

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 41, NO. 10

MAY 2017

CLEAR THE WAY

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING:

CONVENTION HOUSING: 118th National Convention housing opened February 21, 2017. Housing reservation information is located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at www.vfw.org/convention. You may also call the VFW Housing Bureau directly (#800-873-7265) - M-F, 7a-6p MT (International #801-214-7275) to make reservations. Please note the **housing cut-off is June 9, 2017**. Please **do not wait** to make your room reservations. Department hotel room blocks are selling out quickly! There are no guarantees rooms will be available if you wait until the cut-off date. The convention website has links to other general convention related information for New Orleans, July 22-26, 2017.

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 no later than the day following the close of your Department Convention. Do not delay in submitting your information.

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 Rick Butler, Director of Membership at 816-968-2752 or email at rbutler@vfw.org.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Top 5 Recruiters (as of 4/25/17):

George P. Fletcher - 325
VFW Post 7043, Dept. of PA

Thomas A. Brown - 201
VFW Post 928, Dept. of PA

Jack E. Turner - 152
VFW Post 3787, Dept. of CA

David B. Norris - 151
VFW Post 1051, Dept. of CA

John M. Tellier - 151
VFW Post 4709, Dept. of TX

KANSAS CITY SPREE WINNERS:

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

Division 1, District 10
Department of Virginia
Commander Robert Dugas

Division 2, District 17
Department of Texas
Commander Robert Derby

Division 2, District 2
Department of Ohio
Commander Tommie Leininger

Division 3, District 3
Department of Virginia
Commander Philip Arendsen

Division 3, District 19
Department of Texas
Commander Richard Shawver

Division 4, District 13
Department of New Jersey
Commander Chad Kent

Division 4, District 4
Department of Kentucky
Commander Allan Ferrell

Division 5, District 14
Department of Kentucky
Commander Jerry Shanks

Division 5, District 7
Department of Pennsylvania
Commander John Kennard

Division 6, District 1
Department of Louisiana
Commander Stephen Mainville

Division 6, District 2
Department of Maine
Commander James McIntyre

Division 1, Post 4709
Department of Texas
Commander Floyd Stewart

Division 1, Post 7968
Department of Arizona
Commander Derek Tramondo

Division 2, Post 7043
Department of Pennsylvania
Commander William Hewitt

Division 2, Post 928
Department of Pennsylvania
Commander John Sheaffer

Division 3, Post 8973
Department of Louisiana
Commander John Thomas

Division 3, Post 17
Department of South Dakota
Commander Sean Johnson

Division 4, Post 5579
Department of New Jersey
Commander Jeffrey Walding

Division 4, Post 5350
Department of New York
Commander William Hughes

Division 5, Post 10695
Department of Arizona
Commander Dennis Grau

Division 5, Post 2655
Department of California
Commander William Buck

Division 6, Post 10577
Department of California
Commander James Battle

Division 6, Post 3483
Department of Ohio
Commander William Gearo

Division 7, Post 12014
Department of Illinois
Commander Joseph Gillespie

Division 7, Post 12146
Department of Pacific Areas
Commander Kenneth Stein

Division 8, Post 996
Department of Massachusetts
Commander Joseph Zustra

Division 8, Post 2592
Department of Oklahoma
Commander Stanley Bennett

Division 9, Post 3769
Department of Kentucky
Commander Claudie Little

Division 9, Post 376
Department of New Jersey
Commander Ralph Panciello

Division 10, Post 12156
Department of Nevada
Commander Donna Barnett

Division 10, Post 9275
Department of Utah
Commander Eddie Jensen

“POT O’ GOLD” MEMBER DRAWING

Three (3) winners will be drawn and accompany the Commander-in-Chief on an all-expense paid trip to Ireland (Fall 2017) along with their spouse or guest.

For any new/reinstated member recruited between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017:

- You will receive one (1) chance for every five (5) new/reinstated members recruited.
- You will receive ten (10) chances for every increment of 25 new/reinstated members recruited.

➤ **Attention Post and District Commanders:**

- ✓ You will receive ten (10) chances in recognition of 85%+ Post and District retention.

Drawing will take place **July 1, 2017**. All awards are non-transferable.

MEMBERSHIP FACEBOOK

Make sure you ‘like’ and ‘share’ our VFW National Membership Facebook page. We post updates, links, contest reminders, events, etc. for you. Share the good news of the VFW:

<https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembership/>.

Commanders, Quartermasters, and Adjutants, see our new webinar on Facebook! It tells you how to get the most out of the new Post query function within the Online Membership System! If you’re not on Facebook, you can still view the webinar on YouTube here:

https://youtu.be/z_5MovJgD6E?list=PLS17GMBrijUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi.

DUES NOTICE SCHEDULE

Annual members will receive a *mailed renewal* notice five months, three months, and one month prior to their subscription end date. Annual members with a valid email address will also receive an *emailed renewal notice* six months, four months, and two months prior to their subscription end date.

Annual members will receive a *mailed lapsed notice* one, three, and five months following their subscription end date.

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT OPTIONS

- **Members now have the option to enroll in two beneficial programs.** 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.
 - VFW Autopay—renews your annual membership automatically!
 - Life Installment Plan—automatic monthly payments option—with this option, there is no need to complete a payment authorization form.
- **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.
- **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:

<u>Levels</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Departments</u>	<u>National</u>
Gold- \$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver- \$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze- \$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

What will your Legacy be?

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

- **V-mail:** 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. If you need assistance logging in or your password, contact Leticia Cortez in the Membership Department at 816-756-3390.
- Memorial Day will be here in no time; this is a good time to make sure you are prepared for any and all events.
- **Are you ready for ALL-AMERICAN?** The 2016–17 Membership Program is available online at www.vfw.org under VFW Training & Support.
- Spruce up your Post for spring – You only have one chance to make a first impression.

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:

We will be having a check presentation with the Commander-in-Chief at the VFW Programs Workshop on Sunday, July 23 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 New Orleans:

Veterans & Military Support Chairman Committee Meeting
Sunday, July 23, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

VFW Programs Workshop - **Open to the public**
Sunday, July 23, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

VFW FOUNDATION:

VFW's #ThankBK APPRECIATION DAY

The VFW National Commander is asking all VFW Posts and Auxiliaries to recognize our great friends at Burger King (BK) by mobilizing membership to visit your local BK restaurant and say "thank you" by participating in the **VFW's #ThankBK Appreciation Day** on Armed Forces Day – Saturday, May 20, 2017.

Since 2007, Burger King franchisees and their customers have contributed over \$4.3 million to the Unmet Needs program which has provided assistance to over 4,100 veterans and military families who have experienced unexpected financial difficulties. For additional information about the Unmet Needs program, go to the VFW website at <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants>.

Proudly wear your VFW caps while ordering, leave your business cards, [present this appreciation letter](#) we've prepared for you, and let Burger King management know that the VFW is there to support their restaurant as they, in turn, have supported our Unmet Needs program.

Please also encourage your family, friends and fellow VFW members to dine at Burger King on this VFW #ThankBK Appreciation Day. Let's make this a nationwide event! We've prepared a flyer and two ads for your use in helping to spread the word even further! [Download them here](#).

It's time to "Clear the Way!" and acknowledge this deserving supporter – Burger King on **Saturday, May 20**.

For questions about this event, please contact Richard Potter, VFW Foundation Administrator, at (816) 968-1158 or email at rpotter@vfw.org.

THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT

A reminder to all VFW Posts that the 2017 Home Depot (HD) Foundation Community Impact Grant is available to receive applications. Eligible Posts may receive up to \$5,000 to fix up their buildings; however, of course, there is no guarantee of funding. To begin the process, go to the following internet link: <http://homedepotfoundation.org/page/applying-for-a-grant>.

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

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

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

Should you have any further questions or need to discuss special concerns, please contact Jason Couch, VFW Foundation Grants Coordinator, at (816) 968-1174 or email at jcouch@vfw.org.

HENRY VFW TRIBUTE EDITION RIFLES

Henry Repeating Arms continues to offer the Henry VFW Tribute Edition rifles directly from their factory at very special pricing to VFW Posts and members.

These rifles are a great way for your Post to boost fundraising efforts, increase profits, recognize member volunteer efforts or milestones, and for members to build a personal collection.

There are two models, both Made In The USA; the VFW Post Tribute Edition and the VFW Tribute Edition. Both models are collector's items and unique to the Posts and/or members ordering these one-of-a-kind rifles.

For information or to order your Henry VFW Tribute Edition rifle, click on the following order form link: <https://www.henryusa.com/rifles/buy-direct-new-henry-vfw-tribute-rifles/>. If you would like to request additional brochures, please email Teresa at teresa@henryrepeating.com or call her toll free at 866-200-2354.

“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 22, until noon, Monday, July 24, 2017. 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 OF FOREIGN WARS JOINS "WORLD WAR I POPPY PROGRAM." The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission in announcing the WWI Poppy Program to raise awareness about World War I and generate funds for local VSO chapters all over the country.

The VFW is proud to share with you the WWI Poppy Program; an opportunity to generate resources for your Post while helping to honor the 4.7 million Americans who wore the uniform during WWI.

Poppies grew across the war-torn battlefields of Europe after World War I, and this year marks the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entering that war. From 2017 to 2019, the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission United States will tell the story of those American Veterans, through events, exhibits, and memorial efforts, and the VFW is proud to be a partner in this important commemoration.

Click on this link to learn about the WWI Poppy Program and how your purchase of a Poppy Kit helps build the new National World War I Memorial in Washington, DC while also helping to raise money for your Post.

Link: ww1cc.org/poppy

Here is a quick video that can help people understand why it is so important that we honor those who served during World War One: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_y4l49mZso.

The red poppy is an internationally-recognized symbol of veteran remembrance. Its use began in World War I and was captured in the war poem "In Flanders Fields," by Lt. Col. John McCrae.

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

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

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that nonprofit 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 if your Post is eligible.
- Different sizes of ads can be found at VFW Training & Support. (Please go to www.vfw.org and log on to My VFW and click on VFW Training & Support and select Community Service & Youth Programs, then select "Buddy"® Poppy and you will see the printable Advertisements.)

Contact information: BuddyPoppy@vfw.org or (816) 968-1155. 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>.

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 Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam>.

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 Manual or contact Tammy at 816-756-3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs Department for a nomination form.

TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY "SALUTE OUR TROOPS" EVENT. Team; as we've done in years past, the VFW and Tractor Supply Company (TSC) are partnering again this year in honor of our nation's heroes. TSC is the largest farm and ranch store chain in the United States. VFW Posts and their Auxiliaries are encouraged to host events at TSC stores throughout the country on May 27, 2017, to honor veterans, showcase VFW patriotism and get the community involved. This year we are calling the event "Salute Our Troops." These events may vary at each location, ranging from Buddy Poppy distribution, recruiting opportunities, hosting a Memorial Day event, BBQ's and any other fun activity.

Today's communication is merely asking for your assistance in maximizing participation for this year's event. The link provided http://tsceventpartners.com/salute_form.php is an easy site to register. I would ask you to share with all means necessary and get your Posts and Auxiliaries behind this event. This is an excellent opportunity for Posts and Auxiliaries to form a great relationship with their community and more importantly with a company that shares our same values and affinity with our nation's veterans.

The registration site will close on May 25, 2017, for this year's event.

If you have any questions about this year's "Salute Our Troops" event, please contact me at (816) 968-1116 or via email at lrolf@vfw.org.

VFW HONORS AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2016-17 PROGRAM YEAR. Nominations for this award and the judging at the Post, District and Department level are completed. After Department judging, each Department forwards the entries of its selections to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national award contest. Each Department's selections will receive a National Commendation citation.

The Smart/Maher VFW 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 the VFW National Convention in July 2017 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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

The Department report forms for the Teacher Award program were due to National Headquarters by April 15, 2017. If you have not sent them in, please email them to Tbeauchamp@vfw.org or fax to (816) 968-1149, to the attention of Tammy Beauchamp. If you have any questions, please contact the VFW Programs office at (816) 756-3390, ext. 6287.

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, Tuesday, 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.

WORLD WAR I COMMISSION PARTNERSHIP. In observance of the upcoming centennial of World War I, 100 matching grants of up to \$2,000 apiece will be awarded for the restoration of 100 World War I memorials across the United States. Any municipal government, individual, or organization may apply. The purpose of the program is to get local communities involved in recognizing and commemorating the WWI centennial and assisting them in restoring their local memorials. Pritzker and WWICC have jointly allocated \$200,000 for matching grants. Very little has been dispersed so far, as they expect most applications to come in closer to the deadline which is June 15, 2017. Applicants have until November 11, 2018, to complete their projects.

More than 100 projects will be supported. The top 100 will be highlighted in a coffee table book. All projects will be listed on their website.

The VFW's role is to help publicize the program and get local Posts (and Auxiliaries) involved.

A sample project is at: <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/resources.html#project-profiles>. (See the Ocean Springs video.)

A fun starting point is to first find memorials around the country. Information on this is at <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/memorial-hunters-club-about.html>. Scouting groups and 4-H clubs can also get involved.

There is a process for submitting a grant application, which helps to guide the local organization in assessing the project and getting all the right approvals (local governments, historical societies, etc.) before beginning any work. In their blog, they address a question from a VFW Post about the grant writing process which is meant to help guide the applicant -

<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/100-cities-100-memorials-blog.html>.

To participate and submit a grant request, go directly to

<https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/2016-07-06-00-52-42.html>.

For any follow up questions, please contact Lynn Rolf, Programs Director, at lrolf@vfw.org or (816) 968-1116.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING. All VFW Post and Auxiliary chairmen will report to their respective Department chairman in a timely fashion so as to allow the Department chairman to report to the VFW National Programs office by May 31. The VFW Post chairmen's report should include whether or not their Auxiliaries participated.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES. The 2017-18 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Keith E. Harman. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "American History: Our Hope for the Future" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "America's Gift to My Generation."

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN NATIONAL AWARDS. Every Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen first place Department winner will now receive a National scholarship or award. The new amount for the Voice of Democracy National Awards now total \$154,000 and the Patriot's Pen National Awards total is now \$54,500.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN DEADLINE DATE. Please update all websites, publications, announcements, etc. with the new student entry deadline for the 2017-18 program year. It will now be October 31, 2017, (instead of November 1, 2017) for both the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests. The updated entry forms are up on the VFW website and are available in the VFW Store.

Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org/Login.aspx>, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Additional Resources**. Here you will find all program manuals, and on the same page are all other 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 link:

<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>.

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.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN BROCHURES. The new 2017-18 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are available on the VFW website. Brochures in quantity are available at the VFW Store. Voice of Democracy -- <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22904>. Patriot's Pen -- <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22916>.

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 20, 2017 (third Saturday in May); Memorial

Day, May 29, 2017 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; National POW/MIA Day, September 15, 2017 (third Friday in September); Independence Day, July 4; 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.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

Nothing can ruin a vacation faster than an illness or unexpected medical emergency. Fortunately, you can prepare for the worst with Emergency Assistance Plus, an assistance program that is available to veterans who are traveling – locally or across the globe.

Members of the VFW have access to this critical program that includes medical transportation, recommendations on care options, help with translation services and making sure even your vehicle is returned home. Your travel companions are also looked after – either sending a loved one to your side, or arranging to get any dependents safely back home.

EA+ offers annual plans to individual members or for you and your family at incredibly reasonable rates for a year's worth of travel. Go forth and explore with peace of mind knowing EA+ is there, just in case.

For additional information on your options, click [here](#) or call 1-877-850-0183.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

Matching Gift Opportunity to Support the VFW's Programs – The VFW has been presented with a great opportunity by generous friends of the VFW who have offered to match your gift, dollar for dollar up to \$50,000, until June 13, 2017. Many veterans and returning service members are turning to the VFW for assistance in finding and training for jobs when they return from long deployments, as well as financial assistance grants for rent, food, medicine ... and so much more. Thanks to dedicated members like you, we have been able to provide the life-changing assistance our veterans need. The VFW is on the front line in the fight for education, jobs, health care and justice FOR VETERANS! 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 13, 2017, to make sure it is matched!

Memorial Day is Approaching – Thanks to many dedicated VFW members like you, veterans of all ages receive help filing for their hard-earned VA benefits, receive life-changing help and have their voices carried to Capitol Hill to fight for legislation to protect their rights. To thank you for always supporting your fellow veterans, we created this one-of-a-kind **VFW Commemorative Coin**. I hope you like this special coin and think of all of our country's proud veterans each time you look at it, especially this Memorial Day, May 29. We hope you share it with others and that you use it as a conversation starter with young children who need to learn about the veterans who have fought for their freedom ... hold your coin in your hand and say a prayer for the fallen and those who have returned wounded. I hope that this one-of-a-kind gift will also inspire you to send a generous donation so we may continue providing much-needed services for our fellow veterans.

May is National Military Appreciation Month – Is your Post planning to commemorate a special event for Military Spouses Day on May 12, Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15, Armed Forces Day on May 20, National Maritime Day on May 22 or Memorial Day on May 29?

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 in the Story Archive. You may email your story to success@vfw.org.

Who is Your Fallen Hero? – The VFW is calling on all Friends of Freedom members to share a favorite story about a fallen hero or veteran who is a friend or family member you greatly admire. The VFW is asking you to send in a story or message of gratitude for your fallen hero ... and we will share some of them on our Facebook page and in other communications. Watch your email inbox for this special opportunity!

A Simple Way to Make a Big Difference - Making a gift in your will is the easiest way to support the VFW and your fellow veterans after your lifetime. Did you know that it only takes one or two sentences in your will to complete? We invite you to learn more about this type of legacy gift and the lasting impact you can leave your family and the VFW. Free information is available by contacting 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 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. 7108 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 the banner that says "Find Out What's Happening" 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 "**Read VFW success stories**" to learn 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 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!

VFW COMMUNICATIONS:

Looking for an easy and FREE way to show others what the VFW does and why our mission is so vital? Visit the **VFW Training & Support** section of VFW.org and gain access to VFW-created PSAs. With TV and radio spots ranging from general VFW and program awareness, to donation campaigns and appeals for membership, finding something to fit your needs is easy!

Access to the page is gained by logging into the website and selecting the "**VFW Training & Support**" link under Member Resources on the My VFW page.

Also, be sure to check out the VFW's new :30 second video production "[Your Mission Continues.](#)" available for [download here.](#)

VFW STORE:



Get items you need for your Memorial Day events and Buddy Poppy campaigns at the VFW Store! We have flags, grave markers, memorial wreaths, Buddy Poppy posters, brochures, donation canisters and more! To see Memorial Day merchandise, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/memorialday>. For "Buddy"® Poppy items, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy>.

The VFW Store is always adding new products! We've now got in-stock golf towels and tee packs, new T-shirts and caps, as well as new insulated tumblers and other accessories. Pictured are our new Branch of Service hologram cups. Check out the new items we're adding at <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems>.

