

Membership

The Membership Team would like to wish you and your family Happy Holidays. We look forward to continuing to work with you in making the rest of your membership year successful!

As we near the end of 2021, Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic has issued a membership challenge with a twist!

This challenge will span two months, from Nov. 1 through Dec. 31. The five Posts who increase their membership percentage by the largest amount in these two months will win an invitation for their Commander and a guest to attend the Kansas City Spree trip in May 2022! However, it's not just about increasing your membership percentage. In order to qualify for this award, a Post must put in twenty (20) new members between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31!

This is your chance to take part in one of our most exclusive annual events, the Kansas City Spree. Attendees will receive round-trip airfare and hotel accommodations, as well as a fun-filled weekend in Kansas City! Get your Post together and start that recruiting campaign because THE TIME IS NOW!

ELIGIBILITY UPDATE

At the 2021 National Convention, Section 101 (Eligibility) of the VFW Bylaws was amended by vote.

On Sept. 2, 2021, the amended text, "An individual is eligible for membership in the corporation only if the individual is serving or has served honorably as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States..."

This change removes the requirement of US citizenship or status as a US national from our requirements, which brings the Bylaws in line with our Congressional Charter.

DEPARTMENT "100 PERCENT" INCENTIVE

Any Department that attains 100% in membership by close of business on March 31, 2022, will be entered into a random drawing. The Commander (plus guest) and the Quartermaster (plus guest) for the Department that is selected will each receive:

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

EARLY BIRD AWARD - VFW LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The top three Post Commanders and Quartermasters in each division on Jan. 1, 2022, will receive:

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

DEPARTMENT EARLY BIRD INCENTIVE

For every Department that achieves 92% in membership by Jan. 1, 2022, the Department Commander will receive:

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

2021-22 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The 2021-22 Membership Program is available online at vfw.org, under MY VFW, scroll down to Membership Quick Links, click on Membership Recruiting and Retention. You will see the 2021-22 VFW National Membership Program in blue letters.

POST DEVELOPMENT

Here in the Membership Department at national, we answer many questions each week from Post leadership asking what can be done to re-energize or revitalize my Post? We think this is a good question to ask even if your Post is an All-American Post! Many times leadership can better understand their challenges by understanding and recognizing indicators. The following indicators will tell you if a revitalization effort is needed at your Post:

1. Post does not have any active programs.
2. Post is not holding scheduled or regular meetings.
3. Post membership has declined at an alarming rate.
4. Posts where leadership has lost vision or interest.
5. The community is growing but the Post membership is declining.
6. Post membership is declining with no activity.

Answering, yes to one or more of these questions will give you a good idea that your Post is a good candidate for revitalization. To understand more, give me a call, Corey Hunt, 816.968.2788 to discuss ways you can energize your membership. We have many resources for you including training videos and presentations on topics which are designed to help you grow membership and retain those members. **Give me a call!**

NEW POST DEVELOPMENT & POST REVITALIZATION DEPARTMENT AWARD

For each new Post, the Department will receive two entries into a drawing and one entry for increasing the membership of a Post of 50 members or less to over 50 members by July 1, 2022. The Department selected will receive:

- **\$1,000 paid directly to Department**

For details on this and all other All-American membership incentives, view the Commander-in-Chief's National Membership Program at vfw.org under *Membership Recruiting & Retention*.

For any questions or further information, please contact the Membership Department via email at membership@vfw.org or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

UPCOMING TRAINING

The next Membership Monday training webinar will be on Dec. 6, 2021, at 2 PM, CST, Topic: **Revitalizing a Post.**

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook to view the latest membership news, Post Shout-Outs and important resource information throughout the year - facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP THREE RECRUITERS!

Top Three Recruiters (as of 11.23.21):

Joseph T. Allen – 188
VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

Larry M. Gerlt – 171
VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

Randy L. George – 97
VFW Post 2952, Dept. of AR

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to vfw.org, click on JOIN, and scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video on the right. This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are three levels of membership; each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

<i>Levels</i>		<i>Posts</i>	<i>Departments</i>	<i>National</i>
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?

VFW Foundation

This holiday season, VFW members and friends are encouraged to support VFW programs and services by shopping through AmazonSmile. For each qualifying purchase, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the product price to the VFW Foundation. Copy and share this link AmazonSmile and the VFW Foundation will benefit every time you shop on Amazon.com.

The 2021 Sport Clips Help A Hero campaign ended on Nov. 13 with final numbers still being tallied, but currently trending over \$1.18 million. Special thank you to all VFW and Auxiliary members who participated in the virtual walk and stopped by their local Sport Clips Haircuts location to show support.

Contact: VFW Foundation Administrator Richard Potter, RPotter@vfw.org.

Development

MATCHING GIFT OFFER! – Watch for a special notice regarding an incredible opportunity to arrive this month. Friends of the VFW have offered to triple your donation between now and Jan. 15, 2022! They have committed \$50,000 of their own money to kick off our 2022 Annual Challenge. They believe there are many others who understand that the cost of war extends well beyond the battlefield. They're asking proud VFW members like you to support our newest veterans, especially those coming home disabled by war. Your gift to the VFW today will be matched and will triple your help to our veterans of all generations in receiving the life-changing services they need. To receive every dollar of the 2022 Annual Challenge, all gifts must be postmarked before Jan. 15, 2022.

VFW Kicks Off the 2021 Year-End Campaign with the Friends of Freedom Online Community – Nov. 27 marked the beginning of the **VFW's 2021 Year-End Campaign!** Donations raised toward the end of the year help meet a large portion of the program funding needs. With the demand for VFW programs rising rapidly, your response to this year's 2021 Year-End Campaign is more important than ever. Watch for your email from the VFW and give as generously as you can, or [click here](#) to make your tax deductible year-end contribution. Please also spread the word about the campaign on your social media networks. You'll be helping veterans of all generations receive much needed assistance from VFW Service Officers in applying for and getting their hard-earned VA benefits; assisting military families in financial distress receive financial assistance for rent, utilities and other necessities; and ensuring all veterans are represented on Capitol Hill to ensure veterans' rights and benefits are protected. Your generosity provides life-changing help when our nation's heroes need it most.

Celebrate the Holiday Season by Helping Fellow Veterans – Your support of the VFW this holiday season – and throughout the year – is extremely important in helping the VFW's efforts to serve and assist veterans of all generations who are sick, unemployed, homeless or suffering from combat wounds received long ago. We recently mailed a special edition of the 2022 VFW "Fly the Flag" Calendar and we also included a bonus gift – a beautiful VFW "American Songbirds" Calendar. The 2022 VFW Veterans Service Annual Campaign will be mailing early in January. By supporting these programs, you help veterans and their families in need throughout the year in your Department and across the country. And please display the U.S. flag – especially on patriotic holidays – which are marked in your new VFW Calendars. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/Flag and print a free flag poster to display.

Simplify Your Will Planning While Supporting the VFW – If you are considering a gift to the VFW through your will or other estate plans, you can visit vfw.org/PlannedGiving for helpful tips, tools and other FREE resources! Request our Estate Planning Kit to help simplify and organize the estate planning process for you and your attorney. For assistance or more information, please contact VFW Planned Giving at 816.968.1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org.

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic would like you to join with him in supporting 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. These resources are available at 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 mail schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the tools found on the VFW Department Resources Page to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

Veterans & Military Support Programs

This year, through the Veterans & Military Support programs, the VFW provided support to over 157,000 service members, veterans, and their families. This more than doubled what was done the previous year. **OUTSTANDING JOB TO ALL!!** We know your support at the local level goes far beyond what is reported and has been a continuing challenge by our ongoing situation. We appreciate everything that you are doing!

Help us let the general public know the impact the VFW has on military families and veterans by reporting your holiday events to your Veterans & Military Support Chairman. MAP grants have increased for the holiday season. Please complete the MAP after event requirements within the **14-day deadline**. If you have any questions, please call the MAP office at 816.756.3390, ext. 6211.

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

VMS Online Donation: heroes.vfw.org/page/22950/donate1

VMS Formstack Links:

- **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

Donating to the VMS Program can also be done on the VFW Dashboard by going to the link “**VMS Donation**” on the upper right-hand corner of the screen. Your \$100 or more donation to the VMS Programs meets the eligibility for All-American in this category.

As a reminder, the online donation process is not instantaneous with respect to the All-American Dashboard. Reports are received every Friday morning. This report rounds up all credit card donations from the previous Friday to the Thursday before the report is received. Reports may be received prior to Friday or after Friday depending upon a holiday or if the end of the month occurs on Saturday or Sunday. Once the report is received, that information is uploaded to the All-American Dashboard by Friday afternoon or sooner.

Thank you for what you do every day and for your support!

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, Space Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to <https://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag>.

ALL-AMERICAN DASHBOARD. Military Assistance Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much in grant assistance that has been received from National HQs to supplement the Unmet Needs financial grants & VFW Sport Clips Help-A-Hero scholarship statistics. The information charts reside on the KPI tools section.

Please encourage Posts to read the 2021-22 Membership program. Many Posts don’t understand they need to sign up five new Action Corps subscribers, create a Facebook page, two separate partnering events along with a 10% increase in Community Service Impact from last year. They must submit reports through the dashboard to gain credit.

NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM REMINDER. This year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars will select a teacher to receive the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher award. Teacher Award Chairmen must submit one candidate for this award to their Department Headquarters by Jan. 1. The Department must select a single candidate for the award and submit the winner to VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1.

NOTE: The only item required by the National VFW Programs department is a completed “VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form” with the winning teacher’s documentation downloaded. This form is now available on the VFW website. You can locate this form by logging in to vfw.org and searching under “My VFW” in the Training & Support section.

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

All Post-level nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available. These items, of the Post level winner, will be forwarded on to the District, if applicable, or on to the Department with the completed entry form.

VFW's Department Teacher winners that are received at National Headquarters will receive a VFW National citation for both the winning teacher and their school.

Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. has the correct teacher award entry deadlines and rules for the 2021-22 program year. The Teacher Entry form is now available on the VFW website.

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.

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.

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, 2022. 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: VFW PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATION POST ENTRY FORM. This form was 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 form 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**.

PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT DEADLINE REMINDER. The deadline for submitting the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winner packets to National Headquarters is Jan. 15, 2022 (even if they have not been personally notified they are the winner).

The suggested deadline for Departments to have reviewed and approved their District and Post entries in the All-American Dashboard is Jan. 31. This will ensure we will have accurate reporting numbers across the organization and allot us the time to remedy errors. If you are unsure how to report your participation in the All-American Dashboard or if you are having login issues to the OMS system, contact Nick Lopez at nlopez@vfw.org or 816.968.1155.

VFW SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRAM. This program was put in place to recognize VFW units for creating and completing unique and extraordinary community service projects.

Record book entry nominations that are found to be complete and well-substantiated should be endorsed by the Department Adjutant or VFW Department Community Activities Chairman and forwarded to National Programs Department. Deadline for entries is April 30 of each year.

Every Post Special Project receiving the Award of Excellence in the May judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Manual.

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

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 nrahq.org/compete/dept-postal.asp.

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

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

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

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

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

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG ON DEC. 7. Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates Dec. 7 as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" and requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day. To order a flag, go to vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags.

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 21, 2022 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 30, 2022 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, Sept. 16, 2022 (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

You'd do anything for your best friend and cuddle buddy if they were sick or injured. But sometimes anything can be pricey.

With the average cost of quality, routine pet care increasing year-over-year, it is expensive to care for your furry friends.

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

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

For additional information about Pet Insurance, call Nationwide at 877.738.7874 or [click here](#).

"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."

BUDDY POPPY UPDATE (5/20/2021): National Headquarters conducted a review of the Buddy Poppy policy and procedures and implemented the following changes effective May 20, 2021:

- 1) If you do not receive your order within 8 weeks of placing it with your Department, please contact National Headquarters to report that you have not received the order.

- 2) If you do not report a missing order 3 months after the 8-week processing time, the order will NOT be replaced free of charge and you will have to resubmit your order.

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 for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary years. For Posts currently in their 100th year anniversary, they can order any color and as many as they need. 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, unless you are currently in your 100th year. 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.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

Legislative Roundup

Congress passed four VFW-supported bills — [S. 796](#), [S. 894](#), [S. 1031](#), [S. 1095](#) — that would improve maternal health care, increase coordination for hiring veteran health professionals at VA, study racial and ethnic disparities in VA claims, and establish tuition fairness for those utilizing the Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance program. These bills were previously passed by the Senate and now head to the president's desk for signature.

VFW Store

SHOP THE VFW STORE FOR YOUR HOLIDAY GIFTS!

Click vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/holiday to see what's new. For all in-stock items, please order by Dec. 2 for Christmas delivery. Items requiring personalization and items not in stock generally take 4-6 weeks for delivery, as noted in the product description.

Don't see what you're looking for? Contact Kim Winston at kwinston@vfw.org or 816.968.1181 for custom orders!



Roll Call of Departed Comrades

TAYLOR, TONY L., All American Commander, Department of North Carolina, 1989-1990 and a Life Member of Absher-Flowers Post 9337, Gastonia, North Carolina, November 11, 2021.

GENDRON, ROLAND W., National Council of Administration member, 2012-2013, Commander, Department of Massachusetts, 2007-2008 and a Life Member of Freetown Memorial Post 6643, Freetown, Massachusetts, November 28, 2021.