

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



BULLETIN

Ocala, Florida

August, 2024

“When in Command, Command”

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF Al Lipphardt!

Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt is issuing his first challenge to all our Posts to get a strong start to membership growth. As we begin a new membership year, we want to begin with a strong drive to recruit new members and retain our existing members, with a special focus on Life Members! To drive this message home, every month during the 2024-2025 membership year, we will reward our Posts who lead their divisions in recruiting as well as Life Member upgrades. Every month, we will award points to our Posts as follows:

- Recruit a New Annual Member into the Post: 1 point
- An Annual or Lapsed Member converts to Life: 5 points
- Recruit a New Life Member into the Post: 10 points

For the month of August 2024, the Post that leads each division will receive an 18" VFW wall emblem to display at your Post. In addition, at the end of the year every Post who has led their division in the monthly challenges will be featured on a video display at the National Convention to recognize their achievements.

Keep it up and we will show everyone how NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!

This contest will run from Aug. 1 through Aug. 31, 2024. Applications and payments processed online before close of business will be credited that day, payments and applications made through the mail will be processed when received. Questions about this or other membership programs can be sent to membership@vfw.org.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS:

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

Jeffrey Byrd, Arkansas
Sheila Corcoran, Indiana
Craig Dougherty, Washington
Alexander Fores, Pacific Areas
James Fox, South Carolina
George Gilgore, Europe
Tommy Hines, Virginia
Leonard Ott, Georgia
Teddy Pipkin, Arkansas
Patsey Schreiber, Georgia
Steven Van Bergen, Arizona
Jeffrey Walding, Jr, New Jersey
Kenneth Wiseman, Virginia

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NATIONAL RECRUITER OF THE YEAR:

Steven L. Woodward

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023-2024 ELITE RECRUITERS:

Michael D. Boll
Tim Borland
Ed Stefanak Jr.
Judy King
Dwayne Kilbourne
Joseph Allen
Lamar Pounds

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 20 DEPARTMENTS, 115 DISTRICTS AND 865 POSTS FOR THEIR DISTINCTION AS THE 2023-2024 ALL-AMERICAN!

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

ALL-AMERICAN POST CAP ORDER INFORMATION

All-American Quartermasters and Post members may submit their cap order through the store.

2024-25 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM:

The 2024-25 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 2024-25 VFW National Membership Program in blue letters.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

As the membership year has begun keep in mind our membership requirements:

- Achieve 102% in Membership
- 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.

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

Membership Monday training webinars will be on Aug. 12, 2024, at 2:00 PM, CDT, Topic: **What's New For The New Membership Year**. We will be covering the 2024-2025 Membership Program as well as other new tools and resources available for our Posts, Districts, and Departments. We urge you to pass along this information to all who would be interested.

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	\$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

Brooke Brown, the VFW Foundation's Director of Foundation & Corporate Relations has accepted the position of Vice President of Philanthropy at Guadalupe Centers also located in Kansas City, Missouri. Under Brooke's leadership, the VFW Foundation made significant strides by dramatically increasing the number of corporate supporters, VFW National Convention sponsors and overall fundraising revenues. We wish Brooke all the best in this exciting new career appointment!

Additionally, the VFW Foundation has several other internal positions to fill including that of Executive Director. We look forward to filling these staff openings in the months ahead.

Contact: VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations Richard Freiburghouse, RFreiburghouse@vfw.org.

Development

Here is some helpful information about why the support of every VFW member is vitally important. VFW's life-changing programs are not possible through membership dues alone. In fact, **membership dues alone cover just 17% of the cost of programs**. As a nonprofit organization, the VFW relies heavily on the generosity of its members and patriotic supporters. When members donate, 100% of their net donation goes directly back to support their Department. *Please spread the word and give as generously as you are able.*

Matching Gift Opportunity to Support the VFW's Programs Has Been Extended – Last month, the VFW had been presented with an incredible opportunity by a generous friend and supporter to triple your donation if you responded within 30 days of receiving that offer. Our friends have extended their generosity for another 30 days. When you receive this offer in the mail, please consider responding with whatever gift you can to ensure that we meet the matching offer of \$50,000 and help even more veterans.

Many veterans and returning service members are turning to the VFW for assistance in filing for their hard-earned VA benefits for injuries received in combat or during deployments and military service separation benefits, as well as student veteran support with scholarships and grants... and so much more. Thanks to dedicated members like you, we have been able to provide the life-changing assistance our veterans need. Your generosity also helps the VFW fight — and win — vital legislative battles on Capitol Hill. The VFW is on the front line in the fight for education, jobs, health care and an overall better quality of life FOR VETERANS! This is a great opportunity to help support veterans of all ages, *right in your Department*.

Do I Need a Trust? – Everyone needs a will. But do you also need a trust? To find out, there are a few questions to ask yourself. When you set up a trust, you consider how to manage your assets while living and where they go after your passing. Benefits of a trust include protection for beneficiaries, easier estate management, and a smoother transition for asset distribution. More details on how to know if a trust is right for you available here: <https://vfw.planmylegacy.org/do-i-need-a-trust>. We can assist you with including the VFW in your plans. Contact the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org.

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Adjutant General Dan West 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 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 toll-free 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!

VFW Communications

In case you missed any of the happenings from the 125th VFW National Convention as it came to a close Aug. 1, we have you covered. Now available on demand, look back on everything the VFW accomplished over the last year with our [2024 Year in Review](#), watch Al Lipphardt's installation as VFW National Commander, or just catch up on anything you might have missed at vfw.org/Convention.

Veterans & Military Support Programs

To qualify for **All-American**, a **minimum donation of \$125** must be donated to **VMS** by **June 30, 2025**. VMS donations will only be handled through the Dashboard. All Posts must click on the "VMS Donation" tab on the Dashboard to donate. The link will point them to OMS. Please do not send checks to the National Headquarters. If a Post does not use a credit card, the Post will send their donation to their Department HQs and the Department HQs will submit the donation for their Post. Credit will automatically update on the Dashboard daily. Overseas Departments will donate for the other programs through the link also in lieu of participation. This will automatically update daily.

Do not use the red donate link in the upper right-hand corner of this webpage. This is for general donation purposes only.

VMS Program Tools

The Veterans & Military Support (VMS) Program Tools webpage is updated every month. Link to the webpage is <https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support/VMSP-Chair-Tools>.

VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"

The **2025 Spring Semester** is now open and will run through **Nov. 15, 2024**. The application is available online only at vfw.org/Scholarship.

Continue to do what you are doing and 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, Space Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag.

PROGRAMS DASHBOARD TOOL. (NOTE: Previously ALL-AMERICAN DASHBOARD)

Please encourage Posts to read the 2024-25 Membership program. Military Assistance Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much in grant assistance has been received from National HQs to supplement the Unmet Needs financial grants & VFW Sport Clips Help a Hero scholarship statistics. The information charts reside in the KPI tools section.

2024-25 SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER

AWARD PROGRAM. 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.

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: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available.

VFW Post Teacher Award chairpersons may submit one candidate, in each grade level (K-5, 6-8, 9-12), to their District by Nov. 15. If a department does not have a District judging, then the Post entries would be submitted to the Department Headquarters and/or Department Chairperson by Jan. 1. The Department may select a single candidate, in each grade level, and submit them to VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1 for National judging.

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.

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 their school; and an all-expense-paid trip to attend a VFW National Convention.

Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. have the correct teacher award entry deadlines and rules for the 2024-25 program year. The teacher entry form, information page, and Chairpersons Guide are 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**. Here you will find all program manuals and on the same page are all other program materials.

PLEASE REVIEW. VFW National Programs has updated Outstanding Community Service Post award programs starting this program year. Please share this with your Community Service Chairpersons.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD. Each year on July 1, the national Programs office will determine the top community service Posts in each conference, based off their community service reporting and total impact, from July 1 to June 30 the previous year.

Your community service total impact is figured by the money spent to host and organize the community service event, plus total hours all volunteers participated, plus the mileage for all volunteers (Dollars Donated + Hours + Mileage = Total Impact).

These four Posts will be awarded the Award for Community Service and will be invited to attend the VFW National Convention. The Post Commander (or designated representative) and a guest will receive round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations for five nights, and a \$599 stipend to receive the award at the VFW National Convention.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE POST OF THE YEAR. Each Department will have an OCSF winner based on total impact also. National will select based on end of year reports on July 1. Winners will also be published in the Convention program booklet and receive a street sign identifying this national award for the Post to put up in their community.

IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME! It is the perfect time to contact 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 a VFW Auxiliary to conduct separate judging at any level.

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

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES. The 2024–25 themes were chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt. The Voice of Democracy theme will be **"Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"** and the Patriot's Pen theme will be **"My Voice in America's Democracy?"**

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN ENTRY FORMS. The new 2024-25 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: Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen posters are available!

PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11. Per Presidential Proclamation, September 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. 20. Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure. For POW/MIA merchandise, click vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia.

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 Chairperson's Guide 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

Whether you are on a solo adventure backpacking through Europe or in town for a weekend staycation, it is important to be prepared for anything.

With Travel Accident Insurance, underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, you can help secure your family's financial security in the event of your injury or death from a travel-related accident. This coverage provides \$150,000 in Accidental Death (death while traveling in a private motor vehicle), an additional \$150,000 for death while traveling in a common carrier vehicle and a \$500 cash benefit for every day you stay in the hospital because of a covered accident. All benefit amounts reduce to 50% of the original benefit amount at age 75 regardless of age at enrollment.

As a VFW Member, you are qualified to receive this coverage, and cannot be turned down, regardless of your health, occupation, past driving records or how much you travel annually.

[Protect your travels today.](#)

“Buddy”[®] Poppy

2024 NATIONAL “BUDDY”[®] POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST WINNERS.

Category One (Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign)

First Place - VFW Browerville Post 8391 and its Auxiliary, Browerville, Minnesota

Second Place - VFW Hancock County Post 5117, Carthage, Illinois

Third Place - VFW Auxiliary to the Hubble-Delk Levy Memorial Post 11474, North Little Rock, Arkansas

Honorable Mention - VFW Auxiliary to the G.L. Adrain Owen Post 5993, Ava, Missouri

Category Two (Memorial or Inspirational Displays)

First Place – VFW Auxiliary to the SGT. Nicholas C. Mason Memorial Post 12202, King George, Virginia

Second Place – VFW Auxiliary to the Glenn L. Jeffers Post 10624, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

Third Place – Robert V. Lindsey VFW Post 10041 and its VFW Auxiliary, Bethel, Alaska

Honorable Mention – VFW Auxiliary to the Buckong-Gehannon Post 3663, Buckhannon, West Virginia

Category Three (Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies)

First Place – VFW Pvt. Allen J. Beck Jr. Post 5265 and its Auxiliary, Spring Grove, Pennsylvania

Second Place – VFW Oscar L. Joyner Jr. Post 5352 and its Auxiliary, Kernersville, North Carolina

Third Place – VFW Red Bud Post 6632 and its Auxiliary, Red Bud, Illinois

Honorable Mention – VFW Hometown Murray Post 9773 and its Auxiliary, Hometown, Illinois

Director’s Award – VFW Auxiliary to Earl W. Homer Memorial Post 7678, Cottage Hills, Illinois

“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 three (3) weeks in advance of your distribution date.

BUDDY POPPY POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

- 1) Departments must order poppies through OMS.
- 2) All claims of non-receipt of a Buddy Poppy order must be made within 60 days of the date of the order or will NOT be replaced free of charge.
- 3) All orders for the traditional Buddy Poppy, Anniversary Poppies or tin tab poppies must be placed through your Department Headquarters. Auxiliaries must go through their Post to order all poppies.
- 4) The tin tabs do count towards the Buddy Poppy requirement for the All-American program.
- 5) If you do not receive your order within four weeks of placing it with your department, please contact your Department Headquarters to report you have not received your order.
- 6) All poppies are shipped within 10 days of ordering except orders placed in June and July, due to preparation for National Convention, please allow an additional five business days.

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy or by calling Member Service Center at 1.833.839.8387.

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.

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.

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 in OMS and processed the same as the red poppies. Currently we have no plans to replenish inventory of Anniversary poppies due to increased cost and the small quantities we sell of Anniversary Poppies. Based on the past four years' sales, we have sufficient inventory for the next 2.5 years of the Gold, 4 years of Diamond and 51 years of the Silver.

National Veterans Service

JOHN A. BIEDRZYCKI ACCREDITED SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER FOR 2023-2024

During our recently concluded 125th National Convention held in Louisville, KY, VFW National Veterans Service was pleased to recognize Gerald "Jerry" Kayrouz, VFW Department of Kentucky, as the recipient of the John A. Biedrzycki Accredited Representative of the Year Award for 2023-2024. It was an honor to recognize him before the membership of our great organization.

Administrative Operations

2024-25 Commander, Quartermaster and Trustee Guides

The newly revised 2024-25 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, Bylaws: Training, Forms & Templates, 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

Roll Call of Departed Comrades

SEAMAN, JAMES A., Commander, Department of West Virginia, 1983-1984 and a Life Member of Nancy Hanks Post No. 3518, Keyser, West Virginia, August 7, 2024.