

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 36, NO. 5

JAN. 2012

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>.

FLY THE FLAG ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR'S BIRTHDAY. The U.S. federal flag code has been amended by Congress and signed by the president to add Martin Luther King Day to the list of days on which the flag should be displayed. His birthday is observed on the third Monday in January; therefore, the flag should be flown on that day.

Many communities are conducting community service projects that day. It is highly suggested that all members support this day of service.

VFW HONORS AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2011 - 2012 PROGRAM YEAR. Nominations for this award and the judging at the Post and District level should now be completed. Districts are to send their winning recipient from each level to the departments by December 15. After department judging, each department forwards the names of its selections to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national award contest. Deadline is January 15, 2012. Each department's selections will receive a National Commendation citation.

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 VFW National Convention in July 2012 in Reno, Nevada.

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.

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.

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.

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:

“To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs.” The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Youth Essay, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen 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.

POST ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION. Commemorate your Post's anniversary in Buddy Poppy style! As your Post celebrates 25, 50 or 75 years, order special silver-, gold-, or diamond-colored Poppies for distribution throughout this monumental year.

Remember: With Buddy Poppy, every day is Veterans Day.

- No extra cost for the commemorative poppies.
- Designate part of your regular poppy order as anniversary poppies.
- Different sizes of ads can be found at department resources. (Please go to www.vfw.org and log on to MyVFW and click on Department Resources and VFW Buddy Poppy.)

Contact information: nclifton@vfw.org (816) 968-1148. For Buddy Poppy merchandise go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResults.aspx?CategoryID=128>.

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING:

113th National Convention Housing will officially open February 2012. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at www.vfw.org. The convention web site will also have general convention information including the registration form and links to other convention related information for Reno, July 21-25, 2012 including a tentative agenda reflecting the new shorter convention schedule.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION: Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a national convention registration fee of twenty five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, ATTN: Convention Registration or you may register on-line by going to www.vfw.org.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:

Get Involved in the Election Process –

With the campaign season upon us, it is time to get involved and connect with the candidates when they are in your area. We encourage you to work with the campaigns and to get VFW members at campaign events to ask the tough questions about what the candidate will do to best serve our veterans, military personnel and their families.

Many candidates may ask for help in setting up Town Hall meetings - why not host an event at a VFW Post in your state? Keep a look-out for correspondence from the campaigns in your area and think of ways for the VFW to get involved. Most importantly, be informed and educated on the issues, ask veteran-related questions at public forums and make sure our issues are on the agenda. Veterans and military quality-of-life and national security issues must be a priority of all candidates seeking national office. For a list of our 2012 Legislative Priority Goals visit the VFW website and use the link provided here:

http://stage.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/VFW_in_DC/2012%20Priority%20Goals%20Brochure.PDF

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS:

Auto Insurance

The military community, veterans who have honorably served and their eligible family members have been winning with USAA Auto Insurance for generations. As a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), you may be eligible for USAA membership. That can mean saving on auto insurance and more:

- **Accident forgiveness.** Good drivers get immediate and affordable accident forgiveness for as little as \$1 a month in most states.
- **Multi-product savings.** In most states, USAA offers additional savings when you own another USAA policy such as homeowners insurance.
- **Flexible payment options.** Manage your budget and pay monthly.

For more information, call 1-800-274-8839 or visit www.usaa.com/vfw

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>

VFW Insurance

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

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

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

2012 VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) Annual Campaign Kicks Off – Nearly 40,000 troops returned to American soil last month from Iraq, with thousands more expected home from Afghanistan in the months ahead. Your support is urgently needed for the 2012 NVS Annual Campaign, so we can help America's newest veterans — and those of all wars — receive the benefits they have earned. Your donation right now ensures VFW's national force of highly trained service officers is at the ready to help America's veterans navigate the VA system. This service is available to veterans **FREE OF CHARGE** — and made possible through donations. Please, watch your mail for this important campaign.

Helping the VFW for generations to come – One of the easiest ways to continue providing for veterans and their families after you're gone is to leave the VFW in your will or living trust. Simply include the following language in your will: "I, [name], of [city, state ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (Tax ID 44-0474290) [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property]." Even a small percentage of your assets could go a long way to helping the VFW continue its mission for years to come.

If you decide to include the VFW in your estate plans, or have already done so, please let us know! We would like the opportunity to say "thank you" and include you in the VFW's Heroes Circle, a group of people who have made a special commitment to supporting VFW's mission for generations to come.

For more information on bequests, please contact our Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119 or by email at plannedgiving@vfw.org. Or check out our new website at www.vfw.org/plannedgiving.

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 can 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!

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

Legislative Conference/Sr. Vice Commanders Meeting-NMS Check Presentation

The check presentation will be on **Monday, March 5, 2012 at 3:00 P.M.** when Commander-in-Chief DeNoyer meets with the Department Commanders. It is preferred all donations be made to NMS so the funds can be used where needed the most.

Remember, a donation to NMS is required for All-American.

Please let Linda Ferguson (lferguson@vfw.org) know if your department will be making a donation and the amount so scheduled time will be allowed for the presentations. Thank you for all you do for our veterans and the NMS programs!!

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>
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.
- **Subscription Dues:** The subscription dues program was approved at the National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. The program will not go into effect until January 1, 2014. More information will be released in the coming months.
- **Recruiter Credit:** *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 Member Contest:**
Department Commanders who increase their Legacy Life members in their Department by May 31, 2012, will receive a \$300 cash award. *****A minimum of on new legacy life member per one thousand members in your Department is needed to qualify.**

District Commanders that increase the legacy life members in their District by May 31, 2012, will receive a \$200 cash award. *****A minimum of one new legacy life member per number of Posts within your District is needed to qualify.**

Post Commanders who sign up new legacy life members by May 31, 2012, will be placed in a drawing and six winners will be selected. *****You will receive on ballot for a new Bronze member, two ballots for new Silver members, three ballots for new Gold members and one ballot for level upgrades.** The six winning Commanders will receive round-trip airfare to the National Convention in Reno, Nevada for the Commander and their spouse, \$500 expense stipend, and special seating at the Joint Opening ceremonies on Monday.
- **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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

“OPERATION FIRST STRIKE” WINNERS:

DAVID REARDEN, COMMANDER
ADAMS-HAMILTON POST 6932 – DEPT. OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Group 1

GERALD PETERSON, COMMANDER
MATTHEW R. HENNIGAN POST 12101 – DEPT. OF NEVADA
Group 2

G. A. WOLUSKY, COMMANDER
MSGT WILLIAM J. CRAWFORD POST 7829 – DEPT. OF COLORADO
Group 3

MEMBER BENEFITS:

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."**

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.

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.

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

HARRIS, James P., All American Commander, Department of Illinois, 1971-72 and a Life Member of Jackson County Post 7190, Murphysboro, Illinois, December 1, 2011.

- 30 -