

Membership

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER TO THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS FOR ACHIEVING 100% IN MEMBERSHIP AS OF JUNE 27!: MONTANA, VERMONT, MARYLAND, KENTUCKY, ALASKA, VIRGINIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, HAWAII, TENNESSEE, NEVADA, NEW MEXICO, NORTH CAROLINA, EUROPE, NEW JERSEY, PACIFIC AREAS.

123RD VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION, KANSAS CITY, MO, JULY 16-21, 2022

The top 25 Post Commanders and top 10 District Commanders in their respective divisions can pick up their All-American packets at the Membership Booth starting at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 16.

Department Commanders and Quartermasters may pick up unclaimed packets after the All-American ceremony on Monday, July 18.

ALL-AMERICAN CAP ORDER INFORMATION

All District and Post Commanders who achieve 100% in membership will receive an email from National Headquarters requesting their VFW hat size and preference type of cap (female/male). A link will be provided to record your cap size. Having the data will make it easier to place the All-American cap orders to ensure they arrive on time as our National Convention is earlier this year.

A District and Post will not be considered All-American until they achieve greater than 100% in membership and have met all program requirements.

Only the top ten District Commanders and the top 25 Post Commanders in each division who achieve All-American status will receive an All-American cap from National Headquarters.

POST DEVELOPMENT

Here it is, the very beginning of your membership year! Before jumping in to instituting several new Posts this year, what are those lessons you learned last year? Do us all a favor and document those things you did that helped your team be successful! How did you plan? What actions did you take? Who was key in your efforts and why? These are things we need to know and others in your department as well. Compile a list of "lessons learned" and share throughout your sphere of influence. For tips on how to institute a new Post, check out our New Post Development & Revitalization Manual, which can be viewed/downloaded from vfw.org, under Membership Retention & Training. To understand more, give me a call, Corey Hunt, 816.968.2788 to discuss ways you can energize your membership. We have many resources for you including training videos and presentations on topics which are designed to help you grow membership and retain those members.

NEW POST DEVELOPMENT & POST REVITALIZATION DEPARTMENT AWARD

For each new Post chartered, and/or revitalized, the Department Quartermaster will receive:

- A \$250 credit from the VFW Store to be used towards necessary materials for the new Post.

For details on this and all other All-American membership incentives, view the Commander-in-Chief's National Membership Program at vfw.org under *Membership Recruiting & Retention*.

For any questions or further information, please contact the Membership Department via email at membership@vfw.org or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

UPCOMING TRAINING

No upcoming training is scheduled for July.

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook to view the latest membership news, Post Shout-Outs and important resource information throughout the year - facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP THREE RECRUITERS!

Top Three Recruiters (as of 6.27.22):

Joseph T. Allen – 429
VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

Larry M. Gerlt – 344
VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

Steven L. Woodward – 152
VFW Post 2224, Dept. of WA

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to vfw.org, click on JOIN, and scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video on the right. This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are 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:

<i>Levels</i>		<i>Posts</i>	<i>Departments</i>	<i>National</i>
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?

VFW Foundation

The Wounded Warrior Project has awarded a \$250,000 renewal grant to the VFW in support of sustained operations for our Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) component of VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS) program at 12 sites: Fort Stewart, Fort Riley, Joint Base Andrews, Nellis Air Force Base, Fort Drum, Fort Hood, Fort Bliss, Fort Belvoir, Fort Bragg, Naval Station Norfolk, Fort Campbell, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord. This grant reaffirms the incredible service excellence of NVS and its exceptional reputation among other veterans' service organizations.

Contact: Richard Freiburghouse, Interim Director, at rfreiburghouse@vfw.org.

Development

Independence Day is Coming Up – Keep an eye out for the VFW's special online celebration of freedom and hope with our annual observance of Independence Day. Please visit vfw.org to find ways you can honor our nation's veterans and service members by spreading a message of patriotism and remembrance to your friends and family.

VFW 2023 Special Edition Calendar – The 2023 VFW Calendars will be mailed early in July. Your VFW Calendars include reminders of days to display the United States flag and other important dates in history to remember the sacrifices of America's veterans. If you do not have a flag to display, you may visit heroes.vfw.org/Flag and print a free flag poster to display in your home or office. You will also find useful information on VFW programs available to all veterans, service members and their families throughout the calendars. Additionally, in the back of the calendars you will see the section showing VFW membership eligibility information. We certainly hope you find the information included in the calendars to be helpful. And remember, your VFW Department is counting on you to show your support of the vital programs available to the veterans, service members and their families, right in your state.

July Currency Campaign – This month, the VFW will be sending its members a very special package that contains currency. As a dedicated member and friend to your fellow veterans, you know just how important the need is to support the VFW. Each nickel counts and can help support the VFW's programs that fight for veteran's rights, help veterans claim their hard-earned benefits and support hardworking military families. Please send the nickels back so the VFW can stretch that money to deliver life-changing help to fellow veterans and service members, and please include the most generous gift you can. Don't forget to display the United States flag to show you stand proudly with your fellow veterans!

Simplify Your Will Planning While Supporting the VFW – If you are considering a gift to the VFW through your will or other estate plans, you can visit vfw.org/PlannedGiving for helpful tips, tools, and other FREE resources! Request our Estate Planning Kit to help simplify and organize the estate planning process for you and your attorney. For assistance or more information, please contact VFW Planned Giving at 816.968.1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org.

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic would like you to join with him in supporting 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, and a Year-End Tax Receipt mailed by the end of January. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483) 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 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 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. By visiting heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools, you will find the latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items for your Department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mail schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the tools found on the VFW Department Resources Page to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

VFW Communications

With the national convention only weeks away, are you ready? Whether you're heading to Kansas City or not, you can stay in-the-know by watching as we begin livestreaming at vfw.org/Convention starting July 17.

For those planning to attend, the new VFW Events App is available for download at both the [Apple App Store](https://www.apple.com/app-store) and the [Google Play Store](https://www.google.com/playstore) by searching "VFW Events."

Be sure to share your convention experience and join in the social conversation using **#VFWConvention**.

Veterans & Military Support Programs

We will be having a **VMS Committee meeting** at the **National Convention in Kansas City**. Download the **VFW Events** app to stay up-to-date on meeting room location as well as the date and time. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

We will be displaying the **Legacy Citation of Merit Award** and the **Military Working/War Dog Citation** in our booth.

Be sure to stop by the Veterans & Military Support (VMS) booth to support the **service challenge** and **get your "newly designed" VMS lapel pin!** Pre-ordered bags can be picked up from our booth location.

You can also use the link located on the **Veterans & Military Support Program Chairman Tools webpage**. Link to this is provided below.

[Access the Veterans & Military Support Program Chairman Tools webpage now](#)

Do not use the red donate link in the upper righthand corner. This is the general donation link.

Donation reports are received on most Fridays and are uploaded to the Dashboard on the same day. The period of this report is from the previous Friday to current Thursday.

VFW 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, Space Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag.

ALL-AMERICAN DASHBOARD. Military Assistance Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much in grant assistance that has been received from National HQs to supplement the Unmet Needs financial grants and VFW Sport Clips Help-A-Hero scholarship statistics. The information charts reside on the KPI tools section.

Please encourage Posts to read the 2021-22 Membership program. Many Posts do not understand they need to sign up five new Action Corps subscribers, create a Facebook page, two separate partnering events along with a 10% increase in Community Service Impact from last year. They must submit reports through the dashboard to gain credit.

“NEW” 2022-23 SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM. This year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars wants to recognize the nation’s top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America’s history, traditions, and institutions effectively through this program.

Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for the next competition. All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

Teacher Award Chairman must submit one candidate, in each category (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12), for these awards to their Department Headquarters by Jan. 1. The Department must select a single candidate, in each category, for the awards and submit the winners to VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the “VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form” which will be available on the VFW website soon. You can locate this form by logging in to vfw.org and searching under “My VFW” in the Training & Support section.

All Post-level nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available. These items will be forwarded on to the District, if applicable, then to the Department with the completed entry forms.

VFW’s Department Citizenship Education Teacher award includes a citation for both the winning teacher and their school.

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 National Convention.

Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. has the correct teacher award entry deadlines and rules for the 2022-23 program year. The teacher entry form will be up on the VFW website soon. The dates are Oct. 31, for entries to the Post, Nov. 15, for completion of Post judging, Dec. 15, completion of District judging, Jan. 1, for entries to Department, Feb. 1, completion of Department judging and their winner, in each category, are due to National Headquarters.

Simply visit vfw.org/#login, 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.

IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME! It is the perfect time to be contacting schools, youth groups, parent organizations and others with information about Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. Schools are making curriculum decisions now and parents are thinking about scholarships.

Please remember that Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are VFW programs supported by the VFW Auxiliary. It is inappropriate for the VFW Auxiliary to conduct a separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email nlopez@vfw.org or call 816.968.1155.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES. The 2022-23 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Timothy M. Borland. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "Why is the Veteran Important?" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "My Pledge to our Veterans."

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN ENTRY FORMS. The new 2022-23 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

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

NOTE: "NEW" Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen posters are now available!

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

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPT. 16. Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure. For POW/MIA merchandise, click vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia. <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=97>

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.

“UPDATED” POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Under previous Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 16, 1997), it indicated there were only six days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices were required to display the POW/MIA flag. Now under new law, Public Law 116-67 (Feb. 21, 2020), it is required that the POW/MIA flag be flown on all days on which the flag of the United States is displayed. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to 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 Member Benefits

Whether you’re on a solo adventure backpacking through Europe or in town for a weekend staycation, it’s important to be prepared.

With travel accident insurance, underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, you can help secure your family’s financial security in the event of your injury or death from a travel-related accident. This coverage provides \$150,000 in accidental death (death while traveling in a private motor vehicle), an additional \$150,000 for death while traveling in a common carrier vehicle and a \$500 cash benefit for every day you stay in the hospital because of a covered accident. All benefit amounts reduce to 50% of the original benefit amount at age 75 regardless of age at enrollment.

As a VFW Member, you’re eligible to receive this coverage, and cannot be turned down, regardless of your health, occupation, past driving records or the number of miles you travel annually.

Protect your travels [today](#).

“Buddy”[®] Poppy

“BUDDY”[®] POPPY CAMPAIGN. 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.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required, do not use “ASAP.”

BUDDY POPPY UPDATE: National Headquarters conducted a review of the Buddy Poppy policy and procedures and implemented the following changes effective May 20, 2021:

- 1) If you do not receive your order within 8 weeks of placing it with your Department, please contact National Headquarters to report that you have not received the order.
- 2) If you do not report a missing order 3 months after the 8-week processing time, the order will NOT be replaced free of charge, and you will have to resubmit your order.

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

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

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

Contact information: BuddyPoppy@vfw.org or 816.756.3390, ext. 6722 for any questions or concerns.

NATIONAL "BUDDY"®POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST. The time frame for registering and setting up the Department winning Buddy Poppy displays for the national judging at convention will be the same as usual. Department winning entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 16, until noon, Monday, July 18, 2022. Winning displays will be identified with appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning and announced later on the convention floor. Displays must be removed prior to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday afternoon. Any displays left after this time will be removed for disposal by convention center personnel during the disassembly of the hall.

VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES. The silver, gold and diamond anniversary Buddy Poppies are for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary years. For Posts currently in their 100th year anniversary, they can order any color and as many as they need. 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. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out unless you are currently in your 100th year. These are ordered through the Department and processed the same as the red poppies. Annotate on the order to National that it is for anniversary poppies and specify which one.

National Veterans Service

NVS Events at National Convention

Ryan Gallucci, Director, VFW National Veterans Service (NVS), would like to invite all delegates and attendees of the upcoming VFW 123rd National Convention in Kansas City, MO, to participate in the following events. Please check the convention schedule or download the convention app for the most current location.

On Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., there will be a **Veterans Walk-in Claims Clinic** at which veterans and dependents will be assisted by a combined team of VFW Service Officers and VA benefits and health care representatives to facilitate and expedite new and existing claims, appeals and health care issues.

On Sunday, July 17 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, NVS will be presenting **Post Service Office Training**, during which we will be providing information regarding VFW's benefits assistance program, VA Voluntary Service, as well as answer questions on how the VA MISSION Act and Appeals Modernization Act affect the VFW and the veterans we serve.

On Tuesday, July 19, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., VFW National Veterans Service and National Legislative Service are co-hosting a session "**Update on Federal Benefits and Services for Veterans**" during which you will hear directly from leadership at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and U.S. Department of Labor responsible for VA benefits & healthcare and DOL employment policies.

Also, please visit the joint National Veterans Service/National Legislative booth on the exhibit hall floor.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

President Signs Veterans Legislation into Law

VFW Washington Office Executive Director Bob Wallace and VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Tammy Barlet were in attendance at the White House as President Biden signed into law three VFW-supported bills. The [*Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act*](#) will expand eligibility for VA mammography screenings to veterans who served in certain areas during specific time periods. The [*Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options for Veterans Act*](#) will address provisions of mammograms and breast cancer treatment within VA. Lastly, [*Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2021*](#) gives the VA Office of Inspector General the authority to subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses as needed. [Watch the bill signing.](#)

PACT Act Passage Delayed

Following the 84-14 Senate vote on the *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022*, known as the *Honoring our PACT Act*, the House discovered a parliamentary procedure issue regarding one of the provisions in the bill. Since Congress is now in recess, passage of the PACT Act will be delayed. The VFW continues to advocate for the swift passage of this historic legislation.

Administrative Operations

In an effort to better serve the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, tools are available at "VFW Training and Support." There you will find Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates; training material relating to Membership Recruiting and Retention; Community Service & Youth Programs; Communications & Public Affairs; Post Service Officers; and Veterans & Military Support. To utilize these valuable training guides, videos, forms and templates, please login at vfw.org, proceed to "My VFW" and click the link "VFW Training and Support."

The online “Document Repository” is a system of managing documents utilized primarily by Department Officers and members of the National Council of Administration.

Important Reminder: The 2022-23 Department Roster is now an Online Membership System (OMS) submitted report. The interactive report will cover reporting of all Department elected and appointed officers and committee chairmen. In addition, the District Election Report is also contained within the Online Membership System (OMS). Portions of the District report will feed into the Department report (i.e. the District Commander position).

Adjutants and Quartermasters can access the roster by logging into their OMS account under the “Election Report” drop down in the left hand navigation pane. Membership numbers of each elected/appointed officer and/or chairman is needed to complete the report. Your cooperation in completing the roster immediately following your convention is appreciated. Any additions, corrections or changes will be submitted through OMS as they occur throughout the year.

VFW Store

Convention Attendees – Stop by the VFW Store to get your convention pins and shirts, and more. Or click vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems to check out what’s new!

Celebrating a Post or Department anniversary this year? Commemorate the occasion with shirts, caps, koozies or other items! We have thousands of products available at competitive prices. VFW Store can also help you with logo design and product selection. (If you’re attending the National Convention, stop by and visit with Kim Winston, Custom Consultant, at the store booth.) You can also email Kim at kwinston@vfw.org or call her at 816.968.1181.



Roll Call of Departed Comrades

YARBROUGH, ANTHONY D. “TONY,” Commander, Department of Nevada, 2019-2020, current Adjutant, Department of Nevada, 2020-2022 and a Gold Legacy Life Member of Kermit H. Neddenriep Post 8084, Yerington, Nevada, May 29, 2022.

WILLIAMS, HERSHEL W. “WOODY,” was the last living Congressional Medal of Honor recipient from World War II and a Gold Legacy Life Member of Hershel “Woody” Williams Post 7048, East Fairmont, West Virginia, June 29, 2022. His long-standing membership with the organization goes back to 1957 when he became a Life member.