

Membership

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch has laid down a challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of October 2020!

This month it's time to use the TRICKS of recruiting and retention to earn the TREAT of a \$1,000 stipend for your Post!

For this month's Commander's Challenge, the top Post in each division with the highest increase in total membership percentage between Oct. 1 and Oct. 31 will receive a \$1,000 stipend deposited into the Post account.

Sign up new members, reinstate lapsed members, and collect dues from your annual members who are coming up for renewal, and your Post could be eligible for this incentive! Get that membership drive going and show our veterans that we have **20/20 VISION FOR VETERANS!**

This contest will compare the Post's membership percentage on Oct. 1 to the membership on Oct. 31. Members processed through the Online Membership System before close of business will be processed that day; membership applications sent via fax or mail will be processed when received.

2020-21 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The 2020-21 Membership Program is available online at vfw.org, under MY VFW, scroll down to Membership Quick Links, click on Membership Recruiting and Retention. You will see the 2020-21 VFW National Membership Program in blue letters.

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP MATERIAL ORDER FORM

As you get started in the new membership year, we have made it easier for you to get all the recruiting brochures you will need to make this membership year successful! It's as easy as one two three!

1. Go to vfw.org and click the login link in the upper right corner. Sign in when prompted.
2. Under "Membership Quick Links," select **Membership Online Order Form**.
3. Use the dropdown list to indicate items you need. The form will automatically calculate the cost of items and shipping. When finished, click SUBMIT and it will take you to a billing page if there are any charges.

Follow the simple steps and if you have any questions, you may contact Leticia Cortez at **1.888.564.6839** or email us at membership@vfw.org.

POST DEVELOPMENT

As you plan for the remainder of this membership year, please 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 want to start a new Post or revitalize an existing Post in every Department this year. Do not wait until the middle of the year to identify an area. Let the Membership department know what you are working on so we can track your information and provide assistance as needed.

New this membership year, an additional \$250 VFW Store credit will go to each new Post for a total of \$500 to each new Post chartered! For details on this and all other All-American membership incentives, view the Commander-in-Chief's National Membership Program at vfw.org under *Membership Recruiting & Retention*.

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

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

UPCOMING TRAINING

The next Membership Monday training webinar will be on Oct. 5, 2020, at 2:00 PM CST, and we will be covering the topic Mentorship.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP THREE RECRUITERS!

Top Three Recruiters (as of 9/28/2020):

Jack A. Hawley – 78

VFW Post 1087, Dept. of MT

Joshua W. Abshire – 46

VFW Post 5102, Dept. of MN

Stephen M. Franklin – 45

VFW Post 1433, Dept. of AZ

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to vfw.org, click on JOIN, and scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video on the right. This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are three levels of membership; each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life Member Program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

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

What will your Legacy be?

VFW Foundation

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Sport Clips Haircuts are teaming up to host the first-ever virtual VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero Walk, offering supporters a new way to engage with Sport Clips' annual Help A Hero campaign.

The annual Help A Hero campaign, which kicks off in-store on Oct. 12, helps raise awareness and bolster funds to the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program. The program provides student veterans with post-secondary scholarships so they are able to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. To date, \$8 million in scholarships has been awarded.

Participants in the virtual walk may register and fundraise individually or as a team, and the walk offers the flexibility to participate where and when it is convenient. All participants are invited to join the VFW and Sport Clips for the Celebration Finale on the VFW's Facebook page on Dec. 5, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. CST.

The pandemic has presented many challenges, and the virtual Help A Hero Walk offers patriotic Americans with a safe and healthy way to show their support to our nation's veterans. Complete details on the virtual Help A Hero Walk can be found at www.vfw.org/VirtualWalk2020.

Development

VFW's Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2020 – In September, we mailed the VFW's Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2020. We hope you enjoy these cards along with the other gifts that were included in the package. In the letter that was sent with the cards and gifts, we asked you to consider taking some time to visit or call a hospitalized service member or veteran in your community. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/Volunteer to find out about volunteering at your local VA facility. And please remember that the VFW's life-changing programs would not be available to veterans of all generations without the generosity of its members. Your donation to the VFW helps support programs for veterans and service members right in your own Department.

Sign a Card for a Veteran – You may receive a package this month with a special Christmas card for you to sign for a lonely, hospitalized veteran or current service member. We want to get a Christmas card to as many veterans and service members in VA medical facilities as possible before December 25. Please sign the card and return by November 20 and a VFW volunteer will deliver it to a veteran who didn't think anyone remembered. And when you mail the signed Christmas card back, please include a special holiday donation if you can.

Veterans Day Sign-A-Card Campaign to Friends of Freedom Online Community – As Veterans Day approaches, Friends of Freedom members will receive an email inviting them to sign a card to be printed and delivered to a hospitalized veteran or service member. Join us as we honor America's heroes in signing a card to show them our appreciation for all they have sacrificed for our freedom. Signing a card may seem like a small gesture compared to what they have done for us, but hearing from you while in the hospital means the world to a veteran. Keep an eye out for this email and don't forget to sign the card!

Simplify Your Will Planning While Supporting the VFW – If you are considering a gift to the VFW through your will or other estate plans, you can visit vfw.org/PlannedGiving for helpful tips, tools and other FREE resources – 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 VFW Planned Giving at 816.968.1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org.

Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism? – Commander-in-Chief Harold “Hal” Roesch, II would like you to join with him in supporting the VFW’s life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive. The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible, and a Year End Tax Receipt mailed by the end of January. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483) or email us at partners@vfw.org with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

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

Department Resources – Many great resources are available for your Department to use in promoting fundraising programs. These resources are available at 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 mail schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the tools found on the VFW Department Resources Page to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

Veterans & Military Support Programs

Please use links below for all VMS programs and donations. We no longer accept email or faxed requests/reports.

VMS Formstack Links:

- **VFW Website Solution:** VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/websolutionapp
- **AUX Website Solution:** VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/auxwebsolutionapp
- **Chairman Report:** VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vms_chairman_report
- **MAP Grant Application:** vfw.org/MAPGrantApplication

- **MAP Grant Report:** vfw.org/MAPGrantReport
- **Adopt a Unit Application:** vfw.org/AdoptAUnitApp
- **Adopt a Unit Report:** vfw.org/AdoptAUnitReport
- **VMS Online Donation:** <https://heroes.vfw.org/page/22950/donate1>

Donating to the VMS Program can also be done on the VFW Dashboard by going to the link “**VMS Donation**” on the upper right-hand corner of the screen. Your \$100 or more donation to the VMS Programs meets the eligibility for All American in this category. Thank you for your support!

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

WORLD WAR I 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!

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.

NEW 2020-21 SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM. Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle and high school teachers to participate in the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher program. Effective this year, VFW Post Teacher Award Chairman may submit a candidate to their Department Headquarters by Jan. 1 in each category. The Department may select a single candidate for each of the three categories and submit those to VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1. VFW's Department Teacher winners that are received at National Headquarters will receive a VFW National citation for both the winning teacher and their school in each grade category.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the "VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form" which will be available on the VFW website. 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**. The Teacher Entry form, Instruction sheet, Citation Request form and Chairman's manual will be up on the VFW website in the near future.

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

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

Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. has the correct teacher award entry deadlines and information for the 2020-21 program year.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST DEADLINE REMINDER. The deadline for the annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests is quickly approaching. The students must have their completed entry form with the (audio and/or written) essay submitted to their local participating VFW Post by **Oct. 31, 2020**. Each corresponding deadline for Post, District and Department to have their entries to the next level is: Nov. 15, 2020, for completion of Post judging; Dec. 15, 2020, for completion of District judging; Jan. 10, 2021, for completion of Department judging and the Department winners are due to National Headquarters by **Jan. 15, 2021**.

Please ensure that the entry forms are filled out completely and that the appointed individual at the Post is available to receive the entries and answer questions. As we get closer to the deadline, the more students and parents will be reaching out trying to find their local participating Post so we want to ensure they can make contact.

Simply visit vfw.org/#login, 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.

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.

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 2020-21 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 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, 2021. 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: VFW PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATION POST ENTRY FORM. This form was 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 form 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**.

CONDUCT A VETERANS DAY PROGRAM ON NOVEMBER 11. Organize a community event on Veterans Day honoring all veterans. For a ceremonial procedure, refer to the information found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman's Manual. If you should need a Veterans Day speech, please go to: vfw.org/MY-VFW/Patriotic-Holiday-Speeches. Click here for Veterans Day merchandise vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday.

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.

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 15, 2021 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 31, 2021 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, Sept. 17, 2021 (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

Military veterans have access to flexible Medicare plans through Humana, including Medicare Supplement, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D.

With multiple Medicare options, it can be difficult to keep the policies and their benefits straight. But knowing the specifics of each Medicare plan is crucial to ensure you have the insurance policy in place.

Luckily, Humana coverage available through Lockton Affinity can help. They go above and beyond to ensure they are your health partner for life. They also encourage healthier lifestyles, so together, you can build a road map for a healthier future.

58,000 veterans are Humana Medicare Members. Join them and [discover all the benefits](#) Humana offers today through Lockton Affinity.

“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 nonprofit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of Buddy Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the Post general fund.

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

VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES. The silver, gold and diamond anniversary Buddy Poppies are for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary years. For Posts currently in their 100th year anniversary, they can order any color and as many as they need. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don’t pass those costs on to the Posts. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out, unless you are currently in your 100th year. These are ordered

through the Department and processed the same as the red poppies. Annotate on the order to National that it is for anniversary poppies and specify which one.

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

Seeking Nominations for VA Volunteer of the Year

The VFW National Veterans Service is seeking nominations for the 2020 VA Voluntary Service Volunteer of the Year award. This award recognizes VFW volunteers who have given extraordinary service to our nation's hospitalized veterans located in VA and VA-affiliated medical facilities. Nominees for this award must participate in established VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) assignments and serve as a Regularly Scheduled Volunteer. National Veterans Service is seeking nominations for at least one male and one female volunteer for each VFW Department for consideration for these prestigious awards by the Executive Committee of the VAVS National Advisory Committee. VFW's volunteers have a long history of taking home these awards, so please consider nominating the exemplary VAVS volunteers from your Department. Nominations are due to the VFW National Veterans Service no later than Nov. 30, 2020. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact VFW Assistant Director for Health Policy James Moss at JMoss@vfw.org.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

VFW First-Ever Virtual Legislative Conference: This week, the VFW National Legislative Committee came together for the first-ever virtual legislative conference. VFW National Officers joined committee members in Zoom meetings to discuss the VFW's legislative priorities, they held virtual or phone meetings with their legislators, and took to social media to spotlight their hard work and dedication. The COVID-19

pandemic may be changing the way business is done, but it will not stop the VFW from being the voice of our members and fighting for veterans' benefits on Capitol Hill. [Learn more about the VFW legislative priorities.](#)

2021 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship Application Now Open: The 2021 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship is currently accepting applications. The program, which is in its seventh year, is for VFW-eligible individuals and 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 Department of Veterans Affairs and Congress. Those selected also spend time with their VFW Department members on Capitol Hill pushing the VFW's legislative priorities. Alumni of the program have become more active in all levels of the VFW and have changed laws that improve care and benefits for veterans. [Learn more about the fellowship.](#)

Unprecedented Poll Worker Shortage: Healthy elections require poll workers, the majority of whom are over the age of 60. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, election officials are reporting an unprecedented shortage. Without sufficient numbers of poll workers, it is possible that polling locations could have long lines, lack of staff to assist voters, and possible closures of polling locations. The VFW encourages any member, advocate, or supporter, who is healthy and willing, to consider becoming a poll worker for the general election in November. The [Stanford-MIT Healthy Election Project](#) has partnered with local organizations like Power the Polls, which helps to follow up with applicants, confirm their commitment, and assist them in completing the process. If you sign up through this [special VFW link](#), you will be contacted by Power the Polls, a partner organization, or your local election administrators.

Administrative Operations

2021 REVISED PODIUM EDITION – CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER, BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL:

The 2021 copies of the podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are in stock and can be purchased through the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/products/22690. The 2021 revised edition reflects that in response to the deadly virus COVID-19, the 121st National Convention was held pro-forma where no amendments to the National Bylaws or Manual of Procedure were made.

VFW Store

This is a big election year. Promote the vote with posters and buttons from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=get%20out%20the%20vote.

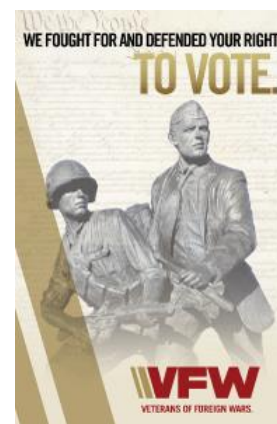
Entry deadlines are Oct. 31 for the teacher award and the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests. Show appreciation for entrants at your Post with commemorative items from the VFW Store:

Voice of Democracy:

vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy?page=1&size=50

Patriot's Pen: vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen?page=1&size=50

Teachers: vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation



Veterans Day is just around the corner – order now to receive your merchandise in time. We offer parade items, patriotic apparel and more. Go to vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday.

Buddy Poppy items are also available at the VFW Store. Go to vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy?page=1&size=50.

To order, go to vfwstore.org or call 1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387).