

Membership

STARTING THE YEAR STRONG WITH THE COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE!

As laid out in the 2026-27 Membership Program, we will continue issuing quarterly challenges to our Posts and rewarding those who lead their divisions in recruiting as well as Life Member upgrades. Every quarter (July 1-September 30), we will award points to the Posts as follows:

- Recruit a new annual Member into the Post: 1 point
- An annual or lapsed Member converts to life: 5 points
- Recruit a new Life Member into the Post: 10 points

At the end of the quarter, the Post that leads their membership division in points will receive a special award designated by the Commander-in-Chief. All Posts who meet these quarterly challenges will also be featured on a video display at the National Convention to recognize their achievements.

MEMBERSHIP GOALS

As is set out in the 2026-27 National Membership Program, we are aiming for membership growth as well as a minimum of 80% retention of our Annual members. Focusing our efforts on growth through recruiting and stability via retention will be essential in our efforts to increase our membership strength. The 2026-27 National Membership Program can be downloaded through the Training & Support page on vfw.org.

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES

Do you want to help your Post meet your membership goals? Log into vfw.org and go to <https://vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/membership-recruiting-and-retention> where you can view training videos, download recruiting materials and posters, and gain access to all the tools you need to help recruit, retain, and mentor your members!

The 2026-27 VFW National Membership Program is available online at vfw.org, under MY VFW, scroll down to Membership Quick Links, click on Membership Recruiting and Retention. You will see the 2026-27 VFW National Membership Program in blue letters.

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP MATERIAL ORDER FORM

We have made it easier for you to get all the recruiting brochures you will need to make this membership year successful! It's as easy as one two three!

1. Go to vfw.org and click the login link in the upper right corner. Sign in when prompted.
2. Under "Membership Quick Links," select Membership Online Order Form.
3. Use the dropdown list to indicate items you need. The form will automatically calculate the cost of items and shipping. When finished, click SUBMIT and it will take you to a billing page if there are any charges.

Follow these simple steps and if you have any questions, you may contact the Membership department at 1.888.564.6839 or email us at membership@vfw.org.

NEW POST DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GRANT

For each new Post chartered the Quartermaster will receive a \$250 credit from the VFW Store to be used towards necessary materials for the new Post.

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

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

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?

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP RECRUITERS!

Top Three Recruiters as of 24 August 2026

Michael D. Boll – 69 members
VFW Post 2433, Dept of NJ

Jack A. Hawley – 44 members
VFW Post 1087, Dept of MT

Steven L. Woodward – 42 members
VFW Post 2224, Dept of WA

Development

Here is some helpful information about why the support of every VFW member is vitally important. VFW's life-changing programs are not possible through membership dues alone. In fact, **membership dues alone cover just 16% of the cost of programs.**

As a nonprofit organization, the VFW relies heavily on the generosity of its members and patriotic supporters. When members donate, 100% of their net donation goes directly back to support their Department. *Please spread the word and give as generously as you are able.*

VFW Christmas Cards – This month we are mailing festive VFW Christmas Cards as our way of saying “Thank You” for your generosity in helping provide much-needed services to fellow veterans and service members. With the holidays quickly approaching, your support is urgently needed! Please help our fellow veterans and service members by sending a special donation when you receive this package. Your donations support the VFW programs right in *your* Department. And take the time to visit a hospitalized or homebound veteran or current service member this holiday season. Your best wishes and thanks for their service mean more than you can imagine. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/Volunteer to find out about volunteering at your local VA facility.

Smart Giving From Your IRA – Make a difference by making a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA today! You can give any amount, up to \$111,000, to a qualified charity, such as the VFW, without having to pay income tax.

You are jump-starting the legacy you would like to leave and giving yourself the joy of watching your philanthropy take shape. For more information, visit: <https://vfw.planmylegacy.org/give-from-your-ira>. For questions, contact the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or plannedgiving@vfw.org.

Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism? – Adjutant General Dan West would like you to join him in supporting the VFW’s life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families. The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis, which helps reduce expenses and eliminates the amount of fundraising mail you receive. 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 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 at the end of January. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department toll-free 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 read [VFW Success Stories](#) to learn how the VFW is at work 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!

VFW Department Resource Page – We encourage all VFW Departments to actively support the VFW Department Fundraising Programs. The success of these initiatives relies on the participation and backing of your Department’s members. Promotional materials can be accessed by visiting heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools.

Marketing Communications

What began as an awareness campaign in 2020, today the VFW’s Still Serving campaign continues to reach millions of veterans. Have you shared your story yet?

Your Still Serving story could help inspire other veterans around the country to give back in the same ways that you are. Whether it was a time that you checked in on another veteran, participated in a local charity run/walk or how you volunteer in your community, we want to hear about how you're Still Serving.

[Tell us your story today!](#)

Veterans & Military Support Programs

All-American Eligibility

Donating to NVS (no longer referred to as VMS) and DPAA (new for 2026-27) can only be done via the **Dashboard** by going to the link “**NVS Donation**” at the upper right-hand corner of the screen. For the **2026-27 Program Year**, your **\$125** or more donation to NVS **meets the eligibility criteria** for **All-American** in this category. Your **\$75** donation or more to DPAA **meets the eligibility criteria** for **All-American** in this category. **Donations must be received by June 30, 2027, to make All-American.**

When you make your donation for either category, all that needs to be entered into the box is 125 for NVS or 75 for DPAA. No \$ and no .00 are required in the donation amount box.

PLEASE DO NOT USE ANY OF THE RED/WHITE DONATE LINKS IN THE UPPER RIGHTHAND CORNER OF ANY WEBPAGE. THIS LINK GOES TO THE GENERAL DONATION PAGE AND WILL NOT BE CREDITED AS A NVS/DPAA DONATION.

Military Appreciation Program (MAP) Grant Funds

MAP Grant funds for the 2026-27 program year opens Oct. 1, 2026.

The eligibility criteria have changed. There is a cap on how much funds can be received per adopted unit annually, and the grant is now a reimbursement grant. We no longer provide funds before an event. Once you complete an event you will then request a reimbursement. More information is provided on the All-American Eligible Dashboard under the Military Assistance Program Grant Guidelines application.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at M.A.P@vfw.org – 816.756.3390 ext. 6287.

VFW Financial Assistance for Service Members

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at mherron@vfw.org or 816.968.1102.
VFW's “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”

The **Spring 2027 Semester** application is now open and runs through Nov. 15, 2026. The application is only available online at [vfw.org/Scholarship](https://www.vfw.org/Scholarship).

VMS Program Tools

The Veterans & Military Support (VMS) Program Tools webpage is updated every month. Link to the webpage is <https://www.vfw.org/VMSPTools>

Continue to do what you are doing and thank you for your support!

DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS. Military service flags, insignias, etc. should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag.

PROGRAMS DASHBOARD TOOL. (NOTE: Previously ALL-AMERICAN DASHBOARD) Please encourage Posts to read the 2026-27 Membership program. Military Appreciation Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much in grant assistance has been received from National HQs to supplement the Financial Assistance for Service Members financial grants & VFW Sport Clips Help a Hero scholarship statistic. The information charts reside in the KPI tools section.

2026-27 SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM. The Veterans of Foreign Wars 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 this program.

Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for the next competition. All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous National winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

All Post-level nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages, including the resume, as a maximum documentation of their teaching experience (for example: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available.

VFW Post Teacher Award chairpersons may submit one candidate, in each grade level (K-5, 6-8, 9-12), to their District by Nov. 15. If a Department does not have a District judging, then the Post entries would be submitted to the Department Headquarters and/or Department Chairperson by Jan. 1. The Department may select a single candidate in each grade level and submit them to VFW National Headquarters through the Dashboard by Feb. 1 for National judging. To submit their winners, the "VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form" should be completed, and the winning entry documentation uploaded.

VFW's Department Citizenship Education Teacher award includes a citation for both the winning teacher and their school.

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 their school; and an all-expense-paid trip to attend a VFW National Convention.

Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. have the correct teacher award entry deadlines and rules for the 2026-27 program year. The teacher entry form, information page, and Chairpersons Guide are available on the VFW website.

Simply visit vfw.org, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Additional Resources**. Here you will find all program manuals and on the same page are all other program materials.

PATRIOT DAY, SEPT. 11. Per Presidential Proclamation, Sept. 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.

IT’S SCHOLARSHIP TIME! It is the perfect time to contact 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 a VFW Auxiliary to conduct separate judging at any level. If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email Jlinstra@vfw.org or call 816.968.1155.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN THEMES. The 2026–27 themes were chosen by Commander-in-Chief Cory Geisler. The Voice of Democracy theme will be “**What a Veteran has taught me about America**” and the Patriot’s Pen theme will also be “**What a Veteran has taught me about America**”.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN ENTRY FORMS. The new 2026-27 Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

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.

NOTE: Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen posters are available!

OUTSTANDING NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD. Each year on July 1, the National Programs office will determine the top community service Posts in each conference, based off their community service reporting and total impact, from July 1 to June 30 the previous year. Your total impact of community service is figured by the money spent to host and organize the community service event, plus total hours all volunteers participated, plus the mileage for all volunteers (Dollars Donated + Hours + Mileage = Total Impact).

These four Posts will be awarded the Award for Community Service and will be invited to attend the VFW National Convention. The Post Commander (or designated representative) and a guest will receive round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations for five nights, and a \$599 stipend to receive the award at the VFW National Convention.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE POST OF THE YEAR. Each Department will have an NCSP winner based on total impact also. National will select based on end of year reports on July 1. Winners will also be published in the Convention program booklet and receive a street sign identifying this National award for the Post to put up in their community.

VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS. Departments may submit up to five nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs office no later than Feb. 1, 2027. All Department Public Servant Citations must be requested through the “VFW Department Public Servant Award Request Form” through the Dashboard.

VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award
- VFW National 911 Dispatcher Award
- VFW National Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician (E.O.D.T.) Award

Each Department will receive their requested awards and should contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department Commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient's peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters, EMTs, dispatchers and EODTs personnel, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership. Order plaques and citations for public servants from the VFW Store vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=public%20servant.

NOTE: VFW PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATION POST ENTRY FORM. This form was developed to assist VFW Post Safety Chairpersons with an entry form to hand out to the local Fire Department, Police Department, etc. to assist interested individuals in nominating one of their own. The entry form along with the required documentation are to be returned to the local VFW Post for their judging, by Oct. 31. Once a winner in each category has been chosen, the Post will forward the winning entries on to the next level of judging.

Simply visit vfw.org, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Public Servant Program**.

NOTE: Remember, the First Responder Medal is available through the VFW Store. To review this item, please click on the following link: vfwstore.org/products/32134.

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 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairperson's Guide.

Simply visit vfw.org, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Additional Resources**. Here you will find all program manuals, and on the same page are all other program materials.

Participate in this activity during the week of Veterans Day, which is part of "National Veterans Awareness week," as designated by Congress. Find Pledge of Allegiance pencils and coloring books, plus other citizenship education tools at the VFW Store vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation.

CONDUCT A VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM ON NOV. 11. Organize a community event on Veterans Day honoring all veterans. For a ceremonial procedure, refer to the information found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairperson's Guide. If you should need a Veterans Day speech, please go to: <http://www.vfw.org/MY-VFW/Patriotic-Holiday-Speeches>.

The 2026 Veterans Day speech will be available no later than two weeks prior to Nov. 11. Click here for Veterans Day merchandise vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday.

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 Chairperson's Guide or contact Mary at 816.968.1187 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

“UPDATED” POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Under previous Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 16, 1997), it indicated there were only six days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices were required to display the POW/MIA flag. Now under new law, Public Law 116-67 (Feb. 21, 2020), it is required that the POW/MIA flag be flown on all days on which the flag of the United States is displayed. 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

Life can change in an instant, and accidents often happen when you least expect them. While no one can predict the unexpected, you can have added peace of mind knowing your loved ones have an extra layer of financial protection.

As a VFW member in good standing, you can receive up to \$1,000 in Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance, underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, at no cost to you. If a covered accident occurs while you're a fare-paying passenger on a commercial vehicle, you're also eligible for an additional \$1,500 Travel Accident Benefit, bringing your total coverage to up to \$2,500. This coverage complements any existing insurance you may have. Benefits are reduced by 50% at age 75.

To learn more, [visit our website](#) or contact the VFW Member Benefits Department at 833.VFW.VETS (833.839.8387), option 2.

“Buddy”® Poppy

“BUDDY”® POPPY CAMPAIGN. Although we emphasize Buddy Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, Buddy Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, Buddy Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as “They Gave, Will You?” is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies. Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of three (3) weeks in advance of your distribution date.

BUDDY POPPY POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

- 1) Departments must order poppies through OMS.
- 2) All claims of non-receipt of a Buddy Poppy order must be made within 60 days of the date of the order or will NOT be replaced free of charge.
- 3) All orders for the traditional Buddy Poppy, Anniversary Poppies or tin tab poppies must be placed through your Department Headquarters. Auxiliaries must go through their Post to order all poppies.
- 4) The tin tabs do count towards the Buddy Poppy requirement for the All-American program.
- 5) If you do not receive your order within four weeks of placing it with your Department, please contact your Department Headquarters to report you have not received your order.
- 6) All poppies are shipped within 10 days of ordering except orders placed in June and July, due to preparation for National Convention, please allow an additional five business days.

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy or by calling Member Service Center at 1.833.839.8387.

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 chairperson's guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of Buddy Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the Post general fund.

VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES. The Silver, Gold and Diamond Anniversary Buddy Poppies are for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary years. For Posts currently in their 100th year anniversary, they can order any color and as many as they need.

Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out unless you are currently in your 100th year. These are ordered through the Department in OMS and processed the same as the red poppies. Currently we have no plans to replenish inventory of Anniversary Poppies due to increased cost and the small quantities we sell of Anniversary Poppies. Based on the past four years' sales, we have sufficient inventory for the next 2 years of Gold, 3 years of Diamond and 50 years of Silver.

Adjutant General

General Counsel/Legal

Claim Shark Files for Bankruptcy

Trajector and its affiliates filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on July 23, 2026, in the wake of VFW's campaign against claim sharks. According to a declaration by the Chief Restructuring Officer, Trajector is filing bankruptcy as a result of several different factors, including internal governance issues, class action litigation, changes to regulatory and state legislation prohibiting or curtailing unaccredited representation and fees, and financing issues. VFW's General Counsel, John Muckelbauer, is co-chairing the Committee of Unsecured Creditors and seeks to represent the veteran population during this reorganization. Please stay tuned for more information.

National Veterans Service

VFW MEMBER WINS NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE AWARD

Congratulations to VFW Post 9785 Life member Robert Sherrill on being named the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee Volunteer of the Year!

Selected from a pool of nearly 29,000 VA volunteers, Comrade Sherrill was recognized for his volunteer service at the Alaska VA Healthcare facility, his suicide awareness work and his unwavering commitment to supporting fellow veterans in his community. His selfless service continues to make a lasting impact.

Comrade Sherrill will be receiving his award at the 80th Annual Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee (NAC) Meeting and Conference being held in Orlando, FL, Sept. 2-3, 2026.

A well-deserved honor for an extraordinary volunteer.

HUMANA SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING

For the fifth consecutive year, VFW was able to offer scholarships to cross-accredited state and county service officers/claims representatives to attend VFW accredited representative skill training being held Oct. 4-8, in Annapolis, MD. Each scholarship covers hotel, transportation, conference fees and per diem for the recipient.

These scholarships are made possible thanks to a donation from Humana Inc. and the VFW has chosen to dedicate these resources to help provide quality training to VFW-accredited representatives who do not usually have an opportunity to train with the organization, thus allowing the VFW to reach deeper into communities to provide high-quality, free claims assistance to veterans. All scholarship recipients are currently accredited with the VFW through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for the purposes of preparation, presentation, and prosecution of benefit claims before VA on behalf of VFW claimants.

VFW's accredited representative training is one of the ways the VFW satisfies VA Office of the General Counsel's continuing education requirements for its global network of accredited representatives and is subject to periodic audit from OGC.

We thank our Humana Partners for such an incredibly generous donation to further the goals and objectives of the National Veterans Service in providing world class representation on behalf of our veterans, claimants, their families, and survivors.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

VFW Fall Legislative Conference

The VFW National Legislative Committee will gather in Washington, D.C., Sept. 13-17, to meet with senators, representatives, and congressional staffers regarding key [VFW legislative priorities](#).

This year's discussions will focus on the *Take Care of America's Veterans Act*, *Major Richard Star Act*, *Written Informed Consent Act*, and *TAP Promotion Act*. Committee members will bring the voices and experiences of veterans from every corner of the country directly to the halls of Congress, ensuring lawmakers cannot ignore the needs of those who have served.

Administrative Operations

REQUESTING CEREMONIAL RIFLES, AMMUNITION & MILITARY EQUIPMENT

Department Adjutants and Quartermasters are asked to remind all Post officers to refer to the revised information located at vfw.org where they will need to log in to the "My VFW" page and under Member/Post Resources, select "VFW Training and Support" link, then Bylaws: Training, Forms & Templates, then select Training where you'll have access to "Training Guides & Standard Operating Procedures" and then click on "Ceremonial Rifles, Ammunition & Military Equipment" when requesting a "conditional" donation of any government military equipment, ceremonial rifles or ammunition.

Before contacting the governmental agency, a formal written request is to be addressed and mailed to the Adjutant General at VFW National Headquarters and must be completed and signed by the current *Post Commander*, *Post Adjutant* or *Post Quartermaster*, one of whom needs to be the contact person.

Also to be included is that contact person's email, mailing addresses and phone number. Address the request to the Adjutant General, VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Include the proper information as outlined in the "Ceremonial Rifles, Ammunition & Military Equipment" pages on the website. It is requested that a Post not go through their Department Headquarters (but send them a courtesy copy). This only slows down the processing and creates unnecessary paperwork for the Department personnel.

VFW Store

VFW STORE:

Check out VFW Store's new items: Apparel, accessories and more! Go to vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems to browse or look for your new catalog in the mail!



Roll Call of Departed Comrades

SMITH, R.D. "BULLDOG", JR., Commander-in-Chief, 1976-1977, National Council of Administration Member for Departments of Georgia, Florida, and Alabama, 1970-1972, Commander, Department of Georgia, 1962-1963, and a Bronze Legacy Life Member of Leon Williams Post No. 4346, Toccoa, Georgia, July 31, 2026.

HAGEN, HERMAN C., JR., Commander, Department of Nevada, 2009-2010, and a Gold Legacy Life Member of Elwood Perkins Post No. 8336, Moapa Valley, Nevada, July 24, 2026.