

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.

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

For the month of November, Commander-in-Chief Doc Schmitz has laid down a challenge to all VFW Posts to bring in new and reinstated members.

For this month's Commander's Challenge, the top ten Posts in each Division with the most new and reinstated members processed into their Post between Nov. 1 and Nov. 30 will be entered into a drawing for \$1,000 to be deposited into the Post account.

Our strength as an organization comes from our membership, and during this season we want to give our thanks to the members and Posts who are doing the hard work of recruiting, retaining, and mentoring our membership to help the Veterans of Foreign Wars prove that we DARE TO CARE when it comes to serving our fellow veterans.

DEPARTMENT "FIRST TO FINISH" INCENTIVE

For the Department that is first to attain 100% in membership, the Commander (plus guest) and the Quartermaster (plus guest) will each receive:

- **\$2,500 voucher through Veterans Travel Services (VTS) applied towards airfare, accommodations and transportation for a trip of their own choice.**

DEPARTMENT EARLY BIRD INCENTIVE

For every Department that achieves 92% in membership by Jan. 1, 2020, the Department Commander will receive:

- **A VFW Tribute Edition Henry Golden Boy .22 Caliber Rifle or a credit voucher of equal value for use with Veterans Travel Service (VTS)**

EARLY BIRD AWARD - VFW LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The top three Post Commanders and Quartermasters and the top two District Commanders in each Division on Jan. 1, 2020, will receive:

- A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the 2020 VFW Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.

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 we can start tracking that information and provide assistance as needed. For any questions or further information, you may contact Corey Hunt in the Membership department via email at coreyhunt@vfw.org or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Top Three Recruiters (as of 10/28/2019):

Hugh M. Warner – 232
VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

Carlo S. Davis – 145
VFW Post 9191, Dept. of TX

Mark A. Short – 140
VFW Post 9400, 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?



BURGER KING NOVEMBER UNMET NEEDS CAMPAIGN

Approximately 507 BURGER KING® franchisee-owned restaurants have signed up to participate in the November Unmet Needs fundraising campaign. Speaking of our friends at BK, it is important to note that this year their McLamore Foundation has already awarded \$442,000 in educational scholarships to

veteran families (including one \$50,000 Whopper award winner recipient). This brings their five-year total to \$2.16 million in scholarships to veteran families!

WALGREENS OFFERS FREE FLU SHOTS

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.](#)

Development

VFW 2020-2021 “Fly the Flag” Calendars – The VFW is proud to let you know you may soon receive a special edition 2020-2021 “Fly the Flag” Calendar. You probably already received the Expanded Edition VFW Calendar in June ... but we created this special patriotic 2020-2021 “Fly the Flag” Calendar in recognition of your loyal membership and generous support of the VFW. We have also included a bonus gift selection, which features a new puzzle book and a set of special edition birthday cards to have on hand throughout the year. We hope these special gifts inspire you to show your patriotism by displaying the United States flag, especially on the days marked in your calendar, to show your support for all veterans who have fought to keep us free. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/flag to print a free flag poster to display. *Your donations* will help *your VFW Department* serve veterans in need throughout the year. Veterans in your Department are counting on you!

VFW National Veterans Service Quarterly Supporter Newsletter – The quarterly update on what the VFW National Veterans Service is doing for veterans will arrive this month. You will see stories of how the VFW in D.C. is fighting for veterans’ rights and legislation affecting veterans. We also share stories of VFW Service Officers assisting veterans in obtaining their VA benefits – all because of your support of this vital program. If you, or a fellow veteran, are in need of assistance in filing a VA claim, please visit vfw.org/nvs.

2019 Veterans Day Matching Gift Campaign to Friends of Freedom Online Community – Last month Friends of Freedom members received an email with exciting news! A generous friend of the VFW agreed to match every donation we receive up to \$50,000 until Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2019! This is an incredible opportunity for your contribution to go twice as far to honor the brave men and women who have dedicated themselves to our country. No matter the amount, your generosity will have twice the impact for service members and their families – please help us honor these brave men and women by giving as generously as you can! Watch your inbox for this incredible email so that your gift can go twice as far!

Create Your Legacy With Just a Few Words – Having a will helps ensure your family and loved ones will be taken care of after your lifetime. Should you like to support future generations of veterans once your family is covered, you can do so by adding a gift to the VFW in your will. To learn more about wills and how easy it is to make a gift to the VFW in yours, visit vfw.org/plannedgiving. You can also contact the VFW Planned Giving Office to request information on estate planning. Call us at 816.968.1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org today.

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, and a Year End Tax Receipt mailed by the end of January. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483) or email us at partners@vfw.org with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

VFW Friends of Freedom – If you are not already a member of the VFW's online community, please visit vfw.org and look for the gold banner that says "**Find Out What's Happening**" to sign up. As a member of the VFW's Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation's veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit vfw.org/vfwatwork and click on "**Read VFW success stories**" to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans' rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

Department Resources – Many great resources are available for your Department to use in promoting fundraising programs. 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

In honor of the VFW logo turning 1-year-old in November, keep your eyes on VFW social media channels as we recognize VFW Posts that have gone above and beyond to implement the new logo.

Stayed tuned to the [VFW Facebook page](#) on Nov. 6 when VFW National Commander Doc Schmitz will present \$70,000 to Park University President Dr. Greg Gunderson in support of the university's [Valor Medals Review project](#). The initiative aims to determine whether the denial of the Medal of Honor — the U.S. government's highest military honor — to potentially deserving World War I service members was based on racial bias, and recommend the Department of Defense review the cases as appropriate. More than 367,000 African Americans fought during World War I, yet during that time not one was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Veterans & Military Support Programs

REMINDER: Visit your local Sport Clips for a haircut from now until Nov. 11 and donate to VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program. Your donation will provide scholarships to service members and veterans. **On Veterans Day**, Nov. 11, Sport Clips will donate \$1 to the VFW for every haircut given at more than 1,800 locations nationwide. Please contact Lynn Rolf at 816.968.1116 if you have any questions about the Help A Hero Scholarship Program.

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.

SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD.

Nominations for this award and the judging at the Post level should be close to completion and District level should be preparing to begin. Districts are to send their winning recipient from each level to the Departments by Dec. 15. After Department judging, each Department forwards the names of its selections to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national award contest. Deadline is Jan. 15, 2020. Each Department's selections will receive a National Commendation citation.

VFW's National Citizenship Education Teacher awards include: three national \$1,000 awards for the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses; \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and school; and an all-expenses-paid trip to attend a VFW and Auxiliary national event. In addition, the top 10 national high school teachers will be invited to attend one of the available Summer Graduate seminars at the Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge, PA.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

VFW SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRAM. This program was put in place to recognize VFW units for creating and completing unique and extraordinary community service projects.

Record book entry nominations that are found to be complete and well-substantiated should be endorsed by the Department Adjutant or VFW Department Community Activities Chairman and forwarded to National Programs Department. Deadline for entries is April 30 of each year.

Every Post Special Project receiving the Award of Excellence in the May judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Manual.

YOUTH HUNTING AND SHOOTING PROGRAMS. VFW has been involved with the National Rifle Association (NRA) since 1920. Through the NRA, hundreds of VFW Posts provide hunter safety courses and sponsor shooting competitions. Annually, VFW and NRA offer junior and adult small-bore rifle and air rifle individual and team matches conducted by mail called Postal Matches*.

NRA Postal Matches are designed for VFW rifle teams as a sport activity for youth and adults to build interest in rifle shooting and safety. A Postal Match is a match in which competitor's fire on their home ranges using targets which have been marked for identification. The team match is a series of four monthly matches for teams sponsored by VFW Posts held from December through March. The individual VFW match is fired in the fall with a December closing date. The scores are then mailed to the NRA for ranking of awards.

If your VFW Post does not already participate in the Youth/Adult Rifle Program and would like to take part in a program that has great appeal for youngsters as well as adults, please go to the NRA's Postal Match website nrahq.org/compete/dept-postal.asp.

Complete program information, rules, and entry form (in PDF format) are available: postalmatches.nra.org/documents/pdf/compete/Postals/VFW%20Postal.pdf.

If you have any questions, please contact the NRA directly at:

National Rifle Association
Competitive Shooting Division
11250 Waples Mill Rd.
Fairfax, VA 22030
email: postals@nrahq.org
phone: 703.267.1482

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact the VFW Programs Office at 816.968.1155 or email nlopez@vfw.org.

*There are clubs and Posts, etc. that have local shooting programs all around the world. They teach gun safety and target shooting. Often, they wish to compete against other groups but cannot afford to travel to competitions. The NRA created "postal matches," where a team of shooters can have their own local competition using paper targets. These are NRA-sanctioned targets and must be signed by local officials verifying the manner in which the competition was conducted and the age of the participants. Those targets are then sent to the NRA Postal Match Program and, using the targets from the various groups, the NRA judges determine who wins, places, etc. and awards prizes. That way, the shooting match can involve shooters and clubs from almost anywhere without anyone having to travel. It's all done through the U.S. Postal System. Hence, the term, "Postal Match."

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 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 EMT's, 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 has 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**.

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG ON DECEMBER 7. Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates Dec. 7 as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" and requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day. To order a flag, go to vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags.

WORLD WAR 1 CENTENNIAL NEWS:

Is Your Post Named for a Veteran of the Great War (World War I)? If so, we want to hear from you! The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission is collecting information on VFW Posts named after WWI 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, U.S. World War I 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, D.C. To learn more, go to: ww1cc.org/memorial.

Help Build America's World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C. The U.S. World War I 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 WWI memorial in Washington, D.C. 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!

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. 18, 2020 (third Friday in Sept.); 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

TRICARE is a medical care program available to uniformed service members — including those on active duty, National Guard and Reserve members, and retired service members — and their families.

TRICARE pays a substantial amount for medical care, but you may still need a supplemental insurance plan to help fill in the gaps. TRICARE Supplement Insurance policies are administered by Selman Co and are available through Transamerica Premier Life Insurance.

Now might be the perfect time to explore a supplemental policy to protect you and your loved ones. Enjoy peace of mind knowing that you're fully covered.

You can start learning about all the benefits [today!](#)

"Buddy"[®] Poppy

"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 or 75th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don't pass those costs on to the Posts. 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 I POPPY PROGRAM." The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission in announcing the WWI Poppy Program to raise awareness about World War I and generate funds for local VSO chapters all over the country.

The VFW is proud to share with you the WWI Poppy Program; an opportunity to generate resources for your Post while helping to honor the 4.7 million Americans who wore the uniform during WWI.

Poppies grew across the war-torn battlefields of Europe after World War I. From 2017 to 2019, the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission will tell the story of those American veterans, through events, exhibits, and memorial efforts, and the VFW is proud to be a partner in this important commemoration.

Click on the following link to learn about the WWI Poppy Program and how your purchase of a Poppy Kit helps build the new National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C., while also helping to raise money for your Post.

Link: ww1cc.org/poppy

Here is a quick video that can help people understand why it is so important that we honor those who served during World War I: [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 Veterans Service

Last Call for VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) Male and Female Volunteer of the Year Award Nominations

Each year the Executive Committee of the VA National Advisory Committee for the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) recognizes a Male and Female Volunteer of the Year. VFW Department leadership and VFW VAVS Representatives along with the VA Medical Facility Chiefs of VAVS are encouraged to submit nominations for the VFW VAVS Male and Female Volunteer of the Year to the VFW Director,

National Veterans Services. Nominations must be submitted no-later-than close of business Nov. 27, 2019. VFW Department Commanders, Adjutants, Adjutant/Quartermasters should have received a notification letter with details about submission and nomination criteria/requirements. For more information and assistance, please contact the VFW at 202.543.2239.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

Driving Our Grassroots Efforts

With every issue that Congress votes on, there is a local connection in your hometown that serves as the face of that issue. That grassroots connection is what builds the momentum to make a law become reality and the VFW's Action Corps is the program which drives our grassroots efforts to ensure that we are successful on Capitol Hill.

Being part of the VFW's Action Corps is an important way to keep tabs on those in office now – how they vote and what important issues they are having to consider. Being part of Action Corps and reading the Action Corps Weekly e-newsletter will help keep you informed. [Join VFW Action Corps!](#)

VFW Store

Order your Department Mid-Winter apparel today! Raise funds for your Department by having a shirt made to sell at your Mid-Winter conference. Contact Kim Winston at 816.968.1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org to place your order or get shirt design ideas! Please order by Nov. 30.

Veterans Day is a great time to inspect your Post's flags for rips, fraying or fading. To order a new U.S. flag, check out VFW Store's wide selection at vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags or get a POW-MIA Flag at vfwstore.org/products/GP237. We also offer state flags: vfwstore.org/category/flags/otheroutdoorflags.

The new VFW and Auxiliary Podium Editions are now available in print. To order, go to vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=podium.

