

# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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*S E R V I C E                      W I T H                      P R I D E*

### DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

**Please remember VFW depends on your donations which cover 87% of the expenses for all VFWs life changing programs.**

**America's Heroes...Honor America and Our Freedoms** – Show tribute to fellow veterans by displaying your VFW 2012 Calendar. The calendars will arrive in early September. You will find powerful images in this calendar that we hope will remind you of your own service to this nation and that of all of America's Heroes are reflected here. Your 2012 Calendar includes reminders of days to fly the United States flag and other important dates in history to remember the sacrifices of America's veterans. You can also find useful information on VFW programs throughout the calendar that are available to all veterans, current service members and their families. ***Your support of the 2012 Calendar Program helps veterans in need in your department.***

**Veterans Day is not Far Away** – Later this month, we will be mailing out the Veterans Day Label package. Please use the patriotic address labels and stickers with pride. In the package, you will also find a 2011 Veterans Day petition to the United States Congress. Please sign and return the petition so we can deliver them to our Congressional leaders by Veterans Day to help make our voices heard in Washington! Your support of this important program will also help keep the VFW Veterans Service program strong and healthy.

**Have you heard about VFW's Partners in Patriotism?** – Would you like to support VFW's life changing programs for veterans, service members and their families without receiving all of the unwanted mail? VFW has developed a program that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate unwanted mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact the VFW Development Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318, 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 VFW's online community, visit [www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom](http://www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom) to sign up. Members of this special online community will receive a monthly e-newsletter with new grassroots stories about VFW out in the communities assisting veterans in need, educating the youth, and assisting military families across the nation and overseas. These stories can also be found by visiting [www.vfw.org/vfwatwork](http://www.vfw.org/vfwatwork). Check back often to see newly posted stories! Also, as a member of VFW's Friends of Freedom, you will receive special e-mails with breaking

VFW news, and special opportunities to help VFW in assisting our nation's veterans, service members and their families.

**Department Resources** – All the same great resources are still available for your Department to use – now found at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). You need only go to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and Log In. You will find “Department Resources” under the “How to Get Involved” heading. The latest program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department will be found here. Download ad slicks, press releases, banner ads and buttons for your department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mailing schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the Department Resources tools to help strengthen your department programs. Check it out today!

## **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 and then Coast Guard. For Military flags, click here:

<http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22300>.

**PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11.** Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11<sup>th</sup> 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

<http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=211>.

**NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 16.** 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 here

<http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=97>.

**VFW HONORS AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2011-2012 PROGRAM YEAR.** The VFW 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 the VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, VFW posts, supervisors or other interested individuals (not relatives). Self-nominees are not eligible.

Based on the nominees submitted by November 1st, local VFW posts will recognize one outstanding teacher in grades, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Posts then submit the winners' names to their District level judging who will forward their winners to the Department (or state level) by December 15. After judging, each Department forwards the names of its winners to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national awards contest. This is part of the 2011-2012 All American program.

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 school; and, an all-expenses-paid trip to attend the National Convention.

A program brochure (designed to be duplicated for distribution) can be viewed at [www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/Community/Teacher%20Award%20Brochure.PDF](http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/Community/Teacher%20Award%20Brochure.PDF), or ordered through [www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org), or by calling 1-800-821-2606 and asking for item #4450.

Order the Citizenship Education Teacher Recognition Citation from VFW Emblem and Supply, product #4320, <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=23980>. Present to all teachers nominated at all levels for the national award.

VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM MONTH IN NOVEMBER. VFW and Ladies Auxiliary VFW 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 2011–2012 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman’s Guide, which can be accessed on [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) under My VFW. From the VFW home page, you must LOG IN (or create an account and LOG IN.) Go to General Members Tools and Resources heading, click on CHAIRMAN GUIDES. *Participate in this activity as part of “National Veterans Awareness” week, November 6-12, as designated by Congress.*

VFW SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRAM. This program was put in place to recognize VFW units for creating and completing unique and extraordinary community service projects.

Record book entry nominations that are found to be complete and well-substantiated should be endorsed by the Department Adjutant or VFW Department Community Activities Chairman and forwarded to National Programs Department. Deadline for entries is April 30 of each year.

Every Post Special Project receiving the Award of Excellence in the December judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the 2011 – 2012 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman’s Guide.

2010-11 FRED C. HALL MEMORIAL OUTSTANDING POST SPECIAL PROJECT WINNER ANNOUNCED AT VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION IN SAN ANTONIO. VFW Post No. 10077, Deer Park, Maryland’s “This Korean War Commemoration Project, Freedom is Not Free,” was this year’s recipient. Designed to honor Korean War and Korean War Era veterans; four major events also served to educate and involve the community and especially the youth during the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War.

COMMUNITY SERVICE GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING. Recent conclusion of the twelve-month Community Service reporting period seems to have revealed that too many Posts are not clear on the manner in which community service hours and dollars should be reported.

Twice each year, in December and June, VFW Departments file a report with the VFW Programs office regarding community service activities listed by Post.

When the Post reports to the Department, they should list the hours of community service performed by the Post, affiliated Cootie Scratch, Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of the VFW, Men’s Auxiliary and Junior Girls for that reporting period. Only volunteer service hours benefiting the community are to be reported. Volunteer hours committed to projects and activities benefiting the Post and the affiliated units listed above cannot be reported.

The money that should be reported are the dollars donated or expended in the performance of the community service hours reported, plus \$.14 per mile for each mile driven by the volunteers.

Posts should not report any figures derived from the value of hours worked.

POW/MIA FLAG - OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Public Law 105-85 (November 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations, and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 19 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 28 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; National POW/MIA Day, September 16, (third Friday in September); and Veterans Day, November 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, click here: <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22305>.

## **BUDDY POPPY:**

Plans should be under way for the Veterans Day Buddy Poppy Campaign. Contact your Department Quartermaster to place your order for Buddy Poppies. Remember that your Poppies should be ordered a minimum of 8 – 12 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required. Do not use, “ASAP.” Miscellaneous items (coin cans, caps, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=128> or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

## **QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS:**

### **MetLife Dental Insurance**

Maximize the value from your VFW membership with Dental Insurance from MetLife. VFW has selected MetLife because of their 140+ years experience in the insurance business, extensive group benefits expertise and high-quality service. Visit <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/Dental.html> or call 1-877-627-5897 for more information.

### **\$1,000 No-Cost Personal Accident Insurance**

The member insurance department at National Headquarters receives phone calls every day from family members of VFW members who have recently passed away. Callers want to know about the insurance that is provided for free. The benefit provided is a \$1,000 no-cost accidental death and dismemberment policy. All VFW members who are in good standing are insured under this policy (the plan reduces at ages 70 and 75). Benefits are payable in the event of an accidental death or dismemberment. For more information, please call the VFW Insurance Administrator at 1-800-626-0027.

Print a duplicate certificate of the no-cost accidental death and dismemberment policy/ beneficiary form and learn more about all of the VFW sponsored insurance at [www.vfwinsurance.com](http://www.vfwinsurance.com).

### **Senior Term Life Insurance**

Our exclusive coverage for VFW members offers up to \$25,000 in coverage for members and their spouses ages 45 – 75. This policy can help those you love pay the bills you'll leave behind...credit card debts, outstanding loan payments and funeral costs, to name a few. Or the money can be used to help a special young person get a good education ... or provide the down payment for that first house. It can even be left as a donation to your favorite charity.

Life insurance makes sound financial sense. And when you're a VFW member, it makes even more sense to choose the plan your organization has researched...and endorsed. Here are just a few of the features offered by this exclusive VFW-Sponsored Term Life Insurance Plan:

Up to \$25,000 in Benefits ... without a medical exam or a single health question

Long-lasting Coverage ... it cannot be cancelled because of your age or any changes in your health

Double Benefits for covered Accidental Death ... up to \$50,000 in benefits

There are no health questions to answer, no medical exam is required, and your acceptance is guaranteed!

Visit <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/SrTermLife.htm> or call 1-800-749-6983.

## **Cancer Insurance Plan**

Help protect against the rising cost of cancer treatment with the VFW sponsored cancer insurance plan. Benefits can be paid directly to you regardless of any other insurance you may have or to your doctor if you request. Premiums are at affordable group rates. Certain limitations and exclusions apply. For more information, call 1-800-749-6983 or visit <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/cancer.htm>

## **VetJobs**

VetJobs ([www.vetjobs.com](http://www.vetjobs.com)) has thousands of current job postings; an outstanding Employment Assistance section with many helpful tips on how to find a job, write your resume and how to interview effectively. State job board information and niche job board listings make it easy to find the right job.

VetJobs, owned in part and exclusively sponsored by VFW, is available to assist all those in the military as well as transitioning military, National Guard and reservists, veterans, spouses, eligible former spouses, widows, widowers and dependents and DoD civilians.

Visit [www.vetjobs.com](http://www.vetjobs.com) for more information, or call 1-877-VET-JOBS (1-877-838-5627).

## **NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ ACTION CORPS:**

*New VFW in DC Blog* – VFW introduced its newly reinvented blog – [www.vfwonthehill.org](http://www.vfwonthehill.org). The primary focus will be on the work of VFW's National Legislative Service in Washington, D.C. Serving over 2 million members and thousands of veteran advocates, the blog is the latest tool to help engage those who are interested in making a difference for veterans from coast to coast. Together with the efforts of the VFW Action Corps and the VFW National Legislative Committee, the new blog will provide daily activities, in real time, regarding veterans and military issues as they develop in Washington. We hope that this will inspire members to reach out to their representatives and take action!

We also ask you to join our advocacy efforts by signing up for the VFW Washington Weekly email newsletter. It remains the best way to stay informed of what the VFW is doing on the legislative front in Washington, D.C. To sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, go to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and click on the *VFW in DC* section.

## **NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):**

The NMS PowerPoint presented at convention is now available to download at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). This PowerPoint can be used to familiarize your Post/District members of all NMS programs.

Donor Supporter Cards and Service Challenge thermometers with branch of service and Ladies Auxiliary emblems are also available to download online!

Go online to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and login using a VFW “member login,” then click on National Military Services under “How to Get Involved” for the PowerPoint and Service Challenge material.

Questions—call Teresa at 816-756-3390 ext. 261.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:**

*REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT MILITARY EQUIPMENT*

Department Adjutants & Quartermasters are asked to remind all Post Officers to refer to their *2011-2012 Commander’s Leadership Reference Guide* when requesting “conditional” donation of any government military equipment, ceremonial rifles or ammunition.

Before contacting the governmental agency, a formal written request is to be addressed and mailed to the Adjutant General at VFW National Headquarters, and must be completed and signed by the current *Post Commander, Post Adjutant or Post Quartermaster*, one of whom needs to be the contact person.

Also to be included is that contact person’s mailing address and phone number, not the Post address. Address the request to the Adjutant General, VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Include the proper information as outlined in the *Commander’s Leadership Reference Guide*. It is requested that a Post *not* go through their Department Headquarters (but send them a courtesy copy). This only slows down the processing and creates unnecessary paperwork for the Department personnel.

**REMINDER** – In accordance with the Ritual General Rule 13(b), “members will follow the action of the Chaplain or presiding officer relative to removal of caps during prayers; if uncovering, the hat shall be placed on the extended closed fingers of the right hand in such a way that the Cross of Malta is exposed and held over the heart.”

**MEMBERSHIP:**

**Dues Notices** - Just a reminder, the Dues Notice tapes are created on the last Friday of every month.

To prevent dues notices from being sent to those who have already paid, all membership transmittals must be received in the Dues Processing Department no later than noon on the following closing dates:

**TRANSMITTAL DEADLINES FOR THE 2011-2012 YEAR:**

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DEADLINE DATE</u>	<u>(DAY)</u>
SEPTEMBER	September 30	(Friday)
OCTOBER	October 28	(Friday)
NOVEMBER	November 25	(Friday)
DECEMBER	December 30	(Friday)
JANUARY	January 27	(Friday)
FEBRUARY	February 24	(Friday)
MARCH	March 30	(Friday)
APRIL	April 27	(Friday)
MAY	May 25	(Friday)
JUNE	June 29	<b><u>(FRIDAY - MUST BE</u></b>

**RECEIVED IN DUES PROCESSING BY NOON FOR YEAR END CLOSING)**

**ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:**

- **Shotgun Mailing Lists:** We have lists that you can work to help build up your membership. Please call the National Membership Department for assistance.

- **Membership Rosters:** National will not be mailing/emailing rosters out to Post Quartermasters as done in past years. Quartermasters are now responsible for downloading/printing their rosters online via the OMS system. Quartermasters who do not have access to the internet will need to contact either their District or Department officers to obtain a copy of their roster.
- **National Membership Program:** The 2011-2012 National Membership program is listed in the Leadership Reference guide. This can be viewed online via the OMS system.
- **Legacy Life Membership:** Please pass the word on our Life Legacy Program available to all Life Members. This program offers three levels of membership each offering its own packages of prestigious benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life Member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

<i>Enrollment Cost:</i>	<i>Annual Payouts (Natl., Dept. &amp; Post):</i>
Gold - \$1200	\$18.00
Silver - \$800	\$12.00
Bronze - \$400	\$6.00

What Legacy will you leave?

Your continued support and cooperation in ensuring that all cards are received in a timely fashion will be greatly appreciated.

**VFW STORE:**

**2011-2012 VFW STORE CATALOG** – check out all the new merchandise! If you haven't already received it, you will soon.

A catalog is sent to all Department and Post Quartermasters and Commanders, Ladies Auxiliary Presidents and Treasurers; and to those who have placed an order in the past year.

[www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org) 1-800-821-2606

**POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY - SEPTEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>** *You are Not Forgotten* - honor the commitments and sacrifices made by our nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=97>

Order your **VFW TENT** today for all your fall events! <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=29458>  
Great for outdoor events, as well as indoor functions.