

Membership

Congratulations to the Departments of Maryland, Maine, Pacific Areas, Mississippi, Europe, Arizona, North Carolina, Delaware, Virginia, Georgia, and New Jersey for achieving 100 percent in membership! Let's make a final push to 100 percent in membership and show that we "Dared to Care." Contact the National Membership Department at 888.JOIN.VFW (888.564.6839) or email us at membership@vfw.org if there is anything we can do to assist you with achieving your goals.

ALL-AMERICAN 2019-2020 UPDATE

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.

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%.

We anticipate having the All-American list available sometime after July 6, once the data has been tabulated, reviewed and approved by the Commander-in-Chief. If you are a Post, District or Department Commander that has received an email from National Headquarters requesting your VFW hat size and type (male/female), please click on the link in the email and provide the information requested. This will expedite the process of ordering the right size and type of All-American caps for those receiving All-American honors. If you did not receive the cap email, you can email your cap size to cdarnell@vfw.org.

No other changes have been made at this time; all other membership and program-related criteria remain the same. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Butler, Membership Director, via email at rbutler@vfw.org or 816.968.2752.

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.

POST DEVELOPMENT

Comrades, at the time of this writing with one week left in the 2019-20 Membership year, your efforts to grow VFW membership is evident! Your hard work within the community and your outreach to members is

truly deserving of the hashtag, **#stillserving**. Congratulations to the Department of Kentucky establishing VFW Post 12197 Graves County Post, Mayfield, KY. The tenth new Post chartered this membership year. No question this year has been challenging and you have met the challenges head-on even going into the last week!

Congratulations to the new officers taking the lead! Getting a great start to the new membership year is vital whether you are helping to lead a Post or leading a Department. Getting to know your VFW resources and answers to membership questions early in the year is often a game changer! Membership Mondays are developed with this goal in mind. Thank you to the more than 85 members who joined us for the first Membership Monday in June! Each month the Membership team will host a one-hour live Zoom meeting training session on various topics. Join Membership Monday on July 13, 2020, 2-3 PM, CST, covering the All-American Dashboard. Other topics coming soon.

- OMS Overview
- Recruiting
- Retention
- Long-term Planning

If you are not able to join the Membership Monday live – no worries! A recording of each session will be linked to vfw.org, under **Membership Recruiting & Retention**. In addition, we will post the Membership Monday on the Membership Facebook page for maximum distribution, so be sure to follow us on Facebook for updates on everything VFW Membership - facebook.com/VFWmembership. If you have a suggestion for a topic you would like covered in a Membership Monday, please send suggestions to the Membership team at membership@vfw.org.

The National Membership team is here for you! If you have a question, a concern about a membership matter or need membership materials, call us at **888.564.6389** or email us at membership@vfw.org.

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

As always, please remember you have many resources available to you at vfw.org, and don't forget to follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/VFWmembership. The Membership Facebook page has been routinely updated to showcase informational videos during the pandemic. View our latest Hip-Pocket training video on memstats, answering the most frequently asked questions. For any questions or further information, contact the Membership Department via email at membership@vfw.org or call us at 888.564.6839.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Top Three Recruiters (as of 6/25/2020):

Hugh M. Warner – 400
VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

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

Carlo S. Davis – 236
VFW Post 9191, Dept. of TX

DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:

VFW Post No. 12197 in Mayfield, KY

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:

<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?

Development

VFW Tote Bag – This one-of-a-kind VFW Tote Bag was sent out the last week of June and was created as a special thank you for your continued support of the VFW and the life-changing programs for all veterans. We hope when you receive it, you will use it with pride. Please know that 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 Tote Bag, 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.

Independence Day is Coming Up – Keep an eye out for the VFW’s special online celebration of freedom and hope with our annual observance of Independence Day. Please visit vfw.org to find ways you can honor our nation’s veterans and service members by spreading a message of patriotism and remembrance to your friends and family.

Free Estate Planning Resources from the VFW – Most people know the importance of a will or estate plan. But did you know more than half of American adults do not have one in place? So the VFW is providing a free Personal Estate Planning Kit, which you can download at vfw.org/plannedgiving. Once you have made sure your family and loved ones are taken care of, we invite you to consider a gift to the VFW in your will. It is simple and takes only a few words to provide support for future generations of veterans. Learn more by contacting the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org.

Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW’s life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible, and a Year End

Tax Receipt mailed by the end of January. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483) or email us at partners@vfw.org with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

VFW Friends of Freedom – If you are not already a member of the VFW’s online community, please visit vfw.org and look for the gold banner that says “**Find Out What’s Happening**” to sign up. As a member of the VFW’s Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation’s veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit vfw.org/vfwatwork and click on “**Read VFW success stories**” to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans’ rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

Department Resources – Many great resources are available for your Department to use in promoting fundraising programs. You need only go to heroes.vfw.org/vfwtools. The latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department can be found here. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items for your Department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mailing schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the Department Resources tools to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

VFW 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.

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 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 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, 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/ Patriot’s Pen: 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 for Voice of Democracy and vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen for Patriot’s Pen.

WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL NEWS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Applications are available at VietnamWar50th.com on the Commemorative Partner Program. The approval process is usually less than 30 days. Partners will be kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved as a Partner, the Commemoration will provide organizations with a starter kit of materials for developing and implementing their programs. If you have any questions regarding the Commemorative Partner Program application process, please direct them to: whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil. For Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at: vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam.

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 vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 18. 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 vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia.

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 15, 2021 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 31, 2021 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, Sept. 18, 2020 (third Friday in Sept.); and Veterans Day, Nov. 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to vfwstore.org/products/GP237.

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

VFW Member Benefits

Accidents can happen anywhere at any time. With these unexpected dangers, it’s important to have a safety net to help protect your family’s financial future if something were to happen to you. As a VFW member in good standing, you automatically receive up to \$1,000 of Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance protection, underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, at no-cost to you. If a covered members’ death results from an accident while traveling as a fare-paying passenger in a commercial vehicle, an additional Travel Accident Benefit of \$1,500 will be payable, for a maximum total benefit of up to \$2,500. (All benefits reduce to 50% at age 75, regardless of age at enrollment.)

This benefit is paid regardless of any other coverage you may already have in place. There's no need for you to call to enroll — enrollment is automatic. For additional information about your No-Cost Accidental Death Protection, click [here](#) or call 1.877.850.0183.

"Buddy"® Poppy

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the cancellation of the VFW National Convention in Reno, Nevada this year, there will be no National Buddy Poppy Contest judging.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

You Can Help Recruit the Next Class of VFW Student Veteran Fellows

The application process for the 2021 class of legislative fellows will be opening soon. The program selects 10 VFW members who are student veterans in schools around the world 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 2021 VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Reaching out to the student veteran organization, at a school you attended or live near, to make them aware of this opportunity is a great way to help recruit the next class of fellows. [Find out more information](#) on the program.

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 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 2020-21 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.

Convention Pin – Although we won't be gathering for the National Convention this year, we commemorate the year with a pin.



VFW pin (Item 1329) vfwstore.org/products/21852
Auxiliary pin (Item 1334) vfwstore.org/products/29445



Do you need a face mask? Order yours from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=mask. Free shipping on masks.



See what's new when you click <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems?page=1&size=100>.