

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



**BULLETIN**

**OCALA, FLORIDA**

**July 2026**

**“Continue the Mission”**

# Membership

## **STARTING THE YEAR STRONG WITH THE COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE!**

As laid out in the 2026-27 Membership Program, we will continue 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), 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.

## **MEMBERSHIP GOALS**

As is set out in the 2026-27 National Membership Program, we are aiming for membership growth as well as a minimum of 80% retention of our annual members. Focusing our efforts on growth through recruiting and stability via retention will be essential in our efforts to increase our membership strength. The 2026-27 National Membership Program can be downloaded through the Training & Support page on [vfw.org](https://vfw.org).

## **MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES:**

Do you want to help your Post meet your membership goals? Log into [vfw.org](https://vfw.org) and go to <https://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 to https:

The 2026-27 VFW National Membership Program is available online at [vfw.org](https://vfw.org), under MY VFW, scroll down to Membership Quick Links, click on Membership Recruiting and Retention. You will see the 2026-2027 VFW National Membership Program in blue letters.

## **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's as easy as one two three!

1. Go to [vfw.org](https://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).

## **NEW POST DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GRANT**

For each new Post chartered the Department Quartermaster will receive a \$250 credit from the VFW Store to be used towards necessary materials for the new Post. Department Commanders and Quartermasters may apply for this grant directly through the National Membership Department.

For details on this and all other All-American membership incentives view the Commander-in-Chief's National Membership Program at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) under *Membership Recruiting & Retention*.

For any questions or further information, please contact the Membership Department via email at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org) or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

## 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:

| <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 National Convention

### VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING UPDATE

Guestroom availability at our contracted hotels for the Convention is currently very limited. Please continue to check the Convention website at [vfw.org/convention](http://vfw.org/convention) for the most up-to-date housing information.

### 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).

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 16% 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 2027 Special Edition Calendar** – The 2027 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 the impact of 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 help ensure that we meet the matching offer of \$50,000 and assist even more veterans. Veterans of all generations are turning to the VFW for help.

Thanks to generous and dedicated members like you, we continue to provide life-changing assistance to our veterans and service members in need. Your generosity also helps the VFW fight — and win — vital legislative battles on Capitol Hill, help veterans secure their hard-earned benefits, and provide life-changing scholarships for post-secondary education. This is a great opportunity to help support veterans of all ages right in *your Department*.

**Do Not Let Myths Shape Your Legacy** – Don't let myths shape your legacy. Take the VFW's true or false quiz to find out if your mindset about estate planning is accurate. Take the quiz at <https://vfw.planmylegacy.org/dont-let-myths-shape-your-legacy>. Contact the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org) with any of your estate planning questions.

**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 read [VFW Success Stories](#) to learn how the VFW is at work 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 127th VFW National Convention only a month away, are you ready? Whether you’re heading to Reno or not, you can stay in-the-know by watching as we begin livestreaming at [vfw.org/Convention](http://vfw.org/Convention) starting July 26.

For those planning to attend, the new VFW Events App will be available for download later this month in both the [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#) by searching “VFW Events.”

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

### 127th National Convention – Reno, Nevada

As we continue to plan for the **2026 National Convention**, there is a new **VMS Keychain** for the **2026-27 Program year**! ADJs/QMs will be able to pre-order their keychains and will be able to pick them up at the convention again this year. Notification and order forms have already been emailed out. The **Programs booth** will be in **Hall # 3, booth 313**. The **VFW Town Hall meeting will take place on Sunday July 26, 2026, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.** Location of this meeting can be found in the VFW Events app.

### VFW Financial Assistance for Service Members

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at [mherron@vfw.org](mailto:mherron@vfw.org) or 816.968.1102.

### Military Appreciation Program (MAP) Grant Funds

Be advised that the VFW MAP Grant is now closed for the remainder of the 2025-26 program year. Funds have been depleted. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at [M.A.P@vfw.org](mailto:M.A.P@vfw.org) 816.756.3390 ext. 6287.

## VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"

The **Fall 2026 Semester** is now closed. The **Spring 2027 Semester** application opens Aug. 1 through Nov. 15, 2026. The application is only available online at [vfw.org/Scholarship](https://vfw.org/Scholarship).

### All-American Eligibility

The **2025-26 Program Year** closed **June 30, 2026**. The **2026-27 Program Year** opens **July 1, 2026**. To qualify for **All-American**, a **minimum donation of \$125** must be donated to VMS by **June 30, 2027**. VMS donations will only be handled through the Dashboard. All Posts must click on the **"VMS Donation"** tab on the **Dashboard** to donate. **DO NOT CLICK THE LINK IN RED THAT SAYS "DONATE."** 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 the following day. Overseas Departments will donate to the other programs through the link also in lieu of participation. This will automatically update the following day.

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.

### 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](https://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag).

**PROGRAMS DASHBOARD TOOL.** Please encourage Posts to read the 2025-26 Membership program. 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 financial grants & VFW Sport Clips Help a Hero scholarship statistics. 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 24th 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. Silent Auction forms have been emailed to each Department. You will be able to view and bid on these items as they are received. The bidding begins at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, July 25, and goes on until Monday, July 27, at 3 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.

**ATTENTION WINNING BIDDERS:** All payments for winning bids will need to be paid by credit card. All major credit cards will be accepted including Apple Pay, Google Pay, and Cash App. For those winners unavailable Monday, may pay on Tuesday, July 28, 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.

**OUTSTANDING NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD.** Each year on July 1, 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 1 to June 30 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 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 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 2026–27 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Cory Geisler. The Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen theme will be **“What a Veteran Taught Me About America”**

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN ENTRY FORMS.** The new 2026-27 Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

**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](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 <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia>.

**“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://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP237).

#### **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.

**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



As long as there are those who serve, USAA will be there to serve them.

**STARTED BY**  
**25 SOLDIERS**

**13 MILLION**  
MEMBERS AND GROWING

**100 YEARS**  
AND GOING STRONG

**1 MISSION**  
THROUGH IT ALL

[usaa.com/join](https://usaa.com/join)

[Learn more about USAA.](#)

## “Buddy”® Poppy

**NATIONAL “BUDDY”® POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST.** Buddy Poppy Display contest entry forms have been sent to VFW Departments for dissemination with a copy of the rules for entry. A VFW Department officer must sign off on the form and submit it to VFW National Programs office by 1 July 2026. 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 may be set up beginning at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, July 25, until noon, Monday, July 27, 2026. Winning displays will be identified with the appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning, 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 other 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 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 traditional & tin tab 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.

## **NVS Events at National Convention**

National Veterans Service would like to invite all delegates and attendees of the upcoming VFW 127th National Convention in Reno, Nevada, to participate in the following events. Please check the convention schedule or download the convention app for the most current locations.

At 1:00 p.m. on Friday, July 24, the **National Veterans Service Advisory Committee** will meet in Room A7-9 to discuss matters of importance to the VFW national service program. Please check the convention schedule or the convention app to verify the time and location.

Saturday, July 25 through Monday, July 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday, July 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, in Hall 2-3 (dates & times subject to change but can be verified in the convention app), there will be a **Veterans Walk-in Claims Clinic** at which veterans and dependents will be assisted by a combined team of VFW Service Officers and VA benefits and health care representatives to facilitate and expedite new and existing claims, appeals and health care issues.

Beginning on Saturday, July 25, in Hall 2-3, there will be a **Health Fair**. This will include health screenings including blood pressure checks and glucose checks. VA representatives will be on hand to discuss VA health care enrollment, community care, caregiver support, mental health, women's health care and other programs.

On Sunday, July 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, NVS will be holding **Providing Local Benefits Assistance** training during which NVS staff will discuss the role of the Post Benefits Advisor, when to refer veterans to an accredited representative, and ways that anyone can help veterans and their families.

On Sunday, July 26, at 1:00 p.m., the **Committee on Veterans Service Resolutions** will be meeting to deliberate proposed resolutions addressing veterans' health care, benefits, economic opportunity, employment, and other benefit-associated resolutions. If you don't have an assigned committee meeting or workshop to attend at that time, we encourage you to sit in and listen to what they have to say.

National Veterans Service & National Legislative will have a joint booth on the exhibit hall floor. Please visit us!

## **BEWARE of Fraudulent Text Messages Claiming to be from VA!**

Many veterans have been receiving text messages that appear to have come from the VA. An example of one of these texts is below:

*"VA Benefits & Services: Your VA profile is missing your home address, mailing address, or both. Update it now so you don't miss important benefits information: [va.gov/profile](http://va.gov/profile)"*

After doing some research we have learned that this is a phishing scam and that scammers are spoofing the Department of Veterans Affairs, preying on veterans by sending alarming texts that compel them to click a link and "update" sensitive personal information on a fake but legitimate-looking website. We have notified the VA of this scam, and it has been forwarded to the VA Fraud Prevention team.

If you or someone you know receives one of these texts:

- **Never** click links in unexpected text messages claiming to be from the VA.
- **Verify directly:** If you suspect your profile may actually need an update, navigate to VA.gov directly or contact VA at 1.800.827.1000 – do not use the link in the text!
- **Contact VA:** If you have been the target of a scam or suspect fraudulent activity, contact VA immediately at 1.800.827.1000.
- **Report:** Veterans who suspect they have experienced fraud can find out more at [VSAFE.gov](https://vsafe.gov) or by calling (833) 38V-SAFE. (833.388.7233) Reports of fraud can also be submitted to the Federal Trade Commission online at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>.

While the VA does occasionally send text messages for appointment reminders or claim updates, they will never demand that a veteran click a link in a text to supply personal or address information.

## National Legislative Service/Action Corps

### Come See Us at Convention

The VFW National Legislative Service staff will be in attendance at our 127th National Convention in Reno, Nevada. Everyone is invited to join us on Sunday, July 26, from 11a.m.-12p.m. for the **Update on VFW Legislative Priority Goals** briefing and on Tuesday, July 28, from 3:30-4:30p.m. for an **Advocacy Storytelling Workshop**. Also, please stop by our NLS/NVS booth in the Reno-Sparks Convention Center exhibit hall.

### Delivering Our Priorities to Congress

During the first six months of this year, the National Legislative Service has provided testimony 10 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 disability compensation offsets; 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 127th National Convention in Reno, Nevada 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 "127th 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."

National Headquarters will be implementing a revision to the fee structure for charters. This adjustment applies to all requests for replacement charters, including those required due to name changes or changes in charter location.

Effective **July 1, 2026**, all such requests will be subject to the updated pricing structure below:

- \$50.00 – Date of Institution from 2003 to present
- \$75.00 – Date of Institution from 1980 to 2002
- \$100.00 – Date of Institution prior to 1980

If you have any questions, please contact Quentin Carroll, Director, Operations, [qcarroll@vfw.org](mailto:qcarroll@vfw.org).



Administrative

## VFW Store

### Cashless at the 2026 National Convention

The VFW Store will be **cashless** at the 2026 National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

This change will allow for faster checkout, shorter lines, improved accuracy, and enhanced security. Powered by Clover POS system and accepting all major credit cards including Apple Pay, Google Pay, and Cash App digital payment methods.

We appreciate your support as we make this transition to better serve you and enhance your convention experience.

### Celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this 4<sup>th</sup> of July

This year, Independence Day marks the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. Show your pride with apparel and more. Click [vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/4thofjuly](http://vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/4thofjuly).

### Still Serving

Check out the Still Serving silkies and new T-shirt design: <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/vfw/stillserving>