

Membership

Our Commander-in-Chief is offering a new Life membership incentive program. All members who either join the VFW as a new Life member, reinstate as a Life member, or upgrade their existing annual membership to Life beginning Sept. 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, will earn a \$50 store credit. This credit must be used prior to Aug. 31, 2020. Upgrade, pay off or reinstate your Life membership today oms.vfw.org/QuickRenew.aspx?srcid=275.

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

Commander-in-Chief Doc Schmitz has laid down a challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of October 2019! This month, it's time to use the TRICKS of recruiting and retention to earn the TREAT of being entered into a \$1,000 drawing for your Post.

For this month's Commander's Challenge, the top ten Posts in each division with the highest increase in total membership percentage between Oct. 1 and Oct. 31 will be entered into a drawing for \$1,000 to be deposited into the Post account! Sign up new members, reinstate lapsed members, and collect dues from your annual members who are coming up for renewal, and your Post could be one of those eligible for this incentive! Get that membership drive going and show our veterans that we *DARE TO CARE* about membership goals!

DEPARTMENT "FIRST TO FINISH" INCENTIVE

For the Department that is first to attain 100% in membership, the Commander (plus guest) and the Quartermaster (plus guest) will each receive:

- **\$2,500 voucher through Veterans Travel Services (VTS) applied toward airfare, accommodations and transportation for a trip of their own choice.**

DEPARTMENT EARLY BIRD INCENTIVE

For every Department that achieves 92% in membership by Jan. 1, 2020, the Department Commander will receive:

- **A VFW Tribute Edition Henry Golden Boy .22 Caliber Rifle or a credit voucher of equal value for use with Veterans Travel Service (VTS).**

EARLY BIRD AWARD - VFW LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The top three Post Commanders and Quartermasters and the top two District Commanders in each division on Jan. 1, 2020, will receive:

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

POST DEVELOPMENT

As you are planning for the new year, make sure your Departments are in contact with the National Membership department to identify an area in need of post development or a revitalization effort. There are many resources available to you, all you need to do is call. We are looking to start a Post or revitalize an existing Post in every single Department. Let’s not wait until the middle of the year to identify an area. Let the Membership department know now what you’re working on so we can start tracking that information and provide assistance as needed. For any questions or further information, you may contact the Membership department via email at membership@vfw.org or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:
Top Three Recruiters (as of 9/27/2019):

Joseph T. Allen – 106
 VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

Hugh M Warner –104
 VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

Mark A. Short – 88
 VFW Post 9400, Dept. of AZ

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to vfw.org, click on JOIN, 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

The 2019-20 Membership Program is available online at 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 2019-20 VFW National Membership Program.

Hip Pocket Training: Login and go online to vfw.org/my-vfw-training-and-support/membership-recruiting-and-retention to view the latest training videos from the Membership department.

ALERT! If you have any topics you would like to see us cover, 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: youtu.be/z_5MovJgD6E?list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us via email at membership@vfw.org or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

VFW Foundation

AmazonSmile APP NOW AVAILABLE FOR ANDROID DEVICES

If you are an AmazonSmile customer, you can now support the Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation in the Amazon shopping app on your Android device! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile.

1. If you have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app, open the app on your Android device.
2. View Settings and select AmazonSmile.
3. Follow the in-app instructions to complete the process.

If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app, update your app. Click [here](#) for instructions. AmazonSmile is not currently available for iOS (Apple) users.

BURGER KING UNMET NEEDS JULY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Nearly 850 BURGER KING® franchisee-owned restaurants raised funds for the VFW's Unmet Needs program during July 2019. As of this writing, we have received \$167,867 from BK franchisees which makes the total amount for 2018-19 an amazing \$605,995!

Development

VFW's Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2019 – In September, we mailed the VFW's Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2019. 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 Dec. 25. Please sign the card and return by Nov. 12 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.

2019 Veterans Day Matching Gift Campaign to Friends of Freedom Online Community – Later this month Friends of Freedom members will receive an email with exciting news! A generous friend of the VFW has agreed to match every donation we receive up to \$50,000 until Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2019! This is an incredible opportunity for your contribution to go twice as far to honor the brave men and women who have dedicated themselves to our country. No matter the amount, your generosity will have twice the impact for service members and their families – please help us honor these brave men and women by giving as generously as you can! Watch your inbox for this incredible email so that your gift can go twice as far!

Veterans Day Sign-A-Card Campaign to Friends of Freedom Online Community – As Veterans Day approaches, Friends of Freedom members will receive an email inviting them to sign a card to be printed and delivered to a hospitalized veteran or service member. Join us as we honor America’s heroes in signing a card to show them our appreciation for all they have sacrificed for our freedom. Signing a card may seem like a small gesture compared to what they have done for us, but hearing from you while in the hospital means the world to a veteran. Keep an eye out for this email and don’t forget to sign the card!

Sign Your Name, Change Your Future – VFW members like you frequently tell us, “I wish I could do more.” Learn ways you can impact future generations of veterans, just by signing your name – and with gifts that cost you nothing now. Call the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119, email plannedgiving@vfw.org or visit 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, and a Year-End Tax Receipt mailed by the end of January. 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 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 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!

VFW Communications

In November, the VFW logo will be a year old, and we need your help to celebrate! VFW Communications will recognize VFW Posts that have gone above and beyond to implement the new logo. Whether it's through a revamped e-newsletter, or a fresh look on your Post's signage, social media account or website, we want to see the standout ways your Post is using the new logo.

Email communications@vfw.org with a short description, photos and examples of the great ways your Post is using the logo to support the VFW brand. The deadline for submissions is Oct. 25, 2019.

Veterans & Military Support Programs

Please use links below for all VMS programs and donations. We no longer accept email or faxed requests/reports.

VMS Formstack Links:

- **Virtual Pins:** VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/virtualpinrequest
- **VFW Website Solution:** VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/websolutionapp
- **AUX Website Solution:** VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/auxwebsolutionapp
- **Chairman Report:** VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vms_chairman_report
- **MAP Grant Application:** vfw.org/MAPGrantApplication
- **MAP Grant Report:** vfw.org/MAPGrantReport
- **Adopt a Unit Application:** vfw.org/AdoptAUnitApp
- **Adopt a Unit Report:** vfw.org/AdoptAUnitReport
- **Programs Donation Form:** VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation

VFW 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 vfwstore.org/products/GP238.

WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL NEWS:

Is Your Post Named for a Veteran of the Great War (World War I)? If so, we want to hear from you! The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission is collecting information on VFW Posts named after

WWI veterans. If your Post is honored by the memory of a local doughboy, marine, sailor, or nurse who served and sacrificed their lives, we want to know more. Please send your information and material on the history of your Post to: David Hamon, Veterans and Military Affairs Director, U.S. World War I Centennial Commission, at: david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org or you may call him at 540.379.8584. The Commission is collecting historical and archive information on the Great War to observe and commemorate those 4.7 million who served in that conflict. America never forgets its veterans. Help them build a national memorial in Washington, D.C. To learn more, go to: ww1cc.org/memorial.

Help Build America's World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C. The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission recently announced the creation of the AEF (Allied Expeditionary Forces) Memorial Corps. The program is a special designation for Posts, patriotic organizations, local chapters of civic organizations, among others, to be recognized as an official "AEF Memorial Corps Post" for making a donation to build the national WWI memorial in Washington, D.C. Your Post will be certified with a special Centennial Certificate commemorating your contribution in "going over the top" to get the memorial built. For more information, please write Mr. David Hamon: david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org or call him at 540.379.8584. To view the progress of the memorial, go to: ww1cc.org/memorial. Your VFW Post will forever be enshrined in history as having pushed to get the memorial built. America never forgets her veterans!

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 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 vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam.

NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD DEADLINE DATES. The VFW wants to recognize the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers 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. Guidelines have changed and self-nominations will now be accepted.

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

Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. has the correct teacher award entry deadlines for the 2019-20 program year. The dates are **Oct. 31, 2019**, for entries to the Post, Nov. 15, 2019, for completion of Post judging, Dec. 15, 2019, for completion of District judging, Jan. 10, 2020, for completion of Department judging and the Department winners are due to National Headquarters by Jan. 15, 2020. The entry forms are on the VFW website and are available in the VFW Store.

Simply visit 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: vfw.org/teacheroftheyear or order a quantity of the brochures (item #4450) through the VFW Store vfwstore.org/products/22917.

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

NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD SUBMISSION CHANGE.

Post Level

National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – submit an entry in all three categories (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) advanced to District judging. (Any Post can donate \$75 to National in lieu of each entry.**)

**Donations made to replace a Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, National Citizenship Education Teachers Award and towards Veterans & Military Support Programs Services as listed above will only be accepted through the following link. Do not donate through your Department or by any other means. VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation

District

National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – submit an entry in all three categories (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) advanced to Department judging. (Overseas District donate \$100 to National in lieu of each entry.**)

**Donations made to replace a Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, National Citizenship Education Teachers Award and towards Veterans & Military Support Programs Services as listed above will only be accepted through the following link. Do not donate through your Department or by any other means.
VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_programs_donation

Department

National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – submit an entry in all three categories (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) and entries must advance to National judging.

YOUTH PROGRAMS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. Simply visit vfw.org/Login.aspx, log in to **My VFW**, then click on **VFW Training & Support** under the **Member Resources** heading, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs and Activities**, then click on **Chairman Manuals** under the **Additional Resources** heading. Here you will find all program materials.

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 **Oct. 31, 2019**. Each corresponding deadline for Post, District and Department to have their entries to the next level is: Nov. 15, 2019, for completion of Post judging, Dec. 15, 2019, for completion of District judging, Jan. 10, 2020, for completion of Department judging and the Department winners are due to National Headquarters by Jan. 15, 2020.

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 2019–20 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman’s Manual. Simply visit 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 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 2019.

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:

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 Feb. 1, 2020. 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 should contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department Commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient's peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the general public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters and EMTs, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership. Order plaques and citations for public servants from the VFW Store 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 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: vfw.org/MY-VFW/Patriotic-Holiday-Speeches. Click here for Veterans Day merchandise 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 (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 16, 2020 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 25, 2020 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, Sept. 18, 2020 (third Friday in Sept.); and Veterans Day, Nov. 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to 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.

VFW Member Benefits

Medicare's open enrollment runs Oct. 15, 2019 - Dec. 7, 2019. Did you know you have access to flexible Medicare plans from Humana? 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.

You can start learning about all the benefits [today!](#)

"Buddy"® Poppy

"BUDDY"® POPPY CAMPAIGN. 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.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 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, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

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 or 75th 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 I POPPY PROGRAM." The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War I 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 I 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 I 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: [youtube.com/watch?v=l_y4l49mZso](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_y4l49mZso).

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

National 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 Nov. 27, 2019. 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 the VFW at 202.543.2239.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

Making Our Voices Heard on Capitol Hill

In September, VFW National Legislative Committee members journeyed 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 across our country. The issues discussed were: Widow's Tax, Concurrent Receipt, burn pits, veterans' health care, Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program, and transition. [See where we stand on the issues.](#)

Administrative Operations

2020 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 120th National Convention, effective Aug. 23, 2019, are in stock and can be purchased through the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/products/22690.

VFW Store



Veterans Day is just around the corner – order now to receive your merchandise in time! We offer parade items, patriotic apparel and more! To order, go to vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday?page=1&size=100 or call 1.833.VFW.VETS.

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Roll Call of Departed Comrades

BRENNER, JOHN A., All American Commander, Department of Pennsylvania, 2004-2005, Adjutant, Department of Pennsylvania, 2008-2011 and a Gold Legacy Life Member of Susquehanna Post 2493, Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania, July 26, 2019.