

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

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"HONORING OUR MILITARY HEROES"

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

Celebrate the Holiday Spirit by Helping Fellow Veterans – Your support of the VFW this holiday season – and throughout the year – is extremely important in helping the VFW's efforts to serve and assist veterans in need. There are many ways to help. We have recently sent out the 2009 Christmas Cards, 2009 Holiday Labels and the VFW 2010 Calendar. By supporting these programs, you help veterans and their families in need throughout the year in your Department and across the country. Other ways you can help this holiday season is to deliver a warm meal to a veteran, shovel snow for the elderly or simply chat with lonely residents at VA hospitals or retirement facilities near you. These simple acts of kindness mean so much.

Also, remember to help raise money for veterans by shopping online at www.goodshop.com. When you shop at GoodShop.com, please be sure that "You are shopping for Veterans of Foreign Wars" appears in the "Who do you GoodShop for?" window. This will ensure that VFW receives a portion of your purchase as a donation. And, if you have to search the Internet for that perfect, hard to find gift – search using www.goodsearch.com. Every search performed will help raise money for our veterans programs.

Have you heard about VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – It is a realization that not everyone wants to receive our mailings but would still like to support the VFW's programs. This is why we developed Partners in Patriotism. Partners in Patriotism is a planned giving program that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly basis, reduce expenses and eliminate unwanted mail. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis 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 this option, please contact VFW Development Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318, or email us at vfwfundraising@vfw.org with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

Department Resources – Visit www.vfwdepartmentresources.org – your place for the latest program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department. 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. While you're there, be sure to click on these icons: Promotional Tools, What's New, and Mailings. Use the Department Resources website to help strengthen your department programs. Check it out today!

Friends of Freedom – If you are not yet a member of VFW's online community, please visit www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom to sign up! **Friends of Freedom** is open to everyone. There is no cost or obligation to join – and you can opt-out at any time. **Friends of Freedom** members stay "in the know" about the work VFW does to serve all our heroes. Join today, and you will receive periodic e-mails

containing inspiring stories from the home front and the front line, key legislative updates, special “insider information” and so much more.

VFW at Work! – Please be sure to visit www.vfw.org/vfwatwork to read the inspiring stories of how VFW Departments, Posts and individuals are reaching out to America’s defenders and their families. You can sign up to receive the monthly VFW at Work! e-newsletter by clicking on the link to “Join Friends of Freedom.” Don’t forget to check the site often to see all the new success stories of veterans and military families being helped by VFW. Be sure to click on the “Read More Stories” link at the bottom of the page to view an archive of VFW success stories from fellow members around the country.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS:

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Medicare annual election period is from November 15 – December 31, 2009. Medicare Private Fee-For-Service plans offer more health plan choices. Plans are designed to provide more benefits than traditional Medicare, may include prescription drugs and preventive care, and may reduce out-of-pocket expenses for items such as doctors' visits.

And even better, you are free to choose your Medicare-approved doctors and hospitals, with coverage available nationwide.

Features:

- Lower monthly premiums, sometimes FREE
- Generic and Brand Name prescription drug benefit
- Freedom to choose your doctors, hospitals and specialists without a referral
- Preventive services at no extra cost
- Virtually no paperwork
- Emergency and urgent care worldwide

To talk to a representative or if you would like more information, please contact Pinnacle Financial Services at 1-800-772-6882 or visit www.pfs-vfw.com

ANNUITIES

Annuities give you the peace of mind of a retirement vehicle that will safely grow in value, while protecting your initial investment.

Highlights of the VFW-sponsored annuity plan:

- Tax-deferred growth of retirement funds
- Guarantee minimum interest rate- safe
- Income option you cannot outlive
- Access to your funds penalty free
- Probate free

To find out how the VFW-sponsored annuity program can give you the long-term financial security you deserve call toll-free 1-800-772-6882 or visit www.pfs-vfw.com

LONG-TERM CARE

Long-term care can protect retirement savings and help maintain independence while providing quality-care options in home or in a facility. Long-term care also provides relief for family members.

Through Pinnacle Financial Services, the VFW offers a broad selection of long-term care plans, services, underwriting and premiums to meet the needs of our members. We also extend this protection to spouses, children, parents, in-laws and friends.

For more information call 1-800-772-6882 or visit www.pfs-vfw.com

MEMBERSHIP:

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 2009 - 2010 YEAR:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DEADLINE DATE (DAY)</u>	
DECEMBER	December 21	(Monday)
JANUARY	January 29	(Friday)
FEBRUARY	February 26	(Friday)
MARCH	March 26	(Friday)
APRIL	April 30	(Friday)
MAY	May 28	(Friday)
JUNE	June 30	<u>(WEDNESDAY - MUST BE RECEIVED IN DUES PROCESSING BY NOON FOR YEAR END CLOSING)</u>

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

On July 1, 2010, the VFW Life Membership department will no longer offer a 24-month installment option. The Life Membership Installment program (12 months) will continue to require an initial set up fee of \$35.00 and 11 equal payments totaling the corresponding fee based on the individual applicant's age. Effective September 1, 2009, the necessity to charge a \$1.75 monthly administrative fee is discontinued.

JUST A REMINDER: We have lists that you can work to help build up your membership. Please call the National Membership Department for assistance.

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>.

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.

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 May judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the 2009 – 2010 *“It’s About Service”* VFW Program Chairman’s Guide, page 31.

VFW HONORS AMERICA’S TEACHERS DURING 2009 - 2010 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, 2010. 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 Legislative Conference in March 2010 in Washington, DC.

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.

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 firsthand 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, the Groundhog Job Shadow coalition has a web site www.jobshadow.org that lists individual state contact information. 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 15 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 31 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; National POW/MIA Day, September 17, (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.

ALL AMERICAN STAR-SPANGLED BONUS.

The Buddy Poppy Program is offering an additional opportunity to distribute poppies on March 3, in order to assist in meeting two of this year’s All American requirements. This additional Buddy Poppy date marks the anniversary of VFW’s victory in sealing the Star Spangled Banner as the national anthem on March 3, 1931. Further details on this event will be sent to each Department headquarters, Buddy Poppy chairmen and Post Commanders. Contact information: nclifton@vfw.org (816) 968-1148. For Buddy Poppy merchandise, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=128>

EMBLEM AND SUPPLY:

SPECIAL OFFER – 1st TIME EVER! Carhartt jacket with the VFW Logo
<http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=29399>

Great ideas for all your holiday shopping – ORDER TODAY
<http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=236>

VOD awards/gifts <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=132>

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 (543-3562). Use promo code “VFW”.

Glow Parking LLC – Nationwide Airport Parking Network

Glow Parking, LLC, a Service Disabled Veteran Owned business, is proud to announce the VFW Foundation as its primary charity. www.vfwparking.com extends Glow Parking’s nationwide airport parking network to members of the VFW and their families. Originally developed for the Federal government, www.vfwparking.com offers the same best value rates, and you never pay any booking fees. The reservation system to book your airport parking is quick, simple, secure, and best of all –

guaranteed! You have easy access to your reservation history; therefore, you never need to worry about losing a receipt again. Visit www.vfwparking.com, or call 877-891-GLOW (4569)

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 (800) 325-9377. They are located in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Headquarters, and their personal service is something to be appreciated these days!

Save with Sprint!

Did you know VFW members and their families are eligible for a 15% monthly discount off most regularly priced Sprint plans. Check out www.sprint.com/vfw for more info. Forget restrictive calling circles. Switch to Sprint with Any Mobile, Anytime(SM) and get unlimited calling to every mobile phone nationwide. Already have an Everything Data Plan? Then do nothing. Sprint will automatically add this feature to your plan. **ONLINE SPECIAL:** Activate a new line of service and receive a \$25 gift card when you order online! Only available at your Sprint Private Store at www.sprint.com/vfw or call 1-866-869-6686 today.

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. These offers are only valid at: www.sprint.com/vfw or #866-869-6686.

Hotel Discounts – Wyndham Worldwide Family of Hotels

As a member of the VFW you will receive an additional 10% off the "Best Available Rates" at participating locations every time you travel. Give agent special discount ID number 62615 at time of booking to receive discount. Whether you are looking for an upscale hotel, and 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 these fine hotels.

Call 877-670-7088 or [click here](#) to book your reservation.

Car Rental Discounts

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

- Hertz: Call 1-800-654-2200 VFW identification number: CDP164126
- Avis: Call 1-800-331-1212 VFW identification Number: AWD -A9935000
- Alamo: Call 1-800-732-3232 VFW Identification Number: 42592
- National: Call 1-800-CAR-RENT (800-227-7368) and request VFW Contract ID 5180005.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:

Become a Veterans' Advocate – Want to help make things happen for veterans? Join the VFW Advocacy team and help improve the lives of veterans and our active duty military, guard and reserve members. Sign up for our Washington Weekly e-newsletter and you will be the first to know what is happening in Washington with regard to veterans' benefits. You will become an active participant and be able to

educate your legislators on our top priority goals. We have had many successes - but need your help as we continue to fight on behalf of all veterans as well as the men and women serving in our military today. Please take the time to sign-up for the VFW Washington Weekly newsletter. It remains the best way to stay informed of what the VFW is doing on the legislative front in Washington, D.C. You will find the 2009 Legislative Priority Goals and the link to sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at www.vfw.org. Just click on the *Capitol Hill* section.

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

Thank you to all the Posts, Auxiliaries, and Departments that have sent chocolate to our service members in Afghanistan. The VFW has sent out almost **700 lbs. of chocolate** as a group!

Big thanks to USAA for being our sponsor for the Veterans Day Free Call Day! If you have any potential sponsors for future Free Call Days, please call Linda Ferguson at 816-756-3390 ext. 102.

Don't forget...NMS is still selling Support Our Troops t-shirts and koozies to be used for fundraising. When you buy the t-shirts and koozies, you are making a donation to NMS and fulfilling part of the All-American requirement. For an order form, go to: www.vfwdepartmentresources.org and click on National Military Services.