

# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 39, NO. 8

MAR. 2015

## *DEFENDING FREEDOM'S DEFENDERS*

### VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING:

116th National Convention Housing officially opened February 17, 2015. Housing reservation information is located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). The convention website will also have general convention information including registration form and links to other convention related information for Pittsburgh, PA – July 18-22, 2015.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION: Section 222 of the National By-Laws requires each Post will pay, in advance, a national convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, **ATTN:** Convention Registration or you may register on-line by going to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

### NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

As we plan for the 2015 National Convention in Pittsburgh, we want to remind all National Military Services Chairmen to get their money in for 2014-15 lapel pins received in St. Louis. If the National Military Services office does not receive a check for last year's lapel pins by March 15, 2015, your Department will not be able to pick up the new 2015-16 lapel pins for Veterans & Military Support Programs in Pittsburgh.

Please contact the National Military Services office at 816-756-3390 if you have any questions on how much your Department needs to send in.

### “BUDDY”® POPPY:

#### NATIONAL “BUDDY”® POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST.

The time frame for registering and setting up the “Buddy”® Poppy displays for the National judging at Convention will be the same as last year. Entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 18, until noon, Monday, July 20, 2015. Winning displays will be identified with appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning and announced later on the convention floor. Displays must be removed prior to 3:30 on Tuesday afternoon.

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

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

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of “Buddy”® Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the post general fund.

VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES. The silver, gold and diamond anniversary “Buddy”® Poppies are only for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don’t pass those costs on to the Posts. The bigger issue is that we simply don’t have the inventory on hand to fulfill the potential orders that could come in if we open these items up to be ordered by anyone at any time.

Remember: With “Buddy”® Poppy, every day is Veterans Day.

- No extra cost for the commemorative poppies.
- Designate part of your regular poppy order as anniversary poppies.
- Different sizes of ads can be found at Department Resources. (Please go to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and log on to MyVFW and click on Department Resources and VFW “Buddy”® Poppy.)

Contact information: [nclyfton@vfw.org](mailto:nclyfton@vfw.org) (816) 968-1148. For “Buddy”® Poppy merchandise, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy>.

### **MEMBER BENEFITS:**

Operating a VFW Post is like running any business—there are risks lurking that can lead to accidents and injury to your members and guests. That’s why the VFW Post Insurance Program offers the Post Liability & Loss Control Training course. It helps you discover potential hazards and liabilities and learn the best practices to reduce or eliminate them to make your Post a safe place. The 15-minute online course is free to all Posts and is ideal for leaders and volunteers. The Post receives a certificate of completion to give to each person who takes the course.

Visit the VFW Post Insurance page at <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/risk-management-for-vfw-posts.html> to learn more and take this valuable training.

### **PROGRAMS:**

VFW Posts and Auxiliaries reported donating almost 3.9 million volunteer hours and over \$20 million toward community service work from May 1 to October 31, 2014. The total value of our volunteers’ efforts is valued at over \$107 million.

**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>.

**50<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil).

**VFW HONOR'S AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2014–2015 PROGRAM YEAR.** Congratulations to the following teachers who were selected national winners for 2014-2015:

Elementary School level – Ann Komara, Ottobine Elementary School, Dayton, Virginia, selected by VFW Post 8644 and Ladies Auxiliary, Bridgewater, Virginia.

Middle School level – Melinda Hamilton, River Bend Middle School, Claremont, North Carolina, selected by VFW Post 5305 and Ladies Auxiliary, Conover, North Carolina.

High School level – Craig Blackman, Indian River High School, Chesapeake, Virginia, selected by VFW Post 2894, Chesapeake, Virginia.

National awards will be presented in July to each teacher during the VFW National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Each of the winners will receive an all-expenses paid trip to the National Convention and \$1,000 cash award for professional development expenses (winners will receive a 1099-

MISC); \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and his or her school. Each Department's recipients and their schools will receive a National Commendation citation, which will be sent to the Department Headquarters for presentation.

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

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

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

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN BROCHURES.** The new 2015-16 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are now on the VFW website.

The themes are on the forms, but they are:

Voice of Democracy theme:  
**"My Vision for America"**

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

Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org/Login.aspx>, log in, then click on **Chairman Guides** under the **General Member Tools and Resources** heading. Here you will find all program materials.

Additionally, anyone (including students, parents, teachers, and chairmen) can download and print the student entry forms for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen by visiting the below links:

Voice of Democracy: <http://www.vfw.org/VOD/>  
Patriot's Pen: <http://www.vfw.org/PatriotsPen/>

For Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen brochures, posters, awards and more visit the VFW Store: <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy> for Voice of Democracy and <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen> for Patriot's Pen.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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."

**NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM.** This program is designed to provide recognition and awards to VFW members who volunteer their time to outside organizations. Recognition is in the form of certificates and/or lapel pins which are given to volunteers who have completed the number of hours prescribed for those awards. For more information, see the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairmen's Guide or contact the VFW Programs department at 816-968-1148 for a nomination form.

**POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS.** Public Law 105-85 (November 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 16, 2015 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 25, 2015 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; National POW/MIA Day, September 18, 2015 (third Friday in September); and, Veterans Day, November 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP237>.

**IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES.** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW programs Patriot's Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

### **MEMBERSHIP WEBINAR TRAINING**

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

The next VFW Membership Department webinar link **will be sent** Monday, March 9, 2015 and conducted March 11, 2015.

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

After the live webinar is presented, they are archived and able to view on [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). Log in to the website and under How to Get Involved, the webinars will be located in the Membership Recruitment and Retention Materials.

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

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

### **KANSAS CITY SPREE**

The first place Post Commander in each of the ten Post divisions with over 50 members and the first place District Commander in the six District divisions and their spouse/guest can win this exciting Kansas City award trip April 30 thru May 3, 2015. Post and District Commanders must be 100% in membership and Posts must achieve the 85% retention by **March 31, 2015**, to qualify for this award to win.

- The award winners will receive round-trip travel from the airport nearest the commander's home to Kansas City, MO.
- A fun-filled weekend is planned that may include touring, shopping, a major league baseball game and a complete tour of National Headquarters.

\*may only receive one national paid compensation package

\*\*non-transferable

### **100% COMMANDER DRAWING**

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

20 Post Commanders and 12 District Commanders will be drawn to win:

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

\*may only receive one national paid compensation package

\*\*non-transferable

### **ADDITIONAL REMINDERS**

The 2014 – 2015 Membership Program is available online at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). The Membership Program can be found in the Document Repository located in the General Member Tools & Resources.

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



- Members now have the option to enroll in two beneficial programs:

VFW Autopay—renews your annual membership automatically!

Life Installment Plan—automatic monthly payments option—with this option, there is no longer the need to complete a payment authorization form.

Once enrolled in either program, automatic payments are processed using the credit card information provided on the application. These are simply added options on the membership application. The traditional methods of signing up for both annual and life membership are still options as well.

### **DUES NOTICE SCHEDULE**

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

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

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

\*The December 31<sup>st</sup> 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>
<b>Levels:</b>	Gold- \$1200	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
	Silver- \$800	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
	Bronze-\$400	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

*What will your Legacy be?*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**CENTURY RECRUITERS (as of 2/23/2015):**

**Kenneth L. Kraft - 313**  
VFW Post 12140, Dept. of OR

**Dennis F. Flynn (CNR) - 223**  
VFW Post 2866, Dept. of MO

**Sanford Rosenthal - 203**  
VFW Post 3586, Dept. of UT

**Stephen A. Ward - 190**  
VFW Post 27, Dept. of EU

**Crisoforo Vieyra, Jr. - 133**  
VFW Post 8397, Dept. of TX

**Rick L. Higgins (CNR) - 133**  
VFW Post 4039, Dept. of OR

**Jack P. Lewis - 131**  
VFW Post 194, Dept. of MD

**Larry M. Gerlt (CNR) - 118**  
VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

**Glen F. Tilley - 106**  
VFW Post 2391, Dept. of FL



**Judith A. Burger (CNR) – 104**  
VFW Post 4108, Dept. of OR

**Denny Croner – 102**  
VFW Post 2738, Dept. of ID

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

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

**DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:**

**Department of Oregon**  
*VFW Post 12140 – Lake Oswego, Oregon*  
127 Members

**Department of Oregon**  
*VFW Post 12141 – Madras, Oregon*  
61 Members

**Department of Europe**  
*VFW Post 12143 – Bury St. Edmunds, United Kingdom*  
53 Members

**Department of New York**  
*VFW Post 12144 – Islandia, New York*  
35 Members

**Department of Virginia**  
*VFW Post 12145 – Dinwiddie, Virginia*  
47 Members

**DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:**

**Over the last decade, approximately 80% of support received from VFW members and patriotic Americans was applied directly to veterans service, community service, legislative advocacy and military service programs worldwide.**

**Soon to Arrive – Special Edition All-Occasion Cards** – This spring the VFW is mailing a packet of special edition all-occasion cards and other gifts in recognition of your commitment to the VFW – and to struggling veterans of all generations. Also enclosed with your gifts, is a special Thank You card for a veteran or service member. Please sign and return it right away. We will deliver your signed Thank You card to one of America's current service members or hospitalized veterans in time for Independence Day, this July 4th. It means so much to them to know their fellow veterans remember and care.

Our service members have gone through a lot in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Mounting casualties ... battle injuries ... families torn apart ... seemingly unending deployments ... and other unspeakable hardships. And now, waves of veterans are home from Iraq and Afghanistan. Many have returned to their families suffering from a Traumatic Brain Injury that will cause pain and confusion for the rest of their lives ... amputations and wounds that bind them to prostheses and wheelchairs ... PTSD that terrorizes them day and night. These are injuries that will require a lifetime of care.

The VFW wants to be sure when these newest veterans – and veterans from all past wars and conflicts – turn to us for assistance we have the programs available for them. Please send a donation in honor of our comrades who now face a long road to recovery from injuries sustained in battle. Your gift will mean that these programs stay available and strong right in your Department.

**2015 Voice of Democracy National Winner to be Announced** – Last month we sent an email to our VFW Friends of Freedom members announcing the state winners of the 2015 Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition. This month – watch your inbox to see the announcement of the 2015 Voice of Democracy National winner and for a recap of the testimony of the VFW at the National Legislative Conference held at the beginning of this month. If you are not currently a member of the VFW Friends of Freedom, you can sign up to receive these alerts at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

**Create a Legacy with Just a Few Words** – Wills ensure your family and loved ones will be taken care of after your lifetime. Once it's completed and you feel like supporting future generations of veterans, you can do so by adding a gift to the VFW in your will. To learn more about wills and how easy it is to make a gift in your will to the VFW, contact the VFW Planned Giving Office to request a free guide today. You can reach us by calling (816) 968-1119, email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org) or visit [www.vfw.org/plannedgiving](http://www.vfw.org/plannedgiving).

**Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism?** – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families without receiving all of the unwanted mail? The VFW has developed an option that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate unwanted mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact the VFW Development Department Donor Services at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318 or email us at [partners@vfw.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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 for your Department publications 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 FOUNDATION:**

### **FIX UP YOUR POST BUILDING:**

### **THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION GRANT IS NOW OPEN!**

The 2015 Home Depot (HD) Foundation Community Impact Grant is now available. Eligible VFW 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](mailto:foundation@vfw.org)  
Type the following in the email subject heading: Home Depot Guide Request

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

If your Post receives funding, it will come in the form of HD gift cards that can be used to buy materials at your local HD store. You will need to recruit Post members or other community volunteers to do the work. The project must be completed within 6 months. You will also be required to fill out a final project report. Failure to do so will negatively impact your Post's ability to receive any future funding from HD.

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

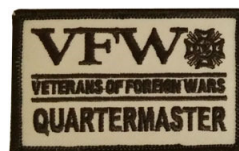
Should you have any further questions or need to discuss special concerns, please contact Richard Freiburghouse, VFW Foundation, Manager, at (816) 968-1124 or [rfreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:rfreiburghouse@vfw.org).

GOOD LUCK!

#### VFW STORE:



Check out VFW Store's new patches and patch caps! Use the patches on existing caps, bags and apparel or purchase a new cap. Go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=velcro> to see our selection.



Is your Post sponsoring a sports team this year? VFW Store can do athletic apparel, including baseball & softball uniforms, football uniforms, basketball jerseys, hockey jerseys, soccer shirts, bowling shirts, cheer wear and more! Call Kim Winston at 816-968-1181 or email her at [kwinston@vfw.org](mailto:kwinston@vfw.org) for a *FREE, NO OBLIGATION* quote.

#### ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

KEELEY, RICHARD A., All American Commander, Department of Pacific Areas, 2002-2003 and a Gold Legacy Life Member of Holiday Post 10167, Holiday, Florida, January 30, 2015.

MORTENSEN, ERIC E., All American Commander, Department of Wisconsin, 1968-1969 and a Life Member of Wm. F. Ehrlich Post 1391, Racine, Wisconsin, January 31, 2015.

LIGHTOWLER, FRANK E., All American Commander, Department of Rhode Island, 1970-1971, and a Life Member of Le Clair-Kozlik-Logan-Bassett Post 6342, North Smithfield, Rhode Island, February 19, 2015.