

# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



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

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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### *"H O N O R I N G O U R M I L I T A R Y H E R O E S"*

#### VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING:

111<sup>th</sup> National Convention Housing officially opens March 1, 2010. Housing reservation information is located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). The convention web site will also have general convention information including registration form and link to other convention related information for Indianapolis – August 21-26, 2010.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION: Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure requires each post to register, in advance, at least one delegate to the VFW National Convention by payment of a fee in the amount of \$10.00. The on-site registration fee is \$12.00. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, ATTN: Convention Registration, or you may register on-line by going to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

#### MEMBER DUES PROCESSING:

##### **Quartermaster Kit 2010-2011**

Attention Quartermaster: The separate mailing of a QM Kit in 2010-2011 is now a needless expense! The VFW Leadership Reference Guide for 2010-2011 will be on-line.

Historically, the Quartermaster Kit has been a very costly yet necessary expenditure to facilitate the processing of a member's dues. The post roster and printed kit cards alone made up 75% of the material contained in previous year kits and the cost to produce and mail these kits was well over \$150,000.00.

Last year, we began the process of providing: 1) more timely data, 2) immediate document accessibility to the new or returning Quartermaster, and 3) major cost reduction.

The process began with the "piggyback mailing" of a comprehensive prior year (July 1 thru June 31, 2009) roster with the July Maintenance Journal. This corrected the inherent deficiency in previous year end rosters. As you may know, in previous years the roster was produced in late April, and therefore did not contain members processed by the Post in May and June.

"Piggyback" mailing, discontinuance of the kit cards and the increased utilization of available technology by our post has allowed us to meet our goal.

Membership applications and Benefit Brochures, as always, are available upon request.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:**

Just a reminder to all Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters that you will not be receiving copies of the VFW Leadership Reference Guide CDs this year as part of the Quartermaster Kits. Beginning this year, the VFW Leadership Reference Guide will be available on-line in E-membership. More details to follow in the coming months.

## **DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:**

**Spring is in the Air!** – There's no better way to welcome the new season than by supporting your Department's programs. A select group of VFW's most loyal members will receive a special package with a newly created VFW Tote Bag. When you receive your tote bag in the next few weeks, please be as generous as possible. We know these are tough economic times for all of America, but so many of our living heroes are suffering terribly. Military members, veterans, and their families from your Department are counting on you! Did you know that VFW membership dues only cover 11% of the cost to keep the programs going?

**Show Your Patriotism** – The special patriotic address labels are being sent out at the beginning of March. Watch for them to arrive in your mail box! When you receive your new patriotic address labels, please use them on all of your mail as a reminder for all who see them that freedom is not free. Supporting this program also helps your VFW Department programs remain strong for those service members, veterans and their families who may need help.

**VFW is Helping Our Heroes...Read Success Stories** – Please visit [www.vfw.org/vfwatwork](http://www.vfw.org/vfwatwork) to see VFW's grassroots success stories that are making a real difference for real people. New success stories will be posted as the VFW is out there doing its job – so check back often. If you enjoy reading these success stories and would like to receive a monthly update, please visit [www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom](http://www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom) to sign up to receive the VFW at Work newsletter automatically at the beginning of every month!

**Department Resources Website** – Please remember to visit [www.vfwdepartmentresources.org](http://www.vfwdepartmentresources.org) for the latest news, program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department. Remember, it is very important for VFW Departments to communicate the importance of supporting department programs.

## **QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS:**

### **MEMBER INSURANCE BENEFITS**

Please visit [www.vfwinsurance.com](http://www.vfwinsurance.com) for information about insurance benefits. For questions, send an email to Denise Edelman at [dedelman@vfw.org](mailto:dedelman@vfw.org).

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

**Adopt-a-Unit:** The next "Quarterly Purge Update" will be issued March 1<sup>st</sup> to remind VFW Posts and Auxiliaries to submit the required annual activity report. As Adopt-A-Unit continues to grow, these reports show great examples of troop support projects done by VFW Posts and Auxiliaries.

**Remember** to go to [www.vfwdepartmentresources.org](http://www.vfwdepartmentresources.org) for all updated forms and information.

## **PROGRAMS:**

VFW Posts and Auxiliaries reported donating over 4.9 million volunteer hours and over \$27 million towards community service work from May 1 to October 31, 2009. The total value of our volunteers' efforts is valued at over \$127 million.

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>.

VFW HONOR'S AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2009 – 2010 PROGRAM YEAR. Congratulations to the following teachers who were selected national winners for 2009-2010: Elementary School level – Patricia Mazure, William C. Taylor Elementary School, Trenton, Michigan, selected by VFW Post 9283 and Ladies Auxiliary, Southgate, Michigan; Middle School level – Mark D. Leet, Simons Middle School, Flemingsburg, Kentucky, selected by VFW Post 1834, Flemingsburg, Kentucky; and, High School level – William V. Melega, Chapel Hill High School, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, selected by VFW Post 9100, Carrboro, North Carolina. National awards will be presented to each teacher during the VFW Legislative Committee Meeting/Voice of Democracy Conference in Washington, D.C. Each of the winners will receive a \$1,000 cash award for professional development expenses; \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and his or her school; and, an all expenses paid trip. Each Department's recipients and their schools will receive a National Commendation citation, which will be sent to the Department Headquarters in March for presentation. Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for next year's competition. Deadline for entries is November 1, 2010.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES. The 2010–2011 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Richard L. Eubank. The Voice of Democracy theme will be “Does My Generation Have a Role in America's Future?” and the Patriot's Pen theme will be “Does Patriotism Still Matter?” This information will be posted on the VFW website.

SPECIAL NOTE: VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/PATRIOT'S PEN. The decision to limit the winners advanced from Post to District has been rescinded. As in the past, Posts may advance one (1) winner for each fifteen (15) students judged at the Post to the District competition.

Please remember that Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are VFW programs supported by the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW. It is inappropriate for the Ladies Auxiliary to conduct a separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please e-mail [svanbuskirk@vfw.org](mailto:svanbuskirk@vfw.org) or call 816-968-1116.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S MANUAL CHANGE. By popular request, the program chairman's manual (formerly “It's About Service”) is being changed. Shortly, there will be individual program chairman's manuals available online at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and [www.vfwdepartmentresources.org](http://www.vfwdepartmentresources.org). The individual manuals will include VFW Scholarship Programs, Safety & Recognition, Community Service, Youth Activities and Buddy Poppy. This will enable chairman (and any member) to more quickly download and print the manual for their individual program area.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM. This program is designed to provide recognition and awards to VFW members who volunteer their time to outside organizations. Recognition is in the form of certificates and/or lapel pins which are given to volunteers who have completed the number of hours prescribed for those awards. For more information, see the 2010 – 2011 VFW Community Service Chairmen's Guide or contact the VFW Community Service department at 816-968-1148 for a nomination form.

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:**

Orders for Memorial Day (May distribution) are now being processed. Quartermasters and Buddy Poppy Chairmen are encouraged to take advantage of the enormous wave of **patriotism** and order early. You are also reminded that the full name as listed in membership and a street address expedites delivery by UPS. Please **do not** use P.O. Box numbers. For Buddy Poppy merchandise, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=128>

**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:**

<b><u>MONTH</u></b>	<b><u>DEADLINE DATE</u></b>	<b><u>(DAY)</u></b>
MARCH	March 26	(Friday)
APRIL	April 30	(Friday)
MAY	May 28	(Friday)
JUNE	June 30	<b><u>(WEDNESDAY - MUST BE RECEIVED IN DUES PROCESSING BY NOON FOR YEAR END CLOSING)</u></b>

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

We are still looking for the contact information of most departments' female She Serves chairperson. Please call or email VFW National Membership. Thank you to the departments that have sent in the names of the Chairpersons.

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

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.

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

What Legacy will you leave?

## **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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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!**

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](http://www.sprint.com/vfw) or #866-869-6686.

### **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. Give agent 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 877-670-7088 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: 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.

## **EMBLEM AND SUPPLY – VFW STORE:**

**DEPARTMENT CONVENTION:** Get a jumpstart on ordering for Department Convention. The team is here to help you select gift items <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=205> or customized shirts, jackets, caps, gift items, etc. We can also assist with artwork and ideas for customized logo and other designs. Call today for quantity discounts, **1-800-821-2606** or email [scutright@vfw.org](mailto:scutright@vfw.org)

**NEW ITEMS FOR RECRUITING EVENTS:** Retractable Banner Stand <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=29425> and Table Drape <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=29354> –

**SUGGESTIONS:** We are now working on new merchandise for the 2010-11 VFW Store catalog. Email suggestions to [scutright@vfw.org](mailto:scutright@vfw.org).

## **ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:**

BOSSIDY, T. WILLIAM, All American Commander, Department of New York, 1984-1985 and a Life Member of Sullivan-Jones Post 7466, Poestenkill, New York, February 9, 2010.

- 30 -