Month Renewal Recipients	1 Month Lapsed Recipients	3 Month Lapsed Recipients	5 Month Lapsed Recipients
8/1/2014	*Dec. 31 - Jan. 31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
9/1/2014	Feb. 1 - Feb. 28	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
10/1/2014	Mar. 1 - Mar. 31	Dec. 31 - Jan. 31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
11/1/2014	Apr. 1 - Apr. 30	Feb. 1 - Feb. 28	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
12/1/2014	May 1 - May 31	Mar. 1 - Mar. 31	Dec. 31 - Jan. 31	n/a	n/a	n/a
1/1/2015	June 1 - June 30	Apr. 1 - Apr. 30	Feb. 1 - Feb. 28	n/a	n/a	n/a
2/1/2015	July 1 - July 31	May 1 - May 31	Mar. 1 - Mar. 31	Dec. 31 - Jan. 31	n/a	n/a
3/1/2015	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31	June 1 - June 30	Apr. 1 - Apr. 30	Feb. 1 - Feb. 28	n/a	n/a
4/1/2015	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30	July 1 - July 31	May 1 - May 31	Mar. 1 - Mar. 31	Dec. 31 - Jan. 31	n/a
5/1/2015	Oct. 1 - Oct. 31	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31	June 1 - June 30	Apr. 1 - Apr. 30	Feb. 1 - Feb. 28	n/a
6/1/2015	Nov. 1 - Nov. 30	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30	July 1 - July 31	May 1 - May 31	Mar. 1 - Mar. 31	Dec. 31 - Jan. 31
7/1/2015	Dec. 1 - Dec. 31	Oct. 1 - Oct. 31	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31	June 1 - June 30	Apr. 1 - Apr. 30	Feb. 1 - Feb. 28
8/1/2015	Jan. 1 - Jan. 31	Nov. 1 - Nov. 30	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30	July 1 - July 31	May 1 - May 31	Mar. 1 - Mar. 31
Received Dates	Subscription End Dates					

*The December 31st and January groups will be combined this year.

- **Recruiting Notes:** Encourage Annual Members to take advantage of the Life Member Installment plan. **Encourage life installment plan and annual members to take advantage of the automatic payment option.**
- **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. The list cost is \$75.00 per 1,000 names.
- **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:	Post:	Department:	National:
Levels:	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:

CENTURY RECRUITERS (as of 4/23/2015):

Kenneth L. Kraft - 528

VFW Post 12140, Dept. of OR

Dennis F. Flynn (CNR) - 288

VFW Post 2866, Dept. of MO

Sanford Rosenthal - 260

VFW Post 3586, Dept. of UT

Stephen A. Ward - 221

VFW Post 27, Dept. of EU

Rick L. Higgins (CNR) - 181

VFW Post 4039, Dept. of OR

Jack P. Lewis - 172

VFW Post 194, Dept. of MD

Larry M. Gerlt (CNR) - 169

VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

Crisoforo Vieyra, Jr. - 156

VFW Post 8397, Dept. of TX

Denny Croner - 151

VFW Post 2738, Dept. of ID

Gasper Delise - 123

VFW Post 9985, Dept. of Pac Areas

Judith A. Burger (CNR) - 122

VFW Post 4108, Dept. of OR

Glen F. Tilley - 120

VFW Post 2391, Dept. of FL

David B. Norris - 112

VFW Post 1051, Dept. of CA

Donald Cannon - 105

VFW Post 10692, Dept. of EU

Derek J. Tramondo - 105

VFW Post 7968, Dept. of AZ

John R. Wrinkle - 105

VFW Post 4108, Dept. of OR

George E. Carroll – 104
VFW Post 3973, Dept. of OR

Jason Carroll – 102
VFW Post 3973, Dept. of OR

Brian L. Juergensmeyer – 102
VFW Post 5917, Dept. of IL

Daniel L. West – 100
VFW Post 3413, Dept. of TX

John L. Frisby - 100
VFW Post 5917, Dept. of IL

DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:

Department of Oregon
2 New Posts

Department of Europe
1 New Post

Department of New York
1 New Post

Department of Virginia
1 New Post

Department of Pacific Areas
2 New Posts

KANSAS CITY SPREE

The Membership Team at National Headquarters is looking forward to welcoming the Kansas City Spree trip winners to Kansas City.

Division 3, District 16
Department of California
Commander Barry Adams

Division 4, District 13
Department of Oregon
Commander Norman Henshen

Division 5, District 10
Department of Oregon
Commander John Wrinkle

Division 6, District 10
Department of West Virginia
Commander William Sanford

Division 1, VFW Post 2391
Department of Florida
Commander Glen Tilley

Division 2, VFW Post 8760
Department of South Carolina
Commander Francis Havlin

Division 3, VFW Post 661
Department of Oregon
Commander Wesley Larson

Division 4, VFW Post 4484
Department of West Virginia
Commander Melvin Goddard

Division 5, VFW Post 4039
Department of Oregon
Commander Rick Higgins

Division 6, VFW Post 9448
Department of Oregon
Commander Michael Beyerlin

Division 7, VFW Post 4423
Department of Florida
Commander Ronald Price

Division 8, VFW Post 2659
Department of Missouri
Commander Robert Myers

Division 9, VFW Post 1173
Department of Idaho
Commander William Giesecke

Division 10, VFW Post 1221
Department of Minnesota
Commander Larry Pocmich

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

We will be having a check presentation with the Commander-in-Chief at the VFW Programs Workshop on Sunday, July 20 at 1:00 P.M. Please call Linda Ferguson at 816-968-1102 as soon as possible if your Department/District/Post/Auxiliary will be presenting.

Meeting times at the National Convention in St. Louis:

NMS Chairman Committee Meeting
Sunday, July 20, 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

VFW Programs Workshop - **Open to the public**
Sunday, July 20, 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

“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 18, until noon, Monday, July 20, 2015. Winning displays will be identified with appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning and announced later on the convention floor. Displays must be removed prior to 3:30 on Tuesday afternoon.

VETERANS DAY “BUDDY”® POPPY CAMPAIGN. Plans should be under way for the Veterans 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, 75th or 100th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don’t pass those costs on to the Posts. The bigger issue is that we simply don’t have the inventory on hand to fulfill the potential orders that could come in if we open these items up to be ordered by anyone at any time.

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>.

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>.

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.

TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY "SALUTE OUR TROOPS" EVENT. In honor of our nation's heroes, the VFW is partnering again this year with Tractor Supply Company (TSC). TSC is the largest farm and ranch store chain in the United States. VFW Posts and their Auxiliaries are encouraged to host "Salute Our Troops" events at TSC stores throughout the country on May 23, to honor our veterans, showcase VFW patriotism and get the community involved! These events may vary at each location, ranging from Buddy Poppy distributions, recruiting opportunities, hosting a Memorial Day event, BBQ's and any other fun activity. The time is now here for Posts to begin coordinating their events.

The first step in coordinating their event begins now. Each Post and Auxiliary who plan to hold a "Salute Our Troops" event must visit www.tractorsupply.com/vfw to register. This link will direct you to the registration form. Just like last year, **for Posts and Auxiliaries to get connected with a TSC store nearest them, they all must first register.** Once Posts and Auxiliaries have completed the registration process, they will receive a Thank You indicating they've completed the process and that they will be receiving an email confirmation soon. If the Post or Auxiliary does not hear from the store within a couple business days, we would encourage them to make the initial contact with the TSC Store Manager to plan your event.

If you have any questions about the event or the registration process, please contact the VFW Programs office at (816) 756-3390, ext. 148.

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.

SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR.

Important Program Update: Beginning in the 2015-2016 program year, the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year deadline dates have changed. Here are the new deadline dates for the program:

February 15, 2016 – Teacher Nominations to the Post
February 28, 2016 – Completion of Post Judging
March 15, 2016 – Completion of District Judging
March 30, 2016 – Completion of Department Judging
April 5, 2016 – Department Winners to National
April 15, 2016 – Department Reports to National

Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for next year's competition. Deadline for entries is February 15, 2016.

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>.

FLAG DAY, JUNE 14. All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Sunday, 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>.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING. All VFW Post and Auxiliaries chairmen will report to their respective Department chairman at least twice yearly in a timely fashion so as to allow the Department chairman to report to the VFW National Programs office in June and December. The VFW Post chairmen's report should include whether or not their Auxiliaries participated.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN BROCHURES. The new 2015-16 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:
"My Vision for America"

Patriot's Pen theme:
"What Freedom Means to Me"

Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org/Login.aspx>, log in, then click on **Chairman Guides** under the **General Member Tools and 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 16, 2015 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 25, 2015 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; National POW/MIA Day, September 18, 2015 (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.

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:

We will be having a check presentation with the Commander-in-Chief at the VFW Programs Workshop on Sunday, July 19 at 1:00 P.M. Please call Linda Ferguson at 816-968-1102 as soon as possible if your Department/District/Post/Auxiliary will be presenting.

Meeting times at the National Convention in Pittsburgh:

Veterans & Military Support Chairman Committee Meeting
Sunday, July 19, 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

VFW Programs Workshop - **Open to the public**
Sunday, July 19, 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

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.

VFW *Patriotic Favorites* CD Coming Your Way! – Later this month, the VFW will be mailing out the latest edition of our *Patriotic Favorites* CD as a thank you for your generous and steadfast support. Your *Patriotic Favorites* CD includes 19 tracks of celebrated American music sure to stir your patriotic spirit. Please enjoy it with our compliments. In the package with your CD you will find a sneak preview of the new 2015-2016 VFW Calendars. In early June, we will send the VFW 2015-2016 “*Fly the Flag*” Calendar and a second calendar featuring majestic photography of some of America's most scenic locations.

When you receive the CD, please consider sending a generous gift to help support the many important programs the VFW has to offer for veterans, service members and their families. Your gift will be put to work in *your* Department.

Matching Gift Opportunity to Support the VFW's Programs – The VFW has been presented with a matching gift opportunity by a generous patriot and friend of the VFW who wishes to remain anonymous. This generous supporter has offered to match your gift dollar for dollar up to \$50,000 until June 16, 2015. The VFW programs to assist veterans, service members and their families are being stretched to the limit with requests for assistance. Many veterans and returning service members are turning to the VFW for assistance in filing VA benefit claims, finding and training for jobs when they

return from long deployments, as well as financial grants to keep their mortgages out of foreclosure...and so much more. This is a great opportunity to help support veterans of all ages, [right in your Department](#). Be as generous as you can and send your gift in by June 16, 2015, to make sure it is matched!

May is National Military Appreciation Month – Is your Post planning to commemorate a special event for Military Spouses Day on May 8th, Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15th, Armed Forces Day on May 16th, National Maritime Day on May 22nd or Memorial Day on May 25th?

If your Post is planning a special event this month to commemorate any of the above mentioned special days, please share your success story with us. We will be looking for special stories from Posts like yours to feature in upcoming monthly e-newsletters and on www.vfw.org/vfwatwork. You may email your story to success@vfw.org.

The VFW Urges Patriotic Americans to Honor Memorial Day—The VFW is calling on every grateful citizen to honor fallen heroes and help those in need with a special Memorial Day contribution. As VFW Commander-in-Chief John W. Stroud prepares for the VFW's annual visit to Arlington National Cemetery, he urges all VFW members and supporters to join him in remembering every man and woman who has sacrificed so much for our freedom. You can honor Memorial Day and America's veterans by making your special contribution at heroes.vfw.org/memorialday2015 today.

Helping the VFW for Generations to Come – One of the easiest ways to continue providing support for your fellow veterans and their families is to name the VFW in your will or trust. It's easy and only takes a few words, and you remain in control of your assets during your lifetime. Just a small percentage of your assets could go a long way in helping the VFW continue its mission into the future.

If you decide to make a gift to the VFW in your will, or have already done so, please let us know! We would like to say “thank you” and welcome you to the VFW Heroes Circle, a prestigious group of our most generous supporters who have made the extraordinary commitment to the VFW and veterans we serve.

Free estate planning tools are available by contacting the VFW Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119, email plannedgiving@vfw.org or click 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 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!

MEMBER BENEFITS:

SAVE 15% AT MOTEL 6!

Motel 6 is pleased to offer a nationwide discount to Veterans of Foreign Wars Members. Motel 6 offers a clean, comfortable room and great service for the lowest price of any national chain, and the discount will help you save even more. We'll leave the light on for you®. VFW membership verification is required upon check-in to obtain this special discount. Motel 6 has a lot to offer VFW Members!

- A clean and comfortable room at the lowest price of any national brand
- Over 1,100 location in the U.S. and Canada to choose from
- Pet-friendly
- Free coffee in the lobby each morning
- Free local calls
- Free expanded cable
- WiFi (fee may apply)
- Pool (most locations)
- Guest laundry (most locations)

Call 1-800-466-8356 or click [here](#) to book your reservation now. VFW Discount Code CP571909.

VFW FOUNDATION:

ESTABLISHING A CHARITABLE GIVING ACCOUNT

With this year's tax season in the rear-view mirror, many Americans spent time and energy collecting charitable tax receipts for previous year's donations to places of worship, alma maters and favorite nonprofits like the VFW Foundation. But those who organize their giving through charitable giving accounts, also known as donor-advised funds, are spared this chore. No longer does one have to provide a box full of receipts to their tax preparer but one simple statement can outline an individual's entire years' worth of charitable giving.

As outlined by the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, listed are reasons why an individual may want to consider opening their own charitable account and donate to qualified 501c3 charities such as the VFW Foundation, tax ID number **43-1758998**.

1. **Quick and Easy to Establish.** You can open a charitable giving account online, over the phone or through your wealth manager in a matter of minutes.
2. **No Minimum Balance.** You can establish your account with any balance comfortable to you (Greater Kansas City Community Foundation only; \$5,000 minimum balance with most charitable giving accounts).
3. **Invest Your Charitable Dollars and Watch Them Grow.** You can choose how contributions to your fund are invested.
4. **Give Gifts of Cash, Stock, Real Estate and Other Complex Assets.** Charitable giving companies such as Fidelity Charitable and Schwab Charitable has expertise in accepting many types of assets and can ensure you receive the maximum tax deduction for your donations.

5. **Avoid Capital Gains Tax.** There are tax advantages to donating appreciated stock or property to your account. Your charitable giving company will sell assets and put proceeds in your account.
6. **Support the Causes You Care About on Your Timeline.** You can donate to any 501c3 charity, such as the VFW Foundation, as often as you want and in any amount you desire. Your charitable giving company will perform due diligence to ensure grants only go to IRS-qualified organizations.
7. **Privacy Is Important.** Rest assured that your charitable giving company will never share your personal information. You can also choose to grant anonymously from your account.
8. **Receive Personalized Service.** When you call your charitable giving company, it is important that you talk to an actual person to provide comfort that you are making your giving experience easy and meaningful.
9. **Manage Your Fund Online.** Online donor portals allow you to check your balance, suggest grants and download past statements at your convenience.
10. **Low Cost.** Administrative fees are based on the amount in your account(s).

If you have a charitable gift account with Fidelity Charitable (1-800-262-6039), Schwab Charitable (1-800-746-6216) or the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation (816-842-0944), please feel free to make an online donation through the DAF Direct link on the home page of the VFW Foundation website at www.vfwfoundation.org or contact them at the phone numbers listed.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the VFW Foundation, at (816) 968-1128 or foundation@vfw.org.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ACTION CORPS:

Become an Active Veterans' Advocate - Join the VFW Action Corps today!

As we approach the May/June Department Conventions, now is the perfect time to encourage all of your members on every level – Post, District and Department – to join the VFW Action Corps Advocacy Team. Urge all to become active veterans' advocates by signing up to receive the *VFW Action Corps Weekly* e-newsletter and all of our Action Alerts. Tell them they will be the first to know what is happening in Washington regarding legislation making a difference in their life and in the lives of other veterans, service members and their families. Click here to sign-up today:

<http://capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm>.

Stay abreast of important issues like those found in our *2015 Talking Points*, entitled “*The Long Road Home*” and within our *2015 Legislative Priority Goals*. Both provide in detail the VFW's position on a variety of issues including VA funding, access to disability benefits, military quality-of-life programs, economic opportunity and health care. Other critical concerns include ending sequestration.

Review our talking points and legislative priority goals by visiting the VFW website at www.vfw.org and click on the <http://www.vfw.org/VFW-in-DC/National-Legislative-Service/> page. All of your advocacy efforts will help us ensure that veterans, our military and their families receive the benefits they have so justly earned.

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 collecton 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>.



Hosting a run? Get t-shirts for your participants at great prices! VFW Store can help you with inexpensive t-shirts for your events – starting as low as \$3.95 per shirt, including screen print! For a FREE, NO OBLIGATION quote, call Kim Winston at 816-968-1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org.



ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

SMALLRIDGE, WILLIAM, Commander, Department of West Virginia, 1969-1970 and a Life Member of Howard P. Hall Post 1064, Huntington, West Virginia, February 7, 2015.

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