

Membership

Congratulations to VFW National for reaching 100% in membership! Congratulations to all Departments, Districts, and Posts who achieved 100% membership for the year! We “Made it Happen!” Thank you all for your hard work and dedication in making this a great year!

Attention Department Headquarters: To assist with All-American processing, please share All-State cap size orders with your VFW National Membership Department. Please email these to membership@vfw.org.

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION, ORLANDO, FLORIDA - JULY 20-24, 2019

Convention Advertisement Campaign Overview: To increase awareness to the veterans in the surrounding area and drive attendance, the Membership Department has endorsed a multi-channel campaign to reach the veteran audience in the Department of Florida, through billboards, bulletins, and mobile advertising. The campaign will be running from July 1 - July 31, 2019.

First-Timers Booth: We encourage all first-timers attending the VFW National Convention in Orlando to stop by our information booth located at the main entrance. We will be open all day starting July 20 - 23 to help guide you to a great experience at our National Convention.

First-Time Attendees Meet & Greet: If you’re attending the VFW National Convention for the first time, join us to learn more about what the VFW is doing for our veterans, both nationally and in your local community on Sunday, July 21 from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Orange County Convention Center (OCCC), Hall WD2, Orlando, Florida.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS FOR ACHIEVING 100%:

Oregon, Nevada, Montana, Hawaii, Texas, Washington, Georgia, Pacific Areas, Alaska, Virginia, Tennessee, Maryland, Colorado, Kentucky, South Carolina, Idaho, California, New York, Maine, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Mississippi, Arizona, Kansas, Missouri, North Carolina, Europe, Alabama, Delaware, Michigan, Arkansas, Wyoming, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Vermont, Ohio, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Utah, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Connecticut, West Virginia, Florida, Louisiana, North Dakota and Indiana.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018-19 ALL-AMERICANS. We will see you in Orlando!

WE GOT THE GOODS!

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

If you need materials from Membership, call or email us at 1.888.JOIN.VFW or membership@vfw.org. If you're needing help to pay for a booth at a local event, call your Department Quartermaster as they have the funds available to help you.

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to www.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?

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Top Three Recruiters (as of 6/25/19):

Mark A. Short – 540

VFW Post 9400, Dept. of AZ

Carlo S. Davis – 230

VFW Post 9191, Dept. of TX

Joseph T. Allen – 177

VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS & CHANGES

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

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: https://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

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT WILL RE-OPEN SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

The VFW Foundation Community Support Grant has ended for this funding cycle but will re-open on September 1, 2019. A total of 361 grants were awarded (248 to VFW Posts and 113 to VFW Auxiliaries) for \$359,612. This includes \$3,250 in bonus grants awarded to 11 Posts that engaged with VFW corporate partners such as ACE Hardware, Humana and Walgreens in their projects. An additional \$20,000 of the budget was used as an incentive to Posts/Auxiliaries in support of the Thank BK program. Not surprisingly, the largest number of grants went to VFW Posts/Auxiliaries to assist local nonprofits which highlights the important community service role of our membership.

WALGREENS OFFERS MILITARY DISCOUNT JULY 4 - 7

In honor of this Fourth of July, Walgreens is offering a discount from July 4 through July 7 to all veterans, military and their families. Customers with a Walgreens Balance Rewards card and proof of service will receive 20% off eligible regular-price store merchandise at any Walgreens or Duane Reade drugstore nationwide. A Balance Rewards customer loyalty program membership is free and can be obtained at checkout. Some exclusions apply so see store for exact details. [Locate your closest Walgreens or Duane Reade.](#)

VFW National Convention

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION, Orlando, Florida, July 20-24, 2019

Convention Advertisement Campaign Overview: To increase awareness to the veterans in the surrounding area and drive attendance, the Membership Department will be endorsing a multi-channel campaign to reach the veteran audience within the entire state of Florida through billboards, bulletins and mobile advertising. The campaign will start July 1 through July 31.

First-Timers Booth: We encourage all first-timers attending the VFW National Convention in Orlando to stop by our information booth located at the main entrance. We will be open all day starting July 20-23 to help guide you to a great experience at our National Convention.

First-Time Attendees Meet & Greet: If you're attending the VFW National Convention for the first time, join us to learn more about what the VFW is doing for our veterans, both nationally and in your local community, on Sunday, July 21 from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Orange County Convention Center (OCCC), Hall WD2, Orlando, Florida.

Development

VFW 2019-20 Special Edition Calendar – The exclusive 2019-20 VFW Calendar package was mailed the first week of June. We hope you have received it and are pleased with the special Great American Outdoors expanded edition calendar along with a Deluxe Gift Assortment.

Please show your pride in our country and your fellow veterans by displaying your calendar in a prominent place in your home, office or Post. Your calendar is filled with majestic views of our nation's most breathtaking scenery and contains information on VFW programs available for veterans, service members and their families as well as patriotic holidays and observances. Please remember to display the U.S. flag. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/flag to download and print a free flag poster to display.

If you haven't already, please send the most generous gift you can. Your support of the 2019-20 VFW Calendar program helps your VFW Department serve veterans in need throughout the year.

VFW Manicure Kit – This one-of-a-kind manicure kit was sent out the last week of June and has been created as a special thank you for your continued support of the VFW and the life-changing programs for all veterans. Your support gives wounded veterans hope in the face of tragedy – those coping with Post-Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury and other horrible war wounds that will haunt them forever. When you receive your VFW Manicure Kit, please be as generous as possible. Your donation helps veterans of every generation. And please, remember to display the U.S. flag, especially on patriotic holidays.

Join the Prestigious VFW Heroes Circle! – You can join an elite group of our most dedicated members – the VFW Heroes Circle! Consisting of those who wish to further our mission with a gift in their wills or other estate plans, the VFW Heroes Circle was created to honor our most loyal supporters who have made the extraordinary commitment to America's veterans, service members and their families. To learn how easy it is to make an impact on future generations of veterans, please contact the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org. More information is available online at vfw.org/plannedgiving.

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483) or email us at partners@vfw.org with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

VFW Friends of Freedom – If you are not already a member of the VFW's online community, please visit 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

With the national convention only weeks away, are you ready? Whether you're heading to Orlando or not, you can stay in-the-know by watching as we begin livestreaming at vfw.org/convention starting July 21.

For those planning to attend, the new VFW Events App is available for download at both the [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#) by searching "VFW Events," and users who don't have a smart phone or tablet can also access the app [here](#).

Be sure to share your convention experience and join in the social conversation using **#VFWConvention**.

Veterans & Military Support Programs

Meeting times at the National Convention in Orlando:

**Veterans & Military Support Chairman Committee Meeting
& Department Commanders VMS check presentation
Sunday, July 21, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

VFW Programs Workshop - **Open to the public
Sunday, July 21, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

1:00 - 2:00 Dashboard Overview

2:00 - 3:00 Programs Town Hall

3:00 - 4:00 Dashboard Overview

Be sure to stop by the Veterans & Military Support (VMS) booth to support the **service challenge and get your "newly designed" VMS lapel pin!**

See you in Orlando!

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 <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 marked the centennial of World War I. There is a lot our members can do to help educate the public, commemorate the war, and honor those who served. The World War One Centennial Commission has created a landing page on their website for veterans to simplify navigation to key areas. You'll find it at www.wwi1cc.org/veterans. Here are a few suggestions:

-- **THE WORLD WAR ONE PODCAST** is an award winner! Subscribe here: wwi1cc.org/cn and become the envy of your friends and colleagues with your knowledge about all matters related to the Great War! Subscribe to the **Dispatch** newsletter to keep up to date. Listen to the Centennial News **Podcasts**. Podcast #61 features VFW Post 968 in Raymond, Wash., talking about their 100 Cities/100 Memorial project.

--Take advantage of the vast store of **education materials**, and use any meeting opportunity in your community to discuss the war and kindle interest in all matters related to the "War that Changed the World."

--**Purchase a commemorative US Mint WWI coin** (\$10 from the sale of each coin funds the memorial).

-- **POPPY SEED PACKETS & PROGRAM.**

--The poppy as a symbol of remembrance was first proposed after the war by an American woman, Moina Michael, who wrote "*We shall keep the faith.*"

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

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

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

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

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

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

--When you find some of these gems in your state, go here to register:
<https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/memorial-hunters-club-about.html>
--Get your [anthropology](#) on...It's time to go treasure hunting!

--Raise money for the memorial by supporting the **WWI Poppy Program**.

--**Learn more** about the memorial and see all the resources available at www.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 I VETERAN OR VETERANS? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! The U.S. World War One Centennial Commission (WWICC) is seeking information about VFW Posts named in honor of a local or national World War I veteran, along with stories of his or her service, photographs, newspaper clippings and/or other historical information. WWICC will endeavor to honor these Posts by showcasing this special information on its website and feature highlights in its electronic *Dispatch* newsletter. Please note: any information received will be maintained by the commission and will become part of the U.S. Government's historical (Library of Congress) records/archives upon the expiry of its mandate. The point of contact is David W. Hamon, VSO/Military Director for the commission, at david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org and/or 540.379.8584.

WWICC has also created a special landing page for veterans, history lovers, family members, friends and community members. At ww1cc.org/veterans, visitors will find "tiles," easy to access and read, in order to educate, commemorate and honor the Great War, as per the commission's congressional mandate and charter.

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

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

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

5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

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

Applications are available at www.VietnamWar50th.com 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>.

PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11. Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11 is designated as “Patriot Day.” The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States. For flags and other patriotic items, click here <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic>.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 20. Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure. For POW/MIA merchandise, click <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia>.

YOUTH PROGRAMS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. Simply visit <https://www.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 NATIONAL AWARDS. Every Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen first place Department winner will receive a National scholarship or award. The new amount for the Voice of Democracy National Awards now total \$154,000 and the Patriot’s Pen National Awards total is now \$55,000.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN THEMES. The 2019-20 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief William J. “Doc” Schmitz. The Voice of Democracy and the Patriot’s Pen theme will be “What Makes America Great.” The new 2019-20 Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

Additionally, anyone (including students, parents, teachers, and chairmen) can download and print the student entry forms for Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen by visiting the below links:

Voice of Democracy: <http://www.vfw.org/VOD/>

Patriot’s Pen: <http://www.vfw.org/PatriotsPen/>

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN BROCHURES. For Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store: <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy> for Voice of Democracy and <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen> for Patriot’s Pen.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM. This program is designed to provide recognition and awards to VFW members who volunteer their time to outside organizations. Recognition is in the form of certificates and/or lapel pins which are given to volunteers who have completed the number of hours prescribed for those awards. For more information, see the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairmen’s Manual or contact Tammy at 816.756.3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 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. 20, 2019 (third Friday in September); and Veterans Day, Nov. 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP237>.

IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW programs Patriot’s Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

VFW Member Benefits

Are You Protecting Your Financial Assets?

You have worked hard to save for you and your family’s future. Don’t underestimate the importance of protecting those assets.

A common way people protect their assets for future generations is term life insurance. With many available options, you can also purchase a term life insurance policy that fits your needs now and can provide for those you love long after you are gone.

A standard term life insurance policy lasts for a set amount of time—typically 10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 years. During your term, payments and coverage remain the same, making term policies an affordable life insurance option.

For additional information about Term Life Insurance, click [here](#) or call 1.800.715.5836, extension 6830.

“Buddy”® Poppy

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 <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy> or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

NATIONAL “BUDDY”® POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST. The time frame for registering and setting up the Department winning Buddy Poppy displays for the national judging at convention will be the same as last year. Department winning entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 20, until noon, Monday, July 22, 2019. Winning displays will be identified with appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning and announced later on the convention floor. Displays must be removed prior to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon.

NATIONAL END OF YEAR AWARDS. The end of another successful Buddy Poppy Program year concluded on June 30. Please ensure that your Department submits their award forms for both the **“Outstanding Promotional/Public Awareness Program”** and the **“District and County Council Chairmen Award.”** All forms must be submitted to the National Headquarters Office by the deadlines outlined on the information provided to each Department in April.

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 Veterans Service

Ryan Gallucci, Director, VFW National Veterans Service (NVS), would like to invite all delegates and attendees of the upcoming VFW 120th National Convention in Orlando, Florida, to participate in the following events. Please check the convention schedule or download the convention app for the most current location.

On Saturday, July 20 and Sunday, July 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., there will be a **Veterans Walk-in Claims Clinic** at which veterans and dependents will be assisted by a combined team of VFW Service Officers and VA benefits and health care representatives to facilitate and expedite new and existing claims, appeals and health care issues.

On Sunday, July 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, NVS will be presenting the **Veterans Service Update** session, during which we will be providing information regarding VFW's benefits assistance program, VA Voluntary Service, as well as answer questions on how the VA MISSION Act and Appeals Modernization Act affect the VFW and the veterans we serve.

On Monday, July 22, the VFW National Accredited Service Officer of the Year, Terry Eshenbaugh from Texas will be presented his award during the business session.

On Tuesday, July 23, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., VFW National Veterans Service and National Legislative Service are co-hosting a session **"Update on Federal Benefits and Services for Veterans"** during which you will hear directly from leadership at the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and U.S. Department of Labor responsible for VA benefits & healthcare and DOL employment policies.

Also, please visit the joint National Veterans Service/National Legislative booth on the exhibit hall floor. It is our 100th Anniversary of "Cutting the Red Tape." On Saturday (July 20) and Sunday (July 21) from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., and Tuesday (July 23) from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m., we will be conducting video testimonials with interested convention attendees who wish to share how National Veterans Service benefits assistance and Legislative activism programs have played a role in their lives.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

Come see us at Convention!

The 120th VFW National Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida, from July 20 - July 24, 2019. We invite you to stop by our Booth #1000 exhibition hall. We will have our [2019 Priority Goals](#) and Legislative Victory brochures, as well as talking points pertaining to important veterans' issues including Veterans Health Care, Burn Pits, Concurrent Receipt, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Transition. We would also like to invite you to join us for "Update on VFW Legislative Priority Goals" on Sunday, July 21, 2019, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. when National Legislative Service Director Carlos Fuentes will give a presentation along with the NLS staff.

Help Recruit the Next Class of VFW Student Veteran Fellows

The application process for the 2020 class of legislative fellows will open in July. The program selects 10 VFW members who are student veterans in schools around the country for a semester-long program focused

on advocacy regarding policy issues impacting their fellow veterans, service members, and their families. The capstone of the program is participation in the 2020 VFW's Legislative Conference. [Find out more information](#) on the program.

August Recess: Meet Them in the District

Congress is in recess for the month of August, which means members of Congress will be back in your states and congressional districts. August is a great time for VFW members to connect with their members of Congress in their home offices or attend town halls to focus attention on [VFW's legislative priorities](#). Make sure your [Senators and Representatives](#) understand what they need to do to meet the needs of our service members, veterans, and their families. Help us hold Congress accountable!

Administrative Operations

In an effort to better serve the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, tools are available at "VFW Training and Support." There you will find Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates; training material relating to Membership Recruiting and Retention; Community Service & Youth Programs; Communications & Public Affairs; Post Service Officers; and Veterans & Military Support. To utilize these valuable training guides, videos, forms and templates, please login at www.vfw.org, proceed to "My VFW" and click the link "VFW Training and Support."

The online "Document Repository" is a system of managing documents utilized primarily by Department Officers and members of the National Council of Administration.

Important Reminder: The 2019-2020 Department Roster is now an Online Membership System (OMS) submitted report. The interactive report will cover reporting of all Department elected and appointed officers and committee chairmen. In addition, the District Election Report is also contained within the Online Membership System (OMS). Portions of the District report will feed into the Department report (i.e. the District Commander position).

Adjutants and Quartermasters can access the roster by logging into their OMS account under the "Election Report" drop down in the left hand navigation pane. Membership numbers of each elected/appointed officer and/or chairman is needed to complete the report. Your cooperation in completing the roster immediately following your convention is appreciated. Any additions, corrections or changes will be submitted through OMS as they occur throughout the year.

VFW Store

VFW STORE:

Convention Attendees – stop by the VFW Store to get your convention pins, polos and T-shirts, and to see our large selection of new items. Or click <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems?page=1&size=100> to check out our new items now!





Celebrating a Post or Department anniversary this year? Commemorate the occasion with special polos, T-shirts, caps, koozies or other items! We have thousands of products available at competitive prices. VFW Store can also help you with logo design and product selection. (If you're attending the National Convention, stop by and visit with Kim Winston, Custom Consultant, at the store booth.) You can also email Kim at kwinston@vfw.org or call her at 816-968-1181.