

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

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LOYALTY HONOR SERVICE

VFW FOUNDATION:

SUPPORT THE VFW FOUNDATION THROUGH 2015 EMPLOYEE GIVING PROGRAMS

Did you know that you can designate the VFW Foundation in your employee giving? It's true. You can begin donating through annual employee giving programs such as the national Combined Federal Campaign (Charity #10511), United Way, state or local government employee campaigns and even corporate giving programs.

Know that your gift will help provide support to programs that secure, manage and distribute resources to improve the lives of veterans, military service personnel, their families and the communities where they live. These services are provided at no cost to the recipient. Within a year, your total payroll deduction can make a difference.

Want to make a double impact? Non-governmental employees can check with their employers about corporate matching gifts. If you make a donation to the VFW Foundation, your company may match your donations – doubling and sometimes even tripling your gift.

If you have any additional questions about the employee giving campaigns or matching gifts, please contact the VFW Foundation at (816) 968-1128.

BURGER KING FRANCHISEE OWNED RESTAURANTS SUPPORTING UNMET NEEDS IN NOVEMBER

The VFW Foundation is proud to announce that for the ninth consecutive year throughout the month of November participating Burger King (BK) Franchisee Owned restaurants across approximately 30 states will be raising funds for the Unmet Needs program. Since 2007, BK restaurants have contributed over \$3.2 million for the program. BK customers are encouraged to donate \$1 or more as they purchase food. Proceeds will help veterans and military families with assistance for rent, mortgage, utilities, medical expenses, vehicle repairs and food/basic necessities.

We ask that you mobilize Post members, their families and friends to patronize their local Burger King and to thank the restaurant manager for his/her commitment. Also, be sure to publicize the campaign by mentioning Burger King on VFW Post websites, message boards outside Post buildings, newsletters, or ask members to organize a BK food night-out. It's only natural that VFW members would support Burger King Franchisee Owners who strongly believe in patriotism by actively assisting U.S. military service personnel.

For a list of participating Burger King locations, please visit www.vfw.org.

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 2016 “Fly the Flag” Calendars – The VFW is proud to let you know that you may soon receive a special edition 2016 “Fly the Flag” Calendar. You probably already received the Expanded Edition 2015-2016 VFW Calendars in June...but we created this special patriotic “Fly the Flag” 2016 VFW Calendar in recognition of your loyal membership in – and generous support of – the VFW. We have also included a special BONUS 2016 “American Songbirds” Calendar for you to use or to share with a family member or friend. We hope these special gifts inspire you to show your patriotism by displaying the United States flag, especially on the days marked in your calendars, to show your fellow veterans and everyone in your community they are thought of and appreciated. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/flag and print a free flag poster to display. **Your donations** to this important effort help **your VFW Department** serve veterans in need throughout the year. If you haven’t done so already, please send as generous a gift as you can. Veterans in your Department are counting on you!

VFW National Veterans Service Quarterly Supporter Newsletter – Your quarterly update on what the VFW National Veterans Service is doing for veterans will arrive this month. You will see stories of how VFW Service Officers are assisting veterans in obtaining their VA benefits – all because of your support of this vital program. If you, or a fellow veteran, are in need of assistance in filing a VA claim, please visit www.vfw.org/nvs.

Free Estate Planning Resources from the VFW – Over half of adult Americans do not have a will or any estate plans. Because it is important to have a plan in place, the VFW provides a free Personal Estate Planning Kit, which you can download at www.vfw.org/plannedgiving. Once you have made sure your family and loved ones are taken care of, we invite you to consider a gift to the VFW in your will. It is simple and only takes a few words to provide support for future generations of veterans. Learn more by contacting the VFW Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119 or email 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 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!

“BUDDY”® POPPY:

By the time you read this, VFW and Auxiliary members will have spread out across the landscape distributing the familiar red poppy. Although we emphasize “Buddy”® Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of “Buddy”® Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, “Buddy”® Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our war dead. Where the VFW appears, “Buddy”® Poppies should be a ubiquitous reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as “They Gave, Will You?” is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW “Buddy”® Poppies.

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>.

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 <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22917> 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>.**

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.

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 816-968-1148 or e-mail nclifton@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."

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. Certificates and plaques for presentations are available from the VFW Store at <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/vfw/supplies/awards>.

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG ON DECEMBER 7: Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates December 7 as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" and requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day. To order a flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags>.

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 16, 2016 (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.

VFW COMMUNICATIONS:

All Americans are invited to join the VFW's *Operation Appreciation* by thanking our nation's service members and veterans with an act demonstrating their appreciation — an act beyond words or text, then sharing a photo or video illustrating the act and posting it to social media using the hashtags **#ithankedavet**, **#yourturn**.

With the number of patriotic and veteran-focused events happening nationwide in the upcoming weeks, participation should come easy to those who wish to get involved. Capturing and sharing photos and videos from parades and other Veterans Day events is highly encouraged, but the VFW also hopes the campaign sparks individuals to find ways to creatively express their appreciation. From buying a service member or veteran's meal or gas, to helping with a project or household chore, to treating them to a fishing, hunting, skydiving or paintball outing, there is no "right" way to express the deep appreciation citizens have for the sacrifices of America's finest.

All of the social media content generated as a result of Operation Appreciation can be found on your mobile device by searching for **#ithankedavet** or **#yourturn** on individual social media sites, or from your desktop at: https://www.facebook.com/VFWFans/app_170912239916663.

For sample social media posts and imagery you can use to support Operation Appreciation, [click here](#).

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:

REMINDER: Visit your local Sport Clips for a haircut from now until November 11 and donate to VFW's Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship Program. Your donation will provide scholarships to veterans. **On Veterans Day**, November 11, Sport Clips will donate \$1 to the VFW for every haircut given at more than 1,400 locations nationwide. Please contact Linda Ferguson at 816-968-1102 if you have any questions about the Help a Hero Scholarship Program.

Spring 2016 Help A Hero Scholarship application deadline ~ November 15, 2015.

Click following link to apply. <http://www.vfw.org/Scholarship/>

MEMBERSHIP:

V-MAIL

- **VMAIL:** There is a new face to VFW Vmail! Go online to <http://www.vfw.com> to stay in communication with other Posts as well as with National Headquarters. Check in often for important VFW updates and news from National. The VFW Membership Department will be using this avenue for communication more regularly. Stay tuned!
- Remember, if you are a current annual member there is always the option to become a Life Member. The Life Member Installment plan is available for anyone who would like to have 11 low monthly payments and never have to worry about annual dues again! If you are a current Life Member, upgrade to VFW Legacy Life and join this elite group of Legacy Life Members as a way to preserve your place in the history of our organization for years to come. Go online to <http://www.vfw.org/Join/Dues-Structure/> or call 1-888-JOIN-VFW (1-888-564-6839) for details about each membership type.

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.

RECRUITING NOTICE

Why chase annual members...

- 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.

EARLY BIRD – VFW LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The top three Post Commanders and Quartermasters and the top two District Commanders in each division on January 1, 2016, will be awarded:

- A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

- Veterans Day is approaching; this is a good time to make sure you are prepared for any and all events.
- The 2015 – 2016 Membership Program is available online at www.vfw.org under VFW Training and Support.
- **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 deceased 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?

DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:

Department of Alaska
1 New Post

MEMBER BENEFITS:

Open Enrollment Starts November 1

2015 Individual & Family Health Insurance Open Enrollment Starts November 1, 2015.

Mark your calendar. Set a reminder on your phone. Tape it to the refrigerator. Whatever you have to do, just don't forget November 1 is the day Open Enrollment starts.

When it comes to health insurance, VFW Group Insurance offers a comprehensive network of plans and multiple options to choose from. Affordable health care coverage is important for everyone; regardless of age, employment status or lifestyle. Our goal is to help you decide what coverage is right for you and your family and find a plan that suits your needs, from prescription drug coverage to reasonable premiums.

Choose a plan. Compare rates. Apply online. Visit <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/health-insurance.html> for more details and a complete list of insurance offerings.

Start here to [Learn More](#) or call 1-844-806-3519 and one of our specialized agents will assist you.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ACTION CORPS:

Driving Our Grassroots Program

With every issue that Congress votes on, there is a local connection in your hometown that serves as the face of that issue. That grassroots connection is what builds the momentum to make a law become reality and the VFW's Action Corps is the program which drives our grassroots efforts to ensure that we are successful on Capitol Hill. Since June, we have seen the Action Corps grow by more than 50% because people see the importance of knowing what is happening in Washington and they want to be involved in the VFW's efforts.

Election season is upon us and this cycle sees one-third of the Senate and the entire House of Representatives up for election. Being part of the VFW's Action Corps is an important way to keep tabs on those in office now -- how they vote and what important issues they are having to consider. We are also in the midst of the presidential campaign season and the VFW is tracking those candidates, what they say and what their policy positions are. Being in the Action Corps and reading the Action Corps Weekly e-newsletter will help keep you informed. To join the Action Corps, visit:

<http://www.vfw.org/VFW-in-DC/Action-Corps/>.

Another way you can learn about the VFW's position on important legislative issues is to visit our webpage. You can print position papers for various policies, participate in surveys on VA healthcare and follow our efforts to ensure the best service possible is coming from VA, as well as learn about how to organize town hall meetings for elected officials and candidates to come to in your state. To visit the National Legislative Service on the VFW website, go to: <http://www.vfw.org/VFW-in-DC/National-Legislative-Service/>.

VFW STORE:



The 2016 VFW Podium Edition is now available! To order, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22690>. For electronic versions, visit [Amazon](#) or [Barnes and Noble](#). The Auxiliary Podium is also available - visit <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/27388> for the book or [Amazon](#) and [Barnes and Noble](#) for the online versions.



Recognize your Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen participants/winners with certificates and prizes from the VFW Store. Browse our selection of awards for Voice of Democracy at <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy> and Patriot's Pen at <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen>.



Show appreciation to our law enforcement, firefighters and paramedics for their service to our country here at home. Recognize outstanding public servants through the VFW Public Servant Awards program. Plaques and certificates are available at the VFW Store to acknowledge those who protect us – visit <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=Law%20enforcement> for Law Enforcement Awards, <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=Firefighter> for Firefighter Awards and <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=Paramedic> for Paramedic Awards.



VFW Store can create custom long sleeve t-shirts and sweatshirts for your Post or Department! Call Kim Winston at 816-968-1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org for a free, no obligation consultation!



Order your Department Mid-Winter apparel today! Raise funds for your Department by having a shirt made to sell at your Mid-Winter Conference. Contact Kim Winston at 816-968-1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org to place your order or get shirt design ideas!