

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

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

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>.

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 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.*

KENNEDY CENTER/STEPHEN SONDHEIM INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER AWARDS. The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is now accepting applications for the second annual Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards. Teachers of any subject are eligible for nomination. The \$10,000 awards (no strings attached) are presented each year on Sondheim's birthday – March 22 – to a handful of teachers, kindergarten through college, who are nominated via the Kennedy Center website. Applications are due **Friday, December 16, 2011.**

The Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards were created in honor of Stephen Sondheim's 80th birthday and were initiated and funded through the generous support of Freddie and Myrna Gershon.

For more information, please visit the Sondheim Awards website:

www.kennedy-center.org/sondheimteacherawards.

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.

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.

CONDUCT A VETERANS DAY PROGRAM ON NOVEMBER 11. Organize a community event on Veterans Day honoring all veterans. For a ceremonial procedure, refer to the information found in the 2011–2012 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman's Guide. If you should need a Veterans Day speech, please contact the National Communications and Public Affairs department at 816-756-3390. Click here for Veterans Day merchandise <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=239>.

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG ON DECEMBER 7: Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates December 7th as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" and requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day. To order a flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=100>.

VFW PROMOTES NATIONAL GROUNDHOG JOB SHADOW DAY, FEBRUARY 2. Over one million students across America will experience first-hand how academic skills they learn in the classroom are put into action in the workplace by shadowing a workplace mentor in a normal day on the job. The program is spearheaded by America's Promise Alliance.

Post members should inform their employers about this program and have them contact their local high school or Junior Achievement to participate.

For further information, please go to <http://www.americaspromise.org/News-and-Events/Partner-Events/Groundhog-Job-Shadow-Day.aspx>. You're encouraged to use this website and learn how the program works.

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 21, (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:

By the time you read this, VFW and Auxiliary members will have spread out across the landscape distributing the familiar red poppy. 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-around 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 war dead. Where the VFW appears, Buddy Poppies should be a ubiquitous reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as “Honor the Dead by Helping the Living,” is a year-around thing, so should the distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies be.

VFW FOUNDATION:

Burger King Restaurants to support VFW Unmet Needs during month of November

The VFW Foundation is proud to announce that for the fifth consecutive year, participating Burger King Restaurants will be raising funds for the VFW’s Unmet Needs Program throughout the month of November. Over 1,200 Burger King Restaurants have participated since 2007 and have raised over \$1.3 million in support of the program. Customers are encouraged to donate \$1 or more at participating locations across the country as the proceeds will help military families in need pay for essentials such as rent/mortgage, utilities, medical expenses, vehicle repairs, and food.

Please do all you can to mobilize your members, their families and friends to patronize your local Burger King and thank the restaurant manager for the support of the organization. Also, be sure to do all you can to publicize the Burger King campaign. Mention Burger King on your website, newsletter, or organize a night-out with other members to support Burger King. Please support those corporate partners that support us.

For a list of participating Burger King locations, please visit www.vfw.org or www.vfwfoundation.org.

Sport Clips Haircuts Kicks Off support of VFW Operation Uplink

For the fifth consecutive year, Sport Clips Haircuts will be raising funds for the VFW’s Operation Uplink Program which provides free phone calls for service members overseas. Beginning October 17th through November 13th, more than 800 Sport Clips locations nationwide will be participating in the promotion by collecting donations at check-out. On Veteran’s Day, Sport Clips will be donating \$1 for every hair care service made.

Since 2007, Sport Clips has donated more than \$860,000 to Operation Uplink. They have set a goal of raising \$500,000 in 2011. To find your local Sport Clips location, please visit www.sportclips.com. Please be sure to inform your members of this promotion and support the official haircutter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

REMINDER: Visit your local Sport Clips for a haircut from now until November 13th and donate to Operation Uplink. Your donation provides free phone calls home for deployed and hospitalized U.S. service members. **On Veterans Day**, November 11th, Sport Clips will donate \$1 to VFW for every haircut given at more than 800 locations nationwide. Please contact Linda Ferguson at 816-968-1102, if you have any questions about Sport Clips “Help a Hero” campaign.

VFW STORE:

TOP SELLER AT CONVENTION – SPECIAL OFFER – Patriotic Polo WITH A POCKET and logo!
<http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=29919>

VETERANS DAY – NOVEMBER 11, 2011 Show Your Pride and Patriotism
<http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=239>

BUDDY POPPY merchandise – order today to receive in time for Veterans Day events
<http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=128>

DEPARTMENT REBATE CHECKS

Per section 715 of the National By-laws, you should have received your department check for 10% of the net profits, based on sales in your department. This reinforces the importance of buying and promoting merchandise from the VFW Store, as it benefits all levels of the VFW. Make the VFW Store your ***I-Stop Shopping*** for all your VFW, Flag, and Patriotic needs and encourage your Post, Auxiliary, and members to do the same.

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](tel:1-877-627-5897) for more information.

Medicare Supplement

Medicare Supplement insurance (also known as Medigap) is private health insurance designed to supplement Original Medicare and pay costs that Original Medicare may not cover, like deductibles, co-insurance, long-term care, blood work, or hearing aids. To find out more, call 1-877-247-1771 or visit <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/MedSupp.htm>

VFW Insurance

For information about various insurance plans sponsored by VFW National, please visit www.vfwinsurance.com

MEMBERSHIP (Dues Processing):

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>
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	<u>(FRIDAY - MUST BE RECEIVED IN DUES PROCESSING BY NOON FOR YEAR END CLOSING)</u>

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:

- **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.
- **Dues Notices:** The October E-Dues notice has been dropped. In addition, we will send out a paper dues notice to unpaid members late November.
- **Recruiter Credit:** Recruiter credit is only accepted on new and reinstated members only. To qualify as a reinstate, the member's dues must be unpaid for two full calendar years. For example: a member whose dues expired on December 31, 2009, did not pay 2010 or 2011 dues, and reinstates on or after January 1, 2012.

The OMS system is currently designed to block the recruiter credit section for ineligible unpaid members. It is the Quartermaster's responsibility to ensure that all recruiter information is properly recorded. New/Reinstated memberships entered online, or submitted through National Headquarters, without recruiter information will not be changed afterward.

- **All American Program 2011-2012:** Please review and follow the current requirements for this year's program. The deadlines for this year have changed. The deadline for completion of all criteria is ***June 30, 2012. However, in order to have your awards presented at the National Convention in Reno, all requirements must be met and reported by no later than June 15, 2012.***

NOTE: For those Departments selling their own Buddy Poppies, you must ensure that your orders are reported to the National Programs department for recording. Failure to do so will result in the loss of awards for the participating Post/Districts.

- **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. & 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.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

DISH Network-is proud to support the VFW. As our salute to you, VFW Members receive a \$100 American Express® Prepaid Reward Card when signing up for qualifying packages with a 24-month Agreement. Packages start at just \$19.99/month for 12 months! To learn more about the best value in TV call: 1-888-590-3688 or visit www.dish.com/vfw use **Offer Code 02VFW**.

Already a DISH customer? Refer a friend to DISH and get \$50 off your bill (\$5/mo for 10 months). Visit www.dish.com/refer for more details.

USAA Credit Card & Banking, Investments, and Financial Planning

USAA provides insurance, banking, investment and retirement products and services to 8 million members of the U.S. military and their families. Known for its legendary commitment to its members, USAA is consistently recognized for outstanding service, employee well-being and financial strength. USAA membership is open to all who are serving or have honorably served our nation in the U.S. military – and their families. For information about USAA, or to learn more about membership, call 1-800-274-8839 or visit www.usaa.com/vfw.

LifeLock – Identity Theft Protection

Protect Your Identity with LifeLock – the VFW-sponsored program that guards against identity theft. Last year, identity theft increased 22% for a five-year high of nearly 10 million victims at a cost of \$48 million. That's an identity stolen every three seconds. But you don't have to be next. VFW has partnered with LifeLock to provide you a special savings on LifeLock's industry-leading identity theft protection service. Don't wait until it's too late. Enroll today and you'll receive a limited-time discount of 10% of the regular membership price. Help protect yourself now. Visit www.lifelock.com or call 1-800-LIFELOCK (1-800-543-3562). Use **promo code "VFW."**

Medical Air Services Association (MASA Assist)

MASA is proud to facilitate emergency assistance transportation, by providing Emergency Air Transportation, Helicopter Transportation or Ground Ambulance Transportation services to our members during anxious times, when life-threatening events happen. These services are invaluable when you or a family member becomes too sick or injured to seek treatment locally. To learn more call: 1-800-423-3226 or visit www.masaassist.com/vfw. Don't forget to mention you are a VFW member.

1-800-Flowers/1-800-Baskets

We are pleased to partner with the VFW- Veterans of Foreign Wars, giving all members the opportunity to **SAVE 15%** off products with national and international delivery. Simply use **PROMOTION CODE: VFW** at check out on the web or on the telephone with one of our Gift Advisors. Visit www.1800flowers.com, www.1800baskets.com or call 1-800-356-9377.

Hotel Discounts – Wyndham Worldwide Family of Hotels

As a member of the VFW, you will receive up to **20% off** the "Best Available Rates" at participating locations every time you travel. When calling, give the agent the special discount **ID number 62615** at time of booking to receive the discount. Whether you are looking for an upscale hotel, an all-inclusive resort or something more cost-effective, we have the right hotel for you...and at the right price. So start saving now. Call our special member benefits hotline and reserve your room today at one of Wyndham's fine hotels. Call 1-877-670-7088 to book your reservation.

Wyndham Hotels & Resorts -- Innovative & upscale hotels and resorts located in the U.S., The Caribbean, Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom and China. Enjoy the good life world-wide; call 1-877-6707088, option #1, for reservation and use ID #62615.

Dell Computer Discounts

To order by phone, members call 1-800-695-8133 and mention **ID# PS30482412**. For posts, call 1-800-695-8133 and mention **ID# PS76832215**.

FromYouFlowers

Choose from over 2,000 exquisite gift items like our bouquet of roses or select any of our florist designed arrangements, all available nationwide for same day delivery. We have confidence your order will always be perfect so we back it with a 100% product and service guarantee. Make someone smile today—send Flowers!!!! **SAVE 20%** on all regularly priced floral and gift items with FromYouFlowers. Simply visit www.fromyouflowers.com/vfw or call 1-800-838-8853 and mention **code 81Y**. *We also deliver to over 140 Countries!*

Car Rental Discounts

Whether it is business or pleasure, receive discounts for car rentals from Hertz, Avis, Alamo, Budget and National:

- Hertz: Call 1-800-654-2200 VFW identification number: **CDP164126**
- Avis: Call 1-800-331-1212 VFW identification number: **A9935000**
- Budget: Call 1-800527-0700 VFW identification number: **V026800**
- Alamo: Call 1-800-732-3232 VFW Identification number: **42592**
- National: Call 1-800-227-7368 and request VFW Contract ID **5180005**

eKnowledge SAT/ACT testing preparation materials

Big discount of **75%-90%** is being offered by eKnowledge on their acclaimed SAT/ACT testing products such as DVD programs, software and books. These materials help students prepare for their college entrance exams and will potentially increase confidence which can result in higher test scores, scholarships and acceptance into the college of their choice. Open to VFW members, employees, relatives and dependants. To order, visit www.eKnowledge.com/vfw or call: 1-951-256-4076.

Save with Sprint!

Switch to Sprint cellular service and save! Sprint has joined with the VFW to offer members, employees and their families several incentives with the purchase of a new wireless device and subscription through this exclusive program. Not only will you receive a **15%** monthly discount on your cell phone service, but you will also receive additional gift cards or accessories with your order.

Already a Sprint customer? Refer another member who signs up for new service and receive a \$25 prepaid debit card. To find out more, call 1-866-639-8354 or visit www.sprint.com/vfw

Veterans Travel Service, Inc., – a VFW member benefit worth remembering!

If you are planning a trip, whether it is for business or personal, one of the member benefits is just a phone call away. Veterans Travel Service, Inc. has been working with VFW members since 1986 and can handle all your travel needs. They are experienced in every area of travel. It could be for a tour, cruise or vacation package. You receive a VFW rebate when booking with Veterans Travel Service. If you need help with airline tickets, their expertise might be the ticket you need; although they charge service fees, the savings will usually far outweigh the cost of the fee. So if you're travelling soon, call them at 1-800-325-9377. They are located in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Headquarters, and their personal service is something to be appreciated these days!

Veterans Care Plus (VCP)

Diabetes Care management, Hearing Aid program, Drug Savings program and US Vision plan. To find out more, call: 1-877-252-0970 or visit www.veteranscareplus.com. Don't forget to mention you are a VFW member.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

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

Make a Note on Your 2011 VFW Calendar – It's not too late to lend your support to veterans in need through the 2012 VFW Calendar Program. Your support of this important effort helps your VFW Department serve veterans in need throughout the year. If you haven't done so already, please send as generous a gift as you can. Veterans in your Department are counting on you!

Show Your Patriotism – Demonstrate your support of veterans and the VFW by using your exclusive VFW Member Tote Bag which is mailing the first week of November. Please consider a donation to the VFW to help those comrades most in need of assistance – your donations are greatly appreciated and will be put to work immediately right in your own VFW Department.

Send a Message of Joy and Remembrance – Festive 2011 VFW Christmas cards have recently arrived in mailboxes across the country. Use your VFW Christmas cards to show your friends and family how much you support America and the VFW. During this holiday season, please try to set aside some time to visit a hospitalized veteran or even a veteran you may know in your community, to let them know they have not been forgotten. And remember, your support of this important program helps assist needy veterans throughout the year right in your own Department.

As the 2011 Holiday Season Approaches – Please remember you can help raise money for veterans by using www.goodsearch.com and www.goodshop.com this holiday season and every day of the year. To help VFW raise money, all you have to do is go to www.goodsearch.com and choose Veterans of Foreign Wars – VFW (Kansas City) as the organization you “GoodSearch” for, and search away! Every search you perform raises money for VFW! GoodShop by GoodSearch works the same way. For every item purchased through GoodShop, VFW will get a portion of the purchase price as a donation. Check it out today!

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 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 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. 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. You need only go to 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!

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

TANNER, JR., Dwight E., Past Department Adjutant/Quartermaster of Illinois, 1992-2001, Commander, Department of Illinois, 1983-84 and a Life Member of Clifford E. Johnson Post 9759, Loves Park, Illinois, October 23, 2011.

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