

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
HEADQUARTERS**



BULLETIN

Ocala, Florida

August, 2022

“Florida Rocks”

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF TIMOTHY M. BORLAND.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS:

The Triple Crown Pin is awarded to those who have made All-American Commander at the Department, District and Post level.

Craig Armstrong – Dept. of North Carolina
Richard Attaway – Dept. of Georgia
Gilbert Hernandez – Dept. of Nevada
Michael Merit – Dept. of Oklahoma
David Morgan – Dept. of Europe
Dennis Pratt – Dept. of Oregon
Harold Schupska – Dept. of Virginia
Arthur Widhalm – Dept. of Montana
Larry Williams – Dept. of Arizona
Troy Williams – Dept. of Missouri
Jeffrey Young – Dept. of Vermont

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2021-22 ALL-AMERICANS!

Thank you for all your hard work and a job well done!

ALL-AMERICAN POST CAP ORDER INFORMATION

Members of an All-American Post may submit their cap order through the VFW Store.

2022-23 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The 2022-23 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 2022-23 VFW National Membership Program in blue letters.

MEMBERSHIP OBJECTIVES

As the membership year has begun, keep in mind our Membership Objectives, which is also written in the 2022-23 Membership Program.

- For everyone to recruit at least one new member and then mentor that member
- Increase membership drives and/or events
- Develop new Posts and/or revitalize existing Posts
- Increase Life Membership and Legacy Life Membership
- Provide membership assistance using teams from your conference to assist and mentor those who request assistance.

POST DEVELOPMENT

Bang! It is the start of a new membership year! It's time to start recruiting like never before, right?! Now is the time to understand what membership recruiting materials you need for the year. Check out the brochure, *Recruiting Just Got Easier*. This handy brochure explains in detail each piece of membership material available for you to order from the National Membership Department through an automated material order form. Get your membership material orders in!

If you are very close to instituting a Post, please give us a call! For tips on how to institute a new Post, check out our New Post Development & Revitalization Manual, which can be viewed/downloaded from vfw.org, under Membership Retention & Training. To understand more, give Corey Hunt a call at 816.968.2788 to discuss ways you can energize your membership. We have many resources for you including training videos and presentations on topics which are designed to help you grow membership and retain those members.

NEW POST DEVELOPMENT & POST REVITALIZATION DEPARTMENT AWARD

New Post Development and Post Revitalization Department Award: For each new Post chartered, and/or revitalized, the Department Quartermaster will receive:

- A \$250 credit from the VFW Store to be used towards necessary materials for the new Post.

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.

UPCOMING TRAINING

No upcoming training is scheduled for August.

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 offers 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 VFW Foundation is proud to announce that \$468,000 in sponsorships were raised for the 2022 VFW National Convention. Special recognition for this incredible effort should go to Brooke Brown, Assistant Director, Corporate Relations and Ben Vargas, Assistant Director.

Bridgestone Firestone was a large new corporate sponsor at this year's Convention and the company verbally expressed interest in additional VFW relationships including those with the Departments.

Jason Couch, Grants & External Relations Coordinator, conducted a highly successful Grants & Fundraising Workshop for VFW Posts at the Convention that was attended by over 200 VFW and Auxiliary members.

Contact: Richard Freiburghouse, Interim Director, at rfreiburghouse@vfw.org.

Development

VFW 2023 Special Edition Calendar – The exclusive 2023 VFW Calendar package was mailed the first week of July. We hope you have received it and are pleased with the special Fly the Flag calendar along with the Songbird calendar.

Please show your pride in our country and your fellow veterans by displaying your calendar in a prominent place in your home, office or Post. Your calendars are filled with patriotic images and beautiful songbirds; they also contain information on VFW programs available for veterans, service members and their families as well as patriotic holidays and observances. Please remember to display the U.S. flag. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/Flag to download and print a free flag poster to display.

If you haven't already, please send the most generous gift you can. Your support of the 2023 VFW Calendar program helps your VFW Department serve veterans in need throughout the year.

A Simple Way to Make a Big Difference – Making a gift in your will is the easiest way to support the VFW and your fellow veterans after your lifetime. Did you know just a few sentences in your will can make a lifetime impact? We invite you to learn more about this type of legacy gift and the lasting impact you can leave your family and the VFW. Free information is available by visiting vfw.org/PlannedGiving, contacting the VFW Planned Giving office at 816.968.1119 or emailing plannedgiving@vfw.org.

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland 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. By visiting heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools, you will find the latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department. 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

Contact forms, monthly reports, applications, and program reports are now located at the **Veterans & Military Support Program Chair Tools** webpage. This is our one-stop-shop for all your Chair needs. Please click the link below to access the new webpage. You can also use the below link to access the VMS Donation Link.

[Access the Veterans & Military Support Program Chairman Tools webpage now](#)

Do not use the red donate link in the upper right-hand corner. This is the general donation link.

Donation reports are received on **most Fridays** and are uploaded to the **Dashboard** on the **same day**. The period of these reports is from the **previous Friday** to **current Thursday**.

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, Space Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag.

“NEW” 2022-23 SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM. This year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars wants to recognize the nation’s top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America’s history, traditions, and institutions effectively through this program.

Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for the next competition. 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.

Teacher Award Chairman must submit one candidate, in each category (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12), for these awards to their Department Headquarters by Jan. 1. The Department must select a single candidate, in each category, for the awards and submit the winners to VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the “VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form” which is available on the VFW website. You can locate this form by logging in to vfw.org and searching under “My VFW” in the Training & Support section.

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, if available. These items will be forwarded on to the District, if applicable, then to the Department with the completed entry forms.

VFW’s Department Citizenship Education Teacher award includes a citation for both the winning teacher and their school.

VFW’s National Citizenship Education Teacher awards include: three national \$1,000 awards for the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses; \$1,000 award to each winning teacher’s school; plaques for both the winning teacher and school; and an all-expenses-paid trip to attend a VFW National Convention.

Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. has the correct teacher award entry deadlines and rules for the 2022-23 program year. The teacher entry form is on the VFW website. The dates are Oct. 31 for entries to the Post, Nov. 15 for completion of Post judging, Dec. 15 completion of District judging, Jan. 1 for entries to Department, Feb. 1 for completion of Department judging and their winner, in each category, are due to National Headquarters.

Simply visit vfw.org/#login, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Additional Resources**. Here you will find all program manuals, and on the same page are all other program materials.

PATRIOT DAY, SEPT. 11. Per Presidential Proclamation, Sept. 11, is designated as “Patriot Day.” The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States. For flags and other patriotic items, click here vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPT. 16. Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure. For POW/MIA merchandise, click vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia.

IT’S SCHOLARSHIP TIME! It is the perfect time to be contacting schools, youth groups, parent organizations and others with information about Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen. Schools are making curriculum decisions now and parents are thinking about scholarships.

Please remember that Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen are VFW programs supported by the VFW Auxiliary. It is inappropriate for the VFW Auxiliary to conduct a separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email nlopez@vfw.org or call 816.968.1155.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES. The 2022-23 themes have been chosen by Commander-in-Chief Timothy M. Borland. The Voice of Democracy theme will be “Why is the Veteran Important?” and the Patriot’s Pen theme will be “My Pledge to our Veterans.”

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN ENTRY FORMS. The new 2022-23 Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

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.

NOTE: “NEW” Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen posters are now available!

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.

“UPDATED” POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Under previous Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 16, 1997), it indicated there were only six days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices were required to display the POW/MIA flag. Now under new law, Public Law 116-67 (Feb. 21, 2020), it is required that the POW/MIA flag be flown on all days on which the flag of the United States is displayed. 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

Dental problems can be unpredictable and expensive. For example, did you know that a crown can cost up to \$1,535¹? With Dental Insurance, you can reduce your out-of-pocket expenses² and maintain your smile with preventive care.

Dental Insurance offers coverage that helps with dental expenses that may not be covered under your medical plan. It helps pay for routine cleanings and exams and reduces costs for X-rays, fillings and more.

Dental Insurance not only helps you pay for your dental care, it also can help prevent problems.

When your preventive care is covered, you’re more likely to go for cleanings and checkups — this can help you avoid problems before they become too costly² or complicated.

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

1. Based on 2021 MetLife data for a crown (D2740) in ZIP code 06340. This cost reflects the 80th percentile Reasonable and Customary (R&C) fee. R&C fees are calculated based on the lowest of 1) the dentist's actual charge, 2) the dentist's usual charge for the same or similar services or 3) the usual charge of most dentists in the same geographic area for the same or similar services as determined by MetLife. This example is used for informational purposes only. Fees in your area may be different.
2. Savings from enrolling in a dental benefits plan will depend on various factors, including the cost of the plan, how often participants visit the dentist and the cost of services rendered.

Like most group benefit programs, benefit programs offered by MetLife and its affiliates contain certain exclusions, exceptions, waiting periods, reductions, limitations and terms for keeping them in force. Please contact MetLife or your plan administrator for complete details.

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company | 200 Park Avenue | New York, NY 10166

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"Buddy"® Poppy

NATIONAL END OF THE YEAR AWARDS. The 2021-22 Buddy Poppy year has come to a close and we would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone that participated in this amazing program. Once again, with all of your help and hard work, we have completed another successful campaign. As we complete the plaques for the below first, second and third place winners in each category, they will be sent directly to the Department Headquarters so they can find the appropriate time to present them.

Here are the 123rd National Convention "Buddy"® Poppy Display Contest Winners:

CATEGORY 1 (Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign)

- First Place - VFW Auxiliary to the Isadore Hoehn Post No. 7397
Lenexa, Kansas
- Second Place - VFW Auxiliary to the West Brazos Post No. 8551
Sweeny, Texas
- Third Place - James Jerret Brown Post No. 8385 and its VFW Auxiliary
Kings Bay, Georgia
- Honorable Mention - Hugo Matejcek Post No. 3723 and its VFW Auxiliary
Owatonna, Minnesota

CATEGORY 2 (Memorial or Inspirational Displays)

- First Place - Gandy-Brown Post No. 4588 and its VFW Auxiliary
Bossier City, Louisiana
- Second Place - Browerville Post No. 8391 and its VFW Auxiliary
Browerville, Minnesota
- Third Place - VFW Auxiliary to the Roanoke Memorial Post No. 5074
Roanoke, Texas

Honorable Mention - Hometown Murray Post No. 9773 and its VFW Auxiliary
Hometown, Illinois

Directors Award - General Mac Arthur Memorial Post No. 392 and its VFW Auxiliary
Virginia Beach, Virginia

CATEGORY 3 (Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies)

First Place - VFW Auxiliary to the Roanoke Memorial Post No. 5074
Roanoke, Texas

Second Place - VFW Auxiliary to the Sante Fe Trail Post No. 846
Overland Park, Kansas

Third Place - VFW Auxiliary to the Derry Memorial Post No. 1617
Derry, New Hampshire

Honorable Mention - Patterson Memorial Post No. 12182 and its VFW Auxiliary
Patterson, Louisiana

“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.”

BUDDY POPPY UPDATE: National Headquarters conducted a review of the Buddy Poppy policy and procedures and implemented the following changes effective May 20, 2021:

- 1) If you do not receive your order within 8 weeks of placing it with your department, please contact National Headquarters to report that you have not received the order.
- 2) If you do not report a missing order 3 months after the 8-week processing time, the order will NOT be replaced free of charge, and you will have to resubmit your order.

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 chairperson’s 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 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 do not 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.

National Veterans Service

ACCREDITED SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING, ANNAPOLIS, MD, SEPT. 18-23, 2022

National Veterans Service will conduct a hybrid training conference for VFW accredited representatives Sept. 18-23, 2022, at the DoubleTree Annapolis Hotel in Annapolis, MD. This hybrid course will include live, in-person instruction that will be live-streamed simultaneously via electronic media to those who are unable to attend in person. VFW will comply with current CDC guidance to ensure that proper safety protocols are in place for live attendees. Additionally, NVS will host Basic Skill Level Training during the same week which is intended for newly hired and accredited representatives. Formal notification to students who are required to participate in these conferences will be sent in the near future.

JOHN A. BIEDRZYCKI ACCREDITED SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS FOR 2020, 2021 & 2022

During our recently concluded 123rd National Convention held in Kansas City, MO, VFW National Veterans Service was pleased to recognize the recipients of the John A. Biedrzycki Accredited Representative of the Year Award for the last three years. COVID restrictions had made it impossible to do so previously and it was an honor to have these outstanding, professionally trained, VFW accredited representatives receive proper recognition before the membership of our great organization.

- Wendy Griffin, 2019-20, Department Service Officer, Department of Utah
- Nadine Newman, 2020-21, Claims Consultant, Department of Washington
- Jon Gohn, 2021-22, Director, VFW Claims Division, Department of Minnesota

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

Include Major Richard Star Act in FY23 NDAA

Congress must include the *Major Richard Star Act* as an amendment in the *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023*. The VFW firmly believes that DOD retired pay and VA service-connected disability compensation are fundamentally different benefits, earned for different reasons. Purple Heart recipients deserve to receive all the benefits they earned. Now is the time to move this legislation forward. Contact your members of Congress and demand they include the *Major Richard Star Act* as an amendment in the FY23 NDAA. [TAKE ACTION!](#)

House Passes Amended PACT Act

The Senate-amended *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022*, known as the [Honoring our PACT Act](#), passed the House with a 342–88 vote. The bill must now go back to the Senate for another vote. The VFW thanks all advocates who contacted their members of Congress urging them to support this historic legislation. [Read more.](#)

New 988 Veterans Crisis Hotline

VA announced veterans now have the option to **Dial 988 then Press 1** to connect with caring, qualified responders for 24/7 crisis assistance. “During a crisis, every second counts,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “This new, shorter number makes it easier for veterans and those who care about them to reach lifesaving support without having to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care.” While [Dial 988 then Press 1](#) is a new option for contacting the Veterans Crisis Line, the original number, 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, remains available, and individuals can make contact via chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](#) or by texting 838255.

Mental Health Care Services During Transition

The Military Health System’s in Transition program aids service members, veterans, and retirees — regardless of component, time served, or discharge category — in establishing or transferring mental health care during times of transition. As a free service that is not time limited, the in Transition program is staffed with qualified coaches familiar with military culture who stand ready to assist individuals connect to the care they need. [Read more.](#)

Administrative Operations

2022-23 Commander, Quartermaster and Trustee Guides

The newly revised 2022-23 Commander, Quartermaster and Trustee guides are now available online. You can access the guides behind the member’s “LOGIN” at [vfw.org](#), then navigate to My VFW, Member/Post Resources, and Bylaws: Training, Forms & Templates, and then Training. The full guides are located in their respective section under “Elected and Appointed Officer-Specific Materials.” These guides are a great resource for elected and appointed officers at every level of the organization to assist you in your roles and ensure our continued success.