

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



BULLETIN

Ocala, Florida

November, 2018

“United as One”

VFW ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

You hear time and again how much your efforts on behalf of the VFW and the veterans we serve are valued and appreciated, but National Commander B.J. Lawrence is going to prove it!

The Chief has rallied his national leadership team for a three-day telethon event November 25-27, in an effort to personally thank you. Joined by Senior vice Commander Doc Schmitz, Junior Vice Commander Hal J. Roesch, Adjutant General Kevin Jones and Quartermaster General Debra Anderson, your VFW leadership team will work to contact each VFW Post, District and Department. The team would not only like to thank you, but to remind you they and the national organization stand at the ready to help you accomplish your many missions.

The leaders are looking forward to connecting with each of you, so be sure your ringer is on - this is a call you won't want to miss!

MEMBERSHIP

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence has laid down another challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of November 2018! We had fantastic results from the October Challenge. In honor of our nation's Thanksgiving holiday and the spirit of comradeship, the Commander-in-Chief has instituted a challenge to all Posts to bring in new and reinstated members for the month of November.

At close of business on November 30, the Post in each membership division that shows the highest increase in new and reinstated percentage (the N/R% column in Memstats) for the month of November (comparing 11/1 to 11/30) will receive an award of \$500 to be deposited directly into their Post fund to be used as needed for the Post.

In addition, each Department with a winning Post will receive a matching \$500 to be deposited into the Department fund to be used as needed by the Department. If a Department has more than one winning Post, they can receive this award multiple times! To check on your status at any time, login to OMS and click on Commander Challenge under the Reporting Tab.

It's time to focus on recruiting and retention; let's MAKE IT HAPPEN!

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 guest, will win a trip of equal value.

DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER EARLY BIRD INCENTIVE

For every Department that achieves 92% in membership by January 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.

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:

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?

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS & CHANGES

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

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 log into the mobile app or go to www.vfw.org, once you are logged into the MYVFW 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 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 with 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 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.

VFW COMMUNICATIONS

A New VFW Logo is Coming!

You should have recently received an email which contained important information regarding the upcoming logo launch.

The new logo will convey 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 will require the support and participation of everyone and we truly appreciate your every effort to implement the new logo on, but not before November 6.

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

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 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

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.

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

Make Sure Your Voice is Heard on Nov. 6.

The VFW encourages all its members and supporters to get involved with the upcoming elections. With continued threat of sequestration, deficit reduction, and budget cuts that affect veterans, the military, and their families, it is important to support members of Congress who support us. Ways to get involved may include: registering to vote and encouraging others to register; setting up or volunteering at voter registration drives; hosting or attending town hall meetings or candidate forums and bringing up VFW priorities; helping the elderly and disabled get to the voting booth on Election Day; and voting on Nov. 6. Here are some useful resources: voter registration information, voter assistance for military and families, VFW Priority Goals, Do's and Don'ts of VFW Involvement, and the VFW's Veterans Vote brochure.

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

REMINDER: Visit your local Sport Clips for a haircut from now until November 11 and donate to VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program. Your donation will provide scholarships to service members and veterans. On Veterans Day, November 11, Sport Clips will donate \$1 to the VFW for every haircut given at more than 1,500 locations nationwide. Please contact Linda Ferguson at 816-968-1102 if you have any questions about the Help A Hero Scholarship Program.

VFW FOUNDATION

BURGER KING FRANCHISEE OWNED RESTAURANTS SUPPORTING UNMET NEEDS IN NOVEMBER

The VFW Foundation is proud to announce that for the 12th consecutive year throughout the month of November participating Burger King (BK) franchisee owned restaurants in over 40 states will be raising funds for the Unmet Needs program. Since 2007, BK restaurants have contributed nearly \$5.3 million for the program. BK customers are encouraged to donate \$1 or more during a meal purchase. Proceeds will help veterans and military families with assistance for rent, mortgage, utilities, medical expenses, vehicle repairs and food/basic necessities.

We ask that you mobilize Post members, their families and friends to patronize their local Burger King and to thank the restaurant manager for his/her commitment. Also, be sure to publicize the campaign by mentioning Burger King on VFW Post websites (#VFWPostPride), message boards outside Post buildings, newsletters, or ask members to organize a BK food night-out. It's only natural that VFW members would support Burger King franchisee owners who strongly believe in patriotism by actively assisting U.S. military service personnel.

Beginning November 1, an updated list of participating Burger King locations will be available on the VFW website at www.unmetneeds.com. Check out the interactive map to find a participating Burger King location near you!

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.

WALGREENS VETERANS DAY MILITARY & VETERANS DISCOUNT

To honor the sacrifices and bravery of Americans who served in the armed forces, Walgreens is offering a Veterans Day 20% discount to all veterans and military personnel. From 11/9/18 through 11/11/18, customers with a Walgreens Balance Rewards card and valid military ID or proof of service will receive 20% off regular price eligible store items at any Walgreens or Duane Reade drugstore nationwide. A Balance Rewards customer loyalty program membership is free and can be obtained at checkout. Family members of veterans and military personnel are also eligible for the discount.

Locate your closest Walgreens or Duane Reade.

VFW FOUNDATION COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT

The VFW Foundation Community Support Grant is open.

Qualified Posts and/or Auxiliaries may receive grants of up to \$1,000 to support local nonprofits or important outreach projects in their communities. 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.

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

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, 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/.

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 close to completion and District level should be preparing to begin. Districts are to send their winning recipient from each level to the Departments by December 15. After Department judging, each Department forwards the names of its selections to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national award contest. Deadline is January 15, 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, Pennsylvania.

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.

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 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>.

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 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman's Manual. Simply visit 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>.

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. 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, 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
e-mail: 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 e-mail 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."

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 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 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.

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG ON DECEMBER 7. Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates December 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, 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 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.ww1cc.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.

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 for information and RESOURCES:

www.ww1cc.org/bells.

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 20, 2019 (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

FINAL CALL for VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) Male and Female Volunteer of the Year Award Nominations

Each year the Executive Committee of the VA National Advisory Committee for the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) recognizes a Male and Female Volunteer of the Year. VFW Department leadership and VFW VAVS Representatives along with the VA Medical Facility Chiefs of VAVS are encouraged to submit nominations for the VFW VAVS Male and Female Volunteer of the Year to the VFW Director, National Veterans Services. Nominations must be submitted no-later-than close of business November 30, 2018. For more information and assistance, please contact James Moss, VFW VAVS National Representative at jmoss@vfw.org or 202-543-2239.

VFW Accredited Representative of the Year Award

Now is the time to begin considering just who your Department should nominate as the VFW National Accredited Representative of the Year. Over the past several years, the VFW has recognized service officers from the Departments of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and New Mexico. These service officers stood out from our nationwide cadre for not only meeting the challenge daily, but exceeding it through exemplary commitment, technical knowledge, and customer service.

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. It is important that every Department put forth a candidate since a nomination conveys to their accredited representatives that the Department leadership is aware of the significant contributions they make to their local community.

Department leadership will soon be receiving the full criteria for this award, which has a deadline of April 30, 2019.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

VFW 2019 “Fly the Flag” Calendars – The VFW is proud to let you know that you may soon receive a special edition 2019-20 “Fly the Flag” Calendar. You probably already received the Expanded Edition VFW Calendar in June ... but we created this special patriotic 2019-20 “Fly the Flag” Calendar in recognition of your loyal membership and generous support of the VFW. We have also included a bonus gift selection, which features a new puzzle book and a set of special edition birthday cards to have on hand throughout the year. We hope these special gifts inspire you to show your patriotism by displaying the United States flag, especially on the days marked in your calendar, to show your support for all veterans who have fought to keep us free. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/flag to print a free flag poster to display. Your donations will help your VFW Department serve veterans in need throughout the year. Veterans in your Department are counting on you!

VFW National Veterans Service Quarterly Supporter Newsletter – Your quarterly update on what the VFW National Veterans Service is doing for veterans will arrive this month. You will see stories of how the VFW in D.C. is fighting for veterans’ rights and legislation affecting veterans. We also share stories of VFW Service Officers assisting veterans in obtaining their VA benefits – all because of your support of this vital program. If you, or a fellow veteran, are in need of assistance in filing a VA claim, please visit www.vfw.org/nvs.

Helping the VFW for Generations to Come – One of the easiest ways to continue providing support for your brothers and sisters-in-arms, as well as their families, is to name the VFW in your will or trust. It only takes a few words and you remain in control of your assets during your lifetime. Just a small percentage of your assets could go a long way in helping the VFW continue its mission into the future. Free estate planning information is always available by contacting the VFW Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119, email plannedgiving@vfw.org or visit 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!

MEMBER BENEFITS

Humana Medicare

The VFW Insurance Program, administered by Lockton Affinity, works with Humana to give you access to flexible Medicare plans. These plans, including Medicare Supplement, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D, work specifically for military veterans.

With multiple Medicare options, it can be hard to keep them and their benefits straight. Knowing the specifics for each of these Medicare plans is crucial to find the insurance policy that fits your specific needs, and Humana can help.

Humana also goes above and beyond insurance to encourage healthier lifestyles, so together, you can build a road map for a healthier future.

For additional information on these options, [click here](#) or call 1-877-713-6177.