

1. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief and having been installed in office in accordance with the Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command.
2. The following officers have been duly elected and installed by the 120th National Convention and will be accorded the recognition due them:

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Harold J. "Hal" Roesch, II, Post 3219, Phoebus, Virginia

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Matthew M. "Fritz" Mihelcic, Post 2698, Sparta, Illinois

Quartermaster General

Debra L. Anderson, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

National Chaplain

James G. "Jim" Jenkins, Post 6401, Bonner Springs, Kansas

Judge Advocate General

J. Douglas "Doug" Whitaker, Post 9675, Papillion, Nebraska

Surgeon General

Curtis O. "Doc" Bohlman, Post 1335, Woodward, Oklahoma

National Council of Administration Members

Alabama	George H. Jones, Post 6073, Scottsboro, Alabama
Alaska	Walter W. Watts, Jr., Post 3629, Fairbanks, Alaska
Arizona	Michael K. "Mike" Ferguson, Post 3632, Tempe, Arizona
Arkansas	Ashley A. Little, Post 4548, Jacksonville, Arkansas
California	Earl D. Fulk, Post 9934, Dana Point, California
Colorado	Bruce R. Dolan, Post 7945, Thornton, Colorado
Connecticut	Richard G. DiFederico, Jr., Post 7330, Oakville, Connecticut
Delaware	William R. "Russ" Hall, Post 8801, Clayton, Delaware
Europe	Norberto "Tony" Millet, Jr., Post 9342, Ansbach, Germany
Florida	W. Benny Bachand, Post 4287, Orlando, Florida
Georgia	Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt, Post 12002, North Fulton, Georgia
Hawaii	Stanley Y. Fernandez, Post 10276, Honolulu, Hawaii
Idaho	Rick W. Johnson, Post 4902, Cottonwood, Idaho
Illinois	Philip L. "Phil" Maughan, Post 3873, Naperville, Illinois
Indiana	Johnny R. Capps, Post 972, Terre Haute, Indiana
Iowa	Carol L. Whitmore, Post 9127, Des Moines, Iowa
Kansas	Bobby J. Cox, Post 2715, McPherson, Kansas
Kentucky	Robert O. "Bob" Hendrickson, Post 8639, Okolona, Kentucky
Louisiana	Gerald G. "Snake" Dugas, Post 3121, Gretna, Louisiana
Maine	David D. Williams, Post 1641, Rumford, Maine
Maryland	R. Brian Sturgis, Post 5118, Easton, Maryland

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Massachusetts	Robert A. "Bob" Graser, Post 1822, Plymouth, Massachusetts
Michigan	Gerald J. "Jerry" Gorski, Post 2645, Southfield, Michigan
Minnesota	Thomas L. "Tom" Hanson, Post 1639, Willmar, Minnesota
Mississippi	Steven M. "Steve" Organ, Post 5395, Pontotoc, Mississippi
Missouri	Jessie L. Jones, Post 2657, Fulton, Missouri
Montana	Arthur J. "Art" Widhalm, Post 3107, Glasgow, Montana
Nebraska	Larry M. Gerlt, Post 2704, South Omaha, Nebraska
Nevada	Gilbert "Gil" Hernandez, Post 2350, Elko, Nevada
New Hampshire	Paul J. Lloyd, Post 1631, Concord, New Hampshire
New Jersey	William F. "Bill" Thomson, Post 6192, Washington Township, New Jersey
New Mexico	Kathie D. Schiebel, Post 401, Albuquerque, New Mexico
New York	Robert E. "Bob" Barnhart, Post 686, High Falls, New York
North Carolina	Gregory A. "Greg" Stafford, Post 6060, Elizabeth City, North Carolina
North Dakota	James H. "Hoppy" Hapala, Post 7564, West Fargo, North Dakota
Ohio	Christopher W. "Chris" Haynes, Post 7596, Franklin, Ohio
Oklahoma	Robert A. "Robbie" Clark, Post 4876, Altus, Oklahoma
Oregon	Bert W. Key, Post 4273, Sandy, Oregon
Pacific Areas	Shawn C. Watson, Post 2917, Agat, Guam
Pennsylvania	Robert C. Eiler, Post 7842, Linesville, Pennsylvania
Rhode Island	Guyde A. Lombardi, Jr., Post 2812, Thornton, Rhode Island
South Carolina	Augustus "Gus" Singleton, Post 4262, Columbia, South Carolina
South Dakota	Rick L. Williamson, Post 3164, Canton, South Dakota
Tennessee	Henry Hooper, II, Post 11333, Memphis, Tennessee
Texas	Daniel L. "Dan" West, Post 3413, San Marcos, Texas
Utah	Dennis L. Parizek, Post 1481, Ogden, Utah
Vermont	Allston J. "Joe" Gilmond, Post 782, Burlington, Vermont
Virginia	Thomas F. "Tom" Gimble, Post 1503, Dale City, Virginia
Washington	Frederick A. "Fred" Green, Post 2669, Port Orchard, Washington
West Virginia	Todd C. Kingsbury, Post 3522, Charles Town, West Virginia
Wisconsin	Gundel "Gundy" Metz, Post 1318, Madison, Wisconsin
Wyoming	Rodney A. Birkle, Post 3558, Wheatland, Wyoming

3. All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant General

Kevin C. Jones, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

National Chief of Staff

Paul R. Phillips, Jr., Post 2863, Richardson Park, Delaware

Inspector General

Duane T. Sarmiento, Post 5579, Gibbstown, New Jersey

Assistant Adjutant General & Executive Director, Washington Office

Vincent B.J. Lawrence, Post 7686, Alamogordo, New Mexico

Assistant Adjutant General, Administration & Programs

Kim A. DeShano, Post 2216, Staunton, Virginia

Director, Administration & Economic Opportunity, Washington Office
 Anthony J. Lowe, Post 341, Washington, DC

Director, Administrative Operations
 Johnathan R. Duncan, Post 1829, Kansas City, Missouri

Director, Communications & Public Affairs, Washington Office
 Joseph E. Davis, Post 3391, Pago Pago, American Samoa

Director, Member Service Center
 David E. Prohaska, Post 4434, Belleville, Michigan

Director, Membership
 Rick L. Butler, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, National Legislative Service
 Carlos U. Fuentes, Post 5627, College Park, Maryland

Director, National Security and Foreign Affairs
 Johnathon N. Towles, Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia

Director, National Veterans Service
 Ryan M. Gallucci, Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia

Director, VFW Programs
 Lynn W. Rolf, III, Post 56, Leavenworth, Kansas

Director, VFW Properties
 Brian T. Opalewski, Post 7397, Lenexa, Kansas

National Sergeant-at-Arms
 Bryan P. O'Brien, Post 2550, Dunedin, Florida

5. For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its VFW Auxiliary.

6. Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2019-20 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teachers' Awards, "Buddy"[®] Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

7. Post Commanders and District Commanders are directed to forward all resolutions or communications relative to federal legislation or to the policy or procedure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other governmental agency, to their respective Department Headquarters for consideration and referral to the Adjutant General. Department Commanders will not take direct action on any such resolutions or communications without first obtaining full knowledge of existing National Headquarters policies governing such legislation or agencies. Posts, County Councils, Districts and officers and members thereof shall not publicly communicate or promulgate any such resolutions until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief.

8. DEPARTMENT DUES RESERVE: Due to the passage of Bylaw Amendment B-38 at the 119th National Convention, it is no longer necessary for Departments to maintain a dues reserve fund effective August 24, 2018.

9. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to Section 703 of the National Bylaws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable.
10. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustees' Report of Audit (VFW Store product #4214) to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September. **Do not mail these reports to National Headquarters.**
11. Attention of Department and Post Commanders is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990/T, where applicable. Forms may be secured from your local Post Office or branch office of the Internal Revenue Service.
12. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).
13. The passage of Manual of Procedure Amendment M-30 has modified Section 1001(25) to read, "The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are prohibited."
14. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department Bylaws and directives. Department and District Inspectors shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.
15. U.S. Army ARDEC has issued guidance on the operation and maintenance of the M1 Garand. The manual can be found in the VFW Training & Support section at www.vfw.org or you can visit the M1 Garand Associated Website: www.m1garandtraining.com.
16. The distribution of VFW "Buddy"[®] Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Sections 711 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of "Buddy"[®] Poppies in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of "Buddy"[®] Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 704 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure.
17. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:
- Post Nos. 402 and 5756 consolidated as Post No. 402, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania
Post Nos. 8322 and 3592 consolidated as Post No. 8322, Chicago, Illinois
18. Announcement is made of the authorization of the charter for the following Post:
- Post No. 12190 – Evans, Georgia

BY COMMAND OF
WILLIAM "DOC" SCHMITZ
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:



Kevin C. Jones
Adjutant General

1. Organizations exempt from income tax under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code are generally required to file Form 990 by the 15th day of the fifth month following the close of their accounting fiscal year. For the current IRS requirements (beginning on or after January 1), if the organization's annual gross receipts are normally more than \$50,000, the organization must file Form 990 or 990-EZ. Small tax-exempt organizations whose annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less are required to electronically submit Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard. There is no penalty assessment for late filling the e-Postcard, but an organization that fails to file required information returns for three consecutive years will automatically lose its tax-exempt status. The revocation of the organization's tax exempt status will not take place until the filing due date of the third year.

Gross receipts are considered to be normally less than \$50,000 if the organization:

1. Has been in existence for 1 year or less and received, or donors have pledged to give, \$75,000 or less during its first taxable year;
2. Has been in existence between 1 and 3 years and averaged \$60,000 or less in gross receipts during each of its first two tax years; and
3. Is at least 3 years old and averaged \$50,000 or less in gross receipts for the immediately preceding 3 tax years (including the year for which the calculations are being made).

If annual gross receipts are normally more than \$50,000, the organization must file Form 990 or 990-EZ. For the current IRS requirements, if an organization has gross receipts less than \$200,000 and total assets less than \$500,000, it may file form 990-EZ. However, if either gross receipts or total assets are above those limits, Form 990 must be filed.

For purposes of filing requirements, gross receipts include: total contributions; gifts and grants; program service revenue; membership dues and assessments; gross investment income (including interest, dividends, gross rents, and other investment income); gross income from the sale of assets other than inventory; gross income from special fundraising events; gross sales net of return allowances; and any other revenue.

IRS regulations require that all tax-exempt organizations make both their Application for Exemption and 990's for the last three years available for public inspection at their principal office and provide copies in response to written requests, subject to the payment of reasonable fees. There are substantial penalties for violation of these regulations.

2. The National Bylaws provide for only one type of membership: active membership. There are no provisions in the National Bylaws, nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Member cards, Honorary Membership cards, Courtesy Membership

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cards or any other special type of cards. Any Post issuing such unauthorized cards, or conducting club operations open to the general public, endangers its standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting non-members to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW Bylaws or procedures.

3. VFW Posts should take the necessary steps to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the Post is located. Financial responsibility laws, as interpreted by the courts, may cause members of unincorporated Posts to be at risk. Incorporating under the provisions of Sections 708 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and the laws of the state will provide protection for Post members. Posts are urged to contact their Department Adjutant to obtain the proper forms for incorporating. The Articles of Incorporation must be reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief prior to forwarding them to the proper state authorities. It shall be the responsibility of the Post Commander to ensure full compliance with both sections and to ensure that all state requirements for annual filing, fees, etc., are met in a timely manner.

4. The attention of Post Commanders, County Council and District Commanders and inspecting officers is directed to Section 703 of the National Bylaws - Bonds. Each accountable officer of this organization shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which they may be accountable. Liquid assets are defined as cash on hand or in the bank and other negotiable instruments readily convertible into cash.

5. All officers should obtain current 2020 copies of the podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. Copies of the revised edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters. The 2020 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 120th National Convention, which became effective on Aug. 23, 2019.

6. All Commanders are reminded that Section 709, Manual of Procedure - Control of Units, requires that any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or in behalf of a Post, County Council, District or Department shall be at all times under the direct control of such Post, County Council, District or Department and that all money, property or assets of any kind or nature, must be placed in the care and custody of the respective Quartermaster. All Commanders should ensure that all provisions of Section 709 are enforced.

7. The attention of Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders is directed to Section 103, Manual of Procedure, which prescribes the manner in which applications for membership will be handled. Applications for membership of new, reinstating or transfer members must be voted on by the members present and voting at a regular Post meeting. No Post, County Council, District, Department or National officer, or any other member, has authority to reject the application card of a person who is eligible for membership.

8. The attention of all units is called to Section 1101 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, which provides for the formation and jurisdiction of the Auxiliary. This section provides that each unit of the Auxiliary shall be under the jurisdiction of the corresponding unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, but shall be permitted to function in accordance with the National Ritual,

Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Auxiliary. In addition to provisions of Auxiliary Bylaws, solicitation of funds or donations by Auxiliary units, including contracts with fund-raising organizations for greeting cards, calendars and/or label programs shall be subject to approval and ratification by the governing body of the corresponding unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

9. Sections 219 and 704 of the Manual of Procedure outline the various things for which the Post Relief Fund can be used. Several years ago, the phrase, "To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs," was added to this section. This allows the Post to use the relief funds for the Voice of Democracy program or other Americanism programs that are educational. This does not include Post building projects, hall remodeling, color guard uniforms or any other expenditure that does not follow these guidelines.

10. On August 24, 2019, the National Council of Administration passed a motion extending the authorization of the wear of the VFW logo to those who are not members of the VFW for the limited purpose of demonstrating public support of the VFW. This authorization is only applicable to the VFW logo reflected below:



This authorization does not include the Cross of Malta or any other trademark and service mark of the VFW, including its name, emblems, or insignia. The use of other trademarks and service marks, including the Cross of Malta, is still limited to VFW members in good standing unless such written consent has been obtained pursuant to Section 803 of the National Bylaws.

Only the VFW Store, its Licensed Vendors and those properly authorized pursuant to the National Bylaws may manufacture or sell merchandise bearing the VFW logo. Additionally, no person shall wear the VFW logo while engaged in any commercial or political activity in such a manner as likely to falsely convey that such activity is approved or endorsed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Non-members desiring to wear the VFW logo should not knowingly harm, misuse or bring into disrepute the name or logos of the VFW. Authorization for non-members to wear the VFW logo is subject to revocation by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

11. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:

Post Nos. 3538 and 7600 consolidated as Post No. 3538, Struthers, Ohio

Post Nos. 3479 and 2878 consolidated as Post No. 3479, Eldorado, Illinois

BY COMMAND OF
WILLIAM "DOC" SCHMITZ
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin C. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kevin C. Jones
Adjutant General

Membership

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WILLIAM J. “DOC” SCHMITZ!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS: The Triple Crown Pin is awarded to those who have made All-American Commander at the Department, District and Post level.

Jerry Anger – Dept. of Arkansas
 James Vergott – Dept. of Europe
 Charles Dobbins – Dept. of Georgia
 Matthew West – Dept. of Louisiana
 Jack Hawley – Dept. of Montana
 Arthur Widhalm – Dept. of Montana
 Gerald Peterson – Dept. of Nevada
 David Sousa – Dept. of Nevada
 Rick Higgins – Dept. of Oregon
 Kenneth Kraft – Dept. of Oregon
 Linda Fairbank – Dept. of Washington

Congratulations to Richard Eubanks from the Dept. of Oregon for being a two-time Triple Crown Winner!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECRUITER OF THE YEAR:

Mark Short – Dept. of Arizona. Recruited 543 members.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ELITE RECRUITERS:

Tim Peters – Dept. of Montana
 Carlo S. Davis – Dept. of Texas

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018-19 ALL-AMERICANS! As our largest All-American group in history, the VFW had 49 Departments, 145 Districts, and 463 Posts achieve All-American status for a total of 657 All-Americans! Thank you for a great year and a job well done!

POST DEVELOPMENT

As you are planning out for the new year, make sure your Departments are in contact with the National Membership Department to lay out an area in need of post development or a revitalization effort. There are many resources available to you, all you need to do is call. We are looking to start a Post or revitalize an existing Post in every single Department. Let’s not wait until the middle of the year to start identifying an area, let the Membership Department know now what you’re working on so they can start tracking that

information and provide assistance, as needed. For any questions or further information, you may contact the Membership Department via email at membership@vfw.org or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

DEPARTMENT WITH NEW POST:

VFW Post No. 12190 in Evans, GA

The 2019-20 Membership Program is available online at www.vfw.org, under MY VFW, scroll down to Member Resources and click on the VFW Training and Support, click on Membership Recruiting and Retention, where it will be in blue letters 2019-20 VFW National Membership Program.

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to www.vfw.org, click on JOIN, 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:

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

What will your Legacy be?

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS & CHANGES

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.

ALERT! If you have any topics you would like to see us cover, 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. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us via email at membership@vfw.org or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

VFW Foundation

REPEAT RECIPIENT OF CHARITY NAVIGATOR FOUR STAR RATING!

The VFW Foundation is proud to announce that for the second year in a row, we have received the prestigious "Four Star Rating" from the influential nonprofit watchdog group, Charity Navigator. This award (Charity Navigator's highest ranking) is reserved *only* for America's best charities that exemplify transparency, financial health and donor accountability. "Considering that only 32% of those evaluated by

Charity Navigator have been so ranked for the last two years, it is a real honor that the VFW Foundation remains at the upper echelon of all U.S. nonprofits,” said Richard Potter, Foundation Administrator.

Development

VFW 2019-20 Special Edition Calendar – Are you using the exclusive 2019-20 VFW Calendar that was mailed at the beginning of June and displaying it in a prominent place in your home, office or Post with pride? We hope so! VFW members like you have told us how pleased they are with the special Great American Outdoors expanded edition calendar along with the Deluxe Gift Assortment they received.

Please remember as you use your calendar, not only is it filled with majestic views of our nation’s most breathtaking scenery, it also contains important information on VFW programs available for veterans, service members and their families, as well as patriotic holidays and observances. Please remember to display the U.S. flag. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/flag to download and print a free flag poster to display.

And if you haven’t already, please send the most generous gift you can. Your support of the 2019-20 VFW Calendar program helps your VFW Department serve veterans in need throughout the year.

VFW Manicure Kit – We hope you are finding this one-of-a-kind manicure kit that was sent out the last week of June useful! We sent this as a special thank you for your continued support of the VFW and the life-changing programs for all veterans. When you use your VFW Manicure Kit, please remember that your generosity and support gives wounded veterans hope in the face of tragedy – those coping with Post-Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury and other horrible war wounds that will haunt them forever. Your donations help veterans of every generation. And please, remember to display the U.S. flag, especially on patriotic holidays.

Keep a close eye out for other exciting mailings and patriotic gifts in the coming months! And please remember that your generosity and support of the VFW and our programs that help veterans, service members and their families is life changing!

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 at vfw.org/plannedgiving for helpful tips, tools and other FREE resources – to include our Estate Planning Kit which will help simplify and organize the estate planning process for you and your attorney. For assistance or more information, please contact our Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org.

Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW’s life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families 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 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. You need only go to heroes.vfw.org/vfwtools. The latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department can be found here. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items for your Department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mailing schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the Department Resources tools to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

VFW Communications

Next week, visit the VFW’s YouTube page at youtube.com/c/vfwhq, to relive the greatest moments of the 120th VFW National Convention!

With segments covering everything from Sunday’s Memorial Service, to Wednesday’s election and installation of our new national officers, catch up on everything that happened during the convention.

Veterans & Military Support Programs

For all Veterans & Military Support program information and forms, use provided link below:

VMS Formstack Links:

- **Virtual Pins:** <https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/virtualpinrequest>
- **VFW Website Solution:** <https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/websolutionapp>
- **AUX Website Solution:** <https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/auxwebsolutionapp>
- **Chairman Report:** https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vms_chairman_report
- **MAP Grant Application:** www.vfw.org/MAPGrantApplication
- **MAP Grant Report:** www.vfw.org/MAPGrantReport
- **Adopt a Unit Application:** www.vfw.org/AdoptAUnitApp
- **Adopt a Unit Report:** www.vfw.org/AdoptAUnitReport
- **Programs Donation Form:** https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation.

Special thanks for all the support in Orlando for our Service Challenge!

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 and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP238>.

WORLD WAR ONE COMMISSION PARTNERSHIP. Any municipal government, individual or organization may apply. Likewise, any individual, organization or company can become a sponsor of this effort, as the more we can raise toward this program, the greater the amount of the matching grant to the winning memorials.

<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/about-the-program.html>

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

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

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

As you know, 2018 marked the centennial of World War I. There is a lot our members can do to help educate the public, commemorate the war, and honor those who served. The World War One Centennial Commission has created a landing page on their website for veterans to simplify navigation to key areas. You'll find it at www.wwlcc.org/veterans. Here are a few suggestions:

-- **THE WORLD WAR ONE PODCAST** is an award winner! Subscribe here: wwlcc.org/cn and become the envy of your friends and colleagues with your knowledge about all matters related to the Great War! Subscribe to the **Dispatch** newsletter to keep up to date. Listen to the Centennial News **Podcasts**. Podcast #61 features VFW Post 968 in Raymond, Wash., talking about their 100 Cities/100 Memorial project.

--Take advantage of the vast store of **education materials**, and use any meeting opportunity in your community to discuss the war and kindle interest in all matters related to the "War that Changed the World."

--**Purchase a commemorative US Mint WWI coin** (\$10 from the sale of each coin funds the memorial).

-- **POPPY SEED PACKETS & PROGRAM.**

--The poppy as a symbol of remembrance was first proposed after the war by an American woman, Moina Michael, who wrote "*We shall keep the faith.*"

--Use the WWI poppy program to raise money for your organization and help us build the National Memorial! Flanders poppies are living symbols of the great sacrifice made by the doughboys, marines and sailors. They grow everywhere! Remember the Great War by planting poppies in your community. Go here and learn more:

<https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/1881>.

--Make sure your ancestors or family members who served are listed on the **World War I Roll of Honor** and donate in their names toward building the WWI National Memorial with a “digital” remembrance wreath. The Roll of Honor features individual profiles for many of the more than 4 million American service members who responded to the call of “Over There” in support of the war-weary Allies and helped achieve victory. All donations go directly toward funding the memorial.

MEMORIAL HUNTERS -- WE NEED YOUR HELP. Dust off your Indiana Jones outfit - grab your smartphone/camera and get ready to hunt for treasure!

--Beginning 100 years ago at the end of WWI, thousands of local memorials were erected in honor of those who served. The memorials were put up by towns, cities, veterans’ organizations, schools, churches, civic organizations and clubs. Today, there is no national register of these important and long forgotten American cultural and historical treasures.

--Join the Memorial Hunters Club and help us hunt down and catalog this fading national treasure.

--We have already had huge help from the state Centennial teams, especially those in Alabama, Georgia and New Jersey who have cataloged hundreds of WWI memorials for their states.

--When you find some of these gems in your state, go here to register:

<https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/memorial-hunters-club-about.html>

--Get your [anthropology](#) on...It's time to go treasure hunting!

--Raise money for the memorial by supporting the **WWI Poppy Program**.

--**Learn more** about the memorial and see all the resources available at www.ww1cc.org.

For any follow-up questions, please contact Lynn Rolf, Programs Director, at lrolf@vfw.org or 816.968.1116.

WORLD WAR ONE CENTENNIAL NEWS:

WAS YOUR POST NAMED AFTER A WORLD WAR I VETERAN OR VETERANS? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! The U.S. World War One Centennial Commission (WWICC) is seeking information about VFW Posts named in honor of a local or national World War I veteran, along with stories of his or her service, photographs, newspaper clippings and/or other historical information. WWICC will endeavor to honor these Posts by showcasing this special information on its website and feature highlights in its electronic *Dispatch* newsletter. Please note: any information received will be maintained by the commission and will become part of the U.S. Government's historical (Library of Congress) records/archives upon the expiry of its mandate. The point of contact is David W. Hamon, VSO/Military Director for the commission, at david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org and/or 540.379.8584.

WWICC has also created a special landing page for veterans, history lovers, family members, friends and community members. At ww1cc.org/veterans, visitors will find "tiles," easy to access and read, in order to educate, commemorate and honor the Great War, as per the commission's congressional mandate and charter.

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 the 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>.

PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11. Per Presidential Proclamation, September 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 <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic>.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 20. 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 <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia>.

YOUTH PROGRAMS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org/Login.aspx>, log in to **My VFW**, then click on **VFW Training & Support** under the **Member Resources** heading, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs and Activities**, then click on **Chairman Manuals** under the **Additional Resources** heading. Here you will find all program materials.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN NATIONAL AWARDS. Every Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen first place Department winner will receive a National scholarship or award. The new amount for the Voice of Democracy National Awards now total \$154,000 and the Patriot's Pen National Awards total is now \$55,000.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES. The 2019-20 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief William J. "Doc" Schmitz. The Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "What Makes America Great." The new 2019-20 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

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/>

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN BROCHURES. For Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store: <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy> for Voice of Democracy and <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen> for Patriot's Pen.

NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD DEADLINE DATES. The VFW wants to recognize the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history, traditions and institutions effectively through the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award program. Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for the next competition. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, VFW Posts, supervisors or other interested individuals (not relatives). Self-nominees are not eligible.

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 for the 2019-20 program year. The dates are October 31, 2019, for entries to the Post, November 15, 2019, for completion of Post judging, December 15, 2019, for completion of District judging, January 10, 2020, for completion of Department judging and the Department winners are due to National Headquarters by January 15, 2020. The entry forms are up on the VFW website and are available in the VFW Store.

Simply visit <https://www.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.

Additionally, the interested individuals may download and print the teacher award entry form by visiting this link: www.vfw.org/teacheroftheyear or order a quantity of the brochures (item #4450) through the VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22917>.

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.

NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD SUBMISSION CHANGE.

Post Level

National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – submit an entry in all three categories (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) advanced to District judging. (Any Post can donate \$75 to National in lieu of each entry**.)

**Donations made to replace a Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, National Citizenship Education Teachers Award and towards Veterans & Military Support Programs Services as listed above will only be accepted through the following link. Do not donate through your Department or by any other means. https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation

District

National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – submit an entry in all three categories (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) advanced to Department judging. (Overseas District donate \$100 to National in lieu of each entry**.)

**Donations made to replace a Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, National Citizenship Education Teachers Award and towards Veterans & Military Support Programs Services as listed above will only be accepted through the following link. Do not donate through your Department or by any other means. https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation

Department

National Citizenship Education Teacher Award – submit an entry in all three categories (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) and entries must advance to National judging.

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

POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 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, 2020 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 25, 2020 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, Sept. 20, 2019 (third Friday in September); and Veterans Day, Nov. 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 Member Benefits

Nothing can put a damper on a relaxing vacation faster than illness or an unexpected medical emergency. It doesn't matter if you're traveling domestically or internationally, Emergency Assistance Plus®(EA+®) gives you peace of mind with 24-hour emergency assistance if you were to have a medical emergency.

This service includes medical transportation, recommendations on care options, help with translation services, and makes sure your vehicle is returned home safely. It also looks after your beloved travel companions.

As a VFW member, you're eligible to enroll in EA+ to give you the peace of mind you truly deserve. Start learning about all the benefits [today!](#)

Buddy"® Poppy

NATIONAL END OF THE YEAR AWARDS. The 2018-19 Buddy Poppy year has come to a close and we would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone that participated in this amazing program. Once again, with all of your help and hard work, we have completed another successful campaign. Please do not forget about the July deadlines for the entry forms you received in April. Once we have received the Department nominations and can compile our annual data, we will start processing the end of year awards (shortly after National Convention). As we complete the citations and plaques, they will be sent directly to the Department Headquarters so they can find the appropriate time to present them.

The 120th National Convention "Buddy"® Poppy Display Contest Winners are:

CATEGORY 1 (Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign)

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| First Place | - Hometown Murray Post No. 9773 and its VFW Auxiliary
Hometown, Illinois |
| Second Place | - VFW Auxiliary to the Mecklenburg Post No. 9488
Charlotte, North Carolina |
| Third Place | - General Dwight D. Eisenhower Post No. 3279 and its VFW Auxiliary
Abilene, Kansas |
| Honorable Mention | - Jefferson County Memorial Post No. 3522 and its VFW Auxiliary
Charles Town, Virginia |

CATEGORY 2 (Memorial or Inspirational Displays)

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| First Place | - VFW Auxiliary to the Verle Huffman Post No. 9644
Fort Logan, Colorado |
| Second Place | - Roscoe Post No. 2955 and its VFW Auxiliary
Roscoe, Illinois |

- Third Place - Dusenberry-Flannery Post No. 2064 and its VFW Auxiliary
Maybrook, New York
- Honorable Mention - VFW Auxiliary to the Captain John P. Monahan Post No. 12136
Indian Land, South Carolina
- Directors Award - Hugh-Matejcek Post No. 3723 and its VFW Auxiliary
Owatonna, Minnesota

CATEGORY 3 (Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies)

- First Place - Crawford County Post No. 4549 and its VFW Auxiliary
Robinson, Illinois
- Second Place - Doucet-Aucoin Post No. 8971 and its VFW Auxiliary
Eunice, Louisiana
- Third Place - VFW Auxiliary to the Sgt. J.D. Wadkins, Jr. Post No. 3713
Coolidge, Arizona
- Honorable Mention - VFW Auxiliary to the Clyde E. Newman, Jr. Post No. 10054
Pahrump, Nevada

“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.” Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at <https://www.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.

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. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out. 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.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS JOINS "WORLD WAR ONE POPPY PROGRAM." The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War One 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. From 2017 to 2019, the U.S. World War One 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 One 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=l_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.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

2020 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship is Open!

The 2020 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship is now accepting applications! We ask for your support in finding qualified candidates. The program, which is in its sixth year, is for VFW members who attend an accredited institute of higher learning. Ten student-veterans will be selected for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by veterans, service members, and their families. The highlight of the program is participation in the VFW Legislative Conference, which in the past has included meetings at the White House and with senior officials from the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Congress. Those selected also spend time with their VFW Department members on Capitol Hill pushing the VFW's legislative priorities, and this interaction has resulted in actual legislation. Alumni of the program have become more active in all levels of the VFW and some now work on Capitol Hill. [Learn more](#) about the fellowship.

August Recess: Meet Them in the District

Congress is in recess for the month of August, which means members of Congress will be back in your states and congressional districts. August is a great time for VFW members to connect with their

members of Congress in their home offices or attend town halls to focus attention on [VFW's legislative priorities](#). Make sure your [Senators and Representatives](#) understand what they need to do to meet the needs of our service members, veterans, and their families. Help us hold Congress accountable!

VFW Store

Check out VFW Store's new items: Caps, polos, accessories and more! Go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems> to browse or look for your new catalog in the mail!

Congratulations to All-American Posts, Districts and Departments! To help you celebrate your success, VFW Store is proud to offer All-American custom apparel. To find out more, call Kim Winston at 816.968.1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org. To place an order for ball caps, name tags, pins or rings call 1.833.VFW.VETS or go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=all-american>.



Roll Call of Departed Comrades

MADDOCKS, GARY W., Judge Advocate, Department of Rhode Island, 2019-2020 and Commander, Department of Rhode Island, 2013-2014 and a Life Member of Department of Rhode Island Member-at-Large, July 26, 2019.

Membership

MEMBERSHIP:

Our Commander-in-Chief is offering a new Life membership incentive program. All members who either join the VFW as a new Life member, reinstate as a Life member, or upgrade their existing annual membership to Life beginning Sept. 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, will earn a \$50 store credit. This credit must be used prior to Aug. 31, 2020. Upgrade, pay off or reinstate your Life membership today oms.vfw.org/QuickRenew.aspx?srcid=275.

ALL-AMERICAN

To all Posts, Districts, and Departments who attained All-American status in the 2018-19 membership year, the National Membership department wishes to once again extend our gratitude for all your hard work. For the Commanders who were unable to attend the National Convention in Orlando, your All-American packet with cap, badge, citation, lapel pin and streamer were sent to your Department Headquarters to officially be presented to you. All framed Post (home) citations are included in the shipments that went to your Departments. Also, all 463 All-American Posts will be receiving a package of 25 pins. If more than 25 pins are needed, they can be ordered through the VFW Store: vfwstore.org/products/21648?Action=SkipLogin or by calling 1.800.821.2606 and identifying Product Code 00404.

Additionally, All-American Quartermasters may purchase an All-American cap through the VFW Store by going online to vfwstore.org or by calling them directly at 1.800.821.2606.

POST DEVELOPMENT

As you are planning for the new year, make sure your Departments are in contact with the National Membership department to identify an area in need of Post development or a revitalization effort. There are many resources available to you, all you need to do is call. We are looking to start a Post or revitalize an existing Post in every single Department. Let's not wait until the middle of the year to identify an area. Let the Membership department know now what you're working on so that we can start tracking that information and provide assistance, as needed. For any questions or further information, you may contact the Membership department [via email at membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org) or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: **Top Three Recruiters (as of 8/27/2019):**

Hugh M Warner – 79
VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

Joseph W. Benningfield – 53
VFW Post 696, Dept. of KY

Stephen M. Franklin – 42
VFW Post 1433, Dept. of AZ

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to vfw.org, click on JOIN, 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:

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

What will your Legacy be?

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS & CHANGES

The 2019-20 Membership Program is available online at vfw.org, under MY VFW, scroll down to Member Resources and click on VFW Training and Support, click on Membership Recruiting and Retention, where it will be in blue letters 2019-20 VFW National Membership Program.

Hip Pocket Training: Login and go online to vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/membership-recruiting-and-retention to view the latest training videos from the Membership Department.

ALERT! If you have any topics you would like to see us cover, 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: youtu.be/z_5MovJgD6E?list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us via email at membership@vfw.org or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

FW Foundation

FREE FLU SHOTS FROM WALGREENS

Be prepared for the cold and flu season! Now through March 31, 2020, all VA-enrolled veterans are eligible for free annual flu shots at their local Walgreens or Duane Reade pharmacy. While this immunization program is limited to VA patients, Walgreens offers flu shots to most VFW members and their families through other coverage programs, such as TRICARE, Medicare and many health care plans. [Locate your closest Walgreens or Duane Reade.](#)

BURGER KING UNMET NEEDS JULY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Nearly 850 BURGER KING® franchisee-owned restaurants raised funds for the VFW's Unmet Needs program during July 2019. As of this writing, we have received more than \$151,000 from BK franchisees. More checks are anticipated soon, and we will keep you posted on the campaign amount as it increases.

Development

VFW Manicure Kit – In June, we mailed a special edition VFW Manicure Kit as a thank you for your support of the life-changing programs for all veterans. As you use this special gift, we hope it reminds you of the veterans your past support has helped. You may receive a reminder in the mail this month if you haven't had a chance to respond. Please send the most generous gift you can manage knowing you are helping military members, veterans and their families from your Department. And don't forget to display the United States flag, especially on all patriotic holidays.

VFW Christmas Cards and Holiday Music CD – This month we are mailing VFW Christmas Cards and a Holiday Music CD as our way of saying "Thank You" for your generosity in helping provide much-needed services to fellow veterans and service members. With the holidays quickly approaching, your support is urgently needed! Please help our heroes by sending a special donation when you receive this package. And please take time to visit a hospitalized veteran or service member in your community during the holidays. Your best wishes and thanks for their service means more than you can imagine. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/volunteer to find out about volunteering at your local VA facility.

A Simple Way to Make a Big Difference – Making a gift in your will is the easiest way to support the VFW and your fellow veterans after your lifetime. Did you know that it only takes one or two sentences in your will to complete? We invite you to learn more about this type of legacy gift and the lasting impact you can leave your family and the VFW. Free information is available by contacting the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119, email plannedgiving@vfw.org or visit 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 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. You need only go to heroes.vfw.org/vfwtools. The latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department can be found here. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items for your Department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mailing schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the Department Resources tools to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

VFW Communications

The 120th VFW National Convention is now on demand! From notable guest speakers to award recipients and special presentations, you can watch the live segments on demand on the VFW's [YouTube page here](#).

Veterans & Military Support Programs

VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"

The spring 2020 application is now available online at vfw.org/scholarship. Deadline for applications is Nov. 15.

The VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program awarded 165 scholarships totaling over \$760,000 for the 2019 fall semester. Since beginning the program in January 2014, over 1,450 veterans have been awarded scholarships totaling more than \$6.4 million.

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 and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to vfwstore.org/products/GP238.

WORLD WAR ONE CENTENNIAL NEWS:

Is Your Post Named for a Veteran of the Great War (World War One)? If so, we want to hear from you! The US World War One Centennial Commission is collecting information on VFW Posts named after WW1 veterans. If your Post is honored by the memory of a local doughboy, marine, sailor, or nurse who served and sacrificed their lives, we want to know more. Please send your information and material on the history of your Post to: David Hamon, Veterans and Military Affairs Director, US World War 1 Centennial Commission, at: david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org or, you may call him at 540.379.8584. The Commission is collecting historical and archive information on the Great War to observe and commemorate those 4.7 million who served in that conflict. America never forgets its veterans. Help them build a national memorial in Washington, DC. To learn more, go to: ww1cc.org/memorial.

Help Build America's World War One Memorial in Washington, DC. The US World War One Centennial Commission recently announced the creation of the AEF (Allied Expeditionary Forces) Memorial Corps. The program is a special designation for Posts, patriotic organizations, local chapters of

civic organizations, among others, to be recognized as an official "AEF Memorial Corps Post" for making a donation to build the national WW1 memorial in Washington, DC. Your Post will be certified with a special Centennial Certificate commemorating your contribution in "going over the top" to get the memorial built. For more information, please write Mr. David Hamon: david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org or call him at 540.379.8584. To view the progress of the memorial, go to: ww1cc.org/memorial. Your VFW Post will forever be enshrined in history as having pushed to get the memorial built. America never forgets her veterans!

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 the 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 vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam.

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. 20. 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.

NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD DEADLINE DATES. The VFW wants to recognize the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history, traditions and institutions effectively through the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award program. Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for the next competition. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, VFW Posts, supervisors or other interested individuals. Guidelines have changed and self-nominations will now be accepted.

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 for the 2019-20 program year. The dates are Oct. 31, 2019, for entries to the Post, Nov. 15, 2019, for completion of Post judging, Dec. 15, 2019, for completion of District judging, Jan. 10, 2020, for completion of Department judging and the Department winners are due to National Headquarters by Jan. 15, 2020. The entry forms are on the VFW website and are available in the VFW Store.

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.

Additionally, the interested individuals may download and print the teacher award entry form by visiting this link: org/teacheroftheyear or order a quantity of the brochures (item #4450) through the VFW Store vfwstore.org/products/22917.

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

NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD SUBMISSION CHANGE.

Post Level

National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – submit an entry in all three categories (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) advanced to District judging. (Any Post can donate \$75 to National in lieu of each entry**.)

**Donations made to replace a Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, National Citizenship Education Teachers Award and towards Veterans & Military Support Programs Services as listed above will only be accepted through the following link. Do not donate through your Department or by any other means. VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation

District

National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – submit an entry in all three categories (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) advanced to Department judging. (Overseas District donate \$100 to National in lieu of each entry**.)

**Donations made to replace a Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, National Citizenship Education Teachers Award and towards Veterans & Military Support Programs Services as listed above will only be accepted through the following link. Do not donate through your Department or by any other means.
VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation

Department

National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – submit an entry in all three categories (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) and entries must advance to National judging.

YOUTH PROGRAMS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. Simply visit vfw.org/Login.aspx, log in to **My VFW**, then click on **VFW Training & Support** under the **Member Resources** heading, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs and Activities**, then click on **Chairman Manuals** under the **Additional Resources** heading. Here you will find all program materials.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN NATIONAL AWARDS. Every Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen first place Department winner will receive a National scholarship or award. The new amount for the Voice of Democracy National Awards now total \$154,000 and the Patriot’s Pen National Awards total is now \$55,000.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN THEMES. The 2019-20 themes have been chosen by then Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief William “Doc” Schmitz. The Voice of Democracy and the Patriot’s Pen theme will be “What Makes America Great.” The new 2019-20 Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

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: vfw.org/VOD/

Patriot’s Pen: vfw.org/PatriotsPen/

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN BROCHURES. 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.

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 Feb. 1, 2020. 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 should 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. Order plaques and citations for public servants from the VFW Store vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=public%20servant.

NOTE: "NEW" VFW PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATION POST ENTRY FORM. This form has been developed to assist VFW Post Safety Chairmen with an entry form to hand out to the local Fire Department, Police Department, etc. to assist interested individuals in nominating one of their own. The entry forms along with the required documentation are to be returned to the local VFW Post for their judging. Once the winner in each category have been chosen, the Post will forward those entries on to the next level of judging.

Simply visit vfw.org, 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 **Public Servant Program**.

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

VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM MONTH IN NOVEMBER. VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are encouraged to volunteer in their schools to talk about their military and home front experiences to students. [Invite your local military recruiter to join you to talk about military service today.](#) Additional information can be found in the 2019-20 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman's Manual. Simply visit vfw.org and LOG IN (or create an account if you do not have one). After logging in, you'll be redirected to the "My VFW" page where you will click on VFW Training & Support and then Community Service, Youth Scholarships & Activities where you'll have access to the "CHAIRMAN MANUALS." *Participate in this activity during the week of Veterans Day, which is part of "National Veterans Awareness Week," as designated by Congress.* Find Pledge of Allegiance pencils and coloring books, plus other citizenship education tools at the VFW Store vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation.

2018-19 FRED C. HALL MEMORIAL OUTSTANDING POST SPECIAL PROJECT WINNER ANNOUNCED AT VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION IN ORLANDO. Emerald Coast VFW Post 10555 in Panama City Beach, Fla. was this year's recipient for their Hurricane Michael relief efforts. The Post is being recognized for the dedication and support its members provided to their fellow Posts in the Florida Panhandle area and their communities in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael in 2018. Due to minimal damage to Post 10555, they became District 17's primary command Post during relief efforts. Members of Post 10555 took it upon themselves to utilize their personal trailers and vehicles as mobile distribution points, traveling a total 1,781 miles throughout western Florida, to deliver water, food, clothing, tarps, and sanitary items, etc. Post and Auxiliary members, many of whom were impacted themselves, generously donated their time and money to help their community and comrades who lost everything to start rebuilding.

POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 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, 2020 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 25, 2020 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, Sept. 20, 2019 (third Friday in September); and Veterans Day, Nov. 11. 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

The average cost of a hospital stay increases each year, and hospital expenses often exceed annual health insurance deductibles for most major medical plans.

As a VFW member, you're eligible to enroll in the VFW Hospital HELP Plan, which provides benefits during covered hospital stays.

Should you experience a hospital stay, this plan will accrue cash benefits to provide you and your family extra money. These cash benefits are not tied to your medical coverage and can be used to help pay your portion of medical bills or use it however you see fit.

Learn more [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.” 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.

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. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out. 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.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS JOINS "WORLD WAR ONE POPPY PROGRAM." The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War One 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. From 2017 to 2019, the U.S. World War One 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 One 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: [youtube.com/watch?v=l_y4149mZso](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_y4149mZso).

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.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

2020 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship Application is Open!

The 2020 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship is now accepting applications! The program, which is in its sixth year, is for VFW members who attend an accredited institute of higher learning. Ten VFW members who are student veterans will be selected for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by veterans, service members, and their families. The highlight of the program is participation in the VFW March Legislative Conference, which in the past has included meetings with senior officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs and Congress. Those selected also spend time with their VFW Department members on Capitol Hill pushing the VFW's legislative priority goals. Alumni of the program have become more active in all levels of the VFW and have changed laws to improve care and benefits for veterans. [Learn more and apply for the fellowship.](#)

VFW Fall Legislative Conference to Highlight Major Issues

September is a busy month for the VFW in our nation's capital as Congress returns from recess and the VFW's National Legislative Committee meets with their senators and representatives. Major issues of focus for the VFW will be discussed, including the widow's tax, burn pits, veterans' health care, transition assistance, and the Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program. Every member of the VFW is an important part of this effort, so please visit the VFW's [legislative priorities webpage](#) to stay informed or the [grassroots efforts webpage](#) to learn how to be an effective veterans' advocate.

Administrative Operations

REQUESTING CEREMONIAL RIFLES, AMMUNITION & MILITARY EQUIPMENT -

Department Adjutants and Quartermasters are asked to remind all Post officers to refer to the revised information located at [vfw.org](#) where they will need to log in to the "My VFW" page and select the "VFW Training and Support" link, then "Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates" where you'll have access to "Training Guides & Standard Operating Procedures" and then click on "Ceremonial Rifles, Ammunition & Military Equipment" when requesting a "conditional" donation of any government military equipment, ceremonial rifles or ammunition.

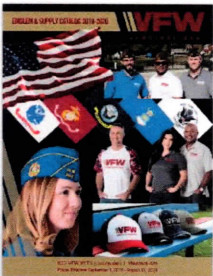
Before contacting the governmental agency, a formal written request is to be addressed and mailed to the Adjutant General at VFW National Headquarters, and must be completed and signed by the current *Post Commander, Post Adjutant* or *Post Quartermaster*, one of whom needs to be the contact person.

Also to be included is that contact person's mailing address and phone number, not the Post address. Address the request to the Adjutant General, VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Include the proper information as outlined in the "Ceremonial Rifles, Ammunition & Military Equipment" pages in the website. It is requested that a Post *not* go through their Department Headquarters (but send them a courtesy copy). This only slows down the processing and creates unnecessary paperwork for the Department personnel.

CAPS DURING CHAPLAIN PRAYERS – In accordance with the Ritual General Rule 13(b), "members will follow the action of the Chaplain or presiding officer relative to removal of caps during prayers; if uncovering, the hat shall be placed on the extended closed fingers of the right hand in such a way that the Cross of Malta is exposed and held over the heart."

VFW Store



Have you seen the VFW Store's new catalog? Go online to [vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems](#) to see our selection of new polos, jackets, caps and more!

Check out our licensed vendors and partners for an expanded product selection. Go to [vfwstore.org/category/more/partnersandlicensedvendors](#).

Check out POW-MIA items at [vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia](#) and order now for POW-MIA Recognition Day, Sept. 20.

School's in session – advertise your Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests! Hang posters and hand out brochures at the school, your Post and around town. For Voice of Democracy supplies, go to vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy; for Patriot's Pen supplies, go to vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen.

Get your “Buddy”® Poppy campaign items such as aprons, table covers, posters and more at vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy.



Roll Call of Departed Comrades

FLOYD, BILLY JOE, Past National Council Member, 2005-2007 and Commander, Department of New Hampshire, 1982-1983 and a Life Member of Concord Post 1631, Concord, New Hampshire, August 15, 2019.

DAVENPORT, ALLAN E., Commander, Department of New York, 2009-2010 and a Bronze Legacy Life Member of Stuyvesant Falls Memorial Post 9593, Stuyvesant Falls, New York, August 24, 2019.

BIEDRZYCKI, JOHN A., Past Commander-in-Chief, 2015-2016, All American Commander, Department of Pennsylvania, 2002-2003 and a Gold Legacy Life Member of Vesle Post 418, Mc Kees Rocks, Pennsylvania, August 29, 2019.