

# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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## *MAKE IT HAPPEN*

### VFW COMMUNICATIONS:

The 119th VFW National Convention is now on demand! From notable guest speakers to award recipients, you can watch the live segments on demand on the [VFW's Youtube page here](#).

Did you know the new official VFW history video - Building a Legacy is now available?

For well over a century, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has carried the torch for veterans. Every year, every battle, fighting for what veterans have earned. For justice, for remembrance, for community, for country. This is our story.

[Click here](#) to download the video, or if you'd prefer a DVD of the video, you can purchase one at cost from the VFW Store here: <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/31476?Action=SkipLogin>.

### MEMBERSHIP:

As many heard in our Commander-in-Chief's acceptance speech, Post development is very high on his priority list. As you are planning out your year, make sure your Departments are in contact with the National Membership Department to lay out an area in need of Post development or a revitalization effort. There are many resources available to you, all you need to do is call. We are looking to start a Post or revitalize an existing Post in every single Department. Let's not wait until the middle of the year to start identifying an area, let the Membership Department know now what you're working on so they can start tracking that information and provide assistance, as needed. For any questions or further information, you may contact the Membership Department, Associate Director, Tara Fajardo Arteaga at 816-968-2788 or via-email at [tarteaga@vfw.org](mailto:tarteaga@vfw.org).

### ALL-AMERICAN

To those Posts, Districts, and Departments who attained All-American status in the 2017-18 membership year, the National Membership Department wishes to once again extend our gratitude for all your hard work. For those Commanders who were unable to attend the National Convention in Kansas City, your All-American packet with cap, badge, citation, lapel pin, and streamer were sent to your Department Headquarters to officially be presented to you. All framed Post (home) citations are included in the shipments going to Departments as well. Also, all 205 All-American Posts will be receiving a package of 25 pins. If more than 25 are needed, they can be ordered through the VFW Store: <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/21648?Action=SkipLogin> or by calling 1-800-621-2606 and identifying Product Code 00404.

In addition, All-American Quartermasters may purchase an All-American cap through the VFW Store by going online to [www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org) or by calling them directly at 1-800-821-2606. All-American Quartermaster pins can be purchased through the Membership Department. To order a lapel pin, the cost is \$45.00 (including shipping) and you can contact Carla Darnell at [cdarnell@vfw.org](mailto:cdarnell@vfw.org) or at 1-816-756-3390, ext. 6208.

**Legacy Life Membership:** This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. Three levels of membership each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

**Enrollment Cost:**

**Annual Payouts:**

<b><u>Levels</u></b>	<b><u>Posts</u></b>	<b><u>Departments</u></b>	<b><u>National</u></b>
Gold- \$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver- \$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze- \$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

*What will your Legacy be?*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**  
Top Three Recruiters (as of 8/27/18):

**Carlo S. Davis – 59**  
 VFW Post 9191, Dept. of TX

**Mark A. Short – 49**  
 VFW Post 9400, Dept. of AZ

**Dennis F. Flynn – 46**  
 VFW Post 2866, Dept. of MO

**DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:**

VFW Post No. 12174 in Brighton, Colorado

**ADDITIONAL REMINDERS & CHANGES**

The 2018-19 Membership Program is available online at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), under MY VFW, scroll down to Member Resources and click on the VFW Training and Support, click on Membership Recruiting and Retention, where it will be in blue letters - 2018-19 VFW National Membership Program.

**Did you know about the Department “First to Finish” Incentive?** The Department Commander and Quartermaster along with a guest for each of the Department that is the first to attain 100% in membership will be awarded:

- **Round trip airfare, accommodations and transportation with transfers. To include three nights in Honolulu and four nights in Maui, Hawaii.**

Note: If Hawaii wins, the Department Commander and Quartermaster along with a guest will win a trip of equal value.

**Digital Membership Cards:** Members now have the ability to download their digital version of their membership card. Depending on whether a member has an iPhone or Android, they will be able to

download and access their digital membership card from the VFW mobile app. To access your digital ID card, you can login to the mobile app or go to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). Once you are logged into the MY VFW page, scroll down to where you will see GET YOUR DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP CARD, depending on which phone you have, click on the app and it will automatically download it to your phone.

This will not replace the physical VFW membership card - we will still be sending out membership cards to all our annual and Life members. This is intended as another option for our members' convenience. When asked to show a VFW membership card, a member can either produce their physical card out of their wallet or display their digital card on their smart phone.

**V-mail:** Go online to <http://www.vfw.com> to stay in communication with other Posts as well as with National Headquarters. Check in often for important VFW updates and news from national. The VFW Membership Department will be using this avenue for communication more regularly. If you need assistance logging in or your password, contact Leticia Cortez in the Membership Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 6292.

**Hip Pocket Training:** Login and go online to <https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/membership-recruiting-and-retention> to view the latest training videos from the Membership Department. If you have any questions or topics you would like covered, please email them to [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org) in advance and we will cover them on the next training video. We also post these webinars on our Facebook page! If you're not on Facebook, you can still view the webinars on YouTube here: [https://youtu.be/z\\_5MovJgD6E?list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz\\_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi](https://youtu.be/z_5MovJgD6E?list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi)- [HYPERLINK IT? ASK TARA.](#)

### **“BUDDY”® POPPY:**

**VETERANS DAY “BUDDY”® POPPY CAMPAIGN.** 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 6 to 8 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 at <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy> or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

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-round 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 fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, “Buddy”® Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as “They Gave, Will You?” is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW “Buddy”® Poppies.

The Manual of Procedure provides that Post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, 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.

Contact information: [BuddyPoppy@vfw.org](mailto:BuddyPoppy@vfw.org) or (816) 756-3390, ext. 6722 for any questions or concerns.

**NATIONAL END OF THE YEAR AWARDS.** The 2017-18 Buddy Poppy year has come to a close and we would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone that participated in this amazing program. Once again, with all of your help and hard work, we have completed another successful campaign. As we complete the citations and plaques, they will be sent directly to the Department Headquarters so they can find the appropriate time to present them.

**VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES.** The silver, gold and diamond anniversary “Buddy”® Poppies are only for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th, 75th or 100th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don’t pass those costs on to the Posts. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out.

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS JOINS "WORLD WAR ONE POPPY PROGRAM."** The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission in announcing the WWI Poppy Program to raise awareness about World War I and generate funds for local VSO chapters all over the country.

The VFW is proud to share with you the WWI Poppy Program; an opportunity to generate resources for your Post while helping to honor the 4.7 million Americans who wore the uniform during WWI.

Poppies grew across the war-torn battlefields of Europe after World War I. From 2017 to 2019, the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission will tell the story of those American veterans, through events, exhibits, and memorial efforts, and the VFW is proud to be a partner in this important commemoration.

Click on the following link to learn about the WWI Poppy Program and how your purchase of a Poppy Kit helps build the new National World War One Memorial in Washington, D.C., while also helping to raise money for your Post.

Link: [ww1cc.org/poppy](http://ww1cc.org/poppy)

Here is a quick video that can help people understand why it is so important that we honor those who served during World War I: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l\\_y4l49mZso](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_y4l49mZso).

The red poppy is an internationally recognized symbol of veteran remembrance. Its use began in World War I and was captured in the war poem "In Flanders Fields," by Lt. Col. John McCrae.

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

#### **2019 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship Application Process Now Open**

The application process for the 2019 class of legislative fellows is open. The program, which is in its fifth year, is for VFW members who attend school on a campus with an approved SVA chapter. Ten student-veterans are selected for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by veterans, service members, and their families. The highlight of the program is participation in the VFW Legislative Conference, which in the past has included meetings at the White House and with senior officials from the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Labor. Those selected also spend time with their VFW Department members on Capitol Hill pushing the VFW’s legislative priorities, and this interaction has resulted in actual legislation. Alumni of the program have become more active in all levels of the VFW and some now work on Capitol Hill. We ask for your support in finding qualified candidates to apply for this unique and valuable program. [Learn more](#) about the fellowship.

## 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, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP238>.

**WORLD WAR ONE COMMISSION PARTNERSHIP.** Any municipal government, individual or organization may apply. Likewise, any individual, organization or company can become a sponsor of this effort, as the more we can raise toward this program, the greater the amount of the matching grant to the winning memorials.

<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/about-the-program.html>

The VFW's role is to help publicize the program and get local Posts (and Auxiliaries) involved.

A sample project is at: <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/resources.html#project-profiles>. (See the Ocean Springs video.)

A fun starting point is to first find memorials around the country. Information on this is at <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/memorial-hunters-club-about.html>. Scouting groups and 4-H Clubs can also get involved.

- As you know, 2018 marks the centennial of World War 1. There is a lot our members can do to help educate the public, commemorate the war, and honor those who served. The World War One Centennial Commission has created a landing page on their website for veterans to simplify navigation to key areas. You'll find it at [www.ww1cc.org/veterans](http://www.ww1cc.org/veterans). Here are a few suggestions:

-- **THE WORLD WAR ONE PODCAST** is an award winner! Subscribe here: [ww1cc.org/cn](http://www.ww1cc.org/cn) and become the envy of your friends and colleagues with your knowledge about all matters related to the Great War! Subscribe to the Dispatch newsletter to keep up to date. Listen to the Centennial News Podcasts. Podcast #61 features VFW Post 968 in Raymond, WA, talking about their 100 Cities/100 Memorial project.

--Take advantage of the vast store of **education materials**, and use any meeting opportunity in your community to discuss the war and kindle interest in all matters related to the "War that Changed the World."

--**Purchase a commemorative US Mint WW1 coin** (\$10 from the sale of each coin funds the memorial).

-- **POPPY SEED PACKETS & PROGRAM.**

--The poppy as a symbol of remembrance was first proposed after the war by an American woman, Moina Michael, who **wrote** "*We shall keep the faith.*"

--Use the WW1 poppy program to raise money for your organization and help us build the National Memorial! Flanders poppies are living symbols of the great sacrifice made by the doughboys, marines and sailors. They grow everywhere! Remember the Great War by planting poppies in your community. Go here and learn more:

<https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/1881>.

--Make sure your ancestors or family members who served are listed on the **World War 1 Roll of Honor** and donate in their names toward building the WW1 National Memorial with a "digital" remembrance wreath. The Roll of Honor features individual profiles for many of the more than 4 million American service members who responded to the call of



“Over There” in support of the war-weary Allies and helped achieve victory. All donations go directly toward funding the memorial.

**MEMORIAL HUNTERS -- WE NEED YOUR HELP.** Dust off your Indiana Jones outfit - grab your smartphone/camera and get ready to hunt for treasure!

--Beginning 100 years ago at the end of WWI, thousands of local memorials were erected in honor of those who served. The memorials were put up by towns, cities, veterans' organizations, schools, churches, civic organizations and clubs. Today, there is no national register of these important and long forgotten American cultural and historical treasures.

--Join the Memorial Hunters Club and help us hunt down and catalog this fading national treasure.

--We have already had huge help from the state Centennial teams, especially those in Alabama, Georgia and New Jersey who have cataloged hundreds of WWI memorials for their states.

--When you find some of these gems in your state, go here to register:

<https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/memorial-hunters-club-about.html>

--Get your [anthropology](#) on...It's time to go treasure hunting!

--Raise money for the memorial by supporting the **WW1 Poppy Program**.

--**Learn more** about the memorial and see all the resources available at [www.ww1cc.org](http://www.ww1cc.org).

For any follow-up questions, please contact Lynn Rolf, Programs Director, at [lrolf@vfw.org](mailto:lrolf@vfw.org) or (816) 968-1116.

### **WORLD WAR ONE CENTENNIAL NEWS:**

**WAS YOUR POST NAMED AFTER A WORLD WAR ONE VETERAN OR VETERANS? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!** The U.S. World War One Centennial Commission (WW1CC) is seeking information about VFW Posts named in honor of a local or national World War I veteran, along with stories of his or her service, photographs, newspaper clippings and/or other historical information. WW1CC will endeavor to honor these Posts by showcasing this special information on its website and feature highlights in its electronic *Dispatch* newsletter. Please note: any information received will be maintained by the commission and will become part of the U.S. Government's historical (Library of Congress) records/archives upon the expiry of its mandate. The point of contact is David W. Hamon, VSO/Military Director for the commission, at [david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org](mailto:david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org) and/or (540) 379-8584.

WW1CC has also created a special landing page for veterans, history lovers, family members, friends and community members. At [ww1cc.org/veterans](http://ww1cc.org/veterans), visitors will find "tiles," easy to access and read, in order to educate, commemorate and honor the Great War, as per the commission's congressional mandate and charter.

**BELLS FOR PEACE.** On November 11 at 11:00 a.m. local time...Americans everywhere and across the nation will toll bells in remembrance of those who served and those who sacrificed in the war that changed the world...

--Pledge to Participate (once you PLEDGE, we will send you updates and notices).

--Recruit others including organizations to pledge with you.

--Find out more and see the special landing page here for information and RESOURCES!

[www.ww1cc.org/bells](http://www.ww1cc.org/bells)

**50TH ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION PROGRAM.** The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other non-governmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam

veterans and their families. As a Commemorative Partner, VFW Posts are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

Events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war and the losses suffered by many. Commemorative Partners should communicate how their events will achieve the congressionally-mandated objectives of the program. Events or activities should meet one or more of the following objectives.

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

**For VFW Posts interested in becoming an official Commemorative Partner, they must submit an application and a signed Statement of Understanding.**

**Applications are available at [www.VietnamWar50th.com](http://www.VietnamWar50th.com) on the Commemorative Partner Program.** The approval process is usually less than 30 days. Partners will be kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved as a Partner, the Commemoration will provide organizations with a starter kit of materials for developing and implementing their programs. If you have any questions regarding the Commemorative Partner Program application process, please direct them to: [whs.vnwar50th\\_cpp@mail.mil](mailto:whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil). For Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam>.

**PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11.** Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11 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/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic>.

**NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 21.** 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 <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia>.

**NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD DEADLINE DATES.** 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 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award program. Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for the next competition. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, VFW Posts, supervisors or other interested individuals (not relatives). Self-nominees are not eligible.

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 a VFW National Convention.

Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. has the correct teacher award entry deadlines for the 2018-19 program year. The dates are October 31, 2018, for entries to the Post, November 15, 2018, for completion of Post judging, December 15, 2018, for completion of District judging, January 10, 2019, for completion of Department judging and the Department winners are due to National Headquarters by January 15, 2019. The entry forms are on the VFW website and are available in the VFW Store.

Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org/#login>, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Additional Resources**. Here you will find all program manuals, and on the same page are all other program materials.

Additionally, the interested individuals may download and print the teacher award entry form by visiting this link: [www.vfw.org/teacheroftheyear](http://www.vfw.org/teacheroftheyear) or order a quantity of the brochures (item #4450) through the VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22917>.

Order the Citizenship Education Teacher Recognition Citation from the VFW Store, product #4320, <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/23980>. Present to all teachers nominated at all levels for the national award.

**VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS.** Departments are asked to submit three nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs office no later than February 1, 2019. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award

Each Department will receive their three awards and contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department Commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient's peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the general public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters and EMTs, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership. Order plaques and citations for public servants from the VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=public%20servant>.

NOTE: "NEW" VFW PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATION POST ENTRY FORM. This form has been developed to assist VFW Post Safety Chairmen with an entry form to hand out to the local Fire Department, Police Department, etc. to assist interested individuals in nominating one of their own. The entry forms along with the required documentation are to be returned to the local VFW Post for their judging. Once the winner in each category have been chosen, the Post will forward those entries on to the next level of judging.

Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org>, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Public Servant Program**.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING.** All VFW Post and Auxiliary chairmen will report to their respective Department chairman in a timely fashion so as to allow the Department chairman to report to the VFW National Programs office by May 31. The VFW Post chairmen's report should include whether or not their Auxiliaries participated.



**VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM MONTH IN NOVEMBER.** VFW and VFW Auxiliary 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 2018–19 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman’s Manual. Simply visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and LOG IN (or create an account if you do not have one). After logging in, you’ll be redirected to the “My VFW” page where you will click on VFW Training & Support and then Community Service, Youth Scholarships & Activities where you’ll have access to the “CHAIRMAN MANUALS.” *Participate in this activity during the week of Veterans Day, which is part of “National Veterans Awareness” week, as designated by Congress.* Find Pledge of Allegiance pencils and coloring books, plus other citizenship education tools at the VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation>.

**2017-18 FRED C. HALL MEMORIAL OUTSTANDING POST SPECIAL PROJECT WINNER ANNOUNCED AT VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION IN KANSAS CITY.** Cpl. Mark R. Goyet Memorial VFW Post 12160 in Sinton, Texas was this year’s recipient for their Hurricanes Harvey and Irma relief efforts. The Post is being recognized for the dedication and support its members provided to their community in the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma in 2017. Sinton is about 25 miles northwest of Corpus Christi. Post 12160 converted their building into a storage and distribution site to provide food and other necessities to the local community of less than 6,000 residents. They also served hot meals to some 2,500 people a day when flood waters prevented access to county emergency shelters. Post members, many of whom were impacted themselves, generously donated their time and money to help others who lost everything to start rebuilding.

**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 18, 2019 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 27, 2019 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, September 21, 2018 (third Friday in September); and Veterans Day, November 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP237>.

**IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES.** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW programs Patriot’s Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

## **NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!** Become a VFW Volunteer!

Volunteering to help or support hospitalized veterans provides a positive impact on the care and well-being of veteran patients, in both inpatient and outpatient settings. It is a great service to our veterans, and is a rewarding opportunity to give back to those who served.

Check with a nearby VA Medical Center Voluntary Service staff member or a VFW Voluntary Service Representative about available volunteer opportunities of interest to you, and make a difference in the life of a hero.

For more information about the VFW Volunteer programs, visit [www.vfw.org/VolunteerService](http://www.vfw.org/VolunteerService) or contact James Moss, VFW VAVS National Representative at 202-543-2239.

## **VFW FOUNDATION:**

## **SPECIAL OFFER FROM HENRY REPEATING ARMS**

Now through December 31, 2018, purchase any Henry firearm from an authorized Henry dealer and you are eligible for a \$25 gift certificate good for any purchase at the VFW Store.

Visit [www.vfw.org/henry](http://www.vfw.org/henry), complete the online form (including VFW/Auxiliary member number, name, and contact information), and upload a photo or scanned copy of the receipt for your Henry firearm purchase. Your VFW Store gift certificate will be sent to you via the US Postal Service within 10 business days of submitting the completed form.

To find an authorized Henry Repeating Arms dealer near you, visit [www.henryusa.com/store-locator/](http://www.henryusa.com/store-locator/).

### **BURGER KING UNMET NEEDS JULY 2018 CAMPAIGN**

For the 5th consecutive year, selective Burger King (BK) franchisee owned restaurants raised funds for the VFW's Unmet Needs program during all or parts of July 2018. This year there were [450+ participating restaurants](#) where customers donated \$1 or more to the program upon checkout.

As of this writing, we have received \$195,687 from BK franchisees who participated. We will provide a final donation update in the October issue of HQ Bulletin.

Since 2007, BK restaurants have contributed more than \$5 million to the VFW Unmet Needs program, which has provided more than \$10 million in aid to more than 9,000 struggling veterans and military families since its inception in 2004.

### **WALGREENS NO-COST FLU SHOTS NOW AVAILABLE**

Be prepared for the upcoming cold and flu season! Now through March 31, 2019, all VA-enrolled veterans are eligible for free annual flu shots at their local Walgreens or Duane Reade pharmacy. While this immunization program is limited to VA patients, Walgreens offers flu shots to most VFW members and their families through other coverage programs, such as TRICARE, Medicare and many health care plans.

[Locate your closest Walgreens or Duane Reade.](#)

### **VFW FOUNDATION COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT IS OPEN**

The VFW Foundation wants to help your Post and/or VFW Auxiliary get more involved in your community. That's why effective September 1, the VFW Foundation Community Support Grant is once again available.

The VFW Foundation will provide up to \$1,000 to a Post and/or VFW Auxiliary supporting local nonprofits or performing important outreach in their community. New to the grant this year, an applicant may be eligible to receive up to \$500 in additional funding by organizing a community service project that involves a local branch or affiliate of a VFW National corporate supporter (e.g. Burger King, Sport Clips, Walgreens, Humana, Ace Hardware, etc.).

To view application guidelines or to apply for the VFW Foundation Community Support Grant, please visit [www.vfw.org/grants](http://www.vfw.org/grants).

For questions, contact Jason Couch, Grants Coordinator, at [jcouch@vfw.org](mailto:jcouch@vfw.org) or (816) 968-1174.

### **MEMBER BENEFITS:**

Sprint CapTel

For over 100 years, Sprint has applied technology to make it easier to communicate. As a military-friendly company, Sprint offers a variety of programs designed to meet the needs of veterans, from its wireless offerings to its accessibility services.

Sprint CapTel, Sprint's no-cost captioning service for VFW members, makes it easy for veterans with hearing loss to reconnect on the phone. This federally-funded program addresses one of the most common challenges faced by veterans of all ages, across every military branch.

There's no cost for the phone, the service, and it uses your existing phone and internet service. Visit [vets.sprintcaptel.com](http://vets.sprintcaptel.com) for details.

## **VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:**

### **VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"**

The spring 2019 application is now available online at [www.vfw.org/scholarship](http://www.vfw.org/scholarship). Deadline for applications is November 15.

The VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program awarded 172 scholarships totaling over \$790,000 for the 2018 fall semester. Since beginning the program in January 2014, over 1,100 veterans have been awarded scholarships totaling almost \$5 million.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:**

### **REQUESTING CEREMONIAL RIFLES, AMMUNITION & MILITARY EQUIPMENT -**

Department Adjutants and Quartermasters are asked to remind all Post officers to refer to the revised information located at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) where they will need to login to the "My VFW" page and select the "VFW Training and Support" link, then "Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates" where you'll have access to "Training Guides & Standard Operating Procedures" and then click on "Ceremonial Rifles, Ammunition & Military Equipment" when requesting a "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 "Ceremonial Rifles, Ammunition & Military Equipment" pages in the website. 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.

**CAPS DURING CHAPLAIN PRAYERS** – 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."

## **DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:**

**VFW Manicure Kit** – In July, we mailed a special edition VFW Manicure Kit as a thank you for your support of the life-changing programs for all veterans. As you use this special gift, we hope it reminds you of the veterans your past support has helped. You may receive a reminder in the mail this month if you haven't had a chance to respond. Please send the most generous gift you can manage knowing you are helping military members, veterans and their families from your Department. And don't forget to display the United States flag, especially on all patriotic holidays.

**VFW Christmas Cards and Holiday Music CD** – This month we are mailing VFW Christmas Cards and a Holiday Music CD as our way of saying "Thank You" for your generosity in helping provide much-needed services to fellow veterans and service members. With the holidays quickly approaching, your support is urgently needed! Please help our heroes by sending a special donation when you receive this package. And please take time to visit a hospitalized veteran or service member in your community during the holidays. Your best wishes and thanks for their service means more than you can imagine. You can visit [heroes.vfw.org/volunteer](http://heroes.vfw.org/volunteer) to find out about volunteering at your local VA facility.

**Create Your Legacy with Just a Few Words** – Having a will helps ensure your family and loved ones will be taken care of after your lifetime. Once you have your family covered and you would like to support future generations of veterans, you can do so by adding a gift to the VFW in your will. To learn more about wills and how easy it is to make a gift to the VFW in yours, visit [www.vfw.org/plannedgiving](http://www.vfw.org/plannedgiving). You can also contact the VFW Planned Giving office to request more information on estate planning today; call us at (816) 968-1119 or email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org).

**Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism?** – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising 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. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 1-833-VFW-GIVE (1-833-839-4483) 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 the VFW's online community, please visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and look for the gold banner that says "Find Out What's Happening" to sign up. As a member of the VFW's Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation's veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit [www.vfw.org/vfwatwork](http://www.vfw.org/vfwatwork) and click on "**Read VFW success stories**" to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans' rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

**Department Resources** – Many great resources are available for your Department to use in promoting fundraising programs. You need only go to [heroes.vfw.org/vfwtools](http://heroes.vfw.org/vfwtools). The latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department can be found here. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items 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!

## VFW STORE:



Have you seen the VFW Store's new catalog? Go online to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems> to see our selection of new polos, jackets, caps and more!



Check out POW-MIA items at <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia> and order now for POW-MIA Recognition Day, September 21.



School's in session – advertise your Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests! Hang posters and hand out brochures at the school, your Post and around town. For Voice of Democracy supplies, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy>; for Patriot's Pen supplies, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen>.

Get your “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy campaign items such as aprons, table covers, posters and more at <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy>.

