

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



**BULLETIN**

**Ocala, Florida**

**February, 2019**

**“United as One”**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Congratulations to the Departments of Montana, Nevada, and Alaska for achieving 100 percent in membership! National membership is just over 94 percent and we are less than 65,000 members from reaching 100 percent for the first time in over 25 years! We are making it happen! Keep your foot on the accelerator and let's make our next goal of 97 percent by April 1, 2019. Contact the National Membership Department if there is anything we can do to help you achieve our end of year goal of 1,200,000 members!

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP 31 DEPARTMENTS!**

Thirty-one Departments hit the early bird goal of 92 percent and will receive a Henry 30-30 Caliber Rifle or credit voucher of equal value. Thank you for your hard work and your continued dedication to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Keep up the good work!

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE EARLY BIRD AWARD WINNERS!**

There were seventy recipients of the early bird award who will receive a stipend to attend the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Job well done! PLEASE RSVP TO LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE ATTENDING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. If you are planning to attend, please return the travel vouchers to the Membership Department.

### **KANSAS CITY SPREE**

The top two Post Commanders and the top two District Commanders in each division, who achieve 100 percent membership by April 1, 2019, along with their spouse or guest, will be awarded:

- Round-trip airfare to Kansas City, Mo., from the airport nearest the awardee's home.
- A fun-filled weekend (May 16-19, 2019) that may include but is not limited to – touring, shopping, and a complete tour of the VFW National Headquarters.

### **WE GOT THE GOODS!**

Since the Veterans of Foreign Wars rebranded, we have all new material in the Membership Department. You can find the order form by logging into [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and clicking on the Membership Recruiting & Retention section of the Training and Support link. All forms can be downloaded and/or printed, and you can order materials directly to your house for a small fee! The link to the form: [https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/MY\\_VFW/Training-and-Support/Membership/Membership-Order-Form.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20190123T185235Z](https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/MY_VFW/Training-and-Support/Membership/Membership-Order-Form.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20190123T185235Z).

## LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR NEW LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to [www.vfw.org](http://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:

<u>Levels</u>		<u>Posts</u>	<u>Departments</u>	<u>National</u>
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?*

## 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](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).

## NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE / ACTION CORPS

**March conference is around the corner. Know VFW's Priority Goals before meeting your members of Congress.**

The VFW's annual Legislative Conference provides an opportunity for VFW leaders from each state to personally meet with their respective lawmakers, advocate for VFW legislative priorities, and watch as the VFW Commander-in-Chief testifies on Capitol Hill before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees on behalf of veterans.

We encourage members to prepare for their meetings with their senators and representatives by reading the [VFW 2019 Priority Goals](#). The Priority Goals provide our organization's overview of the areas of focus regarding military benefits and quality of life programs. It is imperative that both DOD and VA receive sufficient funding for the services they provide, and that VA is held accountable for the timeliness and quality of services it delivers to our veterans. [Learn more about VFW's stance on specific issues.](#)

## VFW COMMUNICATIONS

### Do you have the latest VFW mobile app?

The official app of the VFW puts the power of the nation's largest organization of combat veterans directly in users' hands. We are excited to release the latest version of the VFW app including the following enhancements:

- Speed improvements
- Better Find-a-Post search with bug fixes
- Bug fixes for Login with ID.me
- And fixes and suggestions thanks to your feedback!

The VFW mobile app is available for Apple and Android users and can be found by searching "VFW" in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or by direct download here:

[Apple App Store](#)

[Google Play Store](#)

## DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

**2019 VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) Annual Campaign** – I hope you received the 2019 VFW NVS Annual Campaign mailing we sent early in January. It contained a 2019 Petition to Congress and an American Hero Memorial Day card for you to sign and return. We will continue collecting the petitions and deliver them to Congress to let them know that we will not sit by and allow Congress to balance the budget on the backs of veterans. The cards will be distributed to hospitalized veterans and service members by Memorial Day. Some members received the 2019 member survey to fill out and return, and we are continuing to collect and tally the responses.

In late January, we sent out a reminder letter with a Special Veterans' Petition addressed to the President and Congressional leaders. The VFW is doing everything it can to remind our President and Congressional leaders to uphold the promises made to those who have fought for this nation. Please sign and return the petitions so we can forward them to Washington, D.C. When you do, please consider sending a gift to help the VFW National Veterans Service.

Your support is still urgently needed for the 2019 VFW NVS Annual Campaign. Your donation right now ensures the VFW's national force of highly trained, professional service officers is at the ready to help America's veterans navigate the complicated VA system.

VFW Service Officers help veterans and their survivors cut through the red tape to receive VA compensation and pension benefits they have earned. In 2018, the Department of Veterans Affairs reported that the veterans represented by the VFW received more than \$8.3 billion in earned disability compensation and pension benefits. This includes more than \$1.4 billion in new benefits, submitted on behalf of more than 109,000 veterans. The final numbers are not in for 2018 at this time, but rest assured, VFW Service Officers are there for all veterans to help them apply for and receive their hard earned VA benefits. This service is available to all veterans FREE OF CHARGE — and made possible through your donations. Please, watch your mail for this important campaign.

**VFW Birthday Card Assortment is Coming Your Way!** – As a special thank you for all of your support of fellow veterans and the programs the VFW offers to veterans of all generations – we are sending a VFW Birthday Card Assortment to arrive late in February! We hope you enjoy your gift and continue to support the many life-changing programs the VFW offers. You will also receive a Thank You card for a veteran or service member in recognition of their sacrifices and Independence Day. Please sign and return the signed card to be delivered to a hospitalized veteran or service member in time for Independence Day. Please also send a generous donation to help support your Department Programs. Without your support, many veterans would have a difficult time getting the assistance they need.

**A Simple Way to Make a Big Difference** – Making a gift in your will is the easiest way to support the VFW and your fellow veterans after your lifetime. Did you know that it only takes one or two sentences in your will to complete? We invite you to learn more about this type of legacy gift and the lasting impact you can leave your family and the VFW. Free information is available by contacting the VFW Planned Giving Office at 1.816.968.1119, email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org) or visit [www.vfw.org/plannedgiving](http://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](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!

## NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE

### Now accepting nominations for Accredited Representative of the Year Award

The Accredited Representative of the Year Award recognizes the contributions our professionally trained, accredited advocates make to the lives of veterans and their families every day. We encourage every Department to put forth a candidate. A nomination shows that Department leadership is aware of the significant contributions your program makes in your community every day.

#### ELIGIBILITY:

Eligible nominees include:

- Department Service Officers
- Assistant Department Service Officers
- Claims Consultants/Representative/Analysts/Reviewer
- Veterans Service Officers/Representatives

Individuals **NOT** eligible for this award are:

- VFW National Staff
- VFW Contractors
- VFW-accredited representatives whose primary employer is other than the VFW or a State veterans agency

#### SELECTION CRITERIA:

1. Nominees for the annual award must have demonstrated exceptional efforts in assisting veterans and their families during the 12 months preceding the April 30, deadline.
2. A brief summary (no more than 2 pages) is to be submitted which explains, who, what, when, where, and how the nominee's efforts are considered exemplary. Suggested items for consideration (but not limited to)
  - # of individuals with VFW POAs assisted
  - Community outreach conducted
  - Excellent customer service provided (examples required)
  - Use of VetraSpec or another electronic claims processing system (specify system)
  - Submission of **TIMELY** monthly reports (if located in a VA regional office)
  - # of VFW members recruited

#### AWARDS:

Each Department Commander may nominate one eligible individual for this award. The individual who is ultimately chosen as the recipient of the award will be furnished round-trip travel (for the winner and one guest) and two night's hotel accommodations to attend the VFW National Convention where the award will be presented. In addition, the award recipient will receive \$599 in recognition of their accomplishments and to offset travel expenses.

Please note that the selection committee will review our Team Support database to view the number of incidents (both positive and negative, if any) reported to NVS. Additionally, the results of test scores at proficiency training, results of any site visits, and other criteria **MAY** be used in making the final decision.

Nominations may be sent to the Director, VFW National Veterans Service, either by mail (200 Maryland Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002, ATTN: Service Officer Award), faxed to FAX at 202-547-3196 (ATTN: Service Officer Award), or scanned and emailed to [taldana@vfw.org](mailto:taldana@vfw.org).

**Nominations must be received not later than April 30.**

Past winners of this award have been service officers from the Departments of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and New Mexico. These service officers stood out from our worldwide cadre for not only meeting the challenge daily, but exceeding it through exemplary commitment, technical knowledge, and customer service.

## VFW FOUNDATION

### VFW FOUNDATION COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT AVAILABLE

Funding for VFW Post and Auxiliary community service projects is still available through the VFW Foundation Community Support Grant. Qualified Posts and/or Auxiliaries may receive grants of up to \$1,000 to support local nonprofits or important outreach projects in their communities and up to \$500 more if a Post/Auxiliary conducts an activity with a VFW Foundation sponsor such as Humana, Burger King, Sport Clips, etc. As of Jan. 25, 2019, 245 Posts/Auxiliaries have received approximately \$245,349 to support their community outreach. To apply, please go to: [vfw.org/grants](http://vfw.org/grants) or for additional information contact Jason Couch at [JCouch@vfw.org](mailto:JCouch@vfw.org) or 816.968.1174.

### BURGER KING/VFW UNMET NEEDS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The current total for the November 2018 Burger King/VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaign is \$329,151 with more donations anticipated. Please make a point to visit your local Burger King, buy a meal, and tell the restaurant manager "Thanks!" for supporting our nation's military families and veterans.

## VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

### Legislative Conference ~ Washington, D.C.

There will NOT be a check presentation this year at the Legislative Conference. Please send your Veterans & Military Support donation directly to the office:

Veterans & Military Support  
406 W. 34th Street, Suite 902  
Kansas City, MO 64111

ATTN: VMS Chairmen - If you picked up Veterans & Military Support 2018-19 lapel pins at National Convention, now would be a good time to mail in your donation which will represent your Department's fundraiser for VMS to qualify for All-American.

### REMINDER:

**ALL-AMERICAN POST REQUIREMENT:** Hold a fundraiser with the proceeds going to National Veterans & Military Support programs. **Minimum \$50.00.**

## PROGRAMS

VFW Posts and Auxiliaries reported donating over 10.3 million volunteer hours and \$47 million toward community service work from April. 1, 2017, to May 31, 2018. The total value of our volunteers' efforts is valued at over \$302 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, 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, District and Department level are completed. After Department judging, each Department forwards the entries of its selections to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national award contest. Each Department's selections will receive a National Commendation citation.

The Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher awards include: three national \$1,000 awards for the top K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses; \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and school; and, an all-expenses-paid trip to attend the VFW National Convention in July 2019 in Orlando, Fla. 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 VFW Store, product #4320, <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/23980>. Present to all teachers nominated at all levels for the national award.

The Department report forms for the Teacher Award program are due to National Headquarters by Jan. 31, 2019. You may forward them by email to [Tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:Tbeauchamp@vfw.org) or fax to 816.968.1149, to the attention of Tammy Beauchamp or they can be mailed to: VFW Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. If you have any questions, please contact the VFW Programs office at 816.756.3390, ext. 6287.

**SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM.** Annually, the VFW awards three individuals who are: Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Summit Award recipients and/or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the qualities of that rank. An applicant has to have reached his or her 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection. Awards are as follows: \$5,000 – 1st place scholarship, \$3,000 – 2nd place scholarship and \$1,000 – 3rd place scholarship. The deadline for entry to a VFW Post is March 1. A program brochure (designed to be duplicated for distribution) can be viewed at [http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/MY\\_VFW/ScoutoftheYearBrochureandEntryForm.pdf](http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/MY_VFW/ScoutoftheYearBrochureandEntryForm.pdf). For Scouting certificates, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=scout%20of%20the%20year>.

**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](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>.

**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.

**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 marked 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.wwlcc.org/veterans](http://www.wwlcc.org/veterans). Here are a few suggestions:

-- **THE WORLD WAR ONE PODCAST is an award winner! Subscribe here: [wwlcc.org/cn](http://www.wwlcc.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.wwlcc.org](http://www.wwlcc.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 (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](mailto: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 [wwlcc.org/veterans](http://wwlcc.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.

**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 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairmen's Manual or contact Tammy at 816.756.3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

**POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS.** Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 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**

### **Pet Insurance**

Do you remember the last time you left the veterinarian's office spending less than \$100? With the average cost of quality, routine pet care increasing year-over-year, it is expensive to care for your furry friends.

For example, an X-ray, spaying and neutering can cost you hundreds of dollars, while hip and knee replacements and cancer care for your pet can cost thousands. For most, these costs can be a disruption to their finances or a blow to their savings.

Just like health insurance for you and your family, pet insurance can help you budget for routine and unforeseen medical expenses. Rather than having to deal with an unwelcome expense, pet insurance helps you save and plan for pet care.

For additional information about Pet Insurance, click [here](#) or call 1.877.738.7874.

## **“BUDDY”® POPPY**

**MEMORIAL DAY CAMPAIGN.** Although Veterans Day has already passed, you should 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](mailto: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 JOIN "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.