

## 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](https://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](https://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](https://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](tel:18885646839).

### **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](http://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:**

<b><u>Levels</u></b>		<b><u>Posts</u></b>	<b><u>Departments</u></b>	<b><u>National</u></b>
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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](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](mailto:membership@vfw.org) or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

VFW 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](http://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](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org) or visit [vfw.org/plannedgiving](http://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](mailto:partners@vfw.org) with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

**VFW Friends of Freedom** – If you are not already a member of the VFW's online community, please visit [vfw.org](http://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](http://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](http://heroes.vfw.org/vfwtools). The latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department can be found here. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org) or call him at 540.379.8584. To view the progress of the memorial, go to: [ww1cc.org/memorial](http://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](http://www.VietnamWar50th.com) on the Commemorative Partner Program.** The approval process is usually less than 30 days. Partners will be kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved as a Partner, the Commemoration will provide organizations with a starter kit of materials for developing and implementing their programs. If you have any questions regarding the Commemorative Partner Program application process, please direct them to: [whs.vnwar50th\\_cpp@mail.mil](mailto:whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil). For Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://org/teacheroftheyear) or order a quantity of the brochures (item #4450) through the VFW Store [vfwstore.org/products/22917](http://vfwstore.org/products/22917).

Order the Citizenship Education Teacher Recognition Citation from the VFW Store, product #4320, [vfwstore.org/products/23980](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://vfw.org/VOD/)

Patriot’s Pen: [vfw.org/PatriotsPen/](http://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](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy) for Voice of Democracy and  
[vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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"<sup>®</sup> Poppy

**"BUDDY"<sup>®</sup> POPPY CAMPAIGN.** Although we emphasize "Buddy"<sup>®</sup> 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](http://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"<sup>®</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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\\_y4l49mZso](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 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](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy); for Patriot's Pen supplies, go to [vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen](http://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](http://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.