

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
HEADQUARTERS**



BULLETIN

Ocala, Florida

December, 2018

“United as One”

VFW COMMUNICATIONS

The New VFW Logo is here!

VFW Post and Department leaders should have already received an email which contained important information regarding the logo launch, including a download link for the new national logo.

The new logo conveys a new, modern and simplified look and we're excited for what this change will mean for the organization.

The success of an initiative of this size requires the continued support and participation of everyone and we truly appreciate your every effort to implement the new logo.

Click here to download the new VFW Brand Style Guide.

As always, please feel free to direct any questions you may have to communications@vfw.org.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership would like to thank our Commander-in-Chief B.J Lawrence, Sr. Vice Commander William "Doc" Schmitz, Jr. Vice Commander Hal Roesch, Adjutant General Kevin Jones, and Quartermaster General Debra Anderson for taking the time to call over 1,200 VFW Posts to motivate and advise them in our constant efforts to retain and grow our membership, as we continue to MAKE IT HAPPEN!

EARLY BIRD AWARD-VFW LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The top three Post Commanders and Quartermasters and the top two District Commanders in each division on Jan. 1, 2019, will be awarded:

- A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER EARLY BIRD INCENTIVE

For every Department that achieves 92% in membership by Jan. 1, 2019, the Department Quartermaster will receive:

- A Henry 30-30 Caliber Rifle or a credit voucher of equal value for use with Veterans Travel Services.

POST COMMANDER AND QUARTERMASTER - NEW & REINSTATED MEMBER AWARD

The top 10 Post Commanders and Quartermasters in each division who report more than 50 new and reinstated annual members by Jan. 1, 2019, will each be awarded:

- A travel charger with the official VFW Commander-in-Chief logo.

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR NEW LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to www.vfw.org, click on JOIN, and scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video on the right. This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are 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:

Levels	Posts	Departments	National
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 11/27/18):

Carlo S. Davis – 180
VFW Post 9191, Dept. of TX

Mark A. Short – 141
VFW Post 9400, Dept. of AZ

Timothy C. Peters – 101
VFW Post 10010, Dept. of MT

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS & CHANGES

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 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.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

MATCHING GIFT OFFER! – Late in November we mailed out a special notice regarding an incredible opportunity. Friends of the VFW have offered to triple your donation between now and Jan. 9, 2019! They have committed \$50,000 of their own money to kick off our 2019 Annual Challenge. They believe there are many others who understand that the cost of war extends well beyond the battlefield. They're asking proud VFW members like you to support our newest veterans, especially those coming home disabled by war. Your gift to the VFW today will be matched and will triple your help to our veterans of all generations in receiving the life-changing services they need. To receive every dollar of the 2019 Annual Challenge, all gifts must be postmarked before Jan. 9, 2019. You still have time!

VFW Kicks Off the 2018 VFW Year-End Campaign with the Friends of Freedom Online Community – Dec. 1 marks the beginning of the VFW's 2018 VFW Year-End Campaign! Donations raised toward the end of the year help meet a large portion of the VFW's program funding needs. With the demand for VFW programs rising rapidly, your response to this year's 2018 Year-End Campaign is more important than ever. Watch for your email from the VFW and give as generously as you can, or visit www.vfw.org and click on the red "Donate" button to make your tax deductible year-end contribution. Please also spread the word about the campaign on your social media networks. You'll be helping veterans of all generations receive much needed assistance from VFW Service Officers in applying for and getting their hard earned VA benefits; assisting military families in financial distress receive financial assistance for rent, utilities and other necessities; and ensuring all veterans are represented on Capitol Hill to ensure veterans' rights and benefits are protected. Your generosity provides life-changing help when our nation's heroes need it most.

Celebrate the Holiday Season 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 of all generations who are sick, unemployed, homeless or suffering from combat wounds received long ago. We recently mailed a special 16-month edition of the 2019-2020 VFW "Fly the Flag" calendar and the new 2018 VFW Christmas cards. The 2019 VFW Veterans Service Annual Campaign will be mailed in late December. By supporting these programs, you help veterans and their families in need throughout the year in your Department and across the country. And please display the U.S. flag – especially on patriotic holidays, which are marked in your new VFW calendar. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/flag and print a free flag poster to display.

Join the Prestigious VFW Heroes Circle! - You can join an elite group of our most dedicated members – the VFW Heroes Circle! Consisting of those who wish to further our mission with a gift in their wills or other estate plans, the VFW Heroes Circle was created to honor our most loyal supporters who have made the extraordinary commitment to America's veterans, service members and their families. To learn how easy it is to make an impact on future generations of veterans, please contact the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org. More information is available online at www.vfw.org/plannedgiving.

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 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 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 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. 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!

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE / ACTION CORPS:

Blue Water Navy Bill Continues to be stalled in the Senate: In July, the House of Representatives unanimously passed H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018, to end the injustice of denying Vietnam, Korean DMZ, and Thailand veterans who suffer from life-threatening health conditions related to exposure to Agent Orange the care and benefits they deserve. This important bill continues to be stalled in the Senate and the VFW needs your help to make sure it is passed, without further delay or any major modifications, before the end of the year. Contact your senators to demand that the Senate passes H.R. 299. Respond to our Action Alert or call 202.224.3121 and ask to be transferred to your senators' offices.

TRICARE Prime and Select Open Season: TRICARE has kicked off its first open season where Prime and Select beneficiaries can enroll in or change their health care coverage plan for 2019. The open season period will last from now until Dec. 10 and any changes made during this period will become effective on Jan. 1, 2019. If you are satisfied with your current plan, then your coverage will continue automatically for 2019, as long as you remain eligible for coverage. Find out more about the open season and how to modify your existing health plan.

TRDP and FEDVIP Update: The current TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) will end Dec. 31, 2018, and will be replaced by the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) dental coverage options. Vision plans will also be available to eligible TRICARE beneficiaries through FEDVIP. The first opportunity to enroll in FEDVIP is during the 2018 Federal Benefits Open Season, which began on Nov. 12, 2018, and runs through Dec. 10, 2018. Coverage begins on Jan. 1, 2019. In general, retired uniformed service members and their families who were eligible for TRDP in 2018 are eligible for FEDVIP dental coverage, and if enrolled in a TRICARE health plan, FEDVIP vision coverage, beginning in 2019. Family members of active-duty uniformed service members who are enrolled in a TRICARE health plan are eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage. Learn more.

VFW FOUNDATION

SHOP AMAZONSMILE AND DONATE TO VFW FOUNDATION

With the holidays upon us, VFW members and friends are encouraged to support VFW programs and services by shopping through AmazonSmile. For each qualifying purchase, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the product price to the VFW Foundation.

Copy and share this link: AmazonSmile and the VFW Foundation will benefit every time you shop on Amazon.com.

If you have any questions about AmazonSmile, please contact Ben Vargas, VFW Foundation Assistant Manager, Special Projects, at 816.968.2720 or email bvargas@vfw.org. Happy shopping!

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.

SPECIAL OFFER FROM HENRY REPEATING ARMS

Now through Dec. 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 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/.

HELP SIGN-UP BURGER KING FRANCHISE OWNERS

As you probably know, certain Burger King (BK) franchise owners just participated in our November BK VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaign. However, you might not know that other BK franchise owners are involved in the summer July BK VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaign. This is because some BK franchise owners find that timeframe more convenient.

Many of you might be frustrated when your local Burger King does not participate in either the November or July fundraisers. That's where we need your help. Click [here](#) to find a document that explains how a BK franchise owner can easily get involved with minimal effort. Bring this to your local Burger King and kindly ask that they consider participation in either of the two campaigns. Your visit may have incredible and positive consequences.

If you have any questions, please contact Ben Vargas, VFW Foundation Assistant Manager, Special Projects, at 816.968.2720 or email bvargas@vfw.org.

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

You've done the work ... Let VMS know!

Last year through the Veterans & Military Support programs, the VFW provided support to almost 400,000 service members, veterans and their families. We know your support at the local level goes far beyond what is reported. Help us let the general public know the impact the VFW has on military families and veterans by reporting your holiday events to your Veterans & Military Support Chairman.

MAP grants have increased for the holiday season. Please complete the MAP after event requirements within the 30-day deadline. If you have any questions, please call the MAP office at 816.756.3390, ext. 6211.

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>.

SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD.

Nominations for this award and the judging at the Post level should be completed and District level should be close to completion. Districts are to send their winning recipient from each level to the Departments by Dec. 15. After Department judging, each Department forwards the names of its selections to the VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national award contest. Deadline is Jan. 15, 2019. 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 a VFW and Auxiliary national event. In addition, the top 10 national high school teachers will be invited to attend one of the available Summer Graduate seminars at the Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge, Pa.

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 Feb. 1, 2019. The 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 EMT's, 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 the 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.

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 the 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 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. For Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam>.

PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT DEADLINE REMINDER. The deadline for mailing the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher Award winner packets to National Headquarters is Jan. 15, 2019 (even if they have not been personally notified they are the winner).

The deadline for your completed Department report/summary forms (for all three programs) to be sent to National is not until Jan. 31, 2019. Please let us know if you need blank District or Department report forms emailed (in PDF or Word format) by contacting Quentin Carroll at Youthscholarships@vfw.org or 816.968.1155.

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 2018-19 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Manual.

YOUTH HUNTING AND SHOOTING PROGRAMS. The VFW has been involved with the National Rifle Association (NRA) since 1920. Through the NRA, hundreds of VFW Posts provide hunter safety courses and sponsor shooting competitions. Annually, the VFW and NRA offer junior and adult small-bore rifle and air rifle individual and team matches conducted by mail called Postal Matches*.

NRA Postal Matches are designed for VFW rifle teams as a sport activity for youth and adults to build interest in rifle shooting and safety. A Postal Match is a match in which competitor's fire on their home ranges using targets which have been marked for identification. The team match is a series of four monthly matches for teams sponsored by VFW Posts held from December through March. The individual VFW match is fired in the fall with a December closing date. The scores are then mailed to the NRA for ranking of awards.

If your VFW Post does not already participate in the Youth/Adult Rifle Program and would like to take part in a program that has great appeal for youngsters as well as adults, please go to the NRA's Postal Match website <http://www.nrahq.org/compete/dept-postal.asp>.

Complete program information, rules, and entry form (in PDF format) are available: <http://postalmatches.nra.org/documents/pdf/compete/Postals/VFW%20Postal.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact the NRA directly at:

National Rifle Association
Competitive Shooting Division
11250 Waples Mill Rd.
Fairfax, VA 22030
Email: postals@nrahq.org
Phone: 703.267.1482

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact the VFW Programs Office at 816.968.1155 or email qcarroll@vfw.org.

*There are clubs and Posts, etc. that have local shooting programs all around the world. They teach gun safety and target shooting. Often, they wish to compete against other groups but cannot afford to travel to competitions. The NRA created "postal matches," where a team of shooters can have their own local competition using paper targets. These are NRA-sanctioned targets and must be signed by local officials verifying the manner in which the competition was conducted and the age of the participants. Those targets are then sent to the NRA Postal Match Program and, using the targets from the various groups, the NRA judges determine who wins, places, etc. and awards prizes. That way, the shooting match can involve shooters and clubs from almost anywhere without anyone having to travel. It's all done through the U.S. Postal System. Hence, the term, "Postal Match."

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG ON DECEMBER 7. Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates Dec. 7 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/category/flags/usflags>.

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 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 I. 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. Here are a few suggestions:

THE WORLD WAR ONE PODCAST is an award winner! Subscribe here: 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, Wash., 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 WWI 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 WWI 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 I Roll of Honor and donate in their names toward building the WWI 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 WWI Poppy Program.

Learn more about the memorial and see all the resources available at www.wv1cc.org.

For any follow-up questions, please contact Lynn Rolf, Programs Director, at 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 (WWICC) 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. WWICC 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 and/or 540.379.8584.

WWICC has also created a special landing page for veterans, history lovers, family members, friends and community members. At 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.

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, Sept. 20, 2019 (third Friday in September); and Veterans Day, Nov. 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.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Cancer Insurance

A cancer diagnosis is often a time of concern—concern for your health, life as you know it, your finances and your family. The VFW Cancer Care Insurance Plan, administered by AGIA, helps relieve the financial burden of cancer care, so you can focus on your health and recovery.

Cancer Care Insurance offers benefits to VFW members who have been diagnosed with cancer to help cover the high cost of treatment and recovery. These benefits include a lifetime maximum of \$300,000, and are yours to use as you see fit.

In fact, benefits from this plan can be used to pay for hospital bills, operations, mortgage, car payments and much more.

For additional information about the Cancer Care Insurance Plan, administered by AGIA, [click here](#) or call 1.877.850.0183.

BUDDY® POPPY

MEMORIAL DAY CAMPAIGN. Although Veterans Day has just passed you should already be planning for the Memorial Day “Buddy”® Poppy Campaign. Contact your Department Quartermaster to place your order for 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 the 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 or 816.756.3390, ext. 6722 for any questions or concerns.

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. These are ordered through the Department and processed the same as the red poppies. Annotate on the order to National that it is for anniversary poppies and specify which one.

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

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.