

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

BULLETIN

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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SERVICE NOT SELF

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

MATCHING GIFT OFFER! – Late in November we mailed out a special notice regarding an incredible opportunity. Friends of the VFW have offered to match your donation, dollar for dollar, between now and January 5, 2018! They have committed \$50,000 of their own money to kick off our 2018 Annual Challenge. They believe there are many others who understand that the cost of war extends well beyond the battlefield. They're asking proud VFW members like you to support our newest veterans, especially those coming home disabled by war. Your gift to the VFW today will go twice as far to provide assistance to veterans of all generations in receiving the life-changing services they need. To receive every dollar of the 2018 Annual Challenge, all gifts must be postmarked before January 5, 2018. You still have time!

VFW Kicks Off the 2017 VFW Year-End Campaign with the Friends of Freedom Online Community – December 1 marks the beginning of the VFW's **2017 VFW Year-End Campaign!** Donations raised toward the end of the year help meet a large portion of the VFW's program funding needs. With the demand for VFW programs rising rapidly, your response to this year's 2017 Year-End Campaign is more important than ever. Keep an eye out for your email from the VFW and give as generously as you can or visit www.vfw.org and click on the red "Donate" button to make your tax deductible year-end contribution. Please also spread the word about the campaign on your social media networks. You'll be helping veterans of all generations receive much needed assistance from VFW Service Officers in applying for and getting their hard earned VA benefits; assisting military families in financial distress to receive financial assistance for rent, utilities and other necessities; and ensuring all veterans are represented on Capitol Hill to ensure veterans' rights and benefits are protected. Take pride in giving to *your* VFW. **NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

Celebrate the Holiday Spirit by Helping Fellow Veterans – Your support of the VFW this holiday season – and throughout the year – is extremely important in helping the VFW's efforts to serve and assist veterans of all generations in need. We recently mailed a special 12-month edition of the 2018 VFW Calendar and the new 2017 VFW Christmas Cards. The 2018 VFW Veterans Service Annual Campaign will be mailed late in December. By supporting these programs, you help veterans and their families in need throughout the year in *your Department* and across the country.

Here are other ways you can help this holiday season:

- Deliver a warm meal to a veteran, shovel snow for a veteran in your neighborhood or volunteer at a local VA facility or nursing home. If you are not sure where the nearest VA facility is, or to find volunteer opportunities in your community to help veterans, visit heroes.vfw.org/volunteer.

- Display the United States flag to show all of America that you support our veterans and service members. Let everyone know how proud you are of this great nation and the men and women who have worn the uniform. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/flag and print a free flag poster to display at your home.
- If you, or a fellow veteran, are in need of assistance in filing a VA claim, please visit www.vfw.org/nvs.

These are all very simple ways you can help the VFW carry out its mission and assist your fellow veterans at the same time.

A Simple Way to Make a Big Difference – Making a gift in your will is the easiest way to continue supporting the VFW and your fellow veterans after your lifetime. Did you know that it only takes one or two sentences in your will to accomplish this task? We invite you to learn more about this type of legacy gift and how you can leave a lasting impact on both 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 and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising 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. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department 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 gold 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!

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:

You've done the work....Let VMS know!

Last year through the Veterans & Military Support programs, the VFW provided support to almost 400,000 service members, veterans and their families. We know your support at the local level goes far beyond what is reported. Help us let the general public know the impact the VFW has on military families and veterans by reporting your holiday events to your Veterans & Military Support Chairman.

MAP grants have increased for the holiday season. Please complete the MAP after event requirements within the 30 day deadline. If you have any questions, please call the MAP office at 816-756-3390, ext. 6211.

VFW FOUNDATION:

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Donate your car, truck, motorcycle, RV, or boat while supporting the VFW! Donating your vehicle is easy. Simply call 844-839-4438 (7 days a week—any questions answered) or complete the simple online form at www.vfw.careasy.org.

Then schedule a convenient free pick-up time (most vehicles can be picked up within 24-72 hours).

You will receive an initial car donation receipt upon pick-up that can be used for tax purposes and if your vehicle sells for more than \$500, you will be mailed an additional more comprehensive "IRS Form 1098-C" receipt.

The VFW benefits 80% from the proceeds (after expenses) of any vehicle donation. That's money to support great VFW programs that directly aid veterans, military personnel and their families!

POST/VFW AUXILIARY COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT

The VFW Foundation "Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant" continues to accept applications during the FY2017 grant cycle. To date, this grant has distributed nearly \$150,000 to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries during the grant cycle.

The "Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant" has distributed grants to 99 Posts and 50 Auxiliaries to help assist with projects supporting local nonprofits, performing important community outreach or enhancements to Post buildings for this purpose. Eligible Posts and Auxiliaries received up to \$1,000 each for their projects.

The VFW Foundation will accept applications until all funding is awarded during this grant cycle, which ends August 31, 2018.

If you have questions about Foundation grants, contact Jason Couch, VFW Foundation Grants Coordinator at (816) 968-1174 or email jcouch@vfw.org.

SHOP AMAZONSMILE AND DONATE TO VFW FOUNDATION

With the holidays upon us, VFW members and supporters are encouraged to support VFW programs and services by shopping through AmazonSmile and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Foundation. Purchase items that are eligible for donations as indicated on the products pages.

Copy and share the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/43-1758998> with your fellow VFW members and supporters and begin shopping to help support the programs and services of the VFW through the VFW Foundation. Bookmark the AmazonSmile link and support the VFW Foundation every time you shop on Amazon.com.

If you have any questions about AmazonSmile, please contact Ben Vargas, VFW Foundation Assistant Manager, Special Projects, at (816) 968-2720 or email bvargas@vfw.org. Happy shopping!

THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT CLOSED FOR 2017

The Home Depot (HD) Foundation Community Impact Grant is closed for the remainder of 2017. The HD Foundation will begin accepting applications for 2018 on February 1. Eligible VFW Posts may receive up to \$5,000 to fix up their buildings; however, of course, there is no guarantee of funding.

To help you complete the 2018 application, the VFW Foundation will provide an updated step-by-step how-to-apply guide prepared for your usage.

Keep an eye out for updates on The Home Depot (HD) Foundation Community Impact Grant in upcoming issues of the Headquarters Bulletin. Thank You!

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ACTION CORPS:

Our Voices Were Heard!

We asked veterans' advocates like you to contact their Representatives and Senators and demand they reject any proposal in the fiscal year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (FY18 NDAA) that would have raised TRICARE costs for current beneficiaries. Our voices were heard, and this provision was not included in the final piece of legislation!

Last year's NDAA contained language that significantly increases TRICARE costs for those joining after January 1, 2018. However, a clause was inserted that prevented these increases from applying to current service members and retirees. The FY18 NDAA contained a provision that would have removed this grandfather clause. After immense pressure from the VFW, the clause was left in place.

Congress has now voted on and passed the final version of the bill, which contained multiple provisions that the VFW advocated for, such as:

- A 2.4% pay increase for our service members.
- The preservation of Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for dual-military families.
- The permanent extension of the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA).
- A requirement to review and release classified documents related to toxic exposures if more than 100 service members were intentionally exposed to a substance that has caused at least one of them to become ill.
- The strengthening of current DOD sexual assault policies and extended protections for victims.

Vigilance and persistence is key in the fight against harmful legislation and bad policy. We urge you to read the Action Corps Weekly for more critical updates, respond to any Action Alerts, and remain steadfast in the fight for veterans' rights.

MEMBERSHIP:

We are now 33,646 behind our last year's figures as of November 21, 2017. The time to recruit is now! You have to leave the Post in order to recruit new members. Find local events and ask if you can have a booth. Farmers markets, gun shows, trade shows and fall festivals are all great places to recruit local veterans. Bring along recruiting materials as well as materials on VFW Programs. If you need materials from Membership, call or email us at 1-888-JOIN-VFW or membership@vfw.org. If you're needing help to pay for a booth at a local event, call your Department Quartermaster as they have the funds available to help you get there.

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/>.

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?

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Top Three Recruiters (as of 11/21/2017):

Kenneth L. Kraft - 176

VFW Post 12140, Dept. of OR

Larry M. Gerlt - 118

VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

Donald Cannon - 74

VFW Post 10692, Dept. of EU

EARLY BIRD AWARD - VFW LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The top three Post Commanders and Quartermasters and the top two District Commanders in each division on January 1, 2018, will be awarded:

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

POST COMMANDER AND QUARTERMASTER - NEW AND RECOVERED MEMBER AWARD

The top ten Post Commanders and Quartermasters in each division who report more than 50 new and recovered annual members by January 1, 2018, will each be awarded:

➤ A distinctive leather zippered Padfolio.

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS & CHANGES

Post Quartermasters now have the option to input a Life Installment Plan for any new Post member wanting to become a Life member!

Access to OMS: The number of proxies authorized by Department Quartermasters has now been increased from five (5) to ten (10).

Digital Membership Cards: Members now have the ability to download their digital version of their membership card. Depending on whether a member has an I-Phone or Android, they will be able to download and access their digital membership card from the VFW app.

This will not replace the physical VFW membership card - we will still be sending out membership cards to all our annual and Life members. This is intended as another option for our members' convenience. When asked to show a VFW membership card, a member can either produce their physical card out of their wallet or display their digital card on their smart phone.

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, ext. 6292.

Hip Pocket Training: Login and go online to <https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/membership-recruiting-and-retention> to view the latest training videos from the Membership Department. If you have any questions or topics you would like covered, please email them to membership@vfw.org in advance and we will cover them on the next training video. We also post these webinars on our Facebook page! If you're not on Facebook, you can still view the webinars on YouTube here: https://youtu.be/z_5MovJgD6E?list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi.

Changes to “Find a Post”: When a visitor goes to www.vfw.org in their browser, one of the first links they will see at the top of the page is "Find a Post." Clicking on this link takes the visitor to a page where they can enter a zip code or city and state and then search by distance for VFW Posts in the area. Now, in addition to the Post information, they will see the dues amount for the Posts in their area. This is useful information for veterans looking to connect with a local Post, but it is also useful information for recruiters looking to connect veterans with a Post in their area.

Coming soon to VFW.org, “Find a Post” will also include overseas Posts!

MEMBER BENEFITS:

Life Insurance – Essential to your financial well-being.

Financial well-being for your family starts with the basics – steady income, a safe place to live, reliable transportation and savings for the future. Life insurance may not seem like a necessary part of your plan, but protecting your family if something happens to you ensures that the financial foundation you're building is protected. VFW is proud to partner with USAA to give you the life insurance options and tools that you need to choose the right coverage for your family. For more information, call USAA at 800-274-8839.

“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 fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, “Buddy”® Poppies should be a constant 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.

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.

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

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

Contact information: BuddyPoppy@vfw.org or (816) 968-1155 for any questions or concerns.

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 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 the following 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, D.C., 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 I: 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.

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>.

VFW HONORS AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2017-18 PROGRAM YEAR. Nominations for this award and the judging at the Post level should be completed and District level should be close to completion. Districts are to send their winning recipient from each level to the Departments by December 15. After Department judging, each Department forwards the names of its selections to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national award contest. Deadline is January 15, 2018. Each Department's selections will receive a National Commendation citation.

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 Auxiliary national event.

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

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, 2018. 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 Award

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 EMTs, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership.

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>.

PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT DEADLINE REMINDER. The deadline for mailing the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winner packets to National Headquarters is January 15, 2018 (even if they have not been personally notified they are the winner).

The deadline for your completed Department report/summary forms (for both programs) to be sent to National is not until January 31, 2018. Please let us know if you need blank District or Department report forms e-mailed (in PDF or Word format) by contacting Quentin Carroll at Youthscholarships@vfw.org or 816-968-1155.

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 2017–18 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Manual.

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 816-968-1155 or e-mail qcarroll@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."

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 19, 2018 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 28, 2018 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; National POW/MIA Day, September 21, 2018 (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.

VFW STORE:



SHOP THE VFW STORE FOR YOUR HOLIDAY GIFTS!

Click <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/holiday?page=1&size=100> to browse our holiday selection – check out our new tumblers and caps, as well as jewelry and the VFW blanket. For all in-stock items, please order by Dec. 8 to ensure Christmas delivery. Items not in stock generally take 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Don't see what you're looking for? Contact Kim Winston at kwinston@vfw.org or 816-968-1181 for custom orders!

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

KOWALSKI, STAN, All American Commander, Department of Minnesota, 2008-2009 and a Life member of Fridley Post 363, Fridley, Minnesota, October 20, 2017.