

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI VOLUME 41, NO. 3 OCT. 2016

C L E A R T H E W A Y

“BUDDY”® POPPY:

VETERANS DAY “BUDDY”® POPPY CAMPAIGN. Plans should be under way for the Veterans Day “Buddy”® Poppy Campaign. Contact your Department quartermaster to place your order for “Buddy”® Poppies. Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 12 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.

The Manual of Procedure provides that Post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that not for profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of “Buddy”® Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the general fund of the Post.

Contact Information: BuddyPoppy@vfw.org or (816) 968-1155 for any questions or concerns.

VFW COMMUNICATIONS:

VFW Virtual Career Fair

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) are teaming up to host a VFW Virtual Career Fair on October 5, 2016, exclusively for veterans, service members and their spouses, and we need your help in spreading the word!

The Oct. 5 event will run from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. EDT, and provide career-seeking service members, veterans and their spouses the opportunity to connect with job openings being offered by some of the top names in the hospitality industry. The event will feature available opportunities with [BJ’s Restaurants](#), [Ecolab](#), [Hyatt](#), [Sodexo](#) and [Sysco](#), all companies with a history of commitment to hiring America’s service members and veterans.

While participants may register at the time of and during the event, participants are strongly encouraged to preregister for the event at <http://www.vfwvirtual.com/registration/>.

The October 5 hospitality-focused event will seek candidates to fill a myriad of opportunities in the industry, ranging from front of the house and back of the house restaurant positions, to those involving administrative, food services, culinary, facilities management, environmental services, housekeeping, construction, clinical health management and many more. All companies are nationwide and offer an array of opportunities that only large, multi-million dollar corporations can.

Whether you're currently trying to navigate today's tough job market, or know someone who is, the upcoming VFW Virtual Career Fair is an excellent opportunity open exclusively for service members, veterans and their spouses. Please share this information with your friends and family, and on social media.

VFW Website Solution Program

First introduced at the recent Jr. Vice/Quartermaster Conference in Kansas City, we're pleased to formally announce the new **VFW Website Solution** program.

The VFW Website Solution program will assist Posts and Departments in establishing a viable, easy-to-manage website. Developed by Drivepath and Pixelbit, this template-based platform offers Posts and Departments an affordable opportunity to stake their claim of the web, making pertinent information easily accessible to members, as well as the public. Further, the website templates being offered adopt a consistent look and feel, working to reinforce the official VFW brand and messaging. [Click here to see a sample site \(still in development\).](#)

Perhaps the most exciting part of this new program is, through Operation Uplink, the VFW is offering your Posts and Departments grants to cover everything needed for the first year of service! However, this grant is limited to the first 53 Departments and 4,000 Posts to apply. The grant will cover the cost of domain management, development, integration and hosting for the first year. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the Posts and Departments to fund the annual domain management and hosting fee of \$360. That's less than \$1 per day!

These websites boast many manager-friendly functions, and feature an "integration" component which allows the national website, and Department and Post websites to share information, both manually and automatically. This includes a system which allows the Posts to efficiently submit reports directly to the Department. And Drivepath and Pixelbit offer each Post and Department an initial training session on the system and ongoing support.

[Click here for complete details on the program.](#)

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ACTION CORPS:

VFW and SVA Launch 2017 Legislative Fellowship Program

The application process for the 2017 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship is currently open and will close on October 21, 2016. First held in 2015, the program mentors 10 student veterans as they research policy areas affecting veterans and the military. Once their research is completed, the fellows will advocate for legislative and regulatory fixes related to their selected issues. Part of that advocacy includes attending the VFW's National Legislative Conference in March, where fellows will join more than 500 VFW members in promoting the VFW's legislative agenda by meeting with members of Congress. Last year, fellows also briefed staffers from the White House and both the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees. The program, with all travel expenses covered, is for VFW members who attend a college or university with a Student Veterans of America chapter. For more information, including the topics for research and the application link, click here: <http://www.vfw.org/studentfellowship/>.

VFW FOUNDATION POST/VFW AUXILIARY COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT

The VFW Foundation wants to help your Post and/or VFW Auxiliary get more involved in your community. That's why we have established a "VFW Foundation Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant" open to all VFW Posts and/or their Auxiliary.

The Foundation will provide up to \$1,000 to a Post and/or VFW Auxiliary supporting local nonprofits or performing important outreach in their community or needing to make repairs to their Post buildings.

Funded activities do not have to be geared exclusively toward the needs of veterans, military service personnel or their families. In most instances, grant funds will be used to help "general" non-military or mixed general/military populations so as to demonstrate how a VFW Post and/or VFW Auxiliary can make an additional positive impact on its community.

VFW Posts and/or their Auxiliary can conduct grant activities on their own or leverage grant funds in partnership with other non-VFW charities that have existing programs or services such as a local Boy Scout chapter. Your Post and/or VFW Auxiliary may only make a donation to another organization that is within a 25-mile radius of your Post.

To apply for the "VFW Foundation Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant," go to the "Grants" page on the VFW Foundation website (www.vfwfoundation.org) and click on the link provided.

VFW Foundation grant funds must be expended within nine (9) months of the award date which coincides with the time frame expected for project completion. A final report documenting how the funds were used is required by July 1, 2017. For questions, please contact Jason Couch, Grants Coordinator, by email at jcouch@vfw.org.

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>.

SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR.

The VFW wants to recognize the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history, traditions and institutions effectively through the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award program. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, VFW Posts, supervisors or other interested individuals (not relatives). Self-nominees are not eligible.

Important Deadlines: Here are the deadline dates for the program:

- February 15, 2017 – Teacher Nominations to the Post
- February 28, 2017 – Completion of Post Judging
- March 15, 2017 – Completion of District Judging
- March 30, 2017 – Completion of Department Judging
- April 1, 2017 – District Participation Reports due to Department Chairmen
- April 5, 2017 – Department Winners to National
- April 15, 2017 – Department Reports to National

Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for next year's competition. Based on the nominees submitted by the February 15 deadline, local VFW Posts will recognize one outstanding teacher in grades, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Posts then submit the winners' names

to their District level judging who will forward their winners to the Department (or state level) by March 15. After judging, each Department forwards the names of its winners to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national awards contest.

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

A program brochure (designed to be duplicated for distribution) can be viewed at www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/Community/Teacher%20Award%20Brochure.PDF, ordered through <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22917> or by calling the VFW Store at 1-800-821-2606 and asking for item #4450.

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

NEW PATRIOT'S PEN NATIONAL AWARDS. The amount for the Patriot's Pen National Awards now total \$54,500.

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 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>.

VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM MONTH IN NOVEMBER. VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are encouraged to volunteer in their schools to talk about their military and home front experiences to students. Invite your local military recruiter to join you to talk about military service today. Additional information can be found in the 2016–2017 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman’s Guide. Simply visit www.vfw.org and LOG IN (or create an account if you do not have one.) After logging in, you’ll be redirected to the “My VFW” page where you will click on VFW Training & Support and then Community Service, Youth Scholarships & Activities where you’ll have access to the “CHAIRMAN GUIDES.” *Participate in this activity as part of “National Veterans Awareness” week, November 6-12, as designated by Congress.*

KENNEDY CENTER/STEPHEN SONDHEIM INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER AWARDS. The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is now accepting applications for the seventh annual Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards. Teachers of any subject are eligible for nomination. The \$10,000 awards (no strings attached) are presented each year on Sondheim’s birthday – March 22 – to a handful of teachers, kindergarten through college, who are nominated via the Kennedy Center website. All applications will be required to be submitted online or postmarked on a day to be determined in December 2016.

The Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards were created in honor of Stephen Sondheim's 80th birthday and were initiated and funded through the generous support of Freddie and Myrna Gershon.

For more information, please visit the Sondheim Awards website: <http://education.kennedy-center.org/education/sondheim/>.

VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS. Departments are asked to submit three nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs Office no later than February 1, 2017. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician

Each Department will receive their three awards and contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient’s peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the general public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters and EMT’s, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership.

CONDUCT A VETERANS DAY PROGRAM ON NOVEMBER 11. Organize a community event on Veterans Day honoring all veterans. For a ceremonial procedure, refer to the information found in the 2016–2017 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman’s Guide. If you should need a Veterans Day speech, please go to: <https://www.vfw.org/MY-VFW/Patriotic-Holiday-Speeches>. Click here for Veterans Day merchandise <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday>.

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

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

Every Post Special Project receiving the Award of Excellence in the May judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the 2016 – 2017 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Guide.

POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Public Law 105-85 (November 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 20, 2017 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 29, 2017 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; National POW/MIA Day, September 15, 2017 (third Friday in September); and, Veterans Day, November 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.

2017 REVISED PODIUM EDITION – CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER, BY-LAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL:

The podium edition of the Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual, which reflect the amendments adopted by the 117th National Convention, effective August 26, 2016, are in stock and can be purchased through the VFW Store at <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22690>.

To all members, please note in the 2017 Podium Edition, Section 220 of the Manual of Procedure, under "Removal," the following instruction was inadvertently excluded from the end of the first paragraph. "The member holding such office and the Department commander shall be notified at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting by certified or registered mail addressed to the member's last known address stating the reasons for the proposed action."

MEMBERSHIP:

MEMBERSHIP WEBINAR TRAINING

If there is a membership topic that you would like to see and discuss, all suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. Please contact Bob Crider, director of Membership at 816-968-1138 or bcrider@vfw.org.

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

The 2016 – 2017 Membership Program is available online at www.vfw.org under VFW Training and Support.

- The membership application was updated in January of 2014, and is now an easier tool to use when recruiting. Please note it does require Dates of Service, not the dates of overseas service.
- Members now have the option to enroll in two beneficial programs:

VFW Autopay—renews your annual membership automatically!

Life Installment Plan—automatic monthly payments option—with this option, there is no longer the need to complete a payment authorization form.

Once enrolled in either program, automatic payments are processed using the credit card information provided on the application. These are simply added options on the membership application. The traditional methods of signing up for both annual and life membership are still options as well.

DUES NOTICE SCHEDULE

Annual members will receive a *mailed renewal notice* 5 months, 3 months, and 1 month prior to their subscription end date. Annual members with a valid email address will also receive an *e-mailed renewal notice* 6 months, 4 months, and 2 months prior to their subscription end date.

Annual members will receive a *mailed lapsed notice* 1, 3, and 5 months following their subscription end date.

- **Recruiting Notes:** Encourage annual members to take advantage of the Life member installment plan. **Encourage life installment plan and annual members to take advantage of the automatic payment option.**
- **Shotgun Mailing Lists:** We can obtain lists that will assist you in increasing your membership. Please call Matt Nute in the Membership Department at 1-888-JOIN-VFW (1-888-564-6839) for assistance. The list cost is \$75.00 per 1,000 names.
- **Legacy Life Membership:** This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is **now available in memoriam for past Life members.** 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.

What will your Legacy be?

MEMBER BENEFITS:

The benefits of the Medicare Advantage Insurance Plan.

By opting into this coverage, you are still enrolled in the Medicare program with complete Part A and Part B coverage but with even more robust benefits. These private plans often include coverage for check-ups and hospital stays minus the standard Medicare deductibles.

Because these plans are provided by private companies, you can choose from several plan types and select the one that is best suited to your needs. Prescription drug plans are an option in most cases so your coverage would extend to include medications as well, all under one policy.

Many Medicare Advantage plans also offer wellness plans to support your health proactively, along with a personalized statement to help you budget your health care dollars to be the most effective.

For more information, call 1-877-713-6177 and the Humana Medicare Advantage Insurance team is ready to take your call on Medicare Supplement and Part D.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

VFW's Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2016 – In September we mailed the VFW's Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2016. We hope you enjoy these special edition cards along with the other gifts that were included in the package. In the letter that was sent with the cards and gifts, we asked you to consider taking some time to visit a hospitalized service member or veteran in your community. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/volunteer to find out about volunteering at your local VA facility. And

please, remember that the VFW's life-changing programs would not be available for veterans of all generations without the generosity of its members. Your donation to the VFW helps support programs for veterans and service members right in your own Department.

Veterans Day is Not Far Away – Soon you may receive a special package that includes a first class stamp and a special Christmas card for a hospitalized veteran or service member. It is our goal to get a Christmas card to as many veterans and service members in VA medical facilities as possible before December 25. Your greeting will bring some real holiday cheer to a very special hero who may be feeling lonely and forgotten through the holidays. We included the first class stamp to make it easy for you to return the signed Christmas card to us as quickly as possible. And when you return your card, please remember that your donation and support of this important program will also help keep the VFW National Veterans Service program strong and healthy for veterans of all ages.

A Simple Way to Make a Big Difference – Making a gift in your will is the easiest way to support the VFW and your fellow veterans after your lifetime. Did you know that it only takes one or two sentences in your will to complete? We invite you to learn more about this type of legacy gift and the lasting impact you can leave your family and the VFW. Free information is available by contacting the VFW Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119, email plannedgiving@vfw.org or visit www.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 without receiving all of the unwanted mail? The VFW has developed an option that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate unwanted 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. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact the VFW Development Department Donor Services at 816-756-3390, ext. 7108 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 www.vfw.org and look for the box 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 www.vfw.org/vfwatwork and click on "**Read VFW success stories**" to read 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 the 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!

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:

The VFW Adopt-a-Unit's goal is to develop supportive relationships with units before, during and after deployments to help deliver the vast network of free resources the VFW has available for the military and their families. Adopt-a-Unit relationships are created and maintained by individual VFW Posts who work closely with unit commanders and senior enlisted to provide direct support.

As the conflict in Afghanistan winds down and more of our deployed service members return home, it is vital that VFW Posts and Auxiliaries use MAP's Adopt-a-Unit program to continue supporting our military!

Instead of planning deployment/welcome homes, work with your local units on: family days, FRG meetings, patriotic holidays, community outreach activities, parades and park clean-ups.

Now is a great time to develop relationships with your local National Guard.

VFW STORE:



You fought for our right to vote. In peacetime or war, veterans have fought to defend our freedoms. Exercise your right to vote, and encourage your community to do the same. The VFW Store offers “get out the vote” posters suitable for displaying in local businesses, plus buttons and patriotic apparel. Go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vote>.



Veterans Day is just around the corner – order now to receive your merchandise in time! We offer parade items, Buddy Poppy distribution products, patriotic apparel and more! To order, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday> or call 1-800-821-2606. Quantity discounts are available on selected items.

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

DURHAM, RANDALL E., Commander, Department of Tennessee, 2012-2013 and a Gold Legacy Life member of North Shelby Post 7175, Millington, Tennessee, September 8, 2016.

ROBBINS, LEO V., All American Commander, Department of Europe, 2014-2015 and a Gold Legacy Life member of Marvin L. Snyder Post 3885, Erlangen, Germany, September 10, 2016.