

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



BULLETIN

Ocala, Florida

October, 2018

“United as One”

MEMBERSHIP

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

Commander-in-Chief B. J. Lawrence has laid down a challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of October 2018! From October 1 through October 31, the Post in each membership division that shows the highest percentage of membership increase 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! Membership totals will be based on close-of-business totals on September 30 and October 31.

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?

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Top Three Recruiters (as of 9/25/18):

Carlo S. Davis – 109
VFW Post 9191, Dept. of TX

Lonnie Garza – 81
VFW Post 3413, Dept. of TX

Dennis F. Flynn – 68
VFW Post 2866, Dept. of MO

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 the 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 MY VFW page, scroll down to where you will see GET YOUR DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP CARD, depending on which phone you have, click on the app and it will automatically download to your phone.

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

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

Hip Pocket Training: Login and go online to <https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/membership-recruiting-and-retention> to view the latest training videos from the Membership Department. If you have any questions or topics you would like covered, please email them to membership@vfw.org 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- HYPERLINK IT? ASK TARA.

2019 REVISED PODIUM EDITION – CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER, BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL:

The podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual, which reflect the amendments adopted by the 119th National Convention, effective August 24, 2018, are in stock and can be purchased through the VFW Store at <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22690>.

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 make have to communications@vfw.org.

VFW FOUNDATION

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.

BURGER KING UNMET NEEDS JULY 2018 CAMPAIGN FINAL TOTAL

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

The final July donation total is \$195,894 (our best total ever) from BK franchisees who participated.

The regular Burger King Unmet Needs campaign begins November 1, 2018.

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

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/.

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE

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. VFW Department Commanders, Adjutants, Adjutant/Quartermasters will be receiving a notification letter with details about submission and nomination criteria/requirements. For more information and assistance, please contact VFW at 202-543-2239.

“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

Making Our Voices Heard on Capitol Hill

The VFW National Legislative Committee recently traveled to Washington, D.C., for our Fall Legislative Conference. Committee members visited the offices of their Senators and Representatives to voice our concerns and offer recommendations regarding specific issues that are critically important to VFW members and veterans around the country. The issues presented included: Blue Water Navy, Concurrent Receipt, improvements to transition programs, ending sequestration, funding for the VA MISSION Act, and women veterans health care. To learn more about these issues and the VFW's recommendations, download the talking points under "See Where We Stand on the Issues" at: www.vfw.org/legislativePriorities.

2019 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship

There is still time for student veterans to apply for the 2019 VFW-Student Veterans of America (SVA) Fellowship program! We need your support in finding qualified candidates. The program, which is in its fifth year, is for VFW members who attend school on a campus with an approved SVA chapter. Ten student-veterans will be selected for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by veterans, service members, and their families. The highlight of the program is participation in the VFW Legislative Conference, which in the past has included meetings with senior officials from Congress and the Administration. Those selected also spend time with their VFW Department members on Capitol Hill advancing the VFW's legislative priorities. All fellows have influenced public policy and many of their proposals have been enacted into law. Alumni of the program have become more active in all levels of the VFW and some now work on Capitol Hill. Learn more about the fellowship. Applications must be submitted by close of business on Oct. 12.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

VFW's Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2018 – In September, we mailed the VFW's Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2018. We hope you enjoy these cards along with the other gifts that were included in the package. In the letter that was sent with the cards and gifts, we asked you to consider taking some time to visit a hospitalized service member or veteran in your community. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/volunteer to find out about volunteering at your local VA facility. And please remember that the VFW's life-changing programs would not be available to veterans of all generations without the generosity of its members. Your donation to the VFW helps support programs for veterans and service members right in your own Department.

Sign a Card for a Veteran – You may receive a package this month with a special Christmas card for you to sign for a lonely, hospitalized veteran or current service member. We want to get a Christmas card to as many veterans and service members in VA medical facilities as possible before December 25. Please sign the card and return by November 15 and a VFW volunteer will deliver it to a veteran who didn't think anyone remembered. And when you mail the signed Christmas card back, please include a special holiday donation if you can.

Free Estate Planning Resources from the VFW – Over half of American adults do not have a will or estate plan. It is important to have a plan in place. So the VFW is providing a free Personal Estate Planning Kit, which you can download at www.vfw.org/plannedgiving. Once you have made sure your family and loved ones are taken care of, we invite you to consider a gift to the VFW in your will. It is simple and takes only a few words to provide support for future generations of veterans. Learn more by contacting the VFW Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org.

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 1-833-VFW-GIVE (1-833-839-4483) or email us at partners@vfw.org 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

Protect your identity for 20% off with Identity Guard

Last year, 16.7 million Americans were victims of identity theft, an all-time high. Don't let it happen to you! Choose the solution that's helped safeguard the identities of 47 million Americans over the past 22 years. Get alerted in as few as 3 seconds if someone tries to open an account in your name, plus \$1 million in theft insurance to cover losses such as stolen funds.

Powered by IBM Watson, Identity Guard scans billions of web pages every day to see if your personal information is for sale. If you do become a victim, our white-glove Customer Care will help you get everything straightened out—for both you and your family, when you buy a family plan. Go to: identityguard.com/vfw for 20% off.

2018 Identity Fraud Study, Javelin Strategy & Research

PROGRAMS

DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS. Military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP238>.

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

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

The VFW 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 WW1 poppy program to raise money for your organization and help us build the National Memorial! Flanders poppies are living symbols of the great sacrifice made by the doughboys, marines and sailors. They grow everywhere! Remember the Great War by planting poppies in your community. Go here and learn more: <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/1881>.

Make sure your ancestors or family members who served are listed on the World War I Roll of Honor and donate in their names toward building the WW1 National Memorial with a “digital” remembrance wreath. The Roll of Honor features individual profiles for many of the more than 4 million American service members who responded to the call of “Over There” in support of the war-weary Allies and helped achieve victory. All donations go directly toward funding the memorial.

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

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

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

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

When you find some of these gems in your state, go here to register:
<https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/memorial-hunters-club-about.html>

Get your anthropology on...It's time to go treasure hunting!

Raise money for the memorial by supporting the 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.

WW1CC 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.vv1cc.org/bells.

50TH ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION PROGRAM. The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other non-governmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families. As a Commemorative Partner, VFW Posts are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

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

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

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

Applications are available at www.VietnamWar50th.com 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>.

SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD. The VFW wants to recognize the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history, traditions and institutions effectively through the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award program. Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for the next competition. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, VFW Posts, supervisors or other interested individuals (not relatives). Self-nominees are not eligible.

VFW's National Citizenship Education Teacher awards include: three national \$1,000 awards for the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses; \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and school; and an all-expenses-paid trip to attend a VFW and Auxiliary national event.

Please update all websites, publications, announcements, etc. with the addition of the Freedoms Foundation Trip offered to the top 10 National high school teachers and the teacher award entry deadlines for the program year. The deadline dates are October 31, 2018, for entries to the Post, November 15, 2018, for completion of Post judging, December 15, 2018, for completion of District judging, January 10, 2019, for completion of Department judging and the Department winners are due to National Headquarters by January 15, 2019. The updated entry forms are up on the VFW website and are available in the VFW Store.

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

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

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

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST DEADLINE REMINDER. The deadline for the annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests is quickly approaching. The students must have their completed entry form with the (audio and/or written) essay submitted to their local participating VFW Post by October 31. Each corresponding deadline for Post, District and Department to have their entries to the next level is available in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen chairman manual.

Please ensure that the entry forms are filled out completely and that the appointed individual at the Post is available to receive the entries and answer questions. As we get closer to the deadline, the more students and parents will be reaching out trying to find their local participating Post so we want to ensure they can make contact.

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>.

KENNEDY CENTER/STEPHEN SONDHEIM INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER AWARDS. The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is now accepting applications for the ninth annual Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards. Teachers of any subject are eligible for nomination. The \$10,000 awards (no strings attached) are presented each year on Sondheim's birthday – March 22 – to a handful of teachers, kindergarten through college, who are nominated via the Kennedy Center website. All applications will be required to be submitted online or postmarked on a day to be determined in December 2018.

The Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards were created in honor of Stephen Sondheim's 80th birthday and were initiated and funded through the generous support of Freddie and Myrna Gershon.

For more information, please visit the Sondheim Awards website: <http://education.kennedy-center.org/education/sondheim/>.

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.

CONDUCT A VETERANS DAY PROGRAM ON NOVEMBER 11. Organize a community event on Veterans Day honoring all veterans. For a ceremonial procedure, refer to the information found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman's Manual. If you should need a Veterans Day speech, please go to: <https://www.vfw.org/MY-VFW/Patriotic-Holiday-Speeches>. Click here for Veterans Day merchandise <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday>.

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 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Manual.

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.

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:

Please send your report from the 3rd annual "Day To Change Direction" to Lynn Rolf III at lrolf@vfw.org. <http://www.changedirection.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/2018-Day-to-Change-Direction-Report-Form.pdf>

