

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



**BULLETIN**

**Ocala, Florida**

**July 2025**

**“United We Stand for God, Family &  
Country”**

## **START THE YEAR OFF STRONG WITH OUR FIRST COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE!**

We are starting a new membership year, and we want to get momentum early with a strong drive to recruit new members and retain our existing members, with a special focus on Life Members! As laid out in the 2025-26 Membership program, we will be issuing quarterly challenges to our Posts and rewarding those who lead their divisions in recruiting as well as Life Member upgrades. Every quarter (July 1 – September 30, October 1 – December 31, January 1 – March 31, April 1 – June 30). Every quarter, we will award points to the 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

At the end of the quarter, the Post that leads their membership division in points will receive a special award designated by the Commander-in-Chief. All Posts who meet these quarterly challenges will also be featured on a video display at the National Convention to recognize their achievements.

The award for the first quarter challenge will be posted soon to the VFW Membership Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/VFWMembership>).

## **MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES:**

Do you want to help your Post meet your membership goals? Log into [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and go to <https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/membership-recruiting-and-retention> where you can view training videos, download recruiting materials and posters, and gain access to all the tools you need in order to help recruit, retain, and mentor your members!

## **NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP MATERIAL ORDER FORM**

We have made it easier for you to get all the recruiting brochures you will need to make this membership year successful! It is 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 these simple steps and if you have any questions, you may contact the Membership department at 1.888.564.6839 or email us at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

## **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 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:**

<b><u>Levels</u></b>	<b><u>Posts</u></b>	<b><u>Departments</u></b>	<b><u>National</u></b>
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 National Convention

### VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING UPDATE

Guestroom availability at our contracted hotels for the Convention is currently very limited. Overflow hotels have been secured and will be available through the housing link. Please continue to check the Convention website at [vfw.org/Convention](http://vfw.org/Convention) for the most up-to-date housing information.

For any questions regarding guestroom availability, please contact [housing@experiencecolumbus.com](mailto:housing@experiencecolumbus.com).

### 126TH NATIONAL CONVENTION AWARDS BANQUET

Ticket sales will close on July 7, 2025, at midnight. Your purchased tickets will be available for pickup (by the purchaser only) at registration during Convention.

### 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, Quartermasters are strongly encouraged to register delegates utilizing the on-line membership system (OMS).

## 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 18% 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.*

**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](http://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 2026 Special Edition Calendar** – The 2026 VFW Calendars will be arriving 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](http://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, at 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 *in your Department*.

**Matching Gift Opportunity to Support the VFW’s Programs** – The VFW has been presented with an incredible opportunity by a generous friend and supporter to triple your donation if you respond within 30 days of receiving this offer! 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. Veterans of all generations are turning to the VFW for help. They need assistance with medical care, dealing with “invisible trauma” like Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury, education, and financial assistance and care for their families. 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, 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*.

**Your Support in an Unsettled Economy** – Even in an unsettled economy, you can support the nonprofits you care about, like the VFW — and ensure a strong financial future for yourself. By naming the VFW in your will or trust, you do not have to give anything now. Make a gift supporting veterans through a charitable gift annuity and receive reliable income for life, even with an unpredictable market. Other options for giving, such as appreciated stock and your donor advised fund (DAF), can even offer immediate tax benefits for you. Learn more about these gifts: <https://vfw.planmylegacy.org/unsettled-economy>. The VFW Planned Giving Office is here to help you build your charitable legacy at 816.968.1119 or [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org).

**Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism?** – Adjutant General Dan West would like you to join him in supporting the VFW’s life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families. The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, which helps reduce expenses and eliminates the amount of fundraising mail you receive. 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 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](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!

**VFW Department Resource Page** – We encourage all VFW Departments to actively support the VFW Department Fundraising Programs. The success of these initiatives relies on the participation and backing of your department’s members. Promotional materials can be accessed by visiting [heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools](http://heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools).

## Marketing Communications

With the 126th VFW National Convention only a month away, are you ready? Whether you are heading to Columbus or not, you can stay in-the-know by watching as we begin livestreaming at [vfw.org/Convention](http://vfw.org/Convention) starting August 10.

For those planning to attend, the new VFW Events App will be available for download later this month in both the [Apple App Store](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/vfw-events-app/id1544444444) and the [Google Play Store](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vfw.events) by searching “VFW Events,” and users who don’t have a smart phone or tablet can also access the app [here](#).

Be sure to share your convention experience and join in the social conversation using **#VFWConvention**. And stay tuned for more convention-related information as convention draws closer.

## Veterans & Military Support Programs

### All American Eligibility

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 to the other programs through the link also in lieu of participation. This will automatically update daily.

When you make your **\$125.00** or more donation, all that needs to be entered into the box is 125 or more. The \$ and .00 are **not required** in the donation amount box.

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

### 126th National Convention – Columbus, Ohio

As we plan for the **2025 National Convention**, there is a new design for the **VMS Lapel Pins** for the **2025-26 Program year!** ADJs/QMs will be able to pre-order their pins and will be able to pick them up at convention again this year. Notification and order forms have been emailed and provided. **Payment cannot be made prior to July 1, 2025.** Please use the **VMS Donation** link on the Dashboard to pay for your order after **July 1, 2025, for the 2025-26 Program year.**

Meeting dates, times and location are to be determined at the National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, for the **VFW Programs Town Hall Meeting.**

### **VFW Financial Assistance for Service Members**

The **VFW Unmet Needs Program** will now be called **VFW Financial Assistance for Service Members.** If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact me at [mherron@vfw.org](mailto:mherron@vfw.org) or 816.968.1102.

### **Military Appreciation Program (MAP) Grant Funds**

**The Military Assistance Program (MAP) is now being named as the Military Appreciation Program (MAP), effective immediately.**

The **VFW MAP Grant** is **closed** for the 2024-25 program year. The 2024-25 MAP Grant funds have been depleted. Any events held after the closure of the MAP grant will not be reimbursed with the 2025-26 funds. **VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"**

The **2026 Spring Semester** will open Aug. 1, 2025. The application will be available online only at [vfw.org/Scholarship](http://vfw.org/Scholarship).

### **VMS Program Tools**

The Veterans & Military Support (VMS) Program Tools webpage is updated every month. Link to the webpage is <https://www.vfw.org/VMSPTools>.

**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](http://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag).

**PROGRAMS DASHBOARD TOOL.** Please encourage Posts to read the VFW National Membership Program 2024-25. Military Appreciation Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much grant assistance has been received from National HQs to supplement the Financial Assistance for Service Members grants and the VFW Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship statistic. The information charts reside in the KPI tools section.



**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 Mary at 816.756.3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

**VFW 23rd ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION SILENT AUCTION INFORMATION.** It is time again to check out the variety of great items that are donated by our VFW Departments. You will be able to view and bid on these items as they are received. The bidding begins at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 9, and goes on until Monday, Aug. 11, at 3:00 p.m. when the bidding ends. Winners may pay for their items after 3:00 p.m., Monday at a specific register at the VFW Store until 4:00 p.m. For those winners unavailable Monday, they may pay on Tuesday, Aug. 12, beginning at 8:00 a.m., until NOON (12:00 p.m.), when the exhibit hall closes. Items not paid and picked up after this time will be returned to VFW National Headquarters and dispersed from there. Winning bidders are contacted for a shipping address and shipping costs will be applied to their bid. If we are unable to contact that person, the item will be offered to the next highest bidder.

**VFW HONOR'S AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2024-25 PROGRAM YEAR.** Congratulations to the following teachers who were selected National winners for 2024-25:

Elementary School level – Tim Smiddy, Staunton Elementary School, Staunton, Illinois, selected by VFW Post 1241, Staunton, Illinois.

Middle School level – Christie Wingo, Colorado Springs Christian School, Colorado Springs, Colorado, selected by VFW Post 7829, Monument, Colorado.

High School level – Nicole Petrosillo, West Milford Township High School, West Milford, New Jersey, selected by VFW Post 7198, Hewitt, New Jersey.

National awards will be presented in August to each teacher during the VFW National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. Each of the winners will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the National Convention and a \$1,000 cash award for professional development expenses (winners will receive a 1099-MISC); \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and his or her school. Each Department's recipients and their schools will receive a National Commendation citation, which will be sent to the Department Headquarters prior to the National Convention for presentation.

**OUTSTANDING NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD.** Each year on July 1st, the National Programs office will determine the top community service Posts in each conference, based on their community service reporting and total impact, from July 1st to June 30th of the previous year. Your total impact of community service 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.

**NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE POST OF THE YEAR.** Each Department will have an NCSP winner based on total impact also. National will select based on end of year reports on July 1st. 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 a separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email [Jlinstra@vfw.org](mailto:Jlinstra@vfw.org) or call 816.968.1155.

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES.** The 2025–26 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore. The Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen theme will be “How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support For Our Country?”

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN ENTRY FORMS.** The new 2025-26 Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

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

#### **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 Mary 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 (Nov. 7, 2019), it is required that the POW/MIA flag, on certain federal properties, 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](https://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

Save Big. Smile Big.

Join our Aspen Dental Savings Plan<sup>1</sup> today, where VFW members can save more for only \$29/year.

Save 10-30% on dental care without insurance, plus:

- Free exams & X-rays
- Unlimited annual savings
- Add family members for \$29/year each

Aspen Dental makes dental care simple and stress-free for all active military, veterans, and their families.

To start saving, visit <https://vfw.aspendentalplan.com/> or call 877.808.2776 today.

<sup>1</sup>Aspen Dental Savings Plan is NOT insurance.

## "Buddy"® Poppy

**NATIONAL "BUDDY"® POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST.** The time frame for registering and setting up the Department winning Buddy Poppy displays for the national judging at convention will be the same as usual. Department winning entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 9, until noon, Monday, Aug. 11, 2025. Winning displays will be identified with the appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning, Aug. 12 and announced later, on the convention floor. **Displays must be removed prior to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday.** Any displays left after this time will be removed for disposal by convention center personnel during the disassembly of the exhibit hall.

**"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](http://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 ANNIVERSARY BUDDY POPPIES.** Special poppies are available to Posts celebrating their 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th anniversaries. The poppies are the same design as traditional poppies but come in silver for the 25th anniversary Post, gold for the 50th anniversary Post and diamond (iridescent white) for the 75th anniversary Post. Posts currently in their 100th anniversary year can order any color and as many as they need. If not in your 100th anniversary year, please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out. These are ordered through the Department in OMS and processed the same as red poppies and should be distributed and used in displays just like the red poppies. Currently we have no plans to replenish the 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 1.1 years of Gold, 1.2 years of Diamond and 14 years of Silver.

## National Veterans Service

### **ACCREDITED SERVICE OFFICER SKILL LEVEL TRAINING, ANNAPOLIS, MD**

National Veterans Service (NVS) will conduct a hybrid training conference for VFW accredited representatives Sept. 21-25, 2025, at the DoubleTree Annapolis Hotel in Annapolis, MD. This hybrid course will include in-person instruction that will be live-streamed simultaneously via electronic media.

In addition to Skill Level Training, NVS will hold concurrent Basic Training for newly accredited representatives, Sept. 21-26, 2025, at the DoubleTree Annapolis. There is no virtual option for the Basic Training; it is being offered on an in-person basis only.

Formal notification to students required to participate in these conferences will soon be sent out. Please address questions relating to accredited service officer training to Keith Garrison, Assistant Director, Training, NVS, at [kgarrison@vfw.org](mailto:kgarrison@vfw.org)

# National Legislative Service/Action Corps

## Delivering Our Priorities to Congress

During the first six months of this year, the National Legislative Service has provided testimony 15 times to the 119th Congress on behalf of our organization. Our testimonies include [VFW legislative priorities](#) that are critically important to veterans and their families from all eras, as well as current active duty and Guard/Reserve service members.

We have delivered testimony and submitted statements for the record to the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs on topics such as VA community care; mental health services and suicide prevention; the VA disability claims process; Claim Sharks; transition assistance; and numerous pieces of pending legislation concerning earned benefits for veterans and survivors. [Read the testimonies.](#)

## Administrative Operations

### All Departments & Posts:

Pursuant to Section 1401 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure all proposed National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, and Ritual amendments as well as all National Resolutions to be considered at the 126th National Convention in Columbus, Ohio will be made available at least fifteen (15) days prior to the assembling of the Convention. These files will be available online at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org); members will need to login to access these files. Members who have never logged in to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) will need to create a new user account using the "Sign up with Troop ID" icon. Once successfully logged in, click on the "Document Repository" link listed under "Member/Post Resources." Members can access these files within the "126th National Convention Bylaws/Manual of Procedure/Ritual Amendments & Convention Resolutions – PROPOSED" folder within the Document Repository. Access to the Document Repository can also be found within the Online Membership System (OMS).

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; Bylaws: Training, Forms & Templates; Communications & Public Affairs; Post Service Officers; VFW Foundation; Veterans & Military Support; and Department Resources. To utilize these valuable training guides, videos, forms, and templates, please login at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), proceed to "My VFW" and click the link "VFW Training and Support."