

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.

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 toward airfare, accommodations and transportation for a trip of their own choice.**

KANSAS CITY SPREE

The top two Post Commanders and the top two District Commanders in each division who achieve 100 percent membership by April 1, 2020, along with their spouse or guest, will be awarded:

- Round-trip airfare to Kansas City, MO, from the airport nearest the awardee’s home.
- A fun-filled weekend (May 16-17, 2020) that may include but is not limited to – touring, shopping, and a complete tour of the VFW National Headquarters.

POST DEVELOPMENT

Post Development is off to a great start in 2020 with a new Post established in each month so far this year! Congratulations to the Departments of Nebraska and North Carolina for establishing new Posts: Nemaha Valley Post No. 12193, Nebraska and Leland Post No. 12196, North Carolina respectively. Keep the new Posts coming! Remember – you have many resources available to you on vfw.org and expertise awaiting your call at the National Membership office in KC.

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, 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 2/24/2020):

Hugh M. Warner – 396
VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

Mark A. Short – 289
VFW Post 9400, Dept. of AZ

Carlo S. Davis – 198
VFW Post 9191, Dept. of TX

DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:

VFW Post No. 12193 in Auburn, NE
VFW Post No. 12196 in Leland, NC

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?

VFW Foundation

THE HOME DEPOT GRANT IS NOW OPEN

The Home Depot Community Impact Grant for 2020 is now open. VFW Posts can receive up to \$5,000 in Home Depot gift cards toward maintenance and improvements to their Post building! We encourage all Posts to apply ASAP if you desire to remodel your building. Please note that this is a competitive grant program and not all applications will be funded. Additionally, only projects that use volunteers are eligible. To make the process easier, the VFW Foundation has produced an easy-to-understand how-to-apply guide that walks Post members through the online application process. For your copy or if you have any questions, contact Jason Couch, Grants & External Relations Coordinator, at JCouch@vfw.org or 816.968.1174.

VFW National Convention

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING:

121st National Convention housing officially opened Feb. 18, 2020. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at vfw.org/convention. The

convention website will also have general convention information including the registration form and links to other convention related information for Reno, NV, July 18-23, 2020, including a tentative agenda.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION: Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a national convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the VFW National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the national convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee provided the Post has paid the mandated \$25 advance registration fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, ATTN: Convention Registration or you may register online by going to vfw.org.

Development

Soon to Arrive – Special Edition VFW Birthday Cards – This spring the VFW is mailing the 2020 Birthday Card Collection and other gifts in recognition of your commitment to the VFW – and to struggling veterans of all generations. Also enclosed is a special Thank You card for a veteran or service member. Please sign and return it right away. We will deliver your signed Thank You card to one of America’s service members or hospitalized veterans in time for Independence Day, this July 4th. It means so much to them to know their fellow veterans remember and care.

Approximately 2.9 million men and women have served in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thousands of them have come home with injuries that will require a lifetime of care. Some injuries you can plainly see. Other wounds are invisible, but often just as devastating. Since 2000, more than 383,900 service members have suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury – and the numbers are rising every day. More than half of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans treated by the VA have received care for mental health issues such as Post-Traumatic Stress.

The VFW wants to be sure when these newest veterans – and veterans from all wars and conflicts – turn to us for assistance, we have the programs available for them. Please send a donation in honor of your fellow veterans who now face a long road to recovery from injuries sustained in battle. Your gift will mean that these programs stay available and strong right in your Department.

2020 Voice of Democracy Grand-Prize Winner to be Announced – In late February, we sent an announcement of the 2020 Voice of Democracy State winners to VFW Friends of Freedom. We hope you had a chance to listen to the essay given by your state winner as well as the winners from other states. The grand-prize winner will be announced on Wednesday, March 4, at the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Log on to vfw.org/VFWDC2020 for a live stream of the Parade of Winners. If you are not currently a member of the VFW Friends of Freedom, you can sign up to receive these kinds of alerts at vfw.org.

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 our Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org.

Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW’s life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or

yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible, 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

Have you downloaded the VFW Events app in the [Apple App Store](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/vfw-events/id1444444444) or the [Google Play Store](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vfw.events)? Download it today to access the 2020 Legislative Conference event.

Stay up to date with all of the action throughout the legislative conference by following **#VFWDC2020** on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/vfwdc2020), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/vfwdc2020) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/vfwdc2020).

Not able to join us in D.C.? Watch the livestream of the Parade of Winners on Monday, March 2 at 6 p.m. EST and the livestream of the Chief's testimony on March 4, all at vfw.org/VFWDC2020.

Veterans & Military Support Programs

As we plan for the 2020 National Convention in Reno, we want to remind all Veterans & Military Support Chairmen to get their money in for the 2019-20 lapel pins picked up in Orlando.

Please contact the Veterans & Military Support office at 816.968.1102 if you have any questions on how much your Department needs to send in.

There will be a new design for the Veterans & Military Support lapel pin for 2020-21! Chairmen will be able to pre-order their pins to pick up in Reno but if you have not turned in your donation for the 2019-20 lapel pins, you will need to pay upfront for the 2020-21 pins. Request forms will be provided sometime in April.

Reminder: All donations to Veterans & Military Support programs must be received by April 30 to qualify for the Veterans & Military Support Certificate of Appreciation.

To qualify for All American, a minimum of \$100 must be donated to Veterans & Military Support by June 30.

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.

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.

SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD.

Nominations for this award and the judging at the Post, District and Department level are completed. Each

Department's selections will receive a National Commendation citation. The National winners will be announced soon!

The Smart/Maher VFW 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 the VFW National Convention in July 2020 in Reno, NV. 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 VFW Store, product #4320, vfwstore.org/products/23980. Present to all teachers nominated at all levels for the national award.

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 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.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM. This program is designed to provide recognition and awards to VFW members who volunteer their time to outside organizations. Recognition is in the form of certificates and/or lapel pins which are given to volunteers who have completed the number of hours prescribed for those awards. For more information, see the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairmen's Manual or contact Tammy at 816.756.3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

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: www1cc.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

Your health needs dental care, and your pocketbook needs dental insurance.

A lot of people dread those bi-annual visits to the dentist. Despite the anxiety you may experience, going to the dentist is vital in maintaining good oral health and your overall wellness.

Regular visits to the dentist can help prevent tooth decay, bad breath and gum disease. Dentists can detect a handful of other illnesses, such as Crohn's disease, diabetes, anemia and many more.

Dental insurance can be affordable. It's an investment you can make in bettering your overall health. Most plans cover preventive exams, cleanings and some x-rays, and offer discounted rates for additional services if you needed them.

For additional information about Dental Insurance, click [here](#).

"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.

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

Accredited Representative of the Year Award

REMINDER: The April 30 deadline is fast approaching for submission of nominations for the VFW Accredited Representative of the Year Award. We encourage every Department to put forth a candidate. A

nomination shows that Department leadership is aware of the significant contributions your accredited representatives make in your community every day.

Service Officers from Departments of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New Mexico and Texas have earned this award since its inception four years ago. These Service Officers stood out from our nationwide cadre for not only meeting the challenge daily, but exceeding it through exemplary commitment, technical knowledge, and customer service.

For more information on this award, please contact vfw@vfw.org.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

The VFW on Capitol Hill

More than 500 VFW members will be in Washington, D.C., March 2-5, for the VFW Legislative Conference. Members from each Department will meet with their members of Congress and staff to present the VFW's [2020 Priority Goals](#) and talking points. The areas of focus are: Veterans' Benefits, Veterans' Health Care, Concurrent Receipt, Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program, and Transition. View the [talking points](#) under **See Where We Stand on the Issues**.

VFW Store



ORDER YOUR VFW UNIFORM CAP TODAY! Department Conventions are approaching and officer changes will be taking place. The peak season for ordering caps is April to July when the VFW Store processes over 7,000 cap orders! During this period, it can take up to 10 weeks to receive your cap. To order today, go to vfwstore.org/category/vfw/uniformcapandnametags or call 833.VFW.VETS.

AWARD SCOUT OF THE YEAR PARTICIPANTS with a badge from the VFW Store. Click vfwstore.org/products/31415?Action=SkipLogin. For Scouting certificates, pins and patches, click vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=scouting&Action=SkipLogin.



Roll Call of Departed Comrades

ZAHER, ROBERT W. "BOB," National Council of Administration member, 2006-2008, All American Commander, Department of Pacific Areas, 1996-1997 and a Gold Legacy Life member of Angeles City Post No. 2485, Angeles City, Philippines, February 13, 2020.