

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



**BULLETIN**

**Ocala, Florida**

**July, 2021**

**“Soaring to New Heights”**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF ARKANSAS, MONTANA, LOUISIANA, OKLAHOMA, MISSISSIPPI, NORTH CAROLINA, WASHINGTON, **FLORIDA**, SOUTH CAROLINA, WEST VIRGINIA, TENNESSEE, HAWAII, ALASKA, OREGON, CALIFORNIA, MAINE, PACIFIC AREAS, AND VIRGINIA FOR ACHIEVING 100% IN MEMBERSHIP!**

**122ND VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION, KANSAS CITY, MO, JULY 31 – AUG. 3, 2021**

Your All-American packets may be picked up at the Membership Booth.

Department Commanders and Quartermasters may pick up packets after the All-American ceremony on Monday.

**ALL-AMERICAN 2020-21 UPDATE:** Click on the video link for this important message from our Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch - <https://youtu.be/ExMQXtpz0e0>.

**Departments** - Effective immediately, per Commander-in-Chief Hal, All-American Department criteria has been waived for 2020-21. One new Post or increase the membership of three Posts of 50 members or less to over 50 members by July 1, 2021. If a Department does not have three Posts below 50 members at the beginning of the year, raising all their Posts below 50 members to above 50 members would be required.

**Districts - Revised and updated CIC program requirement:** As of today for District All-American, the CIC has removed the requirement to finish in the top 10 of your District division. If your District achieves 100% in membership and completes the programmatic requirements listed in the current program, the District will receive All-American.

**Note:** Only the top 10 Districts will be recognized at the National Convention in Kansas City and will receive their cap on stage. Districts that are ranked 11 and below in their respective divisions will receive an All-American streamer, District Commander citation, and name badge. Those Commanders who are 11 plus in their division and achieve All-American will have to purchase their cap and lapel pin if they desire to have those items.

**Posts - Revised and updated CIC program requirement:** As of today for Post All-American, the CIC has removed the requirement to achieve your Post Division Qualifying Percentage. If your Post achieves 100% in membership and completes the programmatic requirements listed in the current program, the Post will receive All-American.

**Note:** Only the top 25 Posts will be recognized at the National Convention in Kansas City and will receive their cap on stage. Posts that are ranked 26 and below in their respective divisions will receive an All-American streamer, Post citation, Post streamer and will be recognized in the VFW magazine. Those Commanders who are 26 plus in their division and achieve All-American will have to purchase their cap and lapel pin if they desire to have those items.

### **ALL-AMERICAN CAP ORDER INFORMATION**

All District and Post Commanders who achieve 100% in membership will receive an email from National Headquarters requesting their VFW hat size and preference type of cap (female/male).

A District Commander will not be considered All-American until they hit the top 10 in membership in their division and have met all their program requirements.

A Post Commander will not be considered All-American until they achieve the required membership percentage in their respective division and have met all their program requirements.

Only the top 25 in their respective division who achieve All-American status will receive an All-American cap from National Headquarters.

Once the email from National Headquarters has been received, click on the link and provide the data requested for hat sizes. Having the data will make it easier to place the All-American cap orders to ensure they arrive on time for the National Convention.

### **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](http://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](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

### **POST DEVELOPMENT**

The end of the year is here! Congratulations to the Departments of Florida, Louisiana, Texas and Virginia for establishing a new Post this year! It is not too early to start planning for the next membership year! If you have questions and are looking for information, give me a call at 816.968.2788 or email me at [coreyhunt@vfw.org](mailto:coreyhunt@vfw.org).

## **UPCOMING TRAINING**

The next Membership Monday training webinar will be July 12, 2021, at 2:00 PM CDT, and we will be covering the topic: **When to Decease a Member!** Look for the Membership Monday Zoom meeting invite in an OMS notification on July 7, 2021. All members can join. In addition, the Zoom link will be emailed as a meeting invitation to each Department's leadership and VFW Auxiliary President.

If you would like to suggest a Membership Monday training topic, please email us at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

**CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!** As always, please remember you have many resources available to you at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), and don't forget to follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/](https://facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/). The Membership Facebook page is routinely updated to showcase informational videos during the pandemic. View our latest Hip-Pocket training video on Quick Renew function, answering the most frequently asked questions. For any questions or further information, contact the Membership Department via email at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org) or call us at 888.564.6839.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP THREE RECRUITERS!**

Top Three Recruiters (as of 6/24/2021)

**Robert Allan Clark – 283**  
VFW Post 4876, Dept. of OK

**Larry M. Gerlt – 251**  
VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

**Stacey Redding – 250**  
VFW Post 1843, Dept. of OK

## **DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:**

**VFW Post No. 12204 in Niceville, FL**

## **LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to [vfw.org](http://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 and Annual 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?***

**WIN A FITBIT CHARGE 4!**

Now through August 3 when you create an account at [vfw.perkspot.com](http://vfw.perkspot.com), you have the chance to win a free Fitbit Charge 4 from PerkSpot!

To enter in the sweepstakes to win a Fitbit, create an account at [vfw.perkspot.com](http://vfw.perkspot.com). Once you're logged in to your VFW PerkSpot account, select your interests by navigating to the top right of the page under "My Interests." Click "Got it" and it's that easy!\*

If you've already created an account, simply log in anytime between June 23 and Aug. 3 to be automatically entered.

*\*By setting up a PerkSpot account, VFW members will be entered to win a free Fitbit Charge 4 from PerkSpot. The winner will be selected by Perkspot at random. Full terms and conditions can be found [here](#).*

Win a

# FREE FITBIT

from PerkSpot by creating an account at

[vfw.perkspot.com](http://vfw.perkspot.com)

PerkSpot | **VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Entries accepted June 23-Aug. 3, 2021.  
Terms and conditions apply. See details at [bit.ly/3g0byDW](http://bit.ly/3g0byDW).

## VFW Foundation

Beginning July 1 and throughout the month, select BURGER KING® (BK) franchisee-owned restaurants will be raising funds for the VFW Unmet Needs program. Patrons are encouraged to visit any of the [participating restaurants](#) and donate \$1 to the program upon checkout. Since 2007, BK restaurants have contributed over \$6.5 million to the VFW Unmet Needs program that has helped provide assistance to more than 10,000 veterans and military families since its inception in 2004. For more information, please contact Assistant Manager, Special Projects, Ben Vargas at 816.968.2720 or [bvargas@vfw.org](mailto:bvargas@vfw.org).

VFW Posts and Auxiliaries may qualify for funding by taking part in this year's "Uniting to Combat Hunger" (UTCH) campaign. The VFW and Humana are joining forces to raise monetary donations to Feeding America®, our nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization. By visiting [feedingamerica.org/UTCH](https://feedingamerica.org/UTCH) and making a monetary donation to the UTCH campaign, VFW and Auxiliary members can help ensure no veteran goes hungry. Click [here](#) to learn how your Post/Auxiliary may qualify to receive funding through the UTCH Matching Grant! These grant funds may be used by your Post or Auxiliary wherever the need is greatest.

## Development

**Independence Day is Coming Up** – Keep an eye out for the VFW's special online celebration of freedom and hope with our annual observance of Independence Day. Please visit [vfw.org](https://vfw.org) to find ways you can honor our nation's veterans and service members by spreading a message of patriotism and remembrance to your friends and family.

**VFW 2022 Special Edition Calendar** – The 2022 VFW Calendars will be mailed early in July. Your VFW Calendars include reminders of days to display the United States flag and other important dates in history to remember the sacrifices of America's veterans. If you do not have a flag to display, you may visit [heroes.vfw.org/Flag](https://heroes.vfw.org/Flag) and print a free flag poster to display in your home or office. You will also find useful information on VFW programs available to all veterans, service members and their families throughout the calendars. Additionally, in the back of the calendars you will see the section showing VFW membership eligibility information. We certainly hope you find the information included in the calendars to be helpful. And remember, your VFW Department is counting on you to show your support of the vital programs available to the veterans, service members and their families, right in your state.



**July Currency Campaign** – This month, the VFW will be sending its members a very special package that contains currency. As a dedicated member, and friend to your fellow veterans, you know just how important the need is to support the VFW. Each nickel and dollar bill counts and can help support the VFW’s programs that fight for veteran’s rights, help veterans claim their hard earned benefits and support hardworking military families. Please send the currency back so the VFW can stretch that money to deliver life-changing help to fellow veterans and service members and please include the most generous gift you can. Don’t forget to display the United States flag to show you stand proudly with your fellow veterans!

**Sign Your Name, Change Your Future** – VFW members like you frequently tell us, “I wish I could do more.” Learn ways you can impact future generations of veterans, just by signing your name – and with gifts that cost you nothing now. Call the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119, email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org) or visit [vfw.org/PlannedGiving](http://vfw.org/PlannedGiving).

**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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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!

# VFW Communications

With the business-only national convention only weeks away, are you ready? Whether you're heading to Kansas City or not, you can stay in-the-know by watching as we begin livestreaming at [vfw.org/convention](http://vfw.org/convention) beginning Aug. 2.

For those planning to attend, the new VFW Events App is available for download at both the [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#) by searching "VFW Events."

Access the [VFW Events App Quick Start Guide](#) for help or questions, or if you run into issues accessing the 122nd VFW National Convention event in the app.

Be sure to share your convention experience and join in the social conversation using **#VFWConvention**

## Veterans & Military Support Programs

### Meeting times at the National Convention in Kansas City:

We will be having a VMS Committee meeting at the National Convention in Kansas City. Download the VFW Events app to stay up to date on meeting room and date/time. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Be sure to stop by the Veterans & Military Support (VMS) booth to support the **service challenge and get your "newly designed" VMS lapel pin!** Pre-ordered bags can be picked up from our booth location.

### VMS Formstack Links and Websites:

- **VFW Website Solution:** [VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/websolutionapp](http://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/websolutionapp)
- **AUX Website Solution:** [VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/auxwebsolutionapp](http://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/auxwebsolutionapp)
- **Chairman Report:** [VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vms\\_chairman\\_report](http://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vms_chairman_report)
- **MAP Grant Application:** [vfw.org/MAPGrantApplication](http://vfw.org/MAPGrantApplication)
- **MAP Grant Report:** [vfw.org/MAPGrantReport](http://vfw.org/MAPGrantReport)



- **Adopt a Unit Application:** [vfw.org/AdoptAUnitApp](http://vfw.org/AdoptAUnitApp)
- **Adopt a Unit Report:** [vfw.org/AdoptAUnitReport](http://vfw.org/AdoptAUnitReport)
- **VMS Online Donation:** [heroes.vfw.org/page/22950/donate1](http://heroes.vfw.org/page/22950/donate1)

## 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/products/GP238](http://vfwstore.org/products/GP238).

**NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM.** Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle and high school teachers to receive Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher awards. Teacher Award Chairman must submit one candidate for these awards to their Department Headquarters by Jan. 1. The Department must select a single candidate for the award and submit the winner 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 now available on the VFW website. You can locate this form by logging in to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and searching under “My VFW” in the Training & Support section.

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, if available. These items will be forwarded on to the Department with the completed Entry form.

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

**Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. has the correct teacher award entry deadlines and rules for the 2021-22 program year. The Teacher Entry form will be up on the VFW website in the near future.**

Simply visit [vfw.org/#login](http://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.

**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](mailto:nlopez@vfw.org) or call 816.968.1155.

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN NATIONAL AWARDS.** Every Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen first place Department winner will receive a National scholarship or award. The amount for the Voice of Democracy National Awards now total \$154,000 and the Patriot's Pen National Awards total is now \$55,000.

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES.** The 2021-22 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Matthew M. "Fritz" Mihelcic. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "America: Where do we go from here?" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "How can I be a good American?"

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN ENTRY FORMS.** The new 2021-22 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

**UPDATED VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN CHAIRMAN'S MANUAL.** An updated version of the Voice of Democracy Chairman's Manual is now available on the VFW Website. Changes to program include:

- Judging no longer has to be conducted in person, and can be completed remotely at the Post, District and Department level.
- The preferred format for Voice of Democracy audio essays is now Flash Drives/USBs or email submission. CDs will no longer be accepted.

Simply visit [vfw.org/Login.aspx](http://vfw.org/Login.aspx), 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.

Additionally, anyone (including students, parents, teachers, and chairmen) can download and print the student entry forms for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen by visiting the below links:

Voice of Democracy: [vfw.org/VOD/](http://vfw.org/VOD/)

Patriot's Pen: [vfw.org/PatriotsPen/](http://vfw.org/PatriotsPen/)

For Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store: [vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy) for Voice of Democracy and [vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen) for Patriot's Pen.

**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](http://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](mailto:whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil). For Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at: [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam](http://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam).

**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](http://vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic).

**NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 17.** 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](http://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 Chairmen’s Manual or contact Tammy at 816.756.3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

**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 21, 2022 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 30, 2022 (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](http://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

Take Care of You and Your Family with Emergency Assistance Plus!

*The Emergency Assistance Plus® (EA+®)* program for VFW Members provides a solid back-up plan that helps you handle almost any crisis when you travel away from home. If you get sick or hurt while away from home, EA+ steps in to provide critical services for emergencies that health and travel insurance generally will NOT cover. This includes:

- Medical Evacuation
- Medical Assistance
- Travel Assistance
- Assistance for Companions

EA+ will even provide a nurse escort to assist with your travel home, if medically necessary. Get affordable member-only rates for you and your family now! Get additional information at [vfwmemberplans.com/emergency-assistance-plus](http://vfwmemberplans.com/emergency-assistance-plus).

## “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy

**“BUDDY”<sup>®</sup> 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 (5/20/2021):** 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](http://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](mailto:BuddyPoppy@vfw.org) or 816.756.3390, ext. 6722 for any questions or concerns.

### **NATIONAL “BUDDY”<sup>®</sup> POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to changes with the National Convention, the National Buddy Poppy Contest has been cancelled this year.

**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.

## National Veterans Service

### **NVS During National Convention**

National Veterans Service would like to invite all delegates and attendees of the upcoming VFW 122nd National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri to visit the joint National Veterans Service/National Legislative Service booth on the exhibit hall floor for information on how National Veterans Service benefits assistance helps veterans navigate their earned benefits.

On Saturday, July 31, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, NVS will be presenting **Post Service Officer Training**. All Post Service Officers or any convention delegates interested in learning more about the VFW's benefits assistance mission are invited and encouraged to join us for this informative session.



## National Legislative Service/Action Corps

Come see us at Convention!

The 122nd VFW National Convention will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, from July 31 – Aug. 3, 2021. We invite you to join us for “Update on VFW Legislative Priority Goals” on Sunday, Aug. 1, 2021, when National Legislative Service Director Patrick Murray will give a presentation along with the NLS staff. The presentation will cover VFW’s legislative efforts with regards to the VA budget, health care, disability assistance and memorial affairs, economic opportunity, and military quality of life.

If you are not already an Action Corps Advocate, we urge you to sign up to receive our VFW Action Corps Weekly which will keep you informed about the work we are doing on your behalf on Capitol Hill. By staying connected, you will be the first to know what is happening in Washington regarding legislation that impacts the lives of veterans and their families, and you will be able to assist in our grassroots efforts by responding when we send out any Action Alerts. Sign up today at [vfw.org/JoinActionCorps](https://vfw.org/JoinActionCorps) or text “VFW” to 50457.

## Administrative Operations

In an effort to better serve the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, tools are available at "VFW Training and Support." There you will find Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates; training material relating to Membership Recruiting and Retention; Community Service & Youth Programs; Communications & Public Affairs; Post Service Officers; and Veterans & Military Support. To utilize these valuable training guides, videos, forms and templates, please login at [vfw.org](https://vfw.org), proceed to “My VFW” and click the link “VFW Training and Support.”

The online “Document Repository” is a system of managing documents utilized primarily by Department Officers and members of the National Council of Administration.

**Important Reminder:** The 2021-2022 Department Roster is now an Online Membership System (OMS) submitted report. The interactive report will cover reporting of all Department elected and appointed officers and committee chairmen. In addition, the District Election Report is also contained within the Online Membership System (OMS). Portions of the District report will feed into the Department report (i.e. the District Commander position).

Adjutants and Quartermasters can access the roster by logging into their OMS account under the “Election Report” drop down in the left hand navigation pane. Membership numbers of each elected/appointed officer and/or chairman is needed to complete the report. Your cooperation in completing the roster immediately following your convention is appreciated. Any additions, corrections or changes will be submitted through OMS as they occur throughout the year.