

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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LOYALTY HONOR SERVICE

“BUDDY”® POPPY:

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 <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy> or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that 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.

The 116th National Convention “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest winners are:

Category 1 – Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| First Place | - | Annapolis Post No. 304
Annapolis, Maryland |
| Second Place | - | Millstadt Post No. 7980 and VFW Auxiliary
Millstadt, Illinois |
| Third Place | - | VFW Auxiliary to the Tri-City Evergreen Post No. 2298
Dundee, Illinois |
| Honorable Mention | - | VFW Auxiliary to the Lacy Kelly Post No. 3036
Hattiesburg, Mississippi |

Category 2 – Memorial or Inspirational Displays

- First Place - Hugo Matejcek Post No. 3723 and VFW Auxiliary
Owatonna, Minnesota
- Second Place - Bloomingdale Post No. 7539
Bloomingdale, Illinois
- Third Place - VFW Auxiliary to the Mac Kenzie-Webster Post No. 790
Barre, Vermont
- Honorable Mention - Lt. Harold R. Cornwell Post No. 1298 and VFW Auxiliary
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Category 3 – Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies

- First Place - Kyle/Buda Post No. 12058 and VFW Auxiliary
Kyle, Texas
- Second Place - West St. Charles Post No. 3750
Luling, Louisiana
- Third Place - VFW Auxiliary to the Merrimack Post No. 8641
Merrimack, New Hampshire
- Honorable Mention - Bob Milby Post No. 6450 and Oak Glen High School
Chester, West Virginia
- Directors Award - Robert “Shane” Pugh Post No. 12124 and VFW Auxiliary
Meridian, Mississippi

Category 4 – Memorial or Inspirational Displays (Jr. Girls Units/Sons of the VFW)

- First Place - Jr. Girls Unit VFW Auxiliary to the Mechanicsburg Memorial
Post No. 6704
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
- Second Place - Jr. Girls Unit VFW Auxiliary to the Robert R. Tuck
Post No. 912
Baytown, Texas
- Third Place - Jr. Girls Unit VFW Auxiliary to the John J. Michaels Memorial
Post No. 5207
Daleville, Pennsylvania
- Honorable Mention - Jr. Girls Unit VFW Auxiliary to the Foreign Service Post No. 1857
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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>.

PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11. Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11 is designated as "Patriot Day." The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States. For flags and other patriotic items, click here <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags>.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 18. Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure. For POW/MIA merchandise, click here <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia>.

SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR. The VFW wants to recognize the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history, traditions and institutions effectively through the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award program. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, VFW Posts, supervisors or other interested individuals (not relatives). Self-nominees are not eligible.

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 1, 2016 – District Participation Reports due to Department Chairmen
- 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. Based on the nominees submitted by the February 15 deadline, local VFW Posts will recognize one outstanding teacher in grades, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Posts then submit the winners' names to their District level judging who will forward their winners to the Department (or state level) by March 15. After judging, each Department forwards the names of its winners to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national awards contest.

VFW's 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 a VFW and its Auxiliaries national event.

A program brochure (designed to be duplicated for distribution) can be viewed at http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/MY_VFW/TeacheroftheYearAwardBrochure.pdf or ordered through www.vfwstore.org or by calling 1-800-821-2606 and asking for item #4450.

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

50th ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION PROGRAM. The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other non-governmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans

and their families. As a Commemorative Partner, VFW Posts are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam Veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

Events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war and the losses suffered by many. Commemorative Partners should communicate how their events will achieve the Congressionally-mandated objectives of the program. Events or activities should meet one or more of the following objectives.

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

For VFW Posts interested in becoming an official Commemorative Partner, they must submit an application and a signed Statement of Understanding.

Applications are available at www.VietnamWar50th.com on the Commemorative Partner Program. The approval process is usually less than 30 days. Partners will be kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved as a Partner, the Commemoration will provide organizations with a starter kit of materials for developing and implementing their programs. If you have any questions regarding the Commemorative Partner Program application process, please direct them to: whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil. For 50th Anniversary Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=50th>.

VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS. Departments are asked to submit three nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs Office no later than February 1, 2016. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician

Each Department will receive their three awards and contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department Commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient's peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the general public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters and EMT's, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership.

VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM MONTH IN NOVEMBER. VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are encouraged to volunteer in their schools to talk about their military and home front experiences to students. Invite your local military recruiter to join you to talk about military service today. Additional information can be found in the 2015–2016 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman's Guide. Simply visit www.vfw.org and LOG IN (or create an account if you do not have one.) After logging in, you'll be redirected to the "My VFW" page where you will click on

VFW Training & Support and then Community Service, Youth Scholarships & Activities where you'll have access to the "CHAIRMAN GUIDES." *Participate in this activity as part of "National Veterans Awareness" week, November 8-14, as designated by Congress.*

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 2015 – 2016 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Guide.

2014-15 FRED C. HALL MEMORIAL OUTSTANDING POST SPECIAL PROJECT WINNER ANNOUNCED AT VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION IN PITTSBURGH. "American Flags on Main Street" was this year's recipient from Stoehr-Glidden VFW Post No. 2554, Sultan, Washington. Christina Nelson-Sivewright (VFW Post 2554) had a vision, "American Flags on Main Street" in time for Veterans Day 2014. After the holes had been drilled in the sidewalk and the flags erected, the vision became a reality. It has had a very positive impact on the city of Sultan and its citizens, with feelings of immense pride in community and country.

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 21, 2016 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 30, 2016 (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.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:

REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT MILITARY EQUIPMENT - Department Adjutants and Quartermasters are asked to remind all Post Officers to refer to the information located at www.vfw.org where they will need to log in to the "My VFW" page and select the "VFW Training and Support" link, then "Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates" where you'll have access to "Training Guides & Standard Operating Procedures" and then click on "Ceremonial Rifles, Ammunition & Military Equipment" when requesting a "conditional" donation of any government military equipment, ceremonial rifles or ammunition.

Before contacting the governmental agency, a formal written request is to be addressed and mailed to the Adjutant General at VFW National Headquarters, and must be completed and signed by the current *Post Commander, Post Adjutant or Post Quartermaster*, one of whom needs to be the contact person.

Also to be included is that contact person's mailing address and phone number, not the Post address. Address the request to the Adjutant General, VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Include the proper information as outlined in the “Ceremonial Rifles, Ammunition & Military Equipment” pages in the website. It is requested that a Post not go through their Department Headquarters (but send them a courtesy copy). This only slows down the processing and creates unnecessary paperwork for the Department personnel.

CAPS DURING CHAPLAIN PRAYERS – In accordance with the Ritual General Rule 13(b), “members will follow the action of the Chaplain or presiding officer relative to removal of caps during prayers; if uncovering, the hat shall be placed on the extended closed fingers of the right hand in such a way that the Cross of Malta is exposed and held over the heart.”

VFW COMMUNICATIONS:

The **VFW Training and Support** section of VFW.org has been designed to streamline your quest for the valuable training tools and resources you need to help lead the VFW into the future. Here you’ll find VFW-produced materials ranging from membership recruiting and Post meeting training videos to chairman guides, brochures, fact sheets, applications and promotional material.

Access to the page is gained by logging into the website and selecting the “**VFW Training and Support**” link in the left column of the My VFW page.

We encourage each of you to explore the **VFW Training and Support** section to see all of the tools and resources that are available to you!

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 veteran and military support programs worldwide.

VFW’s Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2015 – This month we are mailing the VFW’s Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2015. Summer will soon be over and the holidays will be approaching! Several weeks ago we sent out an announcement about the new Christmas cards for this year – and now the time to mail has arrived. We certainly hope you enjoy these special edition cards along with the other special gifts that are included in the package. In the letter that accompanies the cards and gifts, we are asking you to consider making some time to visit a hospitalized service member or veteran in your community. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/volunteer to find out about volunteering at your local VA facility. And please, remember that the VFW’s life-changing programs would not be available for veterans of all generations without the generosity of its members. Your donation to the VFW helps support programs for veterans and service members right in your own Department.

Sign Your Name, Change Your Future – VFW members like you frequently tell us, “I wish I could do more.” Learn about ways you can have an impact for future generations of veterans, just by signing your name – and with gifts that cost you nothing now. Call the VFW Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119, email 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 an option that lets you support the 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” at the bottom of the page 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!

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:

VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”

The spring 2016 application is now available online at www.vfw.org/scholarship. Deadline for applications is November 15.

The VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” program awarded 85 scholarships totaling over \$366,000 for the 2015 fall semester. Since beginning the program in January 2014, almost 300 veterans have been awarded scholarships totaling over \$1.17 million.

VFW FOUNDATION:

VFW FOUNDATION GRANT

The VFW Foundation Grant will be awarded for activities that directly benefit veterans, active duty military personnel and their families.

Innovation in service delivery, unique design that addresses an underserved need and the likelihood of sustainability after the grant period ends will be given special consideration. Special grant consideration will be granted to tax exempt VFW Posts, Departments and its Auxiliaries. These VFW-related entities are eligible to apply if aid is requested for distinctive outreach activities.

Grants may also at times be awarded to charitable organizations that have no connection to the VFW, however, applying outside (non-VFW affiliated) organizations must be tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code to be considered.

Grant award sizes vary from \$1,000-\$15,000 with most grants in the \$3,000-\$10,000 range. The total dollar amount for all grants will not exceed \$100,000 in any fiscal year (September 1-August 31).

To apply for the VFW Foundation Grant, go to the “Grants” page on the VFW Foundation website (www.vfwfoundation.org) and click on the link provided. A listing of non-qualified activities requests are listed on the grant application.

Final approval of grant awards and funding amounts are subject to the exclusive determination and discretion of the VFW Foundation Board and its decisions are not subject to review. For questions, please contact Jason Couch, Grants Coordinator, by email at jcouch@vfw.org.

VFW FOUNDATION COMMUNITY SERVICE MATCHING GRANT

The VFW Foundation wants to help your Post get more involved in your community. That's why we have established a "VFW Foundation Community Service Matching Grant" open to VFW Posts and their Auxiliaries.

Does your Post want to aid a local homeless shelter or food pantry, provide support for a school field trip or sponsor a youth sports team? These are just some ideas that would qualify for the grant.

Funded activities do not have to be geared exclusively toward the needs of veterans, military service personnel or their families. In most instances, grant funds will be used to help "general" non-military or mixed general/military populations so as to demonstrate how a VFW Post can make an additional positive impact on its community.

VFW Posts and/or their Auxiliary can conduct grant activities on their own or leverage grant funds in partnership with other non-VFW charities that have existing programs or services.

As the name implies this "matching grant" means that if your request is approved, the VFW Foundation will "match" Post or Auxiliary expenditures dollar-for-dollar up to \$500 for your desired community project.

For example, if a Post or Auxiliary spends \$500 on a community project or outreach, the VFW Foundation will provide an additional \$500 to the Post or Auxiliary which will result in a total community commitment of \$1,000.

After the application is submitted, the Post or Auxiliary will receive notification from the VFW Foundation within thirty (30) calendar days of a decision. If the Post's project has been authorized, a check from the VFW Foundation will be included with the decision letter.

To apply for the VFW Foundation Community Service Matching Grant, go to the "Grants" page on the VFW Foundation website (www.vfwfoundation.org) and click on the link provided.

VFW Foundation grant funds must be expended within six (6) months of the award date which coincides with the time frame expected for project completion. A final report with receipt copies documenting how the funds were used is also required. For questions, please contact Jason Couch, Grants Coordinator, by email at jcouch@vfw.org.

THE HOME DEPOT COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT APPLICATIONS CLOSED FOR 2015

As of September 1, applications for The Home Depot (HD) Foundation Community Impact Grant will no longer be accepted for 2015. The HD Foundation Community Impact Grant provides up to \$5,000 in assistance to eligible VFW Posts to fix up their buildings. This program has been a great source of funding for a large number of VFW Posts.

The HD Foundation has stated that it once again will offer this grant in 2016. Look for updates from the VFW Foundation as we will issue a "How to Apply" guide at that time.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ACTION CORPS:

VFW Fall Legislative Conference Highlights Major Issues

September is a busy month for the VFW in our nation's capital as Congress returns from recess and the VFW's National Legislative Service Committee meets with their Senators and Representatives. Major issues for the VFW will be discussed including ending sequestration, access to quality health care,

changes to the military retirement system and protecting veterans' benefits. However, every member of the VFW is an important part of this effort, and using the information available on the VFW's website keeps you informed when you talk to your elected officials. For more information about the VFW in DC, go to: <http://www.vfw.org/VFWinDC/>.

Another important way for you to stay involved in the fight for veterans is to join the **VFW Action Corps**. As part of the Action Corps team, you will receive the **Action Corps Weekly** e-newsletter every Friday recapping the week's events. Additionally, you will receive **Action Alerts** on pressing matters that need your immediate support. The alerts are a quick and important way for you to show your support for VFW priorities, and to remind your members of Congress that you are their constituents and your vote means their continued employment. Learn more about Action Corps and sign up today at: <http://www.vfw.org/VFW-in-DC/Action-Corps/>.

MEMBERSHIP:

MEMBERSHIP WEBINAR TRAINING

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.

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

The 2015 – 2016 Membership Program is available online at www.vfw.org under VFW Training and Support.

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

**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.

<i>Enrollment Cost:</i>	<i>Annual Payouts:</i>	<i>Post:</i>	<i>Department:</i>	<i>National:</i>
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?

MEMBER BENEFITS:

Live Independently & Age Gracefully With a Personal Medical Alert Device

Falls are the leading cause of injury among older adults with 60% of falls happening inside of the home. A personal medical alert device can help you remain independent and in your own home by alerting emergency services, neighbors or loved ones in the event of any emergency. Help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with just the press of a button. When the help button is activated, you are connected with a certified care specialist who will assess the situation and contact emergency services and your loved ones, while staying on the line until help arrives.

For additional information about a medical alert system, please contact VFW's Member Benefits Department at 1.800.821.2606, Option 1, or visit the Member Benefits website at www.vfw.org/MemberBenefits and click on Medical Services.

VFW STORE:

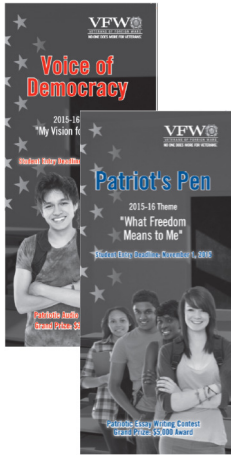


VFW Store is excited to offer several new POW/MIA products. Check out our new selection at <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/newitems> and our POW-MIA products at <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia>. Order your POW-MIA items now to receive in time for POW-MIA Recognition Day on September 18, 2015!

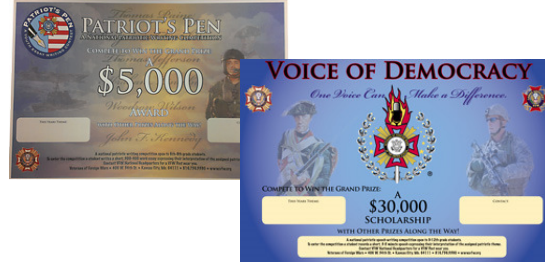


Gear up for fall and winter sports - get customized apparel for the team you are sponsoring. We can do shirts, jerseys and accessories for your personal team as well! Call Kim Winston at 816-968-1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org for a *free, no obligation* consultation.





School's back in session – don't forget to advertise your Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contest! Hang posters and hand out brochures at the school, your Post and around town. To order posters and brochures for Voice of Democracy go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy>; for Patriot's Pen go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen>.



ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

GOLDEN, JAMES J., Commander, Department of New Hampshire, 2013-2014 and a Life Member of George J. Maxfield Post 1772, Rochester, New Hampshire, August 4, 2015.

LANE, JAMES H., Commander, Department of Vermont, 2004-2005, Department Quartermaster for many years and a Gold Legacy Life Member of Essex Junction Post 6689, Essex Junction, Vermont, August 7, 2015.

SOUKUP, VERNON A., Commander, Department of Illinois, 1970-1971 and a Life Member of Montgomery Memorial Post No. 7452, Montgomery, Illinois. August 17, 2015.