

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



**BULLETIN**

**Ocala, Florida**

**November 2025**

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

# Membership

## **CONTINUE BUILDING MEMBERSHIP WITH THE COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE!**

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 (Oct. 1, Dec. 31, Jan. 1, Mar. 31, Apr. 1, June 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.

Congratulations to those Posts who are leading the charge towards membership success!

## **MEMBERSHIP GOALS**

As we go through the membership year, we want everyone to remember the goals that the Commander-in-Chief has set out in her 2025-26 Membership Program:

- Achieve 101% in Membership
- For everyone to recruit at least one new member and then mentor that member.
- Increase membership drives and/or events.
- Develop new Posts and/or revitalize existing Posts.
- Increase Life Membership and Legacy Life Membership

## **MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES:**

Do you want to help your Post meet your membership goals? Log into 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 in order to help recruit, retain, and mentor your members!

The 2025-26 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 2025-26 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 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).

## 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?*

These comrades are our first to cross the 100-members-recruited mark this year! How many of you will be joining them?

## VFW Foundation

The Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship fundraiser continues until Nov. 15. Since 2013, the program has awarded more than 3,350 scholarships totaling \$15.3 million. We ask that you visit our great friends at your local Sport Clips, get a haircut and donate to the campaign!

Contact: VFW Foundation Corporate Relations Manager, Savanna Cavanaugh, [SCavanaugh@vfw.org](mailto:SCavanaugh@vfw.org)

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.*

**VFW National Veterans Service Quarterly Supporter Newsletter** – This month's edition is on its way! In this quarterly update, we will keep you informed about the impactful work being done by the VFW National Veterans Service for our veterans. You will see stories of how the VFW in D.C. is fighting for veterans' rights and legislation affecting veterans. We will also share heartwarming stories about VFW Accredited Service Officers actively aiding veterans in securing their well-deserved VA benefits, all made possible through your invaluable support of this essential program. If you, or a fellow veteran, are in need of assistance in filing a VA claim, please visit [vfw.org/NVS](http://vfw.org/NVS). The service is 100% free of charge.

**VFW 2026 "Fly the Flag"** – Please watch your mail for the VFW's 2026 Pocket Planner as we kick off the 2026 "Fly the Flag" campaign. We have included each patriotic holiday with a flag. Our intention for this special gift is to inspire you to proudly display your United States flag, particularly on the those dates in your calendar to demonstrate your unwavering support for all veterans who have valiantly preserved our freedom.

And as extra thanks for your remarkable commitment to your fellow veterans, I have also enclosed quick stick notes and a pen, reserved for our most loyal members. These patriotic gifts are especially meaningful this year – as our great nation celebrates 250 years!

To further fuel your patriotic spirit, visit [heroes.vfw.org/Flag](http://heroes.vfw.org/Flag), where you can access a complimentary flag poster to print for display. Please know that **your donations to this campaign** will help **your VFW Department** serve veterans in need throughout the year. Fellow veterans in your department are counting on you!

**2025 Veterans Day Matching Gift Campaign to Friends of Freedom Online Community** – Last month Friends of Freedom members received an email with exciting news! A generous supporter of the VFW has graciously pledged to match all donations, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000, **until Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2025!** This represents an extraordinary opportunity for your contribution to have twice the impact in paying tribute to the courageous men and women who have selflessly dedicated themselves to our nation.

No matter the amount, your act of generosity will carry double the weight, directly benefiting veterans, service members, and their families. Watch your inbox for this incredible email so that your gift can go twice as far! If you have not received this offer by email, **you can [click here](#)** to make a donation online!

**Smart Ways to Give Before 2025 Ends** – Discover smart year-end gift ideas that will make a lasting impact for veterans through the VFW! As you plan, keep in mind that new tax changes take effect in 2026 and could influence your giving strategy. Learn more about giving options and upcoming tax changes by visiting <https://vfw.planmylegacy.org/2025-year-end>. If you have any questions, contact the VFW Planned Giving Office 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

Calling all college football fans! Together with the Travis Manion Foundation, the VFW invites you to join us at the [2025 TMF Tailgate](#) ahead of the Army vs. Navy game on Dec. 13, 2025.

The Travis Manion Foundation Tailgate is an annual tradition that brings together thousands of supporters, veterans, and families of the fallen ahead of the historic Army vs. Navy football game. More than just a pre-game gathering, this event is a celebration of service, a chance to connect with the TMF community, and an opportunity to support a mission dedicated to empowering veterans and families of the fallen to develop character in future generations.

Use code **VFW10** at checkout and enjoy 10% off your ticket to the game.

Tailgate highlights:

- All-inclusive pregame celebration before the annual Army vs. Navy football game
- Live music and entertainment
- Complimentary food and drinks including beer, cocktails, and non-alcoholic beverages
- Fun tailgate games for all ages
- Vendor activations and experiences
- Exclusive brand giveaways

Grab your tickets and get more information at <https://www.travismanion.org/events/tmf-tailgate>.

## 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, 2026**. 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.

**2025-26 VMS Lapel Pin payments should be paid through the Dashboard.** Please use the **VMS Donation** link on the Dashboard to pay for your order. Please do this as soon as possible.

### **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**

The **VFW MAP Grant** is now open. Please use the All-American Eligible Dashboard to request this grant. The grant process will remain open until all funds have been depleted. Available MAP Grant funds are displayed on the All-American Eligible Dashboard in the upper left-hand corner of the website.

### **VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”**

The **2026 Spring Semester** is now open and runs through Nov. 15, 2025. The application is only available online at [vfw.org/Scholarship](https://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](https://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag).



**PROGRAMS DASHBOARD TOOL. (NOTE: Previously ALL-AMERICAN DASHBOARD)** Please encourage Posts to read the 2025-26 Membership program. Military Appreciation Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much in 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.

**2025-26 SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM.** The Veterans of Foreign Wars wants to recognize the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history, traditions, and institutions effectively through this program.

Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for the next competition. All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members, or other interested individuals.

All Post-level nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages, including the resume, as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available.

**Please ensure that the nominations received have the required documentation listed above and that the appointed individual at the Post is available to receive the nominations and answer questions.**

**As we get closer to the deadline, more teachers or other nominators will be reaching out trying to find a participating Post so we want to ensure they can make contact.**

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

The Department may select a single candidate, in each grade level, and submit them to VFW National Headquarters through Dashboard by Feb. 1 for National judging. To submit their winners, the "VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form" should be completed, and the winning entry documentation uploaded.

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

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

**Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. have the correct teacher award entry deadlines and rules for the 2025-26 program year. The teacher entry form, information page, and Chairpersons Guide are available on the VFW website.**

Simply visit [vfw.org/#login](https://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 contact schools, youth groups, parent organizations, and others with information about Voice of Democracy® and Patriot's Pen. Schools are making curriculum decisions now and parents are thinking about scholarships.

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

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

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES.** The 2025–26 themes were chosen by Commander-in-Chief Carol L. Whitmore. The Voice of Democracy theme will be **“How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?”** and the 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 Patriot's Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

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

**NOTE:** Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen posters are available!

**VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM MONTH IN NOVEMBER.** VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are encouraged to volunteer in their schools to talk about their military and home front experiences to students. Invite your local military recruiter to join you to talk about military service today. Additional information can be found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairperson's Guide.

Simply visit [vfw.org](https://vfw.org), 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.

*Participate in this activity during the week of Veterans Day, which is part of “National Veterans Awareness week,” as designated by Congress.* Find Pledge of Allegiance pencils and coloring books, plus other citizenship education tools at the VFW Store [vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation](https://vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation).

**VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS.** Departments may submit up to five nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs office no later than Feb. 1, 2025. All Department Public Servant Citations must be requested through the “VFW Department Public Servant Award Request Form” through the Dashboard. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award



- VFW National 911 Dispatcher Award
- VFW National Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician (E.O.D.T.) Award

Each Department will receive their requested awards and should contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department Commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient's peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters, EMTs, dispatchers and EODTs personnel, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership. Order plaques and citations for public servants from the VFW Store [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=public%20servant](http://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=public%20servant).

NOTE: VFW PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATION POST ENTRY FORM. This form was developed to assist VFW Post Safety Chairpersons with an entry form to hand out to the local Fire Department, Police Department, etc. to assist interested individuals in nominating one of their own. The entry form along with the required documentation are to be returned to the local VFW Post for their judging, by Oct. 31. Once a winner in each category has been chosen, the Post will forward the winning entries on to the next level of judging.

Simply visit [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), 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 **Public Servant Program**.

NOTE: Remember, the First Responder Medal is available through the VFW Store. To review this item, please click on the following link: [vfwstore.org/products/32134](http://vfwstore.org/products/32134).

**CONDUCT A VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM ON NOV. 11.** Organize a community event on Veterans Day honoring all veterans.

For a ceremonial procedure, refer to the information found in the VFW Community Activities and citizenship Education VFW Chairperson's Guide. If you should need a Veterans Day speech, please go to: [vfw.org/MY-VFW/Patriotic-Holiday-Speeches](http://vfw.org/MY-VFW/Patriotic-Holiday-Speeches). Click here for Veterans Day merchandise <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday>.

**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 off their community service reporting and total impact, from July 1 to June 30 the previous year. Your community service total impact is figured by the money spent to host and organize the community service event, plus total hours all volunteers participated, plus the mileage for all volunteers (Dollars Donated + Hours + Mileage = Total Impact).

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

**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.

**POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS.** Under previous Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 16, 1997), it indicated there were only six days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices were required to display the POW/MIA flag. Now under new law, Public Law 116-67 (Feb. 21, 2020), it is required that the POW/MIA flag be flown on all days on which the flag of the United States is displayed. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to [vfwstore.org/products/GP237](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

If you are a veteran with TRICARE insurance coverage, you could still face significant out-of-pocket health care expenses. For 2025, TRICARE Select has a **yearly catastrophic cap of \$4,261** — and those costs can really add up.

As the exclusive provider for VFW members, SelmanCo offers a group rate on a TRICARE Supplement Insurance Plan. Rates are based on age and help cover the expenses TRICARE leaves behind — giving you added financial protection and peace of mind.

[Click here](#) to download the **Exceptional Savings for Exceptional People Info Guide** and learn more 0183.

## "Buddy"® Poppy

**"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 SILVER, GOLD, AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES.** The silver, gold and diamond anniversary Buddy Poppies are for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary years. For Posts currently in their 100th year anniversary, they can order any color and as many as they need.

Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out unless you are currently in your 100th year. These are ordered through the Department in OMS and processed the same as the red poppies. Currently we have no plans to replenish inventory of Anniversary poppies due to increased cost and the small quantities we sell of Anniversary Poppies. Based on the past four years' sales, we have sufficient inventory for the next 2 years of the Gold, 3 years of Diamond and 50 years of the Silver.

## National Veterans Service

### THE SEASON OF GIVING IS UPON US – VOLUNTEER AT VA

VFW is seeking volunteers, including students (minimum age 14 years), who are willing to make a difference in a veteran's life through the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) program. Whether you can volunteer once, occasionally, or regularly your assistance and time is priceless to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and our Nation's Veterans. VFW membership is not required to participate in this program, so encourage family, friends, and community members to support veterans, their caregivers, and survivors! See [www.vfw.org/VolunteerService](http://www.vfw.org/VolunteerService) for more information and to contact a VFW Volunteer Representative at your local VA facilities. If you choose to volunteer to support the VA and their mission on behalf of the VFW, ask to donate your hours to VFW's VA Voluntary Service program.

There is a delay this year for the VA Volunteer of the Year Award but stand by for information to come. In the meantime, start thinking about volunteers in the VAVS program that you would like to honor.

## National Legislative Service/Action Corps

## VFW, SVA Announce 2025-26 Student Veteran Fellowship Class

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Student Veterans of America (SVA) have selected six student veterans for the 2025-26 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship. Now in its 12th year, the fellowship is an academic and hands-on experience during which students advance a shared VFW-SVA policy priority through community engagement and direct advocacy on Capitol Hill. This year's fellows will attend the SVA Leadership Institute in October, the SVA National Conference in January, and the VFW Washington Conference in March, where they will meet with lawmakers alongside VFW delegations. The 2025-26 legislative fellows are:

- Shadic Anderson, Marine Corps veteran, California State University
- Juanita Murillo Garcia, Army veteran, Northeastern University
- Giancarlo Gonzalez, Army veteran, St. Petersburg College
- Kimmie Kim, Navy veteran, Vanguard University of Southern California
- Austin Lawrence, Navy veteran, Harvard University
- Sarah Lively, Air Force veteran, Concordia University

## VFW Store

Shop the VFW Store for the holidays! Check out patriotic ornaments and more at [vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/holiday](https://vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/holiday)

**Poppy seeds** are now back in stock at the VFW Store. Shop all Buddy Poppy items at [vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy](https://vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy)

To order, go to [vfwstore.org](https://vfwstore.org) or call 1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387)

