

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



BULLETIN

Ocala, Florida

October, 2024

“When in Command, Command”

WE ARE STARTING THE YEAR OFF STRONG!

As we near the end of the first quarter of the membership year, we are showing an increase across the board in New Members, Reinstated Members, and Renewals! Thanks to the diligence and dedication of our members at the Post, District, and Department levels we are starting off strong for this membership year and are prepared to meet the membership goals set out by the Commander-in-Chief.

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

To encourage growth, Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt has instituted a monthly Commander's Challenge. Every month, we will award points to our Posts as follows:

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

For the month of October 2024, the Post that leads each division will receive a VFW Buddy Poppy table cover to use for your Post's upcoming Buddy Poppy drives. In addition, at the end of the year every Post who has led their division in the monthly challenges will be featured on a video display at the National Convention to recognize their achievements.

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

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

2024-25 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM:

Want to know more about the goals that the Commander-in-Chief has set for membership this year? Is your Post going to be named as an All-American Post this year? Are you interested in how your Post can be recognized for going above and beyond for membership? The 2024-25 Membership Program is available online at vfw.org, under MY VFW, scroll down to Membership Quick Links, click on Membership Recruiting and Retention. You will see the 2024-25 VFW National Membership Program in blue letters.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

As the membership year has begun keep in mind the membership requirements set out by the Commander-in-Chief:

- Achieve 102% in Membership
- For everyone to recruit at least one new member and then mentor that member.
- Increase membership drives and/or events.
- Develop new Posts and/or revitalize existing Posts.
- Increase Life Membership and Legacy Life Membership.

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP MATERIAL ORDER FORM

As you get started in the new membership year, we have made it easier for you to get all the recruiting brochures you will need to make this membership year successful! It is as easy as one two three!

1. Go to 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.

UPCOMING TRAINING

Our next Membership Monday training webinar will be on October 7th, at 2:00 PM, CDT, Topic: “**Recruiting 101**”. We will present an in-depth look at the basic skills needed to recruit members into the VFW, including how to present yourself, how to represent the VFW, and how to get the job done from start to finish. We will present input from some of our top recruiters who will share their knowledge about this essential skill. Follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/VFWMembership> to learn how to attend this online training.

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to vfw.org, click on JOIN, and scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video on the right. This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are three levels of membership; each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

<u>Levels</u>	<u>Posts</u>	<u>Departments</u>	<u>National</u>
Gold- \$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver- \$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze- \$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

What will your Legacy be?

Sport Clips locations will launch the in-store Help A Hero fundraiser from October 6 - November 16 and participating stores will offer free haircuts for Veterans & Active Duty Service Members on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Since 2013, Sport Clips has been the primary supporter of the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program, which provides scholarships for service members and veterans for use at post-secondary and trade schools. To date, the program has awarded more than 2,720 scholarships totaling \$12.3 million. We ask that during the fundraiser, you visit our great friends at your local Sport Clips, get a haircut and donate to the campaign!

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

Development

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

VFW's Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2024 – In September, we mailed the VFW's Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2024. We hope you enjoy these cards along with the other gifts that were included in the package. In the letter that was sent with the cards and gifts, we asked you to consider taking some time to visit or call a hospitalized service member or veteran in your community. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/Volunteer to find out about volunteering at your local VA facility. And please remember that the VFW's life-changing programs would not be available to veterans of all generations without the generosity of its members. Your donation to the VFW helps support programs for veterans and service members right in your own Department.

Veterans Day Salute to Veterans from Coast to Coast – As Veterans Day approaches, Friends of Freedom online community members will receive an email inviting them to "Place a Flag for a Hero in Your Life" on a virtual map. Keep an eye out for this email and click on the link to add your flag. Let us fill the map to honor fellow veterans and service members and show them our eternal gratitude for their service and sacrifice. If you are not a member of the Friends of Freedom online community, you can honor a loved one by placing your flag today. Just click [here!](#)

Sign a Christmas Card for a Veteran – You may receive a package this month with a special Christmas card for you to sign for a lonely, hospitalized veteran or current service member. We want to get a Christmas card to as many veterans and service members in VA medical facilities as possible before December 25. Please sign the card and return by November 20 and a VFW volunteer will deliver it to a veteran who did not think anyone remembered or cared. And when you mail the signed Christmas card back, please include a special holiday donation if you can help support the VFW National Veterans Service. With your support of VFW National Veterans Service, the VFW is able to fight – and win – vital legislative battles on Capitol Hill. The VFW is on the front line in the fight for education, jobs, health care and an overall better quality of life FOR VETERANS!

Smart Ways to Give Before 2024 Ends – The year’s end will be here before you realize it! Finish this year on a high note – make a charitable gift to the VFW and support America’s heroes while also benefiting your own finances. Whether it is a cash donation, a contribution via donor advised funds, or a gift from your IRA, you will save on income tax before the end of 2024. Learn more about smart ways to give between now and Dec. 31: <https://vfw.planmylegacy.org/2024-year-end>. The VFW Planned Giving Office is here to help you build your charitable legacy at 816.968.1119 or 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 with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

VFW Friends of Freedom – If you are not already a member of the VFW’s online community, please visit vfw.org and look for the gold banner that says “**Find Out What’s Happening**” to sign up. As a member of the VFW’s Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts, and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation’s veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit vfw.org/VFWatWork and click on “**Read VFW success stories**” to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans’ rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

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

Veterans & Military Support Programs

Veterans & Military Support (VMS) Programs/All American

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

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 Lapel Pin Payment

If your Department ordered and received the 2024-25 VMS Lapel Pins, please pay for them as soon as possible. You may utilize the “**VMS Donation**” link on the upper right-hand corner of the **Dashboard**.

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>

VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”

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

Continue to do what you are doing and thank you for your support!

VFW Programs

DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS. Military service flags, insignias, etc. should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag.

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

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

2024-25 SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER

AWARD PROGRAM REMINDER. 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. 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.

The deadline for the annual Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award contest is quickly approaching. 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. Nominations must be complete with the required documentation and submitted to a local participating VFW Post **by Oct. 31**.

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 would be submitted to the Department Headquarters and/or Department Chairperson by Jan. 1. The Department may select a single candidate, in each grade level, and submit them to VFW National Headquarters through Formstack by Feb. 1 for National judging. VFW Programs staff will email the form link to Department Adjutants and Quartermasters prior to the deadline. To submit their winners, the “VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form” should be completed, and the winning entry documentation downloaded.

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

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

Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. have the correct teacher award entry deadlines and rules for the 2024-25 program year. The teacher entry form, information page, and Chairpersons Guide are available on the VFW website.

Simply visit vfw.org/#login, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Additional Resources**. Here you will find all program manuals and on the same page are all other program materials.

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.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN ESSAY CONTEST DEADLINE

REMINDER. The deadline for the annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen essay contests is quickly approaching. The students must have their completed entry form with the (audio and/or written) essay submitted to a participating VFW Post by **Oct. 31, 2024**. Each corresponding deadline for Post, District and Department to have their entries to the next level are Nov. 15, 2024, for completion of Post judging; Dec. 15, 2024, for completion of District judging; Jan. 10, 2024, for completion of Department judging and the Department winners are due to National Headquarters by **Jan. 15, 2025**.

Please ensure that the entry forms are filled out completely and that the appointed individual at the Post is available to receive the entries and answer questions. As we get closer to the deadline, more students and parents will be reaching out trying to find a participating Post so we want to ensure they can make contact.

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

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN ENTRY FORMS. The new 2024-25 Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

NOTE: Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen posters are now available on the VFW website.!

Anyone (including students, parents, teachers, and chairpersons) can download and print the student entry forms for Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen by visiting the below links:

Voice of Democracy: vfw.org/VOD/

Patriot’s Pen: vfw.org/PatriotsPen/

For Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store: vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy for Voice of Democracy and vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen for Patriot’s Pen.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email Jlinstra@vfw.org or call 816.968.2787.

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/#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.

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.

VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS REMINDER. 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 Formstack. VFW Programs staff will email the form link to Department Adjutants and Quartermasters prior to the deadline. 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.

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, 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.

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. Click here for Veterans Day merchandise vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday.

PLEASE REVIEW UPDATE ON O.C.S.P. PROGRAM. VFW National Programs has updated Outstanding Community Service Post award programs starting this program year. Please share this with your Community Service Chairpersons.

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.

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

IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW programs Patriot’s Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

VFW Member Benefits

Dental problems can be unpredictable and expensive. For example, did you know the average cost of a dental crown is \$1,424? With Dental Insurance, you can reduce your out-of-pocket expenses and maintain your smile with preventive care.

Dental Insurance offers coverage that helps with dental expenses that may not be covered under your medical plan. It helps pay for routine cleanings and exams and reduces costs for X-rays, fillings and more.

Dental Insurance not only helps you pay for your dental care, it also can help prevent problems.

When your preventive care is covered, you are more likely to go for cleanings and checkups — this can help you avoid problems before they become too costly or complicated.

For additional information about Dental Insurance, click [here](#).

“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 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 VFW recognizes that both funding and support for our student veterans and dependents at institutions of higher learning can often be difficult to find. The **VFW's Student Veteran Support Grant** offers much needed assistance to support specific student veteran events. The grant, administered by the VFW Washington Office, focuses on supporting the overall student veteran population within the community, which consists of many student veterans at campuses across the country that are not affiliated with an SVA chapter. The grants will be disbursed to the VFW Post or Department that has submitted an application, to support the student veterans at the university or college.

Grant Eligibility:

- Applicants must be VFW members associated with an appropriate entity of the VFW (VFW Post, District, Department, or National).
- Appropriate VFW Post, District, Department, or National leadership serve as the convening authority on the grant request and is responsible for receiving funds.
- Funds must be utilized for events and outreach designed to assist and support veterans currently enrolled in institutions of higher learning.
- Grants may be awarded up to \$500 to support each event, and grants can be awarded to a VFW entity twice each fiscal year, totaling up to \$1,000.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

VFW on Capitol Hill

The VFW National Legislative Committee members met with senators, representatives, and staffers in Washington, D.C., to discuss the [VFW's legislative priorities](#). Specific focus was on providing health care and benefits for veterans, caregivers, and survivors; ensuring the continuous review of new presumptive conditions related to toxic exposures; exploring alternative treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions; and continuing to promote legislation to penalize predatory claim companies known as Claim Sharks. The VFW will continue to advocate for these issues to assist service members, veterans, and their families.

Administrative Operations

The 2025 copies of the podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual, which reflect the amendments adopted by the 125th National Convention, effective Aug. 28, 2024, can be purchased through the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/products/22690.

To access the Congressional Charter Bylaws and Manual of Procedure online, log in on www.vfw.org and go to 'Bylaws: Training & Support' underneath Member/Post Resources where you will see the 2025 Podium.

VFW Store

Commemorate the organization's 125 years of service with memorabilia from the VFW Store, including this patriotic holiday ornament.

vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/125thanniversary?page=1&size=50

Entry deadlines are Oct. 31 for the teacher award, and the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests. Show appreciation for entrants at your post with commemorative items from the VFW Store:

Voice of Democracy: vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy?page=1&size=50

Patriot's Pen: vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen?page=1&size=50

Teachers: vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation

Veterans Day is just around the corner – order now to receive your merchandise in time. We offer parade items, patriotic apparel and more. Go to vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday

Buddy Poppy items are also available at the VFW Store. Go to vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy?page=1&size=50

To order, go to vfwstore.org or call 1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387)

