

Membership

As we near the end of 2021, Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic is issuing a new membership challenge with a twist!

This challenge will span two months, from Nov. 1 through Dec. 31. The five Posts who increase their membership percentage by the largest amount in these two months will win an invitation for their Commander and a guest to attend the Kansas City Spree trip in April 2022! It's not just about increasing your membership percentage, however. In order to qualify for this award, a Post must put in twenty (20) new members between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31!

This is your chance to take part in one of our most exclusive annual events, **The Kansas City Spree**. Attendees will receive round-trip airfare and hotel accommodations, as well as a fun-filled weekend in Kansas City! Get your Post together and start that recruiting campaign because **THE TIME IS NOW!**

ELIGIBILITY UPDATE

At the 2021 National Convention, Section 101 (Eligibility) of the VFW Bylaws was amended by vote.

On Sept. 2, 2021, the amended text, "An individual is eligible for membership in the corporation only if the individual is serving or has served honorably as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States..."

This change removes the requirement of US citizenship or status as a US national from our requirements which brings the Bylaws in line with our Congressional Charter.

DEPARTMENT "100 PERCENT" INCENTIVE

Any Department that attains 100% in membership by close of business on March 31, 2022, will be entered into a random drawing. The Commander (plus guest) and the Quartermaster (plus guest) for the Department that is selected will each receive:

- **\$2,500 voucher through Veterans Travel Services (VTS) applied towards airfare, accommodations and transportation for a trip of their own choice.**

EARLY BIRD AWARD-VFW LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The top three Post Commanders and Quartermasters in each division on Jan. 1, 2022, will receive:

- **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.**

DEPARTMENT EARLY BIRD INCENTIVE

For every Department that achieves 92% in membership by Jan. 1, 2022, the Department Commander will receive:

- **A Henry Golden Boy .22 Caliber Rifle (VFW Tribute Edition if available) or a credit voucher of equal value for use with Veterans Travel Service (VTS) or the VFW Store.**

2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The 2021-2022 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 2021-22 VFW National Membership Program in blue letters.

POST DEVELOPMENT

I received many calls from several Departments after this article published last month which is fantastic! Many of you are currently doing the research and or planning for a new Post in your Department. This is the most important phase and can be the most rewarding as well! Reminder that (10) of your 25 members must be new members on their first year of membership. If you do not have a New Post & Revitalization manual call/email me!

As you plan for the remainder of this membership year, please make sure your Department is in contact with the National Membership Department to identify an area in need of post development or a revitalization effort. There are many resources available to you, all you need to do is call! We want to start a Post or revitalize an existing Post in every Department this year. Do not wait until the middle of the year to identify an area. Let the Membership department know what you are working on so we can track your information and provide assistance as needed.

NEW POST DEVELOPMENT & POST REVITALIZATION DEPARTMENT AWARD

For each new Post the department will receive two entries into a drawing, and one entry for increasing the membership of a Post of 50 members or less to over 50 members by July 1, 2022, the Department selected will receive:

- **\$1,000 paid directly to Department.**

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.

UPCOMING TRAINING

The next Membership Monday training webinar will be on Nov. 8, 2021, at 2:00 PM CST, the topic is TBD.

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

Don't forget to Follow us on Facebook to view the latest Membership news, Post Shout-Outs and important resource information throughout the year.

<https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/>

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP THREE RECRUITERS!

Top Three Recruiters (as of 10.25.21):

Larry M. Gerlt – 163

VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

Joseph T. Allen – 137

VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

Randy L. George – 95

VFW Post 2952, Dept. of AR

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?

VFW Foundation

The annual VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero scholarship campaign to help veterans obtain educational scholarships continues until Nov. 11. Please stop by your neighborhood Sport Clips and participate by getting a haircut, donating or just to thank them for their support. We invite you to sign up, create a team and participate in the virtual walk www.vfw.org/VirtualWalk2021.

Questions on how to create a team and sign up, please contact Brooke Brown, VFW Foundation Corporate Relations at BBrown@vfw.org or 816.868.3156.

Grants offered by the VFW Foundation are now open. We are excited to announce that we are providing more grant opportunities to Posts than ever before under the umbrella of our new #StillServing grants! This program now includes:

- o An opportunity for a Post to receive up to three separate grants during a one-year period.
- o Grant funding for volunteer hours served.
- o Larger grants for partnering with local affiliates of VFW National corporate supporters.
- o For more information, please visit our website at [vfw.org/grants](https://www.vfw.org/grants).

Contact: VFW Foundation Administrator Richard Potter, RPotter@vfw.org

Development

VFW National Veterans Service Quarterly Supporter Newsletter – The quarterly update on what the VFW National Veterans Service is doing for veterans will arrive this month. You will see stories of how the VFW in D.C. is fighting for veterans’ rights and legislation affecting veterans. We also share stories of VFW Service Officers assisting veterans in obtaining their VA benefits – all because of your support of this vital program. If you, or a fellow veteran, are in need of assistance in filing a VA claim, please visit [vfw.org/NVS](https://www.vfw.org/NVS).

VFW 2022 “Fly the Flag” Calendar – The VFW is proud to let you know you may soon receive a special edition 2022 “Fly the Flag” Calendar. We created this special patriotic 2022 “Fly the Flag” Calendar in recognition of your loyal membership and generous support of the VFW. We have also included a bonus gift selection, which features a beautiful VFW “American Songbirds” Calendar. We hope these special gifts inspire you to show your patriotism by displaying the United States flag, especially on the days marked in your calendar, to show your support for all veterans who have fought to keep us free. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/Flag to print a free flag poster to display. *Your donations* will help *your VFW Department* serve veterans in need throughout the year. Veterans in your Department are counting on you!

2021 Veterans Day Matching Gift Campaign to Friends of Freedom Online Community – Last month Friends of Freedom members received an email with exciting news! A generous friend of the VFW agreed to match every donation we receive up to \$50,000 until Veterans Day, November 11, 2021! This is an incredible opportunity for your contribution to go twice as far to honor the brave men and women who have dedicated themselves to our country. No matter the amount, your generosity will have twice the impact for service members and their families – please help us honor these brave men and women by giving as generously as you can! If you have not received this offer in your inbox and would like to make a donation that will be matched, please click [here](#).

Join the Prestigious VFW Heroes Circle! - You can join an elite group of our most dedicated members and supporters in the VFW Heroes Circle! Comprised of those who wish to further our mission with a gift in their wills or other estate plans, the VFW Heroes Circle was created to honor our most loyal supporters who have made this extraordinary commitment to America’s veterans, service members and their families.

To learn how easy it is to make an impact on future generations of veterans, please contact the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org. More information is available online at [vfw.org/Plannedgiving](https://www.vfw.org/Plannedgiving).

Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism? – Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic would like you to join with him in supporting 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. These resources are available at 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 mail schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the tools found on the VFW Department Resources Page to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

Veterans & Military Support Programs

REMINDER: Visit your local Sport Clips for a haircut from now until Nov. 11 and donate to the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program. Your donation will provide scholarships to service members and veterans. **On Veterans Day**, Nov. 11, Sport Clips will donate \$1 to the VFW for every haircut given at more than 1,800 locations nationwide. Please contact Mark Herron at 816.968.1102 if you have any questions about the Help A Hero Scholarship Program.

REMINDER: If your Department has yet to pay for the 2021-2022 VMS Lapel Pins from the convention this year, please go to the All American Dashboard and make your donation to cover your purchase. This will also count towards All American eligibility. If you have any questions about this, please contact Mark Herron at mherron@vfw.org.

Please use the links below for all VMS donations and programs. We no longer accept email or faxed requests/reports.

VMS Online Donation: <https://heroes.vfw.org/page/22950/donate1>

VMS Formstack Links:

- **VFW Website Solution:** VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/websolutionapp
- **AUX Website Solution:** VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/auxwebsolutionapp
- **Chairman Report:** VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vms_chairman_report

- **MAP Grant Application:** vfw.org/MAPGrantApplication
- **MAP Grant Report:** vfw.org/MAPGrantReport
- **Adopt a Unit Application:** vfw.org/AdoptAUnitApp
- **Adopt a Unit Report:** vfw.org/AdoptAUnitReport

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, Space Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to <https://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag>.

BELLS OF PEACE 2021. On Nov. 11 at 11:00 a.m. local time...Americans everywhere and across the nation will toll bells in remembrance of those who served and those who sacrificed in the war that changed the world...

- Sign up to Participate (once you have signed up we will send you updates and notices).
- Recruit others including organizations to pledge with you.
- Find out more and see the special landing page for information and RESOURCES:
<https://doughboy.org/bells-signup> or <https://Doughboy.org/bells>

ALL AMERICAN DASH BOARD. Military Assistance Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much in grant assistance that has been received from National HQs to supplement the Unmet Needs financial grants & VFW Sport Clips Help-A-Hero scholarship statistics. The information charts reside on the KPI tools section.

Please encourage posts to read the 2021-2022 Membership program. Many posts don't understand they need to sign up 5 New Action Corps subscribers, create a Facebook page, 2 separate partnering events along with a 10% increase in Community Service Impact from last year. They must submit reports through the dashboard to gain credit.

NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM REMINDER. This year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars will select a teacher to receive the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher award. Teacher Award Chairmen must submit one candidate for this award to their Department Headquarters by Jan. 1. The Department must select a single candidate for the award and submit the winner to VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1.

NOTE: The only item required by the National VFW Programs department is a completed "VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form" with the winning teacher's documentation downloaded. This form is now available on the VFW website. You can locate this form by logging in to vfw.org and searching under "My VFW" in the Training & Support section.

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 as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available. These items, of the Post level winner, will be forwarded on to the District, if applicable, or on to the Department with the completed entry form.

VFW's Department Teacher winners that are received at National Headquarters will receive a VFW National citation for both the winning teacher and their school.

Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. has the correct teacher award entry deadlines and rules for the 2021-22 program year. The Teacher Entry form is now available on the VFW website.

Simply visit vfw.org/#login, 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.

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.

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 2021-22 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman's Manual. Simply visit 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 MANUALS." *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.

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 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Manual.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact the VFW Programs Office at 816.968.1155 or email nlopez@vfw.org.

YOUTH HUNTING AND SHOOTING PROGRAMS. VFW has been involved with the National Rifle Association (NRA) since 1920. Through the NRA, hundreds of VFW Posts provide hunter safety courses and sponsor shooting competitions. Annually, VFW and NRA offer junior and adult small-bore rifle and air rifle individual and team matches conducted by mail called Postal Matches.*

NRA Postal Matches are designed for VFW rifle teams as a sport activity for youth and adults to build interest in rifle shooting and safety. A Postal Match is a match in which competitor's fire on their home ranges using targets which have been marked for identification. The team match is a series of four monthly matches for teams sponsored by VFW Posts held from December through March. The individual VFW match is fired in the fall with a December closing date. The scores are then mailed to the NRA for ranking of awards.

If your VFW Post does not already participate in the Youth/Adult Rifle Program and would like to take part in a program that has great appeal for youngsters as well as adults, please go to the NRA's Postal Match website nrahq.org/compete/dept-postal.asp.

Complete program information, rules, and entry form (in PDF format) are available: postalmatches.nra.org/documents/pdf/compete/Postals/VFW%20Postal.pdf.

If you have any questions, please contact the NRA directly at:

National Rifle Association
Competitive Shooting Division
11250 Waples Mill Rd.
Fairfax, VA 22030
Email: postals@nrahq.org
Phone: 703.267.1482

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact the VFW Programs Office at 816.968.1155 or email nlopez@vfw.org.

*There are clubs and Posts, etc. that have local shooting programs all around the world. They teach gun safety and target shooting. Often, they wish to compete against other groups but cannot afford to travel to competitions. The NRA created “postal matches,” where a team of shooters can have their own local competition using paper targets. These are NRA-sanctioned targets and must be signed by local officials verifying the manner in which the competition was conducted and the age of the participants. Those targets are then sent to the NRA Postal Match Program and, using the targets from the various groups, the NRA judges determine who wins, places, etc. and awards prizes. That way, the shooting match can involve shooters and clubs from almost anywhere without anyone having to travel. It’s all done through the U.S. Postal System. Hence, the term, “Postal Match.”

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 Feb. 1, 2022. 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 Award

Each Department will receive their three 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 general public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters and EMTs, 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 Chairmen 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. Once the winner in each category have been chosen, the Post will forward those 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**.

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG ON DECEMBER 7. Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates Dec. 7 as “National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day” and requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff

(sunrise to sunset) in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day. To order a flag, go to vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags.

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 21, 2022 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 30, 2022 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, Sept. 16, 2022 (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

Helping Protect Your Family

Your family's health care costs can build up before you know it, especially if you need specialty care outside of the military system.

Consider these costs:

- Fixing a broken leg can cost up to \$7,500¹
- The average cost of a 3-day hospital stay is around \$30,000²
- The typical American spends about \$1,200 per year on prescription drugs³

A TRICARE Supplement Insurance Plan gives you valuable protection from out-of-pocket expenses. This plan helps reduce or eliminate your cost for:

- Hospital stays
- Prescription medication
- Emergency room visits
- Doctor visits
- Outpatient procedures
- Excess charges and more

Help reduce your out-of-pocket expenses today at VFWInsurance.com.

"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 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required, do not use “ASAP.”

BUDDY POPPY UPDATE (May 20, 2021): National Headquarters conducted a review of the Buddy Poppy policy and procedures and implemented the following changes effective May 20, 2021:

- 1) If you do not receive your order within 8 weeks of placing it with your Department, please contact National Headquarters to report that you have not received the order.
- 2) If you do not report a missing order 3 months after the 8-week processing time, the order will NOT be replaced free of charge and you will have to resubmit your order.

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at 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 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.

Contact information: BuddyPoppy@vfw.org or 816.756.3390, ext. 6722 for any questions or concerns.

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. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don’t pass those costs on to the Posts. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out, unless you are currently in your 100th year. These are ordered through the Department and processed the same as the red poppies. Annotate on the order to National that it is for anniversary poppies and specify which one.

National Veterans Service

Nomination Period is Now Open for VA Voluntary Service Volunteer of the Year

The VFW National Veterans Service is seeking nominations for the 2021 VA Voluntary Service Volunteer of the Year award. This award recognizes VFW volunteers who have given extraordinary service to our nation’s hospitalized veterans located in VA and VA-affiliated medical facilities. Nominees for this award must participate in established VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) assignments and serve as a Regularly Scheduled Volunteer. National Veterans Service is seeking nominations for at least **one male** and **one female** volunteer for each VFW Department for consideration for these prestigious awards by the Executive Committee of the VAVS National Advisory Committee. VFW’s volunteers have a long history of taking home these awards, so please consider nominating the exemplary VAVS volunteers from your Department. Nominations (not to

exceed 500 words) are due to the VFW National Veterans Service no later than Nov. 30, 2021. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact VFW Assistant Director for Health Policy James Moss at JMoss@vfw.org.

National Veterans Service In-Person Skill Level Training Conferences

Our next in-person training for accredited representatives will be held Nov. 14-19, 2021, in Annapolis, MD. This training session - Intermediate Skill Level Training - is intended for accredited representatives who have completed Basic Training but have less than five years of experience.

John A. Biedrzycki Accredited Service Representative of the Year Award for 2019-20 Winner Presentation

Congratulations to Wendy Griffin, Service Officer, VFW Department of Utah, who finally was able to receive her award as winner of the 2019-20 John A. Biedrzycki Accredited Service Representative of the Year. Due to the pandemic, presentation of the award was delayed until the September 2021 Accredited Service Officer Advanced Training session.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

We Speak and Congress Listens

The VFW National Legislative Service staff regularly testifies before Congress on behalf of our VFW members. Our testimonies cover a wide array of issues that are critically important to veterans from all eras, as well as current active duty and Guard/Reserve service members and their families. We have been invited to testify before the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs on many different topics such as Department of Veterans Affairs' accountability; mental health and suicide prevention; needs specific to women veterans; toxic exposure; transition assistance; education and employment; concurrent receipt and retirement compensation; and numerous pieces of pending legislation concerning veterans' earned benefits, care options, and delivery. Read our [congressional testimony](#) or view the list of [current legislation](#) for which the VFW is advocating.

In addition, we also regularly have meetings with senators, representatives, and key committee staffers to field questions and provide detailed information regarding the [VFW's position](#) on specific issues. Making sure our veterans receive the benefits and care they deserve is paramount and always our priority, and your members of Congress know it. They often reach out to ask for our input and support on issues they know are important to our membership. We stand firm with our legislative priorities, and Congress listens.

VFW Store

One of the most effective and visible ways to show your pride in the VFW, and raise awareness of programs in your community, is to purchase branded merchandise from the VFW Store. Your VFW shirt, cap or pin will spark curiosity in others. That, in turn, can lead to meaningful conversations about our organization. To shop for branded merchandise, click vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/vfwlogo

