

## Membership

Congratulations to the Department of Maryland for leading the way and being the first Department to finish at 100 percent in membership! Contact the National Membership Department if there is anything we can do to help you achieve our end of year goal.

### **ALL-AMERICAN 2019-2020 UPDATE**

First off, on behalf of the Membership Department, I hope that everyone out there is staying safe and taking care of yourself and your family during this stressful time. The ongoing pandemic has impacted much of the VFW's operations, but we're proud to say we are still seeing growth and retention of our membership as we approach the last few months of the membership year.

Many have asked if this will affect programs such as the All-American contest. After discussion with Commander-in-Chief Doc Schmitz, the following changes have been made:

- Post All-American: the requirement to purchase Buddy Poppies has been waived, due to the current inability to fulfill orders from the National Headquarters.
- Department All-American: the requirement to establish one new Post or raise three Posts that began the year under 50 members to above 50 members has been waived, due to the ongoing pandemic making it impossible to hold Post institution proceedings or recruiting events.
- Department All-American: membership percentage quotas have been adjusted to 98%.

No other changes have been made at this time; all other membership and program-related criteria remain the same.

Check out our Facebook page [facebook.com/VFWmembership/](https://facebook.com/VFWmembership/) for new updates and the latest news.

Once again, we encourage everyone to stay safe and take care of yourself and our fellow veterans. Especially in this time of crisis, we all have to look out for each other and show that NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

### **CONGRATULATION TO THE 2020 KANSAS CITY SPREE WINNERS!**

Look for a special appreciation gift and letter from Commander in Chief Doc Schmitz in the near future. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication! The following are the 2020 Kansas City Spree winners:

Randy Purham, Dept. of EU; Michael Del Vecchio, Dept. of VA; Landon R. Becker, Dept. of MD; Bobby J. Edwards, Dept. of IL; Matthew E. Funsch, Dept. of GA; David B. Lower, Dept. of KY; Bruce M. Ashley, Dept. KY; Theodore E. Streete, Dept. of WA; William (Hugh) Long, Dept. of MS; William E. Day, Dept. of ME; Joseph T. Allen, Dept. of MD; William E. Smith, Dept. of TX; Anson L. Booker, Dept. of TX; Devon A. Marable, Dept. of EU; Bobby J. Edwards, Dept. of IL; Michael J. Eason, Dept. of MD; Douglas R. Perkins, Dept. of CA; Joe C. Harris, Dept. of CA; David A. Vining, Dept. of AR; Rhett R. Bessey, Dept. of

VT; Kenneth W. Samborski, Dept. of IL; Arnold L. Gonzales, Dept. of GA; Ricky L. Pratt, Dept. of TN; Leonard P. Ladue, Dept. of CO; John A. Otte, Dept. of PA; Walter Hartnett IV, Dept. of PA; Robbie E. Hardison, Dept. of NC; Kenneth C. Hagemann, Dept. of NJ; Jason Porter Warinner, Dept. of KY; David L. Jarrett, Dept. of VA; Douglas McIntyre, Dept. of MI; Jeffrey R. Griffin, Dept. of OK.

### **COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE**

Commander-in-Chief Doc Schmitz has laid down a challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of May 2020!

For May's Commander's Challenge, we are going to focus on increasing membership. We will be looking specifically at new, renewing, and reinstated members and rewarding the Posts that show the highest percentage of membership growth for the month of May.

We will be holding a drawing to select three of the top 15 Posts in each division, based on the percentage of membership growth for the month of May, to receive a \$1,000 stipend deposited into the Post account.

### **POST DEVELOPMENT**

Wow! Many things have happened since the last edition. Many of you are dealing with a new way of life, including a new way of staying engaged with your membership. For some, that may mean finally creating that Facebook account!

Even though most are under a stay-at-home order, retention numbers are good. Leadership and mentorship, keep it up! Many of your revitalization efforts are happening in the way of lapsed-member calling campaigns and buddy checks and the retention numbers show it. We want to know your revitalization stories – your successes need to be shared! Remember – you have many resources available to you at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and expertise awaiting your call at the National Membership office in Kansas City.

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, contact Corey Hunt in the Membership Department via email at [coreyhunt@vfw.org](mailto:coreyhunt@vfw.org) or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO:** **Top Three Recruiters (as of 4/28/2020):**

**Hugh M. Warner – 398**  
VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

**Mark A. Short – 327**  
VFW Post 9400, Dept. of AZ

**Carlo S. Davis – 219**  
VFW Post 9191, Dept. of TX

### **LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to [vfw.org](http://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:**

<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?*

## VFW Foundation

**HOME DEPOT COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED**

The Home Depot Community Impact grant has been temporarily suspended until further notice. We will advise membership when it re-opens (hopefully soon). If you have any questions, please email Jason Couch, Grants Administrator, at [JCouch@vfw.org](mailto:JCouch@vfw.org).

**THANK BK APPRECIATION WEEK**

**#Thank BK Appreciation Week – May 10-16, 2020.** Please remember to recognize our great friends at BURGER KING® (BK) by mobilizing membership to visit their local [BK restaurants](#), up to and including Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 16, 2020. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, VFW members, their families and friends will (in most locations) not be able to go inside restaurants but instead are encouraged to use the drive-through window to purchase a meal and say “thank you” for BK's continued support of the veteran community. The VFW is also asking that VFW and VFW Auxiliary members post about their visit to social media using #ThankBK. As an added incentive, members who participate will be entered into a drawing as 10 Posts/Auxiliaries will win a \$1,000 Community Support Grant from the VFW Foundation. See the VFW’s [#ThankBK Appreciation Week Facebook event page](#) for the drawing’s full details and rules.

## VFW National Convention

**VFW Cancels Reno National Convention (The convention was scheduled for July 18-23, 2020.)**

The Veterans of Foreign Wars announced on April 20, 2020, its 121st VFW National Convention scheduled to be held in Reno, Nevada, this July was officially cancelled.

The decision comes as public-health concerns and social-distancing mandates are expected to span into the summer months ahead.

Pursuant to the organization’s bylaws, the VFW National Council of Administration is responsible for administering the affairs and transacting the business of the organization in the intervals between conventions to include conducting an election of national officers.

Despite the cancellation of convention, the VFW remains fully operational in accepting and processing applications to all of its national support programs and maintains an active role in advocating for veterans' legislation.

### **Reno 2020 Housing Reservation Cancellations**

As of April 20, 2020, if you made your hotel reservation with Orchid Events/VFW Housing, your reservation has been cancelled automatically and you were sent a notification of the cancellation via email (if an email was provided).

No fees (1st night deposits) have been charged to credit cards. No action is required on your part. If you paid a hotel deposit by check, you will be refunded.

If you booked a hospitality suite, please email our housing manager, Susie Brenner at [susie@orchid.events](mailto:susie@orchid.events).

Note: If you made a hotel reservation at a hotel outside of the VFW room blocks - Official VFW Hotels - Grand Sierra, Atlantis or Nugget, you will need to call the hotel you directly made the reservation with and cancel that reservation yourself.

### **Post/Delegate Registration Fees for the 121st VFW National Convention**

On April 17, 2020, the VFW National Council of Administration took action to cancel the 121st VFW National Convention, in its current form, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The National Council of Administration has adopted directives to carry out the business of the Veterans of Foreign Wars that include a *pro-forma* Convention, and the succession and election of officers for the 2020-21 administrative year.

The collection of Convention Registration Fees, paid by VFW Posts, are an estimated \$190,000.

VFW National Bylaws, Article II, Section 222(d), states each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25). On May 1, 2020, the VFW National Council of Administration voted to halt the collection of National Convention Registration fees, and take the necessary steps to facilitate refunds to those Posts and delegates who have paid registration and/or delegates fees, for the 121st VFW National Convention.

### **Department/District Conventions and Election of Officers**

Executive Order No. 2 provides a directive for conducting the fraternal business of the organization, including options as to how Departments, Districts, and Posts may conduct elections in keeping with the requirements and customs of the VFW. Please refer to this document, as well as the other guides found on VFW's COVID-19 webpage behind the login.

Note: Departments cancelling their conventions should notify the hotel of the cancellation in writing.

## Development

**Memorial Day “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy** – You should be receiving a package within the next few days with a Thank You Card and VFW “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy. Since 1922, the VFW has distributed the “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy on

patriotic holidays to solemnly honor our nation's fallen heroes. Please return your poppy to the VFW and they will be used to create a special wreath to be displayed in honor of Memorial Day at VFW National Headquarters' Centennial Plaza. Also, please sign and return the Thank You Card. Your message of support will be delivered to a service member or veteran who could use a kind word. It will mean a lot to them coming from a fellow veteran like you. Along with the "Buddy"® Poppy and your signed card, please return the most generous gift you can manage in honor of Memorial Day. Your gift to the VFW will help veterans and military families receive financial grants when times are tough, assist veterans in obtaining the benefits they have earned and ensure the rights of veterans of every generation are respected and protected.

**Matching Gift Opportunity to Support the VFW's Programs** – The VFW has been presented with a great opportunity by generous friends of the VFW. They have extended the offer to triple your gift until June 5, 2020, up to \$50,000! Many veterans and returning service members are turning to the VFW for assistance in finding and training for jobs when they return from long deployments, as well as financial assistance grants for rent, food, medicine ... and so much more. Thanks to dedicated members like you, we have been able to provide the life-changing assistance our veterans need. As the COVID-19 situation continues to unfold, our service members are going to be some of the hardest hit in the wake of this global emergency. The VFW is on the front line in the fight for education, jobs, health care and justice FOR VETERANS! This is a great opportunity to help support veterans of all ages, right in your Department. Be as generous as you can and send your gift in by June 5, 2020, to make sure it is tripled!

**Show Your Gratitude and "Sign The Card"** – This month, we will be deploying the May Engagement Email Campaign. We want to honor those who are helping to save veterans during this global pandemic ... the staff at the VA facilities. Once you receive the May Engagement email, you can read how to add your name to a virtual online "card" that will be sent to the VA facilities to say thank you to VA medical teams on the frontline of COVID-19. We thank our healthcare workers on a daily basis, why not say thank you to the VA medical teams.

**May is National Military Appreciation Month** – Is your Post planning to commemorate a special event for Military Spouses Day on May 8, Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15, Armed Forces Day on May 16, National Maritime Day on May 22 or Memorial Day on May 25?

If your Post is planning a special event this month to commemorate any of the above mentioned special days, please share your success story with us. We will be looking for special stories from Posts like yours to feature in upcoming monthly e-newsletters and on [vfw.org/vfwatwork](http://vfw.org/vfwatwork) in the Story Archive. You may email your story to [success@vfw.org](mailto:success@vfw.org).

**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](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org) or visit [vfw.org/plannedgiving](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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

To ensure VFW leaders and members have the operational guidance and information they need during the current COVID-19 pandemic, we’ve created a COVID-19 Updates webpage. VFW members, and state and local leaders are encouraged to login to [VFW.org](http://VFW.org) and click on “Operational Guidance and Information on COVID-19,” located on the My VFW page.

And new to the page, you will find Executive Order No. 2, issued by National Commander Schmitz on April 24, and step by step instructions for Departments implementing Executive Order No. 2.

This important information has been added to provide guidance while we all navigate this difficult situation.

## Veterans & Military Support Programs

**Reminder:** To qualify for All-American, the minimum donation to VMS is \$100.00. The dashboard is updated monthly so donations received in May will show on the dashboard the first week of June. Stay safe.

## 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](http://vfwstore.org/products/GP238).

**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](http://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](mailto:whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil). For Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at: [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam](http://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam).

**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.

**IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!** April is the perfect month to begin contacting schools, youth groups, parent organizations and others with information about Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. Schools are making curriculum decisions now and parents are thinking about scholarships.

Please remember that Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are VFW programs supported by the VFW Auxiliary. It is inappropriate for the VFW Auxiliary to conduct a separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email [lrolf@vfw.org](mailto:lrolf@vfw.org) or call 816.968.1116.

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES.** The 2020–21 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Harold J. "Hal" Roesch, II. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "What is Patriotism to Me?"

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN BROCHURES.** The new 2020-21 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

Simply visit [vfw.org/#login](http://vfw.org/#login), 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.

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: [vfw.org/VOD/](http://vfw.org/VOD/)

Patriot's Pen: [vfw.org/PatriotsPen/](http://vfw.org/PatriotsPen/)

For Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store: [vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy) for Voice of Democracy and [vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen) for Patriot's Pen.

**YOUTH PROGRAMS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.** Simply visit [vfw.org/#login](http://vfw.org/#login), 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.

**HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG.** The U.S. Flag should be at half-staff on Memorial Day, the last Monday in May (federal holiday - half-staff until noon). Flags are available at the VFW Store [vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags](http://vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags).

**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 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.

### **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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org) or call him at 540.379.8584. To view the progress of the memorial, go to: [ww1cc.org/memorial](http://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!

**FLAG DAY, JUNE 14.** All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Thursday, June 14 and to conduct a ceremony or program as feasible. You may contact the VFW Communications Department for a Flag Day speech. It is also suggested Posts should award the VFW Patriotic Citizen Award (Product No. 4385) for those who have daily displayed our National flag.

**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](http://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 your financial assets protected?

Do not underestimate the importance of protecting those assets you have worked so hard to build for you and your family.

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

Typically, a term life insurance policy lasts for a set amount of time—usually available in 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.

## National Veterans Service

**National Veterans Service to host Virtual Training for Service Officers**

This spring the VFW was forced to make the difficult choice to cancel the spring service officer training conference in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. However, the National Veterans Service training team quickly moved to deliver much of this critical training in an online environment to VFW Department Service Officers.

In June, NVS will host its first Virtual Proficiency Training Conference for DSOs over a period of three weeks through proctored video teleconferences which will also be archived for easy access for any DSO who cannot physically log onto each teleconference. Keeping with the format of past service officer training conferences, DSOs will have an opportunity to participate in a directors' forum with NVS leadership. They will also be required to complete a test on the information provided during the virtual conference.

NVS tested this training format with new VFW employees throughout the month of April, with considerable success. A formal announcement of the training schedule and curriculum will be sent to DSOs in early May, allowing ample time to prepare.

## National Legislative Service/Action Corps

### **Veterans Have Until May 5, 2020, to Add Dependents for Stimulus Payment**

On April 24, 2020, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) [announced on Twitter](#) that veterans who receive VA Compensation and Pension payments, who do not file taxes, and who have dependents have until May 5, 2020, to add their dependent information to ensure their stimulus payment includes the \$500 per dependent pay. The IRS is urging this group of veterans to use the [Non-Filer tool](#) on the IRS website to update their dependent information. If a veteran in this group has had the \$1,200 stimulus payment issued, they will no longer be eligible to use the Non-Filer tool. Their payment will be \$1,200 and, by law, the additional \$500 per eligible child amount would be paid in association with a return filing for tax year 2020.

### **VFW Posts Eligible for COVID-19 Small Business Assistance**

Veterans are not alone in facing economic hardship during the COVID-19 outbreak, and thankfully there is relief coming. Veteran-run small businesses and VFW Posts will be eligible for some economic relief for employees of these businesses through the [Small Business Administration](#) (SBA). SBA is running the [Paycheck Protection Program](#), which consists of an SBA loan that helps businesses keep their workforce employed during the COVID-19 crisis. While the first wave of small business loans ran out, the second wave resumed on April 27, 2020. [Learn more about small business guidance.](#)

## Administrative Operations

Post Election Reports must be submitted no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS), which is located behind the member's "LOGIN" at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).

The 2020-2021 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 chairman. 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

**We are working hard to continue operation during this challenging time of uncertainty. At this time, orders are being processed and we are shipping stock orders. Personalized/custom orders shipped by vendors are out of our control, as state mandates differ. Please expect delays. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we get through this together.**

**Get items for your Memorial Day commemorations at the VFW Store,** including grave markers, floral wreaths and flags. Go to [vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/memorialday?page=1&size=100](https://vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/memorialday?page=1&size=100).

**We’re still shipping in-stock items,** including activity books for kids, cooler bags for picnics, and backpacks for camping or hiking. Check those out at [vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/holiday?page=1&size=100](https://vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/holiday?page=1&size=100).



**Block the rain or sun** with a large VFW umbrella: [vfwstore.org/products/23929](https://vfwstore.org/products/23929).



## Roll Call of Departed Comrades

GIBBS, STEPHEN P. “STEVE,” All American Commander, Department of Nevada, 2005-2006 and a Life Member of North Las Vegas Memorial Post 10047, North Las Vegas, Nevada, April 2, 2020.

LUPO, RAYMOND R., National Council of Administration member, 2003-2005 and 2013-2017, All American Commander, Department of Maine, 1998-1999 and a Life Member of Bangor Memorial Post 1761, Bangor, Maine, April 30, 2020.